

## **Village Development Planning - Myanmar**

**“Key findings of development planning in  
two villages in Pyinmana township -  
Lei Lu Ai village and Nyaung Pin Tha village”**

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**Shafique Rahman**

**Senior Adviser - Rural Development**

**LIFT TA Team in the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development**

**Department of Rural Development**

**Nay Pyi Taw**

## I. SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

### 1. Population and demography of Lei Lu Ai Village and Nyaung Pin Tha village

Nyang Pin Tha has a young population (70%) – higher than the national average, while Lai Lu Ai village's young population is lower than the national average.

As such, the dependency rate in Lei Lu Ai village is relatively higher than in Nyaung Pin Tha village.

Family size in both villages is close to the national average for the rural population.

Population and demographic characteristic	Lei Lu Ai	Nyaung Pin Tha
• Total village population	1,304	1,684
• Number of households (HH)	280	315
• Family or HH size	4.7	5.4
• Infant & Under-5 years children (as % of total vill pop)	8.2%	5.4%
• School-going children (5 – 14 years age group)	20%	16%
• Working age adult pop. (15 – 60 years age group)	43%	70%
• Dependent age group: <15 years and > 60 years	57%	30%

### 2. Natural resource base

Primarily fertile agricultural land base yielding relatively high yield for crops

Crop production in both villages could be increased by utilising land for summer crops if irrigation water is available.

Soil protection need to be done through promotion of compost and organic pesticides.

Resource	Lei Lu Ai	Nyaung Pin Tha
• Paddy land area (good, fertile land)	286 acres	202 area
• Irrigated area	90%	79%

### 3. Economic status of the village population

People are generally poor. Lei Lu Ai village is considerably poorer than Nyaung Pin Tha village which has also fewer landless households.

Since land is limited in both villages, possibility to increase local economic growth through increased agricultural production is limited. Growth and income must come from off farm micro and small business activities with some manufacturing and processing possibility. However in the longer term much growth and income will probably have to be based on utilisation of human capital and skills together with non-farm small enterprise business activities. Job creation for the young should leverage increased job creation in the fast growing Nay Pyi Taw capital city.

Household economic status	Lei Lu Ai	Nyaung Pin Tha
• Generally poor	81%	66%
• Landless	53%	19%
• HH owing less that 1 acre agric. land	28%	47% (0-5 acres)
• Relatively well-off	19%	34%
• Food insecure and vulnerable	Low	Low

## II. CURRENT DEVELOPMENT SITUATION AND KEY ISSUES in Lei Lu Ai village and Nyaung Pin Tha village

Sector/Thematic area	Issue, problem, challenge
1. Development governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village groups and committees work in isolation; lack of coordination</li> <li>• Absence of economic and livelihood emphasis</li> </ul>
2. Crops and livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of irrigation water for summer crop cultivation</li> <li>• Exposure to price volatility</li> <li>• Labour shortage in agriculture</li> <li>• Insufficient capital, investment fund and credit</li> </ul>
3. Off-farm income source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient non-farm income generating or small enterprises in village</li> <li>• Absence of entrepreneurship, although opportunity in two lines of manufacturing business (onion snack and bamboo mat products)</li> <li>• Lack finance including small loan</li> </ul>
4. Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have poor educational attainment in terms of quality</li> <li>• Poor educational facilities and school building</li> </ul>
5. Culture, youth, sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor learning environment in village</li> <li>• Lack of job opportunity for youth especially for young men</li> </ul>
6. Access infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor access road within village and to farm land</li> <li>• Lack of bridge</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure maintenance</li> </ul>
7. Electric power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While access to national grid has been established through villagers own initiative</li> <li>• Poorer families (195 HHs in Lei Lu Ai vill. and 70 HHs in Nyaung Pin Tha vill.) unable to afford initial small capital cost of electric connection</li> </ul>

## III. DEVELOPMENT GOAL AND STRATEGY

### Goal 1. Increased income and economic welfare

#### **Strategy**

1. Increased crop production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation to support summer crop cultivation</li> <li>• Organic fertilizer and pesticide use; and farm mechanisation</li> <li>• Farmer's knowledge and skills</li> <li>• Access to finance (credit)</li> </ul>
2. Home gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Particularly for landless and marginal farmers (increased nutrition)</li> <li>• Knowledge and training</li> </ul>
3. Livestock rearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pig, cow, poultry</li> <li>• Access to finance (credit)</li> </ul>
4. Off-farm activities; small enterprises dev.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of onion snack making (Nyaung Pin Tha vill.) and bamboo mat (Lei Lu Ai vill.)</li> <li>• Small business entrepreneurship support and skills dev.</li> </ul>
5. Specific occupational skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those skills that will meet growing demand for labour from growth of the Nay Pyi Taw capital city economy e.g. hotel management and admin, accounting, restaurant and hotel</li> </ul>

services, shopping malls and sales service, etc.

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**Goal 2. Quality educational attainment of children**

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| 1. Primary school education dev.            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quality of teaching and trained teachers</li><li>• Improved school building infrastructure</li></ul> |
| 2. Literacy, knowledge acquisition by youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Village community learning centre (library)</li></ul>  |
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**Enabling infrastructure and electric power support facility and service**

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| 1. Village access road                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Renovation of village road</li><li>• Construction of bridge (Naung Pin Tha vill.)</li></ul>   |
| 2. Access to electricity for poorer families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant aid to the poorer families who do not have the financial capacity to access electricity already installed in the village (MMK 39 million plus MMK 14m = MMK 53 million)</li></ul> |
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**IV. PRIORITY PROJECTS (village specific)**

<i>Lei Lu Ai village</i>	<i>Nyaung Pin Tha</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Functional groups for the existing activities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CBO strengthening training</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical training in agriculture and livestock</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical training in agriculture and livestock</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systematic and flexible credit scheme</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to banking and financial services</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhancing primary education quality</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer and English speaking training</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community learning centre or library</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community learning centre or library</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction of village health centre</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction of sub-health centre</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Renovation of access road to field</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction of bridge</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cap building of Electricity Group to better coordinate O&amp;M system for electrification</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant aid to poorer families for electric power connection</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant aid to poorer families for electric power connection</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Levelling football ground</li></ul>	

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**V. MACRO POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT**

Village development planning process revealed that villagers have clear idea of their needs and their ability to use their community social capital together with support of the government and other partners, to improve their socio-economic wellbeing.

Equally important is the reinforcement thorough national policy and programmatic support. Union level policy interventions are needed while programmatic action can be organised at the township level. Such programme interventions are those that can respond to needs of multiple villages and there are also programmes that are township-wide or region-wide.

Five priority macro policy and programmatic interventions have been informed by the two village development plans in Pyinmana township. These are:

1. *Technical support (from township level)* for village community capacity enhancement in areas of village development planning (including updating of the VDP), plan monitoring and assessment, organisational and management system for project implementation, and financial resource mobilisation.
2. *Agriculture and irrigation.* Training in improved farming practices, organic fertiliser and pesticide making and their application, provision of irrigation water from an established dam and agriculture marketing and support for price stability.
3. *Banking and finance* – financial sector institutional development that will allow villagers to access small and medium loans and other financial products and services for agriculture, micro and small enterprise business activities, microfinance, and insurance services (health insurance and possible crop insurance).
4. *Rural enterprise development support* – through establishment of facility at the township level that could provide technical support for small enterprise development, marketing, technology and know-how. Capacity building of livelihood groups and (technical and extension) support for the group members to access loans and other available financial services.
5. *Grant aid* for the poorer families to enable them to meet the initial capital cost for setting up connection (meter, wire and fee) to the village electrification scheme that has already been set by villagers themselves.

## VI. FEASIBILITY OF SCALING UP OF THE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS

Government has to respond to needs of all villages; government cannot limit its work to pilot villages to test new models of planning and development, for too long.

Myanmar can be considered to be a medium size country in terms of population but it is a big country in terms of its vast geographical area and dispersed population settlements throughout the country.

Number rural township	305		
Number of villages	63,889	Average no of villages per township	205
Number of village tract	13,620	Average no of VT per township	45
		No of villages per VT	5

### Some preliminary thoughts on scaling-up for countrywide coverage of the VDP process

One possible way to manage the coverage of villages is to incrementally build up capacity of village communities so they are able to eventually conduct PRA themselves and complete the required planning data tables as per prescribed format for a VDP.

In this “approach” it is the township planning capacity that must be built. This should be possible since township departmental officers and staff can be mobilised to form into “planning teams” with about 3 to 4 members in each team. Depending on the staffing strength in a township (comprised of officers from different departments/ministries), it may be possible to form 2 to 5

“township planning teams” in each township. The planning teams could be fully trained to assist village communities to conduct PRA based participatory village development planning.

In terms of village coverage, the initial focus (i.e. in the first 24 months or so) could be the following:

- Full-scale VDP of one village per village tract, that is: 13,620 VDPs covering all 305 townships. This will provide on average 45 VDPs per township
- Since it is likely that other villages (on average 5 villages per village tract) in a village tract have almost similar development issues, the coverage of one village per village tract (i.e. 45 VDPs per township) would provide for a representative perspective of development and needs of all villages.
- However, downstream project intervention priorities are likely to differ between villages. This can be addressed by way of one-day PRA on project identification and “preference ranking”. During this one day, training could also be given to each team in a village tract (under management of Village Tract Administrator) to complete some key planning data tables in prescribed format. The Township Planning Teams would coordinate this task.
- In this way, it may be possible to complete over a period of 24 months: (a) 13,620 full-scale VDPs and (b) only “priority project” list of the balance 50,269 villages.
- Taken together, the above will allow for consolidation and integration of all VDPs in each township development plan. And thereby, comprehensive township development plans would then be available.
- The outcome would be: “bottom-up” planning, programming and budgeting with township as the “unit of planning” where local development plan framework, programme and project consolidation, and budget planning and financial resources coordination is done.