

Annual Report or other Report: Cover Letter Template

United Nations Development Programme



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Ref: UNDP/[xxx]/[xxx]/[xxx]
[June 30, 2014]

Subject: "Improved Livelihoods and Social Cohesion in Myanmar Project: Technical and Management Service Providers for Construction of Small Livelihood and Social Infrastructure in Shan State"
Final Report

I am pleased to submit herewith the Narrative and Financial Final Report for the abovementioned project.

The report summarizes the progress of the project as of June 30, 2014 and provides an overview of the achievements, challenges, lessons learned, financial status and way forward.

U Myat Thu
Area Office Coordinator
UNDP [Shan State, Myanmar]

Attached:
Improved Livelihoods and Social Cohesion in Myanmar Project: Technical and Management Service Providers for Construction of Small Livelihood and Social Infrastructure in Shan State
Final Report

Shan State, Myanmar



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Professional Research
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FINAL REPORT

**United Nations Development Programme
Shan State, Myanmar
Improved Livelihoods and Social Cohesion in Myanmar Project:
Technical and Management Service Providers for Construction of Small
Livelihood and Social Infrastructure in Shan State
June 30, 2014**



Reporting Period	January 01, 2014 to June 30, 2014
Donor	UNDP and Japan Government
Country	Myanmar
Project Title	Improved Livelihoods and Social Cohesion in Myanmar Project: Technical and Management Service Providers for Construction of Small Livelihood and Social Infrastructure in Shan State
Project ID (Atlas Award ID) Outputs (Atlas Project ID and Description) Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	
Implementing Partner(s)	Professional Research and Consultancy (PRC)
Project Start Date	January 01, 2014
Project End Date	June 30, 2014
[2014] Actual Work Plan Budget	USD 669,800
Total resources required	Fund, Human, Technical Skills, Office Assets
Revenue received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular USD • Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donor USD ○ Trust Fund Cost Sharing USD ○ Thematic Trust Fund C/S USD ○ Special Activities USD ○ EU funding USD • Total USD
Unfunded budget	USD
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I. Executive Summary

Support to improved livelihoods and social cohesion of the community in high level of poverty, remote and conflict areas in Myanmar is vital part of development activities. Professional Research and Consultancy (PRC) served as Implementing Partners (IPs) to improve the livelihoods activities and social cohesion of local communities in Shan State by providing technical and management service for construction of small livelihood and social infrastructure. The project of UNDP's Country Programme Action Plan is known as "Improved Livelihoods and Social Cohesion in Myanmar Project: Technical and Management Service Providers for Construction of Small Livelihood and Social Infrastructure in Shan State." PRC has successfully implemented UNDP sub-project in 40 villages in Hopong and Lauk Kai townships.

The overall objective is to support livelihood recovery and development activities and opportunities for social cohesion and peace building, at national, regional and local levels. Sub-components of this project aim to contribute to improving access to and reducing inequalities in resources, incomes and livelihood opportunities and to enhancing social cohesion within communities in target locations. These sub-components targets the poor, conflict-affected, IDPs, returnees and host-communities, and in particular, traditionally marginalized or vulnerable groups including ethnic minorities and women. The project has undertaken the construction/ rehabilitation of small livelihood and social infrastructure at the village level. This particular project is to strengthen social cohesion within and between villages and different groups and the identified construction activities are to be undertaken in tandem with strategies that increase opportunities for interaction, dialogue, trust and unity in target locations. Infrastructure activities need to focus on supporting economic development, social cohesion and accessibility of job opportunities in local community.

The project started on January 01, 2014 and completed on June 30, 2014. UNDP and PRC meeting was ensued in December 31, 2013 to sign the contract and discussed about the field implementation which includes funding mechanism, approaches, strategies, coordination, project cycle management, project implementation process and other concerns related to this implementation. PRC conducted special trainings for its staff on social cohesion, conflict resolution, facilitation, communication, report writing, professionalism, monitoring, project cycle management, negotiation, how to deal with difficult people and evaluation, from village entry strategies to exit strategies, community and social mobilization before the project implementation.

At the village level meeting with community, before February 25, 2014, PRC successfully finished the list of all infrastructures activities prioritization, designs, drawing, BQ (Bill of Quantity), and specific detailed budget and the participants successfully re-checked, counter-checked, reviewed, verified and endorsed the list of all the project activities prioritization and each project activity prioritization, along with designs, drawing, BQ (Bill of Quantity), and a specified detailed budget in 40 villages in Shan State.

PRC successfully delivered Operation and Maintenance training plus Village Social Cohesion Training to 110 participants from 40 villages where they learned project objectives, strategies, process mainly focusing on social cohesion through Cash for Work activities. PRC facilitated the community and the community itself discussed and chose to construct either bridge or market access road for their villages. PRC successfully distributed 12,350,000 kyats to each village in order to implement their proposed social/economy infrastructure activities. The total amount of 494,000,000 kyats was

successfully delivered to 40 villages in Shan State. 40 villages have successfully constructed 5 Bridges, 33 Market Access Road, 21 Culvert, 5 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Storage Tank Gallon 1000-10000), 1 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Pump), 1 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Turbine Pump), 7 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Gravity flow), 1 Construction/ Renovation of Rain Water Collection Tank, 8 Construction of Retaining wall for water source, the total of 82 social/economy infrastructures, by their own human resource and community initiative through PRC support and UNDP and Japan Government funding. As a significant achievement of this project implementation, the total of 31,735 local people from 40 villages gained social cohesion through cash for work and social/economy infrastructure project intervention.

Main challenges faced are the weather condition such as heavy rain and extreme heat which disturb the implementation of activities in proposed time-frame. Another issue is the delay of fund delivery from UNDP which consequently delayed the fund delivery to the community and delayed of the activities. The consequences of delay in fund delivery is that IP had to face difficulties in implementing the infrastructure activities to complete within UNDP time-frame as also the project period is during monsoon season of May, June and July. Another issue is that there is only a few construction skill labours in both Townships. For Lauk Kai Township, the main challenge is that the villages' locations are many miles away from Lauk Kai and the continuous battle between Myanmar Army and Armed Ethnic Groups. For Hopong Township, implementation of the project time clashed with the communities' farming time which became a difficulty to get full participation of the villagers in infrastructure activities.

PRC has successfully submitted Form B, C and D in UNDP original standard format, both hard and soft copy and PMIS software along with the Project Final Report to UNDP by June 30, 2014.

This project is beneficial to the community in improving their livelihoods, social cohesion, trust building, peace and community engagement through the social/economy infrastructures. The targeted community has improved transportation, education, medical assistant, economy development, livelihoods, social cohesion and community engagement directly or indirectly after this 6 months project intervention. However, PRC believes that long-term projects would have more impacts and promote sustainable development, better social cohesion within and between villages and different groups and the identified construction activities when undertaken with strategies that increase opportunities for interaction, dialogue, trust and unity in target locations. Thus, PRC recommends implementing such project in other parts of the country in the future.

Without the continuous support from the Government, UNDP, other IPs, Local NGOs and the communities, this project cannot be implemented successfully. Therefore, PRC sincerely appreciate and is thankful to all the project stakeholders. PRC is always willing to receive and value the guidance and support from the Government and UNDP.

II. Background

Shan State is located in the eastern sector of the country between latitudes 19°00' north and 22°15' north and 96° 26' and 98° 47' east longitudes. It is bordered by Kachin State on the north, the Peoples' Republic of China on the north and east, the Lao Peoples' Republic on the east, Thailand and Kayah and Kayin States on the south and Mandalay and Sagaing Region on the west. Its total land area is 60,155 sq. miles. Among the states, Shan State is the biggest in area with the largest population. Estimated population is 5,600,000. Majority of inhabitants are Shan living along valleys. There are 193 wards and villages-tracts and 54 townships under Districts of Taunggyi, Loilem, Lashio, Muse, Kyaukme, Kunlong, Laukkai, Kengtung, Mongsan, Monghpyak and Tachileik. The capital of Shan State is Taunggyi. Myanmar is widely used language throughout the state whereas other national races speak their own different dialects. Shan State has over 1.5 million acres of a cultivated area in which one third is paddy, 200,000 acre is hill-side farms, 8000 acre is silted-land cultivation and 200,000 acre is gardens. There are also 450,000 acre of irrigated cultivation in the state. Crops are rice, wheat, maize, sugarcane, beans and pulses, onion garlic, sesame, groundnut, sunflower, sebesten tree leaf Virginia tobacco, tea plant, coffee, pear, orange and damson.

The main challenges and problems are different, believe, culture, religious, norm, habit, aims, vision and commitment of several ethnic groups in the state. Like other ethnic groups, Shan armed groups signed ceasefires with the government. In order of mitigate the internal conflicts and lack of social cohesion of local people in Shan State, PRC implemented the project on improved livelihoods and social cohesion funded by UNDP. PRC hopes that implementing such project reduced their conflict and problem among and between local people in the state. In Shan state, 40 villages have been identified in two townships for project implementation by UNDP. Two townships are namely, Hopong and Lauk Kai. PRC implemented the project in 20 villages in Hopong and 20 villages in Lauk Kai. In Shan, social cohesion will be a major thrust area, where all activities were undertaken with the aim of improving interaction, dialogue and unity between communities.

Therefore, UNDP has conducted "Improved Livelihoods and Social Cohesion in Myanmar". This is a part of UNDP's program of improving small livelihoods and social infrastructures, in the Shan state. Lessons have been learned about the context of the Shan, from which will improve the impact of project activities. There were existing Implementing Partners (IPs) of UNDP in Shan State, include UNDP itself in Hopong and Lauk Kai. Above IPs in each respective township had implemented "Improved Livelihoods and Social Cohesion in Myanmar." At the field level, PRC met and discussed on specific coordination meetings and activities with relevant UNDP and local authorities. During those meetings, PRC handed over the list of UNDP project assisted villages from UNDP. In addition, UNDP and other local stakeholders handed over existing villages' situation and other related documents from UNDP in order to implement the project successfully.

III. Progress Review

PRC has adopted a realistic approach (community-driven approach and bottom-up approach), addressing some key questions during its implementation. For instance, PRC always like to address via the social cohesion project—whether the benefits are really targeted to the poor (wealth ranking – C, D and E); whether the basic community needs are met in terms of project duration and implementation; gender issue such as addressing whether the needs of women are taken into consideration in terms of cash for work activity; always looking into channels to strengthen civil society via social infrastructures; having a closer look into whether time-frame and budget, and community participation (benefits) are matched; addressing, at the same time, transparency and accountability issue to a maximum level.

PRC let all the stakeholders know all the procedures and activities at every level. This entire step and village entry strategy is vital for all stakeholders in a participatory, transparent, accountable and understandable manner. To ensure that, PRC engaged with all stakeholders in order to avoid overlapping (over-riding) activities, misunderstanding, misuse of funding, unreasonable budget, BQ (Bill of Quantity), designs, drawing and other related issues at the implementation level. At the same time, PRC made sure all civil society groups involving social cohesion activity understand each other, thereby reducing conflicts and encouraging 'cohesion' in the community during the project implementation.

Social cohesion is thus an essential tool for a conflict prone area in Shan state, in which the communities—perhaps two different sub-ethnic groups or more—are reluctant to build 'mutual trust' to each other. Without this trust being achieved, lasting peace is far away from a reality. Consequently, development is difficult to achieve. Community mobilization and community facilitation, a part of social cohesion, is difficult to achieve then. As a result, social capital becomes weak. Social inclusion is in a difficult position to implement on the ground. Therefore, building social cohesion through social/economy infrastructure projects is critical to having a success of development, peace, and community engagement—towards peaceful coexistence. The community then involved in this social cohesion process to achieve 'social cohesion' within their own community.

In choosing the targeted areas, PRC's most prioritized activities are socio-economic infrastructures of local people according to UNDP guideline and strategies. On the other hand, PRC hopes to have an understanding of UNDP how PRC is going on all project field implementation and would be facing very difficult coordination and collaboration with project stakeholders including local armed ethnic community, local Myanmar authorities and other relevant people in that area. Nevertheless, to implement the project activities successfully, PRC team has a great confidence in dealing with conflict zones/areas to achieve the project against the proposed time-frame. So far, PRC has achieved so. PRC also successfully strengthened the local communities via social/economy infrastructures; having a closer look into whether time-frame and actual budget, and community participation (benefits) are matched; addressing, at the same time, transparency and reached accountability issue to a maximum

level, and successfully organized in some villages (e.g., Nar-lon village—due to conflict area) to have collaborating effect for the implementation of the project.

PRC has thoroughly calculated all detailed work-plan, along with detailed budget, designs, drawing and BQ (Bill of Quantity) in collaboration with UNDP Area officers and Satellite Offices as well as UNDP Yangon Offices. PRC always respect and follow the time-frame, terms and conditions of the Contract agreed with UNDP.

Output 5 - Target Communities and Institutions have Increased Capacities for Social Cohesion, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Improved Opportunities for Peace

Actions: 5.3.C2.1 Conducting Operation & Maintenance plus Social Cohesion Training for Households and other Beneficiaries at Community Level in Targeted Locations

Table (I) shows that the status of the completion of the Operation and Maintenance training plus village social cohesion to all targeted 40 villages in 2 townships (Hopong and Lauk Kai), Shan state. Total of 110 participants attended the training. The training was conducted for two days at six different centres. All the trainings had been 100% completed. List of detailed attendees are attached in the appendix (I) with respective dates, locations, and photos. The training modules are also quite comprehensive, focusing on exit strategies while keeping sustainability for those social infrastructures such as addressing: how to maintain those infrastructures in terms of social cohesion ‘forces’ at community level. The participants have learned project objectives, strategies, process mainly focusing on social cohesion through Cash for Work activities and construction process/ planning/ implementation of social/economy infrastructure activities. The participants gained the understanding on financial record and financial management, how to maintain their infrastructures and how to manage their sustainable arrangements. It is noted from the community that the delivery of training before the implementation was very useful since it helped in practical activities, how to manage the human resource and how to do financial budgeting/income/expense.

Table (1) The Completion Status of Training for Village Social Cohesion and Operation and Maintenance

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.3.C2.1 Training for Village Social Cohesion and Operation & Maintenance	Target	20	20	40
	Result	20	20	40
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100%	100%	100%

Actions: 5.1.B Assessment and Identification of Poorest Households and other Beneficiaries at Community Level in Targeted Locations

Table (2) shows the complete project implementation status of 40 villages in Shan State, Myanmar. PRC had successfully facilitated village mass meeting for activities prioritization (community needs assessment), along with budget calculations and drawing designs of economy infrastructures of 40 villages in Shan state, Myanmar. See the attachment in appendix (IV) for documentation and photos of the activities, along with respective dates, village names, and townships. Village mass meeting for activities prioritization lists (community needs assessment), along with budget calculation and drawing design of economy infrastructures conducted for 40 villages are attached in appendix (II).

(2) Area wise quantitative information for Shan State

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
Mass meeting for activities prioritization along with budget calculation and drawing design of infrastructure	Target	20	20	40
	Result	20	20	40
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100%	100%	100%

(3) Area wise quantitative information for Shan State

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
The Results of activities prioritization (community needs of infra	Target	47	33	80
	Result	47	35	82
	Balance	0	+2	+2
	Achieve %	100%	>100%	>100%

(1) Status of Area wise activity – Planned activity Vs. Actual achievement; planned time frame Vs. Actual time, Reason for deviation

PRC has implemented villages' mass meetings, activities prioritization (community needs), along with budget calculation, BQ, and drawing design of infrastructure. Then, 100% of the community fund and the total of 12,350,000 kyats to each village were completely delivered. All the details of those community funds are in the liquidation letter, which has been already sent out to UNDP and also attached in appendix (III). Also in appendix (III), community fund delivery and fund utilization status which include requested letter for community fund, fund received and activities completion reports from CBOs in all 40 villages in Shan State are attached. PRC has successfully achieved 100 % of the overall implementation against a proposed time frame. PRC successfully implemented all activities in 40 villages in Shan State despite of delay fund delivery from UNDP to the Community, through PRC proposed time-frame and according to UNDP current contract.

Actions: 5.2.B7 - Support for some important economy infrastructure. (Village level Livelihood Support)

Actions: 5.2.B7.2A – Construction/ Renovation of Market Access Road

(2) Area wise quantitative information

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B7.1 Construction/ Renovation of Market Access Road	Target	18	14	32
	Result	18	15	33
	Balance	0	+1	+1
	Achieve %	100%	>100%	>100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of market access road. Achievement is over 100% for Lauk Kai Township.

Actions: 5.2.B7.3 – Construction/ Renovation of Bridge

(4) Area wise quantitative information

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B7.1 Construction/ Renovation of Bridge	Target	5	0	5
	Result	5	0	5
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100%	0	100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of bridge.

Actions: 5.2.B7.4 – Construction/ Renovation of Culvert

(5) Area wise quantitative information

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B7.1 Construction/ Renovation of Culvert	Target	10	11	21
	Result	10	11	21
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100	100%	100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of culvert.

Actions: 5.2.B07.06F – Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Storage Tank Gallon 1000-10000)

(5) Area wise quantitative information

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B07.06F Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Storage Tank Gallon 1000-10000)	Target	5	0	5
	Result	5	0	5
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100	0	100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of water supply systems (Storage Tank Gallon 1000-10000).

Actions: 5.2.B07.06G – Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Pump)

(5) Area wise quantitative information

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B07.06G Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Pump)	Target	1	0	1
	Result	1	0	1
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100	0	100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of water supply systems (By Pump).

Actions: 5.2.B07.06H – Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Turbine Pump)

(5) Area wise quantitative information

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B07.06H Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Turbine pump)	Target	1	0	1
	Result	1	0	1
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100	0	100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of water supply systems (Turbine pump).

Actions: 5.2.B07.06I – Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Gravity flow)**(5) Area wise quantitative information**

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B07.06I Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Gravity flow)	Target	1	5	6
	Result	1	6	7
	Balance	0	+1	+1
	Achieve %	100	>100%	>100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of water supply systems (Gravity flow).

Actions: 5.2.B07.06J – Construction/ Renovation of Rain Water Collection Tank**(5) Area wise quantitative information**

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B07.06J – Construction/ Renovation of Rain Water Collection Tank	Target	0	1	1
	Result	0	1	1
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	0	100%	100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of Rain Water Collection Tank.

Actions: 5.2.B07.06K – Construction of Retaining wall for water source**(5) Area wise quantitative information**

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
5.2.B07.06K – Construction of Retaining wall for water source	Target	6	2	8
	Result	6	2	8
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100	100%	100%

Above table numerically shows the target, result, balance and achievement of the construction/ renovation of retaining wall for water source.

Above tables shown the total activities conducted by 40 villages which are 5 Bridges, 33 Market Access Road, 21 Culvert, 5 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Storage Tank Gallon 1000-10000), 1 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems(By Pump), 1 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems(By Turbine Pump), 7 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems(Gravity flow), 1 Construction/ Renovation of Rain Water Collection Tank, 8 Construction of Retaining wall for water source the total of 82 social/economy infrastructures, by their own human resource and

community initiative through PRC support and UNDP and Japan Government funding. Construction of social infrastructures is completed in all targeted townships above. Those activities are achieved 100% completely in all targeted villages. Photos of those construction activities from those communities particularly from Shan state are attached in appendix (IV).

Fund Delivery Status

Action		Hopong	Lauk Kai	Total
100% of Community Fund Delivery Status of Social Infrastructures	Target	20	20	40
	Result	20	20	40
	Balance	0	0	0
	Achieve %	100%	100%	100%

100% of the entire community fund has been already disbursed. The total amount of 494,000,000 kyats was successfully delivered to 40 villages in Shan State. For Hopong Township, the community fund was directly delivered to their bank account at Myanmar Economic Bank. The community fund delivery bank slips of each CBO in every village and all CBO in all villages are attached in appendix (III). For Lauk Kai Township, it is quite difficult to open bank accounts for each CBO because the CBO members' do not have National Identification Card and they are not educated, not able to read or write Myanmar language. Therefore, Myanmar Economic Bank in Lauk Kai Township does not allow those CBO to open an bank account. Thus, PRC delivered the community fund directly to each CBO. Receipts of the community fund delivery of each CBO, including fingerprint or signature, are attached in appendix (III). PRC finds an appropriate way to deliver the community fund to each CBO in Lauk Kai Township, considering all accountability, responsibility and transparency issues. PRC successfully distributed 12,350,000 kyats to each village in order to implement their proposed social/economy infrastructure activities. On the other hand, PRC handed over original UNDP standard format (Form B, C and D) to UNDP as per request on June 30, 2014.

(2) Status of individual township activity – Planned activity Vs. Actual achievement; Planned time frame Vs. Actual time, Reason for deviation

There was no deviation in training plan. However, due to Water Festival (long holidays break), fund delivery from UNDP was delayed which consequently delayed in project implementation. Some of the road constructions are not smoothly finalised completely due to the rain and monsoon season. Thus, it is critical to finish the project activities in time; otherwise, it would unnecessarily be facing difficult means to complete the project smoothly.

According to Actual Work Plan (AWP), the project outputs and targets are met completely through PRC proposed time-line and within UNDP budget. The CBOs from respective villages submitted Micro Project Proposal (MPP), along with their detailed budget and work plan. A review meeting with relevant stakeholders, PRC and the UNDP was held in order to approve the CBOs' proposals on

social/economy infrastructure construction. Upon MPP review committee approval, the communities implemented the activities directly, facilitated by community mobilizers and township project supervisors. Area managers, township project supervisors and community mobilizers closely facilitated and motivated the community to implement their activities effectively, efficiently and successfully. After the project implementation, internal monitoring was conducted U Win Naing and his team who visited all 20 villages in Lauk Kai Township for the completion of the project and discussed with the beneficiaries to share the best practices, lesson learned, and success stories etc. In the same way, after the project implementation, internal monitoring was conducted Daw Khin Thein and her team who visited all 20 villages in Hopong Township for the completion of the project and discussed with the beneficiaries to share the best practices, lesson learned, and success stories etc. Thus, it promotes a sense of ownership and common understanding of social cohesion and peace building as well as relationship trust building.

According to the community action plan for cash for work, the communities participated to implement their cash for work project through their own management so that they themselves reduce conflict, insecurity and inequality. The purpose for this is to build understanding and trust among and between ethnic groups within villages and other villages in the State. Even after the project intervention, they can communicate and work with each other for long-term social cohesion improvement in the State. Cash for work not only supported community infrastructure completion alone but also improved social cohesion which is the most important point for local ethnic groups within village and other villages.

As an achievement of this project implementation, the total of 31,735 local people from 40 villages gained social cohesion through cash for work and social/economy infrastructure project intervention.

Achievement of Social Cohesion through Cash for Work and Social/Economy Infrastructure

	Male	Female	Total
Hopong	2750	2199	4949
Lauk Kai	13309	3732	17021
Total	16059	5931	21970

The review and assessment of overall project implementation on construction of social/economy infrastructures showed many positive impacts on the community. Large scale cash for work program linking community infrastructures work was effective not only for providing the livelihood alternative to reduce the dependency of the poor on resources but also to earn the better relationship and trust from the people on the long term social cohesion work. Having built those social/economy infrastructures such as market access road and bridge resulted in positive impacts on villagers' education, health, livelihoods, economy, etc. Managing, organizing and using own human resource for both skill labours and un-skill labours from the community encouraged the unity, participation and teamwork among the community, better leadership and management skills and learned to solve the problems together. According to the discussion with the villagers during the internal monitoring visit, it is noted that the community has learned new techniques related to construction, gained incredible

experiences and was very happy to receive such kind of support to develop social/economy infrastructures, social cohesion and livelihoods of the community. Both men and women, young and old participated in the construction.

Before implementing this project, most of the villages had difficulties to travel from village to village or to the nearest town for trading of regional goods, for attending schools and for seeking medical assistance. The community encountered difficulties mainly in monsoon season where they get heavy rain which cause extreme flooding preventing from traveling to other villages or the nearest town. Most of the roads and bridges were under the flooded water. The community already had a plan to repair or to build bridge or roads; however, they cannot bear the cost of construction. After the project implementation, it showed the great impacts on children's education, transportation, trading of regional goods in time which increase the income of the villagers and the communication among the villages regardless of the weather condition. The benefits gained from this project are not limited to the community where the project was implemented, but also to the businessman and other villages in the region who use those constructed bridges and roads.

PRC requests Appreciative Letter and Project Completion Letter from UNDP after PRC submission of the Project Final Report. Those above two letters are also needed to send to AGD Bank in order to receive the Advanced Payment Grantee of 64,994,592 Kyats. AGD Bank will return this Advanced Payment Grantee to PRC only after receiving Appreciative Letter and Project Completion Letter from UNDP since PRC submitted Advanced Payment to AGD Bank before implementing the project.

The latest version of Actual Work Plan (AWP) is attached as an appendix (V).

IV. Project Risks and Issues

One of the biggest project risks is that some areas of the Shan have already secured ceasefire agreements with the central government, but the conflict keeps going on with sporadic fighting. As a result, it is difficult to facilitate local ethnic groups including the Shan, Pa-oh, Denu, Taung Yoe, Innthar, Pa Laung and Bama which hold different culture and beliefs. For instance, it was quite dangerous for field staff in the conflict areas. Most importantly, a lack of trust building and relationship building among and between ethnic groups and armed ethnic forces and the central government made PRC difficult to implement our activities. However, through thorough discussion and meeting with the leaders from armed forces, PRC successfully gained a support from them to implement the project in a few of their villages. PRC field staffs were very cautious in engaging with the communities in implementing this social cohesion and social/economy infrastructure activities. PRC staff communicated and discussed with the township authorities in order to get the information of the situation of the villages before traveling since there are conflicts and battles going on between SSA/ Koe Kant and Myanmar Army. Due to conflict zones/areas, it was very difficult to invite all participants

including armed groups to the training. Information dissemination is a key for enhanced understanding and trust among the key stakeholders. Regular information flow was made through the communication channel established to keep contact alive and active.

PRC faced a certain difficulty—the weather. The rain started during the first week of May, 2014. The other thing is that official water festival holiday was on April 12-21, 2014 when people take a break from work and celebrate. The locals not using the same spoken or written language (Myanmar language) was one of the biggest issues which acted as a barrier in implementing the project activities. The risk threatening to the failure of long term social cohesion work rest with the fact whether or not project succeeds in partnering with local authority and SSA as well as central government for their collaboration and due commitment. However, PRC has successfully advocated SSA and Central Government agreement on social cohesion development scheme for sharing responsibility; community participation and future social cohesion would be greater and healthier in the project villages with self-motivated initiative and follow up for mutually beneficial participation work. Since Lauk Kai is a town situated in the border of Myanmar and China, the expenses are relatively high compared to other places in Myanmar.

However, payment from UNDP was delayed; thus, PRC activities were delayed, then having a burden of salaries and benefits for PRC. Additionally, during monsoon season, the activities were difficult to implement on the ground. The consequences of delay in fund delivery is that IP had to face difficulties in implementing the infrastructure activities to complete within UNDP time-frame as also the project period is during monsoon season of May, June and July. Another issue is that there is only a few construction skill labours in both Townships. During raining period, PRC team could not go to facilitate community to implement project activities in the village because there are so many creeks and bad transportation and unfavourable roads. Therefore, PRC recommends that the UNDP would make financial transaction in time for each implementation activity in the future.

a. Updated Project Risks and Actions

Project Risk 1: Since Shan state is a conflict region where continuous conflicts and battles between Myanmar army and armed ethnic groups are going on, PRC needs to be very careful in communicating and dealing with armed ethnic groups and local authorities in order to get the agreement to implement the project activities in their respective villages.

Actions taken: PRC and respective armed ethnic group leaders had a thorough discussion to gain their consent. PRC built trust, relationship and coordination with them.

Project Risk 2: Some villages in Lauk Kai located in extremely remote places where the transportation is very difficult. Those villages are (80) miles away from Lauk Kai. Thus, the operation expense for Lauk Kai Township cost more than the estimated cost.

Actions taken: When visiting those villages, PRC staff always firstly informed the related Government administration officers and regional arm ethnic group leaders.

Project Risk 3: Locals from project villages are very poor, very limited basic and general knowledge/skills to have long-term vision for sustainability.

Actions taken: PRC made sure that the locals understand the nature, process and benefits of the projects. Therefore, PRC staff gave large amount of time discussing with the locals and monitoring often. PRC staff also gave hands-on training while implementing the project activities.

b. Updated Project Issues and Actions

Project Issue 1: Delay of payment from UNDP which consequently delay the social/economy infrastructure activities in the community, and having a burden of salaries and benefits for PRC. UNDP could not deliver the second payment on time; thus, PRC had to work harder for the project activities to go smoothly.

Actions taken: Community got the loan from the Head Monk (Monastery fund for village development) or from the community fund of the village without interest to start the activity before the fund delivery.

Project Issue 2: After the need assessment discussion with the communities to implement their chosen activities, implementation of the project time clashed with the communities' farming time. Therefore, the participation from the communities was weak.

Actions taken: PRC coordinated and worked with the communities many times in order to get the participation from the communities and to finish the project activities within time-frame.

Project Issue 3: During the monsoon season, where the activities are difficult to implement on the ground, it is quite difficult for PRC team to go to facilitate community to implement project activities in the villages because there are so many creeks and bad transportation and unfavourable roads.

Actions taken: PRC supported, encouraged and supervised the community to complete the activities as their possible capacity before the rain starts.

Project Issue 4: Not using the same spoken or written language was one of the biggest issues which acted as a barrier in implementing the project activities since most villagers do not understand Myanmar language instead only use Chinese, Pa-Laung and Koe Kant languages.

Actions taken: PRC hired the interpreters who are fluent in both local and Myanmar language in order to communicate with the villagers.

V. Lessons Learned

1) Key project successes and factors which supported these successes

The beneficiaries of this project implementation are from 20 villages in Hopong Township and 20 villages in Lauk Kai Township in Shan State.

Implementing social/economy infrastructure improved social cohesion within the community, villages and township level is beneficial to the community.

PRC successfully facilitated community to identify the social/economy infrastructure which they want to implement. Then, the social/economy infrastructure activity chosen by each village was successfully implemented through the villagers.

Operation and Maintenance training and Social Cohesion Training were successfully conducted with 110 participants in four townships before starting the construction.

PRC successfully delivered the total funding of 494,000,000 kyats to all 40 villages.

The total of 82 social/economy infrastructures, including 5 Bridges, 33 Market Access Road, 21 Culvert, 5 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Storage Tank Gallon 1000-10000), 1 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Pump), 1 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Turbine Pump), 7 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Gravity flow), 1 Construction/ Renovation of Rain Water Collection Tank, 8 Construction of Retaining wall for water source was successfully implemented.

The factors which supported these successes are the funding from UNDP and Japan Government, support, effort and careful supervision of PRC main office and field staff, willingness, unity, hard work, endless effort of the community.

2) Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome these difficulties

The biggest difficulty encountered during implementing this project is the delay in fund delivery from UNDP which has the consequences of fund delivery delay to the community and delay of construction. Several villages overcame this difficulty by getting loan from the Head Monk (Monastery fund for village development) of their village without any interest and started the implementation on time. Because of the funding delay and focusing more on the completion of infrastructure activities on time, developing social cohesion for the community was weak.

After the need assessment discussion with the communities to implement their chosen activities, implementation of the project time clashed with the communities' farming time. Therefore, the participation from the communities was weak. However, PRC coordinated and worked with the communities many times in order to get the participation from the communities and to finish the project activities within time-frame.

The villagers are weak in communication among themselves; thus, PRC strengthened the community to have better social cohesion through the discussion during the mass meeting.

For Lauk Kai Township, one of the biggest difficulties is a language barrier. The villagers are not educated and do not even have National Identification Card. They cannot read or write Myanmar language. Thus, PRC hired interpreters who speak and read both Myanmar language and the local language.

For Hopong Township, it took quite a long time to build trust and good communication with the community, which consequently delayed the implementation of the project activities and which made it difficult to encourage good social cohesion.

3) Recommendations to improve future programming.

For the future sustainable development and better social cohesion process, long-term series of the conflict resolution training, organizational management training, peace/ trust/ relationship building trainings, vocational training and technical skill trainings are needed for the community.

Field project staffs need to be very skilful with their work and to have effective communication skills when working with the communities with different culture, beliefs, religion and language.

PRC recommends implementing long-term projects (at least three years) in order to maintain the long-term impacts and results rather than short-term projects in order to have better social cohesion and sustainability.

In order to develop better social cohesion, it would be good to have project review workshop with UNDP, IP and the CBO committee members from each village to evaluate the project activities and to discuss the plans and possible ways for the sustainability of those social/economy infrastructures.

Since the community main livelihood is farming, it would be better to avoid their farming period which is from February to June in order to have better participation of the community.

PRC recommends avoiding the monsoon season to implement social/economy infrastructure projects.

Some on-job technical trainings are recommended for construction skill labours from the community.

PRC recommends fund delivery process to be more effective and faster.

The training should be longer and be more supportive of social cohesion.

Due to the short-term project, it is quite difficult to achieve 'sustainability' of social cohesion.

UNDP needs to monitor and follow-up the sustainability of those constructed infrastructures after the project intervention according to the community action plan.

VI. Conclusions and Way Forward

As PRC is committed to implement this project in time, by the end of June 2014, respecting its contract with UNDP, PRC successfully completed all the project activities against their time frame through UNDP's support and best coordination, despite of current unfavourable political situation, insecurity, armed ethnic groups area, conflict area, local community demand (community driven), seriousness in demand and involvement of local authorities and other hidden factors and bad transportation, unfavourable roads during the monsoon season.

PRC successfully distributed 12,350,000 kyats to each village in order to implement their proposed social/economy infrastructure activities. The total amount of 494,000,000 kyats was successfully delivered to 40 villages in Shan State. 40 villages have successfully constructed 5 Bridges, 33 Market Access Road, 21 Culvert, 5 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Storage Tank Gallon 1000-10000), 1 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Pump), 1 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (By Turbine Pump), 7 Construction/ Renovation of water supply systems (Gravity flow), 1 Construction/ Renovation of Rain Water

Collection Tank, 8 Construction of Retaining wall for water source, the total of 82 social/economy infrastructures, by their own human resource and community initiative through PRC support and UNDP and Japan Government funding. The total of 31,735 local people from 40 project villages gained social cohesion through cash for work and social/economy infrastructure activities.

This project is beneficial to the community in improving their livelihoods, social cohesion, trust building, peace and community engagement through the social/economy infrastructures. The targeted community has improved transportation, education, medical assistant, economy development, livelihoods, social cohesion and community engagement directly or indirectly after this 6 months project intervention. However, PRC believes that long-term projects would have more impacts and promote sustainable development, better social cohesion within and between villages and different groups and the identified construction activities when undertaken with strategies that increase opportunities for interaction, dialogue, trust and unity in target locations. Thus, PRC recommends implementing such project in other parts of the country in the future.

VII. Financial Status

Insert the Financial Report or Cumulative Financial Report here. It should be planned budget, revised budget, expenditure and balance

Activity	Budget (as planned)	Expenditure	Balance
Programme cost	521,664,000	521,664,000	0
Operation	140,098,400	140,098,400	0
Total	661,762,400	661,762,400	0

VIII. Annex

Insert the latest approved Annual Work Plan (AWP), relevant copies of media coverage, publications, etc. Specific reporting requirements can also be inserted here.