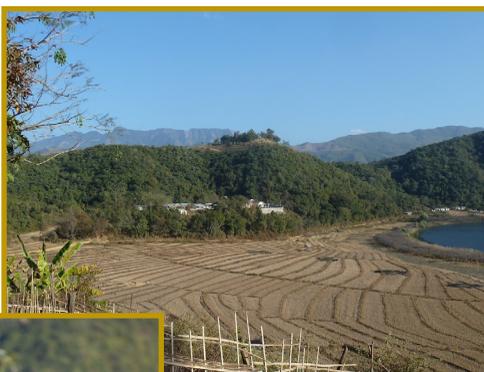

OVERVIEW



Support to Chin State's
Comprehensive 5-Year Development Plan
and Annual Planning 2016-2021
with Local Social Plan



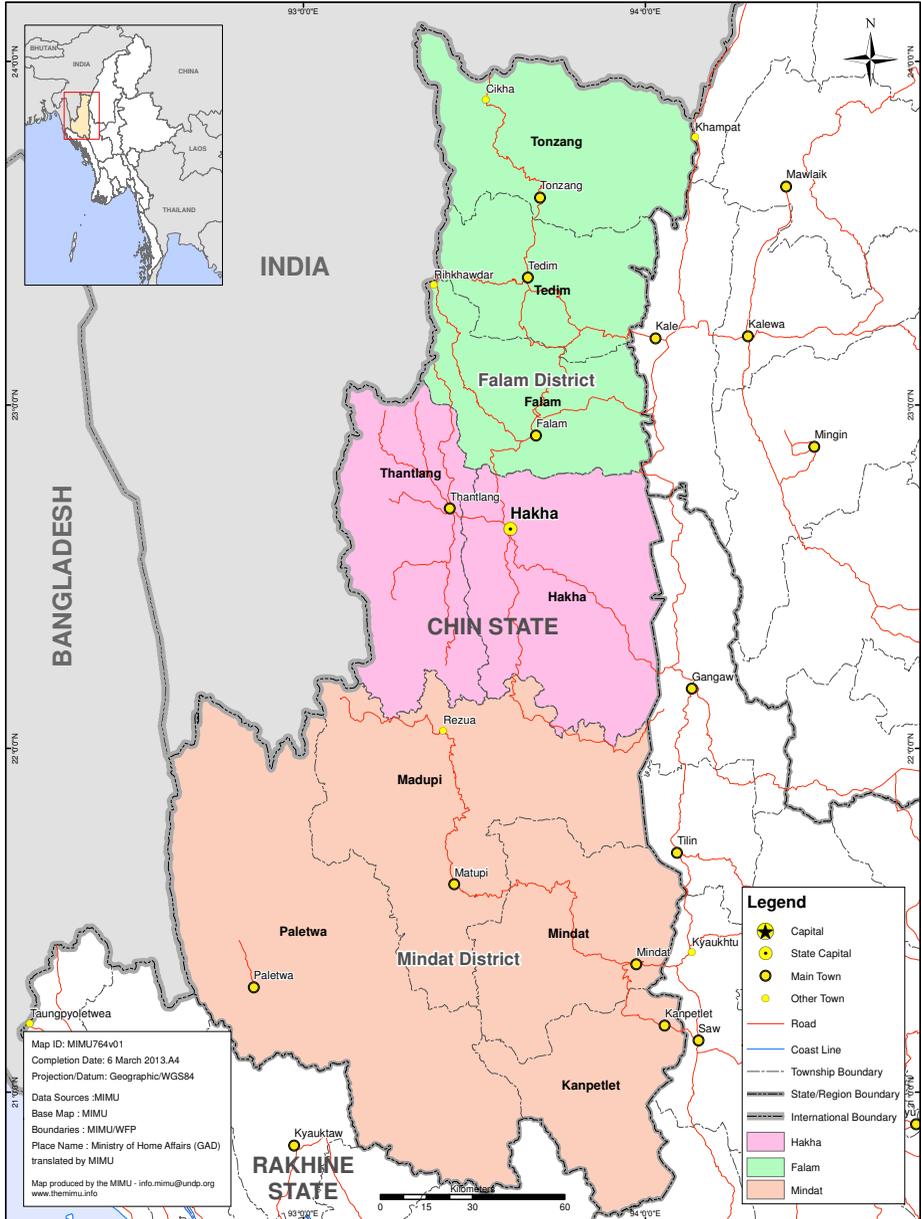


Myanmar Information Management Unit

District Map - Chin State



Schweizer Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar



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CHIN STATE BACKGROUND

Chin State is known as the “Chin Hills” due to its mountainous geography. Its mountain ranges run north to south throughout the length of the state and have an average elevation of 5000 to 8000 feet, with the highest point being Nat Ma Thaung or Mount Victoria at 10,500 feet (3,200 m). The mountains are steep with very narrow valley floors, providing little flat land for agriculture. The terrain is extremely rugged, creating major problems for road construction and agriculture and is affecting all aspects of peoples’ lives. According to the Population and Housing Census of 2014, the total population of the people living in Chin State is 478,690 distributed through all nine townships. Chin State’s area is 23,907 square miles (36,019 km) making the state the second smallest State in the Union of Myanmar.

After years of conflict, the ratification of the ceasefire agreement between the Chin National Front (CNF) and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 9th of December 2012 provided the opportunity to address long-standing political, military, ethno-cultural, religious and human rights issues affecting relations between the Union Government and the Chin people. It has contributed to the creation of an environment that is supportive of cooperation between the Government and the people of Chin State. Such an environment is conducive to economic and social advancement of the communities throughout Chin State. It is strategically important to seize this opportunity to put in place development initiatives that will consolidate the peace process and advance the social and economic wellbeing of the Chin people.

SUPPORT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN for Chin State (CDP) and accompanying Local Social Plan (LSP)

The Support to the Comprehensive Development Plan for Chin State (CDP) and accompanying Local Social Plan (LSP) results from an agreement between the Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) and the Chin State Government. Financial support to conduct economic planning and social protection studies were provided by DANIDA and UNICEF.

The Plan is the result of a participatory process involving key stakeholders, including communities in nine different townships, who are associated with the economic and social development of Chin State. During the planning process all major sectors of the Chin State economy and social sphere have been examined and a forum was conducted in which the Chin people and Government could articulate problems and aspirations. The project has endeavoured to construct a comprehensive development program which addresses the critical issues facing Chin State today.

The plans produced include project proposals selected and prioritized by the people in Chin State and the Chin State Government on the basis of needs they have identified. The result is a large number of potential initiatives presented in the form of project proposals at a combined value of US\$ 70 million. These plans are designed to be integrated into the Chin State Government's planning process and to support the finalization of the Chin State's Comprehensive 5-year Development Plan 2016-2021 for submission to the Union Government and inclusion in the National Comprehensive Development Plan. Additionally, the analysis and project proposals can be utilized by the Chin State government in order to secure external funding and for local and international NGOs and donors looking to make a positive impact in Chin State.

LOCAL SOCIAL PLAN

The planning process has included the development of a Local Social Plan (LSP). The LSP has directly affected the way the overall plan has evolved. The analysis carried out in preparing the LSP highlighted the great difficulties the Chin people face in their daily lives – the shortage of food, the lack of money for children’s education, and the poor access to health services. In recognition of the seriousness of these issues – particularly the lack of food security – the Plan has focused its development approach on resolving the problems of hunger and food shortages, using the nutrition of children as a marker for development progress.

CORE PROBLEMS FACING CHIN STATE

Chin State is one of the poorest states in the Union of Myanmar. The population has been estimated at approximately 0.5 million people, of which the majority live in rural areas. Villages are scattered and range from seven to 800 households in one village. The majority of the population – especially in the north – is Christian, whereas Buddhists are found in the southern part of Chin State. The majority of the population is Chin, sub-divided into six, main subgroups (Asho, Cho, Khum, Laimi, Mizo and Zimo). Patriarchal, monogamous and extended families with a high number of children characterize the state in general. Male-led decision-making and earning for families dominate with land ownership indicating importance in many villages. Women have limited voice in the private and public sphere. Traditional livelihoods are rooted in agriculture; usually paddy rice, upland shifting cultivation, or mobile farming with raising fowls and livestock. Deforestation and changes in rainfall and climate pose threats to productivity. Cash

crops can usually not compete with lowland products. Rice and maize are staple foods; food security lasts for less than 8 months a year and varies widely. Border trading, seasonal hired wages, outmigration and migrating to other parts of Myanmar are common. Safe water supply and irrigable water sources are not meeting the demand. Since 2000, food consumption mainly relies on rice import from Kalay to Northern Chin, and from cities in Western Irrawaddy to Southern Chin towns. The security situation is stabilized following the ratification of a ceasefire agreement in 2012 between the Union Government and the Chin National Front.



“73% of the Chin population is officially classified as ‘poor’ and 58% of the children are measured as being seriously or moderately stunted.”

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Notable events in recent years have started to identify local development priorities while also setting the stage for greater participation in development planning in Chin State.

The agreement signed between the Union Government and the Chin National Front (CNF) in 2012 focused on a number of social and economic priorities that the Union Government is committed to deliver. These include the following:

- Participation of Chin peoples in determining development priorities
- Promotion of ICT use and computer skills
- Promotion of tourism
- Provision of, and access to, basic public services (water, electricity, health, education, food security)
- Establishment of a Special Economic Zone within the Chin state
- Construction of at least one airport



Launching Workshop, November 2013 (Chin State Chief Minister, Ministers, CNF Joint General Secretary, MIID & UNICEF teams)

These expressed priorities provide the overarching framework within which the planning of the State's development should be viewed. Of particular relevance to the current planning process is the first of the Agreement's stated objectives: "Participation of Chin peoples in determining development priorities".

This inclusive approach to planning and setting priorities has been kept at the forefront of the work process for the Comprehensive Development Plan. As such, the planning process and the resulting plan can be seen as a contribution to the ongoing peace process in Myanmar, presenting a practical model that may be applicable in other conflict affected and ethnic minority areas.



Community consultation in Falam



Final review workshop (group discussion)

PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

for People-Centred Development

This Plan came about as a product of a year-long engagement with numerous stakeholders in Chin state. In preparing the Plan, the MIID research team has worked in partnership with its State and CBO counterparts and has aligned this bottom-up approach with the Government of Myanmar's new approach to planning.

The planning process commenced with a Launching Workshop, attended by a wide cross-section of stakeholders from government, the CNF, and civil society. At this workshop, strategic planning tools and objective setting was used to define the frame within which the planning study would operate.



Final Review Workshop



Multi-stakeholder Prioritization Workshop

Extensive field research was undertaken and consultations with the community occurred at different levels such as village, township, and state. These dialogue sessions helped to identify the problems being faced by the Chin people in their daily lives and provided them with a forum in which to articulate their aspirations and development priorities.

After the initial conclusions from the field research were gathered, a multi-stakeholder prioritization event was held in order to identify the prioritization levels of projects, objectives and thematic areas.

The inclusion of the diverse perspectives within Chin State in the preparation stages helps to ensure that the Plan and its subsequent project proposals emphasize the actions needed to produce tangible positive outcomes that can be felt at the ground level.



“The inclusion of the diverse perspectives in the preparation stages helps to ensure that the Plan . . . produces tangible, positive outcomes that can be felt at the ground level.”

PRIORITY THEMES INVESTIGATED IN DETAIL

The Plan has attempted to analyze the current economic activities and future opportunities for comprehensive development in Chin State. The Plan, and the participatory process from which it emerged, aims to harness these potential gains in all sectors to achieve people-centred development that can deliver improved social indicators.

The themes listed below were investigated by teams of national and international experts working with local specialists from Government, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organizations and consulting with communities throughout the nine townships that make up Chin State.

SOCIAL PROTECTION | This component examines (a) characteristics of vulnerable groups and households in Chin State, (b) existing social protection mechanisms and (c) the potential of the Local Social Plan as a strategy for intervention.

AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES | This section looks at (a) addressing shifting cultivation and climate change in agriculture, (b) improving agriculture output, (c) land use and management, (d) agriculture technology and capacity building, and (e) strategies for agriculture sector development overall. It also includes analysis of livestock, fisheries, and forest issues.

SMEs AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING | This section explores (a) the challenges and opportunities of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), (b) efforts to create a business-friendly environment, (c) development of market information, and (d) a strategy for the expansion of the SME industry. It also examines vocational training issues and opportunities and strategies for improvement.

INFRASTRUCTURE | This component studies (a) basic infrastructure issues and opportunities, (b) road construction, surfacing, and maintenance including water management on roads, (c) stabilization of soil disposal sites, (d) cost-saving

measures. It also includes important considerations for an airport and other infrastructure issues such as, electricity, renewable energy, and water supply.

TOURISM | This section investigates (a) sites for potential tourism promotion, (b) opportunities and challenges for the tourism sector and (c) strategies for responsible tourism promotion.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT | This section explores (a) the local government’s development mandate, (b) its current capacity to fulfil that mandate and (c) practical approaches to better enable the local government to lead and to deliver on its development plans.

Project Proposals for Priority Sectors

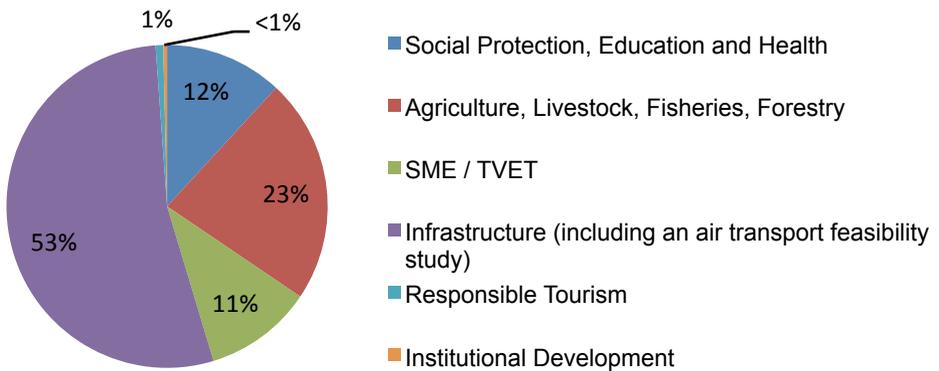
The Plan contains 47 distinct project proposals that emerged from the participatory analysis process. Each proposal includes a project rationale, specific objectives, proposed activities, a time frame, target locations, as well as an itemized budget. Importantly, proposals describe how the project aligns with Union-level policies and strategies such as the Framework for Economic and Social Development (FESR) and various sector-specific plans outlined by related ministries. Full project proposals can be found in “Volume 2: Development Proposals”.

Priority Sectors	# of Projects Recommended	Investment Required (US\$)
Social Protection, Education and Health	14 projects	\$8.32 million
Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry	18 projects	\$15.787 million
Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development / Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET)	5 projects	\$7.63 million
Infrastructure (incl. air transport feasibility study)	4 projects	\$37.47 million
Responsible Tourism	5 projects	\$536,000
Institutional Development	1 project	\$270,000

This portfolio of projects represents a total budget of over 70 million USD. The distribution of these necessary resources between the priority sectors

illustrates significant factors in Chin State’s ongoing development process. Infrastructure comprises 53% of the proposed project budgets emphasizing the foundational need for improved access to and throughout the state. The importance of agriculture to the livelihood of the Chin people as well as to the preservation of their natural environment is emphasized by Agriculture and Natural Resources projects utilizing the second largest percentage of the total portfolio budget.

Proposed Project Budgets by Sector



OUTCOMES

The Plan represents a needs- and rights-based intervention strategy with project proposals that address both social and economic vulnerabilities with the accompanying Local Social Plan specifically focusing on child-centred social services (health, education and social welfare). Expected outcomes from the implementation of the Plan’s proposed initiatives include:

POVERTY REDUCTION | Increased household incomes, diversification of household livelihood strategies; increased access to credit; growth in employment opportunities; better functioning local economic markets; identification of economically-viable regional products

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS TO MARKETS | Improved connectivity; upgraded road system; slope stabilization; air transport feasibility recommendations; state-level Transportation Master Plan

INCREASE IN FOOD SECURITY | Increased agricultural diversification and yields, expanded areas of irrigation, improved techniques for livestock and fisheries management; adoption of more sustainable farming techniques

NATURAL RESOURCES | Improved water management; forest preservation

CAPACITY BUILDING | Increased knowledge and awareness of vulnerable groups' risks; improved educational quality and access, increased familiarizations with relevant laws, improved livelihood skills

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS | Improved learning at primary level; nutritional standards improved; access to pre-school education

DISABILITY RIGHTS | Improved Understanding in Chin society about the rights of People With Disabilities; social protection schemes for PWDs and elderly persons established; access to education for children with disabilities

WOMEN'S RIGHTS | Reproductive health services reinforced through staff training and extension of services; women's access to justice and decision-making

HEALTH | Improved conditions for health services; awareness of disease transmission and prevention of malaria, TB, HIV

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT | Enabled environment for SMEs; increased focus on locally-identified value chains

TOURISM PROMOTION | Establishment of tourism promotion structures; creation of destination management plans

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT | Strengthened systems for participatory planning, resource mobilization, implementation management, financial management and monitoring; improved aid coordination at state level

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