

**YANGON UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PROGRAMME**

**ANALYSIS ON LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN KACHIN STATE:
MYANMAR**

(CASESTUDY: MYITKYINA BASED IDPs CAMPS)

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EMDevS – 36 (18th BATCH)**

OCTOBER, 2024

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A thesis submitted as a partial fulfillment towards the requirement of the degree of
Master of Development Studies (MDevS)

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This is to certify that this thesis entitled “ANALYSIS ON LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN KACHIN STATE: MYANMAR.” submitted as a partial fulfillment towards the requirements for the degree of Master of Development Studies has been accepted by the Board of Examiners.

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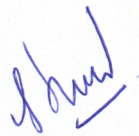


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ABSTRACT

This study analyzed on the livelihood assistance programs to Internally Displaced Persons in Kachin State, Myanmar. Livelihood assistance programs have been implemented to address these issues by providing economic support and resources aimed at improving the living conditions and self-sufficiency of IDPs. Focus groups and interviews are used to gather data for this study and four chosen camps and engaged in casual discussions with IDPs and semi-structured interview was conducted using pre-prepared interview questions that aligned with the main objectives of the study. This study identified and analyzed the benefits and challenges faced by IDPs in accessing and benefiting from livelihood assistance programs, including the complexities of local dynamics. The study concluded that inadequate program coverage logistical constraints, insufficient coordination among aid agencies, and the broader political and socio-economic context.

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LITS OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
EEP	Economic Empowerment Programme
FCS	Fragile and Conflict – Affected Settings
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAD	General Administration Department
GCA	Government Control Area
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
INGO	International Non- governmental Organization
KBC- HDD	Kachin Baptist Convention – Humanitarian Development Department
KBC	Kachin Baptist Convention
KIA	Kachin Independent Army
KII	Key Informant Interview
KIO	Kachin Independent Organization
KMSS	Karuna Mission Social Solidarity
KNU	Karen National Union
MRCS	Myanmar Red Cross Society
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NCA	The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
NGCA	Non-Government Control Area
NGO	- Non- Governmental Organization
UN	- United Nations
UNDP	-United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	- United Nations Children’s Fund
WASH	- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	- World Food Programme

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale of the Study

Kachin State, located in the northernmost part of Myanmar, has been a significant focal point of ethnic conflict and civil unrest for decades. The protracted conflict in Kachin State, Myanmar, has resulted in a significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who face severe socio-economic challenges and instability. Large numbers of the local population are seeking to avoid conflict and have been hosted in IDP camps since 2011 throughout in Kachin State. The majority of livelihood-related aid programs is run mostly via local groups and is funded by both domestic and foreign humanitarian and development organizations. Livelihood assistance programs are crucial in such contexts, aiming to provide economic support and promote self-sufficiency among displaced populations. Despite the well-intentioned design and implementation of these programs, the effectiveness of these interventions in improving the living conditions and long-term resilience of IDPs remains a critical concern.

While numerous livelihood assistance programs have been supported by the humanitarian agencies among displaced communities, there is still a lack of comprehensive analysis regarding their benefit and the specific challenges encountered in this context. The impact of livelihood assistance programs on IDPs in Kachin State is multifaceted, encompassing economic, physical, mental, and social dimensions. By addressing the immediate and long-term needs of displaced populations, livelihood assistance not only enhances their well-being but also contributes to broader humanitarian, developmental, and peace building goals. Understanding and optimizing the impact of these programs is essential for creating effective and sustainable solutions for IDPs in conflict-affected in Kachin State. The study systematically reviews academic research, humanitarian reports, and program evaluations to analysis the benefit and

challenges of livelihood assistance programs which support to Myitkyina based IDPs. This study aims to study by providing a detailed review of existing literature and evaluating on the livelihood assistance program to internally displaced persons' benefit and challenges faced in this Myitkyina, Kachin State.

By identify the opportunity and challenges of current livelihood assistance programs which programs are implementing in Myitkyina based IDPs camps, this study seeks to provide actionable recommendations for improving program design and implementation. In addition, insights gained from this study can help humanitarian organizations, and other stakeholders enhance their strategies to better meet the needs of IDPs and the findings from this study have the potential to improve the practices of organizations involved in providing livelihood assistance. This is crucial for developing more effective and contextually appropriate interventions that can support IDPs in achieving their sustainability livelihood opportunity.

1.2 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study are :

- (1) to identify the current situation of the livelihood assistance programs of Myitkyina based IDPs camps and
- (2) To examine the opportunities and challenges faced by IDPs in accessing and benefiting from livelihood assistance programs in Myitkyina township, Kachin State.

1.3 Method of Study

The descriptive methods are used in this study. The primary data are secondary data are collected to identify and examine the livelihood assistance programs in IDPS camps in Myitkyina township. Focus groups and interviews are used to gather data for the research, which employs a qualitative technique. from four chosen camps and engaged in casual discussions with IDPs and semi-structured interview was conducted using pre-prepared interview questions that aligned with the main objectives of the study. Separate groups were formed based on participant characteristics such as program participants, non-participants, different demographic groups to capture diverse

perspectives. The secondary data were collected from the relevant sources such as internet websites, previous studies and official data.

1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Study

In Myitkyina, there has total (95) IDPs sites in August, 2024 based on UNHCR data. This study only focused on selected four IDPs camps which located nearby by Myitkyina Township and listed by government as IDPs camps. This study in conducted Focus group discussion (FGDs) with total 39 IDPs from the Myitkyina based selected four IDPs camps and four participants from the aid organization for Key Informant Interview (KIIs) in July 2024. The study periods covered from May to August 2024.

1.5 Organization of the Study

There are five chapters in this study. The first chapter presents the introduction. Chapter Two expresses the literature review such as definition of livelihood, Livelihood Assistance program and its Impacts, IDPs and the Characteristics of IDPs, Displacement Challenges regarding Livelihood and Social Protection and reviews on previous studies. Chapter three states IDPs current situation in Myitkyina, Internally Displaced Persons in Kachin State, Supporting Activities to IDPs and Livelihood Assistance Programs. Chapter four indicates the impact of livelihood assistance programs on IDPs and Chapter five conclude findings and suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Livelihood

A livelihood may have a very broad, encompassing, and profound significance. Its significance also manifests as a mechanism to provide the basic needs of life, and as stated by Chambers and Conway (1991), it encompasses three key ideas: sustainability, equality, and capacity. Developing a standard of living during a war relies on IDPs' ability to adapt to their vulnerabilities in the unpredictable environment and strategically use their livelihood assets (Women's Refugee Commission, 2009). Making a living is what is meant by a livelihood, but the three ideas together suggest a sustainable livelihood, which may also signify sustainable development. By altering definitions from previous panels, Chambers and Conway (1992) suggested the following definition of sustainable livelihood:

"A livelihood is sustainable if it can with stand and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or improve its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and it contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term." Activities, assets (stores, resources, claim sand access), and competencies that are essential for a means of sustenance are the components that make up a livelihood. (Conway and Chambers's paper from 1992)

Programs that provide a means of subsistence are an effective tool for assisting those who have been displaced in becoming more self-sufficient. For a person to have a means of sustenance, they need to have the skills, resources (both material and social), and activities that are essential for that means. It is deemed sustainable when a means of subsistence is able to endure and recover from shocks and stress while simultaneously conserving or developing its assets and capabilities in the present and the future without

compromising the basis of natural resources (Chambers & Conway, 1991). Among the many instances of physical assets are things like trees, land, animals, tools, and other resources. Other examples include food supply and savings. The capacity to claim food, labor, and assistance, as well as access to resources, knowledge, training, healthcare, and job openings, are examples of intangible assets. Other examples include the ability to claim employment opportunities. According to Solow (1995) and Goldsmith, Veum, and Darity (1996), the state of being unable to engage in activities that provide a means of subsistence may be a source of enormous distress on a global scale. It is extremely important for persons who have been forced to endure persistent adversity to get the wellbeing that is provided by livelihoods programs. This sometimes occurs in circumstances that have arisen in the aftermath of a war, tragedy, or calamity. Numerous populations, including those who were displaced as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria (Giardinelli et al., 2015), those who were living in camps in South Sudan (Schinina & West, 2014), Haiti shortly after the earthquake that occurred in 2010 (Ataya, Duigan, Louis & Schinina, 2010), and Iraqi refugees in urban areas of Lebanon in 2007 (Schinina, Bartoloni & Nuri, 2008) frequently cited their inability to provide for themselves and their families (as they had been able to do in the past) as a primary source of distress and other negative emotions. One of the most important psychological skills that may assist individuals in achieving success in their professional lives is mental wellbeing (World Bank, 2015). In order for activities that are related to one's livelihood to be effective, a wide variety of social, cognitive, and emotional abilities are required. In a manner analogous to that of monetary wealth or market access, these abilities provide a source of agency; yet, they are psychologically rooted and acquired via socialization (Algan, Beasley, Vitaro, & Tremblay, 2013; Heller et al., 2015).

Therefore, psychosocially informed livelihood programs may be classified into two groups, with mental health serving as a fundamental basis for effective livelihood programming. In the first category, livelihood-focused interventions are combined with programs that specifically address mental health and psychological assistance. This addition offers a supplementary element to support psychological requirements that were not

often specifically taken into account in the design of the livelihood initiative's component itself, but it does not necessary alter it.

2.2 Livelihood Assistance programs and Its Impacts

Livelihoods are shaped by political, social, and economic factors. The capacity to acquire and utilize assets for a positive result is influenced by institutions, procedures, and regulations including markets, social norms, and land ownership laws. These situations give rise to new possibilities or challenges for livelihood as they evolve. Additionally, livelihoods are influenced by the shifting natural environment. Decisions for livelihood are influenced by a variety of factors, including the availability of plants and animals, the climate and geographic conditions, the frequency and severity of natural calamities, and the quality of the soil, air, and water.

A livelihood's resistance to shocks, seasonal fluctuations, and trends is just as important as its productive results in determining its strength. Natural catastrophes, wars, and economic downturns are examples of shocks. Demand for certain goods and services, income-generating prospects, and resource availability may all vary seasonally. The future of many livelihoods may be seriously hampered by more gradual and often predictable changes in politics and governance, technology usage, economics, and the availability of natural resources. The availability of assets and the chances to turn them into a "living" are both impacted by these developments. To survive in such circumstances, individuals must modify their current methods or create new ones.

The interconnectedness of livelihoods is a last crucial feature. Seldom do livelihoods exist in a vacuum. To access and trade assets, a particular livelihood may be dependent on other livelihoods. Farmers provide the commodities, processors prepare them, and buyers purchase them; traders depend on these three parties. Additionally, livelihoods vie with one another for access to resources and markets. Therefore, both favorable and unfavorable effects on a particular livelihood would subsequently affect other people. This is a crucial factor to take into account while organizing livelihood support. Affected populations' immediate, short-, and long-term requirements are broadly represented by the overlapping stages into which livelihood interventions are informally

divided. Livelihood provisioning, livelihood protection, and livelihood promotion are these stages.

Providing essential food and non-essential commodities for survival is usually the main livelihood provisioning operations during the acute period of a catastrophe. Protecting, replacing, and rebuilding the productive assets required starting a new or pre-existing livelihood is the goal of the livelihood protection phase of interventions. Initiating and strengthening livelihoods to be more ecologically and economically sustainable as well as more disaster-resistant is the goal of livelihood promotion initiatives. These staged actions often build upon one another. Depending on the kind of catastrophe and the degree of damage, each set of tasks will have a different length.

Additionally, as family and community recovery rates may vary, several kinds of treatments will need to be implemented concurrently. The many goals of livelihood supply, protection, and promotion need distinct approaches, capabilities, resources, and timeframes. A relief-based goal, livelihood provisioning depends on prompt action and the ability to transport essential supplies. Protecting livelihoods is in line with the recovery phase, requires a thorough and intricate evaluation, and makes use of local contextual knowledge. The shift from recovery initiatives to development aims is known as livelihood promotion, and it requires the sustained commitment of governments and other development players.

2.3 IDPs and the Characteristics of IDPs

In the United States, individuals or groups of individuals who have been compelled to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, particularly as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of widespread violence, human rights violations, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border are referred to as internally displaced people (IDPs). (UNHCR, 2010, page 8)

The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) continues to rise, and developing countries are finding it more difficult to manage them. According to Eweka and Olusegun (2016), it has been noticed that international efforts to manage displacement have concentrated more on refugees than on those who have been relocated

inside their own country at the same time. There are, in fact, similarities and differences between internally displaced people and refugees. As a consequence of this, persons who are displaced or who are living in camps could have features with refugees and people who are internally displaced, or they might have characteristics that are separate from those of them. Conflicts, such as wars and natural disasters, are the major causes of persons being forced to migrate or be forced to flee their ancestral regions. Armed conflicts inside states and regions, ethnic conflicts, and political power struggles in middle-income countries have continued to be the primary causes of significant internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to Santschi, Moro, Dau, Gordon, and Maxwell (2014), the most common types of violent acts that occurred in South Sudan were traditional livestock raids and armed uprisings, such as activities carried out by rebel organizations. It would seem that the causes of disputes that lead to migration might sometimes come as a surprise to people.

For a variety of reasons, internally displaced people often want to relocate to urban areas; yet, developing nations have not been able to provide reliable services and sufficient means of subsistence. Additionally, since they must purchase items that some of them may have previously made themselves; living in an urban setting is expensive. After being displaced, internally displaced people often have specific requirements to return to some kind of normalcy. To regain their independence and move closer to a long-term solution, they must have access to livelihoods, healthcare, education, and suitable housing. Urban IDPs often face issues with basic amenities including power, housing, clean water and sanitation, primary healthcare, and being denied access to school because of their ethnicity or other distinctions (Cotroneo, 2017). Additionally, according to Cotroneo (2017), being in a strange setting, not being able to predictably meet their requirements, and facing an unclear future may be a source of ongoing anxiety, and the absence of opportunities for a long-term solution can lead to irritation.

Furthermore, people's sense of dignity and self-worth are damaged when they must depend on outside assistance to exist (Cotroneo, 2017). Scholars have generally discovered that internally displaced people do not have the same rights as refugees (Adewale, 2016). Due to the absence of security in the districts where the camps are situated, the general public's perception of IDP camps is therefore mostly unfavorable

(Ferguson, 2010; Nguya, 2019). Both short-term and long-term displacement are possible, however most displacement is either permanent or long-term.

2.4 Displacement Challenges regarding Livelihoods and Social Protection

It is the rising number of individuals who are relocated inside the boundaries of their countries of origin as a result of political instability that is adding to the worldwide issue that is being caused by internally displaced persons (IDPs). IDPs seem to be in a scenario that is comparable to that of refugees; yet, there are some key differences between the two. According to Sjogren (2014), the most significant risk is the fact that internally displaced persons (IDPs) do not have the entitlement to certain rights and protections that are traditionally associated with the legal status of international refugees. Displacement is a common consequence of the disruption of livelihood systems brought on by armed conflict and natural disasters. Conflict and political instability have a direct impact on people's capacity to make a living, including the destruction and theft of essential assets like food, housing, and cattle. Individuals who are displaced are not the only ones whose lives are impacted by displacement; their communities and the individuals they leave behind are also impacted in a variety of ways. It also has the potential to have long-term consequences on the social and economic development of the people.

According to Jaspars and Maxwell (2009), there has been an indirect effect via the loss of key social services, as well as through the loss of access to work and markets, as well as limits on migration. Those who are uprooted from their homes, companies, social networks, valuables, and clients are at danger of losing all they own. These consequences have a direct influence on the position of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in society as well as honorable means of sustenance. As a result of the trauma and stress that are caused by war, the disruption of livelihoods in the context of relocation may lead to emotional depression. As a result of protracted humanitarian aid, internally displaced people (IDPs) have a tough time adjusting to their new surroundings and becoming self-sufficient. A loss of livelihood has a significant impact on many parts of an individual's life, including their family and the community in which they are living. There are certain

families that are forced to live apart where the parents are required to leave their children in order to pursue job, and the children are required to stop attending school.

Furthermore, the presence of displaced people may be seen as a danger by the communities that surround them, which may lead to friction with the communities that are hosting them owing to the limited resources available and the intense rivalry in the labor market (UNHCR, 2016). The acquisition of new skills for sustaining one's livelihood is a difficult task, and the absence or loss of livelihoods may lead to vulnerabilities. Internationally displaced persons (IDPs) may discover that their abilities are not suitable for their new working environment, which puts them at a disadvantage in the labor market. According to Cotroneo (2017), this might result in the establishment of illicit work sectors such as prostitution, criminality, and trafficking, all of which are responsible for sexual abuse and gender-based violence. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) who live in metropolitan areas face a multitude of problems and hazards, including a lack of access to essential services, new types of criminality, economic, political, and social discrimination, and a position of uncertainty that lasts for an extended period of time. This is despite the fact that living in camps might be considered advantageous in some circumstances. Another restriction that has an effect on the livelihood intervention of internally displaced people (IDPs) on both the local and national levels is the political and policy backdrop. Problems that directly influence livelihoods include laws that limit the access of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to legal status, to employment, and to movement restrictions. Based on Cavaglieri's (2005) research, individuals who are living in camps and are alienated from the host community have restricted freedom of movement and self-reliance in order to apply their predetermined methods for sustaining themselves. Because of the destruction of their prior socio-economic support network, as well as the loss of their possessions, including land and property, they are more vulnerable than they were before. It is possible for these obstacles and problems to result in a decrease in one's self-esteem as well as emotional or psychological discomfort (UNHCR, 2012).

It is inescapable that individuals will get disconnected from their typical lifecycle as a result of being forced to adjust to new conditions (Maxwell, Stites, Robillard, & Wagner, 2017). This is because displacement is a situation that cannot be avoided.

During the war, it is necessary to have a solid understanding of the dynamics of displacement, as well as its consequences on people's livelihoods and the ways in which they have survived.

2.4.1 Social Inclusion and Community Cohesion

Livelihood assistance programs that promote community participation and engagement have contributed to fostering social inclusion and strengthening community ties among IDPs and host communities. These programs have played a crucial role in rebuilding social networks and promoting mutual support (Thapa&Shrestha, 2020).

2.4.2 Psychosocial Impact

Participating in livelihood programs has had positive psychosocial effects on IDPs by providing a sense of purpose, restoring dignity, and reducing dependency on humanitarian aid. However, challenges such as trauma and stress related to displacement continue to affect mental health outcomes (Hlaing&Aung, 2019).

2.4.3 Improvements in Physical Well-being

Livelihood assistance has been associated with improvements in physical health outcomes among IDPs. Increased income from livelihood activities has enabled better access to healthcare services and improved nutrition, leading to enhanced health status and reduced vulnerability to diseases (Smith & Brown, 2017).

2.4.4 Impact on Economic Stability

Studies indicate that livelihood assistance programs, such as vocational training, microfinance, and cash transfers, have contributed to enhancing the economic stability of IDPs in Kachin State. For example, vocational training programs have equipped IDPs with skills that are relevant to local markets, thereby improving income generation opportunities (Johnston et al., 2018).

2.5 Livelihood Strategy Category of Intension

Depending on the situation and time of year, a livelihood strategy often consists of a mix of various tasks carried out by various family members (Jaspars, O'Callaghan, & Stites, 2007). According to Levine (2014), a strategy may also be a collection of guiding principles that individuals use to attempt to arrange themselves in order to accomplish their objectives. The assets that are accessible via institutional considerations have influenced livelihood practices. During a humanitarian crisis, livelihood assets turn become liabilities, and access to institutions, procedures, and policies changes in areas impacted by war (Women's Refugee Commission, 2009).

One or more people may take part in activities that support a collective livelihood plan, or a person may do many jobs to satisfy their requirements. Individuals usually take on a variety of tasks inside families in order to support and develop the family; in certain cultures, this grouping may grow to a small community, where members work together to satisfy the requirements of the whole group. The way people access and use these assets within the aforementioned social, economic, political, and environmental contexts forms a livelihood strategy. People frequently take on various tasks within households in order to support and expand the family. This grouping may grow into a small community in some cultures, where members cooperate to meet the requirements of the group as a whole.

2.6 Reviews on Previous Studies

Literature review on Zaw Lut (2013) conducted thesis research on “Armed Conflict, Internally Displaced Person and Protection in Kachin State, Myanmar”. The research mainly focused on IDPs in non-government-controlled areas where most of humanitarian agencies could not easily access to provide humanitarian assistance. In general, this research mainly mentioned on education, health, food, and security assistance cases for the IDPs focused on NGCA. Observed that there is limited support for the creation of livelihood programs in non-government-controlled areas. IDPs in the research targeted areas mostly suffered from unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunity and there was no solution provided by the local government. IDPs themselves began looking for available jobs outside of the camps, but movement in some

areas was restricted due to landmines as well as security issue. The research also mentioned that the lack of livelihood improvement policy made IDPs more vulnerable and that much more support was needed in the long-term rather than short term. One of the most important highlighted issues was the need to adjust IDP livelihood support programs to account for the possibility of long-term continuation of conflict. This also includes proper planning in the sectors of basic services, food, shelter, water, non-food items, education, health, and livelihood training programs. In this context, the livelihood of IDPs needs to be strengthened in order for them to help themselves and to contribute to their family needs. To ensure and maintain security, IDPs are prohibited to leave the camp compound, which indirectly affects IDPs who are seeking available work in the local residential area. IDPs who are employed at a location further in distance from the camp need to get permission to take a three-month leave in advance from the camp management committee. Their monthly rations will be cut after a three-month absence from the camp. Therefore, IDPs working outside the camps are not allowed to do so longer than three months in these camps.

Another research was "Livelihood Training for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kachin State, Myanmar: Success and Challenges Beneficiaries," conducted by Lujan in 2019. She concentrated on livelihood training for internally displaced people in this research, primarily discussing the potential and difficulties experienced by Kachin IDPs who get livelihood program help in their quest for improved job chances. 1) To have a deeper understanding of the current livelihood activities of internally displaced people in Kachin State 2) To determine whether IDPs may seek improved livelihood prospects via the training programs offered by humanitarian and development organizations. 3) To investigate the prospects, anticipations, and difficulties faced by program participants 4) To examine the elements that contribute to the effectiveness of livelihood training initiatives for internally displaced people in Kachin State. Key Informant Interviews (KII) and semi-structured interviews were used in this study. According to her study, there are two livelihood training programs that help IDPs increase their work potential and increase their chances of earning a living, and two that are less common. Through training, the livelihood support activities assist IDPs in acquiring new abilities. In order to help livelihood support programs reach their long-

term objectives, this study also offers suggestions. The effectiveness of IDP livelihood training programs is largely supported by four key elements: training that is both relevant and accessible to the local market; technical assistance for skill development, training that is conducted over a long or short period of time, and adequate financial support for trained IDPs following their training.

Lazum HtuTawng (2020) conducted another study titled "Exploring the Livelihoods of Internally Displaced Persons in Kachin State, Myanmar." The study's main objectives were to identify various stakeholders involved in livelihood support programs, provide insights into the general livelihood activities of internally displaced people, and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these livelihoods. This study's primary goal is to investigate the livelihood tactics and activities that internally displaced people have been doing to both survive and make a living while living in camps. For this research, focus groups and semi-structured interviews were used. The research also attempted to comprehend how IDPs generally see livelihoods and the methods that aid providers use. Both IDPs and service providers—the top local organizations disclose additional possible means of subsistence and the viability of ongoing operations. Generally speaking, this study addressed the primary topics of the research questions, including the organizations' provision of livelihood activities for IDPs, additional potential livelihood results and solutions, and the sustainability of such livelihoods.

Another international literature was “The impact of a livelihood intervention Psychosocial Well Being and Economic Empowerment in an Ongoing Conflict Setting: The Gaza Strip” by Hammad, J., & Tribe, R. (2020). Semi-structured interviews were conducted for the data collection. This study highlighted the benefits of livelihood interventions in FCS, helps us understand some of the psychological benefits of livelihood interventions and highlights the ways it can help empower young people. The evaluation found that despite the difficult economic conditions in Gaza, the EEP was found to help address psychosocial issues and reduced poverty and unemployment and it enabled participants to meet their own and their family’s basic and crucial needs, thus enabling financial survival and facilitating greater economic security. The findings regarding the fostering of psychological benefits indicated that hope was fostered for

some participants because their income-generating project gave them the opportunity to plan their life and their future.

CHAPTER III

OVERVIEW OF THE LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR IDPs IN KACHIN STATE

3.1 Overview of IDPs situation in Myanmar

Previously referred to as Burma, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is now the second-largest country in Southeast Asia. In addition to the People's Republic of China, Thailand, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the east and southeast, as well as Bangladesh and India to the west-northwest, the total land area is 676,578 square kilometers, and it shares a border with forty percent of the world's population to the north and northeast. There is a wide variety of estimates on the present population, falling anywhere between 48 million and more than 60 million. According to the census completed in 2014, there are 51.1 million people living there; however, accurate data are difficult to get due to the fact that some minority groups were excluded (Coles, 2017). Myanmar.com, which is run by the United Nations Population Fund, reports that seventy percent of the population resides in rural areas, with Yangon and Mandalay hosting the majority of the country's urban population. According to the Ministry of Immigration and Population (2015), individuals from Myanmar make up around 8.4% of the total population of the 615 million people who reside in the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian states (ASEAN).

Since 2011, Myanmar has been experiencing a substantial amount of internal displacement as a result of a variety of circumstances, including ethnic clashes, natural disasters, and political instability across the country. On June 11, 2011, renewed violence broke out between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw), bringing an end to a truce that had been in place for seventeen years. Over

one hundred thousand people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of this fighting, the majority of whom are still living in camps in the states of Kachin and northern Shan.

Ceasefires have occasionally been broken, causing temporary displacement. However, since 2012, there have been attempts at peace negotiations, resulting in fewer large-scale displacements compared to other states. In May 2008, Cyclone Nargis devastated the Ayeyarwady Delta, leading to massive displacement and loss of life. The long-term impacts contributed to ongoing vulnerabilities and displacement. Annual monsoon seasons often result in severe flooding and landslides, particularly affecting states like Rakhine, Chin, and Sagaing. These natural disasters cause temporary displacement and exacerbate the hardships faced by already vulnerable populations. The long-term vulnerabilities and dependency on humanitarian assistance is results of the protracted nature of displacement. IDPs are constantly at risk for protection from things like landmine occurrences, gender-based abuse, and forced recruitment by armed organizations.

Humanitarian organizations, both international and local, have provided critical assistance to IDPs. However, access to conflict-affected areas is frequently restricted by the government and military, limiting the delivery of aid. Various peace processes and ceasefire agreements have been attempted since 2011, with mixed success. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signed in 2015 included several ethnic armed groups, but key groups remain outside the agreement, and fighting continues in many areas. Achieving durable solutions for IDPs, such as voluntary return, local integration, or resettlement, remains a significant challenge. Ongoing conflict, land disputes, and lack of political will hinder progress. It is crucial to work toward enhancing recovery and resilience in both host communities and displaced people. This entails expanding access to social services, livelihoods, and education. Since 2011, the situation of internally displaced people in Myanmar has been characterized by a complex interaction between political instability, natural catastrophes, and war, leading to prolonged and serious humanitarian needs. After more than 60 years of civil war, many citizens have been negatively impacted by the hostilities. The majority of the confrontations have occurred near the borders, namely in the Kachin, Shan, Karen, and Rakhine regions, which are

inhabited by minorities. The Global Report on International Displacement states that Myanmar's natural catastrophes and internal conflicts have resulted in the displacement of over 300,000 people (IDMC, 2018).

About 26,700 non-Muslims were internally displaced as a result of Myanmar's military crackdown and inter communal violence in Rakhine State, which forced at least 655,500 Muslims to flee across the border into Bangladesh. Additionally, Thailand has seen a significant influx of Myanmar refugees, especially in border regions. While some of them are illegal migrants, others are living in camps. For decades, Thai refugees have been escaping violence and escaping through the jungles on Myanmar's eastern border in search of safety in Thailand. With the assistance of international refugee organizations, both governments have been working together to facilitate the repatriation of refugees. Following the 2010 election, a large number of refugees returned to Myanmar, where they were given safe passage by the civilian administration. Despite several challenges, both local and international civilian groups have been addressing the lives of internally displaced people and providing basic requirements. IDPs are anticipating future changes since local NGOs and relevant parties are continuously lobbying for their social protection, good livelihoods, and safe repatriation.

3.2 Internally Displaced Persons in Kachin State

Despite the abundance of natural resources in Kachin State, the lives and livelihoods of the people have been affected by decades of protracted armed war. Agriculture is the primary source of income for the majority of Kachin people, followed by mining for amber, gold, and jade (Dapice, 2016). IDPs have been living in both urban and rural regions since the war's resumption in 2011; the former are referred to as government-controlled areas (GCAs) and the latter as non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) (Humanitarian Country Team, 2018). The bulk of people sought refuge in camps and similar environments, while many more escaped over the China border. IDPs are mostly found in the buildings or grounds of religious institutions in metropolitan areas, however others have sought refuge with family members and host communities. Since many of them are not registered, it is probable that their number is more than what has been recorded (Joint IDP Profile Service, 2016).

Since 2011, many residents in Kachin State have been displaced due to the war between the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) and the Myanmar government. Both the host communities and the displaced are being significantly impacted by the nature of war and displacement, which is made worse by restricted access to necessary protection and support (INGO Forum, 2015). In many places, the continuing war and associated displacement continue to put a strain on the coping mechanisms of both host communities and internally displaced people. Accessing impacted individuals in Kachin State has become more difficult for humanitarian partners. Since June 2016, the government has prohibited the UN from visiting GCAs, which has hindered aid delivery, needs analysis, and local partner capacity development (Humanitarian Country Team, 2019). Even while some local humanitarian groups and foreign players are still active, their operations are becoming more and more limited. Due to the fact that most foreign staff permissions are only given to the larger towns, access to GCAs has been drastically decreased, hence preventing many displaced individuals who live outside of the main town centers from accessing them. The humanitarian response in Kachin is still centered on local partners, who have been able to provide aid to certain isolated locations that are inaccessible to foreign personnel (USAID, 2018). Numerous humanitarian groups have been working together on issues pertaining to internally displaced people.

The majority of the activities have mostly been carried out by local organizations, such as faith-based, civil society, and community-based groups. Both the local and global societies greatly value the civic activities of such local organizations. Good living circumstances for displaced people in northern Myanmar have been made possible by a mix of foreign assistance and local Kachin civic society. However, since they have direct communication with the KIO, civilian agencies have sometimes been threatened with violations of Section 17(1) of the Unlawful Associations Act (HARP, 2018). For displaced Kachin people, Kachin CSOs are the main source of safety and aid. Along with a variety of secular groups, the functions of faith-based organizations like the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), the Roman Catholic Church, and Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS) are especially significant (South, 2018). Myitkyina based IDP camp sites / Displacement sites updated information are stated in table (3.1).

Table (3.1) Myitkyina based IDP camp sites / Displacement sites (2024)

No	Township	Camp Site / Displacement Site	Household	Population
1	Myitkyina	Pan Lisu Orphanage Centre	203	937
2	Myitkyina	8 Miles Victory Rehab-Center	6	30
3	Myitkyina	8 miles AG Church	346	1744
4	Myitkyina	Aung Myay Lisu Christian Church	24	120
5	Myitkyina	Aye Mya Thaya, Mor Pong, Siturpu, Kye Ma Thiri, Chun Pin Tha, Edin, Chan Mai Hkawng, Myo Thit Gyi, Yusana	40	149
6	Myitkyina	Bala Min Htin Monastery	32	82
7	Myitkyina	Bethlehem Church	29	154
8	Myitkyina	COC Church (Shwe Zet)	13	59
9	Myitkyina	Chan Myae Aye	5	29
10	Myitkyina	Dahama Par La Monastery	5	35
11	Myitkyina	Deng Galu village	15	75
12	Myitkyina	Hkay Mar Thiwon Monastery	42	120
13	Myitkyina	Hko Hong Yar center	33	136
14	Myitkyina	Host In Myitkyina Town	65	346
15	Myitkyina	In Jang Dung LBC Tharthana compound	30	196
16	Myitkyina	Jan Mai Kawng Host Community	6	26
17	Myitkyina	Ka Rain Naw near Lhavao Biblical/Theological School	34	156
18	Myitkyina	Kan Tharya Ma Monastery	20	35
19	Myitkyina	Kaymarthiri, Shan Dhamma Yone	68	222
20	Myitkyina	Khay Mar Thi Ri Monastery	6	29
21	Myitkyina	Khay Mar Thiri Monastery	75	305
22	Myitkyina	Kya Ra Pa Ti Home No.16	3	16
23	Myitkyina	Kya Ra Pa Ti Host Community	2	11
24	Myitkyina	Kya Ra Pa Ti Nursing Home	72	327
25	Myitkyina	Kyat Paung Chan (No 2)	85	496
26	Myitkyina	Kyat Paung Chan (No 3)	49	269
27	Myitkyina	Kyat Paung Chan (No 4)	38	182
28	Myitkyina	Kyat Paung Chan (No 5)	34	164
29	Myitkyina	Kyat Paung Chan (No 6)	12	53
30	Myitkyina	Kyat Paung Chan	27	141

No	Township	Camp Site / Displacement Site	Household	Population
31	Myitkyina	Kyun Taw Monastery	45	225
32	Myitkyina	Lhaovo Church (Shwe Zet)	3	9
33	Myitkyina	MPPC Church(Qtr.6,Shatapru)	33	121
34	Myitkyina	Man Khing SDA Church	14	53
35	Myitkyina	Mandalay Monastery	8	45
36	Myitkyina	Mar Ma Ka Monastery	2	13
37	Myitkyina	Muyin Baptist Church (Shwe Zet)	10	53
38	Myitkyina	Myat Mauk Taw	27	131
39	Myitkyina	Myint Nyein Aye	56	283
40	Myitkyina	Myit Nyein Aye Monastery	14	55
41	Myitkyina	Myita Seint San Gehar Kyaung	98	352
42	Myitkyina	Myitkyina Lhaovo Zonal (Injang Dung)	42	247
43	Myitkyina	Myitkyina Town Host Communities		489
44	Myitkyina	Myitkyina Town Host Community	17	662
45	Myitkyina	Myitkyina Zonal Lisu Baptist church Temporary IDP camp	84	436
46	Myitkyina	Myitkyina Zonal Office	25	46
47	Myitkyina	N-jang Dung LBC Religious Compound	45	307
48	Myitkyina	Nam Kwayt Host Community	12	52
49	Myitkyina	Naung Hkam Shan Ywar Monastery	40	110
50	Myitkyina	Near Thar Lon Than Ban	2	8
51	Myitkyina	OMF (Thagaya)	17	133
52	Myitkyina	OMF Lisu Christian Head Office	141	556
53	Myitkyina	Oil Warehouse	4	17
54	Myitkyina	Old Purified water factory (Shwe Zet)	134	543
55	Myitkyina	Pa La Na (5) Thazin Myaing	46	192
56	Myitkyina	Pae Sat Thu office compound	79	247
57	Myitkyina	Palana RC church	1	4
58	Myitkyina	Pinnyar Di Ba Ga Monastery	14	60
59	Myitkyina	Ra D Kawng B (Lachid Camp)	152	1214
60	Myitkyina	Ram Pu Relative Home	5	16
61	Myitkyina	Rampur	56	265
62	Myitkyina	Rampur Sharmari (No 4)	25	112

No	Township	Camp Site / Displacement Site	Household	Population
63	Myitkyina	Rampur Shin Mar Ye (No 2)	77	354
64	Myitkyina	Rampur Shin Mar Ye (No 3)	24	117
65	Myitkyina	Rawang Baptist Church, Kyar Ra Pa Tee	12	63
66	Myitkyina	Redemptive Bible School	107	557
67	Myitkyina	Shin Than Chin Church, Kyara Patee (B)	39	175
68	Myitkyina	Shintan Chin Church (Evangelical)	66	323
69	Myitkyina	Shitapru(Relative House)	1	3
70	Myitkyina	Shwe Zet CIC	39	223
71	Myitkyina	Shwe Zet COC Church	35	199
72	Myitkyina	Shwe Zet Mu Yin Church	19	112
73	Myitkyina	Sike Ta Thu Kha Monastery	37	194
74	Myitkyina	Sitarpu Thida Aye Monastery	47	146
75	Myitkyina	Thamain Thawra Monastery	26	31
76	Myitkyina	Thami Naya Monastery	20	20
77	Myitkyina	Thar Thana Yanti Monastery	30	130
78	Myitkyina	Thi Dagu Hospital	18	69
79	Myitkyina	Thida Aye Gawra Hkar Monastery	27	71
80	Myitkyina	U-byit camp (Ah Kye)	38	167
81	Myitkyina	WLBA 1 (Poe Zar Chan)	68	273
82	Myitkyina	WLBA 3	263	1264
83	Myitkyina	WLBA 4 (Nawng Taung village track)	116	458
84	Myitkyina	WLBA 5	43	194
85	Myitkyina	WLBA 7 (Old Chicken Farm)	31	148
86	Myitkyina	WLBA6	47	290
87	Myitkyina	Wai Pong Hla Monastery	45	140
88	Myitkyina	Ward 6 (Shwe Zet), Man Hkein	37	176
89	Myitkyina	Way Lamu Monastery	16	84
90	Myitkyina	Yu Za Na, Zi Lun Relatives' House	10	50
91	Myitkyina	Yuzana Monastery	3	13
92	Myitkyina	Zi Lun Host Community (House No. 11/146)	5	20
93	Myitkyina	Zi Lun Host Community (House No. 11/258)	5	17
94	Myitkyina	living in their relatives houses	55	201
95	Myitkyina	rented house	2	10
		Total	4078	19992

Source; UNHCR, as of August 2024 updated Kachin IDPs site / Displacement site

Church-based relief organizations such as the KBC and KMSS, along with independent Baptist and other church organizations have also directly provided emergency assistance and basic services to IDPs. As noted earlier, the majority of Kachin are Christian, and faith-based groups associated with the two main denominations, the Baptist and Roman Catholic churches, their leaders and network have played a significant role in protecting civilians from the effects of the armed conflict (South, 2018). Churches have also played an important role in facilitating access for IDPs to some minimal educational services, with teachers being sent as volunteers by churches to remote communities. Church leaders have played a critical role in humanitarian diplomacy, negotiating with the Tatmadaw and other conflict parties to facilitate the movement of civilians out of conflict zones. Kachin civil society actors and organizations have also played a critical role in the protection of conflict affected populations. Moreover, a nine-member group called the Joint Strategy Team was established in 2013 to enhance aid coordination and effectiveness (South, 2018). There is a lack of consistent support to enable them to transition out of displacement and the lack of livelihood opportunities is one of the main challenges. The conflict causes the loss of their main sources of livelihoods, and access to their farmland is restricted. Consequently, most IDPs are dependent on humanitarian support and lack of livelihoods has caused increasing vulnerabilities (INGO Forum Myanmar, 2015).

Despite having access to humanitarian aid, many IDPs are still in need of common services such as food security, education, health, nutrition, and social protection. Even though IDPs receive basic needs from international and local organizations, they do not have income for their material benefits and social cohesion including education and health. Some IDPs have searched livelihood opportunities outside of camps but the majority of them heavily rely on humanitarian assistance. The conflict has caused the loss of their primary livelihood sources, and both IDPs and those who are living in their villages have been affected. IDPs, both in urban-GCAs and rural-NGCAs face several common challenges. The declining international funding for IDP shelter, health, food, and education will exacerbate growing social issues in the IDP camps. There is a lack of consistent support to enable them to transition out of displacement and the lack of livelihood opportunities is one of the main challenges.

The losses of land and property in areas of origin, as well as burning of homes and the failure of the existing legal and judicial mechanisms to adequately protect the rights of those forcibly displaced from their lands; also pose serious challenges to the attainment of durable solutions to displacement (Humanitarian Country Team, 2018). The conflict causes the loss of their main sources of livelihoods, and access to their farmland is restricted. Consequently, most IDPs are dependent on humanitarian support and lack of livelihoods has caused increasing vulnerabilities (INGO Forum Myanmar, 2015).

Population of Kachin State is indicated in table (3.2).

Table (3.2) Population of Kachin State (2014)

Population of Kachin State	
Wards and quarters	29
Population	1,689,441
Households	269,365
Male	878,384
Female	811,057
Rural population	1,050,473
Urban population	592,368

Source; Kachin State Census Report of Myanmar, 2014

Population and households of Kachin State are mentioned in table (3.3)

Table (3.3) Population and Households of Kachin State (2014)

Sr	Myitkyina area township	HH	Male	Female	Total
1	Myitkyina	50,583	148,485	158,464	306,949
2	Waing Maw	19,780	52,698	53,668	106,366
3	Injangyang	285	946	786	1,732
4	Tanai	6,398	25,773	22,793	48,566
5	Chipwi	1,931	5,831	5,472	11,303
6	Tsawlaw	1,073	3,351	3,167	6,518
7	Sinbo	2,008	5,562	5,093	10,655
8	Sadong	1,610	5,239	5,257	10,496
9	Kanpaiti	1,470	4,528	4,154	8,682
10	Sinbwiyang	2,130	6,206	5,247	11,453
11	Pangwa	1,375	4,469	4,267	8,736
		88,643	263,088	268,368	531,456

Source; Kachin State Census Report of Myanmar,2014

3.3 Supporting Activities to IDPs

In Kachin State, the living conditions of displaced persons seem to be similar to those of many other IDPs. They labor in informal jobs and attempt to adjust to their new surroundings while living in camps and depending on humanitarian aid. People from the conflict zones moved to neighboring towns or cities that were secure and far from the fighting when the civil war recommenced in 2011. The majority of them rushed to the state capital, Myitkyina, while others escaped to the territories bordering China. Religious groups have been caring for the majority of the displaced individuals. While some camps house thousands of people, others are tiny, housing just around 300. The federal government seldom acknowledges the Kachin IDPs. As a result, local civil society and

faith-based groups have been working with foreign organizations to provide care for internally displaced people. At first, IDPs were given 12,000 MMK in cash each person along with essential supplies including rice, salt, oil, and pulse.

The pattern of humanitarian help shifted after a few years. IDPs no longer received basic meals and were only given 10,000MMK in cash. Since the majority of IDPs are members of extended families, housing circumstances may be quite cramped. IDPs may feel a little uneasy living on church property since churches are meant to be sacred spaces. Their private time may be impacted by the many social engagements and religious meetings. However, because of the reverence for the churches, they are in a secure environment. According to the field survey, IDPs have received essential amenities including power, housing, education, and clean water and sanitation. Presumably, they have a sufficient amount of safe shelter. They used to gripe about a variety of issues, and they were unable to return to their regular lives. Despite the challenges they have experienced, they have persevered with the aim of returning in the near future. Additionally, the majority of IDPs identify as Christians, and their religion in some way gives them solace. They think the pursuit of a better life is only a short-term obstacle. There could be specific requirements to return to a regular life and livelihoods that are essential to meeting those demands. Active agencies and their operations for both displaced and non-displaced people in Kachin State are shown in the accompanying image. The precise figure may change depending on current events in the area. Agency activities in Kachin State – both for IDPs and non – IDPs was shown on table (3.4).

Table (3.4) Agency Activities in Kachin State – both for IDPs and non-IDPs

Active agencies in Kachin State	68 reporting agencies including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 INGOs - 12 local NGOs - 11 UN agencies - 1 Red Cross agency and 1 Government Department Non displaced Populations (focus on Development or Other Vulnerable Groups) 	
Project focus	Non displaced populations (focus on Development or Other Vulnerable Groups)	Displaced Population and Host Communities
% of activities in Kachin State	70 % of activities	30 % of activities
Active agencies in Kachin State	52 Agencies	15 Agencies
Area of implementation (village tract / town / camp level) **	401 village tracts / towns	175 village tracts / towns and 133 IDP camps
Area of implementation (township)	All 18 townships	15 Townships
Number of projects	121 projects	53 projects
Main intervention reported	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health 2. Protection 3. Governance 4. Livelihood 5. Education 6. Agriculture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protection 2. Health 3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) 4. Livelihoods 5. Education 6. Food
Other interventions reported with less project activities include	Coordination, Environment, Food, Mine Action, Nutrition, Peace Building/ Conflict Prevention, Social Protection, WASH	Agriculture, CCCM, Coordination, Mine Action, Non - Food items, Nutrition, Peace Building/ Conflict Prevention, Shelter
Suspended activities (due to access or other constraints)	Activities in 6 village tracts/ towns in 3 townships	Activities in 4 village tracts / towns in 3 townships

Source: Source: Memo 2029

3.4 Livelihood Assistance Programs

In Kachin State, there are several livelihood initiatives that assist IDPs. Both international and local groups have handled and coordinated these efforts. Generally speaking, every participant used the term "livelihood" to describe any task or activity they engage in to meet their requirements. It is evident that the vast majority of internally displaced people are employed in informal jobs. All of these activities are referred to as livelihoods, including various forms of labor, methods, and program activities. The primary livelihood aid programs focus on income-generating activities, daily labor, casual jobs, and agricultural and animal raising.

3.4.1 Agriculture (Farming/ Gardening)

One of the most important sources of income for IDPs both before and after relocation is agriculture. It involves raising vegetables, cultivating a variety of crops, and operating a fruit plantation. Home gardening, also known as indoor gardening, fruit cultivation, plant nurseries, and seasonal crop plantations are examples of agricultural operations. Vegetables are produced on little plots of land in camps or, more often, in backyards donated by family members or the local church group. Paddy, sesame, ginger, potato, mustard seed, and maize are examples of seasonal crops that are cultivated and managed by either a community or an individual. A few IDPs have been in charge of farming operations. Depending on the landlord's availability, their farmland is either a few kilometers from the camp or outside of the city, which is nearby.

3.4.2 Livestock Breeding/Animal Rearing

It seems that raising livestock is not very suitable for internally displaced people, particularly in urban communities. Some of them have, nonetheless, been able to retain a few pigs that were also donated by groups. They manage to retain some, generally one to three pigs, despite the constant space constraints for a pig fence. Few individuals are able to find room for their animals; therefore this is an uncommon circumstance.

3.4.3 Income-Generating Activities

Food processing, grocery store management, carpentry, bamboo handicraft, cane rattan home goods, clay stoves, concrete products, tailoring, and weaving are the primary sources of income. Leading organizations in the area support and carry out such initiatives. Women work in food processing, tailoring, and weaving, while males work in carpentry, bamboo crafts, and concrete construction. Organic traditional spice powder, steam-roasted soybean powder as a nutritional supplement, popcorn, banana chips, sunflower seeds, potato crisps, fruit juice, fruit jam, dishwashing liquid, and handmade soap are all examples of food processing. Additionally, some women prepare meals for social occasions including religious meetings and weddings. In terms of weaving and tailoring, the primary goods are traditional items like women's traditional skirts, traditional headgear, especially for males, and bags with traditional attractive designs. Although it takes time, such things are simple to create and sell. Because recipients only possess two sewing machines, output is still constrained. Although both ladies who create hats and bags have two sewing machines, the majority of the work is done by hand.

Although it is common to have a food store, the stores in the camps are not very large. Rice, oil, salt, quick noodles, a few snacks, and soft drinks are the only basic foods they offer. Although they might be owned by a collective, grocery stores are often operated by one individual. They talk about their little business's success and advantages. Since most residents in the city still live in wooden homes with concrete flooring, carpenter work are widely accessible to IDP males. Additionally, since IDP camps are constructed of bamboo and wood, upkeep and repairs are constantly necessary. As a result, carpentry crews may work in cities or in camps. They manufacture some furnishings and construct two homes. Although not many individuals can manufacture bamboo handicrafts for sale, they are also rather nice for guys. These days, several camps sell bamboo items like phone holders, pens, water bottles, kettles, wine glasses, trays, vases, and mugs. However, there is still relatively little market demand for them, and they are largely used for hotel and restaurant décor. Products made of bamboo, cane, and rattans are comparable.

3.4.4 Casual Work

For IDPs, day labor or casual work is the most prevalent kind of employment. Many families depend on casual jobs in addition to those engaged in livelihood support activities. Given that there are no particular requirements, some IDPs opt to focus on everyday tasks. Men's labor on building sites, farming, painting, fencing, tree pruning, bush removal, and gardening. In addition, there are driving positions and three-wheel bikes, which are mostly used as city taxis. Cleaning, farming, laundry, harvesting fruits, and gathering stones for building are all frequent tasks for women. Many individuals, particularly males, work more than two kinds of jobs since this informal labor isn't accessible every day. However, since physical power is necessary for day labor, the elderly do not have jobs.

3.4.5 Livelihood Support Trainings

In 2018, after eight years of displacement, supporting agencies starting seeking better solutions for the improvement of livelihood opportunities and sustainable livelihoods for IDPs during the ongoing conflict in KachinState. Some IDPs have participated in the vocational skill trainings and some IDP households are provided cash assistance to begin their own income-generating activities such as establishing small businesses. Agencies have created livelihood opportunities and, in the camps, some qualified IDPs have had the chance to start their own business, however some fail to apply the learned skills due to various difficulties. The major objectives for providing livelihood trainings to IDPs are to promote income and to facilitate economics activities that meet the local demand. Another objective of livelihood support activity is to decrease dependency on provided aid. Agencies take on the facilitating role and give IDPs the responsibility of taking the leading role in planning their own activities. This allows beneficiaries to take ownership of the planning of future training programs. Some agencies determined the beneficiaries' needs by inviting them to identify priority areas and discussing these with the camp committee and IDPs themselves. The agencies are trying to promote the existing capacity of individual IDPs, even asking camp committee members to lead camp related activities. The livelihood training programs that were

initiated in 2013 and 2015 significantly increased the number of agencies that support livelihood trainings for IDPs in Kachin State.

Regarding the training services, the intention of the assistance providers is to give recipients the chance to learn new skills and to generate income. Livelihood supporting agencies offered various trainings for different types of livelihood activities. Agencies hired trainers to support these programs in order to help IDPs gain a regular income. There are many kinds of livelihood training programs that exist in the camps, such as soap making, food preservation, snack making, plastic baskets, knitting, weaving traditional pattern textile, growing mushrooms, growing vegetable, tailoring, carpentry, cement brick making, copper fencing, copper ropes, bamboo chairs, fishing nets, beauty salon, and motorbike fixing. The training duration ranges from a few days to months or even years based on the type of training and its relevant requirements.

CHAPTER IV

SURVEY ANALYSIS

4.1 Survey Area

The People's Republic of China shares its eastern and northern borders with Kachin, the northern state of Myanmar. Located in the country's northernmost region, Kachin State has borders with China and India. Since 2011, Kachin IDPs have been dispersing across Northern Shan State and Kachin State. The largest population of IDPs is found in Myitkyina. The bulk of Kachin's over 1.7 million residents earn a livelihood from agriculture, mostly from rice, and then mining (gold, jade, etc.). The lives and livelihoods of the people of Kachin State have been affected by the more than 30 years of armed struggle between the central government and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), despite the state's abundance of natural resources. The majority of displaced persons are initially from rural regions, therefore Myitkyina is the best location to investigate IDPs' urban lives. Kachin State has a total of 97,806 IDPs spread throughout 138 IDP camps (Reliefweb.com, 2019). The provision of aid and protection services to those in need is hampered by the continued restrictions on humanitarian access, especially for those living in locations outside of official jurisdiction. There is a chance that fresh military actions might lead to more displacement, and the situation is still unclear (Humanitarian Country Team, 2018). Four IDP camps were chosen for the research based on their geographic closeness and the state of security in Kachin State at the time.

4.2 Survey Design

In this study, a qualitative method of the study was applied to analysis on the livelihood assistance programs for Internal Displaced Persons in Kachin State,

Myitkyina. An audio recorder was used for each interview in order to aid the researcher to recall the information. In this study, the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus groups (FGDs) method were used to achieve the objective of the study.

Focus group interviews were conducted in Myitkyina based four selected IDPs camps, Kachin State, Myanmar for two weeks between 15 July and 31 July 2024. The researcher also collected information through informal discussions with IDPs in order to identify the most experienced individual beneficiaries and with other IDPs who are engaged in livelihood related activities within the camp.

Key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted face-to-face with selected key stakeholders, using the guided interview questions. The researcher also conducted informal conversations with the leaders from the camps and IDP livelihood working group members.

In addition, this study includes references from academic journal, previous research papers and the websites, library, the most recently updated scholarly literature, including official reports, operational reports, annual reports, needs and assessment finding reports published by the agencies working in IDP camps in Kachin, Mera, E library sources, regional office and General Administration Department (GAD) office of Myitkyina and the previous studies of livelihood assistance in other countries and in Myanmar.

4.3 Analysis on Survey Findings

In this study, a qualitative method of the study was applied to analysis on the livelihood assistance programs for Internal Displaced Persons in Kachin State, Myitkyina. An audio recorder was used for each interview in order to aid the researcher to recall the information. In this study, the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus groups (FGDs) method were used to achieve the objective of the study.

Key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted face-to-face with selected key stakeholders, using the guided interview questions. The researcher also conducted informal conversations with the leaders from the camps and IDP livelihood working group members.

Focus group interviews were conducted in Myitkyina based four selected IDPs camps, Kachin State, Myanmar for two weeks between 15 July and 31 July 2024. The researcher also collected information through informal discussions with IDPs in order to identify the most experienced individual beneficiaries and with other IDPs who are engaged in livelihood related activities within the camp.

In addition, this study includes references from academic journal, previous research papers and the websites, library, the most recently updated scholarly literature, including official reports, operational reports, annual reports, needs and assessment finding reports published by the agencies working in IDP camps in Kachin, Mera, E library sources, regional office and General Administration Department (GAD) office of Myitkyina and the previous studies of livelihood assistance in other countries and in Myanmar.

Conducting Focus Group Discussion

For the focus groups interview (FGDs) conducted with 23 IDPs (male -22, female (17) who receive livelihood assistance from the aid agencies in Myitkyina based four selected IDPs camps.

4.3.1 Opportunities of Livelihood Assistance Programs

Almost every respondent in the focus groups spoke about their experiences engaging in livelihood activities and how it improved their quality of life. Although they had some difficulties when they first began their operations, they have since benefited from a number of advantages and seen favorable outcomes. The majority of them had to switch their sources of income, which could not have been simple for them in a short amount of time. They have been able to meet their basic necessities after gaining new skills and beginning new careers. The majority of respondents expressed their satisfaction with their jobs and how they had helped sustain their families. They said that it is their regular employment, their own job, a family company, a stable position, and a long-term source of income. Above all, they are not required to labor outside in the rain and sun. They are free to work whenever they choose and to take as much rest as they want. According to a responder who manufactures traditional bags, she thinks that the majority

of her family's requirements have been met since getting the assistance. Despite her little salary, she is able to provide for her family's basic necessities. She was able to purchase nutritious meals before to her work, but now she has the freedom to purchase and prepare meals as she pleases. Her bags are quite well-liked by the clients. Table (4.1) displays the list of people who took part in the focus group discussion.

Table (4.1) List of visited camps and participants who participated in Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)

No	Interviewees	Gender		Type of interview	Camp site
		Male	Female		
1	Carpentry group	7		Focus group	"Pan" Lisu Orphanage Centre
2	Agriculture group		6	Focus group	8 miles AG Church
3	Concrete making group	6		Focus group	WLBA 4 (Nawng Taung village track)
4	Bamboo product making group	6		Focus group	Old Purified water factory (Shwe Zet)
5	Livestock group	3	5	Focus group	8 miles AG Church
6	Food producing group		6	Focus group	WLBA 4 (Nawng Taung village track)
	Total	22	17		

Source: Survey data, July 2024

The majority of interviewees discussed eating nutritious meals, helping their kids in school, and how their everyday necessities have been met because they have steady jobs and cash. The manufacturer of bamboo items also spoke about how he helps his kids with their school expenses, pays their tuition each month, and purchases necessities for the family. Some respondents also said that they may purchase a secondhand motorcycle since a family needs one for social activities as well as transportation. An interviewee indicated as *“I can pay my children’s monthly tuition fees as I have received many benefits from this job. I purchased second-hand motorbikes with my money, for myself and my husband. This is my own small business sand my long-term livelihoods.”* (Participant 1, FGD)

The majority of interviewees particularly the men work as carpenters, and they are successful in their little company. Despite the fact that the job is physically demanding and involves a lot of labor, they seemed to like it. A 30-year-old man said that *“I had no*

idea what I was going to do until the support agency provided training. I did not know what to do but after that I have a stable job, it is become my permanent job, and I have a small income.” (Participant 2, FGD)

Another carpenter also spoke about his experiences at work and how he has improved his living situation. He said that his employment had improved him as a person, and I took heed of what he said.

“We are also assisted quite a lot of work in camp while it required such as repairing, and the camp did not ask outsiders for work. We got quite good money from it too. Moreover, I feel some changes in myself. I have changed a lot, like gradually reduce drinking habit. I become respect my team and they respect me upon me too, if I don’t drink, my members do not drink either.” (Participant 3, FGD)

I find the carpentry experience of participant 3 to be very motivating, and he sets a fantastic example for his family and colleagues. A pig raising group's team leader discussed the benefits of the livelihood support program activities. His family continued to do it even though it may not have reached a commercial level since it allows them to earn extra cash with little work. Another responder who raised pigs also spoke about how helpful this program activity has been to her family. She has three children and is expecting a fourth. I saw her expressing the following:

“Pig rearing is not actually for making big money, but I can rely on that small money, especially for my child’s schooling fees, clothing and for additional support. It is really helpful to us. Other around 20 households is also relying on pig rearing in this camp. It is not easy to start this work by alone ourselves even if we wanted to. We did not have sufficient money to start business. Now we have to start something to do and to being rely on with help from the organizations. It is our livelihoods. It is really supportive. It does not require special particularly skill for us. So, it is convenient work for me and our camp resident people. Now, I could even purchase a motor bike for my husband.” (Participant 4, FGD)

Additionally, another effective livelihood program activity that generates money is food processing. Focus groups and in-person interviews were identified as two of the most fruitful outcomes for food production. A 56-year-old lady was producing soybean powder. When I spoke with her, she joyfully discussed her job and said that:

“I had to do multiple works such as washing, cleaning house, cleaning toilets, gardening, cleaning houses for other people including in hotels as daily labor before. Now I do not have to work those kinds of job anymore since I have my own small family business. There have many benefits by food processing small business. (Participant 5, FGD)

Since most Kachin are Christians, they celebrate a lot of religious and cultural holidays. They continue to share and assist one another while living in the camp. As a result, they place a high value on social interactions and never hesitate to be generous by providing tiny presents, especially at ceremony time. They said that the livelihood activities thus assist them in managing their social demands. According to another woman, she doesn't perspire as much as the day laborers in their camp. She no longer goes to work in the rain and the blazing sun as other people do. Additionally, unlike other individuals, she no longer has to borrow money to cover her everyday expenses. As a result, when she completes her own work, she feels quite distinct from others.

“Now, I do not have to go and work in the outside of the camp exhaustedly. I have my own work and get a regular small income from this. This skill makes me confident. I believe that this is a life-long work for me. I have been supporting my children's school, for social activity donation and my kitchen need – a daily meal with this job. Even after my husband could not support the family needs by his income, I can rely on this small job. Now, my job became the main source of family income. As long as I am in good health with this skill, I can stand up myself and for my family at anytime. Now, I have enough customers. Every time I need money, I just make products and sell them to my trust customers, now I do not fear money shortage anymore.” (Participant 6, FGD)

Despite the many obstacles to establishing farming or agricultural in the city, they manage to do it, and it also provides them with a few minor advantages. The tomato plantation seems to be a successful endeavor. It is, in my opinion, an uncommon but excellent example. The responder said that while her earnings from the tomato farm are modest, they have been sufficient to pay for her son's tuition and boarding school. Above all, she gained a lot of knowledge about growing tomatoes and creating organic fertilizer. The tomato farmer expressed his appreciation and I noted,

“Before this work, we mainly relied on humanitarian assistance from the aid agencies. Small money I got from this work just goes to my children's schooling. With the support of the aid organization, now I have a cow and manage my tomato field.”
(Participant 7, FGD)

Regarding growing vegetable and seasonal crop, a lady shared as;

“We cannot grow a lot of vegetables for sale it to the market thus it is not a business level yet. The land was already applied chemical for a long time and it is still healing from it. So, we cannot produce like a chemical one. However, we have been relying on this farm to fulfill our kitchen needs. It is more like a kitchen garden. As you know, we, housewives are struggling to fulfill kitchen need – cooking meals for daily basic. So, it is really helpful to us.” (Participant 8, FGD)

Other benefits of assistance organizations' livelihood support initiatives were acknowledged by the participants. They have been able to buy required tools, equipment, and supplies thanks to the organization's unrestricted financial assistance. Physical assets play a major role in their small company startup efforts. For both the implementer and the recipients, they are material assets. Aid organizations have funded the provision of sewing and weaving machines as well as other instruments including irons, measuring tapes, and scissors for clothing production. All necessary equipment and tools have been given to carpenters. They are in a position where they can readily buy new tools with their own money, even if they break. Other assets they have acquired from their present livelihood activities include motorcycles, calves, frying pots and pans, and trays for food processing operations.

In comparison to individuals who do not participate in livelihood support programs, the majority of respondents feel that these programs have greatly improved their present living conditions. They said that now that they have the funding to begin the job, things are becoming simpler. A mother said:

“Doing something makes thing easier than doing nothing. Getting money may not big changes, but I can have a better meal than before with real dishes than those who do not involve in the livelihood assistance program which support by the aid agencies. The significant advantage is, now, I have my own job. If my children need something for school, I can provide quite easily though it is just a small amount.” (Participant 9, FGD)

One of a farmer respondent said that *“it is pretty obvious that if you do not receive support, you do not have a job. Just relying on humanitarian assistance from the aid agencies. Those who received livelihood support program seem to breathe more freely than others though.”* (Participant 10, FGD)

Although their circumstances with the livelihood assistance program activities may not be ideal, they do have a steady employment and are less worn out than they were before. A lady described the following distinctions between herself and people who are not eligible for the livelihoods support program:

“We may eat the same amount/kind of meal for our daily food, but when some urgent matter comes up they seem to be more stressed out and depressed while can manage to resolve our hardship without so much stress by involving livelihood assistance programs which support by the aid agencies. Some seemed to regret not joining the IG group and not implementing any livelihood assistance program activities. I received some small cash from this work. I see this as the difference between us.” (Participant 11, FGD)

4.3.2 Challenges of Livelihood Assistance Programs

The internally displaced people have undoubtedly benefited from receiving livelihood support programs and participating in such activities. Nevertheless, it is also indisputable that this support program activity presents problems. Every task may not be as simple as it seems. The majority of them had to adjust to new livelihoods after having to change theirs. Given that they have been given money, which entails accountability and responsibility, they may feel some pressure. They are unable to start a new career in an urban region since they are unfamiliar with the surroundings.

(1) Working with a Team

Being a part of a group or working in a team presents the initial difficulties. Activities that generate revenue, including carpentry and food processing, need collaboration between three to seven individuals. They have had disagreements about creating the daily timetable, including work division and product discussions. Ultimately, a few team members even left the organization and began working at another job. According to the respondents' interview, women have encountered these challenges more often than males. "Working with a group is quite hard, especially among the women," said one responder. We all have various free times, and we have household chores to attend to. Thus, collaborating with others slows down work even more. Another respondent said that his group had already broken up because it was difficult to persuade everyone to cooperate with the work schedule. Below is what a guy who formerly oversaw a group of people who made bamboo crafts had to say about working with the group:

"Working with the team was not easy as we thought. People have different personalities and ability it was really hard to get along with each other. Most organization support based on group work more than the individual. According to my experience, it is not very sufficient. Besides, when a group member is not skilful enough, I feel like it took so much time yet just a waste of money." (Participant 12, FGD)

In actuality, he did not like working with his team, and his perception of the other team members did not seem to be very favorable. The majority agreed that teamwork is challenging and that more team bargaining is required. Second, a few of them said that a lack of funding is another obstacle to launching a new company. While some responders are aware that a sit is a must for doing company, others probably think that the more the investment, the greater the revenue. One lady even said that until their firm is completely operational, the relevant organizations should continue to provide enough financial assistance. Staff members from the main organization, however, said that they had grounds for restricting the assistance of monetary donations since they must handle it in accordance with the agreements they have with the donor organizations. As a result, IDPs living in camps find it challenging to comprehend the requirements of these livelihood aid programs.

(2) Lack of getting a Suitable Place to Work

Finding a suitable workspace within the camp complex was the second barrier they encountered while conducting the livelihood activity. However, as they mostly labor outside of the camp, a carpenter crew did not have any issues with the issue of working space. A lady who owns a grocery store said that since their camp complex doesn't have any extra room, her store is rather tiny. Because of the size, she also utilized her room as a food store. "My grocery store is too small; I want to add more items and sell stationary, but there isn't enough room to display them," she remarked. I am thus unable to expand my store. One manufacturer of bamboo items also spoke about the lack of room for his workspace, stating that "there is not sufficient space to keep and store the raw bamboo." Thus, based on the storage strategy, raw bamboo spoils and deteriorates more quickly than usual. (Participant 13, FGD)

"I have to move around in this camp compound where I can get sunshade." Unless there are churchgoers or family members who are willing to let them work in their spare moments, agriculture organizations also struggle to obtain a suitable workspace for growing vegetables. Some organizations in this scenario are required to engage a landlord in order to cultivate seasonal crops, and the majority of their original grant has been

utilized to finance the landlord's loan. Although it is difficult for them to find room within the camp complex, the majority of IDPs, especially women, wish to maintain animals. Even though some of them raise pigs as a side gig, they are unsure of when the landlord would order them to cease since some of their neighbors have complained about the foul stench coming from the operation.

(3) Market Access

The problem of market access for their goods is the third obstacle they mentioned. One participant described the state of the items and the market. I made the following observation:

"I believe that our goods' quality is insufficient to compete with other items in the market. Due to the limited market access in our region, many products like bamboo goods and cane rattan baskets are still in demand, with the exception of those used by our clients as décor in hotels and restaurants. Although our items seem to last longer than other commercial products, they don't look as beautiful since customers want prettier ones. It seems that our goods are not appropriate in this location. In the future, we want to have greater access to the market. If there are clients who consistently buy our goods, it gives us inspiration and support. (Participant 14, FGD)

4.4 IDPs views on the Livelihood Assistance Program

The livelihood help initiatives that are currently in place seem to be functioning well enough to continue. The focus groups and interviews indicate that recipients are eager to continue their job. The majority of participants expect that such tactics will improve and that their work will eventually reach a corporate level. In the foreseeable future, they have ideas and plans to improve their standard of living. I've seen that some people offer excellent suggestions for improving the situation. IDPs' thoughts on how to improve their job going forward are presented in this section.

4.4.1 Listening on customer Feedbacks and Improving Better Quality

Interviewees from a food producing shared their ideas to make the products said that

"I believe that in order to grow our existing work, we need the right tools and equipment. We could need a larger place than we now have if we accomplish this. It is now entirely manual, which causes it to operate more slowly than the machine. For instance, we produce 500–600 packets of potato chips in a day, and they sell out in two to three days. Products may sometimes run out rapidly, particularly on event days. Therefore, we want to purchase a packaging machine, although it will be expensive.." (Participant 15, FGD)

4.4.2 Improving Skills

The carpenters' crew said that they wanted to improve their job in a sensible manner. They seemed to realize that learning at an advanced level still requires a lot of steps. Some of them even discussed starting a construction company in a remote region soon. Due to the large number of building projects in the rural areas, it is also a competitive employment. They used to construct their homes using conventional methods, but now they just possess rudimentary abilities. "They must be more qualified than the current position, but they learned the necessary skill and method from training," carpenters said. According to a leader of a carpentry organization:

"To improve their current work, all the group members must attend proper training under the guiding by a good trainer. We may need to learn to build modern concrete apartments, like parker toilets by using metal andirons frame. I would like to attend that kind of short training with my group. We have planned to purchase the essential needs equipments. Our group has small fund that collected from members and the amount is increasing. That fund is for our transportation and to buy tools and equipment. We hope the group works to become bigger than this." (Participant 16, FGD)

4.4.3 Proper Land

Members of an agricultural group said that they may need to utilize chemical fertilizer in order to enhance their product. Because they want to take their work to the next level, they have been debating the usage of pesticides with a certain crop. However, the majority of them oppose the use of chemicals since they do not wish to disregard the

organization's policy, which calls for solely organic goods. A potato farmer expressed his thoughts, saying:

“To improve this farm and to get more quality and higher yield, we actually needed to use some chemicals. At least, eight out of ten farmers have been using chemicals. Those who do not use the chemical like us, it is hard to get a good crops. They get higher yields with better quality and good price in the market because they use chemicals. Nobody asks and checks whether they are using or not chemicals. If the crops look good enough, people buy it. The soil is too hard to grow. I need to be careful of the weed and I probably use chemical accordingly if necessary.” (Participant 17, FGD)

4.4.5 Suitable work situation

Similar to pig raising, bamboo crafts, and concrete production, an appropriate workspace is crucial to getting better outcomes. As much as they would want to expand their work, they do not currently have enough room. A concrete products maker said *“I need a suitable space for the workshop. If I have an appropriate work space, I can call some people to work with me, so they can have some work too. I would like to create to a bigger market like domestic level.”*(Participant 18, FGD)

According to the participant, improving pig rising is quite easy as long as there is an appropriate place for pigs to be kept. Finding a place to keep the animal is the biggest issue with pig raising, thus measures must be taken to ameliorate the situation.

Key Informant Interview (KII) with support agency

For the Key Informant Interview (KII) conducted with the KBC -HDD livelihood support team and KMSS livelihood support which were faith-based local organizations. Meeting with that team members was very comprehensive. They provided valuable information as well as extensive attitudes regarding IDP livelihoods. Key Informant Interview was conducted with two staff from KBC – HDD and two staff from KMSS Myitkyina.

A staff member from KBC-HDD also expressed that most voice from IDPs say they are worried on their products might not be sold out in the market properly. There is a major weakness between IDPs products and the market for their new business opportunity. The livelihood project manager from KBC-HDD exposed a similar situation to their implementing livelihood assistance program project. She spoke her experience openly and I took note as below:

“Obviously, we implemented several livelihood assistance programs which focus to the IDPs based on we received funding by the donors. But we did not do proper research for market access issue. Let’s say we could not find a proper market place for them and we could not ask their opinion about the market accessible issue either when we started. We did not look into that deeply, to be frank. IDPs also had no idea about the market issue either; they received the support and work because they got funding. Therefore, several of livelihood assistance program related activities been stopped when the project period ended but we actually could not blame them though.”(KII, KBC-HDD)

“Agriculture has always been their main livelihood and they already have this related knowledge. Combined with the technical support from KBC and their traditional farming, it is getting better. Growing seasonal crop works quite well. There will be potato harvesting soon and we are very much looking forward to it.” (KII, KBC - HDD)

Staff members from the leading organization’s perception of the advantages and effectiveness of current livelihoods are remarkable. I find it is exceptional that the way the livelihood manager spoke of the benefits for IDPs and I marked as below:

"There may be a different definition of effectiveness in relate with the livelihood supporting programs. In terms of income, it may seem to be not much. However, it also depends on IDPs themselves knowledge and capacities. The good thing I find is some of them pay full attention to their doing work and it gives them some confident. They can somehow release their stress by doing something rather than staying in their small rooms. They can catch up and have a conversation each other. It might be hard to say it is financially affective, but they find mental strength from this activity.

From other perspectives, yes, there are some benefits. Moreover, it is not easy to measure the advantages of IDP livelihoods in short time period. Our project is inclusive approach; and it involved the most vulnerable person as well – like disabled people. I must say, inclusive is also an advantage since different kinds of people are involved – no discrimination and left behind any one for by this program. Successfulness is probably the next part or it will need to take some more time to see the sustainability. It may depend on the amount of financial support and technical support too. Thus, we must see successfulness from a different point of view, not just economically.” (KII, KBC-HDD)

Table (4.2) stated list of participant who participated in Key Informant interview (KII) session.

Table (4.2) List of participants in Key Informant Interviews (KII)

No	Organisation	Gender		Type of Interveiw	Position
1	KBC - HDD	1		Key Informant Interview	Project Manager
2	KBC - HDD		1	Key Informant Interview	Livelihood Supervisor
3	KMSS - Myitkyina		1	Key Informant Interview	Livelihood Facilitator
4	KMSS - Myitkyina	1		Key Informant Interview	Livelihood Project Manager
	Total	2	2		

Source: Survey data, July 2024

It was more about sharing their experiences and how they overcame them than it was about discussing the difficulties they were having implementing livelihood aid programs. They believed it to be a business creation process. They said that this has taught them a lot. The KBC-HDD made reference to doing market research as well as quality management or control. As a result, IDPs may not have many difficulties in the future when livelihood aid initiatives are implemented.

A KMSS staff member said at the KII session that the organization would like to concentrate on the skills and capabilities of IDPs. The livelihood facilitator provided the following insights and experiences:

“We rather encourage their ideas and facilitate it rather than we tell them what to do. We came to think quite a lot all these years based on previous experiences. We do not want the perception that we make them do our ideas anymore. Thus, we have planned to ask them what is best for them. According to our recent survey, we are concerned there may be some kind of gender stereotype in the current activities. So, I think some men might want to learn to weave and also women may want to do carpentry too. The best thing is, I suppose they have to know what they want to do and make it work.”(KII, KMSS – Myitkyina)

Numerous livelihood-related initiatives, primarily from an organization's perspective, have been supported by a number of organizations. He suggested that it could be time to adopt a different strategy. A project officer also offered his perspective, which is seen below:

“We implemented quite lot activities that we thought was best. I find that we need to level up the skills that they learnt from previous training. They are trying to enhance their skills to be qualified enough. We rather follow up with their current situation and provide the required support that they actual need” (KII, KMSS – Myitkyina)

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Findings

Humanitarian organizations on a global, national, and local level have been meeting the basic needs of internally displaced people (IDPs), giving training opportunities, and providing some financial support to help IDP families find possible self-initiated income prospects. Regarding the difficulties in carrying out livelihood aid programs in camps, IDPs and organization employees have differing opinions. They have encountered many challenges. Local groups, for instance, were required to obey the funders' instructions without giving the contextual analysis any thought, which led to less sustainable operations than anticipated. IDPs and livelihood concerns got little attention, despite the fact that a livelihood is a crucial component of achieving sustainable living conditions. Basic food assistance alone is insufficient when relocation lasts for an extended period of time. At the moment, organizations do not get input on the actual requirements, worries, and aspirations of recipients.

Despite the lack of farmland in the camp compound for commercial operations and the fact that the majority of agriculture-related activities are relatively small, such as home gardening, indoor gardening, kitchen gardening, plant nurseries, seasonal crops, and fruits, it has been noted that farming and agriculture remain the preferred means of subsistence for internally displaced people. While certain seasonal crops may be sold to the market to generate extra revenue, the majority of veggies are mostly consumed in the home. Although it might be difficult to keep pigs safe with fences, especially in the Myitkyina region, raising pigs is one of the effective livelihood activities for IDPs. While the assistance organizations mostly support pig raising for individuals, agriculture

activities have been supplied as a group. Income-generating occupations including food processing, carpentry, bricklaying, and bamboo handicrafts are the most prosperous. Additionally, among IDPs, operating a small food store, tailoring, and creating traditional headgear and bags are also common economic ventures.

Casual employment and day labor are frequent ways for IDPs to earn a little income when livelihood assistance isn't available for everyone in the camp due to financial availability and requirements. The lack of a microfinance program stems from local authorities' concerns that it may put IDPs at danger or burden them.

There are several advantages that participants obtain from the aid organizations that support livelihood assistance programs, even if they have encountered small difficulties like negotiating with other group members, finding acceptable locations to work, and gaining access to markets. Tangible benefits include having a steady job, starting a small company, generating a consistent income, providing for family necessities, learning new skills, and acquiring a variety of tools and equipment. Additionally, respondents describe intangible advantages like mental toughness, feeling reassured and inspired, being able to develop social networks and self-esteem, and feeling optimistic.

5.2 Suggestions

The majority of organizations concentrate more on the immediate needs of internally displaced people during humanitarian crises, but we should think about long-term plans and viable alternative livelihoods instead. While significant progress has been made in understanding the positive impacts of several livelihood assistance programs which support by aid organizations, continued research and innovative approaches are essential to address the main challenges and ensure sustainable improvements in the lives of displaced populations. Future studies should aim to fill existing gaps and provide more in deep insights into the complex dynamics of livelihood assistance in conflict-affected settings by covering throughout Kachin State. Despite the positive impacts, several challenges persist, including the sustainability of livelihood programs, security concerns, and access restrictions. The effectiveness of livelihood assistance programs are often

limited by the ongoing conflict and the complex socio-political environment in Kachin State. There is a need for longitudinal studies to assess the long-term impacts and sustainability of livelihood assistance interventions beyond immediate outcomes. Limited research explores gender-specific impacts of livelihood programs, including access to resources, decision-making power, and differential outcomes for men and women. More studies are required to understand how livelihood programs can be designed and implemented in conflict-sensitive ways that mitigate tensions and promote peace building efforts. While existing studies provide valuable insights into the impacts and challenges of these programs, further research is needed to address gaps in understanding sustainability, gender dynamics, and conflict sensitivity.

By addressing these gaps, future interventions can better meet the diverse needs of IDPs and contribute to sustainable development in conflict-affected in Kachin State. The provided livelihood trainings should be available both during and after displacement. Secondly, having a proper monitoring system with technical part support for agency staffs in the livelihood support sector is needed.

Thirdly, strengthen coordination amongst representatives from all relevant aid agencies, including the UN agencies, international agencies, local government institutions, and community-based organizations, who are working to accomplish the long-term goal of increasing employment opportunities.

Furthermore, livelihood assistance that is used in one country will not be suitable for another. Thus, it's critical to learn what the local IDPs in Kachin, Myanmar, think of the livelihood activities that are now taking place there. The respective aid agencies need to put effort into follow-up monitoring on the outcomes of conducted trainings and the improvement of individual's capacity and ability. Through the proper evaluation process, beneficiaries have the chance to express their challenges and identify their needs. By doing this, the agencies begin to more deeply understand the situation of the beneficiaries. The consultation with former service beneficiaries and regular monitoring activities need to be conducted by agencies for the improvement of future implementation. The ongoing livelihood programs need to be redesigned systematically so that the most relevant ones can be provided in any situation. Additionally, it's critical to comprehend how, given the circumstances, they have met their demands with what

they have. Lastly, strengthening the coordination among respective institutions such as service providers, local government, international agencies, and local stakeholders will improve livelihood support programs in the long run.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) questions

1. What did you do in before you were displaced?
2. What support you have received from NGOs, CSOs and local government?
3. What livelihood opportunities are available in camps or out of camps?
4. How do you find this support programs? (Both benefits and challenges)
5. What is the difference between before and after receiving livelihood assistance programs?
6. What do you think about how these livelihood assistance programs can be improved?
7. What do you see the different between you and others who cannot access to livelihood assistance programs?
8. How do you manage your income generating activities to be sustainable?
9. Do you think is there any other new livelihood assistance programs that can be more supportive and effective for you?
10. Would you continue applying the livelihood assistance programs and strategies that you have learned from support programs after you go back to your hometown? Why / How?

Appendix 2: Key informants interview (KII) questions

KEY INFORMANT NAME: _____

1. What kinds of livelihood support programme are available in your organization implementing IDPs camps? Are these livelihood support programme available to all camp resident people (especially women, people with disabilities, or the support organization has set criteria for this programme?)
2. What do you think the approaches that have been applied by NGOs (Local and INGOs in camps)?
3. What has been the most significant improvement you have seen in the camps now compared to the past years?

4. What kinds of new livelihood approach programme are being created in the camps?
What are some of the important factors that help make these livelihood activities become successful for the IDPs in the future?

5. Is there anything else you would like to tell me that we have not had an opportunity to discuss?

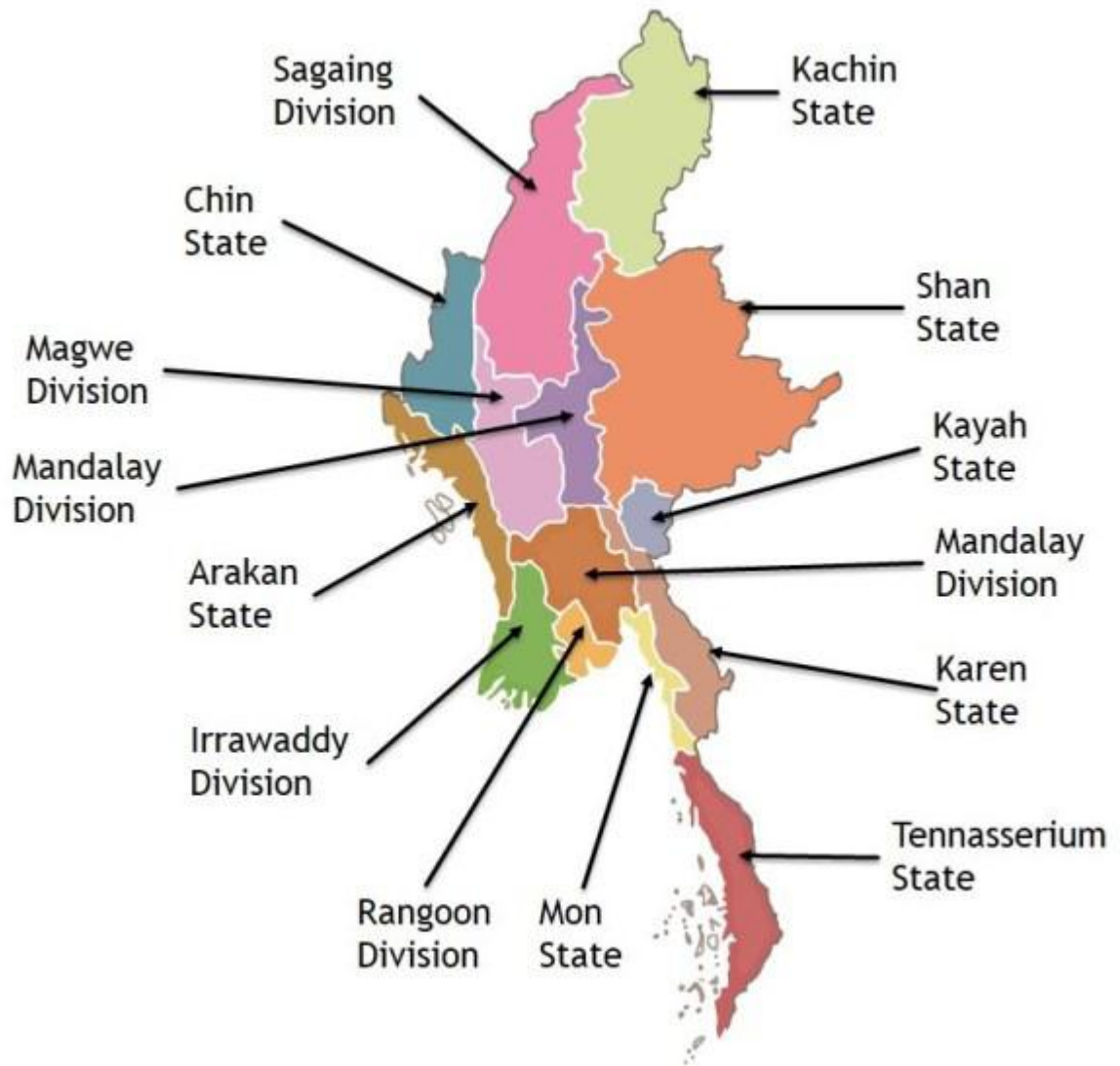
OTHER COMMENT AND OBSERVATION

Appendix 3: Research Location (Myanmar Map)



Source: [Memo, 2020](#)

Appendix 4: Myanmar Map with States and Divisions



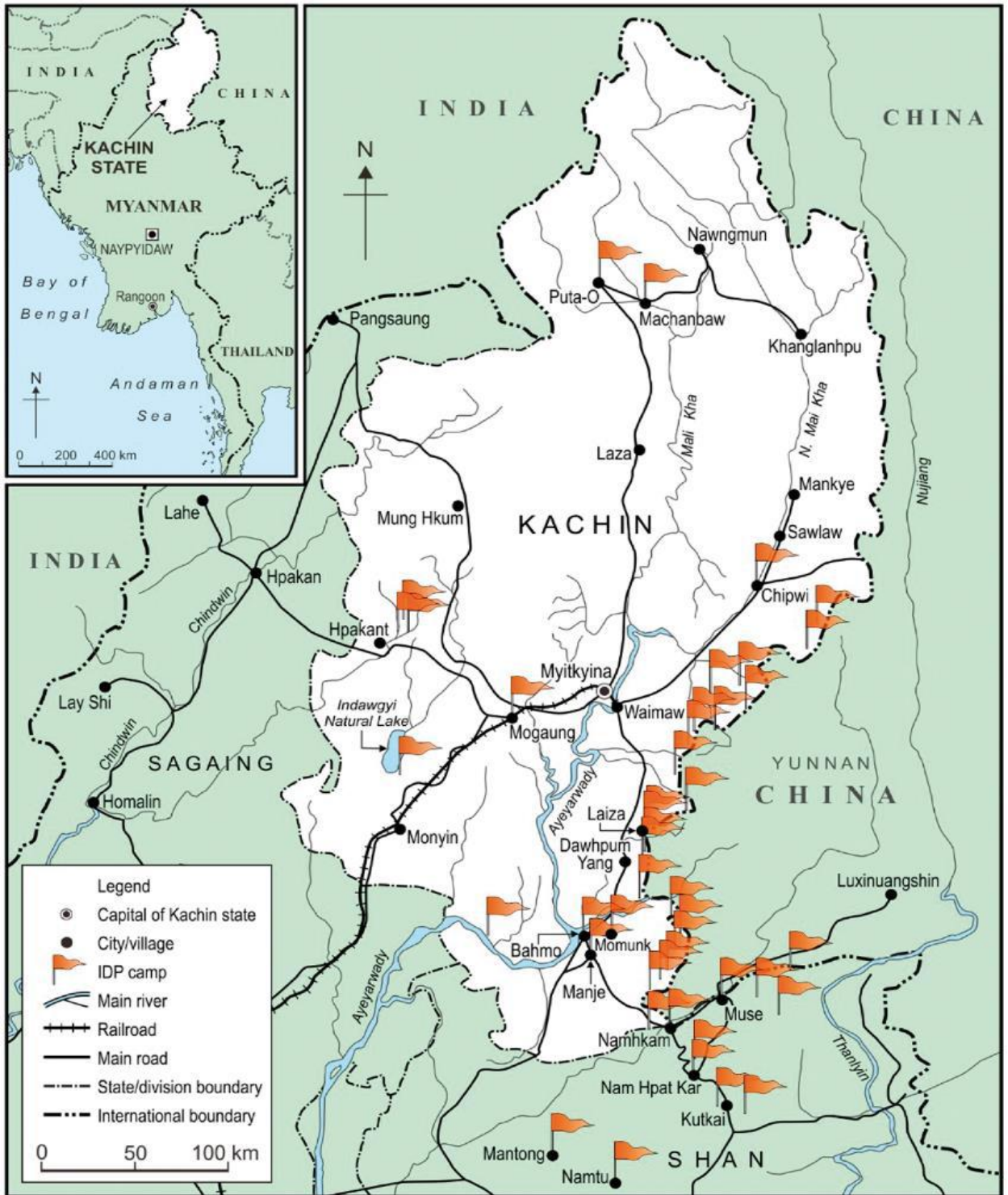
Source: [Memo, 2011](#)

Appendix 5: Geographic Location of Myanmar



Source: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Myanmar/Cultural-life>

Appendix 6: Map of IDP Camps in Kachin and Northern Shan State, Myanmar (February, 2018)



Sources from: Memo, 2018

Appendix 7: Focus Group Discussion in camp with camp resident IDPs



Source: data survey, 2024

Appendix 8: Key Informant Interview with Livelihood Support agency staff



Source: data survey, 2024

Appendix 9: Implementing home gardening



Source: data survey, 2024

Appendix 10: Pig rearing livelihood assistance programs, camp observation



Source: data survey, 2024