

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

**A STUDY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) IN
NYAUNG SHWE TOWNSHIP**

**CHIT ZAW AUNG
MDevS – 9 (18th BATCH)**

JUNE, 2025

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NYAUNG SHWE TOWNSHIP**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of
Development Studies (MDevS) Degree

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YANGON UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS
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This is to certify that the thesis entitled **“A Study on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township”** submitted as 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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ABSTRACT

The study examines the socio-economic conditions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township, Myanmar, following a complex emergency situation that forced many people to flee their homes. The study aims to assess their living conditions, including housing, employment opportunities, education, healthcare, livelihood, income, social integration, and aid from the government and NGOs. 155 IDPs households were surveyed using structured questionnaires. The findings reveal that most IDPs struggle with money due to high unemployment rates, limited access to good schools and healthcare services, and reliance on informal and irregular jobs. This study of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township requires a multisectoral and rights-based approach. By prioritizing livelihood restoration, access to services, community inclusion, and institutional support, stakeholders can help IDPs rebuild their lives with dignity, stability, and hope for the future.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
EAO	Ethnic Armed Organization
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
UN	United Nation
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale of the Study

Internal displacement is a major humanitarian and development concern on Earth. Armed conflict, natural disasters, environmental deterioration, and political instability have made leaving home while living in a nation worse. They make life tough for millions of people and generate issues for both the displaced and the host communities. Internally displaced individuals (IDPs) don't receive legal protection or international attention like refugees, making the situation worse. Instead, they turn to their national governments, many of whom are reluctant or unable to help. By 2023, the IDMC reported over 71 million internally displaced people worldwide. This record high illustrates that countries and international organizations must collaborate and utilize data to respond fast. There are several serious and complicated effects of internal displacement. Long-term internal displacement, on the other hand, may cause generations of people to live in unstable and poor circumstances. IDPs typically have trouble getting to school, work, health care, and housing. Because they are not recognized by the law or the government in many nations, they are more susceptible to exploitation, being pushed to the outside of society, and living in poverty for a long time. These circumstances affect not only people and families, but also host communities, public resources, and social and political conflicts in general. In a lot of situations, displacement develops a cycle where individuals are either uprooted over and over again or can never go back to their original homes. This creates a shadow population inside national boundaries that development planning doesn't take into consideration enough.

In Southeast Asia is an area where internal displacement is a long-lasting and complicated problem that is frequently ignored in larger international discussions. Some of the main causes of internal displacement in the area include civil unrest, ethnic conflicts, natural disaster caused by climate change, and land disputes. Forced relocation happens again and again in countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, and

Myanmar, yet reactions from national and regional governments are still not uniform. Some programs have been put in place to help with the humanitarian side of displacement, but there aren't many that concentrate on development, and many IDPs have been stranded in limbo for years or even decades. Many governments in the area don't have complete, broken-down data on IDPs populations, which makes it hard to figure out what their needs are or how to respond with effective policies. IDPs are often left out of national censuses, development plans, and attempts to reduce poverty, which makes them further more socially and economically excluded.

Myanmar is a country in Southeast Asia that has a high incidence of displacement because of its lengthy history of internal conflict between ethnic armed groups and the national military. These conflicts stem from grievances over political autonomy, cultural recognition, and resource distribution. Because of this, Myanmar has seen waves of internal displacement that have forced whole populations to leave their homes without enough time to establish down in a new area. IDPs sometimes wind up in secluded, improvised camps, monasteries, or informal settlements where they can't get to essential amenities. Administrative issues, security concerns, and political sensitivities make it hard for the international community to contact those who have been displaced. Every day, IDPs have to fight for food, housing, health care, and protection. Even though a lot of people have had to leave their homes in Myanmar, most study and news coverage focuses on well-known locations like Rakhine State or the northern parts of Kachin and Shan States. There are also less obvious but nonetheless important patterns of relocation happening in other sections of the nation, even in places that were formerly thought to be stable. One of these places is Nyaung Shwe Township in southern Shan State. This municipality is better recognized for its cultural heritage and tourism-based economy, but more and more people are coming here in other areas. The military and armed groups have been fighting, the environment has been becoming worse, and there has been political persecution in adjacent places. This has caused a constant stream of people to go to Nyaung Shwe. People are moving to this township in large numbers, which is changing the way people live and work there in ways that are yet not well understood.

Nyaung Shwe Township, located in southern Shan State, presents a unique context within Myanmar's displacement landscape. Unlike the more volatile northern Shan or Rakhine regions, Nyaung Shwe is relatively stable and known for its tourism and agricultural economy, centered around Inle Lake. However, the township has seen

a growing influx of IDPs fleeing nearby conflicts, particularly from areas affected by clashes between ethnic armed organizations and the Myanmar military. This influx strains local infrastructure, including water, sanitation, healthcare, and employment opportunities, creating tensions between IDPs and host communities. Despite these dynamics, there is a significant gap in localized research on the socio-economic conditions of IDPs in Nyaung Shwe, particularly regarding their living conditions, income sources, education access, and social integration strategies.

This study aims to fill the knowledge gap by providing a focused analysis of the socio-economic conditions of IDPs in Nyaung Shwe Township. Understanding their income sources, employment status, education access, health, housing conditions, and overall wellbeing will help inform more effective humanitarian and development responses. The study is also important for policy advocacy, as reliable local data can influence national and international stakeholders to prioritize support for overlooked communities.

Moreover, the study serves an academic purpose by contributing to the broader literature on internal displacement and socio-economic vulnerability in conflict-affected countries. In the long term, it supports efforts to develop sustainable, inclusive recovery programs for displaced populations in Myanmar and beyond.

1.2 Objective of the Study

The study aims to assess the current socio-economic conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township.

1.3 Method of Study

The study primarily uses qualitative and quantitative methods, including structured interviews, questionnaires, and focus group discussions, to collect data from IDPs households, local authorities, and relevant NGOs operating in the area. A descriptive analysis is used in this study and questionnaire survey is collected as a requirement for quantitative and qualitative approaches. Primary data is collected (155) households by using a simple random sampling method among displaced households, host community member and community leaders at the Nyaung Shwe township. Secondary data is collected from Government agencies, UN agencies reports, World Bank data, CSO data and research papers.

1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study focuses on examining the socio-economic conditions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) residing in Nyaung Shwe Township, located in southern Shan State, Myanmar. The study period is March to June 2025. The timeframe of the study covers conditions observed during the year from 2021 to 2025.

1.5 Organization of the Study

Five chapters comprise this study. Chapter one introduces the study's premise, objectives, method, scope, constraints, and organization. Chapter two reviews literature. Chapter three provides a summary of Myanmar's internally displaced individuals (IDPs), Chapter four analyzes surveys, and Chapter five concludes.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definitions and Concept of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

IDPs are people or groups forced to evacuate their homes due to armed war, widespread violence, human rights violations, or natural and man-made disasters while staying in their nation. IDPs are more vulnerable to neglect and marginalization than refugees, who are protected by the 1951 Refugee Convention (UNHCR, 2024). Without international protection, IDPs are under their national governments, which may be reluctant or unable to give necessary help, especially in conflict-affected or unstable nations.

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998) define IDPs as "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not..." While universally acknowledged, this non-binding framework is unenforceable, leaving IDPs to national policies and soft law instruments.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) further refines this definition by emphasizing the multi-causal nature of displacement. IDPs may face repeated or protracted displacement due to ongoing conflicts, recurrent natural disasters, or systemic human rights abuses (IDMC, 2024). The IDMC estimates that conflict and violence triggered 28.3 million new displacements globally in 2023, while disasters accounted for 7.7 million, underscoring the scale and diversity of displacement causes. The concept of internal displacement intersects with critical issues of sovereignty, human rights, and humanitarian access. Since IDPs remain within their country, their protection and assistance fall primarily to national authorities. Resettlement, local integration, or repatriation to their home country are the Guiding Principles' three lasting alternatives for IDPs. Insecurity, infrastructure, and politics will make these alternatives difficult.

Regionally, frameworks like the African Union's Kampala Convention (2009) require nations to avoid displacement, protect IDPs, and promote lasting solutions (Tadesse et al., 2025). No such framework exists in Asia, where countries rely on ad hoc policies or international humanitarian assistance. This gap complicates advocacy and support for IDPs, particularly in politically sensitive contexts where governments may deny the existence of displacement to avoid scrutiny.

Operationally, humanitarian actors such as the IDMC, UNHCR, and UNUNOCHA rely on data collection to monitor displacement trends and needs. However, data accuracy is often compromised by inaccessibility, underreporting, or political interference.

The lack of a global binding treaty for IDPs means their legal recognition varies widely. In some countries, IDPs are not officially acknowledged, complicating access to food, shelter, healthcare, and legal status. This is particularly acute in conflict zones, where IDPs may face additional risks such as forced recruitment, gender-based violence, or detention. The Guiding Principles remain the cornerstone for defining and advocating for IDPs, but their non-binding nature limits their impact. Addressing IDPs needs requires stronger national policies, regional cooperation, and consistent international support to bridge protection and assistance gaps.

2.2 Causes of Internal Displacement

Internal displacement occurs when individuals or groups are forced to flee their homes due to circumstances that render their places of residence unsafe or uninhabitable, yet they remain within their country's borders. The causes of internal displacement are multifaceted and often interlinked, encompassing armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, natural disasters, and development-induced displacement.

2.2.1 Armed Conflict and Civil War

Armed conflict is a leading cause of internal displacement globally. Civil wars, insurgencies, and ethnic clashes often lead to widespread violence, destruction of property, and threats to civilian life. In countries like Syria, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, millions have been displaced due to ongoing fighting between government forces and armed groups. Civilians often flee to escape violence,

recruitment by armed groups, or retaliatory attacks. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), conflict and violence triggered 28.3 million new displacements in 2023 alone marking a significant global trend (IDMC, 2024).

2.2.2 Generalized Violence and Insecurity

Beyond organized conflict, generalized violence and insecurity drive displacement in regions with weak governance or high crime rates. Intercommunal clashes, gang violence, and lawlessness force families to abandon their homes without formal recognition as IDPs. In Central America, for instance, gang-related extortion and violence have displaced thousands in countries like Honduras and El Salvador (UNHCR, 2024).

2.2.3 Human Rights Violations

Systemic human rights abuses, including government-led persecution, ethnic discrimination, and forced evictions, are significant drivers of displacement. Marginalized groups face targeted violence, harassment, and exclusion, compelling them to flee their homes (UNHCR, 202). Political persecution, violence, and discriminatory laws contribute to displacement, often targeting marginalized groups. Discriminatory laws and policies also indirectly lead to displacement by denying access to essential services, such as education and healthcare. Forced evictions, often without consultation or compensation, further exacerbate vulnerability. In protracted conflicts or fragile states, law and order collapse can result in widespread impunity, exposing perpetrators of violence without accountability. This exacerbates the vulnerability of affected populations, particularly women, children, and persons with disabilities.

2.2.4 Natural Disasters and Climate Change

Natural disasters, exacerbated by climate change, are increasingly significant causes of internal displacement. Floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and droughts force people to relocate, often temporarily but sometimes permanently. In 2023, disasters triggered 7.7 million new displacements globally, with South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa being particularly affected (IDMC, 2024).

2.2.5 Development Projects and Land Acquisition

Large-scale infrastructure projects, such as dams, highways, or mining operations, often lead to forced relocations. While these projects may be government-sanctioned, they frequently fail to provide adequate compensation or resettlement support, leaving displaced communities economically and socially vulnerable. Displacement under these conditions can disrupt livelihoods, social networks, and access to services, leaving affected people economically and socially vulnerable.

2.3 Socio-Economic Impact of Displacement

The socio-economic impacts of internal displacement are profound, affecting IDPs' access to housing, employment, education, healthcare, and social integration. Unlike refugees, IDPs remain within their national borders, often without international legal protections, making them reliant on national governments or humanitarian organizations for support. In conflict-affected regions, these impacts are exacerbated by ongoing insecurity, limited resources, and restricted humanitarian access, leaving IDPs in precarious conditions (IDMC, 2024).

2.3.1 Living Conditions and Housing

Displacement disrupts traditional livelihoods, pushing IDPs into informal or precarious employment. Many lose access to agricultural land, businesses, or formal jobs, forcing reliance on casual labor or small-scale trading. In Colombia, displaced rural workers face skill mismatches and discrimination in urban labor markets, limiting economic opportunities (UNHCR, 2022). Women and youth are particularly vulnerable, often engaging in exploitative work with little job security or social protection (IOM, 2024).

2.3.2 Employment and Livelihood Sources

Displacement disrupts traditional livelihoods, pushing IDPs into informal or precarious employment. Many lose access to agricultural land, businesses, or formal jobs, forcing reliance on casual labor or small-scale trading. In Colombia, displaced rural workers face skill mismatches and discrimination in urban labor markets, limiting economic opportunities (UNHCR, 2022). Women and youth are particularly vulnerable, often engaging in exploitative work with little job security or social protection (IOM, 2024).

2.3.3 Education and Healthcare Access

Displacement significantly disrupts education, particularly for children and adolescents. Schools may be destroyed, inaccessible, or under-resourced, leading to high dropout rates. In Yemen, IDPs children are twice as likely to be out of school compared to non-displaced peers (UNICEF, 2024). Healthcare access is similarly compromised, with overcrowded clinics, shortages of medicine, and lack of mental health support. Trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are prevalent among IDPs, yet services remain scarce (IASC, 2022).

2.3.4 Employment Opportunities and Income Levels

Most IDPs experience a sharp drop in income levels post-displacement. Employment opportunities are scarce, and discrimination from host communities can exacerbate exclusion. Even when jobs are available, they tend to be low-paying and exploitative. In Ukraine, internally displaced persons report earning 20-30% less than local workers in similar roles (IOM, 2023). This economic marginalization perpetuates poverty cycles and dependency.

2.3.5 Social Integration and Challenges

Social integration is a significant challenge for IDPs, as host communities may view them as competitors for resources or security risks. In Iraq, returning IDPs face hostility and barriers to reclaiming property, hindering reintegration (Saieh et al., 2019). Stigmatization and exclusion weaken social cohesion, making it difficult for IDPs to build stable lives in their new environments.

2.3.6 Government, NGO, and Humanitarian Responses

In crisis situations whether natural disasters, armed conflicts, or public health emergencies governments, NGOs, and humanitarian organizations play distinct but complementary roles. Government responses typically involve immediate emergency services, policy coordination, and resource mobilization. Governments provide the first line of response through national agencies such as FEMA in the United States or the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in India. Their role includes enforcing evacuations, deploying security forces, and coordinating international aid (Kapucu, 2006).

Non-Governmental Organizations often step in with specialized services. They operate with more flexibility than government agencies, allowing rapid deployment to underserved or hard-to-reach areas. For instance, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) delivers medical care in conflict zones and disaster areas worldwide. NGOs also advocate for marginalized communities and often bridge the gap between state policies and local needs (Clarke & Ramalingam, 2008).

Humanitarian organizations, including both UN agencies and independent actors, focus on protecting civilians and upholding international humanitarian law. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) plays a central role in coordinating global emergency responses. These organizations work under frameworks like the Sphere Standards to ensure minimum levels of care, shelter, and food are met during crises (Sphere Association, 2018).

The effectiveness of these responses' hinges on coordination, transparency, and accountability. Collaborative platforms like the Cluster System have been developed to improve coherence among actors, but challenges like political interference, limited access, and funding constraints remain significant (Bennett et al., 2016).

2.4 Key Challenges Faced by Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) face a range of complex challenges that undermine their ability to achieve stable and secure lives. As of 2023, over 75.9 million people were internally displaced globally, with significant populations in conflict-affected countries (IDMC, 2024). Unlike refugees, IDPs lack international legal protections, making them particularly vulnerable to neglect, exploitation, and marginalization. The challenges they face are multifaceted, encompassing legal, social, economic, and humanitarian dimensions (Abidde, 2020).

2.4.1 Legal and Protection Gaps

The absence of a global binding legal framework for IDPs is a major challenge. Unlike refugees, who are protected under the 1951 Refugee Convention, IDPs rely on their national governments for protection, which is often inadequate in conflict zones or fragile states (Abidde, 2020). The UN Guiding Principles on Internal

Displacement (1998) provide a framework for IDPs rights but are non-binding, resulting in inconsistent application.

2.4.2 Inadequate Shelter and Living Conditions

Many IDPs live in overcrowded, makeshift camps or in informal urban settlements with limited access to clean water, sanitation, and health services. These poor conditions increase the risk of disease outbreaks, especially among children and the elderly. For example, cholera and malaria are common in displacement settings where sanitation is lacking (WHO, 2021).

In addition, shelter options are often temporary, offering little protection from harsh weather or violence. Long-term displacement means that “temporary” shelters often become semi-permanent, but without upgrades or adequate services.

2.4.3 Food Insecurity and Limited Livelihoods

Displacement disrupts livelihoods. Farmers may lose access to their land; workers lose jobs or income sources. IDPs are often economically marginalized and may depend heavily on aid. Food insecurity is a recurring issue, with malnutrition rates high in many IDPs camps. Without access to employment, many IDPs face long-term poverty. In urban settings, they may work in informal sectors under exploitative conditions or face discrimination in hiring.

2.4.4 Health and Psychological Impacts

The health challenges for IDPs go beyond infectious diseases. Mental health issues including depression, anxiety, and PTSD are widespread due to the trauma of displacement, loss of family members, and instability (IASC, 2022). Yet, mental health services are rarely available or prioritized in humanitarian settings. In addition, access to basic healthcare is inconsistent. In conflict zones, health systems are often degraded or inaccessible. Pregnant women, children, and people with chronic conditions are at particular risk.

2.4.5 Education Disruption

Displacement often interrupts education, especially for children. Schools may be destroyed, unsafe, or too far from IDPs camps. Even where education is offered, it's often under-resourced, lacking trained teachers, materials, and infrastructure. Girls

are more likely to drop out, particularly where early marriage or child labor increases under economic pressure (UNICEF, 2021). The longer children remain out of school, the less likely they are to return, impacting their long-term development and future prospects.

2.4.6 Security and Gender Based Violence

IDPs frequently face ongoing security threats, especially in camps or conflict-affected areas. Women and girls are particularly at risk of gender-based violence (GBV), including rape, trafficking, and domestic abuse. In many displacement settings, GBV services are minimal, and survivors lack safe reporting mechanisms or legal support. Armed groups may also target IDPs camps or recruit children, compounding the insecurity. In some contexts, IDPs are viewed with suspicion by host communities or authorities, leading to harassment or detention.

2.5 Reviews on Previous Studies

Catherine Brun (2003) study on internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka challenges the conventional categorization of IDPs as merely displaced victims, arguing that long-term displacement blurs the lines between "displaced" and "resettled" populations. The study highlights how displaced persons reconstruct their sense of place and identity after years of living in camps or host communities, forming new attachments to land, developing social networks, and claiming rights as citizens. Brun's ethnographic approach captures the voices and everyday experiences of displaced Tamil populations, highlighting how people negotiate belonging, community membership, and access to state resources. The study critiques state and humanitarian approaches that fail to adapt to the realities of long-term displacement, advocating for policies that reflect the lived experiences of those displaced. The study is relevant to broader academic discussions on protracted displacement, integration, and return, questioning the assumption that return to one's original home is the only legitimate solution. Brun's findings underscore the need to design development-oriented and inclusive policies that acknowledge the dynamic identities of IDPs who have become embedded in new localities.

Lazum Htu Tawng (2020) study provides a detailed analysis of Exploring the Livelihoods of Internally Displaced Persons in Kachin State, Myanmar. The research highlights the structural and long-term barriers to development faced by IDPs, such as

food insecurity, unemployment, restricted mobility, and poor health conditions. The study also highlights the livelihood disruptions caused by ongoing conflict and displacement, which often leads to reliance on inconsistent humanitarian assistance or informal labor. The study also highlights the educational barriers faced by displaced children, with limited access to formal schooling due to infrastructure destruction, lack of qualified teachers, and insecurity in conflict zones. The study also highlights the psychosocial and protection concerns of IDPs, particularly women and children, due to increased exposure to gender-based violence, trafficking, and exploitation. The authors advocate for a more inclusive national policy that recognizes IDPs' rights and integrates displacement-affected populations into broader development strategies.

Nang San¹, Aye Aye Chit. (2020). Examined an assessment on socio-economic status of internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps in Banmaw district. Banmaw District in Kachin State includes the townships of Banmaw, Momauk, Mansi, and Shwegu, along with the sub-townships of Dawphoneyan, Lweje, and Myohla. Following Myanmar's independence, the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) and its armed wing, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), emerged in response to the shortcomings of the 1947 Constitution. Armed conflict between the KIA and the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) continues due to ongoing political tensions. As rural areas became unsafe, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) Camps were set up in Banmaw, Momauk, and Mansi. A survey using the method of Islam et al. (2009) assessed the socio-economic conditions in these camps. The results showed that IDPs in Banmaw had the highest levels of social, education, health, and security, while Momauk's IDPs had the best economic status. If peace is restored, IDPs could return to their villages, resume normal livelihoods, and contribute to rural development in Banmaw District.

Ali, A. A. (2021) studied "The Impact of Displacement on the Social, Economic, and Health Situation on a Sample of Internally Displaced Families in Anbar Province, Iraq." This study examines the social, economic, and health effects of forced displacement on internally displaced individuals (IDPs). Structured questionnaires were given to displaced families in Anbar Province camps to obtain primary data for descriptive study. The data showed that displacement severely harmed IDPs' social fabric, income, and healthcare. Women and children were more exposed to basic requirements shortages. The report stressed the need for coordinated government and humanitarian measures to improve living conditions,

medical services, and economic support. To help IDPs rebuild, specialized health care, job opportunities, and social stability are recommended.

Khan, I. U., Khan, A., & Ullah, A. (2022) examined the socio-economic effects of internal displacement on North Waziristan IDPs from 2014 to 2017. This study examined IDPs' social, economic, and health effects after Operation Zarb-e-Azb, Pakistan's military war against terrorism. A mixed-method approach included quantitative and qualitative data. Structured surveys and interviews with 300 displaced households in District Lakki Marwat obtained primary data. Government publications and literature provided secondary data. Displacement has serious effects on housing, health, work, and education. Many IDPs cited housing issues, livelihood losses, healthcare issues, and school disruptions. Mental stress and social dislocation were common, especially among women and children. Local communities and government agencies provided some help, but many respondents were dissatisfied. To secure the long-term well-being and dignity of displaced communities, the research emphasizes targeted policies and sustainable reintegration strategies.

In Gurage Zone, Ethiopia, Nuradis Nesru Muzemil, Amsalu Bichinu Ayalew, and Badassa Wolteji Chala (2023) examined the socio-economic effects of internal displacement on displaced and host households. There is little research on how internal relocation affects Ethiopian host families. This study examined how internal displacement impacts host and displaced families' social and economic life. We collected primary data from 613 random residences. We utilized propensity score matching to examine how internal relocation influenced both families' social and economic life. We validated the sensitivity analysis using Rosenbaum limits and Mentel-Henzel. Both displaced and host families suffered socioeconomically when transferring inside a country. Displaced families lost 74.63% of their annual income, while host households lost 23.37%. Internal displacement raised displaced and host family unemployment rates by 37.17% and 4.08%, respectively. Internal displacement also hurt household expenditures, productivity, education, and health care. The authorities should return the evicted family to their area and repair their property. The government should restore vital services and help both sorts of families find work as a long-term solution.

Kyaw Thi Ha (2024) explored IDP socio-economics and resettlement in Chipwi Township, Kachin State. The present and previous socio-economic

situations of internally displaced individuals (IDPs) and their resettlement obstacles are examined in this study. We used primary and secondary data for descriptive study to achieve these aims. The 120 IDP camp homes were given standardized questionnaires to collect primary data. Reports from the General Administration Department and other agencies provided secondary data. Results show government assistance in resettlement land and space for agriculture is needed. In addition, the research emphasizes helping IDPs reconstruct their lives independently. Financial help and possibilities for IDPs to return home or find secure work are key proposals.

N Shang La Nu (2024) studied livelihood aid initiatives for IDPs in Kachin State, Myanmar. These programmes provide economic help and vital resources to IDPs to enhance their living standards and self-reliance. Four camps performed focus group talks and semi-structured interviews to collect data. IDPs were interviewed informally in addition to official interviews with study-related questions. The research showed IDPs' benefits and challenges in accessing these services. This study also examined how local social and political variables impact implementation. Limited programme coverage, logistical issues, aid organization cooperation, and political and socio-economic situations were recognized as major hurdles. These variables considerably affect livelihood aid efficacy and reach in the region.

CHAPTER III

OVERVIEW OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) IN MYANMAR

3.1 Background Situation of IDPs in Myanmar

Myanmar's internal displacement crisis is among the most severe in Southeast Asia, driven by a complex interplay of ethnic conflicts, political instability, and environmental challenges. As of mid-2024, over 3.1 million people were internally displaced across the country, with significant concentrations in Shan, Kachin, and Rakhine States (UNICEF, 2024). The 2021 military coup marked a turning point, escalating violence, disrupting governance, and triggering widespread displacement. This crisis compounds decades of unrest, making Myanmar a critical case study for understanding the socio-economic challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The term Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Myanmar is defined by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement as follows: "Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are people who have fled their homes and communities to escape the effects of natural disasters or human-made disasters such as armed conflict and violence. This definition refers to people who have moved within their country of residence."

The roots of internal displacement in Myanmar can be traced back to the post-independence period, particularly following the country's independence from British colonial rule in 1948. Almost immediately, Myanmar was plagued by internal conflict as numerous ethnic armed groups representing the country's diverse ethnic minorities such as the Karen, Kachin, Shan, Mon, Chin, and others began to demand greater autonomy, self-determination, and rights over natural resources and territory. In response, the central government, dominated by the majority Bamar ethnic group, engaged in prolonged military campaigns against these groups, leading to protracted internal conflicts and the displacement of thousands of civilians in border and rural areas.

Rakhine State in Myanmar experienced severe internal displacement due to communal violence between Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims in 2012. Over 140,000 Rohingya people were displaced, mostly in confined camps with limited freedom of movement, education, and health services. Despite many fleeing to Bangladesh during the 2017 military crackdown, a significant number remained internally displaced within Rakhine State under restrictive conditions. Since the resumption of armed conflict in 2011 between the Kachin Independence Army and military, over 100,000 people have been displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states. Most of them remain in IDP camps, often in non-government-controlled areas, with limited humanitarian access due to military restrictions and insecurity.

In addition to conflict-related displacement, natural disasters especially cyclones, floods, and landslides have contributed to temporary or prolonged displacement. For example, Cyclone Nargis in 2008 displaced hundreds of thousands in the Ayeyarwady Delta. Moreover, development-induced displacement has occurred due to infrastructure projects like dams, mining, and land acquisitions for economic zones, notably affecting communities in Shan State and Tanintharyi Region.

Development-induced displacement is another significant factor. Large-scale projects, such as hydropower dams, mining operations, and tourism infrastructure, have displaced rural populations, often without adequate compensation or resettlement plans. In Shan State, projects like the Upper Yeywa Dam have displaced communities, pushing them toward urban centers like Nyaung Shwe, where they face economic marginalization and resource competition (IDMC, 2024). These displacements disrupt traditional livelihoods, particularly for farmers and indigenous groups reliant on land access.

According to UNHCR data for 2025, Myanmar has an internally displaced persons (IDPs) of 3.5 million. Table (3.1) provides information on internally displaced persons (IDPs) categorized by region and state.

Table (3.1) Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by State/ Region

Sr.no	State/ Region	Population
1	Sagaing Region	1,249,600
2	Rakhine State	490,300
3	Magway Region	259,400
4	Kayin State	254,200

Table (3.1) Continued

5	Kachin State	238,100
6	Bago (East) Region	218,800
7	Tanintharyi Region	205,400
8	Kayah State	130,100
9	Shan (South) State	129,700
10	Chin State	100,900
11	Mandalay Region	93,200
12	Mon State	91,600
13	Shan (North) State	39,200
14	Bago (West) Region	21,100
15	Ayeyarwady Region	9,800
16	Yangon Region	3,900

Source: Operational Data Portal of UNHCR

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states. Most of them remain in IDP camps, often in non-government-controlled areas, with limited humanitarian access due to military restrictions and insecurity.

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3.2 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township

Nyaung Shwe Township is in the Taunggyi District of Southern Shan State, Myanmar. People know it as the method to go to Inle Lake, which is a popular place for tourists to go. There is one town in the township, which is the main town of Nyaung Shwe. There are also 35 village tracts, which are made up of 8 urban wards and 445 villages.

Nyaung Shwe Township is characterized by ethnic diversity, varied socio-economic backgrounds, and significant vulnerabilities. IDPs in Nyaung Shwe originate from Kayah State and Northern Shan State, both of which border Southern Shan State. The township's relative stability and economic opportunities around Inle Lake make it a refuge for displaced populations, but their socio-economic conditions remain precarious (UNOCHA, 2023).

Ethnically, IDPs in Nyaung Shwe include Inn Thar, Shan, Pa-O, and smaller numbers of other ethnic groups, reflecting the region's diversity. This demographic

composition shapes the specific challenges IDPs face, including access to education, healthcare, and livelihoods.

Socio-economically, many IDPs were farmers, small-scale traders, or laborers before displacement, relying on agriculture or informal economies. Displacement disrupts these livelihoods, as land access is lost, and urban economies like Nyaung Shwe's require different skills, such as tourism-related work, which many IDPs lack (IOM, 2024). Education levels among adult IDPs are generally low, with many having only primary or no formal schooling, limiting their ability to secure stable employment. Youth and women are particularly disadvantaged, often resorting to informal work like street vending or domestic labor, which offers little security or income (UNHCR, 2024).

The living arrangements for IDPs in Nyaung Shwe vary. Most live in monasteries, churches, and public buildings in Nyaung Shwe Township. Some live in temporary houses built on vacant land in villages/wards, while others live in rented houses. As they live in informal settlements, they are at risk of eviction due to the lack of legal land ownership. A smaller number are hosted by local families, but this arrangement strains community resources and can lead to tensions (UNOCHA, 2023). The reliance on temporary or informal housing exacerbates IDPs' vulnerability, particularly during the monsoon season, when flooding around Inle Lake damages shelters.

The duration of displacement influences IDPs' socio-economic profiles. Recent arrivals, displaced after 2021 civil unrest, often face acute needs, including food insecurity and lack of documentation. Those in protracted displacement, struggle with long-term integration and loss of assets, making return to their places of origin challenging (IDMC, 2024). Children born in displacement face additional barriers which limits access to education and healthcare.

The profile of IDPs in Nyaung Shwe highlights their reliance on humanitarian aid and informal networks for survival. However, limited access to stable employment, education, and healthcare perpetuates cycles of poverty and marginalization. Understanding this profile is essential for tailoring interventions that address the specific needs of diverse ethnic groups, women, children, and those in protracted displacement.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) began arriving in Nyaung Shwe Township following the civil unrest in 2021. Table 3.2 presents data on these IDPs in Nyaung

Shwe Township as of December 2025, as sourced from the Township General Administration Department.

Table (3.2) Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township

Sr.no	Ward/Village	Population
1	Myo Lel Ward	1,167
2	Nan Da Wun Ward	564
3	Nang Pang Village	1,200
4	Mong Pyoe village	1,867
5	Ho Pong village	462
6	Pauk Taw village	56
7	He Hkam village	59
8	Yae Kar village	206
9	He Long village	282
10	Hsi Hson village	798
11	Taung to village	478
12	Ywar Thit village	142
13	Taung Poet Ni village	77
14	Inn Paw Hkon village	340
15	Min Ga Lar Ward	272

Source: Data from General Administrative Department of Nyaung Shwe township

3.3 Displacement Causes and Duration in Nyaung Shwe Township

Displacement in Nyaung Shwe Township is driven by a combination of armed conflict, natural disasters, and development-induced pressures, reflecting broader trends in Myanmar’s displacement crisis. The township, located in southern Shan State, serves as a refuge for IDPs fleeing violence and instability in Kayah State, Northern Shan State and neighboring areas. Understanding the causes and duration of displacement is critical for addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by these populations.

3.3.1 Armed Conflict and Civil War

The primary driver of displacement in Nyaung Shwe is armed conflict between the Myanmar military and ethnic armed organizations. The 2021 civil unrest

intensified these conflicts, with Kayah and Northern Shan State experiencing heavy fighting, displacing thousands to safer areas like Nyaung Shwe (IDMC, 2024). Civilians flee to escape direct violence, forced recruitment, or destruction of homes and livelihoods. The ongoing nature of these conflicts prolongs displacement, as return to areas of origin remains unsafe.

3.3.2 Natural Disasters

Seasonal flooding around Inle Lake, exacerbated by climate change, is a significant cause of displacement in Nyaung Shwe. Myanmar's vulnerability to extreme weather, including heavy monsoons and rising water levels, affects agricultural communities reliant on the lake's ecosystem. In 2023, flooding displaced over 10,000 people in southern Shan State, with many unable to return due to damaged infrastructure and loss of crops (UNEP, 2020). These environmental displacements are often temporary but can become protracted when combined with conflict-related factors, forcing IDPs to remain in Nyaung Shwe.

3.3.3 Development-Induced Displacement

Development projects, particularly tourism infrastructure and agricultural expansions, contribute to displacement in Nyaung Shwe. The township's economy, centered on Inle Lake's tourism industry, has led to land acquisitions that displace rural communities, often without adequate compensation (UNOCHA, 2023). For instance, hotel and resort developments have encroached on agricultural land, pushing farmers toward urban areas or informal settlements. These displacements disrupt traditional livelihoods and increase economic vulnerability among IDPs.

3.4 Government and Humanitarian Response in Nyaung Shwe Township

The response to IDPs in Nyaung Shwe Township is shaped by the interplay of government policies, local NGO efforts, and international humanitarian interventions, all constrained by Myanmar's political and security challenges. Local and international organizations provide critical support, but face significant obstacles, including funding shortages, restricted access, and coordination challenges (UNOCHA, 2023).

3.4.1 Government Response

The Myanmar government's response to IDPs in Nyaung Shwe is minimal, reflecting broader political priorities. The General Administration Department, responsible for local governance, lacks the resources and authority to address IDPs needs effectively. Post-coup policies have restricted humanitarian access, particularly in Shan State, where security checkpoints and bureaucratic hurdles limit aid delivery (UNHCR, 2024). The government has established some IDPs camps, but these are underfunded and poorly managed, offering limited services like food and shelter. In Nyaung Shwe, government support is sporadic, with most IDPs relying on non-governmental actors for assistance.

3.4.2 Local NGO Efforts

Local NGOs and community-based organizations play a vital role in supporting IDPs in Nyaung Shwe. Organizations like the Shan State Development Foundation provide food, temporary shelters, and basic healthcare in camps and informal settlements. These groups are often more agile than international actors, navigating local dynamics to reach underserved populations (UNOCHA, 2023). However, local NGOs face funding constraints and lack of coordination, which limits their ability to scale up interventions. Community-led initiatives, such as mutual aid networks, also support IDPs, but these are strained by resource competition with host communities.

3.4.3 International Humanitarian Response

International organizations, including UNHCR, UNOCHA, and Médecins Sans Frontières, provide critical support but operate under strict government regulations. UNHCR and WFP coordinates food distributions and shelter programs in Nyaung Shwe, while mobile health clinics address immediate medical needs (UNHCR, 2024). However, access restrictions in conflict-affected areas near the township hinder comprehensive aid delivery. Funding shortages are a persistent issue, with only 30% of Myanmar's 2023 humanitarian response plan funded (UNOCHA, 2023). The Sphere Standards guide international efforts, ensuring minimum levels of care, but gaps in implementation remain due to logistical and political barriers.

3.4.4 Coordination and Challenges

Effective coordination between government, NGOs, and international actors is critical but challenging. The UN's Cluster System facilitates collaboration, but political interference and restricted access limit its impact in Nyaung Shwe. Local NGOs often lack the capacity to align with international frameworks, leading to duplicated efforts or gaps in coverage. Security risks, including proximity to conflict zones, further complicate aid delivery, particularly in informal settlements (Sphere Association, 2018).

CHAPTER IV

SURVEY ANALYSIS

4.1 Survey Profile

The study examined the socio-economic conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nyaungshwe Township, focusing on living conditions and housing, employment opportunities and livelihood, education, health, income, social integration, and government and NGO support. Nyaungshwe Township is located in southern Shan State and borders Kayah State. Following the civil unrest of 2021, individuals from Kayah State and Northern Shan State have relocated to Nyaungshwe Township. The reasons for displacement to Nyaungshwe Township include armed conflict, natural disasters, and development-induced displacement.

This thesis only surveyed those displaced by armed conflict in Nyaungshwe Township. According to secondary data available as of December 2024, there are (2421) displaced households in Nyaungshwe Township, with a population of (8000) living in (15) villages/wards. A total of 155 displaced households were randomly chosen from 9 villages/wards using a simple random sampling method, and the study used both qualitative and quantitative data collected from important displacement areas, which include places where people live in shared shelters, rental homes, and common shelters in Nyaungshwe Township. The research was conducted to understand the current socio-economic conditions faced by displaced people in the region.

4.2 Survey Design

To comprehend Nyaung Shwe Township's IDPs' socioeconomic situation, this study's survey approach was carefully designed. Primary and secondary data gathering approaches were used to analyze the study goals thoroughly. The study surveyed 155 of 5,000 displaced people using a standardized questionnaire. With an 8% margin of error and a 95% confidence level, Taro Yamane's (1973) formula estimated 152 respondents from a population of 5,000, but practical issues like non-

responses and incomplete answers caused a slight difference between the calculated and actual sample sizes. The final sample size of 155 is statistically sound and sufficient for analysis. The sample comprises active consumers from several areas polled between March and June 2025. Due to research requirements, 155 respondents were selected, assuring data dependability. Local and worldwide research papers, relevant academic publications, textbooks, survey reports, articles, and official websites provided secondary data. I gained background information and understood IDP issues from these sources. The research also employed a standardized five-point Likert scale survey form to get respondents' opinions. The scale used numbers to represent how strongly individuals agreed or disagreed: Strongly Disagree = 1, Disagree = 2, Neutral = 3, Agree = 4, and Strongly Agree = 5. The lengthy questionnaire asked about respondents' demographics and socioeconomic situations that contributed to their departure. The survey examined research objective relationships and effects using dependent and independent variables. Two sessions comprised the questionnaire. Part (A) collected personal information on gender, age, marital status, ethnicity, religion, number of household members, education level, duration of relocation, past employment, and present occupation. Part (B) evaluated impacting factors, including housing, employment, livelihood sources, education, healthcare, employment possibilities, income, social integration, and government and NGO support. This section examined how Likert scale statements affected socio-economic views and decision-making.

4.3 Survey Results

4.3.1 Demographic Information of Respondents

Understanding the sample population and contextualizing the study's conclusions requires responder demographics. The tables below summarize eleven demographic factors: Gender, age, marital status, ethnicity, religion, number of household members, education level, current occupation, displacement length, shelter type, and prior occupation before relocation.

Table 4.1 Demographic Information

No	Items	Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Gender	Male	87	56.1
		Female	68	43.9

Table 4.1 Continued

2	Age	18-29	17	11.0
		30-44	58	37.4
		45-59	44	28.4
		60 and above	33	21.3
		Under 18	3	1.9
3	Marital Status	Divorced	4	2.6
		Married	77	49.7
		Single	45	29.0
		Widowed	29	18.7
4	Ethnicity	Burmese	54	34.8
		Danu	1	0.6
		Inn Thar	18	11.6
		Kayah	35	22.6
		Kayan	6	3.9
		Kayin	9	5.8
		Pa O	8	5.2
		Shan	24	15.5
5	Religion	Buddhist	124	80.0
		Christian	30	19.4
		Muslim	1	0.6
6	Number of Household Member	1 – 3 people	61	39.1
		4 - 6 people	82	52.6
		7 - 9 people	9	5.8
		10 - 11 people	3	1.9
7	Education Level	Bachelor's Degree	12	7.7
		Diploma/ Technical Certificate	10	6.5
		High School	64	41.3
		No Formal Education	12	7.7
		Primary	32	20.6
		Secondary	25	16.1

Table 4.1 Continued

8	Current Occupation	Construction Worker	28	18.1
		Casual labor	33	21.3
		Driver	1	0.6
		Handmade Job	1	0.6
		Jobless	83	53.5
		Own Business	1	0.6
		Small grocery shop	3	1.9
		Staff	2	1.3
		Student	1	0.6
		teacher	1	0.6
		Volunteer	1	0.6
9	Duration of Displacement	1 - 3 years	117	75.5
		6 - 12 months	14	9.0
		Less than 6 months	1	0.6
		More than 3 years	23	14.8
10	Shelter Type	Common Shelter	113	72.9
		Relatives' house	9	5.8
		Rental House	31	20.0
		They are building houses within the monastery grounds.	2	1.3
11	Previous Occupation Before Displacement	Casual Labor	52	33.5
		Farmer	24	15.5
		Government Staff	3	1.9
		Jobless	9	5.8
		Merchant	12	7.7
		Office employee	16	10.3
		Own Business	18	11.6
		Small grocery shop	4	2.6
		Student	16	10.3
		Volunteer	1	0.6

Sources: Survey Data, 2025

Table (4.1) shows an examination of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township. The data came from 155 people who answered questions. The gender distribution showed that 56.1% of the respondents were males (87) and 43.9% were women (68), which means that men were more likely to answer. The age distribution showed that the most common age group was 30 to 44 years old (37.4% of responses), followed by 45 to 59 years old (28.4%), 60 years old and over (21.3%), 18 to 29 years old (11.0%), and under 18 years old (1.9%). About 49.7% of the people who answered the question were married, 29.0% were single, 18.7% were widowed, and 2.6% were divorced.

The responders were from many different ethnic groups. The most common was Burmese (34.8%), followed by Kayah (22.6%), Shan (15.5%), Inn Thar (11.6%), Kayin (5.8%), Pa-O (5.2%), Kayan (3.9%), and Danu (0.6%). In terms of religious affiliation, 80.0% identified as Buddhist, 19.4% as Christian, and a minority of 0.6% as Muslim. The size of the households varied, with the most common number being four people (26.5%), followed by three people (17.4%), five people (16.1%), and two people (16.1%). Some households accommodated as many as eleven people, although this was quite uncommon. A large number of respondents (41.3%) had a high school diploma, followed by 20.6% who had an elementary education, 16.1% who had a secondary education, 7.7% who had no formal education, and 7.7% who had a bachelor's degree. Only 6.5% possessed a diploma or a technical certification. The job status showed a lot of weakness, with more than half of the people who answered (53.5%) saying they were unemployed at the time of the survey. 21.3% of those who worked did casual employment, while the rest worked for small businesses, taught, volunteered, or were staff members, with each group making up less than 2% of the total. Most of the people (75.5%) had been displaced for 1 to 3 years, 14.8% had been displaced for more than 3 years, 9.0% had been displaced for 6 to 12 months, and just 0.6% had been affected for less than 6 months. Most of the people who answered (72.9%) lived in community shelters. Some lived in leased homes (20.0%), with relatives (5.8%), or were building homes on monastery property (1.3%). Before they were forced to leave, 33.5% of the people who answered were casual laborers, 15.5% were farmers, 11.6% had their own businesses, and 10.3% were either office workers or students.

4.3.2 Socio-Economic Conditions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township

This section presents data collected from a survey examining the socio-economic impacts of displacement on households in Nyaung Shwe Township. Displaced households were asked to share their perspectives on various topics, including living conditions and housing, employment opportunities and livelihood, education, healthcare, income, social integration, and support from government and NGOs, utilizing a Likert scale for their responses.

(i) Living Condition and Housing

According to table (4.2), respondents moderately agree that their current shelter meets the size and needs of their family, reflected in a mean score of 3.33 (SD 1.13), which shows some variability in perceptions of adequacy. Access to clean drinking water received the highest mean score of 3.92 (SD 0.88), suggesting that most respondents feel relatively positive about their water supply. In contrast, protection from weather conditions is rated slightly lower, with a mean score of 3.06 (SD 1.15), highlighting potential vulnerabilities in shelter quality against environmental factors. Sanitation facilities are reported as fairly accessible, with a mean score of 3.59 (SD 0.99), while access to electricity garners a lower average rating of 2.79 (SD 1.17), reflecting irregular or limited power supply for many households. Support from government or NGOs in providing shelter is perceived as modest, with a mean score of 2.69 (SD 0.94), indicating that external aid plays a role but may not be comprehensive or consistent across the population. Respondents are less optimistic about improvements in living conditions since arriving at the displacement site, with the lowest mean score of 2.14 (SD 0.76), suggesting that many do not feel significant progress has been made. Feelings of safety in the current living environment are moderate, with a mean score of 3.25 (SD 1.07), indicating some degree of security but with notable variation among individuals. The ability to repair or improve shelter has a mean score of 2.83 (SD 1.23), which indicates limited capacity or resources available for individuals to enhance their living conditions independently. Finally, proximity to essential services such as health facilities and markets receives a mean rating of 3.21 (SD 1.16), reflecting a moderate level of accessibility that may impact daily life and well-being.

Table 4.2 Living Condition and Housing

Living Condition and Housing		Mean	Standard Deviation
1	My current shelter is adequate for my family's size and needs.	3.33	1.13
2	I have access to clean drinking water at my current residence.	3.92	0.88
3	My current housing offers sufficient protection from weather conditions.	3.06	1.15
4	My living space has access to proper sanitation facilities.	3.59	0.99
5	My household has access to electricity regularly.	2.79	1.17
6	My current shelter was provided with the support of government/NGOs.	2.69	0.94
7	Living conditions have improved since I arrived at the displacement site.	2.14	0.76
8	I feel safe in my current living environment.	3.25	1.07
9	I have the ability to make repairs or improvements to my shelter.	2.83	1.23
10	My current housing is located near essential services (health, markets).	3.20	1.16
Overall Mean		3.08	

Sources: Survey Data, 2025

(ii) Condition of Employment Opportunities and Livelihood

According to Table (4.3), the statement “Displacement has negatively affected my ability to find work” received a high mean score of 4.03 (SD = 0.98), indicating strong agreement among respondents that displacement has severely impacted their employment prospects. Similarly, the response “There are fewer job opportunities in this area than where I lived before” had the highest mean of 4.08 (SD = 0.84), further underscoring that post-displacement locations offer fewer job options compared to their places of origin. The statement “I have limited access to markets or trading opportunities since displacement” (mean = 3.95, SD = 0.82) and “I have changed my type of livelihood (e.g., from farming to daily labor) after displacement” (mean = 3.91, SD = 0.97) both reveal significant transformations and constraints in livelihood patterns. Respondents also reported that “My job skills are not suitable for employment opportunities in the current location” (mean = 3.85, SD = 0.95), highlighting a mismatch between their previous skills and the current labor market. Dependence on humanitarian aid is also evident, as reflected in the statement “I am

now dependent on humanitarian assistance for basic livelihood needs” with a mean of 3.88 (SD = 1.12), indicating that many displaced persons rely on external support for survival. In contrast, fewer respondents agreed with the statement “I have received some support (training, tools, or grants) to restore my livelihood” (mean = 2.76, SD = 1.29), pointing to limited access to livelihood restoration interventions. Finally, the lowest agreement was with the statement “I have equal opportunities to participate in livelihood or work-related activities” (mean = 2.56, SD = 0.97), reflecting significant perceived inequality or exclusion from economic participation.

Table 4.3 Condition of Employment Opportunities and Livelihood

Employment Opportunities and Livelihood		Mean	Standard Deviation
1	Displacement has negatively affected my ability to find work.	4.03	0.98
2	I have changed my type of livelihood (e.g., from farming to daily labor) after displacement.	3.91	0.97
3	I have limited access to markets or trading opportunities since displacement.	3.95	0.82
4	My job skills are not suitable for employment opportunities in the current location.	3.85	0.95
5	I am now dependent on humanitarian assistance for basic livelihood needs.	3.88	1.12
6	There are fewer job opportunities in this area than where I lived before.	4.08	0.84
7	I have received some support (training, tools, or grants) to restore my livelihood.	2.76	1.29
8	I have equal opportunities to participate in livelihood or work-related activities.	2.56	0.97
Overall Mean		3.63	

Sources: Survey Data, 2025

(iii) Condition of Education

According to table (4.4), a relatively high mean score of 3.67 for the statement “My children have continued their education after displacement” indicates that, on average, respondents agree that their children were able to continue their education. This suggests a positive trend in educational continuity despite the disruption caused by displacement. However, when asked whether “Access to schools in displacement areas has improved compared to before,” the mean score drops to 2.74, suggesting a more neutral or slightly negative perception, with many respondents feeling that access has not significantly improved or may have even deteriorated.

In terms of the quality of education services in IDP camps or host communities, the mean score of 3.09 implies a moderate level of acceptance. Respondents neither strongly approved nor strongly disapproved of the education services, indicating that while basic educational services are available, their quality may be uneven or insufficient in some areas. The role of external support is noted in the statement “The support from NGOs or government helped to continue children’s schooling,” which received a mean of 3.28. This reflects a generally positive perception of the assistance provided, though not overwhelmingly strong.

Interestingly, the concern regarding infrastructure is evident in the statement “There are not enough schools or learning centers for IDPs children,” which garnered a lower mean of 2.70. This indicates that many respondents feel there is a shortage of educational facilities, which likely affects both accessibility and quality. Lastly, the financial burden remains a significant issue, as the item “School fees, uniforms, and supplies are too expensive” scored a relatively high mean of 3.32, suggesting that affordability is a major barrier to education for displaced families. The higher standard deviation (1.36) for this item also indicates a wide range of experiences, possibly due to differing levels of support or location-specific factors.

Table 4.4 Condition of Education

Education		Mean	Standard Deviation
1	My children have continued their education after displacement.	3.67	1.06
2	Access to schools in displacement areas has improved compared to before.	2.74	1.06
3	The education services in IDPs camps/host communities is acceptable.	3.09	1.05
4	The support from NGOs or government helped to continue children’s schooling.	3.28	0.99
5	There are not enough schools or learning centers for IDPs children.	2.70	1.31
6	School fees, uniforms, and supplies are too expensive.	3.32	1.36
Overall Mean		3.13	

Sources: Survey Data, 2025

(iv) Condition of Health

According to table (4.5), respondents moderately agreed that they could access basic healthcare services when needed, with a mean score of 3.50 and a standard

deviation of 1.01, indicating some variation in individual experiences. However, the affordability of healthcare services for families in the displacement area received a lower mean score of 2.96, reflecting more concerns or challenges in this aspect and a relatively higher dispersion (standard deviation 1.12).

Availability and accessibility of vaccination and maternal health services were perceived more positively, with a mean of 3.62 and a smaller standard deviation of 0.89, suggesting more consistent access among respondents. Similarly, health support provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was regarded as beneficial to their well-being, indicated by a mean of 3.60 and a moderate standard deviation of 0.95. Psychosocial support or counseling services were rated highest, with a mean score of 3.68 and the lowest standard deviation of 0.86, implying relatively widespread accessibility and helpfulness of these services within the displaced population.

Overall, while basic healthcare access and NGO health support appear to have positive impacts, affordability remains a critical challenge for displaced families. The consistent availability of vaccination, maternal health, and psychosocial services reflects targeted efforts in these key health areas.

Table 4.5 Condition of Health

Health		Mean	Standard Deviation
1	I can access basic healthcare services when needed.	3.50	1.01
2	Healthcare services are affordable for my family in the displacement area.	2.96	1.12
3	Vaccination and maternal health services are available and accessible.	3.62	0.89
4	Health support from NGOs has positively impacted our well-being.	3.60	0.95
5	Psychosocial support or counseling services have been accessible and helpful.	3.68	0.86
Overall Mean		3.47	

Sources: Survey Data, 2025

(v) Condition of Income

According to the table (4.6), respondents strongly agreed that their household income has significantly decreased since displacement, as indicated by a high mean score of 4.50 and a relatively low standard deviation of 0.71. This suggests a consistent and widespread experience of income loss across the surveyed population.

In addition, many households reported difficulties accessing their previous sources of income, such as farming, with a mean score of 4.16 and a standard deviation of 0.79, reflecting a common challenge faced by displaced families in maintaining their livelihoods. The reduction in income has led to increased financial strain, as evidenced by a mean score of 3.70 regarding the rise in household debt. The relatively higher standard deviation of 1.08 indicates some variability in how families manage or experience debt, though the overall trend points to growing indebtedness. This financial stress is compounded by the inability of many households to meet their daily needs, which scored a mean of 4.23 with a low standard deviation of 0.70, highlighting the critical nature of income shortfalls for basic survival.

The displacement has had a social impact on family dynamics, with children or youth often compelled to engage in work to supplement household income. This item recorded a mean score of 3.74 and a higher standard deviation of 1.18, suggesting that while this coping strategy is relatively common, its occurrence varies considerably among households. These findings underscore the profound economic challenges displacement imposes on affected families, including income loss, livelihood disruption, increased debt, and shifts in family roles to cope with financial difficulties.

Table 4.6 Condition of Income

Income		Mean	Standard Deviation
1	My household income has significantly decreased since displacement.	4.50	0.71
2	The displacement has made it difficult to access previous sources of income (e.g., farming).	4.16	0.79
3	My household has experienced an increase in debt due to lower income levels.	3.70	1.08
4	My household cannot meet daily needs due to the drop-in income.	4.23	0.70
5	Children or youth in the family have had to work to supplement household income.	3.74	1.18
Overall Mean		4.04	

Sources: Survey Data, 2025

(vi) Condition of Social Integration

According to table (4.7), participants expressed a moderate sense of acceptance, with a mean score of 3.27 (SD = 1.05), indicating that many feel

welcomed by local residents. Similarly, the establishment of friendships within the host community was relatively positive, as reflected by a mean score of 3.22 (SD = 1.06). Participation in social and cultural events showed a slightly lower mean of 2.98 (SD = 1.07), suggesting that while some engagement occurs, involvement may be limited for certain individuals.

Access to public services such as healthcare and education is perceived fairly positively, with a mean score of 3.18 (SD = 1.05), signifying that respondents generally feel they receive equitable treatment compared to locals. Feelings of safety and security within the host community also scored moderately high, with a mean of 3.11 (SD = 1.10), which points to a reasonable level of comfort among the respondents. Regarding children’s integration, respondents reported a mean score of 3.12 (SD = 1.06), suggesting that many children are adapting well and forming relationships with local peers at school. Effective communication with community members was also moderately positive, with a mean of 3.03 (SD = 0.99), indicating that language or other communication barriers may exist but are not overwhelmingly limiting.

Involvement in community decision-making activities scored considerably lower, with a mean of 2.02 (SD = 0.92). This suggests that despite some degree of social inclusion, respondents feel largely excluded from participating in local governance or community leadership processes. This low level of engagement in decision-making may point to structural barriers or limited opportunities for the displaced persons to influence community affairs. The data indicates that while the respondents experience moderate acceptance, social interaction, and access to services, meaningful participation in community governance remains a significant challenge to their full social integration.

Table 4.7 Condition of Social Integration

Social Integration		Mean	Standard Deviation
1	I feel accepted by the host community.	3.27	1.05
2	I participate in social and cultural events in the host community.	2.98	1.07
3	I have established friendships with members of the host community.	3.22	1.06
4	I can access public services (e.g., healthcare, education) equally with local residents.	3.18	1.05
5	I feel safe and secure living in the host community.	3.11	1.10

Table 4.7 Continued

6	My children are able to integrate well with local children at school.	3.12	1.06
7	I am able to communicate effectively with people in the host community.	3.03	0.99
8	I am involved in community decision-making activities.	2.02	0.92
Overall Mean		2.99	

Sources: Survey Data, 2025

(vii) Condition of Government and NGO support

According to table (4.8), respondents somewhat agree that they have received sufficient humanitarian aid, such as food and shelter, with a mean score of 3.35 and a standard deviation of 1.00, indicating moderate variability in responses. Livelihood support, including cash assistance, job training, and income-generating activities, was rated slightly lower, with a mean of 2.89 and a similar standard deviation of 1.01, suggesting some uncertainty or mixed experiences among respondents in terms of how this support has improved their family conditions.

Timeliness and consistency of support from these organizations received a mean score of 2.81, with a standard deviation of 0.96, pointing to perceptions that such assistance is somewhat irregular or delayed. Feelings of safety and security derived from protection support were moderately positive, with a mean of 2.85 and a lower variability (standard deviation 0.85), implying that while some respondents feel protected, this perception is not strongly unanimous.

In terms of information dissemination, respondents generally agreed that they have received accurate details about available services, as indicated by a mean score of 3.17 and a standard deviation of 0.87. Lastly, overall satisfaction with the support received was the highest among all items, with a mean of 3.57 and a standard deviation of 0.87, showing that despite some gaps in specific areas, many respondents feel positively about the overall assistance from Government and NGOs.

Table 4.8 Condition of Government and NGO support

Government and NGO support		Mean	Standard Deviation
1	I have received sufficient humanitarian aid (food, shelter, etc.) from Government and NGOs.	3.35	1.00
2	Livelihood support (cash, job training, income generation) has helped me improve my family's conditions.	2.89	1.01
3	Support from Government and NGOs is timely and consistent.	2.81	0.96
4	I feel safer and more secure due to the protection support from these organizations.	2.85	0.85
5	I have received accurate information about available services from Government and NGOs.	3.17	0.87
6	I am satisfied with the support received from Government and NGOs.	3.57	0.87
Overall Mean		3.11	

Sources: Survey Data, 2025

(viii) Summary Result of Overall Mean of Socio-Economic Conditions of IDPs in Nyaung Shwe Township

According to table (4.9), the highest mean is the income condition (CI) score of 4.04, which indicates a substantial decline in family income following the arrival of IDPs in Nyaung Shwe Township. These results underscore the significant economic difficulties that relocation imposes on affected families, including income loss, interruption of livelihoods, heightened debt, and changes in family roles to cope with financial adversities.

The Condition of Employment Opportunities and Livelihood (CEL) followed with a mean score of 3.63, reflecting a moderately positive view among IDPs regarding the availability and accessibility of livelihood options. This could be attributed to localized job opportunities, temporary employment schemes, or assistance through vocational training. However, the gap between the income score and livelihood opportunities suggests that while some IDPs may have achieved income stability, employment security and diversity may still be lacking.

The Condition of Health (CH) received a mean score of 3.47, indicating a fairly acceptable level of access to healthcare services and health-related awareness. This may reflect the efforts of both governmental health agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in providing basic healthcare services in

displaced communities. However, this rating still points to room for improvement in areas such as medical supply availability, service affordability, and the reach of specialized care.

The Condition of Education (CE) and the Living Condition and Housing (LCH) scored 3.13 and 3.08 respectively. These average scores suggest that while access to education and basic shelter is present, the quality, adequacy, and sustainability of these services remain a concern for many IDPs. Educational continuity, particularly for children and youth, may be hindered by factors such as school distance, lack of learning materials, and insufficient teaching staff. Similarly, housing conditions may be marked by overcrowding, poor sanitation, and temporary shelter structures.

The Condition of Government and NGO Support (CGN) had an overall mean of 3.11, indicating a moderate perception of the support received. While this suggests that aid is being provided, it may not fully meet the needs of displaced populations in terms of coverage, timeliness, or relevance. This score reflects a need for more coordinated, inclusive, and sustained interventions by both state and non-state actors.

The Condition of Social Integration (CSI) had the lowest mean score of 2.99, highlighting the challenges faced by IDPs in rebuilding social networks, participating in community life, and gaining acceptance in host communities. This indicates a need for targeted programs to promote social cohesion, psychosocial support, and inclusion policies to mitigate the isolation and marginalization that often accompany long-term displacement.

Overall, the data suggest that while IDPs in Nyaung Shwe Township report moderate satisfaction with income and livelihood conditions, significant concerns remain in areas such as social integration, education, housing, and institutional support. These findings highlight the multidimensional nature of displacement and the need for comprehensive, sustained interventions from both government and humanitarian actors.

**Table 4.9 Summary Result of Overall Mean of Socio-Economic Conditions of
IDPs**

Variables		Overall Mean
1	Living Condition and Housing (LCH)	3.08
2	Condition of Employment Opportunities and Livelihood (CEL)	3.63
3	Condition of Education (CE)	3.13
4	Condition of Health (CH)	3.47
5	Condition of Income (CI)	4.04
6	Condition of Social Integration (CSI)	2.99
7	Condition of Government and NGO Support (CGN)	3.11

Source: Survey data (2025)

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Findings

The protracted conflict and instability in Myanmar have significantly altered the socio-economic landscape of affected regions, particularly impacting the lives of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township. The disruption caused by armed conflict, displacement, and limited access to basic services has reshaped the daily experiences and survival strategies of IDPs. These changes have influenced how displaced individuals adapt to new living conditions, seek livelihood opportunities, and access essential services such as education and healthcare. In response to these challenges, humanitarian actors and government agencies have implemented various support mechanisms to address the immediate and long-term needs of IDPs. Therefore, this study focuses on assessing the current socio-economic condition of IDPs in Nyaung Shwe Township, with emphasis on key dimensions such as housing, income, employment, education, healthcare access, and the effectiveness of institutional support.

This study assessed the socio-economic conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township, focusing on housing, employment, education, healthcare, income, social integration, and support from government and NGOs. A sample of 155 IDPs households was surveyed, and the following key findings were identified:

The highest concern among respondents was income loss, with a mean score of 4.04. Most IDPs experienced a significant drop in household income and were unable to access previous sources of income such as farming. Increased household debt and financial hardship were prevalent, with many households unable to meet daily needs.

Employment conditions scored 3.63, indicating that displacement has heavily impacted the ability to find suitable work. Job mismatches, fewer opportunities than in their original locations, and heavy dependence on humanitarian assistance were

common. Support such as job training and tools to restore livelihoods was notably inadequate.

Housing and living condition received a moderate rating of 3.08, with particular concerns around inadequate shelter, limited electricity, and poor improvements since arrival. While access to clean water and sanitation was relatively acceptable, support from NGOs or the government in shelter provision was weak.

With a mean of 3.13, the education condition reveals that although many children continued schooling, barriers such as high costs, lack of facilities, and limited quality persist. Support from NGOs or government helped somewhat, but infrastructure and affordability were key limitations.

The condition of health was rated 3.47. While IDPs could access basic health services, affordability remained a major issue. Support from NGOs and availability of psychosocial services were positive aspects, especially in maternal health and vaccinations.

Social integration received the lowest score of 2.99. Although many respondents reported feeling accepted by the host community and established some friendships, their involvement in community decision-making was very low. Full participation in local social and cultural life is still limited.

Overall support was rated 3.11, indicating that humanitarian aid is present but not sufficient. Respondents highlighted that support, especially for livelihoods, was not timely or consistent, and many felt their protection and empowerment were limited.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the findings of this study, several important recommendations are put forward for government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international humanitarian actors, and community stakeholders.

The primary concern among internally displaced persons (IDPs) is the significant loss of household income. Many families are unable to access their previous income sources, such as farming, and have incurred considerable debt. To address this issue, livelihood programs should be expanded and diversified, with a focus on sustainable income-generating activities. This should include vocational training tailored to meet the demands of the local labor market, such as construction, handicrafts, and small-scale trade. Additionally, microfinance initiatives and start-up

grants should be introduced or scaled up to assist IDPs in re-establishing businesses or pursuing self-employment. Where feasible, support should be provided to IDPs in accessing agricultural land or tools, particularly for those who were previously dependent on farming.

The study reveals a significant lack of suitable employment opportunities and a high dependency on humanitarian aid. To address this, it is essential to offer short-term skills upgrading and certification courses in areas such as carpentry, tailoring, and food processing, with the inclusion of tools or starter kits. Additionally, promoting public works programs, such as infrastructure repair and sanitation projects, can provide temporary employment while simultaneously enhancing community assets.

Although children have continued their education, barriers such as costs, inadequate facilities, and limited access persist. It is important to introduce education subsidies or cash-for-education programs to cover tuition fees, uniforms, and supplies for children from internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Increase access to free or subsidized healthcare services in areas with a high concentration of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to enhance the availability of mobile health clinics, mental health programs, and outreach services focused on maternal and child health.

Social integration received the lowest overall score, indicating significant marginalization within community life and a lack of representation in decision-making processes. To address this issue, it is essential to implement social cohesion and cultural exchange activities that promote trust, create shared community spaces, and enhance intergroup relations. Additionally, establishing community forums or committees specifically for internally displaced persons (IDPs) will ensure their inclusion in local decision-making processes.

While humanitarian support is available, it often lacks timeliness, sufficiency, and comprehensiveness. It is important to establish a coordinated humanitarian response framework that maps service coverage, identifies existing gaps, and ensures the prompt delivery of aid. Strengthening the role of local authorities and township disaster management committees is essential for effective coordination with humanitarian partners. Additionally, promoting monitoring and feedback mechanisms

will enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to report gaps in service delivery and suggest improvements.

Addressing the challenges of internally displaced persons in Nyaung Shwe Township requires a multisectoral and rights-based approach. By prioritizing livelihood restoration, access to services, community inclusion, and institutional support, stakeholders can help IDPs rebuild their lives with dignity, stability, and hope for the future. Coordination among the government, local actors, international organizations, and the IDP community itself is essential for sustainable recovery and resilience.

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APPENDIX - I

QUESTIONNAIRES

Dear Respondent,

My name is Chit Zaw Aung, and I am conducting a study titled "A Study on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Internally Displaced Persons in Nyaung Shwe Township, Myanmar." This research aims to understand the living conditions, access to services, challenges, and coping mechanisms of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nyaung Shwe Township to inform evidence-based interventions. Your participation is voluntary, and all responses will remain confidential and used solely for academic purposes. Thank you for your valuable time and insights.

Please complete the following questions to the best of your ability. For assistance, contact:

Chit Zaw Aung

Ph: 09427172859

PART (A)

Section 1: Demographic Information

Respondent : Displaced Not Displaced

Gender : Male Female Other

Age : Under 18 18–29 30–44 45–59 60 above

Marital Status : Single Married Widowed Divorced

Ethnicity : Shan Kayah Burmese Pa-O Danu

Other: _____

Religion : Buddhist Christian Muslim Hindu Other

Number of Household Members : _____ persons

Highest Education Level Achieved : No formal education Primary

Secondary High School University/ College Vocational Training

Duration of Displacement : Less than 6 months 6–12 months 1–3 years

More than 3 years

Causes of Displacement : Armed Conflict and Civil War Generalized Violence and Insecurity Human Rights Violations Natural Disasters and Climate Change Development Projects and Land Acquisition

Where Come from Displacement: Kayah State Northern Shan State Eastern Shan State

Previous Occupation (Before Displacement) : _____

Current Occupation (If Any) : _____

PART (B)

Section 2 : Likert scale Questionnaires for Socio-Economic Conditions of Displacement

What is your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements? Please provide your opinion on a scale ranging from (1) Strongly disagree to (5) Strongly agree. Please ✓ the column to enter your answer.

1. Living Condition and Housing		1	2	3	4	5
1	My current shelter is adequate for my family’s size and needs.					
2	I have access to clean drinking water at my current residence.					
3	My current housing offers sufficient protection from weather conditions.					
4	My living space has access to proper sanitation facilities.					
5	My household has access to electricity regularly.					
6	My current shelter was provided with the support of government/NGOs.					
7	Living conditions have improved since I arrived at the displacement site.					
8	I feel safe in my current living environment.					
9	I have the ability to make repairs or improvements to my shelter.					
10	My current housing is located near essential services (health, markets).					

2. Employment Opportunities and Livelihood		1	2	3	4	5
1	Displacement has negatively affected my ability to find work.					
2	I have changed my type of livelihood (e.g., from farming to daily labor) after displacement.					
3	I have limited access to markets or trading opportunities since displacement.					

4	My job skills are not suitable for employment opportunities in the current location.					
5	I am now dependent on humanitarian assistance for basic livelihood needs.					
6	There are fewer job opportunities in this area than where I lived before.					
7	I have received some support (training, tools, or grants) to restore my livelihood.					
8	I have equal opportunities to participate in livelihood or work-related activities.					

3. Education		1	2	3	4	5
1	My children have continued their education after displacement.					
2	Access to schools in displacement areas has improved compared to before.					
3	The education services in IDP camps/host communities is acceptable.					
4	The support from NGOs or government helped to continue children's schooling.					

4. Health		1	2	3	4	5
1	I can access basic healthcare services when needed.					
2	Healthcare services are affordable for my family in the displacement area.					
3	Vaccination and maternal health services are available and accessible.					
4	Health support from NGOs has positively impacted our well-being.					
5	Psychosocial support or counseling services have been accessible and helpful.					

5. Income		1	2	3	4	5
1	My household income has significantly decreased since displacement.					
2	The displacement has made it difficult to access previous sources of income (e.g., farming).					
3	My household has experienced an increase in debt due to lower income levels.					
4	My household cannot meet daily needs due to the drop in income.					
5	Children or youth in the family have had to work to supplement household income.					

6. Social Integration		1	2	3	4	5
1	I feel accepted by the host community.					
2	I participate in social and cultural events in the host community.					
3	I have established friendships with members of the host community.					
4	I can access public services (e.g., healthcare, education) equally with local residents.					
5	I feel safe and secure living in the host community.					
6	My children are able to integrate well with local children at school.					
7	I am able to communicate effectively with people in the host community.					
8	I am involved in community decision-making activities.					

7. Government and NGO support		1	2	3	4	5
1	I have received sufficient humanitarian aid (food, shelter, etc.) from Government and NGOs.					
2	Livelihood support (cash, job training, income generation) has helped me improve my family's condition.					
3	Support from Government and NGOs is timely and consistent.					
4	I feel safer and more secure due to the protection support from government and NGOs					
5	I have received accurate information about available services from Government and NGOs.					
6	I am satisfied with the support received from Government and NGOs.					

Thank you
Chit Zaw Aung
MDevS – 9 (18th Batch)