

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

**STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION OF LANDMINE  
VICTIMS IN KAYAH STATE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Disabled landmine victims and socio-economic status are dynamic and intricately linked. This study aimed to identify the current socio-economic situation of landmine victims in Kayah State and examine the courses and the impacts on socio-economic situation. The study applied snowball sampling method with structured questionnaire for collecting primary data. The study found out that the cost of medical care, rehabilitation and assistive devices leave landmine victims and the families in debt, stigma, and discrimination in community. It was also found that most casualties had occurred in Kayah state many years ago, and the numbers of landmine and explosive remnants of war incidents have been decreasing since the 2012 bilateral ceasefire. The landmine victim assistance should not be conducted in isolation and it is suggested that Government, Non-Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations are to be integrated in providing livelihood and vocational programs more effectively in order to increase the accessibility and inclusion of all landmine victims to the services.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFPFL	Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League
APLs	Anti-personnel Landmines
ARMAC	Asean Regional Mine Action Center
ATLS	Anti-tank Landmines
BPHWT	Backpack Health Worker's Team
CBR	Community-Based Rehabilitation
CHDN	Civil and Health Development Network
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of the Person with Disabilities
DOR	Department of Rehabilitation
DPOs	Disable Person Organization
DRC/DDG	Danish Demining Group and Danish Refugee Council
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
FAAB	Frontier Areas Administrative Board
ICBL	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
KNDP	Karenni National Democratic Party
KNG	Kayan National Guard

KNHWO	Kannei Health Worker Group
KNLF	Karenni National Liberation Front
KNLP	Kayan New Land Party
KNPLF	Karenni National Peoples Liberation Front
KNPP	Karenni National Progressive Party
KNPP	Karenni National Progressive Party
MIMU	Myanmar Information Management unit
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MRWG	Mine Risk Working Group
NCA	Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
NCRPD	National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
NCRPD	National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSAG	Non-State Armed Groups
PWD	Person with disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme

UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UXO	Unexploded ordnance
VATG	Victim Assistance Technical Group
WHO	World Health Organization

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Rationale of the Study**

Every year, many people are killed or injured by landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Those that victims are often disabled for life, adding to the many hundreds of thousands of mine victims around the world in need of long-term care, rehabilitation, social and economic support. Disability landmine victims and socioeconomic status are dynamic and intricately linked. Landmine affects the life of victims and their families, particularly if families are economically dependent on the victims. Moreover, landmine victims have limited opportunities to participate fully in family life and their society.

Nineteen countries and territories in Asia and the Pacific are contaminated by ERW. All members of affected communities are poverty and underdevelopment, block access to and limit most socioeconomic activities in rural areas (Almas Heshmati and Nabaz T. Khayyat, 2012). Landmines are threat to sustainable development as major impact on economy, ecological crisis, loss of productivity, threat to food security, community health, poverty and social marginalization issues are interlinked (Ahmed, 2014). The Sustainable development goals (SDG) are highly complementary to the rights-based aims of victim assistance under the Mine Ban Treaty. SDG also offer opportunities for bridging between relevant frameworks. To be sustainable, victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and lawful systems related to disability.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. To Nine out of fifteen states and Regions (at least 71 of Myanmar's 325 townships) are supposed to be located in contamination areas of mine, ERW and other improvised explosive devices (Puangsuwan, 2016). Six decades of armed conflict have left many areas of southeastern Myanmar contaminated by landmines, including Kayah State. The border areas have been sites of armed conflict, where the Myanma Tatmadaw and non-state armed group have attempted to seize and keep up an area through military procedure and fighting.

The economic impact of landmine victims and their families is profound. Most of landmine victim's families are going to be in debt as a result of the incident. The socio-economic impact of landmines is more far-reaching than the direct effect of the maiming or killing of those who trigger landmines. This study attempts to assess the socioeconomic situation of landmine victims in Kayah State.

## **1.2 Objective of the study**

The objectives of the study are;

- ( i ) to identify current socio-economic situations of landmine victims
- ( ii ) to examine the courses of landmine victims and
- ( iii ) to analyze the impacts of landmine on socio economic situations of victims in Kayah

## **1.3 Method of study**

The study applied descriptive method and mainly based on primary data with the support of secondary information. The study conducted 106 individual interviews with land mine victims and 10 Key Informant Interviews (KII) during June 2019 to July 2019 at Kayah. Snowball sampling method was used to identify the land mines victims for individual interviews across Kayah State. The Key Informants Interviews were conducted with Government officer (GO), International Non-Governmental (INGO), Local Non-Governmental (LNGO) and the inputs on key issues were addressed in the study. Secondary data was resourced from reliable resources by reviewing the available literature, Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU), Myanmar 2014 Census, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), World Health organization (WHO), journal and related references from internet websites are especially emphasized as main information sources.

## **1.4 Scope and limitation of the study**

This study focused on the socio-economic situation of Landmine victims injured by landmines at Kayah State. Health and Education are looked at under Socio and work, income and household situation are studied under the category of Economic. The landmines

victims who had injured but still alive were personally interviewed for the study. However, the victims living in remote area where there is limited road access and restricted areas for certain security reasons were limited from the study. These limitations became challenges for the study and it reduced the number of landmine victims interviewed than it was originally intended. Moreover, lack of record for landmine victims was also a major constraint to track the actual number of victims' existence in the study area. However, in spite of these constraints, all effort is made to come out with thorough research.

### **1.5 Organization of the study**

This study is organized into five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction with rationale, objective, method, scope and limitation of the study. Chapter two contains a review of related literature. Chapter three expresses Landmine contamination in Myanmar, mine Action, Mine ban policy and profile of Kayah state. Chapter four presents the analysis of the findings and Chapter five ended the study with conclusion and suggestions.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Definition of Landmine**

A landmine is an explosive device which is placed onto or under the ground, exploding when triggered by a mine, that cannot discriminate between an animal or a human (ICBL, What is a landmine, 2014). Mines are not been designed for immediate effect. Landmines are designed to survive the effects of weather, seasons and time. That can remain in the ground for many years after conflict has ended, harming civilians, economic, social and environment impact. Land mines are of two basic types; antitank (ATL) and antipersonnel (APL). ATL mines are larger and more powerful than APLs. However, APLs mines are the most common type of mine, yet the most difficult to find because they are small and often made of plastic. The Mine Ban Treaty defines an antipersonnel mine as: "a mine designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons. Nobody knows how many mines are in the ground worldwide but the actual number is less important than their impact (ICBL, What is a landmine, 2014). ATLS mines generally contain more metal than do antipersonnel mines and are thus more easily detectable by simple metal detectors. For both types of mines, detonation is typically caused by pressure, although some are activated by a trip-wire or other mechanisms (Bello, Literature Review on Landmines and Detection Methods, 2012).

##### **2.1.1 History of Landmines**

The fundamental idea driving the landmine has showed up through military history. Landmines were first created during World War I. APLs have been used in armed conflict around the world since the Second World War. Since then landmines have been used in many conflicts, including in the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and the first Gulf War. During the Cold War, many states laid long stretches of landmines along borders.

Over 50 countries have produced antipersonnel mines at some time, both for State own stocks and

to supply others. Forty-one states have ceased production of antipersonnel mines, including four that are not party to the Mine Ban Treaty: Egypt, Israel, Nepal, and the US. None of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty produce landmines anymore. Unfortunately, 11 states not party continue to reserve the right to do so: China, Cuba, India, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, South Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, and Vietnam. Actual production may be ongoing in only four of them: India, Myanmar, Pakistan, and South Korea (A history of landmine, 2014) . Landmines have come to serve not only as military but as political weapons. Some non-state armed groups or rebel groups in various countries produce APLs, mostly of the improvised variety. The most common use of mines in civil conflicts is to protect economic and social targets such as bridge, dams, oil, and railroad stations from attack by the enemy. As a result, civilians alike had no way of knowing if they entered a mined area. Rain, floods, and other factors have also shifted minefields over time. So, without clear records, and with the impacts of weather and time, clearing up the mess after a conflict became even harder.

### **2.1.2 Mine Contamination**

Paul Jefferson said a landmine is the perfect soldier; Ever courageous, never sleeps, never misses. They widespread use of mines throughout the numerous countries that are now faced with dealing with the mine contamination problem (Khamis, 2013). In the world, still sixty states and areas have an identified threat of APLs mine. Lack of data made impossible to know a global estimate of the total contaminated landmines area (Landmine monitor, 2018). A total of 26 states (12 States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, two signatories, and 12 non-signatories) and three other areas are contaminated by cluster munition remnants. It is unclear whether one State Party and one non signatory is contaminated (Cluster Munition Monitor, 2019). Worldwide landmine contamination is considered a serious and hazardous issue to humankind. Transportation systems, power systems, agricultural and grazing lands and forests are affected; villages and the people living are affected. All that makes up the fabric of a country can be contaminated by landmines. If demining efforts remain about the same as they are now, and no new mines are laid, it will still take 1100 years to get rid of all the world's active landmines.

### **2.1.3 Mine Casualties**

Every day, people die or lose limbs from stepping on a landmine (JULIUS, 2013). Landmines are not new and have been found in many countries for decades. Any person who lives around mine area has risk. Because of they rely mainly on their physical abilities for their basic needs. Moreover, landmine victims of a family tend to pay an important role in day-to-day survival. Women collecting bamboo shoots, children gathering firewood or playing , men working on the land or tending cattle, collecting water, back to home while they were danger their home village during the conflict.

In total, the Monitor recorded 149 new cluster munition casualties in 2018, a continuation of the significant decrease compared to the annual total of 971 in 2016. In 2018, the highest number of casualties were recorded in Syria (80) where casualties occurred both due to cluster munition remnants and during cluster munition attacks. Far fewer casualties during attacks were recorded (65 in 2018, less than a third of the 196 in 2017, which had marked a sharp decline from 857 in 2016). The 2018 causality total marked the lowest annual figure since increased cluster munition casualties from new use in Syria were reported in 2012. Civilians accounted for 99% of all casualties whose status was recorded in 2018 and 2017, consistent with statistics on cluster munition casualties for all time, and due to the indiscriminate and inhumane nature of the weapon. In 2018, casualties from cluster munition remnants were recorded in eight countries and one other area: Afghanistan, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, and Nagorno Karabakh. Many casualties go unrecorded or lack sufficient documentation, particularly casualties that occurred during extensive use in Asia (Southeast Asia and Afghanistan) and in Iraq. The estimated number of global all-time casualties for 34 countries and three other areas is 56,000 or more (Cluster Munition Monitor, 2019). Mine and ERWs casualties occur in every region of the world, causing an estimated 15,000 – 20,000 injuries each year.

### **2.1.4 Mine Victim**

The “mine victim” refers to person killed or injured due to APLs, ATLS and ERW. Landmines don’t discriminate on the basis of gender; they will kill or maim anyone unfortunate enough to cross their path, regardless both of gender and of other characteristics (Wallacher, 2007). If they survive, they cause lifelong impairments,

including visual and auditory impairment. Adding to the many hundreds of thousands of mine victims around the world in need of long-term care, rehabilitation, and social and economic support. The definition of “landmine victim” was agreed by States Parties accepted understanding as “those who either individually or collectively have suffered physical or psychological injury. Landmine victim, according to this widely accepted understanding of the term, includes survivors, as well as affected families and communities. As a result of that understanding, there are two types of victim; direct victim and indirect victim. Direct victims mean men or women or children injured or killed by landmines and ERW and indirect victims are families and communities related to the people killed or injured as a direct consequence of landmines and ERW ( Silva, Sofia Maia with Rashmi Thapa, 2013). It is estimated that the number of landmine victims in the world is 300,000. According to International Campaign to Ban Landmines, more than 4,200 people, of whom 42% are children, have been falling victim to landmines and ERWs annually in many of the countries affected by war or in post-conflict situations around the world. Overall, about 85% of reported landmine casualties are men, many of victims are soldiers. However, in some regions, 30 % of the victims are women.

## **2.2 Ban Landmine**

Many countries wanted a complete ban. In 1968, the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty became international law. In 1972, a UN convention on the prohibition of bacteriological weapons and toxins was agreed to. Mine Ban Treaty enters into force on 1999, become binding international law. The Mine Ban Treaty, or the Ottawa Treaty, is the international agreement that bans APLs. The Mine Ban Treaty is one of the world's most generally acknowledged arrangements. There are currently 164 States Parties. Only 36 countries remain outside the treaty, but most of them do not actually use or produce APLs mines. When they join the Mine Ban Treaty, states commit to: destroy their stockpiled APLs within four years and eliminate all APLs holdings, including mines currently planted in the soil, within 10 years (Landmine monitor , 2018).

### **2.2.1 Mine Ban Treaty**

The convention is unlimited duration and it is open to all nations. In mine-affected countries, conduct mine risk education and provide assistance for the care and

rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims offer assistance to other States Parties (<https://www.apminebanconvention.org>). They are also required

annually detail report to the UN secretary-general about total APLs stockpiles, the technical characteristics of their APLs, the location of all mined areas, and the status of APLs destruction programs. Protocol on ERW was also set up for assistance for victims. The United States, China, India, Pakistan, and Russia, have not signed the treaty. Many non-signatories are compliance with the Ottawa Convention refusing to use landmines and committing to voluntary destruction of stockpiles. Even though many states commitments to mine ban treaty, homemade explosive devices are used by non-state armed groups in conflict areas. The use of landmines in today is against international laws and norms.

### **2.2.2 International Campaign to Ban Landmine (ICBL)**

International Campaign to Ban landmines was formed in 1992 with Humanity & Inclusion, Medico International, Mines advisory Group, Physicians for Human Rights and Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. Main objective of ICBL is a world free of APLs and cluster munitions, fulfillment of victim rights. The founder of this organization, Jody Williams, jointly received Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. The ICBL organized conferences, campaigning, and landmine awareness in many countries. Moreover, they provide training to new campaigners. All of the members encourage their governments to support the mine ban.

### **2.3 Humanitarian Mine Action**

Mine action is a combination of humanitarian aid and development studies that aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of landmines and the explosive remnants of war (ERW) (Pixel) . There are five “pillars” of humanitarian mine action. The first of these pillars is the act of mine clearance. At risk areas are surveyed, they are subsequently cleared using a variety of methods, both manual and mechanical and mine detection dogs. Since the objective of humanitarian mine action is to make these areas safe to inhabit again. Cheap and easy to make, landmine production costs are around \$1, yet once delivered it can cost more than \$1,000 to find and destroy a landmine. Currently Landmine free world has become stronger and various efforts are ongoing to develop new and improve existing technologies that can help in identifying landmine fields, and in

detecting and clearing landmines (Bello, Literature Review on Landmines and Detection Methods, 2012). Another important part of mine action is mine risk education. This can make people both aware of the danger's landmines pose, as well as encouraging behavior that reduces the risk of encountering a mine. The third pillar of humanitarian mine action is victim assistance. This includes physical treatment and rehabilitation, and also includes psychological and social support. Advocacy is another important component of humanitarian mine action. The final pillar of humanitarian mine action involves the destruction of stockpiles of landmines. Donors and affected states contributed approximately US\$771.5 million in combined international and national support for mine action in 2017, an increase of \$203.6 million (36%) compared to 2016. The top five mine action donors—the United States (US), Germany, the European Union (EU), Norway, and Japan—contributed 79% of all international funding, with a combined total of \$435.4 million. Donor support explicitly dedicated to victim assistance remains low representing only 2% of identifiable international support in 2017 (Landmine Monitor, 2018).

#### **2.4 Review on previous study**

Landmines have deep negative effects on the process of society reintegration. The existence of mines is considered a vital socio-economic and environmental problem facing many countries exposed to their use. Mine action is not only about demining operations. It is a comprehensive operation with multi-dimensional aspects with emphasis on people and societies and how they are affected by landmine contamination and its impacts. Transition exists between the humanitarian emergency and assisted development phases, will shift from urgent humanitarian assistance to longer-term reconstruction and development activities (Heshmati, Almas; T.Khayyat, Nabaz;, 2013).

Mine affected countries are ultimately responsible for caring for mine victims- countries where health and social facilities are often destroyed by poverty and war. Ottawa convention recognizes the challenges faced by mine – affected countries in providing care to assist mine victims. This same obligation is also emphasized in the protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Kearney, 2018) .

The deadly seriousness of the landmine story is in the numbers of people affected by landmines, especially the estimated tens of thousands of new direct and indirect victims each year. Landmines cause huge barriers to social and economic development in some of the world's poorest countries. Since 1975, there are estimated to have been more than a million landmine casualties most civilians. Landmines that do not kill immediately severely maim their victims, causing trauma. The Social Impacts are the vast majority of victims are civilians and not soldiers, it is not just during conflict, most of the countries where casualties are reported are at peace, landmines victims become burden on family and society and family become victim of landmine, whole family suffers (Ahmed, 2014)

The direct psychological effects of landmines or UXO appear high. More women presented with post-traumatic stress disorder than did men in two studies, and landmine or UXO victims reported a greater prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, or depression than did control groups in two studies. Landmines and UXO had a negative effect on internally displaced populations and returning refugees, physical security, economic productivity, child health and educational attainment, food security, and agriculture in studies from seven countries. We could not establish the proportion of casualties caused by AXO from unplanned explosions at munitions sites, although the grey literature suggests that AXO is a substantial problem (Alexandra Frost, 2017).

Mine/UXO injuries have two main impacts. Firstly, they affect the lives of the casualty and their family; secondly they have impacts on the medical infrastructure of the affected country. The main economic effect on the victim is the limiting of ability to earn income to support themselves and their family. After suffering an injury the ability of the casualty to make a living is greatly curtailed. As well as obvious physical injuries, the casualty may suffer psychological damage (Keeley, 2003).

Poor responses from medical services after a land mine incident might lead to severe pain as well as physical impairments that includes the consideration of landmine victims with disabilities in a humanitarian crisis. As noted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, 'when victims of mines and other explosive devices acquire a disability, they fall under the scope of the CRPD.

## CHAPTER III

### LANDMINE SITUATIONS IN MYANMAR AND PROFILE OF KAYAH STATE

#### 3.1 Landmine Contamination in Myanmar

Myanmar is also one of the most contaminated landmine areas in the world. Myanmar has internal conflict began shortly after the country became independent from the United Kingdom in 1948. Landmine still remains functioning years after conflict have end. The most mine contaminated areas are in peripheral regions of the country. The remoteness of these areas has made the situation all the worse, as landmines are extremely difficult to detect, and when civilians are injured, help is far away. To Nine out of fifteen states and Regions (at least 71 of Myanmar's 325 townships) are supposed to be located in contamination areas of mine, ERW and other improvised explosive devices. It is estimated that five million people live in mine- contaminated areas at following states and region (Myanmar\_Burma Mine Action, 2017).

**Table 3.1 Landmine contamination in Myanmar**

No	States/Region	Townships
1.	Kayah State	All seven townships
2.	Kayin State	All seven townships
3.	Kachin State	Chipwi, Hpakant, Mansi, Mogaung, Momauk, Myitkyina, Tsawtlaw and Waingmaw
4.	Mon State	Belin, Kyaikto, Mawlamyaing, Thanbyuzayat, Thatone and Ye
5.	Chin State	All townships
6.	Shan State	Hopone, Hsenwi, Hsihseng, Kongkyan, Kyaukme, Langkho, Lolien , Mawkamai, Mongpan, Mongton, Monghpyak, Namhsanm Tachileik, Namtu, Nanhkan, Yaksawk and Ywangan

7.	Rakhine State	Maungdaw , Mrauk-U
8.	Bago Region	Kyaukkyi, Shwekyin, Thantabin and Taungoo
9.	Tanintharyi Region	Bokpyin, Dawei, Tanintharyi, Thayetchaung and Yebyu

Source : Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor 2018 Myanmar country report  
 Kayin State and Bago Region are among the most heavily landmine contaminated areas of the country with high numbers of victims recorded (NAING, 2017). There is no exact information of the location of mines. Because of landmines are a sensitive topic due to their association with national security and the military.

### 3.1.1 Landmine Casualties in Myanmar

Myanmar has suffered the third highest number of antipersonnel landmine casualties when compared to other countries in the Asian region since 2007. Almost 1200 people have been killed or injured by APLs since the previous government launched peace talks with ethnic armed groups in August 2011. More than 90% of these casualties were in Kachin, Kayin , Shan and East Bago Region.

**Table 3.2 Casualties in States and Region**

No	State / Region	Percentage of Casualties
1.	Kayin/Karen	26.7 %
2.	Kachin	26.2 %
3.	Shan	19.1 %
4.	Bago	16.0 %
5.	Kayah/Karenni	5.7 %
6.	Tanintharyi	3.0 %
7.	Rakhine	1.9 %
8.	Mon	1.3 %
9.	Chin	0.2 %

Source : Myanmar Information Management Unit ( MIMU)

According to information compiled between 2007 and 2017 by the Myanmar Information Management Unit, the States with the highest proportion of casualties caused by landmines in Kayin/Karen State (26.7 per cent), followed by Kachin State (26.2 per cent) and Shan State (19.1 per cent). The majority (60 per cent) of landmine casualties were adult males. 35 per cent of mine incident were collection of jungle or forest products, hunting and fishing, 26 per cent were travel and movement in mined areas, 20 per cent were agricultural activity in mine areas and other causes were 19 per cent (Townships with Known Landmine Contamination and Casualties in Myanmar, 2017).

**Table 3.3 Total Number of Incidents as of January - August 2019**

<b>Total Incidents</b>		<b>83</b>		
Total Victims		Killed	Injured	Total
		<b>38</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>144</b>
Adult	Total Adult	<b>24</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>102</b>
	Male	18	62	80
	Female	6	16	22
Child	Total Child	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42</b>
	Male	10	19	29
	Female	4	9	13

Source : Mine Risk Education Working Group Meeting

According to the records of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center, or ARMAC), 2019 up to August, record of 83 incidents where by 144 victims have 38 dead casualties . Casualties among women and children are expected to increase in the post-conflict time. The estimates of landmine casualties in Myanmar are unreliable. Because landmines are a sensitive topic due to their association with national security and the military. Moreover, Myanmar has no systematic and organized victim information system. On top of that, many casualties are not reported ( Su-Ann Oh and Veena Nair1, 2016).

### **3.2 Mine Action in Myanmar**

Under Humanitarian Mine Action, there are five pillars as advocacy, demining, victim assistance, mine risk education and stockpiling. Among these five pillars, mine risk education, mine victim assistance and advocacy components have been regularly done by Ministry of Social Welfare. “Myanmar is at the bottom of the global ranking on clearing mines,” according to a survey by three humanitarian mine clearance groups. Myanmar has no functioning national mine action programmed yet. Only the first phase of mine clearing, called a non-technical survey, has been done in Kayin and Kayah. In order to avoid mine incident is to provide mine risk education to people who are living at mine contaminated area.

In 2012, a National Mine Risks Working Group was established under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement with co-chair support from United Nations Children’s Fund ( Unicef). This working group now comprised 10 ministries and (40) international and Myanmar National organization meets on a quarterly basis. For effective implementation of the MRE working group, State level working groups on mine risks awareness have been formed in Kachin, Kayah, Northern Shan and Kayin States. Lack of knowledge of mine risks among the local community is also one of the constraints. According to Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement said the elimination of mines is humanitarian work and it will have a positive impact on the country. It has to be carried out in a long-term plan. These tasks include not only awareness programs, but also to issue notification and to provide assistance to the victims. Victim assistance is also critical to expand access to immediate life-saving services such as health and psych-social support as well as to longer-term social-economic reintegration options for both direct and indirect victims. Under Ministry of Social Welfare’s fund, the government has paid 200,000 Kyat in compensation to the each of the (528) civilians who have been injured by landmines. Lack of mine victims recorded, not all mine victims get that compensation from government.

### **3.3 Mine ban Policy**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty and not party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons. Myanmar has attended as an

observer in several Meetings of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty but did not take any steps to accede to it. Internal armed conflict is still occurred in Myanmar. Both side of Myanma Tatmadaw and Non- state armed group are continuing to use APLs for security , protection and conflict issue.

Myanmar's Defense Products Industries (known by the acronym KaPaSa) produce anti-personnel landmines. There is no publicly available information on the types or quantities of antipersonnel mines in government possession, however Myanmar is believed to possess a significant stockpile. Myanmar is not known to have exported or antipersonnel mines. (Puangsuwan Y. M., Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor, 2018). Many non-state armed groups including the Kachin Independence Army, the Karen National Liberation Army, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army, the Karenni Army and the United WA State Army have produced blast and fragmentation mines. Non-state armed groups have used mines to protect their areas and to restrict the movement of Tatmadaw patrols. Moreover, civilians have also made handmade explosive device to stop deforestation and to protect themselves from potential attack. Myanmar would consider joining the treaty after the successful implementation of a nationwide ceasefire agreement by all parties (Myanmar- Burma Cluster Munition Ban Policy, 2019). On 15 October 2015, eight ethnic armed groups signed a nationwide ceasefire accord with the government, committing to “end planting of mines” and “cooperate on the process of clearing all landmines” (Puangsuwan Y. M., Myanmar Mine Ban Policy, 2019)

### **3.3.1 The Role of Laws and Policy for People with Disabilities in Myanmar**

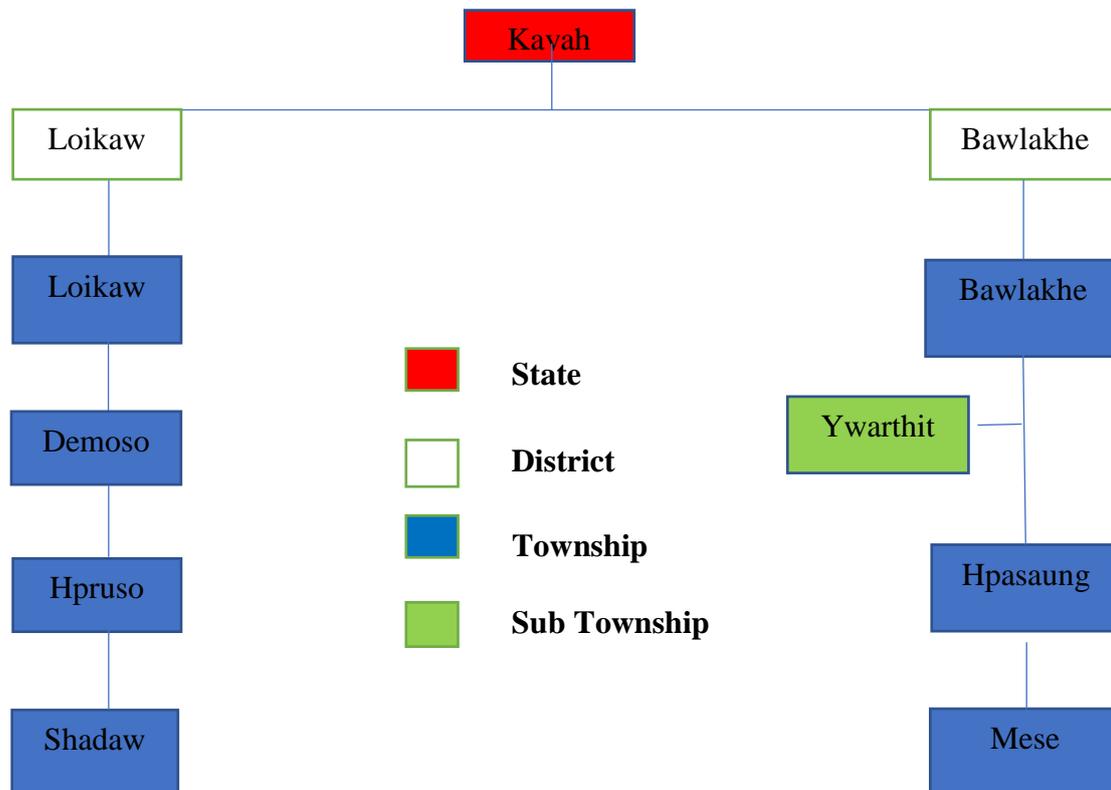
Myanmar ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 7 December 2011 and it provides significant guidance. As per the convention the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2017) were enacted and a Strategy on Development of Persons with Disabilities (2016- 2025) was established and approved. Legislation prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in employment, education, healthcare, the judicial system, or in the provision of other state services. According to the 2014 census provides clear evidence that the population with disabilities lag behind in the achievement of national, regional and global development goals (CENSUS ATLAS, 2014). The socio-economic status of people living with disabilities is considerably lower than the national average, only 15 per cent reporting any current livelihood, with less than 10 per cent attending high school or having access to health

care. Like all persons with disabilities, Myanmar was taking an integrated approach towards victim assistance, based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in national disability law and national social protection strategy (ICBL, 2019). However, PWDs and landmine survivors in Myanmar have few opportunities to integrate socially and work full-time. Recently government has plan to issue grading and registration for all PWDs is necessary to ensure that their rights and fundamental freedoms to fulfill their needs.

### **3.4 Profile of Kayah State**

Kayah State is situated in the eastern part of Myanmar. It is bounded on the north by Shan and on the East by Thailand. It lies around between 18° 30' and 19° 55' north scope and somewhere in the range of 94°40' and 97° 93' east longitude. It is also divided by the Thanlwin river that runs from the north to the south through the middle of the state. The location of the origin of the Karenni people is Mongolia where they arrived to Burma around 700 BC. They gradually moved south and first established their homeland in Demorso. It is historically known as “Karenni State”, is taken from the brightly-coloured clothing of the largest ethnic group. Karenni State’s area became a constituent state of the Union of Burma when the country gained independence in 1948. That is why both Karenni and Kayah geographically refer to the same state. Kayah has a history of informal taxation, forced displacement, forced labour, food insecurity and the consequences of landmine contamination. Six decades of conflict between the Myanma Tatmadaw and the Non- State Armed Groups, Kayah state was presented as a “ brown “ area. After ethnic non-state armed groups entered into a ceased fire agreement in 2012, Kayah state began developing. The capital of Kayah State is Loikaw. The Kayah state is divided into 2 districts Bawlakhe and Loikaw which are divided into seven townships with 106 wards and villages tracts. Village –tracts are groups of adjacent villages. These two districts divided into townships as follow;

**Figure 3.1 Administrative Status of Kayah State**



Source: Myanmar Information Management Unit

### 3.4.1 Population at Kayah

**Table 3.4 Distribution of Population at Kayah**

Total Population at Kayah	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
	143,213	143,414	286,627	
Urban	35,679	36,739	72,418	25%
Rural	107,534	106,675	214,209	75%

Source: 2014 Myanmar census data

The total population for Kayah State is 286,627 living in eight townships / sub townships and two districts at 2014. It is the smallest states with only 0.56% of the

country population lives in there. The 2014 census data indicated that for every 100 persons in Kayah, 75 persons live in rural areas while 25 persons live in urban. For those communities, limited road access, lack of transportation, security restrictions, and limited access to

communication makes rural people to strengthen a sense of isolation, remoteness and made it difficult to connect with the outside world. People living in those rural area are not easy to connect with the outside of the world because lack of transportation, limited accessible (education, health, communication and so on). The majority of Karen-related peoples, including Kayah, Kayan, Kayaw/ Pre, Kawyaw, Geba, Paku and Yintale live in Kayah. Many of people are Christians, predominantly Baptist and Catholic. After independence of Myanmar in 1948, a number of other ethnic migrated to Kayah. There are also three different types of written Karenni language, one using the Burmese alphabet, one the Roman alphabet, and one the Kayah Li alphabet (Thein Lwin, 2011). All of Karenni subgroups speak the same Karenni language.

### **3.4.2 Economic situation**

Kayah State is smallest and poor states in Myanmar. It is still needed to develop the economy. Kayah has heavily forested and mountainous make the state to have many resources (rich mineral deposits and timber, to attract tourism and hydroelectric potential). People living in rural area struggle to meet their basic needs. Approximately three-quarters of the population is living in rural area are working in agriculture. They have traditionally relied on agriculture for their livelihoods with farming crops. The most common crops are paddy and sesame and in some regions, maize, groundnut, pigeon pea, sorghum, chilies and cardamom are also grown. Some villages along with river have access to enough lowland for paddy rice production and other crops that are both for their eating and for sale.

According to the 2013 EU socio-Economic Assessment of Kayah state, 6% indicated lowland areas, 90% indicated either only highland (47%) or a mix highland and lowland (43%) farming (Kayah State Socio-Economic Analysis, 2013) . Shifting cultivation in the highland (Taung Yar) is found in all townships at Kayah. Majority of farming villages grow paddy for their consumption. Also from EU Socio Economic Assessment, only about 25% of villages indicated borrowing to invest in agriculture and 57% of villages borrow to buy food. Agricultural productivity in Kayah is significantly

lower than in the rest of Myanmar. Moreover, most of the farming communities also rely on raising livestock at their own house.

### **3.4.3 Political Situation**

The politically and ethnic conflict situation at Kayah is most complex problem. Myanmar gained independence from the British, the Karenni leader U Bee Htu Re was captured and assassinated by the government military police (for Karenni history, see *Background information*, Karenni Homeland; Smith, 1994). This tragic event caused an armed insurgency that quickly swept through the state, including fighting between the Karenni who supported the AFPFL government and those who did not. Fighting in the state has continued ever since. It has also been in a state of conflict for more than 60 years. Six Non state armed groups involved in the state including Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), Karenni National Democratic Party (KNDP), Kayan New Land Party (KNLP), Kayan National Guard (KNG), Karenni National Liberation Front (KNLF), and Karenni National Peoples Liberation Front (KNPLF). Currently conflict has declined since the 2012 bilateral ceasefires and the start of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) process. KNPP did not signed the NCA but KNPP's leaders are interested in being more actively engaged in dialogue on development (Kramer, Russell, & Smith, 2018).

### **3.4.4 Social situation**

As a result of long internal conflict, lack of investment in Kayah. Over half a century of mistreatment and neglect has left the state with poor infrastructure, inadequate health care, malnutrition and little or no social and economic development (Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, 2010). People suffer from a lack of education and illiteracy rate is high due to not too many public schools with qualified teachers. Many villages have primary school. After children finish attending primary school, they have to go township and join the high school. Poor villagers cannot afford to pay related school fees and other transportation cost. So, children do not continue to attend the class and working in farming or mining or become drug user. As a result of formal education, many

communities in Kayah have established the own informal school. Local community base organization trained teachers who passed basic high school and appoint as teacher in village.

Health care services still remains inadequate. Public hospitals lack the sufficient resources to provide reliable health care of the population. People live in remote area must travel long distances to receive treatment. In remote area, there is backpack health worker's team to provide basic health needs to community people. Prior to ceasefires, ministry of health workers could not come to most conflict-affected areas. After ceasefires were signed, the delivery of healthcare system has changed. The Civil and Health Development Network (CHDN) was founded after the government and KNPP's 2012 ceasefire. CHDN currently operates 21 clinics and 37 backpack mobile teams in rural areas of 10 townships in Karenni and Shan. Also have a lack of basic infrastructure, including electricity and water supply outside of Loikaw. There is a hydroelectric plant powering from Lawpita dam which has long provided much of electricity to all states and Regions of Myanmar. Long decades ago, non-state armed group destroy those electric towers. So, government made villagers to care of those towers without provide electricity to those village. Some villages in Kayah do not get electricity until now.

### **3.5 Landmine issues in Kayah State by Township**

Landmine clearance in Kayah State has still not begun despite a 2012 ceasefire between the armed groups and the government. The lack of progress in Kayah State leaves residents in daily danger as they navigate an unknown number of mine fields. In order to better understand diversity across the Kayah State, the study provides a brief overview of seven townships.

#### **Loikaw**

The capital of Kayah is Loikaw and 128,401 population lives in there. After ceased fired between Myanma Tatmadaw and non-state armed groups, Loikaw became most developed in infrastructure (health, education, roads, electricity and telecommunications). However people who lives in villages has still challenges to go

school, hospital and others. Loikaw is the transportation hub of the State with road, rail and air access to the rest of Myanmar . People who live in Loikaw has more opportunity to get accessible for work in government offices and Non-government offices and access to enough lowland for paddy rice production and other crops (Schuler,Nina with the assistance of staff from a consortium of partners, 2013). Lawpita power dam, which generates a quarter of Myanmar’s hydroelectric power, and along the route of its power lines, are known to be heavily contaminated (News, 2014). 65% of the mine incidents occurred in Loikaw before 2008.

### **Demoso**

Demoso is the second most populous township. It is close to the Loikaw and get benefits from services like Loikaw. However, challenges in health services, education and rural roads are consistent with other areas. Township areas are marshland and unsuitable for agricultural. Some communities in Demoso have emphasis on more profitable vegetables. One of the International Non-Governmental DDG conducted non-technical survey in Kayah state’s Demoso township in 2017, finding 51 out of 169 villages affected by mines and ERW.

### **Hpruso**

Hpruso is bounded by mountainous and wooded. In remote area of this township, health and education services are challenges to deliver. However people get deliver health services from mobile backpack which is collaboration between government and CBO. Eastern Hpruso remain very remote and no services receive. Some farmers are planting paddy, maize, green gram, soya bean etc.

### **Shadaw**

Shardaw is one of the most remote area in Kayah. From 2017, all areas in the Kayah State are opened to tourism except Shadaw. Without travel approval from state government , tourist cannot go there. It has been at the center of the conflict in decades and many of its communities have been relocated. As a result of the history of conflict and relocation in Shadaw, many villages are unrecognized by government. Most of the

villages are accessible by foot, health and education services. Road access is another significant challenge and only accessible by footpaths. There are still landmines in the forested border area.

### **Bawlakhe**

It is situated in the center of Kayah between Loikaw and Hpasaung. It is one of the smaller townships. As a result of central location, Bawlakhe has traditionally been the centre for timber transport, and a location for loading and unloading timber from Shadaw and mese. The potential businesses in Bawlakhe are agriculture, agri-based products manufacturing, wooden products production, livestock, hydroelectric power production and mining. The majority of the Bawlakhe workforce is lower education level as most of the businesses in Bawlakhe are agricultural and livestock farms.

### **Hpasaung**

A township of Bawlakhe District is Hpasaung. Mawchi mine is located in Hpasawng which is the largest tin and tungsten mine in Myanmar and started mineral production in 1930. Than Lwin Bridge is one of the major bridges, and is located on the Hpasawng-Mese road, this bridge will become more useful as border trading is developed. People engage in both agricultural activities and mining.

### **Mese**

Mese is the furthest away from the State Capital city. Mese has an extensive border with Thailand. This border, notably through Border Points 13 and 14, is planned to be the primary focus for border trade. Since a ceasefire was established, the government has invested a lot by providing Mese with a tar road, piped water, a market place and essential government buildings. However forests threatened by legal logging, illegal logging and shifting agriculture. Along with its remoteness from Loikaw, Mese has been conflict-affected, and there are still landmines in some forested areas near the border.

## CHAPTER IV SURVEY ANALYSIS

### 4.1 Survey Profile

This survey seeks to provide an analysis on the study of socioeconomic status of landmine victims and to study the challenges faced by the landmine victims in Kayah State. Total 106 landmine victims were interviewed by using individual survey questionnaire to analyze the Socio-Economic situation of landmine victims and conducted 10 key informant interviews during June 2019 to July 2019 in Kayah.

#### 4.1.1 Demographic Data

Of the 106 landmine victims surveyed in Kayah State, 102 (96 %) were male and 4 (4 %) were female. According to the above results, men are clearly much more at risk from landmine/ERW than women. The profile of the respondents for the study was stated in the following table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Profile of the respondents**

No	Township	Number of Survey Data Collection			Percentage
		Male	Female	Total	
1.	Loikaw	50	1	51	48.11%
2.	Demoso	19	-	19	17.92%
3.	Hpruso	5	1	6	5.66%
4.	Lawpita	2	1	3	2.83%
5.	Shar Taw	2	-	2	1.89%
6.	Ywarthit	1	-	1	0.94%
7.	Farsaung	12	-	12	11.32%
8.	Loilinlay	2	-	2	1.89%
9.	Maesae	7	-	7	6.60%

10.	Bawlakhae	2	1	3	2.83%
	<b>Total</b>	102	4	106	100.00%

Source: Survey data

**Table 4.2 Age of landmine victims**

No	Age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1.	19yr - 40 yr	31	1	32	30 %
2.	41 yr - 65 yr	63	3	66	62%
3.	> 66 yr	8	-	8	8%
	<b>Total</b>	102	4	106	100%

Source: Survey data

The study also identified that 32 (30 %) of landmine victims (age 19 – 40 years), 66 (62 %) between the age of (41 – 65) and 8 (8 %) 66 years or older. The age of the victims at the time of the incident was around 20 - 30 years old.

**Table 4.3 Marital Status**

No	Marital status	Male	Female	Percentage
1.	Married	84	4	83%
2.	Single	12	-	11%
3.	Other	6	-	6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Survey data

The 86 % of landmine victims are married, 12% are single and others are 6%. Some of them are married after incident. 31% of survivors have at least 5 to 8 children and 56% have 1 to 4 children.

**Table 4.4 Ethnic group present in Landmine victims**

No	Ethnic	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1.	Kayah		2	25	24%
2.	Kayan	20	-	20	19%
3.	Kayaw	17	-	17	16%
4.	Other	22	2	24	22%
5.	Myanmar	20	-	20	19%
	<b>Total</b>	102	4	106	100%

Source: Survey data

In the above chart one can see that 24% of the landmine victims said that most of their people are Kayah ethnicity. 19% of landmine victims said that they are Kayan, 16% in Kayaw and 19% Myanmar. The remaining 22 % said that none of their people are Kayah. Majority of them are Roman catholic, Others are Buddhist, Baptist and traditional religious. Base on that data, landmines are not discriminating ethnic or religious or gender. All of human become landmine victims.

**Table 4.5 Education Level of Landmine victims**

No	Education level	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1.	Never attend	19	1	20	19%
2.	Primary school	53	2	55	52%
3.	Middle school	29	1	30	28%
4.	Graduated	1	-	1	1%
	<b>Total</b>	102	3	106	100%

Source: Survey data

According to the above survey results 55 (52 %) of landmine victims reported that they attended primary school, 30 (28%) of landmine victims said they attended middle school, 20 (19%) of landmines victims reported being never attended the school and 1(1%) of landmine victims got graduated. Many of them understand Burmese language but cannot read and write fluently. As a result of above data, people who have living in conflict-affected areas have poorer education services.

## 4.2 Survey Design

This study applied Snowball sampling method to identify the target respondents in Kayah State. Its approached both qualitative and quantitative data collection to gather the primary data. Secondary data was resourced from reliable resources by reviewing the available literature, MIMU, Myanmar 2016 census, journal and related references from internet website.

### 4.2.1 Questionnaire Description

The questions were divided into eight parts. The first part were designed to gather landmine victims information, second part was information about mine incident, third part was recorded about work (before and after incident) , fourth part was infrastructure,

fifth part was education, six part was what services they receive, seventh and eight part were information about health and community participation.

### 4.3 Data Analysis

This study captures demographic data of the landmine victims in Kayah State such as marital status, ethnic group and education level.

#### 4.3.1 Quantitative Analysis

**Table 4.6 Location at the time of the incident**

No	Townships	Number of Victims	Percentage
1.	Bawlakhae	6	5.6 %
2.	Demoso	7	7 %
3.	Farsaung	11	10 %
4.	Hpruso	5	5 %
5.	Loikaw	14	13 %
6.	Maesae	17	16 %
7.	Mawchi	6	5.6 %
8.	Sharhaw	6	5.6 %
9.	Ywarhit	19	18 %
10.	Other States and Division	15	14 %
	<b>Total</b>	106	100 %

Source: Survey data

Of the 106 landmine victims, 16 % of landmine incidents in Bawlakhae, 7 % in Demoso, 10 % in Farsaung, 5 % in Hpruso, 13 % in Loikaw, 15% in Mesae, 6 % in Mawchi, 6 % in Sharhaw, 18% in Ywarhit and other 14 % in other state and division. In these data showed that most of mine incidents occurred in border area.

**Table 4.7 Period of the incident**

No	Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1.	1974-1979	4	-	4	<b>4%</b>
2.	1980-1985	8	-	8	<b>8%</b>
3.	1986-1991	12	1	13	12%
4.	1992-1997	18	1	19	18%
5.	1998-2003	28	2	30	28%
6.	2004-2009	28	-	28	26%
7.	2010-2015	4	-	4	4%
	<b>Total</b>	102	4	106	100%

Source: Survey data

This study covered (106) landmine victims from 1974 – 2015. 4 ( 4%) of landmine victims had incident in 1974 - 1979, 8 (8 %) in 1980 – 1985 ,13( 12 %) 1986 - 1991 , 19 ( 18 %) in 1992 -1997 , 30 ( 28% ) in 1998 -2003 , 28 ( 26%) in 2004 – 2009 the last 4 ( 4 %) in 2010-2015 . 97 % of the recorded incidents occurred more than 10 years, while ( 3 %) occurred in the last 7 years. As above table showed, landmine incidents largely declined since a ceasefire was declared between the government and Ethnic Armed Groups in 2012 at Kayah state. Also GO and NGO conducted mine risk education training to community people who live around mine area.

**Table 4.8 Activities at the time of the incident**

No	Activities	Number of Victims	Percentage
1.	Military duty	57	54 %
2.	Travelling on foot	3	3 %
3.	Collecting firewood or food	13	12 %
4.	Tending animal	12	11 %
5.	Finding orchid	3	3 %
6.	Farming	14	13 %
7.	Labor force	4	4 %
	<b>Total</b>	106	100 %

Source: Survey data

Among victims, the most frequent activities during the incident were military duty (54%). Other activities were travelling on foot (3%), collecting firewood or food (12%), tending animal (11%) , finding orchid ( 3%), and farming (13%) whether on their own land or as a casual. (4%) were engaged in force labor because military forced them to carrying heavy bags from a place to another during their conflict. Most of the victims had an incident in remote area because of economic necessity (36%) because of no other access (10%) and because of engaged in military duties (54%). Despite they know that area was dangerous, they still need to do livelihood activities.

**Table 4.9 Types of injuries**

<b>No</b>	<b>Type of Injury</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Above Knee (Left)	7	7%
2.	Above Knee (Right)	10	9%
3.	Above Knee (Right) Palm (Right)	1	1%
4.	Arm (Right)	1	1%
5.	Below Knee (Left) Arm (Right)	1	1%
6.	Below Knee (Left)	40	38%
7.	Below Knee (Left) eye (Left)	1	1%
8.	Below Knee (Right)	35	33%
9.	Below Knee (Right) Arm (Left)	1	1%
10.	Both side of above knee	4	4%
11.	Foot (Left)	1	1%
12.	Foot (Right)	2	2%
13.	Leg (right) and hand	1	1%
14.	Toe	1	1%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Source: Survey data

Among landmine victims, a large majority (71%) had an injury below knee ( left and right), other 16% injuries were above knee( left and right) , ( 4%) loss both side of the above knee and the left 9% of other injuries ( arm, foot, hand). Most common injury associated with landmines is loss of one or more limbs. Landmine victims said mine incidents was occurred at rural areas which were far from hospital. During incident, limited medical service accessible became loss their part of body. Many landmine victims said aCcess to prosthetic leg is often requires long and expensive travel, making maintenance and repairs of assistive devices difficult. There is only prosthetic workshop which established by KNPLF in Demoso. Many of the victims want to get prosthetic leg from there because it is useful for them who are working in farming. However, this workshop is running base on funding. If the required resources are not available, prosthetic legs are not able to be produced for them.

**Table 4.10 Occupation at the time of the incident**

<b>No</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	EPC staff	1	1%
2.	Armed group	34	32%
3.	Casual labour	5	5%
4.	Farmer	34	32%
5.	Fisherman	1	1%
6.	Hunter	1	1%
7.	Military	26	25%
8.	Police	1	1%
9.	Student	2	2%
10	Unemployment	1	1%
	<b>Total</b>	106	100%

Source: survey data

According to the above survey, 32% of the landmine victims had an occupation related to farming activities whether on their own land or as a casual labour. ( 25 %) were military duties and 32 % were in armed groups. 2 % of younger victims were student. 1 % each in fisherman or EPC staff or hunter or police and unemployment. Majority said they knew that the area was dangerous but they did not have other access.

**Table 4.11 Victim Assistance**

No	Description	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1.	Received from GO	9	-	9	8%
2.	Received from INGO	38	2	40	38%
3.	Received from GO & INGO	10	-	10	9%
4.	Don't received	45	2	47	44%

Source: survey data

According to this survey, 38 % received resources or support (i.e. medical, livelihoods, training, etc.) from non-governmental organization and 8 % from GO. Other 44 % have never received supporting from GO and NGO. However, 9 % of landmine survivors received from both INGO and GO. According to that data, not all people have access to victim assistance service after mine incident. If a military staff got injured during military operation, they got stipend or internal rehabilitation from their own military or arm grouped. If the person is mine injured doing other activities, they did not get any support. When interviewed with landmine victims, it was found out that the victims were extremely difficult to carry out normal daily economic activities. The victims have been living with their injuries for more than years and do not need psychosocial support but in need of livelihood in-kind grant for family survival. It was responded that the victims were supported by GO and INGO, such as small business startup kits and training and small business from INGO and compensation fund from GO. However ex-military staff stated for not getting any support from GO and NGO. It was responded that the providers should also consider them as landmine victims for supports. Few of the victims still got pension from Military but some do not and still struggle to survive the family. They paid all expenses (medical feels, rehabilitation fees, meals cost, transportation) by themselves. On 2017, Ministry of Social Welfare's fund, the government has started to paid 200,000

Kyat in compensation to the each of the (117) civilians at Kayah who have been injured by landmines. However ex-military staffs do not get that support.

**Table 4.12 Current working status**

No	Description	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1.	Carpenter	2	-	2	2 %-
2.	Casual labor	43	1	44	42%
3.	Farmer	25	2	27	25 %
4.	Do not work	9	1	10	9 %
5.	Night Watchman	2	-	2	2 %
6.	Arm group	10	-	10	9 %
7.	Government staff	2	-	2	2 %
8.	Selling	2	-	2	2 %
9.	Prosthetic technicians	6	-	6	6 %
10.	Hair cut	1	-	1	1 %

Source: survey data

Resulting from mine injuries, 90 % of the landmine victims did not continue to work in military or armed grouped or studies anymore. Only 10 % of landmine victims continue to work in arm group. Child victims are excluded from school because schools are inaccessible for them. Landmine victims (25 %) rely on farming. They protect

themselves by renting other people’s farms that have no mines and buy rice at outside. (2 %) of landmine victims rely on government staff and night watchman respectively. Only 1 % rely on hair cutting. (42 %) of landmine victims rely on casual labor. They also highlighted about wages. They got lower than non-disable people. 9 % of landmine victims do not work anything because of they are not feeling well or some got supporting from their children. All of landmine victims do animal breeding but not in large numbers, just for victims’ family daily survival. 2 % of landmine victims open a small shop at in front of the house who got in-kind support from NGO. It looks safer than working in contaminated mine risk areas.

**Table 4.13 Main Income sources and expenditure**

No	Income Amount	Number	Percentage
1.	50000 - 100000 kyat	58	55%
2.	100000 - 200000 Kyat	46	43%
3.	200000 - 300000 Kyat	2	2%
4.	Other	1	1%

Source: survey data

According to the survey, 58 (55%) of the landmine victims earned between 50000 – 100000 Kyat per month. 46 (43 %) got 100000 – 200000 Kyat and others 2% got 200000 – 300000 kyat. The left 1 % don’t know their monthly income. All family members are working in the farm field except the child who is attending school. There is limited access to cash and generally used for families is first for food, second for health, and third for farming. 61% use the amount between 1000 – 80000 kyat for their children school expenditure. Many landmine victims said their family members are illiterate even though they sent their children to school but their children are dropouts at primary or secondary level. It was also responded that the children required working for income contribution to the household. Language barrier and transportation are also difficult for their children. However, 1% of landmine victims’ children got graduated and work as a

government officer.. However, landmine victims never enough for survive and have to borrow money from others. In some villages rice banks set up during an earlier UNDP programme are still functioning. Landmine victims have borrowed from rice bank with low interest rate than if they had to borrow from market. Then they can reimburse paddy at the next harvest. It reduced the burden that landmine victim families face getting enough rice in the lean season, i.e. it is easier to access rice directly in the village at a significantly lower cost. Majority of landmine victims have low income with big family members.

Expenditure patterns varied according to location, the main differences being between capital of the Kayah (Loikaw) and outside of the Loikaw. In example, In Loikaw, majority of landmine victims mentioned electricity, as an expense, while in outside of the Loikaw and Bawlakhae townships do not have access to electricity. Most of victims do not know how to save. Only two participants save the money in hand. The entertainment expenses were not commonly mentioned in the study. The majority of victims stated that solar or battery are commonly used for electricity. This is often linked to education and improved quality of life.

#### 4.3.4 Current Social Situation

**Table 4.14 Health Situation**

No	Health services	Number	Percentage
1.	Rural Health center	63	59 %
2.	Hospital	23	22 %
3.	Midwife at village	16	15 %
4.	Other practices	4	4 %

Source: survey data

This study focuses on how landmine victims view and experience health services. 59% of landmine victims said they are going to Rural Health center. 22% of landmine victims mention they go to hospital. Others 15% going to see nurse in their village and the left 4% relies on other practices. Some victims feel painful because of remaining mine metallic fragments are still in their bodies as there is lack of awareness to access to hospital and medical

doctors and unaffordable to medical cost. Healthcare is a major challenge for landmine victims living in rural area.

#### **4.3.5 Community Participation**

Most of the landmine victims said they have no difficulty to participate in community. All villagers know them very well and they always contact them to involve in community events. Few of landmine victims said they are good cooking, friendly and it makes people called them to participate in village event. Now a day, State government collaborate with NGOs and invite them to participate in mine awareness day, International disable day in Loikaw. Sometimes they feel bad by themselves because they cannot walk and do like other people. Few of them know about CRPD who got training from NGO. However, majority of them do not know about disable by law.

#### **4.3.6 Qualitative Analysis**

Most of the landmine victims did not continue to work in military or armed group or study anymore. Now landmine victims and their family got MRE training. Most victims indicated that they did not benefit from proper mine risk education before their incident. Some landmine victims said they have little knowledge about disables right but they do not know about disable law which was enacted by government. Majority of interviewees highlighted the importance of conflict sensitivity in the context of establishing schools, particularly in areas impacted by conflict. They want peace and they don't want any conflict or war.

#### **4.3.7 Qualitative Responds by the Village Leaders**

At least one landmine victim is living in their village. Landmine victim's family are poor and all of victim's family members are working for their survival. Some of the village leaders said many NGOs come and collect data from landmine victim and did not provide anything. Other said NGO provide in-kind grant to selected landmine victim at village. Some business is success and actively participate in community work. Others are not success and still need to support. Some villagers have received MRE training and CRPD. Most of the villages have primary school and health center but some villages do

not have electricity and transportation is still not good. Villagers still collect fire-wood from forest and no landmine incident occurred. Now a days, landmine incidents decrease in Kayah.

#### 4.3.8 Qualitative Responds by the Government officer

U Win Naing Tun, Director General from Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) stated that according to the records of the [ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center, or ARMAC] member countries, social media, and concerned organizations in rural areas, the number of mine casualties has increased from 176 in 2017 to 276 in 2018. Most of the casualties were concentrated in hills of northern Shan and Kachin State. Internally displaced people and host communities in conflict affected areas have raised concerns about landmines. That destroyed their livelihoods and prevented them from returning to their home villages. Also, the rate of disability is increasing. Myanmar was taking an integrated approach towards victim assistance, based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in its national disability law and national social protection strategy. The Victim Assistance Fund has been distributed since 2017 under Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) responsibility. It is distributed to landmine victims through whole Myanmar. It is 200,000 MMK per person, one time only. Since 2017, 528 landmine victims received the fund. It is planned to distributed to 600 persons for financial budget year Oct 2019 – Sept 2020.

**Table 4.15 Number of Landmine victims received Subsidy**

No	States/ Region	Number of victims support by Department of Social Welfare 2017 - 2018 budget year	Number of victims support by Department of Rehabilitation ( 2018 6 months budget)	Number of victims support by Department of Rehabilitation (2018 -2019 budget)	Total of landmine victims
1.	Kachin	28	84	15	127

2.	Kayah	9	30	78	117
3.	Kayin	15	1	7	23
4.	Shan ( N)	77	8	12	97
5.	Bago		62	4	66
6.	Tanintharyi		86		86
7.	Mandalay			1	1
8.	Rakkhine			11	11
Total		<b>129</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>528</b>

Source : Department of Rehabilitation

Landmine victims can claim for the fund ( no family members, not for persons who are deceased). DOR did not provide ex- military staffs and family of victims who are already killed at mine incidents. There are no policies existing for veterans of war or retired soldiers from Ethnic Armed Organization. When preparing next budget, DOR can consider to include family members of victims who died for VA fund distribution. All victim assistance services providers and local authorities can disseminate information to landmine victims. There is no data management existing at the moment; no data base at township or State / Regional level.

#### **4.3.9 Qualitative responds by NGO staff**

There are very few NGOs in Kayah who focus on landmine victims at Kayah. Different organizations have different criteria to provide in cash or start-up kit to landmine victims. NGO tried not to overlap supporting to landmine victims. Lack of landmine victim's data have difficult to support. NGOs cannot provide to all landmine victims because of base on funding. Landmine victims and victim's family members are become more confident to do in animal raising and find income for survive. Providing in-kind grant is better than providing cash. NGO invited landmine victims to attend MRE training. Also invite representative of mine victims in state level of victim assistance meeting to meet with all government officers.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Findings**

This study is outlined to have a better understanding of landmine victims; who they are, how disability has impacted their life, and how to best meet their physical and social needs. All findings were based on interview with (106) landmine victims and (10) key informant interviews with government officer, International Governmental and village leaders. Most of the landmine victims got mine incident in Kayah State and few victims' were migrant of other States or Divisions. Most common injury associated with landmines is loss of one or more limbs. All incidents were occurred at rural areas far from hospital. Limited medical service became loss of pass of the body. At the time of the incidents, landmine victims did not get proper mine risk education and now landmine victims and family got MRE training. It was also found that most landmine and explosive remnants of war incidents in Kayah state had occurred many years ago and the numbers of incidents have been decreasing since the 2012 bilateral ceasefire.

As a result of mine incidents, majority of the landmine victims did not continue to do in previous work or studies anymore. The victims adapted and demonstrated great resilience in the face of uncertainty. The costs of medical care, rehabilitation, and assistive devices often leave families in debt, while stigma, discrimination, inaccessibility. Low levels of education make it difficult for landmine victims to pursue training and employment and fully participate in community life. The Department of Social Welfare has regularly convened a technical working group which focuses on risk education and victim assistance in Kayah. No mine clearance by State government and non- technical survey only conducted by Danish Demining Group and Danish Refugee Council at Kayah.

Base on the finding, a significant lack of investment in service provision in Kayah State was found particularly for landmine survivors, many of them suffer from a lack of access to the most basic services such as health, education and livelihoods. More over Kayah State affected with poor infrastructure, inadequate health care,

malnutrition and little or no social and economic development than other State and Division.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

All armed actors should agree to and enforce a comprehensive ban on the new use of mines/ERW. Myanmar should accelerate non-technical survey, authorize international marking of hazardous areas, and permit accredited operators to conduct clearance and explosive ordnance disposal. Myanmar government should establish a national mine action authority to plan and coordinate comprehensive humanitarian mine action. If possible, to conduct mine risk education in all areas with local communities to support self-protection strategies against mine incidents.

Government should increase allocation of resources including both financial and human resources is needed to provide longer-term sustainable support for landmine victims. Department of Rehabilitation should increase budget to support all landmine victims who are ex-military staffs or not. Department of rehabilitation should compile update of all landmine victim's data and its will more effectively to support. Government should arrange landmine victims to attend vocational training or livelihood program which are better instead of providing cash.

There is also a disproportionate impact on victims in rural areas, where health and rehabilitation services may not be available: States will need to invest in community-based rehabilitation services in these areas to combat this inequality. Government has to appoint many staffs and monitor the implementation of rights-based projects in respective townships. Department of Social Welfare should more promoting and upholding national and international disability laws and rights to community. Updated and comprehensive data is needed to ensure that the needs of PWDs/Landmine victims are properly understood and addressed.

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## Appendix-1

### Quantitative Questionnaire

All answers are in relation to the landmine victims.

Pl tick (√) in the box accordingly.

#### Who is answering this questionnaire?

Landmine victim	
Caregiver of landmine victim	
Head of household of landmine victim	
Relationship to Head	
Other (Specify);	

#### 1. Victim Information

Sex:	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female	Date of Birth: Age	
Permanent Address	Village ..... Township ..... District .....		
Current Family Status:	<input type="radio"/> Never married <input type="radio"/> Married <input type="radio"/> Separated <input type="radio"/> Widow/Widower		
How many children do you have?			
Ethnicity:			
Religion			
What is the highest level of education you have completed?			

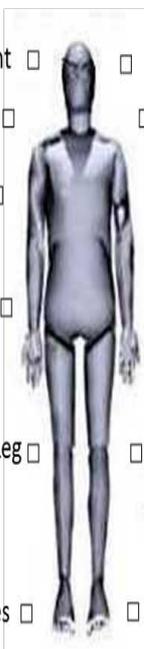
## 2. Incident

<p>Activity at the time of the incident?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Traveling by vehicle   <input type="checkbox"/> Traveling on foot   <input type="checkbox"/> Tampering   <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> Farming   <input type="checkbox"/> Military operation duty   <input type="checkbox"/> Tending animals/livestock   <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> Collection of fire wood   <input type="checkbox"/> Collection of water   <input type="checkbox"/> Collection of food  <input type="checkbox"/> Demining   <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting   <input type="checkbox"/> Playing/Recreation   <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> Passing/Standing nearby   <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other (please specify):</b> </p>
<p>If the person knew that the area was dangerous, why did he/she go there?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> No other access   <input type="checkbox"/> Economic necessity  <input type="checkbox"/> Peer pressure   <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):         </p>
<p>Has the victim received support?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Medical   <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation   <input type="checkbox"/> Prosthetic  <input type="checkbox"/> Psychological  <input type="checkbox"/> Livelihood  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):         </p>

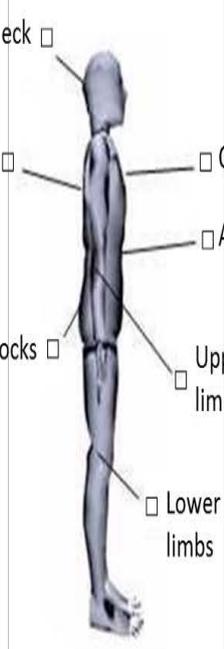
### 2.1 Injuries

**Loss of:**

<u>RIGHT SIDE</u>	<u>LEFT SIDE</u>
Eyesight <input type="checkbox"/>	Eyesight <input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing <input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing <input type="checkbox"/>
Arm <input type="checkbox"/>	Arm <input type="checkbox"/>
Hand/Finger <input type="checkbox"/>	Hand/Finger <input type="checkbox"/>
Above Knee <input type="checkbox"/>	Above Knee <input type="checkbox"/>
Leg <input type="checkbox"/>	Leg <input type="checkbox"/>
Below Knee <input type="checkbox"/>	Below Knee <input type="checkbox"/>
Foot/Toes <input type="checkbox"/>	Foot/Toes <input type="checkbox"/>



**Other Injuries:**



Head/Neck <input type="checkbox"/>	
Back <input type="checkbox"/>	Chest <input type="checkbox"/>
	Abdomen <input type="checkbox"/>
Pelvis/Buttocks <input type="checkbox"/>	Upper limbs <input type="checkbox"/>
	Soft tissue <input type="checkbox"/>
	Bone fracture <input type="checkbox"/>
	Lower limbs <input type="checkbox"/>
	Soft tissue <input type="checkbox"/>
	Bone fracture <input type="checkbox"/>

**3. Working Status**

Occupation at Time of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> Government Official; <input type="checkbox"/> Company <input type="checkbox"/> Deminer; <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer <input type="checkbox"/> Labourer <input type="checkbox"/> Fisherman <input type="checkbox"/> Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
How much money did you earned before mine incident?	
Current Occupation	<input type="checkbox"/> NGO <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> Government Official; <input type="checkbox"/> Company <input type="checkbox"/> Deminer; <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer <input type="checkbox"/> Labourer <input type="checkbox"/> Fisherman <input type="checkbox"/> Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
If answer worked before but unemployed now Why did you stop working?	
What are the main income sources of your family?	Wage/salary <input type="checkbox"/> Farming <input type="checkbox"/> Husbandry <input type="checkbox"/> Wood and wood products <input type="checkbox"/> Trading <input type="checkbox"/> Rental income <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance of relatives <input type="checkbox"/> Pensions <input type="checkbox"/> Other governmental aids/assistance <input type="checkbox"/> In kind aids from the government (coal etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Aids/assistance from NGOs <input type="checkbox"/> Allowances for elderly <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>

What is the average monthly income of the household?	Kyat 50000 - 100000	<input type="radio"/>
	Kyat 100000 - 200000	<input type="radio"/>
	Kyat 200000 – 300000	<input type="radio"/>
	Kyat 300000 – 400000	<input type="radio"/>
	Kyat 400000 – 500000	<input type="radio"/>
	Kyat 500000 or above	<input type="radio"/>
How much do you spend monthly for food/drinks?		
How much do you spend monthly for electricity?		
How much your health expenditures cost monthly?		
How much your children's (if exist) schooling expenditures cost monthly?		
How much do you spend for entertainment?		
How much do you spend for transportation?		
How much do you save yearly?		
How do you invest your savings?	buy gold	<input type="radio"/>
	bank (with an interest rate)	<input type="radio"/>
	buy immovable properties	<input type="radio"/>
	Other (please specify).....	
How many people are currently living in your household, including yourself?		
If household member is not working, please mention the reason.		
How many no of people are jobless in your household?		

Is it enough to use your monthly income? If is not and how can you solve that problem?	
--	--

#### 4.Housing and Infrastructure

Please describe the home where you live	Owner of the house <input type="radio"/> Renter <input type="radio"/> Live with friends <input type="radio"/> Live with family <input type="radio"/> No permanent house <input type="radio"/> other ( specify) <input type="radio"/>
How long have you been living here as household/family?	
Why did you move here?	

#### 5.Education

Is the family member literate or illiterate? 1. Illiterate 2. Literate	
Do you have children 6-15 years old?	If yes, How many?
Do all your children go to school?	
Why do not some/any of your children go to school?	
What is the current/last school that the family member is attending/has graduated?	

## 6. Service

How would you describe your general health?	Excellent	O
	Very good	O
	Good	O
	Fair	O
	Poor	O
What services, have you ever received?	1. Medical rehabilitation ( <i>Physiotherapy, occupational Therapy, speech and hearing therapy, etc. )</i>	O
	2. Assistive devices service ( <i>crutches, walking stick, wheelchair , hearing/visual aids, Braille etc )</i>	O
	3. Vocational training	
	4. Welfare services ( <i>eg. Social worker, grant, etc</i> )	O
	5. None	O
	6. Other ( Specify) .....	

## 7. Health

How would you describe your general health?	Excellent	O
	Very good	O
	Good	O
	Fair	O
	Poor	O
Do any of household members have a permanent/chronic disease/health problem?		
When you experience a health problem, which health facility do you go?		
If you did not receive any of above services, what are the		

reasons	
---------	--

**8. Community participation**

What makes it EASIER for you to participate in your community?	
What makes it HARDER for you to participate in your community?	

## Appendix 2

### Qualitative Questions Questions for Key Informant Interview

(a). Name of the Respondent:

(b). Age:

(c). Position:            1. Landmine Victim            2. Village Leader            3. Government  
Officer

                                 4. INGO Staff            5. NGO Staff            6. Others

(d). Are you permanent residence of the Area?

1. Yes    2. No

(e). Can you tell me the overall situations (economic, social etc) of the land mines victims in this village/area? Has there been any change recently in their social and economic status?

(f). What makes their lives to be the most challenging situation in the community?

(Ask separately for economic opportunities and social standing)?

(g). Do the victims in this village supports receive any supports from GO/NGO/INGO and Others?

(1). If yes, what kinds of supports provided?

(2). In kind or kind supports?

(3). In which frequency?

(4). What is the feedback of the victims on the supports received?

(5). What are the gaps in what has been provided and what are they willing to be provided?

If providers:

- (h). How long have you been working for landmine victims in this village/area?
- (i). What are the services provided to the landmines victims?
- (j). What is VA fund?
- (k) What is the fund size? Is it one time?
- (l) Who is eligible?
- (m) How can community know about this fund? At village level, whom community has to contact first to receive this fund? ( GAD or DOR / DSW)
- (n). What are the main challenges faced in providing those services?
- (k). What types of supports do you think would be more appropriate for the landmine victims in a sustainable manner?

Appendix ( 3 )

**Antipersonnel Landmine in the ground**

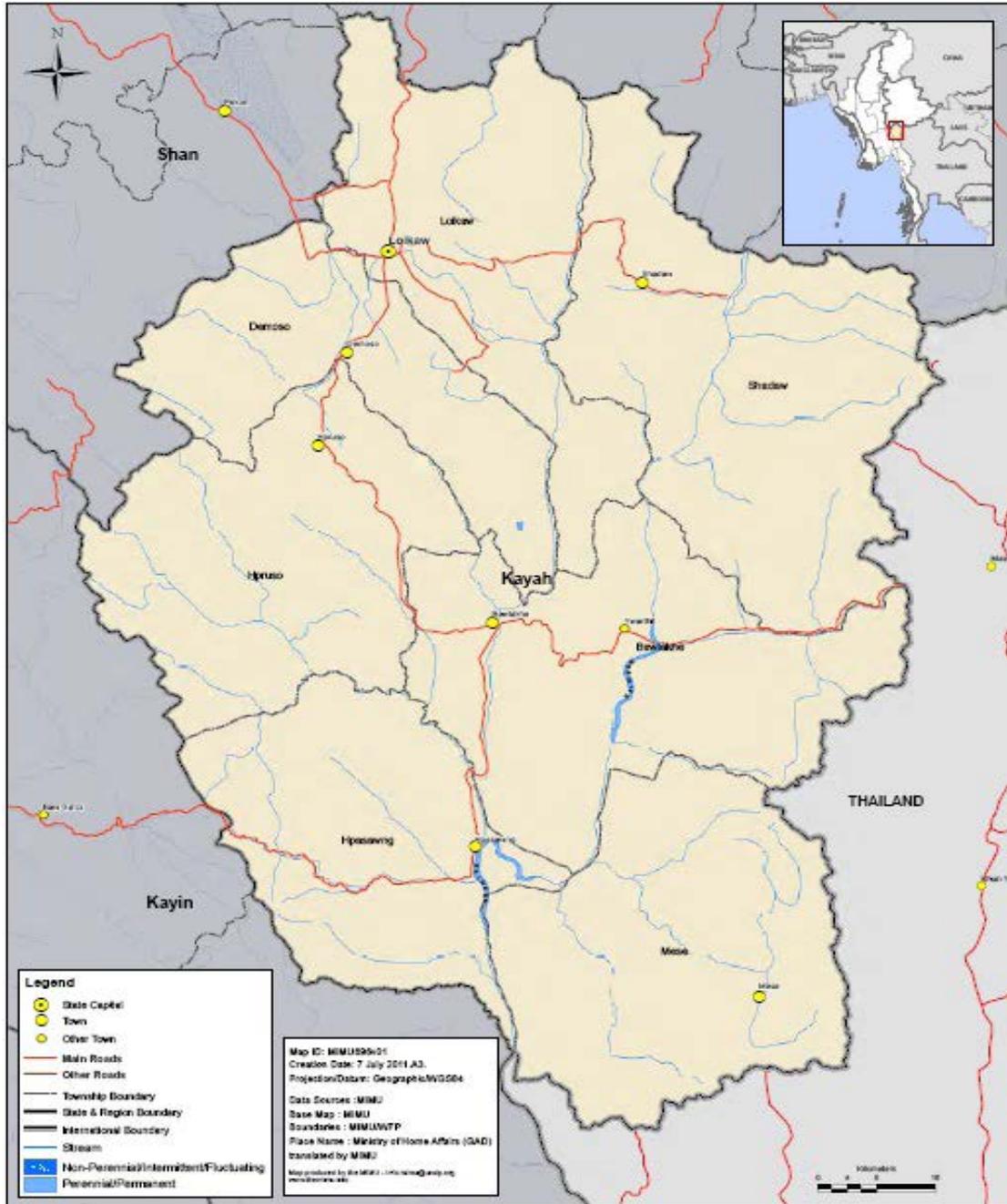


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Appendix ( 4 )

Map of Kayah State



Sources : Management Information Management Unit

