

Findings from the external evaluation – as understood by TSA Norway:

Though the report does contain a lot of valuable information, the language and structure of the report is a challenge, and significantly reduces understanding of content. In collaboration with The Salvation Army in Myanmar, and the external consultant, we have discussed the issues we have had with the report, and some changes were made. However, we still find that the report is not done up to the standard that we expected, but due to time and budget limitations we have decided that we will send in the final version of the evaluation and attach our own summary of the findings in the report.

Conclusions:

7. Project Relevance

7.1 Context

Conclusion seems to be that project objectives were relevant to local context and the needs of the communities – and in line with priorities of many other NGOs working in the area.

7.2 National Priorities

Yes – project priorities aligned with National development strategic framework, by Ministry of Planning and Finance; with Department of Rural Development, and; Ministry of Livestock, water, etc..

7.3 Goal and Attainment of Objectives

For the most part – yes. However;

- Working with VDCs was not effective in all areas. Project should focus on strengthening existing structures on village level, rather than establishing new ones.
- Rather work with SHG than VDCs – but also with SHG, main focus should be on strengthening what is there.
- Home visits by nurses are questioned – nurses more occupied with meeting numerical targets than actual effect.
- Clear conclusions on obj. 3 and 4 seems to have been difficult to attain, but planned outputs are seen as relevant.

8. Project Efficiency

8.1 Cost-efficiency

Not sure the question is understood by consultant. Report comments on size and appropriateness of budget and line items, but seems to make no clear conclusion on cost-efficiency.

8.2 Resources

The staff and volunteer resources were appropriate to what was needed, but the contribution from youth could have been better represented in the project. In-kind contributions from local communities to the community project initiatives were actually greater than expected, and it is recommended that their in-kind contribution should be included in their 20%.

8.3 Timeliness

Report suggests that the project should have planned for one more year, to have sufficient time to achieve everything they set out to do.

8.4 Management

Yes. However, report suggest that geographic target area is very spread out, and a challenge for project staff regarding communication and transportation between some areas and the headquarters in Yangon.

9. Project Effectiveness and Impact

9.1 Objectives

General response: 1 and 2 – yes; 3 and 4 – uncertain.

Objective 1– Strengthen existing livelihood coping strategies of 2,700 families within four years through:

- a micro-credit scheme
 - All Micro-credit members could save money
 - 50% became shop owners
 - 1/4 of the members have micro credit scheme as main income source
 - Promotes/improves role of women.
 - Income supporting 75% of children’s education. Micro credit members stated it was no longer difficult to get school material and pocket money for kids.
- HIV care and prevention
 - Blood donor groups established and functioning.
 - Decreased discrimination and stigma registered
 - PLWHA SHG established – especially in 3rd and 4th year. (no clear conclusion of impact of these)
 - VCT – pre post counselling of 280 and testing of 1 680.
- improved access to drinking water
 - 75% have access to safe drinking water and toilets
 - Less waterborne diseases.
- community project initiatives
 - Toilets make a significant difference.
 - However, in Southern District there is damage to toilets, and many were built inside TSA compound.
 - One day care centre established in Matupi.

Objective 2: - Empower communities through the establishment and coaching of VDCs and SHGs, and continual monitoring through leadership trainings, networking and partnership capacity building.

- 40 new VDCs and 100 new SHGs established by 2015 (50% are women members of SHGs);
- Mentored existing 30 VDCs and 112 SHGs by 2015

“At least 100 less literate women strengthened”. Conclusion from report is that obj. 2 was achieved, but based on information on p. 20, this is unclear. Based on the rest of the report, however, it does seem like this has been achieved (information on numbers of SHG and CPIs can be found on p. 18).

Objective 3: Increase awareness and encourage positive and culturally sensitive values related to gender equity, HIV prevention, and health promotion among young men, young women, girls and boys in all target communities throughout the duration of the project.

- Increased awareness in communities of HIV/AIDS and other health issues; greater gender equity; youth are empowered and confident

Cannot find information about increased knowledge/awareness about HIV/Aids – but youth were taking responsibility, and sometimes leadership, in SHG activities and blood donor groups. Youth were also active in HIV awareness activities. Activities done as planned(?).

Objective 4: Build leadership and management capacity of TSA and communities through the strengthening of organizational management systems, upholding accountability within TSA-Myanmar, systematic and consistent use of project management tools throughout the project’s lifetime, networking & partnership.

- Capacity of TSA Myanmar to contribute to community development is strengthened;
- greater accountability and improved governance in TSA Myanmar;
- staff members and volunteers have greater capacity to contribute to community development activities when external support ends.

Evaluation admits to not having been able to assess progress on this, due to it being programmatic objectives, and the project lacked a clear strategy for monitoring and evaluating progress related to this. TAG training and improvement of policies, documents, etc. of TSA has been done, however.

9.2 Factors influencing the achievement of objectives

Positive factors

- Review and improvement of Standard Operating Procedures, Policies, MER-structure/systems, etc.
- Capacity building of local communities
- Staff capacity building enhanced networking with other actors in the area.

Negative factors

- Late outcome and impact planning
- Youth and CBO activities documented later in the project thus less reflected and less visible:
 - Youth targeted to network and partner with other group in region, to exchange with other civil society groups.
 - Since activity reports did not cautiously disaggregate youth with usual project activities, youth were sometimes not differing from VDCs.
- Lack of participation in local networks, working groups, cooperation and communication with relevant government actors and NGOs.

- Lack of baseline from before project start (especially related to financial, technical, and management capacity) made evaluation difficult. Especially so on objective 3 and 4.
- Overlap of roles among staff (mission staff becoming project staff – and working double)
- Lack of consciousness about (and use of) “spill over-effect”.