Summary Of
Civil Society Mapping
Kayin State, Myanmar

Figure 1Kayin State and Districts (Myanmar National Census Report)

Study Completed: October 2016

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Contents

Figure 2Abbreviations

BBO	Border-based organization	LCSO	Local CSO
CSO	Civil society organization	LNGO	Local non-governmental organization
CBO	Communitybased organization	LRC	Local Resource Centre
DKBA	Democratic Karen Buddhist Army	NEI	National Enlightenment Institute
EAG	Ethnic armed group	NGO	Non-governmental organization
FBO	Faith based organization	MIMU	Myanmar Information Management Unit
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
INGO	International non-governmental Organization	VTA	Village tract administrator
		YLC	Youth Learning Centre
KNLA	Karen National Liberation Army	USDP	Union Solidarity and Development Party
KNU	Karen National Union	NDF	National Democratic Forces
KSCN	Kayin State Civil Society Network	NUP	National Unity Party
NEI	National Enlightenment Institute	KPP	Karen People's Party
PIN	People In Need	AMDP	All Mon Region Democracy Party
RISE	Research Institute for Social & Environment	MDP	Mon Democracy Party
DSW	Department of Social Welfare		

Introduction

The primary goal of this mapping exercise is to gain deeper knowledge of **Myanmar CSOs active in KayinState**, to help LRC determine opportunities for training, mentoring, coaching, and advocacy related activities to build civil society capacity, and the policy environment for civil society to operate.

LRC expects to be able to implement programs based on the results. The findings should also be useful for other humanitarian and/or development organisations who seek partnerships, collaborations, opportunities for expansion, and/or who want to avoid duplicating existing efforts.

This is the second CSO Mapping exercise undertaken by LRC – the first completed in Mon State in March 2016. It can be downloaded from LRC website: http://www.lrcmyanmar.org/mm/resources/civil-society-mapping-mon-state-myanmar

This study uses the same research brief, but has refined the questions and approach, based on previous learning and contextual differences between Mon and Kayin States.

LRC commissioned National Enlightenment Institute (NEI) to lead on the field work. NEI is a local NGO based in Mawlamyine, Mon State which has expertise in raising capacity, development and policy advocacy in southern Myanmar (particularly in Mon and Kayin States). LRC and NEI also liaised with the Kayin CSO Network, RISE, YLC, PIN-Social Cohesion Network whoas well as participating, linked researchers to other active CSO groups.

The field work, was conducted between 1st September and 6th October 2016 and represents the responses and views of over 74civil society representatives and stakeholders involved in interviews and focus groups. Draft findings were presented to 40 stakeholders in Yangon, 29th October 2016 before finalising the study.

This report presents a summary of the study findings, specifically the results and recommendations from the interviews and focus group*s*. For moredetails on methodology, approach, etc., please contact:

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Scope of the study

The key research areas, defined in the study brief, were:

- What is the landscape of civil society organizations (CSOs) operating in Kayinstate?
- What are the technical capacities of CSOs operating in Kayinstate?
- What regional government policies and practices help or hinder CSOs in doing their work?
- What is the scope of CSO beneficiaries (e.g. women, youth, and ethnic groups) and what may be barriers to participation for excluded groups?

To achieve this we looked at:

- the range and the scope of CSO activities
- Diversity of beneficiaries, membership, structure, style and leadership of CSOs, fund raising approach.
- key issues affecting/influencing them
- skill strengths and skill gaps of CSOs
- regional government policies (legal-regulatory) and practices that help or hinder the work of CSOs
- defining the target audience and describing connections and relationships with key stakeholders
- Barriersand enablers to participation in peace building and development activities.

The study focused exclusively on mapping Myanmar CSOs (national and local) that are active in Kayin State. Of particular interest to LRC are civil society initiatives related to advocacy and legal reform, human rights, as well as initiatives that improve the lives of local people.

Out of scope- of the study were ethnic armed groups, political parties, and INGO's. Because of resource limitations, and safety issues the village's tracts, villages, and CSOs reached are not exhaustive of KayinState; however, some generalizations can be drawn in support of the research objectives. We would liketo have included BBOs operating in camps in Thailand, but because of security and timing issues, interviews could not be conducted.

Kayin or Karen?

In 1988 the military regime changed the name of country from Burma to Myanmar and the Karen State to Kayin State. The report refers to the Kayin State, and Karen (where appropriate) for the ethnic group. The authors recognize that some groups reject the state name change, and use the older naming conventions – Karen.

Method

Type of Research Data Techniques

A mixture of qualitative and quantitative research was usedto get baseline dataand maximise CSO input. Most of the Quantitative data comes from survey data via personal interview, telephone interview and Qualitative data is from focus group discussions as well as in depth Interviews.
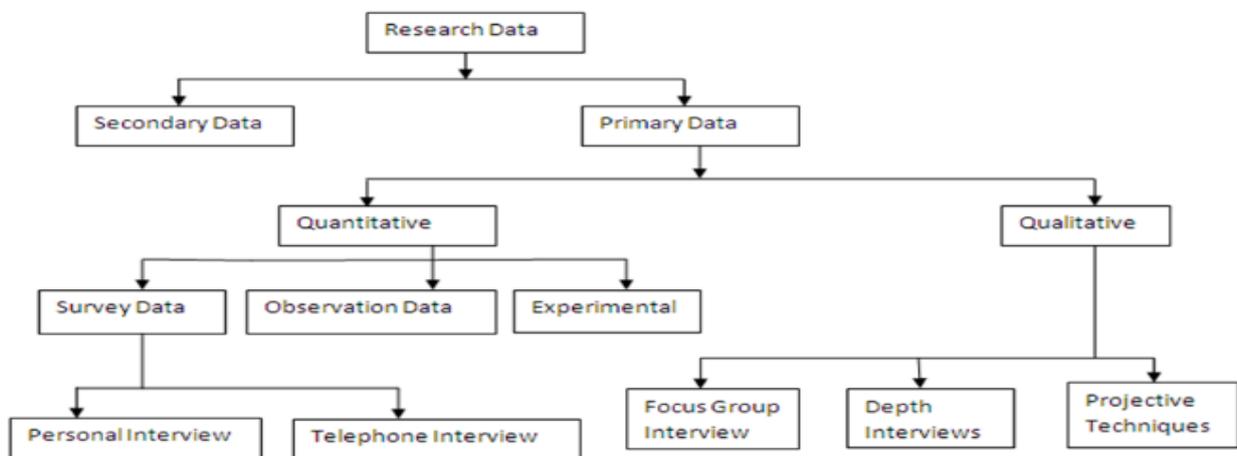
CSO Indexing - identifying Organisations

There is no agreed list of CSOs (see registration issues below). For the purpose of the study, the researchers collected information from the various networks (Karen State CSO Network, People In Need Social Cohesion Network, Thwee Organization -Kawkayeik Network, Youth Learning Centre Coordination Network), and collated a list of over 70 active organizations in the 7 townships. The list was adjusted to remove inactive organisations and additional CSOs identified through interviews and snowballing techniques.

Sampling

We used both purposive sampling and snowball sampling for theKayin CSO mapping. Purposive sampling is mainly used for identifying the key players (key informants) and CSOs situation and Snowball Sampling was used to ensure collect information on Kayin CSO where there is little contact or out of reach for researchers to access contacts.

Limitations and Challenges

This was a CSO led and implemented study, with a very small budget and tight timescales. The depth of mapping may not meet some (unrealistic) expectations – it was impossible to look in more detail at each sector area for example, but, this study may form the basis of more in depth studies in sectors or issues.

The Kayin geographic area and infrastructure made it complicated to travel to all 7 townships (for example- ThandaungGyiis best reached from Bago Division and not directly from Hpa-an. KyarInnSeikGyi is closer to Mudon township-Mon State).Some areas are also still in a "black zone" with restrictions on entry.

During the period, there was reported fighting between the military and DKBA, in Hpa-Pon area, so researchers could not go there,

Township Data Collection

Interviews and focus groups were conducted by trained NEI staff between September and October 2016.

Figure 4 Data Collection Summary

CSO Indexing	In depth Interview	Focus group discussions (FGDs)
74identified through networks & snowballtechniques, information on 43 from short interviews and FGD	31 LCSO 2 INGOs, 1Govt. sector.	FGD 30 women representatives FGD 20 LCSOs

Figure 3 Study Methodology

3

Findings

Categorization and definitions used

The study modified the standard definitions of CSOs including CBOs, FBOs, and NGO, INGO etc. In Kayin groups make a distinction between organisation that have external funding sources (international funds) and those that operate using funds raised or earned.

Figure 5 Organisation Definitions

National NGO	Local Organization which operation in nationwide Myanmar (or more than 1 state) e.g. LRC. These organisationsusually by receiving other international organizations funding and support.
National CSO	Local Organization which covered by the whole Myanmar on the same ethnic based interest (e.g. funeral Organization, Karen Affair Committee) but running by membership fees and donation.
Local NGO	Local Organization which founded by receiving other INGO's grant support and operate in more than one State or Division.
Local CSO	Local CSOs workingwithin one State, but in more than one area of region. Include of women groups, youth organizations, issue based groups and self-help groups.
FBO	Organizations which formed by focus on specific religious groups such as Buddhism, Islamic, Christian, Hindi.
CBO	Organizations are formed by based on community issue and focus on only their community.
CSO Network	The network are organized by based on specific issue such as youth network, interfaith network, human right network, women network.

Types of Organisations operating in Kayin

Using the data collated to establish the list of 74National and local CSOs active in the State, and refined in the interviews, some basic analysis of the data can be made.

Figure 6Type of Organisations in Kayin
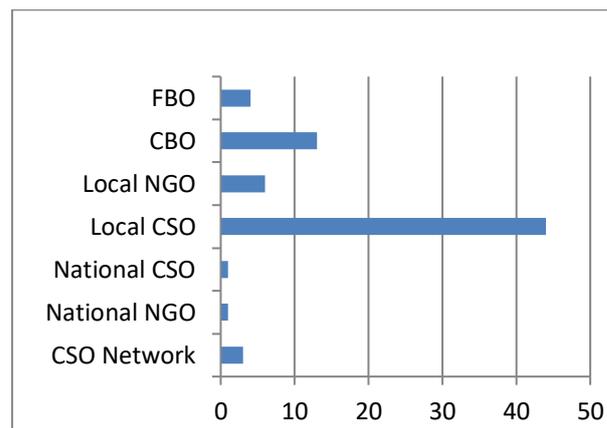
Location (Base) of Organisations

According to the collected list of 74 organizations, this graph showed by where the organizations are office based in 7 townships of Kayin State. Many are based in the state capital of Hpa-an and nearby HlaingBwe and Kawkayeik (connected by road infrastructure). There is number of CSOs based in Thandaung, growing out of Christian FBOs, and because of proximity to conflict area.

Figure 7 Location (Base) of Organisations (74 Total)
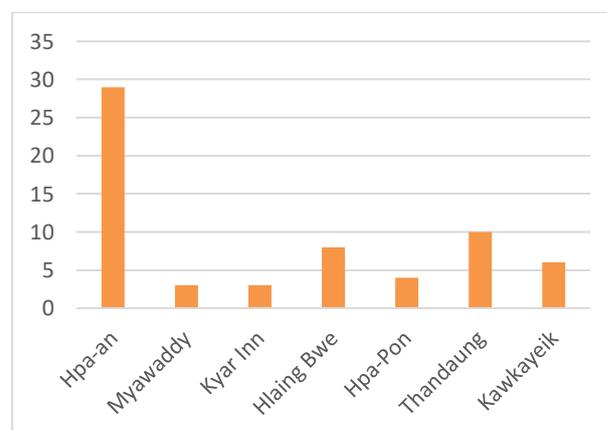
In terms of the interview sample (32) the location was similar (excluding Hpa-Pon)

Figure 8 Where Interview respondents located (32 Total)
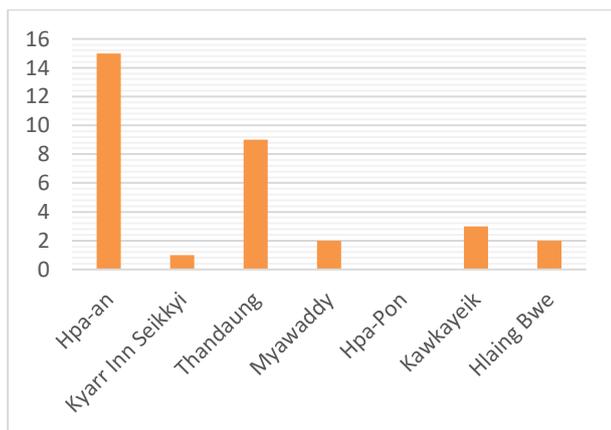
Interviewees were also asked where they operated, and this shows that some work in more than one other areas.

Figure 9 Where Respondents Operate (Total 32)

Establishment date

Of the 32 interviewed, most CSOs interviewed have emerged since 2014, and only 3 existed before 2008 (Cyclone Nagis) and 20 before 2014 (Introduction of new Registration Laws).

Registration Status

While CSO registration reformation happened in 2014, many organizations are not yet registered. The amount of time and effort to register (at a local and national level) and the perceived risks are seen to outweigh any potential rewards. In total, only five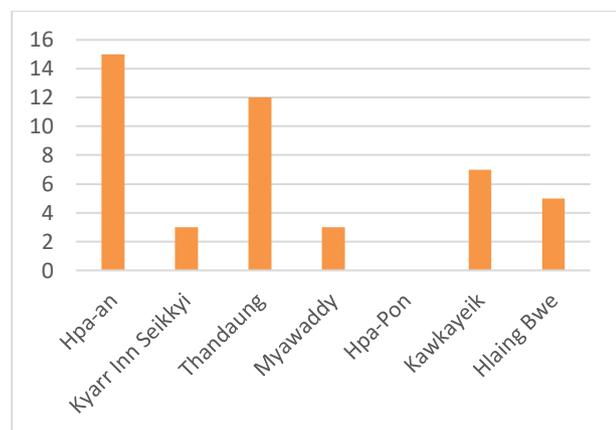 organisations are officially registeredunder the new Association Registration Regulation [Source: Deputy Director, Department Social Welfare].Local government is now encouraging CSOs to register, under direction from the Kayin State Minister of Border Affairs. The findings indicate that Local government will only acknowledge and meet with Kayin CSOs who are formally registered.

Awareness of registration has been increased through the CSO networks, and many organisations are now in the preparation process. A barrier to registration for many CSOs is the requirement set by the Kayin State Chief Minister for CSOs to submit Human Resource Management Policies (including organisation structures, governance arrangements), with registration documents.This is a local requirement and not a requirement under the Association Registration Law. Many CSOs do not have formal structures or policies.

In conflict areas, CSOs are also required to register with the KNU and work in hybrid condition with government and KNU-Ethnic Armed Forces Groups. As a result they have to negotiate/seek approval from two systems.

Sectors& activities

Almost all CSOs are active in multiple areas, e.g. local peace, conservation and community development or women's issues and human rights.

Figure 10 Sectors and Activities (by Number of CSOs)
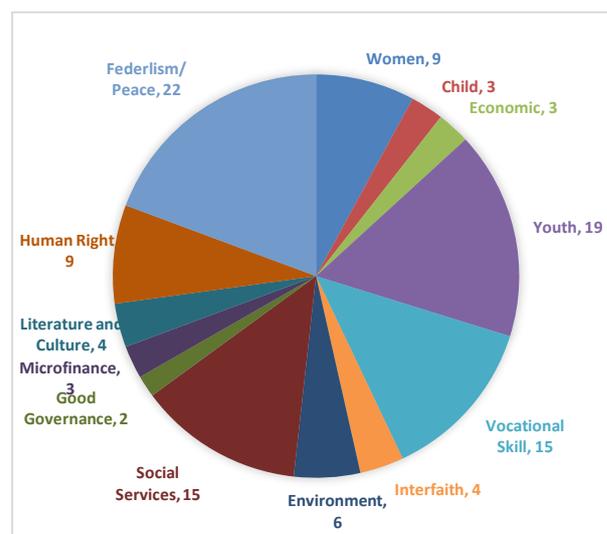
Figure11 Sectors and Activities ranked by Response

Peace and Federalism	22
Youth	19
Vocational Skills	15
Social Services	15
Human Rights	9
Women	9
Environmental	6
Literature and culture	4
Interfaith	4
Children	3
Economic	3
Microfinance	3
Good Governance	2

Figure 12 Breakdown of Activities by Sector

Federalism / Peace	Research	8%
	Collect documents to support dialogue	5%
	Writing reports	2%
	Advocacy	20%
	Capacity Training	30%
	Networking	25%
	Workshops and forums	10%
Human Right	Legal Aids / Legal Reform	25%
	Advocacy	45%
	Awareness Training	20%
	Land Rights	10%
Good governance	Rule of Law	10%
	Good Governance	60%
	Policy Advocacy	10%
	Capacity Building Training	20%
Women	Empowerment and Rights	65%
	Leadership Training	25%
	Gender Advocacy	10%
Child	Formal Education (Monastic)	98%
	Promotion Child Right and protect child violence	2%
Youth	Capacity Building Training	65%
	Forums	5%
	Networking	5%
	Exchange Programs	15%
Vocational Skills	Foreign Language	55%
	IT Skills	43%
Literature and Culture	Education	75%
	Culture Promotion and Fairs	10%
	Protection of Ethnic Culture	10%
	National Registration Card	5%
Interfaith	Advocacy	60%
	Capacity Building Training	35%
	Dialogue	5%
Environment	Environment Protection	20%
	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative-EITI	10%
	Monitoring for natural resource sharing &transparency	40%
	Research and reports	5%
	Advocacy	25%
Social Services	Donations	55%
	Funeral Aid	32%
	Blood	5%
	Emergency Response	5%
	Mine clearance support	3%
Economic	SMEs Training	90%
	Online Training	10%
Microfinance	Microfinance to CBOs	95%
	Agriculture &Livelihoods Technical Aids&training	5%

Peace and Federalism

Faced with an ongoing conflict in the area, most prioritize peace and reconciliation. Alongside this, is the demand for federalism (regional autonomy - power and resource sharing) for Kayin State., among the local CSO, RISE and Thwee are active players on this issue. These are recognized by the Military Armed Group, Kayin State Government and Ethnic Armed Groups, they are generally viewed as neutral CSO groups.Activitiesincludefacilitatinga variety of workshops and forums to address issues and encourage stakeholder dialogue with all decision makers e.g. KNU, Military, Kayin State Government; and research and report to support power sharing and resource sharing matters, to promote federalism.

Human Rights

A number of organisationsidentify with promoting general human rights awareness (this is separate to those who identified with other rights e.g. women and children and are covered in other section).A key issue is addressing land rights - lack ownership documentation and/or land grabbing (where land is taken by either private sector or government sector). Activities focus on awareness raising and legal support. There is more emphasis in the conflict zone (HlaingBwe and Kawkeyeik).A number are also engaged in ethnic specific rights - inclusion and non-discrimination.

Governance & Rule of Law

This is a collective focus of the network organisations who advocate on policy reform at a national and regional level e.g. Association Laws. A key focus of local CSOs is now on public administration e.g. villageadministration and engagement (consultation and feedback).

Women

LCSOs are mostly engaged in empowerment training, e.g. life skills training and livelihood, to give women financial security. A number undertake team leadership training and basic rights awareness through workshops and women's dialogue groups.

Child

Monastic Schools are very organized there and collaborationapproach together for formal education, especially basic education. One senior monk, oversees and controls 49 monastic schools. A small number of local CSOs are engaged in child protection and nutrition activity.

Youth

Education Gathering Groups (EGG) and Youth Learning Centres are leading organizations for youth development and capacity building (18yrs - 35yers).Tounge La YatInitiative Education Gathering Group- run a 2 year Certificate in Community Development and Leadership Program for 32 students per year. Students also have 2 month internships in CSOs to give work experience in the sector and organizing community empowerment training.

Vocational Skills

Many Education Centreshave grown out of the Kayin Literature and Culture Association or other social based organisationse.g. Marga Education derived from Marga Funeral Aid Organizations and is now conducting youth capacity building programs. Many focus on foreign languages and IT. There is cooperation between groups, on youth events, forums, network meetings, youth empowerment training, and an entrepreneurship forum. All support youth development, sometimes women empowerment and federalism programmestoo.There is only limited focus on other vocational training. Two organizations (one in Hpa-and another in Thandaung) focus on SME sector development.

Literature and Culture

The study identified several local CSOs engaged in promoting different ethnic heritage and culture (Pa-oh, Mon, Karen). Activities include teaching language and promoting culture through shows and events.

Interfaith

Religions leader are particularly influential with government and society, and often are deferred to on advocacy. However, FBOs are not heavily engaged in interfaith cohesion. There is an Islamic young people initiative (Youth Heart) working on social cohesion, as well as organisationssuch as YLC and KWEG.

Environment

The main environmental concerns include dam development (Thanlwin River), natural resource depletion through mining, cement production and charcoal energy, tree cutting. There are a number of EITI projects in the Mekong sub region, which has increased awareness on issues. Most CSOs in this sector focuson monitoring and protection of natural resources and impact on the regional environment. However,

there are few mechanisms for civil society engagement with village tract and state administrators on projects.

Social

Traditional activities in this sector include charity for deprived children, religious group activity, blood donation, urban cleaning and funeral aid. Increasingly, migration (economic and political), dispersed families, rape and child protection are seen as social problems.

Migration (to Thailand) affects many families and villages (some have said as many as one in two households affected.Whilst this was expressed as concern (because of social cohesion aspects) also viewed as an economic (income) benefit. No solutions without peace were expressed.

We would like to mention Kawbaine Village as well, which is majority in Mon Ethnic People and under Kawkayeik territory, but near in Mon State. Infrastructure is still much required to develop and drugs and gambling cases are terrible. Those area was neglected by both Karen State Government and Mon State Government.Local CSOs are supporting services e.g. language, primary education and health issues, funded by local people working abroad.

Economic

A few CSOs conduct training for career development and business skills e.g. Yuri Language School and PathiShaeSaung Social Support Group. At a village tract level there is a need for technical skills development to improve livelihoods in agriculture and livestock. But the interviews reported no support from state government and related departments.

There is a Kayin Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Association, who mainly represent large businesses/businesses associated with government contract rather than small, local business. Its main activities are trade and business exchange programs.

Microfinance

A small number local CSOs distributing small grants at a village level (UNDP and World Vision identified as donors) and developing savings schemes.

Health

It is notable that no local CSOs reported being active in the health sector, but is was reported that a number of INGO's are active in this sector. CSOs raised no specific

requirement concern with health like HIV/AIDS, Malaria.

Leadership& Diversity

The leadersof CSOs in Kayin State are overwhelmingly male (71%), though it is observed that many volunteers and members are female (the study has not established exact breakdown by Gender). This differs from neighboring MON State where47% of leaders were female.

*Figure 13 Leadership by Gender*
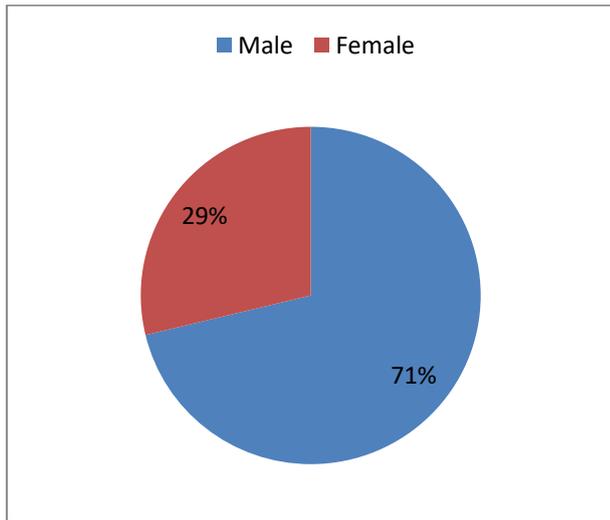
Most leaders are aged between 36 to 45 years old and there is a growth in younger leaders from 18 to 35. This differs from Mon, where the majority of leaders were over 45 years (70%)

Figure 14 Leadership by Age Range (Number)
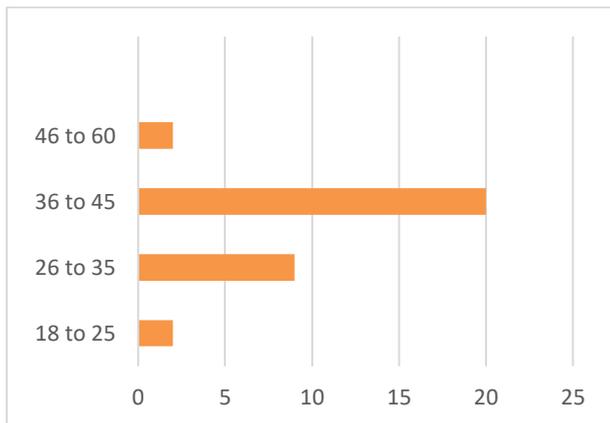
Most leaders are from local Karen ethnic groups (unlike in Mon Study, which indicated prevalence of Burmese ethnic group) in leadership roles.

Figure 15 Ethnicity and Leadership
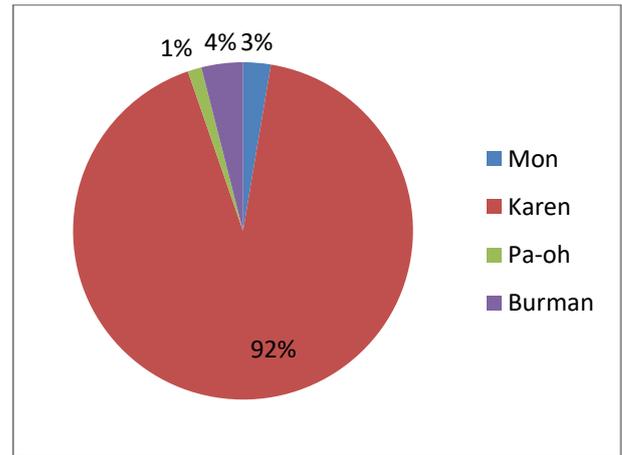
100 % of leaders can speak Burmese Language. In addition, in terms of Karen local ethic languages, 60% able to speak Sawahand 30% Pwe. This is an important factor when 'outsiders' are often not trusted at a village level. 9% able to speak English Language, 3% Pa-oh and 3% Mon language.

The results differ from the Mon Study, where fewer leaders spoke local language (majority Burmese).

*Figure 16 Languages spoken by leaders*
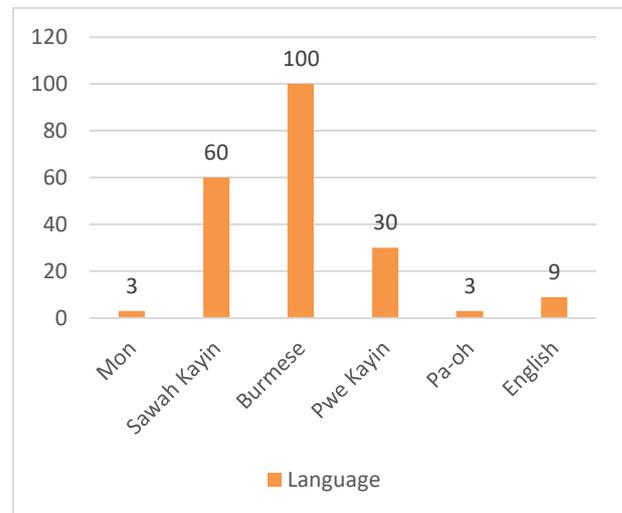
Human Resources

Each organizations are formed by management committee members. Management committee members do not accept any salary do not consist of financial control and financial management just only the organization strategy overview

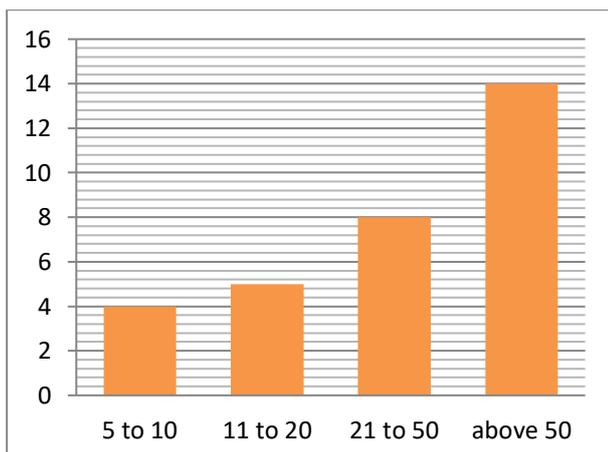On average, CSOs from this sample had 6-10 board members or directors.

Figure 17 Number of Board Members
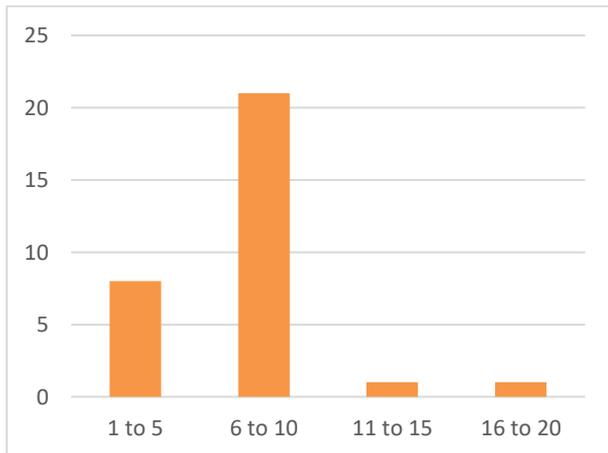
75% of CSOs have no paid staff.

All interviewed CSOs reported a membership base. 71% had more than 20 members.

Figure 18 Number of Members

Funding sources

Only 35% of CSOs receive some international funding. However the majority rely on a mixture of funding from different sources, and are not dependent on one source:

- Membership fees(65%),
- Income generated /earned (25%)
- Local donations from Myanmar citizens (70%)
- In-kind contributions (including volunteer time) (75%)
- Small grants from other CSOs (45%).

Because many of the CSOs are run by volunteers rather than paid staff, the salary costs are more modest, and the organisations have relative sustainability. But, counter to this, they are relying on goodwill, commitment and passion and without additional finance, activities are also more modest.

Some organizations who receiveexternal funding, say peer attitudes towards this type of funding is negative, viewing this as not just external funding but also external influence (and/or interference).

Summary of Strengths

Observations on significance of CSOs
- Good co-operation with each other
- Flexible to support each other
- Passionate about their sector and issues
- Right resource person on their concern issue
- Strong commitment and value for their Kayin State

CSOs are highly motivated, many working not for money, or, position but for commitment to their communities and State.

Volunteer management committees take responsibility and give strategic oversight and CSOs are generally not dependent on aid/grants.

Most CSO groups are led by Kayinethnic people who can speak both Kayinethnic language and Burmese language well, and so can represent their communities at a local and regional level.

Key Challenges and Issues

Key (external) challenges identified in interviews and focus groups include:

- armed conflicts, economic restraints, have been obstacles for more comprehensive development in Kayin
- CSO recognition and participation not possible without registration - particularly noticed in peace and federalism discussions
- Getting approval from Government (Ministry of Border Security rather than DSW in Kayin) can take time e.g. for individual workshops and forums and many are unclear on the process.
- Most of CSOs' Staff members are also not clear on documentation and case management for human rights violation, evidence base
- Culture and trust issues, mean that many Kayin ethnic CSOs do not want to collaborate or participate in activities outside of Kayin and focus in inwards.

Essential Skills for CSO development

CSOs recognise that there is a need increase not only their own technical expertise in thematic areas, but also institutional capacity in government counterparts

CSOs are keen to ensure capacity, and grow organisations that have knowledge and experience for example on:

- International Human Rights Conventions
- Myanmar Laws and policy reform processes
- More in depth knowledge on specific issuesand good practice such as land rights, federalism, peace,good governance
- More expertise in environmental protection (e.g. natural resource, climate change, ecosystem and ecology, biodiversity, global warming and recycling.

They have also identified the need for soft skills for their organization development e.g.

- communication (internal communications, feedback)
- documentation and analysis
- managing effective meetings
- influencing behaviours (in line with organisation culture, values and beliefs), and
- Leadership skills.

Figure 19 Identified Skills and Experience Needs
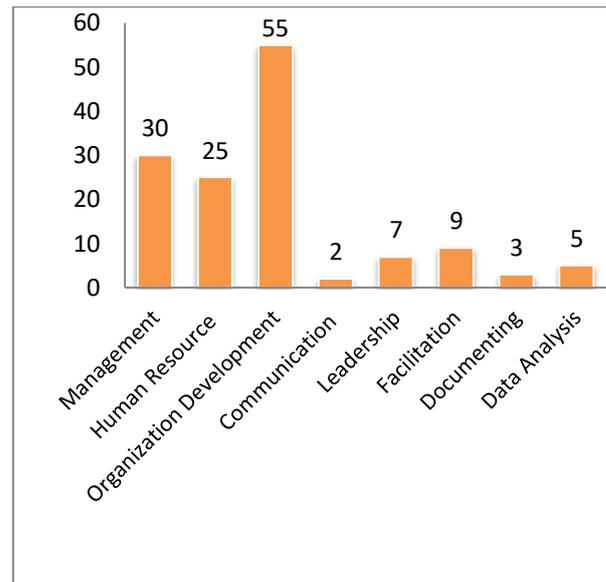
Mid-level management is still weak and a shortage of secondary leaders with management skills is a big challenge for their development and growth.

When thinking about the structures and the leadership styles of the organization, there is confusion between the roles.

Sometimes, the same people are involved in different organizations repeatedly and thus that might be reducing the efficiency of those organizations.

They need to encourage more active volunteer, member and where appropriate staff participation.

Human resource management skills have been obstacles for development e.g. HR processes and procedures (planning and recruitment of staff and volunteers) and soft skills e.g. in motivation, delegation and accountability.

Whilst use of office software e.g. word, is good (possibly because of youth learning centres training), IT network development skills e.g. connecting to printers etc., use of internet is a development area.

In term of mobilization, some CSOs recognise that they need to mobilize and encourage more collaboration and co-operation on common issues rather than acting alone as individual organisations. To achieve this there should be a more systematic and strategic thinking for their mobilizations. As most of them are not organized much professional manners.

Networking and Collaboration

CSO are generally good in cooperating (sharing, helping) each other, but, more could be done to strengthen collaboration and joint initiatives. Strengths (or weakness) in networking often comes down to individual personalities, communication skills, approach and trust.

Project oriented and CSOs are more active in networking. Women's participation in networks is and government meetings is lower than male participation, perhaps reflecting not in leadership positons, but also sometimes older generation culture values and norms.

The main networks (co-ordinated under Karen CSO Network) tend to be flexible in their functionality. They are able to work within and across different sectors, which gives greater cross-pollination of ideas. The risk though is that they cover too many tasks/issues at the same time.

Thandaung (New Town) and ThandaungGyi (Mountain City) CSOs are more interconnected than CSOs from other parts of Kayin State, partly due to the proximity to Taungoo and Yangon). They mostly connect through Sar Mu Htaw Organization that has opened a center in Taungoo and serves as a professional networking center across the Kayin CSOs working in Taungoo, Yangon and Thandaung.

Relationship with local government sectors

CSOs hope that with the change of government, they will see less blocking of their activities and more space for civil society to operate and participate in decision making. A few CSOs groups who are focusing on Federalism and Peace Issue, for example have very good relationship with current State Government and are recognized for community development.

There are some examples of good engagement with related service departments including EGG supporting access to passport application process for their students who want to go to foreign countries as scholars. With local departments recognizing passport agents and co-operating with them. And also some co-ordination with Immigration Department for registration cards for people from IDP camps and border areas.

However, there is also a frustration felt at perceived slow pace of change, and much CSO activity is still blocked. CSO want to participate in more decision making process for Kayin State Development and especially in peace and federalism, as well as economic development.

Development at Village Level

There is some evidence of CSO mobilizing in development at a village level. Some CBOs can make representations to village administration committees. Others are forming lighting committees to challenge service providers on unfair and high charges. The result is increasing capacity and knowledge, confidence and a willingness to participate for their community development. The examples, however, do no demonstrate holistic approach to village development - livelihood, social, education, but single issue.

Relationship with Political Parties

Many CSOs were actively engaged in the voter education and registration awareness in the run up to the National elections in 2015, as well as election monitoring.

In Kayin, a number of national and regional parties'candidates stood for election for both national and regional seats. IncludingUSDP, NUP,National League for Democracy (NLD), KPP, PhalonSawah Party, NDF, AMDP, MDP, Ph-oh Party.

During the election process, partisan politics and issues created some splits in community based organizations (mostly in village level), which has created some ongoing tensions in some areas after the election. Post-election, political parties are less active in the communities.

Relationship with International Organizations

According to the MIMU list, there are 390 organizations of International and national already entering in Kayin State doing project activities particular in humanitarian aids such as HIV/AIDS, health.

A number of local CSOs and leaders have had training by INGO's or working experiences with INGO's. With a range of technical skills developed. Furthermore, local CSOs expressed desire for more technical support e.g. for agriculture, livelihoods and forestry fields.

A number of INGO's have a good reputation amongst local CSOs, especially ones that have been operating here over 5 years in humanitarian activities and who understand the context of the area.

However, a high number of CSOs (85%) were concerned by some international organisations approach and perceived negative impact. The area this was most mentioned was in relation to peace and federalism. Whilst local CSOs try to engage in the peace process with military, local government and ethnic armed groups. It was felt that some International organization staff don't have enough experience to participate in peace dialogue, have insufficient knowledge of the local context and power and relationship dynamics between the military groups and ethnic armed group area. There was also a fear that some were wanting to implement their own agenda, rather than facilitate sensitive reconciliation. Local CSOs tend to only accept those organizations who support Kayin State Peace or Development Process and not for individual project developed and implemented without cooperating with them.

CSO role in Policy Making

CSOs role in policy making is not clear enough yet with no clear mechanisms for engagement and opportunities to listen to the people voice.

Some CSOs totally don't want to advocate to the government because of they don't want to appear to oppose or protest. Some lack confidence and rely on the religious leaders rather than the government.

Ethnic Armed Groups

According to the observation of Mon and Kayin ethnic people in conflict areas, they rely on Ethnic Armed Forces Group for security and representation rather than Military Government Body.

Recommendations

CSOs should not only focus on specific issue but also build their organization management capacity through organization development training programs or mentoring programs.

Karen CSOs would benefit from opportunities to go outside and observe the other organisations conditions and their technical skills by participating in fellowships programs, exchanges, international short training courses and visits.

While appreciating CSO leader'scommitment, they also need to consider developing their second line managerswho can lead their organization.

SomeCSOs need to develop funding plans and investigate options such as social enterprise if they want independence from international organizations, and diversify funding mix away from donationsand members fees. Support for capacity building and technical skill development is a much more important commodity than funding from INGO's.

In terms of peace, national reconciliation and dialogue on autonomy, CSOs are keen for more active and direct participation in discussions, to solve problems together with the new government. This relies on building trust at all levels of government and civil society.

Where other organizations are acting as third parties to support the peace process (including international and national organisations based outside of Kayin State). They must engage and cooperate with local CSO groups and try to understand the local context and not control with their own agenda.

Youth in political leadership and young entrepreneurship programs are essential for developing future leaders in both political and economic sector.

Inthe rural area, communities need technical skills and technical aids for their livelihood particularlyin agriculture and livestock.

Migration has increased a sense of lack of citizenship in the state, so career life skills training programs and social mobilization towards regional economic sector development are required to prevent migration.

To improve communication and engagement, it would be helpful if Kayin government organizedregular stakeholder meeting (include CSOs, CBOs, FBOs, Local NGOs and INGOs) in every township in to better understand which organizations are doing where, what and with whom. CSOs can help facilitate these, if local officials don't have the capacity

Local Resource Centre

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