ALL-INCLUSIVENESS IN STATE LEVEL DRAFTING BUDGET CYCLE BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND PLANNING AND FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

With the funding support of The Asia Foundation (TAF), Local Resource Centre (LRC) facilitated the state level of budget cycle in Magway Region, Tanintharyi Region, Shan State and Mon State.

LRC organized budget dialogues in each 4 States engaging Civil Society Organizations with Governmental officials/departments and members of parliament. Events were held by panel discussion method and after the panel discussion, all-inclusive budget cycle of Civil Society Organizations with responsible departments were being drew and able to confirm.

LRC is planning to cover all-inclusive budget cycles like the previous ones in Kachin State, Chin State, Ayeyarwaddy division, Mandalay region, and Sagaing region.

Additionally, it is known that LRC aims to carry those results from budget dialogues of 9 regions to national level and intend to form national level budget cycle.
On June 26 and 29, Association Registration Guide Book Launching ceremony were held in Mandalay and Yangon respectively.

In the ceremony, sharing session on background of association registration law by panel discussion included. All the panelists are people who involved in reforming the registration law process since from the beginning. Many civil society organizations actively participated and questions were discussed.

Wishing in the best to all our CSOs, INGOs, NGOs and UN agencies for the successful completion of activities for first half of 2019. During past six months of 2019, LRC had completed some projects and some have just started implementation and some are ongoing. In 2019, LRC finalized and introduced most of the valuable Policies and Manuals such as Financial Management Policy, Human Resource Management Policy and related Sexual Harassment including Child Protection, Grievance and Whistleblowing Policies which are vital for any organization. These policies and guidelines have been applied since 1st of April, 2019. These remarkable achievements of developing Manuals and Policies are to improve coordination with partner agencies and in the preparation for Audit and to have strong internal control system. On the other hand, LRC believes that staff should have a safe working environment and to be aware of their benefit.
Daw Sandar Myint who is a government employee provides voluntary services in Dawei Lawyer Group (DLG) which is a charity organization giving technical support and awareness training to the people of Dawei. Recently, DLG received small grant from EU funded Project-Rights for All (RFA) project and working on promoting the rights of children and women. Daw Sandar Myint has been actively participating in Dawei Lawyer Group for many years. The group helps people who are in need of technical support but not able to afford financially. Among many cases they are working on, there are several rape cases and violence against women. “We have made good connection with the jurisdiction and they inform us of the cases that need our support. That’s how we get information” said Daw Sandar Myint. Recently, there was an attempted rape case which had been solved. The victim is six years old girl and the perpetrator is her grandfather. Daw Sandar Myint had positively contribute toward handling this case.
“I SEE YOU” digital campaign

For the sake of behavior change; public participatory and accountability on throwing waste, Local Resource Centre made short documentary film and published it through social media. The aim is to reduce using plastic and the volume of garbage.

Campaign named “I SEE YOU” has released its short video through social media: Facebook on June 2019. Video making process has started on 15th May with makeup artist named Nyi Nyi Maung (San Chaung), the social influencer and continuously with actor Paing Zay Ye Tun in public crowded place, Shwe Dagon Pagoda. On 18th May, video making process continued with actress Aye Myat Thu and children at post-school near Kabar Aye road. During filming, staffs from LRC hand out bookmarks with the brand mark of “I SEE YOU” campaign to public.

There is nothing more frightful than ignorance in action.

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Advocacy and Spokesperson Training was opened

Under the project of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Advocacy and Spokesperson training had been carried out from 23rd April to 27th April 2019 at Hotel H Valley, Yangon. The training was conducted by Local Resource Centre (LRC) with technical support of PATH. Thirty-five trainees which are from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mother and Child Health, Non-government organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organization (CSOs) attended the training. Moreover, the training aims to advocate Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) related policy to respective ministry departments and also within public which intend to understand more about SRHR.

Advance Budget Transparency workshop held in Yangon and Mandalay

Advance Budget Transparency workshop was held in Mandalay on 29th May at Mandalay Hotel and at Green Hill hotel on 7th June. Not only CSOs from upper Myanmar (Mandalay) but also member of parliaments (MPs) also attended the workshop held in Mandalay. For the case of Lower Myanmar (Yangon), responsible persons of planning & budgeting committee, Parliament Chairman and member of parliaments (MPs) from Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State and Bago Region attended the workshop. Moreover, CSOs from Mon State, Tanintharyi Region, Kayah State, Bago Region participated.

The prior topic discussed on workshop was “Ways and conditions that CSOs can participate in planning & budgeting process”. Additionally, exchanging experience of challenges and threats which are facing by budget departments and representatives were also done by panel discussion method at workshop.
Formation of Civic Engagement Network

Five Civic Engagement Networks (CE networks) were formed in 5 different States across the country with the technical and financial support of Local Resource Center by Promoting, Equitable, Accountable, Civic Engagement projects (PEACE). Since January 6, 2019, formation of CE networks started from Tanintharyi Region. Then, followed with Kayin State, Mon State, Mandalay Region and Shan State. On 13th July, 2019, all 5 networks were established.

These are Civic Engagement and Independent Monitory Network Initiative (CEIMNI) in Tanintharyi region, Civic Engagement Network in Kayin, Civic Engagement Network for Mandalay and Magway (CENM2) in Mandalay & Magway regions and Shan State Civic Engagement Network (SSCEN) in Shan State. Among these networks, only CEIMNI of Tanintharyi region has done Strategic Planning development as the network level. Other networks have been done naming, developing mission, vision and objectives of network and LRC is planning to finish Strategic Planning development for the remaining network.

Myanmar Civil Society Core Group ASEAN (MCSCGA) and Local Resource Centre (LRC) signed MOU

On 31st May, 2019, Myanmar Civil Society Core Group ASEAN (MCSCGA) and Local Resource Centre (LRC) signed MOU agreed for creating information counter in every office branches.

The signing ceremony was about MOU for the sake of enabling Myanmar Civil Society Organizations to participate at the ASEAN People Forum which is going to be held at Bangkok, Thailand, LRC-HQ and each regional office will provide the require information cooperating and set of related facts with MCSCGA.

MCSCGA has a leading role in civil society engagement in ASEAN matters focusing on promoting engagement of Myanmar CSOs in dialogue in ASEAN among CSOs and with Governments on a broad range of common issues and enhancing cooperation, common interest and solidarity between Myanmar and ASEAN civil society and creating space, improving mechanisms and processes for meaningful civil society engagement with ASEAN Government institutions.
Project News

Rights for All - RFA

Right For All (RFA) project is implementing its activities in order to promote and protect human rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as empowering them to influence policy dialogue and to create a more inclusive and sustainable democratic society in Myanmar. During April, May and June, RFA project implemented its activities of training on awareness raising of land law for Change Agents - CA, regional meeting on exchanging challenges of among CAs and field trip visit for the purpose of capacity building. Moreover, giving paralegal training and coordination meeting with authorities were also carried out during these 3 months.

Promoting Equitable Accountable Civic Engagement Project - PEACE

Child rights, human rights, laws and policies, and related issues were being handled under Promoting Equitable, Accountable and Civic Engagement (PEACE) with area coverage of Yangon region, Mandalay and Magwe regions, Tanintharyi region, Mon State, Kayin State and Northern Shan State. During April, May and June, PEACE project gave budget transparency multiplier training to CSOs in order to enhance the role of CSOs in budgeting process. Many trainings were given during 3 months such as awareness training on Child rights, capacity building training and collecting survey on opinion of youth upon Youth policy. Regional coordination meeting of Tanintharyi region, Kayin State, Mon State and Northern Shan State were also implemented.

Lan Thit Si Tho Project

With the aim of enhancing Social and Economic Development through Civil Society and Local Authorities Engagement in Sittwe and Mrauk U regions, Lan Thit Si Tho project performed many activities during April, May and June such as charity donation to fill the gap of requiring medicine for Internally displaced people- IDPs and nutritional milk powder for infants and create English conversation class for the sake of improving speaking skill. Moreover, participating in discussion of way forward activities of World Environment Day and Myanmar Women Day events and networking and coordinating on environmental related issues were also done.