

# IMPROVING FISHERY GOVERNANCE SYSTEM



## ENGAGEMENT, COLLECTIVE ACTION AND FISHING RIGHTS



## Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund



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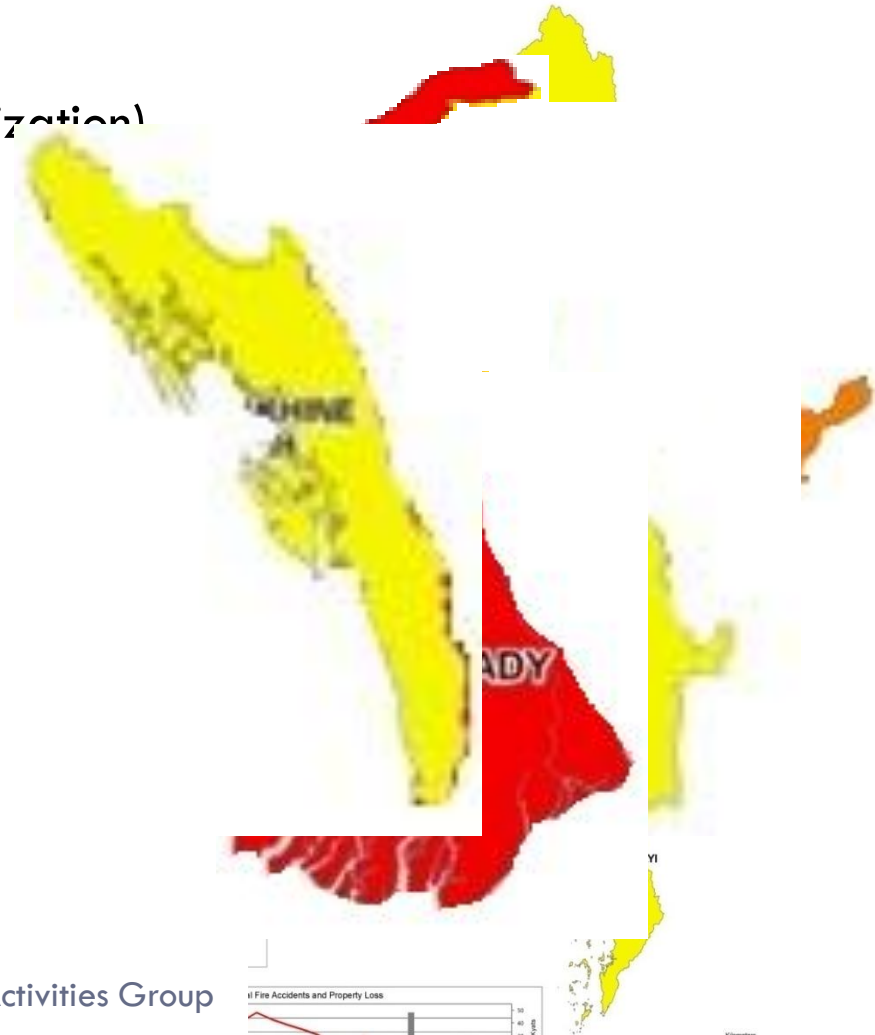
# Background

- Established in 2008 with the name of Nargis Action Group (NAG)
- Sister Organization of Myanmar Egress
- After Nagis Emergency Period, NAG registered as Local NGOs with the name of Network Activities Group (NAG) with the aim of focusing on shaping good governance in Myanmar



# Organizational Strength & Coverage

- Head Quarter – Yangon, Myanmar
- Number of Staff- 120 ( the whole organization)
- Regions/ Program –
  - Hilly region Program
    - Shan State
    - Kayin State
  - Dry Zone Program and
    - Magwe Region
    - Sagaing Region
  - Delta & Costal Program
    - Ayeyarwaddy Region
    - Rakhine State





# Overall Objective of Delta Program

- Improving governance in the fishery sector as an entry point for enhanced small-scale livelihood security and the capacity of non-state actors to engage in rights-based advocacy





# Objectives of the Project

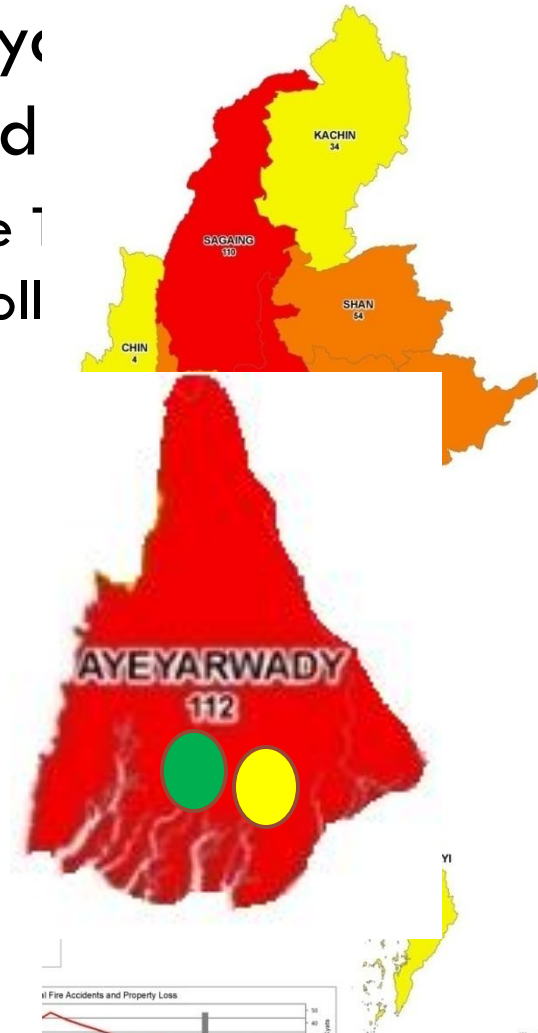
- **Purpose:** *Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations and fishing communities to engage more productively in the fisheries sector in southwest Myanmar.*
- **Output-1:** *Organizing Fishing Communities and Improve Access to Fishing Rights*
- **Output-2:** *Improving Market Access and Improving Livelihood*
- **Output-3:** *NAG as a Governance Centered Organization*





# Geographical Coverage

- IFGS project is implemented in Pyaw Oon and Daydaye Townships of Ayeyarwady Region
- 45 villages of Pyaw Oon and Daydaye Townships advocacy actions are conducted in collaboration with local CSOs in Ayeyarwaddy region.





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## Achievement of the project

- Trust building and good relationship between Government Department, stakeholders and well established advocacy platform for sustainable fisheries
- Institutional Chain Building of small scale fishers (FDA) is successfully facilitated and collective advocacy and actions of SSF are enhanced
- Ayeyarwaddy Regional Small Scale Fishery Network is established with the participation of small scale fishing communities
- Regional Fresh-water Fishery Law included SSF concerns in some extents
- Small scale aquaculture model; eel fattening is successfully introduced and recognized by DOF and other stakeholders
- Fishery co-management as sustainable fishery management practice is accepted by the regional governments, parliaments and the fishing communities
- Experience exchange mechanism between Ayeyarwaddy and Rakhine governments and parliaments is initiated
- Established networks with national and international partners for the fundamental rights of SSF; VG-SSF





# Strategic Approach to Fishery Governance

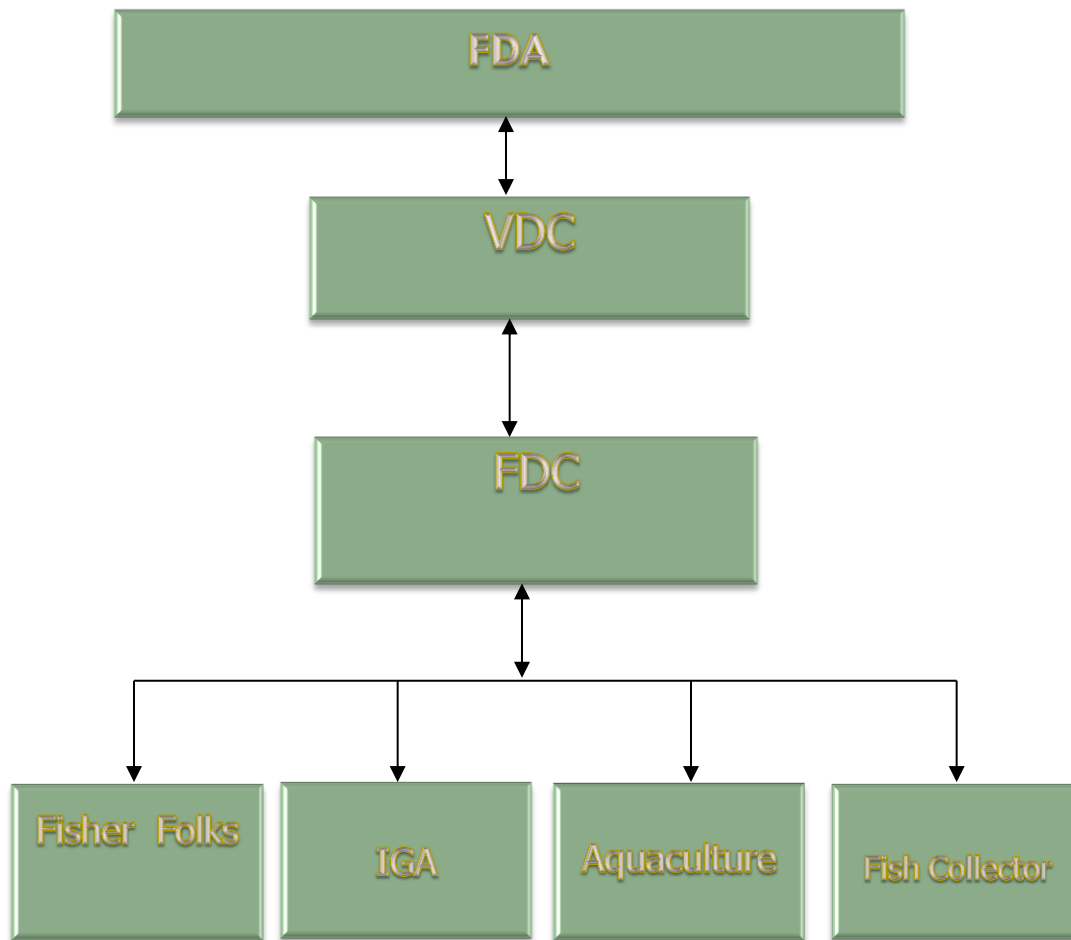
- Fishing Rights and Institutional Building of small scale fishers
- Market Chain and livelihood diversification of SSF
- Engagement and Policy Advocacy







# Structure and Linkages



# Fishing Rights and Institutional Building of small scale fishers

## Key actions

- Organize the SSF group in village level and try to improve access to fishing right

## Lesson Learnt

- fishing right is policy related issues and village level CBOs alone could not solve out
- Village level CBOs voices could not reach to the policy level at the region



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# Fishing Rights and Institutional Building of small scale fishers

## Key Actions

- Organizing of Fisher Development Association at township and District Level



## Lesson Learnt

- more recognition by other stakeholders including DOF and MFF
- More Access to fishing rights through collective actions
- But there are limitation in advocacy actions; policy makers see as the voice only represent to particular townships and district
- Constructing the institutional chain from village to district level have many challenges;
  - No- financial benefits for fisher leaders lead to declining the motivation
  - Weak communication mechanism lead to decline the motivation/ participation of fishing communities



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# Fishing Rights and Institutional Building of small scale fishers

## Key Action

- Secretariat Team is created for overcoming the mentioned organizational challenges
- Re-organized the organization structure; included the another layer between Township and village level : cluster level

## Lessons Learnt

- More efficient communication mechanism but representatives have more times for the series of meetings
- Difficult to get the full participation of fishers in high fishing season



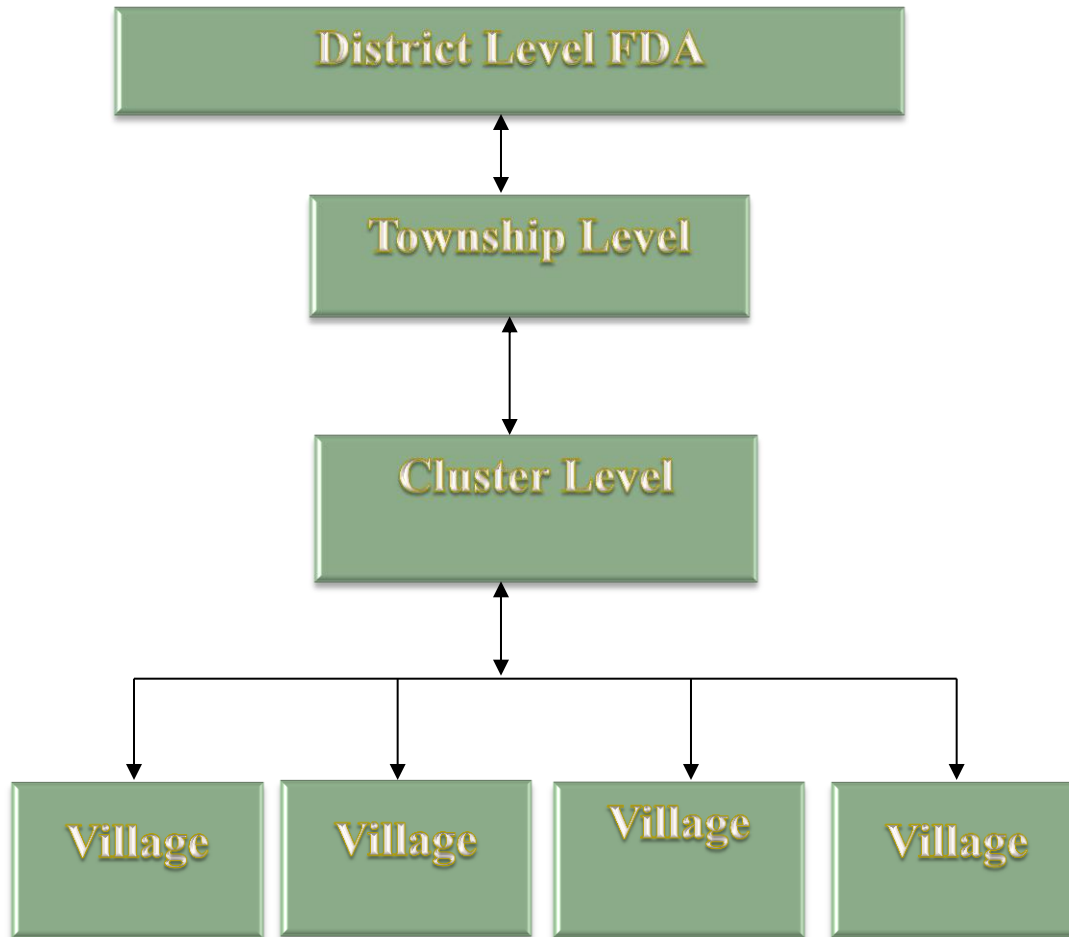
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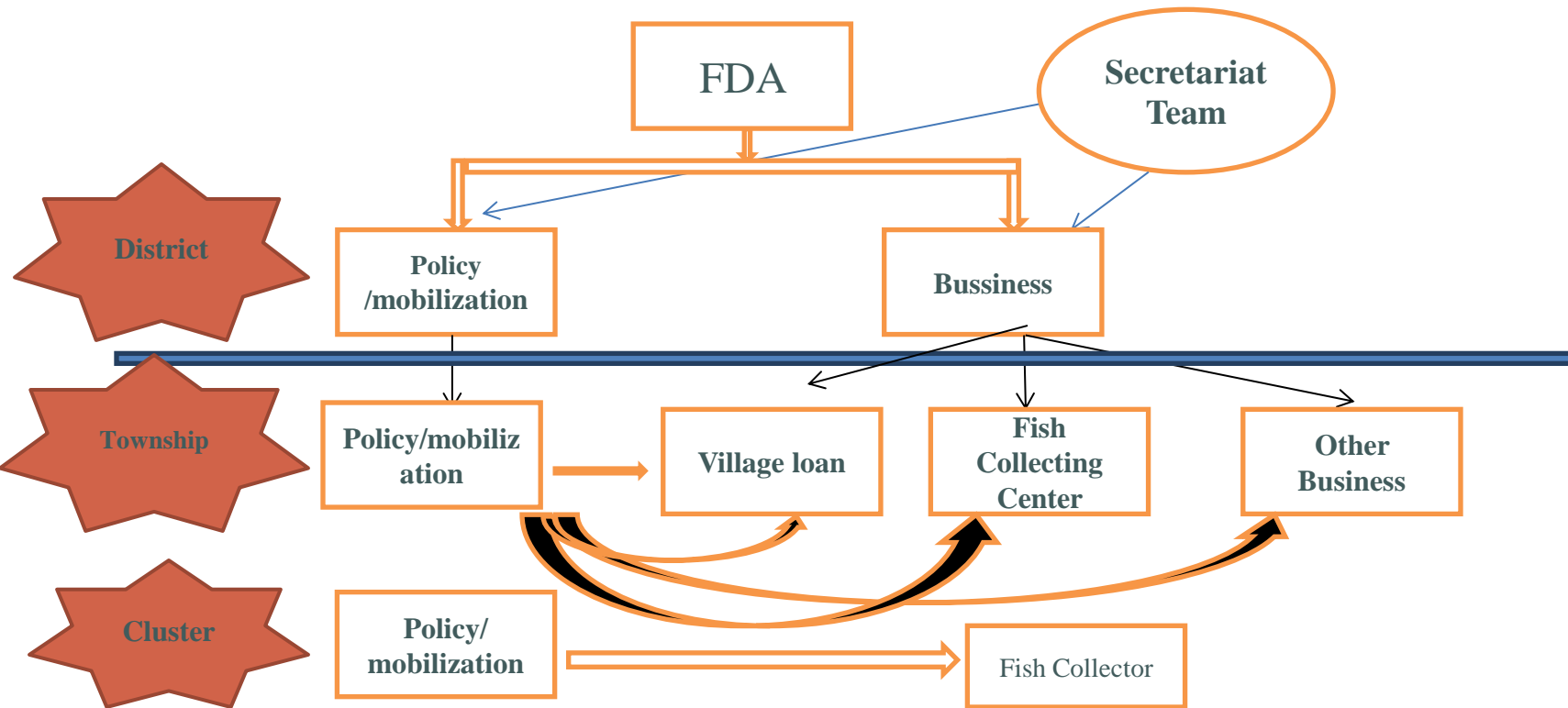
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# Structure and Linkages of FDA



# FDA New structure



# Fishing Rights and Institutional Building of small scale fishers

## Key Actions

- Facilitate for the establishment of Small Scale Fishery Network with the participation of CSOs from 20 Townships

## Key Lessons Learnt

- Policy makers recognize the existence of the networks and collective actions
- Different CSOs have different conditions in terms of capacity, organization style and ways of working; sometimes difficult to get the consensus



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<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Organization Capacity</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Ways of working</b>
1	Ma U Bin	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	Activism
2	Nyaung Tone	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
3	Pan Ta Naw	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
4	Danu Phyu	Formal / Strong CSO	Fishery	Stakeholders Engagement
5	Laputta	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
6	Pyin Sa Lu	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
7	NgaPu Taw	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
8	Higyí	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
9	Eain Mal	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
10	Myaung Mya	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
11	YaeKyi	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
12	Nga Thai Chaung	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
13	TharPaung	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
14	ZaLun	Registered labor organization	Fishery	Activism
15	KyonePyaw	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
16	Bogalay	Formal / Strong CSOs ( 2 org)	Rural development	Activism
17	Kyitelatt	Formal / Strong CSO	Rural development	Activism
18	Mawlamyaing Gyun	Formal / Strong CSO	Rural Development	Activism
19	Amar	Informal / weak capacity	Fishery	-
20	Daydaye	Formal / Strong CSO	Fishery	Stakeholders Engagement
21	Pyapon	Formal / Strong CSO	Fishery	Stakeholders Engagement



# Market Chain and livelihood diversification of SSF

## Key Actions

- Organize and support to Fish Collectors in village level in order to improve market chain
  - ▣ Weight
  - ▣ Size
  - ▣ Price

## Lessons Learnt

- limited strength of village FC can't change the market system; monopolized bonded market chain



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# Market Chain and livelihood diversification of SSF

## Key Actions

- Establishment of fish collection center
  - ▣ linking with Yangon main market and provide the better price
  - ▣ Sharing the up to date market information
  - ▣ Advocacy actions for fish collecting license; easy process/ access



## Lessons Learnt

- At the beginning, It seems to be the effective way of improving market chain and challenges to the existing market conditions
- Later, number of business organize and anti-movement to the collecting center strategically
  - ▣ Suggestion to regional government for licensing process of fish collection; it should have recommendations of tender owner
  - ▣ Try to make the competition with fish collecting center; it is very challenging for the sustainability of the collection center



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# Advocacy and Engagement

## Key Actions: Early stage

- To abolish the tender and improve the fishing rights for Small scale Fishing communities



## Lessons Learnt

- Limited understanding on power dynamics and historical background of fisheries resource management
- The important of fishery revenue for Ayeyarwaddy Regional Government
- Evidence based responses by regional government; problems in common pool resources
- Targeted only to the SSF lead to exclusion of medium and bigger fishers; Anti



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## Advocacy and Engagement

### Key Actions

- To balance the fishery revenue collection with the sustainable livelihood of SSF
- To pilot the fishery co-management with the purpose of sustainable fisheries balancing the economic, social and environmental aspects
- Initiating the experience exchange mechanism between Ayeyarwaddy and Rakhine



### Lessons Learnt

- Advocacy actions could be more effective by targeting to both executive and legislature
- Inclusion of all the stakeholders could be supportive for achieving the advocacy actions
- Bring the regional (Asia region) actors can accelerate the advocacy actions
- Motivate the governments and parliaments to create the better policies and management systems



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## External Influencing Factors

Factors	Supporting Factors	Challenges
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Democratization and Decentralization</li> <li>- Government efforts to stop the sanctions ; right to associate, freedoms of voice, etc.</li> <li>- Political wiliness, public opinion and election</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unclear power sharing between Central and Regional</li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open Market Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open Market but in monopoly</li> <li>- Resource privatization</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fishing communities start believe in collectiveness</li> <li>- Civil society organizations are established in different regions of Myanmar</li> <li>- Engagement is initiated between fishing communities, government and private sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trust building among different parties (fishing communities, Government and private sector) is the long term process</li> <li>- Conflicts of interest among fishing communities, Government and private sector</li> <li>- Capacity and attitudes of the fishing communities in shaping fishery governance</li> </ul>



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## External Influencing Factors

Factors	Supporting Factors	Challenges
Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fishery Co-management/ Cfi / EAFM are accepted as effective method for managing fisheries resources by governments around the regions ( ASEAN)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited understanding on Cfi technical by DOF</li> </ul>
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Constitutional given authorities of states and regions for Inland Fisheries</li> <li>- Right to associate</li> <li>- Media Freedom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unclear conditions for inshore fisheries; revenue is given to states/ regions but no statement for management</li> <li>- Private sector influence on policy making process</li> <li>- Poor in Law Enforcement and high corruption</li> </ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental conservation is considered as one component in poverty alleviation strategies in Myanmar</li> <li>- Evidences on deforestation and resource depletion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is no coordinated/ integrated mechanism for fisheries, lands and forests</li> </ul>

# Future Plan and Scaling Up

- Advocacy to National and Regional Fishery Laws to be in line with VG- SSF
- Drafting the SSF Protection Law (National Level)
- Piloting the Fishery Co-management System in Myanmar (Together with DOF)
- Advocating for Developing Fishery co-management Legal Framework
- Joint Project with Regional Government/ DOF focus on Fishery co-management; targeting to 5 Districts of Ayeyarwaddy Region



Network Activities Group



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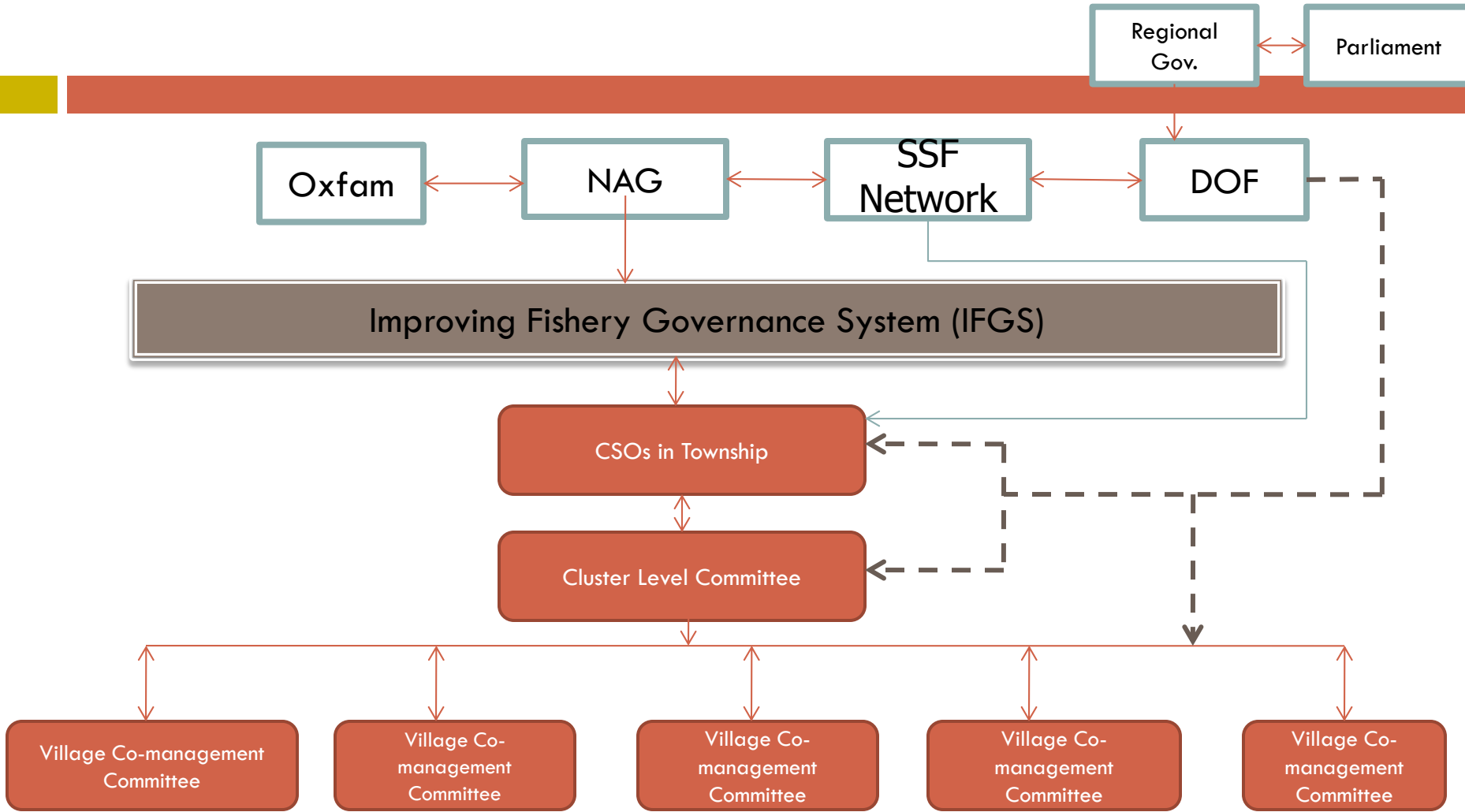
## Joint project with Regional Government/DOF

- Community Based Fishery Resource Management ( Start with co-management)
- Income Generating Activities
- Strengthening the Small Scale Fishery Networks and its associations
- Protection for the Small Scale Fishery communities
- Strengthening the capacity of fishery Department in Ayeyarwaddy Region
  - Exchange with Cambodia Fishery Administration (FiA)





# Project Model



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# Project Model

Regional Office ( DOF & NAG )

Maubin District

Pyapon District

Laputta District

Pathein District

Hinthada District

Township DOF & NAG

CSOs in Township

Cluster Level Committee

Village Co-management Committee

Village Co-management Committee

Village Co-management Committee

Village Co-management Committee

Village Co-management Committee



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THANK YOU