BACKGROUND

The programme presents new and sustainable approaches for livelihoods, food security and financial inclusion. LIFT has been active in 14 out of 17 townships in Rakhine State.

- In 2013, LIFT started to provide substantial financial support for livelihoods and food security in Rakhine through the 1st phase of the Tat Lan Programme with a total budget of over USD 22 million.
- From 2016 to 2018, LIFT is funding the 2nd phase of the Tat Lan Programme. The total budget for Tat Lan will exceed USD 37 million.
- In 2016, LIFT expanded its geographic focus with projects in Rathedaung, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, and Sittwe.
- Across Rakhine, LIFT finances projects that provide innovative financial services to the rural communities for an overall budget of USD 10 million.
- New financial support is provided to build vocational skills to address the high unemployment and low labour force participation rate in Rakhine.
Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund

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KEY INTERVENTION AREAS

Financial Inclusion
LIFT has determined in its financial inclusion strategy to increase access to financial services among rural communities in Rakhine State. Microfinance services are on high demand especially during the period when sources of income are not stable. Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) and Wan Lark, funded by LIFT have been providing financial services to 489 villages of seven townships such as Gwa, Thandwe, Toungup, Kyaukpyu, Ann, Sittwe and Pauktaw. They are providing various financial services - agricultural loan, small business loan, social loan, savings, financial literacy and beneficiary welfare fund. PGMF has planned to expand its microfinance services in another three townships - Minbya, Myebon and Ramree in 2017. LIFT has allocated USD 13 million for financial inclusion in Rakhine State by end of 2018. In addition to these formal services, most of the LIFT projects also introduce village loans and saving associations (VSLAs) across their target villages and provide financial literacy training. Women in particular are the primary beneficiaries of this intervention.

Agriculture, Fishery, and Livestock
LIFT allocates substantial support to increasing the benefits of the primary source of livelihood of most Rakhine people. LIFT projects build embankments to protect paddy land from salt water intrusion and introduce new farming techniques, alternative cash-crops and livestock breeding skills. A key focus of LIFT’s fishery support is the adoption and demonstration of the new fishery co-management regime. LIFT’s new project in Rathedaung will introduce community forestry for sustainable use and management of natural resources. Eventually, LIFT is to support basic income generation and market skills for Rakhine villagers. The total financial contribution to this sector is over USD 9 million from 2016 to 2018.

Nutrition
After Chin State, Rakhine State has the highest percentage of severely to moderately stunted (smaller than average) children under five. Hence, LIFT provides substantial funding for nutrition programming. Key nutrition messages are delivered at community-level and particularly through Mother-to-Mother Support Groups (MtMSGs). Pregnant women and mothers with infants receive a monthly cash transfer of MMK 13,000 for a more nutritious diet during the critical first 1,000 days. LIFT’s total contribution from 2016 to 2018 to this sector is almost USD 6 million. This contribution should decrease stunting rates from 39 per cent to 33 per cent in LIFT’s targeted households for children under 5 years.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Rakhine communities have limited access to water, both in terms of quality and quantity, due to salt water intrusion or contamination. The latter is particularly aggravated by open-air defecation leading to widespread water-borne diseases. From 2016-2018, LIFT provides USD 4.5 million to build knowledge on hygiene practices and to improve access to water and sanitation facilities including drinking-water pond rehabilitation and latrine constructions.

Governance
All LIFT-supported projects are focused on enabling and encouraging constructive exchange between village, township, and state level administration. Most LIFT funding is delivered through village development committees, in close coordination with respective Departments such as the General Administration Department (GAD), Department of Rural Development (DRD), Department of Agriculture (DoA), Department of Irrigation (DoI), Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD), Department of Fishery (DoF), Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD), Department of Health (DoH), Forest Department, Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) and Department of Planning. Key support is directed to technical capacity building, as well as training in leadership, socially accountable governance, and responsible private sector practices.

Vocational Skills Training
Rakhine has the highest unemployment rate in Myanmar. Slightly over 10% of the state population is unemployed. Rakhine has also the lowest labour force participation rate. Only 59 percent of the population aged 15 years and older is economically active (Myanmar Census Report, 2015). The national rate is 67 percent. To address this, LIFT supports vocational skills training to provide youth with opportunities for new non-farm based livelihoods and economic development. The selection of vocational training programmes is driven by market needs and the preferences and aspirations of youth. Trainings are delivered through mobile teams or through vocational training centres.

Disaster Risk Management and Resilience
Natural disasters frequently and severely affect Rakhine communities. LIFT supports the disaster preparedness of communities through substantial investment in embankments to manage salt water intrusion on paddy land, increased and more secure access to drinking water through improved water ponds or rain water harvesting systems, and new climate smart agriculture such as more resilient rice seed varieties. LIFT projects also support community Disaster Risk Management planning.

LIFT support in general increases the resilience of Rakhine communities by increasingly focusing on more diversification into non-farm based livelihoods. Many non-farm based livelihoods are not affected by natural disasters and continue to provide livelihood support in times of crisis. Equally important is LIFT’s large financial inclusion programming which provides access to affordable financial services when most needed.

LIFT Partners in Rakhine State

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ရခိုင္ျပည္နယ္ အသက္ေမြးဝမ္းေက်ာင္းမႈႏွင့္ စားနပ္ရိကၡာဖူလံုေရး ရန္ပံုေငြ (LIFT) စီမံကိန္း ၂ဝ၁၃ - ၂ဝ၁၈

ေနာက္ခံသမိုင္းေၾကာင္း

စီမံကိန္းသည္ ေငြေၾကးဆုိင္ရာတြင္ အားလံုးပါဝင္ေစမႈ၊ စားနပ္ရိကၡာ ဖူလံုေရးႏွင့္ အသက္ေမြးမႈု လုပ္ငန္းမ်ား အတြက္ ေရရွည္တည္တံ့ံမည့္ နည္းလမ္းသစ္မ်ားကို ေဖာ္ေဆာင္လ်က္ရွိပါသည္။ LIFTသည္ ရခုိင္ျပည္နယ္ရွိ ျမိဳ႕နယ္ေပါင္း (၁၇) ၿမိဳ႕နယ္အနက္ (၁၄)ၿမိဳ႕နယ္တြင္ စီမံကိန္း လုပ္ငန္းမ်ား ေဆာင္ရြက္လ်က္ရွိပါသည္။

• LIFT အေနျဖင့္ ၂ဝ၁၃ ခုႏွစ္တြင္ ရခိုင္ၿပည္နယ္အတြင္း အသက္ေမြးဝမ္းေက်ာင္းမႈ႔ စားနပ္ရိကၡာ ဖူလံုေရးအတြက္ တက္လမ္းစီမံကိန္းအဆင့္ (၁) မွတဆင့္ စုစုေပါင္း အေမရိကန္ေဒၚလာ ၂၂ သန္းေက်ာ္ျဖင့္ စတင္ ေထာက္ပံ့ခဲ့ပါသည္။

• ၂ဝ၁၆ မွ ၂ဝ၁၈အထိ တက္လမ္း စီမံကိန္း အဆင့္ (၂) အတြက္ ရန္ပံုေငြ အေမရိကန္ေဒၚလာ ၃၇ သန္းေက်ာ္ျဖင့္ ဆက္လက္ ေထာက္ပံ့လ်က္ရွိပါသည္။

• ၂ဝ၁၆ ခုႏွစ္တြင္ LIFT သည္ ရေသ့ေတာင္၊ ေက်ာက္ေတာ္၊ ေျမာက္ဦးႏွင့္ စစ္ေတြတို႔တြင္ စီမံကိန္း အသစ္မ်ား စတင္ျခင္းႏွင့္ တိုးခ်ဲ႕ခဲ့ပါသည္။

• ရခုိင္ျပည္နယ္တဝန္းရွိ ေက်းလက္ေနျပည္သူမ်ားအတြက္ ေငြေၾကးဝန္ေဆာင္မႈ စီမံကိန္းျဖင့္ အေမရိကန္ေဒၚလာ ၁ဝ သန္းခန္႔ ေထာက္ပံ့ေပးရန္ လ်ာထားၿပီး နည္းစနစ္သစ္မ်ားျဖင့္ ေငြေၾကး ဝန္ေဆာင္မႈလုပ္ငန္းမ်ားကို ေဆာင္ရြက္ေပးသြားမည္ ျဖစ္ပါသည္။

• အလုပ္လက္မဲ႔ႏႈန္းျမင့္မားျခင္းႏွင့္ ရခုိင္ျပည္နယ္အတြင္း ကၽြမ္းက်င္လုပ္သားအင္အား နည္းပါးလာျခင္းတုိ႔ကို ေျဖရွင္းနုိင္ေစမည့္ သက္ေမြးမႈသင္တန္း ပိန႔ခ်ျခင္းအတြက္လည္း ရန္ပံုေငြေထာက္ပံ့ထားပါသည္။
အသက္ေမြးဝမ္းေက်ာင္းမႈႏွင္႔ စားနပ္ရိကၡာဖူလံုေရး ရန္ပံုေငြ

[RAW TEXT]

ဖြင့္သူျဖင့္ျပည္ျပူးသူျဖင့္ LIFT ကိန္းေရးမႈ စီမံခန္႔ခြဲေရးရံုး၊ UNOPS ၏ နိုင်ငံ၀ေရီးယား အေဒါင်းတို့ လုပ္ငန္းကို အေျခခံျခင္း မရွိေသာ စီမံခ်က္မ်ားတြင္လည္း အေထာက္အပံ့ေပးခဲ့ပါသည္။ အေျမာက္အမ်ားကို ရင္းႏွီးျမႇဳပ္ႏွံခဲ့ပါသည္။ ထို႔အျပင္ LIFT စီမံခ်က္မ်ားသည္ သိုေလွာင္ျခင္းႏွင့္ ခံနိုင္ရည္ရွိေသာ စပါးမ်ိဳးမ်ား အသံုးျပဳျခင္းကဲ႔သို႔ ရာသီဥတုႏွင္႔ အႏၱရာယ္ ဆိုင္ရာ ၾကိဳတင္ျပင္ဆင္ေရး လုပ္ငန္းမ်ား ျဖစ္ေသာ စပါးခင္းမ်ား၌ ၾကိဳက္ရာသို႔ ကူးစက္တတ္္ေသာ ေရာဂါမ်ားကို ဆိုးရြားစြာ ျပန္႔ပြားေစႏိုင္ပါသည္။