



Photo: Yin Yin Htay

# Most Significant Change (MSC) Evaluation of Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Most Significant Change was conducted from March 9<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup> with Aung Kan Tar village in Thaton Township and Mi Lauk village in Kawa township for the 6<sup>th</sup> time, and for the first time with Kyauk Seik village in Kyaikhto township. All participants were associated with the Village Development Committees (VDCs). Participants from each village selected 3-4 domains that they wanted us to evaluate through our interviews. Additionally, the teams asked about **Well-Being** as well as desired **Changes** to the project and any perceived **Problems** in the three villages.

Though diverse opinions were shared in the stories some of the following stories of highlights and points of concern stood out related to the following positive impacts. Most significant change to people in Mon State and Bago Region included:

- They became aware of the realization that conservation to be successful must include all stakeholders including government ministries.
- Empowerment comes through training including:
  - Improved skills and overcoming fears related to communication
  - Embracing sustainable practices and ice techniques to preserve fish, and stop illegal ways such as electric fishing and stop catching undersized fish.
  - Understanding the importance of rare species – dolphin, birds, turtles.
  - Supporting mangrove plantations,
  - Knowledge concerning natural disasters and mangrove forests,
  - Project funding and its usefulness
  - Community development initiatives
  - Health and knowledge improvement
- Not only learn but also now share with others
- Support and sustain livelihood – net repair, loans improved health, enhanced safety and infrastructure enhancement.
- Active participation and living standards and transportation enhanced.
- Financial management knowledge for business and family and support for family business.
- Better and safer travel with new roads

Challenges that were stated included:

- Halting illegal fishing and witnessing its resurgence.
- Decline in fishing.
- Challenges in loan repayment.
- Insufficient land for farming.
- Fewer workers and boat captains for fishing.

Reasons for choosing most significant changes included:

- Higher fish yield.
- Employment opportunities available.
- Deeper understanding of ecosystem functions and disaster resilience.
- Loans utilized for fishing nets, family well-being, community property, travel.
- Result of community working together and conservation needing team work to be successful.
- Importance of financial management and families working together.
- Projects having profound impact on entire community.
- Better health – clean water, personal hygiene, health awareness.
- Infrastructure and better management of water, waste – improved living conditions.

Key problems, impacts or changes needed to be addressed:

- Conflict over illegal fishing, land conversion, water supply challenges, road safety, health care accessibility, depleting fish resources, fish decline impacting loan repayment.
- Timing of meetings and further enhanced training.
- Waste management (incineration) and generator repair.
- Relate to political and COVID issues and hardships.
- Overcome fears and speaking out.
- Challenges in halting and controlling illegal fishing, declining fishing, loan insufficiency, land constraints.

Important Changes Needed:

- Optimize timing for meetings and training and enhance training effectiveness (more practical activities and visual aids), waste incineration and management training,
- Sustain fish resources through patrols, generator repair service, adjust loan repairs due to fish decline.
- Enhancement of Disaster preparedness, community engagement, vocational education opportunities.
- Revitalize resource conservation and ensure transparent monitoring and effective resource utilization even with present political difficulties.

Overall, even with the many successes and the increased awareness in communities shown by the MSC technique, the GoMP needs to maintain recognition concerning the point brought up in the midterm review from April of 2020: “The delivery of outputs is not a guarantee of outcomes and the desired impacts. There also needs to be cultural and subliminal transfer away from promoting the idea of ‘the project’ towards invisibility and local ownership, otherwise there is a risk that the much of the good work will struggle to continue after the project is completed.”

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Myanmar Coastal Conservation Lab (MCCL) of PointB has been utilizing the Most Significant Change (MSC) method to evaluate how individuals in the coastal communities of the GoMP see the importance of change in relation to the GoMP within their own communities in relation to their own perspective. This work has been conducted 6 times in two villages: Mi Lauk in Bago Region, and Aung Kan Thar in Mon State and now for the 1st time in Kyauk Seik village, a new participating village in Mon State.

Key findings from past MSCs relate to positive impacts on livelihoods and Community development, individual mindsets and confidence, cooperation and collaboration, and awareness of health and sanitation, Challenges and situational changes include the Coup and political unrest in Myanmar, COVID 19, and Migration of participants due to lack of employment possibilities within Myanmar. The resulting economic situation within Myanmar and the Gulf of Mottama have caused revolving fund issues and economic stress which also impacts social interactions within the communities. In addition, the insecure situation and insufficient funds cause negative impact to fish conservation activities (for example patrolling for illegal fishing) especially mentioned by the Aung Kan Thar village.

Most Significant Change (MSC) was selected as a qualitative approach for better understanding of the Gulf of Motama Project (GoMP) impacts recognized and most appreciated by the beneficiaries of the GoMP. The technique was designed to allow greater ease for everyone connected with the GoMP project to tell stories about what is important to them. This encourages both analysis and data collection because people explain why they choose the change they highlighted as the most important. This MSC has been conducted based on previous uses by IUCN in other projects. MSC is a participatory monitoring and evaluation technique, based on the idea or perception shared by the people of the target population in relation to their experience of what had happened in relation to project activities and what most significantly related to their life or their community. This MSC involved the collection and selection of stories of change, shared by the project stakeholders themselves.

In conducting the MSC, the MCCL team first asked each village to identify the domains that were important for them. After discussing the chosen domains each village also discussed Well-being, Problems, and Change Needed in relation to the MSC. Domains most chosen by the villages included Natural Resource Conservation, Livelihoods, Income and Financial Management, and Participation. Well-being, Problems, and Change needed were identified by GoMP as compulsory for all villages. Participants chose the domains most significant to their village first. After these participants were chosen to comment based on their commitment to continue participating in MSC in future data gathering sessions. The team encouraged the commitment of the participants to participate in the MSC to include 50% Female and 50% Male. After the selection of the participants the MCCL used focus group discussions and in-depth interviews to gather perspectives and information from the participants.

The information gathered was then organized according to the domain and documented within Excel spreadsheets. The information gathered then was organized and themed. Names of the participants were coded and names were not reported to the GoMP staff to ensure no bias in reading, understanding, and verifying the data.



The Gulf of Mottama Project supports the preservation of one of the world’s most extensive and important intertidal ecosystems and MSC data is an effective way to interact with the people who live and work along the Gulf of Mottama so that they can contribute to it’s preservation. MSC data collection was accomplished from March to April 2023 and it is expected that the MSC will enhance insights and perspectives toward a successful completion of phase 3 and “Sustain habits and behaviors toward sustaining the complex ecosystems and fisheries of the Gulf of Mottama to reach the overall goal of coastal communities in the GoMP to adopt the wise use of natural resources, especially fisheries, resulting in ecosystem resilience and improved livelihood security for all, including the most vulnerable women and men, in the face of climate change”.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

MSC involves the collection and selection of stories of change, developed by programs or project stakeholders. It is a participatory technique which engages stakeholders in a process of discussing, analyzing and recording change. “MSC is especially useful in projects and programs that are highly participatory and where it is difficult to clearly identify desired changes beforehand. It is especially useful when outcomes vary significantly across beneficiaries differing in terms of their relationship, expectations, or interaction with the context or environment. MSC especially gives good insight into what is truly meaningful with the different target groups and what may impact their behavior within their context. It is an effective and creative way of going beyond the more linear log frame approach”. (Adapted from intrac.org). In the GoMP, it is especially relevant to connect environmental achievements with community expectations of what is important for their lives and livelihoods.

This work has been conducted 6 times in two villages: Mi Lauk village, Thanatpin Township in Bago Region, and Aung Kan Thar village, Thaton Township in Mon State and now for the 1st time in Kyauk Seik, a new participating village in Mon State.

The respondents were selected based on feedback from GoMP staff, particularly the Township Cluster Coordinators (TCCs). Starting from 2020, MSC evaluations have been conducted every 12 months, followed by a Review Session with the relevant team of GoMP Community Facilitators and Monitors (CFMs) and Township Cluster Coordinators. Starting from 2023, we reselected the domains and participants in three villages in response to GoMP suggestions.

This report includes MSC stories from the 6<sup>th</sup> visit (see summary of visits below) for Mi Lauk, and Aung Kar Tar and first visit Kyauk Seik. Review sessions for Visit 6 (Mi Lauk and Aung Kan Thar), and Visit 1 (Kyauk Seik) are attached as excel files.

Table 1. Villages, Number and Date of Visit, and Participants Interviewed for MSC

<b><i>Village</i></b>	<b><i>Township</i></b>	<b><i>Visit #</i></b>	<b><i># Participants (Female)</i></b>	<b><i># Participants (Male)</i></b>	<b><i>Date Conducted</i></b>
Aung Kan Thar	Thaton	Visit 6	5	5	09-10 March 2023
Mi Lauk	Kawa	Visit 6	7	5	21-22 March 2023
Kyauk Seik	Kyaikhto	Visit 1	6	4	02 April 2023

Participants were all associated with the Village Development Committees (VDCs), as this was the main entity with which GoMP can coordinate activities including our visits. This means that our evaluations are not completely representative of the whole community, e.g., those who might be

marginalized to begin with or those who are not the member of VDC. We aimed for equal numbers of male and female respondents, though this was not perfectly achieved.

Starting Visit 6 in Aung Kan Thar and Mi Lauk, and visit 1 in Kyauk Seik, the interview team began doing community engagement meetings to reselect domains and respondents. Fortunately, in 2023, the interview team could conduct the interview in person in the field. During the visit, participants from each village selected 3-4 domains that they wanted us to evaluate through our interviews. Additionally, we asked about **Well-Being** as well as desired **Changes** to the project and any perceived **Problems** in three villages.

**Aung Kan Thar:**

- Domain 1: Natural Resource Conservation
- Domain 2: Natural Disaster Preparedness
- Domain 3: Income and Financial Management
- Domain 4: Participation

**Mi Lauk:**

- Domain 1: Natural Resource Conservation
- Domain 2: Skills and Trainings + Livelihood
- Domain 3: Income and Financial Management

**Kyauk Seik:**

- Domain 1: Natural Resource Conservation
- Domain 2: Livelihood
- Domain 3: Income and Financial Management
- Domain 4: Participation

### 3. Highlights

Though there were diverse opinions shared in these stories, we would like to highlight the following reflections of positive impacts, as well as some points of concern (potential negative impact) that require further investigation.

Table 2. Significant changes as determined by the participants in three villages.

	<b>Aung Kan Thar</b>	<b>Mi Lauk</b>	<b>Kyauk Seik</b>
<i>Most significant changes found in stories with positive impacts</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Embracing Sustainable Practices and ice techniques to preserve fish.</li> <li>2. Mangrove plantation.</li> <li>3. Gained knowledge about natural disasters, focusing on mangroves.</li> <li>4. Project Funding</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completely stopped using electric fishing.</li> <li>2. Understanding the importance of rare species the village now collaborates to rescue them such as birds, turtles and dolphins.</li> <li>3. Understands and works to prevent the capturing of undersized</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Empowerment through Training.</li> <li>2. Supporting Livelihood through net Repair.</li> <li>3. Loan Utilization.</li> <li>4. Sustaining Livelihoods.</li> <li>5. Empowering Transformation through Collaboration and Community Engagement.</li> </ol>

<p>5. Community Development Initiatives".</p> <p>6. Active participation and Living standards and transportation enhanced.</p>	<p>fish especially with illegal nets.</p> <p>4. Not only have gained knowledge of natural resource conservation and its importance but shares this knowledge enthusiastically with others who do not know.</p> <p>5. Willing and enthusiastically coordinates and collaborates with other conservation groups and the Department of Fishery toward.</p> <p>6. Community has developed the culture and courage of speaking out freely in meetings toward collaborating as a community in relation to health, village administration and conservation of natural resources.</p> <p>7. Learned and practice tracking finances as a family.</p> <p>8. Use project loan to support family business initiative.</p> <p>9. Travel has been made safe by road construction.</p>	<p>6. Improved Health and Hygiene.</p> <p>7. Enhanced Infrastructure and Safety.</p> <p>8. Communication Growth through Collaboration.</p> <p>9. Infrastructure Benefits.</p> <p>10. Positive Lifestyle Changes.</p> <p>11. Health and Knowledge Improvement.</p>
<p><i>Reasons for choosing most significant changes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A slightly higher fish yield combined with a commitment to sustainable practices demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental stewardship.</li> <li>- Shows increased understanding and coordination and collaboration by a whole village.</li> <li>- Shows collaboration by the entire village and importance of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acquired knowledge enabled personal plantation endeavors, supporting livelihood.</li> <li>- Project-supported fishing net repair sustains income.</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Get employment opportunities and earned income through mangrove plantation initiatives.</li> <li>- A deeper understanding of ecosystem functions and disaster resilience.</li> <li>- Utilizing the project loan for fishing nets and direct sales improved income, family well-being, and community prosperity.</li> <li>- Living standards and transportation enhanced and 70% participation in development activities, 30% support financially.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>conserving key species.</li> <li>- Shows understanding of conservation principles for fisheries.</li> <li>- Shows the result of working together / village collaboration for conservation of natural resources.</li> <li>- Shows the realization that conservation to be successful must include all stakeholders including government ministries.</li> <li>- True collaboration means to be able to speak freely between all levels of people.</li> <li>- Importance of financial management at the family level not just community.</li> <li>- Shows the successful application at family level of project activity.</li> <li>- Project activity has profound impact on entire community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loans aid in fishing net repair and dried fish paste trading.</li> <li>- Loans contribute to maintaining livelihoods and social well-being.</li> <li>- Access to courses uplifts education, empowering financial awareness and skill-sharing. Improved communication through collaboration boosts personal growth and encourages participation.</li> <li>- Access to clean water, personal hygiene practices, and health awareness have elevated family well-being.</li> <li>- Better roads ensure safe travel, fostering education and health access.</li> <li>- Overcoming fears, communication skills improved, fostering engagement and encouragement.</li> <li>- Better roads, water supply, waste management, and convenient transportation improve living conditions.</li> <li>- Broadened knowledge and improved infrastructure lead to wiser, more confident individuals</li> <li>- Clean water and improved roads foster health, education, and awareness.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Most significant changes found in stories with</i></p>	<p>1. Political and COVID-19 circumstances</p>	<p>1. Challenges in Halting Illegal Fishing and Fish Resource Conservation. 2. Resurgence of Illegal Fishing.</p>

<i>negative impacts</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Limited Impact of Loan.</li> <li>4. Land Constraint for Home Gardens.</li> <li>5. Decline in Fishing</li> <li>6. Challenges in Loan Repayment.</li> </ul>
<i>Reasons for choosing most significant changes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Because the limited patrolling highlights the challenges imposed by external factors, potentially impacting conservation efforts.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Illegal fishing resurgence, enforcement cessation, and external constraints resulted in depletion of fish resources, urging for renewed conservation efforts.</li> <li>- Neighboring villages resumed illegal methods, harming fish resources.</li> <li>- Loan usage provided some security but lacked significant overall change.</li> <li>- Insufficient land hindered establishment of a long-term garden system.</li> <li>- Fewer workers and boat captains, coupled with fish scarcity, challenge livelihoods.</li> <li>- Limited convenience for fishermen affects loan repayment, leading to external borrowing.</li> <li>- Challenges in Loan Repayment.</li> </ul>
<i>Key problems or impacts that need to be addressed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conflict with Illegal Fishermen.</li> <li>2. Land Conversion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water Supply Challenge: Insufficient water pump hampers village water supply, causing inconvenience.</li> <li>2. Road Safety Concerns.</li> <li>3. Water Infrastructure Shortcomings.</li> <li>4. Healthcare Accessibility.</li> <li>5. Depleting Fish Resources.</li> </ul>
<i>Important changes needed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Enhancing Disaster Preparedness Training and Community Engagement".</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Optimizing Timing and Engagement for Meetings and Training".</li> </ul>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. "Expanding Vocational and Practical Education Opportunities".</li> <li>3. "Ensuring Transparent Monitoring and Effective Resource Utilization".</li> <li>4. "Revitalizing Resource Conservation Efforts Amidst Political Opportunities".</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. "Enhancing Training Effectiveness with Practical Demos and Visual Aids".</li> <li>3. "Waste Incineration Management Training for Future Preparedness".</li> <li>4. "Reliable Generator Repair Service for Uninterrupted Operations".</li> <li>5. Sustaining Fish Resource Conservation through Patrolling".</li> <li>6. income impact timely loan repayment due to fish declining.</li> </ol>
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### Impacts on livelihood and Community Development

Most participants in three villages reported positive impacts such as road infrastructure and water accessibility. Other participants also stated support to education for their children through the revolving fund. While unfavorable comments included the pointing out that the low loan amount is not supportive. Though many people appreciated the revolving fund’s effectiveness for the whole community as they can do small investment for their livelihood especially for daily workers.

### Mindsets, Ability, and Confidence

In the previous visits, we heard several reports of strengthened confidence among participants increased confidence in their technical skills related to agriculture techniques to produce organic fertilizers, seed selection, land preparation for farming, abilities to shape their livelihoods, and capacity to cooperate, collaborate, and communicate. Additional points included pride at having gained knowledge and skills, greater accountability in their own activities, and greater patience, resilience, leadership, and empathy. These positive impacts were substantially still remaining in this visit. On top of that, the feeling of being acknowledged, respected and able to lead, in the community has brought high motivation and resilience in performing project activities.

### Cooperation and Collaboration

Most people posted that cooperation and collaboration has strengthened within the community as they reflected that they significantly improved in communication and social skills. Several people stated the eagerness of continue in involving in the natural resource conservation.

## Awareness of Health and Sanitation Issues

Several participants especially from Kyauk Seik reported substantially improved awareness of health and sanitation issues, translating to changes in their own daily behavior. This includes personal hygiene as well as disposal of garbage, and building a toilet.

## Challenges: Covid-19 and political impact

Several people from Aung Kan Thar, Mi Lauk, and Kyauk Seik reported that Covid-19 and political change substantially, negatively impacted their livelihood, lessened conservation activities, training, and social well-being made it more difficult to travel and work.

## Challenges: Time and Accessibility issues

Many from all 3 villages voiced concerns about the time needed to join GoMP activities and to also manage their responsibilities with the VDCs. At the same time, more training – including natural resource conservation, waste management, and gender trainings are being requested from all 3 villages. This is a systemic issue and one that bears careful consideration: are there creative ways to change the delivery of trainings, and other activities, that can lessen the burden on participants?

## Problems

With an insecure situation due to the political problems and conflict in Myanmar which has decreased local government oversight especially in Bago, there is a lack of patrolling which may cause a negative impact on fish conservation. Though in Aung Kan Thar and Kyauk Seik villages there are still some active patrolling going on. Additional points to include are poor coordination and delegation in selecting people from VDC members to attend trainings (especially in Mi Lauk) causing stress and misunderstanding within the VDC members. On top of that, more transparency in managing revolving fund in three villages is needed.

## 4. FINDINGS

Below, we shared the key themes that emerged from the MSC stories, as well as summaries from quotes. After each summary, the interview respondents are listed. A complete record of responses by domain and theme is in the attached file, *GoMP MSC Results Tables 23\_0616*

### 4.1 Aung Kan Thar Village

#### 4.1.1 Domain 1: Natural Resource Conservation

There were 13 different main themes identified for the “Natural Resource Conservation” domain in Aung Kan Thar. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference here:

- “The most significant change is, I can share back the knowledge on natural resources management including (ecosystems, dolphins, and porpoises) to people who didn’t know it yet. I myself gained more knowledge and became mature. The reason why it is important is that I am similar with a tree near the shore, as I am closer to the sea, and I know about natural resource management and it helps me to understand what is happening in the Gulf of Mottama areas. When I have the knowledge, I can change my life.”

- “Due to political instability, stake nets, illegal nets, have reappeared and are being used resulting in the capture of small fish along with larger fish (Than Za Kar). Without effective governance and active police patrolling and even some police collaborating with the illegal net use, it is not easy to respond to or take action on Stake nets (Than Za Kar).”
- “Why it is important is that, in the past, we worked in traditional ways and no one knows about our village but now, with the connection with the government and NGO, we do conservation work at the district and state level and the government became to know us, when we asked for help, they helped us.”

**Table 3. Key Overall Findings from MSC Stories – Domain 1: Natural Resource Conservation**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Able to share knowledge about conservation and can apply skills	They reported that they gained knowledge about good practice on marine mammal stranding response, fish processing and they are able to share this knowledge to family members. Skill and knowledge about fish processing also improved as they apply and share back to other people in the village. They can apply fish processing, project planning skills. Able to apply the conservation practice and follow the rules and regulation of fishing activities. Apply conservation practice in natural resource management for taking action on Stake net (Than Za Kar), protected hunting shorebirds.	5 individuals, Female FGD
Gain awareness on natural resource conservation and mindset change	They reported that they gained awareness and knowledge about natural resources conservation and know how to respond to marine mammals when they are stranded on the beach. From attending natural resource conservation training, they have improved their critical thinking skills and become more knowledgeable.	3 individuals, Female FGD
Livelihood and social life improved from conservation action (move from well-being)	Village development brings benefits to the community, children, and helps overcome financial difficulties through fishing and hard work. Debt decreased due to natural resource conservation as they get more fish as the result of taking action on illegal fishing from past years.	3 individuals
Political impact on natural resource management and challenging in contacting with Government department	Due to conflict between the Myanmar police and community, illegal fishing patrolling could not be conducted last year. If police can't accompany with the patrolling team, the community do not dare to go patrolling. It is challenging to collaborate with government officials due to the political situation. Because of this, patrolling cannot be done and there has been bribery to the police by fishermen using illegal fishing gear.	3 individuals, Male FDG
Being knowledgeable	Being knowledgeable and being helpful by participating in natural resources conservation activities.	Male FDG
Tidal forest or livelihoods through working on conservation	Participated in planting mangroves for natural resource conservation. By participating in Mangrove plantation, people in Aung Kan Thar received jobs and livelihood was improved so it was OK.	1 individual, Female FGD, Male FGD
Fish resources are decreasing	Fish resources are declining due to the limitation of patrolling during COVID and the current political situation. Another driver was natural processes such as sedimentation and water current changes. People also started to use stake nets again as there was not patrolling.	6 individuals, Female FGD
Fish resource is increasing	Fish increased because of arresting the Stake net (Than Zar Kar)	1 individual
Natural resource conservation action is decreasing	Natural resource conservation action is decreasing due to political situation, patrolling has been stopped	1 individual, Male FGD

Illegal fishing is increasing	Illegal fishing gears (especially Stake net) are increasing due to political situation.	1 individual
Fishing is not ok due to natural phenomenon	Fish stock has declined due to natural phenomenon (change in river current, land formation, and increased mudflat)	5 individuals
Challenging due to fish resource decreasing	It became difficult for the commodity of the fishers as fish stock are declining. Or it became difficult for fishers to catch reasonable amounts of fish due to the decline in fish stock.	2 individuals, Female FGD
Potential to participate in natural resource conservation process	We are able to participate in patrolling for Stake nets (Than Za Kar) and conserving shore birds.	2 individuals, Male FGD

#### 4.1.2 Domain 2: Natural Disaster Preparedness

There are five different main themes identified for the “Natural Disaster Preparedness” domain in Aung Kan Thar. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “I think natural disaster preparedness is very important because if there is a storm, our lives can be destroyed. It would only be convenient if we can protect ourselves from natural disasters because we depend on fishing, and there is no work on land. The mangrove forest should be (is) essential for our village and home. I always listen to the weather forecast to protect myself from natural disasters when we go out to the sea. Otherwise, with my own knowledge, I have to look at the situation of the weather, where the wind is coming from to avoid storms. If a storm is coming, we hide in the mangroves to protect ourselves from the strong waves.”
- “Regarding to natural disasters, the whole village tends to plant seedlings to grow vegetation (including trees) that will protect the area from storm winds, high tides and increased flooding.

**Table 4. Key Findings from MSC Stories - Domain 2: Natural Disaster Preparedness**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Benefit and importance of mangrove forest	Most of the participants know the importance and benefit of mangroves for their villages. Due to the mangrove forest, they will not be affected by the storm anymore. Some participants are feeling secure due to having mangroves in their villages and happy to see the plants alive.	5 individuals, Female FGD
Able to follow and practice the natural disaster preparedness	Participants are able to follow and practice to prepare for storms and apply other skills from training. Most of the participants have changed their behavior into good practice. Behaviors have changed such as starting to grow plants by whole villages and clearly knowing the importance of the mangroves. – (focused on Mangroves in this case)	3 individuals, Female FGD, Male FGD
Gain knowledge and awareness	Some participants said that " Mangrove Forest can produce oxygen for humans to breathe; Planted trees are the oxygen tank." They gained the knowledge of ecosystems, natural disaster, and mangroves which can protect them from the storm.	5 individuals, Female FGD
Become interested in natural disaster prevention training	The young girls are interested in first aid training during the natural disaster strikes.	1 individual
Waste management	Participants came to know how to practice waste management systematically and focus on the cleanliness of the village	2 individuals



### 4.1.3 Domain 3: Income and Financial Management

There are seven different main themes identified for the “Income and Financial Management” domain in Aung Kan Thar. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “The significant change is that I used to take loan with a high interest rate from others but now the project (refers to VDC) is paying loan with low interest rate. This type of loan is good for fishermen. The interest rate from others in the village is up to 20%.”
- “Due to mangrove plantation, income has increased for crab collectors and community people get job opportunities in mangrove planting. Daily wage is up to 8000 kyats and the project allows 1 to 4 people to work in household. Households which have many family members have good income.”

**Table 5. Key Findings from MSC Stories – Domain 3: Income and Financial Management**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Income decrease and have difficulties	Income decreases due to the fish declining.	2 individuals
Revolving funds are not supportive for higher investment	Revolving fund is not very supportive/sufficient for some participants who need to hold 40 to 80 sets of gears that requires higher investment. But it is helpful for street vendors whose require smaller investment.	2 individuals
Income increase	Increase income due to the job opportunities from mangrove plantation.	Male FGD
Loan is supportive	As loans amount was increased, it became more effective for the participants. It is convenient to give low interest to the revolving fund. With these loans, they can invest in their small-scaled business.	8 individuals, Female FGD
Able to manage income and financial management skill improved	Because of the loans, their business expands, and families become more convenient. They also improve in financial management.	3 individuals, Female FGD, Male FGD
Advantages from financial management	It is convenient for the whole family because they can invest in their business to expand. They can manage the loans they get.	6 individuals, Female FGD
Able to share knowledge	Able to share what they learn from the training.	Female FGD

### 4.1.4 Domain 4: Participation

There are 11 different main themes in the “Participation” domain in Aung Kan Thar. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “In the past, I didn't have confidence and was hesitant to voice my thoughts. However, now I have confidence since I have learned to express myself more effectively. While participating in Focus Group Discussions, I explore various topics, but I have not had much experience with individual interviews until now.”
- “If there is any activity in the village, the project calls us. I participated in interviews and group discussions. My most significant change is mindset – I have become more motivated. In the past, I lived in my house and did my work. Now, I participate in the project activities without hesitation. I am also happy because my village is developed and my husband and children are also changed their thinking, knowledge and attitudes.”

**Table 6. Key Findings from MSC Stories – Domain 4: Participation**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Timing for less participation	Spent more time in the sea for fishing and not able to participate in project activity	1 individual
More participation and collaboration in GoMP activities	Have wider vision and better collaboration in GoMP. Participated in receiving and delivering training on conservation, meetings, interviewing for research activity, and discussion meetings.	8 individuals, Female FGD, Male FGD
More interests on GoMP activities and members are increasing	Have better participation and more interest in GoMP activities and membership is increasing	Female FGD
More collaboration in village affair	Able to participate in both village affairs and GoMP.	1 individual, Male FGD
Able to participate in another project	Able to participate, not only in GoMP, but also in other projects.	1 individual
Being knowledgeable from participation	Being visibly able and knowledgeable from participation. Able to decide what is wrong and right.	2 individuals
Able to share knowledge	Gained knowledge from the training and able to share it back.	1 individual
Improved in social status from participation	Improved in social status from participation.	1 individual
Skills improved from participation	Compared to before, able to lead, and have confidence in public speaking. Social affairs have also improved, vision expands, and came to know how to do business. Able to use critical thinking in making decision and managing family. Having good participation and being knowledgeable.	7 individuals
Able to present fishers' needs	Able to present the needs of fishers.	1 individual
Mindset change from participation	In cooperation with the Gulf of Mottama, social relations have improved. The vision widens and they/we can do what they/we want to do with their/our own conscience. They/we came to know that community development is very important. They/we have better participation and confidence in themselves/ourselves.	7 individuals, Female FGD, Male FGD

#### 4.1.5 Well-Being

There are eight different main themes identified for the “Well-Being” in Aung Kan Thar. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “Compared to 2021, 2022 has more “most significant change”. The village's social status and transportation improved about 5 times. As a result of working hard by community, we bear fruit.”
- “Our village has undergone remarkable improvements in both economic and social life, leading to significant personal growth for my family, as well as transformative changes in the education system within our community.”

**Table 7. Key Findings from MSC Stories - Well-Being**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Able to share knowledge and awareness	Sharing knowledge, working for the village's betterment, and engaging interactions brings me immense joy, satisfaction and Empowering Social Enhancement.	2 individuals
Positive mindset on children education and able to	Able to encourage children to attend the school and become positive in supporting children education. Get some educational	4 individuals, Female FGD

support for family's education	material access from World View International Foundation. Improved in social life from being able to manage family member	
Become experienced, confident and knowledgeable	"Engaging with others fosters personal growth, boosts confidence, and cultivates fulfilling leadership through active listening, building connections, and transforming challenges."	3 individuals, Male FGD
Improved in communication	The village community and our family have experienced significant improvements. Communication challenges have slightly diminished, and we have gained new knowledge by engaging with others. Positive changes in behavior and respectful listening have strengthened relationships. As children attend courses, society has become more civilized, united, and happier.	2 individuals, Male FGD
Loan is supportive for family education and health	Improved business and the revolving fund led to a more comfortable life. Increased income from catching more fish allows investments in health education and covers essential expenses. Low-interest loans improve meals and support education and healthcare.	2 individuals
Convenience due to better infrastructure (road and water)	Good water and road access, support in health, and better transportation	Female FGD, Male FGD
Difficult in social due to covid and rising in commodity price	School closures and political issues disrupted education; high prices challenged manual laborers. Fish market decline amid COVID-19 caused financial struggles and debt.	Female FGD, Male FGD
Improved in social life from participation	In 2021, 60-70 percent of the village population couldn't work, but now 70 percent have joined project activities, while the remaining 30 percent provide financial support, (through the revolving fund) enabling full participation.	Female FGD

#### 4.1.6 Problems

There are six different main themes identified for the “Problems” in Aung Kan Thar. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “At the time the project conducts training, I am mostly in the sea, so I could not attend. If seniors tell me to do something, I have to do as they said.”
- “Even though the project invites, I could not join sometimes if I am busy. I don't know how to suggest because if I give time for other, I can't do my family business. The problem was I could not do my family livelihood well when I begin to be involved in the project.”
- “Even though the whole village was invited in some activities, mostly non-member don't come. When we invite them, they complained that they don't come because they are not members and that is not their business.”

**Table 8. Key Findings from MSC Stories - Problems**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Challenges for participation	Limited local participation; VDC members prioritize meetings; others seek monetary gain. Non-members decline village events due to lack of a feeling of belonging.	3 individuals
Timing and busy for livelihood	Not able to participate in project activities due to the timing and busy schedule for livelihood.	2 individuals
Loan amount is not enough	The Gulf of Mottama Project's revolving funding only covered a few sets of fishing nets, providing limited assistance. The loan amount received, currently around 300,000 Kyats per time, we desired 500,000 Kyats.	2 individuals

Challenges in patrolling (political impact)	It is difficult to do patrolling because of the political issue. They are provoked by illegal fishers sometimes in patrolling.	1 individual
Land use issue	There are various challenges and conflicts related to land ownership and cultivation. I face threats and restrictions when trying to express their concerns. Limited land availability hinders planned projects such as fish and crab farming.	1 individual
COVID impact	Low fish prices during the COVID-19 pandemic created financial challenges. Loan repayment, lack of work, and reduced income posed difficulties.	1 individual

#### 4.1.7 Changes Needed

There are five different main themes identified for the “Changes Needed” in Aung Kan Thar. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “I want the GoMP to monitor the activities they have implemented. For example - revolving fund is to use for project members, but not for using in business. I want the project to take the village information through a third party. That third party should investigate how the village manages the revolving fund.”
- “I want the project to give more training to those who has less knowledge. If pouring water into a water pot which is already full, the water will spill out.”

Table 9. Key Findings from MSC Stories - Changes Needed

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Suggested trainings	Support more natural disaster preparedness training, vocational training (tailoring, baking, soap making), computer courses, and health/business/social skill enhancement. Nursing training and clinic establishment vital.	4 individuals, Male FGD
Adaptation to meeting and training	To accommodate the time constraints of young people and provide them with essential knowledge. While the project provides technology, support is needed for small-scale initiatives that focus on creating affordable businesses and monitoring their success. It is crucial to prioritize those who are committed to utilizing the knowledge gained. I aspire to lead educational activities for the entire village and seek the governor's support to enhance participation.	Male FGD, Female FGD
Monitoring on project activities	To monitor GoMP activities and inquire about the utilization of revolving funds using a third party. Support for small-scale initiatives is crucial, even with provided technology. It's important to create affordable small businesses and assess their success.	3 individuals
All-inclusiveness in attending training	Instead of attending training in town by 2-3 people, it is better all people in the village include in awareness trainings, meetings. It will have more collaboration if the village administrator engages or invites people to participate.	1 individual, Male FGD
Clarify the objective and purpose of GoMP activities	Community needs to know what the Gulf of Mottama is doing. It's difficult when they don't understand the work the project does.	1 individual

## 4.2 Mi Lauk Village

### 4.2.1 Domain 1: Natural Resource Conservation

There are five different main themes identified for the “Natural Resource Conservation” domain in Mi Lauk. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- "The village has completely stopped using electric fishing due to increased awareness. If anyone is caught using electric fishing in this village, they are arrested. It has completely disappeared from this village."
- "A significant change is that knowledge about rare species (marine mammals and shore birds) and things to follow can be shared. I was able to participate in preventing the loss of rare species. In my field, shooting at birds is not permitted. I was able to release a turtle in December 2022"
- "The community has gained a profound understanding that capturing small fish obstructs the growth of larger fish."

**Table 11. Key Findings from MSC Stories – Domain 1: Natural Resource Conservation**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Apply good practice and stop illegal fishing	Five respondents argued that community follows good practices of natural resource conservation such as avoiding the use of illegal fishing such as using stake nets, electric shock and fishing in the closed season.	4 individuals, Female FGD
Able to take conservation action on endangered species	People responded that they were able to take conservation action on endangered species such as sea turtle and marine mammal (dolphin). In the past they have experience of taking response on sea turtle and dolphin stranding, they collaborated to share that information and took action to release them back to the sea. They also feel proud and satisfied to do so and to be acknowledge for involving themselves in the conservation process.	4 individuals, Female FGD
Able to apply environmentally friendly skills and yield increase	Most participants mentioned that they gained knowledge about agriculture and they are able to apply technical skills in their farming, for example they know how to choose good quality seeds, make organic fertilizer, and how to farm. Moreover, when they apply agriculture technical skills, they noticed that the yield increased and they got more income from agriculture.	5 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Gained more knowledge and able to share knowledge	Gained more knowledge about natural resource conservation and are able to share it with others. They gained knowledge about endangered species, ecosystem, good fishing practice, and waste management from trainings they have attended and they are able to share that knowledge to others.	7 individuals, Female FGD
Apply conservation skills	Two people responded that they could apply conservation skills last year. For example, they coordinated with Department of fishery, local coastal conservation groups, and the project to inform about the marine mammal stranding event in Mi Lauk and participated in releasing that animal to the sea.	1 individual, Female FGD

## 4.2.2 Domain 2: Skills and Trainings + Livelihoods

There are six different main themes identified for the “Skills and Training + Livelihoods” domain in Mi Lauk. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “As indicated in the course, ‘The fish amino acid formula was proportionally formulated set date and month and then used in my paddy, there it showed noticeable changes for me.’”
- “We had the courage to speak out. No matter what the issue was, men and women discussed it together. Women have become involved in health, administration and charity groups. Before, even between husband and wife, women did not dare to speak. Now women can definitely explain back to them.”
- “The reason why it is important is that because of the GoMP, we gained more knowledge and skills. In the past, there were traditional methods for rice plantation (Myanmar Quotation- “Layl Lote Kyawl Kyaing” or “လယ်လုပ် ကျွဲကိုင်းပဲ”.) Now, we open up our eyes and ears as we gain agricultural techniques from GoMP”.
- “Previously, my family did not maintain spreadsheets or budgets, but after entering into this project, we started to track our monthly expenses and income. We learned how to create charts and differentiate between necessary and unnecessary expenses. This has helped us to better manage our finances and I know which funds to use and which ones to avoid.”

Table 11. Key findings from MSC stories – Domain 2: Skills and Trainings + Livelihoods

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Improved knowledge and able to share	Improved knowledge and skills: natural resource conservation, leadership, agriculture, natural disaster preparedness, WASH, fish breeding, and waste management. They also could share these skills to people who have not learned about it.	10 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Income increase	Farmers’ income increases as the GoMP provided good quality seed and technical farming skills. Yield increased and they have more income from farming so they can support their family with that income.	1 individual
Livelihood is ok due to training	On the other hand, the female group mentioned that community’s livelihood is ok due to the leadership, natural disaster preparedness training, fish aquaculture, and vocational training.	1 individual, Female FGD
Yield increased	Male group and some individual participants mentioned that yield increased in last year from applying technical farming skill. Moreover, they don’t have to spent more money for fertilizer as they made organic fertilizer by themselves after learning from trainings they have attended.	3 individuals, Male FGD
Able to apply technical skills	The community was able to apply agriculture related skills and their livelihood was ok.	5 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Able to make decision, high cognition, and change mindset	Due to the trainings, community gained conservation knowledge and changed their behaviors. In Mi Lauk, women have awareness and start to become more modern. Individually, some participants mentioned that they can think critically in making decisions in meetings and their daily life. Communication skill is vividly improved and they can do self-reflection as	5 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD



well. Some people significantly changed their mindset on managing the revolving fund.

### 4.2.3 Domain 3: Income and Financial Management

There are six different main themes identified for the “Income and Financial Management” domain in Mi Lauk. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “Although the amount in money (2-3 lakh) may not be significant to the wealthy, it is incredibly valuable for daily workers. When the GoMP provided another revolving fund to our village, I went out to get it though I was sick. The entire village was overjoyed, and I also excited. I did not feel hunger due to my happiness. Thanks to the loan, people who raise wild fish in the village are once again comfortable and eager to repay the money. I can now manage the revolving fund and do more beneficial things for my family and community.”
- “Why is it obvious that it is important because the poor villagers like us need money and when we get a loan for the project, we do not have to take interest from the rich people anymore.”
- “What has changed in my family is that when my daughter wants to learn tailoring, she needs to buy a sewing machine. I don’t have enough money to buy a machine. At that time, I got a project loan and bought it. When I bought a machine, I could adjust the money”.

Table 12. Key findings from MSC stories – Domain 3: Income and Financial Management

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Revolving fund is supportive to livelihood	Revolving fund is very useful and supportive especially for daily workers. People investing loan on breeding, agriculture, fish aquaculture, and large and small trading. Revolving fund is convenient for the community because they don’t need to pawn their property when they take a loan and moreover, the interest rate is very low so they don't need to take loan from other with high interest rate. Farmers manage this loan to make payment for harvesting bean and buying fertilizer and some participants invested it to buy sewing machine, and to sell basic goods. In addition, some participants responded that loan is also helpful for children education and for the community. From the revolving fund, families are ok.	10 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Covid impact	Due to the COVID and political issues, there are no more than 15 people who are ok. Most people can't pay back the loan on time.	2 individuals
Revolving fund is not supportive	Loan amount is not covered with people who have big investment.	1 individual
Less income due to rare Job opportunity	Job opportunities became rare as farmers use machines instead of daily workers so income decreased and it was difficult to pay the loan back in time.	1 individual, Male FGD
Breeding is not successful	Investing loan in breeding pigs is not effective because pigs don't grow enough as expected so, the more time passes, the more people lose.	1 individual
No significant change	One individual participant and male group mentioned that there is no significant change in income and financial management as people have to take daily work in order to pay back loan, they take from the revolving fund	1 individual, Male FGD

### 4.2.4 Well-Being

There are 11 different main themes identified for the “Well-Being” in Aung Kan Thar. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “In terms of community affairs, some children had difficulty going to the sewing machine training, so I gave money to them because of my willingness to help the village development”
- “This, (financial management training) is obvious and important to me. If the income and expenditure are not equal, how can our family stand? If you don’t know the income, how will you send your children to school. I also counted the donated money”.
- “I can speak up in the society and use and share what I have learned. Because we have a better road, students and monks can travel safely. Before it was not safe to travel because not many people passed so we couldn’t reach to the place we want to go but now, we can travel smoothly.”

**Table 13. Key findings from MSC stories – Well-Being**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Summary from MSC stories</b>	<b># Responses</b>
Village development and water sanitation	People access better roads and more water so that community people can travel easily for education, health, and trading purpose. In addition, neighboring villages can also get water access in Mi Lauk as the village had enough water last year. Moreover, the village becomes cleaner and people have courage to speak out. Health and livelihood is improved because of the clean water and better road access.	7 individuals, Male FGD
Community is improved	Our community’s social standard became higher and it has improvement in education, livelihood, and social (collaboration) as they have road, water, and revolving fund access.	6 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Skills improved	Communication, leadership, critical thinking, collaboration, and waste management skills are improved through trainings. Another significant change is that some women can perform equally to men as their mindset changed. Children know about plastic waste and they can share back.	7 individuals, Female FGD
Able to support family and do donation	As yield increases, some participants are able to support their family, relatives, give donations in the village.	4 individuals, Female FGD
Able to share knowledge they gained.	Able to share knowledge they gained.	3 individuals
Being respect and acknowledged	Two people responded that they are able to discuss openly with seniors from the project members and seniors carefully listen to them. They were respected by family members and people in the community as they were involved in the project. Because of the project, their actions became obvious (known) and they are recognized by others.	2 individuals
More participation in village affair/event	Two people mentioned that they could participate more in the village events such as volunteering in fixing road and doing donation for social event.	2 individuals
Gained knowledge and mindset changed	Mindset changed: parents are supportive of their children’s education for example they supported and allowed their children to finished the school.	1individual, Female FGD
Social life style change and able to manage family	Due to the GoMP project, parents have more knowledge and can manage their family.	2 individuals
No significant change	There is no significant change in 2022 because people are afraid to travel due to the political situation.	2 individuals
Covid and political impact	Due to Covid and political issues, people are afraid to go outside of the village.	1 individual

## 4.2.5 Problems

There are eight different main themes related to “Problems” in Mi Lauk. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “We faced the challenge in which jobs were scarce, and food was hard to come by. So, if there were five people in a household, all five came to work in preparing for the road. There were even children under the age of 15 who participated. However, we encountered some conflict when we refused to pay the younger workers, and we had to find a resolution. In my experience, it is common for four out of ten individuals to hold differing opinions, regardless of the job at hand”
- “We feel frustrated and angry when we don’t get back loans when we try to collect them in a timely way. When the project gave us the responsibility for cooking and I delegated it to others but they can’t give time to do it, so then I have to do all of the work and I had to cook by myself.”

Table 14. Key findings from MSC stories – Problems

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Sharing job opportunity	The problem was all people in the community wanted to take on the job opportunity in repairing roads. Some people felt bad that they were not allowed to take that work on, as they are old. The VDC had to set new criteria when they found out that some people cannot work as they are too young and too old.	3 individuals, Female FGD
Difficult to participation	Some people have difficulty to participate in meetings and project activities as they don't have time and interest to involve in the project. In addition, misunderstanding on the criteria of daily work for volunteering in road fixing also caused less participation in the community. Some people found it difficult to join or participate in the activity when they were not informed and invited to training or meeting ahead of time.	4 individuals
Natural disaster (flooding)	Around 15 villages are faced with natural disaster like flooding.	1 individual
Issue in Meeting and training	Issues with coordination for meeting and criteria for accessing vocational training: Informing to attend a meeting in the last minutes, difficulty to coordinate with GAD to allow a meeting to be conducted. Setting criteria for vocational training are barriers for people who want to access the training.	3 individuals
Difficulty in applying skills	Members should take turns to attend meeting or training. The problem is that seniors only send people who are close to them (their friends) to attend training.	1 individual
Loan problem	Most problems are related to the revolving fund or loans. Some people don't pay the loan back in time and the collector could not collect the loan easily. Also, there was Community misunderstanding on loan management.	4 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Governance, political and covid	Due to COVID and political issues, people could not gather for meetings or project activities in the village. Some project activities are not allowed to be held by the authorities.	3 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Issues in agriculture	The seed was not good quality due to the lack of timing of participation and seed processing in agriculture.	1 individual, Male FGD

## 4.2.6 Changes Needed

There are ten different main themes on “Changes Needed” in Mi Lauk. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “For training, instead of letting people from the village attend or be trained and then come back and conduct the training for others, if a skillful technician could come and conduct training in the village it would be better, we will get to learn straight from them.”
- “I would like to know if there are any new techniques in fish farming and agriculture. Since the village is based on agriculture, I would like to know more courses related to agriculture. Because I want to know more new techniques that are different from year to year.
- “For the waste management training, I would like to suggest, not to only give to the committee members, but to give to the whole village. The whole village needs to follow and throw and manage waste well, and think about keeping a place to throw the waste. “
- “There is one thing I don't like about the revolving fund sector. There needs to be more consistency. Now, those who do not have money and have difficulty paying the loan back, pay back by working as a wage labor in picking beans and transplanting paddy, when they have to pay back the loan or at the time of collecting loan. Other people argued that there were people who had not paid it yet, so they delayed the payment. I think that if they do not pay it with such a delay, they cannot borrow the loan again. I feel that the committee members have a little gap in this regard.”

**Table 15. Key findings from MSC stories – Changes Needed**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Loan amount and timing	To increase loan amount, time to pay the loan back should be when the crops harvest, instead of paying loan 2 times, and it is better to do once a year are suggestions to improve in revolving fund system.	7 individuals, Female FGD
Suggestion for meeting and training	Should conduct training in the village level instead of asking people to join the training in town so that people from the neighboring village can also attend the training. VDC chairman should be informed about the training ahead of time and members should take turns in joining the training. It is better if expert trainers deliver training (the expertise for training delivery is better now). Training date and time should be on July, August, September and the training could start at 9am and period of the training should be 2-3 hours. Weekends are recommended to conduct training in the village.	6 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Suggested trainings	Suggested trainings are: more agriculture related trainings, natural resource conservation, waste management, natural disaster preparedness, and WASH. I would like to see more people in the village attending the training not only project members.	6 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Suggested training style	Training style should include more practical activities after delivery of the concept.	Male FGD
Adaptation for agriculture	Suggest making water drains in order for the water to go freely so that it will be good for farming	2 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD
Need to change waste management	We need more plastic waste management.	1 individual

Mutual understanding between community and project	Better to get feedback and response from the project. Need strong connection between community and the project.	1 individual
Continue the fish resource conservation	Want the project to continue the fish resource conservation activities such as illegal fishing.	1 individual, Male FGD
Security for community learning center	Community learning center should be covered (well-roofed?) otherwise some documents and materials can be lost.	1 individual
Repair drinking water pond	Want the drinking water pond to be fixed or renovated as there might be rusting.	Male FGD

## 4.3 Kyauk Seik Village

### 4.3.1 Domain 1: Natural Resource Conservation

In Kyauk Seik village, we investigated eight main themes in “Natural Resource Conservation” domain. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “In Kyauk Seik village, fishing with illegal nets has not been operated since the village was established until now. If they see other villages poisoning fish to catch fish and shrimp, our villagers forbid it. The others are detained. They are not allowed to do it near the village.” (Female FGD)
- “The biggest challenge we face is that when the enforcement of laws against illegal fishing nets weakens, people’s attitudes towards fishing also shift. It is like the Myanmar Quotation ‘Thu Ta Lu, Nga Ta Min’, which implies that if others can use illegal fishing techniques, then others will follow suit.” (Male FGD)
- “The loss in the conservation of fish resources has directly affected the livelihoods of fishermen who rely on the coast to make a living.” (1 individual)

**Table 16. Key Findings from MSC stories – Domain 1: Natural Resources Conservation**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Challenges in natural resource conservation	Due to various challenges such as Covid-19, political issues, and unstable weather conditions, the conservation of fish resources has suffered. Illegal practices like electric fishing and poison fishing continue to persist, leading to a decline in fish populations. Despite being aware of these issues, the lack of authority and enforcement has hindered effective action against illegal fishing methods. The weakening of law enforcement has also influenced people's attitudes towards fishing, with the belief that if others engage in illegal practices, they can do the same. This situation highlights the urgent need for stronger measures to address illegal fishing and protect fish resources.	4 individuals, Male and Female FGD
Financial Challenge in Fishing	Previously, an investment of 100,000 was sufficient for fishing, but now it requires around 250,000.	1 individual
Impact on livelihoods due to lack of conservation	The fish shortage has had a detrimental impact on the livelihoods of fishermen who depend on fishing as their main source of income, directly affecting their coastal livelihoods.	3 individuals

Impacts of illegal fishing (Stake nets)	The use of stake-nets in Kyaik Hto has negatively impacted fish resources, resulting in fish scarcity in our fishing grounds. The decline in fish resources is evident, with a decrease compared to previous years. This decline is primarily attributed to resource scarcity in the lower part of Kyaik Hto. The practice of stake net fishing not only captures fish fingerlings, leading to the extinction of fish species, but it also obstructs canals and creeks, causing shallow waters and exposed mudflats. This detrimental effect limits fishing activities and transforms the area into an unfavorable environment for fishing.	3 individuals, Female FGD
Weather related constraints on fishing activities	Adverse weather conditions pose challenges to fishing activities, while climate change has led to a scarcity of fish and alterations in sea currents.	1 individual, Female FGD
Prohibition of illegal fishing practices	In Kyauk Seik village, fishing with illegal nets has not been operated since the village was established until now. If they see poison fishing that is performed by other villages to catch fish and shrimp, our villagers forbid it. They are detained. They are not allowed to do it near the village.	Female FGD
Training course on conservation awareness	Last year, there was a training course on shore birds.	1 individual
Lack of significant change	There is no significant change in 2022 due to the absence of authority to take action.	1 individual

### 4.3.2 Domain 2: Livelihoods

For “Livelihoods” domain in Kyauk Seik, we investigated seven main themes. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “A significant change is that I gained knowledge through the agricultural training provided by the project. I can now start a private farm due to its support. I know how to control pests, and how to grow and plant on my own land. As a result, I can eat fresh fruits and also cover my house expenses.” (1 individual)
- “Making and fixing nets job with the support of the project has brought significant positive changes to my livelihood. I now have a steady income, can work from home, and don’t need to work under the sun.” (1 individual)
- “The livelihood has been greatly affected by the scarcity of fish and the high cost of labor, making it increasingly challenging to sustain our income.” (1 individual, Male, Female)

**Table 17. Key findings from MSC stories – Domain 2: Livelihoods**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Financial support and investment in livelihoods	The loan I received has greatly improved my livelihood by providing support for my fishing investment. With this project loan, I was able to invest in small-scale selling and a motorcycle taxi, ensuring the stability of my income and securing my livelihood.	2 individuals
Financial stability and peace of mind	Access to low-interest loans has brought a sense of financial security, allowing me to effectively manage my finances. Additionally, agricultural training has equipped me with knowledge on pest control and farming, enabling me to grow my own crops, sustain my household, and generate income. Moreover, the opportunity to engage in net making and repair has transformed my livelihood, providing a stable source of income and the flexibility to work from home without exposure to harsh sunlight.	3 individuals



Skill development and agricultural entrepreneurship	The project's agricultural training has empowered us to create our own home garden, but I encountered challenges with timing during the planting process, resulting in limited crop growth and yield. On one hand, the knowledge gained through the project's training has enabled me to start my own private farm with their support.	2 individuals
Communication challenges and limited participation	I couldn't participate in small-scale livelihood trainings such as agriculture, fish collector, etc. because of my poor communication skills. While I understand what you're saying to me now, I may struggle to respond because I haven't had enough practice in communicating effectively.	1 individual
Challenges in livelihood activities	In 2022, my livelihood faced significant obstacles, including rising commodity prices and inconvenience in fishing activities. The scarcity of fish and high labor costs have made it increasingly challenging to sustain our income. Additionally, constraints on travel due to the political situation have disrupted our livelihood activities. The rising prices of materials for repairing fishing nets also pose challenges for net-fixing businesses. Although backyard farming is making progress, it is not yet commercially viable as a reliable source of income.	2 individuals, Male and Female FGD
Challenges in Livestock Farming	Pig farming has been unsuccessful and poses a challenge to our livelihood in the livestock sector. We had to discontinue raising pigs due to rising prices and high mortality rates, as it became economically unsustainable.	1 individual, Male and Female FGD
Difficulties to practice fish icing techniques	Fishermen are facing difficulties in practicing fish icing techniques due to time constraints and fish scarcity.	Male FGD

### 4.3.3 Domain 3: Income and Financial Management

For “Income and Financial Management” domain in Kyauk Seik, we investigated seven main themes. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “The 300,000 kyat loan allowed me to invest in my small-scale fish paste and dry fish trading business and fixing fishing nets, so the loan has been instrumental in supporting my livelihood and sustaining my income.” (1 individual)
- “Through disciplined savings of 1000-2000 kyats per day in a dedicated money box, I ensured timely repayment and secured my financial stability.” (1 individual)
- “Through the project's group lending, we have witnessed positive changes in the fishing sector, empowering small-scale fishermen with access to loans and reducing their reliance on external financial assistance.” (Female FGD)
- “The rising costs of boat operations, fuel prices, and labor expenses have created challenges for fishermen, making it harder to find and hire boat captain and skilled individuals within our community.” (Female FGD)

**Table 18. Key findings from MSC stories – Domain 3: Income and Financial Management**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Income generation and livelihood improvement	The borrowed funds from the project have been instrumental in supporting livelihoods and creating sustainable income sources. Individuals have invested in various businesses such as motorcycle taxi services, running shops, fish trading, and fixing fishing nets. The loans	5 individuals, Male FGD

	have provided crucial support during financial hardships, allowing individuals to cover expenses and sustain their income.	
Household Financial Management	Despite the absence of recent financial management courses in 2022, individuals rely on their previous knowledge and experience to effectively handle social issues and manage their family's income. Through disciplined savings and setting aside a portion of their daily earnings, individuals ensure timely loan repayment and secure financial stability.	2 individuals
Financial support and access to affordable investment	The project's loan has had a significant impact on individuals' financial situations. Prior to the loan, they lacked investment capital and had to resort to high-interest borrowing. However, the project's loan has provided crucial support, enabling them to cover expenses such as labor wages and boat fuel. This has reduced their reliance on high-interest borrowing and empowered small-scale fishermen in the fishing sector through access to loans.	2 individuals, Female FGD
Resourcefulness in Small-Scale Fish Collector Business	Last year, despite fish scarcity and financial constraints, one person in small-scale fish collector business demonstrated remarkable resourcefulness. She used credit from the shop to purchase essential products and found alternative means to secure funds for hiring a fishing captain.	Male FGD
Financial struggles due to fish scarcity and current economic situation	Fishermen in the village faced financial difficulties last year due to a shortage of fish, resulting in low income despite high output. This fluctuation in income poses challenges in managing household finances and sustaining livelihoods. Despite the loans provided, managing businesses has been a struggle, particularly due to the rising prices of fishing nets and the decreased demand caused by the scarcity of fish. Additionally, the increasing costs of boat operations, fuel, and labor expenses have made it challenging for fishermen to find and hire skilled individuals, further impacting their financial stability.	4 individuals, Male and Female FGD
Financial challenges to repay loan	The villagers are facing challenges in repaying their loans as their income has been impacted by the decreasing availability of resources. Repaying project loans every few months proves to be difficult. Some villagers rely on their children to help repay the loans.	1 individual, Male FGD
Financial challenges and insufficient support	The loan we received from the project is solely for food expenses. If the loan repayment is not sufficient, we have to borrow from other sources, which incurs additional interest. Borrowing externally results in an interest rate increase of 10 or 7 %???	1 individual

#### 4.3.4 Domain 4: Participation

For “Participation” domain in Kyauk Seik, we investigated eight main themes. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “Through active participation, I have acquired knowledge, improved my understanding, and shared it with others, empowering myself and contributing to a cleaner environment by guiding proper waste disposal practices and WASH practices.” (1 individual)
- “Through my active participation in volunteer work for building the garbage incinerator, digging wells, and constructing roads, I felt delighted to contribute to the development of my village, experiencing a sense of accomplishment.” (2 individuals)
- “I participate because I believe in the power of unity and collective effort. By encouraging others to join, we can create a better future for our generations and foster the progress of our village.” (1 individual)
- “The road built in 2022 has significantly improved access and safety for my children to go to school, whether by bicycle or on foot, and offers reassurance as others can keep an eye on them.” (1 individual)

- “The realization that project activities cannot succeed without the active participation of the entire village has brought about a shift in mindset. We now cancel our own work to participate, understanding that it is a collective effort for the betterment of our village and families.” (Female FGD)

**Table 19. Key findings from MSC stories – Domain 4: Participation**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Knowledge sharing and empowerment	Through business courses and knowledge sharing, I empower my daughter with financial literacy, fostering critical thinking and mindfulness. Actively participating in various initiatives has not only expanded my own knowledge and understanding but also allowed me to share it with others. By guiding proper waste disposal practices and promoting WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) practices, I contribute to a cleaner environment and empower myself in the process.	2 individuals
Collaboration and unity	Despite differing opinions and varying levels of involvement, it is essential for the organization to strive for unity and cooperation. I personally engage in active participation, driven by my belief in the power of collective effort. By encouraging others to join, we can build a brighter future for generations to come and promote the overall progress of our village. Access to water not only strengthens relationships but also enhances communication, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration within our community.	2 individuals, Male FGD
Active Participation for Future Generations	By actively engaging in community development activities, such as participating in well-digging and repairing road, and village social affairs, I have realized the significance of knowledge for my children's education and future.	1 individual
Confidence and polite in communication	Active participation led to transformative changes and knowledge acquisition, particularly in effective communication. With increased confidence, I actively engage in discussions, hold meaningful conversations with teachers, and remember important information, overcoming previous hesitations. The project's courses fostered a thirst for knowledge and curiosity among villagers, resulting in a shift from a rough and gossipy communication style to a more polite and gossip-free environment.	4 individuals
Community Collaboration	Each household in our community actively participates by sending one representative to assist in tasks such as well digging or road construction. Both my husband and I contribute to these collective efforts, fostering collaboration and enabling effective communication among individuals who may not have previously gotten along.	1 individual
Positive impacts of participation	Through our collective efforts and active participation, we acquired an incinerator for waste management and expanded our knowledge on various topics. The construction of a new road in 2022 has greatly enhanced the safety and accessibility for my children to travel to school, providing reassurance knowing that others can keep an eye on them. Furthermore, the improved water supply brings convenience as I can now easily access water right in front of my house.	3 individuals
Active community involvement for sustainable development	I actively engage in multiple aspects of community development, guiding research teams, assisting in construction projects, and taking initiative in road repairs. Through my participation in volunteer work, such as building the garbage incinerator and constructing roads, I feel a sense of fulfillment and pride in contributing to the development of my village. Recognizing that the benefit to the community is equivalent to personal benefit, I actively participate in initiatives and contribute my manpower to projects like road repairs and waste incinerators. The improved roads not only ensure safe school travel but also motivate parents to participate and enhance transportation for the well-being of children.	5 individuals, Male and Female FGD

Mindset change	The understanding that the success of project activities relies on the active participation of the whole village has led to a change in mindset. We now prioritize participating in community efforts, recognizing that it benefits both our village and our families. The introduction of the garbage incinerator has also shifted our perspective on waste disposal, motivating us to adopt proper methods and prioritize environmental sustainability.	Female FGD
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### 4.3.5 Well-Being

For “Well-Being” in Kyauk Seik, we investigated eight main themes. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “With the successful installation of water pipes and the dedicated efforts of the community, the improved water supply system in 2022 ensures access to clean water for all, benefiting the health of our family and raising the overall standard of living.” (4 individuals, Male FGD, Female FGD)
- “The improved village road enables safe and convenient travel for children to attend school while also creating new economic opportunities by facilitating the transportation of goods like freshly caught fish.” (6 individuals, Female FGD)
- “I have personally transformed my waste disposal habits, utilizing small bags and burning waste at home, while also practicing self-study and plastic reuse to minimize my impact on the environment.” (1 individual, Female FGD)
- “In 2022, through Thant Lay Thant (4 cleans) training, I not only built a toilet but also increased my family's health awareness, emphasizing the importance of regular handwashing for my children after playing.” (3 individuals)
- “GoMP project's education initiatives gave us the courage to speak up, as our previous lack of knowledge left us unsure of what to say, but now we speak with confidence in all settings.” (Male FGD, Female FGD)

**Table 20. Key findings from MSC stories -Well-being**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Behavior changes and improved well-being	As I act as a role model, I witness behavior change among individuals who feel a sense of responsibility when I remind them of the information about waste in their homes.	1 individual
Project activities and selfless service	Our project's focus is on vital initiatives such as clean water provision, road and bridge repairs, and garbage incinerator construction. Through community work, I've instilled in my son the value of doing good deeds without seeking monetary rewards.	1 individual
Access to clean water and health	The availability of clean water, fresh air, and a clean environment in our village has had a positive impact on the well-being of our residents, preventing illnesses from contaminated water sources. The installation of water pipes and community efforts in 2022 have improved the water supply system, ensuring access to clean water for all. This has not only benefited the health of our families but also reduced monthly expenses, resulting in an overall improvement in our well-being.	6 individuals, Male and Female FGD
Safety, livelihood opportunities and accessible healthcare due to improve transportation	The improved village road benefits the community in multiple ways. It ensures safe and convenient transportation for children to attend school and opens up economic opportunities by facilitating the transportation of goods, such as fresh fish. Additionally, the road allows for timely travel, enabling easy access to medical assistance and ensuring prompt responses to health problems.	7 individuals, Female FGD

Sustainable Waste Management	Through personal commitment, I have changed my waste disposal habits by using small bags and burning waste at home. I have also adopted self-study and plastic reuse practices to reduce my environmental impact. These efforts in waste management have contributed to creating a cleaner environment in my village, enabling us to pass on a better future to others.	4 individuals, Male and Female FGD
Sanitation and Hygiene Improvement	In 2022, I participated in Thant Lay Thant (4 cleans) training, which not only led to the construction of a toilet but also raised awareness about health and hygiene in my family. Emphasizing regular handwashing for my children after playing has become a priority. As a result of having proper toilets, we have eliminated unpleasant odors and created a cleaner and healthier environment, significantly improving our living standards.	5 individuals
Empowered Women in Community Engagement	I was able to share (4 cleans) personal hygiene awareness training, focusing on health-related topics such as proper garbage disposal and handwashing.  Sharing knowledge and active participation earned my husband's support, encouraging my involvement in meetings and empowering me in our community.	2 individuals
Gain confidence to speak up	GoMP project's education initiatives gave us the courage to speak up, as our previous lack of knowledge left us unsure of what to say, but now we speak with confidence in all settings.	Male and Female FGD

### 4.3.6 Problems

For “Problems” in Kyauk Seik, we investigated eight main themes. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “The village faces water scarcity due to insufficient voltage for water pumping and frequent breakdowns of the water pump machine, requiring urgent infrastructure improvements.” (1 individual, Male FGD)
- “The distance from the village to the hospital may be manageable due to good roads and transportation, but political situation makes it difficult to access health care services.” (1 individual, Male FGD)
- “The lack of patrolling in 2021 caused a decline in fish population in 2022, endangering the village and hindering efforts against illegal fishing without proper security.” (Female FGD)
- “The village's connecting road is challenging due to its dangerous conditions and lack of preparation, especially in steep areas where vehicles face difficulties avoiding each other.” (Male FGD)

**Table 21. Key findings from MSC stories - Problems**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
Challenges of Covid-19 Restrictions	In 2021, the inability to gather due to Covid-19 and the unavailability of project teachers to oversee logistics have significantly complicated our ability to carry out our activities.	1 individual
Health Constraints and Participation	If the teacher nominates me for collaborative group activities, I have to deny to participate in them due to my weakened health.	1 individual
Meeting Participation Challenges	The community faces the challenge of limited meeting attendance due to competing housework responsibilities.	1 individual
Water Supply Challenges and Insufficient Infrastructure	The broken water pump and the absence of a second machine have greatly restricted the village's water usage, creating difficulties in ensuring an adequate water supply and causing strain for the water distributor who manages with only one machine. Insufficient voltage and	3 individuals, Male FGD

	frequent breakdowns of the water pump machine contribute to water scarcity, necessitating immediate infrastructure upgrades to address the challenges faced by the community in maintaining sufficient water reservoirs.	
Political Challenges	The distance from the village to the hospital may be manageable due to good roads and transportation, but political situation makes us difficult to access healthcare services.	1 individual, Male FGD
Communication and Leadership Challenges	Working with people can sometimes lead to misunderstandings. As I take on a leadership role, some have accused me of being too controlling.	1 individual
Challenges in Fishery	The declining fish population and limited fishing areas present significant challenges for fishers. The absence of patrolling in 2021 resulted in a decrease in the fish population in 2022, posing a threat to the village and impeding efforts to combat illegal fishing without adequate security measures.	1 individual, Female FGD
Transportation Safety	The village's connecting road is challenging due to its dangerous conditions and lack of preparation, especially in steep areas where vehicles face difficulties avoiding each other. (Male)	Male FGD

### 4.3.7 Changes Needed

For “Changes Needed” in Kyauk Seik, we investigated eight main themes. These themes are organized along with a summary of the stories and presented in the table below. Additionally, we have selected some of the most significant quotes related to this domain for reference:

- “We strongly recommend organizing a village-level training program focused on women's empowerment, providing every woman in the community with the opportunity to speak up and be heard, thereby empowering them and amplifying their voices.” (1 individual, Female FGD)
- “For optimal convenience and higher participation rates, it is recommended to schedule meetings and training sessions between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., preferably on Myanmar days (2, 3, 4, 5), while considering that training during the months of September to February may not be feasible.” (1 individual, Female FGD)
- “Incorporating practical demonstrations and visual infographics in training sessions enhances the learning experience, making it more effective, engaging, and interesting for participants.” (1 individual)
- “The Gulf of Mottama project should lead collaborative patrolling efforts with official departments, engaging villagers, and ensuring security to combat illegal fishing methods such as set bag net, Stake net (Than Za Kar), electric shocking, and Da-Min, bringing prosperity to the entire village through sustainable fishing and better livelihoods.” (2 individuals, Female FGD)
- “Promoting transparency, the revolving fund should provide regular updates on the number of participants, reasons for entry and exit, and the fund balance, while also seeking community consultation on crucial decisions like interest-based borrowing and income enhancement.” (1 individual)

**Table 22. Key findings from MSC stories – Changes Needed**

Themes	Summary from MSC stories	# Responses
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Effective Communication for research	There have been instances where a communication gap occurred, causing delays in the research process. It's crucial to establish clear communication channels and protocols within the project to ensure smooth and efficient coordination.	1 individual
Capacity building trainings	To empower women and promote their voices, it is highly recommended to organize a village-level training program dedicated to women's empowerment. This will provide every woman in the community with a platform to express themselves and be heard. Additionally, for equal participation and benefits, it is important to involve more fishermen in fishing technique training alongside women.	1 individual, Female FGD
Effective training strategies	To optimize convenience and participation, it is advisable to schedule meetings and training sessions between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., preferably on Myanmar days (2, 3, 4, 5), while considering limitations during September to February. Including practical demonstrations and visual infographics in training enhances engagement and effectiveness. Bringing experts to the community eliminates travel barriers, promoting greater participation and accessibility.	2 individual, Female FGD
Waste management training and incineration	For successful waste incineration, the project should offer training on system operation, waste classification, and ash utilization, enabling the community to effectively manage their waste.	2 individuals, Male FGD
Improving water distribution infrastructure	To ensure reliable water distribution and promote good health, implementing an efficient automatic voltage transformer is crucial as pure water is essential for the village.	3 individuals, Male FGD
Promoting Sustainable Fishing Practices and Livelihoods	The Gulf of Mottama project should lead collaborative patrolling efforts with official departments, engaging villagers, and ensuring security to combat illegal fishing methods such as set bag net, Stake net (Than Za Kar), electric shocking, and Da-Min, bringing prosperity to the entire village through sustainable fishing and better livelihoods.	2 individuals, Female FGD
Transparency and Accountability in Revolving Fund Management	Promoting transparency, the revolving fund should provide regular updates on the number of participants, reasons for entry and exit, and the fund balance, while also seeking community consultation on crucial decisions like interest-based borrowing and income enhancement.	1 individual
Road Safety and Improvement	It is imperative to prioritize the repair and reconstruction of steep road area to enhance accessibility, ensure safety, and promote smooth transportation within the community.	1 individual

#### 4.4 REVIEW BY TCCs AND CFMs

**Table 23: Response and explanation of the MSC statements by the TCC and CFM for Aung Kan Thar Village.**

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Selected story, and key point</i>	<i>Rationale from field team for selection</i>
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1 <i>Natural Resource Conservation</i>	6; This year, the colder weather has resulted in a slightly higher fish yield for me. Thanks to the project's focus on discouraging the use of illegal fish nets, I no longer catch fish using small mesh nets. I have acquired knowledge from the trainers on the technique of using ice to preserve fish, and now I am capable of implementing this method on my own.	He or she has knowledge and applies it himself. It is mentioned that the behavior has changed.
	8; Mangrove plantation, prevention of state bag nets, and winter bird conservation training was conducted. I received a salary from World View organization for my participation in these activities. Through the support of the Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP), I acquired valuable technology and knowledge on developing management plans, which has benefited our subsequent work.	The topic and the information answered are relevant.
2 <i>Natural Disaster Preparedness</i>	7; There is no worry about storm and flood due to mangrove plantation.	He can tell that it is good to maintain plants and plant them. I can see that knowledge was gained He can talk about the previous condition and the current reduced (improved) condition.
	9; When there is a mangrove forest, even the strong waves subside when they reach the shore. The family can live safely	He is able to tell the value of having mangrove trees. He is able to compare the situation before and the present situation.
3 <i>Income and Financial Management</i>	3; I utilized the project loan to purchase fishing nets for my business, and the low interest rate has helped me become debt-free. Additionally, with the loan, I am able to afford to hire three boat workers. By bypassing fish brokers and selling fish directly, I get higher prices in the market. Due to this I found a good place to sell fish, my financial improved and my family can go to vacation destinations.	From the provided information, he can compare the interest rate and the benefit of paying the loan. He also mentioned the fact that he had changed.
	7; Through the icing fish course, I acquired knowledge on how to properly preserve fish, and I got a good price for the fish. As a result, my family's living conditions have significantly improved. With the help of the project's loan, I invested in additional fishing nets, resulting in increased fish catch and higher earnings. My financial increase, has eliminated the need to	Because of having the knowledge of the fishing industry, he realized that if the fish were iced, there would be less loss. He saw that his family had changed. There is a match for the benefits and changes can be visualized.

4  
Participation

<p>borrow money from others. I now allocate my earnings towards school expenses and healthcare, further enhancing the well-being of my family.</p>	
<p>9; While the funding provided by the project may not be substantial, it is helpful in various ways. As it continues to grow, it can gradually assist in paying off debts.</p>	<p>Though this is not the complete story, he or she can tell exactly. He or she can tell where and what she/he does from the two sources of the loan (GOMP, World View).</p>
<p>10; Through the project's loan, I gained valuable knowledge and skills in investing. This has allowed me to effectively manage my finances and avoid the need for further borrowing. As a result, my family feels more comfortable.</p>	<p>The answer is consistent. He learned how to apply management principles. He found that he could apply it within his market.</p>
<p>2; The cooperation from the Gulf of Mottama has significantly enhanced my social relationships, broadened my perspective and empowered me to follow my conscience in pursuing what I truly desire.</p>	<p>From the answered information, social relations have been improved. He became confident to say. I can see how he cooperates.</p>
<p>7; I am becoming active. I changed my attitude by collaborating in group discussion, meetings and answering interviews. Our village witnessed significant improvement and a sense of happiness through our collective involvement in training programs. Not only did men and children enhance their knowledge they shifted their perspectives. Personally, I gained a better understanding of my family members and learned how to instill discipline in my children. Additionally, the income generated from the mangrove forest has provided a convenient source of salary for my children.</p>	<p>It can be the overall answer for the whole family. I can see that his family has changed from before. He also spoke about participating in community business.</p>
<p>11; The awareness courses had a profound impact on the villagers as they gained valuable knowledge and skills. Even those who initially lacked interest became motivated to collaborate and contribute to the village's progress, thanks to its evident growth. These individuals actively expressed their desire to join the group, seeking opportunities for involvement. Additionally, those who had previously refrained from joining the group developed an interest and subsequently became interested in participating. As a result, the group's membership expanded, leading to enhanced participation and overall improved engagement within the community.</p>	<p>It is more relevant with participation. He tells about both members and non-members separately. The participation of the administration is also mentioned. He can see multiple areas of cooperation.</p>

**Table 24: Response and explanation of the MSC statements by the TCC and CFM for Mi Lauk Village.**

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Selected story, and key point</i>	<i>Rationale from field team for selection</i>
<i>1 Natural Resource Conservation</i>	4; We are able to conserve rare species and I also shared with others not to hunt them. It is important to sustain and conserve the Gulf of Mottama.	He or she can learn and share resource conservation. Understands the consequences for breaking the rules.
	6; In 2022, with the help from village administrators and communities I am able to release a marine mammal that was stranded. I gained knowledge and was able to share with others not to use illegal fishing equipment.	The answer is thorough and consistent. He/She promotes cooperation and also shares/inspires others to conserve and cooperate.
	10; I attended waste management and am able to manage waste and collaborate with others to practice throwing the waste away appropriately. Now our village has an area for our waste.	Proper disposal of garbage is practiced. He/she also actively participated in dolphin releases. It aligns with the topic of conserving natural resources. The answer is complete and provides detailed information.
<i>2 Skills and Training + Livelihood</i>	3; Able to do and use natural fertilizer so it saves money since prices have gone up.	The answer is comprehensive and providing detailed information. He/she can use techniques themselves and give detailed information.
	6; Motivated to send children to school keep them in school longer because of seeing teachers who came to give training. I am also able to manage waste.	The answer is the most comprehensive. He explained in detail the fact that he himself had changed. In addition to seeing a change in attitude, I can also see the fact that he/she has gained confidence.
	8; Gain knowledge and through increasing my knowledge I have gained more income. I attended gender training and was able to forgive my wife and children.	I see that the courses are emphasized. He also learned to manage waste. I have seen a change in behavior and attitude from attending the leadership and gender training.
<i>3 Income and Financial Management</i>	6; Revolving fund is helpful for us during the COVID time. Because of that funding people raise wild fish and gained better income.	The income section could benefit from more details on how to earn and what to do.

**Table 25: Response and explanation of the MSC statements by the TCC and CFM for Kyauk Seik Village.**

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Selected story, and key point</i>	<i>Rationale from field team for selection</i>
<i>1 Natural Resource Conservation</i>	1; I saw that it was significant. Due to COVID 19, illegal fishing has increased and fish resources have been damaged.	It is important that he/she knows and have to notify the FDA to preserve fish resources.

	<p>5; When resource conservation is no longer possible due to COVID and the political situation, it results in fishermen's rights being lost and there is a big change their livelihood.</p> <p>6; When patrolling could be done, the fish resources were significantly abundant. When this is not possible, illegal fishing takes place and fish availability declines significantly.</p>	<p>It has been told to highlight their difficulty.</p> <p>It is consistent with the actual situation.</p>
<p>2 <i>Livelihoods</i></p>	<p>1; Loans can be utilized for investing in fishing, it gives support. Additionally, the project offers training in home agriculture, facilitating the establishment of home gardens. I now have a home garden. However, the plants were not sown at the optimal time, resulting in limited growth.</p> <p>3; After relocating to the upper part of the village, I utilized the loan to start a motorbike taxi business. The availability of low-interest loans has brought me a sense of peace and security. However, there have been no significant changes.</p> <p>5; Through the training provided by the project, and thanks to its support, I can start my own plantations. This change holds great importance for me as I have learned how to grow crops and can now cultivate fresh fruits on my own land and selling them cover my house expenses.</p>	<p>The answers give complete information and he seems to know a lot. It is aligned with what is happening.</p> <p>He can start a business he can do. The GoMP found the significance of the low interest rate of the loan helps the people to have confidence to start their own business and provides them peace of mind in paying back the loan.</p> <p>I can see the change. It turns out to be a private farm. When inputs are provided, the income increases. I see that their mind of willing to do it. It started this year and I can see it is developing.</p>
<p>3 <i>Income and Financial Management</i></p>	<p>2; Fixing fishing nets and selling with the support of the project. If Fishermen are not successful selling fishing nets is also not going to be successful. As a result, every time I have to repay the loan, I have to borrow money from my children. There has been no significant improvement in our income. I can stand with the support of my children.</p> <p>3; With the project's support, I was able to earn a living by repairing fishing nets. I save money regularly to repay the loan. A</p>	<p>Due to the increase in commodity prices, we can see it has become more difficult to pay them back. When he repaid the loan, he has to ask for help from his children. It has been carefully mentioned that income opportunities are declining. It makes me wonder what will change next year.</p> <p>When repaying the loan, I can see that it is not a burden for him. He</p>

	<p>little bit has changed with the change in the economy, but it hasn't been a significant change for me.</p> <p>5; The project provides loans to fishermen for repairing fishing nets and for small-scale trading of dried fish paste. I used the loan to fix fishing nets. Although the loan has not made a significant impact on the household's food supply, it is valuable as it has helped to sustain our livelihood and social connections.</p>	<p>saved money regularly. It is relevant and compatible with the way the project wants the system to go. Others can also take the example.</p> <p>He can alternate the revolving fund. He could tell the significant change in details. It is good that livelihood can be adapted.</p>
<p>4 <i>Participation</i></p>	<p>1; By collaborating, I gain knowledge and communication skills. Despite encountering both critics and supporters, I and others persevere in our efforts to assist the organization (GoMP). Thanks to the project, I have had the opportunity to attend business courses despite my low education. I am also teaching my daughter the importance of being financially savvy and having a sharp mind when it comes to managing money.</p> <p>4; Participated as a volunteer in project work for village development. I attend meetings and courses. Because the road is good, it is safe to travel for children's education. It is a pleasure to work together. I have noticed a significant improvement in my communication skills as I overcame my previous fear of speaking up. I also encouraged others to participate.</p> <p>5; I take person responsibility for connecting with every business involved in the project. I lead and actively participate in the project's activities, ensuring that all materials are properly preserved and not lost. Regardless of any criticism, I feel I have worked toward the progress and success of the project for the betterment of the village. Although my involvement in the project sometimes leads to neglecting my family responsibilities, I recognize the</p>	<p>I can see a significant change. Despite criticism from others, he did not quit. It is beneficial for him by participating with a sense of dedication. He is able to attend training that he only can attend after graduation. He taught his daughter to have a mind to be more aware of how to manage money.</p> <p>He can relate his story in detail. He feels he really learned something important that he didn't know before. He has the courage to speak for the development of the community. He now knows that village unity will help the community to improve. He encourages other people to participate.</p> <p>It highlights a commitment participation community development. Whichever activities and projects come; he connects with the relevant person. He performs the project work to minimize damage. I can see that he is serious about improving his community</p>

importance of the knowledge and experience I have gained from it. This transformation is significant as it has enabled me to contribute towards building a road for the village. Because we can't implement by ourselves.	
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## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on MSC stories, key areas for investigation, change, or improvement include:

- Empowering more youth – To encourage youth to become involved in the project and youth to work together with senior team members and learn to implement activities for effective results.
- Time limitation for trainings – To continue to work with the issue of time availability for trainings and activities, and consider the suggestions of some participants to broaden responsibility for VDC activities and expand the reach of trainings. This suggestion was included in the previous report but seems it is still relevant 2023.
- Inclusiveness – To encourage community members to openly and honestly discuss for long term interest, willingness, availability, challenges, and opportunities to participate in project activities for sustainability.
- Biodiversity conservation – To conduct fish patrolling for natural resource conservation as most people in the community have to rely on fishing in the coastal area. Deliver environmental conservation and ecosystem trainings in summer time.
- Transparency – To investigate transparency for the revolving fund; present who are members, how many people are left in the team, and how much the budget remains or is left. To monitor its effectiveness and what challenges are in the revolving fund system.
- Prioritization – Instead of doing many activities, to focus on prioritized activities and consistently support increased improvement on community for a project's significance and impact.

Recommendations from TCC and CFM for MSC evaluation

- To continue MSC –Continue and expand MSC evaluation as TCC and CFMs want to learn what kind of significant changes happened in the community and to understand more deeply the project impact on the community.
- To add more questions – Community feedback for CFMs in order to know their improvement and what needs to be changed in facilitating the project's activities in the community.

## NEXT STEPS for the MSC IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

- Provide feedback to the community from the MSC evaluation.
- Discuss with GoMP for taking or applying the MSC evaluation results into action.

## Acknowledgements

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