
Annex 3: Case Studies and Success Stories

Shwe Tha Sot Village's Drinking Water Pond Case Study



© Nyanseik Rarmarn/ HELVETAS Myanmar

The new house built in new resettlement area which it calls New Shwe Tha Sot Village, after affected by Sit Tong river bank erosion, in Kawa Township, Bago Region.

Shwe Tha Sot village is located in coastal area along Sit Tong River, in Kawa Township, with population of 1160 and 237 households. Most people living in this village relied on agriculture, however only a few households own the farmland and majority are landless.

Beside some villagers were working on fisheries and opening small shop at the village for their income. For some family, young adults were migrated to neighbor countries to seek for income and support the family who left behind.

The village had reliable basic infrastructure such as drinking water ponds, school for children and monastery religious building.

However, in the middle of 2015, their lives became vulnerability due to continuously river bank erosion a long Sit Tong River, not only destroyed thousands acres of farmland and changing their livelihood patterns but also smacked the whole village under the water, which was forcing the villagers to be internally displace person (IDP).

“We had been facing difficulties to resettle after our village and houses smacked by erosion, we did not received support from Bago Regional Government, except relocation fees fifty thousand kyat [USD 45] per household” Said, U Htay Kyaw, Shwe Tha Sot village administrator.

“Several donors or individuals came to our village to support us in term of food and kitchen tools but these were only short term. However, at the moment, the main challenges for us was the land to resettle the new village. U Kyaw Soe family [Shwe That Sot] donated us 20 acres of land at the same time U Sain Moung family, was about 5 acres of land for resettlement. The rest of the land were we had to buy it by ourselves for one acre was equivalent to 300000 MMK [USD 300]. Now we are in debt” Said U Kyaw Thu, village supporting committee.

However, the current new resettlement area is only one and half miles away from the river bank and expected to be collapsed again later this year or the next accordance with the communities.

“The reason we settled this new village here is that because of the land we received donation from those families and unaffordable for us to buy new land” U Htay Kway explained.

During relocation process, some families who are able to effort themselves moved to the village nearby or town, only 150 households resettle in this new village. At the same time, the remaining community have been continuously facing many problems regard to a new resettlement.

According to rapid assessment which conducted by Community-Led Coastal Management in the Gulf of Mottama Project during the Komen cyclone, Shwe Tha Sot villagers demanded the project to support the “Drinking Water Pond”, as they mentioned that drinking water and hygiene were urgently needed for new village.

After having consultation with consortium partners, the project decided to support drinking water pond construction with the total amount of 7’700’000 MMK [USD 7’700] in combination with financial support from Kawa Township General Administration Department.



Water pond at Shwe Tahsot Village which is supported by CLCMGoMP.

“The project supported the drinking water pond construction. This was urgently needed. Now we are using the water from the pond not only for drinking but also for daily usage for the whole village.”

However, the Water Pond Management Committee reports, that this pond will dry out and the village may face water shortage for four months in coming summer especially around February to May, because to the pond only can store rain water. It is possible to dig deeper to get ground water but it might cost quite amount of money to cover the costs for digging process. Instead, for temporarily, they are planning to prepare for mobile water storage but still face difficulties with funding support for construction and equipment to carry water from the nearby village.

For personal hygiene, totally about 75% of households are having latrines but they still have a problem with the water to use it.

“Most of the houses have latrines. But many families cannot use it properly as we have to carry water from far away and source of water is unstable. We have to manage it well for drinking. We also have Village Health Committee in our village to support on health issue. Most households voluntarily donate monthly about 500 MMK. This money is used to support in emergency cases, especially those who have to go to hospital. If it costs more than we can support, they can borrow without interest fee” Said Daw Myit Kyi, Village Health Committee member.



A man is carrying water for house used.

Shwe Tha Sot villagers rely on external medic, whose is from Mi Lout Rural Health Center. Only once a week they can access health coverage. In case of emergency, they can request the medic to come to their village or consult with Village Health Committee if they need funding support or borrow money to go to hospital in Kawa Public Hospital.

“For Mi Lout village track, we have five villages and we have only one medic, so that she has to take turn to visit to those villages and only once a week she can come to our village” Daw Paly Ou explained.

After a year of resettlement process, the community is still facing challenges for water shortage in dry season and personal hygiene as well as livelihood opportunities, basic infrastructure and natural disaster by flooding. The transportation is in poor condition and it is difficult to access to the village. Furthermore, the current new village is less than one mile from the river bank. The villagers expect the river bank to collapse again later this year or next year if the bank erosion continues to happen. However, they do not have plan yet to relocate to another area as they do not have support to do so.

Author
Min Nyan Seik
Communication Officer
HELVETAS Myanmar, CLCMGoM Project

Success Story (Individual benefit to Village benefit)

Interviewer Name: U Soe Thein (Farmer, 58 yrs) (Education – Grade 8)

Village: Kha War Chaung village, Kyaikto Township

Family members: Daw Tin Tin Hla (53yrs, wife) and 7 children (M – 2, W – 5)

Location:

Kha War Chaung village is located at the river-side of the Sittaung River, Kyaikto Township. It was 2 miles far from Yangon-Mawlamyine highway road and 3.5 miles far from Thein Za Yat. For market access, it mainly depends on Nyaung Khar Shay and Thein Za Yat which is about 3.5 miles away from each.

First Introduction with CLCMGoMP

First of all, I attended a workshop (socialization activity) that was conducted in Muthin village. Then, while the groups and committees were formed by the project, I participated again and was elected as vice-president of the village development committee.

Attending trainings

In June 2016, the project invited us to attend the crop production training, I participated in this training according to the suggestions of my committee members. In September, I attended an organic farming training.

Changed ideas and changed results

After attending the agricultural trainings supported by the project, I was less willing to use the previous practices of farming. I can figure out the results of systematic farming/crop production practices that were mentioned by trainers. During the training, I was happy and interested to learn things/techniques like growing paddy with 20 days seedlings (earlier – most of farmers were using 30 days seedlings), sowing with seed bed system, making and utilization of organic fertilizer, systematic pests and disease control methods etc.

Collaborations with CLCMGoMP project

Since the start of the farming, my close peers are interested on how we apply the agricultural techniques systematically and on the management of inputs. In the previous time, nobody followed good quality seed farming practices. I decided to produce good quality seed (Certified Seed) for my income and for our farmers in my village. With the support of the Department of Agriculture and project staffs, I started using Seed Multiplication Method. In my colleagues' opinion, they thought my crop production methods would fail (putting 1 or 2 seedlings instead of 4-6 seedlings as in the previous system). During the entire farming period (from seeding to harvesting), I got repeatedly support from DoA and CLCMGoMP.

Individual benefit to village benefit

In recent times, for good quality seeds (Certified Seed), we didn't have much options to choose for our farming and it was also limited. We couldn't access these good seeds within the village. We went and bought from near Waw, Kyaikto township DoA. Now starting from me, some farmers

could easily access the good seeds from me and some of them started to farm even since this summer crop. For my individual benefit, I got much higher yields (before – 40 buckets per acre and current – 90 buckets per acre). At the same time paddy prices increased (before 400,000 MMKs for local paddy and current 600,000 MMKs for one bucket). Based on my experience, I also could backstop others for technical things, suggestions and advices.

Challenges/Lesson learnt

In my opinion, there were still some challenges regarding the above mentioned achievements. These techniques are fine for a small area. The techniques cost more than local practice, because they are labor intensive. Although the farmers are well-aware and want to follow these scientific/systemic techniques, there are still challenges for them.

I would like to say many thanks to the project and related supporters to us. I learnt new production practices and could produce quality seed on my own fields.



U Soe Thein with his farm



U Soe Thein with winter crop (groundnut) farming (which was previously grown the paddy- Seed Multi)



U Soe Thein with his multi-plot sign-board

Author
Nay Myo Zaw
Knowledge Management, Monitoring and
Evaluation Officer
HELVETAS Myanmar, CLCMGoM Project