



DRC Myanmar | Poverty and Hunger Alleviation through Support, Empowerment, and Increased Networking (PHASE IN II) **via the European Union**

PROJECT SNAPSHOT | **Community-driven Development in Sittwe Township of Rakhine State**

Bringing communities out of isolation and closer to each other and to markets is one of the keys to development in Myanmar's Rakhine state to create access, break the poverty cycle and strengthen resilience. DRC's Community-driven Development project in Rakhine is one such approach that aims to empower individuals and entire communities. Infrastructure is the overall theme for these types of projects that are designed and implemented by DRC with communities in rural areas.

The community decides

In close collaboration with key stakeholders, committed citizens and community representatives, DRC introduces participatory processes to develop ideas and plans for local infrastructure projects. These can be linked to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR), food security or community cohesion. The needs are identified and prioritised collectively through the establishment of Village Development Committees to ensure local ownership and social cohesion. The committees are composed to reflect age, gender and diversity in each community, to ensure that men and women, of different ages, across the community are heard and involved.

Roads

Since 2018, DRC has worked with five villages in Aung Daing, in Sittwe Township of Rakhine State. A rapid needs assessment made it clear that new roads were their key priority as the villages all suffer from isolation due to roads that are old or damaged by seasonal floods. Road construction was eventually carried out in three Rohingya villages using macadam engineering, and concrete road construction in two other Rakhine villages.

DRC stands by

The entire process – from bringing people together to eventually shaping an actual and specific local development plan – was supported by DRC through EU funds. This allowed for helping with engaging engineers to help supervise project quality in collaboration with local authorities. Preconstruction meetings were held to plan the construction processes and procedures. DRC awarded cash grants to the Village Development Committees, to help purchase the needed construction materials and labour.

PHASE IN II is funded by the European Union and implemented by DRC in Myanmar between 2017 and 2021 in Maungdaw, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Sittwe, and Pauktaw townships of Rakhine State through seven main project components:

*Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ● Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) ● Cash for Work (CfW) ● Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) ● **Community-driven Development (CDD)** ● Business start-up Support ● Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)*

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