

ACRP National Chapter Report (*Template*)

Myanmar

Bearing in mind **ACRP's Vision** that states: *The religious communities in Asia and the Pacific cooperate effectively for Peace;*

Being also mindful of **ACRP's Mission**, which stipulates that RfP Asia (ACRP) advances common action among religious communities in Asian and the Pacific for Peace;

Taking into consideration on **ACRP's principles** that are:

- 1) respect religious differences;
- 2) act on deeply held and widely shared values;
- 3) preserve the identity of each religious communities;
- 4) honor the different ways religious communities are organized;
- 5) link local, national and regional structures; and 6) collaborate with Religions for Peace International;

The ACRP Chapter of Myanmar presents to the ACRP Executive Committee its National Chapter Report throughout 2017.

***Insertion of photos, which show your program/project/activity, to your report is warmly welcomed!**

Overview of all the activities carried out by your chapter between (month, year) and (month, year)
RfP-M have two main projects started running from 2015 to 2017. SIRCM – Feb 1,2015 – June 30, 2017 · The purpose of the “Strengthening Interreligious Collaboration in Myanmar” project is to build a constituent database of RfP-M, strengthening communications and partnerships and playing a strong and positive role in multi-religious peacebuilding and development. The goal of this project is to build the capacity of RfP-M to be the pre-eminent organization in Myanmar for interfaith dialogue, collaboration and action. MPRDT – 2015 – 31 st Aug 2017 (MultiReligious Aimed to Mitigate conflict and build social cohesion, break the cycles of violence and support the development of a diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society via the objectives which are: Objective # 1 Building Multi-Religious Capacity to Support Peace building Objective # 2 Promoting Social Cohesion and Reconciliation

Objective # 3 Facilitating the Conditions for the Smooth Return/Resettlement of IDPs.

Brief descriptions of prioritized activities carried out between 2015 and 2017

1. *SIRCM – Strengthening Interreligious Collaboration in Myanmar*
 - a) *SIRCM, theme is based on building a database of RfP-M, strong communication and strengthening the partnership among the religious organizations.*
 - b) *Feb 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017*
 - c) *The project run with three objectives :*
 - *Obj 1 RfP-M has stronger governance and financial structure.*
 - *Obj 2 RfP-M is able to play a strong and positive role in multi-religious peacebuilding and development initiatives and increase social cohesion.*
 - *Obj 3 Strengthening District Level Interreligious Committee to engage with community Support Groups and other actors for Child Protection.*
 - d) *Targeted goals : Strengthened RfP-M as the foremost interreligious body in Myanmar that is well known and working to serve the community, Increased its participation in national level peacebuilding and development poliicy making meetings, Increased participation of targeted communcations in interfaith action (Dialogue, peacebuilding and awareness raising activities, strategic humanitarian actions, increased engagement of RfP-M and the District Interfaith Committees in Pyay and Pathein in child protection issues in partnership with other child protection actors, over 400 children benefitted from the interfaith child protection activities*
 - e) *RfP-M’s policies had been developed properly, and the organizational structure had been built systematically such as in project areas, there are Interfaith groups, Women of Faith Networks and Interfaith youth network founded already and these groups’ collaboration in building interfaith peace had been shown significant impact such as organizing Interfaith Dialogue, Child Protection Edutainment Program, and welcoming the other activities with the partnership of government Authorities, e.g. Meikhtila Township, Water Supply Project : A project which aims to support the water for the local community*
 - f) *The special police, Military Intelligence, always followed the Interfaith Committee Members, which make the IC members reluctant to participate the current activities. Moreover, though the interfaith community work together in activities, the year-long hatred and conflicts trauma are still in the heart of the community members, which would need to ease their tension that is quite challenging.*
 - g) *Recommendations – Instead of Aiming at Interfaith Peace Directly, esp in hard-line majority community, development approach (such as Microfinance Loans, Community Development Trainings, youth and women Capacity Buildings) to the community is quite prominent to showcase in the public eyes, and better ease approach which can be accepted by the community.*
2. *MPRDT – Multi Religious*
 - a) *To mitigate conflict and build social cohesion and development through multi-religious efforts*
 - b) **Objective # 1** *Building Multi-Religious Capacity to Support Peace building*

Objective # 2 Promoting Social Cohesion and Reconciliation

Objective # 3 Facilitating the Conditions for the Smooth Return/Resettlement of IDPs.

- c) Project Timeline - 2015 – 31st Aug 2017
- d) Target Goals - Religious men, women and youth are empowered to mitigate conflict and promote peace and reconciliation. Conflicts arising from the return and resettlement of IDPs are mitigated. Inter-religious efforts at “welcoming the other” increase inter-communal understanding and decrease the risk of conflict.
- e) Now, RfP-M is recognized as the Respectful Organization in the community project areas. The proactive participation of Women of Faith Network, Interfaith Youth Network and Interfaith Committee Members had some positive impact on reconciliation of once separated faith groups. Now, in sensitive areas such as Rakhine State, the coordination meeting was accepted by the authorities and the community. At that meeting, RfP-M approaches carefully to the community from development approach where all the community members strongly showed the green light for the organization. We had already finished Planting activities and Peace Dinner among community leaders one time at Rakhine State.
- f) Because of mistrust among the communities, and controversial situation, the Rakhine community only accepts three religions to form the Interfaith committee. Even three-religions led Interfaith meeting was postponed by the Buddhist monk with the reason of sensitive situation of Ma Ba Tha (The association of Protection of Race and Religion) and the government.
- g) Recommendations - – *Instead of Aiming at Interfaith Peace Directly, esp in hard-line majority community, development approach (such as Microfinance Loans, Community Development Trainings, youth and women Capacity Buildings) to the community is quite prominent to showcase in the public eyes, and better ease approach which can be accepted by the community*

Degree of Implementation of Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

1. To what extent has your chapter been engaged in undertakings to achieve OUTCOMES listed in the SAP?

- a) For Objective 1: In project areas, where religious conflicts or ethnic conflicts sites, RfP-M founded the Interfaith Committee, Interfaith Youth Network and Women of Faith Network successfully, and in order to perform bridging among the diversified communities, these groups are proactively participating and playing the role of the facilitators among the communities. Moreover, RfP-M accomplished in publishing and disseminating the books, messages, Statements across the country. Furthermore, RfP-M organized coordination meetings successfully with Township Authorities, and NGOs, INGOs and CSOs in our project areas. The results were astonishing with RfP-M as one of the recognized organizations who are working for Peace and in Meikhtila, the partnership between Meikhtila Interfaith Committee and the Township Development Council for the Water supply Project would be expected as the starting point of more collaboration journey with Township Development Council.
- b) For Objective 2: Child Protection Edutainment shows were successfully conducted with the strong collaboration of WoFN and IYN Groups at Meikhtila, Pyay, Pathein and Yangon. The Myitgyina Women Network is surprisingly most

active despite of their location just close to civil war areas. They even have the Self-Fund by the members and when they have some joint activities with other organizations, the women and the youths came together and joined the activities and showed their unity to the community which can have the positive impact on community mind-set. In concern with National Level Network, National Youth Network performed as the essential team of organizing the Women network-led Interfaith peace forum, delivering Trainings for Women Peace Builders at different townships.

2. *To what extent has your chapter not been engaged in undertakings to achieve OUTCOMES listed in the SAP? And what, do you think, are reasons for the outcome?*

- a) For Objective 1: In the case of Hyper Sensitive Cases at the National Level such as boat People Crisis, RfP-M couldn't afford to participate due to so many reasons.
- b) For Objective 2: In some areas, the interfaith youth groups were established successfully, but they were not so active, and what they pointed out is that they would like to receive capacity building trainings, some joint activities on monthly basis.

3. *Forward looking suggestions and recommendations for the next stage of SAP*

- a) Myan SAP All Inclusive
 - b) Need more feasible projects across the country
 - c) Funding Support
- And more!*

Overall comments and suggestions

- 1. Needs Assessment/ Situational Analysis for the projects
 - 2. Development Approach together with the peace process
- And more*