
OVERVIEW OF INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES

February 2025

Nyein Chan Metta

(Religions for Peace Myanmar)

289 Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung, Yangon 11161

Myanmar



HAHS Project End Review Meeting, Yangon

Table of Contents

ACRONYMS	3
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
3. INTRODUCTION	5
VISION:	6
MISSION:.....	6
GOALS:	6
OBJECTIVES:.....	6
4. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.....	6
THE ACTIVITIES INCLUDES:	7
ACHIEVEMENTS.....	8
CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES	8
ADVOCACY VISIT AND ORIENTATION OF PROJECT	9
MULTI-RELIGIOUS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND HEALTHCARE SUPPORT	16
RFP-MYANMAR SHARES THE TITLES OF PAST PROJECTS BELOW (2015 – 2021):.....	20
5. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS:.....	23
6. APPENDICES.....	27

Acronyms

NCM	-	Nyein Chan Metta
<i>RfP</i> -M	-	<i>Religions for Peace</i> -Myanmar
RfP	-	Religions for Peace
WoFN	-	Women of Faith Network
IYN	-	Interfaith Youth Network
SAC	-	State Administration Council
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
CP	-	Child Protection
PD	-	Programme Document
FBCPNG	-	Faith-based Child Protection Network Groups
ToT	-	Training of Trainers
MRM	-	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
CFS	-	Child Friendly Space
EORE	-	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
VANE	-	Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
CPiE	-	Child Protection in Emergencies
IDP	-	Internally Displaced People
CPCR	-	Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights
SSS	-	Southern Shan State
YMCA	-	Young Men's Christian Association
MNDAA	-	Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army
AA	-	Arakan Army
CSO	-	Civil Society Organization
NGO	-	Non-profit and Governmental Organization
INGO	-	International Non-profit and Governmental Organization
HAHS	-	Multi-religious Humanitarian Assistance and Health Support
CTFMR	-	Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting

2. Executive Summary

Religions for Peace-Myanmar has worked on varied projects related to social cohesion among diverse communities, child protection, welcoming others, climate change, interfaith dialogue, humanitarian assistance, and awareness of women and human rights. There has been good coordination and collaboration with government sectors, diplomats, International, and local organizations, and experts regarding improvement in the democratizing process in Myanmar. During our peace-sense environment in the country, *RfP*-Myanmar conducted a remarkable Peace and Reconciliation forum three times in Naypyitaw by joining multiple people from different aspects and sectors including government and international experts. Bishop Gunnar Stålsett, Bishop Emeritus of Oslo and Rev. Kyoichi Sugino, President of Gakurin Seminary in current and former acting Secretary General of *RfP* International were the key people who successfully made the advisory forum in Myanmar. WoFN and IYN members of *RfP* Myanmar also provided awareness and training for grassroots communities in the targeted areas.

RfP Myanmar has gained communities' trust through interreligious cooperation in all level of faith followers. Local authority and faith leaders from different religions have been actively involved in our process of welcoming others. Particularly, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture supported the social cohesion process of *RfP* Myanmar. Involvement in intra-religious activity was one of the trust-building platforms among interreligious communities for welcoming others.

Remarkably, during the COVID-19 pandemic, *RfP* Myanmar provided psychosocial support and humanitarian assistance to interreligious communities, funded by *Religions for Peace* Japan. While people were struggling from the suffering of the pandemic, the military coup in February 2021 made the situation in Myanmar even more severe. The coup destroyed everything and caused turmoil in every interreligious channel and network across the country. Because of the pandemic and the military coup, we also lost skillful people who were actively involved in the process of moving forward.

Given the current situation in the country, *RfP*-Myanmar collaborates with UNICEF as an MRM partner to implement child protection projects in conflict-affected areas. The well-trained staff respond promptly to cases on the ground and maintain close coordination and cooperation with CTFMR.

3. Introduction

In June 2012, religious communities in Myanmar came together to form Religions for Peace Myanmar (*RfP-M*) as the country's first full-fledged representative and action-oriented interreligious body for reconciliation, peace and development. *RfP-M* brings together all of the four major religions of Myanmar, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam

Religions for Peace (*RfP*) entered in Myanmar in 2012. Since then, six Core Members representing interreligious in Myanmar were formed to lead the organization. It became *Religions for Peace Myanmar (RfP-M)* local translation "ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး" *RfP-M* involved in varied interreligious activities which lead to creating peaceful society in Myanmar. In 2013 Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), in 2014 Women of Faith Network (WoFN) had formed respectively and introducing them in some areas based on targeted project place. With the support of *RfP* International, *RfP-M* implemented the project activities that related to social cohesion, climate change, and child protection. Many actions and involvement of *RfP-M* in local interreligious activities had done smoothly without holding official registered certificate. However, there was the time to register according to the law of government. *RfP-M* registered in direct translation of local term for *Religions of Peace Myanmar* - ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးအဖွဲ့ မြန်မာ. The term "interreligious" was deemed unacceptable by the responsible authority at that time. Based on the comments and suggestions from the line ministry, *RfP* had to choose a local term that avoided the sense of "interfaith" in the organization's title. Consequently, it adopted the local name "Nyein Chan Metta" (ငြိမ်းချမ်းမေတ္တာအဖွဲ့), which means "loving kindness." Thus, the team retried for registration as Nyein Chan Metta (NCM). It refers to *Religions for Peace Myanmar*. On 8 April 2016, NCM was granted official registered certificate to work in national level activities—Reg.code# 1/PYIDWE/0077. Since then, *RfP-M* was well known as Nyein Chan Metta in countrywide. Registration was expired on 31 December 2020. *RfP-M* applied for extension two months before expiry of the organization registration. It took about three months back and forth with registration office to complete all requirements for extension. Finally, NCM was informed to collect extension certification of organization in the first week of February 2021.

Unfortunately, military coup had happened on 1st February 2021 and the country become hopeless situation and the whole country uprising and living unstable condition till now.

During SAC, NCM retried for extension of registration in 2022. SAC enacted new organizational registration law on October 28, 2022, which more restriction to organizations who work for such humanitarian assistance, education and capacity building for development. NCM retried several times to obtain new registration through suggestions of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture that NCM collaborated in the past. However, it was not success to date.

Vision:

Communities with diverse religious beliefs live peacefully and harmoniously in Myanmar.

Mission:

Advance inter-communal harmony and social cohesion through interreligious cooperation.

Goals:

1. Foster mutual understanding and respect among different religious communities in Myanmar.
2. Promote peaceful coexistence and collaboration among diverse religious groups.
3. Strengthen the capacity of interreligious networks to address social and humanitarian issues.

Objectives:

1. Conduct interfaith dialogues and workshops to enhance mutual understanding and respect among religious communities.
2. Organize community events and activities that promote peaceful coexistence and collaboration among diverse religious groups.
3. Provide training and resources to interreligious networks to strengthen their capacity in addressing social and humanitarian issues.
4. Develop and implement programs that support social cohesion and inter-communal harmony.
5. Monitor and evaluate the impact of interreligious cooperation initiatives to ensure continuous improvement and effectiveness.

4. Activities and Programs

RfP-Myanmar is implementing the project – Holistic CP project funded by UNICEF Myanmar. RfP-Myanmar has contracted with UNICEF a Humanitarian Programme Document as a response to sudden onset or rapid deterioration of a humanitarian crisis and/or contingency purposes, under the project named “*Protection of Violations of the Rights of the Children through Faith Network*” for a period of 11 months - 19 January to 19 December, 2022, in the Kayah, Southern Shan State (SSS) and Kachin states. In mid 2022, Sagaing region the most devastated conflict affected area was added, and the project timeframe was extended to March 2023. Due to the underspent budget balance, No Cost Extension of the project was permitted until end June 2023. Then, project extension was granted as Phase II Humanitarian Programme Document and the timeframe is for 12 months (15 July 2023 to 15 July 2024) with same contingency purposes.

Integration of Rakhine state, Chin state and Magway region for six months was considered after MOCHA cyclone downfall in May 2023, as the victims were most affected, and children faced challenges for survival. Through the cooperation of faith leaders, the project aims to increase the capacity of affected people in terms of understanding on child rights and child protection and to take protective action norms by referring child protection cases to the service providers and promoting positive social norms.

RfP-Myanmar targeted 20,140 children. By July 2024, the "Protection of Violations of the Rights of the Children through Faith Network" project benefited 31,855 children (15,342 boys and 16,513 girls).

With the completion of the project's first phase with UNICEF, and in light of the significant needs of children in conflict-affected areas, NCM has decided to continue its contractual partnership with UNICEF to address these pressing needs.

In response to the needs of children in severe situations in Myanmar, Religions for Peace-Myanmar has established a contract with UNICEF Myanmar to continue providing support to children in conflict-affected regions. This new project is titled "*Support Child Protection and Mitigate the Risks of the Children in Conflict Areas through Faith Network and Community-based Child Protection Mechanism.*" The contracted budget for this initiative is MMK 682,186,075, with a planned duration from November 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025. The project aims to assist 5,380 children, and to date, 3,179 children (1,532 boys and 1,647 girls) have benefited from its efforts.

The Activities includes:

- TOT training on MRM, CFS, EORE for volunteers and staff
- Conduct regular bimonthly meetings among FBCPNG member and share implementation status of the action plans
- Implementation of interfaith action plans on child protection concerns
- Provide CP related trainings and conduct awareness raising sessions on CP concerns
- Conduct (3) days CP related trainings
- Conduct awareness-raising sessions on CP related information
- Provide series of psychosocial support through series of child friendly interaction activities
- Conduct Child Friendly Space Interaction activities
- Provide psychosocial support activity for children
- Provided victim assistance services to children through case management process
- The victims of the MOCHA cyclone, especially children, have faced challenges for survival, especially in Rakhine, Chin and Magway. FBCPNG will be established in targeted areas through local CSOs for emergency response
- NCM staff that engage and operate for the project implementation will be committed for achieving the goal of protective environment for children in conflict and disaster affected areas

Achievements

- Through awareness raising on CPR, parents gained knowledge on Child protection and Child Rights; Survival, Development, Protection and Participation of children. Through reciprocal discussion among parents, they gradually became interested in VANE and understood about child cases
- In one place, employers also attended sessions together with children and parents learned about exploitation of daily wages to children, to which they could recompense the mistake and end discrimination of wages
- As the parents, faith leaders and IDP camp committee members become interested in VANE, they supported in exploring of child cases, reporting or referring to relevant services
- Children become aware of their Rights and disciplines to abide by.
- Children involved in reciprocal discussions about VANE quoting experiences of themselves or of friends. They discussed where to inform should there be a child case
- They become aware that they need to protect themselves
- Parents as well as children enjoy having the opportunity to open up at PSS activities
- Children become more friendly with each other
- Children discovered ways to protect selves
- Parents discovered ways to overcome their depression and how to solve children's depressions
- Parents also learned DOS and DON'T ways of safe migration
- Children from families who have to flee frequently due to conflict escalation have been suffering from physical and mental depression These children are being strengthened by Psychosocial support activities
- Children enjoyed the PSS activities, as they are satisfied and happy while the session is conducting. They also become more friendly with each other.
- Provide Case Management services for children who have experienced or risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation – Victim assistance services (CP cases, EORE cases)
- Provided victim assistance services to children through case management process

Constraints and Challenges

- No access to internet and telephone line cut off delayed sending of information and data for all conflict affected areas. Some volunteers missed online virtual trainings.
- Field Staff and volunteers from Sagaing region were very cautious to conduct activities as the military troupe enters constantly.
- Due to critical situation, it was difficult to gather people for conduct of activities.
- High rise of commodity prices was a challenge to purchase refreshments.

- Transportation was bad in rainy season
- Due to multiple check points and insecurity, it was difficult to carry or send documents.
- Children participation is weak during the school opening season

Advocacy visit and Orientation of project

With an aim to foster collaborative efforts and strengthen community support for the protection of children in vulnerable situations, NCM Program Manager, Patrick Aung Tu visited Taunggyi, SSS on 21st November, to conduct Advocacy meeting and orientation of the project.

On 22 November 2024, accompanied by Daw Charity, Field Coordinator, two Case Worker/Field Officers Daw Win Win Nwe and Daw Khin Hsan Oo and Le Le Win (volunteer), he visited eight monasteries and villages within Inlay lake, Nyaung Shwe township. They are; Myay Baung Monastery, Myay Cha Village, Kyaukdaing New Village Monastery, Kyaingkham Monastery, Daung Too IDP camp, Mangyi Seik Monastery, Thein Dauk Monastery and Hsai Hkaung monastery.

The visiting team met with village communities and internally displaced people (IDPs) who were currently sheltered in the monasteries. They also met with relevant religious leaders in different monasteries and advocated about the importance of the role of religious leaders and the community to collaborate on prevention and protection of child cases devastated by six grave violations. They also encouraged to support for materials (CP kits) distribution and to encourage the community to participate actively at CP project activities. *[Nov.2024 narrative report submitted to UNICEF by Angela Thaug, Project Manager]*



Myaybaung monastery, Inle, Shan State (South)



Myay Char Village, Inle, Shan State (South).





Kyaukdaing Ywarthit Monastery, Inle, Shan State (South)

Following the unusual flooding in Inle lake during September and October, 2024, many families and communities had taken shelter at the monasteries. Although some good will civilian donors and government-arranged donors came to Inlay area to support the flood victims, the IDPs were not counted to get the support as the donors target only to the village flood victims.

It was found that all the (8) camps visited were in shortage of basic food because the WFP food support last visit was in June 2024. Out of the (8) visited camps, Magyee Seik and Sei Khaung village received support from ACTED organization. As the displaced people increased in Taung Toh village camp, they are in dire need of toilets. Although there was a donor for toilet exclusively, people still need support for toilet roofing, flooring, a motor water pump and 360 feet long water pipe. Since there was a forthcoming one-month festival of Buddhist religion novicehood in December, the IDPs taking refuge at the Thain Htauk monastery were requested to move to the ground floor where they were required to build makeshift shelves (temporary resting boards).

It was evident that many were facing significant challenges in accessing essential resources, highlighting the urgency for support within these communities and IDPs.



Kyauingkhram Monastery, Inle, Shan State (South)



Taung Tho Monastery (IDP Camp), Inle, Shan State (South)



Majiseik Monastery, Inle, Shan State (South)



Sekhaung Monastery, Inle, Shan State (South)

On 23 November 2024, an advocacy meeting at Taunggyi YMCA Hall gathered 32 participants to discuss community support during challenging times. Hlaing Min Oo, a UNICEF Field Officer, presented an overview of the United Nations' history and mission, highlighting human rights and community support principles.



The participants engaged actively, sharing their perspectives and suggestions for navigating the difficulties they face. They fostered a rich dialogue, highlighting the resilience of the community and their commitment to improve the implementation works of child protection.

Program Manager Patrick Aung Tu presented an overview of *RfP-M* organization's background as well as advancing inter-communal harmony and social cohesion through interreligious cooperation. Field Coordinator Daw Charity shared the objective of the seven-month Child Protection project and the anticipated results, highlighting collaborative efforts of community and religious leaders, to create a more supportive environment for children and families affected by displacement. The participants were also briefed about possible cases of children, how to prevent and protect their children and call for their collaboration for child protection through community-based mechanism.

The meeting concluded with participants' expressions of commitment to working together to achieve the project's goals and build a stronger community for children in conflict situation.



In November 2023, the Magway region team raised CPR awareness for 120 parents and children.

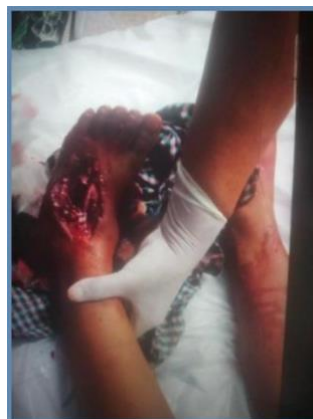
In November and December 2023, the RfP-M (Myitkyina) group conducted awareness-raising activities on CPR for a total of 338 parents and children.



In November and December 2023, the RfP-M (Samee) team raised EORE awareness for parents and children in six locations in Samee, Chin State.



The RfP-M (SSS) team conducted PSS for parents at Ayetharyar and Taunggyi IDP Camp in Southern Shan State.



On November 5, 2023, while hiding inside the house as the military approached, the girl was shot in her left leg by soldiers who were indiscriminately firing. The wound was severe, so they took her to a monastery, from where she was sent to Mon Ywar Hospital in Sagaing Region for treatment.

Series of psychosocial activities for Children of different age (Phekon area)



Children from Phekon IDP camps enjoyed participating in the activities and listen attentively .



At the end of the PSS session, children waited patiently for their turn to get the eggs, which serves as a nutrition for their health, and who off proudly .



RfP-M Program Manager Patrick Aung Tu and Field Coordinator Naw Charity took a two-day boat trip to Samee, Chin State for a meeting with a faith leader and CP training. They flew from Yangon to Sittwe, then drove from Sittwe to Kyauktaw, and took a boat from Kyauktaw to Samee. They needed another day trip by boat, staying overnight beside the river before continuing to Samee. They passed multiple checkpoints from both AA and SAC.



On their return trip from Samee, Chin State to Sittwe, Rakhine State, it was raining. To avoid check points in Samee, they hired motorbikes to reach a spot where they could board a small boat to a larger one. Lacking a passenger-only boat, they shared one with vegetable sellers and goods, sitting on the cargo the entire day. Upon reaching Sittwe, they continued to Buthidaung, a CP project target area, and encountered a hillside collapse blocking the road.

There was an Army camp (SAC) on the mountain behind Banner Tree. Boats must stop here to report and show passengers' ID cards. With over 15 passengers aboard, it took about 45 minutes for checking. Patrick and Charity were singled out for further inspection but eventually passed and continued their trip.



In boat



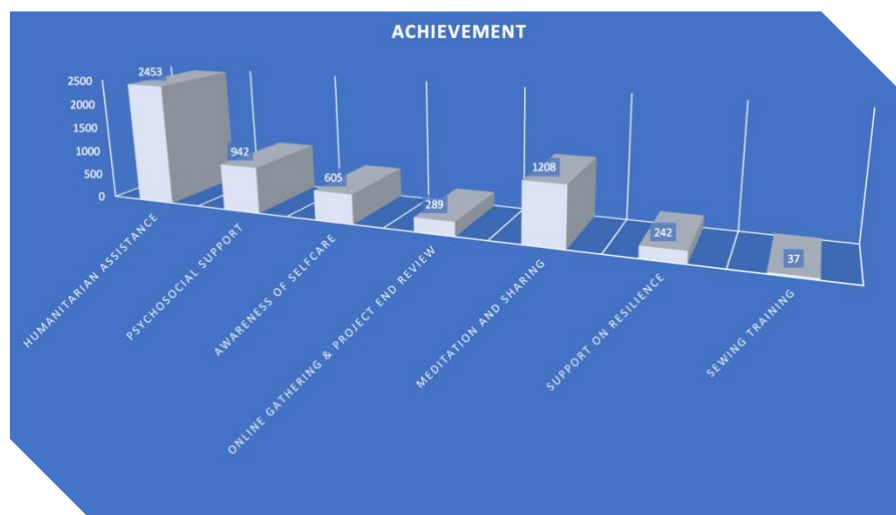
The UNICEF Officer in Maungdaw delivered remarks during the Child Protection training in Buthidaung, Rakhine State.



On August 12, 2023, the *RfP*-Myanmar team visited the Kyauktalone Rohingya IDP camp in Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State. The camp experienced flooding during the team's visit.

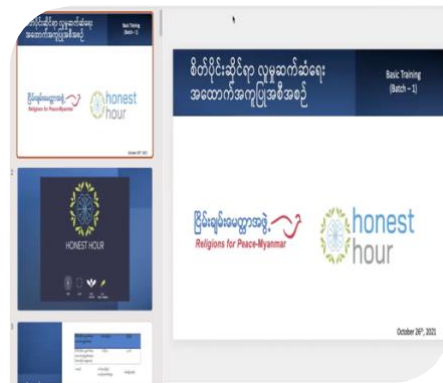
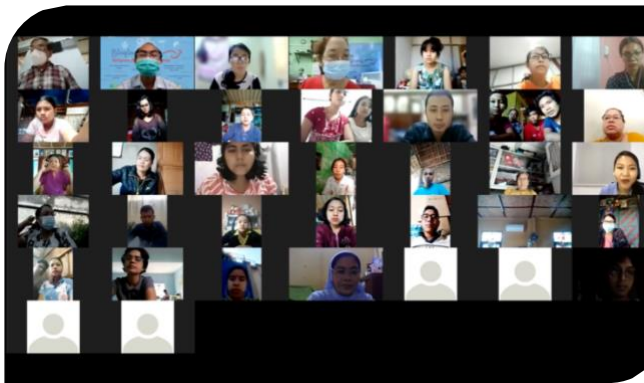
Multi-religious Humanitarian Assistance and Healthcare Support

With the funding of *RfP* Japan, *RfP*-Myanmar implemented the project as two phrases of the supporting to needy communities such humanitarian assistance and COVID-19 protective materials. First phrase, started from September 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. There was some balance at the end of first phrase for the humanitarians assistance and healthcare support. Thus, *RfP*-Myanmar requested *RfP* Japan to allow 6 months no cost extension. More generously, *RfP* Japan considered *RfP*-M's requests, and additional funding was added in the balance and the project extended one year. Therefore, the 2nd phrase of the project started from January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. This period included three months no cost extension in 2024. We received as total fund USD 370954. Due to severe situation of the country, the project had implemented about 35 months. After *RfP*-M conducted project end review meeting with faith leaders, IRC, IYN and WoFN members, and staff in Yangon, Green Hill Hotel, we supported Pyay, Bago Region for humanitarian assistance with the last balance of budget. The high challenges for humanitarian assistance were transportation between supplier and beneficiaries, communications, collecting in-kind support items, finding safety ways to reach supporting items to communities. Thus, it was needed observation surrounded environment day and night in order to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy communities on ground in safety way. This project was highly effective in supporting the grassroots community during the period when people faced significant challenges due to the pandemic and coup. Unfortunately, some *RfP*-Myanmar network members passed away before receiving the support. The funds from *RfP* Japan were crucial for *RfP* Myanmar. More than 5500 grassroot community alone within and beyond the *RfP* Myanmar network was benefited from this project.





On 5 June 2022, Ven. Ariya Wuntha, Patron of *RfP*-M (Sittwe), made remarks during the initial distribution of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected communities in Sittwe, Rakhine State. Similar support was provided to the remaining eight target areas.



RfP-Myanmar contracted Honest Hour for trauma healing services to conduct online Psychosocial Support (PSS) training. Over 14 months, 20 virtual PSS trainings were held, each lasting 7 days with 40 participants per session. Additionally, an agreement was made with Honest Hour to facilitate online social gatherings for 400 participants after the trainings.



A session on resilience was held in Myitkyina, Kachin State. The one-day session was led by Sr. Mary Hka Raw, a member of WoFN, *RfP*-M (Myitkyina). Similar sessions were also conducted in each target area with the interreligious community.



On August 17, 2023, during a meditation and sharing session in Lashio, Shan State (North), RfP-M President U San Min explained the meditation method and its benefits for body and mind.



On August 17, 2023, in Lashio, Shan State (North), RfP-M Field Monitor Daw Sandy Aung led a meditation and sharing session, using role play as an ice breaker.



In August 2023, RfP-M President U San Min, along with Program Manager Patrick Aung Tu and M&E Officer Chan Myae Kyi Phyu, visited Lashio in Northern Shan State. After the training, the M&E team conducted home visits to beneficiaries. They encountered multiple checkpoints between quarters. At that time, Lashio was controlled by the SAC, but now it is under MNDAA control.



RfP-M staff from Yangon conducted a home visit in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, which is one of the target areas for the HAHS project.



His Eminence Cardinal Charles Bo, Patron of RfP-Myanmar sent a special video message for the HAHS Project End Review meeting in Yangon. He commended the project's compassion and humanitarian outreach across Myanmar, emphasizing that "human tears have no color, race, or religion." He highlighted the role of faith-based organizations in fostering cooperation and

providing support during crises. Cardinal Bo urged continued interreligious cooperation and grassroots engagement to promote harmony and solidarity amidst adversity.



Al Haj Kalifah U Aye Lwin, joined HAHS project end review meeting virtually from New York.

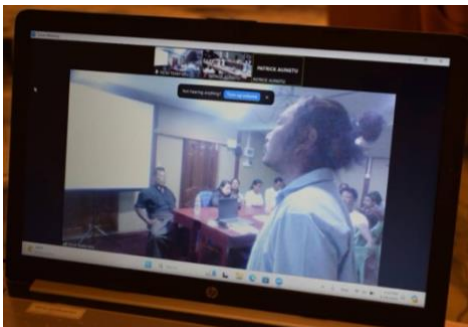


HAHS Project End Review Meeting, Best Western Green Hill Hotel, Yangon

Al Haj Kalifah U Aye Lwin, founder and Core Member of *RfP*-Myanmar, joined the project end review meeting virtually from New York. He discussed Myanmar's situation, aiding needy communities, and promoting interreligious relationships.

During the two-day meeting, representatives of IRC, IYN, and WoFN presented on the HAHS project's crucial support and challenges during grassroots implementation.

Due to high transportation risk, the Kyaukphyu team in Rakhine State joined the meeting virtually instead of in person.



Discussion of the Lashio Team, Shan State (North), during the HAHS Project End Review Meeting at B.W Green Hill Hotel 19-20 Mar,2024



Discussion of the Meiktila team, Mandalay Region during the HAHS Project End Review Meeting at Green Hill hotel 19-20 Mar,2024



Discussion of the Myitkyina team, Kachin State during the HAHS Project End Review Meeting at B.W Green Hill hotel 19-20 Mar,2024



Discussion of the Patheingyi team, Ayeyarwady Region during the HAHS Project End Review Meeting at B.W Green Hill hotel 19-20 Mar,2024



Discussion of the Sittwe team, Rakhine State during the HAHS Project End Review Meeting at B.W Green Hill hotel 19-20 Mar,2024



Discussion of the Yangon team, Yangon Region during the HAHS Project End Review Meeting at B.W Green Hill hotel 19-20 Mar,2024

RfP-Myanmar shares the titles of past projects below (2015 – 2021):

- C4P Project “Culture for Peace project”. Donor – EU thru Helvetas Myanmar (48 months) (from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2023) [Consortium project]
- “Supporting Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Process through Women Participation”, Donor - PSF (Paung Sie Facility) (18 months) from 1st June 2020 to 30th November 2021. (1 year, 5months and 29 days)
- “Multi-religious and Multi-stakeholder Action for Peace and Reconciliation in Myanmar.” Donor – Norwegian Government through *RfP*-International. End in Oct 30, 2020 (Extension – 30 Oct. 2021)
- “South East Asia: Advancing Inter-religious Dialogue and Freedom of Religion or Belief (SEA-AIR)” from 1st July – 30 June 2021, Cooperation with *RfP*-International
- “Examining the contribution of social-economic enterprises to community reconciliation after violent conflict” Donor – Winchester University, UK
- “Women Capacity Action and Norms (CAN) for Peacebuilding Program” 1st September 2020 to 11th May 2021 (8 months & 10 Days)
- Multi-Religious Networks Promoting Religious Diversity and Tolerance (MPRDT)
- Strengthening Interreligious Collaboration in Myanmar (SIRCM)
- “Capacity Building of *RfP*-M Women of Faith Network”
- Multi Religious Collaboration for Peace Building In Myanmar
- Climate Change project
- Examining the contribution of social-economic enterprises to community reconciliation after violent conflict



RfP-Myanmar WoFN and IYN networking workshop with INGOs and CSOs in June 2017, Yangon.



An interfaith prayer meeting was held at Myanmar Islamic Center, Yangon in May 2017.



Participated in International Day of Peace, September 2017, Yangon.



RfP-Myanmar Interfaith Visit to Panpyolet Monastery, Bago, June 2017



The RfP-Myanmar team, along with Japan delegates who are funding a climate change project, visited Pathein in the Ayeyarwady region in 2017.



Participating in a prayer meeting led by Hindus for those massacred in Maungdaw, Rakhine State in 2017.



A meeting between IYN International and RfP-Myanmar Secretary General Rev. Fr. Joseph Maung Win (deceased) took place during the Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp in December 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Yangon.



In November 2019, RfP-Myanmar held the Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. The event included government leaders, Tatmadaw, political party leaders, diplomats, faith leaders, NGO, INGO, and CBO leaders, and experts.



During the forum, six breakout sessions were held under the Chatham House Rule to discuss the following themes:

- Access to higher education, ethnic language education, and interfaith curriculum
- Equal rights and responsibilities for all ethnic and minority groups
- Women's empowerment and participation
- Youth empowerment and engagement
- Identity, diversity, and common challenges in Rakhine State
- Freedom of religion



In December 2018, participants of the Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp planted trees in Panpyolet, Bago Region as a symbol of social cohesion and unity.



On December 16, 2018, RfP-Myanmar Youth and WoFN held a meeting with Reverend Kyoichi Sugino to prepare for the Asia Youth Peace Camp.



On December 24, 2018, the Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp, in collaboration with H.E. Thura U Aung Ko, Minister of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, RfP Asia and the Myanmar team at St. Mary's Cathedral, Yangon



In October 2018, RfP-Myanmar held a preparation meeting with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, along with members from various Ministries in Yangon, for the "1st Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace in Myanmar." Similar meetings were held multiple times to ensure the forum was conducted efficiently and without incident.



The *RfP*-Myanmar team attended the Religions for Peace 10th World Assembly in Lindau, Germany, in August 2019.



His Eminence Cardinal Charles Bo, Patron, *RfP*-M and *RfP*-Myanmar Core Members met with UN Special Envoy Christine Schraner Burgener in July 2019, Yangon.



In July 2022, *RfP*-Myanmar Secretary General Daw Yin Yin Maw and Program Manager visited Chanthargone IDP camp in Mandalay.



In June 2022, Program Manager Patrick Aung Tu and Field Coordinator Charity visited Banyin IDP camp in Shan State (South). The team visited four IDP camps in Taunggyi Township that day.



In September 2022, Program Manager Patrick Aung Tu and members of the *RfP*-M (Pathein) IRC visited a house in Pathein, Ayeyarwady region, to provide support for a household with a sick member.



Due to the current situation in Myanmar, the future of children is uncertain. Humanitarian support is needed, as there are few organizations that can operate and provide assistance in displaced areas within the jungle.

5. Partnerships and Collaborations:

RfP-Myanmar has undertaken numerous initiatives aimed at fostering peace and reconciliation in Myanmar by working closely with authorities, NGOs, CBOs, and religious institutions. In this context, *RfP*-Myanmar organized a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group and established agreements with other organizations.

In Putao, over 14 Protestant Christian denominations require enhanced intercommunal relationships and trust. *RfP*-Myanmar was invited by Namshani, a CBO in Putao, to lead advocacy meetings among these denominations including

Catholic and Buddhist. *RfP*-Myanmar Core Members visited each religious institution for advocacy meetings and conducted a 4-day training on social cohesion through religious teachings. The team encountered restrictions during the training and was summoned to the Army camp to explain their visit. The authorities were aware of the team's arrival at Putao Airport.



In November 2019, *RfP*-Myanmar and the Mandalay Archdiocese, led by Bishop Gunnar Stålsett, hosted Myanmar's first International Day of Tolerance in Mandalay.



In August 2022, *RfP*-Myanmar held an advocacy meeting with Rev. Fr. John Aung Htoj, the Catholic Parish Priest, and Church Committee Members in Putao, Kachin State.



In August 2022, *RfP*-Myanmar held an advocacy meeting with Shan Buddhist in Putao, Kachin State.



In August 2022, *RfP*-Myanmar team held an advocacy meeting with Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) in Putao, Kachin State.



In August 2022, RfP-Myanmar team held an advocacy meeting with Assembly of God, No.5 District (AG DC 5) in Putao, Kachin State.



In August 2022, RfP-Myanmar team held an advocacy meeting with Assembly of God, No.2 District (AG DC 2) in Putao, Kachin State.



In August 2022, RfP-Myanmar team held an advocacy meeting with Church of Christ (Regular Rvwang), Layyinkwi, in Putao, Kachin State.



In August 2022, RfP-Myanmar team held an advocacy meeting with Church of Christ (Lisu), Mulashidi, in Putao, Kachin State.



During an advocacy trip to Putao, the RfP-Myanmar team engaged with the following religious institutions.

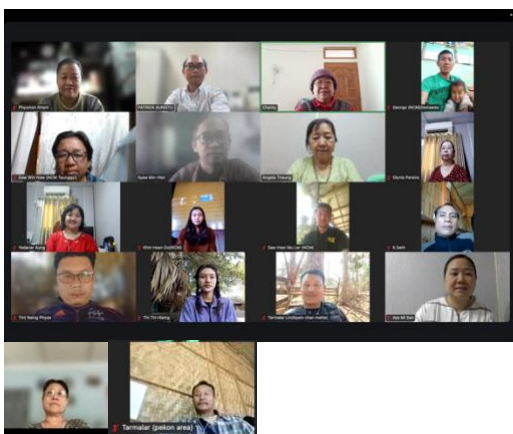
1. Fundamental Baptist Church, Machan Baw Township
2. Assembly of God No. 5 District Council
3. Assembly of God No. 2 District Council
4. Church of Christ (COC) (Regular Rvwang)
5. Church of Christ (COC) (Regular Lisu)
6. Church of Christ (COC) (Lisu)
7. Shan Buddhist
8. Catholic
9. Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC)
10. Assembly of God No. 1 (AG 1)
11. Lisu Baptist Church (LBC)
12. Myanmar Assembly of God (MAG)

"Unfortunately, while updating this overview of activities for RfP-Myanmar, Nam Shani confirmed that there is significant tension within the COC, locally known as COC Regular Rvwang and COC Irregular. On February 4, 2025, there was heightened tension between these two groups."

After two days of advocacy meetings with various institutions, an awareness session on social cohesion was conducted, inviting individuals who participated in the advocacy meetings.



The RfP-Myanmar Core Members, WoFN, IYN and staff had a meeting with Ven. Dr. Pyin Nyaw Bha Tha, the founder of Pann Pyo Let Monastic Education School, located in Kyauk Tann Village, Bago Township.



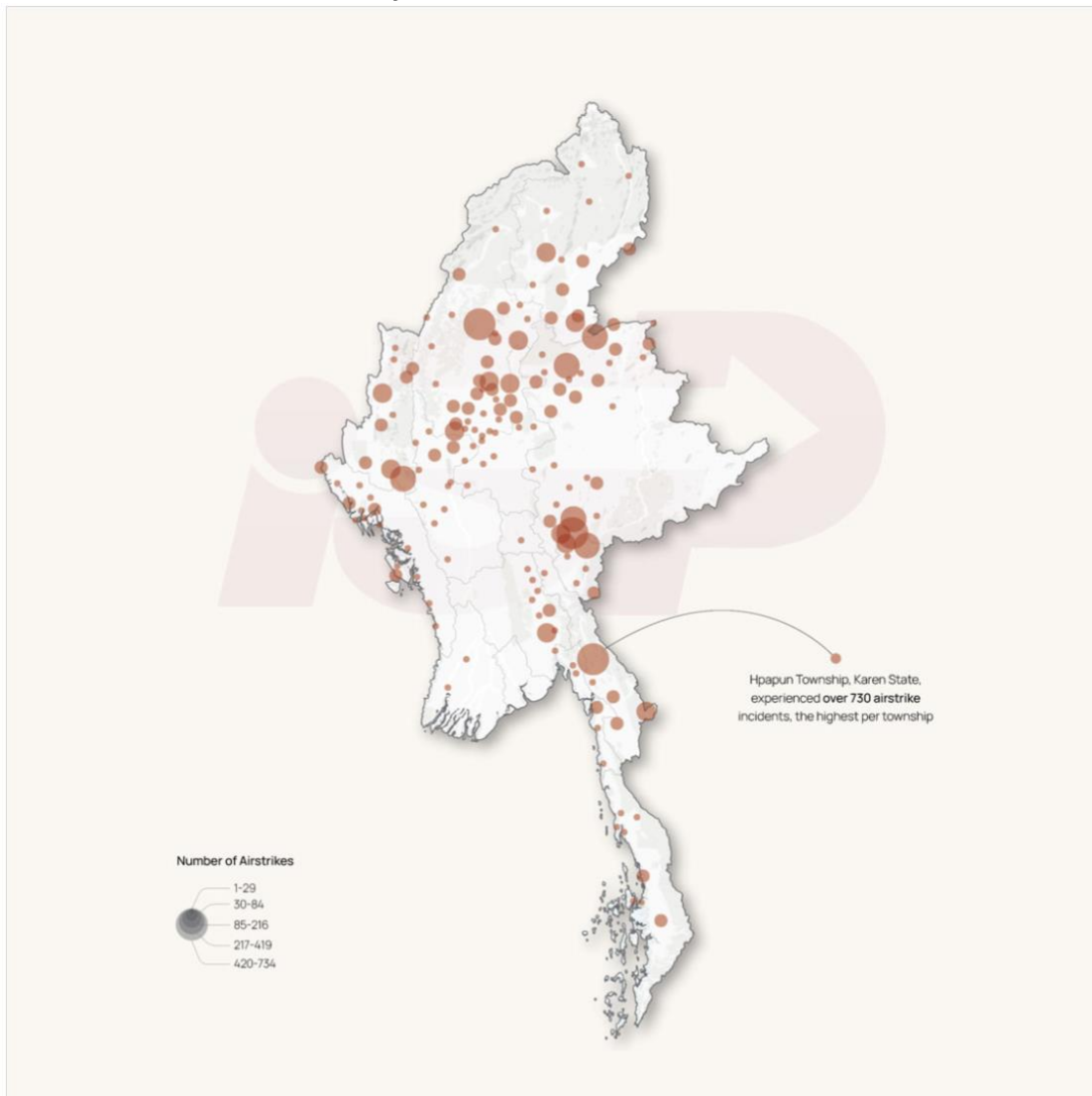
Current staff from the Yangon office and field are running the Holistic CP Project in conflict zones.



Four current and former staff who were involved in projects at RfP-Myanmar.

6. Appendices

The appendices include current information on the Myanmar situation from ISP Myanmar (Institute for Strategy and Policy – Myanmar), providing further details on the current condition of Myanmar.



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CONFLICT, PEACE & SECURITY

Over 8,000 Airstrikes Incidents Nationwide

Following the coup, the State Administration Council (SAC) conducted over 8,000 airstrikes in at least 162 townships.

■ **China Blocks 14 out of 19 Myanmar Border Trade Gates**
(As of November 8, 2024)

China has shuttered 14 of the 19 border trade gates along its border with Myanmar. Of these, the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) control 13, leaving just the Kanpiketi gate under the control of State Administration Council (SAC). Moreover, China has imposed export restrictions on goods to Myanmar at six border gates, with only the Man Wein gate controlled by the SAC, while the remaining five are controlled by various EAOs.

● Myanmar-China Border Trade Gates

No.	Gate	Remark
1	Phimaw	Under KIA's Control
2	Pang War	Under KIA's Control
3	Kanpiketi	Under SAC's Control
4	Hsiao Shau	Under KIA's Control
5	Laiza	Under KIA's Control
6	Majayyang	Under KIA's Control
7	Lwagaif	Under KIA's Control
8	Kyinsankayawt	Under MNDAA's Control
9	Man Wein	Under SAC's Control
10	Namkhan	Under TNLA's Control
11	Kyukoke (Haweng)	Under MNDAA's Control
12	Mongkoi	Under MNDAA's Control
13	Yanlonkying	Under MNDAA's Control
14	Cemahwehweh	Under MNDAA's Control
15	Namrit	Under UWSA's Control
16	Pangwoun	Under UWSA's Control
17	Pangsuang (Panghkan)	Under UWSA's Control
18	Ho Tawng (Ho Teo)	Under UWSA's Control
19	Mengla	Under NDAA's Control

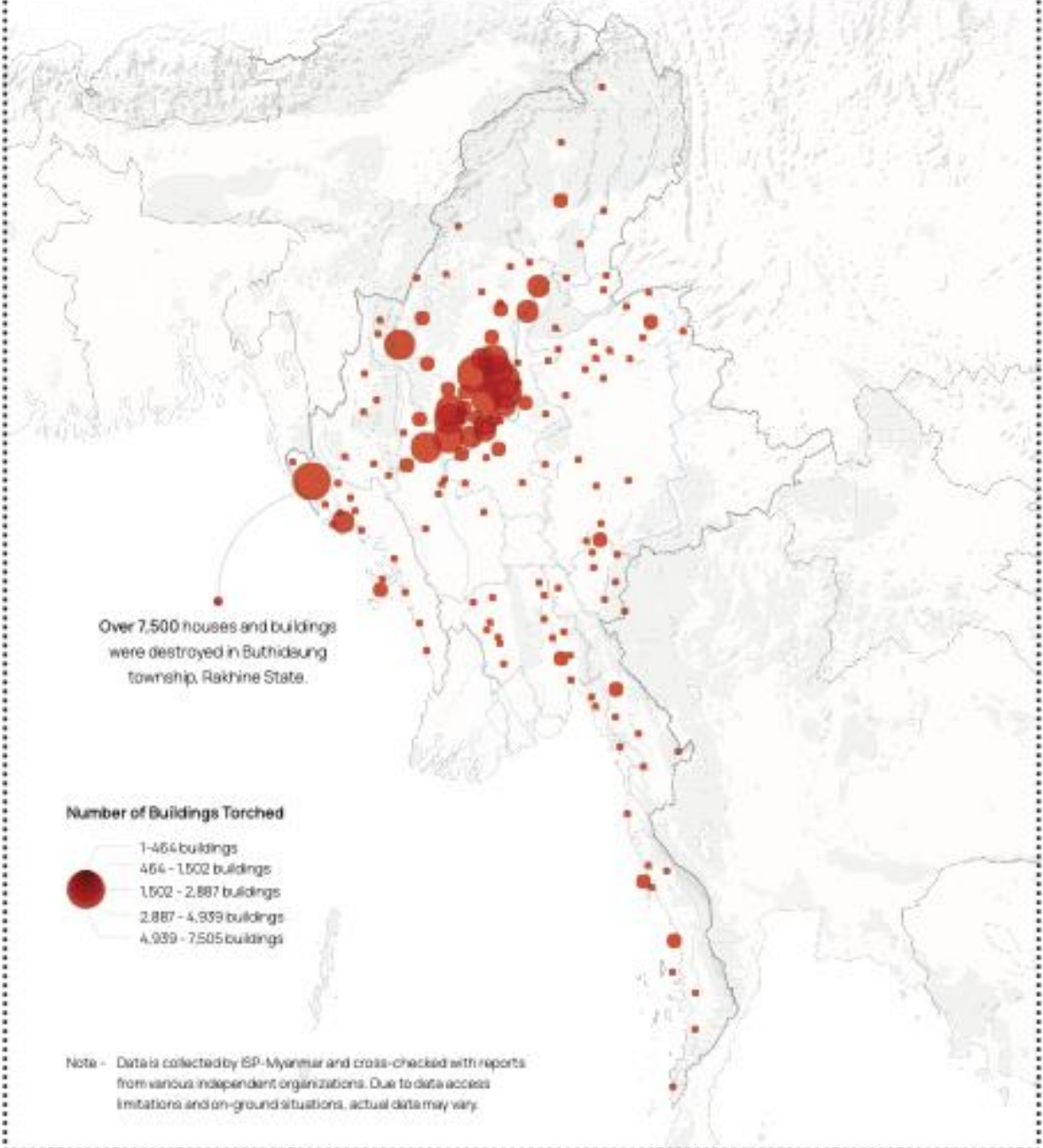
- Towns
- Border Trade Gates Under the KIA
- Border Trade Gates Under the SAC
- Border Trade Gates Under the TNLA
- Border Trade Gates Under the MNDAA
- Border Trade Gates Under the UWSA
- Border Trade Gates Under the NDAA
- Border Trade Gates Closed by China
- Border Trade Gates with Trade Restrictions from China

Note: Data is collected by ISP-Myanmar and cross-checked with reports from various independent organizations. Due to data access limitations and on-ground situations, actual data may vary. These gates showed national-level gates and those controlled by EAOs both before and after Operation 1027.



■ Over 149 Townships Suffered From Arson Incidents (February 2021 to October 2024)

Over the three years following the coup, arson affected more than 149 townships across the country, resulting in over 100,000 houses and buildings being burned. Buthidaung township in Rakhine State experienced the most severe damage, with over 7,500 structures torched. Shwebo township in Sagaing Region had the second highest number, with more than 7,300 buildings and houses set aflame.



■ Budalin Tragedy and Further Atrocities Committed by the SAC (February 1, 2021, to October 20, 2024)

Since the coup, Myanmar has witnessed over 65 civilian massacres amid armed conflicts, claiming the lives of over 1,307 civilians. The State Administration Councils (SAC) troops and its proxy militias, including *Pyusawhti* forces, are responsible for approximately 92 percent of these atrocities, resulting in more than 1,210 deaths across 60 separate incidents. A significant proportion of these violent incidents—52 percent—have occurred in the Sagaing Region. Similar to the tragic Budalin massacre, during the SAC troops' column raids, they perpetrated over 23 brutal massacres, resulting in the deaths of at least 438 civilians. Additionally, armed groups other than those affiliated with the SAC have carried out over five mass murder incidents, leading to the tragic loss of over 97 lives.

The Thanan incident

On November 24, 2023, Kuki armed groups abducted and murdered 37 residents of Thanan village in Tamu township. There were over five incidents of civilian massacres committed by armed groups other than those affiliated with the SAC, resulting in at least 97 civilian deaths.

The Budalin incident

Between October 12 and 17, 2024, SAC troops' column from the Light Infantry Division No. 33 (LID-33) torched Saing Pyin, Si Par, Tet Hlaing, Kywe Thay Chaung, Aing Paung Chaung, and Se Wa villages, brutally killing more than 20 civilians. Of these 20 victims, residents discovered the mutilated remains of six individuals in Si Par village. This attack is one of over 23 massacres nationwide caused by the SAC troops' column raids, cumulatively resulting in at least 438 fatalities.

The Pa Zi Gyi incident

On April 11, 2023, SAC's airstrike murdered a total of 170 civilians, consisting of 108 men, 24 women, and 38 children, in Pa Zi Gyi village, Kanboku township. There were over 22 massacres nationwide caused by the SAC's airstrikes, resulting in at least 547 civilian deaths.

The Son incident

On May 9, 2024, the SAC shelled Son village in Myingyan township following a clash with a local resistance force, murdering 32 civilians. There were over seven incidents of massacres nationwide caused by heavy shelling, resulting in at least 99 civilian deaths.

The Mo So incident

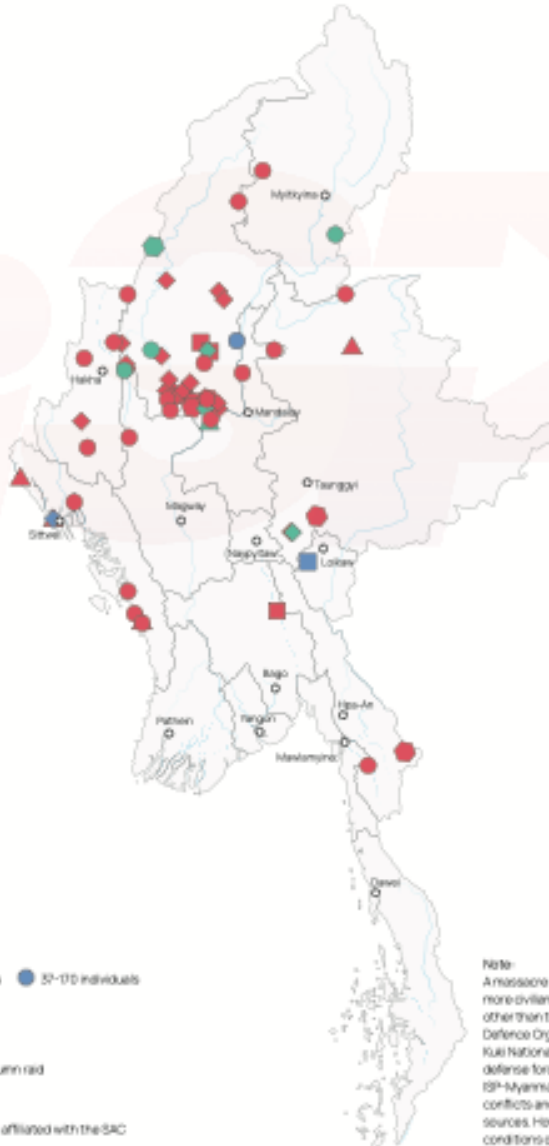
On December 24, 2022, the SAC's troops murdered and burned the bodies of 44 civilians who were seeking refuge in Mo So village, Hpruso township. The death toll also included two employees of Save The Children. The SAC's troops perpetrated over eight incidents of civilians burned to death by fire, resulting in at least 126 civilian deaths.

Number of Deaths

● 10-20 individuals ● 20-37 individuals ● 37-170 individuals

Type of Massacres

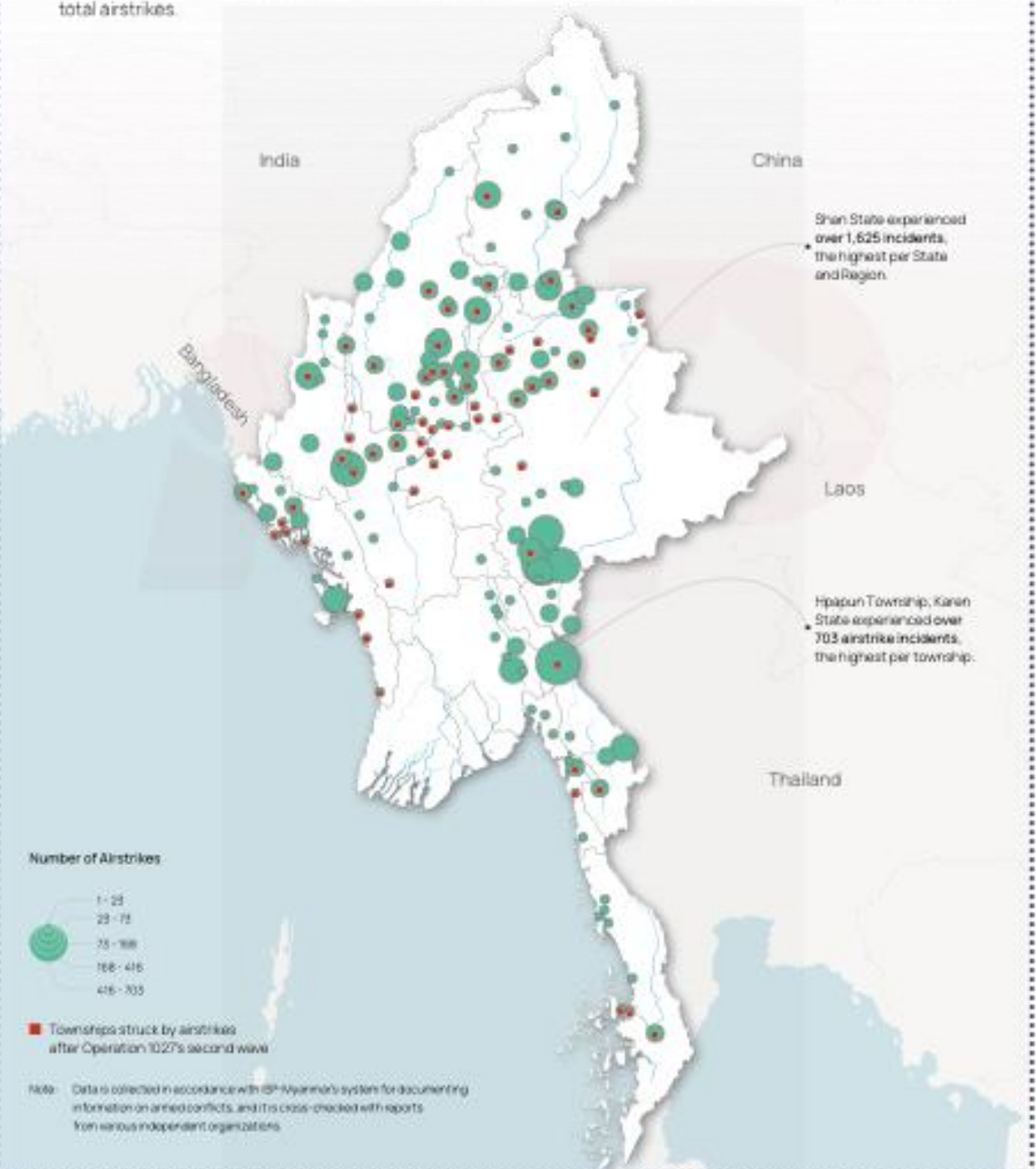
● Killed by SAC's airstrikes
 ■ Burned to death during SAC troops' column raid
 ▲ Killed by SAC's heavy shelling
 ◆ Killed during SAC troops' column raid
 ● Killed by armed forces other than those affiliated with the SAC



Note
 A massacre incident is defined as an event in which ten or more civilians are murdered in a single incident. Armed forces other than the SAC's troops refer to the Karen National Defence Organization (KNADO), Pa-O National Army (PONA), Kuki National Army (KNA/KNCA), and two other unidentified local defense forces (LDFs). Data are collected following ISP Myanmar's protocol for documenting information on armed conflicts and are cross-verified with reports from multiple sources. However, actual figures may vary due to prevailing conditions on the ground and constraints in data availability.

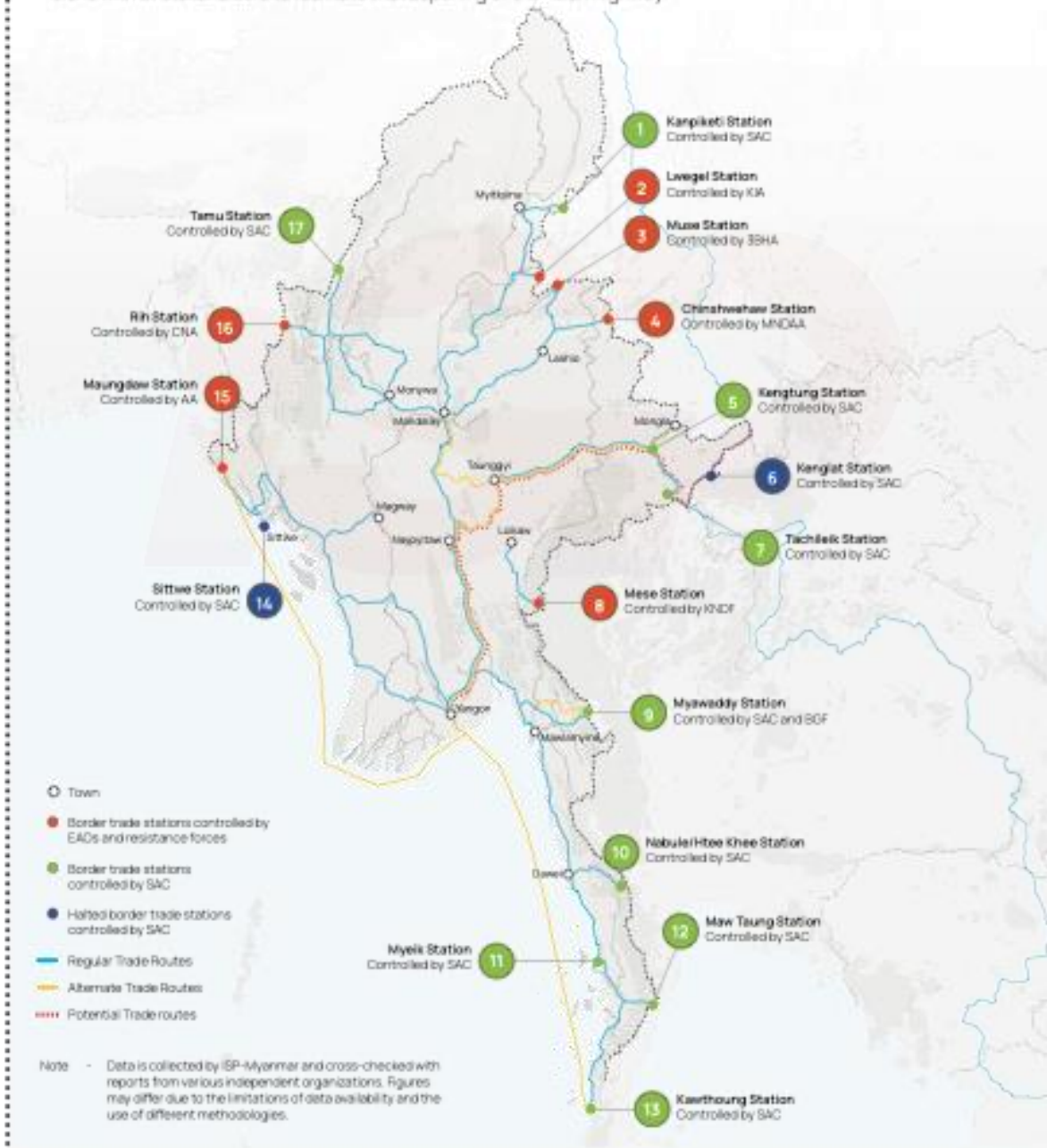
■ **Total 156 Townships Nationwide Experienced Airstrikes**
(February 1, 2021 to October 6, 2024)

Following the coup, the State Administration Council's (SAC) troops conducted at least 7,186 airstrikes across the country during armed clashes. These incidents spanned at least 156 townships nationwide. Hpapun Township in Karen State experienced over 703 airstrikes, while Shan State faced over 1,625 incidents, nearly 23 percent of total airstrikes.



■ The 17 Border Trade Stations and Their Conditions

There are a total of 17 border trade stations between Myanmar and neighboring countries. Six of these border trade stations are controlled by Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and resistance forces. The State Administration Council (SAC), in principle, controls 11 border trade stations; two stations have ceased trading, and some trade routes are blocked. Currently, the SAC is considering the development of a new trade route through eastern Shan to China, as the previous northern Shan pathway has also ceased operations. Concurrently, Thailand is spearheading discussions with all stakeholders to facilitate the reopening of the Asian Highway.



Please visit ISP-Myanmar website for more details: <https://ispmyanmar.com/>

By Patrick Aung Tu

February 2025