

Project reference

REH/2995/101297

EC Partners

- Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.v.
- German Agro Action

Facts and figures

- Duration: **2005 – 2008**
- EC Contribution: **€1 million**
- Beneficiaries: vulnerable households in relocated villages in Wa Special Region No. 2, Shan State
- Self-help capacity of beneficiaries in **22 villages** strengthened
- Technical capacity of beneficiaries improved
- Plant production intensified and stabilised in a sustainable manner
- Animal husbandry intensified and integrated into plant production
- Basic social services improved
- Water supply systems

**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

Food and livelihood security

Alternative development in former poppy growing areas in Burma/Myanmar

"As a result of the improved technology, we have food security for the whole year. This is the first time that our family has had enough to eat for 12 months since the poppy ban."

Ta Kar, a farmer from Mam Kyan Village

**Context**

The ban on opium cultivation by the government has led to acute food shortages for the ethnic groups in Wa Special Region No. 2 (Myanmar/Burma). As a consequence of a forced relocation they have lost their traditional coping mechanisms and lack the necessary resources and agricultural land to secure their food and livelihoods.

Objective: Improving lives by strengthening self-help capacities

The project strengthens self-help capacities by providing capacity building in adult literacy, agriculture, animal husbandry and income-generating activities as well as coordinating healthcare efforts. In each village there is a development committee, technical committees as well as volunteers who are responsible for the implementation and coordination of development activities. The committees (for the water supply systems, pig banks...) maintain the infrastructure and manage revolving funds over the long-term. The intensification and improvement of agricultural techniques (e.g. summer paddy cultivation, home gardens) and the establishment of animal banks allow vulnerable households to gain income and overcome acute food shortages. In addition, relocated households in new settlements finally have access to basic social infrastructure, where drinking water systems, rice banks and school buildings are supported, contributing to sustainable development in the villages.

Impact

The creation and support of local self-help structures contributes to the empowerment of vulnerable relocated people suffering from acute food shortage and difficult living conditions. The project focuses on the introduction of improved and intensified agricultural and plant production as well as animal husbandry. Farmers are encouraged to introduce new agricultural techniques (such as line sowing) which significantly increase agricultural productivity and income opportunities. The introduction of appropriate technology transfer, basic social infrastructure and continuous capacity building allow relocated families in 22 villages to secure their food and livelihoods in the long-term.