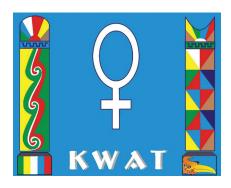
# 2014 - 2018 ACTIVITY REPORT

### Kachin Women's Association Thailand



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication is the third activity report of Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT). Twenty years ago, on 9th September 1999, KWAT was founded by a group of 4 devoted Kachin women living in Thailand with the aim of the empowerment and advancement of Kachin women and children in Kachin society. Since then, KWAT has been expanding its staff, programs and has been active in Thailand, and on the China-Burma border. We are very proud and pleased to share our works in fulfilling the needs of our society with our readers in this publication. This publication is a compilation of KWAT's activities from 2014 to 2018.

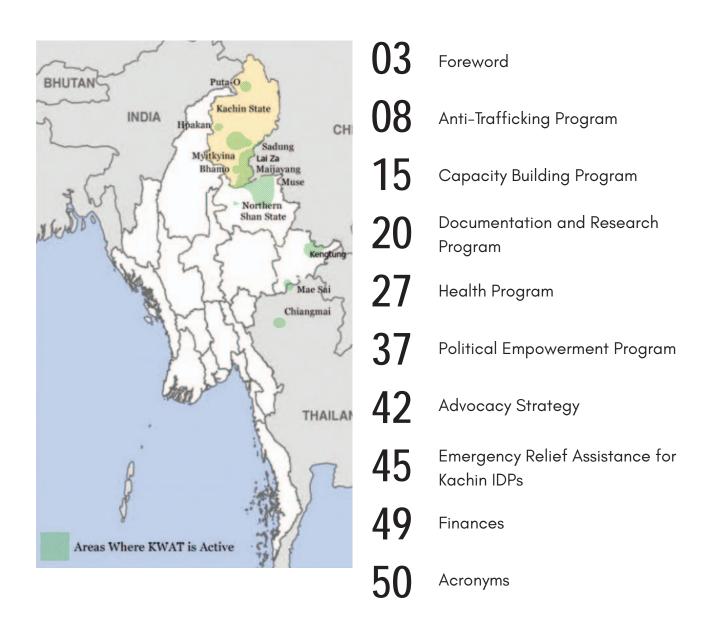
Firstly, we would like to express our profound appreciation to our donor; Burma Relief Center which has been constantly aiding us in our mission to empower and assist women and children in Kachin society.

Secondly, we would like to give our special thanks to our supporters, partners and donors. KWAT would not have been able to continue and increase its activities without the generous contributions and supports from National Endowment for Democracy, American Jewish World Service, GlobeMed at Dartmouth, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Planet Wheeler Foundation, Foundation to Promote Open Society, The Fund for Global Human Rights, The Embassy of the Netherlands, The Fund for Global Women, People In Need, Norwegian Church Aids, Euro Burma Office, Burma Medical Association, Urgent Action Fund, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, Fortify Rights, The Embassy of the United States of America, International Organization for Migration, The REDRESS Trust, Civil Rights Defenders, Progressive Voice, Asia Justice and Rights, Geneva Call, Johns Hopkins University, Women's League of Burma, Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma, Adolescent Reproductive Health Zone, Burma-ACT, SEATTI, Equality Myanmar, DAI Global,LLC (Kann Let), Sanya Foundation and Christian Far East Ministry in Holland.

Finally, we are also immensely grateful to Dartmouth College's GlobeMed GROW team, our volunteer Melanie and KWAT staff for their technical support including composing, editing, designing and translating the report. This report would not have been possible without your sincere collaboration and assistance.

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS



### FOR MORE INFORMATION ...

For more information, or to stay up-to-date with all of KWAT's activities, visit www.kachinwomen.com.

### FOREWORD

The Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT) was founded in 1999 to improve the lives of the Kachin ethnic minority in Myanmar. KWAT is a non-profit organization that specifically aims to ensure the advancement of Kachin women in order to improve the lives of women and children in Kachin society.

In the 20 years since KWAT's conception, KWAT has grown exponentially and has worked to end human rights violations, end gender-based violence, hold the Myanmar troops accountable for their actions, and overall improve the democratic situation in Myanmar.

KWAT continues to grow and expand its outreach to more people, and KWAT is thus in need of increased funding to combat challenges regarding communications, travel, security, and program costs.

Today, KWAT runs seven main programs: Advocacy, Anti-Trafficking, Capacity Building, Documentation and Research, Health, IDP Project, and Political Empowerment.

KWAT began as a small, grassroots organization, and today manages a various activities. That money goes directly into funding essential programs that improve the lives of thousands of persecuted Kachin people. KWAT's success is a true testament to the power of the people, and the importance of amplifying the voices of the voiceless.



### BACKGROUND

In Myanmar, the military regime has been in power for several decades, resulting in armed conflicts with various ethnic minority groups. This includes the Kachin state, occupying the northernmost state that borders China. The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) was the first to negotiate a ceasefire with the military junta in 1994, but it only lasted 17 years until hostilities resumed in 2011. Furthermore, the Burmese government promised an investment in the infrastructure of the Kachin State, yet these promises still have not been fulfilled. Instead, the military regime has executed and benefited from a large-scale extraction of Kachin's natural resources---timber, gold, jade and hydroelectric power. These benefits have not been shared with the Kachin people. The mismanagement of the economy, the prioritization of military expenditure over public services, and the spiraling costs of basic commodities, education, and medical care are making it increasingly difficult for Kachin people to survive. Additionally, the threats of rape and human trafficking threaten the various ethnic groups. As a result of the instability, thousands of people have been forced to abandon their homes and relocate to Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps. Furthermore, many Kachin people, mainly young men and women, have left their homes to flee to foreign countries and escape these injustices.



Conflict and human trafficking on the China-Kachin border.

As the social, political, and economic problems in the Kachin State worsen, the number of Kachin people that immigrate to Thailand increases. In 1999, four women recognized the urgent need for women to unite in an effort to resolve the problems in Burma. They formed the Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

"Our people should have freedom and independence and should be able to exercise their human rights."

> - Moon Nay Li, KWAT Former General Secretary

### ABOUT KWAT

### MISSION

Ensure the empowerment and advancement of Kachin women in order to improve the lives of women and children in Kachin society.

05

06

### VISION

As a non-profit organization working in behalf of Kachin women, KWAT has a vision of a Kachin State where:

- all forms of discrimination are eliminated,
- all women are empowered to participate in decision making at a local, national and international level,
- all Kachin children have the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

### VALUES

KWAT is committed to meeting the needs of the Kachin community by promoting equality, respect, human dignity, and independence. KWAT strives for the development of KWAT as a strong organization, based upon unity and trust through transparency and honesty. As individuals, KWAT is committed to working together with love, patience, wisdom and sacrifice.

### STRATEGIC AIMS

- 01 Promote women's rights, children's rights, and gender equality.
- 02 Promote women's participation in decision-making, politics, and the peace and reconciliation process.
- 03 Promote women's rights, children's rights, and gender equality.

Oppose all forms of violence against women, including human trafficking.

Provide health education and services in addition to establishing health policies for women and children.

Provide health education and services in addition to establishing health policies for women and children.

### **KWAT'S FOUNDERS**

In 1999, the following four women created KWAT to empower Kachin women and raise awareness of the atrocities occuring in Burma.



**Shirley Seng** 



Hkawn Tawng



Linda Lahtaw

Jenet

### PROGRAMS

Since its inception, KWAT has developed several programs to help the various needs of the Kachin people, empower communities, and improve the current situation in Myanmar.

Anti-Trafficking Capacity Building Documentation and Research Health Political Empowerment

In addition to these main programs, we also do advocacy to let the world know what really happen in Kachin area and we manage emergency relief assistance to help Kachin internal displace people. KWAT also has an ongoing Income Generation project where Kachin women receive vocational training and produce products for sale. Its goal is to help restore the women's confidence and personal pride by providing them with an opportunity to become financially independent. Additionally, the products help preserve and spread appreciation for the Kachin culture. The products are sold at local markets, regional conferences, and seminars.

The products are made using cloth woven in traditional Kachin patterns and colors. Products include: bags, shawls, wall hangings, wallets, belts, neck ties, longyis, slippers, and products decorated with small dolls dressed in traditional Kachin costume



such as pins, bookmarks, pencils, key chains, and magnets.



#### Α.

#### Mai Maw, Wuyang Village

After her mother passed away, A. lived with her father and tried hard to attend school. She then followed a friend who got married to a man in China. A. was supposed to help and care for her friend during her maternity period. However, A. ended up being sold to a Chinese man. She was forced to give birth to one child. After she returned home from China, she got livelihood assistance from KWAT's ATP to learn sewing and tailoring. Now in her community, she proudly supports herself as a tailor. Center Assistance 🗂

Communication Food Transportation Hygiene Support Counselling Medical Assistance Awareness Information Shelter Letters to Chinese Government Maternity Materials Clothes

#### Η.

#### Myitkyina

H. and her family were struggling financially. Mrs. J. told her to work with an agent in Kawn Chyu Tung Hpyi, China. When H. arrived, there was no job, and instead she was forced to be a surrogate for pregnancy. She had to take medication to increase her chances of getting pregnant. H. was able to contact her family, and her family contacted the head of the village about her situation. The head of the village arrested Mrs. J. and then contacted the traffickers in China. The traffickers said that they would release H. in return for 500,000 kyat. H.'s parents borrowed 500,000 kyat from KWAT and sent it to Hpauyam H., who was able to safely escape to the Myitkyina safe house.

#### **Outreach Activities**

At the outreach activities and trainings, KWAT distributed awareness raising materials such as posters, pamphlets, cartoons, stickers, newsletters, documentaries, and movies.

### **3,726** people gained awareness in 2014 & 2015



Outreach activity at Kawng Ja School.

#### **Trafficking Awareness Trainings**

Since 2014, KWAT has hosted 28 human trafficking awareness trainings with **773** individuals attending. Attendees consisted of members of religious groups, health care departments, women's organizations, leaders of customs and cultures, elders from the villages, medical doctors, nurses, school teachers, the youth, local women, IDP, and women leaders.

In 2015, KWAT also hosted two Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) trainings with **63** participants. CEDAW is an international treaty that can be described as an international bill of rights for women.

Topics Covered in Outreaches and Trainings

Anti-Trafficking Laws **Case Studies** CFDAW Child Trafficking Community Implementation Discrimination Domestic Violence Drugs Family Planning Gender Violence Home Visiting Human Trafficking History **KWAT** Activities Legal Issues Networking Personal Experiences Policy Recommendations **Prevention Awareness Resource Awareness Root Causes** Safe Migration Sexual Harassment Smuggling Trafficking Impacts Type of violence

#### **Trafficking Awareness Trainings**

Before KWAT conducted their human trafficking awareness trainings, many participants were unaware of what human trafficking was, or that it occurred in their communities. Even if some participants knew what human trafficking was, they did not understand the significant consequences it could have.

Following the trainings and feedback in 2015, KWAT created the Training of Trainer (TOT) program for their Anti-Trafficking Program. The TOT program is where a small group of people is taught a skill and is then expected to share it within their own communities. Through using the TOT program, more individuals have gained awareness about human trafficking. "One of the root causes for human trafficking is gender discrimination in a community."

- KWAT report 2015



Images from KWAT's human rights awareness trainings and discussions.

#### **Partner Exchanges**

In 2014, KWAT's Anti-Trafficking Program held a partner exchange with the Nam Tau district women group. **30** women from five different villages participated in the exchange where KWAT presented an update on the human trafficking problem and the Burmese government's Human Trafficking Program. Participants then discussed how they handle human trafficking in their own region and how human trafficking is linked to politics.

Later in the year, KWAT partnered with Mai Ja Yang IDP camp for another exchange with **24** women. There, participants shared their experiences, and KWAT further explained trafficking.

#### **Monitoring Trip**

From July to December 2014, the coordinator of KWAT's Anti-Trafficking Program, Awn Nang, traveled and lived in program areas to meet with community leaders, to conduct awareness trainings, and to obtain documentation information. Nang worked with women from IDP camps in the Kachin State and Northern Shan State.



Monitoring At Mai Ja Yang



Partner Exchange at Mai Ja Yang

#### **Community Awareness**

In 2018, KWAT gave **8,983** people in the Kachin and Northern Shan States awareness about human trafficking through outreach activities, monthly exchanges, campaign activities, and international day events (VAW, Child Trafficking Day, and Myanmar Anti-Trafficking In Person Day). During these activities, KWAT discussed migration, trafficking, smuggling, and domestic violence.

#### **Community Consultation**

In 2018, we have conducted community consultation meeting in 14 regions with 323 participants. During those meetings, each organization and participant discussed about the current situation of human trafficking and discussed the possible ways to work together in terms of human trafficking issues in the future. We also discussed and shared ideas and suggestion regarding the Policy Recommendation Paper. "Human trafficking on the China border can only be addressed by ending Burma Army offensives and war crimes."

- KWAT Statement, 2018

#### **Network Building**

In 2018, we have implemented Regional Team Meetings in 10 regionals with 189 participants. During those meetings, we explained about KWAT's main activities and shared the violence, human trafficking issues and International Law. We built communication line with the regional team to cooperate with KWAT willingly on trafficking issues happing in their regionals. We are planning to have a meeting with main contact persons for forming a team in terms of Emergency contact.

Every year, KWAT participates in global events like International Women's Day (IWD), Violence Against Women (VAW) Day, and Child Trafficking Day.



#### **Publications**

KWAT continually creates, publishes, and distributes human trafficking awareness materials. In 2018, they produced **4,033** materials such as domestic violence and sexual awareness pamphlets and trafficking process posters. These were distributed at outreach activities, international day events, IDPs camps, partner exchanges, and other trainings.





Estimating Trafficking of Myanmar Women for Forced Marriage and Childbearing in China

Estimating Trafficking of Myanmar Women For Forced Marriage and Childbearing in China, December 2018, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Humanitarian Health

### Violence Against Women Day

November 25

During the event, KWAT shared the background history of VAW, shared how women struggle for women's rights, and distributed awareness materials. They also sang the VAW song that was produced by WLB.



In 2014 and 2015, **4,257** people participated in a total of 17 places in the Kachin and Northern Shan States.

In addition to the ceremony events, KWAT participated in VAW discussions where they covered the following: WLB, VAW, IWD, gender and sex, violence, human trafficking, and discrimination.



### Child Trafficking Day

July 30

During the event, KWAT shared the background history of Child Trafficking Day, shared the child trafficking process, shared child trafficking issues, and distributed awareness materials.

In 2014 and 2015, **4,477** people participated in a total of 8 places in the Kachin and Northern Shan States.

KWAT's Capacity Building Program focuses upon individual reflection, skill-growth, team-building, and democratic leadership. Internally, KWAT holds meetings and staff training to constantly reassess their program models and finances. Additionally, KWAT runs a yearly internship, 2 months/3 months trainings and a multitude of workshop and meetings aimed at teaching valuable professional skills, lessons in democratic leadership, and team-building that community members can implement in their societies. KWAT believes that educating the youth is integral in ensuring a democratic and secure future.

#### Six months Internship Training

KWAT's 6 months internship training has continued to educate and train future Kachin leaders over the past five years. Every year, 14 youth interns travel to Chiang Mai, Thailand for six months in order to participate in this training. The goal is to gain skills that they will take back to their communities in order to promote democracy and formulate a peace building culture. After the internship, interns return to their communities and fulfill roles as leaders in: the Kachin community, NGO sectors, educational, and Christian Institutions. In this way, interns are able to share their training with their community and use those skills in careers in Myanmar.

KWAT fully supported the student visa, travel arrangement, and accommodations of 14 students to participate in an six months internship women and minority rights. Interns participated in a mixture of in-class activities, workshops, seminars, sightseeing and community events taught by KWAT senior staff, project staff members, and external trainers. In 2014–2015, with the support of Netherlands Embassy (Bangkok), a total of 26 students were empowered. **Topics Covered** 

**Political Awareness** Public Speaking Documentation Networking **UN International Framework** Gender Awareness Computer Skills English Human Rights Federalism The 2008 Myanmar Constitution Indigenous People's Issues **Project Proposal** Budgeting Team-Building Photographic Software for Documentation **Creating Presentations** Advocacy Reproductive Health Issues The Political History of Burma Leadership Critical Thinking Interpersonal Skills Public Communication Media Techniques

#### ΤΟΤ

With the support of the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), KWAT was able to nourish seven staff from KWAT and hone the skills of seven women trainers through TOT in political empowerment program. The project had given an opportunity to these KWAT staffs participants to help better change communities, the State, and the nation they live in.

The graduates of TOT and Internship course delivered (10) political awareness trainings in eight different locations/ townships in Kachin State and northern Shan States during June 2015. Total participants summed up to 466 people (113 men, 353 women) with an average of 42 people for each training who would continue to multiply the knowledge they receive by sharing it with others in their community. Main issues being discussed at the trainings were UDHR, Rule of Law, Constitution, Federalism, Democracy, Election, and CEDAW.



2 months training

Subject Covered

KWAT policy CEDAW Project management Proposal writing Report writing Monitoring and evaluation Financial Advocacy Federalism ASEAN, EU, UN Research skill Indigenous people

#### **Strategic Planning Meeting**

With the support of USAID (Yangon), KWAT has conducted first Exchange between KWAT and Kachin Women's Association (KWA)" made possible a fruitful dialogue in which 13 participants from KWAT and 12 from KWA exchange ideas about women's role in policymaking and peace negotiation.

Furthermore, through a strategic planning meeting, it was possible to identify barriers in women's participation and to outline joint initiatives toward the strengthen of women's involvement in decision-making. This dialogue took place in Maija Yang city, Kachin State.

#### Stakeholder Meeting on UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820

In 2018, in partnership with ND-Burma, 28 representatives from various organizations participated in this stakeholder meeting. During the meeting, the participants discussed on women in conflict areas in Burma, individual activities regarding UNSCR 1325/1820, SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis on women, peace, security and future collaboration.





#### Women Empowerment Training (Basic and Advanced)

With the support of USAID (Yangon), KWAT has trained a total of 42 women leaders who are actively working for promoting women issues, gender, peace and human rights. It is worth noting that in the last training, the majority of participants were women leaders who are working in the Committee of the KWA. Therefore, enforcing capacities at the decision making level has high potential and sustainability. KWAT also acknowledges as one of the main achievements the setting of a platform for future coalition and networking oriented to increase meaningful women's participation.





"I will surely apply those knowledge and skills I have learnt from this training into my working. I am very glad to learn Organization and management, leadership and management, Human Rights, 2008 constitution, Lobby and advocacy, Women participant in peace process. I like Advocacy issues most. Because we rarely have a chance to learn this issue."

- KWAT Statement

#### Women Leadership Training

With the support of Euro Burma Office (EBO), KWAT has implemented Women Leadership Training for two times to 16 teachers from Church Based Education School. Participants have learned the fundamentals of Human Rights & Domestic Violence, Gender, Myanmar current Peace Process and Federal Constitution. These subjects were very new to the participants and they are highly interested to learn them for the first time in their lives. They became aware of how important it is for them to involve in promoting Human Rights, Gender Balance and to support on Myanmar's current Peace Process and Federal Democracy.



# LAHTAW ESTHER SENG JA

After the training, she has been working for KWAT's Political Empowerment Program as a trainer. Due to her hard work and commitment to serve for the community, she has been promoted as an assistant program coordinator.

## LAMA HTOI SAN LU

After the training, she has been working for Kachin State Development Party as an admin.

# BAMMAW ZAWNG SENG PHYU

After the training, she has been working as a youth leader at Kachin Youth Organization. She is a very desperate and active leader.

#### Topics

Constitutional Issues Federalism Communication Skills Leadership Skills Management and Leadership Community Development Human Rights Democracy Women's role in current peace process of Burma Advocacy and Lobby Foreign Affairs Negotiation Skills

"I find myself becoming more passionate and interested in learning federalism, gender, leadership and community development because I have learned the basic concepts of each topic through this training."

- Participant Statement

The Documentation and Research Program was first created in 2003 to collect and compile evidence of human rights violations committed against civilians in Kachin and Northern Shan States. KWAT has used this evidence to develop effective advocacy tools that raise awareness about the lack of human rights in Myanmar. In the past five years, KWAT has installed Martus Software to organize every collected case of human rights violations, has made great strides in international awareness for the Kachin people, and has put pressure on the United Nations, international governments, and the

Myanmar Government to address the current situation in Myanmar. Most importantly, the Documentation and Research Program helps the world hear the voices of the previously voiceless.

#### Documentation on Human Rights Violations for Advocacy

KWAT field documenters travelled to communities within the Kachin and Northern Shan States to collect over 400 cases of human rights violations committed by the Military Junta against civilians.

KWAT documented these cases to highlight the extent of the injustices committed in Myanmar and demand the Myanmar government end human rights violations, withdraw troops from ethnic areas, and engage in meaningful dialogue about bettering the political climate in Myanmar.

We shared the updated situation of Human Rights in our targeted areas with our partner groups, including Network for Human Right Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma) and Women's League of Burma (WLB). Ongoing civil war created many obstacles for female field researchers as they travel from one village to another. We had a problem with traveling and we could not reach every village as planned as soon as we would have liked, because some villages were not located in the secure area. FROM 2014 - 2018

CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WERE DOCUMENTED

#### Documented Cases Include:

- Rape and Sexual Violence
- Killing
- Human Trafficking
- · Torture and inhuman or degrading treatment
- Forced marriage
- Forced Labor
- · Forced prostitution
- · Forced relocation
- Use of Child Soldiers
- Confiscation and Destruction of Property
- Taxation
- Illegally arbitrary arrest and detention
- Disappearance
- Obstruction of Freedom of Expression
- Obstruction of Freedom of Movement
- · Destruction of Religious Monuments
- Others Human Rights violation



IN 2014 & 2017 **2,450** COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE EDUCATED ON HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION

#### Forum on Human Rights Documentation

In 2014, KWAT held 26 Human Rights Documentation and Awareness Forums in four locations, with a total of **586** Kachin community members. In 2015–2016, KWAT held **48** forums with an increased participation of **1,605** Kachin community members. In 2017, 7 forums with **259** Kachin Community members where organized. During these forums, KWAT staff shared KWAT's work and data collection techniques. Participants became aware of the implications of human rights violations, fundamental principles of human rights, the importance of documentation, and received basic documentation skills. These forums were also a place for survivors of human rights violations to share their stories with other survivors and community members. Survivors expressed that they felt more empowered by sharing their stories. Community members stated that they felt increased trust with KWAT and felt more inclined to share their stories and fight for justice.

#### Basic Human Rights two-days documentation training -Consultation workshop

KWAT held four times a two-day trainings in the Kachin State. Trainings involved the UDHR history and articles, team building, human rights violations, and respect. Participants connected the lessons to personal experiences and shared stories of murder, torture, being used as a human shield, beatings, forced labor, and property seizure. In Waingmaw and Myitkina district, KWAT held two consultation workshops for women and community leaders and four awareness trainings for habitants of IDP camps concerning human rights and human rights violations. **48** participants took place in these workshops. International Peace Event day

During the event, KWAT shared about women and peace issue with around 400 women camp leaders and IDPs in Nawng Nang IDPs Camp of Myitkyina.



September 21 2018

#### Survivor's Strengthening Activities

The Survivor's Strengthening Workshop in 2014 was KWAT's first workshop where survivors met and shared their experiences. Participatory Action Research (PAR) is a research approach in communities that emphasizes participation and action. PAR seeks to understand community issues by trying to solve them through collaboration and reflection. The women shared experiences of their husbands being tortured, killed, or arrested, or losing children in a school shooting. The survivors participated in hands-on activities in order to connect with each other and build trust. As part of the project, KWAT also created a survivors' center in July, 2018. Currently, the Kasi Kaja Survivor Group is in control of the center's operations and outreach.

During this four years, we conducted three PAR training with 28 women Kachin Women survivors who faced human rights violation. We used those sequences :

- FLOWER AND STONE
- TIMELINE MAPPING
- COMMUNITY MAPPING
- BODY MAPPING
- LIVELIHOOD MAPPING
- FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
- MEMORY BOX

"Please share our stories with others and tell them that we want justice, we are never happy in our lives because of what happened to us. We will fight. Please help us."

> - Quote from the Survivor's Strengthening Workshop



Self-care exercise during PAR training

#### 2014

KWAT held a "true event telling" that attracted over 100 participants from local organizations and the general community. Participants gathered to talk about human rights issues publicly, encourage survivors and families to share their own stories, and highlight failures in government accountability.

### Empowerment of Kachin Women Survivors and Livelihood Provision Project

30 survivors family got livelihoods during this period. We supported different actions depending on family's project. KWAT aided those who have lost family members or who have been directly affected by the armed conflict. Additionally, KWAT aimed to empower women through microeconomic support. KWAT believed that this project could help build a stronger network within the community and foster friendships between survivors. This project allowed women to find their own source of financial support as well as strengthen the bonds between survivors.





A mother of a Survivor and her pig



A hair-cut shop project supported by KWAT

#### **Fact Sheets and Reports**

In 2014 we released two reports : "Silence offensive : how Burma Army Strategies are Fuelling the Kachin Drug Crisis" and "7years KWAT Activity Report". The first report is based on interviews with Kachin community in townships of northern Burma, and paints a disturbing picture of the drug crisis in Kachin areas. It shows how the renewed conflict against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) since June 2011 is fuelling drug production. The 7 year activity report is a comprehensive compilation of KWAT's goals, accomplishments, activities, and roles within society from 2007-2013.

In 2015, KWAT produced two reports, **"Unhealed Wounds"** and **"Justice Delayed**, **Justice Denied"**. "Unhealed Wounds" highlighted different forms of human rights violations. All cases lacked legal redress, reparation, justice, and truth for victims. The report asked newly elected government officials to put in place a justice process for crimes in conflict areas. "Justice Delayed, Justice Denied" was produced by KWAT and Legal Aid Network. "Justice Delayed, Justice Denied" outlined the brutal rape and murder of two volunteer teachers, whom had been sent from the Kachin Baptist Church to Kwanghka Village.

In 2016 we released joint report **"A far cry from Peace"** an update of the security situation in Kachin areas of northern Burma during the past year. Despite hopes that the new government led by the National League for Democracy (NLD) would move the peace process forward and bring an end to fighting, Burma Army offensives in the north of the country have intensified, involving ongoing human rights abuses against civilians, and new displacement. We did the **"Hidden Plight: Christian Minorities in Burma"** which covered current religious freedom conditions for the Chin, Kachin, and Naga.

In 2018 we produced joint "**Report: Human Rights Situation in Burma 2018**", that report 190 armed clashes, 32,000 people becoming newly displaced as a result, in northern Shan and Kachin States. "You cannot ignore us: Victims of human rights violations from 1970 – 2017" outline the desires for justice, and is based on interviews with 170 individuals in 11 states and regions. It offers preliminary recommendations and guarantees of non-recurrence, including justice and accountability for the abuses the victims have suffered.



September 27, 2014 A pastor took this photo of Nhka Ga villagers whom were under tight Burmese military security.

We produced several joint statements and press releases that concerned with the serious issue of human rights violations in Burma. The produced reports were using as tools to advocate and lobby with international community and domestic audiences.

Silent Offensive, October 2014, KWAT

ACTIVITY REPORT



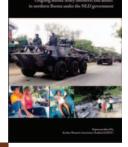
**Silent Offensive** 

7 years KWAT Activity Report, September 2014, KWAT

Unhealed Wounds, November 2015, KWAT - United Rights Group (URG)

**IURGI** กูญรู้มูญรูฐรัสมรณระ Unhealed Wounds

A Far Cry From Peace, November 2016, KWAT



Justice Delayed, Justice Denied, January 2016, KWAT -Legal Aid Network (LAN)

> Report: Human Rights Situation in Burma 2018, April 2019, Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma

YOU CANNOT IGNORE US : Victims of human rights violation in Burma 2018, KWAT - Reparation Working Group





Cry From Peace,

November 2016,

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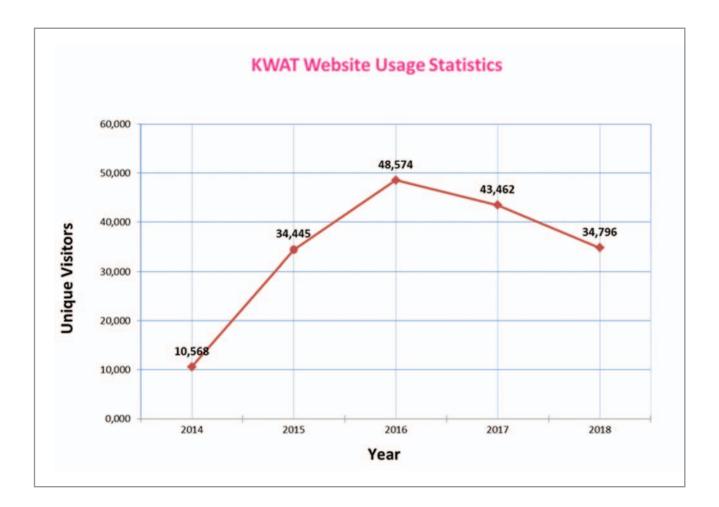
25

HOME ABOUT US WHAT WE DO Y PUBLICATIONS Y MULTIMEDIA Y PARTI

# www.kachinwomen.com

#### **KWAT Website**

KWAT's website is integral in spreading KWAT's mission and progress with the global community. In the past five years, KWAT has seen its website grow to attract more than **48,000** unique visitors in one year. With the website, KWAT can frequently update the global community on the human rights situation in Myanmar. Thus, KWAT's website helps to raise awareness for the political activities in Myanmar and build a larger base to support KWAT programs and push government organizations to take action in Myanmar.



KWAT's Health Program provides primary health care, education about reproductive health, and resources to sustain a community's health for years. In 2014, KWAT only had three clinics to serve a target population of over 12,000 people but was able to expand their network by starting two new mobile clinics in 2015.

With each year, KWAT has improved the well being of community members with not only health care, but also education that promotes safe-sex practices, which have lowered the infancy mortality and abortion rates as well as increased contraceptive service coverage. KWAT also conducts community health surveys in target areas, which gather the necessary information for their staff to evaluate which specific programs would best fit the community.

KWAT regularly uses its medical laboratory to run tests in order to achieve efficient diagnoses of common illnesses. KWAT's Health Program not only focuses on the immediate health needs of people with their mobile clinics, but also dedicates itself to providing education, training, and materials that prevent the same health problems from occurring in the future.

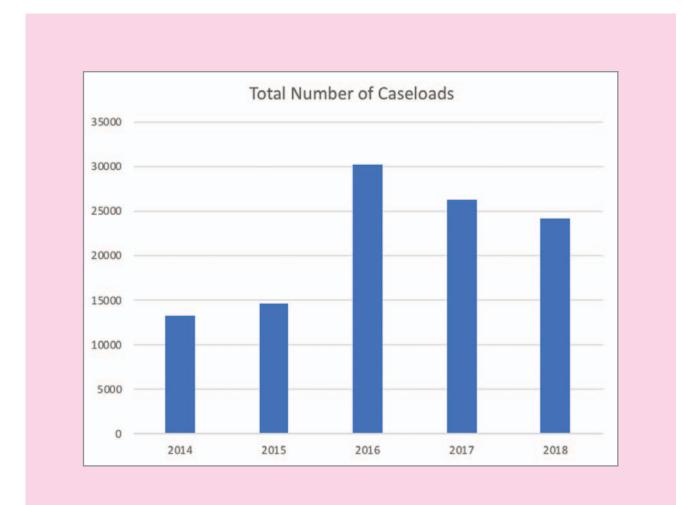
# **Target Groups** • Communities within the area of clinics Kachin-China Border Northern Shan State Villages in Burma IDPs Camps • Remote areas without adequate health care Health Program Staff



#### **Growth and Impact**

Before 2015, KWAT only had three clinics to attempt to serve over 12,000 people within their target areas. The addition of two new clinics allowed KWAT to expand their services to new areas and increase the number of cases they were able to assist with. In the year following the addition of the two new clinics, the total number of caseloads that KWAT staff assisted with increased by 206%. Over the next three years, the addition of the new clinics resulted in an average increase in caseloads of 183%.

With more resources, KWAT has been able to increase its impact on the areas, communities, and people that rely on their assistance. Due to the growth of the Health Program, KWAT has been able to not only continue but strengthen its commitment to providing exceptional health care and education.



#### **Basic Health Services**

KWAT is dedicated to serve not only the areas surrounding their clinics but also to serve several remote communities that lack access to health care. Within each community that KWAT serves, the staff provides immediate health services as well as health education to help prevent avoidable diseases or symptoms in the future. Health staffers cover almost all aspects of patient's health, ranging from maternal health to common illnesses such as the common cold and skin infections.

KWAT maintains its mission to provide pregnant women, new mothers, and their children with the best care possible. Because of this, KWAT staff works on all aspects of a woman's pregnancy – starting with the mother's nutrition and supporting her through delivery as well as during her and the child's recovery.

While KWAT is capable of providing care to the majority of cases, there are some that are so severe that KWAT must refer them to the nearest hospital. KWAT's health staff focuses on the well-being of the entire community, ensuring that they receive the care they need and the education that prevents future issues.



Images from KWAT's Clinics

#### **Laboratory Services**

KWAT maintains a medical laboratory in Mai Ja Yang to help Health Staff diagnose patients' illnesses as well as ensure maternal health. Two of the most common tests the laboratory performs are glucose level and hemoglobin level tests, which are usually used for pregnant women. The laboratory also checks for any viral diseases, like malaria, and STIs such as HIV.

This vital information has changed how KWAT staff approaches a delivery as they are able to know if a pregnant woman is HIV positive, thus ensuring the best delivery possible for her child. KWAT also uses the laboratory to examine a child's health and nutrition, such as testing to see if they are anemic.

Over the last five years, KWAT's laboratory has significantly increased the amount of tests they conduct annually. In 2014, the laboratory was only able to test less than 100 samples. By 2018, the laboratory has tested over **1,000** samples. As the lab is able to perform more tests, KWAT staff is able to receive the essential information that provides the best care possible.



A young boy who is severely anemic. KWAT's laboratory is able to determine the hemoglobin levels of children like him to diagnosis illnesses before they become too severe.

**COLLECTION COURSE** 

### HEALTH PROGRAM

#### **Family Planning and Data Collection Course**

KWAT Health Staff participated in a training course to improve the data collection and family planning services to 15 Kachin villages and 12 outreach villages. Participants set out to identify important health and community issues by analyzing the mortality rates of infants, children, and mothers. This information was then utilized to choose the most effective KWAT services to implement in each community. Participants gained proper health and reproduction education. Additionally, participants learned how to analyze how the magnitude of data directly correlates to the health of the community or key groups. In total, this training served 27 communities, reaching 1,354 households, and 5,307 people.



Family planning Survey

#### **Adolescent Reproductive Health Training**

In this training, KWAT staff taught local adolescents about the importance of reproductive health and the physical and mental changes that occur during development. Beginning with the basic information on reproductive anatomy, KWAT provided new, essential information to adolescents. In addition, staff members discussed the various benefits of several family planning methods that prevent any unwanted pregnancies and STIs. KWAT discussed how STIs themselves affect adolescent health and the health of a pregnant woman and her child. KWAT also presented the process of pregnancy, covering topics from fertilization to the changes that occur during pregnancy.

Throughout the lessons, staff members also presented several resources that the adolescents could access for family planning, maternal care, delivery, and alternatives to unsafe abortions and their consequences. The participants' progress was quantified with a comparison of a pre-test and posttest. The participants' scores improved by 60%. KWAT members recorded feedback from the participants after training and noted the most significant aspects of the information the participants received.



Group Photo of Participants

"I did not know what happens when we have sex without condoms and pills. That's why I got pregnant. I received shame in the community... so I decided to have an abortion, but I actually did not have it done... This is because I did not have reproductive health knowledge. I have regret sometimes. This knowledge is very important for all adolescents."

- Quote from a Participant of the Adolescent Health Training

#### **School Health Education**

In 2016, KWAT traveled to over 87 different schools and reached children to provide basic health and emergency kits. The emergency kits contained materials that promoted hygiene and protected their health as well as taught habits that improve hygiene. Within these kits were brooms, dustbins, nail clippers, pots for drinking water, cups, and buckets for the toilets.

KWAT staff also discussed how good hygiene can prevent worm infection, a common issue among children. The staff mainly worked in nursery, primary, and middle schools, IDPs camps, boarding schools in IDPs camps, and villages that were far from clinics. In 2016, KWAT gained more trust from the KIO, which led to KWAT being able to visit more schools.



Some of the Schools that KWAT Visited

#### **Results from Vital Surveys**

In July, KWAT collected new vital survey data for the working areas of the Northern Shan State. The data revealed that the surveyed area had an infant mortality rate of 14.0%. Conducting this survey provided KWAT with a baseline to analyze and plan how to improve the infant mortality rate for the future.

The survey also revealed the impact that KWAT's health services had already made before 2017. The infant mortality rate in 2014 was 50.3% and decreased significantly by 2016 – to only 16.1%. In addition to lowering the infant mortality rate, KWAT became a significant provider of family planning services. In 2015, KWAT constituted **25.3%** of the family planning services and expanded to provide **50.5%** of all family planning services in 2016. The results of these surveys verified the positive impact that KWAT makes on these communities every year.

Law Hkum Health outreach



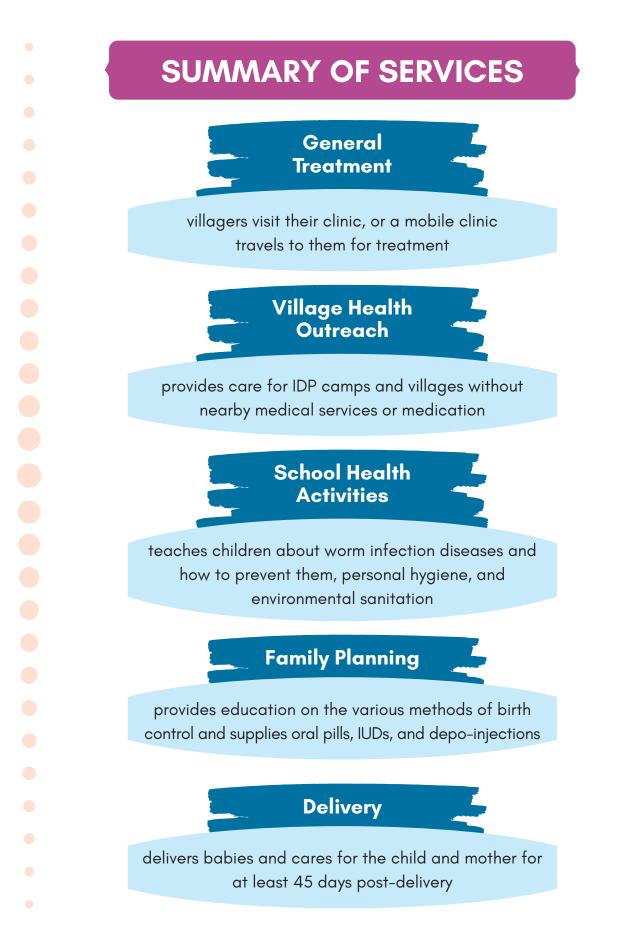


Gat Rawn Health outreach

IN 2016 KWAT PROVIDED

50.5% of family planning services in target areas of the northern shan state

### HEALTH PROGRAM



### HEALTH PROGRAM

### SUMMARY OF SERVICES

#### Antenatal and Postnatal Care

provides education on health throughout pregnancy on topics such as nutrition, breast feeding, and family planning; gives necessary vaccines and medication

#### **Patient Referral**

some cases require staff to transfer patients to hospitals due to critical conditions

Adolescent Training

provides information to help prevent unsafe sex, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and STIs within local Kachin communities and IDP camps

#### Laboratory

tests for glucose levels, HIV status, STIs, syphilis status, hemoglobin levels, Hepatitis B and C, and malaria status

Through various trainings, workshops, and forums, KWAT has provided the young people, women, and leaders of the Kachin and Northern Shan States with essential information surrounding governmental structure, politics, equality, and human rights.

8 activities : 1. monthly youth exchange 2. 3days political awareness training 3. women monthly forum 4. 2days women workshop 5. 3days gender women rights training 6. 45days democratic leadership training 7. political advance training and TOT 8. Followup training Comprehensive programs aimed at empowering women have expanded participants' political knowledge and have diminished gender barriers within communities. The empowerment of women and the development of leadership skills has allowed for the mobilization of social and political change, thus creating a positive impact on all communities. Women have expanded their networks and have gained more power in government through developing practical skills such as negotiation, management, and advocacy. In the past five years, KWAT's Political Empowerment Program has reached over **11, 330** people with 287 total activities in over 80 areas.



Various Trainings, Workshops, and Forums

people

#### **Monthly Youth Exchange**

The Monthly Youth Exchange Program provided students and young leaders an opportunity to share their experiences, to discuss politics, and to build confidence. The project successfully produced a new library, created friendships, and facilitated the expansion of the Pig Raising Project.

In discussions, students covered human rights, the constitution, democracy, federalism, human trafficking, business, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This knowledge led to the expansion of participants' awareness of the unjust treatment of ethnic groups and the importance of voting. KWAT provided the essential information for young, emerging leaders that engaged them in politics, business, community, culture, and humanitarian works. Furthermore, participants gained the confidence to speak in public and organize their own youth activities.



Youth Political Exchange with students at Lashio, 2017

#### Women's Leadership and Empowerment Trainings

Designed especially for women, these trainings emphasized increasing women's knowledge and raising their awareness levels on relevant issues such as politics, human rights, and equality. KWAT offered one of the only platforms for women to learn about women's rights issues such as CEDAW and UNSCR (1325 and 1820), so that women know how to apply concepts to their own lives, communities, and societies. These trainings and forums allowed women to share their experiences relating to women's and political rights, thus forming an extended network between these women. With more knowledge, women became more confident in their participation in decision and policy-making skills, politics, and the peace process. Empowering these women created a stronger commitment to improve their communities as they learned how to implement skills, such as negotiation, management, and advocacy, to achieve equality and human rights.



Women Forum at Nam Hpak Ka, Shan State, 2018

#### QUOTES FROM WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT TRAININGS

"I could see more deeply into our country's political situation. Now, I am aware of our civilian rights and our responsibility for our country."



Workshop in Loi Hkang (2016)



Women Forum in Mungbaw, Shan State (2018)

"Even though our country is transforming into a democratic country, we have no place to learn about democracy and never have the chance. I know that our country is not democratic, but still a dictatorship."

"I gained more confidence in my knowledge about women's rights such as CEDAW, UNSCR 1325 and 1820, and how to apply them to their own lives, communities, and societies"



Workshop in Lashio (2017)

#### **Basic Political Awareness Trainings**

The Basic Political Awareness Trainings gathered the church-based and communitybased leaders, women, men, and youth (all who may or may not have had previous political or health knowledge) to discuss and expand their political awareness. Trainings were discussion based and had participants share any current human rights situations in their communities. This program provided a unique opportunity for these sensitive topics to be discussed. Providing a safe, comfortable environment encouraged leaders and members to participate in community movements.

KWAT has promoted the education and application of political issues that has produced more active, knowledgeable citizens who will help drive positive changes in communities. From 2014 to 2018, KWAT's Basic Political Awareness trainings and meetings reached over **5,400** people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds.



3-Day Training in Hkanan, Lashio (2017)



Gender Human Rights Democracy Federalism Constitutional Issues History of Kachin Politics



Women Workshop in Namjang, Namhkam (2018)

FROM 2014 TO 2018 **5,400** MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN BASIC POLITICAL AWARENESS TRAININGS

### **ADVOCACY STRATEGY**

KWAT is doing advocacy to have a federal democracy which give guaranty on Human Rights, including women's Human Rights as well as ethnic equality and self-determination.

During these years, we created an advocacy team and that lead as to achieve advocacy for our Kachin people.

KWAT, in collaboration with its partner organizations, raises national and international awareness about the human rights and political situations in Myanmar. KWAT aims to emphasize women's and children's rights and transform Myanmar with federal democracy and social change. KWAT's Advocacy Team does this by holding awareness trainings, developing policy recommendation papers, and seeking justice for survivors of human rights violations.



Advocacy trip - Japan, 2018

### **ADVOCACY STRATEGY**

In 2017, KWAT's Advocacy Team developed an action plan on how they planned to fulfill their mission.

- Develop policy papers on health, human trafficking, humanitarian aids, internally displaced persons (IDP), refugees, drugs, women voices in the peace process and federalism, violence against women (VAW), sexual violence, and gender policies.
- 02 Document human rights violations (HRVs), the peace process, IDP updates, human trafficking, religious oppression, and the protection of survivors.
- **03** Build alliances with Kachin chief security officers (CSOs), political parties, human rights groups, Women's League of Burma (WLB), ND-Burma, United Rights Group (URG), KWAT's political advisory group (SMJH), Myitkyina Christian Community (MCC), and the Kachin National School/Myusha Jawng (Northern Shan/Kachin State).
- 04 Network with Peace Creation Group, Joint Strategy Team, Shan Ni, Burma diplomats, European Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Japan, Geneva, Sweden, Philippines and the United States.



Advocacy trip – Korea, 2018

### **ADVOCACY STRATEGY**

In addition to the materials that KWAT distributes as part of the Advocacy Program, they also participate in several notable trainings, workshops, and seminars.

#### Seminar on Seeking Justice in Burma

In collaboration with Legal Aid Network, KWAT held a two-day seminar in Mai Ja Yang village, Kachin State, Burma with **318** participants. The seminar was designed to encourage individuals to take action against the sexual violence and war crimes occurring in Burma, specifically in the ethnic states. A special focus was put on the Kawng Kha case to deter similar crimes and promote human rights violation justice.



#### **Policy Work**

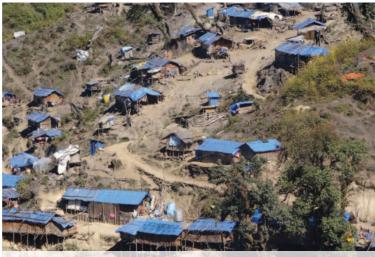
In 2017, KWAT organized meetings to develop two policy papers: one concerning Kachin women's voices on the peace process and federal reformation, and one regarding drugs and human trafficking. KWAT continued their work in 2018 with workshops to develop policy recommendation papers on human trafficking, drugs, health, and federalism.



Advocacy trip – United State, 2018

### EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR KACHIN IDPs

KWAT's emergency relief assistance program for Kachin Internally Displaced People (IDPs) provides resources to IDPs and other victims of armed conflict in the Kachin and Northern Shan States along the China-Myanmar border. Ranging from food to basic supplies, KWAT provides essential materials for the health and well-being of IDPs. Often times, when individual camps or organizations designed for IDPs receive a sudden influx of people, they are not equipped with enough supplies or staff to assist with each person's needs. Because of this, KWAT is often called for emergency assistance in these camps or in certain areas that lack significant health, food, or education resources. Over the past five years, KWAT has served, assisted, and saved thousands of lives of internally displaced persons and plans to continue to do so in the future.



IDPs Camp in Hpare Hkyet



IDPs Receive Medication from KWAT

FROM 2014

**TO 2018 OVER** 

SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILY

**RECEIVED EMERGENCY** 

SUPPORT

### EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR KACHIN IDPs

#### **Emergency Relief Assistance in Hpare Hkyet and Namkham**

In 2014, both IDP camps, Hpare Hkyet and Namkham, faced a significant influx of IDPs, leading to shortages of food, medication, and other basic survival supplies. KWAT brought dry food, warm clothes, three Health Program Staff, and medication to the Hpare Hket camp to assist **860** people in need of supplies. In Namkham, KWAT supplied wood to build proper shelters, food, and medication for **500** IDPs, and additionally two Health

Program Staff treated over **200** IDPs. At the time, no other organization assisted the Namkham camp, causing a lack of clean water and sanitary living conditions.

#### **Emergency Fund for IDPs in Kachin Areas**

In 2015–2017, KWAT purchased 146 rice bags for the IDPs in the Mai Ja Yang IDP camp and the surrounding seven villages. Without this food, the IDPs and villagers would have faced starvation. In addition to providing food, KWAT

distributed school supplies such as books, pens, pencils, and rulers, as well as clothes such as rain coats and slippers to school children.

I KWAT also provided aids including nutrition, school materials, food, medicines, clothes, rice and donation to over 8000 IDPs at 18 camps in Sumpra Bum township, Myitkyina Township and Kutkai and Muse township. KWAT donated money to human rights violations victims' and survivors' families from the Northern Shan State and Kachin State.



Hpare Hkyet receive supplies



KWAT staff distribute blankets in Kachin school

### EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR KACHIN IDPs

#### Support of IDPs in Kachin State and northern Shan State

In 2018, the Burmese Army sustained a shelling artillery attack close to Kasung village. Subsequently, this caused villagers to flee to Namati town, causing the IDP camp to face a shortage of basic supplies. In 2018, KWAT supported aids including nutrition, school materials, food, medicines, clothes and shelters, rice and kitchen supplies and donation to over **4,000** IDPs especially bread feeding women, pregnant women, elderly people and primary school children at 12 camps in Hpakant township, Danai township, Sumpra Bum township, Myitkyina township, Moekaung township and Njang Yang township. In addition to providing the necessary supplies to the camp, KWAT collected data on any human rights violations and personal experiences of the survivors within the camp.

> KWAT PROVIDED OVER

IDPs KACHIN STATE AND NORTHERN SHAN STATE



KWAT Worker Provides a Woman with Food



Families Examine Supplies Brought by KWAT

#### EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR KACHIN IDPs



Lucky draw for shelters in Danai IDPs camp



Waimaw IDPs camp



Namti Roman Catholic camp





Sacks of rice to Ndup Yang camp and Salayang camp

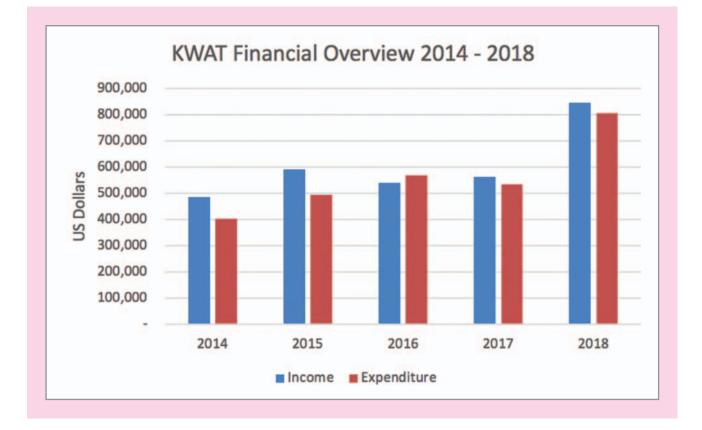
#### **FINANCES**

#### **KWAT Income and Expenditure**

Over the past five years, KWAT has expanded its network and strengthened its relationships with existing donors. As a result, KWAT's budget has almost doubled and has grown from \$487,382 in 2014 to \$847,100 in 2018.

Paying careful attention to expenditures, KWAT has strived to manage programs and services to be under budget in order to create sustainable programs and provide a cushion for instances when emergencies create a need for extra funds.

In the coming years, KWAT hopes to create and fortify relationships with partners and donors so that KWAT can expand its services and reach more members of the Kachin community.



#### ACRONYMS

Association of Southeast Asian Nations ASEAN CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women CSO Chief Security Officer FFM Fact Finding Mission HRV Human Right Violation International Day of Peace **IDoP** IDP Internally Displaced Person IWD International Women's Day **KBC** Kachin Baptist Convention ΚΙΔ Kachin Independence Army KIO Kachin Independence Organization Kachin Women's Association KWA Kachin Women's Association Thailand KWAT MCC Myitkyina Christian Community PCG Peace Coordination Group SMJH Shawnglam Mungmasa Jasat Hpung SWOT Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Technical Assistance Team ΤΑΤ TOT Training of Trainer **UNHRC** United National Human Rights Council UNSCR United National Security Human Rights Council URG United Rights Group VAW Violence Against Women WLB Women's League of Burma WMR Wunpawng Myusha Rapdaw

#### CONCLUSION

We greatly hope that this report provides our readers with a greater knowledge of the need in empowering and supporting women and children in Kachin society and a better understanding of KWAT's activities.

During 2014–2018, KWAT has been constantly working for promoting gender equality and rights of women and children in war-torn areas. KWAT's programs are actively working in the aspects of women and youth capacity building, healthcare services, political awareness, data collecting for human rights violation and human trafficking in Kachin State and Northern Shan State. KWAT has been providing emergency support to Internally Displaced People in the conflict areas as well. In addition to that KWAT has been advocating for genuine federal democracy and peace in Burma.

Apart from our activity achievements, we still concern that discrimination against women, Human Rights violation and human trafficking are continuously happening and IDPs population is gradually increasing more and more. Moreover, adequate health care service is still necessitated in many rural areas of Kachin state.

For these reasons, supports and contributions from local, national and international communities are vitaly needed and KWAT aims for having a peaceful society in Burma.



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