



Equality Myanmar

Organisational Report 2020



Equality Myanmar Organisational Report
from January to December 2020

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About Equality Myanmar

Equality Myanmar (EQMM) is a registered local organization that facilitates a broad range of Human Rights education activities and capacity building, as well as conducts advocacy and lobbying. We work with various local actors, and the activities reach all states and regions in Myanmar. EQMM was formerly known as the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB) and was founded in 2000 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In 2013, HREIB's headquarters and operations transitioned to working exclusively inside Myanmar under its new name.

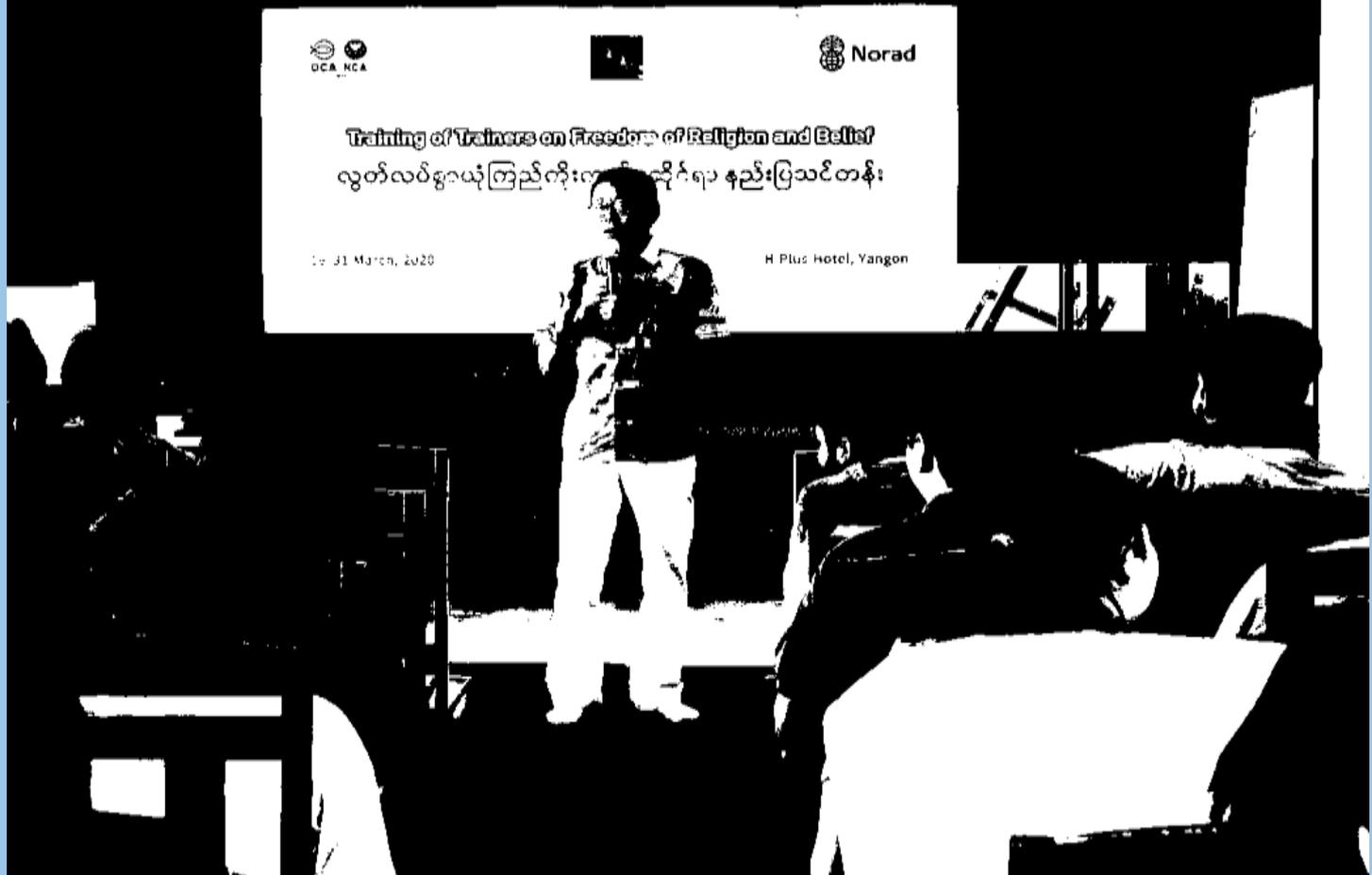
Our Vision

“EQMM envisions a Peaceful, Tolerant and Democratic Society that respects and Upholds Human Rights for All in Myanmar”

Our Mission

“Our mission is to promote a culture of human rights compliance and accountability where Myanmar people feel empowered to access their rights and engage in a process of social transformation based on principles of substantive equality.”

Message from the Executive Director, U Aung Myo Min



2020 was a challenge year for Equality Myanmar. First, we successfully reached our goal and objective although we faced global pandemic in Myanmar. Second, we had effectively implemented all our planned project activities although we could not implement in-person trainings. Third, our Equality Myanmar effectively tackle hate speech issues which threatened democracy movement and 2020 general election in Myanmar.

We empowered and capacitated marginalized and grassroots community people and making them aware of human rights through human rights talks, trainings, workshops, and events. Although we faced global pandemic, we contributed human rights education, awareness, and advocacy movement. Covid-19 Pandemic had stopped the progress of economic and negatively affected people movement. However, Equality Myanmar had implemented online human rights talks, social campaigns, human rights awareness and advocacy in Myanmar. We had brought the voices of community members.

Further, Equality Myanmar has trained human rights educators, defenders and activists across the country and supported them to fight for the justice.

For 2020 election, we conducted the basic human rights training for the member of political parties. We also advocated to the parliamentary members in Nay Phy Taw. We believe investing the human rights knowledge on the election candidates could bring positive results in protecting and fulfilling the human rights culture when they become members of parliament or government.

Equality Myanmar has dedicated to support human right defenders, activists and civil society organizations across the country to claim and address for people's rights. We understand enabling role in the grassroots communities are essential for promoting human rights and enhancing the human rights awareness. We give our respect and value their trust working with us for many years in Myanmar.

I would like to express my graceful and gratitude to acknowledge to everyone who has worked with us, supported us, contributed their efforts to us, and also believing in us by writing this letter. We become "Equality Myanmar" with the trust you have invested on us. This is our courage and human rights spirit to work for the humanrights for the people of the country.

In Solidarity,

Aung Myo Min
Executive Director
Equality Myanmar

2020 Impact and Outcome: Overview



827 people (Male-342, Female-391 and Unmention-94) gained human rights knowledge through 16 Human Rights Talks. These participants from Ayeyarwady region, Bago Region, Karen State, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Mon State, Sagaing Region, Tanintharyi Region and Yangon Region had changed their attitudes, behaviors, and actions.



604 people had increased human rights knowledge as they participated in human rights training, both online and in-person during the pandemic period in Myanmar.

Basic Human Rights



113 participants (58 females, 49 males and 6 LGBTQIA) were trained to get children's rights and basic human rights knowledge. These participants contributed positive impact for their communities.



88 people (Male-40, Female-45, and LGBTQIA-3) participated in the thematic workshops, and they had contributed the best impacts for their communities.



199 participants (including 26 human rights educators) were trained about freedom of religion and belief (FORB).



15 Representatives of CSOs received Capacity Building Training regarding PCM. Then, they used this knowledge for their targeted community.



23,415 pieces of information and educational materials are distributed to 27 organizations and individuals.



57 Audio-Visual Production had produced and broadcasted on National TV Sessions.



215 Media Articles used Equality Myanmar's Information and Made Resource References.



Effective Advocacy Meeting was done for the members of the parliamentarians in Nay Pyi Taw. Further, the Activities of Advocacy workshop, Seminar, EQMM Media, Anti-Hate Speech Activity and LGBTQIT were successfully implemented in 2020.



The 72nd International Human Rights Day was celebrated across the country by illustrating different means and forms through online and offline. By collaborating with famous media channel: live message, talks and discussion reached Over One Hundred Thousand Facebook users.



Covid-19 Emergency Response, Prevention and Advocacy was effectively implemented in 2020.



Core HRE Program: Human Rights Talk

Human Rights Talk activity had a great impact for the participants and community members. Although the Covid-19 Pandemic restricted the local situation, EQMM had successfully organized and implemented 3 Human Rights activities in different States/Regions: Kachin, Rakhine, Bago, Yangon, Mon, Mandalay, Chin, Sagaing, Shan and Nay Pyi Taw. The participants were from different organizations and institutions: Peace and Development, Shwe Network (TGO), Pyi Gyi Khin, Colorful Girl, SYE, The Fifth Pillar, MILI, UNDP, Women Committee of Political Party, members of Paralegal Groups

Lawyers, CBOs, Disability network and University.

Human Rights Talk activity had a significant outcome as a total of 137 participants (70 females and 67 males) gained human rights concept and knowledge. Furthermore, the participants understand human rights violations and cases as they can see from human rights perspective and lens. As we observed that the participants had changed their attitudes, behaviors, and actions regarding human rights issue. These are the fundamental indicators of our project outcomes.



Human Rights Talk in Chin State



One of the female participants expressed during the Human Right Talk;

“I had known about HR a little before, but in this Talk, I have clearly understood some articles of UDHR and international human rights law and some local laws. If we have known the laws, we could protect ourselves, and we could complain when others violated us. I will share the HR knowledge gained from this Talk with my friends and community.”

Core HRE Program: Human Rights and Child Rights Training

In 2020, 15 human rights trainings were conducted in different States and Regions: Mon, Yangon, Pyay, Karen, Bago, Ayeyarwady, Mandalay, Chin and Shan. A total of 604 participants (236 females, 353 males and 15 LGBTQIA) was benefited by the trained as they gained human rights concept and knowledge. Furthermore, it had significant outcome as they changed the attitude, behaviour and action, and contributed changes for their communities. The following testimonies indicated the outcomes and changes by the trainings.

A female participant testified that;

“After attending the human rights training, my thoughts were completely changed. In the past, I hated the people from different religions, and I dislike LGBT people as well. And now, I learned to treat people with respect and with no discrimination. I also learnt that the government does not really provide any protection for them.”

A LGBTQIA expressed that;

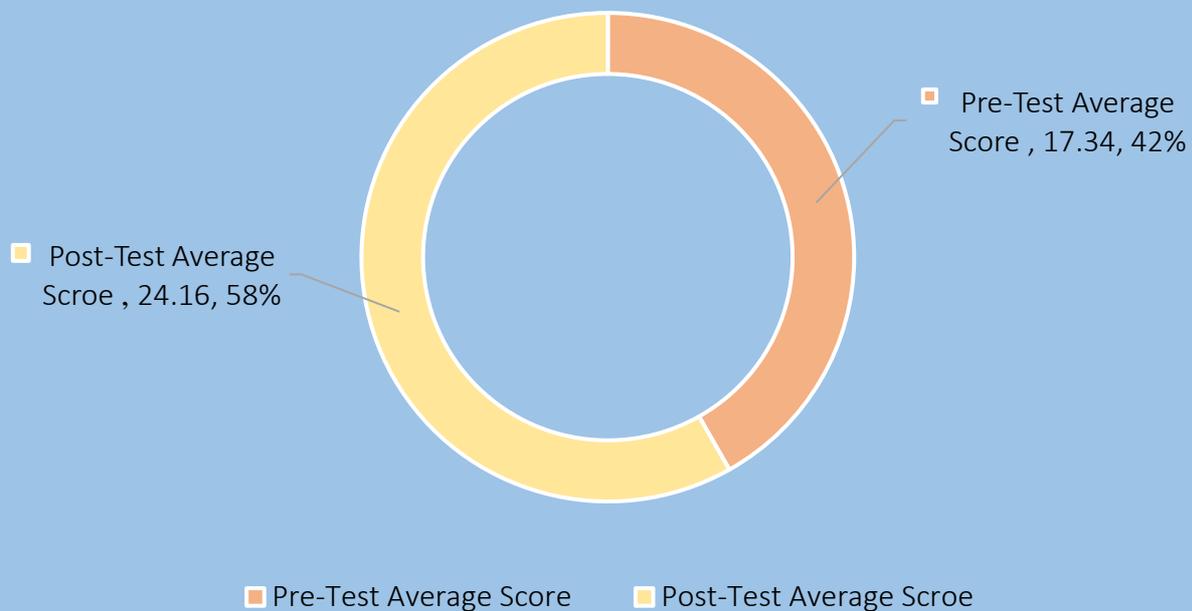
“The rights for religious and ethnic minorities as well as LGBT, disable and migrant workers should not be neglected. As human beings, everyone has equal right to enjoy their rights, however in Myanmar those vulnerable groups are discriminated and there is a need for special protection and emergence of group rights.”



Core HRE Program: Human Rights Training & Impact

Pre/Post Test was conducted to understand the participant's understanding and knowledge's changing level. Thus, the following Pre/Post Test Scores showed the development of participants knowledge and understanding regarding human rights concepts and human rights issues in Myanmar context. These factors indicated the successful outcomes of the training activity.

Pre- and Post-Test scores of participants



Human Rights Training



Human Rights Training

Core HRE Program: Thematic Children's Rights (CRC) Workshop

A total of four Human rights thematic workshops were conducted in Lower Myanmar and Upper Myanmar. These workshops included 58 females, 49 males and 6 LGBTQIA from Yangon, Chin State, Magway region, Shan State, Karen State and Kachin State. These workshops mainly focused on the Rights of the Children, violation and sexual abuse on children, children labours in Myanmar context.

These thematic workshops had a significant outcome as the participants quickly learned and understand the concept of Children Rights, the nature and process of children violation and protection of Children Rights.

One female participant expressed that;

"I feel shameful because I am being silent when I found children abuses. I also found that people are asking the children to buy alcohol and drug.

Now, I consider protecting all the children as much as possible in my community. I will also share the awareness of children rights for my relatives and community."



During the workshops, most participants reflected that the child rights law should be enacted and legitimated by the State. The reason is that there are no children rights in Myanmar. Many female children are sexually abused, but the case is not seriously tackled by the judge and court.

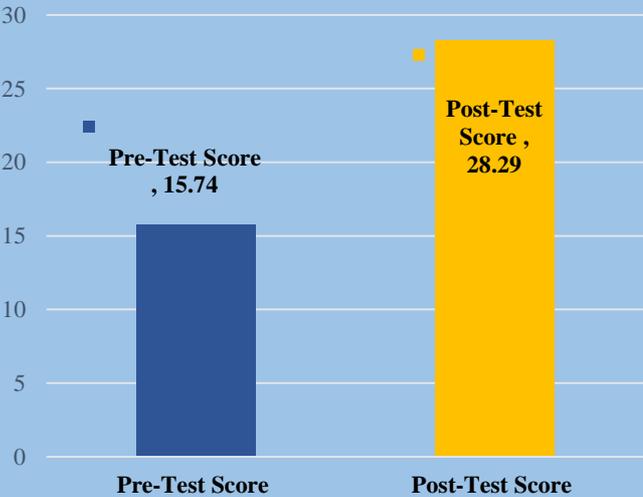
EQMM recognized that the thematic workshop had an effective engagement and contribution by the participants. These factors illustrated the significant outcomes of the project interventions in

Core HRE Program: Freedom of Religion and Belief (FORB)

Equality Myanmar has been focused on FORB to build social cohesion, tolerant and peaceful existences. In 2020, FORB Multiplier trainings were organised in Karen State, Taung Thar (Mandalay Division) Min Tat and Kanpetlet (Chin State) and Pyin Oo Lwin township. A total of 199 participants (119 females, 83 males and 9 LGBTQIA) were benefited by the training. Importantly, 26 human rights educators were also trained by the project. The participants are from different religions: Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian community.

The FORB training had effective outcomes as the participants gained FORB concept, knowledge, hate speech and international FORB/FOE laws: protection and the rights of religious minority groups, freedom of religion and belief. Moreover, the participants had changed their attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge level. Most participants expressed the rights and significant of FORB in Myanmar. These actions indicated the intended outcomes of the project interventions.

FoRB Multiplier Training Pre-Test and Post-Test Exam results



A participant from Mandalay Region testified that;

“I have gained a lot of knowledge after the training. I got an awareness of human rights, FOE, and FORB and how these are protecting people. I got positive behavior and action to the different religions after the training even though I had a bit concerned before. On the other hand, I have learned about hate speech, how hate speech occurs in the communities, and its negative impacts. I will share what I have learned with friends and family. And I believe that we can live in harmony if we understand this knowledge.”

One female participant expressed that;
“I had changed after the training. Before the training, I had negative thinking on the other religions and I thought their concepts were wrong. I had a bit discrimination in mind. However, those thinking are disappeared after the training. Furthermore, I thought all the news on Facebook were right but I know how to monitor the right news, fake news, and hate speech.”



Core HRE Program: CSO Strengthening Project

Community Mobilization is a fundamental strategy of Equality Myanmar to support the grassroots civil society organizations in Myanmar. 2020 was a challenge for EQMM to conduct and organize activity as Covid-19 Pandemic was critically impacted in the country. However, EQMM had successfully organized Community Mobilization activity for three selected CSOs in Magway Region, Chin State and Mon State.

The project intervention reached the intended outcomes because the three CSOs gained knowledge and contributed changes for their communities. The following table showed some important achievements of Community Mobilization's sub-grant activity.

Partner Name	Issues	Target Area	Results
Mon Youth Education Organization (MYEO)	Land Access and Land Rights, Awareness and Advocacy	Mon State	Local community gained Land rights awareness and advocacy mechanism. Then, they contributed the voices for land rights.
Open Development Foundation (ODF)	Customary Land Rights, VFV Land law (Vacant, Fallow and Virgin) Advocacy and Lobbying	Kanpetlet township, Chin State	Local people gained customary land rights knowledge and contributed land access and rights advocacy at the State level.
Kay Lett Myae (KLM)	Human rights and documentation	Magway Region	Human rights knowledge and action was shared amongst the community through the participants.
MYEO, ODF, KLM	Report Writing and Financial Evaluation, Conflict Sensitivity Training	Mon State, Chin State and Magway Region	3 CSOs gained report writing and financial evaluation, and conflict sensitivity knowledge.
MYEO	Human rights, Documentation and Advocacy Training	Mon State	Participants used human rights, documentation, and advocacy knowledge.



“We have our Chin Customary Land Tenure since our grandparents time, but after the government legislated Vacant, Fallow and Virgin land law, we have challenges to own our land.” (Salai Htang, Chin State)

“The government or parliament members are the main responsible groups to reform the law for the rights of the Indigenous Customary Tenure.” (U long, Chin State)

“The Myanmar Military Leaders and Cronies are grabbing the customary land of the local people. The local people did not have land rights knowledge and advocacy method to claim their lands.” (Mon Youth, Mon State)

“To reduce domestic violence, it needs to protect by law. To enjoy the lives of women, let’s fight against the domestic violation of women.” (Villaae Women Group, Chin State)

Land Rights

Human Rights

Customary Tenure

Rights

“I came to know more and more how to link the documentation process and advocacy. It is a great help for us to make sure the planning design. Therefore, the mentoring questions supported us to reduce the challenges for the future process. It is reminding us, and we also got alternative ways to get the achievement. Finally, I am aware of the different stages of project planning and implementation for the sub-grant project.”

(Male Participant, MYEO, Mon State)

“Customary Land Tenure Rights, Land Ownership Rights and Women’s Rights are important for us”
(Villagers in Chin, Mon and Magway)

Core HRE Program: Distribution of Information: Education Materials

The Covid-19 pandemic had restricted our Equality Myanmar’s activities in 2020. Most of the planned in-person activity was not implemented due to the safety for health issues. However, EQMM distributed a total 23,415 pieces of information and educational materials are distributed to 27 organizations and individuals.

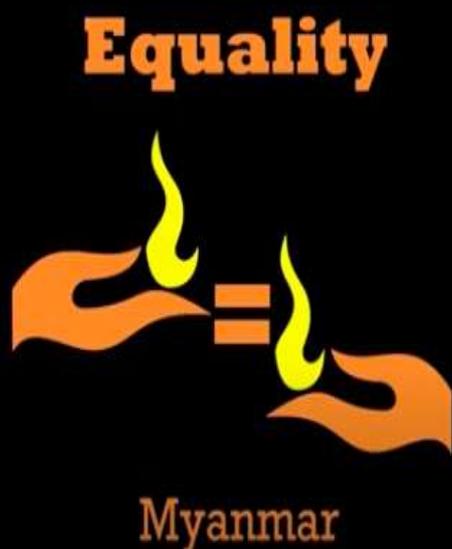


“IEC materials are reaching to the CSOs and their communities across Myanmar”

Core HRE Program: TV/AUDIO Visual Productions



HRE TV Episode (138) United ACT



*“57 Audio-
Visual
Production
had produced
and
broadcasted
on National TV
Sessions in
2020”*

HRE epi 151 Best interest of child part A

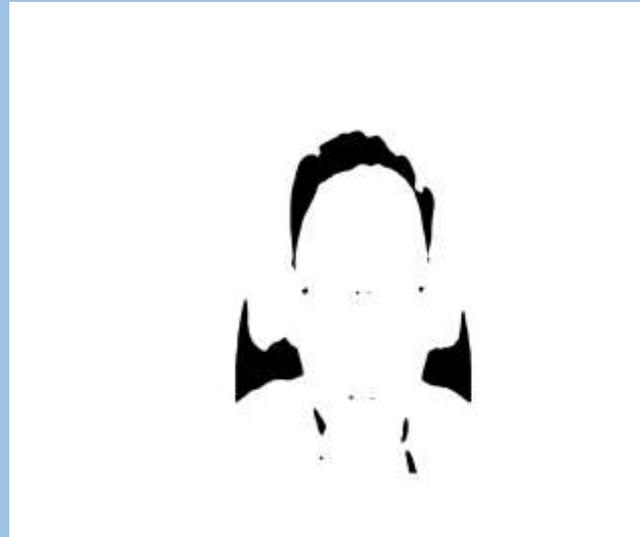


Core HRE Program: The 72nd International Human Rights Day

The 72nd International Human Rights Day was celebrated across the country by illustrating different means and forms through online and offline. The most obvious form was doing an online campaign through social media to respect and protect basic human rights in Myanmar by changing Facebook profile and posting human rights related articles. Live panel discussions were also held by inviting human rights activists, experts, and women and young leaders to express their opinion on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar.

EQMM's Director Message (Human Rights Day 2020)

"We are concerned about Civil and Political rights because it is related to Freedom of Expression (FOE). In Myanmar, there is a Law for the punishment of FOE. In this day, the Government used that law to arrest the peaceful protesters and the people who criticized the Government. Now, the number of students are arrested by FOE cases in Rakhine State. In Rakhine state, citizens' rights are violated because the people who lived in conflict zone have been tortured, killed and raped. Then, the child mortality rate is gradually increased. Therefore, some activists pointed out that Civil and Political rights are threatened in Rakhine State".





Core HRE Program: Human Rights Promotion in Public

“non-discrimination, protect the risk of Covid-19”

EQMM’s Executive Director Message

HR day information was uploaded in social media and the well-known local media also uploaded in their Facebook page which hit more than 28 thousand viewers.

Online Music Concert

On HR day, famous celebrities and singers are invited by the concert. Thus, the concert reached more than 74 thousand social media users.

Online Live Panel Discussion

Collaboration with DVB, EQMM organised an online live panel discussion with an MP and Gender Expert for reviewing human rights situation in Myanmar. Another live discussion was also hosted by the EQMM. The live discussion reached over 14 thousand facebook users.

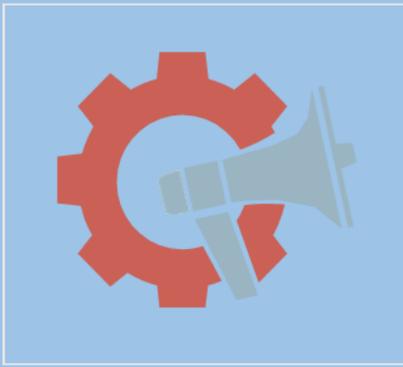
Human Rights (HR) Day events in Chin State

In Chin State, the event organizer could do an in-person event in line with Covid-19 guidelines under the event name of **“Can Indigenous peoples be equal right”**. It was a productive and successful HR Day event.

Human Rights Day talk shows in Kayah State

In Kayah/Karnni State, Human Rights Day event was organised on 10th December 2020. A total of 40 participants from local CSOs, woman organization and local youths involved in the event. The event was published by the Facebook Page of Kadawadi Tai, Kareni Human Rights Group (KHRG). The Page reached 230 audiences. Overall, the HR Event’s talk show was effectively implemented as it had focused on the critical issues of women and children rights, development, research and other political topics as well as human rights situation in Kayah State.





Project and Advocacy Program: Two Advocacy Internship

Two advocacy interns, one male and one female, were capacitated in advocacy and human rights education. In the beginning of intern, they both join Freedom of Religion and Belief Training which was a training of trainers (ToT) training where they were made aware of both advocacy concept, basic human rights, concept on freedom of religion and belief, and freedom of expression.



Project and Advocacy Program: Advocacy Workshop with Duty Bearers

In 2020, EQMM organised and led a total of seven Advocacy Workshops with National League for Democracy (NLD), and People Party (PP) parties in seven townships; Tamwe, Dagon Seik Kan, Lathar, Kyauktatar, Yankin, Thingankyun areas in Yangon. The advocacy workshop aimed to promote and increase fulfillment and protection for civilian through law and policies. The discussion covered the issues of Covid-19 pandemic, approaches how to implement their election campaign through social medias as well as hate speech during the election period.

“The participants (candidates) from the parties gained how to engage with people during the pandemic, as well as how to take precautions measures of hate speech, and spreading of hate speech regarding gender, ethnicity, and racism issues during the election period. Further, candidates understand the responsibilities to raise awareness issues regarding the voters’ rights for all the citizens of the country.”



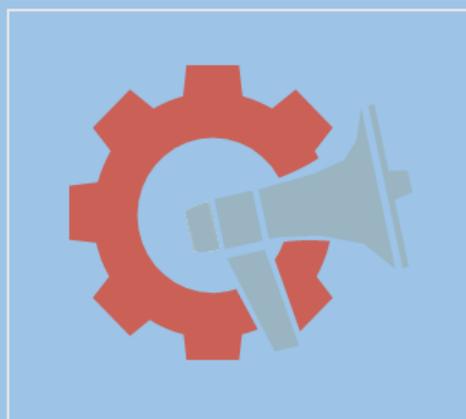
Project and Advocacy Program: Advocacy Reflection Workshop

In 2020, EQMM organised Advocacy Reflection Workshop for three CSOs. A total of 36 (Males, Female 20 Females and 4 LGBTQIA) from Open Development Foundation, Mon Youth Educator organization and Kyay Lat Myay and Anti-Hate Speech working groups attended the workshop.

The Advocacy Reflection Workshop had significant result and outcome for the partner organizations as they had increased awareness of advocacy techniques and processes. They can also develop their advocacy purposes. Most participants were empowered as they learned through the processes of partner organizations. Overall, they could produce guidelines for a long-term process as they received supportive updates information and understand the role of preparation and research in advocacy.

Kyay Lat Myay Organisation had a great achievement as Daw Khin Cho Lat (MPs) came and met with Kyay Lat Myay committee. Further, MPs encouraged to the other network members to meet with her. Thus, the Parliamentary Committee accepted their issues which started the level of trust between MPs and residents.

Open Development Foundation in Chin State had got positive relationship and communication with the regional MPs as the advocacy processes were accepted well. Further, the regional MPs had promised to work for the advocacy movement in State level.



Advocacy Seminar & Movement in 2020

Advocacy Seminar in Nay Pyi Taw on Peace and Human Rights

Equality Myanmar’s executive director U Aung Myo Min was invited to attend a seminar on “The Role of Parliament in Peace Building Processes” by the Hluttaw Bill Committee Chair.

“This advocacy seminar had an effective engagement as EQMM Executive Director highlighted the role of MPs for protection and promotion of human rights and its mechanism in Peace Accord. Then, call for ratification of international human rights Conventions – ICCPR, CAT, to enact or amend some national laws which are in line with international human rights standards, to listen the voices of effected population such as ethnic, refugees and IDPs.”



Project and Advocacy Program: EQMM Media Coverage

“215 Media Articles used Equality Myanmar’s Information and Resource with References.” 2020

From Hate-Speech to Intercommunal Harmony in 2020, Covid-19 Pandemic Period

Despite of Covid-19 restriction on project implementation, Equality Myanmar effectively implemented Hate Speech activities such as Counter Hate Speech Working Group Meeting, Area Action Plan Development Workshop, Curriculum/Module Development Workshop for Safety and Security Training, Mentoring Meeting for CSOs, Hate Speech Monitoring and Reporting Workshop and Campaign Event (Anti-Hate Speech Sticker Campaign).

The Hate Speech Project had positive impacts for a total 286 participants (95 males, 159 females and 32 LGBT Community from Karan, Sagaing and Tanintharyi regions through meeting, training, workshop and anti-hate speech campaigns. EQMM had effectively promoted tolerance, peace and hate speech issues at the National and International Human Rights Day events.

“The people from the villages was interested in the campaign message regarding with hate speech/fake news because there were no awareness campaign regarding with anti-hate speech from the government and other civil society organizations.” (Female Participant, Hate Speech Workshop in Sagaing)

“The knowledge which I got from the workshop will be supported to my case management as I am a lawyer. I was known the information which was level of hate speech, FOE, ethic of journalist, laws related FOE” (Male Participant, Tanintharyi Region, Hate Speech Monitoring Workshop)

“This sticker campaign for Hate Speech is very effective because a number of social media users has been increased a lot in Myanmar, but they have zero knowledge upon the news from those social medias are whether fake or not. So, they repost or share that fake news which lead to hate speech and conflicts, especially the ethnic conflicts and religion conflicts. In order to reduce those hate speeches in community, this kind of sticker campaign could be a very powerful tool to counter.” (Campaign Participant, Anti Hate Speech Movement in Karen State, 2020)

Equality Myanmar LGBTI Movement in 2020

Equality Myanmar (EQMM) led LGBTI Movement with Gender Equality under the project of “Create A Regional Platform for Addressing Domestic Violence and Family Violence Among LGBTI Individuals in Asia” which funded by OutRight Action International in 2020. The main objective of Myanmar project was (1) Increased capacity of LGBT CSOs and activists to advocate LGBT-Inclusive language in DV/FV, legal protection, including in the Prevention of Violence Against Women (POVAW) Law and (2) Increased legal protections for LGBT people in the POVAW Law either at national, provincial/regional or local levels.



The project had significant outcome as domestic violence advocacy and public awareness contributed to positive development among government level and public community. In September 2020, the Myanmar Government announced online counseling for DV/FV victims and service for LGBT People. Further the political candidate also addressed domestic and family violence against LGBT people in his campaign. Media institutions and EQMM HRE TV sensitized LGBTI issue and knowledge for the public. Many LGBTI community leaders are promoting LGBTI issue and DV/FV among their communities after the training. Further, LGBTI dialogue and network are formed after the project intervention in Myanmar.



Covid-19 Emergency Response, Prevention and Advocacy in 2020



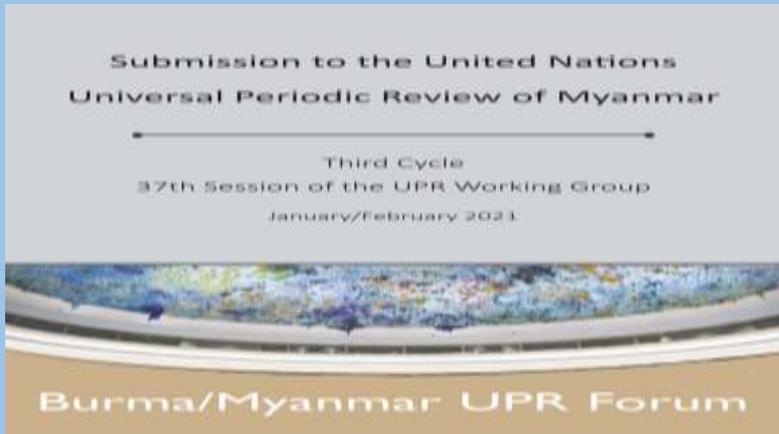
Equality Myanmar had effectively contributed to the local Community Members regarding Covid-19 Emergency Response, Prevention and Advocacy from July to September 2020. The project covered a total of 20 villages in Magway, Myothit and Nat Mauk Townships.

EQMM had delivered advocacy activity with Health Department and Social Development Committee. The topic of the advocacy was “Covid-19 Pandemic, Community Situation, Women Leadership and Gender Discrimination.”

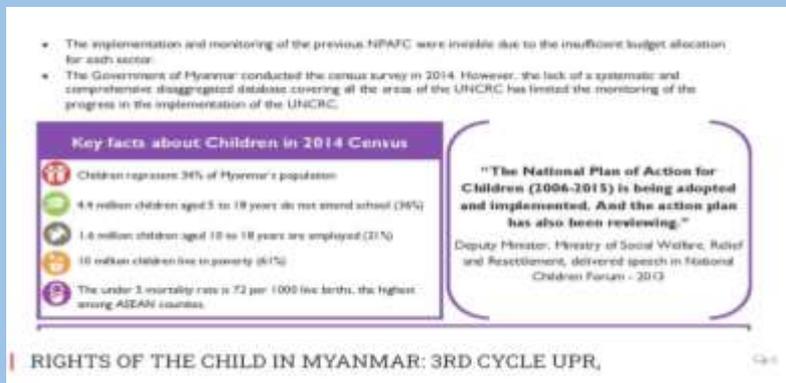
“Non-Discrimination, Protect the Risk of Covid-19”

“Can Indigenous Peoples Be Equal Right” (Covid-19 Response, 2020)

EQMM 2020 Organizational Achievements



With International and National Partners, UPR report Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of Myanmar was submitted on 28th August 2020. The Burma/Myanmar UPR Forum is a coalition of 29 civil society organizations working to improve the human rights in Myanmar.



On 30th August 2020, "RIGHT OF THE CHILD IN MYANMAR: 3rd CYCLE UPR" report have been launched by collaborated with partner organizations.



On 4th February 2020, EQMM have launched a Legal Aid Manual Guidebook



On 20th March 2020, EQMM have launched an Advocacy Manual Guidebook



On 14th December 2020, EQMM launched a report called "RAINBOW TEARS". This report analyzes situations of domestic violence faced by LGBTIs in Myanmar, and presents actions needed in order to eliminate domestic violence. Domestic violence is a form of violence which has long prevailed and is still prevailing not only in Myanmar but also in other regions across the world. The term was initially "Domestic Violence Against Women" since the violence involves acts that are committed against the women by their intimate partners, however, LGBTI+ persons are also victims of such violence.

Work-FROM-HOME During 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Myanmar

Equality Myanmar had faced challenges during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Myanmar. However, all the planned activities were effectively redesigned and rescheduled to reach the planned and desired outcome and impact of the program objectives. To mitigate the Covid-19 related risks, EQMM had allowed all the staff members to work-from-home. Further, all the in-person training was designed for online training methods. Significantly, EQMM had focused and strengthened online human rights education, anti-hate speech toward LGBTI and politician during 2020 election and Covid-19 pandemic. All the meeting, training and workshop were effectively conducted during these challenging times in Myanmar.

Individual Highlight Staff Capacity Development

In 2020, EQMM's six staff members attended JBA (Justice Based Foundation Course). The following paragraphs are the testimonies of these two staff members.

"I try to listen to the others and make sure I understand what they want to say. I don't make decision for others but I give suggestion."

"I have listened to the voice of my colleagues and practiced not to argue too much. Sometimes, I left my idea behind when common ideas or discussions made feel good to them." (Male Staff member)

"I have learned about Justice Based Approach and its Five Pillars. I also learned Power and Oppression, Strategic and Personal Leadership, Effective Program Design, Development Theory and History, Evidence Based Decision-Making, System Analysis, Localization and Decolonizing Aid, Rights-Based Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning, Ethical Programming and Accountability, Climate and Gender Mainstreaming." (Female Staff Member)

2020 Financial Information

2020 Program Income (%)

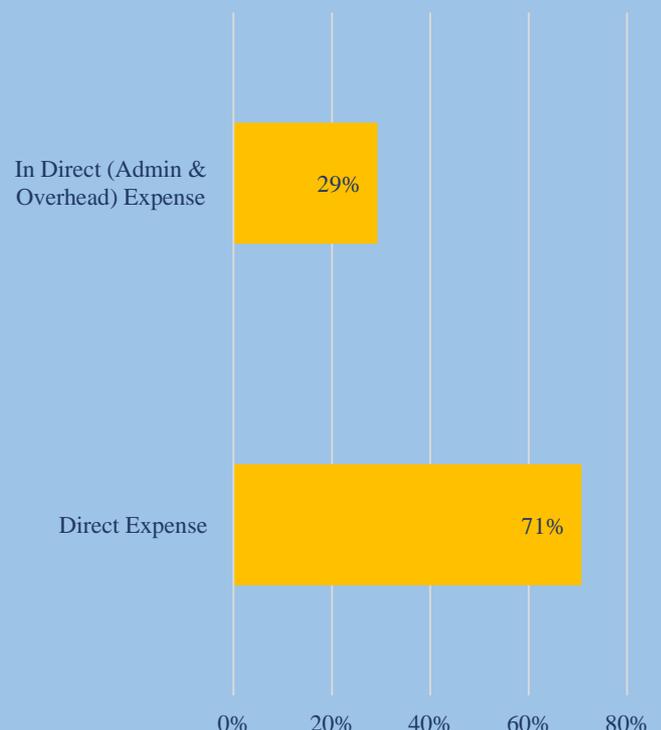


2020 Financial Summary and Donors

2020 Project Income (%)



Direct vs In-Direct Expenditures(%)



Equality Myanmar would like to express our gratitude and special thanks to the following Donors.



