



Equality Myanmar

Organisational Report 2021



Equality Myanmar Organisational Report
from January to December 2021

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Equality Myanmar

Equality Myanmar (EQMM) is a leading local nongovernmental organization, that facilitates a wide range of human rights education and advocacy programs, the documentation human rights violations, and provides emergency support for activists, human rights defenders, and their families. We work with a range of local civil society organizations, educators, activists, various local actors, and our programs and activities reach all states and regions in Myanmar.

Equality Myanmar, formerly known as the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB), was founded, by U Aung Myo Min, in 2000 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In 2013, HREIB's headquarters and operations transitioned to working exclusively inside Myanmar under its new name: Equality Myanmar. Since the 2021 Military coup in Myanmar, EQMM relocated its headquarters back to Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Equality Myanmar stands strong for professional commitment, despite the organization having faced a critical situation in 2021 due to the political crisis. Our fundamental vision is to build a peaceful, tolerant, and federal democratic society that is embedded in respect for the dignity and human rights of all the languages, religions, and ethnic groups in Myanmar.

We promote and support a culture of human rights compliance, human rights education, and accountability where Myanmar people are empowered to access their rights, justice, sociopolitical and democratic space as well as engage in a process of social and political transformation of Myanmar.

Vision & Mission

“EQMM envisions a peaceful, tolerant, and federal democratic society built on respect for the dignity and human rights for all in Myanmar.”

“Our mission is to promote a culture of human rights compliance and accountability where Myanmar people are empowered to access their rights and justice and engage in a process of social and political transformation.”

Strategic Goal and Objectives

The strengthening of human rights culture, justice, accountability, and advocacy mechanisms in Myanmar.

Objective 1: Human Rights Education

To strengthen the human rights movement by Human Rights Education and participation for the rights while the duty bearer practices and enforces the obligation of respect, protection, and promotion.

Objective 2: Documentation of Human Rights Violation Case

To set up systematic, secured, and advanced data storage system and evidence collection for transitional justice and accountability.

Objective 3: Advocacy

The National Unity Government’s Policies and Programs are in line with International Human Rights Norms and Standards while coordinated international action on Myanmar is in place.

Objective 4: Emergency Support

To support activists, human rights defenders, and their family members to have resilience and continued participation in the human rights movement.

Message from Equality Myanmar's Executive Director, Sandar

We faced a critical situation in 2021 due to the military coup, increased political and security risks, and the COVID 19 crisis. We studied and evaluated the sociopolitical and economic failures, the impacts of military crackdown, restrictions, instability, human rights violations, and military atrocities. Thus, we redesigned our programs and projects to approach these challenges and security risks in organizing and conducting community meetings, trainings, and workshops.

With the support of various donors in 2021, we faced a most challenging situation in keeping the organization standing strong, and implementing our planned programs and activities.

The considerable risk of safety and security, armed conflicts, unstable internet connection and electricity outages, and military checkpoints restricted the planned activities of EQMM. During these tough times, the military regime targeted and threatened the CDM campaigns, peaceful protests, civil society organizations, international non-government organizations, activist networks and human rights organizations, journalists, media organizations, and community-based organizations.

These serious issues triggered the risks for all the CSOs, Human Rights INGO/NGO, activist networks, media organizations and CBOs in the mission to protect and promote the human rights of the people. Therefore, we developed a new strategic plan that is relevant and aligned with the organization's vision and mission.

We observed that we have significant outcomes and impacts of project intervention and implementation in 2021. All the project activities had effective and positive contributions and developments for the human rights defenders, pro-democracy activists, CDMs, and community members.

I would like to express my thanks, graceful gratitude and acknowledgement to everyone who worked with us, supported us, contributed their efforts to us, and believed in us. I am writing to give special thanks to all these people with my great heart and spirit in the name of Human Rights, Peace, and Democracy. We become "Equality Myanmar" with the trust you have invested in us. This is our courage, empowerment, and spirit to work for the human rights for all in Myanmar.

In Solidarity,
Sandar
Executive Director
Equality Myanmar

Key Achievement in 2021

Human Rights Education

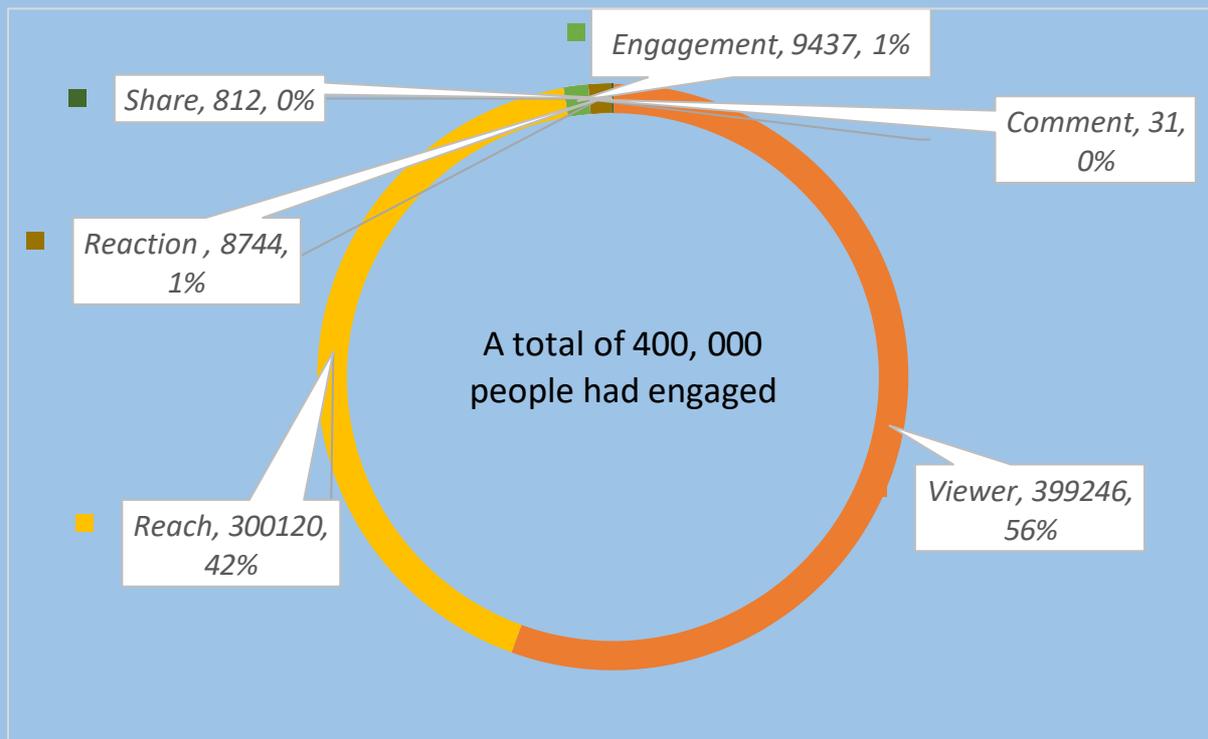
- ◆ 1,061 participants (433 males, 603 females, 25 LGBTQIA) reached through sixteen major activities under our human rights education strategy including human rights awareness trainings and meetings, human rights education resources, and FoRB and interfaith memorial services.
- ◆ 96 Info-graphs published regarding human rights violations, torture, military airstrikes, the Phruso Massacre, military attacks on IDP camps, and democratic alliances.
- ◆ 78 participants (24 males, 44 females, 10 LGBTQIA) were trained through the Anti-Hate Speech project and reached people from 25 townships in the Tanintharyi and Sagaing regions, and Karen State. Four FoRB and Interfaith Memorial Services raised awareness of freedom of religion or belief and human rights concepts for local communities and activists.
- ◆ EQMM effectively implemented the Strengthening the Capacity of Three Civil Society Organisations from Chin State, Mon State and Magway Region Project. These three CSOs work and advocate for customary land rights, land grabbing issues, human rights, and woman's leadership amongst their communities. One result of the project was more women in village leadership positions.

Documentation

- ◆ 1,085 participants (692 females, 322 males, 19 LGBTQIA) were trained in safety and security, basic and advanced documentation, and documentation strategy. Significantly, a total of 800 (85%) participants had significantly improved their knowledge and concepts, while 120 (13%) showed a level of improvement according to Pre/Post Test results.
- ◆ 150 human rights defenders were trained in the documentation of human rights violation cases. Participants were from a wide variety of backgrounds such as CSOs, human rights educator networks, youth leaders, religious leaders, lawyers, community members and media staff.
- ◆ Equality Myanmar collected a total of 124 documented rights violation cases from different states and regions of Myanmar and a total of 32 cases were sent to the Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) in 2021.

Advocacy

- ◆ EQMM effectively implemented online advocacy campaigns and human rights education materials. As a result, a total of 400,000 people engaged and involved in these online campaigns and advocacies. Young activists, member of CSOs and pro-democracy activists were empowered and gained increased knowledge due to the online campaign and advocacy messages.



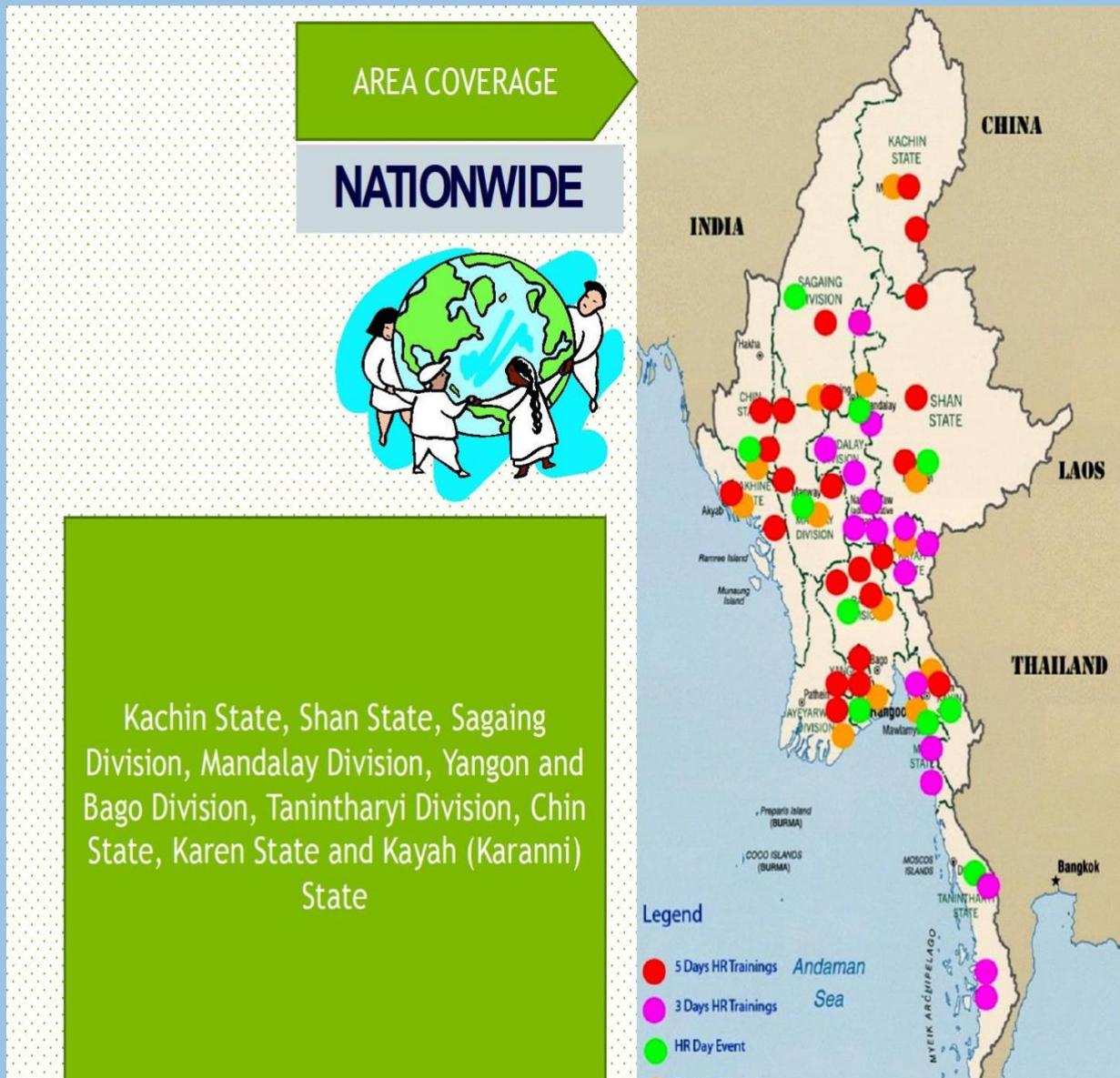
- ❖ EQMM effectively led the One Day Strategic Planning for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and its processes and procedures' development. It was a great milestone for Myanmar. Further, the advocacy engagement and exchange meeting was organized and facilitated for the Local Authorities in Karen State and three civil society organizations from Mon State, Chin State, and Magway region.
- ❖ EQMM co-implemented Silent Strike on 10th December 2021. The silent strike brought the loudest voices, a deep expression of civil disobedience of the people, and the spirit of solidarity in human rights and democracy.
- ❖ EQMM effectively implemented the People's Strike Campaign from 5th to 9th December 2021 in Kachin, Shan and Karenni States, as well as the Thai-Myanmar borderlands. A total of 206 participants (90 males and 116 females) were empowered and gained human rights education and awareness through the people's strike activity. Participants included CDM, IDP children, Kachin youths, migrant youth, and local community youth groups.
- ❖ The Black T Shirt Campaign was successfully implemented in Shan, Kachin, Rakhine and Karenni States, and the Thai-Myanmar borderlands from 9th to 10th December 2021. A total of 648 participants (259 males, 376 females, 13 LGBTQIA) gained empowering human rights education and awareness through involvement in the Black T-Shirt Campaign.

Emergency Support

- ◆ EQMM effectively organised twelve main Community Support/Support activities in multiple areas including Ayeyarwady Division, Southern Shan State, Demoso township (Kayah State), Mindat (Chin State), Kyone Pyaw, Pathein, Yangon, Mandalay, and Bago. A total of 1,290 households and 6,415 people (2,434 males, 2,823 females, 848 children and 286 elder people). The activities provided direct support for people who were affected by the military coup, armed conflicts and human rights violations in 2021.
- ◆ The Human Rights Defenders Protection Fund project supported 52 HRDs (14 females, 38 males) and a total of 39 HRDs dependents in 2021. In total, 91 persons, respectively 43% females and 56% males.

Equality Myanmar’s 2021 Program and Project Areas

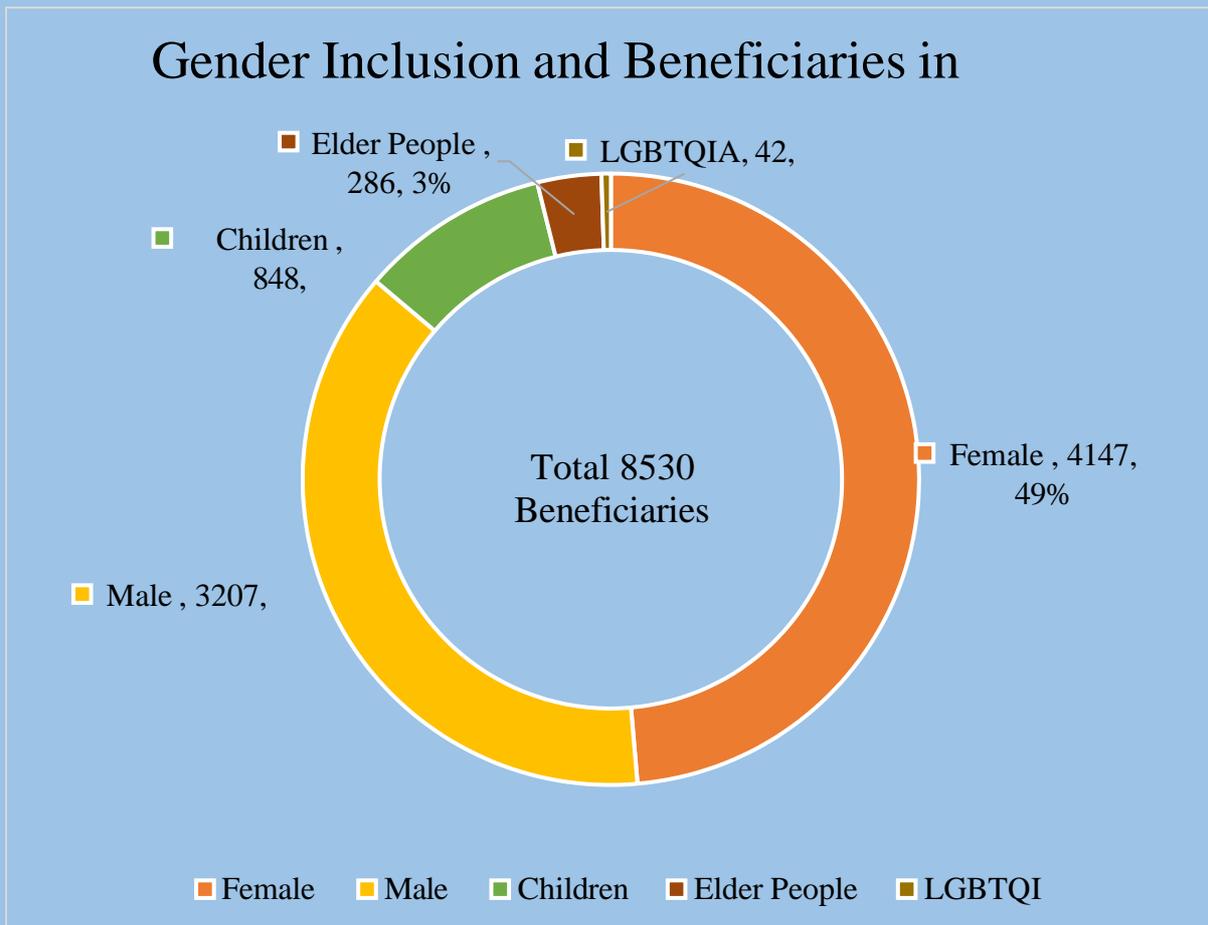
Due to the military coup and armed conflicts, EQMM refocused and re-prioritized the program and project areas in 2021. We decided to focus on the implementation of our essential programs in human rights education, documentation, advocacy, and emergency support in the following areas; Kachin State, Shan State, Sagaing Division, Yangon, and Bago Regions, Tanintharyi Region, Chin State, Karen State and Karenni State. In addition, EQMM also organised trainings, meetings and workshops in Mizoram State, India, and the Thai-Myanmar borderland areas. These factors indicated effective and successful outcomes and impacts of EQMM in 2021.



Equality Myanmar’s 2021 Gender Inclusion and Beneficiaries

EQMM has always had a strong focus on gender inclusion and equality. This is reflected in the participants of all of our projects and programs. In 2021, overall, EQMM’s project activity benefited a total of 8,530 people made up of, 4,147 females (49%) 3,207 males (38%), 848 children (10%), 286 elder people (3%) and 42 LGBTQIA. Women make up a larger portion of beneficiaries than men. Significantly, many EQMM project activities also included children, elder people and LGBTQIA groups.

Throughout 2021, the Myanmar military junta and its troops conducted gross violations, mass killings and war crimes, resulting in thousands of people facing livelihood and human insecurity. Thus, EQMM provided the Community Cash Grant project to affected and vulnerable people from IDP camps, CDM camps, villages, victims and survivors, and other marginalized people. Many human rights defenders and prodemocracy activists were also supported through EQMM’s HRD Protection Fund in 2021.

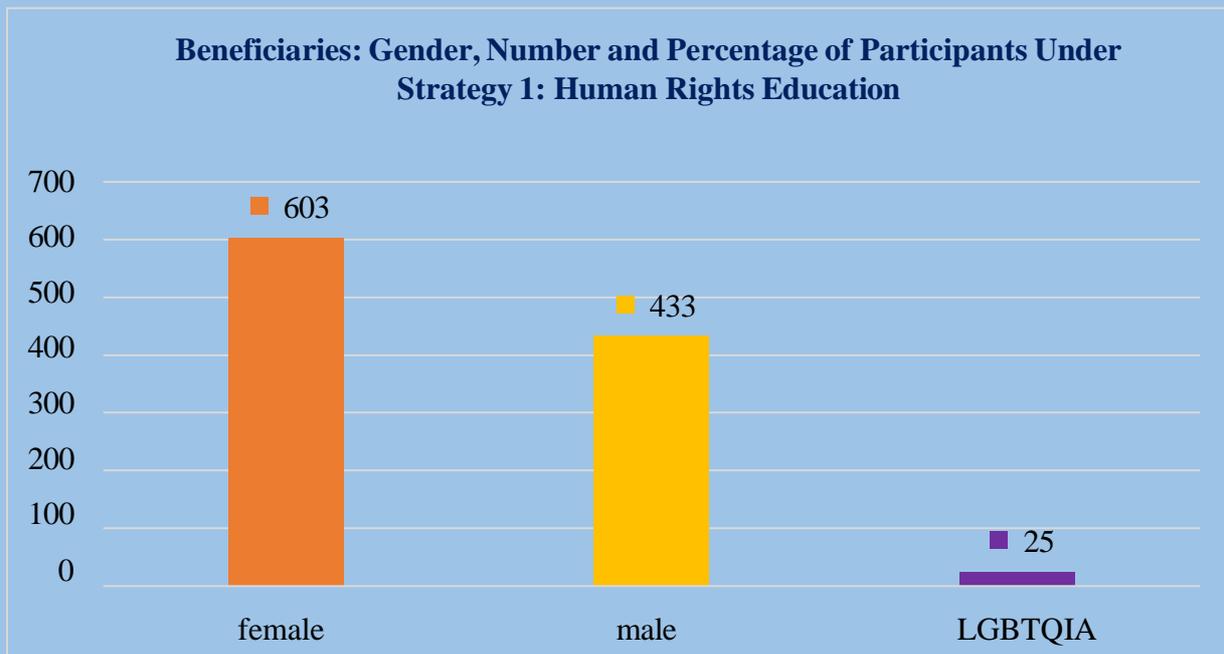


Human Rights Education

Objective: To strengthen the human rights movement through human rights education, awareness Raising, and participation for the rights while the duty bearer practices and enforces the obligation of respect, protection, and promotion.

Program Highlights

- Overall, 2021 was a challenging year for Equality Myanmar. However, we still effectively implemented projects in awareness raising, and human rights education, activities including public education for human rights on social media platforms, online trainings, meetings, and workshops.
- A total of eight Human Rights Awareness Trainings were delivered and organised for human rights defenders, pro-democracy activists, civil society organizations, CDMs and community members from Shan State, Karenni State, Karen State, Sagaing and Magway regions and other parts of Myanmar. 90% of participants increased human rights knowledge and changed their attitude and actions.



- The Anti-Hate Speech Project and its working group meetings resulted in effective outcomes. The participants made positive contributions and changes within their community regarding countering hate speech and preventing social conflicts. Women's rights defenders and LGBTQIA rights defenders were the most active and effective actors in anti-hate speech project in 2021.
- Public awareness and human rights education resources were effectively implemented in 2021 with resources on conventions such as CEDAW, CRPT, ICCPR, ICESCR and CRC. Additionally, we produced animations on safety and security, human rights

documentation, and two infographic animation videos.

- ◆ Through our public awareness activities a total of **96** Info-graphs were effectively implemented. The project had significant results such as the Infosheet 4 Human Rights: Myanmar Facebook Page become a human rights educational channel for youth, activists, CSO members, academic research institutes and human rights defenders. Furthermore, it also provides essential information for and regarding the collective social movement in Myanmar.
- ◆ The anti-hate speech working group meetings had significant outcomes as all working group members are collecting human rights violation cases from 25 townships in two regions (Tanintharyi and Sagaing) and one state (Karen State). **A total of eleven human rights violation cases** were documented and sent to the IIMM and International community. Further, a total of 78 participants (24 males, 44 females , 10 LGBTQIA) benefited from the working group meeting's project intervention.
- ◆ The thematic FoRB educational materials we produced and distributed in 2021 such as the Community Action Toolkit (CAT) and FoRB Supplementary Teacher Guidebooks (TGBs) project benefited human rights defenders, community workers, and educators to better understand freedom of religion or belief issues. Additionally, to resources assist in how to address and take action regarding FoRB problems in communities. Teachers from the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) used the TGBs to instruct the students in Sagaing and Magway regions. They also shared TGBs with other CDMs teachers and the NUG Government. Furthermore, TGBs were considered as relevant resources for the future Federal Democratic Union Education in Myanmar.
- ◆ The FoRB training and the Interfaith Memorial Services and Supported to Vulnerable Groups resulted in gained FORB knowledge, social cohesion and human rights awareness for participants. Further, all the participants developed awareness resulting in changes in action, attitude and behavior toward FoRB and human rights issues. The FoRB training and Interfaith Memorial Services and Support for Vulnerable groups activities were implemented in Pyay and Yedashe township (Bago Region), Mandalay and Lay Kay Kaw (Karen State) in 2021.
- ◆ Three civil society organizations gained practical and professional knowledge in leadership and decision making, financial and project management, and advocacy skills. In addition, they gained understanding in how to apply and use the customary land tenure rights and concepts of national and international land laws. Consequently, they actively worked to promote land rights, customary tenure rights and land dispute cases. Many of the female participants became leaders in their communities. Five committees were formed by the villagers to protect the customary land tenure and land access rights. Furthermore, they gained understanding in how human rights violation cases are sent to the Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM). They also received an advocacy manual describing methods and diplomatic approaches with the NUG Government.



The FORB Interfaith Memorial Services, Karen State, 23rd to 24th April 2021

Documentation

Objective: To set up a systematic, secured, and advanced data storage system where evidence (cases of human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity) is collected for transitional justice and accountability.

Program Highlight

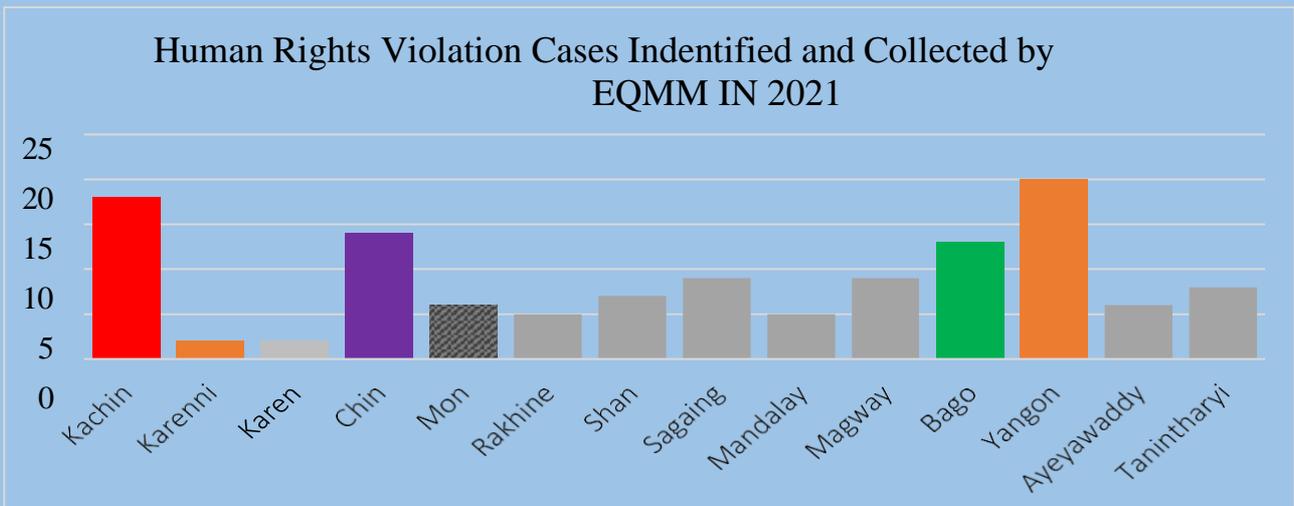
- ❖ EQMM was effective in establishing the documentation team in 2021. Documentation is crucial as the Myanmar military junta and its troops are conducting gross violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Thus, it is essential document and collect the cases and crimes for accountability mechanisms, transitional justice and International advocacy.
- ❖ EQMM organised online documentation training for human rights defenders, CSO and community members, prodemocracy activists, and human rights educators. A total of 150 human rights defenders were trained in the documentation of human rights violation cases in 2021. They are working in Sagaing and Magway regions, Kachin State, Chin State, Karenni State, Shan State and Karen State.
- ❖ EQMM organised a total of 31 project activities for the human rights defenders, prodemocracy activists and CDM members. Activities included (Advance) Human Rights and (Mentoring) Documentation Training, Safety and Security Training, Psycho-social Counselling Training, Support for the Documentation Process and Human Rights Case Documentation. According to Pre/Post Test Result, a total of 800 (85%) of participants had significantly improved knowledge while 120 (13%) had levels of improvement in knowledge regarding documentation, safety and security and psychosocial counselling.
- ❖ EQMM effectively implemented the Psycho Social Support workshop for human rights defenders, woman rights defenders, LGBTQIA rights defenders and CSO members. The

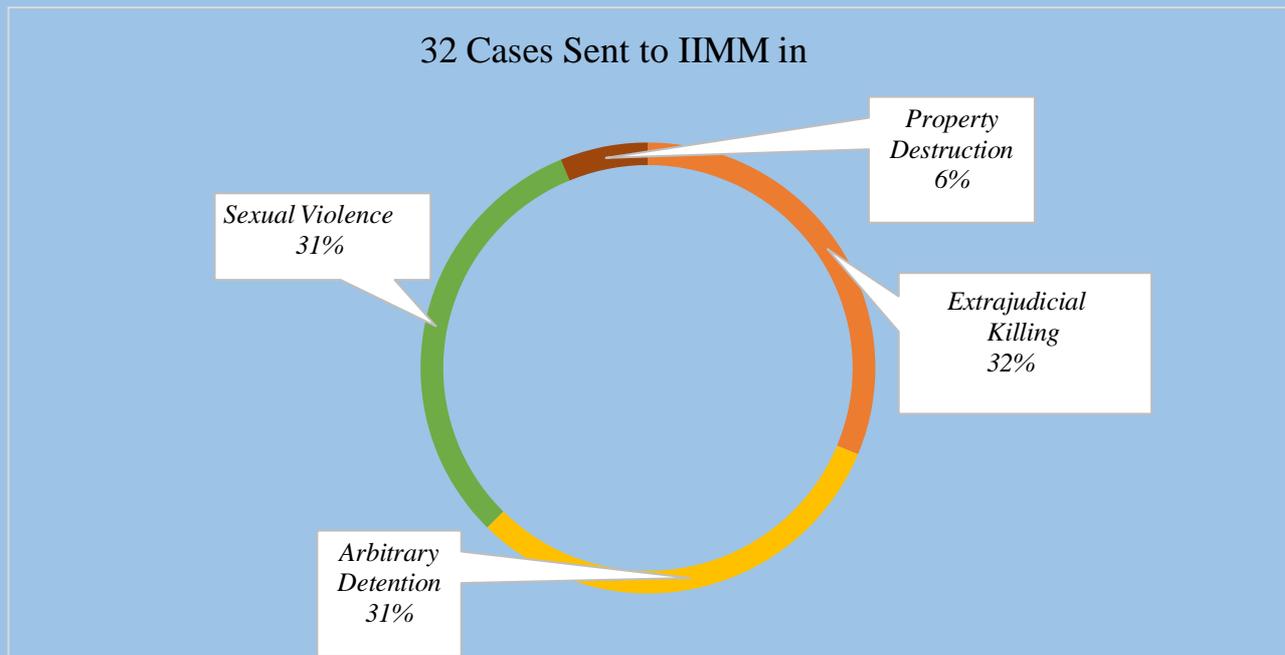
training had significant outcomes as the participants gained understanding of mental and psychosocial health awareness, self-care and management. Additionally, the know how to handle stress in their daily lives and identify how to overcome difficult situations. They also learned how they can control their thoughts and feelings if the consequences were not effective. All these factors indicated the positive changes and results in knowledge, behavior, attitude, and action.

EQMM’s training, meetings and workshops were gender inclusive female, male and LGBTQIA participants. Many participants testified to the effectiveness and positive impact of the activities. One LGBTQIA rights defender stated that, *“the lessons which we discussed in the workshop was extremely useful to the LGBTQIA community. I got the techniques for individual counselling. I did not have positive thinking on the scenario and thoughts, feelings, and behavior in the past. So, the training’s lesson was useful for me now.”*

A woman rights defender (also CSO member) participated in the documentation and human rights training. This participant testified how the training effectively changed and developed her knowledge and attitude. *They said, “Everyone has their rights and should respect the rights of others. No one can take away your rights. I know that our people should be aware of the human rights situation around them and that everyone should have equal rights. If so, when their rights were violated, they can fight to obtain justice with the documents as evidences. From this training, I have this feeling that motivates me to get a desire for the justice and punishment for the military junta. Further, I like the Article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is relevant to Myanmar.”*

Equality Myanmar collected a total of 124 human rights violation cases from different states and regions of Myanmar in 2021. This was a major focus since the military coup , the military junta and its troops are conducting increasing human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Out of 124 cases, a total of 32 cases were sent to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) in 2021.





- EQMM's documentation processes has multiple steps. First, we give training and capacity building to the human rights defenders, activists and the people who are interested in human rights and documentation. Second, these trained participants monitor and document the human rights violations cases in their communities. If a violation occurs, they need to verify, store and send the data to EQMM. All the data is reviewed and evaluated by the EQMM's documentation coordinator. When the documentation team confirms the information is accurate and factual, EQMM sends the cases to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar(IIMM), the UN Special Rapporteur, and the international community with the aim of advocacy and accountability.

Advocacy

Objective: The National Unity Government's Policies and Programs are in line with International Human Rights Norms and Standards while coordinated international action on Myanmar is in place.

Program Highlights

- EQMM organized and implemented 7 main project activities in 2021 including International Human Rights Day 2021, a One Day Strategic Planning for Universal Periodic review (UPR) (Online) and UPR processes and procedures, Exchange Meeting with NUG Government, Meeting with the Local Authorities in Karen State, Outcomes and Achievements of 3 CSOs regarding advocacy engagement with NUGs, MOHR, IIMM, and MOE.
- EQMM conducted International Human Rights Day in 2021. It was a strong and meaningful Human Rights Day for Myanmar. Despite facing a critical situation in 2021,

we organized and implemented a total 16 major activities under our Human Rights Education Strategy. These included the 2021 Human Rights Day: Silent Strike, People's Strike and Black T-Shirt Campaign, Production of Info-graphic Designs, Working Group Member Meeting, Two Info-graphic Animation Videos, Human Rights Education Resources, Three Documentaries of the Three Subgrants, Animation and Infographics, FoRB Supplementary Teacher Guidebooks (TGBs) and Interfaith Memorial Services.

◆ **Public Campaign: Silent Strike on International Human Rights Day 2021:** EQMM co-implemented Silent Strike with various strike committees, local activists, democratic politicians, the NUG Government and CSOs. The Silent Strike brought the spirit of unity in peace, democracy, justice, and human rights. It was call for peaceful civil disobedience for peoples in Myanmar on International Human Rights Day, 10th December 2021. The visibly powerful images of deserted busy roads, cities, markets, and malls shoed a stark contrast to the usual street protests.

The Silent Strike brought the loudest voices and deep expression of civil disobedience of the peoples in Myanmar on 10th December 2021. In line with the celebration of Human Rights Day, people in Myanmar stayed at home to show they resisted the military junta abuse of power.

The campaign was a resounding success. The international community and media institutions recognized this empowering action and peaceful expression for democracy, justice and human rights. The Silent Strike was a protest action against the militaries massive assault on civilians since the coup on February 1, 2021. The “Silent Strike” is *“Calling for one message, one logo, one slogan, one time in one spirit which is against the autocratic rule of junta and to end military rules in Myanmar”* (U Aung Myo Min, Ministry of Human Rights, NUG Government).

Since the coup, killings, sadness, traumatic pains, livelihood and food insecurity, human rights violations, socio-political exclusion, and physical and mental trauma are happening every day in Myanmar. The ultimate purpose of the Silent Strike was to bring as many as large-scale people's movements in Myanmar as one, in unison as a message of deafening silence. And spread the important message that a larger form of civil disobedience is happening across the country.

On December 10, 2021, from major cities to countryside areas, all citizens stayed homes, closed their shops, did not report to office, did not do usual businesses and markets were closed, from 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon. A total of eighteen-nine political prisoners from Insein prison also joined the silent strike (DVB TV NEWS, December, 2021). Moreover, the total of thirty-five areas used the logo of the flash mob in the streets. These are the loud voices of the oppressed peoples who are living in a situation of uncertainty in Myanmar.

The Equality Myanmar organized and collaborated with the International and Local Strike Committees, NUG, Civil Disobedience Movement leaders and Democratic Alliances to contribute to the large-scale silent strike movement in Myanmar. Amazingly, Myanmar citizens actively joined the Silent Strike movement and showed democratic spirit under “one message, one time, one logo and one slogan.” The Silent

Strike was also conducted through social networks and digital platforms with the same logo, slogan, message, and spirit of the campaigns.

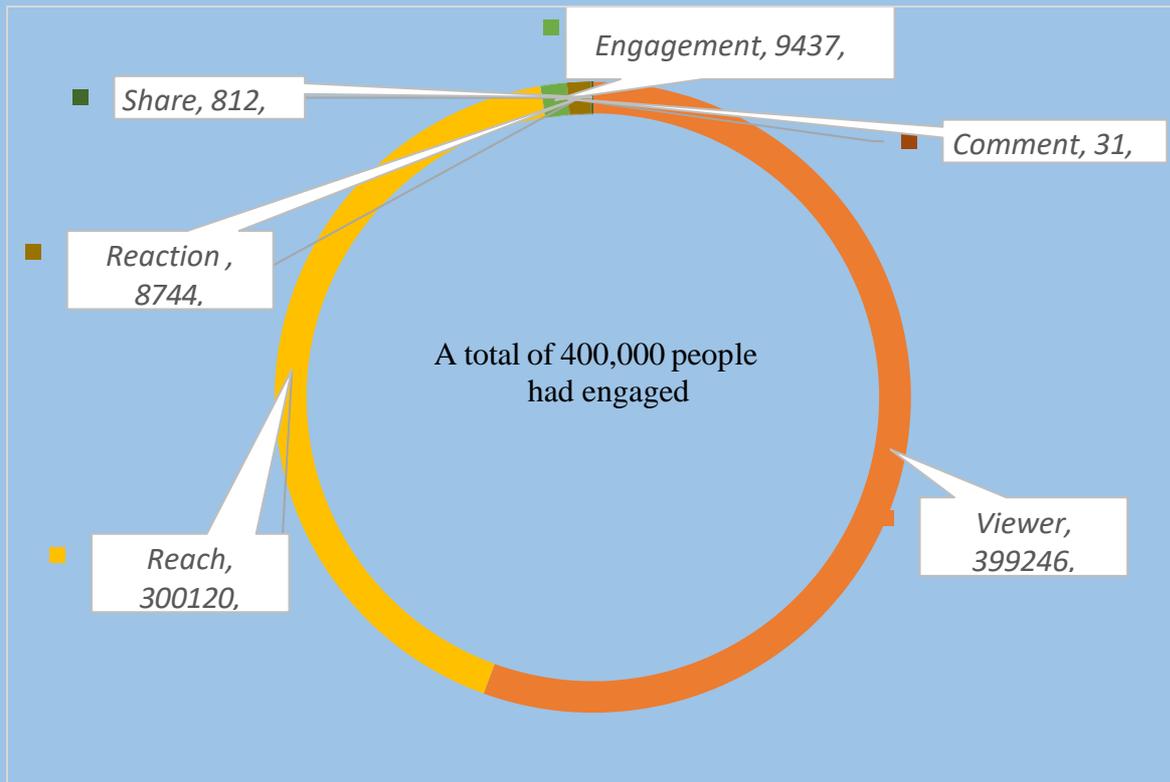
Although the military junta and a small number of pro-military groups reacted to the Silent Strike by destroying some local shops and business establishments. There were also reports that some sympathetic allies from the military encouraged people not to open the shops the next day. Overall, the junta was unable to stop the Silent Strike and the spirit of hope of the people in Myanmar to attain democracy justice and peace in their country. At 4:00 PM, the silent strike ended (Aljazeera December 2021) and the civilians, activists, human rights advocates, and silent strike protesters gave a resounding clapping as mark of a successful Silent Strike campaign.

Given the circumstances, the Myanmar Spring Revolution is not over yet, the mission for a democratic society will never be silent, the protection of human rights, peace, and democracy, and the calling for the one message, one logo, one slogan, one time in one spirit illustrates the desire to end the military dictatorship in Myanmar till the end of time.

- ◆ **Public Campaign: People's Strike:** EQMM conducted the People's Strike campaign from 5th to 9th December in the following states Kachin, Shan, Karenni and the Thai-Myanmar borderlands. A total of 206 participants (90 males and 116 females) were involved in a people's strike. The participants were CDMs, IDPs children, Kachin youths, migrant youth, and the youth group from the local community. During the celebration, all the participants talked about human rights, human rights violations, and the current situation in Myanmar. They also used the slogans from Human Rights Day 2021. It was a remarkable success because the younger generation gained the knowledge, education and awareness of human rights issues and Human Rights Day. It was the first experience for many young people to participate in the people's strike movement at the IDPs camp, forest, and public streets. They gained understanding on how human rights, justice and democracy are valuable and essential for their future.

- ◆ **Public Campaign: Black T Shirt Campaign:** EQMM spearheaded the Black T-Shirt Campaign in Shan state, Kachin state, Rakhine state, Karenni state and in Thai-Myanmar border areas from 9th to 10 December 2021. A total of 648 participants (259 males, 376 females and 13 LGBTQIA) participated in the Black T-Shirt Campaign as well as the Silent Strike and People's Strike.

- ◆ **Online Campaign and Advocacy:** Through these digital human rights activism and social campaigns such as the Infosheet 4 Human Rights: Myanmar Page, thousands of people are following, giving reactions and comments, sharing and re-posting the campaign materials. Thus, we estimated that a total of 400,000 people have engaged in our online social campaigns/social movements as of December 2021. The following information was counted in December 2021.



- EQMM effectively led the preparation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and its Strategic Planning sessions, which are held at the United Nations. The UPR is one of the most important responsibilities for EQMM and Myanmar. Myanmar is a state member of the United Nations. Thus, Myanmar needs to submit the Human rights report to the United Nations Human Rights Council. Regarding this issue, EQMM is playing a fundamental role and responsibility to submit the UPR report and monitor the government actions in all three UPR cycles in Myanmar. This is a long-term participation action for EQMM. It has also resulted in significant outcomes regarding FoRB issues which were included in the CSOs report - UPR coalition report, prepared by 35 CSOs in Myanmar. These CSOs gave recommendations to the Government of Myanmar to protect and promote FoRB issues in Myanmar. Many of our CSOs' recommendations are taken by the other State members and ask the Myanmar Government to apply, fulfil and comply with them. Finally, in the adoption section, the NUG Government accepted all the recommendations and FoRB which was submitted by 25 CSOs in January of 2022. This is a successful achievement.
- EQMM trained and increased capacities of three CSOs to document and collect human rights violation cases from local areas. EQMM reviews and sends collected cases to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM). Common violations include gender-based violence, land grabs, and violations of customary land tenure rights. As a result of the project local communities are increasingly aware of human rights, women's rights, customary land tenure rights and advocacy tools to fight for their rights in these areas.
- FoRB Advocacy and Awareness and Campaign:** EQMM conducted Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Teacher Guide Books (TGBs) training with the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) and Ministry of Education (MOE) under the National Unity Government. As a result, the Minister of Human Rights Ministry (MOHR) and a group of teachers from the Ministry of Education (MOE) agreed to use TGBs within a four-year

framework in Myanmar. The TGBs are shared and distributed to the MOE teachers from the different parts of Myanmar. EQMM believes that the actions of MOHR, MOE and NUG Governments are important to promote and adopt FoRB action points, FoRB rights, a human rights-based approach and inclusiveness in Myanmar.

- ◆ EQMM conducted professional development training for 3 CSOs (Open Development Foundation, Mon Youth Educator Network and Kyae Lat Myae) to engage with the NUG government. The three CSOs gained the practical knowledge required to interact with the NUG government and they learned to prepare advocacy messages for effective discourse regarding land rights, women's rights and human rights achieving the target outcomes of the trainings .
- ◆ **Anti-Hate Speech Advocacy** EQMM engaged with Local Authorities in Karen State for the project of “Mapping of Union Government level stakeholders on countering hate speech and area implementation action” in 2021. These activities had remarkable results as EQMM effectively introduced and raised awareness of the anti-hate speech network and discussed fake news, hate speech and spreading disinformation through Facebook accounts, Radio Free Myanmar, and YouTube, VK accounts to create a sociopolitical attacks, identity attacks, hate speech on Daw Aung San Su Kyi, the NLD government body and its Ministers, Muslim mosques, and other religions in Karen National Union (KNU) controlled and non-controlled areas. The local authorities were interested in hate speech issues and they agreed to share hate speech reports with EQMM.

Emergency Support

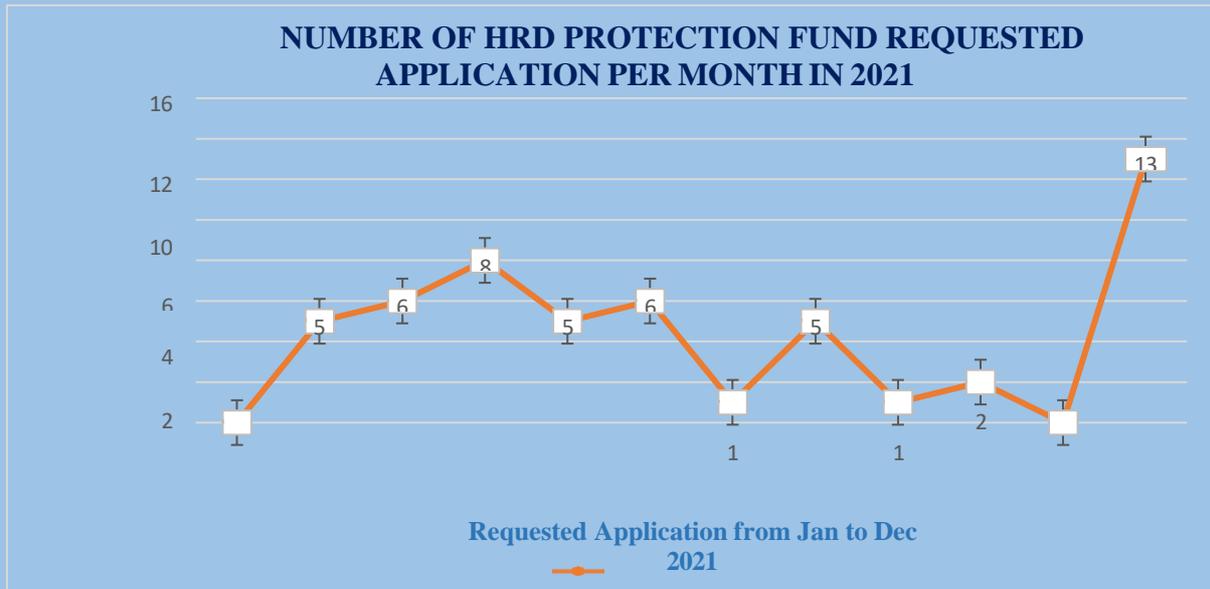
Objective: To support activists human rights defenders and their family members to have resilience and continued participation in the human rights movement.

Program Highlights

- ◆ **Cash Grants for Vulnerable Communities.** EQMM’s Cash Grant Program impacted thousands of affected and vulnerable people with support in 2021. The project covered a range of locations including, Ayeyarwady, Southern Shan State, Chin State, Demoso (Kayah State), Mindat, Kyone Pyaw , Pathein, Lay Kay Kaw (Karen State) and multiple other regions of Myanmar. Beneficiaries included a range of social movement actors including included victims and survivors of violence, as well as families of political prisoners and deceased activists, Human rights defenders, CDs, and peaceful protesters. With the emergency support, beneficiaries were able to purchase necessary food and medicine. The support of these people encouraged their social movement work, strikes, and campaigns. They share human rights issues within their communities and raise awareness of human rights violation cases and crimes of the military junta.
- ◆ The Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) Protection Fund had effective outcomes and impacts for human rights defenders, pro-democracy activists, woman rights defender and LGBTQIA rights defenders. We implemented the HRDs Protection Fund project and supported 52 HRDs (14 females & 38 males) and a total of 39 HRDs dependents in 2021. In total, 91 persons, respectively 43% females and 56% males, were supported

through the protection fun. These HRDs also participated in the promotion and protection of human rights movements, social campaigns, and peaceful strikes in Myanmar. They are also working and volunteering for humanitarian assistance, teaching human rights education to the people in IDP Camps, leading advocacy movements and helping political prisoners’ families.

- EQMM updated and enacted The Policies of Cash Grant Guidelines and HRD Protect Fund Support Guidelines in 2021 according to the changing needs of local and vulnerable communities in Myanmar. These two guidelines are crucial and effective tools we use for delivering and granting support to beneficiaries.



Organisational Development Highlight

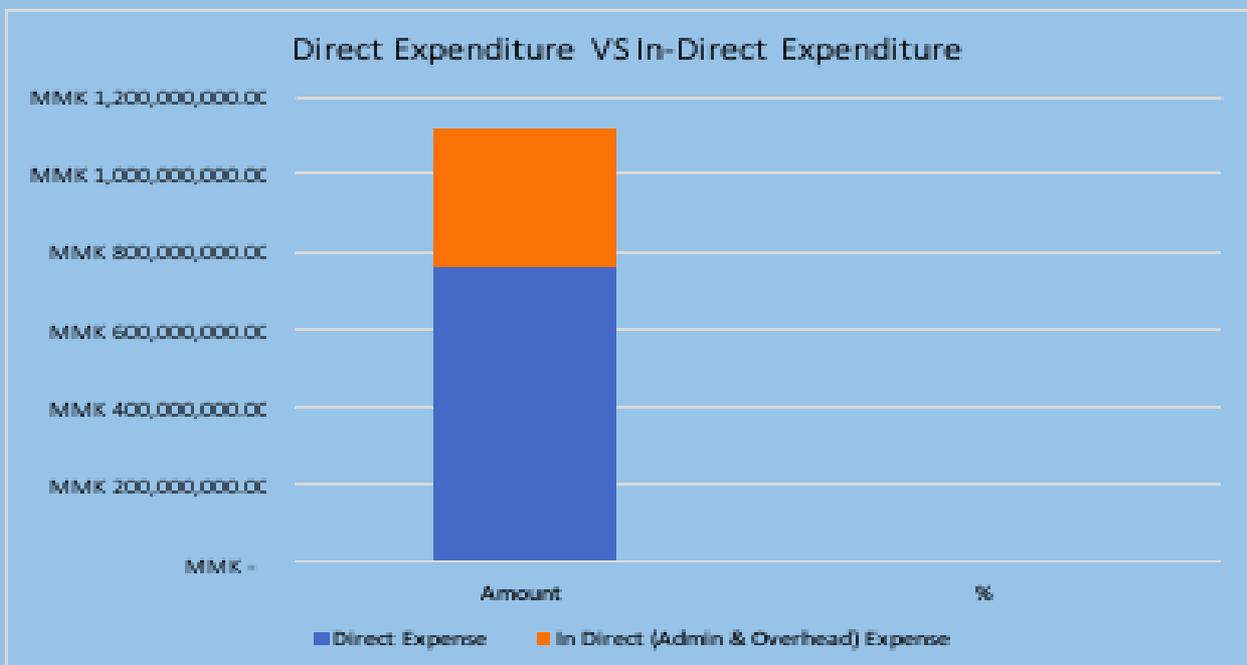
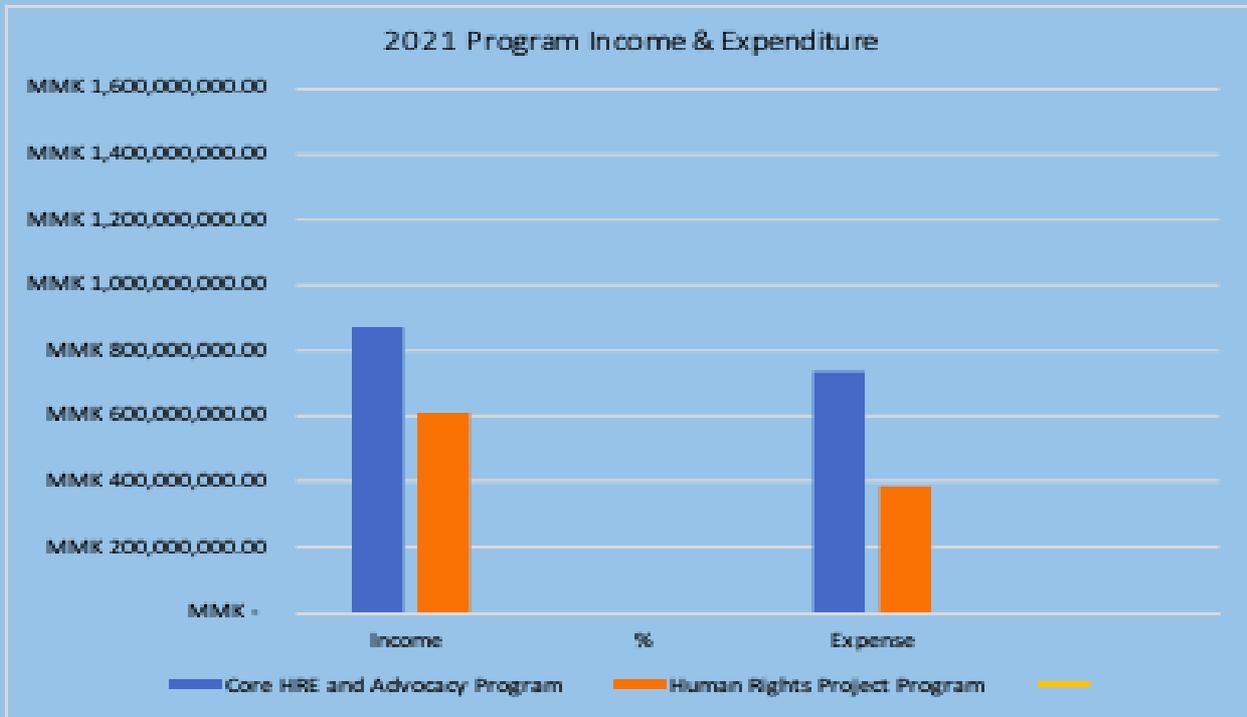
◆ **EQMM Strategic Development:** The fundamental inception of the EQMM's Strategic Plan 2021-2022 (version 1) embarked in the middle of 2021 after the military coup. Our EQMM team studied and monitored the political and security risks and we shifted the strategy and redesigned the activities to aligns with the new normal, transformation, and transition in the Myanmar context. This Strategic Plan was redeveloped, re-tailored, and revitalized in July 2022.

EQMM's Staff Structure Development: We reviewed the staff structure in the mid-year of 2021 and the 13 positions (7 program staff and 6 program support staff) were downsized starting in July and August of 2021. In total, the staff structure was downsized from 53 to 25 staff members in 2021 as we redesign our project activities to mitigate the risks of Covid-19 pandemic and 2021 military coup in Myanmar.

◆ **EQMM 2021 Registration in Myanmar:** EQMM did not renew its registration in Myanmar in 2021 as the military junta (State Administrative Committee - SAC) illegally took the power of the county and conducted gross violations, mass killings, torture and arbitrary arrest. Thus, EQMM ceased to exist under the military junta and its military governance even though we had legally registered under Civilian Government from 2016 to 2021. After the 2021 military coup, EQMM and its team members are relocating to Thailand and plan for legal registration in Thailand.

◆ **EQMM Staff Members' Safety and Security:** as we faced high-security risks in 2021, all the EQMM staff members relocated due to safety and security reasons. Furthermore, the organization maintains a low profile in public.

2021 Financial Information



Funding Sources

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