



Livelihoods and Food Security Fund



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LIFT Call for Proposals

Chin Programme 2019 – 2023: Transforming Chin State through agriculture development, improved nutrition and health, and the creation of decent work

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Title:	Chin Programme 2019 – 2023: Transforming Chin State through agriculture development, improved nutrition and health, and the creation of decent work.
Budget:	USD 9 million
Estimated Start:	November 2019
Duration:	Three years

1. Background

The Livelihoods and Food Security (LIFT) Fund is a multi-donor fund established in 2009 to address food insecurity and income poverty in Myanmar. LIFT 2019-2023 is funded by seven donors – the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, Switzerland, the United States, Canada and Ireland. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is the Fund Manager for LIFT, administrating the funds and providing monitoring and oversight services.

The overall goal of the LIFT Fund is to achieve a sustained reduction in the number of people living in hunger and poverty in Myanmar. LIFT strengthens the resilience and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable populations through interventions to raise income, decrease vulnerability, improve nutrition and support pro-poor policy development.

LIFT works with a broad range of implementing partners, including non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, the Government of Myanmar, the private sector, civil society, academic and research institutions. The Fund is active in the four main agro-ecological zones of Myanmar and to date has reached more than 11.6 million people or roughly 26 per cent of rural Myanmar's population; and is active in two-thirds of the country's townships.

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Funds donated by Australia, Canada, the European Union, Ireland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

LIFT's refreshed strategy has at its heart 'leaving no one behind' in Myanmar's rural transition, with a greater focus on inclusion and social cohesion, intensified commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, increased geographical focus on ethnic/border states and conflict-affected areas, enhanced efforts to bring displaced persons and returnees into LIFT's development programmes, expanded support for underserved urban and peri-urban areas and broader engagement with Government at all levels on targeted policies that achieve gains in these areas.

At the same time, LIFT will continue to support a diversity of livelihood strategies that assist its beneficiaries to 'Step up', 'Step Out' or 'Hang In':

- Households with land, labour or commercial potential to 'step up' through increases in labour and land productivity and enhanced capacity to market production.
- Rural households or individuals to 'step out' of agriculture into the local non-farm economy or to take advantage of opportunities further afield.
- Highly vulnerable households to 'hang in' and use agriculture as a safety net, improve their food security and nutrition outcomes while building their capacity to move out over time.

LIFT will work toward the achievement of these outcomes through innovation, piloting and the generation of evidence-based interventions organised into four thematic programmes: Nutrition; Financial Inclusion; Agriculture, Markets and Food Systems; and Decent Work and Labour Mobility.

For more details visit www.lift-fund.org

2. Objective of the call for proposals

LIFT has invested \$28.5 million since 2014 that has spanned the three thematic areas of Agriculture, Markets and Food Systems, Nutrition, and Decent Work and Labour Mobility, the fund has contributed to supporting the State in its efforts to transform. In line with the refreshed strategy and building on past investments, the call seeks proposals in the aforementioned thematic areas that will create great market opportunities for agricultural products, contribute to the improved nutrition and health of Chin rural communities, and the creation of greater job opportunities. The proposed activities should start no later than November 2019 and end before October 2022.

To support the long-term sustainability of the programme results, LIFT strongly encourages proposals from and/or implemented in partnership with civil society, the private sector and government line agencies in Chin.

2.1 Background to the call

The highly incised landscape of Chin along with limited infrastructure development contributes to a perception of isolation and remoteness of this mountainous State. With a Rural Access Index (RAI) that provides an assessment of the portion of the rural population that lives less than 2 km away from an all-season road at a mere 11%¹, the lowest in Myanmar and only exceeded by Chad and Mali globally, provides a sobering assessment of the challenges that face the State in its efforts to grow its economy. With poor communications and limited opportunities for agricultural intensification, integration to value chains and functional markets has been limited. Chin State has been designated as one of the poorest regions of Myanmar with poverty rates as high as 73 %².

¹ ADB 2016. Myanmar transport sector policy note: Rural Roads and Access. Asian Development Bank, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

² World Bank Group, 2014. Myanmar: Ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity in a time of transition. Report No. 93050-MM

Nutrition

Stunting affects 41 %³ of Chin children under five years compared with the national average of 29%. Using the Multi-Dimensional Disadvantage Index (MDI)⁴, Chin is ranked fifth out of all the States and Regions of Myanmar where members of a household are unable to meet their basic minimum needs. The overall health situation for children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups from poor families is seriously impacted by food insecurity and malnutrition, as an indication, Chin State has the highest prevalence of diarrhea in children under five (24.4%) compared to 10.4% nationally⁵.

These problems are often a combination of having a shortage of availability and access to appropriate foods and a lack of knowledge on how to effectively utilize available food resources. The 1000 days from conception to 2 years is a period of specific vulnerability in Chin as elsewhere, with very poor indicators of maternal dietary diversity, optimal breastfeeding practices and appropriate complementary feeding. The mean duration of exclusive breastfeeding is 3.5 months and amongst the reasons given for the early cessation of breastfeeding was the need for mothers to return to work in the fields⁶.

There are specific constraints to appropriate complementary feeding being given to children age 6 – 23 months and recent studies to inform social behaviour change (SBC) approaches have identified key behaviours which need to be targeted; however, there are consistent issues of access to markets specifically for animal sourced protein. These are limited for poor and remote villagers, and eggs and milk are rarely consumed. Most households experience food shortages for several months in every year and Chin State now relies on imported grain (i.e. rice) to meet approximately 30% of its total requirements.

The nutrition interventions supported by LIFT to date include the Government-led maternal and child cash transfer program (MCCT) supported by a technical assistance project, complemented by nutrition support interventions including targeting infant and young child feeding (IYCF) behaviours and nutrition sensitive agriculture approaches. Through the implementation of these initiatives there has been evidence generated and lessons learnt including but not limited to the following:

- Nutrition social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) approaches are more effective when integrated with a range of targeted nutrition interventions. Platforms which bring together different stakeholders are needed to develop joint approaches, agree on interventions, share common understanding, and achieve a high degree of ownership and effective coordination.
- Well-designed and targeted participatory approaches can enhance the effectiveness of nutrition education and training programmes and allow for more meaningful interventions. To be effective, training requires quality facilitation, regular follow-up and long-term supportive supervision.
- A thorough contextual analysis, utilizing evidence where it exists and generating evidence where there are gaps, can ensure that nutrition approaches, including any behavioural objectives, are relevant and are prioritized according to their importance.
- Nutrition activities and interventions should leverage and work with existing support structures in the communities, such as health workers networks and women's organizations or community groups. In order to change behaviours, additional interventions beyond training that support interpersonal communication, such as individual counselling and home visits, engaging key influencers (i.e. fathers, mothers, mother-in-law and father-in-law), and the use of mass media or other complementary approaches may be necessary.

³ Sex disaggregated data not available. MDHS, Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey, 2015-16 Ministry of Health and Sport

⁴ Multidimensional Welfare in Myanmar December 2018. Department of Population, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the World Bank Group.

⁵ MDHS, Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey, 2015-16 Ministry of Health and Sport.

⁶ Programme monitoring report, 2018.

- Homestead food production (including home gardens, intensive agricultural plots, small livestock, aquaculture and agroforestry) have the potential to contribute to improved dietary diversity and nutritional outcomes. To achieve a sustainable and significant impact on nutrition results, homestead food production should be part of a more comprehensive combined nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approach, including behavioural objectives (including around redistribution of care responsibilities and roles in providing nutritious food), to improve nutrition and appropriate agricultural approaches. These could include increasing women’s empowerment through access to resources, Maternal-Infant and Young Child Feeding (M-IYCF) counselling to improve nutrition practices, increasing access to animal sourced foods (either through purchase or small animal raising), and hygiene promotion.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the mainstay of the local economy and the majority of Chin people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, although in absolute terms some studies suggest that remittances and casual labour are the greatest contributors to monetary income⁷. The agricultural economy presents characteristics and challenges common to many upland areas in the tropics that include:

- Limited availability of land suitable for permanent agriculture, particularly irrigated agriculture;
- Limited possibilities of intensive pasture production constraining carrying capacity due to the nutritional value of the feed on offer;
- High cost of transportation to distant markets, further limiting cash crop possibilities and associated value chain development;
- Increasing emigration (both seasonal and permanent), greatly reducing labour availability, while at the same time providing much needed remittances for livelihoods security. Agricultural activities are increasingly dependent on the elderly and youngest household members;
- Population concentrations along communication networks (i.e. roads) increase the cost of cultivating in distant areas, thereby eliciting increased pressure on resources in close proximity to settlements;
- Tendency to create crowded settlements for access to limited services, with reduced scope for intensive home-garden production around homesteads.

While traditional “shifting” agriculture systems are in transformation, with diminishing returns to labour resulting in a spiral of disinvestment, Chin households are moving towards a cash oriented economy based on vegetables and perennial crops (i.e. coffee, avocado, grapes, elephant foot yam, tree bean, and sericulture⁸), while rice has become the key staple crop as in the rest of Myanmar. However, access to markets constitutes a significant constraint in the development of the State. Agricultural value chains are not organized in a favourable manner that would facilitate intensification. In most cases buyers are faced with significant investments in sourcing dispersed and irregular supplies thereby limiting possibilities for investment in local processing and value adding. One of the consequences is a low share of benefit for producers, and ineffective intermediary chains.

Over the course of implementing LIFT’s activities in Chin, key learnings have emerged and include the following:

- Poor market development and communication in Chin State determine a high dependency of rural households on local food production and diverse production systems that have evolved and form the basis of household food security. Chin households depend on a diverse set of sources for their food that include shifting cultivation fields (i.e. maize, pulses), paddy fields, home-gardens, non-timber forest products, small livestock, natural fisheries and fish ponds. These production systems have diverse purposes that include income generation, home consumption and village level barter. Interventions to date have tended to focus on increasing the productivity

⁷ Kmoch L. et al. 2018. Upland Livelihoods between Local Land and Global Labour Market Dependencies: Evidence from Northern Chin State, Myanmar. *Sustainability* 10: 3707

⁸ Sericulture, or silk farming, is the cultivation of silkworms to produce silk

of specific crops, with mixed results. There is a need for greater understanding of the local food systems, the role played by each production system, and the possible impact on food availability, access and consumption for improved nutrition and food security.

- Horticultural crops have the potential to be a key cash crop in Chin State if accompanied by the necessary investment in water management and appropriate adjustments to market opportunities. Horticultural cash crops have become increasingly important, particularly in close proximity to roads and main towns. The most significant investments have been support to develop adapted small-scale irrigation systems. The demand for this form of investment has been limited, as many villages have to use their limited supply for domestic use. Supporting small-scale irrigation outside the homestead, complements the sustainability of the home gardens.
- Support for livestock development has suffered from poor adaptation to the Chin context. Interventions have supported raising cattle through a group method approach using ill-adapted breeds from the lowlands with poor understanding of pasture management issues. Pilot poultry initiatives, based on improved breeding, housing and feeding conditions with the objective of increasing productivity and reducing losses when compared to the prevalent free-range approaches have been constrained by feed availability (i.e. high protein feed sources) and the management of disease during certain times of year. Trials to multiply home-based aquaculture, linked to fish production in rice fields have met with high interest from villagers with some investment capacity. However, existing aquaculture suffers from a lack of appropriate practices and difficulties in brood stock and fish seed management, lack of readily available high protein feed, and the significant initial investment. Limited commercial production exists with high local prices that make it an attractive proposition. Expansion is possible although limited by topography and lack of knowledge.
- Several agricultural value chains present development opportunities. Interventions based on market opportunities and involving value chain stakeholders have reasonable chances of success. Sustainability of livelihood activities are linked to cost effectiveness without subsidies, and to both input and output markets. The lack of economic vision and sound tools for micro-economic analysis has been a common weakness of implemented initiatives and as a result there has been limited meaningful cost benefit analysis, and engagement of private sector actors has taken time to emerge.
- The predefined farmer group based technical training approaches have shown some potential but also serious limitations for ensuring meaningful adoption of innovation. While the group approach used by several IPs, especially in home gardening shows that participatory agricultural development approaches may foster innovation and farmer experimentation, it has also revealed that some predefined choices are not adopted due to high labour, limited or delayed returns⁹ in the face of fluctuating markets and the need to ensure a quick return.
- Farmer groups based on common production systems and commercial interests have shown better initiative and ownership than those based on project training curriculum. Strict training curriculum may impose an unnecessary time burden and erode member motivation.
- Improvement of shifting agriculture needs to be based on existing social and technological practices and not on supply driven concepts. Interventions have focused on awareness raising activities and pre-defined technological alternatives based on assumptions that villagers are unaware of natural resource management (NRM) issues and trends.
- Women traditionally are a key element in the production of crops. With field crops women are often responsible for the sowing/transplanting of the crop and the routine weeding as required over the growing season⁹. The harvesting of the crop is a joint effort of both women and men. Further, women generally are involved in the establishment and maintenance of home gardens and the management of small livestock (e.g. poultry and pigs) at the homestead that forms a critical element in dietary diversity along with income generation through the sale of surpluses¹⁰.

⁹ Allaverdian, C. 2019. Farming systems analysis in Myanmar. Methodologic background: Selected case studies and synthesis of field-based studies across five states and regions of Myanmar. LIFT publication.

¹⁰ Allaverdian, C. 2019. Farming systems analysis in Myanmar. Methodologic background: Selected case studies and synthesis of field-based studies across five states and regions of Myanmar. LIFT publication.

Women's involvement tends to increase with ownership of interventions, however, it is slower than in other regions of Myanmar. The degree of involvement is low compared to other regions of Myanmar, probably due to socio-cultural norms of Chin families. These socio-cultural norms regarding women's work and gender roles in agriculture need to shift, and action needs to be taken to build the capacity of women to engage at various levels and work of the farmer groups. Interventions that shift social norms on gender roles and build women's capacity (i.e. control over decisions, control over resources strengthening) are required to enhance program effectiveness and sustainability and are an essential pathway between agriculture and nutrition.

- Given that men are over-represented among migrants it is not surprising that traditional inheritance rules in relation to gender are also evolving. There are now cases of women inheriting land¹¹ that provides opportunities to enhance the role of women in managing these assets and resources.

Employment

Formal sectors of the economy employ but a small proportion of the working age population: government employs less than 8%, and even fewer are employees by the private sector (i.e. approximately 1,800). There is little industrial production in Chin State and small and medium enterprise (SME) sector is limited and poorly developed due to constraints on infrastructure, lack of credit for investment, limited business skills and other factors. There is no national University and the nearest high-level training institution is a Technological University in Kalay; a State Agricultural Institute was recently re-established and there is a Government Technological High School in Hakha and several church-sponsored educational centres. Most facilities lack essential resources to assist students obtain hands-on experience to enter the work force. Most programs are certificate oriented and not geared to meeting requirements of industry, farming or the business sectors they are purportedly meant to service.

Not surprisingly given the conditions impairing employment, Chin has the highest percentage of migrants, with approximately half of the population living outside of the State, either within Myanmar or internationally. Major destinations include Sagaing and Yangon for internal migrants and Malaysia, USA and India internationally. Migration from Chin is characterized as a mixed migration flow, as there are also several thousand asylum seekers among those going abroad. The Census data suggests that more men than women migrate internationally (66% vs. 34%) but that more women than men migrate internally (55% vs. 45%)¹². One of the problems with international migration from Chin is that many migrants do not return and there are no programmes to support reintegration of returning migrants. The ILO report from 2015 on Internal Labour Migration in Myanmar points to a specific migration issue: many workers in road construction are internal migrants from the dry zone who work and live under difficult conditions in Chin State.

International migrants from Chin constitute a well-educated diaspora community who can be a very valuable resource for the social and economic development of the State. However, a formal strategy to link them and seek the support of these communities has yet to be developed. Existing networks include international church groups and numerous information sharing channels. Aside from charity-related assistance, overseas Chin networks send substantial remittance amounts and could be potential investors in business start-up within the State. However, an enabling environment must be developed for them to do so with confidence.¹³

One of the few available studies on employment in Chin State showed that wage employment was the second most important income sector in absolute terms behind remittances, constituting 18% of

¹¹ Boutry, M., Allaverdian, C. Tin Myo Win, Khin Pyae Sone. 2018. Persistence and change in Hakha Chin land and resource tenure: a synthesis on land dynamics in the periphery of Hakha. Of lives of land Myanmar research series. GRET: Yangon.

¹² Ministry of Immigration and Population. 2015. The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census.

¹³ Chin State Government. 2016. An Action Plan for Development of the SME Sector In Chin State. Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

households' aggregate earnings, with manual labour, crushing stones for house or road construction and carpentry work as the most common occupations.¹⁴ Construction work, employment to assist trade to India or locally, as well as manual labour on farms and in forests, or the service industry, offered opportunities for unskilled employment. Skilled employment was rarer, commonly in government roles, as staff in the hospital or health centres, as a school teacher or teaching assistant; or in villages, as a church employee or village electrician. Self-employed business activities generated 10% of households' aggregate income, and that concerned a reduced portion of the sample in the aforementioned study. Common business activities were the sale of food or clothes. Yet, a carpentry business, the sale of rights to quarry stones for construction work, and a local transport business, were most remunerative.

The Census data suggests that there are considerable gender differences in the entrepreneurship opportunities available, with men much more likely than women to be self-employed (65% vs. 35%).¹⁵ Lack of employment is a structural problem throughout all townships, exacerbating the vulnerabilities and socio-economic dependencies of women because of their disadvantaged position within the labour market. Women's labour force participation rate (53.8%) in Chin State is substantially lower than men's (77.6%) due to the heavily gendered division of labour and higher levels of unpaid household work among women.¹⁶ Unemployment also represents an additional trigger of stress within households often resulting in various forms of gender-based violence, especially domestic violence. Fewer educational opportunities for women and discriminatory social norms make it more difficult for women to find jobs, receive equal pay and access leadership positions that would allow them to become decision-makers. The lack of access to schooling also contributes to much lower literacy rates for women than men (71.9% vs. 88.5%).¹⁷ The isolation of many villages, insufficient infrastructure and lack of networking possibilities further produces challenges for existing women's empowerment initiatives to form a network, share information and create synergetic effects in cooperation with likeminded organizations.

An expansion of the tourism industry is one of the key economic priorities of the Chin State government.¹⁸ Tourist destinations are being developed in the state, along with provision of training in hotels and tourism and formation of hotelier and tour guide associations. These initiatives have already begun yielding results, with an increased number of foreign and local visitor arrivals. However, further efforts are needed to ensure that the benefits of increased tourism in Chin contribute to an expansion of job opportunities for poor communities.

Although no research on the impact of migration on agriculture is available within Chin State, several studies in other areas of Myanmar have suggested that increases in non-farm employment and labour migration have contributed to a rural transition, with rising productivity in the agricultural sector based on increased investment in mechanization.¹⁹ Further studies of the labour market are needed to obtain an understanding of whether similar dynamics exist within the State to inform the development of policy and programmes.

Lesson learnt through the implementation of initiatives in Chin include:

- Because of the rigid gender norms that exist within rural areas of Myanmar, women are frequently limited to training in jobs that are considered traditionally women's work, including beauty salons, sewing, weaving and hospitality. Though these choices are often self-selected,

¹⁴ Knoch L. et al. 2018. Upland Livelihoods between Local Land and Global Labour Market dependencies: Evidence from Northern Chin State, Myanmar. *Sustainability* 10: 3707

¹⁵ Ministry of Immigration and Population. 2015. The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census.

¹⁶ Ministry of Immigration and Population. 2015. The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census.

¹⁷ Ministry of Immigration and Population. 2015. The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census.

¹⁸ Myo Pa Pa San. 2018. Chin State to Develop Tourism. *The Irrawaddy*.

¹⁹ Belton, B., Filipski, M., Hu, C., Oo, A.T., and Htun, A. 2017. Rural Transformation in Central Myanmar: Results from the Rural Economy and Agriculture Dry Zone Community Survey; Michigan State University, Centre for Economic and Social Development and the International Food Policy Research Institute. 2016. *Agricultural Mechanization and Structural Transformation in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta*.

TVET programmes that proactively support participation of women in non-traditional occupations can be beneficial in challenging restrictive gender roles.

- The private sector in Chin State and in main migration destinations within Myanmar need to be involved in the planning and targeting of skills development programmes. Experience demonstrates how appropriate scoping of key sectors and involvement of the private sector in curriculum development and practical training have allowed for high degrees of post-training employment. Private sector linkages ensures that the course content is relevant to jobs in the labour market. In addition, creating direct linkages with private sector employers through internships, on-the-job training and job fairs helps to ensure they will find jobs after completing the courses.
- The operational context in Chin presents unique challenges for outreach on safe migration. Formal trainings structured around course work and exercises are not well-suited to Chin communities in difficult-to-reach areas and with low literacy levels. In addition, partly as a result of promoting such events through the established networks of local leaders – who are disproportionately older men – many safe migration outreach activities also suffer from limited participation among women and youth. As an alternative modality for delivery, live theatre has proven highly effective due to its open-ended storytelling that goes beyond passive consumption. The intensity of live acting is more engaging for audiences and presents people from all backgrounds with the opportunity to observe something interesting enough to command their whole attention. Moreover, as theatre is an oral medium, literacy is not an issue.

2.2 Interventions

The programme approach should address the vulnerabilities of rural and poor communities which lead to food and nutrition insecurity and income generation. Proposals should contribute to a programme which addresses underlying causes of poor nutrition including poverty, livelihoods and women's empowerment in order to improve access, availability and utilisation of a safe and good quality diet for those who most need it. This is viewed as the foundation of sustainable and economic development in Chin contributing to the development of a productive and effective labour force along with ensuring the aspirations of future generations are met. Transforming the agricultural sector through the development of functional value chains and markets that add value to primary production is central in addressing the current impasse that faces the sector. This can only be achieved through commercialization of cash crops and embracing the private sector, key to creating new job opportunities and an entirely new ecosystem built around processing and value addition. This will require the skills and expertise to service these new markets and value chains.

LIFT's approach to addressing the challenges faced by agriculture, nutrition and employment opportunities are structured around three core integrated objectives:

- Reduced stunting in girls and boys aged under five by focusing on the pathways which lead to under nutrition during the first 1,000 days by increased institutional capacity to deliver quality and far-reaching nutrition interventions and promoting adoption of improved nutrition, dietary, sanitation and hygiene practices at the household level.
- Improved incomes and resilience for women and men through inclusive, climate smart production systems and the development of functional agricultural value chain and markets that are built upon sustainable natural resource management.
- Expanded opportunities for decent work through comprehensive support for the return and social and economic reintegration of the Chin diaspora, establishing labour market information systems and job creation in the tourism industry.

The programme for Chin has three components:

- Improved nutrition.
- Sustainable agricultural markets and functional food systems.
- Job creation for decent work.

Proposals can include interventions for one or more of the components but must present a cohesive approach that creates synergies between the interventions. It should be noted that a minimum allocation of 20% of the budget should explicitly target gender-specific actions. For further details on each of these components applicants are encouraged to review the accompanying programme design document for details (Annex 5).

Component 1: Improved nutrition.

Possible interventions

- In support of the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) and the State Government to scale up Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) by building on evidence and previous investments: further technical backing, innovations in technology and, for a more inclusive approach to maternal and child cash transfers to reach the most vulnerable or hard-to-reach groups in Chin State and improved approaches to SBC for MCCT and Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding (M-IYCF).
- Using evidence-based research to inform the design of Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) approaches to reinforce the nutrition and food systems interventions to address the immediate and underlying causes of undernutrition. The designed approaches should be contextually specific and relevant.
- Support sustainable interventions to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices, and environmental hygiene. Explore innovations related household water treatment and safe storage techniques as appropriate.
- SBC nutrition sensitive agriculture, market and food systems interventions will be supported by evidence based design of contextually specific and gender responsive approaches which are developed in coordination and collaboration with Component 2.
- Community based interventions to support approaches to prevent stunting should be developed in conjunction with current health outreach services and existing interventions that address all types malnutrition under the framework of the MS-NPAN. Approaches should be pursued which can be expanded and adapted to the socio-cultural context of Chin rural communities, demonstrating impact, sustainability and scalability.

Component 2: Sustainable agricultural markets and functional food systems.

Possible interventions

Successful interventions should be catalytic, innovative and address the implications of climate variability and change.

- The component will support the inclusive development of promising agricultural value chains and markets along with sustainable intensification of these cash crops. Commodities with a potential for value chain development beneficial to smallholder households in general, and to the empowerment of rural women in particular, include but not limited to several horticultural crops (onion, cauliflower, broccoli), grapes, elephant foot yam and selected tree crops such as avocado, coffee and tree bean. Further development of these cash crops needs to be market driven (i.e. private sector and other actors). The private sector along with critical actors relevant to value chain and market development need to be involved as stakeholders and their nature and role clearly articulated in proposals. Proposals that do not include market actors will not be considered. Preliminary mapping and assessment of targeted value chains as part of proposals will be an important asset. Production technologies need to be scalable and sustainable within an economic context rather than sustained by project incentives. Further, producers will need to organize around functional and vibrant value chain development opportunities in order to achieve the competitive advantages linked to aggregation, rather than based on supply-driven training. Proposals that leverage private sector co-investment will be looked upon favourably as a means of leveraging LIFT funds. Critical to sustainability and resilience of these value chains is the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices along with climate smart / resilient processing approaches.
- Diversification and intensification of homestead and village-based production for combined

nutrition and income generation objectives. It combines support to nutrition-sensitive development and vulnerability reduction purposes, considering homestead intensive agricultural and small livestock (i.e. goats, chickens and small-scale aquaculture) activities as the main focus for significant nutrition-sensitive development. Some commodities included in these intensive systems, can be the target of value chain commercial development. Interventions in support of diversification and intensification along with women empowerment need to be based on solid assumptions as to their sustainability post intervention and should target households with children under 2 years of age.

Component 3: Job creation for decent work.

Possible interventions

- Support for the expansion of the tourism industry within Chin State to create jobs for women and men in poor households. This may include training programmes on eco-tourism product development and marketing, filling the skills gap through training for tourism and hospitality jobs, addressing the lack of tourist services by promoting socially and environmentally responsible investment opportunities and development of micro-businesses in supporting industries.
- Delivery of social and economic reintegration services to support the return of Chin migrants. This may include market-oriented technical and vocational education and training in partnership with government and private sector service providers to support local employment of women and men, particularly through on-the-job training and women-only cohorts in non-traditional sectors of work. Small enterprise development training linked to access to credit, with priority given to women entrepreneurs. Peer networking opportunities to establish community among repatriates, share employment and business ideas and build social capital – including formation of women’s groups. Engagement of the Chin diaspora through overseas associations to maintain linkages and encourage investment.
- Development of a labour market information system and provision of job matching services to expand accessibility to decent job opportunities and safe migration for workers, as well as to encourage investment. The information and services provided will be inclusive of opportunities for employment within the local labour market, in urban centers within Myanmar and through migration to destination countries. This may include labour market assessment to determine the supply and demand for labour, improving the public information systems on job openings at Labour Exchange Offices, organizing of job fairs and internship opportunities and support for expanding accessibility of workplaces for people with disabilities, in cooperation with the private sector.

2.3 Target groups and geographical distribution

The proposed actions can be located across the State however, they should be targeted. Proposals are particularly encouraged that target women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and other groups facing discrimination. In presenting the scope for proposed interventions, the potential for scaling up and replication of results must be discussed and based on solid assumptions. This should also include a robust exit strategy that would support the aforementioned.

3. Data collection

Proposals must demonstrate a firm commitment to disaggregated data collection, particularly by sex, age, and poverty status, to allow the projects and programme to be analysed in line with the requirements in LIFT’s Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework that can be found [here](#).

LIFT new logical framework for 2019-2023 has been finalized and can be found [here](#). Methodologies will need to be developed during the inception phase of projects to obtain valid data for measurement of the relevant indicators. Training and technical support will be offered to LIFT implementing partners to build their MEAL capacity if required.

4. Partnerships

Partnership quality will be a key consideration during the evaluation of the proposals. Applicants should demonstrate that their organisation and any proposed partners have relevant expertise. Engagement with the private and public sectors as key stakeholder(s) is seen as critical in ensuring sustainability beyond the life of the project.

It is fundamental at the proposal stage that all partners involved in the project are aware of the proposal, its content and their specific responsibilities and agree on an initial agreement (financial and technical). Please also take into consideration that according to LIFT's Operational Guidelines, applicants are expected to share indirect costs with their sub-partners.

LIFT will favour partners who can demonstrate sufficient contextual understanding, including of the local institutional structure and key government, ethnic organizations and civil society stakeholders. Identified partners should have already built trusted relationships with relevant local stakeholders and have interventions that are supportive of local institutions, whether formal or informal. Gender-sensitivity of the partner organisations is desirable regarding both their organisational policy and their operational approach.

5. Funding allocation

The provisional allocation for LIFT's work to support internal migrants is up to USD 9 million. The allocations detailed below are indicative and may change during the formation of the programme.

Programme Component	Allocation
Component 1: Improved nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene	USD 3 million
Component 2: Sustainable and functional food systems	USD 4 million
Component 3: Safe migration and decent work	USD 2 million

6. Requirements for proposal submission

Key documents shared as part of this document for the preparation of submissions are:

- a) Annex 1: Format and requirements for proposals
- b) Annex 2: Evaluation criteria to be used by the evaluation committee
- c) Annex 3: Guidelines on gender sensitivity for proposals
- d) Annex 4: Guidelines on Value for Money
- e) Annex 5: Programme Design Document.

Please note the following requirements for submissions:

- Proposals must be prepared in the English language according to the format requirement presented in Annex 1.
- Proposals must include a technical proposal and a financial proposal.
- Proposals must be received by email at the following address: lift.proposals.mmoh@unops.org on the date and time indicated below. Please do not submit your proposal to any email address other than the email address provided above or your proposal may be at risk of not being

considered. The size of individual e-mails, including e-mail text and attachments, must not exceed 5 MB.

Please note that the cost of preparing a proposal and of negotiating a grant agreement, including any related travel, is not reimbursable, nor can it be included as a direct cost of the assignment.

Clarifications: Any requests for clarification should be sent to lift@unops.org. Clarifications will be provided on the LIFT website: <http://lift-fund.org/> and the UN Global Marketplace website: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice>

Also note that successful applicants will be expected to conform to LIFT's Operational Guidelines, which are available at <http://www.lift-fund.org/guidelines>. The guidelines specify LIFT's rules in relation to *inter alia* reporting, procurement, asset management, record management and visibility.

7. Proposal appraisal and selection procedures

An Evaluation Committee will complete a technical, financial and organisational capacity assessment of each proposal. As a part of its appraisal process, LIFT may elect to discuss technical, costs, or other aspects of the proposals with applicants. The selection of the proposals is carried out through two stages:

1. Appraisal by the evaluation committee:

The Evaluation Committee will appraise each proposal using all the criteria listed in this section. Proposals that do not align sufficiently with the LIFT strategy, the LIFT Gender Strategy and the thematic requirements of this call, or which have shortcomings regarding the criteria outlined in this section, will be rejected. The full appraisal of the shortlisted proposals is submitted to the LIFT Fund Board with recommendations.

2. LIFT Fund Board review:

The Fund Board will review the appraisals and provide its recommendations for endorsement and conditions of endorsement.

The endorsement of the proposal by the Fund Board is not a guarantee to receive funding until the conditions attached to the endorsement have been fulfilled and the Grant Support Agreement (GSA) is signed. LIFT reserves the right to reject a proposal after Fund Board approval if it cannot reach an agreement with the applicant for contracting. The Fund Board will be informed and have the opportunity to make suggestions to the process. Unsuccessful applications will not be returned to the applicant.

Successful proposals will be implemented under a Grant Support Agreement for NGOs and inter-agency agreements with UN organisations with UNOPS as the LIFT Fund Manager. Please refer to the LIFT website for the template including the general terms and conditions (<https://www.lift-fund.org/guidelines>). The expected contract duration is **for a maximum of three years**.

8. Schedule of events

The dates provided below are only indicative. The Evaluation Committee may follow a quicker or a longer timeframe for the appraisal of the proposals.

Event	Date
Call for proposals release date	19 June 2019
Deadline for receipt of written inquiries	28 June 2019
Written responses distributed	5 July 2019
Proposal due date	13 August 2019 by 13:00 (Myanmar local time)
Grant agreement negotiation / contracting	November 2019

ANNEX 1: Format and requirements for the proposal submission

The proposal must be complete and conform to the formal requirements presented below.

Submissions must be made both electronically and in hard copy as outlined in the main part of this call for proposals.

Electronic submissions must not exceed 5MB in size.

The proposal must not exceed 25 pages (12 point Calibri Font and a minimum of 1 inch margins all around). Pages should be numbered. The proposal may include annexes with additional details regarding approach, methodologies, references, maps, etc. Annexes must not exceed 30 pages.

LIFT will consider only applications conforming to the above format and page limitations. Any other information submitted will not be evaluated.

Applicants should include all information that they consider necessary for LIFT to adequately understand and evaluate the project being proposed. The remainder of this section describes the information that LIFT considers necessary for all applications. There is no obligation to follow the order of the sections below, and the applicants are encouraged to make their proposal reader friendly and to avoid repetition.

Proposals must consist of the following:

Title page

Project title, name and contact of the applicant, partners, geographical area, expected project duration, start and finish dates and total budget. Note that the title page is *not* counted in the proposal page limitation.

Preamble

Include a table of contents, a list of abbreviations, a map and an executive summary. Note that these pages are *not* counted in the proposal page limitation.

Project background and rationale

Outline the origin of the concept, problem definition/rationale and context for the project. Outline how the proposed project aligns with the LIFT strategy (available on LIFT website www.lift-fund.org) and the thematic components of this call and explain how lessons from previous experiences and studies inform the design of the project.

Explain how the project aligns with the development plans/priorities of the Government of Myanmar (if not, why not), and other development partners working in the same field and/or area. Identify any gaps in the available knowledge.

Outline the results of key discussions which have taken place in preparation of the proposal, including:

- Who was consulted (e.g. other development partners, government departments, NGOs, the private sector etc.);
- any issues raised pertinent to the project's rationale and design approach; and
- a summary of the views of other key stakeholders.

Target area and stakeholder analysis

This section describes the targeted geographical areas of the project and number of direct and indirect

beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex). The distinction between direct and indirect beneficiaries must be clear.

A *project stakeholder analysis* will be included to review the key direct and indirect beneficiaries, and the organisations and individuals involved and who have an interest - along with any vested interests they may have. The following are also important:

- A clear description of how the project will cooperate with government, private and non-state actors;
- a description of the role of all local institutions involved and any support or intention to establish new institutions clearly detailed and justified; and
- where new or improved institutional arrangements are to be enduring, explanation should be provided on the sustainability provisions included.

Project Theory of Change

A clear Theory of Change (TOC) must be presented in diagrammatic form and explained in a narrative. An actor-centred TOC is most suitable and preferred with a specific statement of what the project will accomplish and what the key results are in terms of project level outcomes and outputs in a summary form.

Outcomes, outputs, activities, technical approach, methodologies and scope

The activity and methodology description needs to be sufficient to identify **what** will be done, **how** it will be done, and **where** it will be done. It should indicate **who** will do what at a broad level to explain stakeholder roles. The structure of the proposal needs to align with the work plan and budget to allow tracking analysis and value for money assessments.

This section must include consideration of relevant cross-cutting issues (gender, nutrition, human rights and the environment). The gender issues the project intends to address should be reflected in the activities and the project TOC.

A work plan is to be presented in graphical (spreadsheet or table, preferably in LIFT template) form and can be attached as an annex. It should indicate the sequence of all major activities and implementation milestones, including targeted beginning and ending months for each step and key deliverables. Provide as much detail as necessary to understand the implementation process. The work plan should align with the TOC and budget and show a logical flow of implementation steps, indicating that all the things that must happen have been carefully thought through from the start to the end of the grant project. It should consider seasonality and/or other major constraints. Please include in the work plan all required milestone reports and monitoring reviews.

Risks and mitigation

Identify and list major risk factors that could result from project activities and/or the project not producing the expected results. These must include both internal/operational factors (e.g. the technology involved fails to work as projected) and external factors (e.g. government policy changes). Outline mitigation strategies and/or how risk will be identified and assessed in the design. Include key assumptions on which the proposal is based.

Cross-cutting issues (gender, nutrition, environment, do-no-harm)

Cross-cutting issues including gender, nutrition, environment, do-no-harm need to be considered in the proposal. The gender issues that the project intends to address must be reflected in the activities and the project TOC. See Annex 3 for details about inclusion of Gender considerations in the proposal.

Nutrition (especially the reduction of stunting in the age group under 2 years and the 1,000 days

programme) is an important cross-cutting issue for LIFT that needs to be included in the project implementation. For more information what LIFT is doing to reduce stunting and improve nutrition see the LIFT website.

Environmental sustainability and integrity is a fundamental goal of LIFT. Interventions may result in changes that may be positive or negative and could either be anticipated or unanticipated. Ensuring that ecosystems services are not compromised through interventions and that resilience is maintained or enhanced is critical. Proposals must consider the impacts of interventions and present strategies to mitigate any negative implications.

The proposal must demonstrate that the proposed interventions do not harm the target group or any other stakeholders to the project. This can be presented in a table or narrative format.

Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL) management

This section should follow the guidelines provided in LIFT's MEAL guidelines www.lift-fund.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-learning-and-accountability-meal-guidelines-ips-upcoming-proposals. During the inception period all projects need to provide a complete MEAL Framework including three main components: (1) a project Theory of Change; (2) project Evaluation and Learning questions; and (3) a project Measurement Plan.²⁰ For the proposal submission only the project Theory of Change and the Measurement Plan are required.

Projects need to establish an appropriate project baseline and conduct an endline survey to support the final evaluation.

Organisational background of the applying organisations

It must be clearly demonstrated that the proposing organisation or consortium of organisations has the experience, capacity, and commitment to implement the proposed project successfully.

The following should be covered:

- Type of organisation – Is it a community-based organisation, national NGO, international NGO, consortium, research, training institution or private entity?
- Organisational approach (philosophy), purpose and core activities of the organisation, and relevant experience.
- Length of existence and legal status. The applying organisation and partners should have the appropriate authority to carry out the project in Myanmar.
- Expertise mobilised from within and outside the organisation.
- A description of partnerships, how long they have been in place and for what purpose.
- An explanation of previous or existing activities in the target area and what working relationships are in place with government and non-state actors.

Staffing

An overview of the organisational structure of the project should be provided, including the CVs of key personnel (national and international), (e.g. chief of party, project director, senior technical advisor). How the expertise required for project implementation will be made available should be explained (i.e. from within the organisation, through external consultancy, and partnerships) along with a description of implementation roles. LIFT encourages gender balance in the project team composition.

²⁰ A measurement plan replaces LIFT's previous use of project logframes and identifies the project outcomes, outputs, indicators, targets, milestones and means of verification. A template is available in the MEAL Guideline, which is on the LIFT website.

Partnerships

Explain who the partners are, how they have been identified, what their specific expertise is, what their contribution is to be and how the relationships between the partners will be managed throughout the project. The section should explain what the governance and coordination arrangements are, and how the project will maximise local ownership. The lead applicant should provide a brief assessment of the institutional, organisational and technical capacities of partners and how the project will strengthen their capacities, including:

- Institutional, organisational and technical support to and capacity building for local partners;
- identify budget allocation between partners, including for indirect costs (see below);
- contractual relationships and coordination / decision-making systems; and
- organisational chart including links between partners.

If a partner is not full time on the project, please provide a schedule for their inputs.

The lead applicant should submit in annex to the proposal a letter signed by the proposed partners stating that they have contributed to the project design, are willing to collaborate with the applicant and that they agree to enter into an agreement if the proposal is successful.

Project budget and Value for Money

A realistic budget is an important part of developing and implementing a successful project. The proposal budget should include a detailed breakdown of costs. The budget template available on the LIFT website must be used <https://www.lift-fund.org/budget-initial>. The budget breakdown should clarify the total allocated budget for each component that the project will contribute to. The budget breakdown should align with the TOC and the work plan.

The following important principles should be kept in mind in preparing a project budget:

- Include only costs that directly relate to efficiently carrying out the activities and producing the outputs and outcomes, which are set forth in the proposal. Other associated costs should be funded from other sources. Refer to the LIFT Operational Guidelines on what LIFT can and cannot fund.
- The budget should be realistic.
- The budget should include all costs associated with managing and administering the grant project. In particular, include the cost of gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation.
- Indirect costs are allowable up to six per cent (6%) of the total direct costs.
- The budget line items in the budget template are general categories intended to assist in thinking through where money will be spent. If a planned expenditure does not appear to fit in any of the standard line item categories, list the item under other costs, and state what the money is to be used for.
- The figures contained in the budget sheet should agree with those on the proposal header and text.
- The budget needs to be accompanied by detailed assumptions on costs (e.g. how many computers are required for how many staff, how per diems are calculated, etc.). The narrative detailed assumptions should not repeat the budget figures but explain your assumptions when calculating the figures in the budget.
- Costs incurred at headquarters outside Myanmar will be only considered in exceptional cases and if directly related to the project.

Financial and technical proposals should be sufficiently linked with the TOC and work plan to conduct value-for-money (VfM) assessments of the project during implementation. A lot of the value-for-money assessments during the implementation will depend on realistic planning and well managed

implementation.

Proposals that demonstrate that LIFT's funds will leverage other funds, as well as proposals that demonstrate multiplier effects or clear progress towards financial sustainability, are encouraged.

For more guidance on Value for Money see Annex 4.

ANNEX 2: Evaluation criteria

An Evaluation Committee (EC) will appraise applications in accordance with the selection criteria identified below. Applicants should note that these criteria serve to a) identify the significant issues that applicants should address in their applications; and b) to set standards against which all applications will be evaluated. If there are ambiguities/unclear explanations, or further need for details, the LIFT evaluation committee will seek clarification from the submitting organisation if the proposal otherwise meets the main criteria.

The evaluation committee will assess the following questions to justify their final appraisal:

- **Completeness:** Is the information provided in the proposal complete and sufficient for the appraisal?
- **Relevance:** Is the problem definition and rationale for the project clear and does it address a critical issue relevant to LIFT strategy?
- **Context analysis:** Is the project based on a good understanding of the context in the respective project site?
- **Stakeholder analysis:** Is there a stakeholder analysis and a clear definition of target groups? To what extent is participation of, and ownership by, key stakeholders in planning and design evident? Is it clear how the project will work with the government, non-state actors and the private sector?
- **Coherence of the design:** Is there clear outcome logic? Are the project's expected results well defined and aligned with the identified problem/needs?
- **Approach and methods:** Is the project approach and methodology innovative, feasible and appropriate? Are the methodologies based on previous experience and evidence-based knowledge? Is the idea technically feasible and likely to achieve the stated results? Does it embody good development practice and lessons?
- **Operating principles:** Is the proposed project in line with the LIFT Operating and MEAL Guidelines? How specifically does the project propose to monitor continuous alignment with the principles?
- **Sustainability:** Does the project demonstrate a good case for sustainability of the proposed outcomes and impacts beyond the funding period? Has an exit strategy been considered?
- **Cross cutting issues:** Are relevant gender, nutrition, migration, and environment issues considered?
- **Gender sensitivity:** Does the proposal demonstrate awareness and understanding of concrete gender related/gender specific challenges in the project context? To what extent does the proposal strive to include women as both, equal participants and as equal beneficiaries? To what extent does the proposal plan to contribute to greater gender equality and women's empowerment? What concrete measures are proposed to address gender issues? Is gender equality/women's empowerment reflected in the proposal's TOC? Does the project plan to conduct a gender analysis at the beginning of project? Will the project collect sex-disaggregated data? Are gender-sensitive and/or gender-specific criteria integrated in monitoring and reporting systems? Refer to Annex 1 for specific guidelines and evaluation criteria for gender sensitivity. See Annex 3 for more guidance.
- **Risks:** Has the proposal sufficiently considered major internal and external risks and indicated risk mitigation measures to be developed?
- **Monitoring and evaluation for accountability and learning:** Is a TOC and measurement framework provided and are they appropriate to the type and scale of the project?
- **Learning and policy dialogue:** Does the project give scope to contribute to evidence-based knowledge and policy dialogue?
- **Capacity:** Does the proposed implementing organisation and its partners have the necessary technical expertise, experience and capacity to implement the project?

- **Partnership:** What partnerships are foreseen in the proposal? Is the partnership built on long-term trust relationships? Is the governance and coordination system between stakeholders and partners appropriate? Is the role and involvement of the sub-partners clear and sound? Are the local partners likely to increase institutional, organisational and technical capacities through project implementation?
Partnership quality will be a key consideration during the evaluation of the proposals. Applicants should demonstrate that their organisation and proposed partners have relevant expertise. It is fundamental at proposal stage that all partners involved in the project are aware of the proposal, its content and their specific responsibilities and agree on an initial agreement (financial and technical). Please also take into consideration that according to the LIFT Operational Guidelines applicants are expected to share indirect costs with their sub-partners. LIFT will favour partners that can demonstrate sufficient contextual understanding, including of the local institutional structure and key government, non-state armed groups and civil society stakeholders. Gender-sensitivity of the partner organisations is desirable regarding both their organisational policy and their operational approach.
- **Budget:** Does the budget demonstrate value-for-money for the project, in particular in relation to the expected results? Is it adequate to deliver the outputs? Is there a sufficient budget dedicated to M&E, learning and capacity building? Is the budget aligned with the work plan and the TOC? Do local partners receive their share of the indirect costs? See Annex 4 for VfM guidance.

ANNEX 3: Guidelines on gender sensitivity

1. Why do LIFT's proposals have to be gender sensitive?

LIFT is strongly committed to contributing to greater gender equality and women's empowerment through all its projects and programmes. LIFT strives to achieve the following four outcomes related to gender:

- Increased understanding of gender dynamics in the project communities;
- Increases in women's access to, and control over, resources;
- increases in women's participation in decision-making;
- increases in women's knowledge and skills; and
- improved focus on gender within livelihood and food security policies.²¹

An important step to achieving these goals is to ensure gender sensitivity is considered in the formulation and planning of projects.

2. What does gender sensitivity mean for LIFT?

Gender sensitivity means that in each action and process, gender norms and roles, and the impact gender has on access to, and control over, resources are considered and addressed. Suggested guiding questions for assessing gender sensitivity are:

- **How does the proposal attempt to address existing gender inequalities?**
- **How does the proposal strive to include women as both equal participants and as equal beneficiaries of the planned interventions?**

Projects should not only propose equal numeric participation by gender but also strive for participation of equal quality. The latter is more difficult to assess than merely counting the number of women and men beneficiaries, and often requires specific supportive actions to empower women.

3. Where do LIFT's proposals have to be gender sensitive?

Gender sensitivity should be woven into all stages of projects and programmes. Every project proposal includes a mandatory section on gender where the project is required to answer the question: "*How is gender considered in the project...?*" Here, the proposal outlines the gender sensitivity, and the alignment with LIFT's gender strategy and how the proposed intervention contributes to LIFT's four gender programme outcomes stated above.

Gender must also appear explicitly in the project's TOC to reflect gender-related goals and outcomes of the project.

4. What portion of the project budget must be allocated to gender equality and women's empowerment activities?

Gender budgeting forms an integral part of LIFT's gender equality and women's empowerment strategy. **Proposals must commit at least 20% of the programme costs** to activities which contribute to the achievement of these objectives. Reporting on specific activities and expenditure in relation to this target will need to be included in semi-annual and annual progress reports.

²¹ LIFT's Gender Strategy https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/lift-fund.org/files/uploads/Guidelines/LIFTGenderStrategy_Jan2017_FINAL.pdf

ANNEX 4: Guidance on Value for Money

The evaluation committee will use the criteria below to assess whether the proposal considered Value for Money (VfM) in its approach (e.g. benchmark costs, efficiency, alternative approaches), how the proposal represents VfM and whether it is set-up to make the assessment. If a submitting organisations considered some of the elements as not applicable, it should be noted and an explanation should be included.

VfM Description	<p>The project proposal describes how it aims to achieve or represents VfM or what the expected returns on investment are (overall or for specific project components).</p> <p><i>For example, will the project conduct cost-benefit analysis, will there be transparent procurement procedures in place, has any/credible benchmarking or cost-effectiveness data been presented to make the case for the project?</i></p>
Alternative approaches	<p>The project approach offers better VfM compared to other approaches (consider benchmarks where possible).</p> <p><i>Are alternative approaches offered or clear justifications outlined why specific approaches are selected? Have the expected results and financial costs of alternative approaches been considered?</i></p>
Robust design	<p>The project outlines a well-thought out design to achieve the project objectives.</p> <p><i>For example, this may include a thorough analysis of the project context and strategies for effective delivery, innovative approaches for promoting uptake or dissemination, promising technologies or delivery models, etc. What are the key aspects of the design that warranted the project's selection?</i></p>
Budget Alignment	<p>The project budget and outputs are aligned to allow easy VfM outreach/outcome assessment.</p> <p><i>Budget templates should be designed in a manner that enables proper alignment to the programme components on the basis of which standard VfM calculations will be performed (e.g. by 'programme outcome'). Is the budget presented to a level of detail that will allow expenditure monitoring by component, if desired?</i></p>
Data collection (M&E)	<p>The project M&E system (indicators and data collection plans) is set up to allow for assessment of VfM against the LIFT logframe and the regional and project TOCs/results frameworks.</p> <p><i>Is it possible to determine the budgeted costs of the outputs and the activities that contribute to outputs? Does the project define data collection plans and have measurable indicators that allow for VfM assessments of outcomes? Is it possible to determine the budgeted costs of the outputs and the activities that contribute to outputs?</i></p>
Long-term benefits	<p>The project is likely to be sustainable, replicable and/or scalable (or to have significant impact on policy).</p> <p><i>Does the proposal make reference to these factors in the design. For example, are cost-recovery mechanisms in place, do they have adequate documentation processes outlined for possible replication, do they have a plan for influencing policy and are the associated interventions well-designed and likely to succeed? Projects that are sustainable (e.g. activities continue once funding ceases) will continue to generate benefits even though they may not be captured in a VfM assessment. Similarly, projects that are replicable or scalable will also have the potential to generate greater benefits if they inform the design of other projects are able to have a wider reach.</i></p>

[ANNEX 5: LIFT CHIN PROGRAMME 2019-2023 \(Programme Design Document\)](#)

LIFT CHIN PROGRAMME 2019-2023
Programme Design Document

Final Version

Prepared by F Geilfus Retainer Consultant
June 10th 2019

Table of contents

1	Overview of context and development challenges in Chin State	25
2	Lessons learned from previous interventions in Chin State.....	29
2.1	Overview of LIFT interventions 2010-2019	29
2.2	Lessons learned: Nutrition	29
2.3	Lessons learned: Financial Inclusion	30
2.4	Lessons learned: Agriculture, Markets and Food Systems.....	31
2.5	Lessons learned: Decent Work and Labour Mobility	33
3	Stakeholders.....	35
3.1	Key stakeholders at community level	35
3.2	Key stakeholders at township level.....	35
3.3	Key stakeholders at Chin State Level.....	36
4	Key opportunities for development interventions.....	38
5	LIFT Chin Programme	39
5.1	Key aspects	39
5.2	Component 1: Improved nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene	39
5.3	Component 2: Sustainable and Functional Food Systems	40
5.4	Component 3: Increased opportunities for decent work and safe migration	41
Annex 5.1.....		42
6	Bibliography.....	45

1 Overview of context and development challenges in Chin State

The population of Chin State, according to provisional results of the 2014 population and housing census, counted 478,690 individuals of which 52% were women. With an area of 36,000 km², Chin State has the lowest population density of all States in the Union of Myanmar.

Several specific attributes in Chin State are linked to its geography. The mountainous terrain is steep, with narrow valley floors with limited flat land that are suitable for agriculture. The terrain is extremely rugged, and its geology creates major challenges for road construction that has implications on all aspects of peoples' lives; landslides are a common occurrence, achieving regularly catastrophic proportions as evidenced in 2015.

With poor communications and limited opportunities for agricultural intensification, integration into markets is limited. This has contributed to Chin being designated as one of the poorest regions with poverty rates as high as 73 %.

In terms of nutrition, stunting affects 41 %²² of children under five years compared with the national average of 29%. Using the Multi-Dimensional Disadvantage Index (MDI)²³, Chin is ranked fifth out of all the States and Regions of Myanmar where members of a household are unable to meet their basic minimum needs. The overall health situation for children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups from poor families is seriously impacted by food insecurity and malnutrition, as an indication, Chin State has the highest prevalence of diarrhoea in children under five (24.4%) compared to 10.4% nationally²⁴.

These problems are often a combination of having a shortage of availability and access to appropriate foods and a lack of knowledge on how to effectively utilize available food resources. Low consumption of beans and pulses and low availability of animal protein are widespread issues. The 1000 days from conception to 2 years is a period of specific vulnerability in Chin as elsewhere, with very poor indicators of maternal dietary diversity, optimal breastfeeding practices and appropriate complementary feeding. The mean duration of exclusive breastfeeding is 3.5 months and amongst the reasons given for the early cessation of breastfeeding was the need for mothers to return to work in the fields²⁵.

There are specific constraints to appropriate complementary feeding being given to children age 6 – 23 months and recent studies to inform social behaviour change (SBC) approaches have identified key behaviours which need to be targeted however, there are consistent issues of access to markets specifically for animal sourced protein. These are limited for poor and remote villagers, and eggs and milk are rarely consumed. Most households experience food shortages for several months in every year and Chin State now relies on imported and donated grain to meet approximately 30% of its total requirements.

Agriculture is considered as the mainstay of the local economy and the majority of Chin people depend on agriculture for their livelihood, although in absolute terms some studies suggest that remittances and casual labour are the greatest contributors to monetary income²⁶. The agricultural economy presents characteristics and challenges common to many upland areas in the tropics:

- Limited availability of land suitable for permanent agriculture, particularly irrigated;

²² MDHS, Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey, 2015-16 Ministry of Health and Sport

²³ Multidimensional Welfare in Myanmar December 2018. Department of Population, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the World Bank Group.

²⁴ MDHS, Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey, 2015-16 Ministry of Health and Sport

²⁵ Programme monitoring report, 2018

²⁶ Knoch L. et al. 2018. Upland Livelihoods between Local Land and Global Labour Market Dependencies: Evidence from Northern Chin State, Myanmar. Sustainability 2018, 10(10), 3707; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su10103707>

- High risk to crop production due to unpredictable devastating frosts, variable rainfall and the threat of landslides;
- Limited possibilities of intensive pasture production constraining the carrying capacity of fallow and forest areas, and incentivizing seasonal burning of forest regrowth;
- High cost of transportation to distant markets, further limiting cash crop possibilities;
- Increasing emigration (both seasonal and permanent), greatly reducing labour availability, while at the same time providing much needed remittances for livelihoods security; agricultural activities increasingly relying on elderly and youngest household members;
- Population concentrations along the communication networks (i.e. roads) increasing the cost of cultivating in distant areas, thereby eliciting increased pressure on resources in close proximity to settlements;
- Tendency to create crowded settlements for access to limited services, with reduced scope for intensive home-garden production around the houses.

These accelerating trends have contributed to a rapid transformation of traditional Chin agricultural systems that are characterized by the following processes:

- **Intensification of traditional slash and burn agriculture:** The traditional system of allocation of slash and burn areas (“lopil”) by village authorities survives, but given the concentration of habitation in close proximity to road infrastructure, villagers are less willing to travel long distances to their fields. Consequently, areas closer to villages are used more intensively with accelerated rotations. Forest regrowth has changed to a type of bush-fallow rotation, and even closer to villages, cultivation of sloping areas may be almost permanent. Degradation of fallow vegetation and impoverishment of soils are a consequence. Plots are often no longer slashed with dry vegetation being directly burnt. The variety of crops grown is also declining, affecting the dietary diversity with consequent health implications.
- **Development of paddy terraces and intensive vegetable production close to settlements:** Rice terraces were initially introduced through government initiatives that required significant investment both financial and human resources. They are increasing rapidly in areas where it is feasible, generally on slopes just beneath villages or nearby. They respond to a change of traditional diet from maize to rice. In most cases only better off households can afford to establish and maintain rice terraces.
- **Modification of traditional livestock production:** The mython or domesticated gaur is still a social and cultural prestige type of cattle, but is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain due to lack of fodder and appropriate feed. They are also being replaced by water buffaloes which can be used for ploughing rice fields. Cattle rearing is undertaken predominantly in forest areas throughout the year. They are part of the coping strategy of poor households and they reduce risk in the event of crop failure as they can be sold to purchase food. Their sale also supplies cash to pay school fees and medical expenses. Only small livestock that can be fed on crop residues etc. and can be maintained in the village. Herds follow year-round free ranging that has resulted in an increase in forest fires to stimulate regrowth of desirable feed sources.
- **Vegetable as key cash crops:** Vegetable production has become the key cash crop for many households, including those without access to rice terraces. Plots are situated near the village; access to water determines the capacity to have more than a single crop annually.
- **Increasing importance of perennial cash crops:** Several perennial crops present multiple advantages to fit into the emergent trends of upland agricultural systems. These crops have several distinct advantages including; they can be produced on small areas close to settlements, often in agroforestry combination with other types of production systems; after establishment, they require limited labour with the exception of peak activities that include pruning and harvesting; the products are less bulky, easy to transport and have a high market value per weight compared with many agricultural products; and they can be transformed for

added value. These crops are particularly convenient for households managed by ageing members.

While the traditional formerly “shifting” agriculture system is in transformation, with diminishing returns to labour resulting in a spiral of disinvestment and diminishing returns, Chin households are moving towards a cash-oriented economy based on vegetables and perennials, while rice is becoming the key staple crop as in the rest of Myanmar. The development of irrigation and concentration of settlements is creating an increasing pressure on water resources.

Access to markets constitutes the second main set of constraints in the development of the State. Agricultural value chains are not organized in a favourable way for intensification, as in most cases buyers are faced with significant investments in sourcing dispersed and irregular supplies. This also limits possibilities for investment in local processing and value adding. One of the consequences is a low share of benefit for producers, and ineffective intermediary chains. Further, it is on note that the cost of production in Chin is, according to government, four times higher than in the Central Dry Zone (CDZ) with the same technological level, due to a dearth of inputs; hence most production is based on low input systems.

Financial and business support services are also limited. Major Myanmar commercial banks have agencies in the chief towns such as Hakha, Tedim and Falam, the rest of the State being practically devoid of formal financial services. The cost of bringing credit to remote communities is prohibitive, and the GRET-initiated Thitsar Oo Yin Co-op Co. Ltd supported by LIFT is the most active microfinance institution locally. Some villages maintain revolving funds established with support from UNDP in Southern Chin. Throughout rural areas, especially the most remote, the economy of households is tied to shopkeepers and traders who not only provide loans with usurer interest rates (usually 50% to 100% over 6 months or less), but are also the main outlet for local produce. Each household is tied to a specific commitment with the shopkeeper / trader who provides the loan (amount, type of repayment, due date, etc.) which explains in part, why households prefer to operate individually when selling cash crops and wild products.

Business financial support also relies on Development Partners initiative, that include DFID supported DaNa Facility which is developing a pilot initiative in Southern Chin. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Chin State was the only state or region in the country with low to zero investment. In order to boost economic development, the Chin State Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established in early 2017, and DICA started operating in Hakha in September 2017.

Electricity coverage is relatively low: only 30 percent of Chin State has access to electricity, which is mainly concentrated in Falam, Hakha, and Mindat Townships.

Formal sectors of the economy employ but a small proportion of the working age population: government employs less than 8%, and even fewer are employees of the around 1,800 private sector employers. There is very little industrial production in Chin State and the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector is small and poorly developed due to poor infrastructure, lack of credit for investment, limited business skills and other factors. There is no national University and the nearest high-level training institution is a Technological University in Kalay; a State Agricultural Institute was recently re-established and there is a Government Technological High School in Hakha and several church-sponsored educational centres. Most facilities lack essential resources to assist students obtain hands-on experience to enter the work force. Most programs are certificate oriented and not geared to meeting requirements of industry, farming or the business sectors they are supposed to be servicing.

Not surprisingly given the conditions impairing employment, Chin has the highest percentage of migrants, with approximately half of the population living outside of the State, either within Myanmar or internationally. Major destinations include Sagaing and Yangon for internal migrants and Malaysia and the USA internationally; the migration from Chin is a mixed migration flow, as there are many asylum seekers among those going abroad. International migrants from Chin constitute a well-educated diaspora community whose remittances are important to the region's economy. There is also a sizeable labour migration of male workers, mostly to Malaysia. One of the problems with international migration from Chin is that many migrants do not return and there are no programmes to support reintegration of return migrants. The ILO report from 2015 on Internal Labour Migration in Myanmar points to a specific migration issue: many workers in road construction are internal migrants from the dry zone who work and live under difficult conditions in Chin State. There are specific health and safety issues within particular work areas such as road construction. Issues around returning migrants is viewed as a high priority by government.

Remittances from migrants are key to the livelihood strategies of many households. A recent small-scale study in Tedim Township²⁷ showed that remittance payments were the sample's greatest single source of aggregate income, constituting almost a quarter of households' aggregate earnings. For the most part remittances are not used productively as they are needed to cover everyday household expenses. Government sources point to the need to incentivize reinvestment in agriculture where remittances are sufficient. Informal interviews revealed that many households desired to engage in labour migration to realise remittance payments but that remitters also experienced fear to be left behind by younger relatives, without support for physically demanding tasks at old age.

The same study, one of the very few available on employment in Chin State, also showed that wage employment was the second most important income sector in absolute terms, constituting 18% of households' aggregate earnings, with manual labour, crushing stones for house or road construction and carpentry work as the most common occupations. Construction labour, employment to assist trade to India or locally, as well as manual labour on farms and in forests, or the service industry, offered opportunities for unskilled employment. Skilled employment was rarer, commonly in government roles, as staff in the hospital or health centres, as a school teacher or teaching assistant; or in villages, as a church employee or village electrician. Self-employed business activities generated 10% of households' aggregate income, and that concerned a reduced portion of the sample in the aforementioned study. Common business activities were the sale of food or clothes. Yet, a carpentry business, the sale of rights to quarry stones for construction work, and a local transport business, were most remunerative.

Lack of employment is a structural problem throughout all townships, exacerbating the vulnerabilities and socio-economic dependencies of women because of their disadvantaged position within the labour market. Unemployment also represents an additional trigger of stress within households often resulting in various forms of gender-based violence, especially domestic violence. Lower levels of education amongst women in comparison to men make it difficult for women to find jobs, receive equal pay and access leadership positions that could empower them to become decision-makers. The isolation of many villages, insufficient infrastructure and lack of networking possibilities further produces challenges for existing women initiatives to form a network, share information and create synergetic effects in cooperation with likeminded organizations.

²⁷ Kmoch L. et al. 2018. Upland Livelihoods between Local Land and Global Labour Market Dependencies: Evidence from Northern Chin State, Myanmar. *Sustainability* 2018, 10(10), 3707; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su10103707>

There is also a need for more attention to the conditions of the people with disabilities, who have particularly limited access to adequate employment opportunities.

Lessons learned from previous interventions in Chin State

1.1 Overview of LIFT interventions 2010-2019

LIFT commenced operations in Chin State in 2010 with a single project. Since 2016, the scope has increased with nine projects implemented by government, INGOs and NGOs working in Chin with a total value of \$28.5 million (see detailed table in Annex 5.1). All current projects will be phased out over the course of 2019. The contrasting interventions that have been implemented provided an opportunity to draw upon experiences. Key lessons learned are summarized here according to the four thematic areas selected for LIFT Strategic Plan 2019-2023: Nutrition, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture, Markets and Food Systems and Decent Work and Labour Mobility.

1.2 Lessons learned: Nutrition

The nutrition interventions supported by LIFT include one Government-led maternal and child cash transfer program (MCCT) supported by a technical assistance project, complemented by nutrition support interventions by NGO led projects (CRS/KMSS, CORAD, MIID). The following key lessons have been identified.

- **Integrated nutrition interventions require the development of comprehensive stakeholders' platforms sharing common understanding and goals, and a good measure of ownership.** Wide-ranging nutrition programmes such as MCCT require effective coordination between a range of stakeholders including government counterparts (both national and state government) in multiple departments across ministries. Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) principles need to be understood and approaches and strategies shared. A lack of clarity over the potential roles of different actors in promotion of SBC approaches and insufficient coordination between institutions can negatively affect programme progress, not to talk of the time involved in getting approvals for activities.
- **Well designed and targeted participatory approaches can enhance the effectiveness of nutrition education and training programmes and allow for more meaningful interventions.** Well-designed and targeted Participatory Approaches and Adult-Centred Learning have proven to mobilize the interest of target groups in communities, compared to one-way awareness sessions. To be effective, training requires quality facilitation, regular follow-up and long-term supportive supervision.
- **A thorough contextual analysis, utilising evidence where it exists and generating evidence where there are gaps, can ensure that nutrition approaches, including any behavioural objectives, are relevant and are prioritized according to their importance.** A strong contextual understanding is required to undertake effective behaviour-change programming, which should be evidence-based and monitored to determine whether behavioural objectives are being met. Evidence, such as that gathered through formative research, is necessary to gather critical behavioural information in diverse communities and is the foundation of a strong SBCC strategy.
- **Nutrition activities and interventions should leverage and work with existing support structures in the communities, such as health workers networks and women's organizations or community groups.** In order to change behaviours, additional interventions beyond training that support interpersonal communication, such as individual counselling and home visits, engaging key influencers, and the use of mass media or other complementary approaches may be necessary. Community based activities should be designed and delivered to be compatible with the government's approach to nutrition promotion and prevention of under nutrition. Comprehensive nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive combined approaches have shown to be impactful in achieving better nutrition outcomes.

- **Homestead food production (including home gardens, intensive agricultural plots, small livestock and agroforestry) have the potential to contribute improve dietary diversity and nutrition outcomes, but key considerations need to be addressed in order to achieve a sustainable and significant impact.** There is an assumption that given behavioural changes introduced by training and awareness, women diversify their own gardens for increased diet diversity. However, produce from homestead food production is not always consumed, with even the smallest amount of produce often serving commercial purposes. To achieve nutrition results, homestead food production should be part of a more comprehensive combined nutrition -specific and nutrition-sensitive approach, including behavioural objectives, to improve nutrition and appropriate agricultural approaches (see below section). These may include increasing women’s empowerment through access to resources, Maternal-Infant and Young Child Feeding (M-IYCF) counselling to improve nutrition practices, increasing access to animal sourced foods (either through purchase or small animal raising), and hygiene promotion, among other possible interventions.
- The homestead production of sourcing foods through crops, gardens, animal husbandry and hunting are often not optimal in part due to outdated experience in growing and tending as well as a consequence of the limitations on women’s time as they must balance their responsibilities for the home garden and animal husbandry, with housekeeping, childcare, food sourcing and preparation²⁸.
- **Cash transfer and nutrition SBCC activities require well-planned and systematic monitoring.** One of the challenges faced by MCCT has been how to involve key stakeholders with feasible operational guidelines in collecting essential follow up information. Complementary and useful learning can be developed around the causality of under-nutrition and the most effective ways to stimulate behaviour change. This will also generate useful learning around the most useful ways to shift community understanding and support nutrition in the first 1000-days.

1.3 Lessons learned: Financial Inclusion

Only one LIFT supported intervention has focused on financial inclusion in Chin state to date. GRET started providing microfinance services in 1995 in Chin using a village credit scheme methodology. Chin MFI became self-sustaining in 2003 expanding in portfolio and reaching very difficult zones. It has been consolidated into a new independent MFI, called Thitsar Ooyin. The Chin MFI has been evaluated as having excellent impact on its clientele. Key lessons learned include:

- **Offering different types and modalities of loan has proven an adequate approach for Chin conditions:** According to the Chin MFI methodology, there are two loan types: The group solidarity loan, the individual loan (microenterprise loan), which are appropriate for this segment of the population (rural women and men), allowing them to choose the loan type that is most suitable to their income-generating activity and to change from one loan use to another to maximize investment opportunities. Loan terms are one year, with interest payments monthly and principal payment at the end of the term. Members have the option of paying off some or all of the principal early; they appreciate this option. Chin MFI (Thitsar Ooyin) is also planning to develop, pilot and launch a seasonal loan (another group loan), and an investment loan to individuals for equipment or working capital.
- **There is a growing demand for micro-enterprise loans but offer is limited by lack of funds.** The microenterprise loan is popular because it is larger than the group loan. It is only available to clients who already have 2 years’ experience in group loans, and no late payments. Two guarantors are required. To date there are no late payments. It is necessary to mention that Chin MFI is not promoting these strongly because of lack of loan fund.

²⁸ Community Dialogues for understanding ICYF practices in Chin state Kantar Public/Save the Children 2018

- **There are very limited possibilities of saving services in Chin State that explains why 72% of loans have invested in livestock.** Chin MFI does not offer savings services and there is a dearth of savings service offered by other providers (cooperatives only). Group members save in animals. The loan portfolio is highly concentrated in livestock (72% of loans), which can be risky and which does not provide rotation of the portfolio. On the other hand, income-generating opportunities are very limited, and livestock raising is practical and livestock has a good market.
- **The cost of operating financial services in Chin State limits the possibilities for short-term diversification of services in rural areas:** At the same time the demand is enormous and people are mostly satisfied with any reasonable microfinance model. As they become more sophisticated, and as their businesses grow, the demand will change form, and microfinance models will have to adapt through better segmentation of populations and businesses.
- **There is no information on alternative mechanisms of value chain finance.** There is a potential for existing informal practices to evolve into safer value chain finance mechanisms but the practices are not documented and limited by the current level of development.
- **Women involvement is more limited than in other states and regions:** The social dynamics in Chin State are different and the male head of the family is responsible for contracting and reimbursing debt although both husband and wife will be involved in the investment; in the case of his death his sons take on that role. Within 2-3 loan cycles GRET report that the women begin to take charge of loans as they have often been the prime driver behind the investment so that women share has risen slowly from 40% to 60 % of clients.

1.4 Lessons learned: Agriculture, Markets and Food Systems

Five projects are dedicated, totally or partially, to agricultural development. Specific lessons learned can be defined:

- **Poor market development and communication in Chin State determine a high dependency of rural households on local food production and very different production systems have involved, interventions need to go beyond a mere focus on productivity increase.** Chin households depend for food availability, from a variety of sources i.e. shifting cultivation fields (maize, pulses), paddy fields, home-gardens, non-timber forest products, small livestock, natural fisheries and fish ponds. Most production systems have a diverse purpose that include income generation, home consumption and village level barter. Interventions have tended to focus on increasing the productivity of specific crops, with mixed results (i.e. maize-bean demonstration plots have mostly failed). There is a need for a better understanding of the local food systems, the role played by each production system, and the possible impact on food availability, access and consumption for improved nutrition and food security.
- **Intensification of paddy cultivation has positive impacts on the resilience of the food systems and requires consistent support to investment.** GRET/CORAD projects have supported paddy intensification. Topography and high investment required for paddy terraces limits this crop to small areas. Farmers have been exposed to techniques supporting intensification. Nevertheless, there are still more than 50% of them who do not adopt the system rice intensification (SRI) method due to factors such as late rainfall or lack of draught cattle. Experience shows that the range of productivity enhancing practices can be adapted to local conditions with good results. Government supports the expansion of paddy cultivation in the context of strategic intensification.
- **Horticultural crops have potential as key cash crops in Chin State if accompanied by the necessary investment in water management and appropriate adjustments to market opportunities.** Horticultural cash crops have become increasingly important, particularly in close proximity to roads and main towns. Projects have at first focused on organic practices but farmers adapt their inputs to price fluctuations. The most significant investments have been supported to develop adapted small-scale irrigation systems. The demand for this form of investment has been limited, as many villages have to use their limited supply for domestic

use. Introduction of new horticultural crops has been successful where market opportunities existed (i.e. cauliflower, broccoli). Too often, well-meaning nutrition messages come too early and/or result in promotion of crops not adapted to the local systems. Commercial production generally takes place away from the village, where land is scarce. New crops will be more or less definitely 'adopted' once farmers procure the seeds at their own cost and are able to derive some income by expanding cultivation in response not only to nutrition needs, but also to market incentives. Sometimes, garden diversity is reduced by the commercial importance of one or two crops. Supporting small-scale irrigation outside the homestead, complements the sustainability of the home gardens. Bench terraces, paddy fields, irrigated fields, orchards and agroforestry plots bring new challenges in terms of the land rights and conflicts over water access. Observation of realities on the ground would greatly enhance future strategies. Comprehensive social behaviour change approaches as well as promoting new consumption behaviours can support new agricultural practices but economic dimensions remain paramount in sustainable adoption.

- **The priority given to livestock as saving and income generation activities demonstrates the need for better adapted interventions.** To date, support for livestock development has suffered from poor adaptation to the Chin context. CORAD had supported cattle raising through a group method approach using ill-adapted breeds from the lowlands with poor understanding of pasture management issues. MIID introduced a pilot poultry project, based on improved breeding, housing and feeding conditions with the objective of increasing productivity and reducing losses when compared to the prevalent free-range approach that is currently the norm. This approach was constrained by feed availability (i.e. high protein feed sources) and the management of disease during certain times of year. Free ranging livestock presents some hygienic hazards, alternatives need to be researched. Trials with Napier grass for fodder production need to be expanded and diversified; government is keen to support mython commercial production but there is very limited local knowledge (although an ICAR mython research centre exists in nearby Nagaland, India). Trials to multiply home-based aquaculture, linked to fish production in rice fields have met with high interest from villagers with some investment capacity. Existing aquaculture suffers from the lack of appropriate practices and difficulties in brood stock and fish seed management, high protein feed, with very low productivity. Some limited commercial production exists, and high local prices are attractive. The department of fisheries can provide fingerlings to producers and the technical backstopping; they estimate a potential for fish/rice systems between 10,000 – 20,000 acres but expansion is limited by high costs, topography and lack of knowledge.
- **Experience confirms that several agricultural value chains present development opportunities, and that interventions based on market opportunities and involving value chain stakeholders have reasonable chances of success.** Government is targeting crops such as coffee, avocado, grapes, sericulture, tree bean and elephant foot yam (EFY) as an alternative to shifting cultivation, that could drive the shift towards intensification. Sustainability of livelihood activities are linked to cost effectiveness without subsidies, and to both input and output markets. There is a lack of information on the market for these crops along with limited understanding of constraints on the supply side; this includes important cross border exchanges with India. The lack of economic vision and sound tools for micro-economic analysis has been a common weakness of projects; necessary technical skills are scarce. As a result, there is very little in terms of meaningful cost benefit analysis, and engagement of private sector actors has taken time to emerge. Inviting brokers and engaging with key market actors has been time consuming but started to pay for some value-added items such as grape. Direct dialogue between farmers and brokers have led to a different focus of intervention.
- **The predefined farmer group based technical training approaches have shown some potential but also serious limitations for ensuring meaningful adoption of innovation.** While the group approach used by several IPs, especially in support of home gardening, shows that

participatory agricultural development approaches may foster innovation and farmer experimentation, it has also revealed that some predefined choices are not adopted due to high labour, limited or delayed returns in the face of fluctuating markets and the need to ensure a quick return.

- **Farmer groups are more effective if based on strong, common interest rather than on project offer.** Groups based on common production systems and commercial interests have shown better initiative and ownership than those based on project training curriculum. In most projects, the village administrators are closely associated to farmer groups which ensures good communication with both farmer groups and project teams. Strict training curriculum may impose an unnecessary time burden and erode members motivation.
- **The improvement of shifting agriculture needs to be based on existing social and technological practice and not on supply driven concepts.** Projects have focused on awareness raising activities and pre-defined technological alternatives based on assumptions that villagers are unaware of NRM issues and trends. What is at the centre of the problem is the weakening of the traditional organizational capacity to ensure appropriate management of common lands, which are a mainstay of Chin cultural survival. While areas likely to be subject to a process of intensification see a rapid change of tenure practice, degradation of common areas is due to their lessening importance in livelihood strategies of the most favoured households. Traditional organization of land allotment, burning and pasture availability is facing increasing challenges; there is a need for new ways to face the issue and a more enabling environment to implement them. Viable technological responses are those which will support the new local institutional approach to community land management. Customary land tenure is specific and shows a wide diversity so that local experiments are key.
- **Women involvement tends to increase with ownership of interventions; however, it is slower than in other regions of Myanmar.** Women attendance has increased over time and has even been more than men attendance in some groups. The degree of involvement is still low compared to other regions of Myanmar, probably due to cultural habits of Chin families which points to the need for allowing them to progressively change their way and build self-confidence of women to engage in various levels and work of the farmer groups. There is potential for emphasizing interventions that boost women's confidence, control over decisions, control over resource strengthening an essential pathway between agriculture and nutrition.
- **Partnerships with Government agencies and universities are necessary but time consuming.** Obtaining the necessary authorization from state and central government to operate in specific townships and villages is vital in Chin State, especially since several areas are considered sensitive, and has affected project deployment in the past. Negotiating MoUs with Government may take months of engagement. Several projects are witness to the increasing demand for information and supervision from the Chin government and line ministry agencies, which rarely exchange information between themselves so that requests have obviously increased the administrative workload of the project teams.
- **M&E systems need thorough revision to be able to measure significant progress and enable adaptive management.** In the majority of cases, agricultural projects primarily assess the output activities and targets as related to the Logical Framework, but do not effectively measure key outcomes and changes and fail to attribute value to the cause and effect of a particular action. Answers to the learning questions in the MEAL framework are more than often treated cursorily as a bureaucratic requirement rather than key elements of learning.

1.5 Lessons learned: Decent Work and Labour Mobility

Only one project has invested significantly in skills development outside agriculture; the same project is also addressing the issues of migration. Key achievements and constraints identified are as follows:

- **Few projects have addressed unemployment of youth in Chin State which is poorly addressed by agriculture-oriented projects.** Youth have few opportunities, reduced motivation to remain in the agricultural economy, have little skills, employment or income prospects within the villages and towns. Employment and occupation opportunities are a societal problem and job migration a much recurring issue. Most project's focus on sustainable livelihoods and natural resources management in rural and remote highland villages does not lend itself well to the issues of young people who have moved out of villages to towns or elsewhere. Only 10% of youth participate in farmer groups in one key project; this was explained by a lack of interest for farming and the preference for quick income generation's activities (wood sawing, road construction, temporary migration to India, brick making, casual labour) but also to the land inheritance issues in the Chin customary laws that favour one of the sons, leaving the others looking for their own lands which have become quite difficult in the current situation of land pressure in the villages and has led them to pursue off-farm activities within or outside the villages.
- **Adequate selection of TVET and life skills trainees is vital for success and all the more important given the logistical issues of Chin State:** Skill development trainees in Chin were not selected in line with the selection criteria (i.e. where not aspirant migrants and/ or members from remittance receiving households) so that financial resources and time were invested into trainees that will not contribute to the increase of the developmental impact of labour migration and that have potentially taken the place of those who could have. This was due to the fact that village elders involved in the process had not been sufficiently informed and accompanied.
- Because of the rigid gender norms that exist within rural areas of Myanmar, **women are frequently limited to training in jobs that are considered traditionally women's work**, including beauty salons, sewing, weaving and hospitality. Though these choices are often self-selected, TVET programmes that proactively support participation of women in non-traditional occupations can be beneficial in challenging restrictive gender roles. For example, offering women-only trainings can encourage participation in courses that might otherwise present an intimidating learning environment.
- **The private sector in Chin State and in main migration destinations within Myanmar need to be involved in the planning and targeting of skills development programmes:** Experience of other projects in Myanmar demonstrates how appropriate scoping of key sectors and involvement of private sectors in curriculum development and practical training have allowed for high degrees of post-training employment. Private sector linkage ensures that the course content is relevant to jobs in the labour market. In addition, creating direct linkages with private sector employers through internships, on-the-job training and job fairs helps to ensure they will find jobs after completing the courses.

- 2 The operational context in Chin presents unique challenges for outreach on safe migration. Formal trainings structured around course work and exercises are not well-suited to Chin communities in difficult-to-reach areas and with low literacy levels. In addition, partly as a result of promoting such events through the established networks of local leaders – who are disproportionately older men – many safe migration outreach activities also suffer from limited participation among women and youth. As an alternative modality for delivery, live theatre has proven highly effective due to its open-ended storytelling that goes beyond passive consumption. The intensity of live acting is more engaging for audiences and presents people from all backgrounds with the opportunity to observe something interesting enough to command their whole attention. Moreover, as theatre is an oral medium, literacy is not an issue.

Stakeholders

There is no comprehensive stakeholders mapping study in Chin State for development purposes. Project proposal documents usually only enumerate stakeholders and their possible role in projects, without any capacity analysis. Key stakeholders are presented hereby according to the respective levels of governance: community/village tract, township, Chin State and Union level. Other key categories are Private Sector enterprises and NGOs/CSOs which operate at different levels, and often from outside the limits of the State.

2.1 Key stakeholders at community level

The governance at community level is based on Village Tract Administrators who are the official representatives of Government, with village elders still playing an important although not formally recognized role. This role is particularly important in communal land allocation: Village Chairman and the Village Committee allocate land to applicants in most of the villages, but there are still many communities where the Village Chief assigns lands to all except hereditary title holders, often by drawing lots. The Village Administrator needs to be informed of any development intervention in their area. Village Development Plans are supposed to be elaborated with wide participation of local constituents.

Key development players at community level include:

- Agriculture sector: Most farmer groups are informal and organized by projects. Some projects have established networks of model/reference farmers. Agricultural extensionists (from NGO projects and Township Agriculture Department) visit villages in a more or less regular fashion. Agricultural value chain actors (buyers and brokers, input dealers) are not permanently based in villages.
- Education sector: Primary school principals and teachers,
- Health/nutrition sector: Healthcare facilities heads and staff, community health workers and midwives and assistant midwives.
- Social sector: Church-based community organizations are in most cases responsible for running orphanages, homes for elderly people and/or PwDs, as well as charity schemes for vulnerable and poor families in the villages. CSOs are also assuming responsibility for support schemes to pay medical expenses, transport to hospitals, organizing of blood donors, school transport and scholarships for secondary school students. They further provide mobilizing funds for employment of additional teachers where and when warranted.

2.2 Key stakeholders at township level

At Township level, development steering and coordinating role is played by the township General Administration Department (GAD) office and the Township Administrator (TA) as in all townships nationwide. They are assisted by the Township Management Committee (TMC), the Township Development Supportive Committee (TDSC) and the Township Municipal Affairs Committee (TMAC). The TMC as the executive committee, with the TDSC and TMAC serving as advisory bodies. The majority of township development priorities are decided by consensus between the committees, which are

composed of the officers from the different departments represented locally. Township Development Strategies and Programmes are prepared by the technical teams of TRDSP with the cooperation of community and stakeholders of the township, after consolidating the village development plans prepared by village communities. The state government, based in Hakha, recognises proposals from the township level only with the signatures of all the three committee chairpersons so that decisions on township planning and other issues raised via the TMC are ultimately made by consensus in Chin State. The fact that the TDSC and TMAC have to co-sign the township development plan not only ensures that they have been properly consulted in the process, but also raises their status and creates some form of mutual accountability.

In practice, local governments have but limited funding for the development planning; given the increasing injection of funding for development in recent years, township level committees in Chin have played a key role in coordinating and ratifying proposals for development projects funded by the state, and subsequently to monitor and supervise them.

The key Township Departments relevant for the Chin Programme are:

- Township Department of Social Welfare (DSW) is responsible for specific social programs necessary to secure Community Based Social Protection Mechanisms in Myanmar, the rights and needs of vulnerable groups. The department is understaffed and lacking implementation budgets to assume its responsibilities. The responsibilities of a township DSW covers the following areas: planning and budgeting for social welfare committee activities; monitoring activities and institutions (boarding schools, pre-schools, social service centres, homes for elderly people etc.); and finance, administration and reporting.
- Township Health Department.
- Township Agriculture Department.

2.3 Key stakeholders at Chin State Level

The main ministries and departments relevant to the Programme at State level are the following:

Chin State Minister of Social Affairs: The Ministry operates with three subordinate departments - Health, Education, and Social Welfare and Resettlement. Most DSWs has nominally a staff of 5-6 persons, which includes a Director, a Deputy Director, Senior and Junior Clerks, and an Assistant. The minimum academic levels of a Bachelor degree required, does not always match the requirements of the thematic area and specialization. Not all townships in Chin State have a Social Welfare Department.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is represented in Chin by a field office together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are key partner for the decent work and migration interventions.

As a consequence of weak and poorly funded government institutions, Non-Governmental/ Civil Society Organizations (CSO) are assuming greater responsibility for key areas such as agricultural development, nutrition support and social welfare services and social protection of vulnerable groups in Chin State. Some of these organizations have stepped in with support from donors, chiefly LIFT and UNDP, while other organizations are mainly connected to the churches, the majority of which to the Baptist Church, but also some to the Roman-Catholic Church and a number of minor churches. Still there are many examples where remote villages do not benefit from these support schemes and are left with no social protection mechanisms. Implementation of social welfare initiatives at village level are almost exclusively the responsibility of CSOs, the result of a combination of insufficient government resources, mistrust towards government initiatives and a strong church based civil society. This environment is strongest in Northern Chin State, where the Baptist Church is predominant. The Baptist Church is an example of a strong and well-organized civil society structure with an elaborate

hierarchical framework and many ramifications and activities. Churches assume responsibility for a wide range of social services, including; social security schemes, orphanages, caring for the elderly; education and health services; cultural celebrations and community development activities. They also have plans and projects to start vocational training and micro-credit schemes. In Southern Chin State, where the religious landscape is more diverse and the government structure equally under- developed, there is a lower level of support for social welfare in the villages.

Table 1: Main NGOs active in Chin State

Acronym	Full name	Type
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency	INGO
AYO	Aryone Oo Foundation	NNGO
CACC	Chin Association for Christian Communication	Faith based
CARD	Community Association for Rural Development	NNGO
CCERR	Chin Committee for Emergency Response and Rehabilitation	Network
CCPR	Chin Center for Peace and Reconciliation	NNGO
CCSN	Chin Civil Society Network	Network
CCU	Chin Christian University	Faith based
CHRO	Chin Human Rights Organization	INGO
CORAD	Chokhlel Organization for Rural and Agricultural Development	LNGO
CPTC	Chin Peace and Tranquillity Committee	LNGO
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	INGO
ECDC	Eden Centre For Disabled Children	NNGO
GRET	Groupe de Recherche et d’Echange Technologique	INGO
KMSS	Karuna Mission Social Solidarity	Faith based
LWF	Lutheran Lutheran World Federation Myanmar Program	INGO
MIID	Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development	NNGO
SCI	Save the Children International	INGO
SDO	Senthang Development Organization	LNGO
TAB	Tedim Association of Baptists	Faith based
TBC	Tedim Baptist Convention	Faith based
DRC	Danish Refugee Counsel	INGO
IRC	International Red Cross	INGO
MRCS	Myanmar Red Cross Society	LNGO

NNGO: National- LNGO: Local- INGO: International

While civil society engagement in township systems is increasing, this also brings challenges. In many of the Townships the government administrative coordination bodies that civil society hoped to engage with are not yet operating effectively. Therefore, engagement with local authorities has been different in different townships, depending on the specific opportunity in that township. In some cases, IPs have also needed to take requests up to State level authorities to gain permission for township coordination activities.

3 Key opportunities for development interventions

The realities of Chin State development are characterized by strong limitations affecting all aspects of life, mostly linked to the physical isolation and communication difficulties, which are to remain as strong structural obstacles notwithstanding the considerable investments being made. This said, the past few years of intensifying development interventions in Chin State point to a series of opportunities which can form the base for improved mobilization, taking into account the lessons learned. The opportunities are starting points to the strategic areas proposed in the programme.

Nutrition:

- Ample scope for expanding the coverage and quality of nutrition support services and strengthening institutional capacities;
- Potential for much expanded and more sustainable mobilization of community mother's organizations and social behaviour change approaches;
- Interest of government in piloting of a school feeding program targeting nursery and primary school levels as a priority;
- Possibilities of improving the intervention of CSOs in nutrition-oriented interventions by providing best practices and professional coaching and support.

Agriculture:

- Existence of incipient and developing value chains in horticulture and fruit production with potential for growth and aggregation;
- Successful experiences in small scale irrigation systems adapted to local conditions;
- Potential for supporting and strengthening current trends towards nutrition sensitive intensification of homestead-based production systems (home gardens, small livestock, agroforestry etc.);
- Existence of community-based customary land and resources management systems still supported culturally with a potential for adaptation to the present challenges;
- Existence of networks of extension workers and pilot producers and groups from different CSOs.

Decent Work and Labour Mobility:

- There appears to be ample room for the development of local vocational training programs and employment opportunities, to offer younger Chin residents alternatives to labour migration.
- Challenges for the aging population that stays behind, may be addressed by local organization and linkages to the diaspora. Remittance receivers may benefit from targeted advice on sustainable longer-term investment options, where payments are sufficient to cover more than household's expenses for immediate food needs.
- Remittance payments and the human and social capital that the large Chin diaspora entails could further be mobilised to leverage sustainable development processes. Further, there is room for a returning Chin diaspora to develop profitable enterprises.
- There is ample need for support activities such as safe migration information and services, comprehensive reintegration services for return migrants, labour market information system and job matching services, enterprise development training linked to access to credit, support to State-level policy on migration and research on labour market assessment.

4 LIFT Chin Programme

4.1 Key aspects

The Chin programme aims at contributing to LIFT 2019-2023 strategic outcomes:

- *Improved nutrition status, particularly of women and children in remote communities;*
- *Increased household income and assets, through improved inclusion in agricultural value chain and labour markets, with greater control by women;*
- *Reduced vulnerability of households and individuals to shocks, stresses and risks by diversification of income and food security sources and improved management of key natural resources.*

The Chin programme purpose is:

To strengthen the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups in Chin State, particularly women, improving their food security and dietary diversity, reducing their vulnerability and facilitating their access to financial services.

LIFT's approach to addressing the challenges faced by agriculture, nutrition and employment opportunities are structured around three core integrated objectives:

- *Reduced stunting in children aged under five by focusing on the pathways which lead to under nutrition during the first 1,000 days by increased institutional capacity to deliver quality and far-reaching nutrition interventions and promoting adoption of improved nutrition, dietary, sanitation and hygiene practices.*
- *Improved incomes and resilience through inclusive, climate smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural value chain development, diversification of homestead production systems and adaptation of community based natural resource management systems.*
- *Expanded opportunities for decent work through safe migration and comprehensive support for the return and social and economic reintegration of the Chin diaspora.*

The programme for Chin has three components corresponding to these core objectives:

- Improved nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Sustainable and functional food systems.
- Safe migration and decent work.

The components target three key categories of beneficiaries:

- Remote upland communities with low food security and poor access to services;
- Productive households with potential for engagement in value chain development;
- Unemployed youths; displaced people and migrants and their households.

4.2 Component 1: Improved Nutrition

The LIFT strategy in Nutrition pursues increased adoption of improved nutrition, dietary, sanitation and hygiene practices

The programme approach should address the vulnerabilities of rural and poor communities which lead to food and nutrition insecurity. Proposals should contribute to a programme which addresses underlying causes of poor nutrition including poverty, livelihoods and women's empowerment in order to improve access, availability and utilisation of a safe and good quality diet for those who most need it. The integration of components, overlap of target households and communities and collaboration amongst stakeholders will contribute to breaking the cyclical nature of poor nutrition, vulnerability and resilience. The following sections outline the key strategic elements and principles of the different Sub-programmes. These sub programmes follow the strategic structure of LIFT 2019-2023 strategy.

Nutrition-specific interventions will ensure increasing the quality and coverage of nutrition interventions towards the priority target groups. New interventions will take into account the lessons learned at policy, operational and community levels:

- In support of the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) and the State Government to scale up Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) by building on evidence and previous investments: further technical backing, innovations in technology and , for a more inclusive approach to maternal and child cash transfers to reach the most vulnerable or hard-to-reach groups in Chin State and improved approaches to SBC for MCCT and Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding (M-IYCF).
- Using evidence-based research to inform the design of Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) approaches to reinforce the nutrition and food systems interventions to address the immediate and underlying causes of undernutrition. The designed approaches should be contextually specific and relevant.
- Support sustainable interventions to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices, and environmental hygiene. Explore innovations related household water treatment and safe storage techniques as appropriate.
- SBC nutrition sensitive agriculture, market and food systems interventions will be supported by evidence based design of contextually specific and gender responsive approaches which are developed in coordination and collaboration with Component 2.
- Community based interventions to support approaches to prevent stunting should be developed in conjunction with current health outreach services and existing interventions that address all types malnutrition under the framework of the MS-NPAN. Approaches should be pursued which can be expanded and adapted to the socio-cultural context of Chin rural communities, demonstrating impact, sustainability and scalability.

4.3 Component 2: Sustainable agricultural markets and functional food systems

The agriculture, food systems and markets sub-programme acknowledges the complexity and peculiarities of Chin agricultural systems and will concentrate on two strategic areas. Successful interventions should be catalytic, innovative and address the implications of climate variability and change.

- The component will support the inclusive development of promising agricultural value chains and markets along with sustainable intensification of these cash crops. Commodities with a potential for value chain development beneficial to smallholder households in general, and to the empowerment of rural women in particular, include but not limited to several horticultural crops (onion, cauliflower, broccoli), grapes, elephant foot yam and selected tree crops such as avocado, coffee and tree bean. Further development of these cash crops needs to be market driven (i.e. private sector and other actors). The private sector along with critical actors relevant to value chain and market development need to be involved as stakeholders and their nature and role clearly articulated in proposals. Proposals that do not include market actors will not be considered. Preliminary mapping and assessment of targeted value chains as part of proposals will be an important asset. Production technologies need to be scalable and sustainable within an economic context rather than sustained by project incentives. Further, producers will need to organize around functional and vibrant value chain development opportunities in order to achieve the competitive advantages linked to aggregation, rather than based on supply-driven training. Proposals that leverage private sector co-investment will be looked upon favourably as a means of leveraging LIFT funds. Critical to sustainability and resilience of these value chains is the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices along

with climate smart / resilient processing approaches.

- Diversification and intensification of homestead and village-based production for combined nutrition and income generation objectives. It combines support to nutrition-sensitive development and vulnerability reduction purposes, considering homestead intensive agricultural and small livestock (i.e. goats, chickens and small-scale aquaculture) activities as the main focus for significant nutrition-sensitive development. Some commodities included in these intensive systems, can be the target of value chain commercial development. Interventions in support of diversification and intensification along with women empowerment need to be based on solid assumptions as to their sustainability post intervention and should target households with children under 2 years of age.

4.4 Component 3: Job creation for decent work

LIFT Decent Work and Labour Mobility strategy will be adapted to the conditions of Chin State and targeting chiefly the youth and women who lack stable employment and contemplate migration, and the migrant's households. For employment in Chin State, the opportunities are limited in terms of corporate employers, so that more importance will be given to skills development for self-employment and SME based jobs. For migration, the existence of a large and structured Chin diaspora will also be a key aspect to be considered. Research is required in several aspects, as acknowledged by stakeholders. The decent work and labour mobility programme in Chin will focus on migration and development interventions. Key aspects of the sub-programme will be:

- Support for the expansion of the tourism industry within Chin State to create jobs for women and men in poor households. This may include training programmes on eco-tourism product development and marketing, filling the skills gap through training for tourism and hospitality jobs, addressing the lack of tourist services by promoting socially and environmentally responsible investment opportunities and development of micro-businesses in supporting industries.
- Delivery of social and economic reintegration services to support the return of Chin migrants. This may include market-oriented technical and vocational education and training in partnership with government and private sector service providers to support local employment of women and men, particularly through on-the-job training and women-only cohorts in non-traditional sectors of work. Small enterprise development training linked to access to credit, with priority given to women entrepreneurs. Peer networking opportunities to establish community among repatriates, share employment and business ideas and build social capital – including formation of women's groups. Engagement of the Chin diaspora through overseas associations to maintain linkages and encourage investment.
- Development of a labour market information system and provision of job matching services to expand accessibility to decent job opportunities and safe migration for workers, as well as to encourage investment. The information and services provided will be inclusive of opportunities for employment within the local labour market, in urban centers within Myanmar and through migration to destination countries. This may include labour market assessment to determine the supply and demand for labour, improving the public information systems on job openings at Labour Exchange Offices, organizing of job fairs and internship opportunities and support for expanding accessibility of workplaces for people with disabilities, in cooperation with the private sector.

Annex 5.1

Past and current LIFT intervention in Chin State

Project title	Period	Implementation partners	Geographic area	Budget US \$	Main thematic areas	Main activities
Sustainable Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management in 5 Townships of Northern Chin State	Nov 2010– Jul 2015	GRET Partners: CORAD	Hakha, Falam, Tedim and Thantlang townships	3,471,205	Agriculture (paddy, horticulture, NRM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture extension services • Watershed management and sustainable use of natural resources
Agroforestry Alternatives to Shifting Cultivation in the Uplands of Myanmar	Oct 2014– Feb 2017	World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Partners: Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association (AYO), Yezin University of Forestry	Tedim township(New Suang Pi village) (also in Shan and Yezin)	400,470	Agriculture (agroforestry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroforestry demonstration and research • Knowledge Platform • Student training and curriculum development
Promoting Agricultural Diversification and Economic Integration in Northern Chin State	Jun 2016 - Dec 2019	CORAD Partners: GRET, ICIMOD	Hakha, Tedim, Falam, Thantlang and Tonzang townships	2,943,141	Agriculture (paddy, horticulture, NRM) Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture extension services • Value chain support to producer groups • Watershed management and sustainable use of natural resources • Knowledge sharing through to the Chin Livelihood and Food Security Working Group

Project title	Period	Implementation partners	Geographic area	Budget US \$	Main thematic areas	Main activities
Maternal and child cash transfer programme in Chin State (MCCT)	Mar 2017 - Jun 2019	Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Partners: Ministry of Health and Sports and other relevant ministries, UNICEF, Save The Children.	All townships in Chin State	1,500,000 (Operations) 7,497,480 (Cash transfer)	Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash payments to pregnant women and below two year old children to increase access to nutrition and health services as part of the National Strategy for Social Protection, nutrition education and social behavior change communication
Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement's Chin Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Program (TEAM MCCT)	Jul 2017 - Jun 2019	Save the Children International (+ IRC, Danish Red Cross)	All townships in Chin State	3,852,283	Nutrition Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance to DSW to develop and implement a coordinated Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) strategy in Chin State
Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement (PACE)	Jun 2016 - May 2019	Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Partners: KMSS (Karuna Mission Social Solidarity)	Falam, Thantlang townships and Rezua sub-township of Matupi township	1,813,203	Nutrition Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agriculture • Nutrition promotion for pregnant and lactating women and children (1000 Days) through the Care Group Model

Project title	Period	Implementation partners	Geographic area	Budget US \$	Main thematic areas	Main activities
Increasing the Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through strengthened Governance and Partnership (Twe Let)	Jan 2017 - Jun 2019	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Partners: Chin Human Rights Organization and PGMF (in Chin)	Hakha, Thantlang, Falam, Tedim and Tonzang (in Chin)	6,475,839	Safe migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe migration outreach • Financial literacy training • Skills development • Job matching • Policy advocacy on mainstreaming migration into national and local sectoral development planning.
Securing Positive Nutritional Outcome through Agriculture Extension, Nutritional Education and Institution Building in Rural Chin State	Jun 2016 - May 2019	Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) Partners: Cornell University	Hakha township	1,665,851	Agriculture, nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration and farmer-field schools on integrated farming system (crop – livestock – aquaculture) • Nutrition and gender promotion • Support to the State Agriculture Institute
Expanding Rural Financial Services by Institutionalizing Chin MFI	Dec 2015- Jun 2019	GRET and Chin Micro Finance Institution	Thantlang, Hakha, Falam, Tedim and Tonzang townships and Kalay (Sagaing)	1,320,176	Inclusive finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legalisation of Chin MFI • Developing new loan product • New area expansion • Supporting 2015 flood affected households
Uplands Small-Grants Fund for Civil Society	Aug 2016- Aug 2019	SWISSAID Partners: GRET and Metta Development Foundation	Hakha, Falam, Tedim townships (also in Kachin, Shan, and Kayah states)	3,500,000	Skills training, agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small grant fund for local civil society organisations (CSOs); • CSOs capacity strengthening in livelihoods, management and governance

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