

Research, Network and Support Facility (RNSF)

“Support to enhance livelihoods per people dependent on informal economy
and improve social inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable persons”

Good Practices and Lessons Learned

RESEARCH QUESTION	2-Decent work and enterprise growth
SUB-TOPICS (Research matrix)	<u>Innovative approaches to enhance livelihoods, equity and inclusion: Social inclusion promotion (awareness raising on social inclusion in IE (4.3))</u>
REGION - COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION	Asia - Myanmar
RESUME OF LESSONS LEARNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are multiple barriers limiting young people’s ability to participate, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - their economic need to earn a daily income - parental/family pressure to work to support the family or help with domestic tasks - family migration/seasonal migration for work - lack of time to participate in training programmes - extreme poverty which means young people do not have any money to pay for transportation costs even for relatively small distances - perceptions of their own worthlessness/lack of value or stigma and discrimination, which mean they do not have the confidence to apply to participate in the first place. • It is important to work closely with families from the start of a programme in order to build their understanding and acceptance of the programme and gain their support for young people’s participation. • Community sensitisation at the start of a programme should be done directly by project staff and others
PROJECT NAME	<i>Y CARE International ‘Empowering civil society to promote the enhanced socio-economic wellbeing of vulnerable young people in Myanmar’</i>
YEAR	2013 - 2016
FUNDING AGENCY	European Commission
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	National Council of Myanmar Young Men Christian Associations (YMCA) of Myanmar and Y Care International
KEY TARGET GROUPS	Youth (18-24), Children (up to age 18), People with disabilities, Trafficked children and adults.

<p>SUMMARY OF THE ACTION</p>	<p>The project aims to contribute to the social and economic empowerment of vulnerable young people in Myanmar. It consists in (1) strengthening the capacity of 5 CSOs to meet the needs of young people; (2) providing sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable young people; (3) empowering young people to participate in community life and decision making; (4) reducing stigma and discrimination against marginalised young people.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED</p>	<p>Implementation of the Action involved a steep learning curve, during which staff built their capacity and understanding of how to work most effectively with extremely vulnerable youth. The most significant lesson has been how difficult it is to attract and retain extremely vulnerable and marginalised young people to development programmes, even those with tangible benefits such as livelihoods training and associated support (starter kits/sub-grants). There are multiple barriers limiting young people’s ability to participate, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - their economic need to earn a daily income - parental/family pressure to work to support the family or help with domestic tasks - family migration/seasonal migration for work - lack of time to participate in training programmes - extreme poverty which means young people do not have any money to pay for transportation costs even for relatively small distances - perceptions of their own worthlessness/lack of value or stigma and discrimination, which mean they do not have the confidence to apply to participate in the first place. <p>The Action has employed a number of strategies to address these barriers, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working closely with beneficiaries and their families through sensitization and home visits to communicate the value of the programme and the changes it could lead to in their lives; - payment of transportation costs / provision of bicycles; - scheduling of activities with beneficiaries to try as much as possible to fit with their other commitments; - shortening of training programme/implementation of some activities concurrently so that young people could realise the benefits more quickly; - rights-based training and activities to reduce stigma and discrimination against vulnerable groups; - working with specialised CSOs (MILI and Kings N Queens) to ensure additional support for particularly vulnerable young people with disabilities and LGBTI young people. <p>In addition to the above, the project has also learnt the following key lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While those with additional vulnerability factors such as disabilities and LGBTI groups are undoubtedly marginalised, young people who do not fit these categories but are extremely poor, under-educated and un-skilled are also extremely

	<p>vulnerable and can in some cases experience greater vulnerability due to lack of support from CSOs. (There are specialised CSOs working with people with disabilities and LGBTI groups.) They also experience stigma and discrimination from their communities who perceive them as worthless and unskilled with nothing to offer. This should be considered when designing target groups and selection criteria for future programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is important to work closely with families from the start of a programme in order to build their understanding and acceptance of the programme and gain their support for young people’s participation. - Community sensitisation at the start of a programme should be done directly by project staff and others (e.g. local authorities and community leaders) should not be relied upon to share accurate information. - Livelihoods support activities must be designed bearing in mind target beneficiaries’ education level. It was found that job finding support (e.g. CV and interview preparation) and job linking with formal employment opportunities has been relevant for only a small number of the selected beneficiaries due to their low education levels. - In addition to proficiency in livelihoods skills, trainers must be supported to build their training/facilitation skills and should be sensitised to work effectively with the target group. - Young people in Myanmar have extremely low levels of knowledge and understanding of civic education and sustained education and training is needed to build this. This Action has successfully started this process, but further efforts will be needed to ensure that young people continue to build their skills and confidence to effectively participate in their country’s development.
<p>CONCLUSIONS AND RECCOMENDATIONS</p>	<p>It was not possible to find out from the evaluation report good practices or lessons learned that could be of interest for IESF. Lessons essentially concern the management, implementation and strategy of project.</p> <p>Although one of the objectives of the project was to set up a kind of informal activity for the beneficiaries, little is said about the implementation of this aspect of the project and it is only referred to difficulties due to the absence of interest from the parents and the lack of additional funding.</p> <p>The most significant lesson has been how difficult it is to attract and retain extremely vulnerable and marginalised young people to development programmes, even those with tangible benefits such as livelihoods training and associated support (starter kits/sub-grants).</p>
<p>FURTHER TAGS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening the capacity of government and civil society organisations, including on micro-finance (1.9) ▪ Awareness raising, behaviour change communications methods, dissemination of information methods- including on social inclusion in the IE (3.1, 4.3) ▪ People with disabilities in the informal economy (providing support and inclusion of) (4.9), Trafficked individuals (4.11)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other vulnerable groups (4.11) ▪ Leadership, life skills, empowerment training (3.4)
SOURCE(s)	RNSF Research Volume 4.3: https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/iesf/documents/rnsf-research-volume-43-gp-ii-15-ec-funded-projects
REFERENCE(s)	EUROPEAID Project page: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/projects/empowering-civil-society-promote-enhanced-socio-economic-wellbeing-vulnerable-young-people_en

