



# EBO MYANMAR

ADDB Inc – Canada  
Euro-Burma Office – Belgium  
EBO Foundation – Chiang Mai

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## FOREWORD BY HARN YAWNGHWE EBO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Three momentous and historic events took place in Myanmar in 2015. As a result of the elections on 8 November, the people gave Aung San Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), 80% of the contested seats, and she will now form the next government in 2016.

EBO had the privilege of being involved in the other two momentous events. One was the signing of the Deed of Commitment on 12 February – Union Day – by President Thein Sein and his government, pledging to establish a federal democratic nation, something the ethnic people have been working for since 1947.

The second was the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) by the government and eight ethnic armed organizations on 15 October. The Karen people and others have been fighting the government for the last 66 years to get their rights recognized. With this Agreement, official and inclusive political dialogue must legally begin to avoid voiding the NCA, which will determine the shape of the nation in the future.

Following the historical pledge for federalism from the Government, EBO organized a series of federalism trainings throughout the country to ensure that key leaders and grassroots level stakeholders learn about the concept of federalism, and how this political system could be applied to Myanmar.

Throughout 2015, EBO supported a myriad of CSO projects, with a focus on initiatives intending to ensure a fair representation of women in political spheres. EBO also continued to provide education opportunities to ensure younger generations are educated citizens with international exposure and a strong will to bring about the changes they wish for themselves and their children.

In 2016, the work of EBO will focus on supporting the democratically-elected government, especially with regards to sustaining the peace process. EBO intends to continue liaising with key stakeholders to support a peaceful democratic and inclusive dialogue, and building solid peaceful foundations that provide opportunities for a better future for everyone.

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# FACILITATION & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

EBO provides facilitation and technical support to help resolve conflicts and reconcile differences through dialogue. EBO supports the Myanmar peace process by acting as a facilitator or advisor in crisis situations, by communicating with various factions involved in conflicts or political deadlocks. EBO aims to develop trust between stakeholders by helping build relationships that will underpin channels of communication between different groups. EBO does not seek to advance any side's agenda or any particular ideology.

In most situations, EBO uses informal channels to facilitate communications between groups and builds on the collective experience of EBO staff and international expert consultants. It also draws on the experience and knowledge of other peace processes.

EBO helps to prepare stakeholders for effective participation in negotiations; ensuring that all sides are well informed on the latest developments and are acquainted with the ins-and-outs of formal and non-formal processes. EBO also provides support in ensuring lessons learned and best practices are shared among different groups in order to maximise the potential for successful negotiations.

For long-term solutions, EBO seeks to initiate and support sustainable, long-term resolutions to conflicts by promoting the participation of all key stakeholders in dialogue processes. EBO aims to achieve lasting settlements to violent and complex conflicts in Myanmar, both military and political. By doing so, EBO aims not

only to end the suffering directly caused by conflicts, but also to address the problems of poverty, human rights infringements, lack of proper education, under-developed economy, and other issues that are the inevitable by-products of violence and political unrest.

EBO facilitates dialogue with, and in-between:

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✧ Ethnic Armed Organizations | ✧ Political Parties           |
| ✧ Tatmadaw (Government Army) | ✧ Other decision-makers       |
| ✧ Ethnic Political Parties   | ✧ Civil Society Organizations |
| ✧ Government                 | ✧ International Community     |

In 2015, EBO facilitation work mainly focused on:

- ✧ The Deed of Commitment (DoC)
- ✧ The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)
- ✧ The Union-level Political Dialogue process
- ✧ State-based Political Dialogue processes
- ✧ Maintaining the Bilateral Ceasefire Agreements and keeping the peace by supporting Liaison Offices and building their capacity.

Much of this work was supported by the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) as well as the Common Space Initiative (CSI). The EBO-FELM-CSI consortium manages the funds for the peace process provided by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The objective of this partnership is to facilitate the peace process by supporting and strengthening it as well as the emerging political dialogue through technical support and confidence building between the dialogue partners.

THE DEED OF COMMITMENT (DOC)

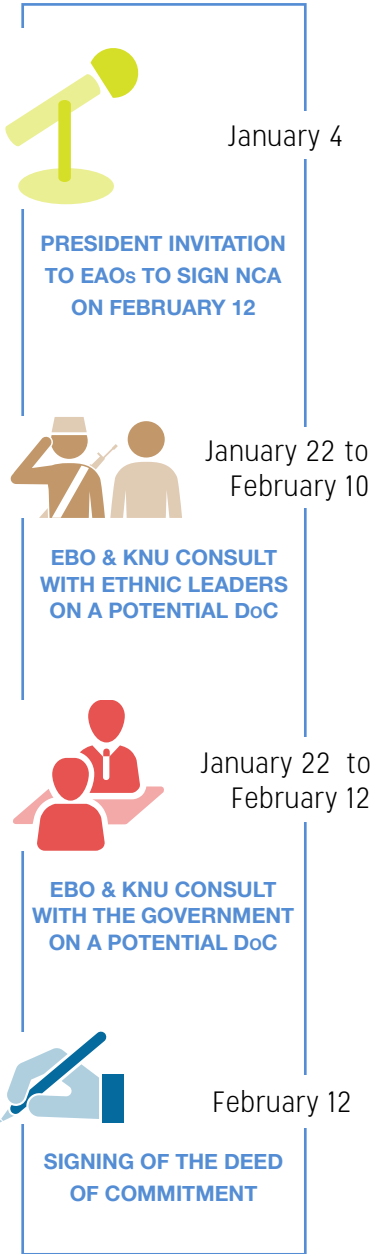
In September 2014, the peace process broke down. To prevent a return to armed conflict, EBO facilitated informal consultations and negotiations between the ethnic armed groups, the Government and the Tatmadaw. On Independence Day, 4 January 2015, the President invited Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) to sign the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on Union Day, 12 February 2015. However, this was not possible since the NCCT-UPWC could not meet.

An idea emerged of signing a so-called Deed of Commitment (DoC) to give new life to the NCA negotiations. The Chair of the UNFC and KIO Vice-Chair had also written to the President calling for a commitment to the building of a federal democratic Union. The DoC would be an expression of intent to help build confidence and trust. It was not meant to supersede the NCA as some feared, but it committed all signatories to sign the NCA as soon as possible. The DoC had no new elements in its contents: the 5 five items in the DoC | see p.9 | had been discussed numerous times in NCCT-UPWC negotiations and had already been agreed upon, but since the NCA had not been signed, they were not ‘official’. The DoC would make them official and explicit.

EBO and the KNU therefore consulted with ethnic leaders (UNFC Chair and KIO Vice-Chair, KNPP Vice-Chair, RCSS Chair and Vice-Chair, NDAA Chair and Vice-Chair, UWSA Leaders, and NMSP Chair) to discuss the concept of the DoC. Several EAOs agreed to sign the DoC during consultations while others agreed in principle to it.

EBO and the KNU also met several times with high officials of the Government, including President Thein Sein in person. The DoC proposal was agreed to by the President, the Commander-in-Chief, and other high officials of the Government.

On 12 February, the *Deed of Commitment for Peace & Reconciliation* was presented and signed by President Thein Sein. The DoC was also signed by the two Vice Presidents, both Speakers of Parliament, 16 Union Ministers, the Chair of Union Election Commission, three Lieut-Generals, 29 Ethnic Affairs Ministers, 55 representatives of political parties, and Chairs of the KNU, the RCSS, the KPC and the DKBA.



Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation

Fri, 02/13/2015 - 09:19



We, the signatories to this Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation, pledge, in order to achieve lasting peace in Myanmar, to work together towards realizing the goals envisioned in this Commitment in the spirit of responsible action, transparency and accountability.

1. Aiming to safeguard sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity on the basis of the peace process; and building a Union based on democratic and federal principles in the spirit of Panglong and in accordance with the outcomes of Political Dialogue to ensure freedom, equality, justice and self determination for all citizens;
2. Striving together at the outset to conclude the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement without delay while recognizing that a nationwide ceasefire is vital for the political dialogue process;
3. Establishing a new political culture of ending long-existing armed conflicts and solving grievances through dialogue instead of resorting to force of arms; and striving together to promptly hold an all inclusive political dialogue process;
4. Working together to promptly draft the Framework for Political Dialogue after concluding the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and commencing political dialogue prior to the 2015 General Elections in accordance with the Framework on Political Dialogue;
5. Undertaking jointly to prevent armed clashes and confrontations between various armed groups and to refrain from taking actions or measures that will harm the peace process;

All signatories to this Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation promise to endeavor together for the success of the peace process in order to achieve peace and national reconciliation desired by all citizens.

Nay Pyi Taw

February 12, 2015

THE DEED OF COMMITMENT (DOC)

OFFICIAL TEXT OF THE DEED OF COMMITMENT

Official text of the Deed of Commitment signed on 12 February 2015. Issued by the President Office.

THE NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT (NCA)

A critical achievement in 2015 was the signing of the NCA. The very fact that the process moved forward in 2015 is already an outstanding achievement in itself, given that the peace process was stalled since September 2014. It is a highly positive step in the process, even if there is not a full consensus. If the NCA was not inclusive, it is however crucial to recognize that important EAOs signed it. Furthermore, the fact that the KNU signed the NCA was highly significant because they have never had a ceasefire agreement with the Government before.

Some have criticized the EAO signatories for not insisting on including everyone and for being in too much of a hurry to sign before the 8 November elections. The reasoning being, why give credit to the Thein Sein government? Would a democratic government not give the EAOs a better deal? In actual fact, the KNU has always tried to include everyone. In 2005, when no one wanted to talk to the KIO, current Chair Saw Mutu Sae Poe, then the KNLA’s Commander-in-Chief, went to meet with the KIA on the China-Myanmar border to include them in the ethnic alliance. The EAOs were not all able to sign the NCA due to various reasons – some technical, others political and yet others, personal. In any case, the KNU Chair got a commitment from the President and the Commander-in-Chief to find ways to include the others.

A democratic government may want to give a better deal to the EAOs, but it is the Tatmadaw that will in the final analysis decide. Therefore, it was imperative to get the Commander-in-Chief to sign the NCA before the Tatmadaw under a democratic government decided to change its mind. It was also imperative that the Thein Sein government sign the NCA, so that the democratic government would not have to argue with the Tatmadaw over the necessity of an NCA.

On 31 March 2015, the Union Peacemaking Work Committee (UPWC) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team (NCCT) agreed on the draft text of a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The draft then had to be ratified by each EAO involved before the NCA was to be officially signed.

From 2 to 9 June, the NCCT hosted an Ethnic Summit in Law-Khi-Lah (Karen State) to recommend that the ethnic leaders endorse the NCA draft that they had negotiated with the Government on 31 March. However, the Summit did not accept it and formed a “Senior Delegation” (SD) to re-negotiate the draft. It also stated that the NCA would be signed only if all of the 16 member-organizations of the NCCT agreed to sign together.

On 3-4 August, EBO helped organize a meeting in Naypyidaw between the RCSS, the KNU, the DKBA, the KPC, and the President and Commander-in-Chief to get their assurances that if the EAOs signed the NCA, the President and the Commander-in-Chief will also sign it and that the non-signatories will not be attacked. Both requests were agreed upon by the President and the C-i-C who gave their assurances. When the SD met with the President, they received the same guarantee.

By 7 August, the SD and the UPWC announced that they had finalized the new NCA draft. On 15 August, the KNU, the KPC, the DKBA, and the RCSS were ready to sign the NCA.

On 15 October 2015, the NCA was signed by President Thein Sein, Parliamentary Speaker Shwe Mann, Commander-in-Chief Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, and leaders of the KNU, the DKBA, the KPC, the RCSS, the ALP, the PNLO, the CNF, and the ABSDF.

THE NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT (NCA)

EBO’s support through facilitation and technical support for briefings, consultations, workshops, and conferences provided the EAOs with enough confidence to go forward in the process and make historic decisions. EBO support to EAOs in 2015 and the years preceding was therefore crucial in getting the NCA signed.

In addition to the support in facilitation and negotiations on the NCA, EBO also worked on enhancing understanding on the nationwide joint-monitoring committee (JMC) agreed upon by the military, as well as on the Ceasefire Code of Conduct (CCoC) agreed upon by NCA signatories as stipulated in the NCA text.

EBO advocated for the importance of the CCoC, sharing with stakeholders what it entails and how it can be enforced, as well as how community leaders can be involved in the monitoring of the CCoC’s implementation.

NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT TIMELINE

Brief 2015 timeline highlighting some of the key events that led to the signing of the NCA on 15 October.





THE UNION-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESS

From 2013 to 2015, EBO was the key organization to provide facilitation, technical as well as financial support for different groups to develop *Frameworks for Political Dialogue*. In 2013, the *Working Group for Ethnic Coordination* (WGEC) developed the first draft of a *Framework for Political Dialogue* provided to MPC for reference and used it as a baseline for other groups to develop their own *Framework for Political Dialogue*. In 2014, several workshops partly facilitated and supported by EBO had taken place with different stakeholder groups | [see Figure 1](#) |. Each group developed their own draft *Frameworks for Political Dialogue* encapsulating each group's views on how the Political Dialogue would take place at the Union-level.

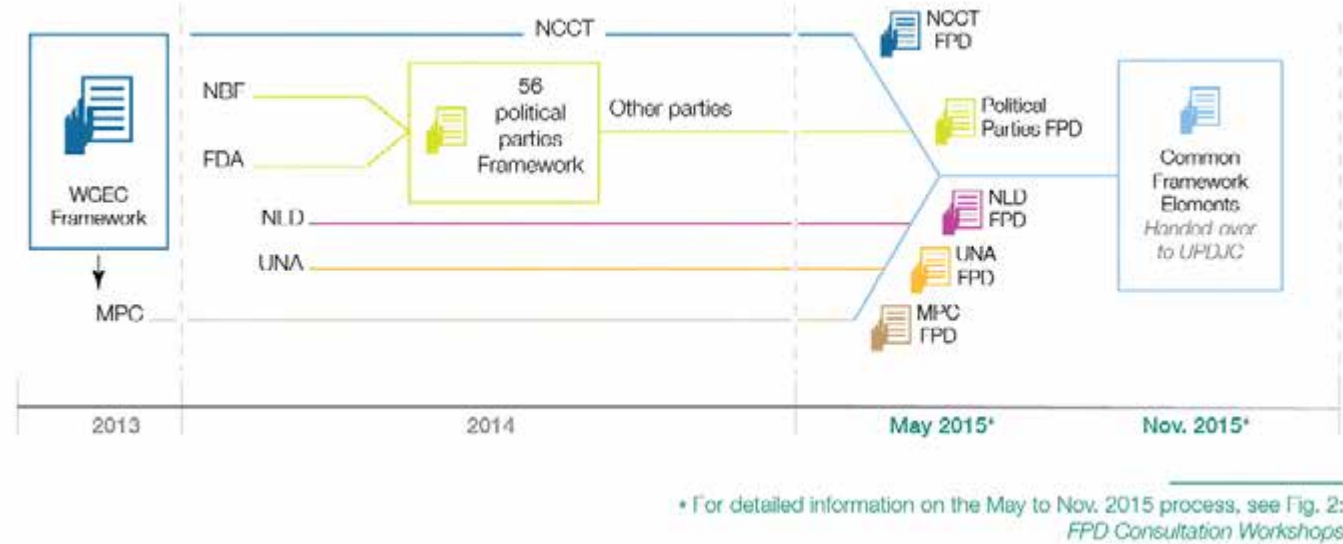
Throughout the 2014-process, many of the political parties started to engage for the first time, and many individuals recognized the

importance of taking part in the peace process and preparing for the Political Dialogue. In 2015, the goal was to develop a *Common Framework for Political Dialogue* which would be approved by the groups who developed their own Frameworks in 2014, but also by a wider audience who did not take part in the 2014 process. In 2015, the process unfolded with 8 informal workshops consultations ending in the development of *Common Framework Elements for Political Dialogue*.

FPD: Framework for Political Dialogue  
MPC: Myanmar Peace Center  
NCCT: Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team  
NLD: National League for Democracy  
UNA: United Nationalities Alliance  
UPDJC: Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee  
WGEC: Working Group on Ethnic Coordination

Fig. 1 - PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE

With the support and facilitation of EBO.



THE UNION-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESS

In 2015, the impetus for developing a *Common Framework for Political Dialogue* was provided by the signing of the *Deed of Commitment* on 12 February, which called for a Political Dialogue to start once the NCA is signed.

On 30 April and on 8 May, EBO participated in two meetings at the MPC to prepare the agenda for the “*Forum for Peace and National Reconciliation*”, a 1-day conference which took place on 9 May in Yangon, with 109 participants. The goal of the meeting was to gather the signatories of the DoC (the Government, political parties, the NLD, EAOs, and ethnic ministers) to decide on how to take the process forward. The participants decided to implement the DoC, which implied starting the negotiation process for elaborating a common FPD that would be approved by key stakeholders. The meeting was funded by EBO, organized by the MPC and facilitated by the signatories of the DoC (MPC-NBF joint facilitation).

After this meeting, a need to organize informal FPD consultation workshops emerged. Stakeholders proposed that EBO organizes these and provides facilitation, technical, and financial support together with the Pyidaungsu Institute (PI). Throughout 2015, EBO facilitated 8 key informal consultation workshops in Yangon.

Those involved from EBO and PI in each FPD consultation workshop included:

- Harn Yawngkhwe - *EBO Executive Director*: main facilitator, contents resource person, and editor of *support documents*.
- Hannes Siebert\* - *Common Space Initiative Lebanon*: facilitator, contents resource person, and technical advisor.

\* Hannes Siebert is a consultant to EBO through the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), where he is a Senior Advisor for Peace and Reconciliation. The EBO-FELM consortium manages the funds for the peace process provided by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- Thuzar Thant - *EBO Program Manager*: facilitator, editor of *support documents*, contents resource person, and translator.
- Mya Hnin Phyu - *EBO Executive Assitant*: logistical assistant.
- Sai Oo - *PI Research Coordinator*: contents resource person and editor of *support documents*.
- Pao Hom - *PI Senior Researcher*: notes taker, editor of *support documents*, and graphic designer.

During the 1st Consultation Workshop (16-17 May), the 63 participants agreed to form a *Technical Working Group* (TWG) to prepare documentation and the consultation workshops agenda to ensure effective and targeted discussions. The TWG was composed of EBO, the Myanmar Peace Center (MPC), Bayda (NLD think-tank), and PI. Before each consultation workshop, the TWG met to summarize previous discussion points and elaborated “*Resource Documents*” which summarized information to be used as the basis of discussions by the participants of the consultation workshops; and developed infographics to visually represent the ideas which emerged from previous workshops to enhance further discussions. Each TWG meeting was organized, facilitated, and funded by EBO.

During each consultation workshop, EBO’s Executive Director was the main facilitator while the signatories of the DoC, who were mandated to implement it, provided support (KNU-RCSS-MPC).

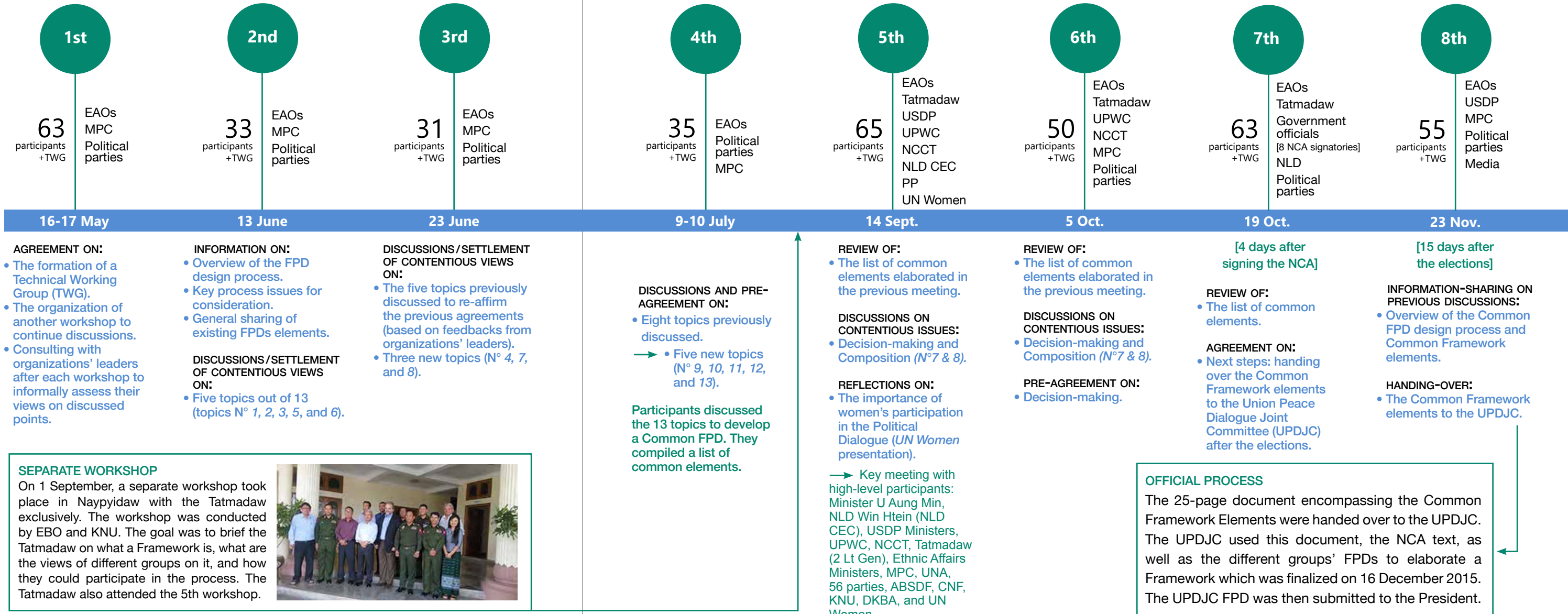
At the beginning of the process, 8 key points were listed as issues to negotiate in order to develop an inclusive *Framework for Political Dialogue* (FPD), but as the dialogue process evolved, 13 topics emerged | [see page 14](#) |. The eight consultation workshops paved the way for a FPD to be approved at a formal level in December 2015 | [see Figure 2](#) |.

13 TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING FPD WORKSHOPS

1. OBJECTIVES
2. PRINCIPLES
3. AGENDA AND ISSUES
4. SEQUENCING OF AGENDA
5. STEPS AND ROADMAP
6. MANDATE AND MANAGING PROCESS
7. CONSENSUAL DECISION MAKING FORMULA AND MECHANISMS
8. COMPOSITION AND CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSIVITY
9. MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORTING STRUCTURES
10. PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION AT COMMUNITY- AND STATE- LEVEL
11. ROLE OF PARLIAMENT DURING THE DIALOGUE
12. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY
13. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

Fig. 2 - FPD CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

Consultations organized, facilitated and funded by EBO (from May to November 2015).





THE UNION-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESS

THE UNION-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESS

Common Framework Elements developed throughout the 8 consultation workshops, based on the previous FPDs developed by 5 different stakeholder groups in 2014 (see figure 1 and 2). The Common Framework Elements were handed over to the UPDJC in November 2015. Design by Pao Hom (Pyidaungsu Institute).

Fig.3 - COMMON FRAMEWORK ELEMENTS

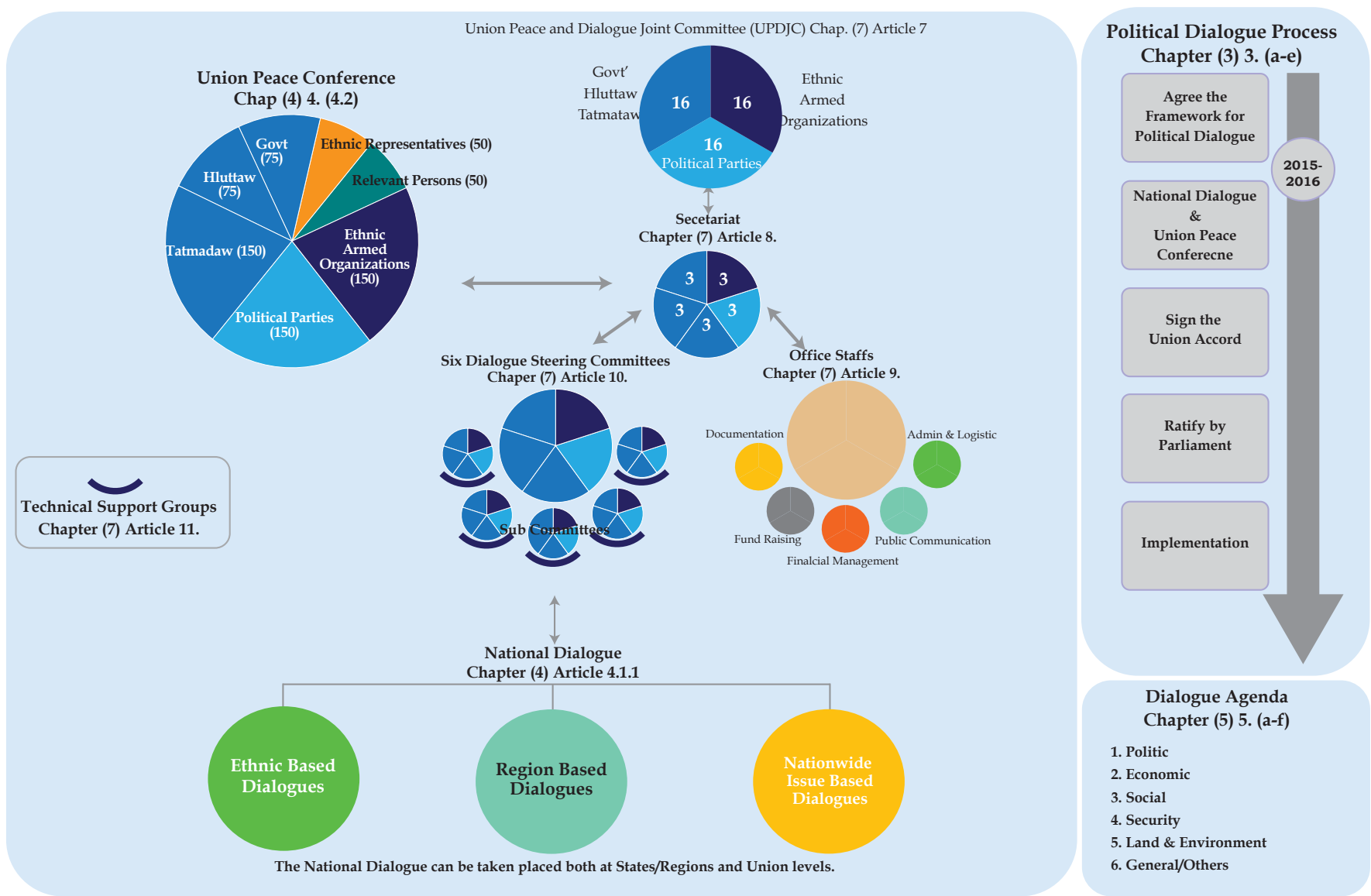
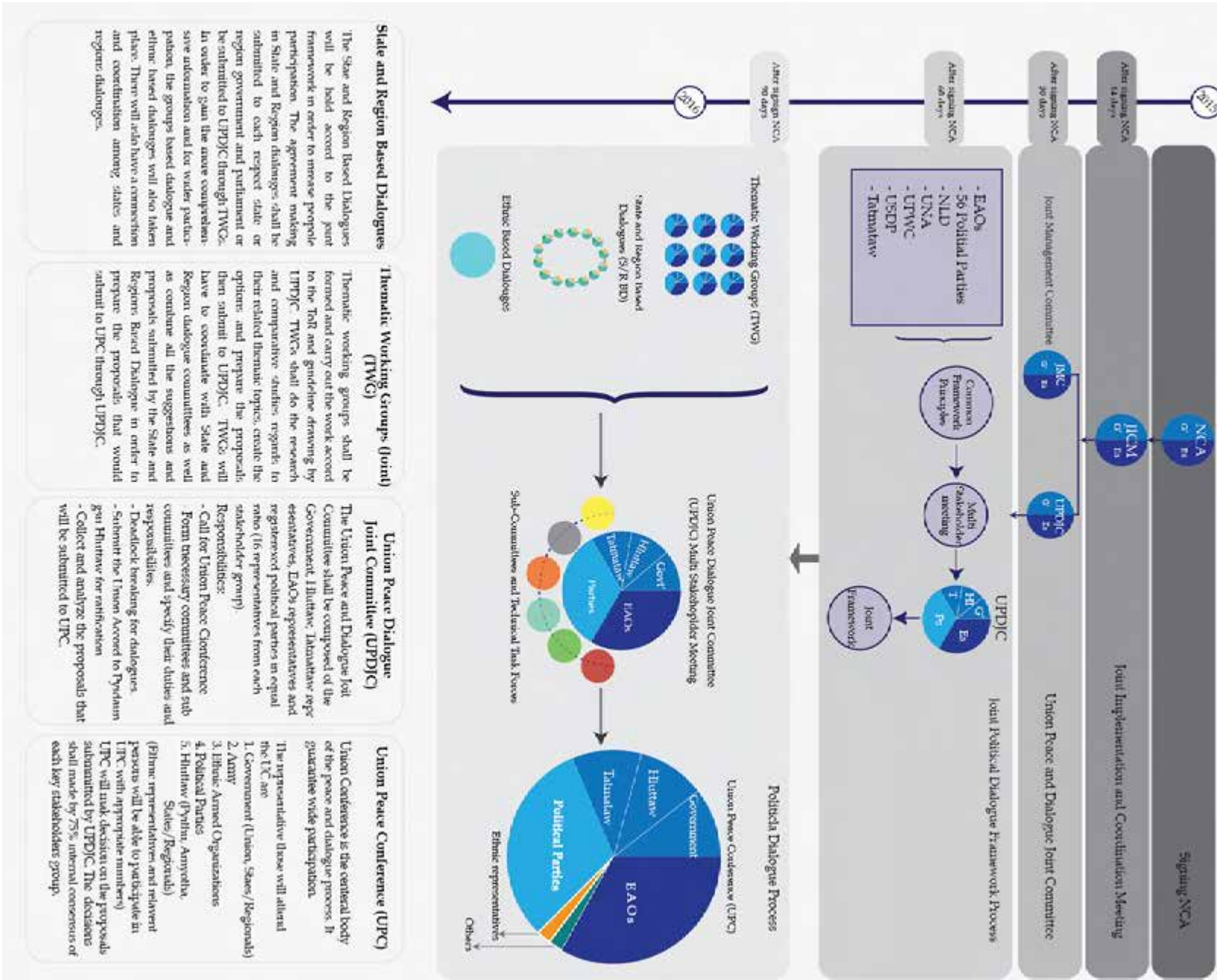


Fig. 4 - FRAMEWORK FOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE

Framework for Political Dialogue developed by the UPDJC, based on the Common Framework Elements provided by the attendees of the 8 informal consultation workshops on FPD, the FPDs developed in 2014, and the NCA text. Design by: Pao Hom (Pyidaungsu Institute).

STATE-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESSES

Initiating collaborative dialogue processes at the State-level is key for the future of Myanmar. If State-based dialogues can effectively provide input at the Union-level, political decisions impacting ethnic States will not only be based on direct input from the State-level, but it will also ensure that this is reflected in laws at both the Union- and State-levels. In 2015, EBO, in collaboration with Hannes Siebert (CSI) and with support from FELM, initiated several informal meetings with key CSO leaders in different States to share information at the Union-level Political Dialogue process and the impacts on ethnic States; to discuss the concept of State-based Dialogues; and to assess the potential interest in setting-up a *Common Space*.

COMMON SPACES

A *Common Space* is a physical space intending to act as support structure and safety net for countries in transition, following periods of conflicts and under political instability. By providing ‘safe spaces’ for dialogue, Common Spaces allow for key stakeholders to share each other knowledge and develop consensus based on dialogue. Common Spaces provide:

- ‘Common Understanding’ (i.e. informal dialogues between groups having different views and interests so that each stakeholder understands the issues faced by one another and adjusts their initial positions based on other’s concerns).
- Mapping of positions of various stakeholders.
- Mapping and assessments of conflicts.
- Mapping of topical priority issues and State-based challenges.
- Dialogue- and facilitation-documents based on research and consultations.
- Research on topical issues, policy, community needs, etc.
- Shared-knowledge (data collection, research, and consultations results are shared online on a nationwide database).

| see Figure 5 for more information on Common Spaces concept |

ROLE AND LEGITIMACY OF STATE-BASED PROCESSES

In 2015, the State-based dialogue processes occurred informally. However, the results of the dialogue processes have gained legitimacy to a certain degree as multiple stakeholders were consulted over several workshops and individual meetings. By the end of 2015, the draft Frameworks for Political Dialogue (FPD) developed in different States were still under discussion. It is foreseen that they will be further discussed and edited. Potentially, they could be used to elaborate an official State-based FPD as stated in the UPDJC FPD (in which a clause stipulates that State-based Dialogues will be officially mandated to provide input at the Union-level).

EBO’s ROLE IN CAPACITY BUILDING

Throughout 2015, the process of developing State-based Frameworks mainly took the shape of consultation workshops. Some of them were funded and facilitated by EBO, while others were organized by local stakeholders. During consultations, EBO provided:

1. Updates on the Union-level processes and developments (e.g. updates on the NCA, on the Union-level FPD, and on the general political situation).
2. Key elements to be considered when setting-up a FPD based on international cases such as Nepal, South-Africa, Nepal, etc.
3. The 13 negotiation topics to develop a FPD | see page 14 | (same list as the one developed at Union-level).
3. Updates on the State-based latest developments.
4. Space to discuss the development of a State-based Dialogue process, as well as drafts of *State-based Frameworks for Political Dialogue*.
5. Development of a *Consultation Strategy*: identification of key State MPs, political parties, EAOs, CSO leaders who should be approached for further consultation on workshops results.

STATE-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESSES

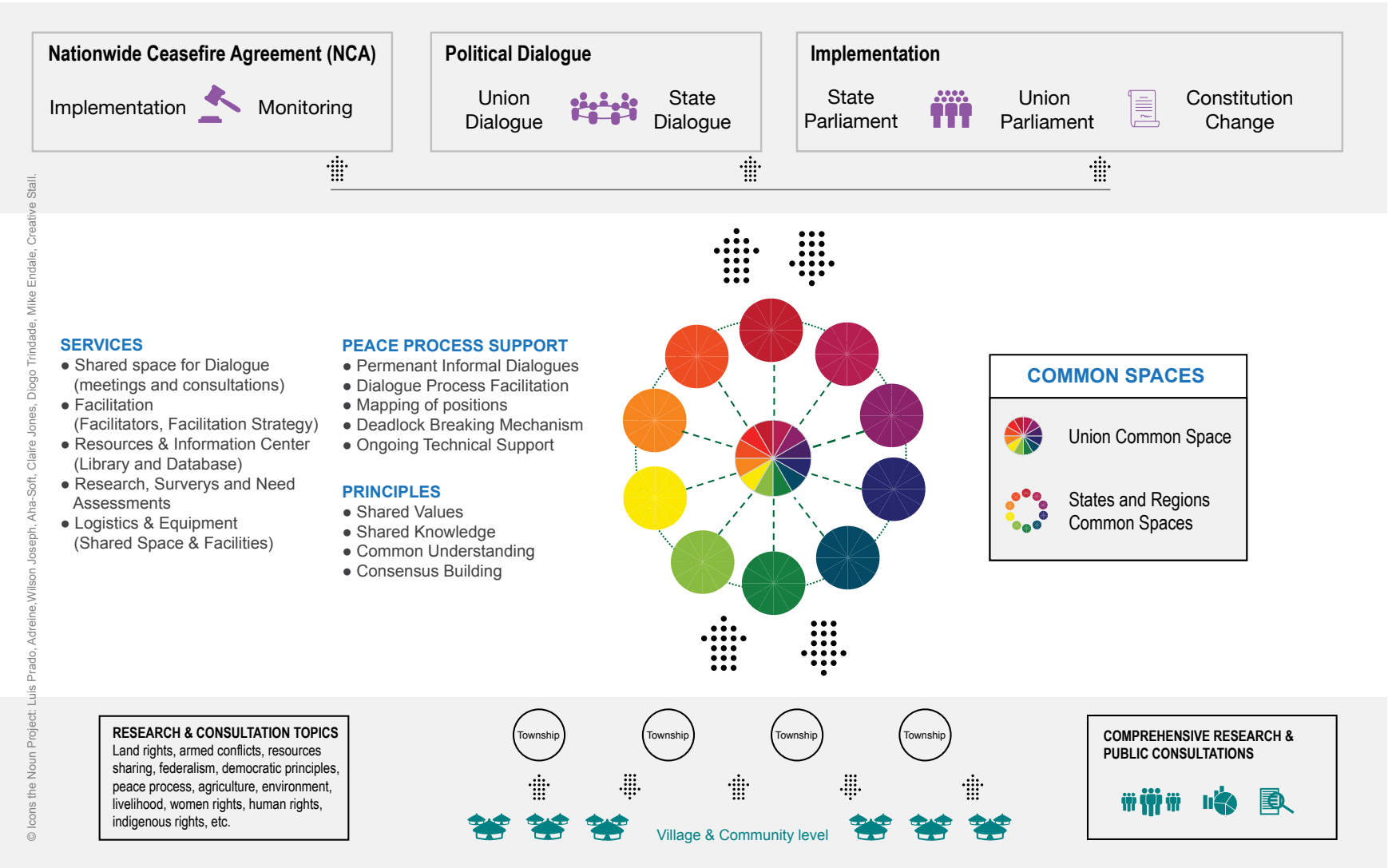


Fig. 5 - COMMON SPACES CONCEPT

Common Spaces act as intermediary between Township/Village/Community-level and Union-level by generating knowledge from consultations and research on topical issues in each State. Design by: Pao Hom (Pyidaungsu Institute) & Angelique Berhault (EBO).



# STATE-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESSES

## ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN-BETWEEN EBO-FACILITATED WORKSHOPS

In 2015, after an EBO-facilitated consultation had taken place in a State, most State-based groups worked in semi-autonomy. The work flow usually was as follows:

- Advocate the importance of the State-based dialogue process by reaching out to various stakeholders and invite them to participate (advocacy with political parties, EAOs, MPs, CSOs, Government officials, Community leaders, CBOs, etc.)
- Organize broad consultation workshops with all stakeholders initially approached; or with one group of stakeholders at a time to focus on specific issues of interest to the targeted group.
- Amend their draft Framework based on the consultation workshops they organized.
- Further consult with each stakeholder until a broad consensus has been reached.

Once this process was finalized, local contact points requested EBO to facilitate another workshop in order to take the process forward, further refine the concept of their Framework, and elaborate a comprehensive text providing details on the process, mechanisms, structure, and priority topics. The Pyidaungsu Institute (PI) supported EBO facilitators by generating a visual graph representing the main ideas discussed during the meeting. PI also provided critical support in editing supporting documents for the graphs.

In between each EBO-facilitated meeting, local contact points frequently consulted EBO to receive informal strategic and technical support (e-mails, phone calls and short briefings) throughout the process (before, during, and after consultation workshops).

## 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS OF STATE-BASED PROCESSES

In 2015, EBO facilitated the development of State-based dialogue processes. In each State, the processes evolved at different paces, and using various methodologies. Most of the State-based dialogue processes were led by CSOs, which consulted with a wide variety of stakeholders, including: political parties, Members of Parliament, Ethnic Armed Organizations, government high officials, community leaders, media organizations, community based organizations and civil society organizations (e.g. youth, women's, environmental, farmer's organizations, as well as student unions, etc).

### • KAREN STATE

In 2015, the Karen State Political Dialogue process focused on developing a *Common Space* named “RISE” (*Research Institute for Society and Ecology*). The Karen Common Space developed a *Joint-Management Committee* composed of 6 individuals representing different CSOs. The Committee organized several informal consultations of key stakeholders of Karen State, such as the KNU, the Government, political parties and CSOs; during which they exchanged information and built trust among each other. Throughout 2015, RISE was the key coordinator of the Karen State-based dialogue process and many stakeholders relied on RISE to receive information on the latest political developments at Union level. RISE also organized several events to enhance public observation and participation in political processes:

- Parliament observation missions in Naypyidaw for village chiefs.
- Public consultations on the NCA, Political Dialogue, and Constitutional Change process.
- Political education (mainly information on 2015 elections).
- Public workshops, conferences and trainings on topical issues.
- Publication of documents related to the peace-process and political dialogue.

# STATE-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESSES

In 2015, the RISE Common Space was fully funded by EBO and received strategic support from EBO (organization of four strategic meetings, as well as consulting with EBO staff on management, planning and strategies for workshops and events organized by RISE).

### • CHIN STATE

In Chin State, the process started from a different angle. During the Chin National Conference (from 12 to 15 November 2013), 151 resolutions were adopted, one of which called for the development of a *Chin National Dialogue* (i.e. a Chin State-based Political Dialogue) coordinated by a joint *Implementation Committee*. In 2015, stakeholders involved in the *Chin National Dialogue* resolution organized several consultations to discuss issues of importance to Chin State such as ethnic sub-groups under the Chin ethnicity and Reconciliation among Chin political parties. The process of further developing Chin State Dialogue and thinking through a roadmap and a Framework was halted due to landslides that severely struck Chin State in July and August. In 2015, EBO facilitated and co-funded an informal brainstorming meeting with the *Chin Forum Foundation* (a gathering of the Chin community, including armed groups, political parties, etc.) and supported the *Chin National Conference Implementation Committee* (CNCIC) for several activities related to the Chin State-based Dialogue.

### • SHAN, MON AND KAYAH STATES

In Shan, Mon and Kayah States, several activities took place in 2015. These included:

- A series of consultation workshops with key stakeholders to discuss the State-based dialogue process, structures, and protocols.
- Drafting of a State-based Framework for Political Dialogue (one in each State).

- Drafting of a concept of a Common Space structure (one in each State).
- Identifying key topical issues of importance for each State | [see Annex 3 for the full list of topical issues](#) |.
- Setting-up of ‘Management structures’ to organize consultations, workshops, and conferences (a *Core Group* in Shan State -CSOs; a *Steering Committee* in Mon State -22 organizations: CSOs and political parties; a *Steering Committee* in Kayah State -13 organizations: CSOs and political parties).

In 2015, EBO facilitated and funded:

- 5 consultation workshops in Southern Shan State
- 2 meetings in Northern Shan State
- 4 consultation workshops in Mon State
- 3 key strategic workshops in Kayah State
- 1 consultation workshop in Kayah State.

### • KACHIN STATE AND ARAKAN STATE

In Kachin and Arakan States, EBO mainly focused on informing key stakeholders on the latest developments of other States and shared other international cases.

### • COORDINATION

A joint-meeting initiated, funded and facilitated by EBO was organized in Yangon on 12-15 May 2015, and attended by Shan, Kayah, Karen, and Mon groups to coordinate and exchange lessons-learned and best practices among each other. This joint-meeting was followed by a training organized by the Pyidaungsu Institute (PI) on how to use the PI’s database, a shared knowledge platform to exchange key documents such as information on the bilateral ceasefire agreements and other peace-process related documents, as well as research on thematic issues.

STATE-BASED POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROCESSES

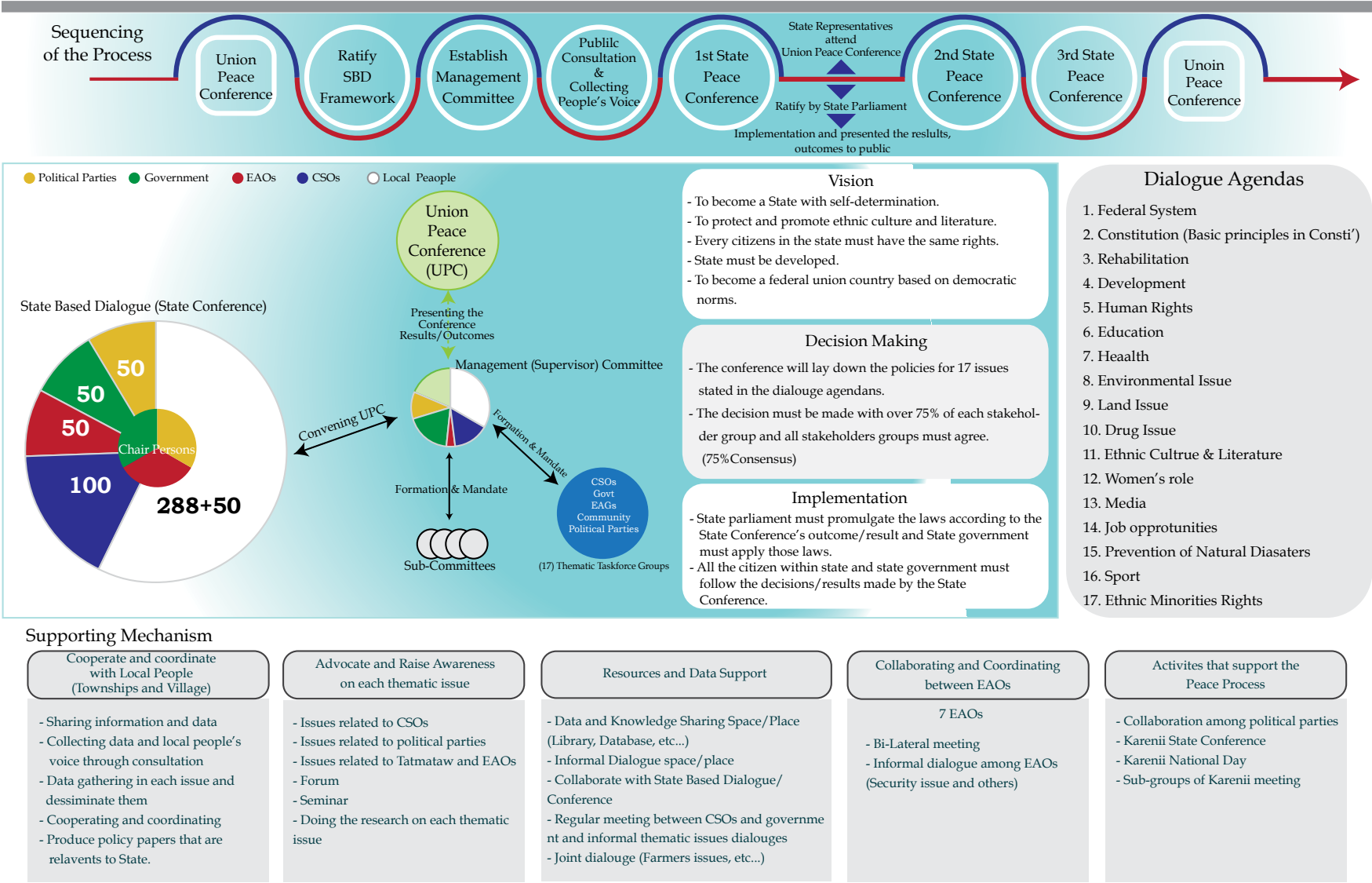


Fig. 6 - EXAMPLE OF A FPD DEVELOPED AT STATE-BASED LEVEL IN 2015

Draft Framework for Political Dialogue developed by stakeholders in Kayah State in 2015. This draft FPD is subject to change in 2016. Design by: Pao Hom (Pyidaungsu Institute).

FACILITATION OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN EAOs AND THE TATMADAW

EBO has facilitated a number of consultations between EAOs and the Tatmadaw to ensure that dialogue approaches are being used by both sides to resolve contentious issues. This was achieved by facilitating meetings, as well as by funding Liaison Offices (LOs) [ see p.26 on LO support ]. EBO also funded the *Karen Strategic Studies Group (KSSG)*, a project aiming at establishing contacts between Karen groups which have challenging relationships, to build and nurture trust within a same ethnic group that has a wide range of views on the peace process. The strategy of KSSG is both top-down and bottom-up: providing support to KNU leaders for working with EAOs, NCCT, Government, Tatmadaw, and legislators; and the organization of activities with political parties and CSOs to train them and support their initiatives aiming at unifying Karen communities. Outcomes of the KSSG in 2015 include:

- Building confidence between the KNU, the Government, and the Army by organizing meetings at KSSG venue.
- Strengthening cooperation between the KSSG and various political parties, EAOs, CSOs and religious organisations by engaging with KNU central leaders, district and brigade leaders, thereby clarifying the peace process and getting their commitment to work towards peace.

- The KSSG met and exchanged information with Karen communities in various areas of Myanmar to understand their local situation, and to provide information on the peace process. Some groups also took part in a series of trainings and workshops on the peace process in local areas.
- The KSSG supported the *All Karen Movement* headed by the *Karen Unity and Peace Committee (KUPC)*, aiming at establishing unity and prosperity for all Karen and to support the peace process.
- The KSSG conducted workshops with the *Karen National Liberation Army/ Karen National Defense Organization (KNLA/KNDO)*.
- The KSSG provided training opportunities to young individuals (office skills and planning, research, web design, strategic thinking, and political issues trainings) as well as internships in the KSSG (for youth to accompany Karen leaders to strategic meetings).

It is important to note that the KSSG was the main KNU group that spearheaded the KNU-Tatmadaw dialogue. They managed the 3+3 dialogue [3 Lt. Gen.+3 KNU leaders], at Naypyidaw, and state/ regional-level down to Brigade level. This led to the EBO-facilitated workshop on the FPD and the initiation of the NLD-Tatmadaw informal dialogue before the elections.

BRIEFINGS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

By briefing the International Community (IC), EBO aims to provide a better understanding of the complexities of Myanmar political landscape, to give advice on potential policies to support Myanmar's democratization process and to help coordinate international response and involvement in the peace process by:

- Giving briefings to individuals or organizations upon request; and on a monthly basis through Diplomats Briefings and IPSG meetings.
- Informing on latest developments through EBO website.
- Arranging meetings between the IC and local stakeholders.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

EBO acts as a catalyst by encouraging the development of projects aiming to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) by facilitating access to information, training and funding.

In 2015, EBO provided support to develop the capacity of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), mainly by funding the running costs of Liaison Offices (LOs) and LO trainings, as well as other initiatives to encourage dialogue between the EAOs and the Government/the Tatmadaw. EBO also strengthened the capacity of Decision Makers by organizing federalism trainings and workshops (attended by all stakeholders), by supporting a project that provides technical support to Members of Parliament, as well as by organizing an observation mission trip abroad to understand the concept of national reconciliation.

EBO also enabled CSOs, especially women's and youth organizations, to participate in the democratic transition in Myanmar and to have a more active role in social and political processes. By allocating multiple grants to support CSO projects, EBO facilitates a diverse and strong civil society to flourish in preparation for democratic

reforms. In 2015, EBO funded civil society initiatives with a wide range of activities, such as:

- Raising awareness on 2015 elections, the peace process, conflict resolution, land issues, environment, public health, human rights, women rights, ethnic rights, religious rights, constitutional rights, etc. by organizing public consultations, workshops, and trainings.
- Ensuring inclusion and empowerment of Myanmar civil society in the peace and political processes.
- Promoting and preserving cultural values, heritage, literature, language and history of ethnic groups.
- Providing timely and accurate information to the public (media-projects).

In addition, EBO provided facilitation and technical support to CSOs upon request (e.g. capacity building, internal planning, logistical-, organizational-, and communication support. CSOs were therefore well equipped to create space for dialogue on multiple issues, and to collaborate and share knowledge to solve local problems.

EBO also provided grants to individuals to attend seminars, trainings, and cultural exchanges; as well as scholarships to study abroad.



LIAISON OFFICES

LIAISON OFFICES PURPOSE

By setting up and maintaining Liaison Offices (LOs) since 2012, EBO has created a support structure to prevent conflicts due to misunderstandings between Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and the Army / local authorities. LOs were maintained in the absence of formal joint structures. They are mandated by Bilateral Ceasefire Agreements signed by individual EAOs and the Government of Myanmar. The Bilaterals form the basis for the National Ceasefire Agreement and are re-affirmed by the NCA. LOs preserve peace, prevent military confrontation, nurture a culture of dialogue, build trust and ensure human rights are respected and promoted.

LIAISON OFFICES ACTIVITIES

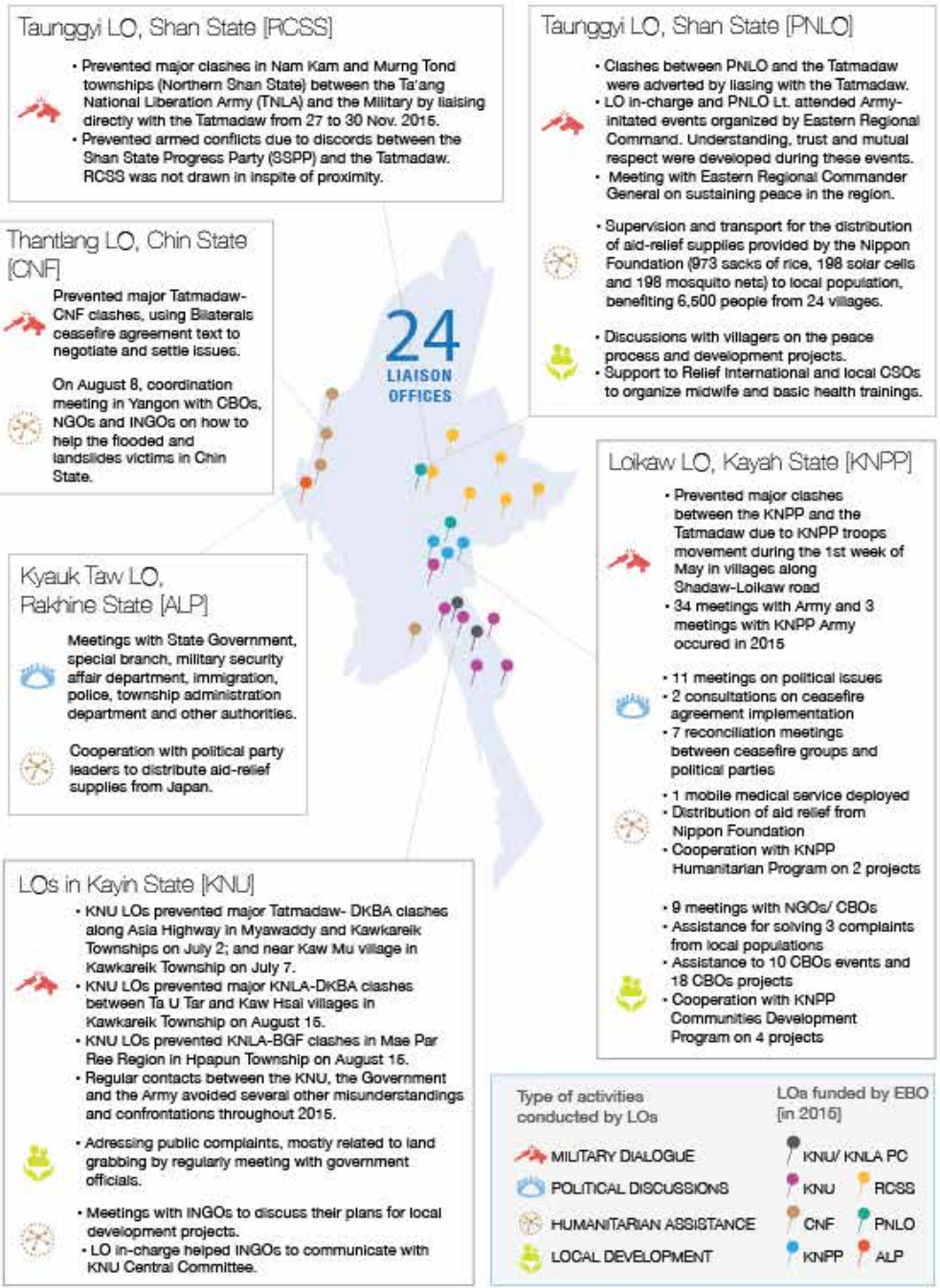
The formal status of LOs enables them to openly communicate with diverse groups: the EAO leaders under which the LO runs, other EAOs, Government authorities, the Tatmadaw, and others. Liaison Officers therefore have the mandate to communicate problems to senior leaders who can then engage with government counterparts from high level to state-, district-, township level offices of the Department of Border Affairs, Military Intelligence, Special Police, General Administrative Departments, etc. In 2015, LO's activities included military and political dialogue, as well as humanitarian assistance and local development:



LIAISON OFFICES

Fig. 7 - LOs ACHIEVEMENTS PER STATE

Examples of 2015 achievements of Liaison Offices funded by EBO.



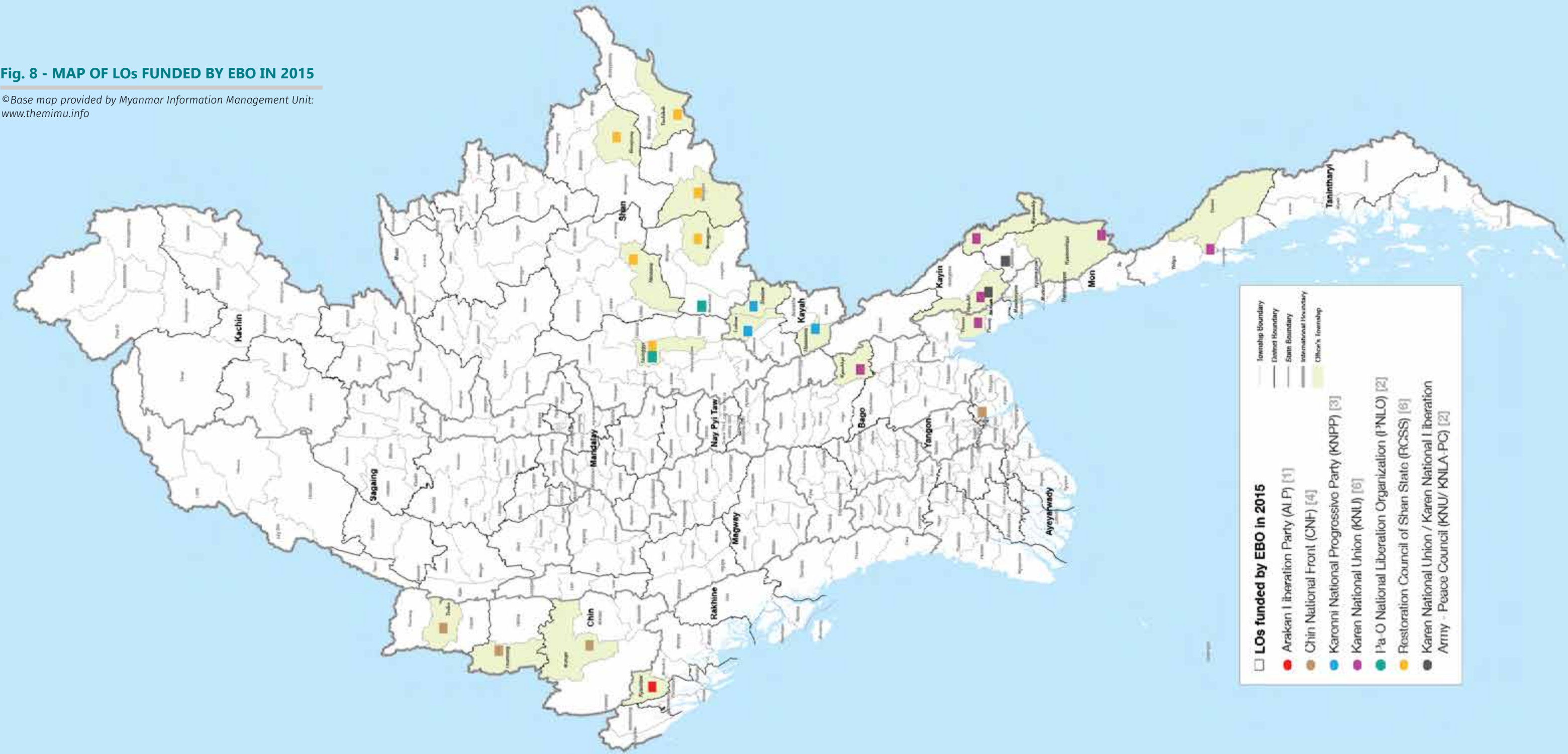
LIAISON OFFICES

List of the 24 Liaison Offices funded by EBO in 2015:

Organization	State / Division	Township
Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)	Rakhine	Kyauktaw
Chin National Front (CNF)	Yangon	Hlaing
	Chin	Thantlang
	Chin	Tedim
	Chin	Matupi
Karen National Union/ Karen National Liberation Army - Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC)	Kayin	Hpa-An
	Kayin	Kawkareik
Karen National Union (KNU)	Kayin	Myawaddy
	Kayin	Hpa-An
	Mon	Thaton
	Tanintharyi	Dawei
	Bago	Kyaukkyi
	Kayin	Kyainseikgyi
Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP)	Kayah	Loikaw
	Kayah	Hpasawng
	Kayah	Shadaw
Pa-Oh National Liberation Organization (PNLO)	Shan	Mawksmai
	Shan	Taunggyi
Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS)	Shan	Tachileik
	Shan	Mongpan
	Shan	Mongton
	Shan	Kengtung
	Shan	Taunggyi
	Shan	Nansang

Fig. 8 - MAP OF LOs FUNDED BY EBO IN 2015

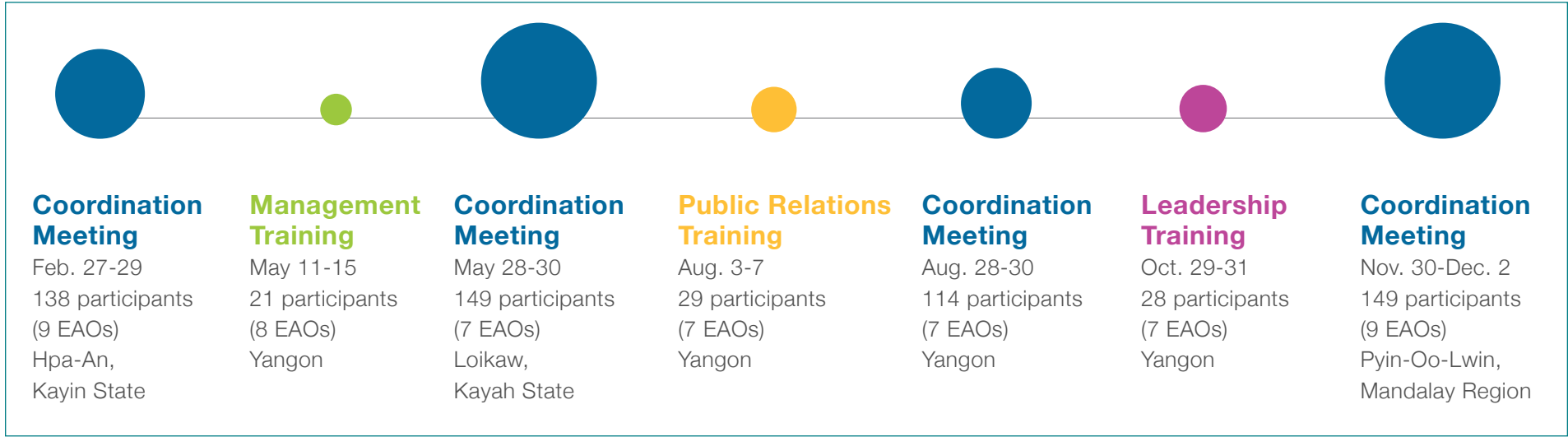
©Base map provided by Myanmar Information Management Unit: [www.themimu.info](http://www.themimu.info)





LIAISON OFFICES

- Throughout 2015, in addition to funding running costs, EBO supported Liaison Offices with:
- Capacity building to improve their internal organization (management, leadership, and public relations trainings)
  - Coordination meetings for LOs to coordinate with each other.



COORDINATION MEETINGS

- Provide a platform for all LO officials to meet, discuss, and share information related to respective LOs and the peace process.
- Encourage officials to share their challenges and success stories in order to learn from one another.
- Provide background information on the peace process and offer the opportunity for EAOs to meet with potential donors and/or interested INGOs to share their concerns with them directly.

PUBLIC RELATIONS TRAININGS PROVIDE TECHNIQUES ON

- How to build trust and credibility towards target audiences.
- How to raise awareness on an organization’s activities.
- How to define, control and distribute one’s message to internal and external audiences.
- How to defend one’s organization against attacks on its reputation.

MANAGEMENT TRAININGS PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH

- Understanding on the fundamental concepts of Management and Organization Development.
- Techniques for systematic office management and procedures (report writing, finance management, accounting, planning, etc.)
- Information on how to utilize modern information and communication technologies.
- Information on effective internal and external communication.

LEADERSHIP TRAININGS AIM TO UNDERSTAND

- The basic concepts of leadership.
- The various styles of leadership.
- How to apply the different leadership styles in specific situations.

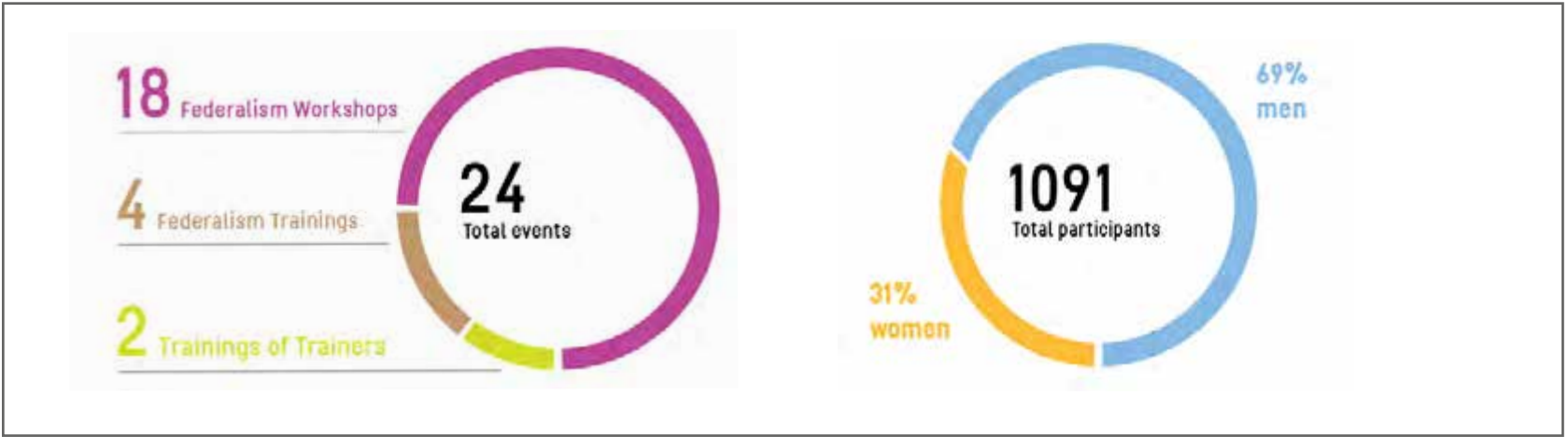
FEDERALISM WORKSHOPS

For the last 53 years, the word federalism was a taboo that could earn anyone using it, let alone advocating it, a lengthy prison sentence. General Ne Win, who seized power from the democratically-elected government of Prime Minister U Nu in 1962, claimed that federalism would lead to the break-up of the country. On 12 February 2015, President Thein Sein reversed history by signing the *Deed of Commitment*, which was an incredible show of support for federalism.

Since 2012, EBO has partnered with the Forum of Federations (FOF), a Canadian non-profit organization running learning events on federalism, giving technical advice on democratic governance and producing publications for practitioners of federalism, to organize trainings. For its work in Myanmar, FOF receives financial support from the *Department of Foreign Affair, Trade and Development* (DFATD), Canada.



In 2015, the collaboration of EBO-FOF-DFATD materialized in 24 federalism-related events: 4 Federalism Trainings, 2 Trainings of Trainers, and 18 Federalism Workshops. In total, these trainings were attended by 1091 participants.  
[| see Figure 9 for location and dates of trainings |.](#)



FEDERALISM WORKSHOPS

FEDERALISM EVENTS

Federalism Trainings, Workshops and ToTs intend to give an overall overview of federalism-related concepts such as:

- Federalism and Decentralization
- Distribution of Powers
- Constitutional & Opportunities for Federalism and Decentralization
- Unity & Diversity (Managing Diversity in Federal Systems)
- Local Government
- Fiscal Arrangement & Natural Resources
- Women’s role in the democratic political process.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants to federalism events come from a wide range of backgrounds. They include:

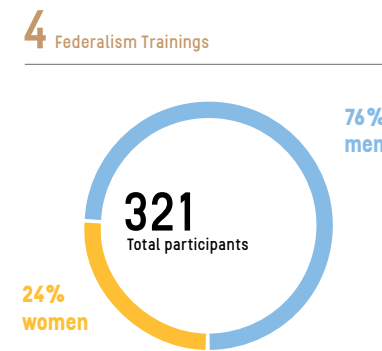
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Community Leaders
- Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs)
- Government Officials
- Liaison Offices (LOs)
- Local Administrative Chairmen and Secretaries
- Members of Parliament
- Political Leaders and Political Parties
- Religious Leaders
- Teachers and (university) students
- Think-Tanks
- Women’s Organizations
- Youth Organizations
- Individuals (local people interested in the topic).

EXPECTATIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- How are we going to manage the power sharing?
- How do federal countries manage ethnic diversity and minorities?
- How have other countries dealt with the Army when setting up a federal system?
- What is the role of local government in federal system?

FEEDBACKS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- By learning about federalism, we can build our country, using a democratic system.
- I gained new ideas on how the State- and central- government could interact.
- Learning about other countries using federalism as a political system was key for me.
- Such workshops should be conducted nationwide.



FEDERALISM TRAININGS

Federalism Trainings are intended for key leaders in the political and civil society spheres (MPs, political party leaders, Government and local governments officials, candidates for the 2015 November elections, key CSO such as youth and women organizations leaders). In 2015, federalism trainings were co-organized with key organizations: Bayda Institute (NLD think-tank), SNLD, KUPC, and SLCC | see Figure 9 |.

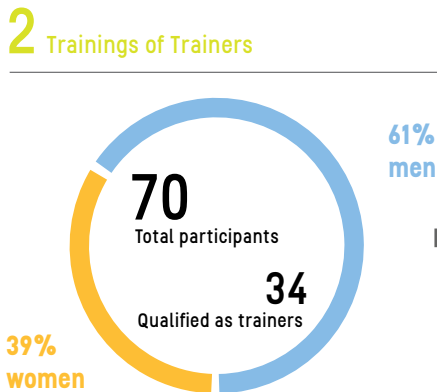
It is key for the future of Myanmar that leaders receive information on Federalism. Indeed, the key stakeholders agree that federalism system could potentially best address the myriad of issues of Myanmar context. The 3-day Federalism Trainings provide general information on federalism-related topics | see Federalism Events list of topics |, provide insights on global experiences, and allow for discussions and brainstorming sessions using participatory approaches. Participants also gain understanding on the strengths and limits of federal governance in managing deep-rooted conflicts. Federalism Trainings are co-organized by EBO-FOF, and facilitated by FOF.

FEDERALISM WORKSHOPS

TRAININGS OF TRAINERS (TOT)

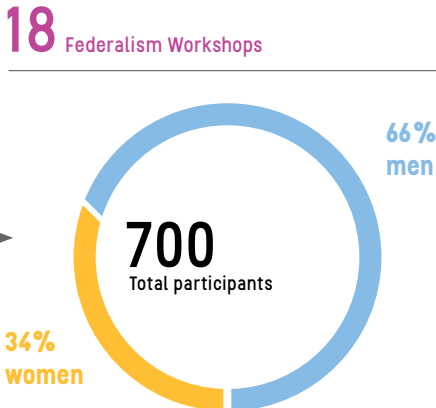
Trainings of Trainers are intended for those who participated in a FOF-Federalism Training and are interested in organizing Federalism Workshops in their own States. In 2015, EBO co-organized 2 ToTs with FOF, attended by 70 participants in total; out of which 34 qualified, based on FOF criteria. Non-qualified trainees are invited to attend a second training. TOTs provide the attendees with:

- Facilitation skills: trainees learn techniques to become facilitators of federalism workshops in their own township/State. They also learn self-confidence and interpersonal skills to learn how to lead a group.
- Contents: trainees review the concepts addressed in the Federalism Trainings and get more in-depth information on each topic.
- Observation mission: trainees attend a ‘real case’ Federalism Workshop as an observer to find out how facilitation work is conducted by other trainers, using observation templates. Trainees look into the behaviours of the facilitators and the reactions of the audience. A debriefing is organized in the evening to exchange their observations and opinions, and learn further from FOF resource persons.
- Implementation: trainees facilitate Federalism Workshops in their own State with the technical and logistical support of EBO.
- Review: once a year, FOF organizes a TOT Recapitulation and Strategic Meeting to review the achievements and challenges and to receive feedbacks from FOF Resource Persons.



FEDERALISM WORKSHOPS

After having been trained in Trainings of Trainers (TOT), trainees facilitate 2-day Federalism Workshops in their own State or township to disseminate the basic concept of federalism throughout the country at the grassroots level (e.g. CSOs, CBOs, EAOs, political parties, local administrative chairment and secretaries, community leaders, religious leaders, teachers, university students, etc.). Facilitation by local trainees is important, as they conduct the workshops in both Burmese and local ethnic languages, enabling local populations to grasp



political concepts which they, sometimes, had never heard of before. Locals participating in the trainings often reported on their keen interest in the subject, and on their enthusiasm to use their knowledge to change some of the situations their communities encounter. They feel empowered, as

they learn about democracy and politics and the awareness raised during the workshops allows them to feel confident to take a role in the development of their local areas, and for some, to take a leading role in politics. This is key in the democratization process and the development of Myanmar, especially as such initiatives were forbidden for over 60 years. In 2015, the trainees who successfully completed ToTs facilitated 18 Federalism Workshops co-organized by EBO and local organizations. Federalism Workshops follow the same agenda as the Federalism Trainings, addressing the same topics and using the same participatory approaches. | see Figure 9 |.



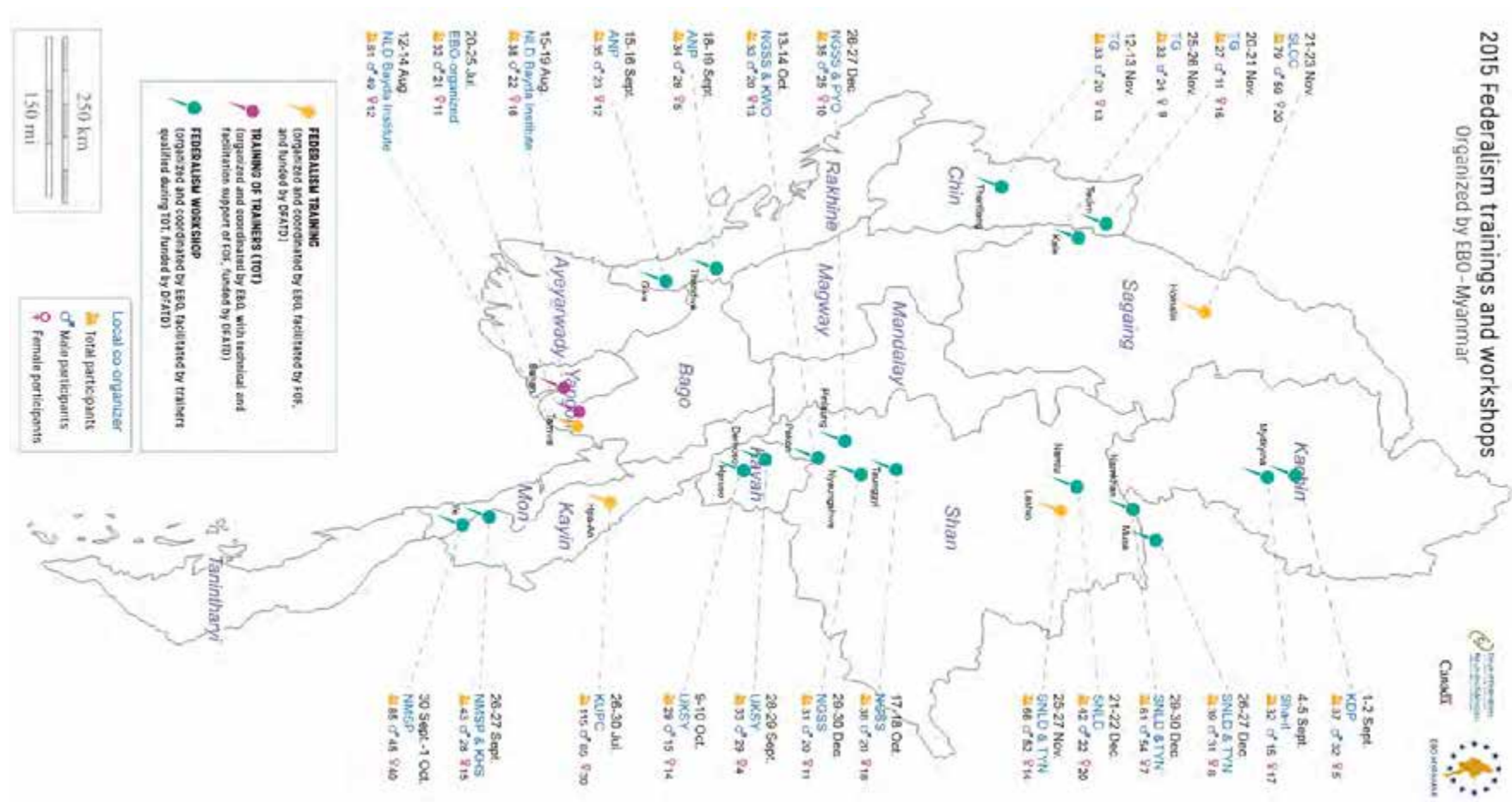


Fig. 9 - LOCATION OF 2015 FEDERALISM EVENTS

2015 Federalism events organized by EBO, in collaboration with FOF and local co-organizers. ©Basemap: d-maps.com.

Throughout 2015, EBO provided capacity-building to decision makers to enhance their skills in political negotiations, especially by participating in federalism trainings, FPD consultation workshops, and other events with key stakeholders (e.g. other decision makers, EAOs, CSOs, the public, the International Community, etc.) In 2015, EBO also supported initiatives specifically focusing on building the capacity of decision-makers such as:

CHERRY FOUNDATION (NAYPYIDAW)

Cherry Foundation is a project based in Naypyidaw and funded by EBO since 2014, which provides logistical and technical assistance to Members of Parliament (MPs) from ethnic political parties and opposition democratic parties. Cherry Foundation assists MPs in digitalizing, copying and printing their motions and questions to Parliament. Cherry Foundation also consistently collects and publishes ethnic news updates and prominent political issues in a newsletter called *Ethnic News Collection* for ethnic MPs, which is sent by email and distributed in hard copy fortnightly. Additionally, depending on the requests and needs of MPs, data and facts are collected on the Internet and in various reports and books. Cherry Foundation also arranged several meetings between MPs and CSOs, INGOs, and others upon request; and established an internship program for post-graduates, who elaborate policy papers for MPs.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS MINISTERS OBSERVATION MISSION (INDIA)

In 2015, several Ethnic Affairs Ministers (EAM) approached EBO to arrange a study trip to learn about other peace & political dialogue processes. As a result, EBO accompanied 8 EAMs to India from 25 February to 4 March. The main highlight was the attendance to a conference on Good Governance and Trust-Building, with over 130 participants from 40 countries. Numerous topics were discussed by participants, such as just governance and minorities, trust building in

divided societies, apologies for the past, healing historical wounds, refugee issues, and peace processes. The EAM from Myanmar presented two topics: ‘Just governance and minorities’ and ‘Healing historical wounds’. Other speakers included representatives from South Sudan, Somalia, Russia, Ukraine, Palestine, etc. The EAM reported that the observation mission was a real eye-opener as they learned several key elements on how to take the peace process forward in Myanmar and how to work towards reconciliation. Following the conference, the Ministers flew to New Delhi to meet with the Chin refugee community, a very first for both sides. Refugees expressed their wish to return to Myanmar while the EAM explained the current political developments and the momentum for federalism.

JOINT EAOS-TATMADAW STUDY VISIT (COLOMBIA)

EBO funded a EAOs-Tatmadaw joint-delegation study visit to learn from the Colombian peace process: representatives from the KNU, the DKBA, the KNU/KNLA-PC, the Tatmadaw, the MPC, and senior Burmese military officials participated in this very first joint-study visit. From 3 to 10 December 2015, participants met with high officials of the government, including the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, as well as with political advisors involved in the current peace negotiations. They also met with military officials who briefed them on demining techniques, human rights trainings, engineering, and natural disasters attention. The delegation also met with ex-members of armed groups: the *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia* (FARC) and the *National Liberation Army* (ELN) in a demobilization center to learn from their process of demobilization and reintegration. They also met with UN representatives, academics, and local community leaders in conflict affected regions; from whom they learned on land restitution, security guarantees, projects for local populations in conflict zones, etc.



# CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

EBO has a long history of supporting and facilitating small, especially ethnic, civil society groups to support and build the capacity of their communities. In 2015, EBO provided support to over 70 projects all over the country. This is part of EBO’s strategy of inclusiveness so

## PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND TRAININGS

Support to organize public consultations, workshops, and trainings sensitizing on democracy, peace process, gender equality, inclusivity, human rights, interreligious tolerance, etc. Highlights include:

- Federalism trainings and Framework for Political Dialogue consultation workshops | see p.15 and p. 37 |.

## INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH GROUPS IN THE PEACE PROCESS

EBO supported youth organizations initiatives, especially the ones focusing on their inclusion in the peace process. Highlights include:

- A consortium of 23 youth organizations organized a workshop on national dialogue, which led the UPWC to accept 2 youth representatives to participate in the negotiating process for the NCA and to attend every meeting of UPWC and NCCT.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Many ethnic communities are dependent on the environment for their livelihoods, and because natural resources have often been the cause of conflict in Myanmar, there is a crucial need for local people to openly discuss with authorities and to build trust in order to discuss matters that are important on a daily basis. Environmental issues prove to be a good way to open these communication channels and open up the debate to more global issues, such as politics. Highlights include funding for:

- AIRAVATI project, which worked on reducing the trauma of children

that those living in isolated and remote areas also take part in the peace building and democratic processes. Only some highlights are presented in this report:

- A training in Chin State to educate local communities on the roles of political party members, opinion leaders, local authorities, religious leaders, and the national parliaments as well as the importance of the involvement of local communities in the democratic transition.

- A grassroots community empowerment project in Shan State organized workshops on human rights, good governance and voter education for 800 youth, enrolled 14 young people in a leadership development course, trained 30 to be peer educators, as well as training 60 women on women’s rights and CEDAW.

and adults through a program to create community resilience with activities focusing on livelihoods, income generation, farming, reforestation and micro-credit. They used land use assessments to raise local awareness on land rights, which has helped avoid conflicts between authorities and villagers on land ownership.

- NEED Myanmar, which trained over 100 farmers and students from all over Myanmar on land rights, food safety, climate change and livelihood preservation, and published a book on pesticides, crop rotation, and ecosystems preservation for the use of farmers.

# CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- A sustainable livelihood center in Shan State, which enabled local communities to dialogue on key issues and to develop income generation skills; established connections between local organizations, and promoted sustainable and ecological practices.
- Through awareness trainings on the environment and politics, 864

## TECHNICAL AND THEMATIC SUPPORT

Support to CSOs with core technical and thematic support, and with trainings to professionalize their practices. Highlights include:

- Youth groups organized trainings for young people on political awareness and technical skills to encourage an understanding of the political situation and develop an interest in humanitarian work, as well as how the peace process impacts their lives.

## ETHNIC CULTURES AND LITERATURES

By promoting ethnic cultures and literatures, EBO intends to make up for the many years of forbidden education and daily use of ethnic languages in Myanmar. The promotion and respect of cultural differences is a pre-requisite for the prevention of potential future conflicts (whether inter- or intra-ethnics) in a country where so many

## RESEARCH AND SHARED-KNOWLEDGE

EBO supported initiatives conducting research and shared-knowledge. Highlights include:

- ComReg project provided a safe and user-friendly venue to hold workshops, press conferences, meetings, to trigger changes in civil society space from grassroots level, and provide information and act as Centre for community research and social networking.

villagers from 15 villages in Chin State presented their needs and concerns on environmental issues to local authorities, and directly came to understand the concept of democracy and in particular the power sharing and functions of Parliament, administration and judiciary, as well as the importance of elections and voting.

- Nau Shawng Education Network’s community school training young leaders from northern Myanmar in human rights, democracy and advocacy skills. 40% of NSEN alumni are presently working in CSOs. They are well-informed and resourceful members of their communities.

different identities co-exist. Some highlights include:

- The development of a dictionary in Lahu dialect
- Summer school program on Kachin Culture and Literature
- Land protection through cultural site preservation in Kachin State.

The historical ‘Four-Party talks’ discussion happened due to the in-depth involvement of ComReG, the students and public - the law that had been approved by the Parliament had to be amended because of ComReG’s pressure, an undeniable achievement.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

SPOTLIGHT ON:  
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

EBO has been a long term and consistent supporter of women’s empowerment. Prior to 1999 there was no organized independent organisation representing women, until the first forum of women’s organisations funded by EBO, which paved the way for the creation of the *Women’s League of Burma* (WLB). In 2015, EBO was particularly attentive to initiatives focusing on how to include women in the political dialogue. Highlights include:

- Joint collaboration between *UN Women* and EBO: *UN Women* approached EBO to enquire on how to include women in the political dialogue, which resulted in the organization of 4 workshops. *UN Women* funded and organized these events while EBO and CSI acted as resource persons and facilitators (*Harn Yawngghwe - EBO, Thuzar Thant - EBO, and Hannes Siebert - CSI*). Two workshops mainly involved women groups, another one was jointly attended by women and political parties, while the fourth event was the invitation of *UN Women* workshops attendees to the 14 September *Framework for Political Dialogue* (FPD) consultation. The series of workshops intended to elaborate recommendations on how to include women and their priorities in the Common FPD. Most of the recommendations drafted by the participants of these workshops were adopted in the FPD.
- Core support to women’s organizations, including the *Women’s League of Burma* (WLB) and its members, the *Burmese Women’s Union* (BWU), the *Rakhine Women’s Union* (RWU), and the *Lahu Women Organization* (LWO).

- Support to Daw Tay Tay, a gender consultant working with the *Shan Women’s Action Network* (SWAN) and the WLB. The consultant organized meetings and public consultations, facilitated and acted as a resource person in several meetings, and provided technical support to several initiatives. Highlights include:
  - Organization of the *Senior Women of Shan State’s* (SWSS) seminar on “*Women’s meaningful participation in peace process in Burma*”. This event was key in bringing together senior women residing in Shan State who have an extensive network in different fields. The attendees learned on how to actively get involved in the political decision-making process, and sent a petition to the government and all stakeholders on the involvement of women in key processes. The group was later involved in a series of workshops which aimed at developing action plans to raise awareness on environmental issues of Inle Region.
  - Input for advocacy strategies to women organizations, as well as technical advice during strategic meetings (e.g. prioritizing activities, developing staff recruitment planning, reviewing working structures and procedures, reviewing internal decision-making processes, etc.)
  - Facilitation of 4 workhops with several women organizations to facilitate the data collection process for the elaboration of a *Shadow Report* in collaboration with the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW).
  - Organization of a National Consultation on Civil Society’s Inputs to provide recommendations to ‘*Visions 2025*’ of the *Association of Southeast Asian Nations* (ASEAN), a vision document with an emphasis on human rights and gender equality.

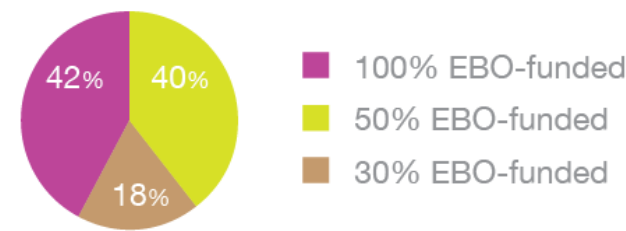
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

SPOTLIGHT ON:  
SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2010, EBO’s scholarship program has successfully provided education opportunities to young individuals of disenfranchised and remote communities who are often overlooked. The goal is for youth to gain an understanding of contemporary society and issues interplaying with social, economic, political, cultural and environmental dimensions, and to develop analytical skills for social change.

- In 2015, EBO supported a Burmese programme at Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU) in Shillong, India and the English Social Sciences BA program at the Chiang Mai University, Thailand. 76 students received scholarship funding from EBO in 2015.
- EBO also supports the Intensive English Program of Kaw Dai, a CSO which has trained more than 70 students over the past 5 years in order to empower Shan Youth in political and social changes.

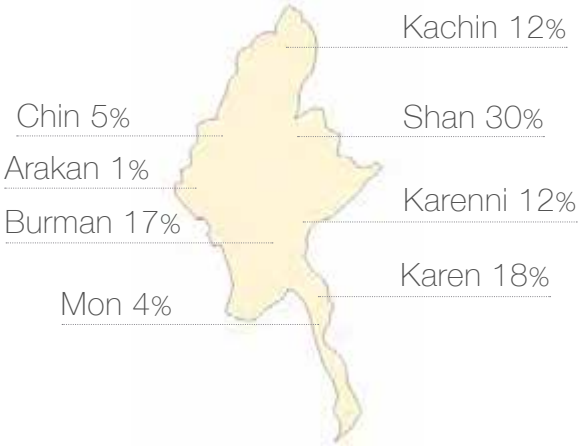
Distribution of funding by EBO / by other sources



Distribution of studied topics

Social Science	76%
Political Science & International Relations	8%
Local development & Economics	4%
Business Administration	4%
Conflicts transformation & Peace studies	3%
Communications & Public Education	2%
Environment & Tourism	2%
Fine Arts	1%

Distribution of scholarships per ethnicity



Distribution by country where students are studying



Distribution by degrees



# CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

## MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

EBO provided support to media organizations across Myanmar to raise awareness on issues such as peace building and democratization processes, human rights, constitutional matters, the role of civil society in politics and democratic changes, rights of ethnic people, women rights, youth rights, religious freedom, citizenship rights, land rights, environment and education; and to encourage balanced and ethical news coverage, crucial for the promotion of peace and to avoid fuelling conflicts.

## DISENFRANCHISED COMMUNITIES

EBO encourages inclusiveness and participation of all in Myanmar political and social landscape. EBO has been a key source of funding for disenfranchised communities, those living in remote areas with poor access to education or knowledge. In 2015, EBO funded:

- The Relief Action Network for IDP and Refugee (RANIR) collected data on numbers of IDPs or their conditions; as well as the damage

## HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The human rights situation in Myanmar has steadily improved since the transition from dictatorship to democracy. Despite ongoing political, legal and economic reforms, progress on human rights has somewhat stalled, with backward steps in significant areas. Yet, key progress was made in 2015 with the signing a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. The legitimacy and the ability of the peace process -and particularly political dialogue- to address the underlying reasons of several conflicts in Myanmar is closely connected to its inclusivity and human rights sensitivity. Although the focus of the work is on

In 2015, EBO funded:

- The running costs of ethnic publications (including *Shan Herald Agency for News, Amartdein, Voice of Arakan, Thinthang Mekazin...*)
- Professional media trainings to improve the skills of journalists to elaborate timely and accurate information, especially during the elections period (e.g. DVB Election taskforce).
- Fidi Group, a project in Chin State promoting freedom of expression and raising awareness on the role of media in a democratic society.

villages sustained during outbreaks of conflict, and the views of the people on peace talks. This data was compiled and shared with the KIO, the Government and the international community (who previously did not have access to such detailed data from these war zones ).

democratization, peace and reconciliation and good governance, EBO recognizes the importance of creating policy that is coherent with organizations working towards poverty alleviation and the respect of human rights. In several situations, EBO has served as a bridge between the development world and actors working towards democracy and human rights. Thus, rights-based issues, such as gender, children’s rights, rights of indigenous peoples and minorities, religious and cultural rights, and rights of people living with disabilities, are at the heart of EBO’s planning and activities.



EBO  
STRUCTURE

EBO PRINCIPLES

Development (poverty alleviation), human rights and security (peace) are all intertwined and interdependent. One cannot be achieved without the other. The development world and actors working towards democracy and human rights are essential to the achievement of a long-term transition to democracy in Myanmar where all citizens will be free from want, fear and discrimination.

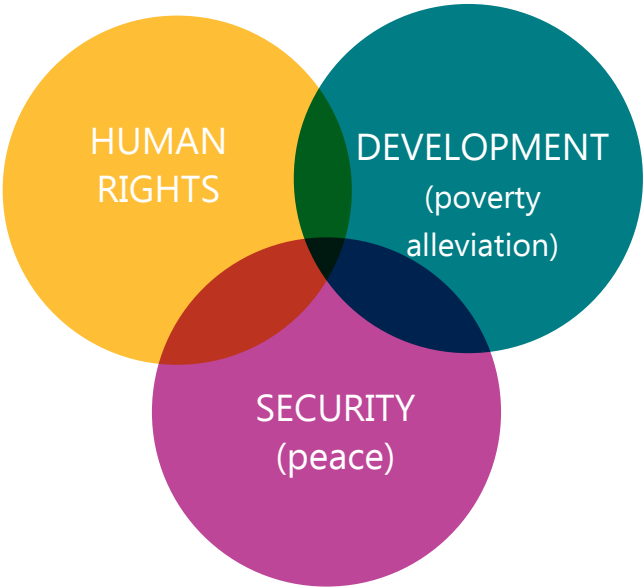
DIVERSITY  
=  
STRENGTH



Existing differences among all ethnic nationalities in Myanmar is a source of strength rather than weakness. Cultural diversity is a cornerstone for creating national unity.



NURTURING A CULTURE  
OF DIALOGUE AND  
COMPROMISE



In a country where dialogue and compromise have for too long been supplanted by the use of force, there is a need to nurture a new political culture based on the needs and respect of all.

For EBO, it is crucial to enhance the continued development of a culture of peace in Myanmar that encourages the equal participation and inclusion of all. EBO reaches this goal by creating opportunities to broaden and deepen consensus among different stakeholders.

EBO STRUCTURE

The Associates to Develop Democratic Burma Inc (ADDB) is a registered Canadian not-for-profit corporation established in 1990. In 1997, ADDB established its operational centre in Belgium, which became better known as the Euro-Burma Office (EBO). In 2010, the EBO Foundation was established in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In 2012,

the operational centre of ADDB was moved to Yangon, Myanmar. The operational objective of EBO Myanmar is to contribute to a peaceful transition to democracy in Myanmar. EBO is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-cultural organization, with a team who has partly lived abroad for many years.

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\* M&E: Monitoring & Evaluation  
\* PO: Project Officer



INCOME

EBO thanks the following key donors for their support in 2015:

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)

SIDA is a government agency working on behalf of the Swedish parliament and government, with the mission to reduce poverty in the world.



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

The aim of Finland’s foreign policy is to strengthen international stability, security, peace, justice, and sustainable development as well as promote the rule of law, democracy and human rights.



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs works for Norway’s interests internationally, to safeguard the country’s freedom, security and prosperity.



THE SWISS CONFEDERATION DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Swiss Confederation Department of Foreign Affairs objectives include the peaceful coexistence among peoples; respect for human rights and the promotion of democracy; relieving need and poverty in the world.



USAID (VIA THE DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES INC. (DAI))

DAI is a private development company based in Washington funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). DAI tackles fundamental social and economic development problems caused by inefficient markets, ineffective governance, and instability.



FORUM OF FEDERATIONS (FOF)

The Forum of Federations (FOF) is a Canadian non-profit running learning events on federalism, giving technical advice on democratic governance and producing publications for practitioners of federalism.



CENTER FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (CPCS)

CPCS expands safe spaces and creates platforms for dialogue and understanding, which are essential for establishing mutual trust and an environment conducive for transforming conflict contexts.



UN WOMEN

UN Women is the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.



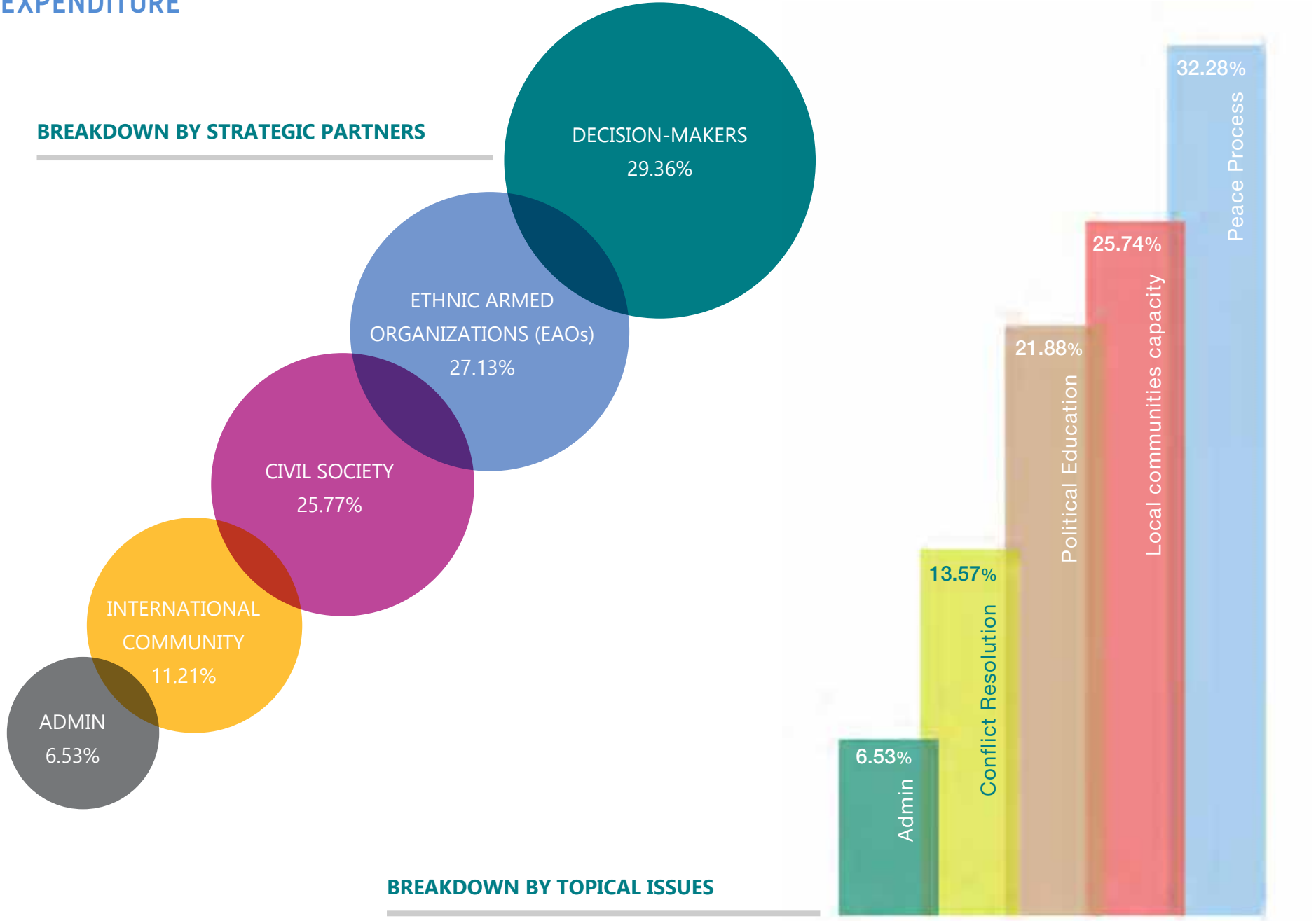
INCOME

DONOR	EURO
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)	1,908,652
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND	1,474,957
NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	625,945
FORUM OF FEDERATIONS (FOF)	155,480
CENTER FOR PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES (CPCS)	142,647
THE SWISS CONFEDERATION DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	65,667
USAID VIA THE DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES INC. (DAI)	41,402
UN WOMEN	7,784
ADDB MEMBERSHIP FEES & OTHER DONATIONS / INCOME	12,166
DEFERRED INCOME*	-878,850
TOTAL 2015 INCOME	3,555,850

\* Income received in 2015 to be allocated to 2016 activities.



EXPENDITURE



EXPENDITURE

Note: Auditors in 2014 and 2015 are RSM Belgium and Pricewaterhousecoopers (PWC) Laos Ltd.

	2014 <i>Euro</i>	2015 <i>Euro</i>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Total Income	3,439,945	3,555,850
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Project activities	3,244,522	3,640,119
Administration	228,042	287,892
Total Expenses	3,472,564	3,928,011
Net Income	-32,619	-372,161
<b>ASSETS</b>		
ADDB Funds in Bank	30,411	35,089
Donors Funds in Bank	181,128	474,862
Receivable from Donors	0	8,208
Prepayment to EBO Offices & Projects	138,714	159,460
Revaluation - EBO Offices	32,211	0
Total Assets	382,464	677,619
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable / Accruals	282,459	911,994
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Opening Balance Equity	100,413	100,005
Net Income	-32,619	-372,161
Revaluation - EBO Offices	32,211	37,781
Total Equity	100,005	-234,375
Total Liabilities and Equity	382,464	677,619

ANNEX 1  
2015 Photos mosaic

ANNEX 2  
Objectives and Principles of the Political Dialogue

ANNEX 3  
List of identified topical issues for Union- and State-level Political Dialogues

ANNEX 4  
Acronyms list

NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT (NCA)



Meeting between EBO and ethnic leaders to discuss the NCA.  
From left to right: Col. Htoo Htoo Lay (KNU), Khu Oo Reh (KNPP Vice Chair), Harn Yawngghwe (EBO), Gen N Ban Lah (KIO Vice Chair), Khuensai Jaiyen (RCSS Advisor), Dr. Laja (KIO Gen. Secretary).



NCA signing ceremony, Naypyidaw  
Left to right: Harn Yawngghwe (EBO), Derek Mitchell (US Ambassador to Myanmar), Andrew Patrick (UK Ambassador to Myanmar).



NCA signing ceremony, Naypyidaw  
Left to right: Lyndal (Consultant), Sophie Butcher (ISDP), Victor Biak Lian (EBO), Thuzar Thant (EBO).



NCA signing ceremony, Naypyidaw  
15 Oct. 2015 From left to right: Sai Latt (PI), Thuzar Thant (EBO), Pao Hom (PI), Salai Za Uk Ling (CHRO).

FRAMEWORK FOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE WORKSHOPS



5th FPD consultation, Yangon, 14 Sept.  
Left to right: Padon Kwe Htoo Win (KNU), U Aung Min (UPWC), Harn Yawngghwe (EBO), Col. Htoo Htoo Lay (KNU).



6th FPD Consultation workshop  
5 Oct. 2015 , Yangon  
Harn Yawngghwe, EBO (left) and Saw Jubilee San Hla, Karen Affairs Minister (right).



Technical Working Group (TWG) discussion during FPD workshop.  
Left to right: Pao Hom (PI), Hannes Siebert (CSI), Mya Hnin Phyu (EBO), Sai Oo (PI).



6th FPD Consultation workshop.  
5th October 2015  
Harn Yawngghwe (EBO) presenting the composition concept.

LIAISON OFFICES TRAININGS



LO Coordination meeting, Hpa-An, Kayin State, 27-29 Feb. 2015  
Photo: ©Sai Soe, Pyidaungsu Instute (PI).



LO Coordination meeting, Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Mandalay Region  
30 Nov.-2 Dec. 2015



LO Leadership Training  
Yangon, 29-31 Oct. 2015.



LO Public Relations Training  
Yangon, 3-7 Aug. 2015.



FEDERALISM WORKSHOPS



Prof. Sandeep Shastri, Senior Advisor to FOF (main facilitator for Federalism Trainings).



Sai Mawn, EBO Training Coordinator (technical and logistical support for federalism events).



Federalism Training co-organized with Bayda Institute (NLD) Yangon, 12-14 Aug. 2015



Federalism Training co-organized with KUPC, Hpa-An, Kayin State 26-30 Jul. 2015.



Federalism Workshop: break-out group discussions Namtu, Shan State 21-22 Oct. 2015.



Federalism Workshop: break-out group discussions Thantlang, Chin State 12-13 Nov. 2015.



Training of Trainers (ToT) for Bayda Institute (NLD think-tank). Yangon, 15-19 Aug. 2015.



Training of Trainers (ToT) for ethnic people to learn how to conduct Training Workshops in ethnic states. Yangon, 20-25 Jul. 2015.

LIAISON OFFICES ACTIVITIES



KNPP Loikaw Liaison Office In-charges regular Meeting



Public consultation on NCA in Muak Mai, by PNLO LO



Distribution of aid relief to IDPs by CNF Matupi Liaison Office



Liaison Office run by the Chin National Front (CNF), Thantlang, Chin State (LO staf, EBO staff, and PI staff)

CAPACITY BUILDING



Karen Unity Peace Council (KUPC) conference. 2-4 Jul. 2015, Yangon.



Ethnic Affairs Ministers in India. Observation Mission organized and funded by EBO. 25 Feb.-4 Mar. 2015.



Pa-Oh National Conference Convening Committee (funded by EBO & DAI), Tathon, Mon State 16-19 Feb. 2015.



2nd National Dialogue Forum in Helsinki, Finland. 16-18 Nov. 2015  
From left to right: Pao Hom (PI), Thuzar Thant (EBO), Harn Yawng hwe (EBO), Ashine, Myo Yan Naung Thein (Bayda), Cho Cho (Bayda).



RISE (Karen Common Space) Strategic Meeting with EBO & PI 22 Jun. 2015 Hpa-An, Kayin State.



Harn Yawng hwe (EBO) & the 1st batch of graduating BASS students and their professors in CMU, Thailand. 13 Dec. 2015



Launch of “Why Gender Matters in Conflict and Peace” Malamyine, Mon State, 24 Nov. 2015.  
Left to right: Mi Kun Chan Non (MWN), Dr Jean D’Cunha (UN Women), Thuzar Thant (EBO). Photo: ©UN Women Myanmar



NEED Myanmar, sharing-knowledge with locals. Nyaung Pin Thaya Kone Village, Hmawbi Township 20 Jul. 2015.



ANNEX 2

Objectives and Principles of the Political Dialogue

OBJECTIVES

- Collaborate and negotiate for political, economic, social, and security reforms.
- Commit to National Reconciliation; Stop armed conflicts; Solve the political, economic, and social issues in political way rather than by using violence.
- The Constitution and the laws shall be amended, added, and repealed under the procedures based on the Political Dialogue results (Union Agreement).
- Build the Federal Pyidaungsu (Union) based on national equality and self-determination.
- Establish a democratic state (country) with freedom, equity, peace and respect of human rights.

PRINCIPLES

- Commitment to Peace
- Solving problems through dialogue and negotiations
- Consensual Decision Making
- Strengthen the Union based on the Panglong Agreement
- Protect ethnic rights
- Work toward mutual development
- Accept and practice democratic ways
- Freedom and equity
- Transparency, accountability and responsibility
- Equal rights and collaboration
- Protect human rights and human dignity

ANNEX 3

List of identified topical issues for Union- and State-level Political Dialogues

POLITICAL SECTOR

- Building the Federal Pyidaungu System (State)
- State Structure
- Power Sharing
- Administration Sector Reform (Governance System Reform)
- Legislature System Reform
- Legal System Reform
- International Relations Policy

ECONOMIC SECTOR

- National Economic Policy
- International Investment
- Taxation System of Union and States
- Revenue Sharing between Union and States
- Monetary and Budgeting Policy
- Land Issues
- Natural Resources Issues
- Equal Development between States and Regions
- Rural & Urban Management System

SOCIAL SYSTEM

- Education
- Health
- Culture
- Language and Literature
- Freedom of Religions
- Resettlements and Rehabilitation (Migrants, Refugees, IDPs)
- Humanitarian Aid
- Infrastructures for Social Development
- Drug Issues
- Natural Disaster Prevention

TRANSITIONAL PERIOD ARRANGEMENT

- Fundamental Education, Healthcare, Social and Economic Development
- Natural Resources Preservation and Protection
- Ethnic Languages, Literature and Culture promoted and maintained
- Regional Peace and Rule of Law
- Internal and International Donors for Local Development and Capacity-Building
- Drug Eradication

SECURITY SECTOR

- Security Policy (Reform)
- Federal Pyidaung Tatmadaw Issues (Formation of a Union Tatmadaw)
- States and Regions Security Forces

BILLS OF RIGHTS

- Citizenship (Right to be a Citizen)
- Ethnic Rights and Minority Ethnic Rights
- Democracy and Human Rights

MEDIA

- Freedom of Media
- Mainstream Media & Local (Ethnic) Media

OTHER

- Recognize the loss of lives, livelihood and human rights because of the political and armed conflicts.

# ANNEX 4: Acronyms list

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

ABSDF: All Burma Students Democratic Front  
ALP: Arakan Liberation Party  
ANP: Arakan National Party  
Bayda Institute: NLD think-tank  
CHRO: Chin Human Rights Organization  
CNF: Chin National Front  
DKBA: Democratic Karen Benevolent Army  
EBO: Euro-Burma Office  
KDP: Kachin Democratic Party  
KHS: Kon Hong Sar  
KIO: Kachin Independence Organization  
KNLA: Karen National Liberation Army  
KNPP: Karenni National Progress Party  
KNU: Karen National Union  
KPC: KNU - Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Committee  
KUPC: Karen Unity and Peace Committee  
KWHRO: Kuki Women’s Human Rights Organization  
KWO: Kayan Women Organization  
LDU: Lahu Democratic Union  
NCCT: Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team  
NGSS: New Generation Shan State  
NLD: National League for Democracy  
NLD CEC: National League for Democracy Central Executive Committee  
NMSP: New Mon State Party  
PNLO: Pa-Oh National Liberation Organization  
PYO: Pa-O Youth Organization  
PI: Pyidaungsu Institute  
RCSS: Restoration Council of Shan State  
RCSS / SSA: RCSS-Shan State Army-South  
Sha-it: Social Development Foundation  
SLCC: Shan Literature and Culture Committee  
SNLD: Shan Nationalities League for Democracy  
SSPP: Shan State Progressive Party  
SWAN: Shan Women’s Action Network  
TG: Taungzalatt Group  
TYN: Tai Youth Network

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

UKSY: Union of Karenni State Youth  
UNA: United Nationalities Alliance  
UNFC: United Nationalities Federal Council  
UPDJC: Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee  
UPWC: Union Peacemaking Work Committee  
USDP: Union Solidarity and Development Party  
UWSA: United Wa State Army  
WON: Women’s Organizations Network  
WLB: Women’s League of Burma  
56-pp: 56-Political Parties (coalition of 56 political parties)

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CSI: Common-Space Initiative  
DAFTD: Department of Foreign Affair, Trade and Development  
FELM: Finnish-Evangelical Lutheran Mission  
FOF: Forum of Federations  
ISDP: Institute for Security and Development Policy  
UN Women: UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

## OTHER ACRONYMS

BASS: Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences  
CCoC: Ceasefire Code of Conduct  
CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women  
CMU: Chiang Mai University  
CSO: Civil Society Organization  
DoC: Deed of Commitment  
EAM: Ethnic Affairs Minister  
EAO: Ethnic Armed Organization  
FPD: Framework for Political Dialogue  
JMC: Joint Monitoring Committee  
LO: Liaison Office  
MP: Member of Parliament  
NCA: Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement  
TOT: Training of Trainers  
TWG: Technical Working Group



EBO MYANMAR

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