

Women at the Forefront of COVID-19 Response and Recovery Efforts in Kachin

Durable Peace Programme – Photo Stories
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COVID-19 has affected everyone in the world. However, the pandemic has disproportionately impacted lives of conflict-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) and aggravated their vulnerabilities. The lived realities of IDPs can be seen in camps across Kachin where they live in densely populated areas or in extremely remote areas, are unable to maintain distance or self-isolate, and face challenges with limited access to sanitation, health care and reliable information on COVID-19 prevention and protective measures.

The Durable Peace Programme (DPP) aims to facilitate durable peace and equitable development in Myanmar, particularly in Kachin and northern Shan. Through our Photo Story series, we seek to raise awareness and shed light on particular issues that affect the lives of Internally Displaced People and other conflict affected communities in the geographical coverage of the programme.

For more information on the DPP, you can visit: www.durablepeaceprogramme.com



*“This year, I went to stay at the boarding school for 11th grade.
But I had to return home for the school had been closed due to
COVID-19.”*

– Li Tar, Ze Kham village, Waimaw Township, Kachin



Trócaire and local partners are responding to the challenge of COVID-19 in Kachin. Our local partner organisation, Htoi Gender and Development foundation, is a women's rights organisation that is reaching vulnerable population in extremely remote communities.





Htoi Gender are providing emergency hygiene supplies such as soap, hand sanitizers and dignity kits, particularly for women and girls at quarantine centres.





Daw Mya Si washing her hands with soap supported by DPP in Chyetpawng Chan village, Myitkyina.

“Although we have a lot of trouble because of COVID-19, we console ourselves thinking that we are not alone. Such support reaching us in times of trouble like this makes me feel safe.”



Htoi Gender are training volunteers and enabling women to lead and participate in the response to COVID-19 pandemic, as part of our broader work to implement the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Myanmar.





Awareness is being raised through information materials and door-to-door awareness sessions in local languages, building knowledge amongst communities about how the virus spreads, as well as about the prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) during COVID-19 and beyond.





“Since it is a rural area we don’t have much access to services and information. It is good to have such [COVID-19 and GBV] awareness program with disinfectants, antiseptic soaps and flyers reaching individual home”

– U La Win, 52-years-old, Ze Hkam village, Waimaw Township, Kachin

13-years-old, Yi Sa Bo (third person from left) is seen here sharing about COVID-19 awareness pamphlet in Lisu language with his family members.





The DPP is helping communities to stay well informed, strong, resilient and safe.

On this 20th anniversary of the WPS Agenda, Trócaire salutes and celebrates the exemplary efforts by women and girls in all areas of life, but particularly in combatting the spread of COVID-19 and providing lifesaving services to men, women, and children.



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All those who appear in this photo story have given their informed consent to take their photos and make a photo reproduction for education and awareness purposes.

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