



Temporary Learning Centre in Nyi Sar

Embassy of Switzerland, Swiss Cooperation Office Myanmar

Provision of a temporary learning space to create opportunities for marginalized young adults to learn vocational skills in a remote and conflict affected areas in Mon State.



students to continue with higher education. MNEC was operating 25 early childhood care schools, 136 Mon national schools, 1 higher education school, 82 mixed schools with the DBE in ceasefire areas, but no vocational skills centre. Most of the school buildings in remote areas are built with community contributions, some schools were not completely finished and others are in dire need of renovation. Most of the adolescents in the remote area have challenges accessing vocational skills for the local job market.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and political crises in Myanmar, the Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) was struggling to provide education services especially in remote areas. An increase of school dropout rates with young adults who needed to generate income for their families resonated. Due to the limited livelihood opportunities in remote areas, young adults were also considering migrating to neighbouring countries. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supporting the construction of a temporary learning centre for the MNEC in Nyi Sar to provide vocational skills training. With the challenges of construction during a crisis in Myanmar and not having the approval from the central government for construction, the building was implemented by the local community with locally sourced materials.

Background

Through the early 1970s, the Mon national education system was established in the New Mon State Party (NMSP) controlled area. In 1992, MNEC was formed by NMSP to lead the Mon national education system. Later in 1996, they started to cooperate with the government education system by incorporating the Department of Basic Education (DBE) curriculum which then allowed

<p>LEARNING CENTER</p> <p>Building A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76 ft x 35 ft (23m x 10.7m) 2 multipurpose open space Classrooms <p>Building B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70ft x 35ft (21.3m x 10.7m) 2 Classrooms 	<p>BUDGET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60,000,000 MMK (31,200 CHF) funded by Switzerland
<p>BENEFICIARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marginalised young adult and students of >35 village in NMSP area 	<p>LOCATION</p>
<p>STAKEHOLDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) New Mon State Party (NMSP) SwissContact MNEC Maintenance Committee 	

Objective

- 1) To construct a temporary learning space for vocational skills training to ensure a safe and effective learning environment.
- 2) Swiss Contact to coach MNEC trainers to roll-out their own vocational skills training and build up a curriculum in their own native language.

Implementation

The project was implemented by MNEC in collaboration with the village school committee initiated by SDC. The project focused on using locally available materials sourced and implemented by local carpenters.

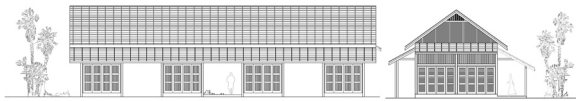


Bamboo treatment by the community.

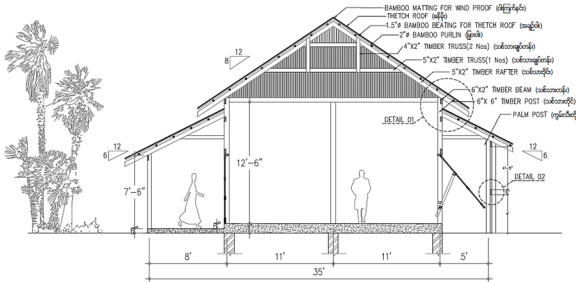


Temporary learning centre construction activities.

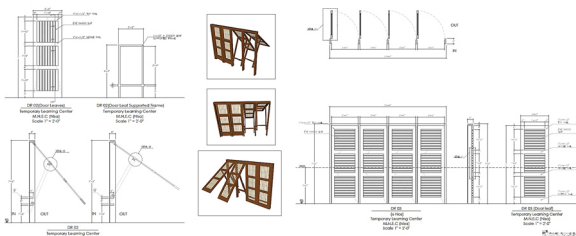
Moreover, the project considered gender sensitivity throughout the implementation process (e.g. the daily workers were led by a female worker). The building was designed by a renowned architect "Pyinkado Studio" for vernacular architecture who used a participatory approach by collaborating with the community in terms of layout, space requirement and material use.



ELEVATION A
ELEVATION D
Temporary Learning Centre
M.N.E.C (Nisa)



CROSS SECTION ON A-A
Temporary Learning Centre
M.N.E.C (Nisa)



This temporary learning centre is essential for the region, especially for young adults and dropout students to have locally available access to vocational skills so as to enter the job market.

Achievement

MNEC as an education provider leads the vocational skills development plan with support from Swiss Contact to start the vocational training as a beautician, motorbike mechanics and seamstress/tailors. The gained vocational skills will increase young adult students' livelihood opportunity in rural areas.



Beauty salon training.

Motorbike mechanic training.



Sewing training.

Lessons Learnt

- A safe and child friendly school construction guidelines can be adopted to a temporary learning space for vocational skills and multi purposes spaces.
- The inclusion of local stakeholders created an opportunity for the community to understand the construction process and created ownership, which in return increased their incentive to maintain the facility.
- The use of locally abundant construction materials such as timber, betel wood and nipa leaf generated opportunities for the community to be resourceful with local materials. Applying bamboo for sustainable construction created a chance for the local people to learn how to treat bamboo and encourages them to use more local resources in the future.
- The completed building is a showcase of a well-designed eco-friendly structure in Mon state.

IMPRESSUM

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