

ENDLINE REPORT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Durable Peace Programme in Kachin,
May 2018

In light of the renewed escalation of conflict in Kachin, the Durable Peace Programme's (DPP) endline report underscores the urgent need for immediate, unrestricted humanitarian access throughout Kachin and for sustainable, equitable and inclusive peace. Based on over 2,300 interviews, this endline report provides both a snapshot into the situation in Kachin up to late 2017 and an analysis of the changes since the baseline in late 2015. This two year period began with pre-election and nationwide ceasefire optimism, and ended with intensified armed conflict and further displacements.

KEY FINDINGS

Worsening cross-sectoral situation in KCA/NGCA



Internally-displaced persons (IDPs) from Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) controlled areas and non-government controlled areas (KCA/NGCA) report an increased sense of threat from armed conflict and increased vulnerability on a number of fronts, such as loss of income and livelihoods. This includes pronounced declines in income with 25% of IDPs reporting no income in the previous 12 months, in addition to a significant decline in nutritional diversity. These results have occurred as freedom of movement and humanitarian access have become increasingly restricted, and armed conflict has escalated.



Increasing reports of domestic violence, and growing perception of its acceptability

Domestic violence was perceived to have increased since the baseline. Cramped living conditions and protracted displacement are factors in exacerbating household tensions. Endline results also show a rise in the number of IDPs who agree that husbands are justified in beating their wives in various situations.



Reduced engagement with the peace process

Responses indicate a decline in the belief that communities' and women's priorities are being included in the peace process. Responses also indicated decreased knowledge about KIO-government negotiations.

IDPs preference is for return

IDPs overwhelmingly report wanting to return to their land of origin rather than resettling in alternative locations. The primary barriers to their return are linked to the failure of the peace process in Kachin, particularly the presence of armed actors, landmines and active armed conflict.



Contrast between KCA/NGCA and GCA relations with authorities

Responses across different themes in the survey indicate that KCA/NGCA IDPs appear to have greater confidence and trust in local authorities than IDPs living in Myanmar government controlled areas (GCAs). KCA/NGCA IDPs specifically perceive the KIO to be relatively more responsive to their needs compared to the GCA IDPs perceptions of the government's responsiveness.



Non-IDP respondents are better off than IDP respondents

Results indicate that non-IDPs reported higher income levels, greater food diversity and less fear of armed conflict compared to IDPs. Non-IDPs are far more positive when specifically questioned about their future development than IDPs. While the armed conflict in Kachin has adversely impacted everyone, the results indicate that the impact has been more severe on IDPs.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Remove all humanitarian access restrictions

The extreme vulnerability of IDPs, particularly those in KCA/NGCA, highlights the urgent need to remove all humanitarian access restrictions, both formal and arbitrary, so that all people can access desperately needed humanitarian assistance throughout Kachin.



Take actions to guarantee gender equality

Urgent and sustained attention must be paid to improving gender equality in Kachin, particularly to addressing the alarming rise in perceived acceptance and prevalence of GBV. At the same time, the peace process must more effectively address women's specific needs, such as ensuring women's influence in decision making and protection concerns.

Create conditions for IDPs' return

All actors must take appropriate action in supporting IDPs' preference to return to their land of origin. Beyond a cessation of hostilities and an equitable peace agreement, IDPs' land rights must be secured and all actors need to work towards safe, voluntary and dignified returns.



Increase community knowledge of and influence on the peace process

All actors must work to improve people's access to information about the peace process. There must also be spaces for people, particularly women and youth, affected by the conflict to influence the peace process. These spaces must be tailored to the preferred communication styles and languages of the participants.



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