

Welcome to the British Embassy's "Spotlight On..." series.

The UK is active all across Burma and we work in many different sectors from education and healthcare to conservation and supporting peace. The "Spotlight On..." series aims to share with you some of this work every two months by highlighting UK activity in a specific region or state in this amazing country! This month, we shine a light on the UK's presence in **Kachin**, Burma's breathtakingly beautiful northernmost State.

February 2015: Spotlight On... Kachin

The UK is the largest bilateral donor of humanitarian aid to Kachin. The British Embassy is very engaged, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance to the nationwide peace process.

DfID Minister Desmond Swayne visited Kachin in August 2014 to see for himself how UK assistance was impacting vulnerable communities. This followed a visit by Foreign Office Minister Hugo Swire in January 2014 when he became the first British Minister to visit Kachin since World War II.



After his trip Mr Swire said:

"I am delighted to be the first British Minister to visit Burma's Kachin State since independence in 1948. The Kachin people made a brave and invaluable contribution to the Allied effort in World War II, and I was honoured to speak of our immense gratitude directly to a group of veterans..."

It is tragic that this beautiful state today remains blighted by conflict. I urged all sides to build on the momentum in the peace process towards a nationwide ceasefire. I made clear to the authorities the importance of ensuring unfettered humanitarian access, of respecting international human rights standards, and of investigating transparently any allegations of violations..."

DFID Support to Kachin State

The UK is the largest donor of humanitarian aid to Kachin, delivering food, shelter, water and adequate sanitation, including in IDP camps.

DfID supports basic healthcare to marginalised communities in Kachin through Health Poverty Action. Currently, DFID provides about £1.5 million over 3 years up until December 2015 for healthcare in Kachin. Health Poverty Action works with communities, health providers and ethnic health authorities, making sure that health gains are sustainable in the longer term.

In the last two years, UK funding in Kachin has resulted in:

- **1,500 babies being immunised against measles**
- **26,000 people having increased access to improved sanitation facilities**
- **2,500 women delivering babies with skilled health staff**

DfID also funds healthcare in Kachin through the Three Millennium Development Goals (3MDG) Fund. DfID Burma provides 40% of the 3MDG funds, which are distributed to local NGOs working on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria:



- **HIV and Harm Reduction**: With 3MDG's support, Substance Abuse Research Association (SARA), Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) and Population Services International (PSI) are providing Harm Reduction interventions for HIV and drug abuse in high-risk townships of Kachin State. To date, the programme has reached 19,000 people who inject drugs by prevention services, 9.2 million needles and syringes have been distributed and 2,200 people have been supported for voluntary confidential counselling and testing for HIV.
- **Malaria and Myanmar Artemisinin Resistant Containment**: With 3MDG's support, Community Partners International (CPI), Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) and World Concern work together to support early diagnosis and provide treatment in areas where drug resistant malaria is confirmed. By July 2014, more than 820,000 people from high risk areas had been tested for malaria, more than 100,000 people were treated for confirmed malaria cases and over 918,000 long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets were distributed.
- **Tuberculosis and Support to National Tuberculosis Programme**: TB Interventions are targeted at poor and vulnerable communities to support active case finding and referral of TB cases to appropriate healthcare facilities, integration of TB screening and referral. The total support is \$5.7m and the fund works together with the National Tuberculosis Programme (Ministry of Health) and Medical Action Myanmar (MAM).

DfID is also providing support to improving education in Kachin. The Myanmar Education Consortium, which receives 30% of its funding from DfID, works with local civil society organisations to improve access to quality education services for children who face significant barriers to educational achievement. In the first round, grants totalling £1.02m (2014-2015) were given to local organisations, some of which are working in Kachin.

DfID's Pyoe Pin programme aims to promote social and political change through bringing together a 'coalition' of groups and individuals to address particular issues of social, political, economic or environmental concern. In Kachin State, this has helped forest user groups achieve land tenure rights and successfully rebut land-grabs.

British Embassy Rangoon: Support for Environment & Prosperity

The British Embassy's Prosperity Team has been doing some innovative work on the environment and conservation in Kachin State, one of the most resource-rich and biologically diverse parts of Burma.

Head of the Prosperity Team, Mr Anthony Preston, recently visited an Environmental Education Centre in Putao. A joint initiative between the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Ministry of Environmental Conservation, the Centre showcases the region's flora and fauna, as well as emphasising the risks caused by deforestation and the illegal wildlife trade.

Through the Darwin Initiative the UK has been supporting work to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide, including in Kachin State where there is ongoing work to protect the Burmese snub-nosed monkey and its bio-diverse habitat. More information on Darwin Initiative activities in Burma can be found here: <http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/location/country/burma-myanmar/>



In June 2014 the Prosperity Team, along with colleagues from the UK's Climate Change Unit and representatives from the local NGO EcoDev, travelled to Myitkyina and Wai Maw in Kachin State to obtain a better understanding of community forest management and to help inform potential UK support for the protection and management of Burma's forests.



In Burma the UK's Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) programme provides support to a number of multilateral initiatives, trade associations, civil society and non-governmental organisations to strengthen forest and land governance, and tackle illegal logging and timber flows. This has increased transparency of information on the trade in illicit timber and is helping organisations to participate and engage in forest governance dialogue.

We hope that these posts have given you a chance to explore the variety of work that the British Embassy is doing in Kachin State. We look forward to giving you a glimpse into our work in another part of this wonderful country next month. In the meantime, we welcome your comments.