

## Summary of the Meeting of the Development Organisations in Kachin State

**Overview:** It was the first meeting of the development organisations both locals and internationals working in Kachin State. The meeting was held in the auditorium of Shalom Centre on 25 June 2003. Metta Development Foundation and Shalom Foundation together took the initiative of organising the meeting. 25 representatives from 13 development organisations participated in the meeting.

The primary objective of the meeting was to get to know each other well, particularly, who is doing what. It also provided an opportunity of exchanging ideas and exploring mechanisms to set a stage for sharing experiences and learning from each other. The outcome of the meeting led to some concrete suggestions of cooperation and collaboration among the development partners especially for efficient use of expertise and resources to intensify the development efforts across the state.

As the meeting was designed to facilitate more systematic sharing, particularly the experiences and activities of each organisation and subsequently to interact with each other, it ultimately turned out to be a sharing workshop. In the big forum based on their nature of work, 13 organisations made their presentations in three plenary sessions. Each plenary session was followed by open forum for questions and clarifications that identified issues and areas for further discussions and collaboration. Participants, based on their areas of interests, formed five groups and looked for ways and means for possible cooperation and collaboration.

**Who is doing what:** Rev. Dr Saboi Jum, Director of Shalom Foundation, welcomed the workshop. After the self-introduction of the participants and the workshop overview, the plenary sessions began. In the plenary sessions, the organisations presented their major activities, scale of operations, major successes as well as challenges. The following table provides the list of programmes or interventions that each organisation is carrying out.

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Major programmes/interventions</b>
Anglican Diocese	Rural development, Training, agriculture and Farmer Field School (FFS)
Catholic Diocese	Healthcare, Counseling, ECCD, Savings, and Agriculture (FFS)
KBC	Training, Education, Community health, Rural development (through community based project), and ECCD
UNDP	Agricultural and Natural Resources, Training, Self-reliance group through credit support, Primary education, Basic healthcare, Infrastructure, Water and sanitation
World Concern	Community health, Community options for well being, and Water management
YMCA	ECCD, Computer training, Awareness training, English/Japanese language teaching, and publications
Metta	Training, Rural development (community based project), Agriculture, FFS, ECCD, and Water supply
Shalom	Training, Peace building, Conflict resolution, Reconciliation, Fear reduction, Fellowship programme and local coordination
MDM	HIV: prevention and health care
PSI	HIV, Goitre, Social marketing and information communication
UNICEF	CRC, CEDAM, health education, Vaccination, HIV, Nutrition, ECCD and Monitoring and evaluation
AZG	Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV, STD and education
Swissaid	Agriculture and Natural Resources, Education and capacity building, Women and gender, and Peace and civil society

30 minutes **Open Forum** was held at the end of each group presentation. In the plenary session many organisations were found to have intense and large-scale operation with varieties of resources, while the open forum focused on some particular challenges. Gap of common understanding between the service providers and the beneficiaries was seen to be an important challenge in many organisations. Lack of management and organising skills of the community, while managing community based project, was found to be another challenge. Limited resources and expertise for some organisations such as Anglican Diocese and Catholic Diocese, particularly in the areas of healthcare, were shared as a greater impediment to expand their programmes. Interestingly, the other health-based organisations were very quick to show their willingness to support these organisations in those particular areas.



Nevertheless, the overlapping of services became an important issue of discussion in the open forum. Many argued overlapping of service could be considered a challenge only when there are duplications of supports with similar interventions to similar group of peoples. Otherwise, it could be an important opportunity to make collaborations among different service providers to extend diverse supports to the communities based on their needs. Another important issue, which was a focal point of discussion, is that there are many organisations working in the nearby areas of towns and urban peripheries but there is very little service to communities living in the remote areas. There were also discussions about the ethical issues, particularly about the use of condoms. To facilitate condom use specifically to prevent the sexually transmitted diseases requires dialogue between the churches and the health organisations. Health organisations need to explain to the church leaders the grave consequences of human tragedy so that the churches are willing to formulate conducive policy and guiding principles regarding the use of condom.

The open forum concluded with the realisation of greater need for cooperation and collaboration among the development partners, to avoid duplications of services and at the same time to maximize the use of resources and expertise. Although, there have been mechanisms of regular meetings and sharing between the international organisations, it is also important to have such kind of meetings among the INGOs and Local NGOs as the latter need support.

**Small group discussions and areas of collaboration:** Discussions in the open forum revealed that there are five important areas where collaboration and cooperation could be more meaningful. They are **health, education, training, income generation and agriculture**. The participants were formed into groups based on their interests into those five areas. As most of participating organisations have several representatives, they had a chance to split into several areas.

Accordingly, each small group had 3-6 persons to work and discuss. They were given a set of questionnaires to facilitate the discussions. The basic questions were:

1. In which activities the organisations could benefit from sharing?
2. How do you think a sharing mechanism could be established among the development partners?
3. What are the particular areas for concrete cooperation and collaboration?
4. How would you establish such collaboration?



The groups, at the end of their discussions, came up with very specific presentations, as described below.

*Income Generation group* believed interventions on income generating activities are very important to attain greater food security and livelihood of the communities and that the products have good market potentials. The group mentioned specific skills and knowledge on cash crop and fruit cultivation, livestock rearing as well as required resources to be most important items to share among the organisations. They suggested regular monthly meeting among the development partners to share the specific income generating activities of each organisation. They also suggested making special forum for meeting at least every six months.

*Health group* considered activities on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and Malaria, as well as experiences on traditional medicines to be most useful for sharing. They recommended regular meetings every three months among church based organisations, NGOs and INGOs to share specifically who are doing what, where and how. During the meeting the group suggested identifying training needs together and accordingly develop plans for sharing expertise. They also suggested sharing the overall plans of individual organisations.

*Agriculture group* mentioned exchange of resource persons during the training period to be useful as well. They felt distributing copies of each individual organisation's action plans would be helpful. The group suggested if interventions are not the same, it is better for the development organisations to work together while supporting the same target groups.

*Education group* suggested that sharing in the areas of health, remote area development and education could provide mutual benefits. Sharing could be initiated through regular meeting, particularly, according to area and intervention wise as well as biannual meeting of all development organisations. To make concrete collaboration, however, the group suggested that INGOs support the activities of local organisations working in the remote areas where INGOs have limited access. This would, in fact, help reaching out to most isolated and undeveloped areas and avoid overlapping.

*Training group* considered a large number of areas for cooperation such as activities on FFS, PAR, COT, TOT, PME, conflict resolution and management, and project management. The group suggested making a committee among INGOs, LNGOs and religious organisations so that they can frequently meet together. Sharing information

regarding plans and needs of an organisation in the meeting would provide direct opportunities for collaboration specifically in resource person sharing, community awareness raising training, community need assessment and sharing organisational policies.

**Conclusion** The workshop finds many of the organisations undertaken similar programmes with diverse resources, approaches and expertise. There are thus greater opportunities of cooperation and collaboration among them, which might help establish better understanding and avoid duplications of services. Collaborations are much needed among INGOs, LNGOs and church based groups which are working in the remote areas to provide services to those peoples who have very limited access to support services. The workshop has been able to bring out this message successfully. In addition, based on the given thoughts of the participants, specific ideas have been explored and proposed to facilitate such collaboration. However, no concrete plans have been made. It may be too early to draw such plans, as this is the first meeting. Nevertheless, the workshop has already opened up that door. To continue a worthwhile process, it is important to maintain communications either over email or telephone among all the partners and continue to conduct meetings on a regular basis, may be every six-month. Like Shalom and Metta Development Foundation, any other partner could now take the lead and organise the next meeting.

The workshop was concluded by thanks and closing remarks from Seng Raw, Programme Director of Metta Development Foundation. Humayun Kabir and Hkawn Ja of the same Foundation facilitated the entire activities of the workshop. Kabir prepares this minute.

Follows: Workshop Schedule  
List of Participants

## Workshop Schedule

0900	Greetings	Dr Saboi Jum, Director, Shalom Foundation
0910	Get to know each other	self-introduction
0930	Overview of the Meeting	Humayun Kabir
0940	Tea Break	
1000	Presentation of	ADM, CDM, KBC
1045	Open Forum (discussion & clarification)	
1105	Presentation of	Metta, Shalom, UNDP, WCN, YMCA
1200	Open Forum	
1230	Lunch Break	
1400	Presentation of	AZG, MDM, PSI, UNICEF and Swissaid
1450	Open Forum	
1515	Tea Break	
1530	Small Group Discussion	
1600	Group Presentation	
1650	Wrap up	
1700	Closing remark	

## List of participants

Name	Designation	Organisation	Address
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U Paul Naw Tawng	General Secretary	KBC	135 S.S. Myitkyina
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Daw Seng Raw	Programme Director	Metta	
Daw Morine Po	Programme Secretary	Metta	
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Daw Ja Nan	Assistant Director	Shalom	do
Rev. Dr Saboi Jum	Director	Shalom	do
U Zau Shan	Assistant Director	Shalom	do
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Daw Khin Mya Yi	Township Coordinator	UNDP/UNOPS, CRTD	Do
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U Lahi La Hka	Agriculture Project Coordinator	World Concern	do
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