Lahu Women’s Organisation (LWO)
Basic reproductive health awareness training for Lahu communities in Myanmar
Lahu Women’s Organisation (LWO) - Overview

Lahu Women’s Organisation (LWO) is a non-profit grass-roots organisation founded in 1997 by a group of Lahu women, who had emigrated to Thailand at the time. Registered under Women’s League of Burma (WLB), the umbrella organisation working towards advancement of women status and stable communities, LWO is based in Chiang Mai (Thailand) and operates in Shan State, eastern Myanmar, within the Lahu community.

LWO’s activities:

- Capacity Building Programme for community members
- Health Awareness Programme
- Education and Orphanage Centre
- Internship Programme
- Income Generation Programme
- Documentation
- Publication
Lahu Women’s Organization (LWO): Health Awareness Programme - Overview

We are particularly interested in their health intervention – Health Awareness Programme and Training - as in Myanmar, funds for health care are very limited, and the population in remote rural areas, such as the mountainous Lahu community, greatly lack basic health knowledge and suffer terribly as a consequence.

Lahu women tend to get married at very young ages. At age 13 – 14, these young girls usually do not have appropriate knowledge about family care nor responsibilities, and this regularly leads to infants dying within their first year. There is, therefore, an urgency to teach and empower young people on reproductive health issues to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

LWO is working with young people aged 12 – 30 of both gender to intervene and impart knowledge as well as appropriate practices on topics such as puberty, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive rights, anatomy, abortion, basic hygiene and drug preventions.
How It Works

Within the 2019 programme, 96 trainings (8 sessions per month) under the aforementioned topics, equipped with distributions of reproductive health handouts, will be conducted. The facilitation and cooperation from village chiefs are important in ensuring the villagers are informed of the training schedules.

A remarkable increase of outreach compared to previous years, an estimated 1,920 local community members will be direct beneficiaries of the new year programme, with an expectation of 9,600 indirect ones through the awareness.

Seeing an advancement opportunity for fostering holistic education through their comprehensive training, since 2014, we have been financially supporting LWO in running their programme of increasing awareness and ensuring access to information on adolescent reproductive health rights among the youth in Lahu community.
Aims and Objectives

✓ gaining knowledge of basic health and prevention of infectious diseases
✓ creating healthy families and communities
✓ raising awareness of gender balance to increase the process of decision making for families
✓ understanding the importance of family planning and helping to build strong family relationships
✓ gaining close relationships with local people and building more trust among the local people and LWO.

The organisation’s main goals are to address the needs of women and children, promote gender equality, and thereby, increase the involvement of Lahu women through increased leadership roles in society to achieve an inclusive, wholesome community.
Budget

The total annual budget for the overall running costs is **USD 37,000** for the 2019 academic year (January – December).

Transfers of funds from Child’s Dream are made in four instalments (quarterly) during the financial year.

**Monitoring & Reporting**

Payment is proceeded quarterly at reception of narrative and photo reports as well as monthly financial & activity reports. Feedback is also obtained directly during regular visits by our Yangon based team.

We report to donor(s) on a semester basis.

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Breakdown of approx. Budget for LWO 2019

- **39%** Salaries
- **44%** Education and Training
- **7%** Office and Administration
- **7%** Administration Overhead
- **3%** Project Implementation and Monitoring