NON-PROFIT SECTOR AT INLE LAKE, MYANMAR

Business practices and networking of non-profit organizations at Inle Lake and their contribution to the development of the area

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I hereby declare that this thesis is wholly the work of Jan Uelkes. Any other contributors or sources have either been referenced in the prescribed manner or are listed in the acknowledgements together with the nature and the scope of their contribution.
I. Preface

The thesis presented here completes the four-year study of “International Tourism Management and Consultancy” at NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences. “Business practices and networking of non-profit organizations at Inle Lake and their contribution to the development of the area” is the title of my four-month project.

I was always interested in the structure behind the non-profit sector all over the world. Good but also scandalous and especially stereotypical news about this topic reach this side of the world: ridiculous administration costs, great contribution to communities, first-class flights and five-star hotels for employees and poor children smiling in front of a temporary lodge, holding loafs of bread in their hands – this is the vague idea a better part of society associates with non-governmental organizations and their work. Being skeptical and curious by nature, I was planning for a longer time to gain insights into the sector. The opportunity was provided when I expected it least: A project with GiZ (German Society for International Cooperation) was looking for students to analyze the accommodation sector value chain in Nyaung Shwe, Myanmar, and as I could participate in there I decided to connect my thesis to the work. I had already lived in Southern India for half a year during my internship and had experienced other Asian countries before, so I could identify to some of the general differences in culture, life and conduct of business. In this context it was, next to the thesis, especially interesting to observe the clash of cultures between international and local organizations. With the tourism industry’s rapid development in the area the contribution of non-profit sectors to sustainable structures was of initial interest when setting up the framework for this paper.

Conducting research in Myanmar was the most challenging part of the entire four-year study, rounded off with losing my entire work just when leaving the country and having to recreate everything over from scratch again. However it provided me with extremely valuable experiences by giving me insights into an entirely different lifestyle, changing my perspective to many events. Also, it made me appreciate my origin, which I did not use to value too much before the experience.

I would like to express my gratitude to my friend and translator Dar Dar whose help and criticism was essential to conduct research. A big thank you to the interviewees, who warmly welcomed me and willingly took hours of their time to help me out. The team of Inle Speaks for their help and friendship, the balcony sessions with the crew and last but not least my parents who supported me in difficult situations. The friendliness and help from all of you made this paper possible.
II. Summary

The paper at hand researches the non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar. It is a just developing sector; there was a change in government four years ago, loosening up the law for assembly and therewith legally allowing the foundation of local non-profit organizations. Simultaneously, the borders of the country were opened for main-stream tourism, resulting in a continuously rising number of visitors. The Inle Lake area with its beautiful sceneries is a tourism hotspot; confronted with a different culture and being in need of an infrastructure concerning transport connections, communication and education, the non-profit sector is an influencing factor to the whole picture.

To gain an insight into the evolving sector, the goal of the research has been set to analyzing business practices and networking of non-profit organizations at Inle Lake and their contribution to the development of the area. The main research questions this goal is based on are the following:

1.) What does the infrastructure of non-profit organizations look like in the area of Inle Lake?

2.) Are non-profit organizations’ programs effective and sustainable?

3.) How is the work of the non-profit sector linked to the tourism industry?

4.) What is the impact and success of non-profit organizations at Inle Lake area?

Answers to these questions have been searched for by conducting both secondary and primary research; primary research was conducted by using a qualitative approach. Before starting the research in Myanmar, scientific articles to a broad variety of topics around the non-profit sector have been collected to build up knowledge that could be adapted to the situation on-site. The techniques of progressive focusing and grounded theory were applied, connecting secondary and primary research and adapting them in the progress. Data has been gathered by means of semi-structured interviews based on topic lists.

The stay in Myanmar was scheduled for two months, however considering the work on two projects next to this paper an effective of three weeks have been spent on research. In this time, seventeen interviews with an international non-governmental organization (INGO), national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBO) and civil society organizations (CSO) were
conducted. As on request of the interviewees, interviews have been anonymized to guarantee future safety to their operations.

The non-profit sector is a field where theoretical models can be applied to research, nonetheless there are no perfect examples or models for development to compare to, as there are too many individual factors influencing the respective situation. The strategy, as a result, was to adapt research techniques based on literature in order to evaluate the sector at Inle Lake in its specific environment.

The most popular activities amongst organizations at Inle Lake are environmentally related, which is due to the difficult situation around the lake. Next to this, the focus is on sustainable development, mostly concerning trainings and skills of the local population. Especially skilled personnel is a huge issue in the area, as most volunteers or employees at non-profit organizations work intuitively or on the background of insufficient trainings. The organizational structure depends on the type of institution; while smaller, rather locally oriented ones work here next to their regular jobs and pass on trainings to the communities, larger organizations have a full-time pool of staff, providing training and education for the smaller ones.

Though executed projects of non-profit organizations can be considered a success, their impact on the area is low. The organizations need to focus on their own problems too much to focus on their actual tasks, limiting their overall impact. In this context, a network needs to be established in order to increase the effectiveness and to stimulate a mutual learning effect and improvement of actions. There are issues to overcome before, originating from cultural differences, conservative and traditional approaches, a lack of communication and the infrastructure. Also the lack of trained personnel is crucial, as the knowledge on how to set up a functioning network is missing.

The funding is mostly based on a project-related approach; monetary support is given based on project proposals sent to the funders who are either foundations, businesses or private donors represented by INGOs or locally based private donors. Important here is that most organizations in the Inle Lake area pay attention on rejecting proposals of potential funding partners, accepting only funds based on the support of own proposals. Here also a general problem evokes: own proposals are based on direct feedback of the community or own observations, ignoring scientific reports and thus projects contributing to the achievement of a common target, resulting in inefficiency. Furthermore, untrained actors do not conduct proper evaluation of projects, leading to potentially dangerous actions based on under minor conditions provided funds.
Potential future problems to the sector are a possible rise of INGOs to the area, providing funds and thus stimulating local unstructured non-profit organization development. The funds can easily be misused for private purposes or, due to problematic project structures, be used in a wrong way, resulting in a variety of social problems in the area. As there is no network established, the non-profit sector at Inle Lake is widely unstructured, most likely leading to a negative future development.

Concluding, the impact of the non-profit sector is too low, training is urgently required, the organizational structure is weak, a network is required to enhance productivity and the accomplishment of a unanimously set goal. An international NGO or an independent organization is needed to connect organizations, training of evaluation systems needs to be provided to local organizations and a control system for funds needs to be established.

For future research, the study should be repeated in five years in order to determine changes, the INGO sector that is actively involved in the area needs to be analyzed and research about the connection between the government and the non-profit sector needs to be conducted in order to enhance structure and development of the sector.
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1. Introduction - Background and context

1.1.1 Myanmar

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a state situated in Southeast Asia, bordered by Bangladesh, China, Thailand, Laos and India. With a population of roughly 51.5 million it is one of the smallest countries in Southeast Asia. It also is the 5th most corrupt country in the world. There are eight major recognized ethnic groups in the country, however the fractions and smaller communities are in the hundreds. After a long period under a military regime, Myanmar opened up its borders to tourism in 1992 and hit the one million visitors in 2010. Since then, the tourist arrivals are exploding, delivering a 46.8% increase in the year 2014 and an estimated increase of 66.6% for the year 2015 (Mintel Oxygen, 2015). Especially since the election of president Thein Sein in the year 2011 the country is opening up for external economic power and influences, so that the political, cultural and social situation is changing rapidly. The sudden clash of the old military regimes’ structure and the new reforms allowing to form groups of more than five members makes it difficult for the people to adapt, which can be witnessed in the daily business routine.

1.1.2 Inle Lake

Figure 1 Map of Inle Area

Inle Lake is situated in the southern part of Shan State in Myanmar. It is the country’s second-largest lake, home to more than 120 000 people divided to approximately 150 villages (Pegu Travels, 2015). Inle Lake is a major tourism attraction in Myanmar, attracting visitors for its hiking and biking trails and stilted lakeside villages, where small markets sell local products and handicrafts. Many small and large privately owned hotels and tour operators have arisen during the past few years, bringing next to the advantages also vast disadvantages of the tourism industry into the region, resulting in an immense growth of both counter and supporting actions in the voluntary sector.

The main area the research was conducted in is Nyaung Shwe and the north-western part of Inle Lake. The Nyaung Shwe Township is a major tourist hub in Shan State, as a canal connects it to the main attraction of the area, the lake. In high season roughly a thousand boats are heading to the lake every day, carrying up to six tourists (chairs) or twenty tourists (ground) each. Due to the high tourist
numbers passing Nyaung Shwe, most of the cities facilities are adapted to tourist needs or even made for tourists. As a consequence, seasonal labor is on the rise with temporary staff outnumbering the locals of the city. As training centers are missing and the skills of the staff are generally not sufficient for the industry, some non-profit organization take on the challenge of setting up training programs and vocational centers. Also the pollution caused by the currently unsustainable tourism is an important issue targeted by the sector, as the biodiversity of the area is in constant danger. Nyaung Shwe is also easily accessible by air and road; it is close to Heho Airport, offering daily flights to Yangon and well accessible by bus.

1.2 Problem statement

Since 1950, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have worked with authorities to build infrastructure for well-being such as immunization programs, community water supplies, sanitation systems, rural health services, malaria prevention in high-risk areas and basic education for children (Costello & Aung, 2015). LNGOs, CBOs and CSOs have been spreading from 2011 on only. This brings a variety of challenges to the situation, as experience with operations and networking is accordingly low. The Peaceful Demonstration and Gathering Law, signed into force in December 2011, is designed to facilitate peaceful gatherings [...] for the people (Nguyen, 2012).

The number of voluntary groups has been exploding since the military rule that prohibited gatherings dropped. As a result, the infrastructure of the voluntary sector at Inle Lake is rather chaotic, an unorganized ruckus of hastily built-up organizations mostly working in their own interests. A bigger part of these organizations works together with locals and knows about the current situation in the area with its points of necessary improvements, however is heavily guided by monetary resources in the decision making. Due to the lack of communication, the contribution of NGOs to the development is smaller than it could be, which is usually enforced by hidden agendas. A huge problem is the fear of losing face. Everyone is watching the actions of each other, so that a tiny mistake or a mistaken approach would lead to the isolation of one organization. As a result, progress is difficult to achieve.

The organizations were set up for different reasons, amongst which the most important ones were community skills development, environmental preservation, waste issues, education, economic development and micro-enterprise development.
There are already studies concerning NGO effectiveness, NGO – private sector connections and the NGO cooperative network, however the background of why the NGOs, especially INGOs come to a particular place is never questioned. Apart from that, there is an immense lack of information about NGOs when it comes to Myanmar, not even talking about the single states. This paper will give insights into the current situation of voluntary organizations around Inle Lake from the perspective of mostly locals and CBOs.

Considering the high number of organizations around the Inle Lake it is interesting to take a look at the network between them, to analyze the ways they cooperate and to figure out a way to improve the current situation by establishing sustainable connections. A high factor in the missing collaboration is the lack of an infrastructure, making it difficult to communicate on a regular basis.

Apart from the institutional development and the network, also the working process within the respective non-profit organization is an interesting point of focus here as most of the founding members are entirely new to the field. Partly INGOs already provide trainings to LNGOs and CBOs in order to enhance their operations and organizational structure, however INGOs often do not enjoy the best reputation amongst locals so that possible cooperation is often turned down from the beginning on. As a result, partly intended high administration costs (for personal enrichment) are decreasing the efficiency of operation, leading to a negative image of the entire non-profit sector.

Even though the international relations are not the best, the funding of local organizations mostly comes from foreign donors. There is a basic contact and a certain level or the possibility of communication, but it could be immensely increased and enhanced.

While most of the INGOs and LNGOs operate from Nyaung Shwe, smaller organizations like CBOs and CSOs are mainly in the north-western part of the lake. Mostly they are not able to be found because of the lack of signposting on the lake and in the floating gardens specifically.
1.3 Research objective:

The goal of this paper is to examine the current state of the non-profit sector in the Inle Lake area and to point out the targets the organizations are trying to achieve.

The preliminary goal was to focus on the NGOs in the area, leading to an eventual comparison of LNGO- and INGO structure, cooperation and analysis in general, however this approach turned out to be impractical when the field research was started. Although different kinds of organizations were interviewed, the topics of the semi-structured interviews remained the same in order to be able to compare the answers and opinions to each field.

1.4 Research questions:

5.) What is the impact and success of non-profit organizations at Inle Lake area?

6.) What does the infrastructure of non-profit organizations look like in the area of Inle Lake?
   a. Which sectors do non-profit organizations belong to?
   b. Which individual targets do they have?
   c. What is the choice of programs based on?

7.) Are non-profit organizations’ programs effective and sustainable?
   a. How are they financed?
   b. Do non-profit organizations collaborate?
   c. Do they work in their own interests or do they try to contribute to the countries development? What are the motivations?

8.) How is the work of the non-profit sector linked to the tourism industry?
2. Methodology

2.1 Setting / Social context

The economy around the Nyaung Shwe area is based on the tourism industry, agriculture, handicrafts and woodworking industry. The tourism sector is mainly broken down in hospitality (hotels and restaurants) and leisure industry (tour operators, tour guides, travel agencies).

The data was collected in 2015, when local non-profit organizations were officially allowed to be founded for four years (since 2011). Even though INGOs operate in the area since the 1980s and unofficially some local organizations formed in the 2000s already, the majority of founders and members of the emerging organizations is new to administration, organization and realization of projects as well as networking. Experience is simply missing, leading to partly controversial decisions.

Most members from NGOs, CBOs and CSOs grew up in their village, live there and work there as well now, partly after joining universities in the bigger cities for a time span. These members are connected to everyone from the typically 200 to 800 villagers. They are in a very strong connection to their home village and fond of the area and its natural beauty that attracts the attention of tourists worldwide. In short, they want to change the current situation of arbitrary political decisions, preserve the environment, set up trainings and profit from the tourism industry, too. Ultimately the setting of the study is a structured and very conservative social context, in which organizations are formed to spread knowledge, influence unappreciated development and keep traditions.

2.2 Design of the study

When confronted between the choice of qualitative or quantitative research methods, the choice fell to a qualitative approach for two reasons: first of all, as Bryman (2004) argues, “in contrast to the adoption of a natural scientific model in quantitative research, the stress [of qualitative research] is on the understanding of the social world through an examination of the interpretation of that world by its participants”.

In short, the focus was upon uncovering problems in the current organization by listening to and comparing the objective opinions of stakeholders in the area. This approach focuses on meanings rather than on quantifiable phenomena.
Secondly, as would be found out at a later stage, for a quantitative approach the sample in the area was too small due to the seasonal nature of projects of mostly NGOs. There are approximately twenty NGOs around the Inle Lake that either operate for one project a year only and in that connection are in business for up to three months a year, or start as a letterbox company only.

Lastly, the lack of financial support made it impossible to visit any more than 16 of the well-spread organizations in the area.

However, a quantitative research model was used to engage in a qualitative process: A table with 5 likert scales from the range of 1-5 was handed out, where interview participants were asked to indicate success, impact, effectiveness, perception and effort put in three of their own randomly chosen projects. Sixteen interviews is a sample not big enough to use averages from that study, however the main point was to get respondents talking about the “why” of the rating, making it possible to see further into their operation. Thus, the quantitative model was used as a bait and did, for itself, not play any role during the evaluation of the data. To give an example, when asking an organization about the projects’ success, they answered with: “Ahm they [projects] successful in every six times. But ahm, for agriculture training and water supply is more success.” When asked to fill in the scales, the success was discussed for 40 minutes (Interview NGO4).

For the type of interview the choice came down to semi-structured. It covers a wide range of instances, and allows the researcher to vary the sequence of questions by orienting on an interview schedule rather than on a fixed script (Bryman, 2004). In this context, also the technique of progressive focusing (Parlett & Hamilton, 1976) was used, in which the researcher adjusts the data collection process itself when it begins to appear that new relationships need to be explored (Schutt, 2015). Those new relationships were adjusted in practice when CSOs started to become important for the research too, making up an important part of the network.

The technique of progressive focusing came close to the concept of grounded theory at times, as data was analyzed through the collection process in order to develop a more distinctive framework throughout the progress of the study. The approach thus was iterative or, as sometimes called, recursive, meaning that data collection and analysis proceed in tandem, repeatedly referring back to each other (Bryman, 2004).

The traditional approach to research interviewing has been to regard the interviewee as a passive ‘vessel’ that supplies answers to the interviewer (Holstein, 1995). From a different approach, an interview can be seen as a collaborative process in which the interviewer and interviewee co-construct
meaning (Ryen, 2001). This was a process difficult to engage in, however highly necessary to overcome the cultural distance between interviewer and interviewee. This strategy made it possible to create the atmosphere of a conversation rather than an interview, and thus lightened the initially highly professional mood, subsequently leading to extensive answers and partly even discussions.

The main topics of the interview schedule included executed projects, management, networking, funding and subjective contribution to the field of operation.

2.3 Data collection procedure:

At the Inle Lake area, the main problem is that, due to complicated and long-lasting registration processes, a lot of voluntary organizations are working without a licence or registration respectively. Partly they are also hiding from local authorities in order to prevent politically motivated arrests due to their fields of activity. This as well as the blatant lack of an NGO / CBO / CSO directory of any kind makes it impossible to know the exact number of organizations in the area, however estimations of local organizations vary between a CBO / CSO population of 30 – 70 (Interview NGO4, Interview CSO3) and an NGO population of 18 – 28 (Interview CSO6, Interview CBO4). Actively involved are eight INGOs, which of three have permanent offices in Nyaung Shwe.

After the thesis proposal was approved by NHTV University of Applied Sciences in Breda, the data collection process was chosen the following way: collect basic information, gather secondary data, look for patterns and develop a theory. The role of theory in relation to research was decided to be inductive, going hand in hand with the qualitative research strategy. In other words, theory is generated out of the research (Bryman, 2004). This approach was chosen for two reasons; first, the researcher approaches the topic unprejudiced so that cultural differences do not extensively influence the findings, secondly the focus would not be narrowed down to a limited field from the beginning on.

After conducting preliminary secondary research covering mostly the topics of NGO relations, case studies of non-profit organizations and NGO funding and effectiveness, it was obvious that, in connection to the blatant lack of information about the non-profit sector in Shan State, the development of a fixed research design simply would not be feasible. As a result, a basic semi-structured interview was created in order to be adapted to local conditions after the first two
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

interviews. This interview was designed to have the widest possible range of questions in order to be narrowed down later.

During and after field research the information gathered from secondary research was adapted and cut to the purpose of the thesis.

Primary data was collected over 27 days in Nyaung Shwe, the villages around Inle Lake and Taunggyi in Myanmar. The duration of interviews was between 14 minutes and 3 hours, averaging at 1 hour 27 minutes per interview. Interviews were conducted at each organization’s main office. There was an initial directory of five non-profit organizations to approach, composed by two NGOs, one INGO and two CBOs. In the progress, every organization provided more names and contact data from their individual partners or other organizations they had heard of, so that a constantly growing sample could be chosen from randomly. Initially it was planned to choose for the method of stratified sampling, and the partitioning of the population into groups (INGO, LNGO, CBO, CSO) was done, however obtaining an equally large simple random sample from each group was impossible - the lack of INGO offices as well as the seasonal nature of most LNGOs led to an uneven number of interviews for the different groups. The actual sample consisted of sixteen organizations, which of one was an INGO, six were CSOs, five were NGOs and five were CBOs. The program of those associations varied between one activity and more than thirty so-far executed programs. Characteristics of participants are to be found in table 1.

Eventually, the method of theoretical sampling was followed. Glaser & Strauss (1967:45) describe the method as “the process of data collection for generating theory whereby the analyst jointly collects, codes, and analyzes his data and decides what data to collect next and where to find them, in order to develop his theory as it emerges. The process of data collection is controlled by emerging theory, whether substantive or formal.” A more recent definition gives a more fitting background for reason of choice for this study: “Data gathering driven by concepts derived from the evolving theory and based on the concept of ‘making comparisons’, whose purpose is to go to places, people or events that will maximize opportunities to discover variations among concepts and to densify categories in terms of their properties and dimensions” (Strauss & Corbin, 1998).

Even though each organizations’ permission to record the interview (one denied, only written notes as a result) was asked for, all of them got the promise that the interviews were not going to be published and in-text references would be made after de-personalization only. Some of the derived information is highly delicate and might lead to problems for organizations. The participants are coded
with each respective generic term (CSO, CBO, NGO, INGO) and ordered by date of record (from one to six, one meaning recorded first).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Field of activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBO1</td>
<td>Environmental preservation, culture, development of community skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO2</td>
<td>Environmental preservation, Childs rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO3</td>
<td>Child education, environment, religious education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO4</td>
<td>Human right, child right, land law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO5</td>
<td>Law and law assistance for citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO1</td>
<td>Women rights, development, skills training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO2</td>
<td>Environment, handicraft training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO3</td>
<td>Development, skills training, education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO4</td>
<td>Community skills, environmental preservation, economic development, training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO5</td>
<td>Orphanage, school, restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO1</td>
<td>Social, economic development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO2</td>
<td>Arts, environmental preservation, networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO3</td>
<td>Summer school, education, library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO4</td>
<td>Environmental preservation, developing of youth groups, training, workshops, networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO5</td>
<td>Environmental preservation, citizen help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO6</td>
<td>Organic farming, environmental preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INGO1</td>
<td>Training, Workshops, Community skills development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4 Data analysis

The technique of progressive focusing came close to the concept of grounded theory at times, as data was analyzed through the collection process in order to develop a more distinctive framework throughout the progress of the study. The approach thus was iterative or, as sometimes called, recursive, meaning that data collection and analysis proceed in tandem, repeatedly referring back to each other (Bryman, 2004). The main tool for data analysis used was open coding, which Strauss and Corbin (1990: 116) define as “the procedure of selecting the core category, systematically relating it to other categories, validating those relationships, and filling in the categories that need further refinement and development”. A core category is the central issue or focus around which all other categories are integrated (Bryman, 2004). Selective coding is step three of the basic coding in grounded theory with the previous steps of open coding – creating labels for chunks of data that summarize happenings – and axial coding, which categorizes data by the codes.
2.5 Structure of Methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Processes</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research questions</td>
<td>4a Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Theoretical sampling</td>
<td>5a Categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Collect Data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Coding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Constant comparison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Explore relationships between categories</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- 4a Concepts
- 5a Categories
- 6a Hypotheses
2.6 Semi-Structured Interview, Example 1

These questions were asked in the interview with NGO1. The questions varied in every interview, however the themes were the same.

General:
- Main field of work
- Founding date
- Size of non-profit organization (employees, offices)
- Growth of NPO, better years, when and why
- NPO mission
- Number of realized projects / trainings
- Who chooses activities, on which basis (reports, general knowledge, …)
- Publishing of numbers / achievements / facts
- Membership in NGO-Database?
- Staff professionally trained?
- Main struggles of NPO

Network
- Part of any networks?
- Who do you work with?
- Connected to other NPOs?
- Business / private sector partnerships?

Funding
- Who funds? (Government, business, foundation, INGO, …)
- International / domestic
- Accessibility and accounting of funds
- Percentage of administrative costs
- What is money used for? (Events, projects, trainings, salary, …)

Projects / impact
- How many projects did you already implement?
- How many of them do you consider a success?
- On a scale from one to five, how successful was the project? Why?
- On a scale from one to five, much impact (sustained production of benefits) did the project have? Why?
- On a scale from one to five, how effective is the project? Why?
On a scale from one to five, how do people perceive the project?

General 2

- Does NPO contribute to tourism development of Inle Lake Area?
- What are your expectations / hopes for the future?
- What role does your NPO play in this future?
- What has changed during the past 10 years in the non-profit sector?
- Are the tasks of your NPO increasing since you started?
2.7 Limitations

There are several limitations influencing the outcome of the research and subsequently this paper, starting with the loss of the entire work put into the project (except for interview files). Literature review, concept, basic planning and topic list had to be re-done from scratch, leading to a less elaborate version of the paper due to the caused shortage of time. Also the initial focus on organizations’ impact on the Inle Lake area was shifted to Networking, as the min secondary research articles could not be found anymore.

The language barrier was all present. There was a translator employed to be able to communicate, however the quality of translation influenced the understanding of the situation from both sides, the interviewer and the interviewee. A classic example that happened over and over again: Answers to short questions were not translated every few sentences but discussed between interviewee and translator. This discussion was then summarized and briefly translated, consequently missing valuable information from the discussion. Also a lot of answers were received unrelated to the questions asked due to misunderstandings with the translator.

Both reason for and limitation of this study was the lack of information about non-profit organizations. Partly the name of an organization and the village they were supposed to be found at were given, but neither the local translator nor the experienced boat driver managed to find it. That way entire days were spent unsuccessfully searching for organizations appointments were made with, going away empty-handed.

Also the seasonal practices of mostly NGOs led to a smaller sample than the initial plan pre-supposed, and eventually led to a minor change of the topic, now focusing not only on NGO and INGO relations but also on the networking and collaboration of smaller organizations in the research area.

Desk research before departure needed to be as broad as possible to avoid surprises on the spot; as there was no information about the non-profit sector in this specific area given by that time, any possible sector, institutional background and linkage of the industry had to be explored in theory.

Interviews were long-lasting because often it would happen that in the middle of the interview a higher ranked employee would enter the office and join, leading to the repetition of the background of this interview and a lot of double answers.
3. Literature review

Before engaging in any primary field research activities, secondary research was conducted in order to get an overview of the field. The non-profit sector in general is extensively researched in its structure, connections, regulations and challenges and there is plenty of case studies available from all over the world. Partly, as mentioned in the chapter “Methodology”, areas and sub-topics were researched more in-depth after encountering unexpected structural conditions. This information is worked directly into the respective chapters. Starting with common definitions, the main topics are discussed and eventually put the context of the field research in the Inle Lake area, carrying over to the actual results of the primary research.

3.1 Definitions

The term “nongovernmental organization” (NGO) is a post-World War II expression which was initially coined by the United Nations (Martens, 2002). It comprises organizations that are neither part of a government nor conventional for-profit businesses – this definition is only rough though, as the term is not officially defined. This is also a reason that it is partly impossible for researchers to compare scientific works dealing with the topic, as many of them interpret the term in a completely different, sometimes even contradictory way. Even the organizations themselves tend not to know that the term “Non-governmental organization” is the generic term for any non-profit organization from the four most common ones: International non-governmental organization (INGO), (local) non-governmental organization (L/NGO), community-based organization (CBO) and community service organization (CSO). According to state laws, however, e.g. a CBO has to face legal consequences if it uses the term NGO to describe itself (Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, 2006).

NGOs are to divide into different sectors, which are defined by the World Bank as follows:

“Operational NGOs
their primary purpose is the design and implementation of development-related projects. One categorization that is frequently used is the division into relief-oriented or development-oriented organizations; they can also be classified according to whether they stress service delivery or participation; or whether they are religious and secular; and whether they are more public or private-oriented. Operational NGOs can be community-based, national or international.”
Advocacy NGOs

Their primary purpose is to defend or promote a specific cause. As opposed to operational project management, these organizations typically try to raise awareness, acceptance and knowledge by lobbying, press work and activist events.” (Malena, 1995).

As sub-categories of NGOs, there are also CBOs and CSOs. CBOs (also referred to as grassroots organizations or peoples’ organizations) are distinct in nature and purpose from other NGOs. While national and international organizations are “intermediary” NGOs which are formed to serve others; CBOs are normally "member-ship" organizations made up of a group of individuals who have joined together to further their own interests (e.g.: women’s groups, credit circles, youth clubs, cooperatives and farmer associations) (Malena, 1995).

"Civil society organization" means a non-profit entity, other than an association, that is organized to provide services to residents of the common interest development or to the public in addition to the residents, to the extent community common area or facilities are available to the public (Civil Code, 2011). In short, CSOs are organizations with only voluntary members, intended to help out the community (or mostly the village they operate in), organizing a highly limited number of activities to address current problems.

Network model

As for the network model, an adaption of Marshall & Staeheli’s (2015) funding / partnership relation diagram was chosen to visualize the connections of the non-profit sector at Inle Lake area and Taunggyi. The model was developed based on secondary research as well as extensive testing in the non-profit sector and continuously improved in the process. The diagram features both funding and partnership relations, with colour indicating the size of organizations and the size indicates betweenness centrality. High betweenness centrality means that a particular node acts as a highly trafficked bridged connecting other nodes together, giving that node a degree of influence (Carrington, Scott, & Wassermann, 2005). As the network illustrated in this paper is considerably less complex, the size of nodes does not represent the betweenness. The use of diagrams in network analysis is extremely valuable as Marshall & Staeheli (2015) express: “They are satisfying because the complexity of civil society is transformed into clearly legible lines and nodes that provide some substance to the fuzzy concept, and an entryway or a set of paths through which to research it.”

The basic model is shown in diagram 1, its adaptation for the purpose of this paper is explained in chapter 6.
Fig. 3. This diagram illustrates both funding and partnership relations. Color here indicates type of organization, whereas size is an indication of betweenness centrality. Larger nodes may have more influence in a network because they serve as a bridge between numerous other actors.
4. Style of organization

The organizations researched in this paper are all founded between the years of 2009 and 2013 and officially registered between 2011 and 2015. In average, the organizations in the sample are founded in the year 2012, which is equal to the average of officially registered non-profit organizations in Myanmar (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 2008). The reason for founding a non-profit organization is varying, however the most common one stated is the environmental conservation of the Inle Lake area. Directly related programs only are executed by CSOs in the area that organize weekly garbage collection, smooth the way for professional waste incinerators and try to raise awareness amongst villagers. Followed by founding reasons for environmental conservation is the wish to help local people based on skills development and education. Just the reason that locals perceive the work of other organizations not to meet their (and the areas') needs stimulated three organizations to form, and also the improvement of critical thinking was reason for two organizations to be founded, namely the prevention of long-term effect negative programs and the prevention of business-based organizations that use funds for purposes other than their determination.

CBOs and NGOs tend to put trainings and workshops on the agenda, while international NGOs join the game by providing funds, professional staff for business performance enhancement and researchers who analyze the struggles and possibilities for improvements of the area. In an ideal case, these organizations, and ultimately their actions correspond, complement one another. This state is subject to achieve, and the Inle Lake area is in far distance of reaching it.

With the exception of three organizations, across the board none of the staff was professionally trained or graduated. As NGO2 expressed, “we recruit people that want to help from their hearts”. This might be true for the most part of the organization, however an ensuing quotation is “it is hard to find properly educated staff, we are looking for a project manager”. Often the skills are not established yet, leading to a shortage of specifically qualified labor. Though there is a blatant lack of officially acknowledged degrees or certifications, most staff is trained by externally (mostly INGO- motivated) trainings, going to the direction of leadership skills, basics of financial management, capacity building and specific areas of education such as training with the fire brigade, department of forestry or organic farmers. Here the main approach is for the staff of organizations to attend the trainings and pass on the skills to villagers, thus acting as a mediator of knowledge and skills (Further reading: Chapter “Funding”).

The workload of organizations depends on the type; while the INGO and all NGOs have full-time jobs for their mostly voluntary staff, most CBOs and CSOs work on fixed projects in the weekends, leaving time to follow regular profit-generating jobs over the week to finance their families.
While all CSOs and CBOs initiate projects based on discussions and meetings with all members involved, the NGOs and the INGO partly follow this practice with the difference that the ultimate decision is made by the head of the respective organization. This is eventually a simpler solution as it is easier to follow a fixed code of practice and consequently simplifies the process of attracting permanent funding partners; unfortunately it can be attended by the problem of deadlocked practices which eventually no longer represent the actual needs of the surroundings (Patry, 2005).

The number of staff in the INGO and NGOs varies between five and 40, while the members of CBOs and CSOs are between 20 and 150. The members here are organized in changing groups, either switching between a fixed number of members rotating in the office or assigning a certain number of members in charge to each project.

While two organizations in the sample also operate projects that involve temporary benefits for villagers such as giving loans or providing money in cash, every other organization in the sample engages in sustainable business practices by providing trainings, staying in direct contact with villagers or by helping people to help themselves.

The determined main struggle of all organizations is funding. Several organizations have elaborate project plans including proposals, however lack the money to implement them. Apart from that, the lack of infrastructure affects daily operations of (not only) non-profit organizations immensely, resulting in inefficient communication, misunderstandings and delay of important or even emergency matters. Also the bureaucracy is a strong influence, as registration processes, dues and general business are organized in total chaos. The lack of databases and guides on how to solve and tackle problems with official institutions is the key feature here. The lack of support from the government, as for example the inaccessibility of the regions visitor’s tax for purposes of campaigns and projects as well as the fact that leaders in the region have too much power (and as a result expect bribes) limits both the radius and effectiveness of projects. Next to this, especially for internationally connected NGOs and INGOs bank affairs are a huge limitation, having international transfers lasting up to three weeks (Interview INGO1). That way, as a basic principle projects start delayed. Also the communication to rural areas and the lack of a network limit the actions of organizations. Skilled staff is currently hard to find, as skills development and training activities started just recently, resulting in increased project terms.
5. Impact and Success

There are plenty of possibilities to research effectiveness, to conduct impact assessments or to measure success of non-profit organizations.

One of the main conclusions of specialists’ literature is the following: “we are still searching for methods and tools with which to assess NGO development interventions” (Riddell, Kruse, Kyllönen, Ojanperä, & Vielajus, 1997). The same authors conclude that “in spite of growing interest in evaluation, there is still a lack of reliable evidence on the impact of NGO development projects and programs” (p. ix). The main problem in evaluation and assessment is the reluctance to generalize. The paucity of good data and the multiplicity of contexts makes it impossible to develop a universally applicable model, though there are several approaches trying to include any possible variable in the eventual effectiveness. As this report focuses on impact assessment as a chapter contributing to the organizational structure of the non-profit sector in a specific area, these approaches cannot be adopted as they would go beyond the scope of the study. Riddel et al. (1997) however set up a list of criteria that directly influence NGO effectiveness:

“achievement of objectives; impact in terms of poverty reach, alleviation of poverty and the degree of participation; sustainability (financial and institutional); cost-effectiveness; innovation and flexibility; replicability and scaling-up; gender impact; environmental impact; and impact in terms of advancing democracy and pluralism and strengthening civil society.” (p.32)

Aid effectiveness in the project context relates to the extent to which the project’s objectives were achieved, and the extent to which the project’s objectives were the ‘right thing’ - appropriate for the context and the best or the most strategic intervention that could have been done (Checkland, 2001; Crawford, 2004). In short: Impact assessment is the systematic analysis of the lasting or significant changes – positive or negative, intended or not – in people’s lives brought about by a given action or a series of actions. Impact assessments might also wish to examine the perception, effectiveness, consistency or impact of an intervention (Roche, 1999).

Considering the limited scope of the study, an outcome evaluation on the effectiveness of chosen projects was done. This is carried out preferably as an end-of-project evaluation (Patton, 1996).

Simply raising interview questions about the success or impact of projects turned out not to be efficient enough, as responses resulted in: “Yes, our projects are successful” (Interview CBO2). Thus, a Likert scale was developed in order to compare the initially perceived success with the personal reflection
about elements of success within the project. The first scale (Figure 1) is the perceived success, shown independently from other scales.

![Figure 1](image)

After choosing the degree of success, three other scales were revealed, measuring the impact of the project (difference from original problem situation), the effectiveness of the project (use of outputs and sustained production of benefits) and the perception of villagers of the project.

The scales were used in order to explain the target of the questions; the interviewees did not understand the questions if asked out of direct context with a scale. Apart from that, the scale was an excellent opportunity to explore the background of answers, questioning a specific rating and thus getting insight knowledge of the process: explaining the estimation of their project on the scale led to firstly re-thinking the chosen number, which more than often changed in the effect, and also made them talk about the projects. Initially they would just explain how successful the project was.

In the further research, the model was used with three organizations in detail, while touched superficially in other interviews. The decisive factor was the duration of the interviews, easily lasting for two hours as well as the suitability of the respective organization – due to the long duration of sustainably oriented projects and the partly young organizations, there was no project far enough to evaluate yet.
Actual impact of projects

Case study 1: NGO1, project: improved access to primary education

The success on the scale was rated a 3 instantly, as it was still running by the time the interview was conducted.

The difference from the original problem situation, meaning highly limited access to primary education, was rated as a 4, as every second kid in the village had the opportunity to attend classes.

The effectiveness was rated a 3, as “it will take a long time until no need for other teachers and they can do themselves.”

“Perception is a 3. Half of the villagers understand because they have benefit from our project. Our activities for the primary student for the primary student so some household have middle and high school children so they have a higher chance for a better salary later. For other half perception is not good because of she separate for the family who attended like the primary since they was a baby.”

In short, the estimated success matches with the impact, effectiveness and perception of locals. Effectiveness in sustainably approached projects is in the beginning naturally low, as the long-term benefits outweigh the short-term development. The interviewee was well aware of the problems the project caused, and regarded the feedback from the villagers critically. The impact, rated as a four, is high and contributes to the development of the area as there is a high need for skilled people.

Attendant questions as well as explanations from the side of the organization revealed a planning and an organization-internal evaluation program: “Finished projects we visit two time a year and evaluation if they [...] are self-sustainable”.

Case study 2: CBO2, project: Garbage collection program in village

The success on the scale was rated a 4.

The impact was rated a 3, as “when [we] clean the rubbish it’s clean, but then gradually the garbage some of the villagers keep on throwing”.

The effectiveness was rated at 4, because the garbage collection project is also aiming on raising awareness amongst villagers. Villagers become increasingly aware of the environmental consequences
and occasionally start picking up garbage outside of the actual project. As a result, also the perception of villagers was rated a 4.

Also in this case the perceived success matches with the outcomes of the following factors. However, even though the impact is rated as low, measures are not taken to improve the rate – the program continues as usual. The problem was identified, but training skills on how to improve it are lacking. There was no planning on achieving fixed goals, the project was just started.

**Case study 3: CSO1, project: woman saving training**

The success of the training was rated a solid 5.

The impact was rated at 5 too; the training embraced the training of writing the letters of the alphabet and the own name. On this basis, future trainings were planned.

“Yes before they do the training most of the villager most of the women cannot write their name and most of them cannot do their own signature, but now is they can write. And they carry everywhere.”

Effectiveness and people were not strictly rated anymore, as a conversation built up on basis of the scales. Villagers were skeptical about the groups’ project, as they did not understand the background or motivation for voluntary work; also they did not understand how the content of the training would help them in any way. Apart from that, villagers did not accept help in the beginning, as the trainers were younger than most of the participants, resulting in culturally motivated rejection1: “Most of the old people they thought that they are teaching to old people so they don’t like, because of they are younger than the old people.”

After all, though the perceived success of the project was high, the objective target was considerably low. There is no exact planning for further trainings and also no proper evaluation of projects in written form.

**General overview**

Other organizations mostly estimated the perceived success higher than the actual result from the scales. A conclusion is near that they do not have evaluation strategies for projects; this is accurate, as only four of the respondents actually had appropriate schemes with an indexing of mistakes, regular

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1 Intha people are very conservative, inter alia embracing the idea of passing on knowledge from the older to the younger generation. Breaking with fixed structures can easily lead to confusion and problems.
evaluations and alternative approaches based on old mistakes. For the majority of organizations, the crucial problem is the lack of trained employees to evaluate and improve the project strategies and achievements. Overlooking the three examples picked, they all turn out to be successful, however their impact on the region is extremely limited, considering there are 120,000 inhabitants divided to approximately 150 villages (Pegu Travels, 2015). Between twenty and thirty-five non-profit organizations which of fourteen engage in trainings and projects constantly, the change rate is too small when keeping in mind that an average project lasts ten to fourteen months (Costello & Aung, 2015). The work needs to be organized in a more efficient way, leading to the chapter network.
5. Non-profit sectors

The non-profit organizations from the sample engage in a multitude of sectors, while the average activities per organization embrace three different ones. The most popular activities are environmentally related, which is based on the difficult situation around the lake. Deforestation, decreasing water levels of the lake and the thereby caused difficulties of accessing the villages that are only accessible by boat are a huge issue for the mostly environmentally connected inhabitants of the Inle Lake area. The lack of organization from the side of the government is also crucial, as there is no official solution for waste management in most parts of the area. An insufficient garbage collection service is available in villages like Nyaung Shwe, however on the lake there is no such institution. As a result, villagers dispose garbage in the water or collect it in pits in order to make use of a primitive waste incinerator, which is air polluting and thus risk induced for the population. This activity is officially restricted, leading to regular conflicts with governmental bodies. The non-profit sector is well aware of the problems and tackles them in different ways; funding for a professional waste incinerator from Japan, waste collection events, awareness trainings aiming to the avoidance of packaged materials and plastic in general are the usual approaches to the garbage problem, while re-forestation projects and organic farming techniques are implemented or taught by others. As especially the youth groups are interested in the topic, several non-profit organizations complement their programs by environmental activities in order to attract new members for their groups.

Agriculture is an important aspect in the environmental activities, as several reports point out the danger of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the eco-system of the lake. Even though there is training for the use of organic farming techniques, the programs impact is considerably low. Chemical fertilizers are used for the past 100 years, and most villagers are not aware of other possibilities. The situation is complicated by the fact that there are loan systems for chemical fertilizers, which bring farmers into a vicious circle – organic fertilizers are expensive and need to be paid up front, and while paying off loans for the chemical ones farmers cannot afford the change (Interview CSO6).
The environmental programs are followed by education, social development and skills development; summer schools, trainings and workshops are conducted on a regular basis, mostly aiming for sustainable approaches to long-term problems. The education embraces topics such as politics, human rights, organic farming, leadership skills, handicraft skills and environmental awareness trainings and campaigns. It also aims at foreign language skills and trainings for the hospitality sector, as the growing tourism industry is a sector generating a high percentage of jobs in the area.

Youth development is an increasingly important factor when it comes to networking, as by building up youth groups direct contact to small and hardly accessible villages is established. More to the topic in the chapter “Network”.

Eight organizations from the sample are focused in niche sectors as for example advocacy and politics or women rights. There are two main problems here: Firstly, it is hard to bring these topics up in a widely conservative society\(^2\), secondly these topics are still difficult to address in the current political situation. Though regulations are not as strict as before the Thein Sein regime anymore, people are still afraid to get involved in political activities; a CBO that takes care of lawsuits against the government has to fight for customers in the connected copy shop, as villagers are scared to be seen in any connection to them (Interview CBO6).

\(^2\) With a literacy quote of 75 per cent for Shan State and down to 18 per cent for single villages in Shan State (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 2008)
6. Network

The term ‘network’ has become a pervasive spatial and organizational metaphor for describing sets of complex interactions (Marshall & Staeheli, 2015). There are papers analyzing the entire complexity and different approaches to breaking down network structures, researching the start of each connection and questioning its value for the entirety; this process is, as helpful as it might be for a more quantitative approach, too time-consuming and imprecise for qualitative research based on in-depth interviews. Some of the models, however, can be easily adopted for the sake of a cursory review. To establish the network of the voluntary sector at Inle Lake, social network analysis was used as an iterative methodological tool in conjunction with key informant interviews of non-profit sector practitioners (Corbin & Strauss, 2008). The problem coming along with this approach is that the information relies on self-reported information; still, for the purpose of this study the technique suffices.

The network analysis is specifically interesting to develop an overview of thematically connected non-profit organizations, as e.g. the connection of youth groups to advocacy-themed community-based organizations. After all, the whole point of a network within the non-profit sector is - disregarding established connections based on funding – to enhance each other’s understanding of the respective exercised field of activity. To give an example, a network comprising only organizations with an environmental focus will shortly achieve an expertise in mentioned sector, however suffer from a lack of knowledge when it comes to the field of human rights or advocacy. Especially rural CSOs need to be as flexible as possible regarding their isolated position and do provide extensive human resources capable of dealing with different sectors (Patry, 2005).

In order to show the network of non-profit organizations as well as the type of funding they receive from either international NGOs or other sectors, an adaption of Marshall and Staeheli’s (2015) concept of the network as a diagram was used. The idea behind it was to use social network analysis and visualization as a tool for qualitative research in human geography (Marshall & Staeheli, 2015). Furthermore, it was specifically developed to research networks of civil society organizations, which represents exactly the frame of the topic this paper discusses.

Diagram 2 illustrates the connection between non-profit organizations and shows the type of funding they receive from either international NGOs, private donors or foundations. The funding part will be highlighted in the chapter “Funding”. The type of organization is given in the description, organizations whose names are unknown but whose existence is approved are blank, foundations and funding organizations are indicated by different-colored dots, representing the number of actors involved.
There are two main types of relationships between stakeholders; they can be identified as exchange and communal relationships (Jo, Hon, & Brunner, 2004). Exchange relationships are defined in terms of mutuality of interests and rewards (Holtzhausen, 2013), meaning that, translated to the non-profit relationships, a training is given in exchange for another training or help with a project. Communal relationships develop over time, as organizations form deeper connections and trust. Actions in communal relationships do not presuppose a reward, or are not conducted on a mutual basis - in the case of a communal relationship one party acts because it is concerned about the other (Clark & Mills, 1993).

When looking at the Inle Lake area, the non-profit organization network is weak. Connections between CBOs and CSOs are exchange relationships based on exchanging trainings and helping each other during projects, while the relationships between INGOs and NGOs as well as the relation between NGOs and youth groups is communal – the INGOs do not expect anything in return but the long-term
sustainability and effectiveness of the organizations they support, while the NGOs do not expect direct returns from the youth groups. Working with youth groups and establishing new connections in this area however is connected to a variety of long-term advantages: firstly, connections to remote rural areas and a bridge to otherwise closed or rejecting communities, secondly an extensive pool of volunteers that can be trained to the expectations and needs of the organization, readily available to be engaged in activities and projects. An example is NGO3, which works closely together with youth groups, providing trainings and skill development activities such as leadership skills or project management. Being connected to a network of 64 youth groups in the area, NGO3 is informed of local peoples’ needs, expectations and problems, can approach them directly and has an immense power over the direction of development as it enjoys nearly unlimited trust. This also represents a possible future threat, as isolated stakeholders with access to unique networks can influence the development of an area uncontrollably, without legitimacy of an official body (Clark & Mills, 1993). In the concrete example of NGO3 this power is exercised; the organization is selective about giving access to its youth group network and regularly rejects political interests and businesses approaching it for the sake of developing a relationship to the network.

Some organizations do engage in networking activities like mutual trainings or workshops, however there are three entirely isolated ones, three with one partnership and two with two partnerships each. Only four organizations have more than three connections to partners, which is, considering the network in Taunggyi, minimalistic. There are two networks from two different areas, which is easily understandable when regarding the cosmos of CSO3 and CSO2, which are situated in a city fifteen kilometers away. When interviewing these organizations the idea of a small case-study came up, comparing networks from different environments.

In Taunggyi there is an immense network of local CSOs and CBOs, which all come from different sectors. As most of them are in walking distance and follow different targets, they provide trainings to each other in the respective level of expertise. Also here the network is not organized by a responsible person, it is self-managing, and as the main tool of contact the social network “Facebook” is used. Trainings take place once a month at a different organizations’ facilities, organized in the weekends. Also activities are joined; to give an example, if a partner organization plants trees in a rural area, members of other organizations assist the project. In this way not only the achievement of targets can be increased, also a feeling of togetherness comes up, resulting in the increased perception of villagers (Hung, 2005). There is a main difference between the two cases: infrastructure and physical distance from one organization to the other. Also a sociological factor, the influence of multicultural city life on behavior and bonding activities, is taken into consideration. The population in rural areas tends to hold a strongly conservative attitude, influenced by a strict and culturally ascribable moral framework.
(Cohen, 1996). Though every organization is interested in and sees the advantages of joining or creating a network, there is no organization taking the lead or responsibility to start, for the main reason of losing face (Interview CBO4). Apart from that, organization costs are over budget of the organizations; invitations are expected in case of a meeting, lunch needs to be provided and transport costs refunded. Only an external stakeholder as for example an INGO or a foundation would be able to set up a meeting, in connection with a local partner who enjoys the respect of a majority of non-profit organizations in the area. These problems do not exist in the CSO / CBO network in Taunggyi, where transport costs are usually non-existent and the targets of voluntary operations outweigh formalities and the exchange of pleasantries.

Other struggles are the region and infrastructure, as they do not allow frequent communication. Most organizations are accessible by boat only, not connected to the internet and highly influenced by frequent power cuts. This makes communication a challenge and transportation a time-consuming affair. These reasons are important for several organizations to discard the opportunity of joining or creating a network respectively. Other than that, especially in dry season most of the villages are cut off the water ways entirely, making the situation even harder.

Moreover, the lack of a non-profit organization database with information as contact details, exact position and field of activity of organizations accounts for difficulties in the creation of a network. International NGOs and potential foundations have limited possibilities to get in touch with local organizations, as they do not know about their existence (Interview INGO1). In extreme situations, even villagers do not know the position of a CBO in their area. Thus, the circuitousness of the area and the lack of a database highly limit networking activities, too.

When regarding the network from a sectorial perspective, the connections are skipping important sectors in mutual trainings.

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1 Organizations are well aware of tasks and actions of other actors, and they fear to initiate community-building activities. In case of mistakes in the planning of an event, the organizing actor would be blamed, left with a damaged reputation (Interview CBO2).
Diagram 3 focuses on the main sector of the organizations, disregarding the general sector “environment”.

Most organizations engage in skills development activities as for example capacity building or leadership skills training, so that activities in this sector are easily passed on through trainings of other organizations. Two completely separated CBOs engage in the advocacy / human rights sector, directing their knowledge towards the teaching of villagers or the direct help with their problems. Also education is mostly not passed on due to missing links in the network.

For the spreading of knowledge, mutual trainings and the creation of a united non-governmental network for the equal spread of funding and minimization of mistakes a database needs to be created, as well as a third party approached in order to initially connect non-profit organizations and establish the basis for a sustainable network.
6.1 Network relationship

For the establishment of a network, three basic steps in relationship need to be considered: trust, control mutuality, commitment and relationship satisfaction (Holtzhausen, 2013).

6.1.1 Relationship quality: Trust

Trust exists when one party has confidence in an exchange partner’s reliability and integrity (Huang, 2001). Trust is influenced by actively perceived experiences and rumors about other parties, which of the latter exponentially increase the possibility of conflicts and disagreements between the parties. Especially at Inle Lake this is a main struggle that can be overcome by breaking down prejudices in form of actual meetings. A lack of trust is most likely the origin for an increasing feeling of uncertainty, resulting in further conflicts. Trust has several core dimensions, namely integrity, dependability and competence that together describe confidence and a willingness to participate in the relationship (cf. BrØnn, 2007; Grunig, 2000; Grunig, Grunig, & Dozier, 2002; Jo & Shim, 2005):

- Integrity: an organizations’ fairness and the tendency for having an open agenda. A set of principles determines the acquaintance with one another.
- Dependability: A contract-based responsibility, focusing on oral communication as well as documents. Basically the organization needs to account for its planning and proposals.
- Competence: The extent to which the organization is able to follow up on its planning and proposals. Competence is massively influencing trust, as it can justify or effect confidence in the organizations abilities by partners.

Implementing these three core dimensions as guidelines for network establishment at Inle Lake the barriers based on cultural backgrounds and plain prejudices could be smoothed out, resulting in a basis to start over again.

6.1.2 Relationship quality: control mutuality.

Control mutuality refers to the institution and its stakeholders taking each other into account (BrØnn, 2007). When trust is established, partners’ views and opinions can be approached as legitimate, so that room for joined projects and cooperation in general can be made.
6.1.3 Relationship quality: Commitment

Commitment involves that all partners in a certain activity feel their necessity of involvement and the need for contribution to the activity. An equal share in activities is not necessary, as long as there is a legitimate justification for the involvement of each partner, eventually resulting in loyalty between them (Brønn, 2007).

6.1.4 Relationship quality: relationship satisfaction

Relationship satisfaction results from successful commitment and control mutuality. A sense of belonging and trust amongst the partners can be created, ultimately creating a strong network (Holtzhausen, 2013).

The key to an achievement of these qualities and consequently the establishment of a well-structured network of non-profit organizations at Inle Lake is the approach of an independent organization. The network as of now is interfered with a lack of the four basic points as of trust, control mutuality, commitment and relationship satisfaction. In this situation an involved organization cannot take initiative and connect other actors sustainably, as its reputation will not allow this position. An international NGO or an independent organization, either enjoying great reputation amongst all actors at Inle Lake or being entirely new to the area is in the position to implement the core dimensions for network establishment.
7. Funding

Essential for the analysis of funding relationships in the non-profit sector is to consider that geographically isolated communities are characterized by high levels of trust and goodwill among community members (Ivy, Larty, & Jack, 2014). Most of the non-profit organizations depending on funds at Inle Lake are isolated, and often need to secure support from community members – either in terms of staff or volunteers or in terms of funds, as of collecting money. The issues mentioned in the previous chapter – accessibility and the lack of a register or database – makes it difficult for INGOs or foundations to get in touch with organizations. There is an agent for this purpose, “Southern Shan State Civil Society Organization Network”, but as the name reveals it only connects CSOs to funding partners and vice versa. The initial problem is also not tackled, because as evidence proves the CSOs in remote areas are not in touch with this organization either.

When it comes to examples from literature, what happens with non-profit organizations that have the possibilities to get in touch with funders is that they sometimes cultivate one or just a few reliable funding sources in order to achieve continuity of programs and funding (Gronbjerg, 1992). When taking NGO1 or CBO3 as examples, they are using a different funder for every project. Applying to the fund by means of a proposal and a budget planning, the agreement for continued payments in return for constant project evaluations and success in projects is made. For smaller organizations the human resources are just too limited to engage in further project proposals that would require the attraction of new donors. The projects in these cases are chosen by the local organizations and proposed to the funders without them having influence on the project content. This, however, is not a standard strategy in the sector. NGO5 engages in a range of projects, but when it comes to funding the funders have exact ideas of how the funds are to be used. In cooperation with INGO1, funding money is transferred under the condition of being solely used for projects concerning political prisoners and none of the other projects, which results in an enormous administrative effort concerning both accounting and reporting back on the use of money in connection to project progress.

Also CSO6 is influenced by donor decisions, as it receives funding from dominantly one international INGO. This INGO provides the type of projects to be conducted, bringing the CSO into the position of a subordinate rather than an own organization. If the specifications of projects are not met, funding sources are cancelled and as a result the CSO is unable to continue its work. As long as heteronomous projects are in consensus with the organization or the villagers of places they are conducted at, this praxis is not necessarily bad. When however, which is happening frequently (Interview NGO1), an independent consultant is sent to a rural place to determine the suitability for a new project, the real needs and priorities of the villagers are easily overlooked. Ultimately this situation results in partly
unwanted, partly unnecessary projects, leading to actions of new CBOs to train villagers to defend projects of INGOs (Interview CBO4). From a different perspective, there is a high need for INGOs to conduct own research in order to estimate the situation. The rapid growth of the voluntary sector in the country has been associated with the registration of large numbers of ‘mutant’ organizations that falsely claim to be non-government or non-profit-making (Edwards & Hulme, 2000). A way to overcome this issue is to use the governmental registration post. As every non-profit organization needs to register with the local authorities, an institution for audit could easily solve the issue. As in the case study of Kolkata, non-profit organizations whose incoming funds exceed a determined amount of money would need to give account of their activities (Pal, 2008).

Another concept is based on financial stability rather than project-dependent funding. In this context, organizations are trying to attract as many donors as possible, trying to apply for not project-related funding. As Carrol & Strater, 2009; Greenlee, 2002; Tuckman & Chang, 1991 outline, diversification of funding streams is a means of enhancing the overall stability of the revenue portfolio. This concept is executed by NGO4, which makes use of its successful project portfolio and the background of cooperation with established international donors to path the way for accessing new funds by contracting partners.

Based on literature review and the experiences from field research in Shan State, seven different founding sources common to the types of non-profit organizations in the study could be identified:

1. Charitable giving of individuals
2. Government grants and contracts
3. Commercial ventures or social enterprise
4. Membership income
5. Corporate philanthropy
6. INGO funds
7. Foundation philanthropy

If considering the founding source by type of funding used instead of focusing on the pure number of founding organizations per local group, the main type of funding is INGO-related. If going further up the chain, INGOs are financed by foundations, government subsidies or corporations, however in this
case represent the main mediator of the funds towards non-profit organizations. Interestingly only one organization in the sample benefits of a government grant. There is a visitor’s tax of $10 per person when entering Nyaung Shwe, used for “environmental conservation of the Inle Lake area”. The tax does not go directly to the local government; once a year there is an auction, and the highest-bidding party gets the right to collect the entrance fee for the next year. The proceeds are used for the support of campaigns, initiatives and projects, however rarely find their way to organizations actually undertaking said activities. An official platform where organizations can apply for the fund as well as an open book policy that gives insight into the spending of this money would be measures to more efficient ways of accounting the money in the interest of its intrinsic purpose.

Most organizations in the Inle Lake area pay attention on rejecting proposals of potential funding partners, accepting only funds based on the support of own proposals. Especially NGO3 provides training and workshops on how to draft proposals for surrounding non-profit organizations and youth groups, resulting in higher chances of the actual reception of funds. According to five interviewees, roughly half of these proposals are generally rejected. The proposals are not based on reports but on personal observation, feedback from the community and own experience of both leaders and staff. In general the interest in the countless reports is low in the non-profit sector, and also here the common dilemma is the over-researching and under-acting (Malena, 1995).

Administration costs of the sample are between five and 35 per cent and most of the activity-based funds are spent on trainings. There is a connection at this point to the part of “skilled staff” in the non-profit organizations; the use of funds is not always contributing to the development of the region and its economy. While two organizations in the sample also operate projects that involve temporary benefits for villagers such as providing money in cash, every other organization in the sample engages in sustainable business practices by providing trainings, staying in direct contact with villagers or by helping people to help themselves. The main problem of the lack of training is the good intention of an action and its potentially fatal effect: As the leader of NGO1 expresses it, “[…] so I resigned and I told the [INGOs’] official level, but they have so much fund, so sometimes the villagers don’t need this activity but they give this activity so […] the villagers mindset is not good. Every time they give! They got a lot of money from the [INGO] so they were [too bored] to work.” In short, there is no point for the villagers in chasing a job if they get money for free. As a result, the current network does not suffice to teach the basic skills training for non-profit organizational staff to every organization. It needs to expand in order to eradicate long-term future problems based on good intentions.
8. Potential future problems

International NGOs, present in small numbers since the 1990s, have entered Myanmar in two recent waves: in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, and since the forming of the new government in early 2011 (Asian Development Bank, 2015). Several influencing factors went hand in hand with the rise of non-profit organizations in Myanmar. These include increased funding by international donors to local organizations, the upsurge in civil society activism (especially in the fields of environment and gender), and pressures on the Myanmar state from ‘above’ (international development agencies) and ‘below’ (grassroots movements) to decentralize and devolve power to local communities. All of these have created spaces for non-governmental organizations to act as important agents of development in their own right (Gupta, 2014). There are, however, several problems in the future these agents of development see, threatening their operations and legitimacy as such. These potential problems are dividable by two sections:

1.) INGO and donor development
2.) Social effects

As the barriers to enter Myanmar as an international NGO or foundation are incredibly low at the moment, an immense number of these organizations starts to gain ground. There is still a good overview about them, but there is reason to suppose that if the barriers entirely disappear, foundations are going to be off-beat. For the future, this inevitable brings the problem, that the market is flooded with money. Due to the rising foundation – organization ratio, the eventually arising cash donations to community-based organizations or villagers directly and the funding of a rising number of proposals, new local organizations will develop, structured like businesses and leading the non-profit field to profit oriented approaches and generally bad attitudes. The case study of Filozof et al. (1999) is an example of a comparable scenario which happened in Louisiana. Here, greed and the general attitude of seeing the non-profit sector as a business were the results, followed by expecting money from work rather than working to benefit the area. Ultimately it would result in the non-profit sector losing its meaning and influencing youth groups to follow the bad example.

In such an event, the social effects would be disastrous. As a temporary source of money is given, employees will give up on their jobs and rely on the funding money, left without perspective when the source stops. Also other non-profit organizations will be influenced, as a potential network will lose every basis of existence.
This is a scenario to avoid at all costs, achievable by setting up a monitoring system for funds, or even a network as described in chapter six. This solution would establish a mutual control system, preventing funding-related threats to the entire sector.
9. Non-profit sector contribution to tourism

As the organizations in the Inle Lake area focus on skills development and training next to the environmental preservation, tourism development is influenced accordingly. Also there are several programs and activities entirely focusing on the tourism sector, as INGO1 states:

“Due to skills training in hospitality sector [we have an impact on tourism development]. Look at the vocational school or the heritage house, I mean so far this is interesting, it has graduated a 40 students, in the next month or so I guess another 40 students will come out, [...] my objective would be of course [...] to have these students work in hotels and restaurants [...]”

Also NGOS is involved in making the tourism sector accessible for local personnel by providing trainings for the hospitality sector as well as language skills education. Apart from that, environmental awareness campaigns are developed by another NGO in order to raise tourists’ awareness of the regions’ endangered eco-system.

CBO1 states its impact on tourism development as low; they started up a new tourist attraction, however did not consult actual tourists to test it beforehand:

“We created new trekking way, small amount of tourist, because of the view is very beautiful, but is a little difficult to climb”

But villagers’ perception of tourism awareness programs is high:
“some of the local people from the village are very satisfied, they go and help with the tourist”

In general, there are a lot of programs and educational trainings that teach basic English skills to locals, which is the first step for entering the tourism industry. Also the tour guide association is actively engaged in training the next generation, however spots at vocational training centers for the hospitality sector are highly limited. The current concept of training centers and education-based non-profit organizations is to help people get jobs, so that there is money in the communities to send the children to school. In short, the approach here is long-term based, sustainable development in an interminable but self-supported way.
10. Expectations and hopes for the future

By the end of the semi-structured interview the respective partner was asked about the expectations and hopes for the future for both the non-profit sector and the own organization and their activities. The question was asked in order to see a relation to current projects, if the current development leads into the direction people want to achieve and if their current programs and actions support a desired development.

Most organizations desired a broader choice of funding organizations in order to execute more projects, followed by self-sustainable training for locals and the local independence of external help. The most mentioned future hope in terms of projects was “to save the lake”. An overview of the future expectations and hopes is here:

- More funding organizations to supply project-related funding; possibilities to realize projects instead of neglecting them for monetary reasons.
- Self-sustainability for supported projects
- Self-sustainable training for locals.
- Being able to preserve nature.
- Apply for student scholarships and a general better educational system for the youth.
- Save the lake.
- Start revolution with the government.
- Achieve independent status for own NGO in order to directly realize projects
- Job opportunities for locals.
- Speeding up decision making processes in non-profit sector.
- Health improvement for villagers.
- Extending network, mutual trainings of community-based organizations.
- Collaboration of the non-profit sector and youth groups.
- Local people training rather than foreign based development – development from the inside rather than from the outside.
- Local independence from external help.

Considering the mal-functioning network, the increasing number of new non-profit organizations and the lack of skilled personnel, most of the expected or desired future developments are not going to work out. Simply the difference of approaches within the sector is too large; there is no unanimous goal that could be reached, as there is no unity in the sector. An increase of foundations potentially fuels the rise of own-profit businesses rather than sustainable non-profit organizations, destroying the
hope for local independence from external help. This is confirmed by a simple question, asking for the position of each interviewees’ organization in a perfect future scenario. As it turns out, every single organization wants to grow, contrasting the predominant goal of reaching sustainable development and self-sustainability for projects conducted by non-profit organizations of any kind. In a perfect future scenario there is a considerably low need for non-governmental organizations, as the sector is aiming for independent development (Edwards & Hulme, 2000).

At this point, the need of a network is emphasized once again. If every organization follows its agenda to reach its own perfect future scenario, regarding the above contrasting list, organizations work against each other without realization of that very circumstance. Self-sustainability will not be reached, and only common goals can be addresses successfully in teamwork. It also shows that there is a high need of skilled, temporary foreign assistance is required in order to set up an organizational structure that can follow a selection of targets determined by the community. The creation of a network, the united following up on goals and also the medium-term objectives should be achievable by the network. The expected problems will arise if current funds are not implemented collectively and process flow needs to be discussed locally, based on the given resources and abilities.
11. Conclusion and recommendations

11.1 Conclusion

The research of the non-profit sector at Inle Lake area reveals that it generally focuses on sustainable development and the concept of ‘helping people to help themselves’. The impact of the projects however is too low due to the minimal amount of power of the mostly small organizations as well as the size of the area they operate in. There are also a number of problems in the community that are identified, but cannot be approached for different reasons: skilled personnel is rare, thus the knowledge of how to solve certain problems is not given for most smaller organizations. As a result, also the project planning and assessment of projects is poor, leading to missing evaluation strategies and learning effects. Furthermore, a change in government regulations simplified the foundation of new non-profit organizations, also fuelled by the likewise simplified entry to the market for international donors to Myanmar. This situation increases the danger of new organizations whose main goal is to make own profit.

Additionally, the challenging infrastructure of the area limits the productivity of organizations. When it comes to larger NGOs or INGOs, locals mostly perceive their work as not matching their problems, which is due to the lack of communication between communities and the respective organizations. From both the community and the non-profit sector side, existing reports as well as current research about the area are not consulted and not even translated into Myanmar language.

Funding is in majority received from INGOs. It is a huge problem for most organizations as it is mostly project related, thus a different funding partner needs to be found for every new project. By applying to the fund by means of a proposal and a budget planning, the agreement for continued payments in return for constant project evaluations and success in projects is made. For most organizations the human resources are just too limited to engage in further projects that would require the attraction of new donors.

In general it has been shown, both in secondary literature and in the field research, that a non-profit sector only has the chance to work successfully when it is organized as a network. The current network is weak and gives larger, individually well-respected organizations the possibility to exercise almost unlimited power. Missing connections in the non-profit sector also slow down the process of development, as learning experiences and trainings cannot be shared and the respective target of every organization looks differently. This leads to counter-productive actions. A network can only be established if promoted by an external party, as culturally motivated reasons prevent local
organizations from approaching the problem themselves. Crucial to the establishment of a network is a database, in which the organizations are registered.

Furthermore, every organization follows its own agenda to reach its own perfect future scenario, resulting in a contra-productive setting. Self-sustainability will not be reached and only common goals can be addressed successfully in teamwork. This also shows that there is a high need of skilled personnel required in order to set up an organizational structure that can follow a selection of targets determined by the community. The creation of a network, the united following up on goals and also the medium-term objectives should be achievable by the network.

After all, the difference of approaches within the sector is too large; there is no unanimous goal that could be reached, as there is no unity.
11.2 Recommendations

11.2.1 Network
The current network does not suffice to teach the basic skills training for non-profit organizational staff to every organization. It needs to expand in order to eradicate long-term future problems based on good intentions. For the spreading of knowledge, mutual trainings and the creation of a united non-governmental network for the equal spread of funding and minimization of mistakes a database needs to be created. The database should be both online as well as printed out in the style of a phone book, containing contact information, projects, general activities and size of the respective organization.

The key to an achievement of the relationship qualities trust, control mutuality, commitment and relationship satisfaction and consequently the establishment of a well-structured network of non-profit organizations at Inle Lake is the approach of an independent organization. The network as of now is interfered with a lack of the four basic points as of trust, control mutuality, commitment and relationship satisfaction. In this situation an involved organization cannot take initiative and connect other actors sustainably, as its reputation will not allow this position. An international NGO or an independent organization, either enjoying great reputation amongst all actors at Inle Lake or being entirely new to the area is in the position to implement the core dimensions for network establishment.

11.2.2 Evaluation
Evaluation systems need to be taught by external staff, as they will increase the efficiency of projects and operations in general for non-profit organizations. Monitoring and evaluation practices also gets them into the position of reaching an improved level of personal reflexivity about the own role and values, leading to an automatic interest to other organizations and therefore inducing the natural tendency to form a network.

11.2.3 Funding
If funding happens unregulated and inconsiderate, the social effects can be disastrous. As a temporary source of money is given, employees will give up on their jobs and rely on the funding money, left without perspective when the source stops. This is a scenario to avoid at all costs, achievable by setting up a monitoring system for funds that is supported by a functioning network. This solution would establish a mutual control system, preventing funding-related threats to the entire sector.
11.3 Future research

To gain more insight into the non-profit sector at Inle Lake area, three suggestions can be made based on the limited frame of this study.

First of all, a study about the non-profit sector including the style of organization, impact, different sectors, networking and future problems should be repeated in five years in order to analyze the direction of change and develop new approaches to regulate or guide it. The use of the here implemented methodology is essential in order to compare the results and changes.

Secondly, there is a necessity for an extensive research within the INGO-sector that concerns Inle Lake area. As the popular INGOs do not operate from Nyaung Shwe but are scattered all over the countries’ major cities as Taunggyi, Yangon, Mandalay and Baghan it is very costly in terms of both time and money to analyze their network, however their approaches and connection to the local non-profit sector need to be evaluated and the result hopefully change their conduct of business to the better.

At last, research about the connection between the government and the non-profit sector needs to be conducted. It still is a very difficult topic to engage in, however evaluation is highly needed as first impressions raise the question if government bodies assigned to the non-profit sector actually facilitate or restrain activities.
12. Bibliography


Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar


# Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

## 13. Appendix

### 13.1 Coded interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CBO1</th>
<th>Open Code</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Examples of Participants’ words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main field of work</strong></td>
<td>Environmental, social welfare, economic education, literature and culture</td>
<td>main objective is the lake conservation and the development conservation is the main task. And second is social welfare and success of livelihoods and the ahm income generation for the people of our area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Growth of CSO</strong></td>
<td>CSO and tasks are increasing, as they take care of villages around the lake</td>
<td>At that time they have only one, and then after that they have three members, ahm three employees. And member is 15, and they have extension more and more</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Growth of administrative expenses</strong></td>
<td>Volunteers request salary</td>
<td>the volunteer member is now request to the salary. I mean that there is no staff, but we need to run the operation, ahm urgent operations in emergency case, we call in the volunteer service, everyone village in one person is our this strong person. It’s a lead staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best time for CSO</strong></td>
<td>Increasing own competence and working on a network lead to the best time for CBO is right now.</td>
<td>we exist three year, and the more developed our capacity. Because of many project in our phase, and our work together with other NGO is ahm the network is more strong than before ten years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network</strong></td>
<td>Connected to another ethnic minority network, INGOs like IID, GIZ, UNDP and ASIMO, US Aid, Easymod, ICC, Himalaya, MUD, UNODC, a lot of local NGOs</td>
<td>Pa-O people association is also our network. I: Okay R: And Pa-O and Taun U and Ten Yu, and Ta Shan and is an own participation. And the other INGO, you know is a IID, international Institute development organization, and GIZ, and Asimo, and also we are connected.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reason to found CSO</strong></td>
<td>Visible environmental problems of the area caught the attention and the need of acting by locals</td>
<td>deforestation and you see there the nothing in the mountain so heavy rain in the area and the washing down to the villages on the lake. So, lately there is a not-federal foundation for the our people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who initiates projects</strong></td>
<td>Ultimately the founder decides, but in general the proposals are made and discussed with all fixed members</td>
<td>It’s our organization is I think I mean that very united, I mean that united and all agree with the decision. All can or cannot be done are decider in this idea. But, leading to our chair.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skilled staff</strong></td>
<td>3 trained members, agronomist, accountant and financial manager</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basis for proposals</strong></td>
<td>Own experience, own observations</td>
<td>So, our experience is ahm good for the the lake conservation plan. And I can use the our ahm mine experience.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publish facts and achievements</strong></td>
<td>Numbers are published from projects with international collaboration, self-organized projects not</td>
<td>So, they are informed and sometimes they can know and they want to know the press and ask me in our office. No publish in the..</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part of database</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government registration of CBO</strong></td>
<td>Extremely slow process, obstacle for new CBOs, as they do not want to wait until start.</td>
<td>Ahm I don’t like the, because our organization registration fund is like the 2007, but very slowly to 2009 the registrationso, the other NGOs, small NGOs in our region is not permitted the permissions of the government because of very slowly work. The registration organization is very cheap. Because they want to do quickly, even if they don’t have the permission they want to make sure, they want to make change, they want to start something.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main struggles or problems of CBO</strong></td>
<td>Government – lack of support, leader of people in the region has too much power and limits the radius of projects</td>
<td>No some of the local people is afraid that when the government starts on by something like that they are not very participate on that and local NGO so they only got like 25 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CBO / CSO network</strong></td>
<td>Mutual assistance and training</td>
<td>They are working with their own freedom, but sometimes they need to help they need help they call them to help. Sometimes they want to training so they go and need to train them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network communication</strong></td>
<td>Coordinate projects with each other</td>
<td>One village for example, at the same time two implementations. So we decide a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meeting
INGOs

it’s mostly via workshops, meetings and official ahm official events that you get in touch with international NGOs.
R: Ya Ya, Yes.

Business / governmental partnerships

Give and receive trainings
eco-tourism and tourism farming, and also the fishery department and the traffic communication department and it is all connected with me.

Funding

Only founder is calaneameta foundation, everything else is donated by members and villagers

INGOs provide training

the calaneameta foundation, the ahm our people, is the only, because ahm our staff is ahm only one ahm one lakh, that’s a 100 dollar, with ahm our extreme the enthusiasm our people have donated one lakh ten lakhs

Impact on tourism development

Start up new tourist attraction, failed because they did not consult tourists

we created the new trekking way, small amount of tourist, because of the view is very beautiful, but is a little difficult to climb

Perception of villagers of their work

Good perception

some of the local people from the village are very satisfied they go and help with the tourist or something like that because of they are really need to help to the village even the tourist can or just the loaners they are very happy to work with them

Future expectations and hopes

Save Inle Lake, environmental preservation

Yah, our organization goal is the end of the all over the lake our objective and all people know and the maintenance of the nature. After I pass away, I here the lake life.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Code</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Examples of Participants’ words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main field of work</strong></td>
<td>Children rights, environmental work, social development network</td>
<td>- Yeah they only get the permission from their leaders I: From the village leader or T: Yeah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
<td>Official permission by village leader, no government registration, but CSO</td>
<td>- if the children want to say something but like the leaders don’t want to allow that’s why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reason for founding CSO</strong></td>
<td>To improve the focus on and education of children, strengthen their rights</td>
<td>- It’s the direction is for the for generation, if they train like ten years in advance they can train well, they can be a good man and a good woman, that’s why.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Networking</strong></td>
<td>Part of ECCT network, receive trainings from members</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organisatory structure of CBO</strong></td>
<td>10 adults, 10 children. Children learn how to organize, sustainable learning process</td>
<td>- when they found the children groups, they have their own leader and they have their accountants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children are trained / taught by an INGO</td>
<td>- Yeah they have the training to their parents and sent them like the man a women not to school too much they have their own freedom like playing or studying time so not and also not to buy some alcohol or cigarettes and something like that they pay the training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three members of CSO have training from Yangon</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initiating activities</strong></td>
<td>Leader of CSO / village leader</td>
<td>- who is choosing for the activities that the CBO is actually doing?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Networking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- T: Yeah the chairman of their NGO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct connection to calaneameta foundation who trains youth organizations, on the basis of training, not funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Regular meetings with CSO committee every 2 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding (business)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubbish collection material donated by Japanese business, as well as money.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- have the plan with the Yamatha to build the burning the rubbish to build the machine and also they will donate for something ahm donate 250.000 kyats for the garbage bin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding (foundation)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Union donates money funds for ethnic group development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- They educate the children, and also they got EU, European the donor, it’s a group of European so they got that like a fund, funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Use of funds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garbage burning, funerals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- No they donate for same people who is ill and also the funderal I: so that the money stays here in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T: Yeah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- they pass the money like that for burning the rubbish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Radius of operations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Own and neighboring village</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Success of projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Successful, garbage gets cleaned up once a week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Effectiveness of projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not sustainable, villagers do not have learning effect and keep on littering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- when they clean the rubbish it’s clean, but then gradually the garbage some of the villagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I: So people keep on throwing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T: Yeah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perception of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And then after that they work together with another CBO and also they call the farmers because of they are a taxed by the government so they are gathering feedback from farmers and villagers, own observation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basis of projects</th>
<th>Feedback from farmers and villagers, own observation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>One NGO from Taunggyi, Bangku Polish NGO and Ecotab. Ecolite Myanmar group donates material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals</td>
<td>Only CBO proposes, not accepting fund-related proposals of other NGOs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Funding money brought to the organization in cash, another organization transfers by bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business partnership</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perception of villagers</td>
<td>Mixed, depending on political standpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business partnership</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perception of villagers</td>
<td>Mixed, depending on political standpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future hopes and expectations</td>
<td>Educate all villages around the lake, more funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other NGOs around the lake</td>
<td>Financial activities, loans, driving villagers into poverty. Mostly bad NGOs who work for own profit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflicts between NGOs</td>
<td>Different goals and solutions for problems of NGOs separate villages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is one NGO, and they provide funds to three CBOs, and so they give money to the groups around, but this NGO is in Taunggyi.

Mixed, depending on political standpoint. Two kinds of people because of when they go and give the training for the village they all to them encourage, and another group is especially the government doesn’t like it, because the direction is human right and the law. I: Yeah, I thought so. So people who are close to the government don’t like the program.

Educate all villages around the lake, more funds. Many kind of NGOs ahm some are good and some are bad. Cause of some are you know they borrow the money for the villagers their main goal is to reduce the poor but now the poor person getting lose their home and their belonging, they have nothing.

R: Yes some of the NGO put all for the funding and then the founder give the money just for fund, they only use like 30 per cent for the village and the other 70 per cent is used for themselves. I: So administration, employees R: Yes, like some kind of a business.
ahm they want to do is to ahm to solve the problem in that village cause of they do themselves so they have to sort themselves with the NGO. For her is just a price for the village and the NGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectiveness</th>
<th>Long-term learning effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>before the villagers they don’t dare to speak with the village leader and now they can speak and they can face each other. If the leader make a mistake they can find that mistake and also and also if he is wrong they can ahm how can I say they can put a new leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO4</td>
<td><strong>Open Code</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field of work</strong></td>
<td>Education and environmental projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decision</strong></td>
<td>One leader, 150 voluntary members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reason for founding</strong></td>
<td>Garbage issues in the village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network</strong></td>
<td>Connected to three local CSOs Connected to UNDP and Ministry of foreign affairs Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Setting up connection to international NGOs</strong></td>
<td>INGOs approached the CBO, as they knew about their program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities in network</strong></td>
<td>Mutual training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>Self-supported, joint funding with four villages, lottery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to funds</strong></td>
<td>No bank account, funds are immediately expended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religious motives</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main struggles</strong></td>
<td>Fund, money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perception of villagers</strong></td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Success</strong></td>
<td>High – garbage is collected in hole to get burned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness</td>
<td>Villagers learned how to deal with garbage – sustainable and effective. Education about plastic problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future hopes and expectations</td>
<td>Establishing of a hospital, applying for student scholarships, grow trees and save the lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If perfect future scenario works out</td>
<td>Want to become NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO development in the area</td>
<td>Number of NGOs decreasing, which is bad for environmental programs (from 30 to 23 NGOs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges of NGOs</td>
<td>Inter-group conflicts, different goals, ending in annihilation of NGO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

#### CB05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Code</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Example of Participants’ words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reason for founding CSO</strong></td>
<td>- Improve critical thinking in society</td>
<td>- the reason of founding is to be established educated society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organisatory structure</strong></td>
<td>- 15 members, 6 leaders amongst them, all voluntarily, no other job next to CSO</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decision making</strong></td>
<td>- The 6 founders - Decision for projects based on feedback from locals and experience of founders</td>
<td>- decide in the not only on their decision, they just have a look by themselves, and also they help because of feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field of work</strong></td>
<td>- Law. Environmental training, active citizenship, social cohesion</td>
<td>- do some activities like ahm they protest the rights of the farmer and the local people rights if they have a conflict with somebody else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Database</strong></td>
<td>- Not in any database, just facebook group for CSO and contact per mail to other groups</td>
<td>- they have an e-mail not for the civil society, the six founder they post on the facebook and they address for the e-mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professional trained staff?</strong></td>
<td>- 12 accomplished lawyers</td>
<td>- We have 12 lawyer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main struggles of CSO</strong></td>
<td>- Funding</td>
<td>- need a supporting ahm some helping or somebody else for funding, they don’t have a big fund,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount of activities</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>- Project is 6 months, one project, training is a lot ofs, I think is civic society, sorry civil education is 12 times - have been in 6 cities and 10 villages round southern shan state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effectiveness of projects</strong></td>
<td>- Takes time to implement knowledge about law and critical thinking in society,</td>
<td>- get achievements in every activity, but it takes a long time. Cause ahm,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but successful in the long term</td>
<td>as you know our country is now political country, so they are being fought with the authorization of the government</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact of projects</strong></td>
<td>- Is high, but general problem is that people are scared of authorities and thus do not want to be in connection to any political activities</td>
<td>- for some people, they are not really interested in political or such kind of matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Also for some people they don’t really understand what their part is.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perception of people</strong></td>
<td>- Mixed, higher educated people value the programs, while a part of the rural communities sees danger in the topic</td>
<td>- some people because of they are doing a political they don’t want to be ahm relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- International UNDP and GiZ, local NGO Nee foundation, Myanmar peace center, UMLaw, ahm EIR INGO, Partner Asia.</td>
<td>- there is an agent connecting GiZ and UNDP to local NGOs and CBOs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- L: Yes, southern shan state civil society organization network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Networking</strong></td>
<td>- 2 INGOs, 5 NGOs, a lot of CBOs</td>
<td>- 2 INGOs, 5 NGOs, a lot of CBOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Are connected to INGOs by an agent. Works both ways, so INGO &lt;-&gt; NGO / CBO / CSO</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- No business partnerships</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- No business partnerships</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding of partners</strong></td>
<td>- No monetary funds, just training</td>
<td>- Legal support, peace process, peace purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Getting in touch with partners</strong></td>
<td>- A meeting once a year, every organization around Taunggyi participates, 120 CBOs, CSOs and NGOs, organized by a youth group</td>
<td>- They know to the celebration on a special day, Independence Day something like that, they meet each other and so training and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- L: Youth forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why does networking not work at Inle Lake area?</strong></td>
<td>- Meetings are expensive, no funds available, organizations are too busy, no organization wants to take responsibility</td>
<td>- cannot provide the money, when they are doing this kind of meeting take the responsible for the expense.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Funding
- Via own copyshop and own band they play in
- Project based funding; they write proposals to founders, who then decide to support or not
- Money is transferred to private bank account if proposal got accepted

And then you submit the proposal to the organization and they decide if they fund it or not
L: Yes.
I: And ahm do they also reject proposals or
L: Yes.

### Hopes for the future
- Attract new founders.
- Loads of plans for projects, but not sufficient funds

- have a plan to do a lot of activities but they just need a fund and now they just stop because they don’t have a large fund so they just can’t keep going.

### Development in the non-profit sector
- half of the upcoming organizations is bad, as they use funds for own profit

- a lot of people they are in the NGO and CSO in their business like a mis-using
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open code</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Examples of participants’ words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Helping local people** | NGO addressing women impact, health and education, farming techniques | - Built a school like small primary school  
- For the organic farm they organize worm breeding |
| **No state-level permission for NGO** | Government does not allow registration for organization as it engages in human right activities, but gives allowance. | - Even the small groups got their registration number but they didn’t because of that  
- Her [founder] name is blacklisted |
| **Best time for operations at the moment** | Government restrictions from past years made it tough to push projects through | - Now is the best time because they have their own freedom  
- Had to get permission for every single project |
| **Founded because other NGOs did not meet the needs of locals** | INGOs did projects based on own interests, not on villagers needs | - the villagers don’t need this activity but they give this activity |
| **Experienced NGO** | Leader has a training and experience in business, trains staff. | - she has an experience when she work at the UNDP, when they had meeting |
| **High workload, sustainable development focus** | Giving trainings and working with a variety of villages | - now they are working with 33 villages and also 63 groups |
| **Network** | Setting up linkages between self-help groups, | - These 63 groups are linkages each other, because the linkage is very important. |
| **Basis of funding** | - Writing proposal themselves and send it to foundations, not the other way round  
- Proposals are based on villager feedback  
- Proposals are based on observations  
- Office leader paid by international NGO | - The person from town it he is very interested in this project and she is very interested so she asks for funding.  
- use a kind of chemical fertilizer and also another lot of chemicals, so she want to change that kind of agriculture, so |
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding for office equipment</th>
<th>Funding for office equipment, Only transfer money to local NGOs’ account if concrete project is there.</th>
<th>- At that NGO she is training consultant so she got the salary from this group. Sometimes they give the the computer, and printer, copier, - they deliver for this bank and they just keep in the bank, but they need for some projects.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding partners</td>
<td>Five funding partners</td>
<td>- So for every donor one project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>- 23% admin costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount projects</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Five</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish information about projects</td>
<td>Publish only in their own office and have a brochure</td>
<td>- Like here, they pay the brown paper, and they inform what activity they did</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database, official register of organizations</td>
<td>No internet connection, no training on joining databases, no time to join.</td>
<td>- They haven’t any website or internet, so they didn’t post in internet. They are not very special in using internet so they haven’t any training yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network</td>
<td>Five international NGOs for funding, training form INGO from Norway</td>
<td>- also she had a separate group Women can do it!, it’s from Norway, Foundation for local development (FLD) is local is in Yangon, INGO OINKOS, is in Yangon, international is from Italy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO contribution to tourism</td>
<td>Teaching creation of souvenirs and handicrafts in the villages, even export certain products already</td>
<td>- Yeah they have the training for the villages, there is a rush of bamboo, so they make the handicraft with bamboo, something like a chair or the tissue box,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours</td>
<td>Regular office hours for all staff</td>
<td>- The office hour is 9 to 5, yeah 9 to 5,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expectations and hopes for future</strong></td>
<td>- Equality and chances for just politics, women-friendly system, women rights</td>
<td>- in Myanmar we can change the country leader as a woman so for the woman right they are trying a lot, and also the community can change for the leader in 2015 the women can do it in Yangon they choose 15 women and they can be the parliament representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NGO development</strong></td>
<td>- rapidly developing, increase in NGOs - NGO leaders are not aware of sustainable program approaches</td>
<td>- But many NGO didn’t know the sustainable development process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Success of projects</strong></td>
<td>- successful, as the villagers are trained to understand changes</td>
<td>- there’s stranger for the community, because civic education is very far away from villagers, , they never seen before our project, now they know and understand a little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perception of projects from locals</strong></td>
<td>- Good, but difficult. At first always sceptic as changes are considered critically</td>
<td>- because of she separate for the family who attended like the primary since they was a baby that’s why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact of projects</strong></td>
<td>- medium; as programs have changed life in community, but due to the sustainable nature they need time to show</td>
<td>- so some household have middle and high school children so they I: they have a higher chance for a better salary later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effectiveness of projects</strong></td>
<td>- high, as they are developed for long term. Sustainability. Impact is firstly small, but effectiveness shows over the years</td>
<td>- 50 per cent of the villagers understand because they have benefit from our project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Codes</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Examples of Participants' words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main field of work</strong></td>
<td>Youth empowerment, environmental conservation, training (farming, …&gt;)</td>
<td>Empower youth for environmental conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>it’s a volunteer youth group from Inle Lake, above 200 member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Set-up</strong></td>
<td>Voluntarily, founding member in NGO and youth group.</td>
<td>because I am from here, ahm I member of the youth group and a staff of caleanameta foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reason for founding</strong></td>
<td>Founder inspired by Christian development, started for Buddhist community.</td>
<td>when I was in university, the time I met with Christian youth group, because we are Buddhist, but in Christian religion want to partner for development, so that time I tried to be a volunteer, and I try, oh it’s inspired me to do for our Buddhist community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religious struggles</strong></td>
<td>Buddhist communities anti Christian development groups – religion as a barrier for development</td>
<td>youth empowerment broken so different issue like this but most of young people are really crazy about environment issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>Self-organized for youth groups by selling handicrafts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concept</strong></td>
<td>Calaneameta provides meeting room for youth groups and facilitates founding and linkages with youthgroup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network issues</strong></td>
<td>Every year meeting for all youth groups in the area</td>
<td>have a meeting every year. For the youth around the Myanmar. So like this, so they share, they also share our one year activity in that meeting, that’s essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local NGOs not interested in Networking activities, scared of losing advantage and funding money</td>
<td>“so-called” NGO like this they want to do themselves, they don’t want to be with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training concept</strong></td>
<td>Teach ideas of: Buddhist religion, sustainable development, gender issues, globalization. Based on that, training leadership skills.</td>
<td>we give this concept to them in the 7 day trainings and after they are very interesting on that so we also collect the interesting member to train leadership 1 month, so especially focus on facilitation, leadership, what time of leadership, like participatory leadership,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects</strong></td>
<td>Skills development and specific training based on environmental</td>
<td>Focus on youth leadership, but for different project, so for inle lake environmental conservation, and funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

activities: environment, peace, agriculture projects, kind of eco funding, so under calaneameta ahm mainly peace issue, environmental issue, agriculture issue, anything else, and the other project is CBO, in the area for community based organizations community based organizations, first time see the CBO, after that the youth came here with the issue for agriculture environment, peace and gender issue also.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds for proposals</th>
<th>Proposals only from Calaneameta to founders accepted by group, not other way round (only if in the interests of group)</th>
<th>does it ever happen that also a funding organization or a bigger organization gives a proposal to you, or is it only you who give proposals to funding organizations? L: No, that’s why we propose, but ahm the other donor also propose us</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Unique position, due to connection to population in Shan State every organization interested in collaboration – to use their resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds from government</td>
<td>Part of the “environmental zone tourist entrance fee” used for founding the group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>also the governments funds the NGO?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L: Yeah that entrance fee,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>it should come from our heart, our commitment, the people who are very committed to do for their area because the brochures came up from them so now we mostly especially for the project manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional staff</td>
<td>Only looking for key positions as e.g. project manager. Every other staff trained with organizations’ programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>their staff are from the local and also when they decided to do something they have to learn again</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main struggles of NGO</td>
<td>Unskilled staff, organizational structure of NGO, management skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>when they decided to do something they have to learn again</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network</td>
<td>INGO, NGO, CBO, CSO, Youth groups. Widely connected, especially to villages and local groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INGOs are approached by this group for funding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>terre des hommes Germany, Oxfam, before Norwegian people aid, now we former issue here came together with Mitta development foundation, GiZ, INEB international network of engaged Buddhists, now with ecology you trust,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business partnerships</td>
<td>No go policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Because if a business funds you you need to give something back</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting funds</td>
<td>NGO’s main office from Yangon accounts and accesses funds, sends them over by bank if project-related expenses arise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Especially for the training. Because in training there are some we have to call the person but you know we try to reduce it’s compare with the other NGO the other NGO plan to estimate to do in the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of funds</td>
<td>Mostly training. Meetings and workshops for free in monastery.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution to tourism development</th>
<th>Environmental awareness campaigns and restaurant for tourists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We also give some kind of campaigns, is awareness not only here the committee but also to the tourism people so especially that also tourists see that give that kind of message especially in the boat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increasing tasks for organization</th>
<th>Yes, but with same number of staff. Use of youth group volunteers is increasing.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expectations and hopes for future</td>
<td>Non-profit sector should collaborate with youth groups, as they know the issues of the area. Local people training more important than foreign motivated development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we are voluntarily conserve our environment, so actually we are responsible, not the consultants. I feel is because of us, so now we can change this and now the youth groups are trying to be participate in this decision making area for it’s our future our trying to be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in NGO development</th>
<th>Negative development, NGOs and INGOs develop dependency on funds, do not know how to change from their own initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>negative change, now for us is challenging to organize the community to participate with us, even the youth are equally participate, because before it was so core, core NGO organized in Inle, so is destroying, the NGOs destroying give the mindset for the community to be T: Begging L: like a beggar how to get the money from NGO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception of locals</th>
<th>Great feedback, but criticism of voluntary basis of work – lacks of money for the families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>maybe the people talk to their parent because sometimes they forgot to do their job, their research volunteer, sometimes their family say don’t go many time as a volunteer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Code</strong></td>
<td><strong>Properties</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main field of work</strong></td>
<td>- Development of the countryside region, - Anti-discrimination training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff</strong></td>
<td>30 people in office, 106 external employees in rural areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training for staff</strong></td>
<td>NGO-internal training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects</strong></td>
<td>Refugees, agriculture programs,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project proposals</strong></td>
<td>Based on local feedback or requests, no projects that founders propose are accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>Funds are transferred to bank account only project-related, only monetary funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publishing Data</strong></td>
<td>Yes, yearly pamphlet is printed, and have a website where it is published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Database</strong></td>
<td>No database, just officially registered with the government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Struggles in daily operations</strong></td>
<td>Communication to rural areas, expensive bribery in peace development - contact to locals only by going over controlled roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increasing tasks</strong></td>
<td>Yes, with the number of employees the tasks of the NGO are increasing, because they can do more projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Success of projects</strong></th>
<th>High, but limited by funds and borders in crisis regions</th>
<th>- they treat their children as a rude way but now it become improved because the relationship between the kids and their parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perception of villagers</strong></td>
<td>Positive, they see a point in the development and trainings</td>
<td>- Yeah, everyone thinks that’s the best because also for their children the leaders prays to be keep especially for the farmers, if they don’t have this kind of project or kind of school they have to worry about their kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effectiveness of projects</strong></td>
<td>Extremely effective due to sustainable background of programs</td>
<td>- they don’t took the money form this villager their village because ahm they made a loan system because they want to train to the villagers how to manage with the money and finally when they don’t need the money anymore they just donate the money to the village as a funds, so don’t need to pay back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Networking</strong></td>
<td>Connected to 20 international founders, in an NGO network,</td>
<td>- Cause they have connection with other local NGO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I: Do you have the names?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business</strong></td>
<td>Business partnerships, cannot influence choice of projects.</td>
<td>- they say it’s important, because if you have donate this kind of purpose they will not accept for donation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network – meetings</strong></td>
<td>No regular meetings, only purpose specific</td>
<td>- T: Yeah because for this organization they don’t expect to get back from the local people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the future, UNDP plans to organize regular meetings with NGOs of the area 1 year ago big meeting with all organizations in shan state</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local perception in general</strong></td>
<td>Good feedback, people like the organization, good association with the name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expectations and hopes for the future</strong></td>
<td>Self-sustainability for villages around based on training given</td>
<td>- local people from the countryside region to get independent, expect to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
connect with the local people and the government and also train to the people as open minded and right thinking like that

<p>| Role of this NGO in perfect future | - make revolution with the government |
| Administration costs               | - About 70 percent of the money is for the local people, for the projects, and for the expenses here is 30 per cent. |
| Staff voluntary or paid             | - They have for the minimum is 100 dollar for a month and maximal is 700 dollar for a month, depends on the staff |
| Changes in the non-profit sector for the past years | No answer |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NGO4</strong></th>
<th><strong>Open Code</strong></th>
<th><strong>Properties</strong></th>
<th><strong>Examples of Participants’ words</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reason for founding NGO</strong></td>
<td>Initiated as a project by an INGO, because area needs a locally based organization addressing problems</td>
<td>We train 287 people to involve in tourism, to get a job opportunity, also the tourism promotion, how to do the responsible tourism, then better income, then finally to reduce the poverty in region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field of activity</strong></td>
<td>Community skills development, environmental conservation, vocational training, language skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initiating projects</strong></td>
<td>Leader of NGO, based on community feedback, own experience, own observations</td>
<td>work with the minister of Intha affairs, so we work with the relevant government department like ahm the person from the ministry of health, from the minister of the home affair, we work with the police, for human trafficking, narcotic drugs, child rights, child abuse, child labour, those things and working with the immigration department, the policy for foreigner and something like that and also we work with the Intha culture and literature association and we work also in culture a lot aside so we got some of the knowledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network</strong></td>
<td>NGO is approached by these organization due to the background of the leader and the reputation of their work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training of employees</strong></td>
<td>Three external employees sent from two different INGOs and an Australian business program</td>
<td>three permanent and four individually and then ahm two sent from PfC and now one from the GiZ and two from Australian government.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payment of staff</strong></td>
<td>All staff is paid by funding money of PfC</td>
<td>Yes, yes, yes, we got salary and funding from the PfC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publishing data</strong></td>
<td>e-mail newsletter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part of official database</strong></td>
<td>Only registered with the government</td>
<td>Inle Speaks is already with the state the township level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main struggles of NGO</strong></td>
<td>Skilled staff,</td>
<td>We really need the skill we need the people to help but now the we want the skill because of the PfC people they are national level project and also Inle Speaks need to other kind of projects not only for development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Feedback from community to projects

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very good due to job opportunities and sustainable background of projects</td>
<td>that’s why the Inle Speaks is appreciated by the community because after we tell them they have more confidence and after we train</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Negative feedback

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rarely. New sustainable approach is cutting jobs in unsustainable positions</td>
<td>some people complain that its because we train people that they might lose their job and things like that</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Increasing tasks

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, due to a variety of new projects. External trainers hired, but NGO staff stays the same</td>
<td>we didn’t increase the staff but also we do other sector called ESR training so we so we hire the some skilled staff for the training</td>
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### Network

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connected to few CBOs in area as well as 2 INGOs</td>
<td>Shwe Inthu and Shwe Intha, culture they are also community based.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Business connection

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>no. We are just still just helping to the community we didn’t start a business relationship to the other.</td>
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</table>

### Funding

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only one funding organization, PfC (INGO). Training from other CBOs, experts from other organizations provided for freeMoney is not transferred by bank account as legally not possible, so given in cash by funding organization</td>
<td>PfC is the only source of funding. For the ahm Inle Speaks. And we didn’t get any other organizations to get the funding, but we work with together with the other providers of like the GiZ provide us senior expert</td>
<td>PfC is ahm they have a money transferring to Barbara but they can not contribute directly to the community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project related approaches

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inle Speaks only connects to other organizations from their own interests, not the other way round</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Use of funds

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mostly trainings, but also single projects</td>
<td></td>
<td>so we are using for training and then also we are contribute lieka solar lamp in the southern part of the lake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Impact on tourism development

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<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High, as training for hospitality sector and language skills are provided</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### Hopes and future expectations

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent NGO, community assistance, skills development in community, locals’ independence form external help, jobs for locals</td>
<td>self sustainable, so self standing, and then also like helping to the community as much as we can</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goals behind program

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generating revenue for locals, followed by training and skills (that are financed by generated revenue)</td>
<td>All for economy they got the education, because if we don’t have a better income to give the education they will not so we target for the income and then education, that’s when we train them to get a better job, and then after that they</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in non-profit sector</th>
<th>NGOs used to emerge, but if not sustainable they went out of business due to lack of interest from international donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INGOs and foundations start addressing local level non-profit organizations to explore “real” needs of locals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- before is they are ahm other plan and they have no really implementations and things like that that’s why some of the NGO even the local people they are not very much sometimes like to the INGO because they are not really effective to the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- that’s why now CBO CSO like the PFcfinding like the GiZ, so they go to the grassroots CBO CSO and what they have know so now they are the idea of a INGO are also thinking and try to finding really to the grassroot party.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Code</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Example of Participants’ words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Field of work** | - Economic training of villagers, sustainable focus – training on financial matters, agriculture, politics and networking with other groups | - Yeah their main goal is to educate the villagers  
- also they train about the society how to link with another group |
| **Initiator of projects** | - International NGO (UNDP) provides projects, funding and training  
- Some proposals are made by founder of CBO  
- Some projects are requested directly by villagers, leading to proposals sent to the HQ in Yangon | - Yes UNDP apply the fund and also the project  
- Okay, so UNDP trained all of you and you are training the villagers then?  
  T: Yes |
| **Payment** | - Only volunteers, no paid members | - Noone gets paid. |
| **Network** | - Linkages to three INGOs who provide trainers, workshops and projects  
- Connected to 42 small regional groups (not CBOs, just communities with leader) | - they are linked to another NGO like GiZ and also for the MercyCorps, this is for the agriculture, this is about the agenda, when they, about the they were picked a training  
- Like 42 small groups  
  I: Okay, okay. Small regional groups  
  T: Yeah. |
| **Business connection** | - connected to private business (MerciCorps) who gives training in agriculture | - is not an NGO just a kind of a business,  
  I: So they get a training by them  
  T: Yes and they are training with another village |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Reason for founding the CBO</strong></th>
<th>- local replacement office for former UNDP office, contact office for UNDP to control and establish locally based projects.</th>
<th>- UNDP came to their vilalges and they choose the leaders who can work this group so they pick out for 11 because they will stop in Nyaung Shwe and they will move to Taunggyi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>- Based on proposals and reports, only project specific or office material and rent</td>
<td>- the fund is like the office equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- UNDP is here they have to report to them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main problems of CBO</strong></td>
<td>- Funds are too small</td>
<td>- the villagers need much more money so they request to borrow the money from another place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Use of funds**                | - Projects, cash to villagers, office equipment, rent.  
- Villagers borrow money to set up businesses (farming) | - before they got the fund from UNDP, the villager have to be the reason why they need to borrow the money |
| **Projects implemented**        | - 4 | |
| **Success of project**          | - High, decreasing illiteracy for villagers | - women cannot write their name and most of them cannot do their own signature, but now is they can write. |
| **Perception of projects**      | - Bad; projects are appreciated, but teaching methods and circumstances annoy locals | - they are younger than the old people  
I: So they don’t wanna learn from younger people?  
T: Yeah, cause they’re kinda proud. |
| **Workload**                    | - Increasing workload. New office and more employees, more projects. | - is the workload increasing?  
T: Okay. Yes now is increasing |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CBO networking</th>
<th>Meeting for opening ceremony of new office, inviting non-profit organizations from Taunggyi to get in touch and exchange data</th>
<th>they have the contact number when they met each other they put in their addressbook or email or phone number.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshops and trainings are meeting points for local non-profit organizations</td>
<td>also if they have a project or workshop or something like that they invite all of these women so they attend the workshop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>About 20 organizations in the direct network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No regular meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| CBO networking – thoughts | group would like to have regular meetings for exchange of information organizations too busy to meet | they can share their difficulties, they can solve with their ideas and yeah. |

| Future expectations | More funders, additional funders to UNDP to increase number of projects | want to be to lead with another NGO, INGO, cause of they are not enough with the fund for the villagers so if they have the more supplier they can be better. |

<p>| NGO development in the area | A lot of new organizations, but half of them uselessful, as they do not spend the funds on the area | some are working in NGO and INGO, but they cannot do for the ahm the social improvement like for Inle or for their village, they are just working their own |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Code</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Examples of Participants‘ words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main field of work</strong></td>
<td>environmental awareness, action at first to give the awareness about the environment and consumer right</td>
<td>Around our region, now three village the main purpose is three village we give training about the environmental awareness, and the community forest building and to register their land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects</strong></td>
<td>Raising awareness by art and during arts exhibitions, participating in projects of other CBOs and NGOs. Attend trainings and pass knowledge during workshops to other NGOs</td>
<td>So you are raising awareness by art L: Yes yes. I: Okay, and ahm, do you also do other projects, like training for example? L: At that time, I’m an artist, and after that I am starting to learn to build my capacity to learn about environmental and the capacity building training I attended here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>Mercicorps, Polish INGO, DUNA, Taunggyi NGO. Monetary funding for projects and workshops</td>
<td>are you in any database or are you registered? L: No, we don’t we but we we aim but now we didn’t do that I: So that’s like a future thing L: Yes, yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Database</strong></td>
<td>No database, lose sheet of addresses from other CSOs / CBOS in the area</td>
<td>money is sometimes that’s our problem we have no fund it’s also everybody is volunteer, we are not ahm, staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Struggles of CBO</strong></td>
<td>Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recruiting volunteer members</strong></td>
<td>Students they give the workshops for</td>
<td>Most of the people are university student and also some people they give their free time, when they are free they are volunteer for us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project frequency</strong></td>
<td>Self-made project once a year, participating roughly 4 times a year</td>
<td>do you get positive feedback or do some also think that’s a bad thing that you are changing or T: Positive, positive, positive. Ah for the local people they accept the cost about the organization interrogation, but ahm not to use a chemical pesticide it will take a long time to get used to that they already use pesticides about 100 years ago, if we change immediately that would be difficult for them I: Yeah,.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perception</strong></td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact</strong></td>
<td>Low – projects are addressing issues that need time to be solved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network</strong></td>
<td>Very well connected to CSOs and CBOs in Taunggyi especially, all know each other personally and train each other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yeah and do you also have partnerships with smaller groups, like CBOs and CSOs, or is it only with larger groups? T: Yes they do, they do with other local CBO, CSO,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changes in NGO development</strong></td>
<td>Governmental regulations less strict, easier to start non-profit organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of NGOs doubled over the past 2 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>T: Yes they do, they do with other local CBO, CSO,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>now is become open and changing for the CSO but Myanmar with the policy and qualification is getting improves,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>is the number of NGOs here in Taunggyi staying the same over the past years or is there a trend in more NGOs over the years? T: Ahm, comparing to the last two years ago is become double.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changes of NGO development for the good or bad</strong></td>
<td>Bad, because new groups are lacking training, do not know how to lead an organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expectations and future hopes</strong></td>
<td>Being able to preserve nature and train locals in a self-sustainable way.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Just like the one they have just the one is like a green environment and just keeping the forest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L: Green and consumer education for the local people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Code</td>
<td>Properties</td>
<td>Example of Participants' words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network</td>
<td>Mutual trainings in the respective field of expertise.</td>
<td>Walking and we will meet most oft he trainings together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use facebook as a connector / mediator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network creation</td>
<td>Invited for training by neighbor, growing circle</td>
<td>they were already connected to another CSO so how you met them and then</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R: Yes, and the network might be expending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>No, only occasionally training related</td>
<td>We once had get support form one of the organizations for giving teachers training, this is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>the only one, and mostly we have to save to collect our own money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems /</td>
<td>Upcoming foundations flood non-profit organizations with money, leading to</td>
<td>their own benefit it might be dangerous and most of the youths might get wrong position if</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>challenges for the</td>
<td>profit oriented organizations and bad attitudes</td>
<td>they work with CSO or NGO they might get more money with not working so much.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>future</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopes for future</td>
<td>Extending network and mutual trainings of CBOs</td>
<td>but we have to learn so many things, so I expect that we want to get more knowledge and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>capacities if we have more capacity we can connect with other NGO and CSO and it might be just</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>for our townships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization of</td>
<td>Self-supporting, no responsible person</td>
<td>Everybody knows their responsibilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>network</td>
<td></td>
<td>I: Yeah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R: There’s no need to get any leader for for doing a job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Code</td>
<td>Properties</td>
<td>Examples of Participants’ words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects / activities</strong></td>
<td>Garbage collection, environmental awareness, supporting community,</td>
<td>Rubbish around their village, and also if they have a funeral they are helping with them, and also the help from the villagers, also they have a bloodbank, also with the fire evacuation they are helping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization of projects</strong></td>
<td>Each project is led by a main responsible person in the group</td>
<td>still working for cleaning the rubbish for the environment, at that time they found how to work for society so they found a job, and founded a small group for the other activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Database</strong></td>
<td>No, also not officially registered yet</td>
<td>Registration is in progress, takes 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trained staff</strong></td>
<td>Project related training and graduates</td>
<td>Yes they have training some Nyaung Shwe for the fire station, and also some of them are graduated and some are at least the high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main problems / struggles</strong></td>
<td>Government regulations do not allow burning spots for garbage, but do not offer alternative</td>
<td>Yes they have the problem with the place for the rubbish, they request for that place but the government doesn’t yet allow it. I: The government doesn’t allow it? T: Yes, you know, the landlaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effectiveness</strong></td>
<td>Somewhat medium. Villagers help with projects, but do not always see long-term benefits</td>
<td>But most of them understand why you do it. R: Yeah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increasing tasks</strong></td>
<td>Yes, group enlarging and growing number of activities</td>
<td>Yes they are increasing the project, because it started with one project and now is 5, so is increasing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network</strong></td>
<td>Foundation from Yangon, but not CBOs from the area</td>
<td>they are not with another INGOs and NGOs, there’s just the supplier for the funding. I: Okay, and so who is the supplier? T: Is from Yangon, is called Shwe Baramy, is from the monk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CBO problems</strong></td>
<td>No trust in other CBOs around the area</td>
<td>why are you not connected to other CBOs in the area. R: We think other group do it only artificial. I: Okay, so you think they don’t take it seriously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact information is missing for communication</td>
<td>if there was like a database or a register with the other CBOs so that you could talk to them or connect with them, or would you actually want something like this? T: Yes they are willing to work together with them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
some of the NGO only come for the funding and they don’t care about the environment, and some are you know some are like kind of self-saturation they post a proposal for the government and they don’t do nothing, that kind of organization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Funding</strong></th>
<th>Project related, based on proposals. Most of the villagers are really interested in the projects so every month they come and pay a membership, like 10,000 kyats per month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes it depend on the project, yeah they have to put the proposal and they send.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CS05</th>
<th>Projects and activities</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Examples of Participants’ words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|      | Community help, environmental education and solutions, awareness campaigns | Garbage collection, funeral service, campaigns | you collected funds for a boat, for dust bin, for the funeral, …  
T: The target, our aim the ahm for environment and we are doing the plastic campaign, we are just find the plastic with the fire.  
I: Okay, and what is the campaign like, so how do you do that, what do you do?  
R: We collect the plastic and we ahm the behind the village we burn |
|      | Decision making | Group discussion, ultimate decision with leader | we are doing the meeting and ahm discussion and discuss it, everybody open  
I: Okay, so with all 100 members you discuss?  
R: Yeah, but we are our group is ahm chairman second chairman and two cashier group and second leader, primary accountant, the foundation the unite. The different and the variety kind and mind color our we unique and the main is the four people. |
|      | Publish achievements | No. Just own record, accounting books. | Yes, they haven’t any record, but they have the list for the funeral, and also the list for the borrowing things, they borrow some instrument like the organ |
|      | Trained staff | Project specific training, leadership training | before they found this group, ahm they had a training for another place and then they organize this group and for the members they haven’t any training not yet, because they have another experience from training from old people so yeah |
|      | Network | Training from Mandalay-based NGO  
German organization working on establishing network with environmentally focused local CBOs / CSOs  
Interested in lake CBO network, but not enough time | Mandalay-based organization, they just taught how to refine the plastic  
how many organizations are participating?  
R: About 15 groups  
They don’t have the time to join with another group. |
|      | Success | Projects mostly not too successful, not enough time – though enough volunteers. Organizational skills lacking | They want to do everything like ahm they want to improve the society, they want to pay the trainings for the villagers, but they don’t have any time. So they just finish for the funeral |
| Effectiveness            | Garbage and environmental awareness established in village | Do they develop a certain awareness of the problem, do they stop littering after a while?  
T: Ahm most of the villagers are they accept to do this activity and also sometimes they organize with another village like also we went there |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Network problems</td>
<td>Not enough time, expenses, formal expectations of CBO meetings and thus high expenses</td>
<td>They have a network with another group, but ahm they have their own goals and they are not the same direction so that’s why, and also if they want to have a meeting they have to invite them so they have to type the letter for invitation so the cost is high, they have no email</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Funding                 | Collecting in the village, no funding NGO, monasteries donate unregularly | Yeah actually is not the funding just for the donation  
I: Okay  
T: So one of the monks from another village donate for the boat, something like that, he take directly to them |
| Future hopes, expectations | Organic farming activities, training, health improvement for villagers | Improve their life cause their health.  
I: And for the organization itself? Or your…  
R: Training, for environment, environmental.  
T: Yes they want to get the training for the organic farming. |
<p>| Changes in non-profit sector | Good, as lack of governmental support can be approached | Yes they are happy because of now is the NGO number increasing so ahm in the town they have the municipality to pick up the rubbish and here is no municipality so if they have more NGOs they are very happy. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Code</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Example of Participants’ words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reason for founding</td>
<td>As sub office of INGO</td>
<td>Because of they are also the subgroup from the UNDP so their goal is for the organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Provide training for organic farming, environmental awareness training</td>
<td>T: Yeah and training the community they have a training and they also give the training to other villages train about the how to do the organic thing and also the earth worm breeding, also sometimes they have the big breeding, and also sometimes he train about the how to reduce the chemical pesticides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO database</td>
<td>None.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of CBO members</td>
<td>Trained by INGO programs</td>
<td>they all are already trained by the trainers and also some of them are graduated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems / struggles of CBO</td>
<td>Infrastructure and communication</td>
<td>communication, when they go to Nyaung Shwe you know is very the transportation is very bad because of the water level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasks increasing</td>
<td>Yes, four more projects now</td>
<td>they have already increased, and he is also the project manager of the organic farming, and also UNDP came here and met with him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network</td>
<td>Only connected to three funding INGOs, not to other CBOs in the area</td>
<td>do you know what other NGOs in INLE LAKE are doing in general? T: Mainly they are doing for the environmental conservation, and also reducing the chemical pesticides, also firewood and waste management, and also they are supplying for the China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>INGOs provide school (money for local construction), provide money for projects in cash Also provide and install drinking water systems</td>
<td>From ECCD they came here and they came to supply like a building for school and also for funding, is from Korea. They came here and they pay themselves in cash after they got the money they bought all the pipes and they did the work and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteers / paod</th>
<th>Group leader paid by UNDP, members voluntarily. All are volunteers, only him, he got his salary from the UNDP, but not every month, they have the projects he got.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expectations / future hopes</td>
<td>Wants his own independent CBO, decision making processes are too slow in the non-profit sector. He wants to ahm CBO, his own CBO, but now is the funder are not very much in here so is. I: So you want to become independent from the INGOs basically. T: Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems with establishing network</td>
<td>Infrastructure, different approaches. Transportation, communication, and also the use of the chemical. Conflicts within new CBOs, problems in hierarchy. Lots of ego’s. Yeah they are ok with another NGO but for others sometimes they have the conflict with another CBO. I: And what kind of conflict, why conflict? T: Yeah, sometimes you know the project manager and the new foundation had the conflict.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## INGO1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Code</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Examples of Participants' words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision of INGO</td>
<td>Creative and sustainable solutions of local problems from a local perspective</td>
<td>ide that ah business as usual is not really an option if nine billion people are gonna live well within limits of the planet within 2050 so it’s really to correct people, engage people, activate people to think creatively on how to meet these am challenges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main field of work</td>
<td>Sustainable economic development and environment</td>
<td>main focus is on sustainable economic development that preserves the environment and cultural heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiation of projects</td>
<td>Core employees of PfC provide ideas, feedback from local communities, workshops, observation and interaction with locals</td>
<td>feedback from the local communities, about what ahm what they need ahm Sai Win gives a lot of input as well as other community leaders and especially senior tourguides. I said ok, how do I help people get jobs? And he said, in this area, help them learn English. So the first project in this area was help them learn English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct of business</td>
<td>No donations. Providing good loans for elaborate plannings, long-term no interest rates. Providing training for the purpose of self-sustainability Persuading locals of good projects and thus winning recognition and approval by authorities Trust to locals and partnerships in general</td>
<td>ok, we give you capital loan, you pay it back once the school starts to become self-supporting, I probably wouldn’t say that we are manipulating them to think that it’s a good idea, but to give them time to understand what it is that we are actually trying to do. they had been very suspicious of what Inle Speaks was doing when we started and there wasn’t any cooperation but we did the orphanage project and then after that he was very happy with us so it worked out And again I think trusting ahm trusting partners and giving them a stake in doing a good job as well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opinion of bad non-profit organizations in the area</td>
<td>Not many, but a few important ones. Main problem is intercultural communication or no communication at all</td>
<td>they are coming with a lot of money, they have a project, they implement the project, they don’t have the time or take the time to ahm listen to what is actually needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problematic is lack of a database</strong></td>
<td>You know I think it’s difficult for big international organizations to interact very successfully with local NGOs. And ahm part of it is it takes a while to find out where the CBOs are.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding interests</strong></td>
<td>Based on provided proposals, foundations decide to put money or not. Also foundations hand in own proposals, only used if they fit the framework of PfC</td>
<td>the people who have funded our work here or the organizations who have funded this work have not dictated anything about what we use the money for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approaching new projects</strong></td>
<td>Based on local feedback</td>
<td>what we did was very small pilots, where we did something we were very confident the community needed and wanted English, and because of that we could hear the community, we were there for long enough, buy dinner, buy, so the community was not, we didn’t go into the community and said we are going to implement something you have to like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration costs</strong></td>
<td>Not enough stuff, not enough money for administration</td>
<td>5 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feedback from communities</strong></td>
<td>Direct feedback or citizens brought over by local authorities</td>
<td>we get feedback from villages and political leaders like the top half of the lake is one political district from the Shan state government and the bottom half is another one, so it’s constituency 1 and constituency 2, and we have meetings where we meet with the member of parliament form constituency 1 and constituency 2, ahm and they’re basically saying why aren’t you coming to help us build schools, when are you coming to teach English in our villages and when are you coming to bring solar lamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network</strong></td>
<td>Connected to village leaders but not local non-profit organizations, only / mainly calaneameta foundation</td>
<td>You know we would find someone working on the same thing in neighbouring villages, now are they talking? – not really. So. R”: And ahm it’s also a challenge here to ahm this I mean there are informal contact and ahm and everyone knows that there are plenty of CBOs an other organizations it can be challenging to establish more formal partnerships in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Trained staff
- No training in voluntary sector work, all from different backgrounds, however trained or with business expertise are the staff members professionally trained?
- R: No!
- I: Could you elaborate...
- R: Of course! Ahm if I think about the Oslo staff, I think that’s not the right answer because I think the members there have had a very very good background experience

### Publish data
- Annual report

### Main struggles
- Lacking infrastructure, bureaucracy in Myanmar, bank affairs
- Certainly within the country there is no clarity about what you have to do to get approval. And it is R2: Bureaucracy with the local state and national government And also the whole transfer system to get funds transferred from Oslo to here it takes a couple of weeks.
- I: Weeks?
- R: Weeks. A wired transfer. This is all computer electronic. Weeks, that’s bizarre.

### Number of projects conducted
- More than 30

### Increase of tasks
- Yes, significantly more projects compared to start. All new projects based on sustainable approach
- I indicated in blue letters the projects that had gotten started already and in black the ones we hadn’t and it was double, double.
- Barbara came here to do English programs so that was the objective of PfCs work here to start with now it’s ahm community leadership, entrepreneurship, business leadership, ahm development, ahm tourism industry development,

### Networks
- the European and asian venture philanthropy networks, so it’s AVPN and EVPN.

### Changes in non-profit sector
- International organizations became active in the area big change in the last year, because In this last year organizations like GIZ appeared and started working with us on programs, prior to that except for UNDP and a lot of village
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar</strong></th>
<th>Organizations there really were no international organizations I think.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private sector partnerships</strong></td>
<td>Yes, three companies, partly approached the INGO when we funded the vocational school was we started essentially a partnership with a private company ahm and its CEO ahm we’ve because of the HO program that’s a partnership with a US university and Hewlett Packard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business sector partnerships are unusual yet I think the private sector here is very unfamiliar with working with NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>Funders and foundations with very specific goals There’s a variety, everything from very large foundations like Postcode lottery to small family owned foundations or individuals. All of them contribute. The foundations we typically have have a very clear objective like womens entrepreneurship or ESL training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessing funds</strong></td>
<td>Bank transfer based on proposals so you do request money based on project planning and project costs. R: Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact on tourism development</strong></td>
<td>Yes, due to skills training for hospitality sector look at the vocational school or the heritage house, I mean so far this is interesting it has graduated a 40 students, in the next month or so I guess another 40 students will come out ahm my objective would be of course would be to have these students work in hotels and restaurants,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Future hopes and expectations</strong></td>
<td>Self-sustainability for supported projects That Inle Speaks is self supporting and it’s the organization that is known for quality programs and expertise for environment tourism. And they are Inle speaks and it’s staff would be a major, you know you wouldn’t have a meeting on tourism and the environment without including Inle Speaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changes in non-profit sector over the past years</strong></td>
<td>Political organizations have a chance to express opinions and act on them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 13.2 Interview transcripts

The transcripts are exactly, word-for-word written down from the recorded interviews.

**Agenda:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shortcut</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Translator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Interviewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Interviewee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2</td>
<td>Interviewee 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I: Alright, so what is the main field of work of your NGO?
R: Our CSO is a civil society organization, so, ahm, the main objective is the lake conservation and development conservation is the main task. And second is social welfare and success of livelihoods and the ahm income generation for the people of our area.
I: Ok. And, ahm, when did you found your CSO, when was it founded?
R: We are started from the 2007, but the official marget is from 2009 to September 10.
I: Sorry, what was the difference between 2007 and 2009?
R: 2007 is ahm initiate the our organization
I: right
R: But not register
I: Ah ok official register
R: Ya official register is 2009.
I: Okay. And how many employees do you have?
R: SO ahm our goal is the whole region. So, the Intha people and the other, the N THE group around the region is our member.
I: Okay
R: estimated about 200.000 people is our member.
I: Okay. And, ahm, directly working for this organization?
R: Ah, I mean that the Negwua organization...
I: I mean, in this office, .. the two of you, and how many other employees are here?
R: Ah, ya ya ya, office member is executive member is a 15 persons, and the advisory group is 15. and other, the organization is strong. I mean, wee need to do other jobs in our generation, I mean the whole region in our people is gone and taken and.
I: So, everyone of the executives is a volunteer?
R: No no no, I mean that the executive committee member is a 15, is a in the office, turn to rotate, for today, his and his and his, so the old network.
I: Ah, alright, okay. And you only have this one headquarter or do you have other offices around?
R: No ahm is a main office an alone office in inle lake. But the sub-committee in the everyday in our region sub-committee ahm this is a CBO ahm very small.
I: And this sub-committee, how big is it usually per city?
R: Ahm,
I: Like, just roughly,
R: Not the same for each area, because of our activities is every kinds of activities. For example, sanitation or caring for electric, ahm for example. So, the Amfasai Area is sanitation committee in their village and we are committed to work the process of the city plan. So, the implementing and the working and in hindsight to this project we are supported to technology and the other the funded and other facility.
I: Right, and for the past years, like from when you started your NGO to now, how fast did it grow, like you probably started with less employees,
[Interrupt]
I: So, from the start, when you started up your NGO, ahm how many employees did you have by that time? Was it different or did you start with exactly the same number of employees as you have right now?
R: At that time they have only one, and then after that they have three members, ahm three employees. And member is 15, and they have extension more and more, so now is like 20.000. Because of no creating for the ahm ahm staff. Because of our fund is very little and very limited. Because of our fund is given by the donor ahm the other NGO and INGO that contribute to this fund. So, we are on ourselves, so the fund is very limited. But the some of the volunteer member is now request to the salary. I mean that there is no staff, but we need to run the operation, ahm urgent operations in emergency case, we call in the volunteer service, everyone village in one person is our this strong person. It’s a lead staff. Lead staff?
I: Ya ya, leader.
R: Ya, leader.
I: And, ahm, for the CBO here in general, were there better years in the past, like when the business was going better than now, or is now the best time in comparison to the foundation of the CBO?
R: Our CSO is ahm, we exist three year, and the more developed our capacity. Because of many project in our phase, and our work together with other NGO is ahm the network is more strong than before ten years. So, our starting time network is only NGOs. Hoteshwu in Nyaung Shwe, only one NGO when we started. But now, 14 NGO is well committed. Also with Inle Speaks.
I: Alright, so like the better your network gets the better your connections to NGOs get, the better the system works for you as well.
R: Yeah. And moreover, the local NGO is ahm, I mean that is our region, but the other township is ahm, Pa-O people association is also our network.
I: Okay
R: And Pa-O and Taun U and Ten Yu, and Ta Shan and is an own participation. And the other INGO, you know is a IID, international Institute development organization, and GIZ, and Asimo, and also we are connected.
I: Okay. Yeah I have some more questions to the connection later, but I’ll go on, because that’s also very interesting for the project actually. Okay, so why did you found the CSO initially? What was the reason to start the CSO?
R: Ah, the background is very interesting, because of our native town is Inle, and so all over the world the climate changing effect the Inle region, before our the student life is ahm very clear of the water at inle lake, very beautiful scene. You see, the mountain is very grimm and the heavy forest and very heavy rain is a very satisfying for our livelihood style. But gradually they’re changing down to the forest
I: Yeah deforestation-
R: Yes deforestation and you see there the nothing in the mountain so heavy rain in the area and the washing down to the villages on the lake. So, lately there is a not-federal foundation for the our people. So, we are started to organizing in how to rehabilitations and how to grow our forest in our empowerment. And the also pending like biodiversity is very poor, so our the ethnic people the leader of our ethnic people like to other people at grouping with the set-up of environmental conservation and livelihood and stuff changing down to the development issue. So yes, ahm, but nothing they pay for. Now they I can list up this very bad topic, the whole area is not covered by our operation, because of our is very limited fund.
I: And ahm, What’s the CBO’s mission, so do you have a religious background or ahm, what sort of background thought is in the mission of your CBO?
Translator: Can you please repeat that?
I: The mission of the CBO, so some NGOs start because of the religious background, because of religious connections, some start because of secular reasons, so they just see what’s happening, what’s going on and they want to change something, ahm, just what reason exactly is behind that?
R: They don’t have anything religious or with the culture, cause of now that they imply the big city like Yangon and Mandalay can do, but here like ahm most of the time is normal like that. We can control our administration, and also as for religious, we can control everything, yeah. It is not very changing
I: Alright. Ahm, so all in, how many projects did you already realize?
R: I think is ahm small projects is so many projects in our place, but the with UNDP supported and our regional government support is ah the a big project. But at least 5 projects we already finished
I: So five of the big ones.
R: Ya, ya.
I: Okay. And ahm, who initiates the projects? Like, who comes up with the idea, who...
R: The discussion with a clearly discussion in meetings with members of our organization, like the CEO and our chairman. All the meeting and decided to propose it to the UNDP.
I: Okay, So, but in this committee where you discuss about the proposal then, does everyone, like is it a democratic decision that you get to choose, or does, do some people have more power in what they say?
R: It’s our organization is I think I mean that very united, I mean that united and all agree with the decision. All can or cannot be done are decider in this idea. But, leading to our chair.
I: Ya,
R: You know is U Pek Thoa, he lives in the orphan school [orphanage] orphanage, is our chairman, is our he is a very volunteer minded, so he lead to our organization, but ahm everyone..
I: So everyone is involved equally.
R: Yes Yes. But the how to the writing and the proposal and how to project and ahm is the project manager
I: Okay. Alright,
R: Because of I am agronomist, I am agronomist, and the government survey is experienced, fifty year experience in the government staff. And also the the whole Southern Shan State, the vegetable and fruit, they watch the opposite.
I: Alright, okay. And ahm, on which basis do you start your proposals, your project proposals? Is it on scientific research, is it on ahm is it on general knowledge, is it on ahm your own research, feedback from people in the area, like on what basis do you write new proposals for projects?
R: Ahm same the last 20 year about 20 year, I experienced in the government staff, every time was search hindsight of the whole inle lake area for the crop of the farmers. And then connected with the environmental change, for the weather condition. Our agriculture is very dependent on the ahm weather change, weather foundation. So, our experience is ahm how to grow successfully their crop and in the right in the weather. Weather is connected with the deforestation and the other the the nature. So, our experience is ahm good for the the lake conservation plan. And I can use the our ahm mine experience. So, as we start here from the lake conservation.
I: Okay. So, the the project proposals for this CBO are like, you are the you are the project ahm commissioner, you are writing the proposals, right, and you do that on the experience you have, from the experience?
R: Ya, and they supported me, they are my friends in the UNDP and in the government office, and the other, the INGO, is ahm my friend. So, they are supporting to me and they show how to write the proposal on an international skill, but I don’t skill in the English. A little bit.
I: Okay
R: He also our the organization youth, the organization from Ming Thui, the manager of the EBC, the manager of the regional center.
I: Okay, nice! Okay, do you publish any numbers or facts about the CSO, so like when you finish a project, do you publish the report about it or do you ahm in general publish numbers?
R: Very few. Because our projects is report to the UNDP and our government, but our people is ahm the working in the operation time we clearly and the transparency and teach the people how to be explained to our fund and how to be implementing in their region. So, they are informed and sometimes they can know and they want to know the press and ask me in our office. No publish in the..
I: Okay okay. But if someone requests that you give it to them.
R: Ya.
I: And are you in any NGO database, so ahm when I did the research for my thesis I found a lot of like official databases for NGOs and INGOs. But for the NGOs I think there were only 70 or 80 NGOs officially registered for the entire country. Now, around the Inle Lake there are already 18 local NGOs, and I think there are a lot actually not registered in this database. Ahm, why is that, or do you know why that is?
R: Ahm, really, I’m a bit ahm, our region. Our region is ahm not registered in the government because of the you know the political is now clearly changed. Ahm I don’t like the, because our organization registration fund is like the 2007, but very slowly to 2009 the registrationso, the other NGOs, small
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

NGOs in our region is not permitted the permissions of the government because of very slowly work. The registration organization is very cheap.
I: Okay, so because it takes too much time, it’s too complicated.
R: Yeah.
Translator: Because they want to do quickly, even if they don’t have the permission they want to make sure, they want to make change, they want to start something.
I: And ahm, like for the start for the members of your CBO, I know you are an agronomist, but are the other members also trained or did they receive a training in any form, are they educated?
R: Our member is in any form educated. My dad is an economist, there is an engineer, electronic, so many technician is our member.
I: Okay. And what are the main struggles of your CBO, what are the main problems you face? So is it for example like you said you have problems with your funds, very little funds, or may it also be like politic related regional problems like maybe between the ethnic minorities here, what are the main problems that you face in your daily operations?
R: Ahm, generally I can say that the Shan state government is not completely support to our organization, because of is their authority is also very few, because of the main government the police and this our government is supporting. And also the our the leader of the people of our region is controlling mighty government power. So the organization is running in war every time not policy cause the [not understandable] I mean do you understand?
I: Ahm
Translator: No some of the local people is afraid that when the government starts on by something like that they are not very participate on that and local NGO so they only got like 25 per cent.
I: Okay, so the government is the main problem there, otherwise you would have more members, okay. Ahm, can you, okay, this is actually a difficult topic, but can you tell why people are actually scared by the government?
Translator: Okay, they have many difficulties cause of for example in the Inle region there is also so many civil organization or like that, they want to carry themselves but they have to get permission of the immigration, the government of the immigration, so ahm they cannot carry them like that. Ans also some of the road are very hard to go one place to another place, so they want to prepare by themselves their own money, but they don’t have any permission so they cannot do any of this, so yeah.
R: It’s very cancelled and strict in our region, for example the deforestation, ahm the so many trees in the forest, and the problems with forestry [not understandable] the duty, permission is the forest department. The ministry of forest treats them, they don’t have to give.
I: Okay. So, so you plant new trees there and they..
Translator: They want to grow the trees and the fee, and the fee, but they don’t want to pay, like the privacy in here, something like that.
I: Okay, so you actually need to ask for permission of the government to plant new trees in the areas.
Translator: Yes.
I: Wow.
R: But there is no, because our general idea to plant the forest is very slow, it goes step by step for the the we want to make this year, but they admit this after two years. No enough, not in time.
I: Okay, Alright. So now I’ll come to some questions about the network of your CBO. So you already told me about partnerships with GiZ and other organizations, so first maybe to keep a better overview, are you in a partnership or any connection with local NGOs?
Translator: Yeah, that office had a meeting like now, and a workshop, yeah and NGO that we go on Monday called caleanameta foundation, they are also the personal changing then, and also Inle lake there is so many NGOs linked.
I: Can you maybe tell me the names of the NGOs that you work with? Maybe you can help with names?
Translator: Okay. [Myanmar language; hands over sheet with contact data and phone numbers of other NGOs, CBOs and CSOs around the area] Yeah, I have already!
I: Alright, nice! And then, partnerships with international NGOs?
R: international NGOs...
I: INGOs
R: Ah, INGOs, yes, US Aid, GiZ, UNDP. Yesterday evening we opening their staff in Taunggyi.
I: Ah, okay.
Translator: Asimov, Easymod, ICC, Himalaya, MUD, UNODC. Ya, so many INGO in Taunggyi.
I. Alright. So for your CBO, who approaches who when you get into a partnership, do you approach other NGOs or do they approach you, how does it work?
Translator: They are working with their own freedom, but sometimes they need to help they need help they call them to help. Sometimes they want to training so they go and need to train them. Sometimes they have a meeting so they can and request for the meeting, something like that, and they go for the advice from them.
I: Okay, alright. So do you also talk to the other NGOs about the projects you do? So for example, there is another NGO in the area that does similar projects as you do, so that there are two projects that go into the same directions so that you double the work, do you actually talk to the NGOs then?
Translator: MEACOP, Merci Corps, Value Chain. It is very close to Pindaya. They have been meet with a group the same goal, at the one village. Because of they want to supply the water for the whole village, one of the groups is from Aung Wen, they also apply water for the village, so they change another goal. They didn’t apply the water, they supply with the china, they change.
R: One village for example, at the same time two implementations. So we decide a meeting is one of the water supply and for me is sanitation for the light and electric ok, so very good.
I: Okay, so now you work together and or you worked together for the project
R: Ya, Ya.
I: Okay, great. And are there also problems with other NGOs in the area? So I mean, this is a very nice example of how it works well to work together but are there also like conflicts between the work you do from the NGOs here, are there struggles?
R: It rely on independently the objective and the working plan, so no problem for this area.
I: Ok, nice. And for the international NGOs you work with, did they, so the INGOs, did they approach you or did you approach them?
I: So for example GiZ, US Aid, ...
R: It’s every time is important time we are contacted and they give email address and we give email address so every time connect with email and sometimes do meeting and workshop we invited to be with our organization so our group, and other, the our organization is ah ah workshop or meeting at.
I: Okay, so it’s mostly via workshops, meetings and official ahm official events that you get in touch with international NGOs.
R: Ya Ya, Yes. So, this, aim to this, the additive. So so many NGOs and INGOs are busy in this building, that we call the environmental education center, center mean is the other organization with the aiming, [Myanmar language], at least 3 or 4 time in meeting or workshop in the building.
I: So 3 or 4 times a year or month or
Translator: A month.
I: A month, okay. And do you have any partnerships with businesses as well?
R: Ahm I have, we have. Is a personal, is ahm top 30 eco tourism and tourism farming, and also the fishery department and the traffic communication department and it is all connected with me.
I: Oh, okay, alright. But those are ahm like official governmental organizations or private businesses? Because fishery department sounds like it belongs somehow to the government?
R: So, fishery department and the fishery personal group in this area. And also the agricultural department is the tomato production in Inle Lake, and the transportation group is a Heho airport to Nyaung Shwe is a traffic group. And moreover the municipality of the green onion and then Pasaa and the festival of the of the Muneta festival organization.
I: Okay so a lot of business partnerships as well.
R: Ya, Ya.
I: Okay. And ahm, what is your connection to the government then after all? To the government it is only for the the official registration and regulations, or are you also connected in any way to official government bodies?
R: Ahm,
I: So that you directly work with them.
R: Ya, da, and the government body. Because of one of the member of our organization is a the township level officer, is supported to committee in the township level, is a one operation.
I: Okay. So,
R: and also the da is a township level in state level is our ministry of the people is our present, the government is two member.
I: So you are well connected in the government as well, okay, alright. Okay. So then I go to almost the last topic, sorry, it takes a lot of time. Ahm, the funding. So, ahm, who, where does your money come from, who is funding the CBO?
R: Ahm, we already told the other organizations, the calaneameta foundation, the ahm our people, is the only, because ahm our staff is ahm only one ahm one lakh, that’s a 100 dollar, with ahm our extreme the enthusiasm our people have donated one lakh ten lakhs so we are collected in the start and the western and the politics extension, but enough funding is our mission, not enough funding because of ahm a little bit gum and... For example, our new building is ahm is the for ahm and our education, the foundation is ahm one thing and the transportation is one thing and we are building it now, ahm our cottage, the office and the lower part, and the above kitchen is also there. So, you see that no ready, because of a little bit of fund. So we are collected the material, collect finish, but we cannot start
I: You cannot start?
R: Ya because of our fund is so slowly collected and the material so, 2009, 2010 is a the date with the government and (laughs)
I: Ah, okay, ahm, but also from the from the ahm the INGOs you work together with, do they also give money into the projects you do? So, do you also receive a funding by the INGOs you work with?
R: No.
I: No. But then my idea is, what is their role in the connection between...
R: Yeah most of the INGO supply as a technician something like that but not a funding.
I: Okay, so they supply the trained personal but not any funds or money to the organization.
R: Yes
I: Okay, alright. Ahm, and ahm, so ok so the only funding you have is by people where you collect it here in the area?
R: Yeah. I haven’t the salary because I am volunteer. So, every month every day I counting on the fund.
Translator: He only work all his life as a volunteer.
I: Yeah, as a volunteer. Okay, great. Ahm, and for the administration costs, so ahm I suppose there are a lot of members who get paid here, or some at least, so ahm like in a percentage, like rough estimation from what your fund is and how much are administration costs of it?
Translator: Ahm you know some of the groups come and they have their workshop or meetings or something like that, ahm they donate money for the this NGO. And they have three ahm accounts, bank account. So they put the money on the bank, so sometimes when they work in Taunggyi they got the car costs or sth like that, so if they are extra costs they put in the bank, is for the use of this office. And sometimes they donate the money for themselves, for the office.
I: So, the money is mostly used for the projects you do, and also for this new house I think, but what other activities do you use the money for, like for workshops, for events?
R: Sometimes, ahm we are go to the the village and the workshop or meeting and the people mobilization activity. So the cost is our member donate our organization only and then sometimes the monk they donate the workshop
I: Okay, alright. Okay, ahm, almost done, for my questions. So, ahm just in general, as my study program is tourism and I also did some research about the tourism development here already, ahm, do you think your CBO contributes to the tourism development in the area, what you are doing?
R: So, the last two year, 2012, we have started the tourism site a new tourism site from north to the inle to the village. It is a trekking to ahm we initiated the new, the bamboo chair, and the traditional food selling shop and the other handicraft, the handicraft and the selling shop we create. But, the most of the tourist easy to go alone to the inway, the trekking way. So, we created the new trekking way, small amount of tourist, because of the view is very beautiful, but is a little difficult to climb.
I: Okay
R: So but no succeed.
I: Okay, okay. And ahm, ya I mean of course from the general preservation of the lake, preservation of the forests I mean indirectly tourism contributes from it after all, because people like to have a more beautiful landscape, right. And ahm, like the people from the villages that you work together with who actually fund your donation ahm your organization, how do they perceive the work you are doing, what do they think of what your organization is doing?
Translator: Ya some of the local people from the village are very satisfied they go and help with the tourist or something like that because of they are really need to help to the village even the tourist can or just the loaners they are very happy to work with them because they also really need to develop their own village, so, and then some of the tourist come and are very interested in NGO, so sometimes, at least one year ago, the tourist from Japan donate hundred dollar for this office but they put on the bank. And also they sent... He lived in Hawaii and they sent an e-mail the receipt of the this for the bank. And also some of the American came and donate for this office, ya. And also... last month ago they all put the worship some of the donor names and addresses.
I: Okay, alright. And like form the villages here in the area, are there also people who like respond in a negative way to your work, are there people who are not happy with what you are doing?
Translator: You know, they sometime this NGO is very weak to work because they need a fund or something like that so the villagers also cannot participate to they want to develop their own village so they are very active. Ya.
I: Okay, alright. Then ahm, so just for the future, ahm what are your expectations or hopes for the future concerning this CBO and your work?
R: I mean, ahm for the future, maybe in ahm development of the at least fourty or fifty percent because our organization is gradually strong and grow in our people and then the our people like this they our organization the plan they all participate in our region and the other the the ahm our people is ahm well known is the ahm environmental effect and the fear to the inle region loss, because inle lake loss and intha people loss. So they named it the the the reset, the our organization idea.
I: So basically you hope to get more and more people persuaded of your idea
R: Ya, definitely. So today is the appointment of youth and they do here. Everytime we around the village and talking the conservation and mobilization, everytime. But we don't tell everytime because I’m happy.
Translator: He want to help for the poor region
I: But he doesn’t have enough time, it’s too small
Translator: Yeah.
I: Okay, that’s also what you see your role of your NGO like in the future so that you will grow so you can actually cover the whole area of Inle Lake
R: Yah, our organization goal is the end of the all over the lake our objective and all people know and the maintenance of the nature. After I pass away, I here the lake life.
I: That’s a nice thought. Okay. So.
[Mirthe adds questions for her Thesis]
I: Alright, thank you very much for your time!
I: Alright, great, well first of all thank you a lot for receiving us here, it’s very nice to be here!
I: Yeah welcoming, not receiving, but anyway... thank you! And for the first question, our university that we do the interview for requires us to record the interview, so are you alright if we maybe record it? It will not be published, it will stay in private
T: Yeah it’s okay.
I: Alright, thank you very much! Okay, so to start.. Alright, ahh maybe we can put it in the middle?
Ok, sweet. So first, I will start with some general questions and then I will come to the network and funding of the NGO
I: So what is the main field of work of your NGO?
T: Yeah the main target is like for the children, like the childrens right.
I: Childrens right, okay. And when did you found the NGO?
T: Since 2013.
I: 2013, okay. And is it also officially registered with the government, or is it in private rather?
T: Yeah they officially work with the permission of the government.
I: Okay. How much time did it take you to get the permission?
T: Yeah they only get the permission from their leaders
I: From the village leader or
T: Yeah
I: Okay. So what is the size of the NGO, so how many employees, ahh
T: For the employees there are ten, ten employees, and also the ten children for their organization, 10 leaders.
I: Okay. And the office is in a private house, so like this, or do they have a certain office here?
T: Yeah they have a the office in here but ahh they have the head office in Yangon and Mandalay. They have to go for the training to Mandalay and Yangon.
I: And ahh, how many employees are in the offices in Yangon and Mandalay, if you know?
T: Yeah she doesn’t know how much the employees.
I: Okay. But it is a bigger organization then
T: Yap.
I: Okay. And like you said it started in 2013 here, ahh and did it also start with 10 employees or was it smaller in the beginning?
T: Yeah they are starting with 10 employees.
I: Okay. And it is still the same people that started who run it?
T: Yeah.
I: Okay. And ahh, why did you found the NGO here?
T: Because of the childs right they don’t want to take the child away from them and also like ahh saturation before we had thers a meeting let’s say and if the children want to say something but like the leaders don’t want to allow that’s why. They want to they want to accept that they can do everything for their children.
I: Okay. What do you mean with take away the children?
T: Cause of hmm if they have the important things like a politician or something like that they don’t want they just went with the like the man or women something like that, not the kids, they don’t want the kids
I: Sorry I don’t understand
T: How can I explain. You know, they want to advise the children in the meeting, they thought that you are stay and you can not advise, something like that.
I: Okay alright, ahh and and who initiated this NGO, because I am guessing that the headquarters in Yangon and Mandalay existed for a longer time than this office here?
T: Yeah the women first came from the monastery, they didn’t know that she started from this organization in here
I: Okay, and what’s the connection to ECCT Network?
T: You know, it’s in Mandalay. Yeah is in Mandalay and Yangon
I: Okay, okay. And she got in touch with them and then started this NGO here?
T: Yeah
I: Okay, okay. So, how many projects did you already realize here?
T: Yeah helping the in society like the cleaning the rubbish and also helping the ahm the ahm how can I say in the festival, something like that.
I: Okay, but that’s not connected to children rights if I see it correctly?
T: Yeah, it’s ahm they are doing in society and they have their meeting in one month in one time in a month and they got some snack and food for them they provide
I: Okay. But is there also any project directly related to come up with a solution, to enhance the situation for the children?
T: Ahm yeah they have their own leaders in the children, so if they have a meeting or something like that a here to inform another children and also they have their own accountants and members and something like that.
I: Who, the children, or?
T: Yeah, in the children.
I: So, how old are the children that we talk about?
T: The leader is 15 years old.
I: Okay
T: Yeah, and the children are up to the 10 and 18
I: 10 to 18. Okay. What is their role, what do they do?
T: Yeah ahm when they found the children groups, they have their own leader and they have their accountants. And then, after saving the money if they have a funeral or something like that like the ahm funeral they donate that money and when the people go to hospital or something like that they donate to them, it’s just a society network.
[REMARK: IT IS A CSO].
T: Yeah they have the training to their parents and sent them like the man a women not to school too much they have their own freedom like playing or studying time so not and also not to buy some alcohol or cigarettes and something like that they pay the training.
I: Okay
T: For the villagers
I: Who pays the training for the villagers?
T: [discussing with interviewee]
I: Are there like different children groups or is there one group?
T: Yeah she hasn’t any communication about another group.
I: Okay
T: They are doing themselves
I: Okay. I think I have to start a little over again, because I really do not understand what this children group is about, ahm so what what do they try to achieve by giving a group of children power?
T: Cause of they believe that children can do like the you know like the vilalgers something like that.
I: So the children they are taught how to do so mething and they teach their parents, or.
T: Yeah.
I: So the children teach the parents?
T: No not for the parents, all of the [talks to interviewee]
T: Yeah because of you know ahm they had the training in Mandalay not to go the how to school the children and also they have the chance many chance to do something like that.
I: But who is “they”? who trains the children?
T: It’s another INGO.
I: Okay, and what do they train them?
T: Just for the knowledge and also the care and also the education
I: Okay, so it’s basically they don’t have a school here so they train the group of children by themselves?
T: No actually they have the school, that’s for the social network I think. They can do in society so
they go.
I: Okay. Alright, ahm, and who chooses the activities that this CBO is doing?
T: All the villagers choose to found here
I: No no, yes, I know, but who ahm, who of the ten of the employees, or ten employees of the CSO, who is choosing for the activities that the CBO is actually doing?
T: Yeah the chairman of their NGO
I: He is choosing all alone?
T: Yeah
I: Okay, okay. And ahm, is any of the staff like professionally trained or has an education?
T: Ahm three employees has training, another has not training yet.
I: Okay. Not training yet means...
T: Yeah maybe ahm, ... Yeah they don’t know yet, but maybe one day
I: Okay. And for training they go to Mandalay or Yangon then, or?
T: Yeah they have to go to Mandalay, and after they have to go to Yangon but they are not they are not go yet
I: Okay, okay, ahm, and do they work together with any other NGOs or an INGO here in the area?
T: Yeah ahm they have communication with Caleanameta foundation, it’s very local name.
I: We go on Monday, is that the one?
T: Yeah. Yesterday there was meeting at Intha office
I: Right. But this CBO, do they is it only in this village?
T: Yeah they, ahm this one?
I: Yes
T: Is near Nyaung Shwe, the eastern part of Nyaung Shwe
I: Yeah but this CBO, 10 people and 10 children?
T: Ahm
I: They are from...
T: Yeah in this village
I: And these ten employees, are they volunteers or do they get paid, or how does it work? Do they work the whole day for example and get a salary, or is it just voluntary?
T: Just volunteering. And also they do the work ahm actually they have a any schedule for the work
I: They don’t?
T: Yeah they don’t. Also the meeting is one time in two month.
I: Every 2 month?
T: Yeah. Because they starting in 2013 so now they start preparing for everything, that’s why.
I: And if the children go to school, when do they teach them for this CBO, do they do it in the evening, or in the holiday?
T: Yeah if they just preparing for the next project, not the project, preparing for the meeting, when they meet in meeting ahm yeah for the for preparing for the sharing how to pay the training or something like that
I: Okay
T: And also the society. How to help another
I: Okay, and you said they have like a saving scheme for if there is a funeral or someone is sick, how do they save? From which money, where does the money come from?
T: They have their own donors, and also after meeting they got 20 US dollar. And this is their fund
I: And their own donors means from their village?
T: Yeah it’s the vilalgers also donate them ans also another people from Nyaung Shwe they came and donate them.
I: The people came here, or the children came to the people?
T: No, the people came here.
I: Okay. Do they get any money from the municipality?
T: Municipality, what is it?
I: Ahm
They got the money from municipality?
I: Yeah I went to the municipality last week and they explain that they give a sort of loan, but they don’t have to pay back, they give it to each village. Do they also receive it?
T: No, they didn’t get the money from the municipality, but they have the the things that the rubbish bin and also the another instrument from the Yamaha the Japanese company
I: Japanese company which one is it?
T: Yeah when we cleaning the rubbish they came
I: Ah okay. From the machine. And ahm, like the person who accounts the money, is it also a child?
T: For the child group, they have their own account, yes. But for the ahm
I: So the adult group also has another fund
T: Yeah. Yeah they don’t have the adult fund, only the children.
I: Okay, there are two groups, the children group and the adult group.
T: Aha
I: And they both have ten members.
T: Yes.
I: So they are not really employees, but just members
T: Okay yes, just a member
I: Okay. So are there any more people involved, is it just ten children and ten adults and they have their accounts
T: Yes only ten member. Ahm is round about 25 childrens.
I: 25 children. Okay, and ten are in the CSO?
T: Yeah.
I: Okay. And, so the 25 children there are two teachers from the ten adult members who teach the 25 children?
T: Yeah
I: Okay. And every child in the village can join, or how does it work?
T: Just this village and also the Miain Tha Orphanage
I: And she is the leader of the children?
T: No, her brother
I: Okay.
T: Just a member.
I: Okay. What is the role than of the ten children, apart from the 25, what is the difference?
T: Yeah they choose the children who can lead for the whole children group
I: Okay, alright.
T: Ahm the leader, the leader have to pose the proposal to the attendant if they want to carry the higher level theyx have to pose the proposal.
I: Which proposal
T: Let’s say if they want to clean the rubbish they have to pose their proposal to a dad, something like that.
I: Okay. And ahm, what is the money then used for from the funds, the money that they collect from the villagers of Nyaung Shwe and here in the village, what is it used for? For the projects, for...
T: No they donate for same people who is ill and also the funderal
I: so that the money stays here in the community
T: Yeah.
I: Okay okay. Ahm and what do the other villagers see the NGO, how do they perceive what is done by this CBO?
T: The leader is coming now
I: Okay. So we wait for the leader now?
T: Yeah
I: Okay.
L: Mingalaba, nice to meet you, I’m Daw Khin.
I: Hi, I’m Jan, hello, mingalaba
L: Hello, I'm Taw Thu, nice to meet you!
I: Jan, nice to meet you. Ahm at the moment we are doing research for our bachelor thesis for our university, ahm and we are analyzing the NGO sector around the Inle Lake area. So that’s how we found you as well as the NGO and ahm we already got a lot of information from your colleague and we were just wondering if you can just maybe shortly explain again what your NGO is doing, so what the main field of work is?
L: But our organization is not NGO!
I: Okay.
T: Yeah just the social network, like a child right, just a social development network, something like that. And to clean the rubbish, they just gather.
I: Okay okay, now it makes a bit more sense. And ahm, how does it work, so you have like ten employees and ten children, ahm
T: Ahm yeah they have a... It’s the direction is for the for generation, if they train like ten years in advance they can train well, they can be a good man and a good woman, that’s why.
I: Okay
T: Now they are training, like every Saturday and every Sunday they organize cleaning the rubbish.
I: Okay. And do they do any other things, do they do anything else than cleaning the rubbish or?
T: Yeah they have their own forest and they put the plants at the forest, it’s owned by the villagers.
I: Okay
T: And for the adult they help in the funeral. Yeah, not for the funeral, just for the people who are ill or sick, if they can help they help with money or maybe they can do whatever he or she wants
I: Okay, right. And they work together with this Japanese NGO or company,
T: Yamatha
I: Ahm is about the garbage collection
T: Yeah
I: Ah, okay.
T: Yeah the Yamatha donation of the material like the garbage bin or something like that for cleaning the rubbish.
I: And do you have any future plan for the organization?
L: Yap, yap.
T: Yeah they have the plan with the Yamatha to build the burning the rubbish to build the machine and also they will donate for something ahm donate 250.000 kyats for the garbage bin but they have to post the future plan for activities but it’s you know it’s very load amount so they can even when they can they can you know get this money from another hotel or something like that so now they can get
I: And do you also plan to ahm to enlarge the radius of your operations so that you also take care of other villages or do you want to stay in your village?
T: Yeah they did in another village. Because of they have many villagers but they don’t clean their village, that’s why they go and pick their rubbish, the reason is to promote that activity.
I: Okay
T: Like a educative
I: Yap, alright, okay. And then for the end, you know the table already.. I’ll just come around. Yeah I think you need to translate it. So your main project is the garbage collection and the cleaning of your village as I understand.
L: Yap.
I: Okay. Ahm, so for this project I have five different scales from one to five, one is always the lowest, five is always the highest. Right. Okay. Ahm, so I start with the success. So, how successful do you think is the project, the cleaning?
T: Ahm for this village is like four, but for like the neighbor village it is between 3,5 and a 4 because not very active.
I: So I take number one and number two for each village four.
T: Yeah.
I: Ahm, what about the impact, and the impact I mean just the difference at the moment from the situation that was before they started cleaning up.
I: It effectively means that, is the village actually cleaner now than before?
T: It’s only three. Because of when they clean the rubbish it’s clean, but then gradually the garbage some of the villagers
I: So people keep on throwing
T: Yeah.
I: So it’s three for both villages, or is there a difference?
T: Yeah
I: Okay. So I think one part of your project is also to raise awareness for the villagers, to not keep on polluting the environment? So the effectiveness is basically different from the impact, because effectiveness means, are there now villagers who don’t throw garbage away anymore, so does the situation in general become better already?
L: You means, our project apple?
I: Pardon, your project…?
L: Yap, our project I put off our brothers?
I: Yeah, basically. I mean if the villagers start thinking about that whole garbage and waste management, so if they actually stop or if it gets less that people throw garbage into the nature?
L: Lower and lower, yap.
I: Okay
L: It’s 4.
I: The four? For both villages?
L: Yap.
T: Yeah they save the rubbish the common bag it’s too easy to pick up.
I: Yah, okay. And what do the villagers actually think of the project, of, of picking up garbage, what do people here think about it, about that whole idea of cleaning up the city, ahm, the village, sorry.
T: Yeah, it’s four. So, for number 1 is four, number two is three?
I: So the second village they don’t really understand, or
T: Ya Ya they are not very active
I: And, ahm, for the last point, how much work do you put inside the project? So from the ten members of the committee and the children as well, how much work do you need to put inside like to actually organize the events, the clean-up itself, to persuade people to to clean up their own garbage, how much effort do you put into this process?
L: Oh you mean, how many children participate our group?
I: No, I mean how much, like, so here again is this scale from 1 to 5, so how would you measure the work you put into the project? So you meet once every two months, you have a meeting.
L: Yap
I: Ahm, but I think as I understood it it is more often that you clean up in the village. So ahm, the cleaning up together with the meetings and the preparation, how much is it like between 1 and 5?
L: People, time, money
T: Yeah for the another village they have to effort many people and also the money for ahm [asks interviewee]
T: Ahm, they pass the money like that for burning the rubbish so they need the fuel and also when they go to another village, ahm, they have their share will be handled so they have to pay for the food.
I: Okay. And how often do you have the clean-up days?
T: Once a week.
I: Once a week?
T: Yap
I: Okay. And apart from that, like you have a meeting every two months, and you have once a week the clean-up day. Apart from that, do you also work for the project?
T: Yeah, at the student are going to school and also the adult are also the teachers so they don’t do anything else.
I: Okay, alright.
T: Ahm, now they also do the child right for the children. They educate the children, and also they got EU, European the donor, it’s a group of European so they got that like a fund, funding
I: Friend? Ah funding, ok, ok, sorry.
T: Ywah. They apply for the children from that fund.
I: Okay. And you applied for that, or you already received it?
T: Yeah they have the appointment is 18 months and now is already 11, so only 7 months left
I: And what’s the name of the organization, it’s the EU fund but what’s the organization behind?
L: Ethnic group development
I: Okay, alright, and it’s a European company, ahm NGO
L: Already just are, ahm ethnic, so ahm ethnic and ethnic children develop.
I: yap, okay. And ahm, how do they support you, do they transfer money to you or do they give training or...
L: Ahm training, workshop.
I: Yeah, okay. What kind of workshop?
T: Ahm, ahm it’s about the child right, yeah, do they get the opportunity to become someone or something like that.
L: Child education, child participation.
I: Okay. And do you get any fund from the city development committee in Nyaung Shwe, or is it not connected at all?
T: Yeah ahm they have child right township committee in Nyaung Shwe and also thirteen groups. And also they are linking each other
I: Okay. And apart from this organization, do you have a local village committee? So apart from this or organization or network, do they have apart from this a local village committee?
T: Yes they have
I: Okay.
T: And also ahm one of the group to take care of the children.
I: Maybe if she knows, just one more question, what is the role of the local village committee, like the difference, does she know what the role is, in this village, of that committee?
T: Yeah child community and community based organization. They are linking
I: So there is no link to the city development committee or municipality in Nyaung Shwe, there is no other committee here?
T: Yeah, they haven’t any.
I: Okay. Alright, okay, thank you very much, I think we have all the information for all our work, thank you very much for your time,
L: Thank you very much for coming.
I: Okay, do you have any questions for us maybe?
L: Yap.
T: She want to know why you pick the thesis, the reason for this research.
I: the reason? Well, we are studying in the Netherlands and at the moment we are writing our final thesis about NGOs and other organizations around the area of Inle Lake. And ahm, we are trying or I am trying to figure out the network between those organizations, the connections, ahm I’m trying to figure out if the organizations work together in an efficient way and if it could be improved in some sort of way, so that if there is any double work if if people are doing the same at the same time if it could be somehow improved, and then I’m trying to figure out how effective those companies work and those NGOs as well. So in the very end I will have a paper with the analysis of the current situation and with recommendations on how the situation can be improved with the same amount of effort with the same workload.
L: How many organization you ask?
I: Around twenty, twenty organizations. And usually one interview like so far, this is the 4th interview, and one interview usually lasts about two hours, so I ah have quite a lot of in-depth knowledge about every organization and ahm I compare it like for every organization, and so by comparing I can figure
out similarities and see if they already work together or if not, and how I could bring them together.
L: So, do you have, you have challenges?
T: Do you have any problem with recession this NGO / INGO?
I: Ahm Yes. Ahm no it’s quite simple because for example at first, this here it is really difficult to
measure for example the workload because some of the NGOs and some of the organizations do not
work on their projects in full time as you for example as you here as well, so it’s hard to say if, like for
example from your perspective you probably put a lot of work into it, ahm from the perspective of an
organization who works full time on projects it’s not a lot of work. So I need to find some way to
compare it, then also sometimes it’s very difficult to just because of the language barrier
L: YAP.
I: To explain what I actually want, I think here I had it as well in the beginning
L: I think that’s the main problem
I: Yes
[collectively laughing]
I: Ahm and in general it is also difficult just to ahm just by in-depth interviews to find similarities to
find a basis for similarities between the different organizations, so it’s really difficult to analyze the
data that I collect, but ahm the more interviews I have the better I understand how to compare
them, so I think I’m getting there!
L: Are you target to Inle Lake all NGO all organization?
T: No Inle and Taunggyi
I: Because in Taunggyi are a couple of INGOs, ahm and that is actually interesting as well, to see what
the local NGOs think, what the international NGOs think, if there is a difference
L: Ahm Taunggyi have many
I: Yeah, so ahm yap. And if like also interesting to see if some NGOs or organizations work into
totally different directions than others. So that they actually confront
L: So, you meet political organization?
I: Practical organization?
L: Political organization, you meet?
I: Not yet, I’m still thinking about it, because it might be too much for the thesis
L: Yap.
I: Because right now it’s already ahm I’m already into government regulations, so for example
yesterday I already had an interview with one NGO they told me when they they’re for lake
preservation, so they told me already, when they want to plant trees, ahm they need to pay a fee to
the government to be able to plant trees in a certain area, so I’m also trying to figure out like ahm
ahm how can I explain in English? Sometimes English is also a bit tough for me...
[regular conversation, getting personal]
...
Thank you very much!

END
I: Alright, nice. So, you already introduced us I think?
Translator: Yes
I: Okay, okay. So I just get to start directly. So what is your main field of work of your CBO?
R: They are mainly work ahm doing for rights, human rights, child rights, land law, and also Buddha education. And, the direction is to community awareness.
I: Okay, alright. And ahm, when did you start the CBO?
R: Ahm is about 2010. She’s the found this group, but before she was before 10 years she worked at an NGO group save the children. It’s in Nyaung Shwe.
I: Okay. And why did you found the CBO?
R: Before at 2010 ahm they organized a meeting because at that time the water level is very low, like this year, so they have the idea to found this group and to support the lake.
I: So who was “they” in this case?
R: At that time, they have 7 members, 5 intha and 1 Pa-O.
I: Okay. And how did they come together? How did.. did they all know each other before, or did you ahm did you just, how did you meet, how did you come up with the idea?
R: Ahm yes, at the time they were just with the group, and then the leader of the group want to regulate the meeting so they all are gathering together and they all found.
I: Okay, and that’s how you talked about the topic and the idea came up?
R: Yes
I: Okay, okay.
R: And then one of the member is also work at the save the children yeah this one.
I: Alright, alright. And ahm, how many members do you have now at the CBO? You started with 7, is it still the same or is it more now?
R: Yes, now is also the same but different people
I: Okay
R: Ya the old member is quit from this group and the new is joined here
I: Okay.
R: Yeah ahm, for the human rights ahm they have the supply with another NGOs they supply for them to get a training
I: Okay
R: To attend the training another village from here. And also the child rights... Yeah, for the child rights they went to other villages by themselves for the cause, yeah. Ya especially they went to the school the state school or something like that, they went to the teacher and explained about the child rights and did the training. And for the land law they have the they want to go for township, like Taunggyi, ... No, for the environment the group is they want to fall for township like Taunggyi for Buddha education, ahm the group from Poland apply the fund and another things to pay the training just ten times.
I: What kind of training?
R: Ahm because of they want to publish of the human rights and also the decision making for the government. And also the constitution for the township. Yeah is ya to make the decision for the country leaders
I: But that’s like on a very large scale, so when you are only with seven members, how can you make a difference, like how can you actually make an impact there?
I: Or how, but what is your plan?
R: Yeah they have a meeting once a month, and also they haven’t any leader, just a membership. When they decide to a project to choose the responsible for the project, there’s a kind of division.
I: So in general, for every project you have to have a different leader you choose for it, or?
R: Yes, yes.
I: And how many projects are running at the moment at the same time?
R: Ah now they just finished the Buddha education so just relaxing and then they are trying to find another training to attend ahm like another training like American training for the capacity training and also another many kinds of, yeah.
I: So you are joining this training?
R: Yeah, trying to, trying.
I: Okay, alright. And for example for the human rights for the training, are you giving the training or is it someone else?
R: Yeah, before they do the training ahm they attend the ya they attend a training before and then they separate at the region ahm if they do or if they don’t need, something like that, and after that they join the village and give the training
I: Can you give an example of the training?
R: Like human rights
I: Like do they teach the villages?
R: Not only the villages, but also the CBO groups.
I: Okay, so it’s basically you go for the training of for example this American center, and then you pass on the information to other CBOs around the area?
R: Yes, ahm yes
I: Yes? Okay. And ahm, do you work a lot with other NGOs together?
R: Yeah, they have many link with other NGO and CBOs.
I: Okay, and is it maybe possible to get the names of these CBOs and NGOs?
R: Haunku Oranization, Ecotap, Equality Poland, Polish Aid
I: Polish Aid
I: And from the CBOs here in the area, do you work together with them?
R: Sometimes when they are work for the lake they organize the CBO and they have to go there.
I: So there are like CBO meetings?
R: Yes, meetings and afterwards they go to the lake.
I: And in average, for the last projects, how many CBOs are working together then?
R: Yeah, ahm they… in January, at the end of January they work together with CBO about twenty, about. Is from the lake. And also from Taunggyi they work together for a project, Buddha education. And then after that they work together with another CBO and also they call the farmers because of they are a taxed by the government so they are gathering… I am thinking.
I: Okay, take your time.
R: Okay because of they… Ahm the suspension for the law from the parliament they ahm decide to pull the law off land for the farmers because most of their fees keep by the government so they have money that’s why
I: Okay, and you are trying to get this decision to to get the parliament to draw back this decision?
R: No?, oh no no. Ahm The man from the parliament put the law for the farmers, so they distress about the law but the farmer as CBO. Is the draft.
I: And what happens when the new proposal is ready or the draft is ready then, what happens?
R: They discuss about the old law, and it has many mission about their rights. So, they don’t accept that that’s why.
I: No no, I understand, but so you collect the problems, write a proposal or a draft, but who do you send this draft to? Who gets this draft? Because it doesn’t stay within this CBO, someone needs to get this draft, ...
R: To the parliament
I: Okay, so straight to the parliament.
R: Yeah.
I: Okay, okay.
R: Also the government came to Taunggyi to look them dance, so they came to Taunggyi to talk
about the law.
I: Okay, so they accept the law?
R: No, they didn’t accept the law, that’s why they came and meet with the government.
I: Right, okay. And for the projects in general that you have, who initiates them? You initiate them on feedback from the village, or based on your own ideas, or...
R: Because most of the farmers are cut by the government, that’s why. And also if they ahm if they show the law, the law is not ahm the law is held by the government so ahm ya.
I: Okay, hmm. One second. Ahm so, for the activities you do, you also need a certain sort of funding, I suppose? So, how do you ahm collect money for the fund ahm for the activities you do, for the workshops, trainings, ...
R: Is Banku NGO is apply for the fund, but only this group, but also another three groups in Taunggyi.
I: With groups you mean CBOs, or
R: No only this group
I: So is one NGO and they do the funds for three CBOs
R: Yes, three CBOs. Okay yeah, they have many tax to write a proposal.
I: So for the fund it is basically three CBOs that apply for the fund of one NGO, or how did that work, I didn’t quite understand it.
R: Okay
Mirthe: There is one NGO, and they provide funds to three CBOs, and so they give money to the groups around, but this NGO is in Taunggyi.
R: You have to have many different ahm proposals for the projects, ahm at that time they have five groups and in one group they have two representatives for the funding.
I: Okay.
R: One is for finance and one is for the accounting. Yah.
I: And, so where does the fund come from, where does the money come from?
R: Is from the Banku NGO
I: Okay, and this one is from Taunggyi
R: Yangon.
I: Ah Yangon
R: Yes they apply for the funding five groups.
I: Okay, and ahm, how did you get in touch with this NGO so that they want to fund you?
R: She has worked with NGO Taunggu before
I: Okay, okay, so that’s how the contact is
R: Yeah
I: Alright alright. And, is there also any other source of funding or is it only this NGO?
R: It’s Poland NGO and Ecotab. Ecolite Myanmar group is donate the books, not for the money, just the books, to educate the people.
I: Okay. And how is the NGO in Yangon called?
R: PAUNGU
I: Maybe you can help me out later with that. And the fund from Poland, the polish aid INGO and the Ecotap fund, how dies it actually work, you request a certain amount and they transfer it to your bank account or do they give it only to you for certain projects or how does it work, how do you get the money?
R: Yeah the Poland group apply the funding for a project, yeah, and for the longer time they assess the project for 6 months.
I: But who is, who is administrating, who is assessing the money? Because, the polish group, they are assessing one project, right. But the project is executed by the CBO here. So how do they access the money from the fund?
R: They came themselves and they bring
I: So the polish INGO came here and gave you the money?
R: Yes
I: Okay, okay. And was it the same for the Ecotap?
R: No. Yeah for the ecotap funding they go to Taunggyi and they can leave out to the bank. It’s
rotation it’s for cities, like Taunggyi, ...
I: Okay, and in this rotation they can you repeat it maybe?
R: Ahm yeah, when they are preparing to work for Taunggyi they deliver from the bank
I: Which means, they transfer to the bank, or they..
R: Ah Yes, the money from the bank for one city, and after finish Taunggyi and they will stand again
for another City like Lester or so, and they deliver the money again.
I: So, how does it work for this CBO, how do they get the money from Ecotap?
R: From the bank.
I: From the bank, so Ecotap transfers the money to the bank account of some member of this CBO
R: Yes. They have their bank account.
I: Okay. And ahm, what is the money used for from the funds, is it for the training or is it for the.. do
you also pay the members from it, or how does that work?
R: Ahm yes, ahm they only got for the training trainer fee like three members and they are a share
for seven members
I: Okay, alright. And still for the network, are there also partnerships with businesses from the area?
R: No, they haven’t any.
I: Okay, okay. Ahm, and how do other people in this village for example perceive the work you
do, what do other people think of the work you do?
R: Yeah they have two kinds of people because of when they go and give the training for the village
they all to them encourage, and another group is especially the government doesn’t like it, because
the direction is human right and the law.
I: Yeah, I thought so. So people who are close to the government don’t like the program. But do you
also have did you ever have any problems with the government directly?
R: Ahm yeah. Ah they don’t have any problem directly with the government. But sometimes, when
they go together or go together with the farmers they have many complaints with the proposal and
proposition they make.
I: Okay. And for the future, for your CBO, what are your hopes or expectations, let’s say for the next
five to ten years?
R: Yeah they have many directions to go to further education because now on the lake there is over
400 villages now they just finished 50, so they have to do so many villages, is one thing, and another
thing is ahm now they have they just found a group like ethnic group and also many kinds of ahm
ahm ethnic group. And also they are proposal for the fund, just at the moment.
I: Okay. And, like during the past 10 years here at inle lake, what has changed in the NGO
development. So you have been working for other NGOs before as well, so maybe you have some
insights?
R: Yes, ahm they have so many kind of NGOs ahm some are good and some are bad. Cause of some
are you know they borrow the money for the villagers their main goal is to reduce the poor but now
the poor person getting lose their home and their belonging, they have nothing.
I: So, you mean they collected the money and just gave it to the people?
R: No just borrowed the people the money and they bought their... Yeah they borrowed the money
for one year but the villagers had to pay like thirteen months or fourteen months.
I: Yeah, okay, okay. So, yah afterwards the level of ahm afterwards the average of poor people was
higher
R: Yes.
I: Okay
R: Yes some of the NGO put all for the funding and then the founder give the money just for fund,
they only use like 30 per cent for the village and the other 70 per cent is used for themselves.
I: So administration, employees
R: Yes, like some kind of a business
I: Okay. So what do you, what do you think, there might be an approach to prevent those kind of
NGOs from going into business here?
R: Yeah some of the NGO ahm they are working in the village but some are don’t like with the NGO and some like so they have conflicts and they disagree two groups or something like that because they didn’t answer about that and they just go back to where they come from so the villager are left with conflict.

I: Okay, so they are actually doing don’t do anything good for the area but make it worse after all, fighting against each other. So, could I say that the NGOs don’t work together but against each other? Is that a sort of summary of it?

R: Sorry, can you please repeat?

I: Yes sure, so are some NGOs working against each other, can I say it like that?

R: Yeah some of the Taunggyi NGO can improve for the village but some are sometimes separate the village ahm they want to ahm they want to do is to ahm to solve the problem in that village cause of they do themselves so they have to sort themselves with the NGO. For her is just a price for the village and the NGO, ahm yeah.

I: And how could you like prevent this to happen, you know what I mean?

R: Yes, they have to adjust with their project the village because of if the village don’t need the project it can become in conflict with the villagers so they have to look the first if they really need or don’t need. Sometimes they want to educate the villagers if their village has another NGO they can defend and they learn how they make the village if they do the project but is their profit for them or the village.

I: So they educate the villagers so that they can eventually say stop, we don’t want this project.

R: Yeah.

I: Okay.

R: And then also the fund for the funding you can ask open.

I: The...

R: The fund.

I: Oh right, okay.

R: And then they advise to the group they donate the funding cause of when funding deliver the money for the village the NGO can spend for their activities not activity for themselves, otherwise they can send like themselves to the village leader or something like that, yeah they advise that.

I: Okay. So I have one last question actually, ahm so the projects and the training that you do with your CBO, how effective is it? Or how much impact does it have, so when you see the original situation how it was, then you do the training, and afterwards what is happening, did it have a big impact on the villagers?

R: Yes before the villagers they don’t dare to speak with the village leader and now they can speak and they can face each other. If the leader make a mistake they can find that mistake and also and also if he is wrong they can ahm how can I say they can put a new leader.

I: Okay, so it is very effective.

R: Yes.

I: Alright, great, Alright, well, thank you very much for answering everything!
CBO4

I: Alright, great. So ahm, what is the main field of work of the CBO?
T: Ahm they give the training to the student to improve their education, and also ahm they are doing with the environmental preservation like they’re cleaning up the rubbish.
I: Okay, and how many people are working for the CBO, like how many in the organization team?
T: Ahm they have over 100 members.
I: Ahm and from the people who organize it, like for example if you have the garbage clean-up for the environmental preservation, ahm who organizes it?
T: Yeah and they are cleaning ahm ahm one time in two weeks and also at that they all are come to pick up the rubbish, nobody organized for them, they all come here.
I: Okay, but like someone also needs to make decisions, right,
T: Yeah.
I: And that’s not like is it all 100 members together or is it maybe like three or four people?
T: Yeah. And they have their leader but he doesn’t need to organize because of they know what they do
I: Okay
T: Yeah
I: So how long do they, when were they founded
T: at 2012.
I: 2012
T: Yeah
I: Okay, and now since 2012 the tasks are always the same or...
T: Okay. Ahm, at that time it was nearly 100 members, now is like 150 members
I: So, how did they start with a hundred members, was it just the people from the village here, or...
I: It’s because the most organizations I know start maybe with 2 or 3 members, and if they start directly with hundred, how does it work?
T: Yeah, okay. Yeah ahm 2012 they have the 2 student from the Buddha youth, at that time they want to found the organization like this organization so they called all the villagers, and their goal is to pick up all the rubbish and to clean the environment
I: Okay
T: So all the villagers are really interested, so they found this group
I: Alright, okay. And do you work together with any other organization in the area here?
T: Yeah, sometimes they are working with another group like in this area
I: Okay, do you know the name of it?
T: Safe the nation. Ahm like a kind of safe the nature and also long life environment the day before yesterday we went there and also the Buddha youth
I: Right, okay. And if you work together with them, what do you do then? Like for which projects do you work together?
T: Ahm with the save the nature they are going togehter another village and pick up the rubbish and also the water and also with the long life environment they when they come and give the training they are helping with the group
I: Okay. And to do the training is there also any funding needed, so is there money involved?
T: No I mean the other group come and they give training, so they are just helping them
I: Okay, so the training is from the other group
T: Yeah.
I: Okay, alright, and in general for the CBO, is there is there ahm a certain fund there that they can use?
T: Yeah they have their own fund, and also they have another group for the future now they are starting an orphanage foundation, but
I: They start this foundation
T: Yeah, now they are starting it. And now they also have need ahm they funding for separately
I: So ahm, who is actually, where does the money come from, do you collect the money here in the villages from the villagers or are there other NGOs who
T: Yeah from the villagers, but they have the system they save the money and then for the health they save for the group, and another, how can I explain, they resend to another village like the lucky draw.
I: Okay, so like a lottery basically
T: Yes
I: Okay. And who is accounting the fund, like is there a bank account or how does that work?
T: Yes, okay. Ahm at this group they have leader, secretary, second secretary etcetera, and also for the finance they just keep that monk, the monk
I: Okay
T: And also their funding is not very much, so if they get the money they spend for something
I: Right.
T: Yeah, that’s why they haven’t a bank account or something like that.
I: Alright, okay. Ahm, so the money is only form the villagers around here, there is no other organization who spends money or donates or...
T: Yeah, because of this group is not very very big enough so they just spend in this village and sometimes they go and donate with another group is concerned with the Buddhism, and now they have the exam, so they go and donate some food or pork or something like that.
I: alright, right. So for this CBO there is also a religious background?
T: Yes they have religion.
I: Okay, and ahm so what are the main problems, the main struggles you face with this CBO during the past years?
T: Yeah mainly they have the problem with the fund, cause of they safe the money and also when they safe the money for the student is not enough money for the student, also they have 90 shorts, now they are opening the summer school, so they have to rent for the teachers, and also they have to pay for the teacher as a kind of salary.
I: So the CBO opened a school or was it already there?
T: No it’s for the moment, they just opened for three months, for summer school, now it’s their day school are closed so now is summer so they pay the training like summer school or something like that.
I: Okay and because you said they have two things they do the environmental conservation and the training of students and the training of students is only those three months or during the whole year?
T: Yeah just three month, but every year they open
I: It’s for primary school or secondary, or what age are the students?
T: Ahm is five years to 13 years
I: Okay, and what do you teach the children, is it the normal school subjects or is it something different?
T: Yeah if, if the next year for the next year. For the state school to attend the state school, so they have to how can I explain... And also about the Buddhism and also the society, how to communicate with the society, something like that
I: Okay, alright, so it’s not the normal school subject of history mathematics,
T: Yeah also
I: Also. But like some additional subjects then
T: Hm Yeah.
I: Okay. And ahm how do other villagers, like other people for example perceive the work of this CBO?
T: Yeah, ahm this village is separated for patt, and also all the villagers are here and other villagers they didn’t go, so they are here.
I: But but do people ahm like the work here or
T: Yeah because of when they go to the pagoda like Pan O-O they like to pick up the rubbish and also they are helping at the monastery so they accept
I: Okay, so for this garbage collection project for example, do you think it is successful?
T: Ahm before, the villagers are the villager didn’t know about how to throw the rubbish so they throw into the water, and then after they found this group they want to educate to the villagers so ahm they go and take out the rubbish so the villagers are shy and so after that now they have their own rubbish and they come and throw into the rubbish hole for the rubbish
I: Okay
T: So they say that they are success in the project
I: Okay, so the project is successful, alright, okay. Ahm, so how often do you meet with the members and the team of this CBO?
T: Yeah, ahm they meet ahm once a month oh no once a week
I: Okay. And ahm, it was from the beginning on the summer school and the garbage collection or are there over the time are there more and more tasks?
T: Yeah they have their own time like a the school is closed every Saturday evening and Sunday and at the Saturday evening some of the members come and meet here
I: Okay, and for the tasks of the CBO, is it only the two tasks of the summer school and the garbage collection, or are there other tasks next to that?
T: Yeah, ahm they are they are going to meet another NGO and helping them because of they want to get the drinking water now they only get one pack just the starting pack, another pack is left to get the drinking water.
I: Okay so you try to get in touch with NGOs to get the drinking water?
T: Yes
I: How do you do that? How do you try to approach the problem, how do you get their awareness?
T: Yeah they report to the group in Taunggyi is that group is for to get the drinking water and also when they came here they are helping like for the workers and another things
I: I didn’t quite understand that, which other group in Taunggyi is it an NGO or something?
T: Yes, NGO. Yes is an NGO
I: Okay
T: Yeah, I’m asking the name.
I: UNDP?
T: Yeah, UNDP and Norwegian ministry.
I: Okay, and ahm how did you get in touch with this NGO, did they come to your village or did you come to them?
T: Ahm because of the group is helping to this region so they know about this group so they are trying to contact with them so they come and help.
I: Okay, alright. So, what are like the future hopes or like the expectation for the future of your CBO?
T: They have the ambition to save the nature and to save the lake and also to improve the education for the villagers, also the students
I: Okay
T: And also the health for the whole village
I: The health as well
T: Yeah for the whole village
I: Okay and are there any concrete plans how to do that, or?
T: Okay, ahm for the education they want to apply to the student also for the scholarship to attend the university
I: Okay
T: And also for the health if they have the kind of funding they want to supply an orphanage or something like that, not an orphanage...
I: Like a pharmacy?
T: Yeah a pharmacy something like that, and also the hospital
I: A hospital, okay. Like here in the village?
T: Yeah starting with this village and after that they will go step by step.
I: Okay
T: And also with the nature they have to plan to grow the plants, and also they will try with another
NGOs and then they will save the lake.
I: Alright if you for example later in the future achieve those goals, and there is a hospital, there is a pharmacy as well and then all those scholarship applications work out, what will be the role of this CBO then? Do you know how to
T: Yeah [laughs]. Yeah ahm when they they want to be kind of NGO a big group but now is they can not attract all of the students in education because they are not very perfect in the materials for teaching and also for the tables or chairs they haven’t ahm enough chairs and tables, something like that
I: Okay, alright. How many students attend the summer school now, how many?
T: 115.
I: 115.
T: Yeah.
I: Okay and one more thing for the garbage collection, you said the villagers are only collecting the garbage now because they are intimidated, ahm so do they also see a point in doing it, like do they understand why they have to do it, or do they just do it because of the intimidation?
T: Okay. Yeah, they educate to the villagers because of the how can I say, the effect of the plastic so they afraid to use the plastic so now they reduce to lose the plastic
I: Okay
T: Yeah
I: Alright, and just one last question from me, ahm what do you think of the NGO development in the area here, because like in the past years there is a lot of new NGOs here, so what do you think of this development, is it good or is it bad or what do you think about it?
T: Okay. Yeah now is the NGOs less and less so it’s bad for the environment and also the community
I: There are less NGOs?
T: Yes and also bad for the community
I: Okay
T: Around the lake
I: Okay
T: Yes, some of the NGOs are found, but for a moment, and now there is no working anymore, that’s why.
I: Alright, okay. So how many NGOs are still left around the lake then?
T: Okay, yeah before in the lake is over 30, now is about 23
I: Okay. So why is the number decreasing, what is the reason for it? Because it is highly needed here...
T: Yeah, okay. Because of they haven’t any communication and also how can I say the unity of they want to do something some of the member want to do and some won’t to do, like so.
I: Ah okay, so it’s like conflicts between the authorities of the NGO
T: Yes. And also yeah, conflict is the problem, and also now they are not working
I: And conflicts are the only problem, or are there also others, like, if you know!
T: Yes, and also they are weak in the encouragement for the environment and also the acceptance of the environment. Because of if they open the summerschool, the student the parents don’t want to
I: Send the children
T: That’s the kind of encouraging
I: Why don’t the parents want to send the children?
T: No it’s just the example. Like encouraging acceptance
I: Okay, alright
T: And is his thought.
[mirthe questions]
I: Alright great, well thank you very much for all your answers, do you maybe have any questions for us?

END
CBO5
L: GiZ?
I: Sorry?
L: GiZ?
I: Well, GiZ, but we are not here for GiZ at the moment!
L2: GiZ?
I: Yeah, but it’s not related to GiZ, that was the project we worked for before, this is not GiZ.
L: Ah, GiZ. Also they announce their business network
I: Okay, nice!
L: Over the Shan State GiZ local.
L: For development of society, you know GiZ and another NGO they come here and they said that
they were trying to find the NGO of this country.
I: Well I have to stress the point that we used to work for a project for GiZ here, but this is for our
school, this is not in any connection to GiZ
L: Also for your school, it’s outside the NGO?
I: Our school is just a normal university.
L: Okay.
I: Okay? Alright. So well, as a short introduction, we are doing our bachelor degree at tourism
management and consultancy, and in this context we are writing our bachelor thesis, our final paper,
and we write it about NGO development, the NGO connections, network and funding in the area of
Inle Lake and Taungyi, so this is the framework of the interview.
L: Yeah.
T: If they have a chance to get the sharing from you from your university
I: Yeah
T: They are interested to
I: Sorry if they have the chance to get
T: The sharing for the experience
I: The paper, or? Yes, when I finish the study I can send the paper to them, yes, of course.
T: Because he wants to know what kind of experience and what kind of literature from you, that
would be helping for society for the category of the NGO, because he is the secretary of the southern
shan state ahm civil society network.
I: Okay, alright, great!
T: And then he will give the physical address and e-mail address.
I: so when the report is finished I will send it to you.
Alright, then I will start with some general questions, then some questions about your network and
about the funding, and ahm, Mirthe will have some questions too. [Mirthe explanation].
I: Alright. So your organization is PPDP, perfect public development program, is it an NGO or a CBO?
L: No, CBO.
I: CBO, okay. Alright. And when was it founded?
L: 2012 January 5.
I: January 5, okay. And ahm, why was it founded, why did you find it?
L: Like a vision for that organization and also because the reason of founding is to be established
educated society that society will create another society with a that society will rush like a thinking,
think all about the country, and help the country improve with this society.
I: Make the country to?
T: Make the country to improve the society
I: Okay, okay. Okay. And ahm, how many employees do you have?
T: Their member they have a 15 member, it’s 15 member, founder is 6 founder.
I: Okay, okay. And ahm, how does it work, so you only have this office here or also another office?
L: No, here.
I: And ahm, how does it work, do the members of the organization get paid, is it voluntarily?
T: Volunteer.
I: Volunteer, okay. And what is the main field of work that you do, what are the main projects and activities?
L: Youth empowerment and rural project.
I: And ahm, so for the projects, for the different projects you have, ahm who initiates them, who starts the projects, who comes up with the idea, the...
T: He is also one of the people from the 6 founder, so just the 6 founder create for them.
I: Yeah, but who decides for new activities or new projects?
T: Just the six founders.
I: Okay, so the 6 founders meet and then, ok, nice. And ahm, on what basis do you choose for activities? Like do you read reports, is it from feedback from people here, is it from your own opinion, ...?
T: Ahm they decide in the not only on their decision, they just have a look by themselves, and also they help because of feedback from the local people.
I: Okay, okay. And do you publish any of your achievements, or facts, or numbers?
T: Publish?
I: So for example, a lot of ahm NGOs I mean I know you’re a CBO, but a lot of NGOs have for example a yearly report where they publish their achievement in form of a document or a website or whatsoever, do you do something like this?
T: They also they have a training of the general knowledge of all the law.
L: General knowledge about the law. I am lawyer.
I: Okay.
L: Yes. Pushing environmental training, because active citizenship.

T: Active citizenship
I: Active citizenship
T: Active citizenship
L: Social cohesion
I: Okay.
T: They do some activities like ahm they protest the rights of the farmer and the local people rights if they have a conflict with somebody else like that, if they know that the person the local people is really get ahm how to say like an affair also they do as a lawyer for that person.
L: And one founder is here, Sinu.
I: Sinu? Nice to meet you, I’m Jan.
L: Sinu.
I: And are you officially registered as a CBO?
L: No, CBO no.
I: And ahm in any database otherwise, so so can so for example when I was, can I find your CBO on the internet somewhere or in a catalogue or...
T: They have a, they have an e-mail not for the civil society, the six founder they post on the facebook and they address for the e-mail
I: Okay, okay. Alright
L: He has been asking about the recording
I: Okay okay, alright. And the staff you have, so you are ahm you are a lawyer for example, and the other staff, does any of them has a professional education or any training?
L: The PPDP have 12 lawyer.
L: 12 lawyer
I: So one, two, ok 12, okay sorry, alright. So you knew each other form school or how did that work?
T: Firstly the six founder has being a friend and they know each other, they are just local people form this area, ahm so they decided to create that kind of society, they want to share their knowledge and they want the local people to be improved thinking, so ahm they make as the founder with this organization but after that they have a problem with the one of the NGO, they give suggestion for them, if you want to do like that, they connect as a member they need to act as a society, so they connect with this NGO and they helping them and founded PPDP.
I: And you do this full-time, so you work for this CBO in full-time or do you do it next to your regular work
L: You mean not only for this job but also
I: I mean, do you have another job next to working for this CBO?
T: In this six founder he and his wife they have a reason with the copy shop and printing center but the rest is there is no jobs.
I: And ahm what are the main problems or the main struggles of this CBO?
T: They need a ahm they need a supporting ahm some helping or somebody else for funding, they don’t have a big fund, for their adds.
I: So you are working in civic education, general knowledge about the law, training and so on, so in this context, how many projects did you already realize, how many trainings did you already give?
L: Project is 6 months, one project, training is a lot ofs, I think is civic society, sorry civil education is 12 times
I: Okay
L: General knowledge, ahm a lot of time, for the law education and for law, for they have to go once every month
I: Okay, okay. And ahm, how does it work with hthose projects, to how many different villages in the area do you go?
T: They have been in 6 cities and 10 villages round southern shan state.
I: And, okay, and how many of these projects do you consider a success, as successful?
T: They get achievements in every activity, but it takes a long time. Cause ahm, as you know our country is now political country, so they are being fought with the authorization of the government and for citizen for our people they are really afraid of our government so the people around this area they think that this six person are going as a political so they are afraid they are is they are really flexible with the relationship to this person and also their business become broken because of that.
I: Okay, well I have a small paper here with graphs, so it’s basically from one to 5, one is no success, 5 is the most success, and ahm well you said most of your projects are successful but take a long time, ahm but how about the impact for example, so impact meaning the difference from the original problem situation, so for example I just take the example of the knowledge about the law, there you go to villages and ahm I think what you said was you teach people what rights they have so that they can fight back against wrong government decisions., right?
L: Yeah.
I: So what was the impact of this project onto the villagers, how would you rate it?
L: Four.
I: Four, okay. So why is it a four? Why do you rate it a four, what’s the background?
T: Because ahm they think that every their basic activities, their concept for some people they don’t just come with them, and they just follow with the easy way [not understandable] they want to discover the government, they don’t want a relationship with them, because they are scared of the government
I: Okay
T: And for some people, they are not really interested in political or such kind of matter, but they get the knowledge from them, but they not really interested and they don’t use that, but ahm for some people they use they discuss they follow their way, but for some people...
T: Also for some people they don’t really understand what their part is.
I: Okay. And the effectiveness of the program, so it’s basically the sustained production of benefits, so after you have been to such a village and have given them the training of law, do they actually go on and fight against it or do they actually go on and get their right?
T: Five developments.
I: Okay, can you give some explanation?
T: Because ahm every region most of people from this region they come and discover them, and to follow them how to solve the problem they took a suggestion from them for the funding they have 8 case to be solved with the government, one is success, so seven cases. They think that most of the
people, just follow their way so that’s why it’s only a four.
I: And ahm finally the perception, what do people think of this project, what do people think when you come to the villages and ahm and and try to solve their problem at court?
T: They have a kinda two feedback, so postal feedback is ahm every region where they go for vocational training accept ahm they ahm they found the region in quite impact to them to get a training such a kind of training but ahm for some people they think that they are doing a political so just for some people because of they are doing a political they don’t want to be ahm relationship with funding, but most people they invite, and some of the NGO they invite to this funding to be funded
I: Okay, alright, great, and ahm, since you started this CBO, so from 2012 until now, are the tasks that you have increasing? So like when you started, ahm, or well let’s say now, do you have more work to do then at the opening, at the starting point?
L: A lot of
I: Yeah?
L: Lot of
I: Okay. And what are your office hours here, do you have a regular 8 to 5 day, or?
T: Ahm they don’t have official time, they just opened for every time.
I: Okay, alright.
[mirthe questions]
[shows brochures and learning material for the programs, like school material, readers: History, human rights, land law, orders, human dignity, …]
I: Yes. Ahm, okay, ahm I have a couple of questions to the networking of you, so I heard that you are working together with other NGOs or INGOs, GiZ for example, so which INGOs do you work with together, Inernational NGOs?
L: GiZ, UNDP. Local NGO, INGO no.
I: And the NGOs?
L: Localé human right,
I: Okay how do I write it?
L: Nee foundation, Myanmar peace center, UMLaw, ahm EIR INGO,
I: Okay
L: Partner Asia, CBO is a lot of!
I: No you don’t have to write down all the CBOs, it’s fine, if it’s so many it’s fine.
L: If you want the list of the CBO of southern shan state you can send me a mail
I: Yes if it’s possible that would be nice.
L: You have to write a report, a letter you have to submit to the organization to get this information
I: Okay alright so okay so how do you work together with tham, what is the connection, how did you get in touch?
L: Southern Shan State CSO network, UNDP, EIR, capacity peace
I: Okay, maybe, ah okay, it’s an agent?
T: Yeah, and this two organization. For this organization just for the law about the law, for the collect in network with this organization just for the law, and they have to take once in every three months they have to meet with this society
I: Okay. So there is an agent connecting GiZ and UNDP to local NGOs and CBOs.
L: Yes.
T: Yes they do.
I: Southern Shan State Network, or?
L: Yes, southern shan state civil society organization network
I: Ah, okay.
L: Cso.
I: Yeah. Is there also an ahm also an agent to connect like CSOs and CBOs only under themselves, only between themselves?
L: You mean
I: I mean, this agent here for example connects international NGOs to local NGOs or CSOs, are there also agents that connect only local CBOs or CSOs inside of Myanmar?
L: No they just connecting being agent for the international
I: Okay and how does it work with the agents, does it work both way so that you as a CBO for example can connect to an international NGO or does it only work for the international NGO to find CBOs here in the area?
T: Cause if they want to connect they can be connect for over them, not only to NGO from other country but also connect with local and also for them they can go with this agent they can connect with other NGO from other country.
I: From so other NGO from Myanmar or also from outside
T: Also from outside
I: So it works both ways, nice. And for the NGOs here, how are the connections there, so how does the partnership or the network work?
T: Ishaga donor
I: Okay
T: Mlaw leg
I: So legal support
L: Yes legal. Legal support, peace process, pease purposes, ahm name foundation civil education,
I: So give for example trainiers if you give trainings?
L: Yes. Trainee building, civic education and civic action.
I: ah civic action, okay okay. Yeah, okay. And the loca
L: Localinga, the rural law projects
I: Okay, rural law project. Okay, and for example Mlaw, do they give you legal support, do you have to pay them or is it for the network so a favor for a favor or how does it work?
L: No no no, no payment no fairs.
I: Okay
L: Party for participation.
I: Okay, so with the other CSOs and CBOs you work together with, ahm how are you connected to them?
L: Lots of CBO
I: Yeah yeah, I don’t wanna know all the names right now, it’s just how does the network work?
T: For borrow them whenever they have a training they go and participate at that training so it’s a kind of way for connecting and network and other is a the other organization they want a helping form this organization about the law.
I: About the?
T: Law.
I: Okay,
T: So they go and visit them and then they help for the law.
I: Okay, and ahm how did you get in touch with the other CBOs or CSOs here, is there like a list with the different CSOs of the area, so how do you find them? How do you get in touch?
T: They know to the celebration on a special day, Independence Day something like that, they meet each other and so training and
L: Youth forum
I: Ah youth forum
L: And training
I: Yeah, and do you, so those are your regular meetings then with them?
L: No.
I: No?
L: No.
T: Yes they used to meet at that kind of day regularly.
I: Okay, and with how many CBOs do you meet then?
T: 120.
I: 120? And they all come to this place?
T: Yeah they all come.
T: Totally we have 158 society for CBO and CSO in southern Shan state, but in this day they meet with 120.
I: Okay, and who is organizing that day?
T: Just a youth from this area, they just ahm
T: Just a location from one of the society from this society, but then there would become not just the leader and they inform and then they meet to each other to discuss to celebration of this kind.
I: Okay, and do you also have any partnerships to businesses here or to the private sector?
L: No.
T: Nothing with a business.
I: Okay, and then just your personal opinion, this is a little bit difficult I think, but ahm I’ve been doing a lot of interviews in the Inle Lake area with a lot of CBOs, and ahm for them it doesn’t work out to meet, they cannot do any annual meetings because no one organizes it, it just doesn’t work out in the area, do you know why that might be?
I: And I am asking the question because in the Inle Lake area is really the only point where they can’t manage to do any meetings between CBOs, because in Taunggyi themselves, we have just talked to those two CBOs, there is a nice network, here you have this meeting with 120 CBOs, and in Inle it just doesn’t work, I was wondering if you maybe know why.
T: For his opinion to that, every society is not really ahm they don’t have adequate support for their funding, for their expense so if they do with this kind of meeting there will be expense for the accommodation and the food, and transportation like that, most of the people who work in the NGOs they don’t get a lot of money like that, they are really no rich person so they cannot provide the money, when they are doing this kind of meeting take the responsible for the expense.
I: Okay, so it’s just about the cost basically.
T: Yes
I: Okay. Alright. Okay then I have some last questions about the funding of your CBO, so ahm how do you get the funds for the CBO so the money that you need, who is sponsoring so for example one founder is partner asia, ahm is there anyone else who is funding?
T: The one we know in the ahm
L: You mean like fundings for the activities or
I: Both, so everything really, financing for the office, the staff, of the activities, ...
L: For the staff and for the office for the official expenses we get no.
I: Okay
L: And the support for they just got the supply for the activities
I: Okay
T: Volunteer
I: Okay. So, how do you collect the money to run this house, is it by the shop you have, how do you do it? Because if you work as a volunteer, you need to have the money somehow to run the CBO?
I: What did he say?
T: Father and mother. They have their own parents
I: Okay, okay okay. Alright.
L: For the computer shop and the copying shop is no box because of this kind of activities, in our country most of the people they don’t they really think are reasonably scared about the government
I: Yeah
T: So the government people form the area when they come here to the same address maybe somebody ask for the government site they will think that this person is really a political person so not really works for their shops, so it’s really difficult for their business.
I: And for the business for their funding, ahm how does it work, do you as a CBO go to the donors as for example partner asia or GiZ and say okay, we wanna do this and this activity and we need money for it, or does GiZ or Pratner Asia for example say ahm we would like to have a project like this and give you money to do it, like which way does it work?
L: No no no,  
T: They just need to submit their activities and they just need to submit for their proposal  
I: Okay. And then you submit the proposal to the organization and they decide if they fund it or not  
L: Yes.  
I: And ahm do they also reject proposals or  
L: Yes.  
I: Okay  
T: Yes sometimes they get reject form somewhere of society.  
I: Okay. And with the funds, like how accessible are they, how does it work? If they if the proposal got the permission and get funded, what’s the next step? Let’s take for example Partner Asia, do they transfer the required money to a bank account or…?  
T: They have a bank account.  
I: And in your proposal you just write how much money you need to realize the ahm the training or the project and then they transfer the money to you?  
L: Yes.  
I: Okay. And ahm, well okay. Alright, I have some 2 more general questions and then I’m done, so ahm, pardon? Okay, so what are your expectations or hopes for the future for this CBO or the area?  
T: They explained that together a large fund for their activities, to do a utility in this area, to be cative in this movement, and also to create a just active system for society, and the main they expect is for fund, for fund.  
I: Okay  
T: Because they already have plan to do activities, they have a plan to do a lot of activities but they just need a fund and now they just stop because they don’t have a large fund so they just can’t keep going.  
I: Yap.  
T: Also ahm they still keep going they stay keep going even they cannot do such a kind of big activities they stay keep going because some small activities like youth talking in holidays sharing and discussing, test and discussion, and also they are trying to have a look for their fundings, by themselves, the 6 founders they have a musician kinda musician like a singer and a band, so they make a band and they try to look for the funding for themselves  
I: Okay, alright, and ahm so just for NGOs or CBOs in general, in the past 10 years, what has changed in the development of these organizations?  
T: Many things have changed, like they have more chance to do activities, not really as like in the past, they have more authorization for the during activities and they have more challenge to get like a kind of people from property, so they have to face with some actual challenge if they want to get authorization they have to take responsibility for that and that  
I: Yeah, okay, and ahm for example in Taunggyi the other interview we just had, they told us that the number of CBOs has doubled in the last year, what do you think of the rapid development of CBOs and CSOs at the moment, do you think that’s a good thing or is it a problem?  
T: They think that the increases they think 50/50 because in the other hand we increases we have a lot of we get a lot of CBO their main purpose is to increase the local people life, that is the best, to increase local people life, but on the other hand is like what I say we have a lot of people they are in the NGO and CSO in their business like a mis-using  
I: Yeah, okay. Alright, thank you very much for your answers, do you maybe have any questions for us?  
L: Subject in your school?  
I: Oh, it’s tourism management and consultancy  
L: aaah,  
I: I can also write down  
L: Yes, yes.  
[passes guestbook]
NGO1
I: Well, first of all thanks a lot for meeting us, and as DarDar probably already explained we are analyzing the NGO-sector here in the Inle Lake area, so at first I would like to start with a couple of questions to your NGO here, to Shwe Inn Thu, and then the network and the funding. Alright, okay. So ahm, what is the main field of work of Shwe Inn Thu?
T: Okay ahm the main activities of their NGO is for women impact, and then after that they are trying to get for the local people they want to improve the good health and good education, so they built a school like small a primary school something like that.
I: Okay, so like for the tourist school education
T: Yes
I: Okay.
T: Yeah, ah if they for the farmers they provide for organic farm and then for the organic they have worm breeding
I: worm breeding?
T: Yeah worm breeding, for the earth worm
I: Aah, okay.
T: Yeah. For the organic fertilizer.
I: Okay, alright. And when was your NGO founded?
L: 2009, august.
I: And ahm that’s when you got the official government permission or
L: No.
T: Yeah they have a only permission of the government now is also they didn’t have the permission but they can do. Yeah they can do everything, even they don’t have the register in the government they can do whatever.
I: Okay, ahm
T: They have allowance.
I: Ah, okay, so how does that work? So if you are not registered, but have the allowance, like...
T: Yeah. Yeah, they put the register twice, they didn’t pay send the registration number and also the form, so but they have the allowance. They changed for this group, but they don’t have.
I: Ah, okay. And do you know why they didn’t send the registration number?
T: Ahm because of they did everything like the right for the human right or the woman right, you know they had training for the village, but sometimes they don’t like for this training so that’s why.
I: They don’t like for...?
T: Like a human right or something like that, that point.
I: So the government doesn’t like that
T: Yeah, they don’t want to pay the training for the human right so.
I: Oh, okay.
L: Human right, child right, land user right, so many right training contacted our project for the community, but sometimes the government didn’t like for that knowledge sharing so maybe I think T: That’s why they didn’t pay the registration number. Even the small groups that now they are they are doing the activities they got the registration number but they didn’t get yet.
I: Okay.
T: Ahm before, no, 1982 we have a big program with the country and also she also was concerned with that project, so maybe the government is question.
I: ah, so because of the background.
T: Yeah.
I: Alright.
T: Her name is the blacklist.
I: Okay. So for the current NGO, what’s the size of the NGO, so how many employees do you have, is it this one office or is there more, ...
T: Ahm 2009 they start for this group so is just 3, now is 14 in this office.
I: Okay, ahm and the personal, is it trained staff, is it educated staff, or is it volunteers, interns, ...?
T: Ahm they have only 4 are graduated, but anothers are you know like high school, and they all are from the village very far from here.
I: very far
T: yeah. From the other village.
T: That village are like here and is 15 miles far from here, is the project village.
I: Ah, okay.
T: Yeah because they have the sustainable for the village, even if they don’t go to that village, one of the staff is in that village, so they doing activity every time.
I: Okay, alright. And ahm from 2009 until now, where there any better years, or what was the best time for this NGO during this time, is it right now, or was it in the beginning, or somewhere in the middle?
T: Now is the best time because of they have their own freedom, before you know 2009 they have to get the permission from the office the administrative office special branch, SB, now is they don’t need to get the permission for this office.
I: And this permission was for every single project or for the NGO in general?
T: Every single project.
I: Alright, okay. So now is the best time actually in comparison?
T: Ya.
I: Okay. So why did you found the NGO?
T: Yeah in 1998 she worked in UNDP called united nation development project and till 2009, so she want another like some village and you know they applied for the village and to borrow or something like that, and you know...
L: UNDP provide so many activities for the village, they don’t care village needs or village wants.
I: Okay.
L: So I disappointed form this point, so I resigned and I told the UNDP official level but they have so many fund, so sometime the villagers don’t need this activity but they give this activity so ahm the villagers mindset is not good. Everytime give, give.
T: They good a lot of money from the UNDP so they were boring to work, everythings.
L: So I didn’t like that why I resigned from UNDP and I formed Shwe Inn Thu Women Group, 3 women started.
T: Yeah, ahm she has an experience when she work at the UNDP, when they had meeting, when the woman or a lady speak for the speech they don’t want to listen or something like that, so she doesn’t like. She like to found a group for the woman right.
I: Right.
T: Ahm she had many trainings for the village especially for the women, she want to speak with the women to get the higher speech for the whole village, if the leader of the village made a mistake they can you know they can They can adjust with the village and the leader.
I: Okay, so they are involved in the decision making process.
T: Yeah.
I: Okay.
T: Yes now they are working with 33 villages and also 63 groups and at that group they have 15-20 members.
I: 63 groups means, what does it mean?
L: Self-help saving group. Self-help saving group have transparent manner, accountability and transparency.
T: The main goal is for the good governance, is... Ahm, And 63 groups, each group has 15 or 20 members, and they all have to be the transparency, and also they have the goals and they have to you know accountability and the responsibility and linkages, and also they have to be ahm, you know,
L: Rules of law
T: Yeah.
L: They have rules of law and these 63 groups are linkages each other, because the linkage is very
important.
T: If they don’t have the linking, they don’t know what is happening another group or something like that, that’s why they have to be linking.
I: Yeah.
T: At the 63 groups are meeting at 3 months in one time in one village, and when they have the meeting they all share the knowledge the process of information
I: Of what is going on
T: Yeah
L: And the group success and failure, how to manage the conflict, so many ahm
T: And they experience that so many information, so many first.
I: Okay.
T: Yeah even they do the self-help saving group
L: Woman saving group
T: Yeah, and then they are sharing another knowledge to the village, yeah.
I: Okay.
L: This is our conflict helping women to help themselves [shows paper]. Inside, this village, not updated, but all activities let’s say, only one...
T: Now even this is 16 they already did 33 villages
I: Ah okay, so it’s more than that by now!
L: It’s updated, may 2012, now 2015.
T: 30 activities at the same here.
I: Okay, nice
L: So many information in a pamphlet!
I: Yeah I will read it and analyze it, thanks a lot! And how many projects did you already realize?
L: Our founder is Denmark church aid, united nation democracy fund, Terre des homes Germany, Terre des homes Netherlands, Norwegian People Aid.
L: Ahm they have 5 funding source from Denmark and also Denmark private donors.
I: Okay. Right. And ahm, are there also businesses who fund your organization
L: No.
I: So it’s just those five organizations?
L: Yes.
I: Okay. And ahm, how is it with the accessibility of the funds, do you have free access to them, or do they account the funds and you have to ask for them at certain times?
T: Yeah, at that time they start at 2009 they only have 3, at that time they don’t have any funding, they are trying a lot and then ahm the person who is form the town it is very interested in this project and she is very interested so she asks for funding.
I: Okay
T: She said that to post a proposal for the funding that’s why she post for the funding and she donates every year for three years.
I: Okay. So who initiates the projects then, is it you who gives the proposal to let’s say for example Danish church aid or the UN democracy fund, you give the proposal to them and they decide to fund the proposal or would they also give a proposal to you? So from their sund?
T: No, they are not finding for the fund, they just come to meet them and then for the proposal. They have their own fund and they are very interested in this group so they just come and ask about this what are they doing or something like that and then they post for the proposal.
I: Okay, so they just gave you money for that.
L: Yes.
I: Okay, okay. So you are accounting the money for themselves that they give to you.
T: Yes.
I: Okay.
T: Ahm yeah, they have their bank account, so they deliver for this bank and they just keep in the bank, but they need for some activity they need go and take the money, something like that
I: Right. And what percentage of the money goes into administration costs, or activities like for example printing this pamphlet, like organizing events, workshops, ...
L: They have 23% admin costs.
T: They have 23% admin costs.
L: We received 100 dollars, 23 dollars can use administration costs.
I: So also for your employees here.
L: Yes. And sometimes they give the the the computer, and printer, copier,
T: Somethings for the communication like phone or computer or internet or something like that.
I: Okay. And you account the money yourself, so you in person or do you have an accountant or financial manager who takes care of it?
T: Okay, ahm for the bank account for one account they have to open three names, so if they want to take the money they have to sign all of three, at least two. And then if they want to deliver the cash to the bank they have to sign at least two or three. And also she is the account manager.
I: Yeah, alright, okay. [leader leaves] alright, small break..
L: Sorry
I: No worries. And, how many projects did you already have? Here on the wall I can already see terre des homes, improved access to primary education project, so how many of these different kind of projects did you have?
L: Five.
I: Five, okay.
L: Five donor, five project.
I: So for every donor one project.
L: Yeah, yes.
I: Okay. And ahm, so I mean I already asked that, but you porpose the project to the donor and not the other way round?
L: Yes, yes.
I: Okay, just to make sure. Ahm, and so so how do you come up with a project, like who chooses the projects and on what basis do you choose them, is it like on reports, general knowledge, from what you see in the villages, the feedback from the people there, how do you write the proposal?
T: Yeah ahm they went to the village and then they get for the organic farming or something like that, so they every village near the village they are also interested to work with this group, so they request and propose for the, they want to work with the group, so they request.
I: So who wants to work with whom?
T: The other village.
I: Ah so the other village when it saw in the neighbor village they requested it too.
T: Ya.
I: Okay
T: They want to save the money but they don’t have any, you know, any money.
I: Okay, and why did you come up or how did you come up with the idea of organic farming? Like, I mean what’s the background of this whole thought, you know?
T: When you when she work at the UNDP she went to so many villages, in this region they use a kind of chemical fertilizer and also another lot of chemicals, so she want to change that kind of agriculture, so
I: Okay, so just to get the chemical fertilizer out of the system and to start with organic...
T: Yeah, that’s why she now she has the project with worm breeding.
I: Okay. So within the NGO for the proposals you are the one and only responsible person who makes the proposal or do you decide in a committee or with every member?
T: Yeah sometime they have to pose the proposal is for all members but sometimes they have the villagers from the village cause of they know all the condition of the village so they come.
I: Okay.
L: ahm, here and evaluation, we contacted our communities, we invite our community and our villagers. And next year, what activities they needed. Right activities, want activities, we didn’t give.
Need activities, real activities, we propose.
I: Yeah.
L: And then I prepare the proposal and budget and 2015 I replicate this activity.
I: Okay, great, alright, okay.
L: My English is very poor.
I: No, it’s very good, it’s very good, I can understand every single word you say, it’s awesome!
L: Thank you, thank you!
I: Ahm and do you publish any numbers or achievements from your NGO, so is the sorry the transparency of your NGO, how do you handle that, so anyone who wants to access or see the numbers and the facts, can anyone see it or do you keep it like in this office?
T: Like here, they pay the brown paper, and they inform what activity they did, what activity they didn’t know yet because of the fund or something like that.
I: Okay.
T: Yeah and also for the training they have to rent for t-shirt and they will cost the t-shirt or lunch they have to post.
L: Everything, our staff explanation about this activities, how much cost, and how much honoring charges, how much accommodation, everything our explanation about our employees, because of our transparent manner.
I: Okay. And are you in any NGO database, so for example on the internet before like before I came here I did my research about how many NGOs are here in the area, and I didn’t find a lot of them, because most of the NGOs here aren’t in any internet NGO database, where you can look them up, so are you part of any of those databases?
T: They haven’t any website or internet, so they didn’t post in internet. They are not very special in using internet so they haven’t any training not yet, and also they haven’t any time to learn how to use or something like that.
I: Okay. So as for the network you work in, you are connected to the five international NGOs, do you also work together with other local NGOs?
T: Okay. When she have the training for self-help training group she went over for Yangon or northern Shan state and delta saw...
I: Okay.
T: And also she had a separate group Women can do it!, it’s from Norway,
L: Funded from Norway
T: It’s for the whole Myanmar country, 7 state and 7 division.
I: Okay, okay.
T: Is all the women all the group
L: All the members are women.
T: and the direction is for equality.
I: Okay. And ahm but but the women can do it is also a local NGO then but funded form Norway?
T: Yes is a local NGO the headoffice is in Yangon.
I: Okay. And this is the only NGO you work together with then or are there other ones?
T: Foundation for local development (FLD) is local is in Yangon, INGO OINKOS, is in Yangon, international is from Italy.
I: Okay, alright
L: Part-time consultant. And another one is foundation for local development.
I: And that’s also local or an INGO?
L: Local
I: Okay. And ahm for example this OIKOS do they also give money to your organization or do they also provide consultants?
T: At that NGO she is training consultant so she got the salary from this group
I: Okay, alright.
T: But no providing training staff or something like that.
I: Okay, alright, so these are all my main questions basically, I have a couple of questions left,
L: Yes
I: Ahm, so ahm, as I am studying tourism management at my university, I connect this whole NGO analysis a little bit to tourism, and like in a very wide frame, do you think your NGO contributes to the tourism development in the area? So for example, because you help with the organic fertilizers in the villages, do you think this gives money to the villagers to re-invest for example in some tourism products?
T: Yeah they have the training for the villages, there is a rush of bamboo, so they make the handicraft with bamboo, something like a chair or the tissue box, and yeah, but ahm they expo to some shop or another place, and then they have the training to empottery training and at the time their goal is to export to another shop but the man from japan they are very interested in that handicraft so they order, now they export to japan to provide.
I: Okay, great.
T: Cause of they because of the woman you know the back the construction they only get 2 or 3000 for one day, that’s why they teach for empottery training, now they got like 10000, over 100000. Yeah I’ve seen it, like on a different project we visited construction sites as well, and they earned 3000 for the women and 5- to 8000 for the men.
I: Okay, alright, so they still get their free time but just on a different day in the week
T: Yes, replacement.
I: Okay. And in general for the future, what are your expectations or hopes for the further development of your projects?
T: Because of sometimes in Myanmar we can change the country leader as a woman so for the woman right they are trying a lot, and also the community can change for the leader, if they are round they can take that round and can repair, and also she decide to to 2015 election, I decided, maybe 2012 I decided I 2015 election I She want to go for this place. Parliament. Want to ahm get the place in the parliament for the representative for the shan state but she is not ready yet so she decided to live here and do developing things
I: Okay
T: but ahm her goal is to get the opportunity to save the right for the women.
I: to have bigger auditorium for your projects going on here and for the whole situation for the women in the country.
L: Yes.
T: And also she want to improve the all women like her.
I: Yeah, okay. And ahm, in the future, like lte’s say in 10 years, what role would your NGO play by that time?
T: Another 10 year?
I: Yeah.
T: And in 2015 the women can do it in Yangon they choose 15 women and they can be the parliament representative, that’s why, and also the women from the vilalges from here, if they can
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be a representative, she can take them to the parliament.
L: Decisive level.
I: Yeah.
T: For the whole country, they can choose the leader who they want.
I: Okay, and one last question to the development, so you have been in the business since 2009 with your NGO, and you personally have a bit more experience because of the UNDP projects, so from your experience, what changed during the past 10 years in the NGO development, are there a lot of new NGOs, are there a lot of INGOs, or how did that change, was there a rapid change, or slowly…?
T: Now is rapidly change, now is no… Okay, so many NGOs, but some are not understanding about the development process, you know that’s why some of the people say that NGOs are deaf, something like that, that’s why.
I: Okay.
L: So, so, my personal expectation is now, so many NGO form because of the government change, at that time so many NGO formed, so many NGO in the whole country, but some NGO is understanding the development process, sustainable process. But many NGO didn’t know the sustainable development process. I am trying the best this NGO, now I go and speech the forum, women forum, sometimes the INGO forum. I speech I am one of the loud speaker, so at that time I told the foreign I speech the foreign NGO foreign is good but ahm I am a change agent, so I am actually change myself, because I change the community, firstly I change myself and then I change our community, for example they told that so many NGO ahm
T: Okay. Because of her thought is that they have to know the sustainable development, after they know they can you know they can improve their NGOs and if they want to change the community they have to change themselves first, after that they can change all the community.
I: Okay, but do you have an explanation for that, like why are so many NGOs coming up now, why is it, because I mean the people who start up the NGO don’t profit from it directly, do they?
T: Okay because of if the donor are you know much more donor than before so the donor thought that if they help the group for the NGO they can help the community that’s why the group they form they group and then they do the NGO.
I: Ah, okay.
T: It’s for the government don’t allow another country, now they can do directly with another country.
I: Okay, yeah that would have been my next question, okay, alright, great. Okay.
T: Some of the NGO look for their own, you know, the profit. Some are not look for the profit.
I: Okay, okay.

[Mirthe questions]
I: Ahm well first of all thanks a lot for answering everything in the interview, and I have one last thing, for the projects you have done, I will just explain it shortly, this is a scale from one to 5, 1 is ahm the less number, so here for example it’s the success, one is no success and 5 is full success, and everything in between is less ahm equal, a little bit more and most.
I: So here I have the perceived success of the projects,
L: Within five years?
I: No, no, just ahm I will do it project by project because you have five projects and I will start with the first one, ahm
L: First one mean this.
I: Okay, so the 13 villages support project.
L: 13 village support project is now starting time. Only three months.
I: Oh, okay, okay.
L: I, Denmark church is now 3 year, I can answer this question.
I: Okay, so for this one it’s probably not relevant yet.
L: Just not relevant
I: Yeah, three months is not enough. So the second project,
L: Is livelihood development and community empowerment project.
L: Now two staff came back from the village, yesterday night 6PM starting the community meeting and 9 it was end, so they didn’t come back.
I: So they stayed at the village
L: Yeah, not far from here, maybe 20 miles from here.
T: IT’s very close to Satah, it’s the stolen part from Inle.
I: Okay. And the third project?
L: The third project is TDH development, improve access to primary education project.
I: Okay.
L: And four is ensuring basis right of vulnerable and exploited children.
L: Next one is empower civil society and democratic needs of rural women in Myanmar project.
I: Okay.
L: It’s long project name
I: Yes. Okay, so ahm
L: Project name? Yes.
I: Yeah yeah, I have it. Okay, so the first one is irrelevant, because it’s too young, ahm so for the second one, how successful was it on the scale? A four? Okay. And the impact, so the difference from the original problem situation. Did the livelihood development change the original problem situation a lot?
L: Yes, a four too.
I: Okay, so now we come to the effectiveness, which means, it sounds similar to impact, but it means actually the sustained production of benefits. So, does it still work the same way or is it in a sustained development process?
L: Yes, yes.
I: So
T: The same yeah, four.
I: Okay, then the perception of the villagers in the villages where you did it, what did the villagers think of the project?
T: 3.5.
I: If you have to decide between the three or four, what would you rather choose?
L: Four.
I: Ahm, why did you like why weren’t you sure if it’s a three or four, were there a lot of people who didn’t like the project? Why did you struggle between the two, because three is a little bit less, right? So the perception of the villagers, did some villagers not like the project, or?
T: Because of you know the villagers cannot staying themselves,
I: They cannot, pardon?
T: They cannot estimate themselves, because ahm how they are
L: Really good or really improving or not
T: Yeah sometimes really confusing.
L: But she can see if they are improving or not
I: Yeah
L: The the livelihood project solution...
T: Okay, now they got a long time partnership from the time, because of before they only got three years or one year, now they got because they are very interested in the project, so now they got more. Because of most of the villagers can tell to the donors how they are changing. Before, the villagers are very little to themselves, now is they are changing, it’s they have two kinds hardware and software, now is they are very changing they can do themselves everything.
I: Okay, alright. And then, if you compare this project to all the other ones you have done, how much effort did you put into it, what was your workload?
T: Ahm Namathu project is very developing then another project. The most improving project
I: Okay, but like form this office, the amount of work you put into the project, so for example I mean not every
L: Amount mean partner?
I: No no, what I mean, let me explain, probably for this project, I’m just giving examples, I’m just assuming, for this project you worked more hours than for this project, or this project took most of your office time, or more office time than this one,
L: Yeah, yeah.
T: Ahm that project is the most villagers and the most village they did, and also they take to
L: Ahm I expand a lot time for this project
T: And also the staff
L: And I waiting the reporting a lot of report for the project, and so many... the livelihood development villages is 20 villages out of 23.
I: Okay, okay, so a lot of time you invested
L: Yes
I: So that would be a five then on this scale
L: Yes.
I: Okay.
L: Yes the business rights is only two villages, only two villages is little time for project.
I: So, the five would be on which scale?
L: The five is 3.
I: And then for number 3?
L: Sorry sorry, yes three
I: I can also change it, no problem. And improved access to primary education?
L: Only 2. And next one also 2.
I: Okay
L: 13 village maybe 4, because now very big fund and more villages,
I: Okay, alright, and then for the improved access to primary education, how would you rate the success? Three?
L: Yes.
I: Why only a three?
L: Because only 1.5 year, maybe in three year 5.
I: And the impact? So the difference from the original problem situation?
L: The impact, ahm, yes impact is four.
I: So the effectiveness of it, because now, is it like a self-running project, can the villagers continue themselves?
T: Is like a three. it will take a long time until no need for other teachers and they can do themselves.
I: Okay, okay. Ahm then the perception, like do the villagers like the project? Why only three?
L: Some villagers not interesting this activities, so
I: Okay.
L: Some villagers, maybe half can understand, but some villagers ahm little understand, not ahm they perception is not good.
I: And why would villagers not like primary education, or access to primary education?
L: Hmm, good question.
T: Okay, they because of she separate for the family who attended like the primary since they was a baby that’s why
I: ah okay
L: Our activities for the primary student for the primary student so some household have middle and high school children so they
I: they have a higher chance for a better salary later
L: Yes. Some 50 per cent of the villagers understand because they have benefit from our project.
I: Okay, okay. So workload we already have, for number four ensuring basic rights of vulnerable and exploited children, the success, where would you rate it?
L: Success is four, because only one years left.
I: Okay, okay. Ahm the impact? So the difference from the original problem situation, so ahm the vulnerable and exploited children now, are they in a better situation
L: Yes, yes
I: So the impact is four.
L: four, four
I: You don’t like to give a five, do you?
T: Not yet, because is still one year running
I: Okay, okay still running. Ahm and the effectiveness, so
L: For this one or that one.
I: Yes four.
L: For the target beneficiaries is the target household. So primary household beneficiary is five
I: Okay
L: all the household receive from our project support.
I: Okay, well then it’s definitely a five. And the perception of the villagers, what do they think of the project?
L: For this one or that one.
I: You don’t like to give a five, do you?
T: Not yet, because is still one year running
I: Okay, okay still running. Ahm and the effectiveness, so
L: For this one or that one.
I: Yes four.
L: For the target beneficiaries is the target household. So primary household beneficiary is five
I: Okay
L: all the household receive from our project support.
I: Okay, well then it’s definitely a five. And the perception of the villagers, what do they think of the project?
L: Look like improved access for primary...
I: No ahm, basic rights for vulnerable children
L: Yes, yes.
T: Look like improved access for primary...
I: Yes yes.
L: All the...
T: Ahm is they know gradually but not yet perfectly no that’s why, they know just a little bit, so yeah.
I: But what they think of the project, not that they are fully involved, but what they think of the idea to have this project, you know what I mean?
T: Okay, just three
I: Okay, alright. That’s everything, thank you so much for your time, no it’s been some great information that we got, and I will file a report about this and I will hand it in by the end of may 2015, so in two months, ahm and maybe you have an e-mail address or something like that for me and then I can send it to you as well.. So when the report is done I will send it to you as well.
L: Yes thank you
I: Thank you!

NGO2
I: Alright, okay. So what is the main field of work of your NGO?
T: Youth empowerment for environmental conservation. Environmental conservation. Yeah to cover our Inle Region with youth, cause of they have to go to the youth to protect the inle region with youth
I: Okay, so it’s environmental conservation
T: Yeah, with youth.
L: Empower youth for environmental conservation.
I: Okay, great. And ahm, when was the NGO founded, how old is it?
L: Ahm, which one? Now we have two, one for [x], it’s a volunteer youth group from Inle Lake, above 200 member
T: Yeah this organization is ahm is active in the whole country and the head office is in Yangon, and they also founded in 2007, it’s caleanameta foundation, and for this and the low lak youth they founded 2012.
I: Okay. How is it called?
T: They have two groups, one is Caleanameta foundation, NGO, and also
L: Volunteer youth group in Inle with local people
T: And also about 200 members.
I: And, but but those two groups are in that building together, like the calaneameta foundation and the Inle Youth group,
L: Yeah, because this they are the land youth so they don’t have the office, accept then to be with us whatever they want to do they can do with us, and they have to meet and do your meeting with us.
I: Yeah, okay. So who is from who then?
L: Yes, is ahm sometimes I am in two groups, because I am from here, ahm I member of the youth group and a staff of caleanameta foundation.
I: Okay.
L: So I play two role. The calaneameta place is with projects with the funding from outside and youth group not using the funding but playing volunteers for us.
I: Okay. Ahm, so for the Caleanameta, sorry it’s difficult,
L: Means good friend. Caleana means friend, meta is good.
I: Okay. Ahm, so what is the size, so in Yangon you have the head office, and here you have how many employees?
L: Here now six staff, but we only had 6 staff so we play with the volunteer. So they youthgroup is with us, so is also improved their capacity and this is good
I: And you have like 6 staff from the beginning on?
L: Yeah.
I: Okay. Ahm, okay. And are they volunteers or do they get paid for the job?
L: Mostly we don’t pay, but we have 2 volunteers for 2 years, every month, so we pay pocket money only, but the others are volunteers and if they have activity they also come join with us.
I: Alright, okay. And ahm, why did you found the NGO?
L: Why?
I: well just your initial thought, why would you set it up?
L: Ahm before the staff starting with caleanameta, before is difficult for us to found, even three or 4 years ago the government not allow to get the five people like this, but since that time ahm when I was in university, the time I met with Christian youth group, because we are Buddhist, but in Christian religion want to partner for development, so that time I tried to be a volunteer, and I try, oh it’s inspired me to do for our Buddhist community, because in their religion teachings they also teach a development concept in their Christian community, and the Christian community also encourage us oh you also should do a Buddhist community, because they are not conservative Buddhist to Christian, but they want to do development in Buddhist community, but Buddhist community neglect, not allowed to enter, so they also encouraged to also do for Buddhist community, so mostly we adapt we ahm yeah, so mostly we focused people very important, so we focused youth empowerment at that time.

I: Yeah. But now you went over to environmental conservation, why, like why did you go from youth empowerment to environmental conservation, what were the steps in between?

L: Yes after Inle youth empowerment broken so different issue like this but most of young people are really crazy about environment issue

I: Okay

L: Is compared with the others, agenda but they more crazy about environment, especially Inlays’ very beautiful place, but the environment slowly slowly how to say, poor. So when we met with the Inle Youth, I also donated from here, so the inle people inle youth are very very crazy about environmental conservation, especially lake conservation, so that’s why my teacher also did a research about Inle Lake, which found that all the community are very poor environmental awareness. So we should do of this, and we also discuss a meeting with the young people, they also request this issue we should do, so mostly for inle lake, especially agriculture and environmental conservation, should inle youth leadership.

I: So especially younger people are actually really into conserving the nature, preserving the lake and the area, so it’s really from their initiative

L: Yeah

I: Okay, ahm and did the, the growth of the NGO, between the founding between 2007 and now, did it grow in any sort of way, so referring to the projects, or the funding, or..

L: Okay ok, can you..

I: Okay, did the NGO grow since the time it was founded, so did the for example I have seen that you are funded by GiZ, so did the funds increase, did the amount of projects increase, ahm...

L: Ahm, 2007, no? At that time we has a limited budget, even since 2013, we don’t have limited, so but fortunately last year, we got the in the funding for youth empowerment, before no, but that time we start with the x youthgroup, even we don’t have a limited funding they do themselves, they run themselves, especially the youthgroup they run themselves, but they try to find the money, so especially selling the traditional clothes, so they like this.

I: Okay, and one more question to the youth group, ahm they just came here because they needed a room to gather, or did you have also something to do with founding this group? With creating this group in the first place?

L: So, especially in the youth group yes, annual gathering every year, so that time we plan, sometimes the issue, how to say, certainly the idea came up, so they one member from here try to call the volunteer youth from different village so they came to caleanameta office and has a meeting for what should we do there is a meeting here so they try to set up themselves, organize themselves. So from caleanameta part, they also advise that youth group so sometimes, not decide by caleanameta, decide to care for plan, care for our activities.

I: But who started up the youth group, who founded it?

L: After finish caleanameta training so especially young men at the youth group they are aware of the other area they found a lot of the youth group so we also need to accept our youth, so 2006 founded themselves.

I: So, caleanameta, ahm trained the younger people around the lake and after the training they formed the youth groups
L: Yes, they found themselves, but we give ideas, yeah.
I: Okay.
L: And calaneameta also ahm they train the youth to farm themselves in their own area so in whole Burma 20 youth group came up in their villages yeah, so every year they also have network each other so have a meeting every year. For the youth around the Myanmar. So like this, so they share, they also share our one year activity in that meeting, that’s essential so every year we did like this
I: So you are basically trying to to get them by themselves to start up a youth initiative and then to keep it self-sustaining so that they can help themselves with your suggestions in the background
L: Yeah, and calaneameta also believes not the local people but they the guest, so on top of projects they gone they will not come so mostly here we have many experience a lot of NGO came after their project end the activity in Inle also end and we don’t like this so we train the local people to accept the answer for the inle sustainability. So,
I: [mirthe]
L: So the youthgroup come to the village and share their knowledge, so trying to facilitate. Training for trainers.
I: Okay, and the 7 day training, what does it look like, what exactly do you teach them?
L: First, we try to give teambuilding, we all should be unite, strong, so that, after that the 2\textsuperscript{nd} important one is a kind of socially engaged Buddhist, they try out Buddhist perspective, want to sup for the other, the other lies the issue lies gender issue, environmental issue, globalization, like this, how the impact on others, so it’s kind of sustainable development what does it mean sustainable development, so we give this concept to them in the 7 day trainings and after they are very interesting on that so we also collect the interesting member to train leadership 1 month, so especially focus on facilitation, leadership, what time of leadership, like participatory leadership, kind of like that, and sustainable development and sustainable water and this kind of things we give in leadership training.
I: Alright.
L: Yeah. And I am not sure in management this kind of issue so Inle Lake environmental leadership and environmental training.
I: And for the calaneameta, how many projects, how many different projects did you already do?
L: Mainly focus on youth leadership, but for different project, so for inle lake environmental conservation, and funding projects, kind of eco funding, so under calaneameta ahm mainly peace issue, environmental issue, agriculture issue, anything else, and the other project is CBO, in the area for community based organizations
I: Right.
L: CBO community development and CBO, community based organizations, first time see the CBO, after that the youth came here with the issue for agriculture environment, peace and gender issue also.
I: Okay, and this is what you teach in the workshops then or do you have for every of those sectors own projects in the area?
L: Ahm you know up to see the CBO so we have a workshop for the CBO what you would like to know, it’s me versus the issue we need to solve, so we discover the whole Burma with the youth, so mostly clean up for environment, peace, agriculture, so mostly we focus on these 3 issues.
I: And after you identify those issues, what happens next? What is the next step?
L: So we found we we came up it’s the issue came up we develop the for this with the youth. And yeah, so we did the strategic plan with these young people and if it turns out they don’t interesting so we also apply for this and not interesting we went to ourself.
I: So you basically write a proposal out of the issues and give it to the donors or the funding organization and otherwise you do it yourselves.
L: Yeah.
I: Okay okay. Can you give like one concrete example of one proposal, like what exactly was the project called, like one example of a proposal?
L: We love inle, so it’s now 2 days ago we just launch in IECD so this project we discuss with the youth so we like inle project, so mainly that is why assemble, so now they are with us for this project the youth, so mainly we focus on eco farming, natural management and social enterprise, so this issue together with the youth group starting something.

I: Okay. And does it ever happen that also a funding organization or a bigger organization gives a proposal to you, or is it only you who give proposals to funding organizations?

L: No, that’s why we propose, but ahm the other donor also propose us especially now from Thailand our river our life, they say in Mekong region environmental conservation not good for us, to do because last year they visit to Inle and lots of the youth give their campaign activities so they surprise and they want to meet with them and that time I organized for the youth group and them for the meeting in the office, they also try with us they surprise and mostly they focus on campaigns, so they also interesting our campaigns and they request us to meeting they request us to go to the Mekong river group and our inle lake youth group so they apply us to to give the concept, but actually we are not expert on this, but they request that to send the estimate budget and the consensus and two days also we have a meeting for this they request again for detailed budget and they now government also request us because for they are very difficult to organize their community and they also request us to organize for they also want to do biodiversity research for inle lake but difficult for them to organize so they request us to organize for this and the RACT and UNDB also request us to do for this

I: Okay, because you have the connection here in the area

L: Yes.

I: Okay.

L: Even the government cannot do for the youthgroup network but once we say go, they youth organize for network activity campaign, so this and 13 youth groups work together with us, so the government surprise on this and they a lots of the local representatives also request the government to contact with us so this

I: And what do you personally think of it, like when people approach you, do you think it’s a good thing or do you think there’s like some background thoughts they have?

L: We always thinking on this and most of people request trying to contact with us but some time we also no, is transparently, and is good for inle lake, we wait to this, but is for their project only we say no. Even we also fight for the NGO who are doing not a good project, so we also fight for this.

I: Okay

L: This also, and even hotel zone we represent for the community

I: And do you for your own NGO publish any numbers or achievements that you had? So like anyone who wants can see exactly what is happening here?

L: Nowadays not only youth, the community also participate with us, especially as a tree campaign environmental day, before youth only pass the activity, but last year also for community try with us, so ever year a lots of the other youth group came and learn from us, and for even we are Valentia we are sustainable so the other people they also accept to us

I: alright

L: Even they government have a meeting they invite us, and now they also in inle lake you will pay not 10 dollars for entrance fee, so it’s for environmental conservation, it is difficult for the others to apply before us now, they trust the government trust us and they also give that money for our environmental conservation activities.

I: Okay, so also the governments funds the NGO?

L: Yeah that entrance fee,

I: Right

L: You pay right, you have for inle lake conservation, but difficult for the other people to apply that money, but for us easy

I: Okay, alright, yeah I was always wondering where the 10 dollars are actually going.

L: Yes, and before also they the foreigner also how to say complain about that sometimes the foreigner explain no, this money is for inle lake conservation you should give.
I: Yes I mean foreigners complain about a lot, so...
L: Yeah but they don’t explain about this.
I: Yeah, no it’s from that piece of paper that you get you can guess what’s going on but it is not really explained.
L: The government also do with that money for Inle Lake, we are outside to get the money form the government.
I: Yeah. And are you in any NGO database? So I found like before I came here to do my research I found like an internet website with a database of all registered Myanmar NGOs, are you in such a database as well?
L: About in Inle Lake? Ah we don’t have with the data but some NGO we know, so UNDP before not long ago they enter to Inle lake but Myanmar for the finance shwe donne, golden inthu, shwe inthu you already met is a the lady group youth group, and now Inle speaks you already did, IID also enter, MIID, Myanmar international institute for development, friends of Thailand, and the different volunteer youth group in Inle, that’s not NGO, so 13., 13 local youth group. Now in Inle over 20. But not NGO, not is CBO local youth group.
I: But they are developing more and more, so the number is growing.
L: Yes.
I: And, like for this NGO, ahm is the staff so you have 2 volunteers and ahm 6 staff in general, so the other 4 members are they professionally trained, or did they receive a training, what is their educational background?
L: No I don’t mention with education criteria, should mostly so the groups are also founded by this calaneameta staff found in a way, we not call the professiona, it should come from our heart, our commitment, the people who are very committed to do for their area because the brochures came up from them so now we mostly especially for the project manager maybe if we cannot find here we call outside outside means not this area no who are professional from this but for organizing we recruit for the local people that’s why for calaneameta projects we are the local. That’s why we I understand for these projects.
I: And who is writing the project proposals then?
L: Ahm,
I: Because you need to have them written on paper to hand them in, right?
L: No, our life they apply they apply us to do we are not expert for this, so now we are preparing our proposal, because the calaneameta also train us like a pc project management proposal writing skill, is need for CBO community based organization so yes they also support.
I: Ahm
L: This kind of state also so we are not expert but we understand how to do on business
I: Yeah yeah, okay. And ahm, what are the main struggles that you face, the amain problems in your work, the main problems of your NGO?
L: Here?
I: Yeah.
L: Calaneameta foundation or youth?
I: Calaneameta foundation
L: Ahm so, we already mentioned from the local people commitment person they are not professional, sometimes we face they like sometimes difficult for how to say hm
T: Yeah they have many difficulties because their staff are from the local and also when they decided to do something they have to learn again and they have to do so it takes time that is a problem.
L: So not really make organization, we are trying to make the structure ourselves, so it takes time for the system no perfect structure so it also takes time for this, even the capacity also we are from the local people is compare with the other professional one, so one side we have to learn ourselves one side we have to learn for this especially management skill also
I: Okay, alright, so a couple of questions to the network, ahm so are you part of any networks of NGOs, so I know you work together with the CBOs with the youth groups, but do you also have projects with other NGOs around here, like for example Shwe Inn Thu, like Inle Lake area?
L: Yeah, actually most of the NGO here stand their own, but for us for networking workshop we are trying to do, cause actually the network meeting is for the net planning is just a most of NGO for CBO not interesting much, even we try to organize for this kind, for us we want to do on this and networking very effective is more focused is very effective, but the other NGO will not kind of friendly speaking “so-called” NGO like this they want to do themselves, they don’t want to be with
I: Do you know why? No because I really don’t understand it.
L: No. Our vision, I can say that our vision
I: Okay, alright, and with international NGOs, INGOs, are you working together with any of them?
L: We are before we set up calaneameta foundation we attend the grassroot leadership training and spread education movement, so after that then also support us a lot,
I: Okay, and ahm, like for example this GiZ sign,
L: GiZ is coming to Inle for their launch in this, for their project in this area, so they also connect with us for their projects so we apply for their small grant.
I: So you say they try to connect with you for their project?
L: Yeah.
I: So they also again propose
L: It’s a competition for the grant. Our youth group also try to compete, because we also give like waste management training, it’s like water hygiene, there’s a lot of Inle lake, a lot is not good, so we also give the handicap training, so this Youth group apply for this activity and compete in GiZ, not calaneameta, but this CBO
I: Okay, and are there any other INGOs you work together with, GiZ, INEB international network of engaged Buddhists, now with ecology you trust,
I: Okay, alright
L: So tdh, terre des hommes Germany, Oxfam, before Norwegian people aid, now we former issue here came together with Mitta development foundation so a kind of foreign together is a kind of network activity
I: Okay, and do those NGOs also fund you or do you work together with them. Mitta is not foreign, so we work together with them,
I: alright, okay, and ahm, do you also have any connections with businesses around the area?
L: positively connect, or?
I: In any way really.
L: No, not really, mostly we not really CSR from the business, mostly we are not interesting much.
I: Why?
L: Is for the business.
I: Because if a business funds you you need to give something back
L: Yeah, is we don’t want to do
I: Yeah
L: Especially the business who focus on natural resource, even they want to give this kind of commitment also not good.
I: Okay, and with all these international NGOs, like Oxfam, Norwegian people aid, did they approach you, or did you approach them?
L: Ahm the NGO we approach, but like our river our life they passed by us to do.
I: Okay, alright, ahm then to the funding, who is funding your NGO? So where does the money come from, so a part is from the government, from the 10 dollar entrance fee
L: this is for the youth group
I: And but you also have different fundings as I heard from the whole conversation, so where does this funding money come form?
L: This organization?
I: calaneameta
L: Yeah now we have a partner that organization.
I: So all those partners, all those INGOs...
L: Norwegian people is before now then we start approaches for now is support us
I: Sorry
T: This all organization support them for funding
I: Okay, alright, okay
L: But not all, sometimes with the partner for cooperate together, the summer, the support funding
I: Okay, and how does it work with the funding, do you just get the money into the company and you account it for yourself, or ahm do you have to apply for the funds and they are accounted by those INGOs?
L: No we not support them, we plan
I: No, ... I think it’s a misunderstanding, what I mean is who is accounting the funds?
L: We have our own organization who has manager, who has organizer, who has project coordinator, who are cashier,
I: Okay, so do those INGOs give you a monthly rate of funds or does it depend on projects, or...
L: Well it’s difficult for me to answer because mostly is came from the main office
I: Ah okay
L: That’s we don’t know all this we are operator the organizer, so if we need the activity this project we request, so this question will answer the main office
I: alright, okay. Ahm and here, for this office, do you know like the money from the fund, how much is used for administration costs and how much is used for the projects?
L: Ahm is ahm from the we know from the cashier accountant but how many percent I forgot how many percent for operation cost and how many here, but the NGO allow with the 20 per cent for operation cost, not more than that.
I: Okay, alright
L: But I dint know detail
I: no that’s no problem at all, just a rough estimation that’s all. And ahm what is the money mostly used for, so you have the training, you have the projects on the lake going on, you have administrative costs, so what else is there that you need the money for?
L: Especially for the training. Because in training there are some we have to call the person but you know we try to reduce it’s compare with the other NGO the other NGO plan to estimate to do in the hotel ahm the expensive places, but for us we plan to do in the monastery, that also means we don’t have to pay no accommodation costs this is our idea we have and also we organize the key persons the monk because in this area the monks are very powerful so is we think they are especially the monk for us for environmental conservation they are also a bit a bit output for us that’s why we plan the activity all kind of gathering we try to do in the monastery.
I: Yeah.
L: Because very big monastery in Inle, so mostly the money we pay for training activities.
I: Okay, then I have like for the end some general questions again, so do you think like in a broader sense that your NGO also contributes to the tourism of the area?
L: We also give some kind of campaigns, is awareness not only here the committee but also to the tourism people so especially that also tourists see that give that kind of message especially in the boat give the message that they don’t put the plastic into the water that kind of issue also we contribute to, this kind of activity we contribute to
I: Okay, so campaigns for tourists to raise their awareness for the issue
L: Yeah, yeah, even this year we also plans for the shop coffeeshop in here especially targeted is the tourists so they can guess the good original taste of the coffee and the local snack from here so they in the same time we also give the message in the shop the tourist to raise the environment so this kind of activity also we plan in this year
I: Okay, right, and for those 6 employees here how many hours a week do you work, or do you have a regular working day?
L: We only the week end.
I: Only in the weekend?
L: Except we sit in the office 5 days a week, even the weekend if we have activity we have to do it, sometimes for us we lost our weekend.
I: Yeah, okay, and from the beginning on till now, are the number of tasks that you have like in the daily routine, are they increasing?
L: Oh not increasing because we play even the staff we play not only for calaneamteta and the youth group every year is increased activity so we also stand for this activity because it’s a link no so calaneameta activities they also participate, and calaneameta we also participate for youth group so it’s increasing our tax.
I: Okay, and ahm what are your expectations for the future or your hopes for the future within your NGOs work?
L: HM before now we don’t have the youth group, like is founded for the different different area, so no we founded in different village, so before we never had about this group founded with different area, so my we our expectation now is the youth groups is founding with the whole inle lake together, and this is my expectation, and before, before the environmental conservation we never had funders, this is the community, this do by the forest department for environmental conservation, but is I don’t know how to say, I’m not from there because from there they have to do, now the youth group came up so because of us I feel is maybe wrong or right a lot of youth group in the area also came up and now they different department also consult their activities for let’s say for the departments before now because of us I feel this we are voluntarily conserve our environment, so actually we are responsible, not the consultants, I feel is because of us, so now we can change this and now the youth groups are trying to be participate in this decision making area for it’s our future our trying to be, before last year this in the high level from Intha the lake electrician before they in the government the parties and the IECT group they organize the activities in Inle before they neglect us, we last year we try to participate we advocate them no we have to participate so last year we participate there and maybe next year is our responsibility again, with me I want to say now youth enter to this decision making area, so for us they want to be a decision maker for inle lake conservation, so to that we also the government has a meeting so we also attend this meeting and advocate them, you also should participate on this, the community sight also should participate on this, like management committee, so we try to advocate that kind of issue, so for the future we plan to be in the decision making level to participate like this
I: Okay, and ahm what has changed like for the general NGO development here, because I’ve heard there’s a lot of new NGOs coming up here, a lot of new NGOs here are founded, so in the past 8 years since you started working, what has changed in the NGO development here?
L: NGO development...
L: Ahm okay, negative change, I would say negative change, now for us is challenging to organize the community to participate with us, even the youth are equally participate, because before it was so core, core NGO organized in Inle, so is destroying, the NGOs destroying give the mindset for the community to be
T: Begging
L: like a beggar how to get the money from NGO, so before the so-called NGO, because of this the program we are facing we don’t want like this, that’s why we stand for this, if we don’t like the NGO we will say, we don’t like you, because sometimes for instance in the training, “If you come to the training I will give the money to you!”. Is crazy for us we don’t like like that they change their mindset to be a beggar,
I: Yeah
L: So now is happening here, so sometimes lots of NGO coming to us we are worry on this, so we don’t like NGO much.
I: alright, okay,
L: That’s why caleananmeta train the people to use the use in your area, like this
I: Yeah that’s very similar to what we heard at shwe Inthu as well, that’s exactly the same concept
L: Yeah.
I: Okay, great, ahm, do you have...
[Mirthe questions]
I: And as one very last question, ahm what do the people here like the locals around the villages,
what do they think of your work, what is their perception of your work?
L: Naaah, most of I don’t know, the people who don’t like, but maybe the people talk to their parent because sometimes they forgot to do their job, their research volunteer, sometimes their family say don’t go many time as a volunteer, cause they have perception a few, but most of the community very very inspire our youth group and even the party they organize they how to say they want to take our group to the party
I: the political party?
L: Yeah, political party, the friendly, they want to organize us for their party, we say no, we not doing for political party, but we are doing for politics
I: Yeah
L: If they want us to do, we say we don’t like you, so we don’t want to say like this, we don’t want to be a part of your party, yeah.
I: And you don’t have any problems because of that? Like for example I could imagine that if you tell a political party, if you tell them “no, we don’t wanna be part of them”, and they eventually like don’t like you anymore that there might be consequences for you, or not?
L: No, still not, no problem, the party are problem with the different party with us, but most of their eyes are looking us but we already see, but in our responsible how to say
T: roots
L: roots in our eyes we are not part of political party if you want to do you can participate individually, but the youth group is not a part of this party no, we already say, that’s why last year also one party they are going to far, and so they organize for 2015 for election so they has a meeting that they request us to be a part of their party for organizing, I friendly say no we are not for that, we are from the community site, even the party do wrong we will say you, we don’t like you, so we already told them like this, but personally I am very interested.
I: NO, but only that not the organization is involved:
L: Yes. So, for the future, maybe I already told you you want to be participate in decision making area
I: Okay, right, great
L: I know, our answer will support your question or not?
I: Yes, definitely, no it was a great responses that I got, and ahm what the plan now is for me or for us is basically to ahm write our bachelor thesis so big report about it it’s probably between 40 and 60 pages, so we analyze how the NGOs in this area work together,
L: Inle
I: Inle area and Taunggyi, what the big problems are, why they don’t work together or why they do work together, like depending on what’s going on, how the funding is and what the effects on society are, and also like microfinance, training programs, so we connect that with other reports that we found form all over the world and then we try to analyze the problems and show the opportunities there are.
[private talk]
END
I: Okay, Ahm can you maybe put it like in the middle? Okay, alright. So first of all, thanks again, I’ll start with some general questions, then go over to the networking activities and the funding, and then Mirthe has a couple of questions to

M: Yeah about the business projects, it depends on what kind of projects you do and then answers to these questions.

T: Okay

I: So ahm when was x founded?


I: And ahm what is the main field of work?

T: In Kachin State. You mean like the origin, the first one?

I: No, I actually mean the main field of work, so what is the ahm, so I’ve seen for example with Caritas, Misereor and finish church aid they have done the development projects, but ahm so all in the main field of work, is it development, is it agriculture, is it…?

T: At the moment six sessions, they have a moment one is no discrimination and helping to each other like that, and another is… development of the countryside region.

I: Okay. And how big is the organization, how many offices, how many employees?

T: For this area?

I: Just in general, for Mitta development

T: The whole the country general they have 500 employees.

I: 500, ok. And how many offices, do you know?

T: Offices? Ahm she didn’t really know about the offices, cause they just doing like ahm they don’t ahm they don’t separate thy just have or the officers or the stuff like that.

I: Ahm no, I mean offices, like office buildings

T: OH staff offices, you mean the building?

I: Yeah, I mean how many buildings are in the country?

T: About 6.

I: 6? Alright. And where is the head office? Like the main building?

T: Yangon!

I: Yangon? Okay. And ahm, how many employees are in this office here?

T: 106 people.

I: 106? In this office?

T: Yeah. She mean 106 person is because they have a suboffice in the region like agriculture training school and a village in town like that, also they have their staff for the training school, but now, here, is about over 30 person

I: So 30 persons who are constantly in this office?

T: Yeah.

I: Okay. And is the staff professionally trained?

T: Yes they do, they train for the staff, the capacity building and the skill.

I: Okay, alright. And ahm, so, ahm, sorry I’m, 1 second. Ahm, okay, so what kind of projects did you do? So for example I’ve seen the three here, you’ve already explained me a little bit about it, ahm did you do any projects apart from that, can you maybe talk a little bit about the projects you had?

T: They have six projects,

I: Okay

T: For water supply for the countryside, they have a livelihood for the local people, and they have a healthy and educational and ahm they give help to the refugees. And agriculture training. When you asked for the training for the staff, in that training also they accept from the people form the countryside.

I: Okay, so they train their own staff and then the staff trains the people on the countryside.

T: No I mean ahm...

I: So who is actually training staff with the capacity building?

T: You mean here or for the whole?
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

I: No I mean here, like for the whole office for example, because someone is teaching the staff how the capacity building works, so who is doing that, is it someone from abroad, is it someone from Yangon, or?
T: Yes for them they don’t have a lot of person for the project they just ahm got a training form our society from our country like a gender society they have a lot of local society here so they got a training from them and after that they propagate again to the staff and the local people.
I: Okay. Alright, great. And ahm, so who initiates the projects that you do, who starts the projects, who is writing proposals for it, how does it work?
T: You mean the founders?
I: No like for example the water supply, the good educational projects, how did they get started, how were they initiated?
T: Firstly, because of the local staff on the countryside, for the local people, so they just looking for those projects, because of request from the local people.
I: So the local people request the projects. Okay. And for example, let’s take as an example the water supply project from Misereor, how did that work, so the locals didn’t have water supply, or like how was that initiated in this concrete example with the water supply project?
T: You mean like the ahm for water ahm we have a water source in the mountain spring
I: No no no no what I mean is, I know how it works in general the technological aspect, but with misereor for example, how did you get in touch with misereor like they funded the water supply project I think, so
T: Yes they have a committee and the first one of this foundation have a look for this kind of funder.
I: Okay, ahm,
T: For that ahm requested they accept form the local people and then from them they had to give a report they had from the office, and after that they have a meeting for the founders and donators once every year in Yangon, so they report for that kind of money
I: Okay, and ahm so again this misereor project, do they only fund or also bring the people the skilled people whol build up the well for example. So do they only give funds or do they also give training to people who help digging the well?
T: Just for this organization
I: Just for this organization
T: Yes.
I: Just for money, yeah.
T: Just the funds, okay. And so local people are constructing and building the well then.
I: Okay.
T: Okay.
I: Alright. Great! And ahm, on what basis are the projects chosen, so for example this water supply project, is it about reports, is it about feedback from the vilalgers, is it from general knowledge, like how do you decide to invest in a certain project?
T: Ahm because of the villagers ahm feedback local feedback to them back and also for them too they want to keep going like that, because they make a diplomat for the countrysides.
I: Okay, alright. And do you also publish any numbers or achievements of the organization?
T: Sorry?
I: Do you publish any numbers or facts, so for example a lot of international NGOs like GiZ or Misereor as well they publish yearly reports about what they did, what projects they did, how much the costs were, just an overview of their business activities, so do you do that as well here for the Mitta development foundation?
T: Yes they like they like that kind of other NGO. The same as like misereor.
I: Okay, so on a yearly basis they publish facts, okay. And ahm, are you also in any NGO database?
T: Yes they do with another NGO but ahm not ah not form the abroad, just by the local NGO, because we have a lot of local NGO here, like for example ahm NGO form this southern shan state the Shawin NGO
I: Yeah like Caleanameta foundation
T: Yeah.
I: Okay, so do are they together in a database or do they just work together or..
T: Ahm, you mean for the project?
I: No, I mean basically like a database, so an official register of NGOs?
T: Yes, they officially registered at the government
I: Okay, ahm but for example is it also possible that when I’m looking for NGOs in Myanmar on the internet or for example in a catalogue, would I find them?
T: This office, is a branch office.
I: Okay, okay, nice. Okay, so what are the main struggles or the main problems of this office here in Taunggyi, so considering either projects or organization or really anything?
T: There’s no struggle. Not a problem with this office or the projects. We didn’t mean not at all, but just some small problem, so not really important.
I: Okay, so can I get to know the small problems, or.. ?
T: Yeah. Yes the minor problem is for this commutation is they didn’t own the accommodation so they have to hire from somebody else so they face a few problems with the price.
I: Yeah.
T: Sometimes a very expensive for them so they need to do negotiation with this person, and also they face when they want to go over their projects they are facing in the countryside is not really safe for them
I: So in the countryside because of communication, or..?
T: Ahm not for communication, for as you know in our country also for political, not really safety for this stuff, so the countryside is really conflicts between the national army and the government, so
I: So you are really going into those areas
T: Yeah.
I: Alright. Okay, alright, and ahm, then then one question back to the number of employees, so you said here you have thirty people working, ahm was it always the same number of employees, or when this office here in Taunggyi was founded was it less employees?
T: Now is thirty so from the beginning of this office it is more increased, but in the first accommodation for the southern shan state they just start with 3 or 4 people.
I: Okay. And are also the tasks or the projects, so the activities of this office here increasing within the years, ahm do they have more to do over the years, so let’s say ahm when was this specific office in Taunggyi founded actually?
T: For this office is this time 2007.
I: Okay. So from 2007 till now, so as of today, 2015 march, ahm from the date of founding in 2007, did the tasks, activities or projects, did the number of them increase?, do they have more work to do, did the workload increase over those years?
T: You mean for the
I: Okay, I’m trying to give an example. So for example, in 2007 there were 3 employees, so by that time you might have, I’m just supposing, you might have had one project or so. And ahm, so now you have 30 people working here. Did also the activities go up? So for example, ahm, you know what I mean?
T: Yeah I get you. Because of the staff they more staff because their tasks increase
I: Okay. And for the future you expect it to be even more, so you expect more staff as it more increases or do you think you will stay on this level?
T: Yes, they would be more increased, they would be expect to more staff, because they would expect to get more activities.
I: Okay, okay. Ahm, and well you said you have 6 projects so far, so the water supply, learning, education and so on, ahm how many of these projects do you consider as a success?
T: Among this six, how many projects is success? Ahm they successful in every six times. But ahm, for agriculture training and water supply is more success.
I: Okay. [Leaders of group entering room to join the interview] Mingalaba.
I: Okay, so ahm
T: And also for them you can make an interview with them.
I: Okay, okay, maybe we can just do the rest of the interview together?
T: Yeah.
I: Okay, great!
L: His name is Salmiak In, Coordinator, the one coordinator from one project of six, from this Taunggyi sub-office.
I: Okay, nice to meet you!
L: This is Salmit, one of the coordinators for water supply.
I: Okay, nice to meet you! Well, shortly to us, I’m from Germany, she’s from the Netherlands and we are both studying in the Netherlands, our course is tourism development, ahm tourism management and development ahm and to finish our study we are currently writing on our bachelor thesis and we are analyzing the NGO sector around Inle Lake and Taunggyi.
T: Okay
I: Okay, alright, great. So the previous interview was mainly about when it was founded, what the size of this office is, ahm just about the staff, the main problem and so on, and in detail I go from there on to the activities and some of the funding, just as an overview. So, when we were just talking about the activities and the success, I have a small scale here. It’s basically from one to five, one is no success, five is very successful, and I have this for success, impact, effectiveness, perception and effort, ahm so what I would like to do is to take three projects that you did and then go through the list with it, so what three projects could we for example use?
L: With this three for educational
I: Okay, so what names can I write down for it?
L: ECCD, that’s the short term for early childhood care development.
I: Ah, okay.
L: That’s for kids.
I: Yeah.
L: Water supply
I: Okay, and ahm
L: Lifelyhood
I: Okay.
L: For the countryside.
I: Okay, so I will go through the list three times for each project, so we have the early child care development, ahm how successful would you rate on between 1 and 5, how successful would you rate this project?
L: 4 for education.
I: Okay, so why is it four, why not five?
L: You mean because why not five?
I: Hm.
L: Because for four, when they go like for example like this kind of village and they they do this kind of project and then after that they get good results because the kids they can think and they can ask questions and they can react to the parents, before that in the past time the parents they don’t think about their children and they shout at the children and they think like ahm they treat their children
as a rude way but now it become improved because the relationship between the kids and their parents. But because the distinct cannot get a fine because they cannot go over for southern shan state, cause if they go over southern shan state they have to fight.

I: Okay.

L: And also they get a response, they get a feedback from the teacher, not from the ECCD school and maybe they establish for their own nursery school and also we have other nursery school opened by the government and open by the other people, but this kinda school is not really successful as their own school, the kids after the nursery school after 5 year they have to go for the primary school and kids from the nursery school in primary school they have more really intelligence than other kids and they more bright and their relationship is better than other so also they get a feedback from this kind of teacher.

I: Okay, so In this context, what is the perception of the villagers where the project is happening, what do they think of the project? So do you get a lot of positive feedback or do you also get negative feedback for the project?

T: They just call it positive feedback. They don’t get ahm negative feedback like ahm they just get a positive feedback and they just get a comment like a report.

I: Okay, and the villagers in general, what do they think about the project? So everyone thinks it’s a good thing?

T: Yeah, everyone think that’s the best because also for their children the leaders prays to be keep especially for the farmers, if they don’t have this kind of project or kind of school they have to worry about their kids. Yes, that’s what I’m saying, they don’t have to worry about their kids, so good feedback.

I: So where would you rate that?

L: A four.

I: A four?

T: Yeah. And they they, they do the feedback once in every year from their projects, where they did the projects for the village, so they can get the other four.

I: Okay, okay. And what is the impact of the ECCD project? So basically the difference form the original problem situation? So, what it was like before, and what the situation is like now?

L: Within their projects?

I: Yeah, for the projects. ECCD.

T: Ahm for that, we would have to choose a four.

I: Okay.

T: Cause they for the projects for the kids they get the improvement of the relationships between ahm the parents and also in the local people they get pride, and also they bring a lot of landsman abroad to the school, so the kids are there to get relationships with other people. Before that... they get ashamed for this kind of get busy there.

I: Okay, alright, and for the livelihood project, how successful in general do you think it is?

T: Cause ahm, within they start this project in 2010, now it’s 2015, in this five year they do this kind of project in 113 village, but they don’t get achievement of this project in two vilalges.

I: Okay

T: And now they head a four subheading, they had a small fund, a small loan for the local people, and they said they provide for the pigs feeding, for the breeding, and others for agriculture and technical. Because they don’t get achievement in this two village, in the first village is because of pigs breeding in this year you get big disease, and this one is they do projects as small loan, and the local people move to the other they just have look and they just got jobs in the time and they don’t give back the money.

I: Yeah that would have been my next question, alright great. So for the ahm livelihood project in general, so what is the impact? So again, the difference from the original problem situation, has it changed to the better, are people happy now, so what number can I put the impact?

T: Ahm for this program we have four subheadings, so small loans, for agriculture, ahm for the buffalo and pigs feeding they provide for the local people, ahm every regarded as epattledy for the
agriculture and the small loadn they gave just a Thursday, maybe about three, because they can not
give to all people of the village because they have only small amount of money, but for the feedings
for the village is about four. But for the agriculture they got an improve because before that they
would have a famer the farmer they need a money and they lend the money for the 3000 and after
that they give back to the treators they have to pay a lot. Also if they went to lend the money from
traders, if they don’t want to lend the money from the tradors they have to sellk the land first, so
now is better because they can get loan, this organization is better funding and they just have to give
back not so mach as to the traders.
I: So what is the effectiveness for this project, ahm effectiveness I mean ahm so after it was
conducted, the people had an advantage cause they had their farm, they had their pigs, and from
there on they can usually go on because they have higher amount of return on investment, so the
effectiveness is basically the sustained production of benefits, so the situation after the project ends,
ahm how effective is the project?
T: For the effectiveness is as what I say, I mean can they establish for a stable loan?
I: Yes
T: Yes. They give the money they lend the money for the village as for 6.000 us dollar as for the
year and they can reach a stable loan what it is.
I: Okay, but after this loan has to be paid back, the situation changes because the farmers don’t have
this loan anymore, but in the meantime they could build up a business. So how effective is this
project after all, do you know what I mean?
T: I not really catch you.
I: So after one year, after the project has ended, I mean the farmers did something with the money
they got, they fed their pigs they aahm managed to breed more pigs so they have a higher amount
now, they managed to sell pigs so they got return on investment, ahm and then eventually the
payment stops, they don’t have a loan anymre. How does it go on, how effective does, ..
T: It rotates from village to a village, if this village got an improve, if this village don’t need any more
loan, they took the money, just like giving the money for lending for a period.
I: This is exactly the situation I’m talking about, if they don’t need any more loan.
T: Yes, they move to the other village.
I: Yes but what I mean is after the project has ended, they don’t need any more loan, so how
effective is.. do you know how I can explain it? It’s really difficult because ahm. So the impact of the
project was the difference from the original problem situation. So, that now the, sorry, that now the
farmers can breed enough pigs, to take this one example of it. Ahm, but the effectiveness now, after
the loan is gone, now they are by themselves, ahm so do they have a sustained
T: Sustained
I: Yeah sustainable, so is the project sustainable, after they don’t receive the loan anymore, the
project moves on to a different area, how sustainable is it, and where would you rate it?
T: They will be sustained because ahm maybe in ahm... Because ahm they don’t took the money form
this villager their village because ahm they made a loan system because they want to train to the
villagers how to manage with the money and finally when they don’t need the money anymore they
just donate the money to the village as a funds, so don’t need to pay back.
I: Okay. But, so how does it go on for the farmers then?
T: for the farmers if they want they can lend land from the head of their village, because they for that
money they donate to this village and in that village there will be a committee they take care of this
money, and ahm that money will be used the funds on this village or they will use somewhere else,
and when the farmer needs again they can rent it.
I: And why is it only on 3 then?
T: Because ahm they cannot give to all the villager, ahm... They cannot give to all the villagers
because they don’t have enough money, so after taking time of the three years or 4 years if they
have more money.
I: So for the villagers they have enough money for, where would you rate it ahm there?
T: Sorry
I: So let’s suppose you have enough money, so for the villagers for which it is working, where would you rate it at the moment?
T: At four.
I: Okay.
T: And after that you know that they collect money once every year for the loan, and after that they if the farmer needs they can rent again. And also they take care, they train to the villager how to manage with this money and how to handle this money they follow up again with the villagers
I: Okay.
L: We take further every month in every village
I: Okay, so you check every month
L: Yeah.
I: Okay, alright, alright. And the perception of the villagers, again what do the people of the village think of the project?
T: At four. It is four, it’s okay.
I: So what did they talk about
T: He think you ask about this change, when you were ask about three. Ahm, he think that you ask for the if you can lend, if you can give money for all villager..
I: Alright okay, so the perception why is it at four?
T: Cause they want to look at what they as four, because they can lend the money with a few months interest... Ahm they can lend form this organization and even finally they don’t need to lend this kind of money for the farming, this money will be the village funds, so they give the just a postal feedbacks, so that’s why they give that four.
[mirthes part]
I: Alright, I have some more questions to the network and the funding. Probably short, I try to keep it as short as possible. So are you part of any NGO network, which NGOs are you connected to, or INGOs?
T: For INGO is no, but for the local they have a lot of the network is a big. For the head office in Yangon they have.
I: So the head office in Yangon, but they also like ahm sorry, also this office here in Taunggyi, are you in direct connection to other NGOs?
T: Yes. For this Taunggyi area you mean this office? Cause they have connection with other local NGO.
I: Do you have the names?
L: Yes, Caleanameta, Shwe Denu, Pyuna foundation yeah, SSLDU (southern shan state local development)
I: Okay
L: PNO (Pa-O national organization)
L: Pyundatao foundation,
I: Can you maybe write it down in Myanmar?
L: I’m just using Myanmar name in accent English
I: Or just write it down in Myanmar, Myanmar language
L: Okay.
I: Okay, and I have seen like with these INGOs, cause I have seen caritas out there, for example, or misereer, because they are international NGOs, so how is the collaboration with them, just over the Yangon office then, or...
T: Jujst for the head office for Yangon.
I: Okay
T: That office make a connection with them for this office.
I: Okay, and Yangon is connected to those three out there, or are there also other INGOs?
T: They have more, about 20 donors
I: 20 donors, okay. And are all of them NGOs, or are there also businesses as donors?
T: INGO. There’s a some are business and some are INGO.
I: And when it comes to the business, do they also expect something in return, or do they just as their CSR program give money to the projects?
T: I mean that for donator they are just business men, but they donate money not for the business, if they also for the committee for the head office, they say it’s important, because if you have donate this kind of purpose they will not accept for donation.
I: Okay, alright. So with the network here, how do you work together with the local NGOs, so for example PaO national organization or Shwe Denu, ahm how does the collaboration work?
T: That’s a sharing knowledge experience for everything to each other.
I: Okay, and ahm do you also have regular meetings with all of those NGOs?
T: They don’t have a regular meeting but ahm like a organization like partnership for each other and if some needs to make a meeting, that organization invited other organization and they have a meeting.
I: Okay. Okay, ahm and how do you keep in contact, is it like telephone, or internet, or mail, or...
T: By many ways. With telephone, and internet, and via person,..
I: Okay okay, and for the network, is it like what do you think of like having regular meetings with like NGOs and also like CBOs of the area?
T: You mean if it’s like regular meeting?
I: Yeah what do you think of the possibility of having regular meetings with the NGOs and CBOs of the area?
T: They think that is better than for the regular meeting they think is better because this way they can sharing experience within one month or three months and then they can get improvement.
I: So why doesn’t it happen yet?
T: Yes they have a plan to do that. Ahm that would be another leader of the UNDP
I: UNDP will organize it?
T: Yeah, UNDP will organize it, but now each one got the individual organization got busy so they cannot do but they want.
I: Okay.
T: They already did this kind of meeting last ahm once last year, ahm for the whole this shan state, they have a plan to keep going that, they meet once in a year.
I: Okay, and is it only for NGOs or also CBOs or community based organizations involved in those meeting?
T: For all. For all.
I: For all? Okay. So last year, how many different groups were there?
T: About more than 115.
I: Okay, okay great. Alright, then I have like two final questions, so just in general, I already asked with the scale, but in general for the entire organization here in Taunggyi, what do local people think of your work?
T: You mean for this
I: This whole organization here in Taunggyi. Or what sort of feedback do you get?
T: They will get mostly good feedback
I: Good feedback
T: Yeah because for this organization they don’t expect to get back from the local people
I: Yeah
T: For their receipt, they just went for their receipt for the receipt for the local people to get a better life. And also, they make a donation and they made a lot of projects for the local people, and they don’t have a discommunication not only for religion and not for the ahm race and poor.
I: Yeah.
T: And also they just donate the ahm they just ahm go to business to the countryside region and they make a projects by meet with the local people and they just offer their help, there is not an agent. For some NGO as a they just donate with the agent and they need to get for the know what happens to the donation, but for them they do themselves.
I: So you donate to the villagers on the countryside. So you just give them money or do you also ahm
do it in combination with a training or workshop.
T: Sorry.
I: I mean, you just translated they donate money to the people in the villages. Do you also do it in, we talked about all the workshops that you give, so do you also donate the money in combination to the workshops in trainings or do you also partly just give money to villagers without any training?
T: Also with training to for they make a before they give the money to them cause as investment as loan they give training first.
L: Yes, we make first training, we give first training yes.
I: Okay okay, good. And just in general, for you personally, what are your expectations for the or hopes for the future, how the work for the NGO here will go on and how it will develop for the villages?
T: And they expect to get ahm the people the local people from the countryside region to get independent by themselves, not to be dependent on someone else, ahm they want to show the way how to get independence and how to get improve of their funds and loans like that, even if this organizations cannot ahm because after a time they will leave for this village if they think this village is qualifying and they can think that they can...
I: So self-sustainable?
L: Self sustainable yes.
T: And after that they expect to connect with the local people and the government and also train to the people as open minded and right thinking like that
I: Okay, so again a future-related question, so if that has happened, so if this would happen, that ahm the villages become self-sustainable and independent thinking, what will be the role of this office, what will be your role in this context?
T: They expect to be ahm at to get negotiation with the local people and the government, they are facing problems with the connection, how to make a connection, ahm like a revolution like that, and then because of last two years ago we had an important project, because the farmers of this area they’re losing farms because of the hotel zone so they make revolution with the government
I: Yeah,.
T: So that time they want to be negotiation with the local people and the government, okay. And also they plan expect to get a better training system for the business for local people because to get equipment to better price, an acceptable price
I: Okay.
T: And also for some countryside region is quite difficult to get a connection is quite difficult to get transportation like that, so they want to negotiation about the law for the farmers for the farm for the public like that.
T: He said a non ahm the government makes ahm the countryside region to be improved, the government donates masses of money to each village, before donation they need training so this donation will helping assist to make a training for village
I: Okay. And for this organization, how high are the administration costs, so what percentage of the total costs?
T: Specific if you want they can cut an appointment with the financial department
I: Oh, I don’t mean the exact number, I mean roughly in percent.. so it’s like ten per cent, 20 per cent, ...
T: For the office, it depends on the projects.
I: of course.
T: About 70 percent of the money is for the local people, for the projects, and for the expenses here is 30 per cent.
I: Okay, so 30 per cent administration, and of course just depending on the project.
L: Yes, yes
I: It’s just the average number. Ahm, okay, and I’ve seen like I’ve watched through the donor list and there are a lot of Christian, or religious organizations as donors. Does that have any influence on you, on the operations?
L: You mean, of difference?
I: Yes, I have seen
L: Yeah, yeah. Ahm
T: You mean for the conflicts right?
I: No, well I mean just in general, I have seen on the list of sponsors and international donors and there is for example Christian aid, there is SEM, there is this organization, I don’t even know what it is but it’s a Christian symbol, so there are quite some Christian organizations. I’m just interested in if their background, the religion has any impact on the projects that they support?
T: Their purpose is to get a better life for the countryside region, so if is ahm somebody donates money with some purpose like doing business or doing some religion I guess they will not accept
I: Okay, okay, that would have been my next question, so donors don’t influence decision making for a project?
L: Yes.
I: Okay, okay, great. Ahm
T: They don’t give for this organization, if they accept some money they don’t give any information for the donor
I: Okay, okay. Great. And ahm are all the employees of this office paid, like do you get a regular salary or are you volunteers?
T: They have for the minimum is 100 dollar for a month and maximal is 700 dollar for a month, depends on the staff
I: On the level, yeah.
L: Ahm this is agriculture and civil project, and there is... [shows pictures].
I: I have one final question, it’s about NGOs in general, in this area here, so in the past 10 years, what has changed in the NGO and INGO development in Taunggyi and area?
T: They’re changing in the policy and they have to give to because in the first time because also depends on the government, ahm they cannot do as like the freedom here, now they become open and they policy change and they more interested in technical organization and technical
I: Okay, and ahm the changes in general in the NGOs and INGOs, are they good or are there also bad ones?
T: So for example, ahm I have heard for in other interviews that we did, that some locals and some international NGOs rather consider themselves as businesses and try to make money instead of ahm really helping the people?
T: They didn’t find... For the NGO for this Taunggyi area they didn’t ahm have this kind of NGO yet cause the NGO coming here is not so long, just recently 5 years ago so they have NGOs not so long here so for stating activities for the countryside region, and the other things because of the government changing to democratic so it’s become open and the first time we cannot go for everywhere, but no become open and go everywhere now, so now is better.
I: Okay, thank you very much for your answers,
L: Okay, thank you. Please, may I know your names? [written down in guestbook]

END
I: So I’ll just start with some general questions. So when was Inle Speaks founded?
R: Actually in starting from March of last year (03.2014), before that we have already the small organization called “save the nature” and working with the RCT development program as a team with a young people who are working in tourism so we train them with the relevant embodiment and ahm other knowledge from the senior guides so we called them the Raffina Contactor Team and after that we have the save the nature so we have already done for the environmental conservation around the lake. But ahm because the connection with the Partnership for Change, and after that we are talking with the tourguide and give the name to Inle Speaks so we are introducing to the community “is the Inle Lake alive or not, how do you think”, but now we start talking and paying and seeing and go like the pollution and things like that, so visioning that and then we can think about the how, because the region is called Inle and the people is called Intha, so we feel like it is their mother so how to treat back to your sick mother, we give the name to as Inle speaks, and then at that time we got only two ahm things we are doing for environmental conservation and for the lake conservation, and human resources development. But this year after we connect with some other NGO and INGO so we are helping for the SNB sector. Because while we proceeding SNB promotion is not only for the industry, also they are include in the service industry, so is good to helping for the SNP promotion by skill and all that, so now Inle Speaks is doing environmental and lake conservation and you know resources development and SNP sector promotion. That’s from now, and from last year we got the working with the PFC, but after I fully responsible on October now we can go quite quick for the vision and mission of Inle Speaks, and then also we got connection with the INGO like ahm Australian volunteer and also by german government GIZ and also now we are doing with the ahm BiF business innovation technology and then also we are working with the culture and ahm vocational relation and some other relation like a young caleanameta foundation and also Shwe Inthu and the Inle Youth foundation and the Nanthu village and also we are connected with the golden future education foundation in Lhama and also we go with the local union main tha for waste management and things like that.
I: Okay. And ahm, at the beginning you talked about “we”. So, before Inle Speaks was founded, “we” was...
R: Eleven tourguides have founded all save the nature which was environmental and then after that, which was 2011, but in 2012 we know that tourism is increased so ahm we have a plan to open with the young adult so we give the rct training
I: Okay
R: We train 287 people to involve in tourism, to get a job opportunity, also the tourism promotion, how to do the responsible tourism, then better income, then finally to reduce the poverty in region. So we are helping for the HRD sector in that year, and then after that 2013 we are ready to get connected with the PFC so we trained IS for training for people who were already in the tourism industry and then from last year we train for regional guide and regional contact person here so I think.
I: Okay. So, you do these trainings as activities and what other projects or activities do you have next to...
R: Ahm because of training we got the man power so we got that man power we use it for the environmental awareness programs the activities we are growing trees and things like that we are going with the community and also we work with some of the bank together for awareness program in the western bank of the lake, and going in the community, growing trees, and community waste and other garbage and things like that and also we invite the minister of the culture and we grow the tree in the western bank of the lake for the deforestation program. We do what we can do here.
I: And after you train the people, do you also have like offer employment for them or...
R: Ahm we don’t employ them but we got the good opportunity to get the job so after 287 people we are proud of that about 50 per cent get a job in tourism and also in government sector because of we have a lot of the knowledge, so when they got the interview they got the good level interview and things like that where they got the job and then also we already in the tourism for the good feedback
because of the knowledge and the regulations and acts and things like that so they got more income like a tipping and fees and things like that. They got the how do you say the ahm value ahm quality, they get the better income.

I: Okay. And ahm, who initiates those projects or trainings, like who comes...

R: ... the leader because I am the leader of the tour organization in southern Shan State so I work with the minister of Intha affairs, so we work with the relevant government department like ahm the person from the ministry of health, from the minister of the home affair, we work with the police, for human trafficking, narcotic drugs, child rights, child abuse, child labour, those things and working with the immigration department, the policy for foreigner and something like that and also we work with the forestry department for the lake conservation and biodiversity and things like that and also work with the Intha culture and literature association and we work also in culture a lot aside so we got some of the knowledge. We know that it’s very short time but ahm better than nothing so they get a little bit skill then they got more confidence in their field in their work so we give some helping to them.

I: And if you wanna work together with for example minister of health, police, irrigation department, do you approach them or do they approach you as...

R: No, because we want as I am a leader we got a request letter from the Myanmar tourguide association on this day we want to train this kind of a program, we want that kind of a subject and act, so are you convenient and what time convenient, something like that. We write back and forth, and what time to be with them and then setting the time and then how many time they can give because one day, 45 minutes for one subject, so we asking with them and then after that the other senior guides teaching all the relation of the tourguide and then other knowledge we are giving them to the young people.

I: Okay. And on what basis do you choose the projects? Is it the general...

R: We are to the young adult because tourism is increased here, we know that there is a need for skilled people and things, in the region we a lot of the trekking and hiking, kayaking, bird watching, so some of the ahm national level guide are busy with their, their assignment or their contact to the travel agent so the individual troubles, we must train those kind of people because experience I got is when I trek with a group arranged by the tour agent from Kalau to Inle, and the first day no problem, the second day after one and a half hour walking later we got some problem on the way, ahm which is why 60 year old French couple and they go with the local guide and local guide mean to show people way and cook meals and things like that, and then because of the hot, the people they go to sit under one tree, and then unlucky unfortunately some people collect the honey in the tree and the bees got angry there, so when they go in they try to run away, and then they fall and broken arm and about 200 bees biting so there was a lot of thing (stings) and that guide can’t do anything just sitting and crying. So we are helping with the colleague locally to get the payment and things like that, and then so we know that this is one of the things we need to help for the tourism promotion and then after that about one week 10 days later there one of the police come and call me we go to one problem in the hospital, so when I got there they go trekking with someone in the eastern part of the lake they’re falling, they’re breaking bike, but they went to the hospital. Then after that the person is narcotic, so we cannot ask him to history what happened, how it happened, then cause of they don’t know how to treat or things like that the intha minister call me we have a such kind of a problem we have to what can I do. Okay, I got the idea so we started to train people and started a regional contact team, they are not tourguide, they are contactor, they give orders on the way, they show the way, prepare some food, and we have been there so we have trained. After that to get trained we got approval from the national overall minister and then also the ministry was helping some kind of a subject knowledge for the local level for this region now we got a three level guide, which is national level, then they train in the region by the ministry for regional guides while we send the others RCT, with the guides and some other relevant department for the trekking, especially this is to helping for the trekking. And we have a then from that level some people will become guide some people become national guide so like a bridge we are helping the young people to involve for the more skilled in the future.
I: And, like, on what basis do you choose for the different trainings? Because ahm do you like read reports, do you get feedback from the community of the area what skills are needed, or do you just have it form your general knowledge?

R: Yah, because this is we are choosing on the language. And then also we have a lot of before that only in Nyaung Shwe we got thirty-five different trekking services ahm trekking, hire bicycle and things like that, and each one they get about three or four guides so that they can work together, so that’s it about and one hundred. So at that time we are not choosing only from main land Nyaung Shwe also we involve from Mai Tha nearby the Hotel zone and from the western part of the lake and the southern part of the lake for the whole region. So we helping them to because at that time P&O organization also had some program for the trekking in the aria but my colleagues wanted they are coming together so we trained them for the how to say the quality not only for quantity, to get the responsible tourism in the area.

I: Okay. And here in the office, how many employees do you have?

R: At the moment we have three permanent and four individually and then ahm two sent from PfC and now one from the GIZ and two from Australian government.

I: Ya. And ahm, the three permanent staff, do they have any training before, did they...

R: Yeah they have some, apart from the RCT training also some people have a license, some people training by people with the IT knowledge and the system, and then the other is for administration.

I: Okay

R: But after we got from PfC and now we are going to get skilled labor because we need labour at that time so we wont people but actually now we have skilled labour until the water festival and after more skilled staff will come.

I: Okay, and are they, do they get a payment?

R: Yes, yes, yes, we got salary and funding from the PfC.

I: Okay, okay. And ahm, the three permanent staff, do they have any training before, did they...

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I: Okay

R: But after we got from PfC and now we are going to get skilled labor because we need labour at that time so we wont people but actually now we have skilled labour until the water festival and after more skilled staff will come.
I: Ahm so, so in general the community thinks here really enjoys what you are doing so the perception of the Inle Speaks is very good
R: Yes, yes
I: Are there also any negative voices, like do you get any...
R: Oh yes well this is nature always in the world together so some people complain that its because we train people that they might lose their job and things like that but but ahm tourism is not ahm only for one,
I: Yeah
R: it’s a service industry, even though they have no license or scale who have a good service and good quality they will get the job, so that’s where we ah ah a little bit the ah ah negative point of view and things like that, some of the tour guide complain but most of the community and tour guides from Nyaung Shwe are very well understanding
I: Okay
R: happy and work with us.
I: And since march 2014 when you opened Inle Speaks, did the tasks increase? So ahm do you have for example longer office hours or do you have more staff since the opening?
R: Ahm, at the moment we still have that number we didn’t increase the staff but also we do other sector called ESR training so we so we hire the some skilled staff for the training as a teacher and they are SRCT trainee in former time but because of the skill and then we employ them again for the future training and they can do this.
I: Okay. And ahm, so for the network, we already talked about you are part of a lot of networks, you basically work together with the tourism association, ahm with the tour guide, ahm so do you also work together with CBOs in the area?
R: Huh?
I: Ahm CBOs, community-based organizations?
R: Ahm comm... yeah something like that, Shwe Inthu and Shwe Intha, culture they are also community based.
I: Ahm yeah I think they are actually officially registered as NGOs,
R: Yes
I: ahm except from that student group, ahm, R: the other is not yet, community based is not yet, so we are mostly working with who was already... but some are organization but they didn’t have an official registration yet they are just working and helping to the people, ahm they are like a golden future education foundation, they are a CBO you can see they are helping to the community, ahm for education center also they’re helping for the environmental section something like that, and also Shwe Intha youth group near the nanbu village they are also not working paid and something like that, so work, sand also now we are going to work with the Danu region with the Danu administrative with the government helping with the tourism promotion in the region. So on the may 27 we go to open the personal training in Danu area. For that we work with the MoCap and the Danu organization and Danu administrative group.
I: Okay. And ahm how exactly is your connection to PfC? Because I have talked to Ida (PfC member) already a little bit and she told me that Inle Speaks was actually founded or a project of PfC
R: Yes. PfC now the executive director Barbara is my director I guess unless I die and then she come to Myanmar for everytime and then ahm one day she asked me how can we help the school, because at that time the policy we cannot do anything for the school but we have the young adult that we have already trained something like that and after that now she very happy after one year ahm save the nature and RCT and after that they have a starting helping for the promote that so ahm they are starting with the ESR training for the group already in the tourism industry, after that they asked me to work with them so Barbara did Inle Speaks as a local organization and PfC get a Partner with the Inle Speaks for the organization. Then, because then at that time Inle Speaks is under the MTGA because tourist guides are learning, but after that just for the Inle Speaks organization we are separate from the MTGA and register the township administration and then I am the leader of the organization cause according to their policy they work with the official organization in the region is
already ahm running for the community development so they put more power and to get the more work in the future so we got the supporting from the PfC.
I: Okay. And ahm do you also have any partnerships with businesses in the area, so to the private sector?
R: Ahm, no. We are just still just helping to the community we didn’t start a business relationship to the other.
I: Okay
R: Not yet.
I: Alright, ahm okay so now I go over to funding, so who is funding Inle Speaks
R: PfC
I: PfC?
R: PfC is in for the Inle Speaks
I: Okay
R: But before that tour guides put their own money to keep running for the training. But now PfC funding for the Staff and then for the other ahm project. Yes last year PfC funding for the made one school, helping good school as it was for that and then also ahm some other project like ahm unusual training so they provide the the teacher.
I: And so ahm PfCs is the only source of funding or are there also o...
R: Yeah PfC is the only source of funding. For the ahm Inle Speaks. And we didn’t get any other organizations to get the funding, but we work with together with the other providers of like the GiZ provide us senior expert and also the government provided senior expert and things like that they actually work so it’s not funding just for the concept they provide, so no financially but they are funding this with their consultants and senior experts.
I: So how is GiZ connected then? Because if PfC is the main ahm international organization, how did you get in touch with GiZ as well?
R: GiZ was coming to the Inle Speaks
I: Okay
R: GiZ not directly connect to the PfC, GiZ come direct to the Inle Speaks. So Inle Speaks is like a host organization in the region
I: right
R: So after that GiZ have a plan so GiZ say we work together and also we work together so we are working as a team now, yes. GiZ is not directly supporting PfC, is supporting Inle speaks
I: Okay
R: Inle Speaks is a local organization and also officially in the region so GiZ decided to work with them before GiZ working with us they said they looking around about 40 small organizations in the region and then they ahm like to work together with Inle Speaks because they have already done a lot of things like training so they are trying to help and that’s what they want with the Inle Speaks because of the inle Speaks is made funding by PfC so we work together.
I: Okay. And ahm, how accessible ahm how is the accessibility of the fund? So for example if PfC invests into operations that you have the training etcetera, ahm how does it work, do they transfer the money to a bank account, do you have to...
R: Ya PfC is ahm they have a money transferring to Barbara but they can not contribute directly to the community as like they did the school as here they can not directly to the government so we are going to someone in the local, after from there we transfer money to the community or things like that, so they can not directly by the policy at the moment they can not directly to the do the things they want to do, so they transfer to Inle Speaks, Inle Speaks will helping to what their goal is and position and things like that
I: Okay
R: and we will manage for the funding for future for different kind of the project.
I: Okay, and at the moment like what is the percentage of administration cost of this fund?
R: Ahm, yes ahm it’s ahm about for the office running is about 1.500 dollars and some the others we already registered so before we got the project and if the we mix some relevant but now we have a
communication and the other relevant apartment and things like
I: Okay, and you know in a percentage how much of the entire fund that is?
R: Ahm,
I: Like let’s say for one month you have the funding and the administration costs so in a percentage
R: Administration cost is about 1,500, but actually yet we didn’t funding how much will be cause
depend on the project we need to write in the proposal, afterwards they finding for a donor they can
do or not so that is depend on so we are not the this is a million dollar funding for this year or
whatever not like that, they have a finding so we have a project if Inlé Speak have some program or
project we write a proposal and then pfc decide if we do it or not and things like that
I: Okay. And ahm the money is mostly used for events or trainings or
R: Ahm yes, also because of we are target on the young adult with job opportunities so we train to
get the better job so we are using for training and then also we are contribute lieka solar lamp in the
southern part of the lake, and ahm a a mostly the training we can say computer electricity and ahm
language training and some other training depending on the job.
I: Okay and ahm yeah okay we have already talked about the impact to the tourism development or
in general to tourism, ahm so what are your expectations or hopes for the future for Inlé
Speaks?
R: Ahm yes, Inlé Speak we are future is to trying for the self sustainable, so self standing, and then
also like helping to the community as much as we can, and then depending on the funding we got the
senior expert, because in Myanmar the main major important to the people in the countryside is
economy, not education. All for economy they got the education, because if we don’t have a better
income to give the education they will not so we target for the income and then education, that’s
when we train them to get a better job, and then after that they have the access to learning more
other things, then they got the better income, then they got the better knowledge, so we train to get
the job opportunity.
I: So it’s basically that you train the older generation so like the parents for example so that they
have money for...
R: No, mostly the young adult, not the parents, young adult, yes.
I: Okay, alright. Okay. And ahm, so for the past 10 years, what has changed in the NGO or INGO
sector around inle lake?
R: Yaaah, before the for years before we don’t have such a chance even not allow five people
together and things like that because this is a political period but now they have allow for different
kinds of organization, NGO and INGO coming in and that’s why we have the Inlé Speaks now easily
ahm local level and then by the MOHT we have a tourguide association, power association, hotel
association, so that they can do different kinds of organization and also we have the oriental market
system so all the business is open for the private sector people get the opportunity and they can
promote their income so last year and now if you compare to this year we got the 8.5 per cent
gowing up in economy all over the country
I: Ahm. And so I’ve been talking to a lot of other NGOs around the area and some of them actually
told us that ahm the number of NGOs is going back, so decreasing, some of them told us that NGOs is
increasing
R: Yah because in former times they all try to helping but all the funding is just on the way, not back
to the grass roots level so that’s why all the INGO are understanding about that. So they are finding
to things like Inlé Speaks so they go just to the person what they need to helping like the PFC with us
to get really effect to the community, before is they are ahm other plan and they have no really
implementations and things like that that’s why some of the NGO even the local people they are not
very much sometimes like to the INGO because they are not really effective to the community but
like Inlé Speaks and the other we got three or four, and they really work for the people and they get
respect from the community so this is a changing. And also yes some people they go to the conflict
area and then they may have some things ahm different on their policy, people didn’t accept that like
ahm kind of mistakes and things like that, so general we can say most of the community is little bit
misunderstanding to INGO because they know is a felony for the government not for the community or the grassroots level.

I: Ya I’ve actually an example of yesterday when I interviewed a CBO in the area of Inle Lake, and they told me that ahm basically they do not understand why INGOs do their own research in the area because the CBOs know very well what is missing in the villages, so they do not understand why INGOs do not get directly in touch with the CBOs on the spot.

R: Yes, that’s why now CBO CSO like the PFcfinding like the GiZ, so they go to the grassroot CBO CSO and what they have know so now they are the idea of a INGO are also thinking and try to finding really to the grassroot party.

I: So you think the current development in the NGO sector is rather positive or?

R: Ahm for the Inle region they are ahm okay, they accept now because of the MAID research and easymod doing like a danu area what they do for Inle region and they start understanding this is quite effective, because they are really work with the CBO and CSO, so they are quite accept ahm these MIID Easy mod PfC GiZ something like that, people are really mis understanding to the UN project because they are now again giving a funding to the UN but is not really affect to the business but now they are some get respect what they are do some not. By the community.

I: Because the CBO like yesterday also told us they actually do like special trainings in the villages around to teach the people there hoe to deny projects of INGOs that wouldn’t make sense for the place. So they have a special training to prevent INGOs to go tho these areas with their projects.

R: Yes yes. Some people misunderstanding about that and people can, yes.

I: Alright.

[Mirthe asks questions]

I: Okay, well I think that’s mostly our questions, thanks a lot for your time.

R: You’re welcome

I: No, it was a great deal of information this time

R: Yap.

I: Especially also your opinion to these CBO ideas, it’s really interesting actually.

R: Yap. Okay.

I: Thanks a lot!
CSO1
I: Okay so i’ll just get to some general questions and then to the networking and funding of your organization.
T: Yes
I: So when was it founded?
T: Ahm this group is just founded in 2013 and also before this group it was small things like SRG, it’s like 2006, 2007, something like that
I: Alright, alright, and then 2013 it joined as Shwe Inle?
T: Yes, Yes.
I: And what is your main field of work, so what are you mostly doing?
T: Yeah before they move here they are working in Inle literature ISDD, the first one we went there, and now they moved to here
I: And ahm, why did they move?
T: ahm okay okay. Because they haven’t their own egent for the office so they borrow from IECD, and after that they got their fund every November in a year, so after they got the fund they moved here.
I: And what is the main field of work you are doing?
T: Yeah their main goal is to educate the villagers, because of for the villagers they want to train how to save the money and also how to save the money so they train about ahm the economic something like that and also sometime they train about the agriculture, and also they train about the society how to link with another group and how to link with another village something like that
I: Ahm, in the perspective of linking NGOs or linking
T: Not NGO, just CBO
I: Okay, so get in touch for different CBOs for example
T: Yes. This group has all are from Inle, also the village, different vilalges, and also before 2009 here in Nyaung Shwe here has the office on UNDP and now they moved to Taunggyi so it is a sub-group.
I: Alright, and what is the name of it?
T: Shwe Inle.
[Mirthe question]
I: So the projects you have are villagers education, so saving money, and also agriculture, and as well connecting different CBOs in the area as I understood it?
T: Yeah.
I: So who initiates those projects?
I: Maybe translate for a minute, short break for translation?
T: Okay, Yeah ahm UNDP is initiated the programs
I: Okay
I: Okay and ahm what do you think of the projects that UNDP initiates, do you think the villagers need those projects or do you think there are other projects the villagers need more?
T: Yes because of the villager are really need the project like the drinking water and the toilet and also the technique for the agriculture and also another things.
I: Okay, ahm, but drinking water and toilet are not funded by UNDP or not projects of UNDP?
T: Yes UNDP apply the fund and also the project and also the some of the villager supply the fund for the toilet and also for the water and also like a kind of road or bridge or something like that.
I: Okay. And the training, for example for economics and agriculture, is it also provided by UNDP or is it self-organized?
T: Ahm yes, UNDP train to all of these women, and also they share to another village
I: Okay, so UNDP trained all of you and you are training the villagers then?
T: Yes
I: Okay. And how many employees are working here in the office then?
T: Ahm actually they are not the employees just working for free for this region
I: So as volunteers?
T: Yeah and also they are not get the salary,
I: Yeah volunteer.
T: Volunteer, yeah.
I: Okay so there are one two three four five volunteers?
T: Yeah eleven.
I: Eleven? Okay.
T: Yes some are from another village
I: Okay, and ahm also someone who gets paid by UNDP who is always here in the office or is it ahm so everyone who is working for the office is a volunteer.
T: Sorry, can you repeat?
I: Is everybody who works for this office a volunteer, or is there also a full-time employee for example or someone who gets paid?
T: Yeah now they are working with another group because ahm they and also they got a training from that group about the agriculture and now they preparing to ahm preparing for the reaining for another villages.
I: Okay, but so for this specific specific office here where we are sitting, are there only volunteers or also paid members?
T: Noone gets paid.
I: Okay, okay.
I: So what was this all about
T: Yeah, they are linked to another NGO like GiZ and also for the Mercycorps, this is for the agriculture, this is about the agenda, when they, about the they were picked a training, now they are preparing for the training, and also this is the...
Yes, they have the training in Yangon, so most of the group in southern shan state so like in that group they also the volunteer group, so they don’t get a salary that’s why they will be a volunteer group so they decide to take the job.
I: Okay, is mercicorps training them or the other way around?
T: This is from Aung Pen, yes, and also is not an NGO just a kind of a business,
I: So they get a training by them
T: Yes and they are training with another village.
I: Okay, so this is a business.
T: Yeah.
I: Right. Okay, and ahm, just in general, for you personally, do you have any sort of training, or what did you do before you were working for this NGO, ahm CBO, sorry
T: Yes before they work here they work in their village like weaver and some were working for funds, yeah
I: Okay. And now it’s a full-time job here, so you come here every day from 8-5, or?
T: Yeah some of them are live in here, some are very close to Nyaung Shwe, so they go home every time and after they come here, but they don’t have this ahm like the special time to come here, but if they are very important they call them immediately so they come.
I: Okay. And this group here, like were you personally like selected by UNDP or did you found this CBO and then get in touch with UNDP, how did that work?
T: Yeah because of when they still work no, when they are not here yet, UNDP came to their vilages and they choose the leaders who can work this group so they pick out for 11 because they will stop in Nyaung Shwe and they will move to Taunggyi that’s why, ahm they want to put in office in Nyaung Shwe to control all the small groups, that’s why.
I: Okay. And from your activities, do you send like regular reports to the headquarter, to the office of UNDP, or do you publish any numbers or achievements?
T: Ahm yes... Yeah before UNDP is here they have to report to them but now they don’t have to send the report but if they got the fund for this office, they have to report
I: So whenever they have an investment for this office they have to report, or..
T: Yeah, and also they only got the first time for the funding, for the fund is like the office equipment like computer and something like that, so they don’t, this is the first time.
I: But someone gets paid there right, like personal...
T: Ah yes, for this personal the UNDP want to rent the security for this office, but for the man is not very you know okay with them, that’s why they don’t rent, but for the trip to meet with another group they want to get more transport cost so that’s why they post a report for the transportation.
I: And do you also publish report about achievements, so for example if you have a project about agriculture in one of the villages, do you also report like to UNDP about it, to the office, like how it went?
T: Yes before UNDP is here they sent the report, but now is they don’t send a report
I: Why?
T: Now is a they only just finished two projects for the agriculture and also they didn’t get the receipt how the success or fail, they just washing the receipt.
I: So they are still going to send the report, or?
T: Yes they will send.
I: Okay, okay.
I: Okay, so how does that work? [Got a paper with organization structure]
T: Okay, ahm this is a three step guide, the township step and the land step and then the group step.
I: And what does TLG mean?
T: Township leading group, Cluster Leading Group,
I: Okay but it goes further here to, what is this?
T: This is the group step, so they don’t know the SRG.
I: Okay, I’ll figure it out. Okay. But what what is between those last steps, between this one and this one.
T: No this is the same!
I: And why are there all those small lines?
T: Because this is many. Like 42 small groups
I: Okay, okay. Small regional groups
T: Yeah.
I: Okay, and this is graphic of so this is graphic of the funding or the hierarchy or...?
[talking for 5 minutes]
I: So what is this all about?
T: Yeah just not for the ahm how can I say, not for the changing, just for the washing and caring and just manage
I: So it’s just the hierarchy, okay
T: Yeah
I: Okay, so what are the main problems of the NGO here?
T: Okay, their main problem is about the funding, cause of when they got the fund from the UNDP they are not enough to separate for the villagers, so the villagers need much more money so they request to borrow the money from another place, so the microfinance work ahm they ahm borrow the money for the villagers but they have to be 5 people in one group now the group like 18 or 25 or something like that so they separate from this group and they join with the microfinance, so now their group is a little bit smaller than before.
I: And what do they do with that money, they’re starting a business, or can you ask them what they do with the loan. And I have one more question maybe we can do it with the translations similar to the conversation, because as it is right now like it is like 10 minutes conversation between the 5 on the opposite and then you summarize in like 30 seconds so there’s a lot getting lost, so maybe like every three or four sentences you can translate, that would be awesome..
T: Okay!
I: Okay, alright, nice! Okay can you ask them with the microfinance, they form groups of five but what do they do with the loan?
T: Yes, they are working for agriculture and also for the yeah mainly agriculture.
I: So five people are working together in a group, and they need funding for a certain project or do they just, just how does it work exactly?
T: Yes they are working for their own business.
I: Okay
T: Okay, yes, for another 42 groups they are working not only their own business but also for their village so they are one part of the ahm their group but for 5 members in one group is just borrow from another group and working in their own business, so that’s different.
I: Okay. And, if they get the loan from UNDP, do they get any support, or does this CBO do anything to support training? Cause Sai Win told us in the interview that ahm if you get a loan from UNDP that they just give the loan and the people don’t know how to manage it, so they don’t know how to manage the business?
T: Yeah before they got the fund from UNDP, the villager have to be the reason why they need to borrow the money, for the agriculture or for their own business or something like that, so if they got the agriculture they want and need a training
I: Okay. And they provide the training?
T: Yes.
[Mirthe question]
I: Okay, ahm yeah sorry, I have a couple more questions, so how many projects or trainings did you already implement?
T: Four
I: Four. Only trainings or also other things?
T: Yes. Only four.
I: Okay, and ahm, how many of these do you consider as a success?
T: Yep they are success in that all project.
I: So, if you take one of these projects, which one can you choose one of those projects, just for an example? Just the name of it?
T: Yeah, is about the woman saving group, woman saving training.
I: Okay, so if we maybe just take this name, women saving project, so you know still these scales that I have, so how would you rate the success of this, it’s going from one to 5, one is not at all and 5 a lot, or 5 the most, so how would you rate the success of this project?
T: So five
I: Five, okay.
And what was the impact of the project, so the impact on the original problem situation after the workshop?
T: Okay. Yes before they do the training most of the villager most of the women cannot write their name and most of them cannot do their own signature, but now is they can write. And they carry everywhere
I: Okay, okay. So it’s also, of course. And what did the people in the village think of the project, what was the villagers’ perception of it? Were they all positive, or were there also negative opinions about this?
T: Yeah it’s number four.
I: Okay. And what did they tell you?
T: Yeah, because some of the people they thought the negative things on their group because they don’t get the salary and they are doing the volunteer so ahm and then they went to the village to educate the people and also the sharing are not to throw the waste into the water or something like that
I: Not to throw the, sorry
T: Not to throw the waste into the water or something like that some of them are not like a disappoint or something like that for the old people.
I: So the old people don’t like the projects then?
T: Not the project for their group, yeah but now they accept.
I: Okay, so you mean by the time they did the project the people or or some people didn’t like the project but now after it was implemented everyone likes it?
T: Yeah, not all.
I: Okay.
T: But more than before
I: So what is the main reason that people do not like it then?
T: Because of the reason that they are most of the old people they thought that they are teaching to
old people so they don't like.
I: Sorry I don't understand
T: Because of they are younger than the old people
I: So they don't wanna learn from older people?
T: Yeah, cause they're kinda proud.
I: Okay. Alright, great, then I one more thing to the general, so are the tasks of your group increasing
since you opened, so do you have more to do now than when you started?
[long talking in Myanmar]
I: Maybe you can...
T: Okay.
I: Too much input!
T: Yeah it's number three, ahn
I: No ahm, no number anymore, it's just are the tasks increasing?
T: Yeah oh I have forgotten, yes, they have ahm they work ahead because of before they cannot use
the email or the internet and then when they came here they were learning a lot about the letter
writing for the office because they have to get a permission for the ahm ahm from the township
administrative office so they have to write a letter to get the permission, so before they didn't know
how to write the letter and to write or something like this so they asked the ISTD how to write and
then they wrote about the letters and when they are row they are preparing and sometimes they
fight each other because very difficult to adjust with the work. But now is almost complete.
I: But did the tasks of this CBO increase?
T: Yes, it means, because before they separate this CBO, they are work with UNDP so they are having
their own how can I say office so now they have their own office and then they can work ahm with
the project that the villagers wanted, so now they have they are confident and they can work.
I: Yes. Sorry the question is actually do they have more work now, since they, so. They opened in
2013, then they had one project going on, I don't know, I am supposing. So now it's 2015. Do they
still have one project, or do they have two or three, you know, is the workload increasing?
T: Okay. Yes now is increasing
I: Okay, alright, cool. So I only have a couple of questions to the network left, it's not a lot, I', sorry
that it takes so much time today. Usually it's shorter. Maybe you can shortly translate that.
T: Okay. No problem
I: Okay, thank you, thank you.
[talking in Myanmar language]
I: What did she say?
T: Yeah before they had the opening ceremony for the project so they invite all of the of the
department in Nyaung Shwe and also the NGO and CBO in Nyaung Shwe all the women can now ride
the motorbike so they just ride around in Nyaung Shwe and they provide invitation letter
I: Wow, that's strong! So in the beginning, so like one and a half hours ago, you mentioned that you
have a training for intra-CBO-Networking? So how does it work out so far, so how do you connect the
CBOs?
T: Yeah before they move here they just stay at the ILCD office so at that time most of the CBO and
NGO came at the office and they met each other and they introduced themselves and also if they
have a project or workshop or something like that they invite all of these women so they attend the
workshop.
I: And how do you keep contact, how do you stay in touch?
T: Yeah, okay, yeah, they are ahm they have the contact number when they met each other they put
in their addressbook or email or phone number.
I: Okay, and how many NGOs are in this group now?'
T: Is over 20.
I: So is it between 20 and 25, between 20 and 30, or
T: Yeah yeah something like that
I: Okay. Ahm, and can any of the CBOs of the area join this network or are these only selected or specific CBOs?
T: No they have a specific list of the NGO and I no, the CBO, just a contact number and address card and some of the CBO are they know and some are they don’t know.
I: Okay
I: So with this list for example, do you have also for example regular meetings with the CBOs on the list, or do you just have the contact number in case?
T: No they have a regular meeting with CBO, just their own group
I: Just their own group?
T: Just their own group, Is mean their village for the for this CBO. For the micro no just for the
I: Oh okay, so only the ones that are directly related to this.
T: Yes.
I: Okay, alright, and what do you think of like a regular meeting where every CBO of the Inle Lake area is involved, do you think that might be a good idea?
T: Yeah, ahm for they for them is very good cause they have the meeting with all with every CBO around in this region, so if they have that meeting they can share their difficulties, they can solve with their ideas and yeah.
I: And so far no one ever tried to set up such a meeting or what is the problem there?
T: Okay, yes, ahm yeah, when they have the meeting with the CBO some of the CBO cannot come because they are busy or they are doing the training or something like this so is difficult to gathering all each other.
I: Alright, okay. What’s with Shwe Inthu?
T: When they had a meeting they invite for Shwe Inthu group so by that time they have their own training and another place so they cannot come.
I: And which are the five villages?
T: One is near in Nyaung Shwe, and also Nanthida is from the outside of town and also this place is also near the lake, is very far from here, like this village [marks on map]
T: That are the same place but different village.
I: Ahm okay, so you said you work with UNDP together, so with the NGOs and INGOs, it’s UNDP, ahm it was also ahm MerciCorps like the business, are there any other NGOs or INGOs you work together with, except for these five CBOs?
T: Ahm GiZ. Yeah they are working with GiZ also, and also the MMID
I: MMID, what is it? Ahm I will check.
So what do they do with GiZ?
T: Ahm yes, the GiZ came here because of they will pay the training but they will have to pay the half of the costs, they will pay for them the half
I: alright, okay. And are there also other businesses you work together with, except for MerciCorps?
T: No they haven’t any businesses they work with
I: And then one, ahm two last questions. Ahm what is the percentage of administrative costs in comparison to the money of projects or trainings?
T: Yeah when they got the fund for this group, or now is they have already spent 80 per cent on this office, another now they are saving in the bank.
I: Okay. And ahm, so, with UNDP and this CBO, for the projects that you had for the trainings, did you propose ahm the the concepts, did you propose them to UNDP or did UNDP tell you what to do?
T: Yeah, the women from Yangon come to all of the UNDP in Shan State most of the place she saw the office in like other cities, she saw everyone in the office, but in Nyaung Shwe she didn’t see the office so she start ahm no she advised to build the office in here so she advise to them
I: Okay. And for the trainings for example, ahm I mean here in this CBO everyone knows what the
problem is in the village, so what is needed. Ahm, so let’s take this educational training for women as an example. So people here know that this is needed. So do the people here form this CBO tell UNDP that they need this training or does UNDP send someone that says okay, you need the training. So from which side does it come? With the office it’s quite obvious I think, but for the training?

T: Yes very depend on the request from the village, when the villager send the report for training they immediately send to the office for training.

I: Okay, so for the projects the office here sends UNDP reports and requests training, and then UNDP send trainers.

T: Yes.

I: alright, okay. And ahm, so what are your expectations for the future, so the future expectations for this CBO?

T: Yeah, they want to be to lead with another NGO, INGO, cause of they are not enough with the fund for the villagers so if they have the more supplier they can be better.

I: Okay, and ahm, just as a very last question to the NGO or INGO development in the past years, what has changed in the past 10 years in the NGO development around Inle Lake, or the voluntary sector?

T: Yes now is everything is changing like the society and also now is before ahm before 10 years ago they didn’t get the drinking water easily, now they can get easily, and also the road, and also for the youth they can do themselves in NGO or something like that, like bloodbank or they can group or they can found the small groups like the bloodbank and also like another social development.

I: Okay, and for the NGOs and INGos in the area, did it become more, did it become less, do they like the NGOs that are there now, do they think there are too many, do they think what they are doing is bad, ... Do you know what I mean?

T: Yes.

T: Yes now is most of now is NGO and INGO are more than before, and some can give the positive impact and some can give a negative impact.

I: Can you give an example for negative impact?

T: Yeah some are working in NGO and INGO, but they cannot do for the ahm the social improvement like for Inle or for their village, they are just working their own

I: What do you mean working their own?

T: Like a kind of business.

I: Okay, but what do they do then if they don’t improve the social factor, if they don’t improve the INle or the area, what do they do then, you know?

T: Hm

I: I mean they have to do something, right? I mean even if it’s good or if it’s bad, there needs to be something they do, right?

T: Yeah some of the NGO are they are sometimes they are doing like cleaning the rubbish in Inle lake, they are positive impact for Inle lake, you know for the environment,

I: Okay

T: But some of the CBO, not NGO, are just the name is CBO but they don’t know what they are doing or something and they don’t know their activity.

I: Okay, so they exist but no one knows what they are doing

T: Yes.

I: So does that mean they really don’t know what they are doing or is it just a company to get money or... so to collect the funds for themselves, or...?

T: Okay...

T: Yeah they don’t know.

I: Okay, alright, nevermind, well ahm thank you very much, no really, it’s...
CSO2
I: Alright, great, so I'll start with some general questions, so when did you found the NGO?
L: No we are not NGO, CSO
I: CSO, yes
L: Yes, okay okay.
I: So when was the CBO founded?
L: About 2010.
I: Okay. And how many employees do you have?
L: There's not fixed, because at first we started working with network with out network
I: So it varies between...
L: Between 30 and 50.
I: 30 and fifty?
L: Yes
I: Okay, and also when you founded it in 2010, how many people founded it together?
L: The first founder is about three or four people
I: Okay okay
L: Our friends
I: Okay okay. And why did you found it?
L: Ahm, at that time that's ahm our group is ahm aim to work about the environmental awareness,
action at first to give the awareness about the environment and consumer right
I: Consumer right?
L: Yes, and consumer education.
I: And how do you do that? SO how, what are your projects or activities?
L: Yes most of my friends are artists and some people are interest about environmental so at first we
are doing the exhibition in our culture museum
I: Okay
L: Yes we use the medium cartoon, poem, installation, and movie, like that for the local people to
show them.
I: Okay. So you are raising awareness by art
L: Yes yes.
I: Okay, and ahm, do you also do other projects, like training for example?
L: At that time, I'm an artist, and after that I am starting to learn to build my capacity to learn about
environmental and the capacity building training I atteneded here.
I: Ahm okay. So it's basically that you are raising awareness about the environmental conditions by
doing art, and doing art exhibitions.
I: And, how do you address the consumer rights, because you said that
L: Yes yes. After we going to learn from the other groups we learning about the consumer training
and we share to our local people.
I: Okay, and ahm, how do you do that, do you have workshops or trainings, or?
L: Yes sometimes training, workshop also, most of the time we go we dream the exhibition and also
the last year 2014 change a little change we going directly to the school, in the school we make a
room, exhibition room, and we make a talk to the student,
I: Hm alright, and ahm so the money, the funds you need to do that, that comes from the revenue,
form the paintings and the poems that you sell or how does it work?
L: Yes, we get from the NGO groups
I: Okay
L: Yes, and now we are doing with MerciCorps
I: Mercicorps, what is it?
L: Poland, NGO
I: Okay
L: And Bauku, you know Bangku,
I: Do you know it?
T: Yangon, just a local NGO
I: Okay, I’ll give you a paper again, can you write down the name
L: In Myanmar, English?
I: Yeah both would be nice, if possible.
L: Yeah of course. I think that’s in English, and another group, KDN, MerciCorp
I: Yeah MerciCorps Poland, okay, great.
L: MerciCorps their branch is Duna here.
I: Duna
L: Duna, Taunggyi, we are never with them
I: So you are never with them but they provide the funds?
L: Yes.
T: Yes they have a network a connection
L: Partnership
I: Okay okay, but this partnership ahm is it only for fundint so only for monetary purposes or do you also go there with your exhibition for example?
L: Yes exhibition and some training, ahm the lost our the last we guardians to do the community for us around our region we are doing now three village to to start to do for a community forest
I: Okay, and you do that together with the other NGOs
L: Yes. Yes. MerciCorps open core project
I: Okay, okay. So whenever someone has a project you join them?
L: Yes, yes.
I: Okay, okay, great. And ahm the lost’s like a future thing
L: Yes, yes.
I: Okay, and ahm so what are the main problems or struggles that you face
L: Face
I: So your main problems just in general, of the CSO?
L: The don’t have not too much struggle I think because the advocate is also with the government or we also go with the forestry ministry sometimes we join with them, during our movement
I: Okay, yeah, but like ahm struggle for example other NGOs when I talk to them, you are a CSO but I’ve talked to many CBOs and NGOs and their problems were either funding, they don’t have enough resources, they can’t communicate with the people in villages, like something like that
L: Yes yes, there is money is sometimes that’s our problem we have no fund it’s also everybody is volunteer, we are not ahm, staff
I: Yeah
L: With money no.
I: Okay, and so for the 30 to 40 people who work here, how do you recruit them or what do they do? You know what kind of people are they?
L: Most of the people are university student and also some people they give their free time, when they are free they are volunteer for us
I: Okay, and their background is also arts or just form all different areas
L: Yes yes, different areas
I: Okay. So how many projects did you already do or be a part in?
L: Ahm, we doing at least at least one year at least one time we doing, at first in 2010 is thirteen show our exhibition and the next year not only here in Taunggyi let’s move to the other region
I: Yeah.
L: Our show and also in Nyaung Shwe there’s the big show in two times that’s now Kachin museum rashin hall, do you know?
I: Yes I think that’s where we went yesterday, there was this huge
T: Yeah it’s near the hotel where Barbara stay
I: Which hotel?
T: Where Barbara is staying
I: Yeah yeah yeah, we have seen it yesterday,
L: It’s near a hotel
I: Inle arts hall, well but I’ve seen it
L: Yes yes, bodies museum, you know. At the time about the festival we we doing our movement
I: Okay, and the other projects, as for example the tree-planting project that you help the other groups with, how many of those projects do you do? Or just in average..
L: Meant we do every autumn time rainy season we we our friend group around our regions
I: Okay, and how many of those activities do you consider a success, so how successful do you think are those projects? Just your own opinion about ti?
L: Ahm, I think in NYaung Shwe we feel good at that movement, and now the from our around our region they also want to do big network about the environmental movement they want to start to organizing the environmental
I: Okay, so connect all the NGOs in the area to join, okay; do you know how this is going, so who initiates it, who starts ahm who starts the process of connecting the NGOs? So what I mean is basically, you said for the near future you want to gather all the NGOs to work together, right?
L: I mean that the other people organize for this kind of NGO as a new NGO, just make a new NGO
I: So start up an entirely new organization
L: We also network in other group
T: For them this is not this is small for ahm when they want to try again then they are a bit bigger
I: Ah okay, okay. Okay, so ahm maybe we can take like one of the projects you did, can you give one example of a project that you did, like that arts exhibition for example in Nyaung Shwe?
L: Yes I want to show with the but we lost our laptop
I: Yaah, it’s
L: But you can watch from my facebook and our group in facebook you can watch it
I: Oh great, okay, so what’s the name?
L: Yes yes, my facebook account,
I: Cozo Art, yeah.
L: Like that you can watch some foto you can watch
I: Yeah, alright, great.
L: And my e-mail address.
I: Yeah.
T: Most of the show’s are in Nyaung Shwe in Nyaung Shwe.
I: Okay
T: So ahm maybe for that you can choose activity they go for the countryside and then they go for the environment and the environmental to choose activities like that.
I: Okay, so when you go to the countryside to do that,
L: Countryside we mean that around our region, not the
I: No no no, okay
L: Around our region, now three village the main purpose is three village we give training about the environmental awareness, and the community forest building and to register their land.
I: Okay okay. And, so in general I have a small scale here, and it’s basically form 1 to 5, 1 means not successful, 5 means very successful, so for the trainings you give on the countryside, ahm how would you rate the success of it?
L: I think it’s about only three.
I: Why? So why would you only put it as a three?
L: Maybe not educated, the village not so much educated, so we have so many difficult to educate them. And we can also we can do pay time or not too much time for them
I: Yes because you are also working here, it’s voluntarily
L: That’s also depend on the fund.
I: Okay, and ahm what would you say is the impact of the training, so basically you have the situation that is in the village, then you come and give the training, and what is afterwards the new situation,
what did change, did it have a lot of impact?
L: Ahm, Now they are interest and want to do the community forest around the village, that’s good, and
I: So the impact is quite high after all, alright, or where were like
L: And some environmental awareness they know something but they can’t change everything but they know their study to change.
I: Okay, alright, and ahm so it is quite effective what you are doing so people realize what the problem is so your main task is to get them thinking about it and to teach them how to do it and now they want to change it?
L: Yeah.
I: Okay
L: For example, ahm about the agriculture, most of the people use the chemical fertilizer and pesticides to was for their living, we for about the some training from some our last day no more, but they can’t change suddenly, they have some problem
I: Yeah, okay. And what do the villagers think of the project that you do the training, do you get positive feedback or do some also think that’s a bad thing that you are changing or
T: Positive, positive, positive. Ah for the local people they accept the cost about the organization interrogation, but ahm not to use a chemical pesticide it will take a long time to get used to that they already use pesticides about 100 years ago, if we change immediately that would be difficult for them
I: Yeah,..
T: So change a little bit and take the time, but for the feedback the local people give us good feedback because ahm for their reputation is good for the local people because they just give.
I: Alright, great. And ahm, so you work with NGOs here in the area, you have this network where you help out each other, right? So for example this you work together with Pangku, KDM and MerciCorps, ahm so you are already in this NGO network and help each other
L: Yeah yeah, but not about...
T: For not for they are just ahm they sometimes they apply they submit for some project but they don’t get helping from this kind of NGO sometimes they just can and sometimes not
I: no, no, it’s just about partnership, yeah I understood that.
T: So not they not relationship with foreign
I: Yeah and do you also have partnerships with smaller groups, like CBOs and CSOs, or is it only with larger groups?
T: Yes they do, they do with other local CBO, CSO,
I: Okay
T: Like a gallery, something like a salvation,
I: Can you maybe write down the names?
L: Kaleana Mitta foundation, KLF. NGO.
I: Alright, great.
L: Here are some from around Taunggyi, and here is from Lyn In, do you know Lyn In?
I: Lyn In ahm is it a city close to here or
L: Ahm they are from Yangon
I: Ah okay, alright, and ahm with those smaller organizations like the CSOs, what is the partnership like with them, is it also just helping out sometimes or
L: Yes
I: Okay, alright, and ahm just in general some, what has changed in the past 10 years in the NGO development or the INGO development around Taunggyi?
T: Ahm now is coming to county country, ahm is changing for the view and for the place, and the projects and first time they cannot do as they want, they cannot go like that this place and they cannot do that this job and they cannot use this kind of walls and they cannot do decoration like that, but now is become open and changing for the CSO but Myanmar with the policy and qualification is getting improves, cause they have to go for training for to be a member
I: Yeah
L: At first we need to get the how can I say permit
I: Yeah permission
L: To yes we need to that take many time to do that but now that’s not too much problem
I: Okay, okay, and in the area here are there more and more NGOs coming up, like are there more and more organizations like that or are they still on the same level?
T: You mean this keep?
I: Well is the number of NGOs here in Taunggyi staying the same over the past years or is there a trend in more NGOs over the years?
T: Ahm, comparing to the last two years ago is become double.
I: double
L: Yeah
I: Okay,
T: Cause ahm they increased for a lot of NGO and CSO because for some groups they do for a like a cemetery volunteer for cemetery and volunteer for education and
I: Okay
T: They have problem with that
I: Okay and do you think that’s a good development that so many NGOs, so if the number has doubled, ahm do you think it’s a good trend that a lot of new NGOs are there or what do you think about it?
T: No they think that ahm NGO
L: The number of NGO is increased but I think they can do not too much
T: They cannot do really well just looking for the groups but their qualification is not alright
I: Ah
T: And also the weaks in the decision like that
I: So first they should get training before they start an NGO
T: Yeah like that so not really effectiveness
I: Yeah. Okay. Ahm and, yeah no okay, and ahm what are your expectations or hopes for the future for the development here in Taunggyi like both for the NGOs and the villagers here in Taunggyi?
T: Just like the one they have just the one is like a green environment and just keeping the forest
L: Green and consumer education for the local people, that’s our main purpose.
I: Yeah. No but but I mean your future expectation of that, like where do you think that’s gonna go or where do you hope this is gonna go?
T: Yes that’s what they hope to. They just keeping that main one purpose
I: Alright, okay. Do you have any ahm
[mirthe questions.]
I: Alright, well great, that was already everything we needed to know, thanks a lot for your time,
L: you are welcome
I: Really appreciate it, and ahm, we will definitely check the koso art
L: What your plan to, another place? We can show one of our network grou
I: That would be great actually.
END
CSO3
R: Walking and we will meet most of the trainings together.
I: Yeah.
R: So it's connect with another.
I: Okay, and how did those connections start? Like are you all friends from these CSOs, or did you meet somewhere, or how did it start so that it became a network?
R: Yeah, I think it is started a network with them because we were going to attend the trainings and we need them in one of the trainings, one or two.
I: Okay. And they were already connected to another CSO so how you met them and then
R: Yes, and the network might be expending.
I: Okay, okay. And ahm, are you also working together with businesses from the city from Taunggyi, or
R: Business?
I: Business, like private business like for example bookstores or
R: No, I'm just working as a private teacher as my for earning money and also I will have my community work after that, not with big business just my own.
I: Okay, alright. And for this CSO, for your small business here, do you get funds for it?
R: NO?
I: So any other organization that supports it financially maybe?
R: We once had get support form one of the organizations for giving teachers training, this is the only one, and mostly we have to save to collect our own money, we just run our business ahm our how can I say our organization run our organization by our own money,
I: Yeah.
R: But if we need more money for giving training we will have to connect some of the donors, but it's rare.
I: Yeah. Okay, and ahm so with this network again of CSOs here in the area, are there also for example some CSOs you wouldn't work together with?
R: No, I don't think so. I can ahm I can work with all of the CSO
I: Okay, no just out of interest, okay okay okay. Great. And ahm, in general, so in recent years, the CSO development or also NGOs, we have just talked about it, the number has doubled in the last two years, ahm what do you think about that development that a lot of new ones are popping up, what do you think about that?
R: Ahm I think it might be a better way if the development is stable, so we can work more for our own township, but we scared that if there is some ahm if we need some development assistance it might be dangerous I think. But mostly, it might be affect in our community?
I: What do you mean with development disaster?
R: For example, If there are so many coming down to our town and working, if they give us the true development it might be okay. But if they just ahm work for their own ahm their own how can I say their own benefit
I: Their own benefit.
R: Yeah their own benefit it might be dangerous and most of the youths might get wrong position if they work with CSO or NGO they might get more money with not working so much
I: OOOokay.
R: This might be wrong with the development assistance
I: So it might be a people abuse the concept of CSOs or NGOs, okay
R: There might be a misunderstanding between the work and [not understandable]
I: Are there also projects against those, so so to enhance the perception of people, to fight against those CBOs?
R: In here, there is no such concept because most of the people here are simple and they want to live cool, so they never strike for that
I: Okay, alright. And ahm, for the future in general for the NGO sector or also for your CSO here, what are your expectations or hopes?
R: Ahm, ahm as for me I want to change my education system of our countries education system,
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ahm but only for our network is not ahm completed I think it’s not complete so we might need to know, we have to know other organizations we work for education, but we have to learn so many things, so I expect that we want to get more knowledge and more capacities if we have more capacity we can connect with other NGO and CSO and it might be just for our townships.

I: And do you have any idea how you would like ahm how you would extend this network of schools or scholarly organizations?
R: AHm mostly I have to think only that this year we have to make to fill up our capacities this year because we have only one training as a teacher so they have to do more trainings and we have to attend more trainings this year and next year we will have to go to the villages, extend our networks with the teachers, mostly not only private but also the government teachers and join together with them, and we want to start from the town level, the grassroot level

I: Okay, and ahm, oh now I forgot my question, wait, one second [laughs]. Ahm yeah exactly, how many trainings do you give at the moment and how many do you attend?
R: I have attended so many trainings and now I think I have attended ahm 2 or 3 trainings concern with education
R: In the past year
I: Okay. And how many did you give?
R: In this year I have to give just for sharing not for training, three month sharing plan for teaching techniques, for weekends
I: Okay, so it’s basically that you meet with the teachers for sharing plans, and then the teachers implement the training, okay. And for three months every weekend?
R: Yes, except for examination time
I: Yeah. And ahm, how often are you or how much time do you put into this CSO?
R: For weekends we have to put 2 hours each for 2 months.
I: Okay, and how many people are working here in this shop?
R: Ahm most of them are students and they are the main person running this organization is only three person and ahm some of most of the volunteers are students they have to clean or cover up the books for the library, so there are altogether I think 12 or 15 volunteers
I: Okay, okay. Great. And ahm, what do you think in general of like registering your network of CSOs, so for example that you have a database that people can find your network actually, so maybe that might be also easier for new CSOs to join, what do you think of that?
R: Registration process?
I: No no, not necessarily registration, but
[translator]
R: We only have a yeah it might be a more convenient for us, but now we make facebook only.
I: Alright, so you use facebook as a communication platform
R: Yes.
I: Alright. Okay. Great. That’s awesome. Okay, well, perfect, thank you very much for your time! It was interesting, really. Because in Nyaung Shwe, we have interviewed nine NGOs and CSO in Nyaung Shwe already and they are trying very hard to set up a network here as you have and they are trying very hard to unite and achieve things altogether, and I am actually really surprised to find something like this here, because it’s a great thing and I am trying to figure out how you set it up, because in Nyaung Shwe it seems impossible, like either people don’t want to work together or they don’t know how to do it because no one initiates it, but here it is just, I mean for this network do you have like a certain person who is like an initiator or a main responsible for the network or does it really come from everybody to the same shares?
R: Everybody knows their responsibilities
I: Yeah
R: There’s no need to get any leader for for doing a job
I: So it’s just this entire network is living by itself
R: Yes.
I: It’s really amazing. That’s great. Alright. Well thank you very much for your time!
I: Alright, nice. So, you already introduced us I think?
R: They are mainly work ahm doing for rights, human rights, child rights, land law, and also Buddha education. And, the direction is to community awareness.
I: Okay, alright. And ahm, when did you start the CBO?
R: Ahm is about 2010. She’s the found this group, but before she was before 10 years she worked at an NGO group save the children. It’s in Nyaung Shwe.
I: Okay. And why did you found the CBO?
R: Before at 2010 ahm they organized a meeting because at that time the water level is very low, like this year, so they have the idea to found this group and to support the lake.
I: So who was “they” in this case?
R: At that time, they have 7 members, 5 intha and 1 Pa-O.
I: Okay. And how did they come together? How did.. did they all know each other before, or did you ahm did you just, how did you meet, how did you come up with the idea?
R: Ahm yes, at the time they were just with the group, and then the leader of the group want to regulate the meeting so they all are gathering together and they all found.
I: Okay, and that’s how you talked about the topic and the idea came up?
R: Yes
I: Okay, okay.
R: And then one of the member is also work at the save the children yeah this one.
I: Alright, alright. And ahm, how many members do you have now at the CBO? You started with 7, is it still the same or is it more now?
R: Yes, now is also the same but different people
I: Okay
R: Ya the old member is quit from this group and the new is joined here
I: Okay. And ahm, how many projects did you already do?
R: Yeah she cannot say that exactly because they already done many kinds of projects like with law and also the elections and the another things, so.
I: Okay, so maybe you can give me an example, because in the beginning you said it’s human rights, child rights, land law, Buddha and education or Buddha education, so what exactly do you do let’s say for example in human rights, what do you do there?
R: Yeah ahm, for the human rights ahm they have the supply with another NGOs they supply for them to get a training
I: Okay
R: To attend the training another village from here. And also the child rights... Yeah, for the child rights they went to other villages by themselves for the cause, yeah. Ya especially they went to the school the state school or something like that, they went to the teacher and explained about the child rights and did the training. And for the land law they have the they want to go for township, like Taunggyi, ... No, for the environment the group is they want to fall for township like Taunggyi for Buddha education, ahm the group from Poland apply the fund and another things to pay the training just ten times.
I: What kind of training?
R: Ahm because of they want to publish of the human rights and also the decision making for the government. And also the constitution for the township. Yeah is ya to make the decision for the country leaders
I: But that’s like on a very large scale, so when you are only with seven members, how can you make a difference, like how can you actually make an impact there?
I: Or not how, but what is your plan?
R: Yeah they have a meeting once a month, and also they haven’t any leader, just a membership. When they decide to a project to choose the responsible for the project, there’s a kind of division.
I: So in general, for every project you have to have a different leader you choose for it, or?
R: Yes, yes.
I: And how many projects are running at the moment at the same time?
R: Ah now they just finished the Buddha education so just relaxing and then they are trying to find another training to attend ahm like another training like American training for the capacity training and also another many kinds of, yeah.
I: So you are joining this training?
R: Yeah, trying to, trying.
I: Okay, alright. And for example for the human rights for the training, are you giving the training or is it someone else?
R: Yeah, before they do the training ahm they attend the ya they attend a training before and then they separate at the region ahm if they do or if they don’t need, something like that, and after that they join the village and give the training
I: Can you give an example of the training?
R: Like human rights
I: Like do they teach the villages?
R: Not only the villages, but also the CBO groups.
I: Okay, so it’s basically you go for the training of for example this American center, and then you pass on the information to other CBOs around the area?
R: Yes, ahm yes
I: Yes? Okay. And ahm, do you work a lot with other NGOs together?
R: Yeah, they have many link with other NGO and CBOs.
I: Okay, and is it maybe possible to get the names of these CBOs and NGOs?
R: Haunku Oranization, Ecotap, Equality Poland, Polish Aid
I: Polish Aid
R: And from the CBOs here in the area, do you work together with them?
I: Sometimes when they are work for the lake they organize the CBO and they have to go there.
I: So there are like CBO meetings?
R: Yes, meetings and afterwards they go to the lake.
I: And in average, for the last projects, how many CBOs are working together then?
R: Yeah, ahm they... in January, at the end of January they work together with CBO about twenty, about. Is from the lake. And also from Taunggyi they work together for a project, Buddha education. And then after that they work together with another CBO and also they call the farmers because of they are a taxed by the government so they are gathering... I am thinking.
I: Okay, take your time.
R: Okay because of they... Ahm the suspension for the law from the parliament they ahm decide to pull the law off land for the farmers because most of their fees keep by the government so they have money that’s why
I: Okay, and you are trying to get this decision to to to get the parliament to draw back this decision?
R: No?, oh no no. Ahm The man from the parliament put the law for the farmers, so they distress about the law but the farmer as CBO. Is the draft.
I: And what happens when the new proposal is ready or the draft is ready then, what happens?
R: They discuss about the old law, and it has many mission about their rights. So, they don’t accept that that’s why.
I: No no, I understand, but so you collect the problems, write a proposal or a draft, but who do you send this draft to? Who gets this draft? Because it doesn’t stay within this CBO, someone needs to get this draft, ...
R: To the parliament
I: Okay, so straight to the parliament.
R: Yeah.
I: Okay, okay.
R: Also the government came to Taunggyi to look them dance, so they came to Taunggyi to talk
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about the law.
I: Okay, so they accept the law?
R: No, they didn’t accept the law, that’s why they came and meet with the government.
I: Right, okay. And for the projects in general that you have, who initiates them? You initiate them on feedback from the village, or based on your own ideas, or..
R: Because most of the farmers are cut by the government, that’s why. And also if they ahm if they show the law, the law is not ahm the law is held by the government so ahm ya.
I: Okay, hmm. One second. Ahm so, for the activities you do, you also need a certain sort of funding, I suppose? So, how do you ahm collect money for the fund ahm for the activities you do, for the workshops, trainings, ...
R: Is Banku NGO is apply for the fund, but only this group, but also another three groups in Taunggyi.
I: With groups you mean CBOs, or
R: No only this group
I: So is one NGO and they do the funds for three CBOs
R: Yes, three CBOs. Okay yeah, they have many tax to write a proposal.
I: So for the fund it is basically three CBOs that apply for the fund of one NGO, or how did that work, I didn’t quite understand it.
R: Okay
Mirtha: There is one NGO, and they provide funds to three CBOs, and so they give money to the groups around, but this NGO is in Taunggyi..
R: You have to have many different ahm proposals for the projects, ahm at that time they have five groups and in one group they have two representatives for the funding.
I: Okay.
R: One is for finance and one is for the accounting. Yah.
I: And, so where does the fund come from, where does the money come from?
R: Is from the Banku NGO
I: Okay, and this one is from Taunggyi
R: Yangon.
I: Ah Yangon
R: Yes they apply for the funding five groups.
I: Okay, and ahm, how did you get in touch with this NGO so that they want to fund you?
R: She has worked with NGO Taunggu before
I: Okay, okay, so that’s how the contact is
R: Yeah
I: Alright alright. And, is there also any other source of funding or is it only this NGO?
R: It’s Poland NGO and Ecotab. Ecolite Myanmar group is donate the books, not for the money, just the books, to educate the people.
I: Okay. And how is the NGO in Yangon called?
R: PAUNGU
I: Maybe you can help me out later with that. And the fund from Poland, the polish aid INGO and the Ecotap fund, how dies it actually work, you request a certain amount and they transfer it to your bank account or do they give it only to you for certain projects or how does it work, how do you get the money?
R: Yeah the Poland group apply the funding for a project, yeah, and for the longer time they assess the project for 6 months.
I: But who is, who is administrating, who is assessing the money? Because, the polish group, they are assessing one project, right. But the project is executed by the CBO here. So how do they access the money from the fund?
R: They came themselves and they bring
I: So the polish INGO came here and gave you the money?
R: Yes
I: Okay, okay. And was it the same for the Ecotap?
R: No. Yeah for the ecotap funding they go to Taunggyi and they can leave out to the bank. It’s rotation it’s for cities, like Taunggyi, ...
I: Okay, and in this rotation they can you repeat it maybe?
R: Ahm yeah, when they are preparing to work for Taunggyi they deliver from the bank
I: Which means, they transfer to the bank, or they..
R: Ah Yes, the money from the bank for one city, and after finish Taunggyi and they will stand again for another City like Lester or so, and they deliver the money again.
I: So, how does it work for this CBO, how do they get the money from Ecotap?
R: From the bank.
I: From the bank, so Ecotap transfers the money to the bank account of some member of this CBO
R: Yes. They have their bank account.
I: Okay. And ahm, what is the money used for from the funds, is it for the training or is it for the.. do you also pay the members from it, or how does that work?
R: Ahm yes, ahm they only got for the training trainer fee like three members and they are a share for seven members
I: Okay, alright. And still for the network, are there also partnerships with businesses from the area?
R: No, they haven’t any.
I: Okay, okay. Ahm, and how do other people in this village for example perceive the work you do, what do other people think of the work you do?
R: Yeah they have two kinds of people because of when they go and give the training for the village they all to them encourage, and another group is especially the government doesn’t like it, because the direction is human right and the law.
I: Yeah, I thought so. So people who are close to the government don’t like the program. But do you also have did you ever have any problems with the government directly?
R: Ahm yeah. Ah they don’t have any problem directly with the government. But sometimes, when they go together or go together with the farmers they have many complaints with the proposal and proposition they make.
I: Okay. And for the future, for your CBO, what are your hopes or expectations, let’s say for the next five to ten years?
R: Yeah they have many directions to go to further education because now on the lake there is over 400 villages now they just finished 50, so they have to do so many villages, is one thing, and another thing is ahm now they have they just found a group like ethnic group and also many kinds of ahm ahm ethnic group. And also they are proposal for the fund, just at the moment.
I: Okay. And, like during the past 10 years here at inle lake, what has changed in the NGO development. So you have been working for other NGOs before as well, so maybe you have some insights?
R: Yes, ahm they have so many kind of NGOs ahm some are good and some are bad. Cause of some are you know they borrow the money for the villagers their main goal is to reduce the poor but now the poor person getting lose their home and their belonging, they have nothing.
I: So, you mean they collected the money and just gave it to the people?
R: No just borrowed the people the money and they bought their... Yeah they borrowed the money for one year but the villagers had to pay like thirteen months or fourteen months.
I: Yeah, okay, okay. So, yah afterwards the level of ahm afterwards the average of poor people was higher
R: Yes.
I: Okay
R: Yes some of the NGO put all for the funding and then the founder give the money just for fund, they only use like 30 per cent for the village and the other 70 per cent is used for themselves.
I: So administration, employees
R: Yes, like some kind of a business
I: Okay. So what do you, what do you think, there might be an approach to prevent those kind of NGOs from going into business here?
R: Yeah some of the NGO ahm they are working in the village but some are don’t like with the NGO and some like so they have conflicts and they disagree two groups or something like that because they didn’t answer about that and they just go back to where they come from so the villager are left with conflict
I: Okay, so they are actually doing don’t do anything good for the area but make it worse after all, fighting against each other. So, could I say that the NGOs don’t work together but against each other? Is that a sort of summary of it?
R: Sorry, can you please repeat?
I: Yes sure, so are some NGOs working against each other, can I say it like that?
R: Yeah some of the Taunggyi NGO can improve for the village but some are sometimes separate the village ahm they want to ahm they want to do is to ahm to solve the problem in that village cause of they do themselves so they have to sort themselves with the NGO. For her is just a price for the village and the NGO, ahm yeah
I: And how could you like prevent this to happen, you know what I mean?
R: Yes they have to adjust with their project the village because of if the village don’t need the project it can become in conflict with the villagers so they have to look the first if they really need or don’t need. Sometimes they want to educate the villagers if their village has another NGO they can defend and they learn how they make the village if they do the project but is their profit for them or the village
I: So they educate the villagers so that they can eventually say stop, we don’t want this project
R: Yeah
I: Okay.
R: And then also the fund for the funding you can ask open
I: The...
R: The fund
I: Oh right, okay.
R: And then they advise to the group they donate the funding cause of when funding deliver the money for the village the NGO can spend for their activities not activity for themselves, otherwise they can send like themselves to the village leader or something like that, yeah they advise that.
I: Okay. So I have one last question actually, ahm so the projects and the training that you do with your CBO, how effective is it? Or how much impact does it have, so when you see the original situation how it was, then you do the training, and afterwards what is happening, did it have a big impact on the villagers?
R: Yes before the villagers they don’t dare to speak with the village leader and now they can speak and they can face each other. If the leader make a mistake they can find that mistake and also and also if he is wrong they can ahm how can I say they can put a new leader
I: Okay, so it is very effective
R: Yes
I: Alright, great, Alright, well, thank you very much for answering everything!

END
R: Inle is for Inle Lake, and Amann is for Power.
I: Okay.
R: Yeah, yeah
I: These are all my first questions already on this paper! [founding date, members, ...]
I: Okay, so I’ve seen already that you have 44 members in your organization, ahm
T: Yes now is increasing
I: Okay
T: Like over a 100.
I: Alright, okay. And how many members did you have when you started the organization in 2012?
T: Yes at that time they have 44
I: Okay, so you started with 44 and now it’s hundred?
R: Yes
I: Okay
T: Now is over 100
I: So what kind of projects or activities do you do, because I have seen you collected funds for a boat, for dust bin, for the funeral, ...
T: The target, our aim the ahm for environment and we are doing the plastic campaign, we are just find the plastic with the fire.
I: Okay, and what is the campaign like, so how do you do that, what do you do?
R: We collect the plastic and we ahm the behind the village we burn
I: And how often do you collect? Or is it in regular...
R: Regular, one week, one two week, and then after the festival, the religion festival, after festival we collect the garbage
I: Okay, and do you do other activities as well?
R: Other activities, we train the awareness training and
I: Okay, so who is doing these trainings?
T: No they are planning for the training
R: No fund, we are weak, weak, weak
I: Okay, and ahm, who chooses which activities you do?
R: Ahm, we are doing the meeting and ahm discussion and discuss it, everybody open
I: Okay, so with all 100 members you discuss?
R: Yeah, but we are our group is ahm chairman second chairman and two cashier group and second leader, primary accountant, the foundation the unite. The different and the variety kind and mind color our we unique and the main is the four people.
I: Okay
R: The main is four village and four people and for country and for environment, our vision
I: Okay
R: our vision is NGO then INGO you understand, we want to work together with them, and awareness, and technical process,
I: Okay
T: And also the politics.
R: Our group is ahm not ahm the political party
I: Yeah
R: And local and to find the rural development, but ahm we are doing the government for the party and
I: So you are no political party but you cooperate with the government
R: Yes
I: Okay, and do you also publish any of your achievements, so for example do you have any book or paper where you write down what you do? So for example if internationsl NGOs or NGOs come around so that they have an overview of what you do?
T: Yes, they haven’t any record, but they have the list for the funeral, and also the list for the
borrowing things, they borrow some instrument like the organ
I: Okay, and for the funerals for example if you organize them, do people have to pay for them as well?
T: No, they fund it’s like volunteering.
I: Okay, alright, and is any of your staff professionally trained, meaning did you have any training on how to run the operation, and how to ahm how to organize?
T: Yeah before they found this group, ahm they had a training for another place and then they organize this group and for the members they haven’t any training not yet, because they have another experience from training from old people so yeah
I: Okay
T: Yes, but that group is came here and trained for the leadership
I: Okay, which group?
T: Nee foundation
I: Okay. And ahm, what are the main struggles or main problems of your cso, what are the challenges that you are facing?
T: The beginning was too difficult, we...
R: The first time doing the meeting and we write the constitution for our group, and then the we were very weak, so we fund, no money, no activity. And then the the
T: Mandalay-based organization, they just taught how to refine the plastic
I: Okay,
T: Ahm, to meet the fire but we don’t like
I: Okay
T: Because the environmental impact the next generation, acid rain
I: Okay
T: Yeah they also want to get the machine from Japan
R: We educate that we distribute the three r, reduce, request, recycle
I: And all in, how many projects did you already do, like altogether?
R: We sent a proposal that the entrance fee the shan state government the for the entrance fee
I: What do you mean?
T: Yes you know that the government tak ehte entrance fee from the tourist so they have so many much money so
I: So you apply for this fund?
T: Yes but they are not yet
I: Okay. And...from the projects you have done, did all work out as a success, or some also not?
T: Here, you can see the planning [shows accountants book]
T: They want to do everything like ahm they want to improve the society, they want to pay the trainings for the villagers, but they don’t have any time. So they just finish for the funeral
I: Yeah. So ahm, for the well what other projects, so you have the environmental, the garbage collection,
T: Yeah they meet once a month and they supply for the small things
I: Okay, so and if we take the garbage collection, I have a small scale here, one means no success, 5 means very successful.
T: Yes
I: So for the success of the garbage collection, what number would you give it?
T: Also they post a proposal for the garbage on the list but the ahm the chairman of this village cannot do for the lunch, that’s also the problem.
T: Yeah for the lunch they only ahm they get all the one of the lunch for the playground and they have to look for the direction of the air because of the fire evacuation and also for the lunch the waterlevel is high after 6 months it may be higher than before so the plastic came into the village so they have to the problem with that
I: Okay, and ahm, what about the people in the village, so for example if you have your awareness campaign, what do they think of the project, of collecting the garbage? Do they develop a certain
awareness of the problem, do they stop littering after a while?
T: Ahm most of the villagers are they accept to do this activity and also sometimes they organize with another village like also we went there
I: Okay, okay
T: And then before they came to the market, at that place they have the lunch and send the garbage, and when they did like that most people from the hotel zone came and put the garbage there, so they had a complain and cannot do anymore.
I: Okay. So you are working together with other NGOs or CBOs together? How many other organizations do you work together with?
T: No they just working themselves, they haven’t any cooperation with another group, and also just not working. They do not want to. Yes they had one time, they put the water campaign, most of the CBO and NGO on the lake gather together and they carry the water heritage
I: Okay, and how long was that ago?
T: One day
I: Oh yesterday! And are you planning to do it again?
T: Yes, they said that they are planning to do once a month
I: Okay, and who came up with the idea, who organized it?
T: German organization
I: Okay. And how many organizations are participating?
R: About 15 groups
T: There’s about 15.
I: And were there any problems yesterday?
T: Not yesterday.
R: One month ago
T: It takes one day. Yes, they are planning it’s a spot for all the village. They have a one month.
I: Okay, so you have a spot where you burn all the garbage
T: Yeah. Okay, yes they want to do everything like open a summer school, and something like that, but they haven’t enough fund for that so that’s also the problem
I: Yeah, okay,
T: And also like the floating market they want to promote, but now that the water level is dropping there is no more floating.
I: So, there is a lot of activities that you are planning, like for example the floating market, the blood bank, so for example a lot of activities that you told me you wanted to do, but how are your priorities then, because you can’t do everything at the same time, so what’s the most important to you?
R: We had an impact, economic impact to the ahm we need the tomorrow, ...
T: Okay yes they want to do the main thing one is for the agriculture they are using the chemicals so they want to reduce for the farmers
R: Because fuel water
T: So the water is very polluted that’s why they want to change. And also the second is the education, ahm when the tourists come here they cannot see well so they want to take them to school for English education as another language
I: Okay, and ahm so what about that connection to other groups in the area so like CBOs or CSOs, so like one month ago there was this campaign, ahm so are you still in touch with any of the organizations that joined that day?
T: And also they are needed for the boat, to carry the funeral, they have that long boat so that’s also the problem,
I: Okay. And ahm, but for those activities, do you join for example also with other groups from the lake or do you try to solve it all by yourself, do you try to work together with others?
T: They don’t have the time to join with another group. So coming on Sunday they have the meeting with another group and there will be a man and a police man and some of the people will come here and they will talk to them and they will tell what to do and what not.
I: Okay. And I am also wondering, like for example in ahm the same as before again, in Taunggyi I did
interviews as well with a CBO and they had this huge network of organizations, they are helping out each other, so if someone is organizing a garbage clean-up day ahm five or 6 organizations join in, or if someone has language skills for summer, all the other organizations join in, but here in inle lake there is nothing like a compound of organizations, so what do you think why that is?

T: Yes because of they are stay weak in society because thea haven’t any connecting to other group
I: Why are they not connected to other groups, sorry
T: Ahm, Yes. They have a network with another group, but ahm they have their own goals and they are not the same direction so that’s why, and also if they want to have a meeting they have to invite them so they have to type the letter for invitation so the cost is high, they have no email
I: Okay, so I’ve seen for the funding for example you work together woth mandalay Buddhist organization, do you also work together with other NGOs?
T: No just the two.
I: Okay.
T: In 2010 they have INGO from Norway came here but at that time they are not yet organized that group so
I: Okay
T: To grow the plans
I: And for the funding, how does it work, so you have an accountant in your group, so how does he manage, so how accessible are the funds, do you get the money project-related or do you get like a monthly rate or or how does it work?
T: Yeah actually is not the funding just for the donation
I: Okay
T: So one of the monks from another village donate for the boat, something like that, he take directly to them
I: Okay, so how do you organize it, does everyone here work as a volunteer, or do you also have paid members for this group?
T: Yeah all the members are volunteers, if they pay they have to do something because they can stay for the group like for the road, they have to do the concrete so they have to pay as they do, but
I: Yea yeah. So for the port
T: Yes. When they help to the funeral they beg for the donation. Also... Actually they are not doing for the donation, is for their money, if they want to pay for them, they can pay like that.
I: Sorry...
T: They help for the funeral, and then they are no charges, but if they pay for them, they get for here, they reuse for preparing the boat or so
I: Okay, alright, nice
T: But they are not so decided for the money
I: Yeah, okay.
T: You wanna smoke?
I: No thank you. And for the future, what are your hopes and expectations for the group and for the village?
T: Okay, they want to get a playground for this village cause of the ahm the exercise is for the healthy and for the villagers if they do playing maybe health and improve their life cause their health.
I: And for the organization itself? Or your...
R: Training, for environment, environmental.
T: Yes they want to get the training for the organic farming.
I: Alright, and since you started this CBO here, did the tasks since 2010 increase, or is it the same workload?
T: Yes now increasing cause of if they do for one project they have sub-groups.
I: Okay, and ahm just in general here for the Inle Lake area, what has changed in the NGO- or CBO development here?
T: Okay yes now is the NGO INGO CBO and CSO they are increasing on the lake like some of them are working for the education and some of them are working for the community development.
I: Okay. And do you think it’s a good thing the number of organizations is increasing or does it also have negative sides?
T: Yes they are happy because of now is the NGO number increasing so ahm in the town they have the municipality to pick up the rubbish and here is no municipality so if they have more NGOs they are very happy.
I: Okay.
T: Cause of the environment
I: Yeah, okay. Alright, great. Thank you very much for your answers!

END
CSO6
I: Where is the microphone, isn’t it on the other side?
T: No. [Laughs]
I: So the name of your CBO is To Thao Du?
T: Yes
I: Alright, so when did you found it?
T: 2012, in December.
I: Okay, and why?
T: Because of they are also the subgroup from the UNDP so their goal is for the organization.
I: Okay. And how many members do you have?
T: Is about 150.
I: 150?
T: Yes
I: Okay
T: in 4 villages
I: Okay, and how many members are in the board of directors, how many members are meeting regularly?
T: Is two times a month and also when they have... And also they want to another field how they are doing or something like that
I: So for training basically?
T: Yes for training.
I: Where do they take the training?
T: Yeah they have a training and they also give the training to other villages
I: Okay, so who gave the training to you?
T: Yeah, ahm UNDP funds the things outside and then they have to go to surrounding cities and sometimes they came here
I: Here in the village
T: Yeah, to do the training
I: Okay. And what is the main field of work of your organization, of To Thao Du?
T: Ahm because of most of the farmers in this on the lake are using the chemical pesticides
I: So just awareness training and
T: Yeah and training the community
I: Okay. So, what kind of trainings or projects do you give?
T: Yeah he train about the how to do the organic thing and also the earth worm breeding, also sometimes they have the big breeding, and also sometimes he train about the how to reduce the chemical pesticides.
I: Okay, so there is 150 members in the group, so who is choosing for or who is initiating the activities?
T: UNDP are initiating
I: Okay, ahm, and how do you communicate with UNDP, is it via phone, or mail...?
T: UNDP are [not understandable] so they are all connected with UNDP, and they are supplying for the project.
I: Okay, and are you in any official register or database of CBOs of the area?
T: Yeah they stay registrating is not yet
I: So how long does it take to get the official registration?
T: Is about 1 month.
I: And ahm, is any of the members professionally trained, attended university, or something like this?
T: Yes, they all are already trained by the trainers and also some of them are graduated.
I: Okay, and what are the main problems or struggles you face as a CBO here in the area?
T: Yeah because of their main struggle is the communication, when they go to Nyaung Shwe you know is very the transportation is very bad because of the water level
I: So especially in the dry season then..
T: Yes. And also ahm that all the Intha ethnic gathering at that he explain about not to use the chemical in the field so they pose a problem that the organic liquid is very expensive and they cannot get with the adapt, they can borrow, and then after they got the money they can get back.
I: So organic fertilizer is more expensive?
T: Yes.
I: Okay. So, at first, the villagers can borrow and then pay the money back?
T: Yeah. Is the chemical. But not like organic
I: Okay, so organic, sorry..
T: For the organic they have to pay directly, but for the organic they have to pay directly.
I: Okay, and how many activities or how many different projects did you already do?
T: 2 project.
I: 2 project?
T: Ahm one is for the firewood, and 2 is the organic fertilizer.
I: And were the projects successful?
T: Yeah they got a good success
I: Okay.
T: Do you know already about the ... so most of the village is very interested and also the man who was coming, yesterday she went here, and also in the carne village they teach villagers how to make the fire, maybe showing for them.
I: Okay. And are both projects in cooperation with UNDP
T: Yes
I: And what do the people here think of the projects? Do they appreciate them, do they like them, or do you also get negative feedback?
T: Yes they are very interested
I: Okay
T: And also by the organic they can get many profit
I: Okay, and are there still people using pesticides now?
T: Ahm no, most of the villager want to change their life, no they are still using chemical pesticides, but they want to change that, they want to pay their money back, if they got the tomatos something like that they will have many
I: Okay. And ahm, since you from the point on when you founded the CBO in 2012, did your tasks increase or do you have more work to do?
T: Yeah they have already increased, and he is also the project manager of the organic farming, and also UNDP came here and met with him, and also to work with the project manager
I: Okay, okay, alright. And are you part of any networks of CBOs in this area?
T: Is called UNODC, near the Taunggyi
I: Okay, and what kind of network is it?
T: Attractor.Ahm is like a kind of drug.
I: So how does this network work, how many organizations are in there, do you have regular meetings?
T: Yeah they have regular meeting 2 time in the month
I: And how many organizations are part of it?
T: That’s the only one, only this organization
I: Oh. So this organization is UNODC? So UNODC is the organization for the four villages around here!
T: Yes, it is also the kind of Union organization around here.
I: Okay, and do you work together with other CBOs and CSOs here in the area or is it only in the 4 villages here?
T: You know they are not connected with other organizations just connected with UNDP
I: And do you know what other NGOs in INLE LAKE are doing in general?
T: Mainly they are doing for the environmental conservation, and also reducing the chemical pesticides, also firewood and waste management, and also they are supplying for the China.
I: And are you interested in connecting with them, in joining a network with them?
Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar

T: Yes he is very interested to join with them.
T: And also they are using the water habit for recycle in project.
I: Okay, okay. Ahm, so if you are interested in joining a network of CBOs, what’s the problem, why doesn’t anything like that exist yet?
T: Ahm yes they want to try the kind of NGO they are doing for the environmental conservation, and also the developing party.
I: Okay, okay, okay. And ahm, are there also any partnerships between your CBO and businesses, like seed producers for example?
T: Ahm they are not gonna do with another business for selling the weeds, but now they are doing themselves for the organic and they do themselves, from the wormbreeding they can sell for the organic fertilizer.
I: Okay, ahm and you work with an INGO with UNDP, are there also other INGOs or NGOs you work together with?
T: Like ECCD and also the PANKU organization, the Taunggyi. You already met.
I: Okay, and what is your connection with them, what does the partnership look like?
T: From ECCD they came here and they came to supply like a building for school and also for funding, is from Korea.
I: Okay, so they just supplied a fund
T: And also a project
I: Okay, so how did they do that, did they just bring cash, or money based on a proposal, or transferred it to an account?
T: They came here and they pay themselves in cash
I: Okay. And for PANKU?
T: Panku is for the drinking water
I: Okay, so what did they do here?
T: Yeah when they came here they paid for the funding, and after they got the money they bought all the pipes and they did the work and then after finish they came again and look for all, for maintenance
I: Okay. And ahm, so how does it work with the fund of UNDP, do you send them a proposal and you get the money from them, or do you get the money in cash, or how does it work there?
T: Is also according to the project, he has to post a proposal first and then after that they give the...
I: Okay, and how do they get the fund, transfer to bank account or in cash?
T: Cash to the bank
I: Okay, and who is accounting the fund?
T: They have a financing and accountant.
I: Okay, and how does it work with the employees or the members in the CBO, are they paid members or volunteers, or how does it work?
T: They all are volunteers, only him, he got his salary from the UNDP, but not every month, they have the projects he got.
I: Okay, and ahm, what is the money from the funds mostly used for, is it also for the administration costs or something like that or only for the projects?
T: No they haven’t.
I: Okay, alright. And ahm, okay. And ahm, how do other villagers perceive the work in general that you do of your organization?
T: They all are farmers, so they are doing good.
I: Okay, so what are your expectations or hopes for the future when it comes to the projects or your own CBO as well?
T: Yeah if he has a he wants to ahm CBO his own CBO but now is the funder are not very much in here so is
I: So you want to become independent from the INGOs basically
T: Yes
I: Okay, why exactly, what is then the problem, why don’t you like working with the INGOs?
T: Ahm because of ahm you know some of the CBO are working in social environment but they are very slow, so
I: Okay. And apart from that, are there other challenges when it comes to working with the INGOs, are there problems?
T: Yes the transportation, communication, and also the use of the chemical
I: Okay, and during the past years, what has changed in the NGO and also CBO development in the area?
T: Yeah before long time there has also NGO and CBO, but after the government allowance now after 2011 to now is rapidly developing.
I: Okay.
T: Yeah and the are if some are in the village who work on the project he can maybe success because he live in this village and also the member are from these villages so it will be success.
I: Okay, ahm and ahm in general, so there’s a lot of new NGOs and CBOs around Inle Lake, is that good or are there also problems with it?
T: Yeah they are ok with another NGO but for others sometimes they have the conflict with another CBO
I: And what kind of conflict, why conflict?
T: Yeah, sometimes you know the project manager and the new foundation had the conflict.
I: Okay, and other things as well, or that’s the only thing
T: No, just that
I: Okay, okay. Alright. Okay, well thank you very much, thanks a lot for your time. Success in gaining independence, having your own CBO for yourself!

END
INGO1

I: As you work really close with Inle Speaks, in the Inle Speaks office, the interview is from the perspective of PfC.
R: Oh okay
I: So just to clarify that for the start. Okay. So some general questions for PfC, when was it actually founded?
R: I think literally it was founded in 2012
I: Okay
R: It might have been a little earlier in Oslo
R2: No it’s 2012.
R: It is 2012.
R2: Ahm it’s before 2012 however there was an initiative ahm to do ahm conferences ahm so they had their first conference I think in 2010 ahm and then had a second conference in 2011 where they basically made a decision or an announcement to ahm create this organization because they saw ahm they saw such good ahm such good views of ahm having ahm having people from different sectors ahm meet together ahm and find ahm find new solutions to solve solve problems and the founder really has this ide that ah business as usual is not really an option if nine billion people are gonna live well within limits of the planet within 2050 so it’s really to corr... activate people to think creatively on how to meet these am challenges.
I: Right. And the size of this organization, how many employees, how many offices, ...
R: Ahm, let’s start with the offices. Cause that’s easier. So there’s the Oslo headquarters
I: Right
R: There’s Minneapolis office, so PfC states, and of course it is Myanmar, and we have two offices here, Inle Speaks and in Yangon.
I: Okay
R: If we look at the size in a different way in ahm Oslo there are probably now about ten people, ahm who are working some full time some not, ahm on a varietyof jobs and here we have either Carolyn, the trainers, so five, six, seven, eight, and Sue nine, between 9 and 19 depending on how many trainers we have and the time,
I: Also including personal of Inle speaks
R: I haven’t included the staff of Inle Speaks
I: Okay great
R: Yeah.
I: And Minneapolis?
R: Ahm Minneapolis has 1 person, there is a team of people working on a conference that will be held in October in Minneapolis but that’s a team that’s unique to that conference and not full time.
I: Okay. Alright, and ahm so Ida already explained the mission or the vision of the company, but what is the main field of work after all?
R: There are actually for Myanmar if you look at what’s happening here, the main focus is on sustainable economic development that preserves the environment and cultural heritage. If you were to take a look at the Minneapolis office it would be more around ahm PfC’s work to bring people together in forums or conferences and much of that the focus of that really is sustainability but there is a very strong emphasis on peace and democracy as a sustainability focus as well as the environment but the Minneapolis office is also an office that is shared by the US branch of the Oslo peace centre so the person who does the Oslo peace centre and the PfC office is the same person. And so the PfC office takes that flavour of being focused on peace building.
I: Okay, and ahm
R: We’re about economic development
I: Right. And the project ahm you do, who initiates them, so who comes up with the idea and on what basis as well, so is it like personal feeling, feedback, reports, scientific research, ...
R: There’s a for the past two years it has been ahm the sort of core of PfC that’s involved with Myanmar. So Ingrid who’s our chairman ahm myself, ahm staffmembers like Ida, Sai Win or Caroly,
and sometimes other people involved in PfC who suggest ideas like to think about. So for example, you did consider Phoos trip to the south pole or Antarctica as a very small project that was an idea that originated in Oslo.
I: Okay
R: If you look at Inle Speaks, actually the brand Inle Speaks originated with a another PfC person who is actually no longer working for PfC, but he had been involved in our early Myanmar projects, ahm most of the Inle Speaks Ideas emerge from us right here.
I: Okay
R2: And from feedback from the local communities, about what what ahm what they need ahm Sai Win gives a lot of input as well as other community leaders and especially senior tourguides.
I: Okay. So this feedback from the community, how does it get here?
R: It gets here through certainly through Sai Win himself because he is so well connected, but through all of the experiences that we have or interacting with other people there’s ideas that emerge, like your workshop, you know we get a bunch of people together, and you know out of that has emerged already a few ideas. Not necessarily that follow your work, but theahm the engagement of people around the table yesterday when you were discussing you know that causes us to think about those people are really involved, now how do we help them continue along what you got them started thinking about. And so we observe and interact with all the people with people like you and then out of that after a few conversations and an occasional few beers or a glass of wine there’s another new project we have
I: Right
R2: And it’s we also might have an idea or a project that we ahm get from float from Oslo and then we would spend quite a bit of time here talking to Sai Win about it talking to ahm relevant other relevant stakeholders here ahm and see how we have to adapt these project ideas to make them work here but also ahm let let give the local communities here time so that it becomes for the ideas to process so it becomes their ideas.
I: Okay
R2: So they think about it as their own ideas.
I: Do you think that’s a good thing, because you sort of implement the thought of something people might not like in the first place?
R: We actually don’t implement things people don’t like.
I: Okay. Now I just..
R: No I mean really, literally. It’s we always let this sort of ahm well we can’t do anything, literally we can’t do anything people don’t like, because projects have to be approved
I: Right.
R: The very very first projects that got started by PfC were here of course. The first one was a vocational school on the lake and that one was the idea of the actual owner who is in MY Nyang Su who is the managing director of the inle princess hotel, and she had an idea she wanted to build a vocational school, she did not have the capital, she didn’t have any experience, so PfC said ok, we give you capital loan, you pay it back once the school starts to become self-supporting, we’ll introduce you to vocational hospitality schools in Cambery in Thailand and Europe, then we provided an operational loan because she needed money the first year, and that summer we started with an English class because Sai Win had been telling me that through years, Barbara, you cannot help with the schools, it’s too hard with the government schools, they don’t allow international people, we need to help people get jobs. Because if they get jobs then their children can go to school and I said ok, how do I help people get jobs? And he said, in this area, help them learn English. So the first project in this area was help them learn English, and we had teachers that came over and then the community said, we need help with pre-school, we need help with tutoring in the orphanage school, we need you to come look at clinics and monastic schools, and there is no shortage of ideas that come out of the community. We help with water projects, we need help with branding, ahm like the textile project that David is working on, we need help finding markets for these beautiful handwoven products, so I can’t think of a single project we have done that was strictly an idea that came from
Ida or me or form Oslo, that was not a high priority for the group.

R2: I think it’s so ahm that what I was saying earlier. I probably wouldn’t say that we are manipulating them to think that it’s a good idea, but to give them time to understand what it is that we are actually trying to do.

R: And the solar lamp project is a good example.

R2: Yes exactly, so we did in our

R: Do you know about this project?

I: Yeah Ida explained

R2: And then so we were ahm we were talking to because our original plan just didn’t work out ahm and so we were talking to ahm one of the local very highly respected community leaders here who is also the chair of the orphanages and really spent a lot of time ahm talking to him about this project and he was he was ahm sceptical at first but ahm he we gave him time to really understand what it was that we were trying to achieve and how this would actually be helpful and useful for the community here and for his orphanage and it turned out to be an extremely successful project and his feedback in the end was very positive

R: And it had a beneficial side-effect because he’s also one of the community leaders responsible for the, you know what I mean by the Pink Building?

R2: The environmental education center

R: Yes pink building

I: Okay

R: So there’s a local ahm community that manages the Intha culture center and they had been very suspicious of what Inle Speaks was doing when we started and there wasn’t any cooperation but we did the orphanage project and then after that he was very happy with us so it worked out

I: Okay, and ahm so for example for the project implementation and leaving some time for the people for the idea to get back on that, ahm we have talked to a CBO yesterday like really far inside the Inle Lake, ahm and they told us they actually set up a training now for villagers so that they know how to reject the help of international NGOs

R: Fascinating!

I: Yeah because a lot of projects are actually perceived as making it worse for the villagers

R: Ya, ya , ya

I: than actually helping them out.

R: What was the CBO you talked to, I think that’s fascinating

I: I’m gonna ask DarDar.

R: Yeah

I: She knows the name. But what do you think of that, is the reaction justified, are there a lot of ahm INGOs who actually do projects that are not...

R: I can’t say there is a lot of them, but there are a couple of big ones.

R2: And maybe not INGOs but National Organizations, ahm and several projects by the Norwegian ministry of foreign affairs here, including the pink building, ahm meant to be ahm meant to be an environmental education and they are coming with a lot of money, they have a project, they implement the project, they don’t have the time or take the time to ahm listen to what is actually needed what can actually help as a sustainable development and so ahm I think there are quite a lot of or I don’t know a lot of but some organizations here that have done not very successful projects and because of that I think ahm as well it’s extremely important for PfC as an international NGO here to really take time to build trust with the local communities because there is a big scepticism towards international organizations.

I: Right. Because that was also my thought after interviewing the CBO, ahm why international NGOs do actually do research with external staff here when they can talk to the CBOs on the spot and know directly what is going on on the spot

R: You know I think it’s difficult for big international organizations to interact very successfully with local NGOs. And ahm part of it is it takes a while to find out where the CBOs are. You know unless the NGO like PfC actually has an office here but then it’s sustainable over time. We are still learning who
these organizations are, there is no telephone directory, you know you can’t just say ouuuuh this one or that one, you sort of hear about the them or know about them, and the international organizations then say I’m gonna use our colleagues from GiZ as an example, they’re based in Taunggyi and there’s both collaboration between Nyaung Shwe and Taunggyi and there’s occasional tension between Nyaung Shwe and Taunggyi. Just like there would be between your country and my country or the governments don’t know what it’s like or what the national governments do, and so you know GiZ Taunggyi is going to start a program where they have I think a team of four consultants and it will depend on how they introduce those consultants in the Nyaung Shwe and Inle arena that will determine wether or not the organizations like the CBO you talked to find them easy to work with or not
I: Right.
R: And we worked quite a bit in conversations with Harald to talk about your workshop, because a lot of international organizations have these very formal introductory workshops and concluding workshops, and I think it’s done. I mean there’s a lot of studies, they get put on shelves and another organization comes in and makes another study, you’ve probably looked at the destination management plan, that’s a classic example! Ahm we learned that it still has not been translated into Myanmar language, so, you know, the locals look at that and say, what are you trying to do here? You know you have paid a lot of consultants, you have paid some Myanmar people but they are not from this area they are working from Yangon
R2: Or from Taunggyi
R: Or from Taunggyi
R2: So I think what they are doing is to teach communities not to trust that these community projects are to turn into something useful because that happens a lot unfortunately.
I: Okay
R: And Inle Lake is a is one of I think 22 or 23 protected areas for because of the incredible environmental, most of these protected areas have places that are remote dangles or forests or whatever you know Inle lake is obviously not remote and I would say it’s not very well protected, but I think one of the interesting issues is, Inle has been studied to death. And of the original studies there have been no actions that came out of that, that improved the lake. And people will come back and say auuh, there is this wonderful study and we imply that, and I say yeah, what did you do?
R2: And it’s I mean, inviting people to join workshops and taking their time and their input but they are not really taking it seriously if it only results in a study that will not lead to anything.
I: At least not anymore
R2: Yeah so there’s more there’s a vague big gap or unbalance to where the funding goes between the ahm scope studies or research studies and the actual implementation of projects and for big international organizations I think it’s easier to ahm justify a research because research, it’s hard for research to go wrong
R: Right.
R2: And if you have a practical project and you implement it it can go wrong and you might have to to ahm implement the project differently from the original project description and for big organizations with a lot of bureaucracy I think that’s more difficult
I: Ya. Okay, so before when we, I didn’t want to interrupt the flow of it, but when we talked about the employees, you said that Sai Win is a staff member of PfC?
R: Hmm
I: So how does that fit because he told me he is the leader of Inle Speaks?
R: He is, he is paid to be the director of Inle Speaks.
I: Okay, so he is paid by PfC to be like, so in that context Inle Speaks is the project of PfC?
R2: Yes
I: Okay.
R2: Inle Speaks is our program
R: A year ago I made him a job offer and he agreed. And same has been true of the other people who are in Idas team who are doing English and computer skills training.
I: Right, okay. And from the projects that PfC initiates, so maybe on a scale in percentage, how much comes from local people and how much is influenced by the partners who fund the projects?
R: No, ahm
I: If you could break it down like that, I mean..
R: No, it’s actually fairly easy to do that, ahm, ahm in all over Myanmar or specific Inle?
I: Specific Inle.
R: Ahm the people who have funded our work here or the organizations who have funded this work have not dictated anything about what we use the money for.
I: Okay.
R: Other than very generally, like we built a school and clearly we were spending the money on the school building, but there wasn’t any reason to do that school until the community said “we need a new school”, so the funders did not commend and say “we have that money find a place to build a school”, we listened to the community and they said we need a new school, and then in Oslo fund the money, so there’s literally no, and I show you an example that’s outside of Inle in Yangon we teach English classes to this former political prisoners organization, and the funding for that comes from an organization from Sweden, and they specify we want this money to go towards educating former political prisoners, but we have a flexibility how we do it, so they’re not dictating on how we do it, you know in any specific way. They funded us to do some projects in the chin state and we just figured out how to do it and that was an example where the community had not asked us to do it
R2: Yap.
R: And so what we did was very small pilots, where we did something we were very confident the community needed and wanted English, and because of that we could hear the community, we were there for long enough, buy dinner, buy, so the community was not, we didn’t go into the community and said we are going to implement something you have to like, it was we are here to offer English and if anyone here young people wanna come we’d like to give some classes.
I: Yeah
R: So I don’t think we would accept a donor ahm or partner who dictated something we thought was not along with our communities
R2: Yeah, I think when the Oslo office does most of or all of the funding proposals, ahm they pretty much put in their proposals and make the case that ahm we have this little staff, we ahm who know ahm what needs to be done and this is what we think what the community might have done so we propose a project but then we also say like there needs to be flexibility in terms of how this project is and actually done according to what the local communities needs and...
I: But on what basis do they write this proposal then because they need to have certain feedback before they can start...
R: Well we provide feedback all the time.
I: Okay
R: OUARGH
I: Haha
R: And I think the other thing whis is interesting ahm we are very small, Oslo is very small, relative to the level of funding implementation we have here, we are a little too small, we need a little more staff, but it means that the Oslo office knows what we are doing and I think almost everyone of the staff we are paying through here for a couple of weeks so that they could really see what the projects were so you know and I think we are as a sort of pro team from PfC it’s a little bit it’s interesting how much we think alike, we were involved in this meeting where Siegfried is helping us to create strategies and vision and mission, and we are having to write things and put them on the wall, and Ida and I used the same words,
R2: Like same sentences
R: All the time, it’s scary! So similar. And I think you know Ingrid uses mainly different words but I think we have very similar thinking
R2: there is very continuous communication if there is a project I mean you are probably talking to Ingrid who is the funder maybe three times a week
R: Yeah all the time, so we are too small, we need more staff, but and the good news is if you look at our delivery or implementation results relative to what it costs us to deliver we are attractive because we are not a very big organization and the ratio of expats, Ida and me, the woman Carolyn in Yangon, to local hires is very attractive. We have far more local people than we have expats, so
I: Yeah. So what is your general opinion about that. Because you need more staff, on the other hand there’s the danger if the organization grows there are a lot of the funding money gets lost in the administration costs.
R: Well, we are so far on the other hand of the scale that we could grow probably by another 10 people and still we are small, I think we still need another 3 or 4 people and then individual projects will grow, but we try to keep it as locally as possible.
I: Okay
R: So we’ll still be our overheads is almost negligible.
I: Okay, alright. And ahm from the feedback that you get from the community, one more question for that, ahm you said it’s mostly by Sai Win and his contacts, but also from the villages just in general around.
R: It has literally in I mean we get feedback from villages and political leaders like the top half of the lake is one political district from the Shan state government and the bottom half is another one, so it’s constituency 1 and constituency 2, and we have meetings where we meet with the member of parliament form constituency 1 and constituency 2, ahm and they’re basically saying why aren’t you coming to help us build schools, when are you coming to teach English in our villages and when are you coming to bring solar lamps and you know, so they don’t always think of the ideas on their own, ahm some of them will come and say we need a garbage incinerator or we need a water pumping system to a village out on the lake, and they know that we are thinking more about the things, so we make then the record list, but it’s more than, it’s just a continuum, you know there is noone here, there is staff that comes in, I don’t know if Sai Win talked about eco-tourism,
I: A little bit
R: But the ministry has this ecotourism project or policy project so that’s becoming a very high priority to help the country and because Inle does have incredible environmental resources it’s supportive that Inle Speaks do something in supportive eco-tourism. So we haven’t quite figured out what that should look like or what we do there, and it’s coming from both directions; we think it’s important because we want to support the environment, Sai Win thinks it’s important because he’s with the tourguides, now thry don’t know enough to make the people understand, the visitors understanding, the ministry is beginning to make it a priority, so it’s like okay, we really need to introduce international colleagues we are talking about it.
I: Yeah. And are you also in direct contact with CBOs of both lake sides or..
R: Some, not a lot.
R2: There’s one environmental youth organisation and I can never remember the name
I: Isn’t it connected to that Calaneameta foundation
R2: Yeah something like that, sounds familiar.
R: And there’s at the resort shwe intha they have started building teams for garbage collection and things like that, and we are in touch with what they do, one of the things we need to do better than before, and this is an issue of increasing Sai Win’s staff, is to actually have someone who is responsible for outreach and communication to those communities so it is not as random as it is right now so we can begin to talk with them more formal so.
I: Right. And so because from my experience from what I’ve seen so far there’s quite a lot of CBOs around the lake, so
R: I think there are a lot of very small ones
I: Yeah very small, but is it hard to get in touch with them, or
R: Yes
I: What is the main problem then, because I think the feedback from them would be quite valuable after all
R: Oh yeah absolutely. You know I think that many of them when we started doing very small
environmental awareness ahm sessions where Sai Win and some of the guides would go out to a monastery or a school to do it, literally every time he did that two or three adults would come and say oh, I am working on not using detergents in the lake or I’m working on reforestation, and they have formed an organization but they are frequently almost an individual person. And if you are calling us and working on the tomato gardens, you know then they don’t have an office, they don’t have a structure, it’s a person. And some of their friends and neighbors.

I: Yeah exactly.

R: And they don’t really talk across the regions. You know we would find someone working on the same thing in neighbouring villages, now are they talking? – not really. So.

R*: And ahm it’s also a challenge here to ahm this I mean there are informal contact and ahm and everyone knows that there are plenty of CBOs an other organizations it can be challenging to establish more formal partnerships in agreement and communication and cooperation procedure on projects. I think ahm you know

R: There’s no directory of these organizations and that’s a tool that would be very useful to us.

I: Okay

R: And we should you know once or twice a year invite them and hold a meeting. Find out what they’re all doing. There’s been a couple of meetings like that but there is again no result.

R2: And now I went to one meeting from this environmental youth organization but ahm they tried to establish these ongoing workshops where they connect different CBOs

I: Right

R2: But we went to this first workshop and there were very few organizations and people in general who came and so it’s also hard to ahm have people attract people to come. It was very sudden so I have no idea how they went around it in recruiting different organizations inviting them, but you know I mean it’s a pity because it’s a great initiative but I think you know I don’t think anybody is making it a priority to continue

I: Okay, alright. Ahm, okay, a little bit back to the general questions of PfC, ahm are the or are the staff members professionally trained?

R: No!

I: Could you elaborate...

R: Of course! Ahm if I think about the Oslo staff, I think that’s not the right answer because I think the members there have had a very very good background experience. Here we are very much an entrepreneurial organization. I have no legitimate background in community development, I was a software development executive at technology companies so I know about how very large and complicated softwares work, and I’ve travelled and worked in villages for a long time, but I have no professional background in this work, but I have a lot of business background

I: Right,

R: Idas right out of school, so Caroly probably’s got the most experience, but she has done a couple of international programs in Indonesia and Africa, Sai win was a very respected tourguide

R*: Who has no background or professional background as

R: In an Inle Speaks kind of organization

R2: Or directing an organization

R: And our English teachers were students until we made them teachers

R2: I would say we are or at least starting to encourage professional development for the inners in order to and ahm the vision for ahm our objective is really to have a trusted reputation in delivering quality programs and projects

R: And ideally all of us would have a lot more experience but one of the unique things about PfC is that Ingrid has a lot of experience in business and entrepreneurship and a lot of experience in philanthropy and non-profits, and when she started the conferences her observation was that philanthropy needs business expertise and business expertise needed a foreign topic or social ahm expertise, and so I she’s never she has always encouraged people whose general experience and background were suited to the task and their passion was aligned even if they did not have you know sort of their wickless background you know we’ve made a few mistakes we had a couple of situations
were ahm someone didn’t have the right background to make a change but by march we have been able to keep going because we have been able to focus on practical sort of start up things. And then figure out how to improve our skill set.
R2: And being open to learning as we go along and evaluate projects and I think that there is a big value in having people from different perspectives and backgrounds
R: and we’ve been able to fill in a lot of gaps by these rather ahm deeply experienced consultants like Stuart and David and Siegfried, you know, who are able to come and spend time really help on specific areas..
R2: And there’s also learning I mean your guides during this program or research assistants is a good example because in the end we found pretty random people and ahm but now well we were lucky I think I think it turned out very well, now they do have developed some capacity in ahm how to assisting research, how to gather information, how to ask the right questions and think about the answers that people give and so ahm
R: We build skills. We have students coming from international programs in the university of Denver in June so we are now worried about that about how to take care of students,
I: But a little bit apart from that, because when you sent us from the research here into the field, there is also the danger again to ahm like I mean you didn’t know what kind of students we were before so ahm if we weren’t really motivated and
R: You could have created a bad impression.
I: Yes exactly that’s what I mean, so how do you deal with it, like the certain level of danger?
R: I mean, we have also like the guides would have reported really quickly if you were not if you were upsetting the people we would have heard about it very quickly.
I: Right, okay.
R: And then you would have heard about it.
I: Oh I think so, definitely.
R: I mean it was of course we had a mentor and knew how old and there was a significant amount of trust for this that he would not allow students to come over here who would create a bad impression.
R2: And again I think trusting ahm trusting partners and giving them a stake in doing a good job as well for Inle Speaks but I mean we have an occasion when it’s been bad yeah. Bad examples which of course ahm isn’t good but it’s still been on such a small scale that it hasn’t really impacted..
R: Yes we’ve had in our summer English programs ahm a couple of volunteer teachers who in many circumstances would be just fine but here were a little bit off the mark and left a negative impression and am I mean I sort of knew about it at that time there was a lot that had changed and so you just have to apologize and say, okay, we won’t invite them back.
I: Yeah okay. Then, do you publish any numbers, facts, achievements of the NGO? Of PfC?
R: We, there is an annual report and there should be another annual report coming out soon, ahm there is one from march I did have copies of it but I don’t anymore, and of course we need to pay back to donors, we wanna report back on our programs and ahm there was a recent board in for PfC and the good news is that the board is quite impressed with what we are doing, positively impressed but and they said, oh my gosh you are doing so much, but Norway thinks that all you do at the conferences because that’s what people attend, and our donors are sometimes, you know, sometimes not always and some reports go back to the donors and they are really to the margin population so the board said can’t you wind up a better impact report that could be shared publicly? And so Ida and I were on a flight back from Yangon and I was just sort of beginning to list all the programmes and the people who directly came to the programs, and then if you weren’t just saying for example there are 700 children in that new school, all of their families are actually impacted by what we’ve done at that school ahm and then you start adding up for every child in that school there is probably a 3-4-5 person family whose family situation has improved because the child has a better educational experience, it rapidly becomes a pretty big number.
I: Okay, so what are the main problems or struggles you have to deal with, in general like either internal PfC or here in the area at projects.
R2: Here I would say bureaucracy.
R: Certainly within the country there is there is no clarity about what you have to do to get approval. And it is
R2: Bureaucracy with the local state and national government
I: Okay
R2: within the organization
R: Yeah and so I think last fall probably in early October Sai Win gave me this example, he sent in an application to the township an approval for Inle Speaks to be registered as a township CBO, well it was I think he went back every few weeks and was not clear about what he needed to do, what the next step was, and he knows these people. Likewise at the national ministry level, I don’t know, we must have had five meetings with the minister of hotels and tourism, and I can never figure out. I actually think that the document we had a year ago in January is actually the one we would have signed with only a couple of changes but I didn’t know that so I think that and the lack of infrastructure. If the internet would work here I’d be a happy camper
R2: Yes.
R: If the net worked in the hotel I’d be a really happy camper. If it worked so we could skype I’d be a happy camper. And that’s more important than the roads. I can live with the roads. But the internet drives me crazy because I have to respond back to Oslo and unless I am in Yangon and even then sometimes I can’t communicate.
R2: And they expect those kind of interviews, communication flow which is quite challenging here.
R: Yeah and as a good example, in February when I think you were all arriving I was in the united states, and on one day I got a call from Ingrid, and fortunately I was only io don’t know I think it’s seven hours different ahm and Ingrid said we have literally 24 hours to write a proposal that would fund a lot of our womens entrepreneurship programs. Get started when you are finished, and send it off the next morning, it has to be sent by noon. If I would have been here then it wouldn’t have worked. But we were able to get it done, haven’t heard what happened to it, I better find out! But that’s a classic, it makes it extremely difficult. We’re half as productive when we are physically here as we would be either in Yangon or even when Ida goes back to Oslo. You know getting that Internet I’m gonna hold a ceremonie for it you know.. it’s not working, I don’t know how to get it fixed and there’s noone here who can fix it. Yeah. Or it rains, we’ve and this afternoon is a good example, we have scheduled a conference call with Carolyn who’s in Bankok and Kim who’s in Oslo to talk about an important initiative that PFC is doing globally not just for Myanmar ahm we couldn’t be understood on skype by Carolyn or Kim and so it’s they had to call my phone using one of theirs I mean it’s just a nightmare, things that shouldn’t take any time at all. Banking, oh my god, when I go to Yangon to cash a cheque it’s an all morning affair. Ya.
R2: And also the whole transfer system to get funds transferred from Oslo to here it takes a couple of weeks.
I: Weeks?
R: Weeks. A wired transfer. This is all computer electronic. Weeks, that’s bizarre.
R2: That’s definitely a big pitfall.
R: Other than that, everything’s easy.
I: Okay, great. Okay, so to the projects that you did, like how many projects did you here in the area already implement, like here in the area next to Inle Speaks as a project.
R: You know, I can actually probably go back and count that, because I was making a sort of 2015 very high budget estimate for Ingrid, I listed all the PFC programs in Myanmar, so I can see if I can pull out the Inle
I: Yeah, that’d be great
R: Ahm but it was a large number, because I included specific things, not just inle speaks.
R2: There’s the school that we built, there’s the heritage house vocational school, there’s this ahm ahm screen art project, ahm, this school we built is part of a bigger education program while we will that we have not yet done but build more schools ahm
R: within Inle Speaks there’s a trashbin program awareness programs, environmental programs, ahm there’s tourguide training, English and computer literacy training, and this is all sort of Inle Speaks, ahm we have a program with HP, we built a partnership with GIZ, ahm we’ve got the program you did, were beginning to work with Pindaya and Taunggyi
R2: But that’s maybe more with Inle Speaks. A lot of the programs are within Inle Speaks. Ahm quite carefully.
R: Iris’ team took the programs of the chin state,
R2: Ahm
R: And we are beginning based on our work in Inle to expand vocational hospitality, vocational training in other places in Myanmar. So there’s one school near Yangon in the Delta and another school proposed near Pa’an which is east of Yangonso these are all things that are sort of Spin-Offs of what we started here. We will probably start doing English programs and other hospitality training in Baghan, and so we’ve actually ahm registered the ahm website domain name Baghan speaks, so maybe when you all come back there will be a baghan speaks that you can visit to study
R2: So I think inle speaks itself is a program that we’ve implemented. But ahm definitely with based on the experience we have here to replicate the project models from here to elsewhere
R: While I was looking at my project list I just noticed that they took notice that Phoe is back so she’s here.
I: Nice. Congratulations! [unrelated talking about a friend]. And ahm, from all those projects, that took place here, were they all a success or would you consider them as a success or was there also quite some failure on that way?
R2: I think some of them have been more challenging than we anticipated with the ahm heritage house, vocational school, ahm and I think that was ahm due a lot to the fact that we did not have a very clear written agreement on what was required from both sides ahm in order for the partnership to continue in a good way, and I think that’s true for several of our projects we’ve been ahm jumping into projects a little to quickly sometimes and then there have been challenges afterwards because the ahm partnership has not been clearly defined beforehand
I: Alright, so from the beginning when Inle Speaks was founded here, are there ah nonono, wrong question. From the beginning when PfC was founded here, are the tasks increasing, yo do you have more and more projects? I mean, we already talked about you actually need more employees, but. R: Yes. I mean when we started we were here, then we had a vocational training and then the vocational school than we had the English program and now we have programs in Yangon, programs in the Chin State, programs way up north in the Kachin, ahm the list I was just looking at, I indicated in blue letters the projects that had gotten started already and in black the ones we hadn’t and it was double, double.
R2: Yeah and I mean Barbara came here to do English programs so that was the objective of PfCs work here to start with now it’s ahm community leadership, entrepreneurship, business leadership, ahm development, ahm tourism industry development,
R: textile industry development, you know we’ve forged by virtually the fact that Sai Win has great relationships and Ida and her team were able to deliver a very short small English course for ministry, they all want us to do more or in Taunggyi and all over the country, so we certainly take a hard look at programs, cause we’re now happy and they all want as to be as good as they think we are to be, but there’s our reputation has been quite good.
I: Okay.[Mirthe’s part]
...
I: Ahm, yes, I do have quite a lot of more questions,
R: Can we re-schedule please?
I: Exactly, that was my point because it’s like two different topics now so that would be a good cut
R: Great
I: So it would be amazing if we could re-schedule for another time..
R: Probably Sunday morning would be good, I think Sunday afternoon I’m going to Taunggyi with Stuart. So but you can get Ida Sunday afternoon

Non-profit sector at Inle Lake, Myanmar
I: No Sunday morning is fine with me  
R: Or what would you or Monday?  
I: [planning the second half of the interview].

2nd half:  
I: So ahm we come to the second part, I’ve actually listened to the other interview again to not have too many double questions cause you already answered quite some of those questions in the first part, ahm but let me just start straight away, so are you part of any networks, PfC?  
R: We are part of several, the part that I’m most familiar with or the ones that I’m most familiar with are ahm the European and asian venture philanthropy networks, so it’s AVPN and EVPN.  
I: And ahm what is your role in this network or how does it work?  
R: Ahm we’re we’re participating organization, cause they are an organization of impact investors  
I: Okay  
R: Trying to u know, really produce economic growth through social enterprise investment. Ahm PfC is also member of an organization called Toniic, like Gin Tonic, except for it’s written T O N N I C. Ahm remind me of showing you their ahm outlet, it’s very good  
R2: Yeah  
R: They’re a global organization of impact investors, and I’m sure in Oslo there are other networks, but I’m not familiar with them.  
I: Alright, ok. And maybe later we can also go through the list of other NGOs in the area you work with?  
R: Sure!  
I: Okay, nice. Ahm, so in general, what is the cooperation with other NGOs or CBOs like in the area of Inle Lake?  
R: In Inle in particular I guess I would say it’s made a big change in the last year, because In this last year organizations like GiZ appeared and started working with us on programs, prior to that except for UNDP and a lot of village organizations there really were no international organizations I think.  
I: Okay, so village organizations are CBOs or NGOs then?  
R: Smaller NGOs, community organizations. That would be Myanmar. We have participated in the last year ahm very informally with there’s a you’ve been out to heritage house?  
I: Yes  
R: And the cat project?  
I: Yes  
R: And the aquarium?  
I: Also. I’ve seen everything  
R: Those are supported by ahm Chinese foundation and there’s a scientist from the US that works on these projects and others of light related things and so he comes through maybe 2 or 3 times a year and when he comes through we chat with him what he’s learned about the lake and what’s going on, but this is a very informal collaboration. Ahm Sai Win has partnered certainly with the Myanmar or the shan state restaurant and hotel organization and the tour guide association  
I: Okay  
R: so all those hospitality organizations  
I: Okay, and are there also partnerships with private organizations or businesses in the area for PfC?  
R: What we did out on the lake when we funded the vocational school was we started essentially a partnership with a private company ahm and its CEO ahm we’ve because of the HO program that’s a partnership with a US university and Hewlett Packard  
I: Right  
R: ahm and a few other. Ahm Ida’s teacher has worked with KBZ bank  
I: Okay, right. So basically 3 connections to private sectors.  
R: Yeah, if I have to think about everything we do, well our first building we had a partnership with a business owner here in town who owned the building and let us stay in it, that was a obviously a private sector relationship.
I: But those are as I see it now rather relationships for specific projects for specific projects
R: Specific purpose, yeah
I: Are there also like business partnerships for a longer term?
R: Probably the ones we have with Hewlett Packard and GiZ would be good examples to those, because we expect things to continue to evolve,
R2: But not really with the private sector, not here.
R: Yeah not with individual business people that are long term.
I: Okay.
R: Ahm what David is doing with the woman who has the laungy shop ahm I heard that’s an example of stimulating some economic development but not necessarily what I would present as a partnership or arrangement
I: Right. Ahm and one more question to that, don’t you do it on purpose or does it just not happen or are you not interested in it?
R: No, it’s not that we’re not interested, I think the private sector here is very unfamiliar with working with NGOs
I: Okay
R: And there are not a lot many private people in the sector who would consider that they have ahm enough time to even discuss that kind of partnership. It usually comes through restaurants that are part of the restaurant association or hotels that are part of the hotel association
R2: Or it would be more informal partnerships because having formal partnerships would probably businesses here, it’s not the environment is not neutral.
I: Okay. Alright. Great, and for the funding of PFC, so who funds PFC? I herad there’s for example the Postbank lottery and like some private donors as well?
R: Yes. There’s a variety, everything from very large foundations like Postcode lottery to small family owned foundations or individuals. All of them contribute. The foundations we typically have have a very clear objective like womens entrepreneurship or ESL training
R2: Yeah or for political prisoners
R: Yeah the operational expenses are sometimes difficult to get funded by organizations so Ingrid finds money for that and I don’t ask questions
I: Okay, alright
R2: But that’s there’s also more private sector companies who support ahm
I: Okay, so the funding like all in would it be rather domestic, so from Norway or rather international companies?
R: Ahm it’s international because certainly there’s been funders from Norway, from Sweden, ahm quite a bit, but we’ve also be funded not here but in Yangon by the sourus open society foundation, we got contributions from individuals in the united states, we are getting funding for this program that has the students from the university of Denver so it’s all over the map. But because of Ingrids incredible network especially in Scandinavia I think ahm probably the most of the funding has come from Norway and Sweden.
I: Okay. And how does it work with the accessibility of the funds? Because we’ve already talked shortly about that the like a paycheck ahm a bank transfer to the Inle Area takes like 3.4 weeks, ahm
R: Once the money is here it’s no problem, and all we have to do is make sure to plan ahead for the 21st.
I: Right, so you do request money based on project planning and project costs.
R: Yes, PFC has a an office has a director in Oslo who is responsible for administrative functions and once we get a budget for a particular project she asks me for a quarterly plan for wired transfers.
I: Okay Alright, and ahm in general for the administration costs, what is the percentage compared to the activity?
R: It’s very small
I: When it’s a very small company after all, I mean it’s
R: We our administrative costs have been probably five per cent more or less
I: Okay
R: Relative if I count the funding for the school... If I take a look at all of Myanmar the funding for the school the younger vocational project, the former political prisoners, all of the ESR work, Inle Speaks, the only administrative costs literally have been the Yangon flat ahm Aarons compensation, my compensation and Ida doesn’t get compensation but some of her expenses get covered, relative to the overall funding it’s very small, it’s actually too small
I: Okay
R2: Yeah we had to so ahm we did create a scratch scheme for a proposal so from now on have 10 percent management or compensation fee.
I: Okay
R: Because I mean we got a lot accomplished last year but it was not smooth. And it needs to be smoother and we need to build an expertise that stays year over year, and we need to just have a more sustaining and consistent staff
I: Alright, okay then I have some final general questions
R: Okay
I: Ahm so afterall you think PfC especially in this area has an impact on the tourism development?
R: Yes I think so. I mean of you look at the vocational school or the heritage house, I mean so far this is interesting it has graduated a 40 students, in the next month or so I guess another 40 students will come out ahm my objective would be of course would be to have these students work in hotels and restaurants, as it turned out out of the first year graduates class I think almost a third of them are not working in hotels and restaurants, they are still working in tourism, DarDar, good example, they re working in tourism but not exactly like as we thought they would do when they finished. Ahm I think with things like the map that Stuart puts together, with the programs we’ve had for tourguides, and with the English training we’ve made a difference here, it’s ahm a little bit difficult to calculate the actual numerical contribution to tourism in the street but ahm but yeah I think we are having we are making a difference. You know, I was late getting here because I thought we were meeting with you at ten
I: Oh really?
R: No no no no it was my mistake, and so I walked in the market and there was a cycle driver and I just hopped in one to come over here, the good news is now that all of those drivers know now where Inle Speaks is and I think all of the ahm restaurants and hotels and tour guides know about it, a lot of the merchants know about it, and so we’ve become visible, and I think we are viewed as a positive resource. A bank knows us, the bank knows us so well that they don’t even insist that we sign our checks correctly.
R2: They sent them back after
R: They will they might send a banker over here to have me sign the check correctly but they all go ahead and pay the money.
I: Alright, that’s pretty awesome!
R: Yeah its sort of personal banking, it’s pretty nice!
I: Yeah, okay. And ahm, so for the future what are your expectations or hopes for the Inle area?
R: you know, we are in the middle of talking about what Inle Speaks’ long-term strategy should be, but if I were to think about what success would look like, I would say in five years Inle Speaks is self supporting and it’s the organization that is known for quality programs and expertise for environment tourism. And they are Inle speaks and it’s staff would be a major, you know you wouldn’t have a meeting on tourism and the environment without including Inle Speaks
I: Okay, so your hope is basically the self-sustainability for Inle Speaks, and good operations for them. So what role will PfC play by that time then?
R: Well, I think PfC will continue to fund special programs and probably expansions or other things that might be like the education or the environment but ahm Inle Speaks will hopefully be an unconcerned operation that is working effectively, so Ida
R2: I mean, PfC holds the name for Inle Speaks, and so it would still I mean hopefully PfC would still have an impact on what kind of programs that Inle Speaks put on their priorities that they make, and ahm I think another thing is for inle speaks is to have arranged or pretty much contributed to the
ahm a tourism board for the Inle region ahm to manage the destination of the lake based on the
destination management plan and that Inle speaks’ activities have contributed to ahm Nyaung Shwe
and Inle region being the cleanest part of Myanmar.
I: Alright
R: We have ways to go!
I: And ahm you have only been here since 2013, ahm but do you know anything about the changes
within the NGO infrastructure within the Inle Lake area?
R: you know, because I have been travelling here for years before I’ve actually lived here, I don’t
know I had much insight about NGOs when I was just a tourist but when we were beginning in 2013
except for big ones like UNDP there just wasn’t a lot visible, so I think we’ve seen GiZ didn’t have an
office here, there wasn’t HP wasn’t wandering round the country, so I think all of that has happened
within the past couple of years.
I: Yeah. No because I have been talking to a lot of local NGOs around, and they told me of course, like
due to the government law that meetings of more than five persons were not allowed it was tough
to actually have an NGO, but also especially within the Inle Lake area a lot of people told me that the
number of NGOs is decreasing of local NGOs in the area at the moment, do you know anything about
that or
R: No, I mean there have always been organizations that were sort of political organizations and I
think they were they were friends for political parties or ethnic groups, and I am not very familiar
with what they do, so I don’t know that anything is decreasing or I am not sure why it would be
decreasing
R2: I mean we don’t really have a very good overview of the local CBOs, NGOs
R: right yeah unless they’re related to tourism or English or education we don’t really see them.
I: Okay
R: We were meeting with our colleague Bram who is working on with political parties in different
parts of the country and his perspective and I agree with this, there’s numbers of new political
parties that have occurred. Not all of them registered, not all of them considered legal political
parties, but there are a tiny dozen. And I think they are these former organizations that were
sheltered behind some facade, that are now openly political.
I: Yeah
R: But other than that I don’t know.
I: Okay. And one thing I actually forgot, because you mentioned when we talked about the
foundation ahm the funding, ahm you mentioned that the foundations have different objectives
R: yes
I: And we had this topic before in the first part of the interview, but do those objectives influence
your projects here?
R: Yes. Ahm you know it may not be so well there’s a foundation providing the foundation for the
school. They’re very clear. They’re providing funding for that school that building period that’s all you
can’t do anything else with it. Ahm there’s another organization a foundation in Norway that funded
the entrepreneurship projects for women and they their proposals was much less specific so it was
generally spent on this entrepreneurship but it wasn’t precise about what it would be.
I: Okay
R: But the foundations almost always, some of them will fund PfC operationally, so 500.000 dollars
Ingrid can use for operational requirements whatever they are and then it’s up to her. But most of
the time it’s for a prohject for a particular deliverable.
I: So for an already existing project
R: No, it also can be a new project but it needs to be more specific.
I: Okay
R: You know there’s funding now for a vocational training. From a Norwegian foundation. And it has
been very specific about what it was going to be used, for phase to obey an existing project but we
are not going forward with this project so it’s not able to be applied to vocational training but I can
apply it to entrepreneurship.
I: Okay. So for this one proposal, it’s still evidentially to me sorry, ahm when they when you said the proposal was very specific so you had a lot of freedom in choosing for your own activities there as well, does that mean that they actually hand in their proposal to PfC or they check with you if it’s feasible, or
R: No, PfC makes a proposal to the foundation, and we know that the foundation is interested into a certain area of work. So we make a proposal to make programs for women entrepreneurs. And we identify some possible types of programs but then we have a cavicorn that says you know depending on our local environment this may or may not exactly be the same projects that get delivered, I can’t use that money to fund English classes, but I can make the variety of decisions on how to support entrepreneurs.
I: Yeah, alright, okay, very well, that’s basically everything I needed to know! Thanks a lot for the answers, it’s been a great pleasure!
R: Yeah, you’re welcome!
I: And ahm
R: And you go back in the middle of the week?
I: Yeah either.......... 

END