

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FINNISH EXPERT

Project Title:	Women Socio-Economic Reconstruction Project in Kayin State
Type of Assignment:	Mentoring and coaching for women's collective businesses under Women's Economic Committees (WECs)
Time of Assignment:	November – December 2019

Introduction

Women's Bank is supporting Women Socio-Economic Reconstruction Project (WSERP) via Finn Church Aid (FCA) in Myanmar. KLF aims to contribute to women's economic and social empowerment so that women become equal and active participants in the sustainable development of their communities. The vulnerable women's business and income generating opportunities will be enhanced and participation in decision-making increased. This will take place in the framework of communal Women's Empowerment Committees (WEC). The 15 targeted WECs will have appropriate structures, strengthened management and operational capacity. The WECs will have the capacity to provide services to their increased and strengthened membership.

The project offers technical support, capacity building, vocational and skills trainings, and market linkages for sustainable livelihood development. Women are encouraged to engage in saving activities and acquire additional financial support for their businesses through microfinance services. By the end of the project, 825 direct women beneficiaries will be able to benefit through improved business and income generating opportunities and increased participation in decision-making.

Under Women's Bank Skills Donation, FCA MYACO requests to support women groups' collective businesses by providing best business practices and up-to-date knowledge of doing business. Collective business development is one of the main components under the present WSERP project. The project, including FCA and KLF project staff and Women Empowerment Committee members, would greatly benefit from a deeper knowledge and accurate shared understanding of the success factors for business development and women's entrepreneurship in rural areas, particularly in the framework of collective and cooperative business models, and an expert advice in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of existing businesses in the project

area. MYACO can also apply this good opportunity to build its capacity in livelihood programming for utilization in other Women's Bank funded projects under the Right to Livelihood program.

Assignment:

The volunteer's assignment is to support and build the project's capacity to implement best practices in the area of collective business development as well as identifying the strengths and weaknesses of existing women businesses under WEC.

Scope of Work summarized:

- To conduct a field visit to project areas in order to have a clear understanding of communities and their economic situations as well as to understand the existing income generation activities such as individual income generating activities (IGAs), collective IGAs and Micro-finance activities as well as the potential markets for their products.
- To provide advice, guidance, and feedback on current business plans; share their experience and expertise as appropriate; act as a sounding board for ideas and action plans.
- To provide technical assistance for ensuring profitability and sustainability of collective businesses.
- To identify resources that will help WECs to support collective business development and growth, provide recommendations and new ideas for businesses; encourage WECs to join existing networks and to engage productively with private sector and market actors.

Qualifications of the Volunteer:

- Degree in at least one of the following: economics, agribusiness, agrology, business management, marketing or other fields of relevant study, or equivalent working experience
- Proven working experience relating to at least one of the following: agribusiness, cooperative business, market research, commerce, marketing management or equivalent
- Experience in mentoring in the business sector
- Market studies and value chain analyses with solid methodological and analytical research skills; consulting or coaching experience is an advantage

- Ability to produce effective and clear communication in English, both written and verbal
- Good facilitation and communication skills in cross-cultural settings