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*Office on Drugs and Crime*

Myanmar Country Office

Reaching Out to the Wa:  
Achievements in Mong Pawk District  
1999-2005



September 2006

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*This information brochure is based on the Report of  
an Impact Assessment Survey.  
The summary and the full report of the Impact Assessment Survey is  
available with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,  
Country office, Myanmar*

## 2005 IMPACT ASSESSMENT SURVEY (IAS)



### **Survey Objective**

*To measure the impact of inputs provided by the UNODC Wa Project and partners, on livelihoods in the five townships of Mong Pawk District between 1999 and 2005.*

### **Methods**

- Quantitative questionnaires used at level of household and village.
- Qualitative gender segregated group discussions held with villagers.
- Survey conducted by locally recruited and trained surveyors working in four local languages.
- An extracted sample set of villages from the 1999/2000 baseline survey analysed for a direct comparison of results for 44 villages.

### **Scope**

- 385 households (15% of the district total) from 51 of the 310 district villages surveyed.
- Purposive sampling conducted for those villages that have received higher levels of project inputs (44 of the 51 surveyed).

The outputs of the UNODC Wa project are as follows:

1. Stakeholder planning, coordination and management structure established.
2. Community development method agreed on by partners, and basic mechanism for planning and implementation of village development work established.
3. Sustainable increase in agricultural and livestock production achieved.
4. Environmentally sound farming practices, and forest and biodiversity conservation measures in place.
5. Village-based income generating activities increased.
6. Social development services improved.
7. Drug demand reduction system operational.
8. Performance monitoring and evaluation system established.

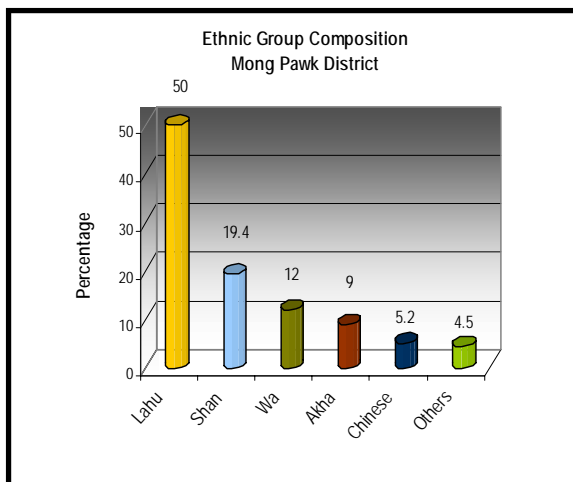
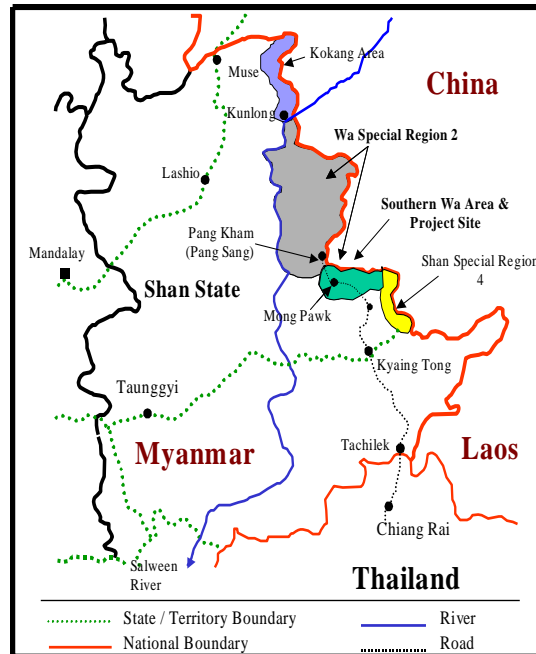
The outputs are reflected in the project's components, which include community and household health, education services, livelihoods, infrastructure and community development - the activity areas examined by the 2005 Impact Assessment Survey (IAS).

## MONG PAWK DISTRICT, WA SPECIAL REGION 2

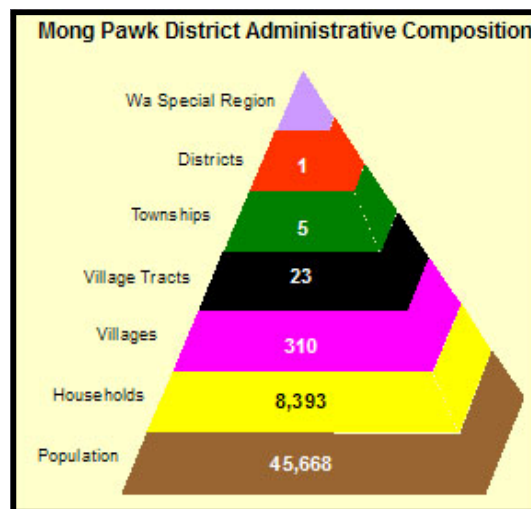
Mong Pawk District, located in Wa Special Region 2 of the Eastern Shan State, is administered by the Wa authorities, headquartered in Pang Sang (Pang Kham). The area, characterised by its remote and mountainous terrain, is home to approximately twelve ethnic groups.

The livelihood strategies of these inhabitants have traditionally been based on the cultivation of rice in infertile upland fields during the monsoon, and opium cultivation throughout the dry season.

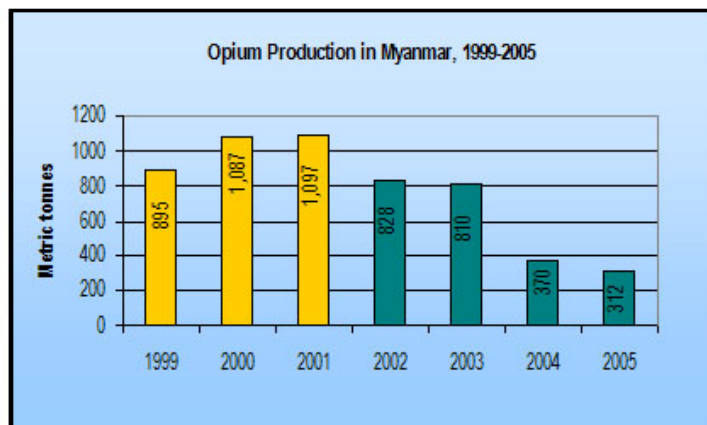
A baseline survey conducted in 1999, determined that 73% of the population suffered from a six-month rice deficit and had depended on the income derived from opium sales to ensure food security for the remainder of the year. Household economies in the upland farming communities of this district have long been hampered by the demands of a harsh natural environment, more than two decades of conflict and, more recently, coercive opium eradication strategies.



Source: Myanmar Opium Survey 2005



Following the cessation of hostilities with the Government of the Union of Myanmar (GOUM), and the imposition of a ceasefire agreement between both parties in 1989, the Wa Authorities made a commitment to eradicate all poppy cultivation throughout the region by 2005. Initiatives to this effect commenced in 1999.



Source : Myanmar Opium Survey 2005 (UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme)

The ceasefire has since ensured a measure of stability in the Wa and generated the provision of development assistance from the GOUM, UNODC and other development agencies.

## THE UNODC WA PROJECT

**Immediate Objective**

*To improve the livelihood of targeted households in the Wa Special Region enabling them to survive without the income derived from opium poppy.*

The UNODC Wa Project has been working towards mitigating the impact of opium eradication on local livelihoods since June 1998. Efforts have centred on activities in the sectors of health, education, livelihoods, infrastructure and community development.



Lahu



Shan



Akha



Wa

## THE KOWI PARTNERSHIP

In preparation for a gradual withdrawal of its presence from the Wa Region, and in recognition of the fact that one organisation cannot provide all the support needed to achieve development goals in this complex region, phase three of the UNODC Wa Project has included an emphasis on facilitating the entrance of new partner organisations into the area.



Three partners have worked with the UNODC Wa Project in Mong Pawk District under the Kokang and Wa Initiative (KOWI):

- Aide Medical International
- Malteser International
- World Food Programme



In 2003, AMI and Malteser International took responsibility for the majority of health activities throughout the Mong Pawk District. These have included supporting the existing health care systems and village health networks, as well as conducting malaria eradication initiatives. The UNODC Wa Project continues to implement activities related to the rehabilitation of drug addicts in the area. WFP joined KOWI in June 2004 and provides emergency food support to households through food-for-work and school feeding schemes, among others.



## FINDINGS

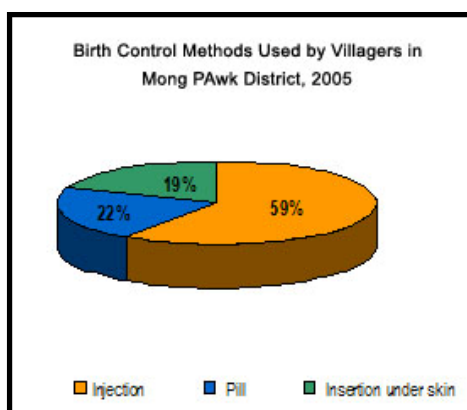
### Community and Household Health

#### Component Objective

*Reduce illicit drug demand (for existing and potential abusers) and establish an accessible and culturally sensitive primary health care delivery system.*

#### Summary inputs by 2005

- Three permanent Rural Health Clinics constructed.
- Mobile health clinics set up in all township markets.
- Support and training provided for clinic and hospital staff, including malaria microscopists.
- Medicines, materials and equipment provided, including malaria diagnostic labs, rapid malaria test kits and bed nets.
- Network of 130 Village Health Volunteers established.
- Crash programs held for EPI immunization.
- Community and township-based drug demand reduction (DDR) programs implemented in all five townships.
- Water supply and sanitary latrines constructed in 42 villages.



Source : IAS 2005

#### Achievement highlights at the district level

- Reliable clinic services (including medicines and equipment) attended by trained staff, are available free of charge.
- Malaria positive rates decreased from 18% to 2% between January 2004 and May 2005.
- 1,555 drug addicts have been rehabilitated.
- 191 leprosy cases have been identified and treated.



#### Achievement highlights in the surveyed villages

- Between 2004 and 2005, 76% of surveyed households visited a clinic at least once.
- In 2005, decreases occurred in the incidence of common fever (-19%), malaria (-11%) and acute diarrhea (-4%), as a proportion of all diseases experienced.
- In 2005, 25% of households used a modern method of birth spacing.
- In 2005, 86% of the villages surveyed had a piped water system; a four-fold increase in piped water systems since 1999.
- In 2005, 90% of households had a water supply for between 10 and 12 months per year.
- In 2005, 91% of households were within a ten minute walk to a water source.



## Education Service

### Component Objective

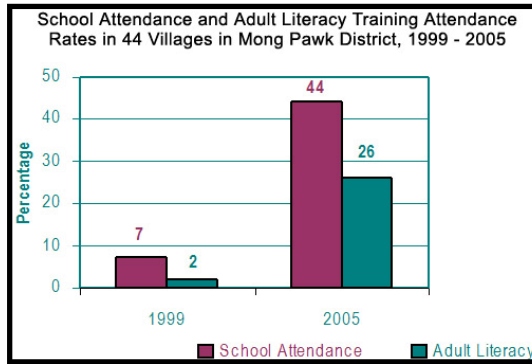
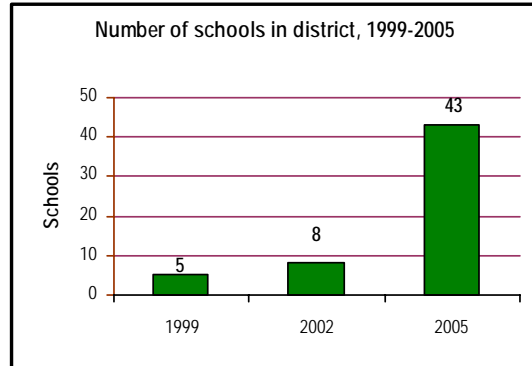
Upgrade the educational and vocational capacity of the local community and integrate it with the mainstream GOUM system at the upper levels.

### Summary inputs by 2005

- 15 schools and 3 boarding houses constructed.
- Equipment, study materials, teacher training and salary support provided for 20 primary schools and 1 high school in 2005.
- Salaries provided for 46 teachers in 21 schools in 2005.
- 191 teachers trained between 2000 and 2005.
- Income-generation activities conducted in a total of 16 schools.
- Support extended to a total of 1558 students in 2005.
- Education services provided to a total of 87 villages.

### Achievement highlights at the district level

- The total number of permanent schools in the district has increased from 5 to 43.



Source: Opium Production and Socio-Economic Survey (1999/2000) and IAS 2005

### Achievement highlights in the surveyed villages

- The number of villages with a school has doubled, from 10 to 20 schools in 44 villages.
- In 2005, two-thirds of the villages had a school either in the village or within 30 minutes walking distance.

#### School attendance

- The percentage of school-aged children attending school has increased from 7% to 44%.
- In 2005, half of all school-aged girls were in school.

#### Adult literacy

- Adult literacy rates increased from 4% to 18%.
- Adults attending literacy training increased from 2% to 26%.

## Livelihoods

### Component Objective

To achieve a sustainable increase in agricultural and livestock production.

### Summary inputs by 2005

#### Intensification of rice-based farming systems

- New crops, improved seed varieties and new crop management technologies introduced.
- Draft buffalo provided.
- Training School for agricultural technologies set up.

#### Livestock and fisheries

- Pasture management and forage crops improved.
- Village veterinary services provided.
- Livestock and improved breeding stocks provided.

#### Perennial crops and woodlots

- Fruit orchards and tea plantations established.
- Tree nurseries and woodlots established.



### FOOD SECURITY

The number of households experiencing food security has increased from 25% in 1999 to 37% in 2005.

### Achievement highlights at the district level

- Total number of permanent schools in the district has increased from 5 to 43.

### Achievement highlights in the surveyed villages

#### Intensification of rice farming

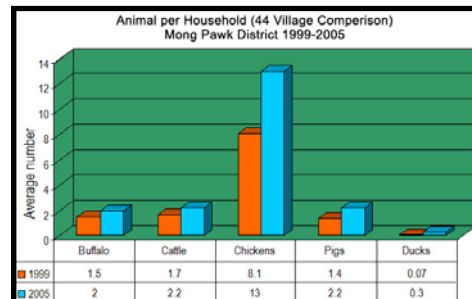
- Households cultivating paddy increased by 21%.
- Paddy yields increased by 125%.
- In 2005, 42% of households used an improved rice seed variety.

#### Crop diversification

- 60% of households have adopted at least one new crop.
- 60% of households have adopted at least one new agricultural technology.
- The proportion of households' total annual income generated by cultivated crop sales, has increased by 5%.

#### Livestock improvement

- The number of buffalo owned by households has increased by 26%.
- The number of cattle has increased by 25%.
- The number of chickens has increased by 37%.
- The number of pigs has increased by 36%.
- The proportion of households' total annual income generated by livestock sales, has increased by 14%.



Source: Opium Production Socio-Economic Survey (1999/2000) and IAS 2005

## Infrastructure

### **Component Objective**

To establish or improve the infrastructure and services necessary to reduce isolation and to improve human and animal health standards, education standards and utility services.

### **Summary inputs by 2005**

- 44 village and 1 township water supply systems constructed.
- Water supply for 1 hospital and 3 Rural Health Clinics provided.
- 12 primary and 3 secondary schools constructed.
- Agricultural irrigation systems, covering 761 hectares of paddy land, constructed.
- Year-round main roads: Mong Phen-Mong Kar and Mong Pawk-Nam Saw, and 3 village access roads, constructed.
- Electrification for Mong Pawk Town and Nam Lwi Catchments provided.



### **ELECTRICITY**

30 (58%) of 51 villages surveyed have electricity, mostly hydropower, by 2005.



### **Achievement highlights**

Infrastructural developments paved the way for achievements in other sectors. During the 1990s, Mong Pawk District was remote, lacking all-weather roads and suffering from poor communication links and very few social services. Progress in transport systems facilitated communication and service delivery. Improved roads made possible construction of schools and clinics and facilitated villagers' access to critical services. Similarly, safe and accessible water supplies have improved village health and household productivity. Electrification has also allowed the township hospital and administration facilities to function effectively.

Most importantly for livelihoods, the Mong Kar canal and other irrigation systems enable former poppy cultivators to become productive rice farmers. Such systems have helped remove impediments to progress in the production of rice.

## Community Development

### Component Objective

To establish and institutionalise a system that involves local communities in the planning and implementation of development alternatives to the cultivation, sale and use of opium.

### Achievement highlights

Almost all households in the district participated in at least one village organisation.

### Summary inputs by 2005

Village organisations and services that enable the sustainable participation of communities in development activities established:

#### **Community service providers:**

- Community Development Facilitator
- Village Health Volunteer
- Village Livestock Worker
- Village Agricultural Worker

#### **Community-managed services:**

- Rice Bank
- Seed Bank
- Credit Group / Revolving Fund

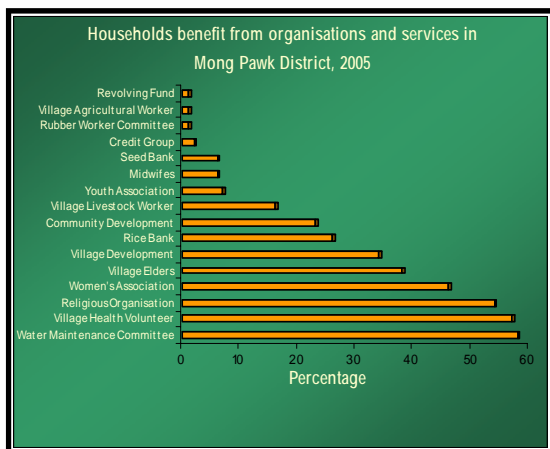
#### **Community organisations:**

- Village Development Committee
- Mutual Help Team
- Water Maintenance Committee



The social organisations in the village help carry out the village development activity plan, help take care of villagers' health, let the villagers know the results of the mutual help teams, and also maintain the water supply system of the village. Through the social organisation we also started a village seed bank and it is a great help to the poor. Through Food For Work activities we now have new community assets like the road to the upland fields, that makes it easy to transport products and travel to other villages and towns. Some are able to get new paddy fields that will be enough for the families income, and without having to pay labour charge for new paddy field construction. Because of all this help and support the villagers are very happy and thankful to the project.

Doi Lone villagers (IAS 2005)



Source : IAS 2005



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