

# The impacts of acute political conflict in Myanmar on Women's engagement in dried fish value chains

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 **Dried Fish Matters**

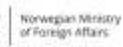
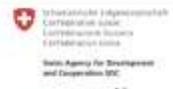
  
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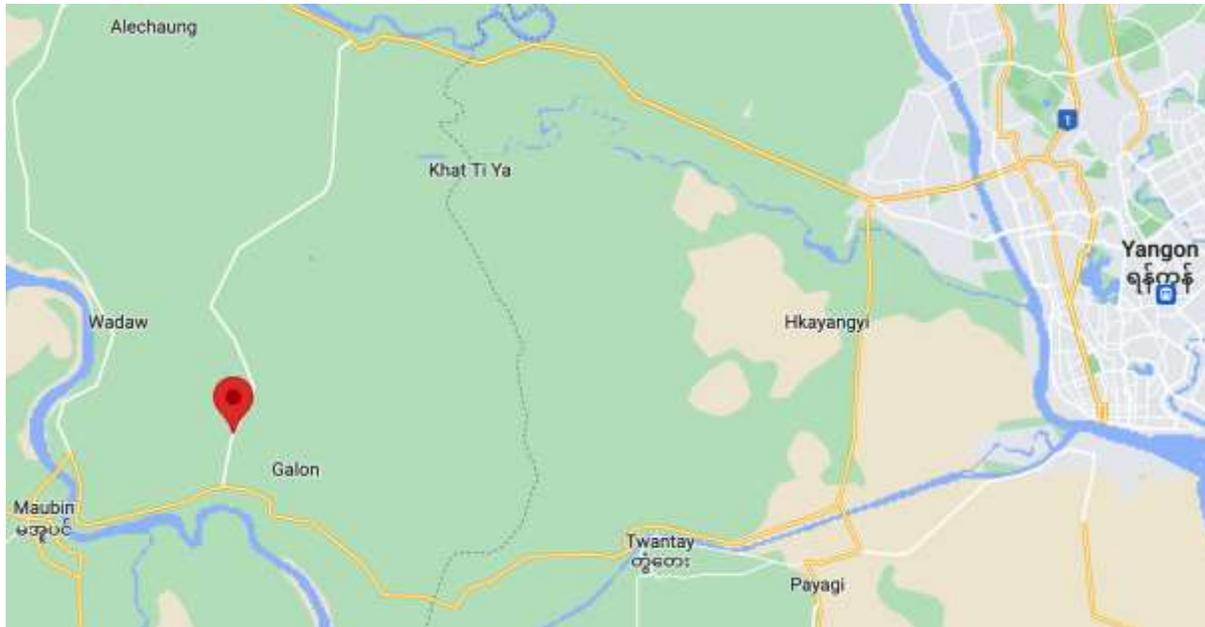


# Content

1. Background
2. Resilience during the pandemic and the coup
  - I. Social cohesion
  - II. Livelihood changes
  - III. Migration
3. Roles of women and men – a story

# Background

- Papin village, Malato village tract, Maubin Township, Myanmar
- Dried fish processing, paddy farming, casual jobs
- Visited in November 2019 and March 2020
- How the pandemic and the political change has affected women's work and status, and how they are coping



# Resilience during the pandemic and the coup

## I. Social cohesion

- Food security
- access to health services, and
- community-based resource conservation

## II. Livelihood changes

- Livelihoods has changed over the last three years, especially for women
- Fish retailing and dried fish processing has completely stopped
- Foraging banana leaves (one leaf = one bundle = 30 MMK .10\$) and water spinach - 4,000 to 6,000 MMK (1.20 – 2\$) per day
- Men still fish



March 2020



November 2022

# Dried fish processing to fresh fish retailing in Yangon



March 2020



November 2022

# III. Migration

- Youths, males and females over 18 are gone
- Migrating to the city, Yangon and other countries (Thai, Malaysia, Japan)
- E.g., Factory jobs in Yangon, rubber plantation firms in Thai, Malaysia
- Legal and illegal
- Encouraged by agents of further agent

# Roles of women and men – a story



- Five family members
- The roles of a woman
- Domestic violence
- Migration dream
- Two-digit lottery

# Conclusion

- Fieldtrip
  - preparation, collaboration, coordination
  - Ethics and security issues
- More study to learn

- Filipiski, Mateusz, Hak Lim Lee, Aung Hein, and Ulrike Nischan. 2020. “Emigration and Rising Wages in Myanmar: Evidence from Mon State.” *The Journal of Development Studies* 56 (5): 946–63.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2019.1626834>.