



2024

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

KACHIN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION THAILAND

Published on June 2025

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Acknowledgements

It is with great pride that KWAT presents the "2024 KWAT Activity Report" to our esteemed readers and supporters. This comprehensive report showcases the significant achievements of KWAT's four main programs, including success stories, advocacy efforts, and a curated collection of activity photos. We hope that, through this report, all our readers and supporters will gain a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of KWAT's accomplishments in 2024.

The 2024 Annual Activity Report is shared with profound gratitude, acknowledging the ongoing partnerships that sustain our work towards justice and equality.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to all our donors, partners, networks, and individuals for their unwavering commitment and contributions to our efforts in women's empowerment, social justice, peace, and Federal Democracy in Burma. Your support is indispensable, and KWAT would not be able to step into another successful year without it.

We are extremely grateful to all KWAT staff for their extraordinary work. Special acknowledgment also goes to our volunteers, Grace Sadan and Enya for their exceptional design and layout of this activity report.

Secretariat Team
Kachin Women's Association Thailand

Organization Background

In September 1999, four pioneering women founded the Kachin Women's Association of Thailand (KWAT) with the aim of fostering a peaceful and safe Kachin Society, particularly advocating for the rights and well-being of women and children. The organization arose as these women observed how Myanmar's central government ignored the basic needs and rights of the Kachin community. KWAT has since become an important component in creating a compassionate civil society network, delivering essential services to multiple communities.

KWAT's highly successful empowerment and capacity building programs have supported and facilitated leadership among women and youth, enabling them to educate and uplift their communities. The demand for KWAT's services has grown exponentially and the organization's role and influence have expanded significantly, reflecting the importance of the essential services and guidance we deliver daily. This would not be possible without the extraordinary work of our staff and the indispensable aid and assistance our supporters provide. We desire to continue performing this vital work for succeeding generations, now and into the future.

Vision: The Kachin Women's Association Thailand envisions a peaceful and developed society rooted in gender and social equality, free of discrimination and oppression.

Mission: The Kachin Women's Association Thailand is a non-profit organization that works to eliminate discrimination and violence against women. It does so by enhancing women's living standards, enabling them to participate in decision-making at all levels, and strengthening the quest for social justice, peace, and development in the Kachin region.



Shirley Seng



Hkawn Tawng



Linda Lahtaw



Jenet

Acronyms

KWAT: Kachin Women's Association Thailand

HRVs: Human Rights Violations

HRDs: Human Rights Defenders

GBV: Gender-based Violence

SRHR: Sexual Reproductive Health Rights

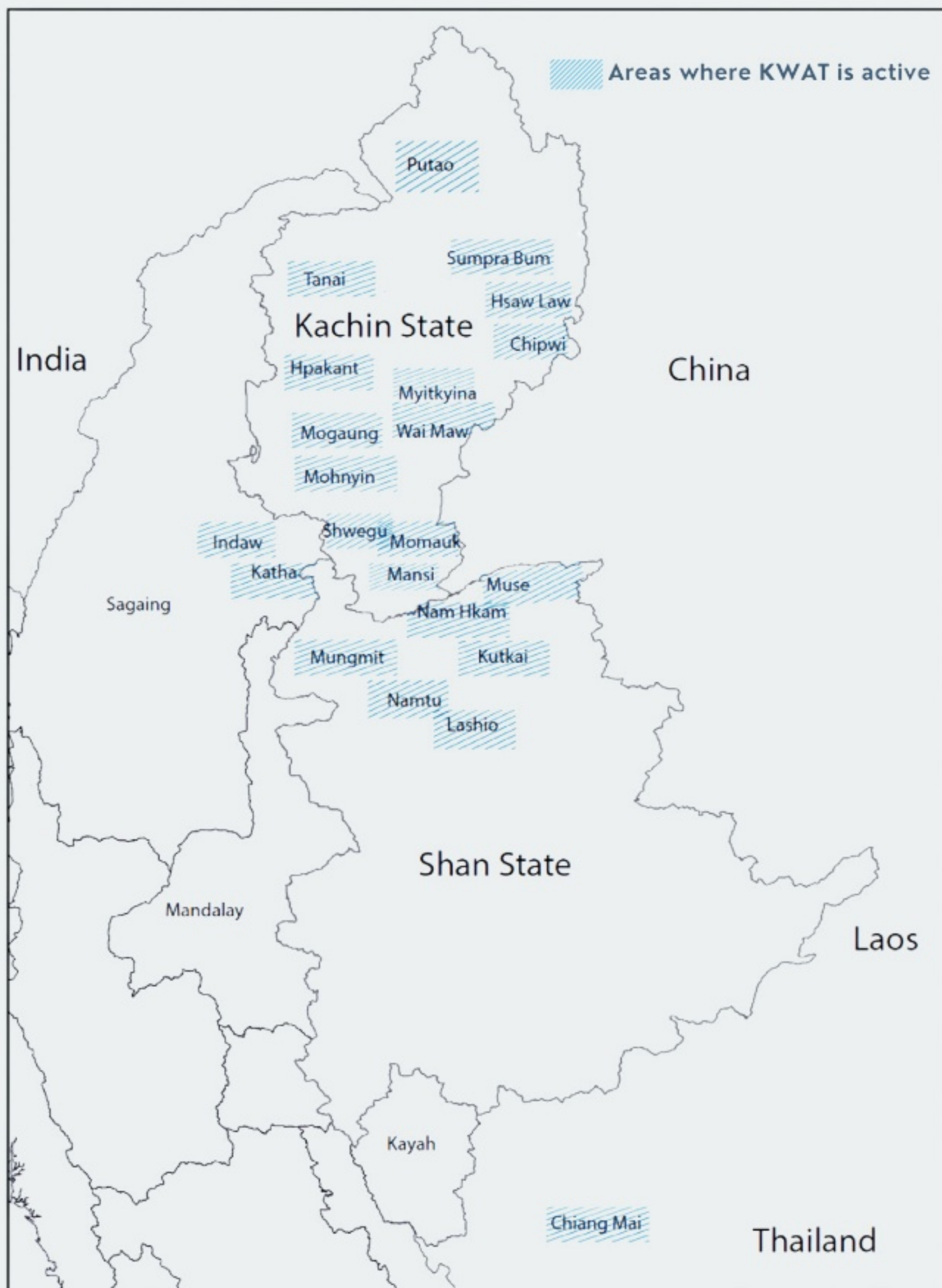
**ND-Burma: Network for Human Rights
Documentation Burma**

ECCD: Early Childhood Care and Development

IDPs: Internal Displaced People

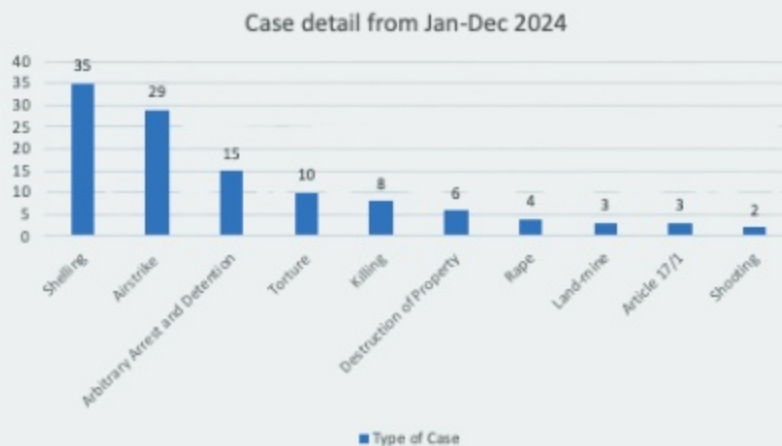
KIO: Kachin Independent Organization

CDM: Civil Disobedience Movement



Achievement Highlights

Data Collection and Evidence-Based Advocacy



KWAT's **Documentation and Research** program has collected **108** detailed case recordings in 2024, compared to **59** in 2023. KWAT focuses on **evidence-based data collection** and has collected **261 cases** through a **daily information report system**. KWAT continues to collaborate with local and international partners, including the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), to share documents of human rights violations, particularly in relation to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Based on KWAT's 2024 data chart, arbitrary shelling and airstrikes accounted for the highest number of documented cases. These forms of violence have had devastating impacts on civilians, including displacement, injury, and loss of life. In addition, rape and other forms of sexual violence continued to be reported, reflecting a persistent and concerning pattern of gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas.

KWAT also maintained a close-working relationship with two survivors teams- founded by the survivors themselves- by empowering them and organizing regular meetings among the survivors. KWAT conducted two rounds of psychosocial support (PSS) training in 2024 to strengthen their capacity in providing trauma-informed care and emotional support.

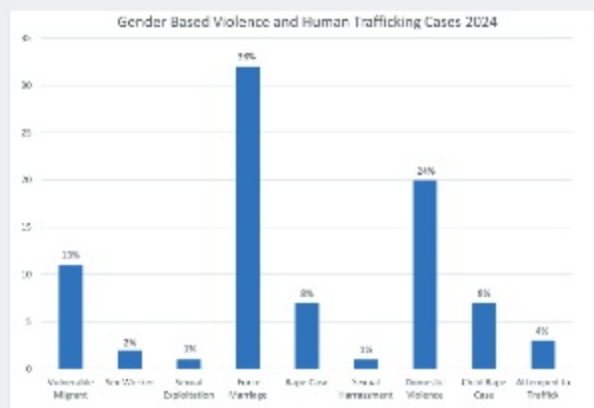


Anti-Trafficking Program



KWAT continues to operate safe house services in three locations and works in close collaboration with community leaders, civil society organizations, and community-based groups to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including trafficking, in the Kachin and Northern Shan States. In 2024, KWAT provided support to **84 survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking**. Between July and December 2024, KWAT and its partner organizations successfully intervened in eight cases, preventing individuals from being trafficked for labor exploitation at the Laiza border between Burma and China.

In 2024, KWAT conducted a series of community awareness-raising initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, preventing gender-based violence, and strengthening community engagement. These activities included events commemorating International Women's Day (IWD), the 16 Days of



Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, and community forums focused on women's rights and protection issues. A total of **4,564 community members** participated in these events, comprising 1,263 men and 3,301 women. These activities provided safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue, encouraged local advocacy, and contributed to increased awareness of the risks of gender-based violence and trafficking, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

A total number of **1940 women and men** have participated in psychosocial service support. KWAT have conducted a 3 day survivor exchange & strengthening activity with 17 survivors and have also increased our engagement with local authorities, community leaders, and humanitarian partners to strengthen collaboration, gather information on security risks, and coordinate responses to the evolving situation on the ground.

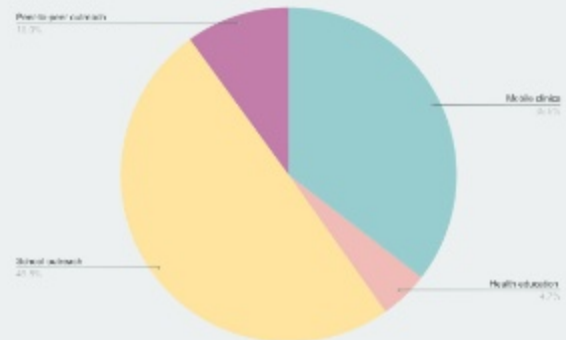


Ongoing armed conflict, widespread displacement, and limited economic opportunities in the Kachin State and Northern Shan state have significantly increased the vulnerability of women and girls from Myanmar to trafficking, particularly into China for forced marriage and labor exploitation. A total of **67 hotline calls** were received from individuals within vulnerable communities, many of whom are requests for assistance, reports of suspected trafficking cases, and inquiries about safe migration. There are 9 Local Action teams (community member-lead information sharing system) that have formed across the Kachin and northern Shan state for the purpose of trafficking prevention and coordination response. Given the ongoing armed conflict in Kachin areas, the establishment of community-based information-sharing systems with local authorities and organizations are critically important.

Health Program



In 2024, KWAT conducted 48 health awareness sessions, reaching 3120 participants, and organized **reproductive health workshops for 646 adults** while training 20 peer educators. Additionally, KWAT promoted nutritional awareness by recruiting mother support groups, holding monthly cooking demonstrations, and providing health education to mothers of children under two. KWAT also held a 4-day Capacity Building Training for 28 staff and local RHC members to improve the quality of healthcare services. Through partnerships with network organizations, KWAT has addressed gaps in healthcare access, delivering resources and health education to marginalized and rural communities in the Kachin and Northern Shan State.



In 2024, KWAT's health program assisted at least 8,844 patients across its **three mobile clinics (Mai Ja Yang, Lwe Je, and Hu Hpyek)**. Additionally, KWAT provided health education to 12,150 students in 90 primary and **ECCD schools**, along with general medical treatment, laboratory services, and nutritional support to 44 preschools. Furthermore, KWAT conducted adolescent reproductive health trainings with participation of 163 attendees from January and June and 251 attendees from July and December 2024.

Humanitarian Support



Due to the intensified **armed conflict** across Kachin and northern Shan state areas, many villagers are becoming **IDPs** and are seeking **support** and **refuge** in ethnically-controlled areas. Thus, KWAT have supported the distribution of **basic food** and **healthcare** as well as **cash support** to displaced households and individuals. For example, in **Nam Hpak Ka town** (Northern Shan State) KWAT has supported the provision of **basic medicine** to the local hospital operated by the KIO health department and CDM staff which has resulted in approximately **300 households** continuously receiving basic health care services. KWAT has provided emergency food support for **870 IDPs** households, distributed dignity kits to **689 Household** level and Menstrual Hygiene Management Kits to **1319 community members** in the Momauk and Mansi Township.





Humanitarian Support

KWAT works closely with local community leaders and local authorities to ensure that assistance reaches those most in need. In 2024, KWAT reached approximately 10,186 individual IDPs and 600 households from conflict-affected communities in Kachin and Northern Shan States. Due to the ongoing armed conflict in Kachin areas, the number of IDPs continues to rise daily. With limited access to humanitarian aid, local communities are doing their best to support one another; however, without sustained assistance, this situation may become increasingly difficult in the long term. According to the UN report nearly 279,000 people were internally displaced by the end of 2024. Many are living in temporary shelters, making camps in jungles, and also urgently require emergency food assistance and health care.



In 2024, a total of **261 women and girls** participated in leadership and political awareness training. Additionally, **11 young women completed six months of in-house and two months of practical leadership training**. **Six KWAT staff members** also undertook **two and a half months of capacity building training**, covering topics such as Federal Democracy, International Humanitarian Law, and Project Management. These programs provided participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, opening up opportunities in employment, education, community engagement, and leadership.

The KWAT PEP team further supported women through; **monthly women's exchange events** with **137 participants**, a **transitional justice and international accountability workshop** with **15 women**, and **gender and federalism training** for **98 women**. As a result of these initiatives, local women are now equipped to advocate for their rights, influence village administrators, and participate in decision-making processes at all levels.



SUCCESS STORIES

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‘I used to think **politics** were not my business, that it was just the duty of a **country's government**....Now I know how important great issues like **Federalism, Democracy** and **Gender based violence** are, which I had never heard of before.’

Dashi Hkawn Lum

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Learning Human Rights

“

‘We are the **leaders** of the **future** ‘
‘The main thing I learnt from this trip is that our **young people** have a lot to **learn** about our politics and political leaders...I also now know our political leaders are waiting for our **participation**.’

Ja Bawk Maran

”

“

‘By participating in **PSS Women session** and **GBV Training**, I realized to improve my **self-esteem** and **personal value**, feel **safe**, and establish **social relationships**, I need to **avoid** offensive words and actions, use available **coping skills** for stress and enhance the quality of my **patience** to others. Similarly, I have observed improving social relationships, **mutual respect** to one another, and reduced **gender discrimination** in the community’

Hka Nan Village, Mansi Township

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After a **widowed mother of 4**, Mrs Myitung Lu, **house burned** down in Pa Kahtawng IDP Camp, she sought assistance from KWAT's **Peer Educator** in the camp.

Subsequently, KWAT provided **multipurpose cash support** to assist the family's **financial needs** during this difficult time. Mrs Myitung Lu expressed her **gratitude** for KWAT's unconditional assistance in supporting her family.

Mrs Myitung Lu, Pa Kahtawng IDP Camp

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Pa Kahtawng IDP Camp

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A young 3 year old boy, Gamaw, was **referred** to Mangshi Hospital. Gamaw was hospitalized for **two weeks**, during which, his once serious condition **improved** and was eventually discharged with **monthly follow-ups**. The mother testified, “we are **IDPs** and come from financially disadvantaged families, the treatment at Mangshi Hospital was **costly**. During this difficult time, we received **referral support** from KWAT. This was very **helpful** for us.”

Gamaw Hkaw Yaw

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Advocacy



KWAT continuously advocates at both a **local** and **international** scale, engaging with network and partner organizations such as **Women's League of Burma, ND-Burma, Progressive Voice**, and Kachin **community-based** organizations. KWAT also provides regular updates on the human rights situation in the Kachin and Northern Shan state to the staff of the **UN Special Rapporteur** which allows KWAT to include our issues in their reports. In December 2024, KWAT published the report **'Sold to China'** based on interviews with **187 female trafficking survivors** assisted by KWAT between 2019 and 2023. The report reveals the demand for **brides** continues to be the main factor fuelling **trafficking** of women from Burma to China and highlights the necessity of anti-trafficking mechanisms.



Additionally, KWAT conducted a **2 day advanced training** for staff on **transitional justice** which promoted new ideas and approaches to tackling transitional justice at a community and international level. Following this, KWAT held an **advocacy meeting** with key staff members which updated the **roles** of the advocacy team members and discussed KWAT's **advocacy plan and activities** for 2025. KWAT continues to work in close collaboration with partner organizations and campaign groups at the local, regional, and international levels to **advocate for accountability** in addressing war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Burmese military junta in Burma.

Moreover, KWAT will consistently work to highlight the situation in Kachin areas on an international platform and work closely with local communities until we gain genuine **federal democracy** in our country.



3 Day Federalism Training



Emergency preparation



Community information sharing
and PSS recreational session



Bakery shop for survivors



Stop VAW day and 16 day campaign



Survivor exchange activity program



Emergency support interview



Learning Trip Activity



Emergency support for Mae Sai-Tachileik flooding



Peer-to-Peer SRHR Awareness Session



Mai Htawng IDP Support



Emergency flooding support



Cash support in Tachileik



SRHR Advocacy Meeting



Nutritional Support for Pregnant Women



School Health Education



Nutrition Activity



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