



**Dear friends, partners, donors and individual supporters of PIM,**

We are so excited to share our First Quarterly Newsletter. Here are some initial activities of our organization working on the ground and the current status of the local farming community.

## About PIM

The Permaculture Institute Myanmar (PIM) was founded in 2019 by Dr Johanna Garnett a lecturer in Peace Studies and Globalization, alongside her colleagues Than Shwe (a PDC graduate and permaculture trainer) and Myat Tun (environmental educator) aiming to protect and conserve the environment, promote sustainable living and peace in Myanmar.

We (the Permaculture Institute Myanmar Team) are dedicated to assisting smallholder farmers and agrarian communities in tackling local environmental degradation and food security challenges. By focusing on capacity building, education, and sustainable practices, Permaculture Institute Myanmar aims to empower grassroots farming communities from diverse ethnic backgrounds and equip them with the skills and knowledge to drive alternative development, environmental stewardship, and new livelihood opportunities to address these challenges.

## Vision

“We envision a peaceful Myanmar society that ecologically co-exists with nature, sustains livelihood, and ensures community food security through practicing sustainable agriculture and permaculture ethics and principles.”

[www.permaculturemm.org](http://www.permaculturemm.org)

## War and Food Security

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to food is a basic human right as well as human need. Therefore, providing enough safe food to the growing world population is a major and very serious challenge these days.

After the military coup in February 2021, fighting resumed in Rakhine state, the Myanmar Military cut off communication and transportation (roads and waterways), and even inside the state the civilians are not freely allowed to travel from place to place. Consequently, goods flow stopped and the people started to face shortages of household-use commodities and the price of public daily use goods and commodities such as rice, cooking oil, chilli, garlic and ginger etc. are increasing.

The weapon is a game changer for the militants, and food is a matter of life and death for basic civilians and those who have been suffering all the causes of various poor governance in Rakhine State, Myanmar. We, the PIM team, have noticed about this food crisis from our field observations. People who flee from war have been staying temporarily in their friends' houses, relatives' houses and small tanks, and most of them are struggling to find enough food to feed their families.

PIM believes that there might be some ways to help these war-affected people to access regular and sufficient food for their families during wartime.



The condition of IDPs in Laung Chaung village, Rathedaung Tsp, Rakhine, Myanmar



PIM founder, Myat Tun's family have been growing seasonal vegetables in family's share land.

## Family Vegetable Farm

Small-scale farming or home food growing have had protective effects on food security and keep families healthy.

PIM has been encouraging local people to grow their food during this man-made crisis.

The benefits of home-grown food is that it is safe, healthy and can be plentiful – as you can see from this photograph.



## Local Seed Saving

We have also been trying to save local vegetable seeds in Rakhine State. If there is secure seeds in our farmers' hands, there is potential to improve the sustainability and resilience of farming. Seed saving is an ongoing process that PIM focuses on to collaborate with local vegetable growers and is planning to educate local farmers about the importance of local seed saving and local seed production.



## Animal breeding

Initially we built a chicken and duck house in order to showcase how we can generate regular income and use their dropping as natural fertilizers in the vegetable farm and plantation. Animal breeding is a vital component in integrated farming systems and it provides some sources of regular income for farmers, healthy food for consumers and saving farm investment by using their droppings as natural fertilizers and improve the soil micro ecosystem. Animal breeding is an initial pilot activity that PIM will expand in the future and share about how this animal breeding is a source of regular income and nutritious food. Currently, we have been breeding 27 ducks (9 adults + 18 babies) and 14 chickens.

## Permaculture Demonstration Farm-Kyeintali

The Permaculture Learning Center-PLC's demonstration farm is located in Chin Kwin village, Gwa-Thandwe highway, Kyeintali, Gwa Township, Rakhine State, Myanmar. The farm is easy to access and has diverse landscapes. The main objective of PLC's Permaculture Demonstration Farm is to install all the possible applications of permaculture techniques based on permaculture ethics and principles, to become a practical field for young farmers and a place where farmers, locals and other practitioners can visit and learn.





## PIM's Emergency Response to the MOCHA cyclone affected people in Rakhine



(60) rice bags were distributed to 216 households from Ran Aung Pyin and Lone Tin villages, Rathedaung township, Rakhine State, Myanmar on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023.



(74) rice bags were distributed to 183 households from Pew Kyae Taung, Nga Pre Kyun-Ywar Ma and Nga Pre Kyun-Alay Ywar, Pauk Taw township, Rakhine State, Myanmar on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023.



(80) rice bags were distributed to 178 households from Kyar Nyo Inn, Thone Khwa, Pesi and Maw Ywar villages, Kyauk Taw township, Rakhine State, Myanmar on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023



Rathedaung was the first place hit by the cyclone MOCHA, more than 98% of houses were devastated. Salty water enters into drinking water ponds and gets dirty. The PIM team helped pump out the salty and muddy water from drinking ponds with the involvement of villagers and young volunteers.





## Local observation-by Myat Tun

“I have already predicted that there might be man-made scarcity in Rakhine State since I was studying at Kanthari, India. I was always thinking of the ways I can help our people who are the most affected groups during this conflict period.

When I arrived home, I noticed that there is a big difference between seeing the crisis from out of the country and experiencing the crisis in my home-state. As soon as I arrived home, I was going into field to meet with local farmers, observe current agricultural status and listen to their difficulties and challenges, and discuss about what we can do to help and collaborate together to improve the lives of the grassroots

Thank you so much for reading this very first newsletter of PIM and believing and supporting us our vision and works. If you would like to help the rural farming community and believe in our vision and mission, you are really welcome to collaborate with us on any matters of grassroots farming development.

Your contribution to a better future of farming community!

**Donate Us**

We are in the process of opening an organization bank account now. For present, please directly contact us at [info@permaculturemm.org](mailto:info@permaculturemm.org) /WhatsApp No (+95 9672463743)