

EHSSG ETHNIC HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Dedicated to all EHSSG staff who had put in their best effort to the implementation of our activities through 2022.

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A LETTER FROM OUR ADVISOR

Since 2014, EHSSG members have come together with both the vision and commitment to improve the health rights of local ethnic communities. Throughout these years, the EHSSG has worked with both local and international partners to strengthen the healthcare mechanism in local ethnic communities through delivering technical training for the health workforce and health system, improving the healthcare infrastructure, reinforcing service delivery and advocating community health rights to local, national and international stakeholders.

With a common goal of shaping the federal health structure of Myanmar, EHSSG members have also worked together to coordinate healthcare service delivery, health information systems and health policies, and to strategize and implement initiatives to move forward toward this goal. Furthermore, the EHSSG has expanded its networks with new community-based healthcare providers and healthcare professionals inside Myanmar. Through the community-based healthcare mechanism and expanded networks, the EHSSG has been able to effectively respond to the emergency needs of local ethnic communities and take prompt actions to ensure that the work of health system strengthening continues and is enhanced to cope with the emerging needs in these local ethnic communities. The 2021 coup in Myanmar was a reminder to all of us of the cruciality of a community-embedded healthcare system to ensure the availability of primary healthcare for conflict-affected and vulnerable local ethnic communities in an extremely complex situation and difficult period.



Our collective efforts and our common values of mutual respect, equity and unity are the backbone of our achievements and the solutions to the challenges we now have and expect to face in the near future. Thank you for joining forces with us on this journey toward improving the health rights of all people in Myanmar, supporting a responsive and resilient ethnic healthcare mechanism, and shaping a federal health structure of Myanmar.

Dr. Cynthia Maung Advisor EHSSG

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Dear partners, members and stakeholders,

I am thrilled to share the annual report of Ethnic Health System Strengthening Group (EHSSG) for the year 2022. EHSSG has made remarkable progress in strengthening the healthcare system in ethnic communities.

As we look forward to the coming Federal Health System, EHSSG is committed to working together with our existing members, tentative partners and stakeholders to ensure readiness for the future healthcare system. We recognize the importance of collaboration and partnership in achieving our shared goals of providing accessible and affordable healthcare services to all communities, especially those who are marginalized and vulnerable.

EHSSG is dedicated to addressing health disparities and improving overall health outcomes in ethnic communities. With your continued support, we will endure to make progress towards achieving our goals.



Thank you for your usual coordination with Ethnic Health System Strengthening Group (EHSSG).

Sincerely,

Saw Nay Htoo Chairperson

Ethnic Health Systems Strengthening Group

OUR DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear EHSSG Stakeholders,

Since 2015, the EHSSG has been working on establishing a network of ethnic and community health organizations and investment in health system strengthening and providing technical supports to our partner organizations. Now, I am pleased to present to you our Annual Report 2022, outlining our achievements over the past year.

As the Director of EHSSG, I am proud to report that we have made significant progress in strengthening the pharmacy and warehouses systems, implementing pharmacy inventory software, and providing a learning hub for our staff and partner organizations.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our advisor and chairperson for their guidance and support, and to our team members for their hard work and dedication. It is through their efforts that we have been able to provide technical support, skills, and system improvement to our partners to prepare for the Federal Health System of the future.



We will continue to work closely with our partners to build a sustainable health system that meets the needs of all communities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Saw Thar Win

Director

EHSSG

WHO WE ARE

The Ethnic Health Systems Strengthening L Group (EHSSG) was formed in 2015 and currently consists of 14 ethnic- and community-based health organizations throughout Burma and especially based in Kachin, Chin, Karen, Karenni, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states, East Bago and Tanintharyi divisions. Together they aim to improve the access to quality primary health care for ethnic populations, build strong health systems and find alignment with federal health system. The EHSSG focuses on the six building blocks for health systems strengthening, as recommended by the World Health Organization: Leadership and Governance; Service Delivery; Health Workforce; Health Information Systems; Access to Medicines; Health Financing. The EHSSG works together to achieve a quality standard for ethnic health systems.

Our Vision:

An accessible, equitable and quality primary health care system, where health services are equally available to all through a multi-sectoral approach that ensures the protection of the poor and vulnerable within a Federal Union of Burma.

Our Mission:

A network of ethnic and community health organizations who are working together to strengthen health systems of ethnic areas, and to advocate for equitable and essential primary health services for vulnerable and displaced people throughout Burma. EHSSG members provide comprehensive health programs in their local areas through a collaborative approach with local, national, international and government

bodies. EHSSG members are working towards an improved health system, that is decentralized, where the work of existing ethnic and community health organizations is accredited and an integral part of a Federal Health System.





Photo: Organizational Development Workshop at Shan Health Department

ABBREVIATIONS

BMA Burma Medical Association

BPHWT Back Pack Health Worker Team

CHDN Civil Health and Development Network (Karenni)

CHEC Chin Health and Education Committee

CME Continuing Medical Education

EHO Ethnic Health Organization

ICT Information and Communications Technology

IDP Internally Displaced Person

IPC Infection Prevention and Control

KHN Kachin Health Network

KWAT Kachin Women Association - Thailand **KDHW** Karen Department of Health and Welfare

LMS Learning Management System

LPIC Learning and Performance Improvement Center

MTC Mae Tao Clinic

MNHC Mon National Health Committee

PHWC Pa-Oh Health Working Committee

RCHWA Rakhine Community Health Workers Association

SHC Shan Health Committee

SSYCBC Shan State Youth Capacity Building Center

SOP Standard Operating Procedure **SQL** Structured Query Language

THB Thai Baht

THO Taang Health Organization

ToT Training of Trainers

USD US Dollar

VTHC Village Tract Health Center

OUR WORKS 2022: KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Steering Committee Conference and Election of Executive Committee Members
- Pharmacy & Warehouse System Strengthening
- iii. Development of Pharmacy Inventory Management Systems (Web and Mobile)
- iv. Establishment of EHSSG online learning hub
- v. Essential Medicine and Medical supplies support to EHSSG members and partners
- vi. Humanitarian Support to IDPs
- vii. Human Resources for Health
 - a. Level II Health Workers (Medics)
 - b. Maternal and Child Health Workers
 - c. Clinical Supervisors
 - d. Participation and Collaboration of
 EHSSG in Member Organizations' Training
 Activities
- viii.SQL (Financial and Accounting) software setup
- ix. Upgrading the Thay Bay Hta Training Facility



Photo: Capacity Building Training with staff of EHSSG and member organizations



Photo: Clinical Supervisor Internship Training closing and Maternal & Child Health Training opening ceremony

sing cutting-edge hardware and software, the EHSSG was able to make strides in its organizational and technological prowess (pharmacy inventory management systems, financial SQL software and the first-time good records audit report). By dedicating a significant percentage (24%) of the total budget spent on medicines and supplies procurement and distribution, EHSSG supported the essential medicines and medical supplies to the clinics and the IDPs. In addition, in 2022, EHSSG recruited more qualified individuals, which aided in the organization's management of its widened scope of operations and its direct international funding. Management Guideline of Common Medical Emergencies in VTHC, Standard Operating Procedure for Treatment of Suspected COVID-19 Inpatient and Outpatient Cases, and Infection Prevention Control (IPC) Measures were also a handful of the guidelines that EHSSG has established in 2022.

1. Steering Committee Conference and Election of Executive Committee Members

In March 2022, the EHSSG hosted its second conference, which focused on ethnic health initiatives, community-based health plans, disaster preparedness, and the region's current status. There were 8 EHOs under the EHSSG umbrella at the start in 2016, Loi Tai Li joined in 2018 and by the end of March 2022, five new EHO partners joined EHSSG, totaling 14 partner organizations as new EHSSG committee members. Year by year, the partner organizations joining the EHSSG are increasing in number. These member organizations are as follow-



Photo: Projects Orientation Meeting with EHSSG members

ing table in order of joining year;

1.	Burma Medical Association	2016
	(BMA)	
2.	Back Pack Health Worker Team	2016
	(BPHWT)	
3.	Civil Health Development Net-	2016
	work (CHDN- Karenni)	
4.	Karen Department of Health	2016
	and Welfare (KDHW)	
5.	Mae Tao Clinic (MTC)	2016
6.	Mon National Health Commit-	2016
	tee (MNHC)	
7.	Pa Oh Health Working Com-	2016
	mittee (PHWC)	
8.	Kachin Health Network (KHN)	2022
9.	Kachin Women Association -	2022
	Thailand (KWAT)	
10.	Rakhine Community Health	2022
	Workers Association (RCHWA)	
11.	Shan Health Committee (SHC)	2022
12.	Shan State Youth Capacity	2022
	Building Center (SSYCBC)	
13.	Taang Health Organization	2022
	(THO)	
14.	Chin Health and Education	2022
	Committee (CHEC)	



Photo: Pharmacy & Warehouse Management Training at Per Kler

2. Pharmacy & Warehouse System Strengthening

EHSSG streamlined and upgraded EHSSG and member EHO pharmacy and warehouse systems. In January 2022, the Pharmacy Management Guideline was developed. The EHSSG warehouse was renovated to a central warehouse, and the five warehouses of member organizations; Mae Nu Hta, 2 warehouses in Per Kler, Thay Bay Hta, Sa Khan Thit, Htee Wah were outfitted with essential warehouse supplies to improve the operational efficiency of pharmacies and warehouses. At Mae Sot, EHSSG and members (BMA, BPHWT, KDHW, and MTC) had a two-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on Pharmacy and Warehouse Management. Following that, 48 warehouse staff members received Pharmaceutical and Warehouse Management Training in four sites: Klo Yaw Lay in May, Htee Wah and Per Kler in June, and Kler Lwe Htu (Ei Tu Hta) in July 2022. These training sessions were attended by BMA, BPHWT, and KDHW participants. Furthermore, the Pharmaceutical Inventory Mobile Application was built to record and store pharmacy data in real time, making reporting easier. A Pharmacy and Warehouse Monitoring and Evaluation checklist was prepared, and the pharmacies and warehouses were monitored in line with this checklist in July 2022.

Development of Pharmacy Inventory Management Systems (Web and Mobile) to be applied within EHSSG and members

Realtime pharmacy inventory information of the central warehouse as well as the peripheral ones was managed to be achieved by EHSSG powered Mobile and Web application. Inventory information of the peripheral clinics and warehouses of EHSSG member organizations was collected offline with the Mobile application using an offline data persistence functionality.

A more powerful data-driven real-time pharmacy inventory system was further developed by EHSSG including data dashboard functionality and operated on the web. Any device with an internet connection can access the system.

The information stored in mobile and web systems cannot be synchronized as the database systems are different. The mobile system is under a redesigning process to be fully compatible to integrate with the web system which eventually may lead to a one-size-fits-all database.

EHSSG has provided two separate systems (Mobile and Web) and data ownership for each member organization. Though the applications share the same codebase, member organizations were provided a new system with their own logo and names.

4. Establishment of EHSSG online learning hub

EHSSG has developed an online learning hub based on a Learning Management System (LMS) using Moodle which can be visited at https://ehssg.org/school.

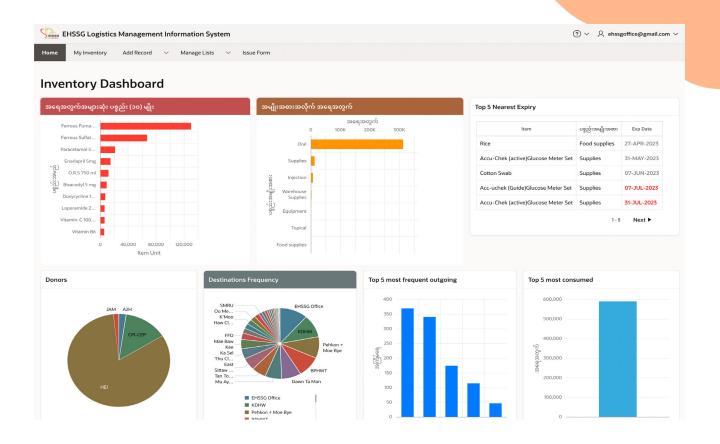


Figure: Logistics Management Information System Web application

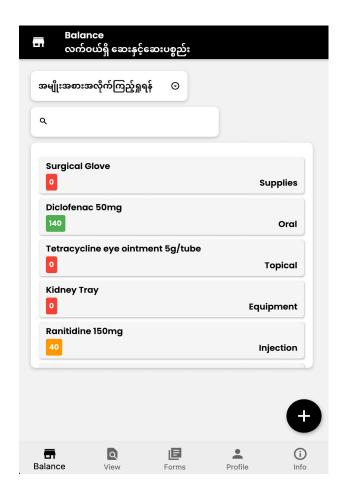


Figure: Pharmacy Inventory Management Mobile Application

The purpose of the learning hub includes overcoming the constraints of accessing the basic health-related training and knowledge sharing for the member organizations and the whole population in remote areas, and ultimately acting as an institution providing the university-accredited certificate courses and overall improvement of healthcare quality. In addition to providing basic healthcare skills classes, the online "First Aid Care for Conflicts related injuries' course was launched via an online education system as a pilot module 1 in March 2022 since knowledge and skills regarding emergency first aid is critical for everyone, particularly in areas affected by conflicts and emergencies. EHSSG not only created the LMS:

- Training course material
- Scripting
- Studio setup
- Video shooting
- Audio recording

EHSSG School

Available courses



Figure: EHSSG online school



Photo: Creating Videos and Contents for EHSSG Online Learning Hub

- Video post-processing
- Video editing
- Animations were also carried out while setting up the learning hub.

As soon as a student meets the course completion criteria, a completion certificate signed by the Director and Trainer of the EHSSG is generated with a QR verification system. The QR scan will open a browser page where the certificate is verified by a Serial Number from the Learning Management System.

Computer and ICT related courses were also uploaded in the learning hub.

5. Essential Medicine and Medical supplies support to EHSSG members and partners

EHSSG and members organization reached 8 out of 14 regions throughout Burma in 2022, and the health facilities in Karen, Karenni, Shan, Chin, Rakhine,

Magway, Sagaing and Tanintharyi regions were provided with essential medicines, medical and non-medical supplies including for COVID-19 prevention and control, medical equipment and instruments for dressing, reproductive health, trauma care related. The significant amount of the annual budget, totally **THB 4,783,769** spent on the procurement, purchase and distribution of the essential medicines and supplies; THB 2,276,681 for medicines, THB 1,428,221 for medical supplies, THB 562,121 for equipment and THB 516,746 for instruments. *(Table 1)*

6. Humanitarian Support to IDPs

EHSSG has continued to provide necessary

Organization	Medicines	Medical Supplies	Equipment	Instruments
BHDCC	~ 1 unit	1 unit		
BMA	3 units	2 units	1 unit	4 units
BPHWT	~ 10 units	14 units	8 units	41 units
CHDN	~ 2 units	13 units	7 units	
KDHW	14 units	~ 11 units	3 units	18 units
MTC	~ 2 units	18 units	~ 1 unit	
SHD	4 units	6 units	3 units	5 units
SMRU	~ 1 unit	5 units		~ 1 unit
SSYCBC	2 units	~ 2 units		
EHSSG	~ 2 unit	~ 1 unit		

Table 1: Distribution and Support of medicine, medical supplies, equipment and instruments in 2022

Description	Unit
Medicines	~ 7 unit
Medical Supplies	~ 225 units
Equipment	~ 3 units
Instruments	~ 5 units

Table 2: Distribution and Support of medicine, medical supplies, equipment and instruments to IDP in 2022

medicine, medical supplies and support, medical equipment to IDP camps in Kayin, Myeik and Dawei in Tanintharyi, Kant Balu Township in Sagaing Region and Magway Region within the EHSSG member area. EHSSG aided total of **4,970,858 THB** to the vulnerable population in IDP camps across Burma. (*Table 2*)

In addition to the medicines and medical supplies provision, EHSSG supported food (rice, beans, canned food and oils) and hygiene kits for IDPs in Dooplaya District, Karen reaching nearly 200 people from 40 households. And, through KnMHC procurement and distribution, the vulnerable population of around 2,000 in number from Hpruso and Demoso townships, Karenni were also provided with basic food rice bags. Also, Mobye rescue team was provided essential food items including rice, oils and beans under EHSSG funding to 3,000 displaced people from 143 households temporarily residing in IDP camps in Pekon, Demoso and Hpruso townships.

7. Human Resources for Health

i. Level II Health Workers (Medic) Training in Thay Bay Hta EHSSG amended the medic training curriculum in January 2022, which was structured into four components: Volume 1-Basic Science, Volume 2-Diseases and Procedures, Volume 3-Public Health and





Photo: Emergency Support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in EHO Areas



Health Administration, and Hands-on Practical Sessions. From January to December 2022, 45 participants from member and partner organizations (BPHWT, Naga, MTC, KDHW, KNDO, Chin, Pa Oh, Palaung) attended in-person Level II Health Workers (medic) training in Thay Bay Hta, Karen State, as well as at KDHW Hospitals in Klo Yaw Lay and MTC, where field visits and clinical practice were provided. BPHWT and EHSSG collaborated to organize the training, which was using EHSSG members' updated and curriculum.

ii. Maternal and Child Healthcare Training in Mae Tao Clinic, Mae Sot In May 2022, the technical expertise of MCH, EHSSG and its members' training focal persons revised the third edition of the Maternal and Child Health Curriculum, and a 10-month course (4 months of theory covering 15 modules of maternity and child health and 6 months of practical sessions) was held. This training was co-organized by Mae Tao Clinic and EHSSG, and 30 trainees from THO, KWAT, KDHW, BPHWT, BMA, Kachin-BPHWT, and PNFC have been attending since August 2022 at Mae Tao Clinic (MTC), with the training continuing through 2023.

iii. Clinical Supervisor Internship Training in Mae Tao Clinic, Mae Sot
Three-month clinical supervisor internship training (theory and practice) was provided for supervisors and senior medics from the VTHCs from EHSSG members (total in 10; 4 from BPHWT, 3 from





Photo: Closing Ceremony of CSI Training & Opening Ceremony of MCH Training

BMA, 2 from KDHW and one from MTC) starting from the last week of May to August 2022 in Mae Sot. The topics covered were: 1) health organizational development, 2) general and systematic approach, 3) charts review checklists, 4) diagnosis-based competency checklists, 5) continuous medical education (CME), 6) primary health care, 7) disease surveillance and outbreak management, 8) health information system, 9) pharmacy management system, and 10) infection control.

iv. Participation and Collaboration of EHSSG in Member Organizations Training Activities

EHSSG Provided a consultant for Mae
 Tao Clinic CME Program related to "Revising Case Presentation Format Work-

shop" as well as "Trauma Care Training for Field Medics" curriculum development.

- b. In April 2022,
 EHSSG provided a
 trainer support for
 BPHWT's "Trauma
 Management Training
 in Mutraw District.
- c. For the development of community participation in the health care sector, EHSSG and BPHWT collaborated on "First Aid Care Training" at U Karae Khee Village in Doo Playa District in July 2022.
- d. In September 2022, "Medicolegal Report Writing Training "and "Medicolegal Cases Management SOP Development Workshop" was conducted in Mutraw District by the collaboration of EHSSG and BPHWT.
- e. In October 2022, EHSSG provided a trainer for KDHW's Maternal and Child Health Care Training in Ei Tu Hta Village. An Emergency Medicine Specialist from EHSSG went to Ei Tu Hta MCH Training for two weeks and participated in training of "Medical Disease in Pregnancy and Basic Pharmacology Modules".
- f. Moreover, as another collaboration in October 2022, EHSSG and BPHWT organized "Awareness for Medicolegal Practice in Health Care Workshop" at



Photo: Capacity Building Training with staff of EHSSG and member organizations



Photo: Opening Ceremony of Clinical Supervisor Internship (CSI) Training



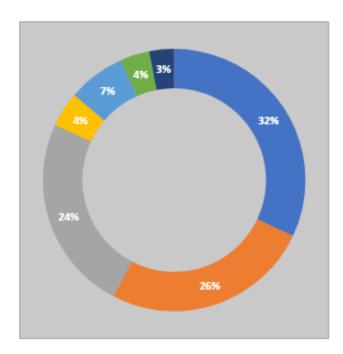
Photo: Basic Computer Training to CSI Trainees

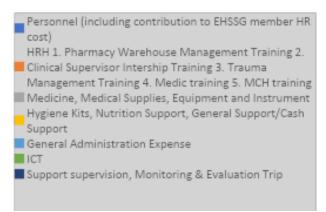
KDHW health department in Mae Sot.

g. Trauma Management Training for Thay Bay Hta Medic Training candidates was conducted in December 2022 by the collaboration of BPHWT and EHSSG. EHSSG's participation was mainly technical and trainer support for the training.

8. SQL (Financial and Accounting) Software Setup

Setting up the Structured Query Language





2022 Annual Expenditure by categories

(SQL) software by AccPro BizSolutions Consulting Agency supported EHSSG shift from a paper-based to a system-based financial system assisting in analyzing financial data, preparing donor financial reports, and managing and operating the EHSSG activities effectively. The EHSSG staff received the relevant training on SQL General Ledger Module (accounting & finance) and Inventory Module.

Upgrading of LPIC in Thay-Bay-Hta Training Facility

One set of the training materials and equipment cost approximately USD 14,000 were provided to Thay-Bay-Hta Training Center under the supervision of BPHWT in Kayin State intended as a modernized learning, practice and information center to be utilized in the different kinds of capacity building trainings for the health workforce for quality education and learning experience.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The M&E team has been making significant progress towards strengthening the monitoring and evaluation system. One of the key developments included the introduction of internal monitoring dashboards, which allow EHSSG members to review and revise their organizations' status in real-time. Specifically, the dashboards covered health service delivery, health workforce, health information, and pharmaceutical and logistics management.

In addition, the M&E team has been developing an online monitoring platform for project activities schedule, which was launched among all members. This platform enabled EHSSG members to closely track and monitor their planned activities to ensure they were in line with project objectives and activities schedule.

For upcoming projects, such as HEI and



Photo: Site Monitoring and Evaluation Visit to Per Kler Warehouse (KDHW), Sa Khan Thit Warehouse (BPHWT)



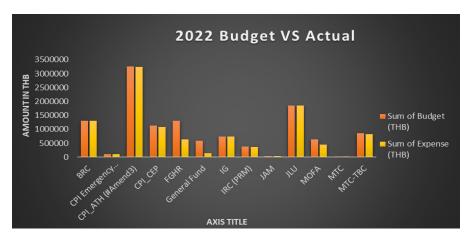
Photo: Site Monitoring and Evaluation Visit to Per Kler Warehouse (KDHW), Sa Khan Thit Warehouse (BPHWT)

LEARN, the M&E team has collaborated and coordinated with the internal teams and the implementation partners to develop and regulate various aspects of the projects. This includes log frame preparation, work plan preparation, milestones and indicators development/regulation, and MEL plans development. Furthermore, the team is also developing and revising forms, formats, and templates to capture information on the projects' milestones and indicators. Moreover, the M&E team has formulated the activities schedule for the organizational development plan for EHSSG members by coordinating with other technical teams from EHSSG and implementation partners. The team also conducted technical support sessions for the HISWG network and shared basic statistics knowledge among its members.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2022 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

One of the achievements for EHSSG's finance team in the 2022 fiscal year was the setting up of the Structured Query Language (SQL) software by AccPro BizSolutions Consulting Agency, it supported to shift EHSSG's accounting system from a manual accounting system to a computerized accounting system. By using the computerized accounting system, it helps in analyzing the financial data, preparing donor financial reports, monitoring the monthly budget vs. actual expenditure, and managing and operating the EHSSG activities effectively than before.

EHSSG also engaged with one of the CPA-registered audit firms in Thailand and successfully released the independent auditor's report for the very first time since we established the organization. That was also the major achievement of EHSSG's finance



 ${\it Figure: Budget VS Actual Expenditures for the 2022 Financial Year per Donor}$

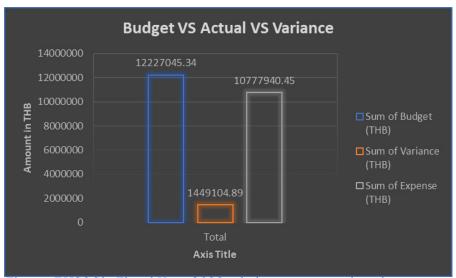


Figure: EHSSG's Fiscal Year 2022 whole year comparison between Budget, Actual and Variance

team.

In 2022, the EHSSG Finance team was able to manage the grant amount of THB 12 million into project implementation, and the detailed information of budget versus actual expenditure and agreed grant amount by donors can be seen in the graphs.

PHOTO SESSION



Photo: Local Empowerment and Resilience Network (LEARN) Inception Workshop



Photo: Organizational Development Workshop at Shan Health Department



Photo: Field Visit to Pa-Oh Village



Photo: Meeting with Border Health Development and Care Center (BHDCC) Team at Mae Sariang

CONTACT US



If you would like to learn more information about our organization and activities, would like to support or donate our community, please contact us at:

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