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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Role of Village Health Committee in Conflict - affected Ethnic areas, Southeast Myanmar.
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
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Country	Myanmar
Abstract N°	TUFH473
Content	<p>Introduction: Myanmar is still listed as the Least Developed Country (LDC) due to complex political and non-political issues, which deteriorate the Country's Health System Strengthening Performance. Myanmar aims to achieve the Universal Health Coverage by 2030 regardless of the political situation and resources. Ethnic Health Organizations (EHOs) attempt to be on the track of Health for all in its own administration areas along with Southeast Myanmar. Local well-trained health workers and Village Tract Health Committee (VTHC) are collaboratively working to promote their community health status. This study aims to explore the demands and capacity gaps of VTHC for better functionality. Methods: A cross-sectional qualitative study was conducted in 2019 in Kayin State, Myanmar. 18 qualitative interviews with VTHC members and management/supervisor level staff from EHOs and content analysis of interviews were done. Results: VTHC is vital in promoting community health through involvement in clinic renovations, encouraging villagers and stakeholders to involve in community health promotion, assisting health workers in clinic activities such as nutrition distributions, health educations, and immunization provision, facilitating meetings, organizing for transportation and meals. Meanwhile, VTHC faced many obstacles such as role-confusion, limited supports, and mutual respect, adequate communication, and facilitation skills. Despite those challenges, VTHC also plays major roles in the village – related matters. Those challenges intervene in their work and discourage them greatly. Conclusion: To implement VTHC's more functionally, we need a closer collaboration among health workers, stakeholders, frequent project officers' supervision, benefits, and regular capacity building.</p>