

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Weaving Bonds Across Borders (WBAB)



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Our mission

Weaving Bonds Across Borders (WBAB) is a women-led network that is building the power and leadership of youth from grassroots communities to work together for peace, women's rights, and environmental justice.

We promote leadership from and exchange between the grassroots and Global South through training, peacebuilding, and support for youth and community-led actions.

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Water Governance and Gender Equality

In 2020, Weaving Bonds Across Borders (WBAB) had to face an unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) global challenge. The COVID-19 affected people all over the world, including us, we could not travel and do group works/activities as the previous years. Therefore, we decided to take this opportunity to create our own curriculum capturing all of our past experiences and story of communities who we have been engaged with for past years. To make our dream come true, we got a lot of support from Oxfam, the Samdhana Institute and our networks.

Gender and Environment Curriculum

In the early year of 2020, Weaving Bonds had a plan to design our own curriculum about gender and environment related to our work experiences. This happened because it was a good time for Weaving Bonds to reflect and capture all our past experiences of organizing activities, workshops, trainings and events together with our friends and networks across the Mekong/Salween regions. The inspiration to do this curriculum was from one of our networks name Mekong Youth Assembly (MYA), a self-Mekong youth network, who have done their own curriculum on 'ecological child rights' a few years ago. The MYA curriculum is widely accepted and welcomed by many people, so this further encouraged Weaving Bonds to develop our own curriculum. The main reason for working on the curriculum in this field is because we have found that there are few awareness among many organizations, people and group networks on 'gender and environment' in the accessible language, especially the context and approach. Even there are many curriculums available from different organizations and institutions, but some contexts are not applicable in community level.

The Gender and Environment curriculum includes activities and examples from Weaving Bonds alumni and Mekong/Salween cases. The topic of each chapter includes:

- *Introduction*
- *How to prepare the workshop*
- *Chapter 1: Peacebuilding*
- *Chapter 2: People, the Environment and Development*
- *Chapter 3: Gender and Environment*
- *Chapter 4: Water Governance, Land Rights and Gender*
- *Chapter 5: Becoming a Trainer/Facilitator and Community Leader*
- *Let's Make Our Own Proposals*

From that, we would like to draw upon our own lesson learns, so we decided to develop our own curriculum that reflects to real situations and capture our experiences and people's story that have closely connected with rural people's life and people from marginalized communities.

Thus, Weaving Bonds believes that this gender and environment curriculum will increase women's awareness on their rights over natural resources and environment. This curriculum focuses on Mekong/Salween regions, including gender and environmental issues in these countries, namely Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and

Laos. Our primary target groups are our partners, friends, networks and communities in the Mekong and Salween regions. The main goal of this curriculum is to promote gender equality, environment, water governance, natural resource

management, and provides a space for women to speak out their concerns, increase their self-confidence and can practice their leadership skills at workplaces and communities.

Please visit Annual Report 2021 for the link of the Gender and Environment curriculum.

Inclusive people in Gender and Environment Curriculum

In May 2020, in order to improve the Weaving Bonds team's capacity, we invited one of our networks, Ms. Noud, to be our consultant on the Gender and Environment Curriculum project. For Noud, she and her team has successfully done a curriculum on ecological child rights in Mekong Development in 2017, and she has rich experiences in designing environmental curriculum focus on youth and children learning. Therefore, this project, she worked along and supported our team for the whole process of this project. It was a good opportunity to work on this together as we have the same understand and goal to make this curriculum being a friendly-learning tool which communities and our network can use and adapt for their learning and conducting activities.

In March 2021, Weaving Bonds set up its advisory team on curriculum development, our

team members included of 4 expert people who have experience working on gender, environment and human rights in the region for many years. They helped us to revise and gave suggestions on each curriculum chapter, based on their experiences and backgrounds.

Our main editor who has rich experiences engaging on development and communities in the Mekong region. Moreover, she also has strong facilitation skills and curriculum designer for many years.

Another advisor is a PhD degree in gender studies. From her expertise, she helped us a lot for revising and suggestion on the part of gender and environment in the curriculum.

For the chapter of women rights on land and water governance, we got well supported from an experienced gender and

human rights trainer with focus on international laws. She knows excellently about the situations and context in the Mekong and Salween regions and she had more than five years' experience working as a trainer and teacher to support young and women activists in this region.

The last advisor, who always support our work, helped on editing and giving comments on the chapter of Peacebuilding. This advisor has been a trainer of peacebuilding for many years, moreover, her experience working with Burmese people who are affected from development issues, military oppressions, community conflict and knowledge about this topic helped us a lot for the chapter related to peacebuilding on this curriculum.

We also got support in the ideas and suggestions prior developing this curriculum

from WBAB's alumni, partners and network who provided us suggestions and gave us direction that we should consider for developing this curriculum.

This work would not be also happen if we did not get

support and contribution from communities and our network, especially people's stories we put in this curriculum. This curriculum is not limited to only within WBAB network or partners, but we hope to see more people from different community to make use of it

for the purpose of women's rights and environment awareness that we together continue our effort to advocate for equity and good development for all. .

Weaving Bonds future plan and Inclusive Activity

Apart from the Gender and Environment Curriculum, Weaving Bonds also had a chance to plan Weaving Bonds future activity by using this curriculum based on the strong belief that creating a quality democracy society is the sustainable way to solve the partial gender norms in water governance. Therefore, we would like to include people; who are excluded from their community, namely majority women, minority women, youth and people with disability to have more power, voice, knowledge, confidence and participation. This project will focus on amplifying youth, majority women, minority women and disabled people voice in the Mekong region countries and Salween communities namely Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam strengthening their movements in water governance, and promoting them to have more participate in their community

and other stakeholders which is necessary for building strengthened social movements in their community.

Weaving Bonds activities will be in the concept of 'To amplify the voices of excluded people and strengthen their solidarity movements for showing women ability and leadership in water governance in the Mekong regions countries and Salween communities namely Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand, and Vietnam.'

For our next year activity (2021), we would like to translate our curriculum into 6 Mekong languages; Shan, Burmese, Thai, Laos, Vietnamese, and Cambodian to create more inclusiveness from people in the Great Mekong region countries in using the curriculum.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2020 Revenue	Amount in USD
Individuals and community donations	2,234
Foundation Grants (Oxfam, The Samdhana Institute)	16,068
Total Revenue	18,302
Expenditure	Amount in USD
Program expenses	9,784
Staffing cost	8,475
Overhead and Emergency Fund	17
Total Program Expenses	18,276
Balance on Hand (as of 31 March 2020)	26

APPRECIATIONS

OUR DEEPEST THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR WORK WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT, ADVICE, EFFORTS AND/OR PARTNERSHIP IN 2020.

- OXFAM
- THE SAMDHANA INSTITUTE
- WBAB BOARD MEMBERS
- WBAB ALUMNI AND NETWORKS
- MEKONG YOUTH ASSEMBLY
- MONG PAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION (MYANMAR)
- EXTERNAL CONSULTANT NOUDSAVANH
- WEAVING BONDS ADVISORS
 - MAI JA, KACHIN WOMEN ASSOCIATION THAILAND-KWAT
 - DR. JENNIFER GUO, WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY
 - NIKKI RICHARD, EXPERIENCED GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW TRAINER SABRINA GYORVARY, EXPERIENCED FACILITATOR, COMMUNITY SCHOOL TEACHER AND CURRICULUM DESIGNER

FRIENDS AND NETWORK

To those of you who have supported our work with contributions of your efforts, including our trainers, resource persons, advisors and others that are unnamed on the lists, but we deeply appreciate your heartfelt contributions of your time and energy. WeAQ1 thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and commitment to work together for a better world. To support our work or become a monthly donor, please contact us or visit:

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