

## Documentation

### Dataset M7. Media resources on drugs in Shan state, 2019

Compilation of 106 media articles, reports and journal articles on drugs, violence, militia and conflicts in Shan State, compiled during February - August 2019.

The dataset consist of a bibliography table with keywords and summaries, reference to the online location of the item, or a copy of each item as PDF of Word file. Sixty articles / reports are in Burmese, 23 in English, 12 in Shan and 11 in Thai.

Dataset location: 10.5255/UKDA-SN-855624

Dataset owner: Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN)

#### Context

The upland areas of Kachin and Shan are perfectly suited to the cultivation of opium poppy, which has provided livelihood security in impoverished rural areas but also became a financial pillar to sustain armed conflict. In recent decades, the relationship between drugs and conflict has become more complex. The issue has extended beyond opium cultivation to the manufacture and supply of other drugs, such as methamphetamines. Local communities are some of those most vulnerable to the harms related to changing patterns of drug use, including increasing levels of heroin-injecting and methamphetamine use.

The overall aim of the research is to understand why drugs have become so embedded in Shan State and the impact that drugs have on the politics, economy and society of Shan State.

Aim of the Year 2 research was to conduct in-depth fieldwork on a selected number of key research themes in three fieldwork sites: border towns Muse and Tachilek and the state's capital Taunggyi. The themes were selected based on emerging findings from the Year 1 research:

- Living with militias
- Young people's lives amidst drugs and disorder
- Changing levels of drug cultivation in Shan State
- The dynamics of the drug economy in Shan State's border towns Muse and Tachilek.

#### Methodology

Media resources were compiled from online and offline resources on these topics, in order to create a database of relevant information on drug issues for the three fieldwork sites Muse, Tachilek and Taunggyi.

Searches were mainly carried out online, using the following keywords:

- Drug use (opium / heroin)
- Drug use (methamphetamines / 'yaba')
- Drug use (other)
- Drug production (opium / heroin)

- Drug production (methamphetamines / yaba)
- Drug production (other)
- Drug selling
- Social impact of drugs (e.g. on families)
- Gender (e.g. impact of drugs on men or women)
- Community responses to drugs
- Government responses to drugs
- Responses to drugs by armed groups
- Responses to drugs by foreign countries (e.g. China, Thailand, US)
- Militias ('pyi thu sit')
- Armed conflict / violence
- Impact of drugs on health
- Investment of drug money into the legal economy
- Drug treatment (methadone, needles, hospital treatment etc.)
- Responses by NGOs (national / international)

Searches were carried out in multiple languages:

- Shan
- Burmese
- English
- Thai
- Chinese

Resources have been compiled from:

- Office of the Narcotics Control Board
- ASEAN
- SHAN News
- Thai PBS
- The Irrawaddy
- Tai Freedom
- Bangkok Post
- New Mandala
- Crisis Group
- NY Times
- Myanmar Peace Monitor
- UNOPS
- UNOCD
- Burma Link
- Frontier Myanmar
- Network Media Group
- Myanmar Times
- South China Morning Post
- Prachatai
- Kanbawza Tai News

Resources are categorized as:

- Media article (online or in newspaper)
- Research report (e.g. NGO report)
- Book or journal article

- Government resource
- Other

**Location**

Shan State, Myanmar.

Resources relate to project study sites Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State, border towns Tachilek and Muse and Shan State in general.

**Time period**

Articles were collected during February – August 2019 and have been published during the time period 2005 – 2019.