



Conflict Factsheet

Land Grabbing Conflict in Thegon in Myanmar

Type of conflict
Sub

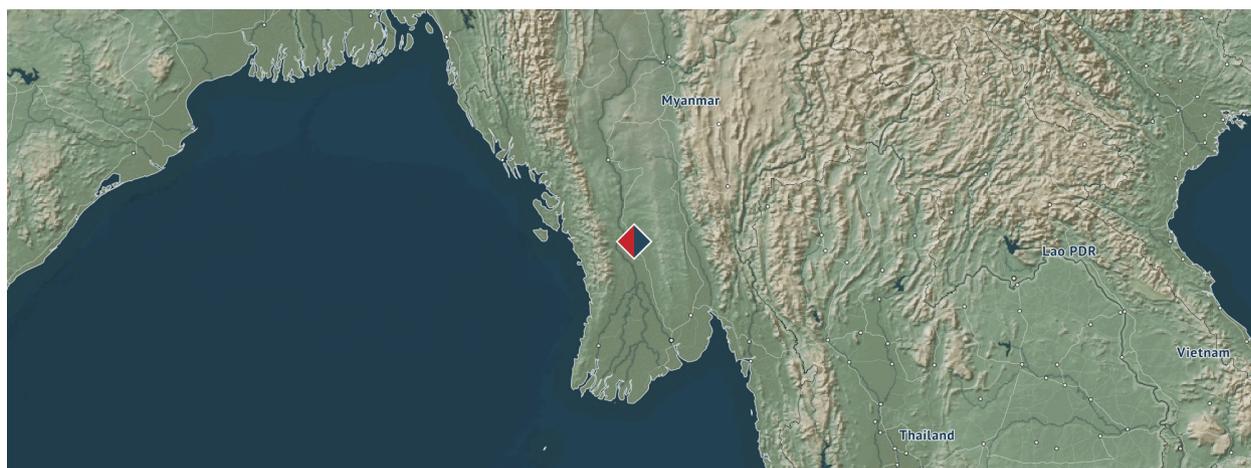
Intensity
1.5

Conflict Locality
South Eastern Asia

Time
2014– 2014

Countries
Myanmar

Resources
Agricultural / Pastoral Land

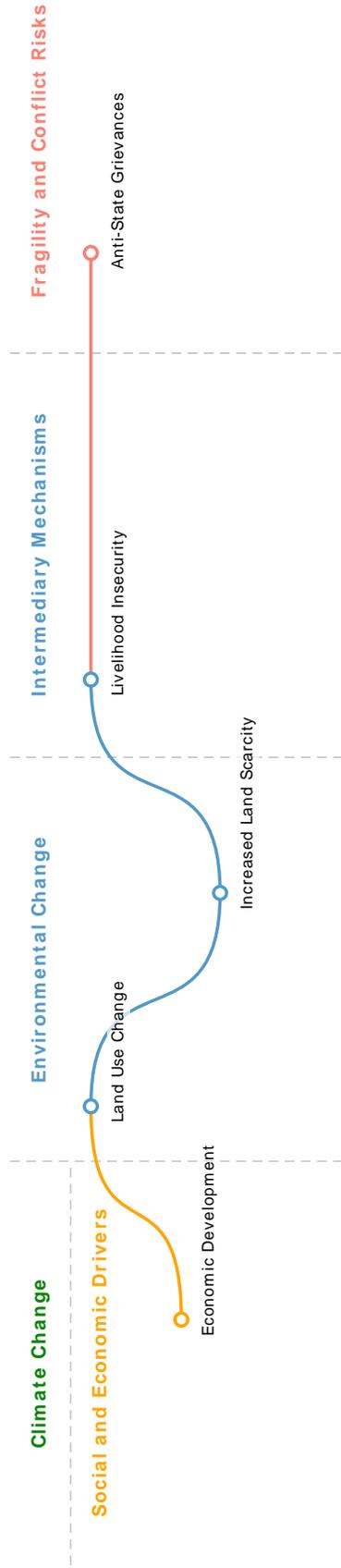


Conflict Summary

In 2014, farmers protested against government inaction to address land grabbing in Thegon. The farmers were met with police violence and charges for disturbing the peace. No progress has been made in addressing land grabbing.



Conceptual Model



Context Factors



Agricultural / Pastoral Land

Insecure Land Tenure
Unresponsive Government



Conflict History

The farmers in Thegon Township began protesting against land grabbing and government inaction in February 2014 (AHRC, 2014). The protest was raided by sixty police and plain-clothed accomplices (believed to have been hired thugs) (Noreen, 2014). Four protestors were charged for not having a license to demonstrate while others were assaulted; resulting in two women being hospitalised (AHRC, 2014). No steps have been taken since the protest to address the grievances of farmers. The four farmers arrested by police were charged under section eighteen of the Peaceful Assembly and Demonstration Law for protesting without a license (AHRC, 2014). This has been criticised by the Asia's Human Rights Commission because the law does not enable people to gather and express their views freely and democratically; instead, it enables authorities to arbitrarily issue permits to civilians who wish to protest (AHRC, 2014).

Lack of institutional capacity forces farmers to protest

Prior to clashes with police, aggrieved farmers had pursued other methods to address the issue of land grabbing. Over sixty written complaints were sent to some twenty-four government departments and agencies and no satisfactory response was received (AHRC, 2014). Given the limitations in institutional capacity to provide a forum for conflict mediation for land conflicts, citizens had no other option other than to protest (AHRC, 2014). After government inaction to compensate farmers or to return their land, more protests ensued in following months. Police arrested another five farmers and charged them for disturbing public peace (Noreen, 2014).

Resolution Efforts

Police were ordered to disperse protestors. A number of protestors were charged for demonstrating without a permit and disturbing public peace. No dispute resolution process was engaged with to address the issues which had caused the protest.



Intensities & Influences



INTENSITIES

International / Geopolitical Intensity



Human Suffering



INFLUENCES

Environmental Influences



Societal Influences



Violent Conflict

Yes



Salience with nation

Municipal



Mass displacement

None



Cross Border Mass Displacement

No



Resolution Success

Reduction in Violence

Violence has ceded completely.



Reduction in geographical scope

There has been no reduction in geographical scope.



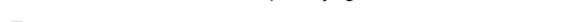
Increased capacity to address grievance in the future

There is no increased capacity to address grievances in the future.



Grievance Resolution

Grievances have been completely ignored.



Causal Attribution of Decrease in Conflict Intensity

The decline in intensity can be explained purely by the suppression or killing of grievance holders.



Resources and Materials

References with URL

[AHRC \(2014\). Courts, cops, cronies: the Three C's driving farmers to ruin, and jail.](#)

[Noreen, N. \(2014\). Thegon MP low-balled amount of confiscated land, say farmers.](#)

Further information

<https://factbook.ecc-platform.org/conflicts/land-grabbing-the-gon-myanmar>