

Myanmar

DOH ATHAN

Fondation Hironnelle and Frontier Myanmar have been collaborating since 2017 to produce and broadcast Doh Athan ("Our Voices"), a podcast focused on human rights issues. It is produced by a team of six, as well as reporters and media partners from different states, regions and ethnic groups in Myanmar

Frontier Myanmar is an award-winning news website on Myanmar. It was one of the first media outlets to develop a paid membership model, working towards financial sustainability and building community with the public. Following the 2021 coup, most Frontier Myanmar and Doh Athan staff were relocated to Thailand.



A displaced person listens to the radio in a temporary shelter in Danai, Kachin State, Myanmar.

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FINANCIAL volume 2023

239,946 CHF

SOURCES of funding

- Switzerland (SDC Programme contribution)
- UNDP
- Fondation Alfred et Eugénie Baur
- Büchi Foundation
- Temperatio-Stiftung

OUR key figures for 2023



5 partners
media



55 podcasts
in Burmese and
31 in English



17 media
professionals
trained



123'000 followers
on social media



31 vidéos in
Burmese and
23 in English



15 hours of
broadcasting

Context

Myanmar's fragile democratic experiment was shattered by a military coup in February 2021. Since then, over 26,000 people have been arrested by the junta and more than 4,700 killed. Armed resistance has spread throughout the country, displacing over 2 million people. Journalists are at great risk inside the country. The public has become more reluctant to talk to the media.

Essential coverage of human rights in Myanmar

Against this difficult backdrop, in 2023 Doh Athan produced human rights podcasts not only in Burmese, but now also in English. The team regularly produces and publishes videos in both languages. 'Doh Athan Doh Talk', a discussion podcast with experts, academics and activists was launched. Its aim is to offer the Burmese public balanced debates on human rights issues, more in-depth and with more analysis than can be provided in other programmes. Doh Athan has also produced special reports (interviews, mini-videos, etc.) to mark certain dates, such as Human Rights Day, six years after the atrocities committed against the Rohingya and their exodus to Bangladesh.

In 2023, Doh Athan worked with five local media partners and six freelancers, supporting them in their reporting and paying them for their work. This helps support Myanmar's media, improve their skills and offer the public reports from different parts of the country. Webinars on human rights and discrimination have also been organized with these partners.

Podcasts and videos are broadcast on social networks (Facebook, YouTube, Soundcloud, Spotify) as well as on partner websites and social media. The number of subscribers on Facebook and YouTube more than doubled in 2023. Podcasts are also broadcast on shortwave and FM by our partner Voice of America.

Our impact

The impact of Doh Athan resonates by amplifying the voices of hundreds of people affected by conflict, discrimination, and human rights violations. It fosters a collective memory of the crisis by depicting the daily struggles, adaptations, and resilience of ordinary individuals. It also highlights leading national and international experts to help understand the current situation.

Testimonial

"We make our voices heard, and so does Doh Athan. We're not a media company, so we can't produce a good podcast, but we feel that Doh Athan does that for us."

Nang Moet Moet, General Secretary of the Women's League of Burma

Doh Athan focuses on its primary mission of shedding light on human rights issues in Myanmar. It reports on the impact of the conflict that followed the 2021 coup on the lives of Myanmar's citizens, affecting their livelihoods, health, jobs, and education. Doh Athan also documents the challenges faced by marginalized groups confronting discrimination and human rights violations. It provides accounts of the journeys of Burmese migrants and refugees abroad. Its goal is to contribute to building a collective memory of this difficult period following the coup, reflecting and narrating the struggles, adaptations, and resilience of ordinary people facing the crisis.

Producing thematic podcasts in English since 2023, Doh Athan aims to expand its international audience while also improving its reach among Burmese speakers, despite the growing challenge of digital surveillance in Myanmar. The team continues its partnerships with local and ethnic media to offer diverse content from various regions of the country.

The project provides thematic training on human rights reporting and coaching sessions in collaboration with media partners. The proposed activities pay particular attention to the risks of physical and digital security.

Sustaining the project in the long term requires investments to ensure that the program remains an essential part of the Burmese media landscape in exile. However, a funding crisis is impacting independent media in Myanmar and those in exile. While Doh Athan has not been directly affected, it is facing financial challenges.

PRIORITIES

- ▶ Highlighting human rights issues in Myanmar
- ▶ Expanding its international audience and improving its reach within Myanmar
- ▶ Continuing partnerships with local and ethnic media

ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Producing a weekly podcast, videos, "Doh Athan Doh Talk," and other short online content
- ▶ Training and coaching reporters and journalists from partner media

BENEFICIARIES

Among the project's beneficiaries, Burmese populations, including women, displaced persons, and refugees, are the primary focus. Doh Athan also benefits media partners and independent journalists in Myanmar, as well as those who have been forced into exile. Finally, it supports Frontier Myanmar, the Fondation Hironnelle's partner.

DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- Improving economic conditions
- Better collaboration among local media
- Enhanced coordination between media development actors
- Support from international organizations and governments

FOLLOW THE PODCASTS OF DOH ATHAN
ON MYANMAR ON SOCIAL NETWORKS





A journalist and producer of the Doh Athan podcast on human rights in Myanmar, she now works in exile in northern Thailand following the military coup. She faces the daily challenge of continuing to produce independent reports from abroad. © Lam Duc Hien

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