



RESEARCH IMPACT

**Empowering voices, transforming
lives: How K4DM is reshaping
Myanmar's future**





K4DM Initiative

In Myanmar's evolving political landscape, the Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar (K4DM) initiative—supported by IDRC and Global Affairs Canada—is nurturing a new generation of scholars, researchers, and leaders since 2017.



Originally aimed at strengthening Myanmar's think tanks and universities, the initiative shifted its focus after the significant changes in 2021. It now supports diaspora scholars while promoting inclusion, gender equality, diversity, and sustainable progress in Myanmar.

We shine a light on how the initiative has enabled these future leaders to shape the future of Myanmar.



Jaivet Ealom's journey is one of extraordinary resilience. After fleeing Myanmar, he traversed six countries in search of asylum, ultimately finding refuge in Canada. As a K4DM fellow at the Myanmar Policy and Community Knowledge Hub at the University of Toronto's Asian Institute, he deepened his expertise in governance and policymaking.

Today, he is the CEO of the Rohingya Centre of Canada and an advisor to Myanmar's National Unity Government.



K4DM is also strengthening the research capacity of women. **Seven researchers from the Asian University of Women are studying issues affecting refugees in Cox's Bazaar, the world's largest refugee camp for Rohingya.**

They are undertaking research on:

- refugee education
- child marriage
- energy access
- health
- human-wildlife conflict



John Jonaid, a Rohingya from Myanmar, completed a prestigious **fellowship on parliamentary democracy through the Parliamentary Centre in Canada, supported by K4DM.**

Now, he is pursuing a master's programme at Carleton University and continues to be a powerful voice for his community—engaging with the diaspora, advocating for refugee rights, and shedding light on the struggles of displaced Rohingya through his writings and research.



K4DM fellow Ngu Wah Win's research has informed Myanmar's first minimum wage in 2015, improving conditions for millions, especially women in manufacturing and the garment sector.

She continues to tackle gender wage gaps and promote home-based gig work, collaborating across ASEAN to drive policy change and empower women in Myanmar and beyond.



Since 2022 the K4DM initiative has had a significant impact on the lives of scholars and researchers.

- 100+ fellowships awarded for courses on online governance, digital tools, and research exchanges
- 46 emerging research leaders in Myanmar— including 40 women
- 750+ individuals trained and mentored in gender equality and democratic governance
- 430 women and 173 non-Bamar participants, including 74 Rohingya, engaged in capacity-building

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Through inclusive research, leadership development, and capacity-building, **K4DM is not just supporting researchers and young scholars—it is amplifying silenced voices.**

By empowering marginalized communities, this initiative is laying the foundation for a more democratic, inclusive, and just future for Myanmar.

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