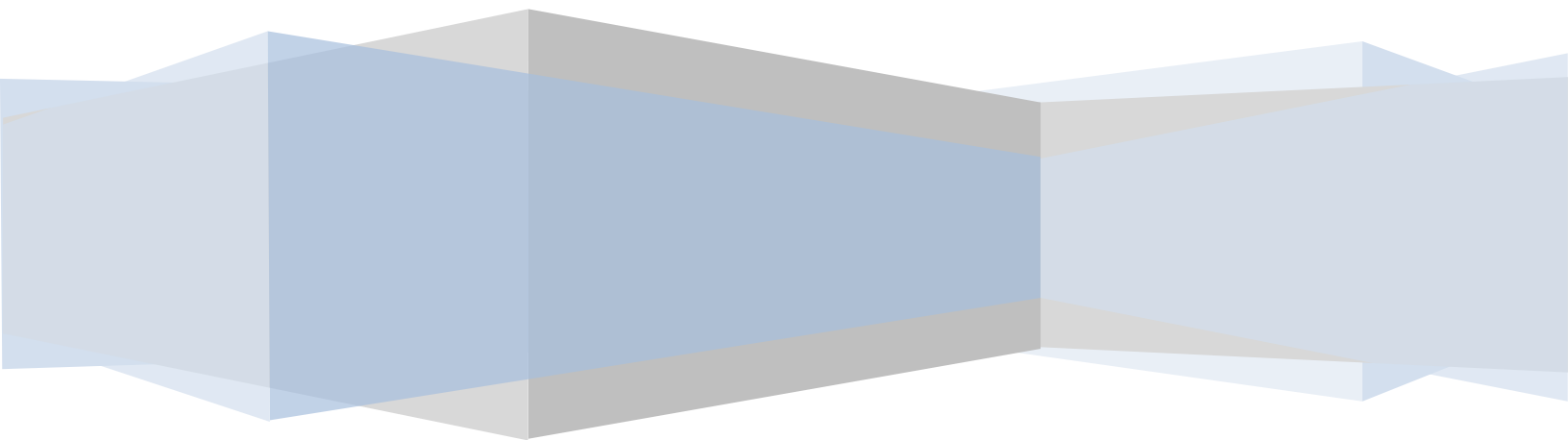

**An Assessment of Perceived Needs of the
Public through Analysis of Projects entered
in the Mipui Mamawh Inṭawm Ruahmanna
(MiMIR) Project Competition**



**Research & Analysis Division
Planning & Programme Implementation Department
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I: Introduction

A ‘*needs assessment*’ can be a useful tool in the planning processes by helping identify the gap between the desired goals or perceived needs of the individual, organisation or community and the present condition.

The current exercise confines itself to only the first part of the equation, i.e., basic assessment of the ‘*perceived needs*’ of the Mizo community which was expressed in the form of project proposals submitted by villages from all Districts of the State in the ‘**Mipui Mamawh Inṭawm Ruahmanna (MiMIR) Project**’ competition.

It is hoped that the exercise will provide a better understanding of what the Mizo community as a whole believe they need from the Government which could assist in either emphasising the focus areas for social education or in determining priorities for resource allocation.

II: Background of MiMIR

MiMIR was initiated in FY2018-19 under the New Economic Development Policy. The Policy document stated that “*It is incumbent on policy makers to come up with strategies and mechanisms to encourage private sector participation in all aspect of infrastructure developments*”, and highlighted one of the objectives to be covered as “Building public participation in budgeting and managing expectations”. The MiMIR initiative was formulated to follow up on these mandates.

1) Purpose of the Initiative

The purpose/objectives of MiMIR are manifold –

- i) To empower the public in the formulation of major developmental projects of common public utility in every District.

- ii) To provide major infrastructure which are customised to the requirements of the community, preferably those which addresses key infrastructural gaps and/or facilitates generation of sustainable livelihood.
- iii) To sensitize the community towards an attitude of participation, foster a development oriented mindset and inculcate sense of ownership towards public property.
- iv) To gauge the public's perceived wants/desires/requirements for possible application in future policy making.

2) Implementation of MiMIR

Following was the procedure adopted for the implementation of MiMIR –

- i) Budgetary provision of Rs.8.00 crore was made for 8 major developmental projects at the rate of Rs.1.00 crore for each of the 8 Districts.
- ii) Guideline for the MiMIR competition was circulated in the public domain in English and Mizo.
- iii) MiMIR Joint Committees were formed by the Local/Village Council with 2 members each from the following local voluntary organisations – Young Mizo Association, Mizoram Upa Pawl and Mizoram Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl.
- iv) Projects were accepted from MiMIR Joint Committees only and not directly from individuals; any person who wished to enter their project in the competition was to do so by submitting the same to the Village/Local MiMIR Joint Committee.
- v) Projects were examined by the District MiMIR Committee formed for each District. Each District MiMIR Committee had the following composition :-

Chairman	:	Deputy Commissioner.
Member Secretary	:	SDO (Sadar).
Members	:	(a) Engineering Department (PWD, P&E, PHE) aiawh mi pakhattheuh.
		(b) District Research Officer (Economics & Statistics).
		(c) DUDO (UD&PA).
		(d) DLAO (LAD)
		(e) DRDO (RD)
		(f) DFO (EF&CC)

- (g) SDEO (School Education)
 - (h) 3 Prominent citizens from within the District. They were selected by the Member Secretary.
- vi) The submitted Project Concept Papers were examined by the concerned District MiMIR Committee who shortlisted the top 20 projects. Representatives from the Village/Local Joint Committees whose submission were among the 20 shortlisted projects gave presentation on the project in front of the District MiMIR Committee.
- vii) District MiMIR Committee selected one Project which they judged to be the best for their District which was conveyed to Planning Department. As per the approval of Finance Department, fund is to be released in 3 instalments in the ratio of 40:40:20.
- viii) The winning projects are to be implemented by the respective Village MiMIR Joint Committee and are to be monitored by the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

3) Project Criteria

The Project selection Criteria which formed the basis for selection of projects is as under:-

- (i) The project should be for creation of community asset with the greatest common public utility.
- (ii) Priority will be given to single large infrastructural projects instead of projects with multiple small components.
- (iii) The project should be able to bring about considerable development to the locality.
- (iv) Projects that will generate sustainable employment will be given greater weightage.
- (v) Land requirement for the project, if any, must already be available. Purchase of land from MiMIR fund or by the Government is not acceptable.
- (vi) The project should not create recurring cost for the Government.
- (vii) Importance will be given to innovative project.

4) Project Status

The projects that won the competition from each of the 8 Districts are shown below with their current status:-

Sl. No.	DISTRICT	WINNING VILLAGE	WINNING PROJECT	Release of 1st Installment (Rs.40 lakh)	Release of 2nd Installment (Rs.40 lakh)	Release of Final Installment (Rs.20 lakh)
1	Aizawl	Sialsuk	Sialsuk Eco-tourism Development Innovation Project	Released on 14th May, 2019	Released on 8th June, 2020	
2	Champhai	New Chalrang	NCR Organic Pineapple Processing Plant	Released on 8th March, 2019	Released on 17th January, 2020	Released on 4th May, 2020
3	Kolasib	Khamrang	150 Kw Power Grid Connected Solar Plant	Released on 26th February, 2019	Released on 11th September, 2019	Released on 2nd June, 2020
4	Mamit	Reiek	Organic and Eco-tourism Facilitation Centre	Released on 5th February, 2019	Released on 4th May, 2020	
5	Lawngtlai	Sangau	Phawngpui Tourism Development Project	Released on 15th February, 2019	Released on 22nd October, 2019	
6	Lunglei	Cherhlun	50 Kw Solar Power Plant	Released on 26th February, 2019	Released on 4th September, 2019	Released on 20th March, 2020
7	Serchhip	Thenzawl	Loom Upgradation and Product Diversification	Released on 8th March, 2019		
8	Siaha	New Siaha West	Integrated Mass Transit Terminal	Released on 14th May, 2019	Released on 8th January, 2020	

III: Assessment of Perceived Needs

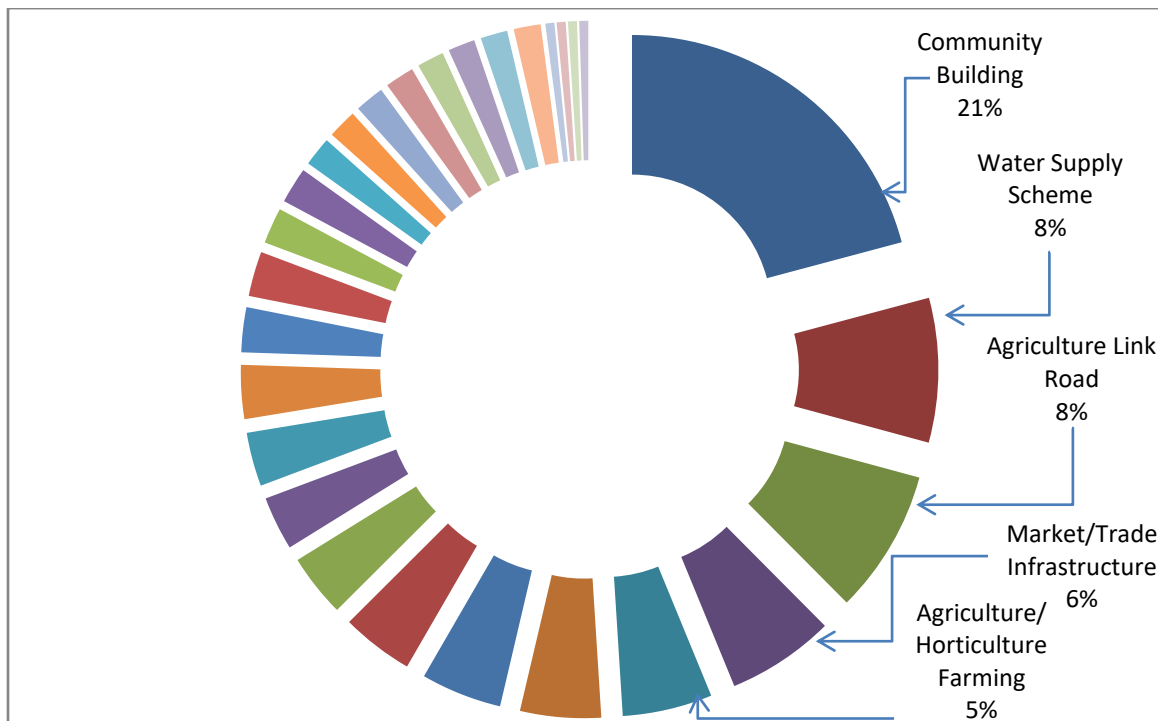
Altogether, as per record 292 projects were submitted for the MiMIR competition from all the Districts. However, exercise has been conducted using data of only 4 Districts as these are the Districts from which a complete set of project list was received viz. Aizawl, Lunglei, Kolasib and Serchhip. The analysis of these 4 Districts can be considered to be representative of the rest of the State.

Thus, a total of 168 projects were studied and categorized under 28 different sectors. It may be noted that some of the projects were multi-sectoral and were classified likewise.

Findings

Table No.1 in the Annexures tabulates the percentage of project proposals belonging to any of the identified sectors calculated as a percentage of the total projects submitted.

1. The top 5 wants taken together from all Districts under study are:-
 - i) Community Building (21%)
 - ii) Water Supply Scheme (8%)
 - iii) Agriculture Link Road (8%)
 - iv) Market/Trade Infrastructure (6%)
 - v) Assistance in Agriculture/Horticulture farming (5%)



2. It is seen that construction of Community Buildings/Halls is the overwhelming want across all the Districts, with only Lunglei prioritizing Water Supply over this.
3. Overall, the projects submitted by the villages and localities have been of myriad nature and the range of sectoral dispersion is wide. The highest range of dispersion of expressed wants is found in Aizawl and the lowest in Lunglei.

Assessment

The following points can be presented from the study:-

1. Despite the MiMIR competition guidelines clearly outlining that priority will be given to projects that create sustainable livelihood, the overwhelming number of projects entered in the competition were for Community Buildings and Halls.

As the available data does not reveal the village or locality from which each of the project proposals were submitted, the reason for this can only be speculated, two of which are as under –

- a) Most of the proposals for Community Buildings and Halls could have originated from urban areas where livelihood is not the major concern of the majority; or
 - b) The mindset of the people is more attuned to dependence on Government intervention for all aspects of life including social and economic. This may be caused by erosion of ideals of hard work and self reliance which is replaced by government spoon-feeding and complacency. This postulation is partly based on the experience from not only urban areas but also rural areas where the experience from Gram Panchayat Development Plan undertaken by Rural Development Department has been in a similar vein where infrastructure wish-listing has overshadowed sustainable livelihood creation for self reliance.
2. A high number of proposals for Water Supply Scheme, Agriculture Link Roads and Market/Trade Infrastructures is indicative that the people are dissatisfied with the current state of water supply, road and trade infrastructures.
 3. Agriculture/Horticulture farming assistance is also highly sought which could indicate the high dependence (or merely the mentality thereof) of the farming community on Government intervention.

4. High dispersion of expressed wants may indicate the need for specific tailored-made interventions, which highlights the importance of decentralisation of development planning.
5. Lunglei District's low dispersion may imply the existence of a more cohesive consensus of what the community requires.

Conclusion

Within the confines of this basic study, an assessment may be made that there could be a need, *firstly*, to inculcate within the people a mindset of greater sensibility/responsibility and an inclination towards self reliance and, *secondly*, a need for Government interventions for better connectivity, market infrastructure and water supply services.

Later exercises would determine whether the perceived needs of the community as expressed through the MiMIR competition are indeed the actual gaps that needs to be addressed by the Government. A more detailed and technical study can be commissioned depending upon the requirement of, and utility of the study for, policy makers.

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Table No.1: District-Wise Ranking of Priority Sectors

SL	DISTRICTS COMBINED		AIZAWL		LUNGLEI		KOLASIB		SERCHHIP	
	SECTORS	% Share	SECTORS	% Share	SECTORS	% Share	SECTORS	% Share	SECTORS	% Share
1	Community Building	21.51	Community Building	32.05	Water Supply Scheme	17.39	Community Building	13.51	Community Building	14.58
2	Water Supply Scheme	8.60	Market/Trade Infrastructure	7.69	Agriculture/Horticulture Farming	13.04	Agriculture Link Road	13.51	Water Supply Scheme	12.50
3	Agriculture Link Road	8.06	Agriculture Link Road	5.13	Community Building	13.04	Market/Trade Infrastructure	10.82	Farm Infrastructure	10.42
4	Market/Trade Infrastructure	6.45	Road Connectivity	5.13	Agriculture Link Road	8.70	Farm Infrastructure	10.82	Animal Husbandry	8.34
5	Agriculture/Horticulture Farming	5.38	Tourism	5.13	Solar Power	8.70	Industry	8.11	Road Connectivity	8.34
6	Animal Husbandry	4.84	Water Supply Scheme	5.13	Tourism	8.70	Road Connectivity	5.41	Food Processing	6.25
7	Road Connectivity	4.84	Agriculture/Horticulture Farming	3.85	Waste Management	8.70	Agriculture/Horticulture Farming	5.41	Agriculture/Horticulture Farming	6.25
8	Farm Infrastructure	4.30	Animal Husbandry	3.85	Animal Husbandry	4.35	Animal Husbandry	5.41	Sanitation	6.25
9	Sports Infrastructure	3.76	Cemetery Augmentation	3.85	Farm Infrastructure	4.35	Ecology/ Beautification	2.70	Market/Trade Infrastructure	4.17
10	Ecology/ Beautification	3.22	Ecology/ Beautification	3.85	Fisheries	4.35	Fisheries	2.70	Ecology/ Beautification	4.17
11	Food Processing	3.22	Human Resource Development	3.85	Market/Trade Infrastructure	4.34	Food Processing	2.70	Waste Management	4.17
12	Tourism	3.22	Sports Infrastructure	3.85	Sericulture	4.34	Hydro Electricity	2.70	Solar Power	2.08
13	Solar Power	2.69	Disaster Mitigation	2.56			Sanitation	2.70	Industry	2.08
14	Waste Management	2.69	Food Processing	2.56			Waste Management	2.70	Health Infrastructure	2.08
15	Agro-based Industry (other than Food Processing)	2.15	Solar Power	2.56			Waste to Energy	2.70	Handloom & Handicraft	2.08
16	Sanitation	2.15	Farm Infrastructure	1.28			Water Supply Scheme	2.70	Forestry	2.08

SL	DISTRICTS COMBINED		AIZAWL		LUNGLEI		KOLASIB		SERCHHIP	
	SECTORS	% Share	SECTORS	% Share	SECTORS	% Share	SECTORS	% Share	SECTORS	% Share
17	Disaster Mitigation	1.61	Fisheries	1.28			Agro-based Industry (other than Food Processing)	2.70	Educational Infrastructure	2.08
18	Forestry	1.61	Forestry	1.28			Sports Infrastructure	2.70	Agriculture Link Road	2.08
19	Handloom & Handicraft	1.61	Handloom & Handicraft	1.28						
20	Waste to Energy	1.61	Sanitation	1.28						
21	Cemetery Augmentation	1.08	Waste Management	1.28						
22	Fisheries	1.08	Waste to Energy	1.28						
23	Human Resource Development	1.08								
24	Industry	1.08								
25	Educational Infrastructure	0.54								
26	Health Infrastructure	0.54								
27	Hydro Electricity	0.54								
28	Sericulture	0.54								

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