Foreword

While UNDP has been working in Myanmar to provide development assistance since the 1950s, our work focused at the grassroots level from 1993 to 2012. During that time, UNDP has helped communities increase their capacity to secure sustainable livelihoods and manage local development activity, through skills transfer, microfinance, various village infrastructure projects and agricultural inputs.

UNDP's primary programme of assistance was the Human Development Initiative (HDI), which covered 8,000 villages in over 60 townships nationwide, reaching some five million women, men and children (around 6 percent of the total population). This wide presence was necessary to provide crucial support in an environment where other development partners had limited presence on the ground. UNDP, based on its core belief in the value of human life and prosperity, designed and implemented its projects to do the greatest possible good for the very poorest in Myanmar. With the reforms initiated by the government of Myanmar, UNDP has embarked on a 'normal' country programme in 2013 after 19 years of a restricted mandate during which UNDP implemented only HDI. Although HDI ended in December 2012 our work to assist sustainable development through inclusive local governance continues under its new country programme for 2013-2015.

This book tells the stories of people impacted by HDI. If you browse through its pages, you will meet people from across Myanmar, who have changed their lives and took initiative for their local development. UNDP is proud to have partnered with the people of Myanmar.

UNDP Myanmar
မိမိတို့အတွက် အကြောင်းချက်များကို သင့်ရဲ့ အနေဖြင့်အဖြင့် ပြောပြပါမည်။

HDI ဆိုသည်မှာ ယခုအခါ လူ့လူ့ လူမှုကို ကြန်ကြမ်းစွာ ဖော်ပြပြီး HDI မှာ လူ့လူ့ လူမှု အဖြစ် အောက်ကြား ပေါ်လာပါသည်။

လူ့လူ့ လူမှု အဖြစ် အောက်ကြား ပေါ်လာပါသည်။
Acronyms

AIDS  Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AusAID  Australian Agency for International Development
CBO  Community-Based Organisation
CDRT  Community Development for Remote Townships
DFID  Department for International Development
DRR  Disaster Risk Reduction
EU  European Union
HDI  Human Development Initiative
HIV  Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAM  Independent Assessment Mission
ICDP  Integrated Community Development Project
IHLCA  Integrated Households Living Condition Assessment
INGO  International Non-governmental Organisation
LIFT  Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund
MF  Microfinance
NGO  Non-governmental Organisation
SRG  Self Reliance Group
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
VDC  Village Development Committee
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Empowering Women: 
Strengthening Families

Affordable credit, a creditable means to improve lives

Pakokku Township, Magway Township

Ma Myint Myint Maw and her family of eight make a living by making and selling bamboo mats. Until recently, making ends meet was a struggle for this family living Hnaw Kone Village in Pakokku Township in central Myanmar. Life was so difficult that it was not uncommon to borrow rice each week to feed the family. A daughter dropped out of school, because they could not afford the expense.

Like many other poor families, Myint’s family had to borrow from private moneylenders to keep their mat making enterprise going. The moneylenders, charged as much as 20 per cent interest. The family had a very small profit left once they had re-paid the moneylender. “It was very difficult to access credit in those days and though we badly needed money to increase our business we could not borrow much because of the high interest rate. And most of the profit was spent to pay back to money lenders,” said Myint.
When the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Integrated Community Development Project helped set up Self-Reliance Groups (SRG) for poor women in her village in 2007, Myint instantly joined one of the groups. “I was struck by the idea that a group of 15-20 women could possess their own funds, have access to affordable loans and at the same time could save money as well,” she said. Myint enthusiastically supported other women to form their own groups. The UNDP provided her group with organizational and book-keeping training for the proper management of the group’s revolving fund. The group, however, was responsible for deciding what rules and procedures it would follow and who would receive loans and on what basis.

Once the group was able to show that it was strong and cohesive, held regular meetings and had a growing corpus from member’s savings, the UNDP contributed cash to its corpus fund, so it could start lending. Myint’s first loan from her group was to buy raw materials for bamboo matting. With the fairer lower interest rate she now had to pay, her profit allowed her to repay the loan as well as invest more in the mat-making business.

With the self-reliance groups established and functioning properly at the village level, UNDP encouraged them to form together to form cluster leading groups. “Cluster leading groups help to strengthen interaction, networking, peer-support and monitoring among member groups,” said Daw Htay Htay Aung, UNDP’s SRG Specialist said. When the self-reliance groups are associated into the bigger cluster leading groups they easily share information, diversify the risk of lending and undertake activities that benefit member groups and communities.

In 2011, Myint’s group joined 16 other SRGs from six neighbouring villages to form the Taw Win Nan SRG Cluster Leading Group. UNDP gave the CLG 10,000,000 Kyat (USD 11,800), enabling it to provide more low interest credit to the participating SRG members. Myint seized the opportunity to expand her business substantially, borrowing 300,000 Kyat (USD 350) from her own SRG and 800,000 Kyat (USD 940) from the CLG. She was able to raise these loans because she had a very good credit history. She always re-paid the interest and loan principal on time.

Myint’s family mat-making business has grown and their quality of life has improved. “Now I employ five workers in my business. My net profit is 300,000 Kyat (USD 357) within two months. I have bought a motorcycle, and I can pay the education expenses of my children,” she explained with smiles. This puts Myint in a far better position than ordinary wage-workers in a city.

Myint and others like her in Myanmar have been able to pull themselves out of the poverty trap through credit that the UNDP supported SRGs and CLGs have provided. Access to affordable credit may not be the magic bullet for sustainably improving livelihoods, but it is much harder to achieve this without it.

**Highlights**

- **UNDP has supported the formation of over 5,500 SRGs, all of which are operating group-owned revolving funds.**
- **All 74,377 SRG members (99 per cent of whom are women) have taken of loans from their SRG revolving fund.**
- **Loans worth over USD 72 million from SRGs have been for starting or expanding livelihood activities. SRGs exist in over 2,552 rural poor villages in Myanmar.**
- **SRG revolving funds now total USD 22 million and are growing as most SRGs are sustainable and are managing their funds well.**
- **Almost all SRGs are actively involved in wider village development activities and are proactive in making village decision-making processes.**
ဗိုလ်ချုပ်မှာ အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှုများကို မှန်ကန်ပို့ချေပါသည်။

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The story of a SRG Auditor, a personal account

Khoe Ohn village in Naung Cho Township, Shan State

Many students in rural Myanmar cannot afford to go to high school. Daw Htoo of Khone Ohn Village was no exception. She left school after the 4th grade. With no specialized skills or training, she worked as casual day laborer to support her ailing mother and two children, a daughter and son. She struggled to keep up with payments for her children’s tuition. Her daughter was in grade four and it seemed to Daw Htoo that she was also destined to drop out., following her mother’s “it really worried me,” she said, “It was sort of clear to me that my daughter would someday face the same fate as mine.”
In 2009, the United Nation Development Programme helped form Self Reliance Groups (SRG) in Khoe Ohn village. Daw Htoo joined one such group. UNDP offered SRG members training to become auditors of the group’s funds. Daw Htoo leapt at the chance, but she was afraid her limited education would come in the way of her becoming an auditor. She mustered enough courage to start the weeklong auditing course, and realized that she could do it. Daw Htoo and other members of the class learned organizational management, bookkeeping, and concepts of transparency and accountability.

When the training ended, Daw Htoo formed an auditing group with three of her classmates. In 2010 the group audited all the villages of Khoe Lone and Kyauk Kyi village tracts. With each passing year, Daw Htoo and her team became more familiar and efficient in their work, conducting many more audits in neighboring village tracts. The work gave Daw Htoo a chance to travel, taking her further away from home than she had ever been before.

On each trip, Daw Htoo’s team would conduct several audits. For each two-day audit the team of 2-3 auditors was paid Kyats 12000-15000. Since her training in 2010 Daw Htoo has audited 35 self-reliance groups. With her income from the auditing group and loans from her SRG, Daw Htoo has bought a new metal roof for her home and purchased a small piece of land to plant ground nut, paddy and maize. She was able to pay for medical care for her mother and ensure that her children stayed in school.

Local SRG auditors like Daw Htoo have seen their status grow in their communities. They are viewed as the upholders of a system that works for the benefit of the community and so their word carries weight. Village residents often nominate them to other community groups and call on them to arbitrate in financial disputes. Daw Htoo’s work as an auditor has improved her life, but it has also improved the lives of countless others by ensuring they have a reliable and transparent source of much needed low interest credit. With local auditors, the SRGs no longer depend on UNDP to monitor them. Project beneficiaries have a real sense of ownership of the project and show a greater sense of responsibility for making it work.

As Daw Htay Htay Aung, the UNDP SRG Specialist said, “These auditors not only have a valuable skill which provides them income to better support their families but they also ensure that the SRG revolving fund model is truly a sustainable model for development.”

**Highlights:**

- **Since its inception in 1994, the UNDP auditor training programme has conducted 143 auditor training courses, training over 1,400 SRG auditors that audit the 5,474 SRGs nationwide.**

- **Currently 49% of SRGs are self-reliant, requiring no additional funding or assistance from the UNDP.**

- **SRG auditors have been central to this process of making groups self-reliant and the UNDP will work with the remaining 51% of groups to see them through the process.**
Creating New Opportunities, Making New Lives

Myin Saing Kone village, Taunglar village tract, Kalaw Township, Shan State

Cho Cho San lived with her family in a small bamboo hut. Her husband worked as a carpenter and Cho Cho did farm work as a day labourer or as a freight handler at the nearby railway station. With no guarantee of finding work everyday, together they brought home 50,000 Kyats or so each month. This was just enough to keep them going, as they were.

The land on which they lived was fertile, but Cho Cho’s family only grew what they needed for food. Their 50,000 Kyat a month would not extend to paying for seed and fertilizer to grow crops on a larger scale for the market or to raise livestock. Loans were out of the question for them as they came at interest rates they could not afford. It was a hand to mouth existence and they saw little chance of the situation changing.
However, things began to change in 2005 when the UNDP Integrated Community Development Project came to Cho Cho’s village. Part of the project’s outreach included helping set up self-reliance groups (SRGs) that worked as local savings and micro-credit networks, offering members credit at manageable interest rates. Cho Cho joined an SRG in her village as soon as the opportunity presented itself. To start with, members only contributed Kyats 100 a week. The member contribution was matched by a contribution from a UNDP common fund.

Cho Cho’s first loan from the SRG was 50,000 Kyats. She invested this in raising pigs. Although she lived in the countryside, pig rearing was something she had to learn. And, help was at hand in the form of UNDP staff who gave her the technical assistance she needed to breed pigs. “I was very unsure at first,” Cho Cho recalled, “everything happened very fast. I had to trust myself to succeed, and my trust paid off.” Over time, her pig-breeding business grew. She would keep a few adult breeding pigs, while selling off the piglets. In two years, Cho Cho had made a profit of 500,000 Kyats, ten times her initial 50,000 Kyat investment. She was able to pay off her loan with interest quite easily and her SRG’s common fund also grew.

Cho Cho continued to take loans from the SRG to finance other small businesses and also to use the technical assistance that UNDP-trained staff provided. In 2008, she invested 600,000 Kyats to grow vegetables. Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW), trained by the UNDP, once again provided her with the technical know-how. The sale of vegetables increased her family income by 300,000 Kyats a year.

Apart from the pigs she breeds and the vegetables she grows for the market, Cho Cho is now also the proud owner of a small grocery store, which she started with a 700,000 Kyats loan. Expanding where she sees an opportunity, she recently added a small-scale rice mill to the shop.

The UNDP programme in her area also offered a training course for Auxiliary Mid-Wives (AMW), and Cho Cho took advantage of this, training to become an AMW. She works as an independent AMW offering vital services in an area where there is insufficient public health staff for village-level service. She helps with deliveries, ante and postnatal care, minor illnesses, child immunisation and referring cases to the township health centre. She makes another 30,000 Kyats a month for providing vital services to her village. This is far more than what she made as a daily-wage worker.

Cho Cho, exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit found everywhere in Myanmar, taking opportunities where she finds them and making the best of them. In less than ten years, her quality of life has changed dramatically. She has a new home and a motorcycle. Her family’s monthly income has gone from 50,000 kyats to 200,000 kyats. She is now able to pay for her parents’ medical care and has even paid for her son’s Shinpyu ceremony, in which he was ordained a monk.

This is how Cho Cho sees it: “UNDP gave me knowledge, techniques, and financial support, and life for my family got so much better. Within seven years I went from tiny hut to good house, casual worker to small-scale business person, neglected woman to respected woman.”

**Highlights**

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, more than 900 auxiliary midwives from 900 villages were trained and provided basic health care facilities.

- More than 200 rural sub-health centres were also established in 200 villages throughout Myanmar in collaboration with their communities.

- About USD 1,117,625 has been utilised for health related activities.
အောင်မြင်ခြင်းကြော်ငြားသော ရောဂါများအား ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်

စိတ်ကြိုက်သော ရောဂါများကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်။ မိဘများကို သင်ကြားနိုင်ရန် အချက်အလက်များကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်။ မိဘများသည် အိမ်အားလုံးကို ယူဆနိုင်ရန် အချက်အလက်များကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်။ မိဘများသည် အိမ်အားလုံးကို ယူဆနိုင်ရန် အချက်အလက်များကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်။ မိဘများသည် အိမ်အားလုံးကို ယူဆနိုင်ရန် အချက်အလက်များကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်။

ယခုခေတ်တွင် ကမ္ဘာ့ရောင်းများကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည် (ICDP) စိတ်ကြိုက်သော ရောဂါများကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်။ မိဘများသည် အိမ်အားလုံးကို ယူဆနိုင်ရန် အချက်အလက်များကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်။ မိဘများသည် အိမ်အားလုံးကို ယူဆနိုင်ရန် အချက်အလက်များကို ပြန်လည်ပြောင်းလဲမည်။
 Faces of the Human Development Initiative 1993-2012

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Microcredit Assistance: a Helping Hand for Industrious Borrowers

Taung Twin Gyi Township

The highway linking Taung Twin Gyi and Nay Pyi Taw runs through the middle of Gon Bin village making it the business hub for surrounding villages. It is considered a place of opportunity. Small businesses are easier to set up and there is a ready market for agricultural produce. However, not everyone has the means to use these opportunities.
Daw Khin Mar San, a vegetable seller Gon Bin had seen many people flourish. She recalls that the only income her family had was from the vegetables she sold, and the wages from the irregular work her husband found.

“We didn’t earn much as I sold vegetables and fruits in a market that took place every five days only and my husband also didn’t have a stable job with regular income.” Daw Khin Mar San said.

When the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) microfinance service started in Gon Bin village, Daw Khin Mar San saw it as a good opportunity for her family. The microfinance service offered micro and small enterprise loans to help poorer families expand and diversify income-generating activities.

“It is quite good that there is a type of loan for those who want to expand their businesses. I have taken such loans three times in addition to a regular loan,” Daw Khin Mar San said.

With the loans Daw Khin Mar San not only invested more in her vegetable and fruit selling business, but also opened a grocery shop, in her home. From the increased income her family was able to buy a five-acre plot of farmland for 2.5 million Kyats, where among other things they breed livestock, including pigs and chicken. They have also rebuilt their two-storey house, have a son in school and were able to hold a religious ceremony for another son who entered the monkhood.

Availability of credit from the Microfinance Project helped Daw Khin Mar San increase her family income and create significant assets within a fairly short period. UNDP Myanmar’s microfinance project has proven to be a very effective means of reaching out and empowering rural women by increasing their household income and productive assets.

**Highlights:**

- The Microfinance project is operational in more than 6,000 villages in 26 townships.
- More than 400,000 members, of whom 98 per cent are women, have loans from the project.
 Faces of the Human Development Initiative 1993-2012

ရေးသားလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် အကောင်အထည်များကို ပြုလုပ်သည်မှာ အောက်တွင်ဖော်ပြထားသော အချက်အလက်များကို ဖော်ပြပြီး တွင်းကြားသော မိုးမားသော လူများအတွက် မိုးမားသော လူများကို ဖော်ပြပါသည်။

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Quality Chairs for a Quality Life

Bank Gywe Gone Village, Bilin Township, Mon State

Bank Gywe Gone is a small village five miles north of Bilin Township. Most people in the village are very poor. They work as casual day labourers when they can find the work. Like in many small villages, there is a lack of diversified skills and few trained in a craft or trade. This means that there many more casual labourers than are needed, which means most are underemployed and live just around the poverty line.

Ma Own Mar Yi, a 35-year-old mother, was just another casual labourer who was struggled to support her three children and elderly mother. A good days work would get her 2000 Kyats. During the agricultural season Ma Own Mar Yi worked hard day after day in the fields to feed her family. Off-season she worked as a thatcher, when such work was available or wove mats. While at work, her mind would often drift back home and to the baby daughter she had left in the care of her mother. Ma Own Mar Yi desperately wished she could earn a living nearer home, so she could look out for her children. But she did not have that option. Work was difficult and she was always short of money.
There were many times when she didn’t know how she would put food on the table. Although she kept a brave face in front of her mother and children, her family’s hardships affected her greatly. She felt helpless and would cry in private and didn’t know how to change the situation.

Ma Own Mar Yi can never forget a day when her older son came back from school and said to her, “I’m hungry.” She had no idea what to do; there was neither rice nor paddy at home. She asked him to wait and went to a neighbour and asked to borrow for four tins (just over a kilogram) of rice, but the neighbour said she didn’t have any either. She couldn’t stand the thought of going back home without rice, so she tried another house and got the same reply. She felt anxious, and angry. She started crying, sweating, and shaking. Gathering her courage she went to a third house, they had rice to spare. Ma Own Mar Yi, said she felt like a lottery winner. There was dinner for the family.

Things got worse the next day when her younger son came down with a fever and she could not to go to work. There was no rice for dinner and there was no one left to borrow from. She sat wondering what to do. “At that moment, I heard the shouting from someone who went around to buy hair and I realized what I could do,” said Ma Own Mar Yi. She felt happy about the money she would receive for her hair, but tears poured down as long black her hair was being cut. Although Ma Own Mar Yi loved her hair, there was food for a few days.

In November 2011 a door opened that Ma Own Mar Yi was at first reluctant to walk through. A friend told her about a bamboo furniture-making course run by the United Nations Development Programme in the village. “At first I decided not to attend. I was afraid of failure, because I had never received any training before,” said Ma Own Mar Yi. But her friend persisted, telling her how she might benefit, that it was a vocational training course aimed at helping people gain another source of income, that it did not matter if she had never attended a training course before or if she was illiterate. In the end she was persuaded.

The training lasted for four days, during which Ma Own Mar Yi worked diligently to learn how to make single-seat and double-seat chairs and settees. After the training was completed she went back home and greeted her family with a big smile. Her mother commented on the smile, saying she hadn’t seen her daughter so happy in a long time. Own Mar Yi replied, “It is because I am very happy.”

The following day Ma Own Mar Yi borrowed some money from a relative to buy bamboo and nails, enough to make three chairs. She made her first single-seat chair on the same day and asked her mother to sit on it. Her mother gave her a thumbs up. The next morning, she woke up and began work on the second chair. Throughout the day, villagers would come by and admire the chair, inquiring about the material it was made from and how much it cost. By mid-day she sold her first chair to for 2000 Kyat. Word of her quality bamboo chairs spread to the surrounding villages. She started receiving orders for chairs faster than she could produce them. She taught her son how to make chairs, so that he could help with the orders. They now sell one or two chairs each day.

Ma Own Mar Yi’s dream of working from home has come true. She no longer has to toil in the fields and she can watch her children as they grow up. And, she had plans. “I plan to expand this business with loans from the village livelihoods committee to purchase more supplies and tools. I am confident that it will be successful” she said happily.

**Highlights:**

- **UNDP has instituted 238 of vocational training programmes.**
- **13,423 people from 238 villages have so far benefited from the vocational training programmes.**
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The Best Job I had in My Life

by Siba Kumar Das

When in 1993 the then Governing Council of UNDP laid down the mandate that brought the Human Development Initiative (HDI) into being, it created a challenge for the organization. The Council’s decision called for sustainable grassroots impact through direct action at township and village tract level. While education and training were highlighted for special attention along with primary health care, the environment, HIV/AIDS, and food security, national capacity development could address village communities and the direct support they needed but not the development and reform of public policy.

Needless to say, the set of projects that materialized from this mandate was, for UNDP, an unusual and unconventional programme. Did it succeed? I think it did, and in so doing it created a strong experiential foundation for the public policy and capacity development support that is now critically needed, given the mandate change set in train in 2012 by the UNDP’s Executive Board. I arrived in Myanmar on 10 July 1995, the day Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest the first time, and stayed in the country till July 1998. During this period, I oversaw bringing to a close by fall 1996 HDI’s first phase—a $25.6 million programme. I also directed the formulation and implementation of a $52.1 million two and a half year HDI extension, which started in 1996’s last quarter. By the time of my departure, I had additionally guided the
formulation of a second HDI extension, programmed initially at an estimated cost of $45 million for the period 1999-2001. Of course, the question also arises: what about outcomes and results, before my time, during my time and after my time? These have been documented and assessed by several independent review missions whose reports were discussed by the UNDP Executive Board. But let me mention four things that, I think, were of true salience. First, even by the time I left HDI was being widely seen as a first systematic effort in Myanmar to carry out a grassroots strategy for poverty alleviation. Second, we had initiated a pilot micro-finance programme that was eventually assessed as being highly successful. And, thirdly, building upon a strategy initiated at HDI's start, we reinforced and expanded a programme aimed at creating and building up community-based organizations as a means of making development participatory and bottom up. By 1999, some 13,000 CBOs were functioning in HDI townships - a notable contribution to the development of civil society in Myanmar. One more thing should be highlighted and here I come to the fourth point: in fostering this much-needed institutional development as well as in other activities, special attention was creatively given to gender issues and women's empowerment.

Central to HDI's achievements (uneven in some respects of course) was UNDP's ability, with the support of national and international partners, to work within the mandate given by the Governing Council and the Executive Board while deploying programming intelligence with considerable inventiveness. This meant applying not only global and regional good practice but also, most importantly, insight about opportunity arising from the communities we served. Highly instrumental in the use of local knowledge and wisdom were two groups: the UNDP office's national staff, and HDI's national project personnel, whose number we vastly expanded when the first HDI extension was put in place. We owe these colleagues an enormous debt of gratitude.

Critically important, too, was the continuous generation of political support for HDI. This entailed creative dialogue and discussion with national authorities and their indispensable input. Engagement with the international community, through diplomatic missions in Yangon and Bangkok, Permanent Missions in New York, international civil society organizations and other means, was equally essential. We also reached out to national civil society, inclusive of important political groups and their leaders.

Going forward, Myanmar's development strategy will need to move on many fronts. What is needed first is further democratization and good governance - not only with a view to establishing the rule of law, ensuring effectiveness of public services, unleashing private initiative and enterprise, and sustaining people's participation in public policy but also strengthening a federal political architecture anchored in decentralization. Next in line must be the promotion of economic growth as a means of eradicating the country's widespread poverty. Economic and social policy must also make sure that that growth is broad-based, inclusive and job creating. The country's enormous human development challenges, in health, education and other sectors, will need to be addressed, in the nation as a whole but especially in the remote border areas where Myanmar's sizable ethnic minorities live. An infrastructure program of daunting size will need to buttress all these transformations. What's more, the country has growing environmental and natural resource depletion problems, aggravated by global climate change. Within the limits of its resources and consistent with its global sustainable human development mandate and its support for the Millennium Development Goals (and for the follow-on post-2015 international development agenda that the UN General Assembly will agree upon), UNDP's programming will need selectively to respond to national priorities stemming from this vast array of needs. The body of knowledge and experience that HDI has created will surely hold UNDP and its national and international partners in good stead as this response is put in place.

I was privileged to serve in Myanmar during three challenging years. HDI is being wound down, the time having come to move beyond it. As I reminisce writing this personal note, I am moved by memories - memories of the people, the colleagues and the friendships that will always remain with me. My assignment in Myanmar was by far the highest point of my long UN service. It was the best job I had in my life.

The writer was the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Myanmar from July 1995-July 1998.