

# FAST FACTS

## United Nations Development Programme



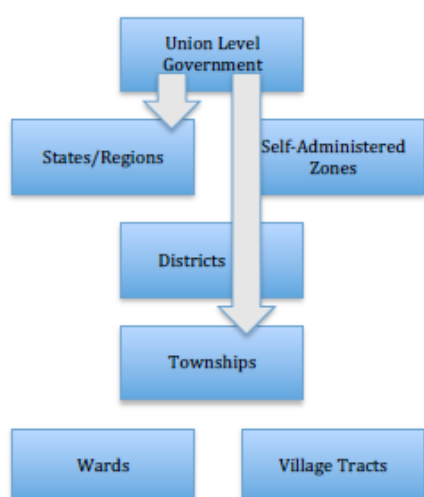
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### Local Governance Mapping in Myanmar (2013-2015)

Myanmar is at a historic stage in its development. A new Constitution was adopted in May 2008 and elections were held in November 2010 with by-elections in April 2012. Several steps have been undertaken since, aimed at strengthening governance and social development.

In this process of reform, the President His Excellency U Thein Sein has emphasized the importance of improved performance in public service delivery, good governance and citizen participation. To achieve these goals, more responsibilities and resources towards service delivery and governance are gradually being transferred from the Union government to the state/region and township administrations.

To support this process, in 2013 UNDP partnered with the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs to conduct local governance mapping across the country. The purpose of this mapping was to improve the understanding of the current quality of local governance and service delivery at township and lower levels. Between December 2013 and January 2015, the mapping has been conducted in a phased manner in all 14 states and regions of Myanmar



The different levels of government in Myanmar

### Mapping Methodology

The methodology for the local governance mapping was adapted from methodologies successfully applied in various countries around the world, especially those suited to countries where there is a limited availability of reliable data on service delivery and the quality of governance, as is the case in Myanmar.



Interview with a primary school principal in Chin State. Photo: Shipra Suri/UNDP Myanmar

Since there is a lack of reliable basic administrative data in Myanmar, the methodology mainly made use of qualitative data. The interviews with citizens in selected villages were based on their experiences and perceptions of service delivery, participation and governance. This qualitative methodological approach was in line with the objective of active citizen involvement and helped to build a new platform for citizen-government dialogue.

In this way, the methodology not only mapped but at the same time also raised awareness and encouraged first actions at the local level.

### A three-step approach

The local governance mapping exercise collected data at three different levels: community, township and state/region level. The process in each state or region started with a sensitization workshop organized to introduce the objectives of the mapping, explain the methodology, and obtain the necessary buy-in and support from state/region and township level stakeholders.



Citizens Report Card interview in Mon State. Photo: Shipra Suri/UNDP Myanmar

In each state/region, a number of sample townships were selected for data collection. In the pilot states of Mon and Chin this number was six, but in most subsequent states/regions, there were three townships, while in some larger states and regions like Sagaing or Shan there were four or more. Within each township, two sample village tracts/wards were selected. The selection of townships, village tracts and wards took place in close consultation with the state/region governments.

### **Step 1: Community level mapping**

At the community level, three types of interviews were conducted as part of the mapping:

- **Citizen Report Cards** aimed to gather information on citizens' perception of and satisfaction with local governance. The interviews focused on core elements of local governance like participation, transparency and accountability, as well as on the governance dimensions of key services such as primary healthcare, water supply and primary education.
- **Interviews with Service Providers**, including village tract/ward administrators, teachers, principals, health staff, were conducted to include the views of those who are the primary service providers.
- **Community Dialogues** were conducted in each village tract/ward, where selected groups of citizens or people and service providers were brought together for a facilitated discussion of the results from the above interviews. The community dialogues aimed to validate the collected data, add new information, and initiate a discussion on local development issues, priorities and solutions.

### **Step 2: Study on Township Governance**

To deepen the understanding of the functioning of township administration, background studies were conducted at township level. Available secondary information in the form of government statistics, policy

documents and township profiles was collected and analysed. Semi-structured interviews and Focus Group Discussions were held with key government staff and CSO representatives.

### **Step 3: State/region level mapping and reflection**

The third step involved interviews with key informants on the state/regional level and further collection of relevant secondary data. Finally, interim findings were presented to key stakeholders for their feedback and reflection.

## **Pilot in Mon and Chin States**

The mapping was initiated in Mon and Chin States, which present two contrasting settings in the country. Chin is sparsely populated, remote and poor, while Mon is dense, accessible and wealthy. The two states also have completely different ethnic compositions. On the basis of the processes in Mon and Chin, the questionnaires, the interview process, and the township level research were fine-tuned.

## **Using the findings from the Local Governance Mapping**

On the basis of the data and information collected, UNDP produced "State of Local Governance" Reports for each state and region. These reports were launched in February 2015 at the Myanmar Good Governance Forum in Nay Pyi Daw in the presence of union, and state and region level stakeholders. Amongst others, local administrations and development partners can use these reports to design capacity development activities and other interventions to improve local governance. All reports and products have been made available online. Data at the state/region level will be made available on MIMU website.

### **PHASES OF MAPPING**

**Phase 1:** Mon and Chin - completed in January 2014

**Phase 2:** Kayin, Kayah, Tanintharyi, Bago and Ayeyarwaddy - May – July 2014

**Phase 3:** Kachin, Magway, Mandalay, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan and Yangon - September 2014 – January 2015

**For more information, visit:**

[www.mm.undp.org/](http://www.mm.undp.org/)

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