



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

UNDP Myanmar





*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Annual Report UNDP Myanmar 2014

Acronyms

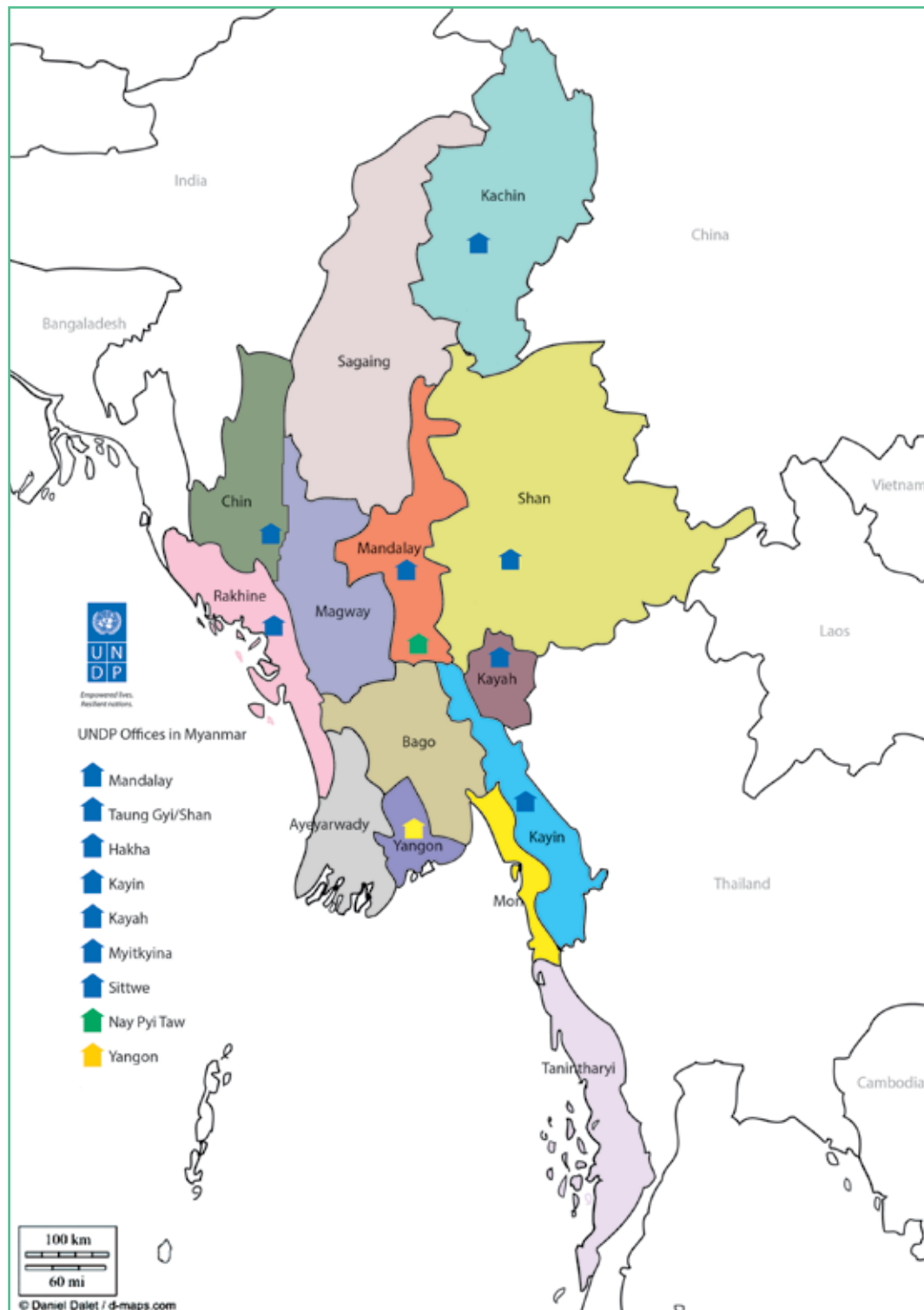
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CBO	Community Based Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DICA	Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
GAD	General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs
GEF	Global Environment Fund
IDLO	International Development Law Organisation
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPU	International Parliamentary Union
LIFT	Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund
OCHA	Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UCSB	Union Civil Service Board
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNISDR	United Nations. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development

Table of Contents

Foreword	1
Introduction	3
What do we do?	5
 The Democratic Governance Programme	 9
Context	10
Partners of the Democratic Governance Programme	11
Key Achievements of the Democratic Governance Programme	12
<i>Development Effectiveness</i>	12
<i>Parliamentary Strengthening</i>	12
<i>Rule of Law and Access to Justice</i>	13
<i>Public Administration</i>	14
 The Local Governance Programme	 15
Context	16
Partners of the Local Governance Programme	17
Key Achievements of the Local Governance Programme	18
<i>Completion of the Data collection of the Local Governance Mapping</i>	18
<i>Strengthening the Interface between Citizens, Civil Society and</i> <i>Government</i>	19
<i>Strengthening Access to Inclusive Finance</i>	20
<i>Livelihoods, Social Cohesion and Peace building</i>	21
 Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme	 23
Context	24
Partners of the Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme	24
Key Achievements Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme	25
<i>Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction</i>	25
<i>Natural Resource Management</i>	26

A map of Myanmar

showing the location of UNDP offices



Foreword



In 2014, UNDP continued to deepen its relationships and trust with partner institutions on their vision for reforms and capacity building.

With UNDP's support, government partners led strategic visioning and planning exercises, mostly within their institutions, but also across institutions and parliamentary chambers. The Myanmar Parliament (Hluttaw) strengthened its institutional capacity to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities of law making, oversight and representation through a process that resulted in its Strategic Plan. The Plan identifies a 'Vision' of where the Parliament wants to be in the future and defines its purpose or 'Mission', as well as establishing a roadmap of objectives and priorities to meet current needs, future ambitions and anticipated challenges. This is leading to improved planning and coordination in the strengthening of the parliamentary services in the Hluttaw, as evidenced by the establishment of a Joint Coordination Committee which meets regularly to discuss, plan, and make decisions on development activities.

UNDP's continued livelihood assistance support at village level enhanced social cohesion between and across ethnically diverse and often isolated communities. Working in 313 villages across 24 townships in Myanmar's 7 border or ethnic states, UNDP's package of social protection assistance, capital assistance for livelihoods, vocational training and infrastructure, improved socio-economic opportunities and strengthened relations and networks between and across villages and townships. For example, joint vocational training activities were used to help improve inter-village and inter-township interactions while joint infrastructure cash-for-work activities were used to facilitate inter-community collaboration and dialogue between different ethnic groups, IDPs and host-communities, and young and old persons. As of end 2014, and based on indicative samplings, UNDP's activities at the village level led to a 52% increase in the number of people reporting having more than five occasions for interacting with a member of a different community and a 32% increase in the number of people reporting perceptions of increased unity of people from different communities.

The local governance mappings sensitization workshops, as well as the trainings on democratic governance and participation held for Union Civil Service Board's management and the General Administrations Departments training

institutes, contributed to wider understanding among government partners and civil society representatives on concepts such as democratic transition, decentralized governance, accountability and participation. Government counterparts and other stakeholders are now more aware and active in dialogues on these topics than they initially were.

Donor partnerships continue to play a key role in UNDP's work. Three donors - Sweden, Finland and DFID provided additional funding in 2014 to support UNDP's work in the area of Democratic Governance.

We wish to warmly thank the Government of the Union of Myanmar for its trusted partnership and support, and all our partners for their generosity, cooperation and insights – traditional development partners, emerging development partners, and civil society. We also wish to thank the many local communities who graciously agreed to engage with us and teach us about their realities.



Renata Lok-Dessallien
UNDP Resident Representative



Toily Kurbanov
Country Director

Introduction



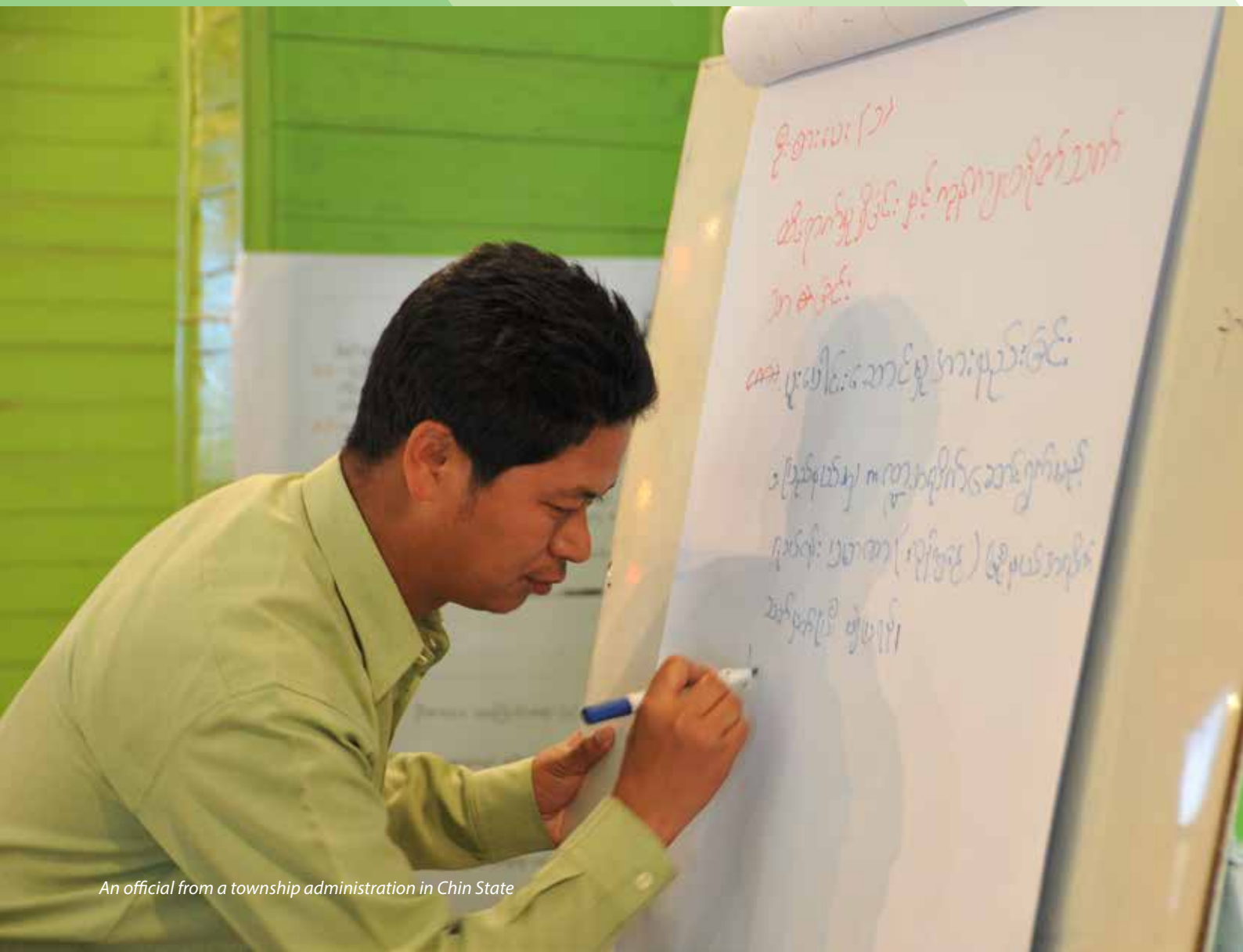
Workers travelling home in Nyaung Shwe, Taunggyi District

Myanmar is pursuing an ambitious, multilayered reform agenda, which includes political opening, democratization, modernizing state institutions, market reforms, in addition to a complex peace process, aimed at brokering a settlement between the Myanmar Government and the ethnic armed groups.

Related to that is an unparalleled diversity of development contexts - ranging from ongoing conflict and post conflict settings, severe rural poverty, to the challenges of fast growing urban development - which implies that development terms like poverty reduction, community resilience or inclusive governance means different things in different states and regions. This complexity poses challenges to government and development partners alike.

Economically, Myanmar was forecasted to grow by about 7% in 2014, which according to preliminary government estimates seems to have been exceeded. Despite impressive economic progress, Myanmar still records low human development, positioned at 150 out of 187 countries in the Human Development Index rankings for 2014. Graduation from LDC status by 2020 has become a key mid-term policy objective of the government. Similar to other developing countries, the challenge for Myanmar is to enable growth and to tackle vulnerabilities - regions, the poor, informal workers, small farmers, women, people with disabilities, children etc - and to build resilience to economic shocks, natural disasters, climate change, conflict and civil unrest, so that its economic progress translates into developmental benefits for all over the long term.

What Do We Do?



UNDP's programme in Myanmar focuses on three areas: democratic governance; local governance, and disaster resilience and environmental governance, as agreed with the Government of Myanmar in the Country Programme Action Plan 2013 – 2015.

Through the Democratic Governance Programme, UNDP aims to promote democratic governance and the rule of law to strengthen democratic institutions and the advancement of human rights in Myanmar.

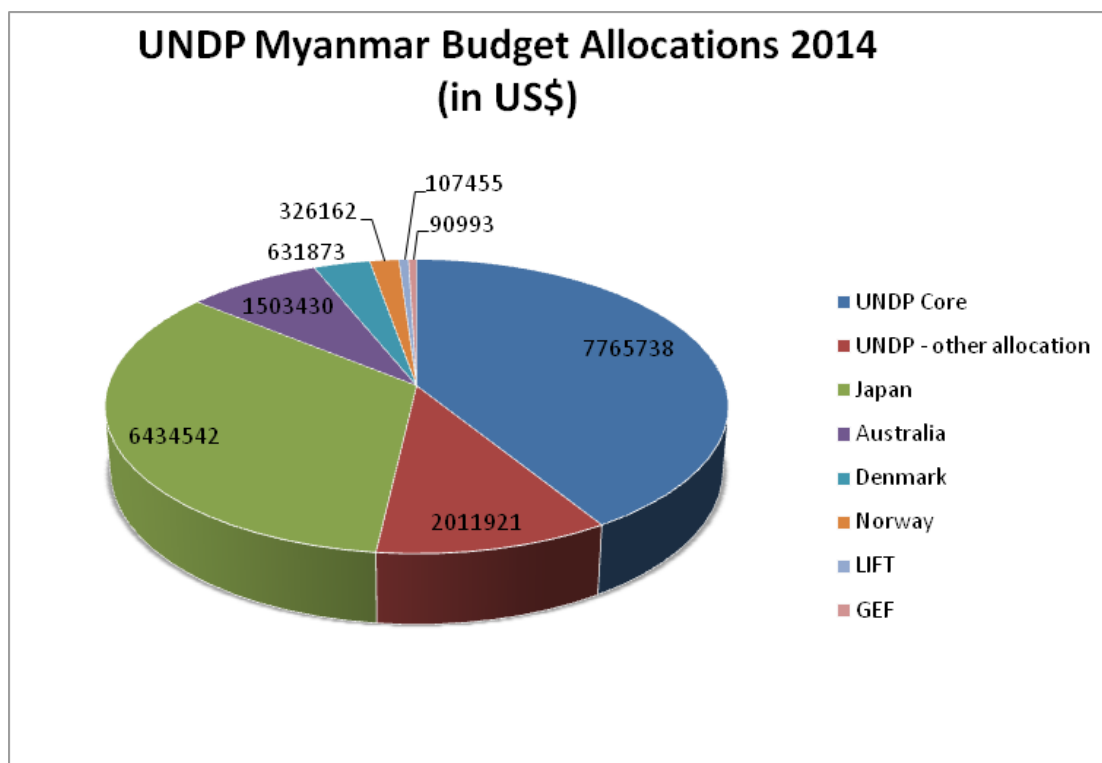
Through the Local Governance Programme, UNDP provides support to Myanmar's reform agenda aimed at improved local service provision, people centered, bottom-up planning, good governance and clean government. The local governance programme aims to strengthen community driven development institutions that support local governance through service delivery; and promote inclusive growth, including agricultural development and increased employment opportunities for women and men.

Through the Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme, UNDP aims to reduce Myanmar's vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, improve environmental and natural resources management, and promote energy conservation through access to affordable and renewable energy, particularly in off-grid local communities.

In the implementation of its programme, UNDP enjoyed close relationships with different stakeholders including government ministries and departments at both the Union and State level, Union and State Parliaments, civil society, media, academia and other international development organizations, development partners, as well as the members of the UN family.

A number of donors provide funding for the Country Programme Action Plan while UNDP's core resources are used as seed funding to kick start programmes, demonstrate initial results and help attract additional funding from donor partners.

The overall budget for UNDP in Myanmar for 2014 was US \$18,872,114. Over 41% was provided by UNDP (US \$7,756,738). The Government of Japan contributed US \$6,434,542, while Australia contributed US \$1,503,430. Funding was also received from the Governments of Denmark and Norway.



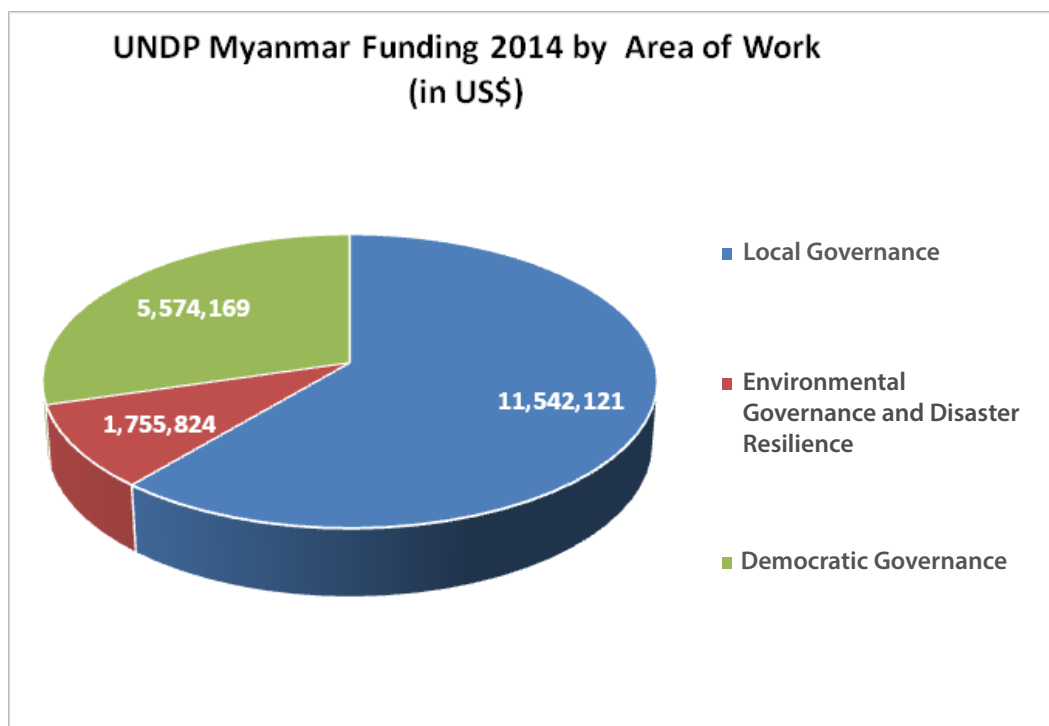
Key:

LIFT: Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund

GEF: Global Environmental Facility

The budget, as divided amongst the three main areas of work was as follows:

- Local Governance: US \$11,542,121;
- Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience: US \$1,755, 824;
- Democratic Governance: US \$5,574,169



In 2014, UNDP in Myanmar signed agreements for funding support for its Democratic Governance work with the Governments of Sweden (US \$4.1 million), Finland (US \$2.6 million) and the United Kingdom through its Department for International Development, DFID, (US \$3.2 million).

The Democratic Governance Programme



The Parliament complex in Nay Pyi Taw

Context

There have been subtle but positive changes in the situation of good governance and democracy. For many people, the country seems to be heading in the right direction.¹ Myanmar's greater regional and international engagement has spurred on its internal efforts to enhance quality of governance. These efforts relate to more inclusive decision making, greater space for subnational governments to implement new authority, and commitments to transparency and women's rights.

All three branches of government have taken steps to become more responsive and democratic. The executive is reducing red tape and streamlining service provision, working across Ministries to resolve complex problems. Myanmar has a parliament which increasingly exerts leadership in the country's reform agenda, as well as its own capacity development through a Strategic Plan. It has started the process of enhancing checks and balances on government action and ensuring peoples' representation. Whilst still viewed with mistrust by many, the justice sector actors have enhanced their own understanding and implementation of due process and respect for human rights; policy pronouncements on the expansion of legal aid will expand access to justice in the country.

However, challenges to the deepening of the country's governance reform agenda have also emerged. These could disappoint the high expectations of openness and inclusive growth. The faltering of the peace process, incidents of communal violence, heightened tensions in several states, and setbacks in improvements to human rights have the potential to impact on broader democratic governance reforms.² Government capacity is already stretched, and these political challenges, as well as preparations for the 2015 elections and the ongoing constitutional review pose an additional burden.

Government institutions have a long history, and international experience has shown that it will take longer to change how government is run. More evident leadership, ownership and cross-government collaboration on reforms is a start, and the establishment of coordinated strategic frameworks for reforms will further enable the government to plan and monitor change more effectively. Ensuring that the set-up and staffing at all levels of government are fit to Myanmar's new purpose will take time and effort to implement.

Through the Democratic Governance Programme, UNDP aims to promote democratic governance and the rule of law to strengthen democratic institutions and the advancement of human rights in Myanmar.

¹ IRI poll in April 2014; Asia Foundation poll in December 2014.

² Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, 2014.

There are four main areas of work:

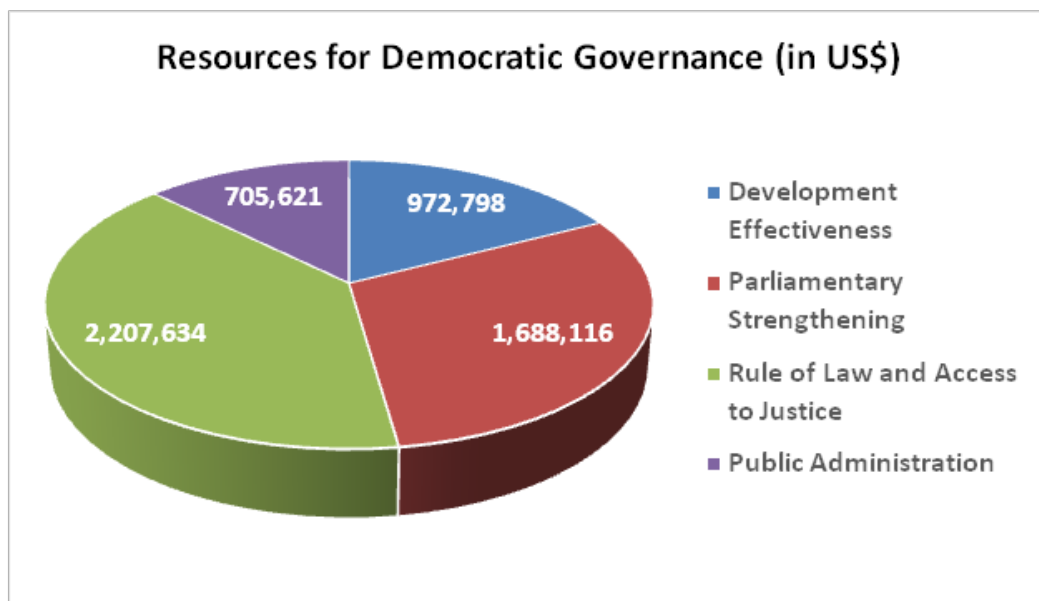
- Development effectiveness;
- Parliamentary strengthening;
- Rule of law and access to justice; and
- Public Administration.

Partners of the Democratic Governance Programme

The Democratic Governance Programme partnered with government, development partners and other entities to deliver its programme in 2014. These include:

- *Government:* Ministry of Planning; Office of the President, Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Union Civil Service Board (UCSB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Office of the Union Attorney General, Office of the Supreme Court of the Union, Constitutional Tribunal, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, State and Region Hluttaws;
- *Other partners:* Inter-Parliamentary Union, and Universities in Myanmar; and
- *Funding partners:* the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom.

The Democratic Governance Programme had a total budget of US\$5,574,169.



Key Achievements of the Democratic Governance Programme

Development Effectiveness

UNDP's key contribution towards enhanced development effectiveness in 2014 has been through its day to day work with staff in the planning and statistics departments, enhancing understanding of planning and data collection and analysis, and enhancing communication and consultation with other departments and Ministries in both planning (including sector based planning) and data collection.

The process for the development of the National Comprehensive Development Plan included consideration of sector-based policy issues, and available socio-economic data. However, some opportunities for wider participation were lost.

The government has also made progress in collecting and analysing data for policy making processes, with the completion of the business census, which consolidated information from four databases (DICA, Myanmar Investment Commission, Small Scale Industry Department, and Department of Industry supervision and Inspection) for the first time, collecting basic data from 31,093 domestic firms operating in 179 townships out of 330. Following the census, UNDP worked with the Ministry staff to understand how such data might be analysed to produce policy recommendations (for example, identifying that most registered businesses are located along the central axis of the country, and seeing what the implications might be), but whilst data collection capacity is enhanced, capacity for data analysis remains low.

UNDP has started supporting Myanmar's participation in global aid effectiveness discussions.

Parliamentary Strengthening

The parliamentary work under UNDP's programme is implemented jointly with the International Parliamentary Union (IPU). In 2014, the development of the Strategic Plan has improved the capacity of the Hluttaw in planning and coordination (through the Joint Coordination Committee), and set a vision for the future to guide capacity development. The establishment of a Learning Centre provides the Hluttaw with long term capability to strengthen capacity and skills of staff and members. This provides the Hluttaw with an effective means to address its own capacity development needs and be less reliant on external support.

Research departments are providing high quality research products which are improving the quality of information available to members and their capacity to raise issues during plenary debates. A repository for Hluttaw documents



Law lecturers from across Myanmar at a training in Taunggyi

has also been established which will allow members and staff better access to core information which will improve the quality of work and decisions. Practical and on the job training has improved the management of Hluttaw information. These capacities will further improve with the implementation of the comprehensive plan to develop modern and effective Information, Communication and Technology infrastructure.

UNDP's trainings have resulted in increased interest in strengthening the Hluttaw committees, and an agreed committee development programme was developed for 2015. They have also enhanced UNDP's relationship with Regional and State Hluttaws, and understanding of their capacity to undertake their legislative, oversight and representative functions. Media reports shows that some of the Hluttaws have taken the initiative to implement proposals that have been developed during UNDP-supported workshops, and a longer term strategy for support will build on these gains.

Rule of Law and Access to Justice

UNDP's support has enhanced information sharing within the justice sector and improved awareness of justice issues faced by poor and vulnerable groups, both of which can contribute to more effective coordination and planning for reforms. UNDP's Access to Justice mapping was completed, and UNDP developed a model curriculum for Rule of Law training, based on Myanmar law and international standards, together with national training capacity to deliver it. Through this, private lawyers, civil society representatives and legal academics

have gained knowledge about rule of law principles, local justice and human rights resulting in an opening of spaces for participation of non-state and local actors in justice issues. Increased exposure to key justice principles and concepts, as well as specialized skills training, will better enable justice sector actors to implement ongoing reforms- this has been achieved through standalone trainings and training of trainers in a variety of topics including dialogue skills. The expansion of the Clinical Legal Education Programme in 18 University law departments will in the long term generate significant capacity of legal actors in both the public and private sector.

UNDP's work with the planning teams in the Union Attorney General's Office and Office of the Supreme Court of the Union have increased planning capacity, and contributed to the development of the Judiciary Strategic Plan, and the UAGO's training plan.

Public Administration

Through the establishment of government coordination structures for reform, stakeholders from across Union and Region/State governments are now able to collaborate in the reform process, and generate a clearer cross-government perspective on potential administrative reforms. The work of the new structures has catalyzed discussions on administrative reform in individual Ministries and the government has also identified whole-of government reform initiatives to implement, such as the formulation of a civil service competency framework. Although government continued to call for the implementation of pilot reforms in the public administration, and has at various times called for development partner support.

Through its Chairmanship of ASEAN, the government has engaged more widely with regional actors on questions of civil service reform, including anti-corruption measures. At the 17th ASEAN Civil Service Matters conference, during the Good Governance Forum which was co-organised with UNDP, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board recognized the criticality of improved civil service performance, and the Union Civil Service Board has since rekindled efforts to improve the strategic contribution of Myanmar's ASEAN Resource Centre to reforms. A strategic planning process, and an exposure visit/training on curriculum development and training of trainers to Singapore marked the beginning of strategic engagement to improve quality of training. Ethics training has been incorporated into the senior management courses as a first step towards enhancing ethics and integrity in the civil service.

Local Governance Programme



Local communities join hands to build a new road in Kachin

Context

As part of the democratic reforms agenda, Government is committed to further decentralization. The government's commitment to enhanced participation in local development planning and budgeting has already manifested itself concretely in the establishment of a number of committees. These committees at the township, district, ward and village tract level allow participation of people and various interest groups representing important sectors of society in local development (such as the business community, farmer, workers, civic organizations). In addition, the recent election of municipal affairs committee members for the Yangon City Development Committee is a sign of a more democratic approach to representation and involvement of people in local decision-making processes, which can serve as trigger for similar approaches in other states and regions. Mandalay region has already announced that they will be holding elections for the Mandalay City Development Committee in the near future.

The absence of women in local governance is striking. There are very few women in leading roles within the administration and within the township committees. Out of 16700 Village Tract Administrators, only around 40 are women, and overall participation of women in meetings and consultations is lower than that of men. This may lead to a situation where the needs and priorities of women are not adequately reflected in the local development action plans.

Civil Society and media have a critical role to play in development and local governance as well as peace-building and social cohesion. The development of an "Association Law" for voluntary CSO registration was responsive to CSO concerns and represents a trend towards gradually greater government consultation of CSO voice in policymaking, with respective by-laws still in the making. In media development, several new legislative frameworks based in principle on freedom of the press have been enacted or are in process of passage by Parliament. Finally the role of social media and mobile phone connectivity in society, while still small overall, is expected to grow rapidly and create new challenges, as well as opportunities, for a public of relatively inexperienced and uncritical media consumers.

Through the Local Governance Programme, UNDP hopes to strengthen community driven development institutions that support local governance in service delivery; and promote inclusive growth, livelihoods and social cohesion.

There are four main areas of work:

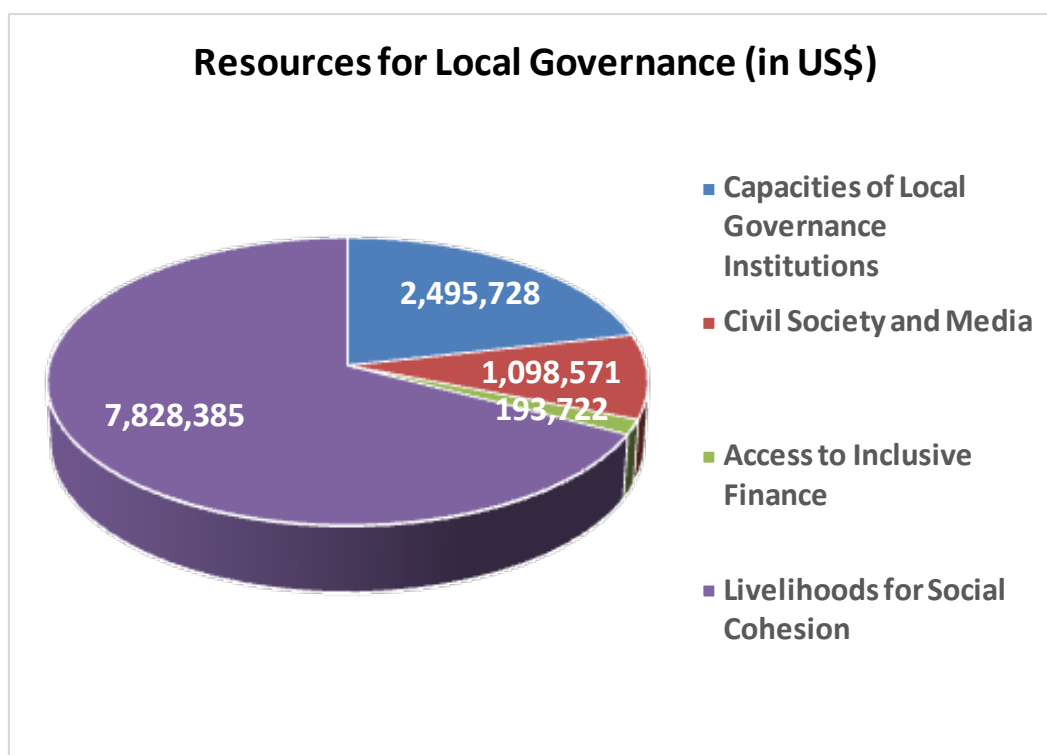
- Capacity development of local governance institutions;
- Strengthening civil society and media roles in local development;
- Fostering access to inclusive finance; and
- Livelihood support for social cohesion.

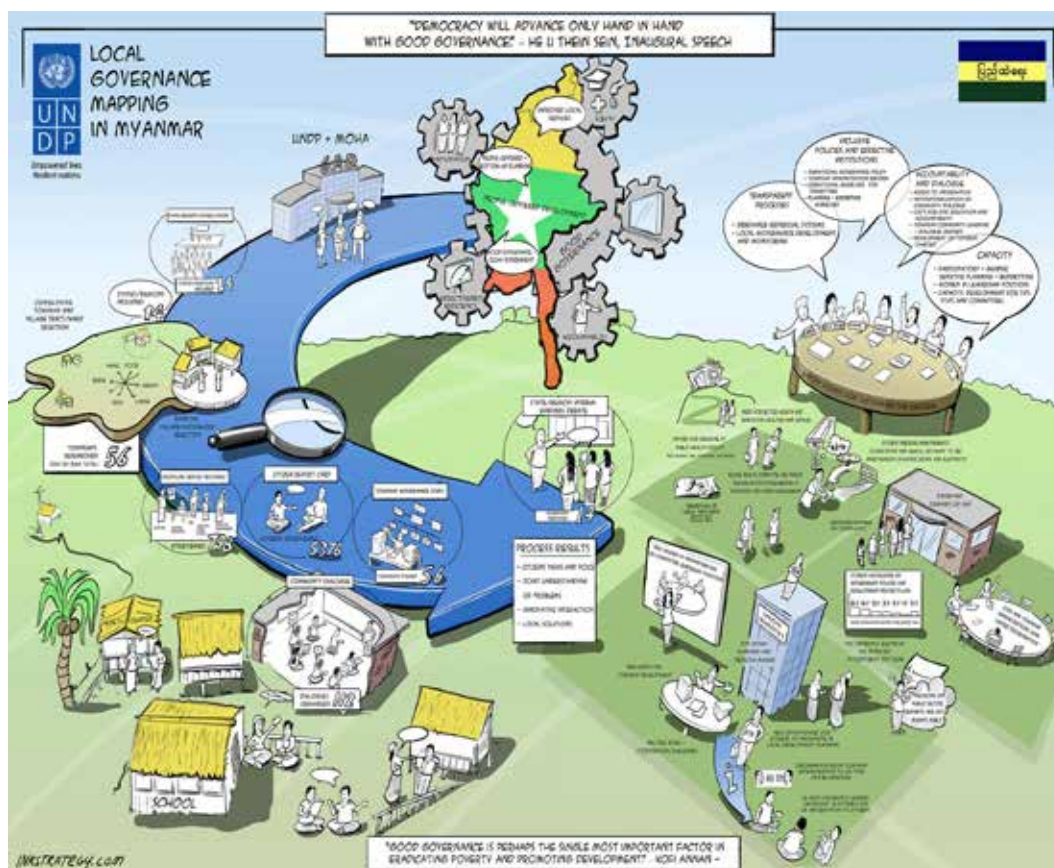
Partners of the Local Governance Programme

The Local Governance Programme partnered with Government ministries, development partners and UN agencies to deliver its programme in 2014. These include:

- *Government:* Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Information; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Cooperatives; Ministry of Border Affairs; Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Union Civil Service Board, State and Union Government representatives in Rakhine, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Chin, Mon, Bago, Sagaing, Tanintharyi, Magway, Mandalay, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon;
- *Civil Society:* 36 NGO/INGO implementing partners for state level activities on livelihood and social cohesion;
- *Funding partners:* Government of Japan, Government of Denmark, and Government of Sweden; and
- *UN agencies:* UNCDF, for jointly implemented financial inclusion work; UNESCO, for media training.

The Local Governance Programme had a total budget of US\$ 11,542,121.





A visualization of the local governance mapping exercise

Key Achievements of the Local Governance Programme

Completion of the Data Collection of the Local Governance Mapping

The data collection of the local governance mapping in all states and regions, and the preparation of 11 reports on status and trends in local governance was completed in 2014. This exercise was conducted in cooperation with the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Through it, a local governance baseline on the quality of governance and service delivery such as people's participation in village tract/ward meetings, people's perception of change in health, education and water supply services over 3 years, access to information for people on government plans and projects (schools, health facilities, roads) and access to grievance redressal/dispute resolution mechanisms (e.g. land issues) was established for 11 states/regions (41 townships and 82 Village tracts/ wards).

The publication of the reports and dissemination of findings provide national stakeholders with information on peoples' perception on certain aspects of service delivery, including gender disaggregated data. This information allows them to make better decisions, produce informed policies, improved plans for

better service delivery and democratic governance at the local level. Workshops to share interim findings resulted in action plans on planning, coordination challenges and information flow by 7 States and region governments. The findings also provide development partners with relevant baseline data to improve programming, indicator development and progress monitoring.

People/citizens inclusion was a strong element within the local governance mapping roll out. As part of the mapping process, innovative models for citizens participation and interaction between users and service-providers – citizens score cards (5400 people) and community dialogues (96 locations across 13 states/regions) as well as additional interviews with 800 service providers – were conducted and contributed to the data collection exercise. Community dialogues held in each of the selected village tracts/wards served to discuss perceptions and divergence of views between the service providers (village tract administrator, teachers, midwives and health assistants) and the people (women and men) on different services rendered. This process also allowed for appreciation of each other's challenges and decisions on local actions for improvement.

Building on government led entry points of reform at the local level, UNDP engaged in capacity development for participatory planning for township committees, township administrations and Village Tract Administrators in selected states, including preparation of operational guidelines to enhance coordination and efficiency of these institutions.

As part of South-South and triangular cooperation a study tour to Turkey and Sweden for Union and State/Region Government representatives was organized, to gain first-hand knowledge and experiences from two different countries on decentralization, local governance and local economic development, and particularly about how planning takes place at regional and local level; the degree of autonomy for different tiers of government; the ombudsmen system; one stop service centers and the role gender equality plays in policy and in practice. UNDP Myanmar has initiated collaboration with the global UNDP ART program with a view to strengthening global exchange and learning on good local governance practices.

Strengthening the Interface between Citizens, Civil Society and Government

UNDP supported the formation of state/regional level networks of CSOs/CBOs in 5 States/Regions - Mon, Shan, Mandalay, Kayah and Chin. These networks have begun raising collective civil society voice (through, e.g., Forum Statements, Action and Capacity Development plans) to strengthen capacities, coordination and to frame consultations with authorities.

Sustaining UNDP's work under the Human Development Initiative (HDI) which had established self-reliance groups (SRGs) at the village level, UNDP supported the consolidation of 31 Township leading groups (TLGs) through various

capacity development activities and grants for provision of services to their members and as first steps of engagement in local development at the township level. At least 1600 SRGs (about 22,000 members) are currently actively represented under the 31 Township Leading Groups. All the TLGs have filed for registration under the Association Law, with some 20% having received registration as township level CSOs.

Strengthening Access to Inclusive Finance

Strengthening access to inclusive finance from a policy and institutional angle is a key element within an overall strategy to enhance livelihoods, business opportunities and job creation.

The former UNDP microfinance project operations was brought under the umbrella of licensed MFIs, regulated under the microfinance law, through the transfer of funds and assets to its former implementation partners: Pact Global Microfinance Fund, GRET and Save the Children. It marks the final exit of UNDP from Microfinance retail. The UNDP led Micro Finance project had improved employment and income opportunities of some 615,500 households in Myanmar over a 17 year period³ and the transfer ensured that funds and assets (MMK 91.46 billion) will further contribute to financial inclusion in the country.

An Institutional Capacity Assessment commissioned by UNDP in cooperation with the Small Scale Industries Department of Ministry of Cooperatives recommended that the 100 year old Saunders Weaving School in Mandalay Region be transformed into a National Weaving Center of Excellence. It is intended to serve as the country's core place for modern and up-to-date skills development methods in textiles and weaving with the aim to produce graduates of substantial capacity ready to enter various areas of the textile sector. As a follow up, in 2015, a project implementation strategy and document will be prepared to serve as implementation reference to the government, as well as to potentially attract additional partners.

A Financial Inclusion Roadmap (2014-2020) was developed under the leadership of Government and with technical support from UNCDF. It was presented by the government at the ASEAN Financial Inclusion conference in October in Yangon. Based on the first time ever comprehensive set of data on financial inclusion in the country (MAP report 2014), interest from key government counterparts and donors was galvanized for a common Financial Inclusion strategy. The document has undergone three rounds of stakeholders' consultations during 2014 endorsing as a result the five key areas (1) Build key Institutions; 2) Build the market; 3) Agriculture/ Livestock/ Fisheries; 3) Micro and small and medium (SME) enterprises; 5) Low Income Level as priorities for the long and short term. The finalized document is undergoing a formal Government approval process, with a detailed implementation plan to be developed. The implementation will be overseen by an inter-ministerial Steering Committee technically assisted by UNCDF/UNDP.

³ MFP Valuation of Assets Report, 2013



Vocational training for women in Kayah

UNCDF supported outreach to 9,200 low-income clients through the operations of three Financial Service Providers across 4 areas: Ayeyarwaddy, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Region. The service providers have been brought in country as part of the Micro Lead program to enhance the quality competitiveness of the microfinance market.

Livelihoods, Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding

Community level work

UNDP has completed a first round of support on social protection, capital assistance, cash for work and infrastructure reaching over 400,000 persons across 313 villages in 24 townships in 7 states (Rakhine, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Chin and Mon). UNDP's interventions resulted in improved income and employment opportunities for men and women.

Community mechanisms helped facilitate project implementation and served as a foundation for strengthening relations between different groups within and between villages. 35.5% of 1311 village-based community organisations members are women, an increase of 10% from the baseline.

UNDP has provided social protection assistance, through 194 rice banks, in Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Chin, reaching 89,847 persons in 18,260 households, of which 52% are women. These rice-banks help reduce food insecurity among poor households, particularly during the rainy season and ahead of cultivation season.

UNDP's capital assistance (cash grants) for agricultural, fisheries, livestock and support to small and medium enterprises has reached 93,665 people in 17,406 households of which 49.7% were women. This assistance provided primary or supplementary income generation opportunities to vulnerable households, thereby helping to reduce socio-economic disparities as a way of strengthening social cohesion at the local level. 96.8% of those receiving capital assistance for agriculture, livestock and fisheries report an increase in income-generation six months following the receipt of support; while 91.7% of those receiving capital assistance for small and micro enterprises report sustaining their business six months following the receipt of support.

Up to 212,750 people (of which 107,501 were women) are accessing new livelihood and community infrastructure in Rakhine, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan and Chin, while up to 50,111 (of which 14,590 were women) benefitted from related cash-for-work schemes. UNDP also entered into a new partnership with the Small-scale Industries Department (SSID) of the Ministry of Cooperatives, to conduct mobile vocational training clinics reaching 621 persons in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states.

As a result of UNDP's activities at the village level, there is a 43.9% increase in the number of persons reporting having more than five occasions for interacting with a member of a different village or community, and 77.7% of persons are reporting perceptions of increased unity of people from different communities.

Capacity development

Union and Rakhine State Government representatives went on a study tour to Indonesia to gain first-hand knowledge on social cohesion experiences, models and lessons. Key issues of interest included social cohesion and peace building policies; conflict and violence monitoring; participation of civil society in social cohesion and peacebuilding, especially women's organizations, and the use of media and technology for social cohesion and peacebuilding.

UNDP also developed and rolled-out a practical 3-day social cohesion training module for 115 representatives of 31 implementing partners and 30 UNDP staff.

UNDP engaged the services of an international dialogue expert to advise on dialogue opportunities and to provide initial training and sensitization to key government and civil society partners and staff, and to develop a joint training plan. In 2014, the dialogue training workshops reached 110 senior officials from the Ministry of Border Affairs, the General Administration Department (GAD), the Myanmar Police Force (MPF), as well as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Shan and Mandalay.

In addition, UNDP continued to provide regular dialogue platforms for early recovery for a wide range of interested ministries/political actors and early recovery agencies. As a result of UNDP's early recovery coordination efforts, in Yangon and in Rakhine and Kachin, there is increasing recognition of early recovery as a cross cutting element within humanitarian operations.

Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme



Women fetch firewood in the Naga area in Upper Myanmar

Context

Myanmar's economy is shifting from an agriculture-based economy towards greater industrialization and integration with global markets. This has prompted an increase of investments most of which is in the extractive industry such as the oil and mining sectors. Sustainable natural resources management and environmental conservation become more critical than ever before in the planning and implementation of the country's development to ensure sustainable development benefits future generations.

The Environmental Conservation Law was enacted in 2012, and the rules have been endorsed by the Cabinet in 2014. Myanmar was accepted as an EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives) Candidate in July 2014. The government committed to ensure better management for extractive industries of natural resources, develop a good investment environment, and create opportunities for a frank and transparent discussion between private investors and the people.

The Government plans to develop the National Environmental Policy, Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Environmental Conservation to oversee the ongoing work under environment and natural resource management, to identify gaps, and adjust strategies for implementation and mainstreaming.

Through the Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme, UNDP hopes to reduce Myanmar's vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, improve environmental and natural resource management, and promote energy conservation through access to affordable and renewable energy, particularly in off-grid local communities.

There are three main areas of work:

- Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;
- Natural resource management; and
- Renewable energy.

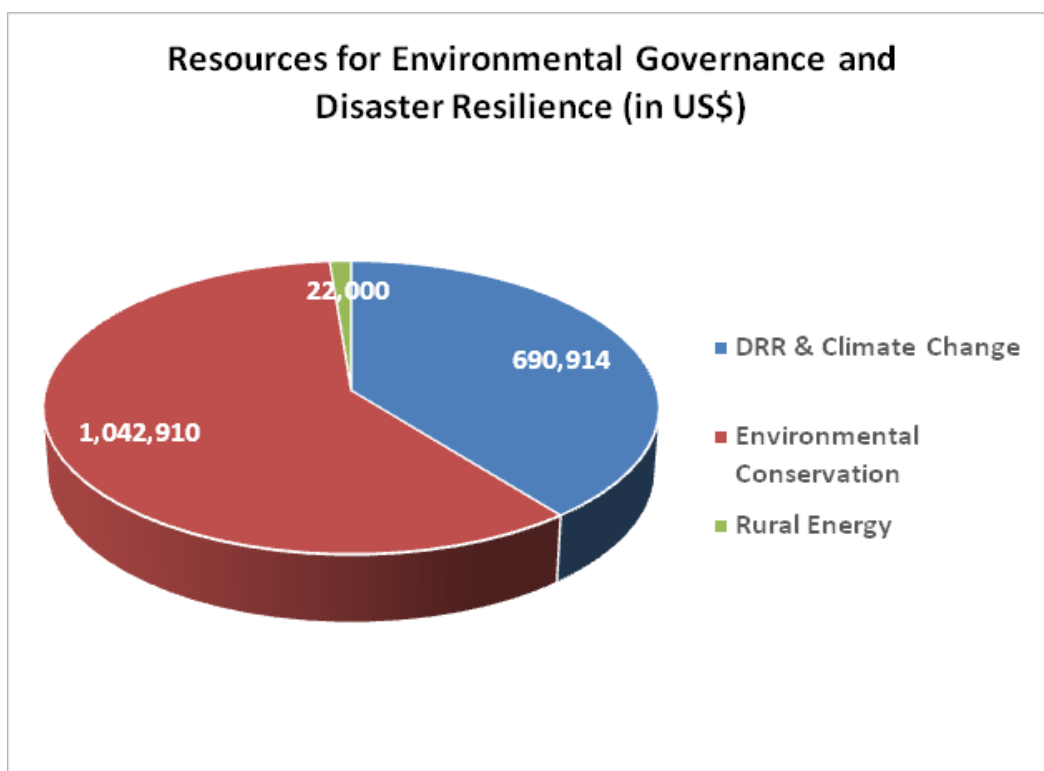
Partners of the Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme

The Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience programme partnered with Government ministries, development partners and UN agencies to deliver its programme in 2014. These include:

- *Government:* Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement; Ministry of Transport; Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development; Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; and Shan State Government;
- *Civil Society:* 19 field implementation local NGOs and community based organisations;

- *Funding partners:* Global Environment Fund (GEF); Government of Norway; and
- *Other partners:* The Disaster Risk Reduction working group (comprising 62 member agencies from the UN, international and local NGOs); Myanmar Consortium for Capacity Development on Disaster Management.

The Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme had a total budget of US \$1,755,824.



Key Achievements Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

The Government's capacity for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation was assessed at national and local levels. A roadmap for capacity building was developed based on the assessment. UNDP supported the drafting of Disaster Management Rules, particularly to include articles on the preparation of national and state/region-level disaster management plans, the integration of disaster risk reduction in development planning and the promotion of community participation. The Disaster Management Rules will enable the government to implement disaster resilience interventions.



A water hyacinth harvester on the shores of Inle Lake

With support of UNDP, Myanmar is leading the development of the ASEAN recovery planning guidelines. Myanmar and the ASEAN member states shared policies, institutions, coordination, implementation and monitoring practices in recovery. The guidelines will help ASEAN countries to strengthen and their recovery capacity and improve their readiness for recovery.

Myanmar submitted its inputs for HFA 2 Framework to UNISDR, and participated in the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR. Through its participation and commitments towards global and regional DRR Framework and network, the government was able to learn from other countries, and through this experience further developed its capacity at the national level. In order to improve capacities for disaster management planning, UNDP is supporting the government to set up a nation-wide disaster damage and loss database.

UNDP supported consultations with key government stakeholders for the development of the new National Environmental Policy Framework. The Framework will serve as a guideline to incorporate environmental conservation in relevant sectors to ensure the sustainability of natural resources and environmental conservation.

Natural Resource Management

Under the area of Natural Resource Management, UNDP is currently implementing initiatives aiming at improving institutional capacities of CSOs and CBOs in environmental conservation and management.

A 5-year Action Plan for Inle Lake Conservation (2015-16 to 2019-20) was prepared by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, together with the Shan State government and with support of UNDP.

The Union level and State level government departments are now in discussions to constitute the Inle Lake Management Committee.

A knowledge exchange with Asian countries on natural lake management was organized for the Inle Lake stakeholders. Experts from Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Philippines and Japan shared their experiences of managing lakes and financing lake management mechanisms in Taunggyi in June. As a follow-up, in December, a group of Inle Lake stakeholders, including representatives of the Shan State Government, Forest Department, area parliamentarians, and representatives of the Innthar Literature, Culture and Regional Development Association went on a study visit to Chilika Lake, in Orissa, India. The study visit provided an opportunity to observe best practices of Integrated Lake Basin Management.

Through UNDP's support, institutional capacities for community-based natural resource management in Naga Region, in particular youth and women's organizations, were developed. Youth volunteers from civil society organisations in the Naga area have been trained in community mobilization, REDD + and climate change.

UNDP supported the development of Land Use Change Maps through the Inle Lake project and REDD+ Readiness project in Naga. Through this exercise, UNDP proposed community based land use planning maps, promoted organic farming practices, reforestation activities, soil and water conservation, livestock and fishery resource management; improved sanitation and safe drinking water, and access to rural electrification.

UNDP provided locally adaptable technical knowledge and skills on environmental conservation to community based organizations through trainings on nursery establishment, watershed management, organizational management, community forestry and agroforestry. About 800 acres of farm land in Inle Lake watershed area managed by communities/farmers benefitted from soil and water conservation practices. An average 23 metric tons of top soil per acre year was saved from erosion. Organic farming practices are being carried out on about 65 acres of cultivated lands. The promotion of organic farming activities resulted in improving the communities' abilities to systematically prepare and widely use compost and vermiculture, thereby reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticide.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

United Nations Development Programme


No.6, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township

P.O. Box 650, Yangon 11211, Myanmar

Tel: (95 1) 542910 - 19, Fax: 95(1) 544 531

www.mm.undp.org

 UNDP Myanmar

 UNDP_Myanmar