UNDP

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNDP Myanmar
Annual Report 2016

UNDP Myanmar

Annual Report
2016

Myitkyina Field Office
Kachin State

Hakha Field Office
Chin State

Mandalay Field Office
Mandalay, Magwe &
Sagaing Region

**Nay Pyi Taw
Representation
Office**

Sittwe Field Office
Rakhine State

Taunggyi Field Office
Shan State & Kayah State

Yangon Office

Mawlamyine Field Office
Mon State and Kayin State

Table of Contents

Foreword

It gives us great pleasure to present the UNDP Myanmar Annual Report for 2016, a very auspicious and historic year for Myanmar, as the country took further steps on the road towards peace and democracy. The National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, took office in March 2016, and UNDP, together with the rest of the international community, welcomed Myanmar's first civilian government in more than 50 years. The priorities of the new NLD-Government are slowly starting to emerge, and during 2016 UNDP responded to various requests to help support these new priorities. The Government's top priority is the peace process, including national reconciliation, and the creation of a democratic federal union. To this end, in August 2016 the Government hosted the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong, which will meet every 6 months to help progress the national political dialogue with the aim of reaching a new political settlement.

UNDP has been present in Myanmar since the 1960s, and is currently implementing a 5-year (2013-2017) country programme, which was designed during the early years of Myanmar's political transition, and before the NLD-led Government came to office. The current country programme has 3 main areas of work: 1) Local Governance, 2) Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience, and 3) Democratic Governance. Each of these 3 areas of work (organised as outcome areas) also underwent independent evaluations during 2016, and in all cases the quality, and impact, of UNDP's work was recognised by the external evaluation teams. This Annual Report provides details of the impact and results of UNDP's work in these 3 outcome areas.

Local Governance: UNDP continued its work to strengthen the capacity of sub-national institutions (e.g. township administration) to plan and deliver public services that respond to people's needs during 2016. A pilot programme focused on township planning in Mon and Bago with the respective governments has provided the basis for a new much larger local governance programme which was launched in late 2016. During 2016 the Government, with UNDP's technical support, continued to roll out the One Stop Shop (OSS) initiative, which is a structure for delivering public services in a transparent and efficient manner through a single office to improve local service delivery. In related work, UNDP supported local CSO and media networks in 7 states/regions, and worked with a national network (May Doe Kabar) of women's self-reliance groups to support their engagement in local development, peacebuilding and local administration.

As a tangible contribution to the peace process, and based on a request from the Government, UNDP provided temporary technical and financial support to the newly established Technical Secretariat of the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) during 2016. The JMC is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signed in October 2015. This temporary support will provide the basis for a larger support platform for the JMC to be launched in 2017 and managed by UNDP.

Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience: At the request of the Government, UNDP provided technical support to several national policy processes during 2016, including a new National Environment Policy, and a new Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR). In 2016 UNDP and OCHA worked with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) to create a Myanmar Private Sector Network on Disaster Risk Reduction that is linked to the global Connecting Business Initiative (CBI). This network will be used to complement Government efforts to help Myanmar prevent, reduce, and respond to natural disasters.

The Union Government, and various state/region Governments, together with UNDP's support, continued to implement a range of local level environmental/climate change projects during 2016. Most of these projects focused on addressing environmental, biodiversity and climate change issues (e.g. deforestation/forest degradation, protected area management, natural resource management) in specific states/regions (e.g. Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, Shan, Kachin), while also integrating environmental/climate change and resilience building issues into local development planning processes.

Democratic Governance: UNDP made important and relevant contributions to the country's democratic transition during 2016. This included providing timely and targeted capacity building support to key institutions in the 3 branches of government. During 2016, the Union Attorney General, with UNDP's support, launched the establishment of a justice sector coordinating group to help support justice reform initiatives in Myanmar. UNDP also provided technical support to the Union Civil Service Board to develop a new Strategic Action Plan, based on an extensive consultation process, and the results of a perception survey on ethics, meritocracy and equal opportunities.

UNDP continued to provide capacity building, and institutional strengthening, support to the Union Parliament, and the 14 state/region parliaments during 2016. At the request of the Parliament, UNDP supported the successful orientation/induction of all new MPs for the 2nd Parliament which was constituted in February 2016, and continued its work to strengthen the role of committees, and parliamentary outreach and engagement with civil society.

The new Government, with UNDP's support, continued to strengthen the evidence base for policy making in Myanmar during 2016. UNDP strengthened its partnership with the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), and provided technical support to produce a SDGs Data Readiness Assessment, and Myanmar's first SDG Baseline Report. UNDP and the World Bank also supported the CSO to initiate the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey during 2016. 2016 was also a year of change for the country office. The previous Country Director, Toily Kurbanov left for a new assignment with UN Volunteers in Bonn, and he was replaced by Peter Batchelor, who previously worked for UNDP in Sri Lanka. Several other staff members also left during 2016, and we thank them for their contributions to UNDP's work in Myanmar.

It is a privilege for UNDP to support the government and all the people of Myanmar in their journey towards a more peaceful and democratic society, and with a much stronger emphasis on more inclusive, resilient and sustainable development. We appreciate the strong relationship we have managed to build with the NLD-Government during their first year in office and in support of their new national priorities. We are extremely grateful to all our local and international partners, including our donors, for their very generous support to, and engagement with, UNDP's work in Myanmar. We hope that our work continues to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Renata Lok-Dessallien
UNDP Resident Representative

Peter Batchelor
UNDP Country Director

Myanmar in 2016

Political Developments

2016 was a historic year for Myanmar. The National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, took office in March 2016 as the first civilian government in more than 50 years. The new government is confronted with a country that is experiencing a triple transition of multiple dimensions. The first transition is from war to peace; the second is from military rule to democracy; and the third is the creation of an open, market economy.

The priorities of the new NLD government are starting to emerge, with a focus on peace, national reconciliation, the creation of a democratic federal union, and improving the quality of life of Myanmar's people. The government is also a strong supporter of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

MPs and trainers at the end of the Parliament Induction organised by UNDP

The government announced a 12-point economic policy in July 2016. The policy, while not very detailed, does emphasize people-centred development, job creation, national reconciliation and the creation of a united democratic federal union, with balanced and sustainable development across all states and regions as overriding objectives. More detailed sector strategies are already under development. For the new government, there are clearly significant challenges to meet the high expectations of Myanmar's people and deliver a 'democratic dividend', and (re)build trust in the state, given Myanmar's long history of autocratic military rule.

The 2nd Myanmar Parliament was constituted in February 2016, with the NLD having a majority in both upper and lower houses. The new MPs represent a more diverse background than the previous parliament and many MPs have a strong commitment to democratic values. However, changes to the rules and procedures of how the parliament operates are still needed to ensure that parliament performs its legislative functions in an efficient and effective manner. The NLD majority in the Union Parliament and in 12 of the 14 Region and State Parliaments has led to a shift in attitude in favour of the institutional development of the Region and State Parliaments. The Speakers of Region and State Parliaments also submitted a proposal for the reform of the Parliamentary administration (to be delinked from the General Administration Department) to the President's Office in 2016.

Economic Growth and Poverty

Myanmar is a Least Developed Country (LDC) and is the poorest country in South-East Asia. It ranks 148 out of 187 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index, and ranks at the bottom or near the bottom of many social, economic, and environmental indexes compiled either regionally or globally. Economic growth was 6.5% in 2016, down from 7.3% in the previous year. The country remains one of Asia's fastest-growing economies. These headline growth figures have not necessarily translated into more inclusive growth, and the country still has high levels of poverty. It is estimated that at least 25% of Myanmar's population live below the poverty line, the highest in South-East Asia. Poverty in Myanmar is disproportionately concentrated in rural areas (twice as high compared to urban areas), given that 70% of the population live in rural areas.

The new government had to navigate a difficult economic environment in its first year in office. It has taken steps to maintain macro-economic stability and fiscal prudence, while at the same time embarking on financial sector and business environment reforms. A new foreign investment law was passed in late 2016, and the country is experiencing high, and increasing, levels of foreign direct investment (FDI). However, much of this FDI is still concentrated in the extractives sector and thus has not helped to generate significant jobs, or backward linkages with local enterprises.

Increasing international interest in Myanmar has brought with it increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA). In 2016 ODA was estimated at US$1,8 billion, more than double the level in 2014. During 2016, donors and development partners created a new donor coordination group – the Cooperation Partners Group (CPG). The government in turn created a new unit – the Development Aid Coordination Unit (DACU), chaired by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as the main mechanism for coordinating with donors and development partners.

Building and Sustaining Peace

The new NLD government has made peace its top priority. In August 2016, the government hosted the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong to help progress the national political dialogue. All actors in the national dialogue, including Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) that are signatories and non-signatories of the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) were invited to attend the conference; in the end, all EAOs, except for 3 groups, attended the conference.

The Union Peace Conference will be convened every 6 months to try and make progress on all the key issues that are still under discussion in the national dialogue, that will allow non-signatories to sign the NCA, and reach agreement on the elements of a future political settlement, including the creation of a democratic federal union. However, the fact that a majority of key EAOs have not yet signed the NCA, the collapse, and/or (re)creation, of old

and new alliances amongst the EAOs, and the resumption of intense fighting in Kachin and Northern Shan have dampened expectations for quick progress on a new political settlement. The complex development situation in Rakhine State continues to pose a significant challenge for the NLD government, both in Nay Pyi Taw and in Sittwe. In August 2016, the government established an Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with the mandate to recommend possible solutions to the humanitarian and development challenges facing all communities in Rakhine. According to the Commission's Interim Report, Rakhine is the second poorest state in Myanmar and lacks adequate livelihood opportunities, skilled labour, and investments - all of which affects social cohesion amongst the communities in the state. In 2016, the Rakhine State government – assisted by the UN –developed the 5 year Rakhine State Socio-Economic Development Plan. The plan has been submitted to the Union government for approval.

In October 2016, several violent coordinated armed attacks on three Border Guard Police posts in northern Rakhine by Muslim insurgents triggered a counter-insurgency response from the Myanmar security forces which in turn has resulted in some 69,000 Muslim (Rohingya) refugees fleeing to Bangladesh. Latest estimates indicate that about 94,000 people remain displaced (either in Bangladesh or within northern Rakhine) because of the October attacks and subsequent security operations. Various reports have also alleged human rights violations committed by the Myanmar security forces in their response to the attacks, making resolution of the humanitarian and development problems confronting Rakhine state even more challenging.

Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Myanmar remains one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. It has been identified as one of the top 3 countries in the world that have been most affected by natural disasters in the period 1996-2015 by the Global Climate Risk Index. Most of Myanmar's population, and economic activities, are concentrated in disaster risk prone areas such as delta, coastal and central dry zones, which are highly exposed to hazards, have high levels of poverty and a low capacity to respond. Myanmar has significant natural resources, and hosts several very important biodiversity hot spots. However, the country faces serious land degradation, forest degradation, and climate change threats.

Over the past few years, Myanmar has been making concerted efforts to address environmental degradation, disaster and climate change associated risks through strengthening its legal and policy instruments, while also fulfilling its global and regional commitments. During 2016, the new NLD government made efforts to develop and finalise new policies and strategies to address these inter-related environment, climate change and DRR issues, recognizing the relationship between economic development and disaster risk. These included a new National Environment Policy, and a new Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction. The government also endorsed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change during 2016.

Through June to August 2016, heavy monsoon flooding temporarily displaced roughly half a million people in 11 states and regions. The flooding also damaged agricultural land, fish farms, schools, roads, bridges, wells and communal buildings. Despite the scale of this displacement, the government was able to systematically respond to the situation without requesting international assistance. It also secured the participation of civil society and the private sector in the disaster response, relying on their interest and willingness to collaborate, and the experience gained from the floods in 2015. Despite these improvements, the technical and operational capacity, and budgetary considerations at the union level for effective disaster response (particularly in the case of large-scale disasters) are still limited. Gaps persist in the coordination with the private sector, international and local organizations and CSOs.

An Overview of Our Work

In 2016, UNDP celebrated its 50th anniversary. UNDP has been present in Myanmar throughout the organization's history. During UNDP's long association with Myanmar, there have been 3 distinct phases which correspond to the country's changing development context. During the first phase, which lasted more than 20 years, from the late 1960s to the early 1990s, UNDP worked on technical assistance and development projects, mostly through specialized agencies of the UN system.

It was followed by a second phase of assistance characterized by UNDP's "Human Development Initiative". From the early 1990s until about 2012, this phase was known for its strong community-level empowerment and development focus. UNDP helped to establish livelihoods, provide access to safe drinking water and was the first development partner to introduce micro-finance and micro-credit services to families and communities in need.

The third and current phase of UNDP support to Myanmar started in 2013, following the historic opening of the country and the lifting of most international sanctions. As a result, mandate restrictions on UNDP were also lifted. Our first 'normal' country programme after the lifting of mandate restrictions started in 2013, and will finish in 2017.

UNDP's country programme is structured around 3 outcome areas (or pillars):
- Local Governance
- Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience
- Democratic Governance

These outcomes are achieved through a series of interdependent outputs.

The overarching aim of the country programme is to support the democratic transition in Myanmar, and in all our work we take a rights-based approach to human development. In line with the UNDP Strategic Plan, we are focused on promoting more inclusive and sustainable development, and reduced poverty and inequality by strengthening democratic decision-making at national and sub-national levels. UNDP has a strong commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, and in our work we ensure that men, women, and civil society are empowered to understand and advocate for their rights and public services which respond to their needs; that communities are resilient, with the ability to deal with economic, disaster and conflict shocks, and environmental degradation; that communities and institutions are able to better resolve conflicts, bridge differences and build trust; and that key government and public institutions have processes, laws and systems that are better

able to reflect and respond to the needs of the poor and most vulnerable people.

In the implementation of its country programme, UNDP enjoys close relationships with different stakeholders including ministries and departments at Union, State/Region levels, Union and State/Region Parliaments, civil society, media, academia, the private sector, development partners as well as members of the UN family.

UNDP Myanmar has its main office in Yangon, a representation office in Nay Pyi Taw, and field offices in Hakha, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Mawlamyine, Sittwe and Taunggyi. We have a total of 175 staff (both international and national) working across the country.

A number of development partners provide generous funding for the UNDP country programme, while UNDP's core resources are used as seed funding to kick start new programmes, pilot new and innovative approaches, demonstrate initial results and help attract funding from donor partners.

Resources and Programme Delivery

During 2016 UNDP received total contributions of US$26 million (US$19 million in 2015) in funding for its country programme from a number of difference sources. The largest source of funding was from UNDP core resources, representing 32%. Funding was also received from various development partners including the Government of Australia, Finland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Other funds were provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund (AF) and UNDP Trust Fund. We are grateful to all our development partners for their generous support.

Figure 1: Contributions Received and Expenditure in 2016

Development Partner	Contributions US$	Percentage of Contribution	Expenditure US$
UNDP Core Resources	8,312,424	32	7,946,143
UNDP Trust Fund	4,670,236	18	683,146
GEF/AF	3,773,222	14	2,750,961
Finland	2,831,257	11	3,140,264
Sweden	1,777,251	7	1,869,513
United Kingdom	1,216,545	5	3,642,557
Norway	1,124,413	4	109,507
Japan	1,101,579	4	531,793
Australia	947,688	4	154,971
Switzerland	276,134	1	-
UNHABITAT			194,931
Denmark			2,482
Japan - JICA			11,838
Total	26,030,749	100%	21,038,106

During 2016 UNDP Myanmar delivered US$21 million (US$24 million in 2015), representing 81% percent of the contributions received.

Funds were delivered by the 3 outcomes (or Pillars) in the following way:
- Local Governance (US$5.8million-28 percent)
- Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience (US$5.2million-25 percent)
- Democratic Governance (US$9.8million-47 percent).

Figure 2: UNDP Myanmar Programme Delivery 2016 (by outcome) figures in US$ and percentage
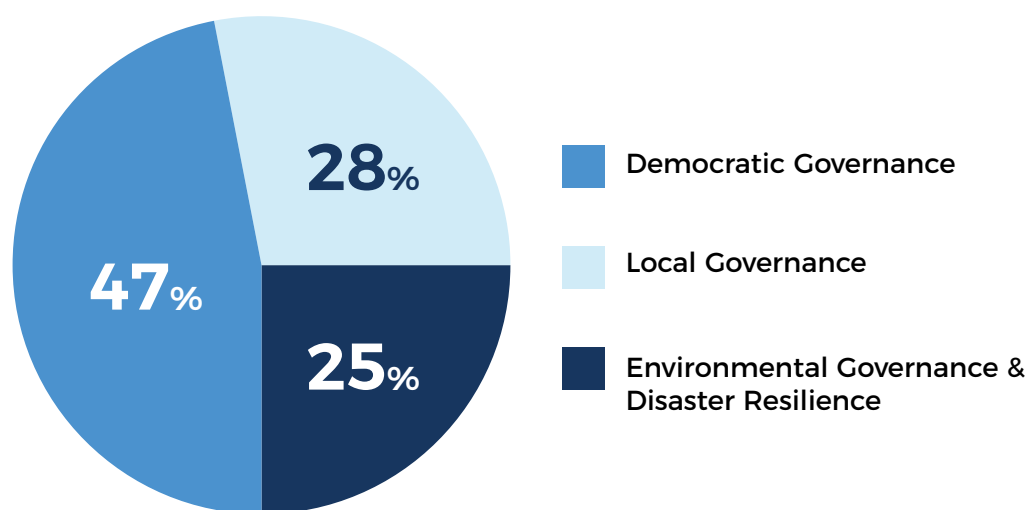
Local Governance
(Outcome 1)

This outcome area is focused on *'community driven development institutions that support local governance in service delivery; and inclusive growth, including agricultural development, and enhancement of employment opportunities for women and men'*.

UNDP's work in local governance seeks to support Myanmar's ongoing democratic reform process through results and interventions that improve local service provision, enhance bottom-up planning, increase social accountability, strengthen social cohesion, dialogue and peacebuilding capacities.

This outcome area has 4 inter-connected and mutually reinforcing areas of work (or outputs):
- Capacities of local governance institutions
- Civil society and media
- Financial inclusion
- Livelihoods for social cohesion and peace

UNDP has built its interventions on the existing entry points and trends of reforms at the sub-national level, and contributed to the ongoing democratic transition at the local level via a bottom up and hands on approach. In 2016, UNDP's work on local governance delivered USD 5.8 million (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Local Governance Programme Delivery (figures in US$ and percentage)

Legend:
- Livelihoods for Social Cohesion and Peace
- Civil Society and Media
- Capacities of Local Governance Institutions
- Financial Inclusion
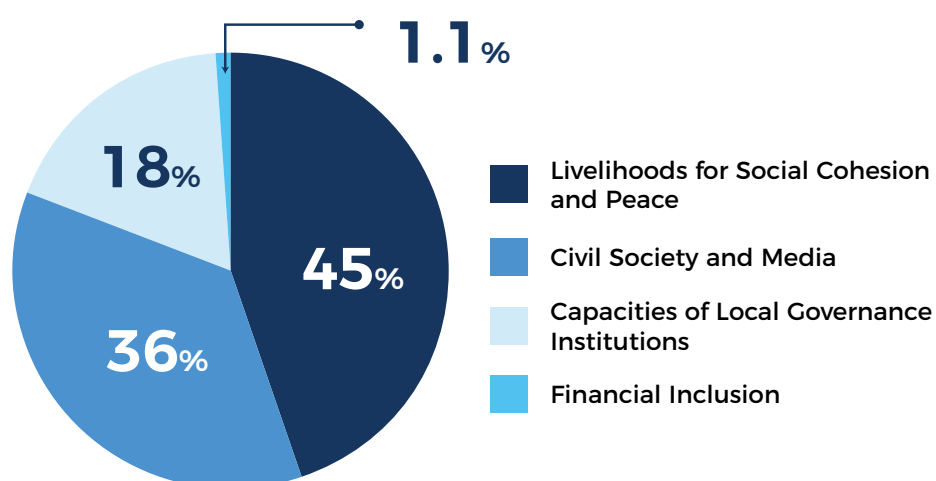
Partners

In the delivery of its work to strengthen local governance, UNDP partnered with the following stakeholders:

Government: Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Information; Ministry of Planning and Finance; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Ministry of Border Affairs; Union Civil Service Board; State and Region Government representatives in Rakhine, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Chin, Mon, Bago, Sagaing, Tanintharyi, Magway, Mandalay, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon.

Civil Society: Green Social Development Organization; Alin Bhamaw Development Organisation; Mon State CSO Network; Nyein Foundation; Shan State Civil Society Organisation; The Brahmaso Humanitarian Aid Organization; Southern Myanmar Journalists Network; The Chinland Post; Southern Shan State Media Network; May Doe Kabar National Network for Rural Women, and 31 Township Level Rural Women Groups; Chin Peace and Tranquillity Council; Karuna Myanmar Social Services; Kayin Baptist Convention; Mawdu Klarmae Social Development Network; Yoma Ahlinn; International Alert; Mercy Crops; Kopernik; and Search for Common Ground .

UN agencies: UNCDF (financial inclusion); UNFPA (SGBV and census data); UNICEF (local governance forum); World Bank (OSS and local development planning).

Funding partners: Governments of Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway and Sweden; UNDP RBAP Regional Innovation Fund; UN Peace Building Fund; and British Council.

> *The Local Governance Programme has provided a multi-pronged responsive support to Myanmar in this time of transition and made positive contributions to the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, women and men, in rural communities across the country as well as in government or the broader civil society.*
>
> *UNDP made use of its comparative advantage as a neutral and trusted partner to empower local governance stakeholders in building a more constructive relationship between state and society at the sub-national level.*
>
> *The Local Governance Programme has contributed to deepening understanding on citizens' experience of local governance and service delivery and supported important policy decisions and the piloting of innovative approaches for increasing inclusive access to a range of administrative, social and financial services. Its support to integrated township development planning and discretionary funding is promising for achieving further progress in this area.*
>
> *The Local Governance Programme has also demonstrated the value of inclusive community governance and livelihood support to engineer attitudinal changes necessary for achieving greater social cohesion, in particular among and towards youth and women; the programme has also contributed to raising awareness and capacities for dialogue, conflict sensitivity, social cohesion and peacebuilding. All these results can be considered as building blocks for gradually establishing a more responsive andaccountable local governance and local development system in Myanmar.*

**Independent Outcome Evaluation of UNDP
Myanmar's Outcome 1**
(Local Governance Programme 2013-2016)

Results at a Glance
Local Governance

2 Townships start participatory township planning
Mon, Bago

1 Community of Practice on conflict resolution and social cohesion

7481 Women app subscribers

3000 Rural women early adopters of mobile technology

16 Joint forums to increase civic space

People reach **1205**

3 Financial institutions

483 Staff of GAD's Institutional Development Academy (IDA) trained as trainers on local administration

103 Members Government, CSO and ethnic organisation representatives

25 Thematic civil society government dialogues

116 Participants

9605 People reached through civil awarencess on women's rights oeace CSO engagement

124,578 People reached

Results

1) Institutional Capacity of Local Governments

During 2016 UNDP made significant contributions to strengthening the institutional capacities of local governments to plan and deliver services that respond to local people's needs. In promoting participatory township planning, UNDP initiated a pilot in 2 townships in Bago and Mon States, working with the existing administrative and governance structures (heads of department, the township planning and implementation committee) and emphasizing the role of elected representatives through the inclusion of village and ward administrators and members of Parliament. Initial results point towards a scalable model of strengthening local democracy getting traction with government and development partners. Collaboration with the World Bank on improving public service delivery, emphasizing One Stop Shop (OSS), was initiated during 2016.

In 2016, UNDP contributed to the expansion of the work of GAD's training institute – Institute of Development Administration (IDA). This was achieved through curriculum extension and outreach to more than 17,000 elected village and ward level administrators using a training of trainer's approach that made a tangible contribution to capacity development of key staff within local administrations enabling for instance ward and village tract administrators to facilitate communities' participation in township planning as well as apply gender analysis in their daily work. UNDP provided technical support to the government One Stop Shop (OSS) initiative, an administrative structure of delivering public services in a transparent, efficient, and accessible way through a single office, to improve local service delivery. UNDP supported the initiative further with policy recommendations presented to the Vice President who confirmed the new government's commitment to the OSS approach and UNDP's lead technical support role.

Through UNDP's work, local level administrators have a greater awareness and enhanced capacities to deal with a variety of issues affecting communities. A training course targeting Ward and Village Tract Administrator's role for the execution of informal justice was developed with the four UNDP Rule of Law Centres. During 2016 UNDP started collaboration with the British Council's My Justice Programme building on UNDP's training program for Village Tract Administrators at IDA. The training is a skills-based program for mediation, and piloting will be started in Kawa township in 2017.

2) Civil Society and Media

CSO and media networks supported by UNDP in seven states and regions have engaged with government and Parliament at the local level through numerous dialogue and information exchange events on local development issues, enlargement of civic space, and other topics of common concern (gender, peace, corruption, city development), showing growing capacities to engage independently in analysis and advocacy.

UNDP's support to women's engagement in local development, peacebuilding and local

> **"** *We co-developed the iWomen mobile application with support from UNDP. We were very proud to launch the app on International Women's Day in Nay Pyi Taw. This app aims to promote the leadership of rural women and provide a way of making linkages among our members so that they can get inspiration, information, suggestions and support from one another and overcome challenges faced by women in rural areas. Through the app, we can express ourselves and share our poems and personal stories.* **"**
>
> **Daw Cho Aye**,
> *Chairperson, May Doe Kabar*
> *Myanmar Rural Women's Network*

administration brought good results. The management and engagement capacities of May Doe Kabar (MDK), a growing national network of rural women, moved to the next level, seeing MDK outreach capacities expanding. This happened amongst other things, with the support of 200 youth volunteers, university students, to promote the iWomen App to other women groups and provide IT and mobile technology skills to 3000 leaders of rural women's groups. MDK has also launched initiatives with support from UNFPA and UNDP's Rule of Law team to function as a resource platform and mediator on gender and sexual based violence to rural women in 31 townships across Myanmar.

UNDP supported local CSO and media networks to widen their participation in a range of thematic national level consultations on topics such as Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Environmental Governance.

A member of May Doe Kabar uses the iWomen app.

3) Financial Inclusion

Strengthening access to inclusive finance can play a key role in promoting more inclusive growth and development.

During 2016 UNCDF and UNDP continued to provide technical support to the secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for the implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Roadmap (adopted in 2015).

One of the key achievements in 2016 included support to strengthening the policy and regulatory environment by recruiting an international technical advisor based with the Financial Regulatory Department (FRD) within the Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF) to act as an advisor for this regulatory body as well as a coordinator for development partners working in the field of financial inclusion.

Despite delays associated with the appointment of a new government, the new Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) for the management and implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Roadmap (Roadmap) was officially approved by the President's office, and two IMSC meetings were held in February and in December 2016.

UNCDF also exposed key officials of the Financial Regulatory Department, of the Department of Cooperatives and of the Payment and Settlement Systems of the Central Bank, to international best practices and regional trends in financial inclusion by facilitaing their attendance at international conferences such as the Alliance for Financial Inclusion meeting and the Association of Asia Confederation Credit Union.

4) Social Cohesion and Peace

During 2016 UNDP's contribution to capacity development for social cohesion and engagement in peace building took several forms. UNDP's engagement in building basic conflict resolution and social cohesion skills through a training of trainer's approach jointly with international and local CSO partners resulted in the creation of a Community of Practitioners (CoP) of 103 local trainers from government, civil society and ethnic organizations. These trainers have provided social cohesion skills to more than 1,000 people. Close to 90% of trainers applied the new knowledge and skills in their respective areas.

In parallel, the work with several Union level ministries (Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Social Welfare) progressed with regards to the establishment of a joint learning platform on conflict sensitive development, and joint work on an indicator framework for mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity into the government led local/community development initiatives.

As a tangible contribution to the national peace process, and based on a request from the State Counsellor, UNDP provided temporary financial and technical assistance to the Technical Secretariat of the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC), to maintain and expand its core operations during 2016. The JMC's mandate is derived from the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. In close cooperation with the office of the UN Resident Coordinator a framework for a long-term UN-platform to support the JMC was developed during 2016, and will be launched in early 2017 as a project managed by UNDP.

UNDP, with local partners, supported the return and recovery of flood and conflict affected communities in 2 townships in Rakhine during 2016. As a result of this support incomes

> " *The Local Governance Programme contributed to the realization of increasing access to local governance, services, networking and livelihood opportunities for women, despite considerable challenges faced in terms of cultural and traditional expectations of women's roles andresponsibilities in society.*
>
> *By increasing the visibility of women in leadership positions, the Local Governance Programme helped reduce negative stereotypes and increased women's confidence to develop and their own agendas and engagement plans.*
>
> *Yet, gender awareness and sensitivity are still at a nascent stage in Myanmar and remain a challenge to overcome; hence the good effort begun through the Local Governance Programme should continue in future programmes and evolve also into the policy level in order to address the "concrete" ceiling limiting a real breakthrough in women's participation in local governance, whether as elected official, senior administration staff or citizen.* "

> **Independent Outcome Evaluation of UNDP Myanmar's Outcome 1**
> Outcome1 (Local Governance Programme 2013–2016)

increased for nearly 16,000 people (51% women) through various livelihood, employment and infrastructure related activities. Building on a conflict sensitive approach the support effectively leveraged a livelihood approach to increase social cohesion and showed significant results in building trust, intercommunity interaction and increased unity within the targeted mixed populations.

In the Spotlight

Social cohesion helps transforming relationships

Ko Thiha Phyo Aung Htet is a deputy staff officer at the Department of Agriculture in Kayah State. He discovered how useful it is in his work to have social cohesion competencies.

"The area under my responsibility is far from the town in an area so remote that previous agriculture officers never took the time to visit. After completing the UNDP social cohesion course, I was sent there for the first time, but the local farmers, from Inthar ethnicity, were not happy to see me. They were angry at the agricultural department for ignoring their requests for irrigation support, which they needed to keep their rice fields healthy. The farmers were so frustrated they were threatening to destroy all the irrigation canals and pipes and go to jail in the process if necessary.

Luckily, I had gained confidence and strengthened relationship building skills from participating in the social cohesion skills training, so I decided to mediate between the farmers and our department. After listening to the farmers' concerns, I went to see the State Agricultural Manager. This is something I would never have dared to do in the past! I met him and explained the frustration of the farmers and suggested that we should help them. I came to know that the Manager was not even aware of the situation as he had never been fully briefed by his subordinates. He immediately authorized a budget to repair the irrigation canals and to link them to the main source of irrigated water. I credit this success to the course I attended, as it provided me with conflict analysis and negotiation skills to facilitate dialogue and reach a solution. Now I have a very good relationship with the farmers in the village, and they are happy to host me whenever I visit their village."

Social cohesion in Myanmar, as expressed by the particpants of the training

Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience
(Outcome 2)

This outcome area is focused on *'reducing vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, improved environmental and natural resource management, and promotion of energy conservation through access to affordable and renewable energy, particularly in off-grid communities'.*

UNDP's work is focused on promoting environmental sustainability as an integral part of sustainable development as well as building resilience to climate change and disaster risk to safeguard development gains.

This outcome area has 2 inter-connected and mutually reinforcing areas of work (or outputs):
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- Environmental Governance and Natural Resource Management

The strategy for each area is focused on a) institutional strengthening, capacity building and mainstreaming in development planning and b) demonstration through the implementation of pilots. In 2016, UNDP's work on environmental governance and disaster resilience delivered US$5,2 million (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Environmental Governance and Disaster Reslience Programme Delivery 2016 (figures in percentage)

- **36%** Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- **64%** Environmental Governance and Natural Resource Management
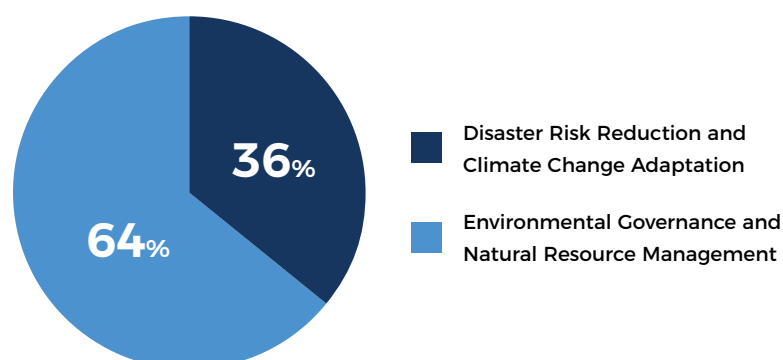
Partners

In the delivery of its work to strengthen environmental governance and disaster resilience, UNDP partnered with the following stakeholders:

Government partners: Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (Relief and Resettlement Department); Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (Department of Mines, Environmental Conservation Department, Forest Department, Dry Zone Greening Department); Ministry of Transport and Communication (Department of Meteorology and Hydrology); Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI); Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development (MNPED); Rakhine State Government; Tanintharyi Region Government; Shan State Government; General Administration Department; Attorney General Office; and Budget Department, Project Appraisal and Progress Reporting Department at the national and state/region levels.

Other partners: UN-Habitat; UN-OCHA, UNICEF, UNV, UNEP, FAO, DRR WG; Members of Parliament, Civil Society Organizations, ethnic groups, and Private sector.

Implementing Partners: Wildlife Conservation Society; Farm Business Development Technical Team (FBD); Hydroconseil; Aung Zay Yar CSO; Community Development Action (CDAc); Network Activities Group (NAG); CESVI; Community Development Association (CDAs); Chalk and Slate; Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES); and Myanmar Survey Research (MSR).

Funding Partners: Governments of Finland and Norway; UN Habitat; Global Environment Facility (GEF); GEF/Adaptation Fund and UNREDD Programme.

Results

During 2016 UNDP continued to support the government to enhance institutional and community capacities for environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as building the technical and operational capacities of government officials and other stakeholders. Key national institutions have been collaborating with UNDP during 2016 to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change and improve environmental and natural resources management.

1) Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was able to review the implementation of the current Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) during 2016. Through consultations with key stakeholders and stocktaking on accomplishments of MAPDRR projects during 2010-2015, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the current Action Plan were identified. Recommendations were also formulated to enhance the effectiveness and relevance of a new Action Plan. During 2016, with technical support from UNDP, the Ministry embarked on the development of a new Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR). Through a consultative process with government officials, vulnerable groups representatives and the private sector, national/local needs and priorities were identified. This process enabled stakeholders involved to strengthen inter-agency coordination mechanisms for MAPDRR implementation, monitoring & evaluation, and agree on an earmarked budget.

To enhance monitoring of disaster risks, the Myanmar Disaster Loss and Damage Database was established in 2016 with support from UNDP and is hosted by the Relief and Resettlement Department (RDD) (http://www.mdld-rrd.gov.mm). This database will serve as a reliable source of data for the government, public, regional and global users to access disaster information of

Results at a Glance
Environmental Governance

Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water and Food Security in the Dry Zone Project

5 Townships
Shwebo & Monywa, Sagaing Region
Myingyan & Nyaung Oo, Mandalay
Region Chauk Magway Region

50,000 Households

488
Households have improved access to irrigation water

10,944
Households have access to clean drinking water

Disaster Alert Notification mobile app developed

4 Protected Areas

143
Forest Department staff trained on law enforcement

53
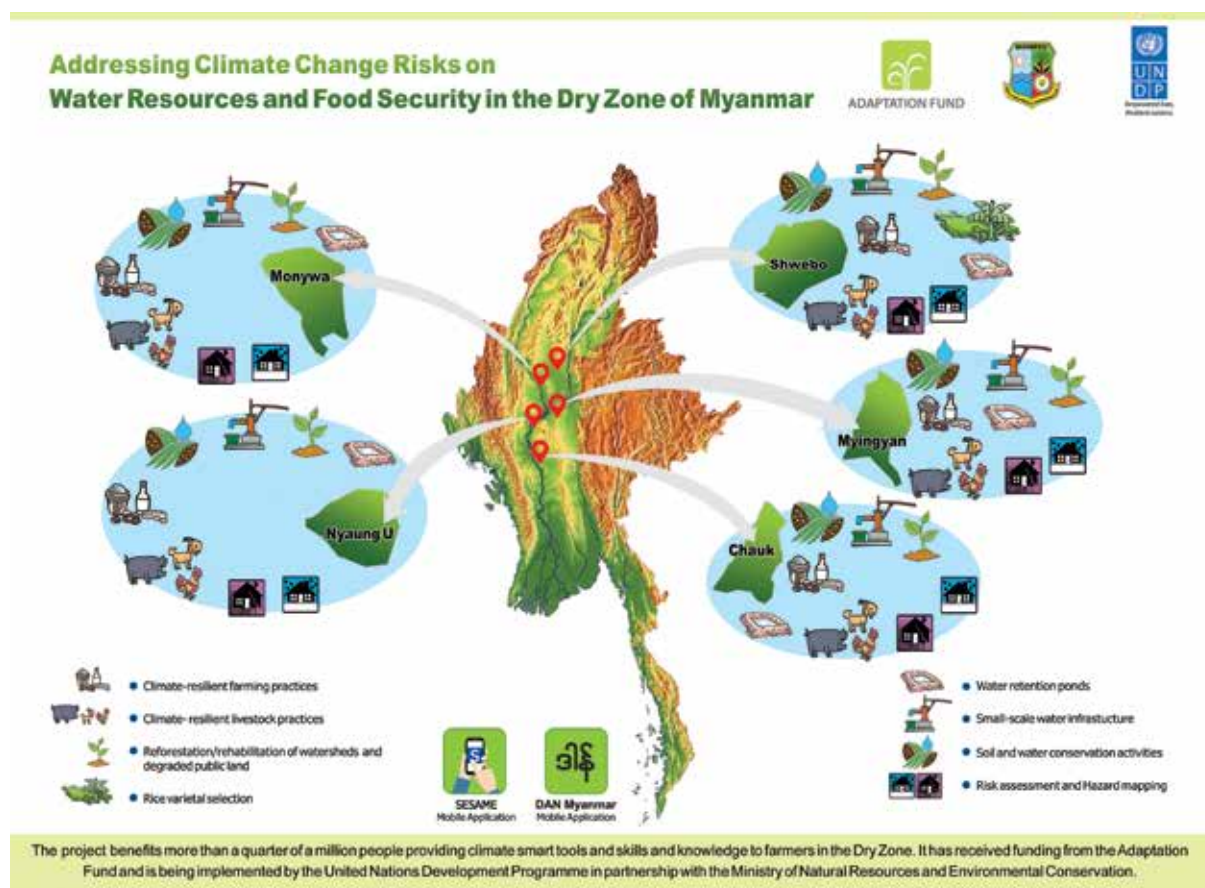People traind on biodiversity monitoring

50
Community guardians trained on protected area management

large and small scale disasters and for different sectors (e.g. education, health, transportation, agriculture, power and energy, sewerage, relief, water supply, communications and industries). The database is regularly updated by the RRD staff to record disaggregated disaster related impacts and information. Though data related to past disasters and their loss and damage is still being collected and uploaded, about 6000 disasters have already been recorded (as of December 2016). The database will be essential for policy makers in developing effective disaster risk management plans and to mainstream DRR in different sectors, policies, strategies and action plans. The database could also be used for setting baselines, targets and indicators of the MAPDRR, Myanmar's implementation of the Sendai Framework, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The project benefits more than a quarter of a million people providing climate smart tools and skills and knowledge to farmers in the Dry Zone. It has received funding from the Adaptation Fund and is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

To help communities adapt to the impact of climate change, UNDP is supporting approximately 250,000 households, in particular landless and marginal farmers through the project – Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water Resources and Food Security in the Dry Zone of Myanmar. Among others, the Adaptation Fund project has supported the Department of Relief and Resettlement in the development of a mobile application for Disaster Alert Notification (DAN Myanmar), which was launched on the International Day for Disaster Reduction. The mobile application aims to strengthen disaster risk communication and provide disaster-related information and notification to vulnerable communities, thereby enhancing community resilience. The project is being implemented in 5 townships - Shwebo and Monywa in Sagaing Region, Myingyan and Nyaung Oo in Mandalay Region, and Chauk in Magway Region . A total of 488 households in 10 villages in Shwebo township recevied improved access to irrigation water following the renovation of the diversion canal of the Kin Tat Irrigation System. In addition, the same initiative ensures the supply of clean drinking water to 10,944 households in Shwebo city. Assessments of climate profiles of townships; small-scale water infrastructure; afforestation/reforestation activities on farm boundaries and public land; soil and water conservation training and demonstration; and community-level trainings on climate-resilient livestock management, were intiaited in the 5 project townships.

To support preparedness for recovery from disasters, Myanmar played a key role in the development of the ASEAN Disaster Recovery Reference Guide. Preparedness for recovery is a widely accepted concept that helps countries to plan ahead of disasters so that recovery and reconstruction assistance is predictable and can be implemented without delay when needed. The ASEAN Disaster Recovery Reference Guide, was launched in November, and aims to help the ASEAN Member States prepare for recovery; and deliver timely, efficient and effective recovery programmes. The Guide will help improve the social and economic outcomes of disaster recovery programmes in the ASEAN Member States. In particular, it aims to ensure that recovery improves disaster resilience and contributes to sustainable development.

During 2016 UNDP and UN-OCHA provided technical support to establish the Myanmar Private Sector Disaster Management Network (MPD Network) which will allow for better coordination among private sector actors and other stakeholders for disaster preparedness and response. The MPD Network is linked to the Connecting Business Initiative (CBi) at the global level, which is operationally and technically supported by UNDP/OCHA.

Environmental Governance and Natural Resource Management

With UNDP's technical support, a new National Environment Policy (NEP) was developed and finalized during 2016, and is now pending final endorsement by the Government. The NEP will be the reference for strategic frameworks and action plans in the environment sector, including climate change and waste management strategies, and will provide guidance for mainstreaming of environmental issues in all plans and policies. The consultation process

In the Spotlight

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming has been a key priority for UNDP's work in this outcome area during 2016. Throughout the consultation process on the new National Environmental Policy, attention was given to ensure that the voices of women were heard. Their specific environmental concerns, existing and potential social implications posed from environmental degradation, climate change and disaster risks were included in the Policy and Strategic Framework. The National Environmental Policy also lays out policy principles to integrate gender equality and empowerment of women and girls into all aspects of environmental protection and management.

During 2016 more than 2600 women, comprising 43% of the total number of beneficiaries in the Adaptation Fund Project in the Dry Zone received direct support to manage climate change risks. They have been trained on soil and water conservation, provided access to water supply, trained on Climate-resilient livestock rearing and practices, so that they are able to improve their income and are empowered to take the lead or participate in community development activities.

A Socio-Economic and Gender Situational Analysis was conducted for the new GEF funded Tanintharyi Ridge to Reef Project to understand livelihood options for local communities that will be part of the project, and identify women's livelihood opportunities and address identified gaps. This project will start in 2017.

The UN REDD Programme has developed Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines which have determined ways to develop a gender responsive engagement plan. During 2016 UNDP implemented a stakeholder survey which includes gender disaggregated data collection and statistics to analyse levels of knowledge about REDD+ amongst various communities in the country.

A new and comprehensive national environmental policy for Myanmar

Comprehensive consultations on the National Environmental Policy were held across the country during 2016. The policy, when in place, will ensure environmental protection and sustainable development across Myanmar and will replace an older policy from 1994. The new multifaceted national environmental policy and accompanying strategic framework addresses new challenges that Myanmar faces.

Since 2015, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been supporting the government of Myanmar to formulate a new national environmental policy that places environmental considerations at the centre of efforts to promote economic and social development, reduce poverty, and mitigate and adapt to climate change and natural disasters.In Myanmar's national economic policy, environmental conservation is included as one of the underlying principles. It shows Myanmar is committed to achieve sustainable development while protecting its rich environmental resources. The new national environmental policy will complement the new national economic policy. It also recognizes Myanmar's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Civil society organizations and grassroots groups have provided inputs to the draft policy through State and Region level consultations held in 2016. The final draft policy covers three strategic areas – (a) clean environment and healthy, functioning ecosystems, (b) sustainable development, and (c) mainstreaming environmental protection and management. UNDP will continue providing support to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation (MONREC) for the development of the strategic framework for the policy's implementation.

A community managed forest in Taunggyi

provided a platform for wider stakeholder groups to discuss the environmental and social aspects and management challenges in their respective regions. It strengthened mutual understanding among key stakeholders and contributed to the transition of decentralization process in the field of environmental governance at regional and local levels.Under the UNDP GEF Biodiversity Conservation Project, a roadmap for capacity development on Protected Area Management was developed, targeting staff members under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC). The roadmap includes a review of the courses about Protected Area competences and the development of training courses for the Myanmar Forest School, the University of Forestry and Central Forestry Development Training Centre (CFDTC), as well as the delivery of trainings in the same institutions. In addition, it encompasses a plan for strengthening institutional processes of human resources management, and improving staff competences.

At all four model Protected Area Sites (Hkakaborazi National Park, Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary, Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Kachin State and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region),law enforcement systems were strengthened to reduce the threats of wildlife poaching, illegal logging and illegal mining. The incidence of these threats is quite high in the four protected areas, and their remote location constitutes an added challenge to conduct effective patrol and law enforcement activities in these areas. A Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) was developed and implemented for planning, monitoring and reporting of law enforcement activities. In addition, efforts to enhance community participation were made through participatory planning and zoning activities in Hkakaborazi National Park, Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary. A Forest Cover Change Analysis was conducted and the Buffer Zones for Protected Areas were developed. Buffer Zones for Protected Areas have been developed through consultation with communities and in collaboration with the Forest Department. The final agreed buffer zones between communities and the parks are expected in 2017.

Through UN REDD (a joint programme of UNDP, FAO and UNEP), UNDP provided technical support to the government for the implementation of the Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap during 2016. Meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders in the REDD+ process was essential to establish effective and sustainable forest management, and effective long term natural resource management. The national level REDD+ stakeholder engagement structure has been reinforced with the establishment of 3 Technical Working Groups (TWGs).

The UN-REDD Programme works at national level and is helping to establish the REDD+ architecture in the country necessary for a successful participation of Myanmar in this important international climate change related policy initiative. Guidance by UNFCCC, to achieve the REDD+ readiness stage, Myanmar needs to develop 4 design elements (4 main building blocks): (1) National REDD+ strategy and Action Plan, (2) National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), (3) Forest Reference Level (FRELs) and (4) Safeguard information system. UN-REDD programme is providing support for this development through the intensive technical support of 3 TWGs.

Disaster Alert Notification Application to Improve Myanmar's Preparedness

A mobile application that bridges the information gap on disaster risk communication in Myanmar was launched on the International Day of Disaster Reduction in Nay Pyi Taw.

The new mobile app, known as Disaster Alert Notification or DAN, provides warnings to communities in times of disaster as well as notifications, important news, Do's and Don'ts for prevalent hazards, and phone numbers that the public can contact during emergencies. The application also provides a link to the website of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) which users can refer to for weather forecasts and early warning information.

Myanmar ranks highest among the South East Asian countries in terms of social and economic vulnerability to natural disasters. Lessons from past disasters, such as Cyclone Nargis (2008), Cyclone Mahasen (2013), and Cyclone Komen (2015), highlight the need for a more efficient risk communication system, as well as the urgency to address gaps in disaster preparedness and last mile risk communication and dissemination.

The application was developed by the Department of Relief and Resettlement, of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement as part of the Ministry's 100 days plan with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the joint Adaptation Fund, Government of the Union of Myanmar and UNDP project −Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water Resources and Food Security in the Dry Zone of Myanmar.

Vice President H.E. U Henry Van Thio and UNDP Myanmar Country Director Peter Batchelor at the International Day for Disaster Reduction in Nay Pyi Taw.

Democratic Governance
(Outcome 3)

This outcome area is focused on *promoting democratic governance and the rule of law to strengthen democratic institutions and the advancement of human rights*.

UNDP's work in this outcome area supports more transparent, inclusive and responsive governance so that the state will be better able to deliver services and improve the lives of Myanmar's poorest and most vulnerable people, and overturn a legacy of conflict and mistrust in favour of sustainable development and inclusive growth.
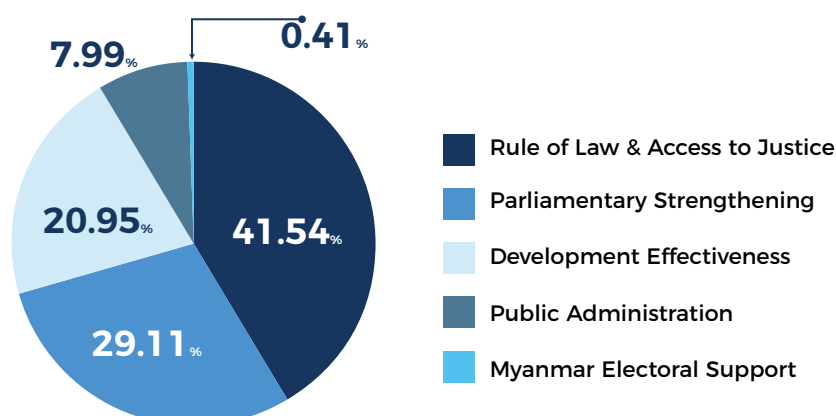
UNDP works with all three branches of government - the executive, the legislature (parliament) and the judiciary- at the Union and State/Region levels, and with civil society, the private sector and other partners.

This outcome has four closely inter-connected and mutually reinforcing areas of work (or outputs):
- Parliamentary strengthening
- Rule of law and access to justice
- Public administration
- Development effectiveness

In each of these areas, UNDP promotes improved leadership of governance reforms, public participation, evidence based policy making, better collection and use of data and evidence, and enhanced capacity development and learning within institutions and engagement with other actors. In 2016, UNDP's work on democratic governance delivered a total of US$9,8m

Figure 5: Democratic Governance Programme Delivery 2016 (in percentage)

- **41.54%** Rule of Law & Access to Justice
- **29.11%** Parliamentary Strengthening
- **20.95%** Development Effectiveness
- **7.99%** Public Administration
- **0.41%** Myanmar Electoral Support

Partners

In the delivery of its work to strengthen democratic governance, UNDP partnered with the following stakeholders:

Government: Ministry of Planning (Foreign Economic Relations Department, Planning Department, Central Statistics Organization); Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) (Central Institute of Civil Service, Civil Service Selection and Training); Ministry of Home Affairs (General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force); Union Attorney General's Office; Office of the Supreme Court of the Union; Constitutional Tribunal; Parliaments (Pyidaungsu Parliament, Pyithu Parliament, Amyotha Parliament, State and Region Parliaments).

Other partners: Inter-Parliamentary Union, IDLO, BABSEA CLE, Legal Clinic Myanmar, and UNITAR. UNDP continued to co-lead development partner coordination efforts in rule of law, public administration and in democratic institutions and processes (mostly, Parliament) with the EU and USAID, and provided Secretariat support to the Cooperation Partners Group (CGG).

Funding partners: The Governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom; and UNDP Core Resources.

> *" The Programme's core strength is found in its work on contributing to building strong and effective governance institutions. Particularly because it was on the ground early, UNDP has built strong relationships with core governance institutions in Nay Pyi Taw, including: the Parliament (all houses); the Office of the Attorney General; the Planning and Finance Ministry, and, within it, the Central Statistical Organization; the President's Office; and, the Union Civil Service Board.*
>
> *A positive feature of the Programme is the cross-component capacity in developing research and analysis, linked to policy and decision-making, and support for generation of high-quality data, as well as for preparation of organizational strategic plans. "*

Independent Outcome Evaluation of UNDP Myanmar's Outcome 3
(Democratic Governance Programme 2013-2016)

Results

An independent outcome evaluation of UNDP's work in the area of democratic governance (pillar 3) was undertaken in 2016, as well as evaluations of UNDP's specific support to Rule of Law and Access to Justice, and to Parliamentary Strengthening. The evaluations were in general very positive, and highlighted many significant results and achievements.

During 2016 UNDP continued to enhance understanding of the practice of democratic governance in Myanmar across the executive, legislature and the judiciary, thus providing critical support to Myanmar's democratic transition.[1] Whilst an overarching vision for public sector reform is not yet in place, attitude shifts within the executive, legislature and judiciary and strong buy-in for meaningful reforms to address issues previously seen as too sensitive (e.g. anti-corruption) are now becoming evident.

1) Parliamentary Strengthening
During 2016 UNDP continued to provide comprehensive support to parliamentary strengthening in Myanmar, at both Union and State/Region levels.

With UNDP Support, the Union Parliament successfully managed the orientation/induction of new MPs, and Parliamentary committees have

---

1 UNDP Pillar 3 Outcome Evaluation,2016

Results at a Glance
Democratic Governance

4 Rule of Law Centres
Mandalay, Myitkyina,
Taunggyi, Yangon
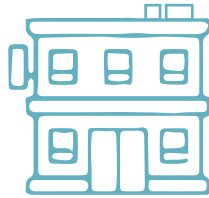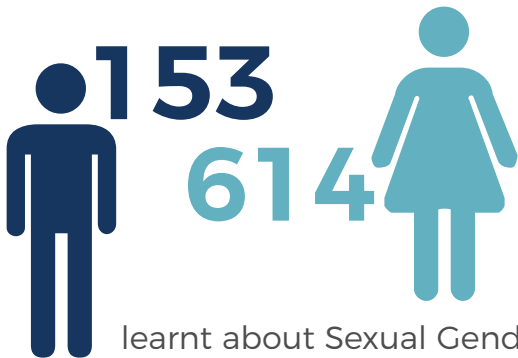
1331
People attended community
dialogues

323
Lawyers CSO,
law teachers trained

130
Community leaders trained

153
614
learnt about Sexual Gender based

58
96
Trained on paralegal assistance

465
Parliamentarians completed
an orientation and induction
programme

300
Parliamentary staff
trained to support
new MPs

13
Foundation Skills
training modules
developed

426
Civil servants learnt about the Sustainable
Development Goals

500
Justice officials learnt about fair trail
standards and principles of Rule of Law

put knowledge gained from a targeted committee induction into practice when consulting with stakeholders or addressing issues raised by constituents. UNDP has also contributed to improved staff capacity development: the Union Parliament's effective management of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary General Assembly shows clearly the improvement in administrative capacities. However, further work is needed to ensure that Learning Centre support to staff and MP capacity is fully sustainable. The Rule of Law Index notes improvement in checks on government powers by the legislature.[2]

2) Rule of Law and Access to Justice

UNDP has contributed to the opening of the democratic space at the sub-national level, through justice actor/community engagement facilitated by the UNDP Rule of Law Centres.[3]

In the Spotlight
Putting Skills to Work

U Tin Aung represents Chan Myat Thar Zi constituency in the Mandalay Region Parliament, and is Chair of the Bills Committee. In June 2016, he participated in UNDP's Committee Leadership and Development Programme. Six months after the programme, U Tin Aung reflected on how the programme developed his critical thinking skills, and promoted the need for evidence-based policy recommendations.

U Tin Aung and his committee members have been looking at ways to address the high number of traffic accidents and fatalities on the Yangon to Mandalay expressway. As a means of developing effective legislation, U Tin Aung has focused on collecting data and consulting with key stakeholders, to ensure laws are developed that deliver the best outcomes. U Tin Aung said the UNDP programme helped him in being able to identify and articulate the existing problem, and look at ways to address it, with broad input from road users and engineers, and from traffic accident data. U Tin Aung noted that legislation to help reduce the number of accidents on the expressway is still a work in progress. Learnings from the UNDP's committee programme have supported the committee's investigative work, and key stakeholders now have an opportunity to contribute to the legislative solution.

MPs during a leadership seminar organised in Bago.

---

2 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2016

3 Ibid

Community dialogues in Kachin, Mandalay, Shan and Yangon reached 1331 lawyers, civil society representatives, law teachers, government officials and community members overall, exploring solutions to priority justice concerns such as land rights, gender equality and SGBV, child protection, and child labour.

The UNDP Rule of Law Centres (ROLCs) improved knowledge of the justice system and of human rights among 323 lawyers, civil society representatives and law teachers and 130 community leaders in villages in Kachin and Shan.

This opening of democratic space has parallels at the Union level. A key high-level change, in part due to UNDP's support to Rule of Law in general, is the fundamental shift in attitudes with regards to the willingness on the part of justice sector counterparts to acknowledge, discuss, and engage in justice reform activities.[4] During 2016 UNDP supported discussions on integrity within the justice system, through its work on draft codes of conduct for law officers and judges.

While Myanmar continues to be ranked 14th out 15 countries in the East Asia and Pacific Region on the Rule of Law Index, progress, albeit limited, is seen in some areas (such as in judicial integrity rising from 0.19 to 0.24 from 2015 to 2016). [5]

3) Public Administration

During 2016 UNDP supported the Union Civil Service Board to develop a Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan, from concept to consultation and final drafting. This Plan acknowledges nepotism and bribery and includes ethics, transparency and accountability objectives, in contrast to former plans, and was developed through a sequenced consultative process under the leadership of the new Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board. The Plan shows the increased capacity in the Union Civil Service Board to manage a consultative process with a variety of stakeholders, and greater familiarity with technical content in its higher level of detail and greater focus on issues which directly speak to democratic ideals and the concerns of civil servants. It also used the findings of the 2015 perception survey on ethics, meritocracy and equal opportunities, launched in 2016.

4) Development Effectiveness

The Democratic Governance outcome evaluation also noted the positive role UNDP has played in strengthening the evidence base for decision making and policy making. UNDP's partnership with the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has been an effective vehicle for enhancing national statistical capacity- for example, an SDG Data Readiness Assessment in early 2016 informed efforts to improve data collection, allowing previously missing data to be included in an SDG baseline report that was completed at the end of 2016.

UNDP has contributed to improved survey sampling and survey administration capacity through its work on the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey in partnership with the World Bank- which will enable the calculation of 32 SDG indicators by 2018. These will be linked to 13 of the SDGs, and relate to poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation and sustainable economic development and growth.

UNDP continues to host the Secretariat of the newly formed Cooperation Partners Group (CPG) and the UNDP Country Director is one of the alternate facilitators of the CPG. With support from UNDP, development partners, civil society, the private sector and the parliament participated in Myanmar's monitoring round of the Global Partnership for Effective

---

4 Rule of Law Output Evaluation,2016

5 World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index measures a variety of factors contributing to rule of law and access to justice, including the constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, criminal justice and informal justice.

Development Cooperation. UNDP also supported Myanmar to participate in the 2nd High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation held in Nairobi, Kenya.

In the Spotlight
Promoting Gender and Human Rights

Through UNDP's democratic governance work, gender equality and women's empowerment have slowly become a greater area of consideration in public administrative reform measures, although much remains to be done to address gender more comprehensively in wider public sector reforms. The Union Civil Service Board's Strategic Action Plan aims to address inequality in the civil service – including the low level of women's representation in decision making (1.5% of the most senior civil service positions), as well as discrimination against ethnic minorities. It calls for a review of rules and procedures to promote equal opportunities and reduce discrimination, and promotes women's leadership. UNDP's research shows that while certain elements of equality in the civil service are in place, opportunities are still not equal at all levels; a lack of consistency and transparency in processes and a reliance on networks could reduce opportunities for women civil servants or those from ethnic minorities.*

Within the civil service, attitudes are more open than in 2014, but an understanding of gender equality principles and how they can be put into practice is still limited. Outside of the Union Civil Service Board, partner institutions seem reluctant to prioritise gender issues. For example, the 2015 elections returned a greater number of women MPs,** but although they are more proactive in engaging constituents, there is limited evidence that women MPs are working together or with male MPs to promote gender equality.

There is improved awareness of issues facing women and ethnic minorities by justice sector actors. UNDP's contributions to enhancing awareness of gender equality and human rights include community forums, awareness raising for 153 men and 614 women on SGBV and through the UNDP Rule of Law Centres, trainings on paralegal assistance to 96 women and 58 men, and providing legal assistance to 138 women and SGBV survivors (17 received court representation). UNDP has also played a leading role in the formulation of the new Protection and Prevention of Violence against Women Law as a member of the UN Country Team.

These initial steps represent progress, however more remains to be done to ensure the expansion of women's access to justice or human rights at local level, especially in the case of sexual and gender based violence. UNDP's contributions equip those whose rights have been violated to seek redress, but despite advocacy efforts institutions are not yet taking significant action. At the policy level, the positive progress in civil service reform can be set against continuing concerns about existing legislation that does not promote gender equality: for example, the discriminatory 2015 Marriage Law is still in place and the draft Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Women law is still waiting to be passed.

---

* UNDP/UCSB Perception Survey on ethics, Equal Opportunities, and Meritocracy in the Myanmar Civil Service, 2016.
** From 26 (6.2%) and 4 (2%), to 43 (9.9%) and 23 (10%) in the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws respectively. Source: IPU.

Working Across States and Regions

The UNDP Field Offices are crucial to ensure that all of UNDP's work is grounded in grass-root realities and have sustainable impacts on local lives. UNDP Myanmar currently has six Field Offices, located in Myitkyina (covering Kachin State), Hakha (covering Chin State), Sittwe (covering Rakhine State), Mandalay (covering Mandalay Region, Magwe Region and Sagaing Region), Taunggyi (covering Shan State and Kayah State), and Mawlamyine (covering Mon State and Kayin State). In most cases UNDP is co-located with other UN agencies, or shares office space with other UN agencies. In Sittwe the UNDP office is co-located with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

The Field Offices play key roles in terms of representation, coordination, programme/project oversight, monitoring and implementation support. The offices also play a key role in building and maintaining relationships with State/Region governments, parliaments, and with a range of local stakeholders, including civil society and Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs). The Field Offices have been particularly active during 2016 in supporting CSO network associations (CSO network associations were established in 7 states/regions in 2015), and women's village collectives (called Self-Reliance Groups).

The network of field offices also improves resource-efficiency, and enables more meaningful collaboration with other UN agencies and development partners operating in the same geographic area.

In addition to the six field offices, UNDP has a representation office in Nay Pyi Taw. It is likely that in future this office in Nay Pyi Taw will grow, and become the main office of UNDP in Myanmar.

Myitkyina Field Office (Kachin State)

In 2016, the Field Office assisted in the formal registration of the Kachin State Civil Society Organisation Network, and in the Network's implementation of a range of CSO capacity building initiatives.

Kachin's three Township Self-Reliance Groups were all legally registered as local NGOs in 2016, and conducted

participatory rural appraisal exercises in 20 villages each.

The Field Office also assisted in the construction of a 2.4 km concrete road for the Pa La Na IDP resettlement village and nearby villages as part of a Strengthening Social Cohesion initiative.

Finally, the Rule of Law Centre in Myitkyina completed several trainings for local Judiciary and Parliamentary staff.

Hakha Field Office (Chin State)

In 2016, the Field Office managed the provision of micro capital grants to six Chin State Township Self-Reliance Groups in 2016, with a focus on the empowerment of rural women.

The office assisted in the first anniversary celebration of May Doe Kabar (National Network for Rural Women) and the iWomen application software was launched.

Local CSO and media network capacities were also strengthened through micro capital grants, improving civil society's participation in local governance and organisational network sustainability.

Trainings for local level social cohesion competency were provided to 190 beneficiaries, including government, CSO and non-state actors, and Parliamentary leadership skills were strengthened. Finally, the Field Office provided early recovery and rehabilitation support to several disaster-affected communities, as a result of the 2016 floods.

Sittwe Field Office (Rakhine State)

In 2016, UNDP, together with other UN agencies, provided technical assistance to the Rakhine State Government in formulating a Rakhine Five Year Socio-Economic Development Plan.

A One Stop Shop (in partnership with GAD) was established in Sittwe township in 2016. The Field Office also provided support to capacity building of the Rakhine State Parliament.

The Field Office managed the provision of micro capital grants to several Township Self-Reliance Groups. Cross-community social cohesion and livelihoods were strengthened, and UNDP constructed the "Peace Bridge" between Ohn Ye Paw and Sittwe to provide a concrete contribution to social cohesion in Rakhine.

The multi-stakeholder pilot project "Stories to Share", gathering success stories about community development in Rakhine State, was conducted in 2016, and conflict sensitivity assessments of community development interventions have been undertaken in different

parts of the State. The Field Office implemented flood response activities through Cash for Work programmes and Early Recovery Network assessments in response to the 2016 floods.

Mandalay Field Office (Mandalay Region, Magwe Region and Sagaing Region)

In 2016, the UNDP Field Office supported the establishment of 90 One Stop Shops across the Mandalay, Magwe and Sagaing Regions.

In all three regions, a number of Township Self-Reliance Groups were strengthened, and in Marwe Region 4 groups were legally registered as local NGOs. A range of capacity building events for members of the 3 Regional Parliaments were organised, to improve legislative, oversight and outreach functions.

In relation to the GEF Adaptation Fund Project, the Field Office helped ensure local participation by conducting multi-stakeholder consultations in all three regions.

The "Mandalay Region Media Development Forum" was organised to strengthen local media networks, and support for capacity building activities was provided to members of the Mandalay Region Civil Society Organisation Network. The Rule of Law Centre in Mandalay implemented a series of trainings for judicial sector and academic institutions. The field office coordinated five multi-stakeholder roundtable discussions on the topic "Inclusive Development of Mandalay".

Taunggyi Field Office (Shan State and Kayah State)

In 2016, the field office supported Township Self-Reliance Groups in both Shan and Kayah State to be legally registered as local NGOs, and conducted participatory rural appraisal exercises in around 100 villages in total. Trainings for Strengthening Local Social Cohesion Competency were completed in both states. Shan State Civil Society Organisation Network was officially registered and Area Network Offices engaged in capacity building for Network members in cooperation with the government.

Southern Shan State Media Network was strengthened through trainings targeted specifically towards youth. The Rule of Law Centre in Taunggyi provided services to 1500 beneficiaries and engaged in capacity training for local Judiciary and Parliament staff in Shan State. Access to justice mapping exercises were conducted across the state. Kayah State local governance was improved through capacity building and continued support to One Stop Shops. The Field Office also facilitated Kayah State Civil Society Organisation Network's engagement in training measures together with government.

Mawlamyine Field Office
(Mon State and Kayin State)

In both Mon and Kayin State, the field office helped strengthen the capacity of local CSO and media networks.

Training and competence building for social cohesion dialogue was undertaken with government officials in both states. Affordable technologies were promoted to support sustainable livelihood recovery and development in vulnerable communities.

UNDP also engaged in policy advocacy for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The legislative, oversight and representational functions of both Mon and Kayin State Parliament were strengthened.

 In Mon State, the Field Office also contributed to a pilot project for township participatory planning and budget decentralization, and provided micro capital grants to two Mon State Township Self-Reliance Groups.

Annex 1:
Cumulative Contributions Received and Expenditure (2013 to 2016)

Development Partner	Contribution US$	Percentage of Contribution	Expenditure US$
UNDP Core Resources	42,866,357	43	33,106,195
Japan - JICA	13,265,308	13	13,078,467
GEF/AF	6,266,505	6	3,453,209
Sweden	5,917,404	6	4,650,609
United Kingdom	5,538,604	6	5,990,716
UNDP Trust Fund	5,348,636	5	926,957
Finland	5,101,643	5	4,503,428
Denmark	4,188,672	4	4,152,814
UNDP Thematic Trust Fund	3,049,978	3	2,517,255
Australia	2,874,470	3	2,080,702
Norway	2,511,327	3	1,451,695
Japan	2,001,020	2	1,425,983
Switzerland	430,454	0	165,748
UNHABITAT	74,372	0	194,931
LIFT Fund			7,162,896
Total	**99,434,750**	**100%**	**84,861,605**

Annex 2:
List of Acronyms

ACDM: ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management

ADB: Asian Development Bank

ADRRG: ASEAN Disaster Recovery Reference Guide

AMMDM: ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

BANCA: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association

BDMC: Basic Disaster Management Course

CBDRM: Community Based Disaster Risk Management

CBO: Community Based Organization

CCA: Climate Change Adaptation

CDAc: Community Development Action

CDAs: Community Development Association

CEDAW: Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women

CFDTC: Central Forestry Development Training Center

CSO: Civil Society Organization

DAN: Disaster Alert Notification

DDRYV: DRR Youth Volunteer

DICA: Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

DMTC: Disaster Management Training Center

DRM: Disaster Risk Management

DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction

DRRWG: Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment

EWS: Early Warning System

FRELs: Forest Reference Level

GAD: General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs

GCF: Green Climate Fund

GEF: Global Environment Facility

IDLO: International Development Law Organisation

IEC: Information Education and Communication

INGO: International Non-Governmental Organisation

IPU: International Parliamentary Union

LDC: Least Developed Country

LIFT: Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund

M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation

MAPDRR: Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction

MCCDDM: Myanmar Consortium for Capacity Development on Disaster Management

MCCR: Myanmar Consortium for Community Resilience

MNPED:	Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development
MOALI:	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
MONREC:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
MPDN:	Myanmar Private Sector Disaster Management Network
MRCS:	Myanmar Red Cross Society
MRV:	Monitoring Reporting and Verification
MSR:	Myanmar Survey Research
MSWRR:	Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement
NAG:	Network Activities Group
NDMC:	National Disaster Management Committee
NEP:	National Environment Policy
NFCDR:	National Framework on Community Disaster Resilience
NFMS:	National Forest Monitoring System
NWCD:	Nature Wildlife Conservation Department
OCHA:	Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSS:	One Stop Shops
PA:	Protected Area
PEB:	Programme Executive Board
PEI:	Poverty Environment Initiative
REDD+:	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RIMES:	Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System
RRD:	Relief and Resettlement Department
SDGS:	Sustainable Development Goals
SEDP:	Socio-economic Development Plan
SEDP:	Socio-economic Development Plan
SIDA:	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ToT:	Training of Trainers
TWG:	Technical Working Group
UCSB:	Union Civil Service Board
UMFCCI:	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
UNCDF:	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNISDR:	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UN-TCSG:	UN-Technical Coordination Support Group
USAID:	U.S. Agency for International Development
VCP:	Village Consultation Process
VUZ:	Village Use Zoning
WCS:	Wildlife Conservation Society