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UNDP
MYANMAR

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

2013 - 2017 RESULTS REPORT

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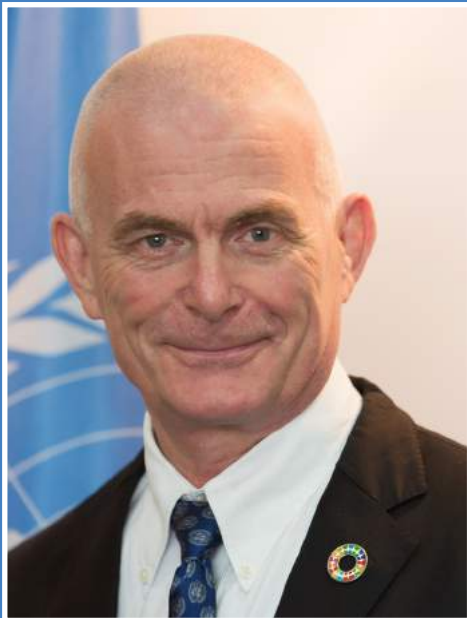
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Foreword



Mr Knut Ostby
Resident Representative a.i., UNDP Myanmar



Mr Peter Batchelor
Country Director, UNDP Myanmar

It gives us great pleasure to present the 2017 UNDP Myanmar Annual Report, and also the combined 2013-2017 Results Report. 2017 was another auspicious year for Myanmar as the country took further steps on the path towards peace and democracy, and the National League for Democracy (NLD) Government led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi celebrated its first year in office. It was also a year in which Myanmar witnessed increasing violence and internal conflict and found itself under intense international media attention. Attacks on more than 30 police posts in northern Rakhine in August 2017 and the resulting security operations, led to the displacement and exodus of more than 670,000 Muslim refugees from Rakhine State to Bangladesh.

During 2017, the NLD-led government re-affirmed its commitment to peace, including national reconciliation, as well as the creation of a democratic federal union. It also initiated a process to produce a new Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), based largely on the Sustainable Development Goals, and a commitment to more inclusive and balanced economic growth and development. Myanmar is the poorest country in ASEAN (latest figures suggest at least 26% of the population live in poverty). The Myanmar economy is one of the fastest growing economies in the Asia Pacific region, but economic growth in 2017 was lower than in previous years, with foreign direct investment and other economic indicators starting to be negatively impacted by the Rakhine crisis.

2017 was a significant year for UNDP Myanmar, as this marked the final year of the country's first 'regular' country programme, after operating under mandate restrictions for many years. The 2013-2017 UNDP country programme was designed during the early years of Myanmar's democratic transition under the former government of U Thein Sein, and was intended to support Myanmar's triple transition – from war to peace, from military rule to democracy, and from a closed to an open, market economy. The country programme had 3 main areas of work or outcomes: 1) Local Governance, 2) Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience, and 3) Democratic Governance. The Annual Report 2017 provides details of the impact and results of UNDP's work in these 3 outcome areas.

2017 was, as usual, a year of change for UNDP Myanmar, with departures and arrivals. We said goodbye to our previous Resident Representative Renata Lok-Dessallien, and welcomed our new Resident Representative Knut Ostby, and our new Deputy Country Director, Dawn del Rio. Several other long serving staff members left during 2017 and we thank them for their contributions to UNDP's work in Myanmar. During 2017, we also finalised our new country programme 2018-2022, in line with the proposed draft of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the same period, and underwent a significant change management process to align the structure of the country office with our new country programme. The new country programme, and new office structure, will take effect from January 2018.

Looking back over the last 5 years, as reflected in our 2013-2017 Results Report, it is clear that UNDP, together with the help of our partners, has played a key role in supporting many elements of Myanmar's triple transition. We have supported the peace process, through our work with the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee. We have supported the opening of the economy through our work on Financial Inclusion, and with the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on the Myanmar Business Survey, while at the same time pushing for more responsible and sustainable management of the country's natural resources. Finally, we have supported the country's democratic transition with our institutional capacity building support to parliament and the judiciary, and our work on rule of law, civil service reform, and anti-corruption. UNDP has also over the last few years helped Myanmar to plan, finance and track the steps needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and has provided much needed technical support for the finalisation of Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan.

We believe that UNDP's wide range of expertise on issues fundamental to the SDGs, and inclusive sustainable development, is unmatched among development partners in Myanmar. UNDP is also well positioned to work with partners across all aspects of sustainable development, within a development approach which is aimed at helping the country achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda. It is a privilege for UNDP to support the government and all the people of Myanmar in their journey towards a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous future. We thank 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 real difference in the lives of the people we serve.



Mr. Knut Ostby
UNDP Resident Representative a.i.



Mr. Peter Batchelor
Country Director, UNDP Myanmar

1

UNDP'S WORK IN MYANMAR IN 2017



The UNDP Country Programme is structured around three outcome areas, one of which is focused on Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience.

This section provides an overview of key results achieved during 2017, the last year of the 2013-2017 Country Programme.

The 2013-2017 Country Programme was the first 'regular' country programme for UNDP after operating under mandate restrictions for many years until 2013.

The 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 Myanmar's triple transition (from war to peace, from authoritarian military rule to democracy, and from a closed to an open market economy). In all our work, we take a rights based approach to human development. In line with the 2014-2017 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 all our work we ensure that men and women are empowered to understand and advocate for their rights; 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 and 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.



The UNDP Country Programme is structured around three outcome areas, one of which is focused on Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience.

UNDP Myanmar has its main office in Yangon, a representation office in Nay Pyi Taw, and field offices in Hakha, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Myitkyina, Sittwe and Taunggyi. We have a total of 164 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 to provide programme oversight and quality assurance, operational support for projects/programmes, kick start new projects/programmes, pilot new and innovative approaches, demonstrate initial results and then help attract additional funding.

Resources and Programme Delivery

During 2017, UNDP received total contributions of US\$22.72 million in funding for the Country Programme from several different sources. The largest source of funding received in 2017 was from development partners, which stood at US\$9.81 million or 43 percent of the total. These include funds from the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Japan, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Other funds were provided by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), and other multi-donor trust funds and UN agencies. The core resources of UNDP represent the other 29 percent of the total or US\$6.65 million.

Table 1: 2017 Contributions, Budget and Expenditure

| Development Partner | 2013-2017 Contribution Received (US\$) | 2017 Contribution Received (US\$) | 2017 Budget (US\$) | 2017 Expenditure (US\$) | Delivery Rate % |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | <i>a</i> | <i>b</i> | <i>c</i> | <i>d</i> | <i>d/c</i> |
| UNDP Core Resources | 41,723,194 | 7,056,646 | 6,926,636 | 6,850,500 | 99 |
| Japan | 15,266,328 | - | 575,034 | 514,574 | 89 |
| United Kingdom | 9,198,760 | 2,460,698 | 2,285,132 | 2,067,568 | 90 |
| Global Environment Facility/ Adaptation Fund | 7,865,188 | 3,637,546 | 4,490,592 | 4,416,776 | 98 |
| Sweden | 7,810,315 | 1,892,992 | 2,799,257 | 2,581,993 | 92 |
| UNOPS – Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund ** | 7,162,896 | - | - | - | - |
| UNDP Trust/Thematic Funds* | 6,744,066 | - | 1,248,700 | 837,471 | 80 |
| Finland | 6,702,496 | 1,606,547 | 2,158,087 | 2,144,090 | 99 |
| Denmark | 4,188,672 | - | 25,249 | 22,011 | 87 |
| Australia | 3,859,870 | 989,346 | 1,603,198 | 1,603,948 | 100 |
| Norway | 2,511,327 | - | 704,225 | 562,393 | 80 |
| Switzerland* | 2,461,737 | 2,135,731 | 573,272 | 487,142 | 85 |
| UNOPS- Joint Peace Fund | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 1,250,372 | 208,456 | 17 |
| UN Peacebuilding Fund* | 1,654,548 | - | 844,485 | 844,485 | 100 |
| European Union* | 728,100 | 728,100 | 118,211 | 91,866 | 78 |
| UN Agencies | 598,519 | 212,479 | 207,557 | 170,459 | 82 |
| Total | 120,476,016 | 22,720,085 | 25,810,007 | 23,403,732 | 91 |

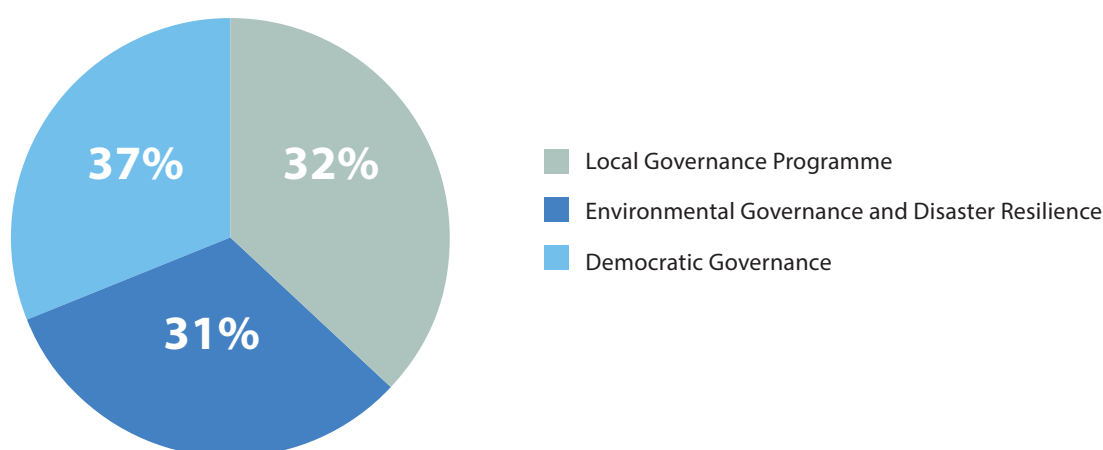
* Contribution received during 2013-2017 not fully utilised and will be carried over for future years.

** Contribution received prior to 2013, but utilized in 2013.

During 2017 UNDP Myanmar delivered US\$23.40 million (US\$21.03 million in 2016), representing 91 percent of the 2017 budget. Funds were delivered by the 3 outcomes (or Pillars) in the following way:

- Local Governance (US\$7.50 million – 32 percent)
- Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience (US\$7.20 million – 31 percent)
- Democratic Governance (US\$8.70 million – 37 percent)

Figure 1: UNDP Myanmar Programme Delivery 2017 (by outcome)



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 on local governance seeks to support Myanmar’s ongoing democratic reform process through results and interventions that strengthen the institutional capacity of state/region and township administrations, improve the delivery and quality of services at local level, enhance bottom up planning, increase social accountability, strengthen social cohesion, dialogue and peacebuilding capacities.

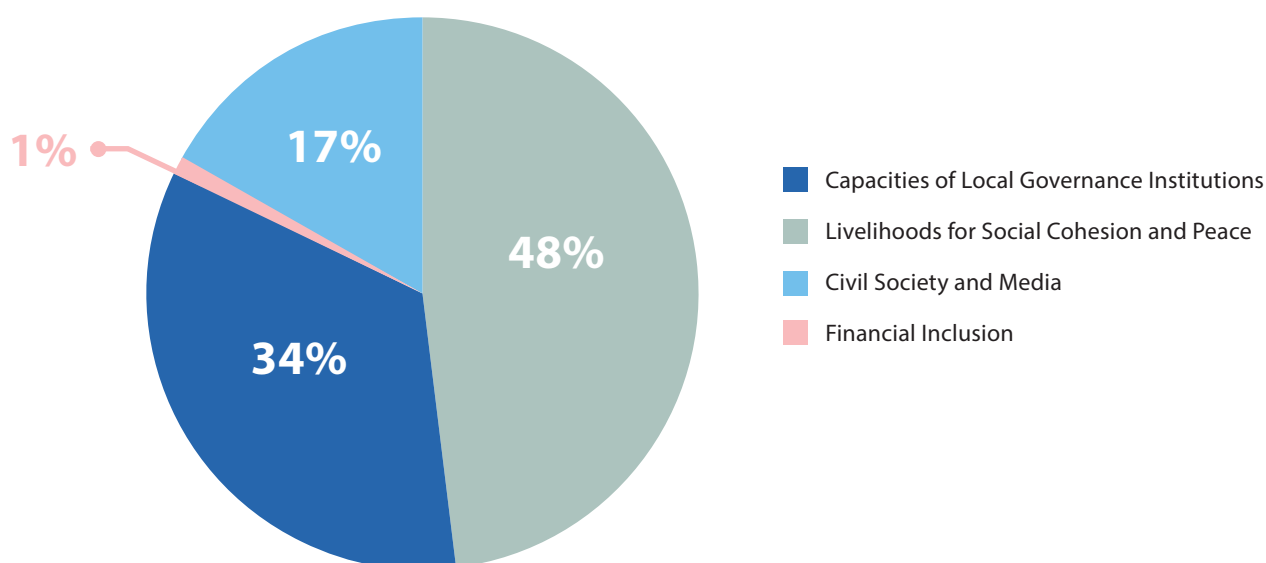
This outcome has four inter-connected and mutually reinforcing areas of work (or outputs):

- Capacities of local governance institutions
- Civil society and media
- Financial inclusion
- Social cohesion and peace

UNDP has designed its interventions in this outcome area by building on the existing entry points and trends of reform at the sub-national level (e.g. fiscal decentralisation), and contributed to Myanmar’s ongoing democratic transition at the local level via a bottom-up and hands on approach.

In 2017 UNDP’s work on Local Governance delivered US\$7.50 million (US\$5.80 million in 2016), which represented 32 percent of UNDP’s total programme delivery.

Figure 2: Local Governance Programme Delivery (figures in percentage)



PARTNERS

In the delivery of its work in the area of local governance, UNDP worked with the following partners:

■ **Government partners:** 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.

■ **Other partners:** British Council, Oxfam GB, Search for Common Ground, International Alert, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNCDF, UNFPA, UNICEF, and World Bank.

■ **Civil Society:** seven state-wide CSO networks, three ethnic media networks, May Doe Kabar National Network for Rural Women and 31 township CSOs as partners in strengthening citizens', communities' and CSOs' role in local governance and in monitoring of service delivery as well as six state-based CSO partners on social cohesion competencies.

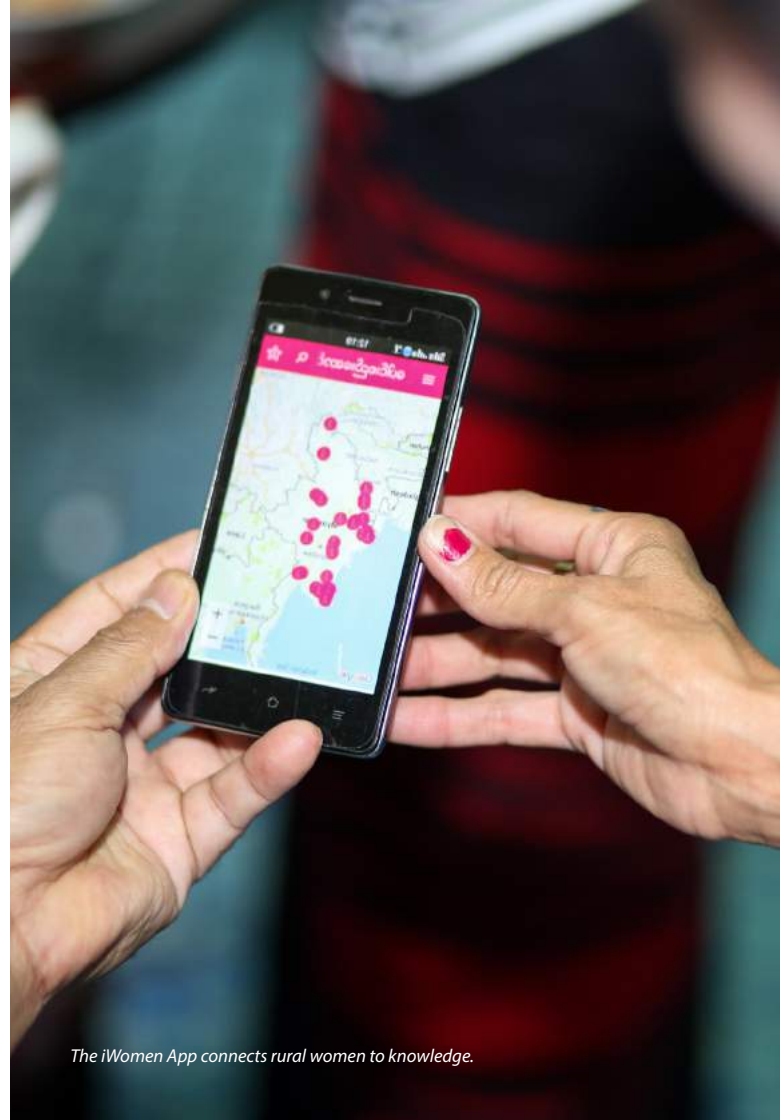
■ **Funding Partners:** Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom; Joint Peace Fund; and UN Peace Building Fund

KEY RESULTS

1) Capacities of Local Governance Institutions

UNDP contributed to the Government's testing of fiscal decentralization via an inclusive and participatory model and regulatory framework for annual township development planning and public service delivery. This included developing the capacities of township departments to plan, budget, execute and monitor the implementation of local development infrastructure projects and the delivery of basic services. Based on pilot initiatives in Kawa (Bago Region) and Bilin (Mon State) to develop responsive township development plans, UNDP provided discretionary funding (township development grants) to support the execution of the plans during the fiscal year 2017/18. These grants contributed to the construction and renovation of schools, rural health centres and roads and benefitted approximately 59,000 people.¹

At the request of both Bago and Mon Governments to support improvement of public procurement processes by township administrations, UNDP developed a procurement guideline and facilitated trainings for state/region government departments and township level government departments. The trainings,



The iWomen App connects rural women to knowledge.

aligned to the developed procurement guidelines and national procurement standards, provided the participants with a foundational level of skills to initiate procurement processes for the execution of the township development grants. Through the township planning initiative, this will enable the governments of these regions to, for the first time, undertake larger procurement actions.

Under its next Country Programme, UNDP will continue the participatory township planning initiative with the aim to reach up to 15 townships in Bago and Mon States. UNDP has initiated the upscaling of the township planning initiative to nine townships in Bago and Mon through a new round of township planning workshops for the preparation of the 2018/19 township development plans. Participants included ward/village tract administrators, township administrators, township level government departments, EAOs, member of parliaments and CSOs. As the township planning initiative is implemented in areas under the administration of the Karen National Union (KNU), UNDP organized consultations with the KNU to present the project and consult with the KNU regarding

¹ Beneficiaries of the initiative are not only those directly benefitting from it - the whole population of the township benefits from improved governance, greater transparency, enhanced participation, accountability and an administration that practice its new knowledge and skills how to manage public service delivery following good governance and democratic principles and how to better engage with the citizens.

their engagement with project activities. These consultation efforts have resulted in the KNU's endorsement of project implementation in KNU-controlled area. KNU officials have also been formally assigned to take a more regular part in township planning workshops, thereby facilitating better KNU support for township plans and investment projects in their areas.

UNDP continued support to more responsive and people-centred public service delivery by supporting the GoM in developing an action plan for further improvements of the implementation of the One Stop Shops (OSS). This support builds on findings of the UNDP-commissioned report and OSS policy recommendations finalized in 2016. Based on the endorsed action plan, UNDP provided support to implement six model OSS (Kyaukse, Meiktila, Myitkyina, Bago, Kawa, Mawlamyine and Thaton) by piloting new techniques to improve customer service, transparency, and accountability. This contributes to building trust between citizens and their local administrations.

OSS officials from township, state/region and union levels identified specific actions for improvement of the OSS, such as opening of Myanmar Economic Bank branches at the OSS to improve service range and limit corruption, application of designated operating budget for OSS, assigning dedicated OSS staff instead of the current rotational system, and launch of community scorecards and improved performance indicators to measure OSS performance against the national objectives. These and other suggested actions were initiated by the GoM in the model OSS locations and with UNDP support, continued during 2017, and generating lessons for potential replication in other OSS nationwide.

2) Civil Society and Media

UNDP promotes women's empowerment through the rural women's federation of self-reliant groups – May Doe Kabar (MDK), by continuing to strengthen MDK's capacity to provide trainings on gender-based violence and mobile technology/IT skills to the 22,000 members. UNDP provided support to develop organizational capacities to represent rural women's voices and local experiences into national level policy, and to negotiate collectively at the national level for business opportunities and access to finance to the benefit of their rural women members at community level. Based on this support, MDK linked up with the DaNa Facility and mobilized its own resources from the Government of Netherlands to explore options for partnerships for future organizational development. UNDP continued to support MDK in facilitating knowledge

exchange and peer support between members and other rural people via the iWomen App that reached 10,000 active users (18 percent men) in 2017.

UNDP's support to MDK has contributed to nurturing a large functional network of female rural leaders, effectively promoting women's empowerment. In 2017, 11 percent of surveyed members expressed not having access to information suitable to improve their leadership skills and livelihood versus 37 percent in 2013 when MDK was established. As a result of regular exposure to skills training and local fora, the number of MDK members who were not confident in expressing their ideas and feelings in public decreased from 21 percent in 2013 to 3 percent in 2017. MDK and the member township leading groups have matured as a network and become a recognised actor on local level decision making and advocacy. Sixty one percent of MDK leaders state that they now are invited to give advice to male village leaders on a regular basis, and 44 percent of MDK leaders state that they often get invited to township level government meetings.³

3) Financial Inclusion

UNDP and UNCDF promoted financial inclusion in Myanmar through continued support to two microfinance institutions (the Association for Social Advancement and Alliance) and one association of credit cooperatives (Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Union). These grants enabled the finance institutions to expand financial services to poor households totalling 244,000 clients in 2017, 85 percent of them women.

UNDP and UNCDF continued to provide technical support for the implementation of the National Road Map on Financial Inclusion, including through support to the secretariat office of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Financial Inclusion (IMSC). In 2017, the IMSC prioritized advancing key activities: the 'One Household One Account' (OHOA), mobile money for microfinance institutions, responsible finance, and amendment of the microfinance law. The IMSC also initiated the 'Making Access Possible (MAP) Refresh', which will be conducted by UNCDF in partnership with the FinMark Trust in order to provide updated data and lead to a renewed baseline to guide Roadmap initiatives to 2020 and beyond.

² UNDP (2016), One Stop Shops (OSS) in Myanmar: An Entry Point to Improve Local Public Service Delivery and Local Governance

³ May Doe Kabar 2013-2017 Baseline-Endline Survey

4) Social Cohesion and Peace

UNDP advocated for mainstreaming conflict-sensitivity and social cohesion approaches and principles into national and international development interventions in Myanmar through the preparation of two research studies examining good practice in mainstreaming conflict sensitivity. With the participation of a UNDP-facilitated inter-ministerial study group, an indicator guide and indicator menu for conflict sensitivity were also drafted.

UNDP facilitated professional development programmes on social cohesion for 90 officials from the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and the Department of Social Welfare, thereby strengthening the capacities of public officials from these institutions to not only mainstream social cohesion principles and approaches into their policies, programmes and services, but also to strengthen their individual and organizational skills around key social cohesion competencies. UNDP also facilitated a high-level seminar on social cohesion to discuss the definition, approaches, relevance, and relevant global comparative practices and experiences, and in so doing, initiated an internal process within the ministries on how social cohesion approaches can be institutionally mainstreamed.

UNDP supported the national peace process through institutional support to the Technical Secretariat of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) for the implementation of the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement which focuses on monitoring, verification and conflict resolution in ceasefire areas. The tripartite work of the JMC ensured that no major outbreaks of violence occurred while expanding its operational presence in all six ceasefire areas. UNDP's support enabled the JMC to map its capacity development needs for technical assistance and improvement of operational and administrative procedures; and this will guide all international assistance to the JMC. Based on the findings of needs assessments, UNDP facilitated technical assistance to improve the JMC strategies and procedures on disengagement and insider mediation, and organized a number of workshops for army, ethnic armed organizations and civilian representative members at national and state levels. UNDP's work with the JMC was supported by Norway, the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the Joint Peace Fund.

UNDP (on behalf of the UN Country Team) provided technical support for the planning of a livelihoods and social cohesion assessment in three townships in the central part of Rakhine State, following a request by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Preparations for the assessment were suspended following the attacks in Rakhine in August 2017.



MAINSTREAMING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

UNDP continued to mainstream women's participation into the township planning initiative by ensuring participation of at least one female representative from each ward/village tract during planning sessions, meaning that women have been assured 30 percent participation in the planning sessions.

By providing leadership skills training to all 77 of Myanmar's female ward/village tract administrators during a week-long workshop, UNDP strengthened women's positions in local governance institutions, and supported participants in the establishment of an informal network which they will use to support each other in their daily work.

UNDP also assisted 32 female W/VTAs to learn from the Cambodian Female Commune/Sangkat (C/S) councillors by their participation in a study tour during which the Myanmar participants learned how C/S councillors have handled barriers to female participation in local development and governance. Additionally, gender modules and topics were mainstreamed into UNDP-facilitated professional development programmes and policy forums on social cohesion. 55 percent of the participants in these capacity development initiatives were women.

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 two interconnected and mutually reinforcing areas of work (or outputs):

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- Environmental Governance and Natural Resource Management.

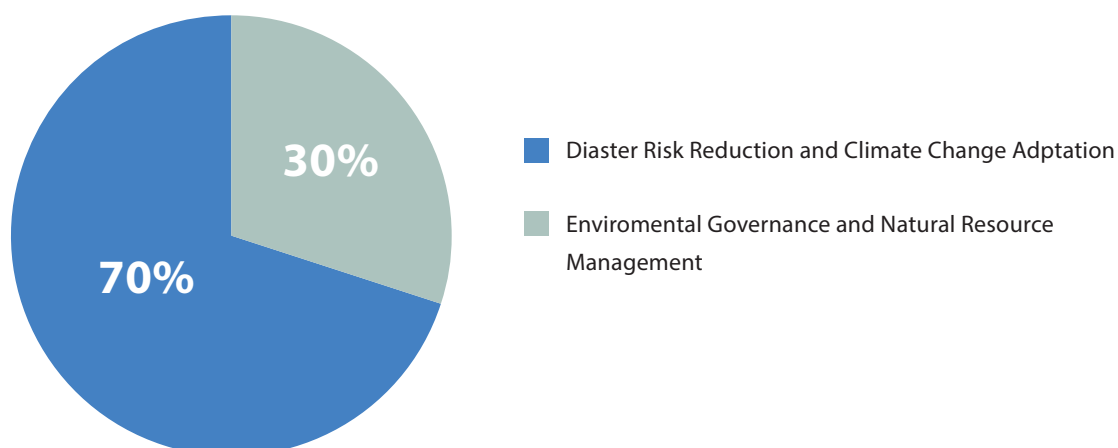
The strategy for each output is focused on a) institutional strengthening, capacity building and mainstreaming in development planning, and b) demonstration through the implementation of pilots. UNDP has been successful in obtaining funding for a large and growing portfolio of projects in this outcome area from various funding mechanisms including the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

In 2017, UNDP’s work on environmental governance and disaster resilience delivered US\$7.20 million (US\$5.20 million in 2016), which represented 31 percent of UNDP’s total programme delivery.



A Hoolock gibbon left orphaned by illegal loggers has found a new home at the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary warden’s office. The sanctuary is one of the three where UNDP with the Wildlife Conservation Society is supporting the Government strengthen the management of protected areas.

Figure 3: Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience Programme Delivery 2017 (figures in percentage)



PARTNERS

In strengthening environmental governance and disaster resilience, UNDP worked with the following partners:

- **Government partners:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Transport and Communication, and State/Region government representatives.
- **Other Partners:** FAO, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNOCHA, UNV, UNICEF, World Bank, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Civil society organisations, ethnic armed groups and private sector.
- **Implementing partners:** Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Farm Business Development (FBD), Hydroconseil, Aung Zayar Social Commissioner's Association, Community Development Action, Network Activities Group, Cooperazione Sviluppo Onlus (CESVI), Community Development Association, Aung Thai Wai Industries, Chalk and Slate, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (RIMES) and Myanmar Survey Research.
- **Funding Partners:** Finland, Norway, Sweden, European Union, GEF; Poverty Environment Facility (PEF); GEF/Adaptation Fund, and UN-REDD.

KEY RESULTS

1) Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

Disaster risk reduction is increasingly appreciated as an essential investment in sustainable development; one which Myanmar must make if sustainable development gains are to take root. The government has been making significant efforts to address disaster and climate change associated risks through strengthening its legal and policy instruments, and actively participating in regional and global initiatives and fora.

In 2017, the government finalized and launched the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR 2017) and the latter was adopted by the Disaster Management Sub-Sector Coordination Group of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit as its sub-sector plan. With UNDP's support, consultations on the draft plan were held in four states and regions over the period November 2016 – June 2017; technical support was provided to the Relief and Resettlement Department, in its capacity as a lead agency of the MAPDRR Task Force. UNDP also facilitated coordination on the MAPDRR with development partners through the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group.

As part of its continued support to improving disaster management knowledge and skills, UNDP provided technical assistance to the Disaster Management Training Centre (DMTC) in Hinthada Township in Ayerwaddy region to finalize its capacity development strategy. The aim is for the DMTC to become a centre of excellence on disaster management in Myanmar.

UNDP also supported the Relief and Resettlement Department in developing a community-based disaster risk training (CBDRM) curriculum. The latter includes a participant's handbook and a facilitator's guide.



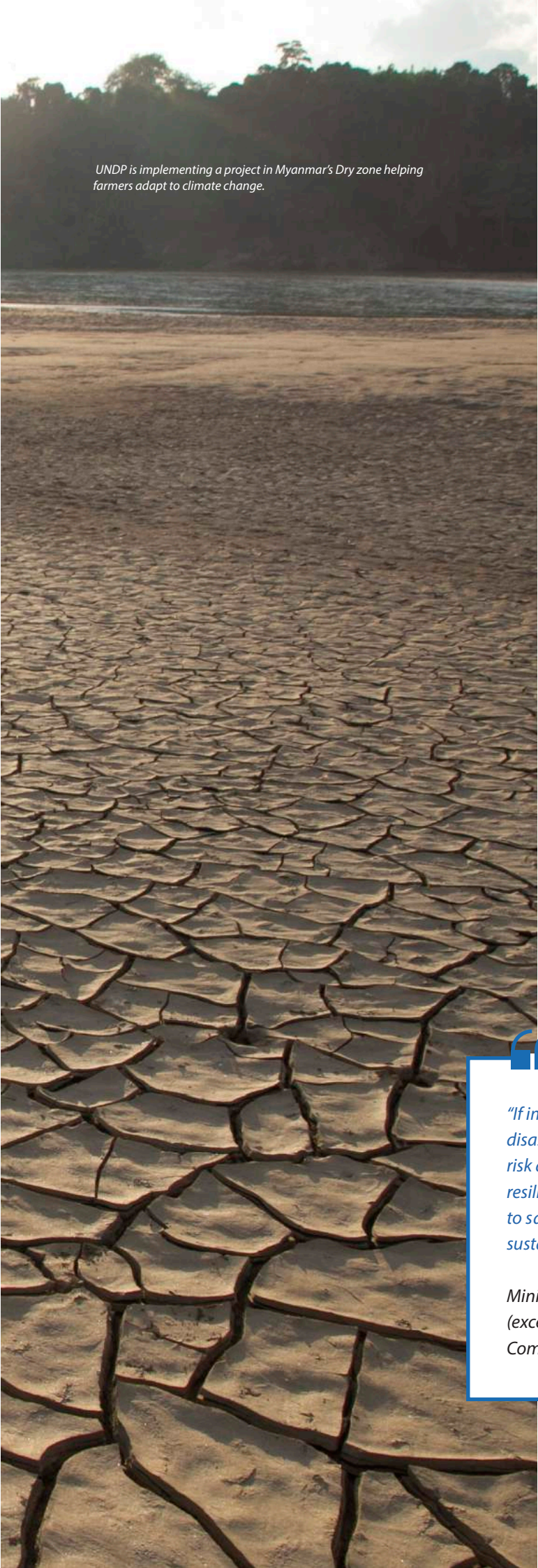
DATA COLLECTION FOR IMPROVED DISASTER RISK PLANNING

Since 2013, UNDP has collaborated with the Relief and Resettlement Department to set up and manage the Myanmar Disaster Loss and Damages Database, which captures the patterns, trends and impacts of disasters in Myanmar with the earliest record dating back to 1991. By the fourth quarter of 2017, 21,046 records from 330 townships had been uploaded into the database.

Access the database here: <http://www.mdldr.gov.mm/DesInventar/profiletab.jsp>

Four training programs were delivered by UNDP in 2017 on community-based disaster risk management and disaster recovery – as a result 86 trainees are now able to transfer their acquired skills and knowledge to government staff and communities.

A pilot Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Volunteer Project was implemented in nine townships across the Ayeyarwady Region, and Rakhine and Mon States. UNDP collaborated with the Relief and Resettlement Department, UN Volunteers and



UNDP is implementing a project in Myanmar's Dry zone helping farmers adapt to climate change.

UNICEF to mobilize and train 426 volunteers (195 female, 231 male) from nine townships to serve as trainers on community-based disaster risk reduction. A draft DRR Youth Volunteer Strategy was also drafted to guide future efforts.

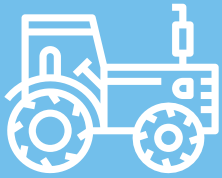
In 2017, recognizing the challenges in the management of the country's forest resources, the government launched the UN REDD National Program in Myanmar, which aims to 'reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation', i.e. REDD+. UNDP as the agency leading the coordination of the UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar in partnership with FAO and UNEP, facilitated the consultation process on the strategy, which involved six government ministries, in-depth discussions in the states and regions and bringing together state and non-state actors from CSOs and the private sector.

Subsequently, the Myanmar REDD+ Task Force was formed and consequently held its first meeting with the participation of key government departments, civil society organizations and representation from indigenous people organizations. This Task Force is charged with overseeing the strategic direction all of REDD+ initiatives in the country; and will be responsible for ensuring that country-wide consultations on the strategy/plan are held in an inclusive and participatory manner. Preparations for consultations in 15 states and regions were finalized by the end of 2017.

The government has since honoured its commitment to climate change mitigation through the implementation of a roadmap to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, i.e. the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.

"If improvements in the development sectors do not integrate disaster risk reduction, they could exacerbate existing disaster risk and create new forms of disaster risk. Building disaster resilience in Myanmar becomes more important than ever to save lives, to protect investment and to ensure the sustainability of development gains."

*Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
(excerpt from the Myanmar National Framework for
Community Disaster Resilience)*



**6,762
households**

trained in climate-resilient livestock production and management practices; improved varieties of livestock delivered to 3,500 households; 1,000 households repaid loans for their livestock farming



**93
livestock**

demonstration farms and 20 farms to train farmers set up

A study on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation was finalized following state and regional consultations. The findings from the study, and the initial identification of drivers formed the basis on which the Myanmar National REDD+ Strategy was developed. The national strategy includes a list of potential policies and measures to address these drivers.

The UN REDD Programme also facilitated consultations with the private sector in October and November 2017 to advocate and share broadly the REDD+ concepts and strategy. Some potential areas for collaboration were identified, such as setting up alternative fuel distribution infrastructure for liquefied petroleum gas to address unsustainable use of charcoal and firewood.

With support from the Adaptation Fund, UNDP supported 50,000 households in five townships, targeting landless and marginalized farmers, to adapt to climate change impacts.

UNDP facilitated the completion of a post-harvest assessment to identify post-harvest loss patterns, needs of assistance and training. The major findings were that limited access to markets during the dry season and difficulties in harvesting were the main causes of post-harvest loss. In response, UNDP provided 127 threshers to farmers to reduce climate-induced post-harvest losses and promote resilient post-harvest processing.

In the same vein, UNDP supported the upgrade of the 'Specialized Experts' System for Agro-Meteorological Early Warning' (SESAME), a web-based agro-advisory system and application (can be downloaded from the Google Play Store), piloted by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology in Monywa and Nyaung U Townships. The system generated information every three days, or 10 days or monthly or seasonally for up to 100 townships by the end of 2017. Agriculture extension workers and farmers have been trained to use the app and generate location and crop-specific advisories.

In 2017, UNDP and EU/ECHO partnered in support of building resilience in earthquake prone areas in Myanmar through better preparedness and response. UNDP is helping Government to prepare a national earthquake preparedness strategy and specific plans for Yangon and Mandalay.

2) Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience

The final draft of the National Environmental Policy has been endorsed by the National Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Central Committee (NE5C) and is pending submission to Cabinet for adoption as official government policy. Upon adoption, the policy will provide long-term guidance for government, civil society, the private sector and development partners on environment and sustainable development objectives in Myanmar. UNDP also supported the finalization of the National Environmental Strategic Framework, which was submitted to the Environmental Conservation Department for review before submission for approval.

UNDP is contributing to the preparations of the First National Environmental Master Plan, which will provide detailed activities for implementation of the National Environmental Policy and Strategic Framework.

UNDP and UNEP (as part of their global Poverty Environment Initiative) facilitated the completion of a regulatory review report of Myanmar's existing policy and legislation covering the mining sector; regulation and protection of water, forests, wildlife and culture; health and labour rights affected by mining; pollution and waste management related to mining;

and issues relevant for mining and climate change. The report identifies legislative gaps to be filled, overlaps to be harmonized and needs for inter-departmental coordination mechanisms to be established. It provides a legislative baseline for any mining sector recommendations of the eventual environmental master plan.

In the same vein the two agencies facilitated a multi-stakeholder process for integrated assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts of mining in Mandalay Region. A task force, comprising CSOs (Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability), was set up and completed three field visits in 2017 during which environmental testing of air and water quality and qualitative research through open forums with businesses in Singu and Kyakse Townships in three villages were completed. A final report was submitted to the Department of Mines.

UNDP and UNEP also partnered with the Department to integrate financial appraisals into the formal mine permit approval process. A training with case studies was organized for selected staff from all mining departments, the four mining state economic enterprises and the Minister's office (MONREC).

In 2017, UNDP in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), continued its support to the Forest Department of MONREC in strengthening the management of protected areas in the country. The project is being implemented in three of four demonstration protected area sites in Kachin and Sagaing Region, namely the Hkakaborazi National Park, the Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary and the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Technical Advisory Group on Protected Areas (TAGPA) was formed and held its first meeting. The Group will be the body responsible for steering the strategic direction of the project and ensuring that activities, particularly at Union level, are implemented towards attaining project goals.



BRINGING LOCAL GOVERNANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE TOGETHER

During the second half of 2017, UNDP's environment and local governance programs collaborated to deliver environmental sustainability trainings in five townships of Bago Region. The training was delivered to 630 participants in Kawa, Yetashe, Tanapin, Paukkhaung, and Monyo Townships; with the participants comprised of township and village administrators, government staff, members of parliament, representatives from women groups, and civil society organizations. The aim of these trainings was to integrate principles of environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation and disaster resilience into township development plans. Additional objectives were to:

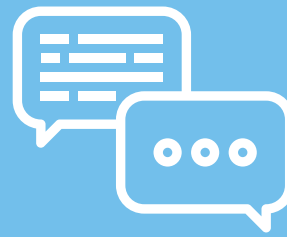
- Sensitize stakeholders involved in the preparation of development plans on the linkages between environment sustainability, disaster risks, and development planning;
- Highlight key environment and development issues in Bago Region, and specifically in these five target townships;
- Disseminate knowledge of legal and regulatory frameworks for environment conservation and resilience building in Myanmar; and
- Identify potential opportunities, challenges and barriers, information and knowledge gaps related to environmental management in Bago Region which would then provide valuable information for the development of a situational analysis required to provide insights for the township development planning process.

During these trainings, participants identified flood and river erosion, and inaccessible roads as identified as the main environmental issues and development challenges in the region. Feedback from participants indicated that the trainings provided valuable knowledge that helped them better understand the principles of environmental sustainability and social protection in development planning.

Support from UNDP and the WCS has facilitated the establishment of sub-national coordination committees on protected area management in Kachin State and Sagaing Region. They include representatives from nine government departments and serve as platforms through which protected area management and biodiversity conservation can be mainstreamed into local development planning. The committees also have a role to play in combatting illegal wildlife trafficking and trade.

UNDP and WCS supported law enforcement and patrolling activities in Hkakaborazi National Park, Hukaung Valley and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuaries. Park boundary demarcation activities were also completed in these three protected areas and park rangers were trained in biological monitoring. Results of a four year (2013-2017) tracking exercise in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary point out to an increase in the population of certain animal species, which is a good indicator of conservation success.

The Forest Department has also indicated an interest in the establishment of a Trust Fund to enable sustainable financing and management of protected areas. Discussions began on the development of 'payment for ecosystem services' (PES) scheme and a visit was organized for Forest Department staff to Madagascar to learn about the functioning of the Madagascar Biodiversity Trust Fund.



**159
women
and 207
men**

took part in gender-based focus group discussions to better understand how men and women depend on the natural resources in the park for their livelihoods.

78 park rangers have better skills and knowledge of protected area management and wildlife conservation;

21 biology degree graduates (7 women, 14 men) selected as interns and received training in biological monitoring

161 persons from communities in the three protected areas were trained as community guardians



An improved water canal system that provides water to farmers in Shwebo.



PARLIAMENTARIANS LEARN ABOUT EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

In November 2017, UNDP's environment and democratic governance programs collaborated to hold a learning seminar for parliamentarians on "**Extractive Industries and Environmental Regulation**". This initiative was a result of collaboration between the UNDP Parliamentary Learning Centre, the World Bank, the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), the Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative National Coordination Secretariat (MEITI-NCS), and the UNDP-UN Environment PEI Project. Open to parliamentarians from both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament (Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaws), the seminar was attended by 150 Members of Parliament (MPs).

During the seminar, the World Bank, NRGI and MEITI-NCS presented on the value chain of extractive industries commodities (oil, gas, minerals, timber) and Myanmar's national progress towards achieving the global EITI standard. UNDP presented on the national environmental context, trends in extractive industries in Myanmar that have an environmental impact, the national regulatory framework and the role MPs can play in supporting sustainable environmental management in extractive industries. UNDP also distributed copies of the Environmental Conservation Law, Environmental Conservation Rules, Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures and Environmental Quality Emissions Guidelines to participants.

As a result of the training seminar, an additional 20 percent of Myanmar's MPs have increased knowledge and awareness on environmental laws and regulations required for extractive industries. Going forward, UNDP will garner feedback from MPs for additional in-depth training and learning activities on specific topics and the roles of parliamentary committees in sustainable environmental management.



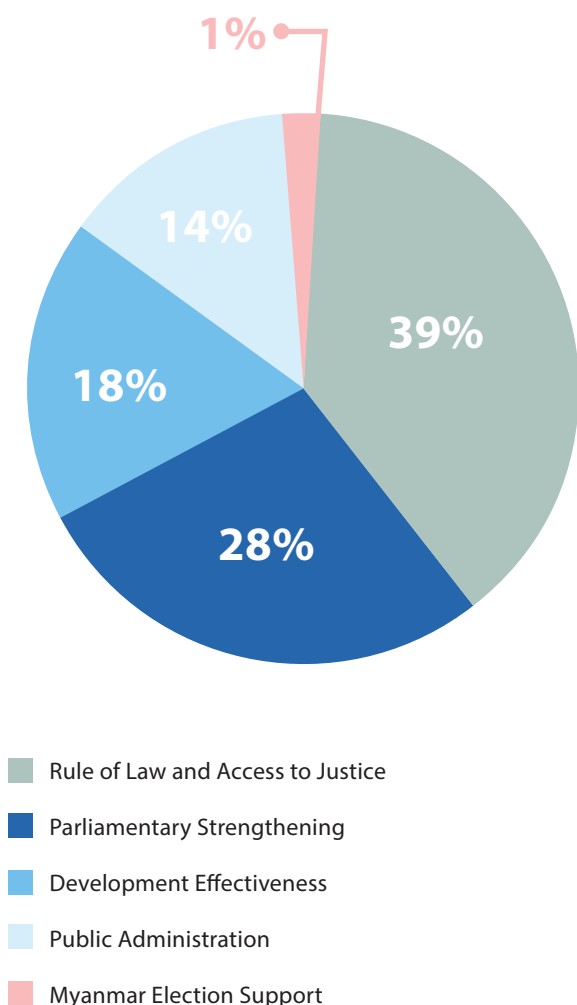
Democratic Governance (Outcome 3)

This outcome 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 in Myanmar will be able to deliver better quality services, improve the lives of Myanmar’s poorest and most vulnerable people, and overturn a legacy of conflict and mistrust in favour of more inclusive and sustainable development.

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, media, academic, the private sector and other partners.

Figure 4: Democratic Governance Programme Delivery 2017 (in percentage)



This outcome area has four 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 of work, 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. Across all four areas of work there is also a strong focus on gender equality and women’s participation and empowerment.

In 2017, UNDP’s work on democratic governance delivered a total of US\$8.70 million (US\$9.80 million in 2016), which represented 37percent of UNDP’s total programme delivery.

PARTNERS

In its work on democratic governance, UNDP worked with the following partners:

- **Government partners:** Ministry of Planning and Finance, Central Statistical Organisation, 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, Anti-Corruption Commission, and Parliaments (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, State and Region Hluttaws).
- **Other Partners:** UNV, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); International Development Law Organization (IDLO); BABSEA CLE; Legal Clinic Myanmar, British Council, Co-operation Partners Group, and universities in Myanmar.
- **Funding Partners:** Governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

KEY RESULTS

Throughout 2017, UNDP contributed to the promotion of democratic governance and the rule of law to strengthen democratic institutions and the advancement of human rights. The Parliament now leads its own processes of institutional change and development through more effective senior level decision-making, empowered mid-level management, and a clear vision for its development priorities. MPs and committees are better equipped with the skills and understanding to undertake their law-making, representation and oversight duties through procedural reform, the introduction of committee inquiries, and MP professional development through the Learning Centre. Strategic development of ICT and information management systems enable MPs to better engage with the business of the parliament and the public they represent. Through the Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan, the government will improve service delivery, reduce corruption and enhance inclusion in the civil service. The civil service reform process has been enhanced by the Anti-Corruption Infrastructure Assessment, South-South exchanges on public service motivation, and leadership development programmes for civil servants.

The newly established Union Justice Coordination Body and its 14 sub-committees are creating a national justice strategy to address justice concerns from a multi-stakeholder perspective, with platforms to ensure local community voices are included.

The Fair Trial Standards Manual establishes clear instruction for prosecutors to conduct trials in line with international human rights and standards. Rule of law and human rights principles are also promoted through the adoption of codes of ethics for the judiciary and law officers. The Rule of Law Centres' (ROLCs) mobile outreach on gender-based violence, rule of law, and human rights (which began in 2017) reached over 2,900 people in remote locations; and the Rule of Law Centre trainings have shown consistently high rates of satisfaction by course participants.

There is improved quality of data collection and dissemination reflecting the needs of poor and vulnerable people through institutional capacity development of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the Planning Department, and other relevant government departments at both national and sub-national levels. UNDP's support to the Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) and the Cooperation Partners Group (CPG) has contributed to building more inclusive and meaningful partnerships between the government, development partners, civil society, private sector and the Parliament to ensure effective development cooperation in the country.



IMPROVING THE CAPACITY TO COLLECT AND CONSIDER DATA TO ENSURE GREATER EVIDENCE BASED POLICY FORMULATION

UNDP continued its partnership with the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in the Ministry of Planning and Finance in strengthening statistical capacity, ensuring that key socio-economic data is available for policy making and planning. UNDP significantly contributed to the technical discussions on the development of Myanmar's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, and the CSO, with support from the World Bank, is currently developing the Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics.

Continuing work from previous years, where UNDP provided technical support to the CSO to complete data entry, data analysis and report writing for the Myanmar Business Survey (MBS), the MBS Data Report was successfully launched in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon during the first quarter of 2017.

UNDP, in cooperation with the World Bank, is supporting the CSO in conducting the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2016-17, building crucial capacity in the CSO's survey section, and following international statistical standards and best practice. Data collection began in December 2016 and continued till the end of 2017. During the first half of 2017, continuous quality monitoring took place, and since early March, long-term data analysis sessions have been carried out in which statistical experts from UNDP and the World Bank jointly provided on-the-job capacity building for CSO staff to analyze the MLCS datasets and produce analytical reports using Stata software.

Further, UNDP supported the CSO to compile a baseline report on the SDG indicators. In addition to compiling the report itself, UNDP in collaboration with the CSO arranged six thematic workshops, each focusing on the technical metadata available on SDG indicators in a given area. During the workshops, different government departments and development partners actively participated and reviewed the global definitions of SDG indicators, methods of calculation, and discussed possibilities to increase SDG data availability and quality at the relevant government departments. The SDG baseline report was launched in October 2017.

2 UNDP'S WORK IN MYANMAR 2013 - 2017



Women villagers in Nyaung-U are all smiles to have gained a multi-crop thresher that saves them time during the harvesting season. Nyaung-U is one of the five townships where the "Addressing Climate Change Risk on Water Resources and Food Security in the Dry Zone of Myanmar" is being implemented.

Sustainable Development

Crunching the data: using knowledge and numbers to drive results

UNDP's key contribution towards development effectiveness has been through its work with staff in various government 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 and data collection.

Development assistance coordination, data collection and analysis and development planning processes impose a considerable demand for institutional capacity and management in Myanmar. The current framework of development assistance coordination and management, data collection and analysis and development planning needs to be further strengthened and integrated. Most development assistance to-date has not been included in the GoM's planning or budgeting processes.

One of the key challenges for statistical development in Myanmar is the lack of systematic and continuous professional training for government statisticians. To address this, UNDP assisted the CSO of the Ministry of Planning and Finance in conducting a training needs assessment and developing a training curriculum for the National Statistical System of Myanmar. The training curriculum is expected to help the CSO and its development partners better plan and prioritize the provision of trainings, and eventually integrate them into a systematic and continuous learning programme.

Following the Millennium Development Goals, the international community adopted a new global development framework, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along with 169 targets and a long list of indicators to monitor them over the period from 2016 to 2030. The National Statistical System of Myanmar with UNDP assistance, has been preparing for the monitoring of the SDG indicators. In order to support the GoM in preparing for the monitoring of the SDG indicators, the CSO and UNDP jointly examined the readiness and availability of Myanmar's data to measure the SDG indicators.



The Myanmar Living Conditions Survey data gathering exercise underway in Bago.

UNDP's solid record in tracking Myanmar's progress

Over the last decade, UNDP has made a significant contribution to the area of poverty data collection and analysis in Myanmar which is used to track its progress towards attaining the SDGs. By supporting two nation-wide Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessments (IHLCA), which represent the most comprehensive assessment of living conditions and poverty ever undertaken in Myanmar, UNDP has significantly improved the access to information to multiple stakeholders for planning and decision-making purposes.

Due to the work done through the IHLCA, Myanmar now has a reliable and up-to-date household living conditions assessment and poverty profiles by state/division and agro-ecological zone as well as in-depth analysis of root causes of poverty in different states and regions.

UNDP together with the World Bank also supported the CSO to conduct the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2016/2017, a comprehensive study of how people everywhere in Myanmar live. Through the survey data on people's occupations, earnings, and how they use this to meet the food, housing, health, education and other needs of their families was collected. The data will be used to formulate responsive policies for the future development of the country.



A path in a village in the Ayyeyarwady Region.

Attaining success on the SDGs: a work in progress

UNDP and the CSO produced a first draft of Myanmar's SDG Monitoring Report during the early 2016 assessment of Myanmar's data readiness for monitoring the SDG indicators. UNDP then provided training and mentoring to four government staff to manage the data collection and analysis process and on 11 December 2016, the Ministry of Planning and Finance hosted a consultation to validate findings, and which identified actions to improve availability of data delivered by UN agencies.

UNDP also delivered trainings on the SDGs to over 450 women and men in the Ministry of Planning and Finance and in 13 of the 14 states and regions. More than half of the participants had never even heard of the SDGs. Based on the feedback from the participants, the Ministry of Planning requested UNDP support to integrate the SDGs into the national planning and budgeting framework.

The UNDP SDG Baseline Indicator report, released on 29 October 2017, is a first attempt at compiling the baseline data that currently exists on Myanmar for the SDGs and provides comparisons on data at the regional and global levels.

Bringing it all together

Achieving the SDGs is an effort which requires renewed partnership, knowledge and expertise and UNDP's proven policy expertise will help to ensure all in Myanmar will benefit from the targets set out in the SDGs by 2030. However, achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of UNDP the GoM, the private sector, civil society and all Myanmar's citizens. To show UNDP's commitment to this partnership in Myanmar, it brought Achim Steiner, Chair of the United Nations Development Group and Administrator of the UN Development Programme to Myanmar on 6-8 August, 2017.

Mr. Steiner met the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as well as other senior government Ministers in Nay Pyi Taw and addressed students at the University of Yangon on the role of SDGs in building a better future for Myanmar. This was Mr. Steiner's first official visit to the country since he assumed his responsibilities as the top UN development official in June 2017.

Democratic Governance and Peace Building

Rule of Law Training Centres

UNDP helps promote democratic governance through strengthening responsive and transparent institutions and assists in organizing credible elections, strengthening the effectiveness of parliaments and reinforcing the quality and inclusiveness of local governance. Upholding the rule of law and promoting effective and transparent governance are fundamental to Myanmar's development.

Very few countries in Asia have held the focus of the world longer over the state of its democracy than Myanmar. 2015 saw the nation hold its first multiparty general election in over a generation, one which UNDP supported from the start, having worked closely with the Union Election Commission to understand the needs vital to both maintaining electoral credibility and in maintaining the rule of law.

Efforts at strengthening democratic institutions can be directly linked to UNDP's work and approach to the extent that Myanmar's Rule of Law Index score has increased (World Justice Project 2015). Specific areas of increased improvement lie in due process of law, non-use of violence in disputes, and the independence of the judiciary. UNDP's work has changed attitudes in justice sector institutions through raising awareness of due process, increasing openness to considering and discussing justice issues affecting vulnerable groups including women, and increasing dialogue with the public.

The citizens of Myanmar need a voice in the decisions that affect their lives, whether through voting in elections or holding public officials accountable for delivering on promises that they have made. UNDP's work helps promote accountability.

Effective and consistent rule of law is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. UNDP has undertaken capacity-building programmes for legal professionals, community leaders and civil society organizations in the country in order for them to access knowledge and to nurture their skills and general awareness of the law.

In 2013, the Parliamentary Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, established a Coordinating Committee to explore the utility of regional rule of law centres to help bridge the gap in knowledge and skills of existing legal



Members of Parliament during an induction programme in Nay Pyi Taw. UNDP has been supporting parliament at the Nay Pyi Taw, State and Region levels.

professionals. The Committee requested UNDP to carry out a feasibility study to determine the feasibility of such an initiative in 2014. Based on the study's recommendation, the Committee requested UNDP to implement a pilot series of trainings.

In February 2017, a "National Coordinating Body for Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Affairs" was formed by the Office of the President with the aim of organizing various efforts in rule of law and access to justice underway in the country and to create a "roadmap" for a whole-of-government approach to justice sector reform. Following the creation of the National Coordinating Body, regional and state coordination bodies were established in May 2017 in all 14 states and regions; and are beginning to meet regularly to discuss local issues involving the justice sector. The feedback these bodies are receiving from their communities is expected to be useful for identifying problems and solutions to local justice sector problems that can inform the union-level body as it develops a national reform strategy and recommendations for policy-making.

Despite these developments, concerns about the impartiality and integrity of judges remain.

Regional and state level parliaments' administrations have transitioned from an administration managed by the General Administration Department (GAD), into an independent administration managed by the Union Parliament. Despite the new independent region and state parliament administrations being larger, these administrations have limited resources and support available to them – much less than their union peers. UNDP continued to focus its support on the capacity development of individual members of parliament, particularly for the region and state parliament administrations, where following their transition to oversight by the Union Parliament, the recruitment of new staff is ongoing and the training needs are high. With UNDP support, two region and state parliaments have developed strategic plans.

Building capacity through training

Four Rule of Law Centres (RoLC) were established by UNDP in Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina (Kachin State) and Taunggyi (Shan State). The Centres have grown into vital community hubs where government and citizens exchange insights and discuss important topics such as the impact of drug use on communities and prevention strategies, labour laws, squatters' rights and land-related issues, plus violence against women and children, and legal aid law.

The project, in partnership with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), with support from the governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States are an integral part of UNDP's support to democratic governance in Myanmar. The centres focus on two core activities: (i) providing training in rule of law principles and linking them to Myanmar law and local justice priorities for lawyers, law teachers and civil society representatives; and (ii) supporting community outreach initiatives to strengthen public legal awareness. These activities emphasize innovative and interactive learning and help build a common culture of values and knowledge around justice and collaboration between different groups.

To promote the aims of justice sector reform in the country and in achieving the broader goals of SDG 16, UNDP facilitated the establishment of the National Coordinating Body for the RoLC and Justice Sector Affairs and 14 subnational committees which have started to develop and coordinate an inclusive national justice sector reform strategy. Eighteen universities have started implementing clinical legal education to enhance practical skills and understanding of social justice issues. UNDP contributed to enhancing understanding of the practice of democratic governance and the implications of rule of law.



The Rule of Law centres took outreach and legal education activities to remote areas in Myanmar.



Improving legal knowledge and access to services

As a result of the initiatives, justice sector actors are now more open to discussing and engaging in reform activities. Ongoing reforms include judicial integrity, with the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union and the Union Attorney General's Office now having draft codes of conduct. In addition, RoLC trainees now support communities in taking cases through the formal justice system. Sixty hundred and four judges, law officers and court staff across Myanmar, including 227 women, have deepened their knowledge of rule of law, human rights, fair trial rights and gender, as a result of 27 two-day training sessions delivered by UNDP as part of its support to the justice sector's capacity development. The training programme started in 2016 and continued until the end of 2017 with six additional trainings which will be conducted in Mon and Kayin States. Training activities were held in Yangon, Taunggyi, Mandalay and Myitkyina – all locations with Rule of Law Centres.

To ensure addressing the empowerment and capacity-building of women, The RoLC project has a commitment to ensuring gender balance with at least 50 percent women in the teams at all four centres. The project is consistently exceeding this target with women constituting 67 percent of the staff at each centre; and recorded 62 percent of those benefitting from the training course as women in Phase 1. In Phase 2, which began in July 2016, women comprised 62 percent of the 877 participants while men made up 38 percent.

Going forward, the RoLC project will continue to increase citizen's knowledge of legal rights, enhancing ability for legal and administrative professionals to provide access to justice, and improve dialogue between governmental and non-governmental actors to solve justice issues.



“As a law teacher, I teach procedural law. I can now verify that the Centre's courses are very useful as I have personally attended them. It's great to be able to guide the students in new ways to improve their legal skills and rule of law knowledge. The teaching style of this training is really effective for the students.” –

DAW PHYU PHYU THIN

Assistant Lecturer, Law Department, Dagon University:

Promoting social cohesion in Myanmar

As a country undergoing change and grappling with multiple socio-ethnic-religious differences amongst its people, there is a pressing need to create and sustain a cohesive society equipped to withstand and embrace the changes and challenges ahead. It is critical that across Myanmar's society, particularly at the local level, social cohesion becomes an integral component of policies, strategies and programs to manage conflict, to build peace and democratic governance, and to develop the country in an equitable and inclusive manner. Local governments, civil society, non-state actors, media and the people of Myanmar all have important roles to play in shifting cultural norms and creating a public consciousness that recognizes the many commonalities shared between diverse groups.

As part of its efforts to promote social cohesion in Myanmar, UNDP facilitated a study visit for a five-member delegation from the Myanmar Government to Indonesia in February 2014. During their visit, the delegation of a Deputy Minister for Border Affairs and three Ministers from Rakhine State Government, had discussions with a wide range of Indonesia stakeholders from government and civil society, both at the national and provincial level, and exchanged ideas and information on many issues relating to social cohesion and peace building.

In January 2015, UNDP and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) launched an 18-month process to increase capacities for social cohesion in Myanmar. As a result, the six-day foundation course reached 1,350 people from government, non-state actors, and civil society in six states. It increased their abilities to bridge gaps and improved the way they themselves work together.

Cohesion is a result of partnerships

In partnership with over 35 non-governmental organizations in the country, UNDP is supporting the livelihood and social cohesion needs of communities by providing them with social protection assistance as well as, grants for agriculture, livestock and micro-enterprises, vocational training, community mobilization, training and infrastructure. The work aims to strengthen community cohesion by reducing socio-economic disparities and vulnerabilities and strengthening community networks and relations.

UNDP helped improve livelihoods which, in turn, increased social cohesion in seven ceasefire and high poverty areas in Myanmar. The strengthened livelihoods contributed to improved social cohesion in the communities. Community infrastructure projects which benefit lives are managed jointly by several neighboring communities in conflict areas and serve as catalysts for inter-community interaction, fostering communal relations. Over 82 percent of households reported an increase in opportunities for interaction between different communities, an increase from a baseline of 46.5 percent of households in 2015.

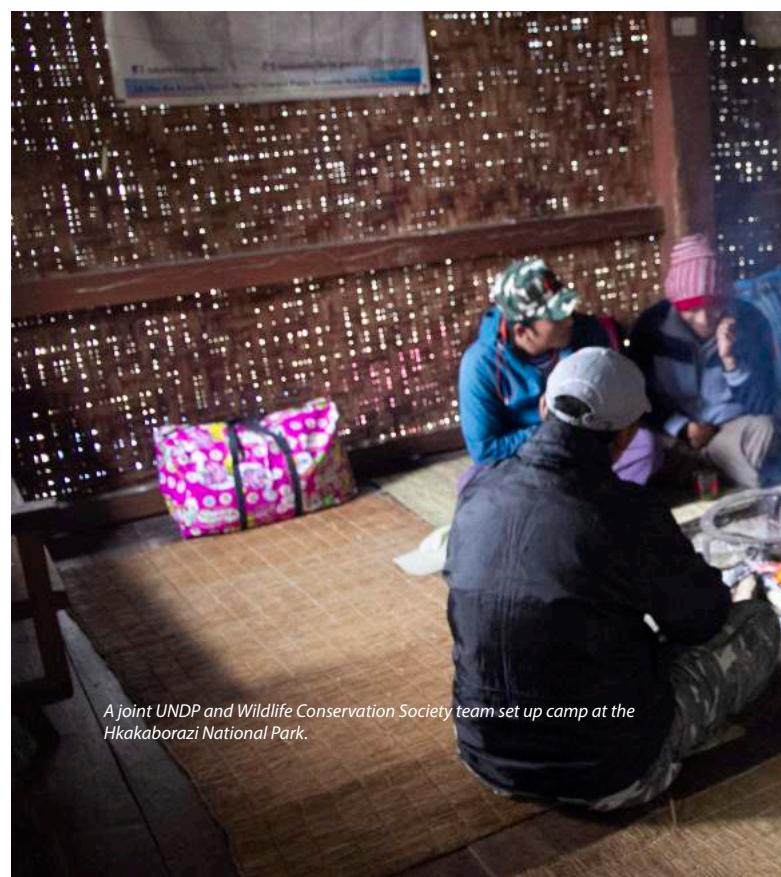
Building citizen's capacity for cohesion

At the heart of this process are 40 trainers and six Civil Society Organization (CSO) partners from Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Shan States, that make up the project's Community of Practice (CoP). Members of the CoP have, in turn, organized and facilitated the social cohesion course and conducted additional workshops for their organizations and communities over a period of 18 months in 2016-17.

The trainings covered concepts, skills and tools for social cohesion and gave participants opportunities to test their knowledge. In one activity, participants were asked to analyze a dispute among neighbouring villages using conflict analysis tools. They identified the lack of water as a root cause of a conflict and shared ideas on what kind of intervention could help the situation. In another activity, participants designed a community dialogue process and used dialogue facilitation skills to mediate a conflict between the community, the local government representative and a development agency.

An example of cohesion where it is needed: Rakhine

In 2016, UNDP's community social cohesion building approach saw some modest success in Rakhine State. Over 17,000 flood and conflict affected Muslims (52% women) in Rakhine saw their access to livelihoods, markets and services improved via inter-community cooperation for rehabilitation of local infrastructure. Seventy percent of the 15,458 people (51% women) benefitted from livelihoods assistance also reported increased income levels. The strengthened social cohesion skills of 1,063 people (51% women) from government, NGOs and CSOs resulted in 97 percent reporting successful application of new skills in their activities and work.



A joint UNDP and Wildlife Conservation Society team set up camp at the Hkakaborazi National Park.

Climate and Disaster Resilience

Developing both clean and supportive environments

The Government of Myanmar recognizes the importance to safeguard the environment and its natural resources for everyone's economic development and benefit. Myanmar possesses an abundance of natural capital which provides significant benefits to its people. From farmers in the agricultural sector to others' livelihoods which depend on natural resources, much of Myanmar's society and economy requires a clean and healthy ecosystem. However, deforestation, mangrove loss, the illegal wildlife trade and air and water quality deterioration place ongoing threats to Myanmar's natural capital, and ultimately, its own people.

In 1994, Myanmar developed a National Environmental Policy (NEP) to integrate environmental governance into the national economic development programme. From 2013, UNDP's technical support to strengthen environmental governance and disaster management institutions has supported integrating environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national policies. Since 2015, UNDP has been supporting the government of Myanmar to formulate a new NEP 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.

A New National Environmental Policy

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide internationally-agreed targets that support the NEP. Thus, putting the NEP into place will in turn ensure that Myanmar makes progress in meeting the SDGs. Specifically, the new NEP, which was finalized in 2016, will assist the SDGs that address poverty and inequality, healthy lives and wellbeing, water and sanitation, energy, consumption and production, and inclusiveness, as well as those directly focused on climate change, natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity. It will guide ministries, civil society, private sector and development partners in mainstreaming environmental considerations into development sectors.

The National Environmental Strategic Framework, developed in 2016, involved events in five states and regions and with representation from the --government, parliament, private sector, and local and international organizations (including indigenous communities and women's networks). The final draft of the Strategic Framework was produced following consideration of the extensive inputs provided during consultations and has been submitted to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) for its final review before undergoing the formal approval process. The next stage of this assistance is the preparation of the first National Environmental Master Plan, which will establish detailed activities for implementation of the National Environmental Policy and Strategic Framework over the next five years.

On the ground at the local level, the 5-year Action Plan for Inle Lake Conservation (2015-16 to 2019-20) was prepared with the support of UNDP and Norway and a knowledge exchange with other Asian countries on natural lake management was organized for Inle Lake stakeholders. Inle lake conservation is impacted by environmental degradation including depletion of forests caused by intensive use of firewood by communities. In 2015, UNDP supported 90 households running small cottage industries in 6 villages in the Inle Lake area to use efficient mega stoves, and also trained the communities on making stoves.

The establishment of the Inle Lake Authority and the Inle Lake Conservation 5 Year Action Plan provides the basis for continuation of activities led by the government, with participation of CSOs and



citizens. The mandate of the Lake Authority includes formulating policy, instructions and directives for the lake conservation, supervising, monitoring and coordinating with departments and communities, and management of the Lake Conservation Trust Fund. The Lake Authority started functioning in 2015 and has undertaken lake conservation activities.

With UNDP and UNESCO support, Inle Lake was inscribed as the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Reserve at the 27th Session of MAB International Coordinating Council meetings on 9 June 2015.

Environmental assessments

The UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) Project facilitated a multi-stakeholder process for 'integrated assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts of mining' in the Mandalay Region during 2017. A task force approved by the Minister of MONREC has been established and is tasked with overseeing an assessment of social, economic and environmental impacts from mining activities in two townships in Mandalay. Task force members include officials from 10 different government departments, five representatives from the Mandalay branch of the Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA) network of civil society organizations working on natural resource governance issues, and 5 private sector representatives from the Mandalay arm of the Myanmar Federation of Mining Associations (MFMA). During the

first taskforce meeting held in March 2017, members reached an agreement on the planned methodology of the assessment, the mine sites and communities to be visited, key informants to be contacted, the kinds of research to be employed and the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholder groups. In May 2017, the assessment began with the first field visit, followed by the second and final visits in late October. With the visits completed, the environmental testing of air and water quality, and qualitative research through open forums with businesses in Singu and Kyakse Townships and communities in three villages was finalized. A final report was submitted to the Department of Mines at the end of 2017.

Partners in disaster management

UNDP's inputs into Myanmar's Disaster Management Law—the first legal instruments for disaster management in Myanmar, ensure the integration of women's vulnerability and capacity in disaster management. Trainings and implementation of project activities have been provided to the beneficiaries of which 30 percent were women. As a result, the role of women in implementing environmental conservation and development activities are gradually accepted and encouraged as they effectively continued applying the knowledge gained from the project. Through the establishment of a nation-wide disaster damage and loss database, UNDP supported the development of national capacities for a better understanding of disaster risks, and the application of risk information in policy and decision-



A farmer in the Mandalay Region at the end of a day's work after ploughing his fields.

making/planning. The data collection systems for past and future disaster data were developed in consultation with concerned departments. The focal department is now undertaking data inventory of the loss and damage data of small or major disasters reported by the states/regions. Collection of past data for 15 years and beyond is in process.

UNDP also supported the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in developing a Disaster Loss and Damage Database System, and trained government staff on its use, such as data collection, processing and generating risk information and analysis required for disaster management planning. UNDP also partnered with the same ministry in starting the National Disaster Reduction Youth Volunteer Strategy and Action Plan in 2015.

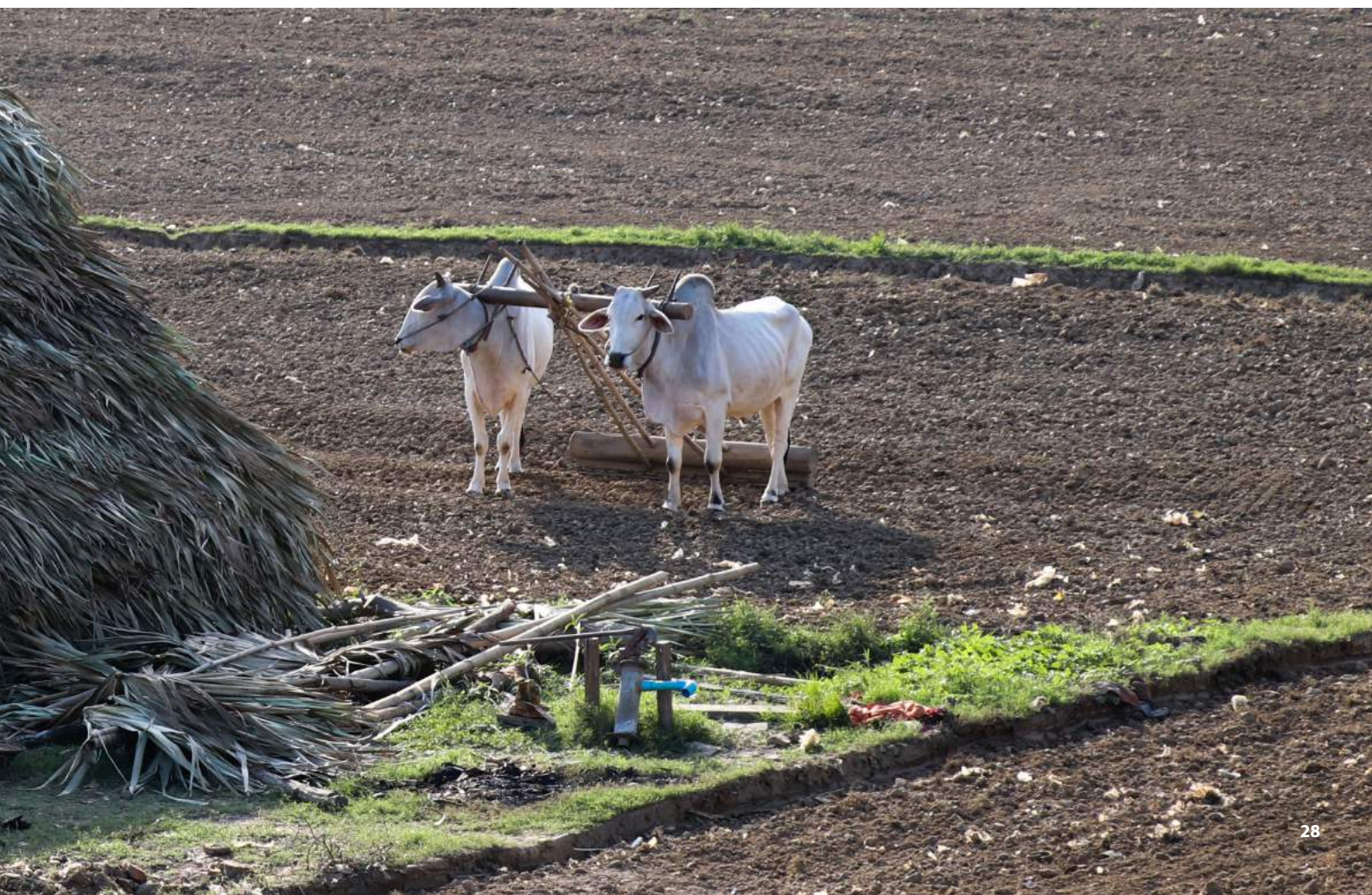
UNDP responding to and delivering action at times of need

In the second half of 2015, UNDP was front and centre after large parts of the country were affected by the floods. UNDP was the lead agency in the UN system, closely partnering with the government's Recovery Coordination Centre, for undertaking relief, recovery and rehabilitation needs assessments and helping to coordinate activities across ministries, between national and local authorities, in partnership with private sector, civil society and international actors. In addition, UNDP provided direct livelihoods support to thousands of households in Rakhine and Chin States, where the disaster's impact was most severely felt. UNDP supported the development of the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) through a review and

identification of national/local needs and priorities through a consultative process. The action plan has been drafted through a series of inclusive national and sub-national consultations. This is important as resources are better leveraged through an integrated and multi-stakeholder approach. The MAPDRR was launched with UNDP's support in October 2017.

The action plan is forward looking, setting overall targets along with indicators for 2030. It has identified the particular needs of vulnerable groups such as women, people with disabilities, children and the aged, as they are the ones most often adversely- affected by disasters. A significant by-product of the action plan, The Myanmar Disaster Loss and Damage Database, is regularly updated to record disaster-related impact and is available online at www.mdld-rrd.gov.mm.

Disaster risk and natural resource management are critical determinants of sustainable development. Environmental conservation is among the 8 priorities of the GoM's rural development policy and UNDP remains committed to help Myanmar build its capacities and implement policies for disaster risk reduction and environmental governance for the sake of every citizen.



Gender Equality



"I am now a 10-person household head. I would like to become a Village Tract Administrator and help to address women's needs better."

MDK Board Member Daw Nyo Nyo San, from Naung Cho Township

May Doe Kabar- Giving voices to women

Women increasingly face resistance both from within their families and from others in their communities as they push the boundaries of their gender roles and responsibilities in social, political and economic life in Myanmar. UNDP's partnerships with women's networks in the country have empowered and enabled poor, rural women because women who can control their own income feel more empowered than those who do not.

During the Human Development Initiative period (prior to 2013), UNDP helped set up self-help women's groups in villages across Myanmar. These groups, which were based on a revolving community fund mechanism, continued functioning when the HDI project finished. In 2015, over 2000 such groups federated into 31 Township Leading Groups and were registered as civil society organisations. The Township Leading Groups further federated at the national level and formed May Doe Kabar – the Myanmar Rural Women's Network. Launched on the International Day of Rural Women, 15 October, 2015, May Doe Kabar aims to advocate rural women's rights and increase services and assistance to community. It brings together more than 20,000 members in 2,000 villages in 31 townships in the Delta, Dry Zone, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States of the country.

A Network by Women, for Women

The network is one of several women's networks in Myanmar, however it is recognised as the largest network in the country representing rural women. MDK has an elected board to which UNDP has been providing secretariat support. Since its creation, MDK and UNDP have helped organize relief for flood victims, raised awareness and provided support to victims of gender-based violence and even launched an app for women: the iWomen – Inspiring Women App, dedicated to the informational, educational and networking needs of rural women. The App, the first of its kind in Myanmar, is now routinely accessed by over 10,000 users all over the country.



With UNDP's support, women-headed households have found a way to earn more money raising climate resilient animals.

Harnessing technology to improve livelihoods

The app has functions which bolsters rural women's confidence and gives them instant access to knowledge and the opportunity to communicate, learn from and help each other. For example, "Be Inspired" is a mentoring function that shows successful women's achievements. May Doe Kabar members felt that the more that rural women saw the variety of ways that women can live successful lives by reading other women's experiences, the more they will be inspired to try something new and to succeed.

As a result of UNDP support, women members of Township Leading Groups (TLGs) and MDK have been able to take part in activities for shaping the national agenda on the role of women in peace and security. In fact in 2017, 44 percent of MDK leaders declared that they often get invited to local government meetings at the township level. MDK members who were not confident in expressing their ideas and feelings in public decreased from 21 percent in 2013 to just 3 percent in 2017.

UNDP and MDK Facilitating Gender Equality

At the policy level, the program brought attention to women's unequal status in accessing finance and the low levels of their participation in local governance. MDK has literally opened the floodgates, driving greater engagement and results regarding gender equality in governance. A case in point lies in the fact that promoting rural women's leadership and their participation in Village Tract Administrator (VTA) elections significantly increased female VTA election results in 2016, as the number participating increased 100 percent - from 42 to 84.

Building on a solid foundation for the future

In 2016, senior volunteers and iWomen teams rehearsed role plays and dialogues which used to engage with rural women and inspire them to become iWomen App and technology champions in their villages. Some dialogues worked to debunk the myth in rural areas that the internet is evil and connecting to it might be dangerous for the entire village.

Volunteers who have travelled to the remote mountainous area of Chin and Kachin State struggled with low level of internet connectivity and local dialects; volunteers who travelled to the southern regions of Ayeyarwady and Mon State found that poor rural women are still afraid of connecting to the internet.

Despite the many challenges, all the 40 iWomen volunteers accomplished the following in less than one week: 26 iWomen App and technology sessions across eight states and regions, 1500 IT literacy booklets distributed, 800 new iWomen users, 2,000 rural women can now master mobile and Internet technology and are inspired to become iWomen App and technology champions in their villages. Although challenges still remain going forward, the future for women's equality is slowly but surely coming out of the dark in Myanmar.

Members of May Doe Kabar, the Myanmar Rural Women's Network which brings together over 20,000 members from across eight states and regions.



3 SCALING UP TO MEET MYANMAR'S ASPIRATIONS



Access to water remains a challenge in many parts in Myanmar.

Democratic Governance and Peace Building

UNDP Myanmar's Civil Service Reform Agenda

Since the transition to the new government in late March 2016, several positive developments have taken place in the area of democratic reform; there is, however, a need for continued institutional strengthening and state building.

Myanmar has about 900,000 civil servants working in government ministries and departments, at both the Union and state levels. Many are on low salaries and prone to bribery. Myanmar's civil service today remains largely supply-driven and lacking a clear people-centred service culture.

Despite an overall promotion of the principles of meritocracy, fairness and accountability through existing rules and regulations, these principles have remained relatively limited in their practical application, as demonstrated in the 2016 Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) -UNDP Perception Survey on Ethics, Meritocracy and Equal Opportunities. However, the launch of the Civil Service Reform (CSR) Strategic Action Plan (2017-2020) in July 2017 marked a big step towards transforming and modernizing the civil service to foster a people-centred service culture. Public administration and civil service reforms are both highly sensitive and relevant to a broader agenda such as peace, as they touch on the core mandate, functions and governance of state institutions; and on the distribution of powers between union and state level governments. Clear responsibilities, rules and regulations for the functioning of the government are needed to enable Myanmar's public servants effectively carry out their mandates at the union and state levels.

The UCSB, the body that performs most civil service management functions at national level- with UNDP support, held numerous national and regional consultation workshops between 2016 and 2017, concerning the reform of the civil service, inviting stakeholders from both governmental and non-governmental organizations. The government has also drafted a logistical framework detailing actions and measures to reform the civil services. Most of these actions are focused on conducting pilot studies, creating policy recommendations, and reviewing the civil service personal law, as well as bylaws, rules and codes of conduct.

Myanmar's new Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan, developed by the Union Civil Service Board with the technical assistance of UNDP, is the outcome of nine months of consultations with the public and the country's civil society to discuss the

public sector's current challenges. At the launch of the plan in Nay Pyi Taw in July 2017, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the era of shirking tasks and lifetime tenure was incompatible with the country's new democratic direction.

The plan aims to make the civil service more ethical, more diverse, and better equipped to address the complex challenges confronting Myanmar. The plan has four key aims: to develop new civil service governance; uphold merit-based and performance-driven cultures and systems; enhance people-centred civil service leadership and capacity development; and improve transparency and accountability within the service.

UNDP's ongoing support in reform

With technical support from UNDP, the UCSB conducted the 2016 UCSB-UNDP Perception Survey on Ethics, Meritocracy and Equal Opportunities in the Myanmar Civil Service and held consultations on the draft action plan. It is being followed up every two years.

Also in 2016, gender equality and women's empowerment was incorporated into the draft action plan. By supporting its implementation, UNDP contributed to achieving the National Strategic Action Plan for the Advancement of Women objective to enhance women's representation in decision making.



A student raises a question on the Sustainable Development Goals at a guest lecture by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner at the Yangon University of Economics.

Additionally, in 2016, civil servants gained knowledge on Rule of Law, Women's Rights and Equality. Through regularly scheduled training to new recruits and current civil servants at the Union Civil Service Board, UNDP delivered the Rule of Law in Public Administration module to senior, executive and mid-level civil service managers in order to increase their knowledge and awareness of women's rights and equality. The training was delivered to a total of 168 persons (including 54 women).

Developing motivation in the civil service

To further develop the capacity of the civil service in the country, UNDP's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (GCPSE) based in Singapore, organized the 'Knowledge Forum on Public Service Motivation' in Nay Pyi Taw in July 2017. The Forum disseminated knowledge and engaged global practitioners in Myanmar and from across ASEAN and scholars, in discussions about the issues of motivation, integrity, meritocracy and equal opportunities in support of civil service transformation and modernization.

The outcomes coming out of the Forum were a raised national and global awareness level amongst stakeholders on the action plan. Also, a significant contribution was made to the knowledge base on research and analysis on Motivation, Employee Engagement and Leadership Development. The Forum also led to the creation of an exchange on lessons learned on Intrinsic Motivation among ASEAN member states and between ASEAN and the international community as part of Myanmar's ASEAN Civil Service Matters' Resource Centre (ARC) focus area on 'Public Service Motivation'.

Through UNDP's assistance the untapped resource of intrinsic motivation in public officials can help strengthen public sector reform and performance. It will also support Myanmar in its successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Strengthening Governance at the Local Level

Myanmar has undergone significant changes with regard to its socio-economic landscape. Although the government's reform process has started relatively recently, encouraging signs in terms of improved governance can be seen. The GoM's Framework for Economic and Social Reforms has stated the need for people-centred development through civic participation, clean government and greater autonomy for state/regional government in Myanmar. The GoM, along with UNDP's support, has initiated steps to realise these ambitions.

Transparency and accountability of government are integral to democratic societies. As a result of the reforms put in place in recent years, the Myanmar government has expressed its willingness and commitment to become more accountable to the people and increase transparency.

To this end, in 2013, UNDP and the General Administration Department (GAD) under the Ministry of Home Affairs conducted a local governance mapping exercise across Myanmar to report on the state of local governance in all 14 states and regions. Concluded in February 2015, the overall objective was to provide an overview of people's perceptions on the quality of governance and in service delivery for the period between December 2013 and January 2015. The mapping exercise provided gender-disaggregated data within local governance across the country and showed that women were underrepresented in local governance structures. Subsequently, support to Township Leading Groups (TLGs) focused on women's leadership and empowerment, reaching out to 20,000 rural women.

TLGs provide training and coaching services and advocate in support of rural women's rights with local authorities. With UNDP support, 97 percent of the TLGs have secured their official registration with local authorities and play a role as partners in local governance. According to the Social Recognition Index created by the LGP, 48 percent of TLGs are now enjoying a high level of recognition in their communities while none had reached that level in 2013.

Improved service delivery

In 2015, the findings of the local governance mapping contributed to the development of the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) service provision initiative by the government to improve local level public service delivery, coordination, transparency and information sharing. UNDP helped strengthen good local governance practices by piloting an inclusive township planning



model involving local administrators, department heads, MPs and civil society. UNDP helped strengthen local level service delivery, providing 1,488,734 administrative services in 2016 as a result of the OSS project.

UNDP-supported civil society networks have uplifted citizen engagement through joint forums in six states and 14 townships, involving over 1,900 people (40 percent women). UNDP also supported the design and roll out of a model social cohesion foundation course to 1,063 (52 percent women) government, non-state actors and civil society staff through a joint training mechanism, resulting in 97 percent participants applying social cohesion skills in their work and 89 percent reporting improved trust.

Increasing self-reliance and empowering women

UNDP has been supporting a network of 2,000 local self-reliance groups (SRGs) representing over 20,000 women, enabling SRGs to federate into 31 township Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Also in 2015, UNDP supported 31 local women's CSOs across Myanmar with training on leadership, governance and organizational capacity development, and small grants. These groups came together and formed May Doe Kabar – Myanmar Rural Women's Network in 2015.

During 2016, UNDP's work in this area was dedicated to improving gender equality in administration and local governance and awareness of the importance of gender equality for increased development. Much focus was placed in creating greater

knowledge on how to develop gender sensitive policies among key government officials and decision makers.

The Township Democratic Local Governance Project (TDLG)

The TDLG project strengthens existing institutional systems, structures and processes by working directly with township administrations, Ward/Village Tract Administrators (W/VTA), Hluttaw members and civil society representatives, including women. The project has provided significant capacity development and on-the-job support to township administrations.

The project provides concrete opportunities for citizens in townships through W/VTAs (as their elected representatives). The TDLG project is guided by the principles of the 2030 Agenda, on a leave-no-one behind, human-rights based approach, incorporating conflict sensitivity and promoting the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.

Through this project, the capacities of local government institutions and civil society are being enhanced in order for better services to be made available to the people of Myanmar. The project has successfully contributed to peace building and social cohesion through direct livelihood support in remote and high poverty areas and for communities emerging from conflict. Through further efforts in this area in strengthening state institutions that enact genuine representation which includes all sectors of society, it is envisioned that the agenda of good governance can be further strengthened in Myanmar.



A traditional snack made from beans drying out in the sun in Taunggyi. The snacks were prepared by women who benefitted from clean stoves provided by UNDP.

Climate and Disaster Resilience



"In 2015, I was able to produce 50 baskets or approximately 1,045 kilograms of rice. With the additional water from Kin Tat canal, I will be able to produce an additional 120 baskets of rice. I am very happy that UNDP and the Government are making this possible for me."

U Aung Myint, farmer of 20 acres of paddy land in Nyaung Yin Gone in Shwebo township in Sagaing Regio.

Addressing and Adapting to Climate Change in Myanmar: The Climate Adaptation Fund

In many countries within Southeast Asia, not only in Myanmar, the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent. Temperatures are increasing and sea levels are rising. Rainy seasons are no longer arriving at the times locals are accustomed to and amounts of rainfall are often unpredictable.

Rural communities are acutely aware of these climatic changes. However, oftentimes they are ill-equipped to adapt. Consequently, poor farmers across the region are struggling to make ends meet. Climate change is expected to make farmers and their families' hardships worse.

The Dry Zone in Myanmar is home to no less than 34 percent of the country's total population. Water scarcity, resulting from droughts is the biggest threat to livelihoods in this area. A majority of the households spend most of their time and effort fetching water for drinking and other uses, depriving them of income generating opportunities.

In 2015, the Myanmar Government– with support from the Adaptation Fund and UNDP, launched a project to provide vulnerable farmers with the resources, knowledge and tools they need to support good harvests, despite unpredictable weather patterns. The US\$7.90 million, four-year project, "Addressing Climate Change Risk on Water Resources and Food Security in the Dry Zone of Myanmar," has significantly improved communities' access to freshwater, agricultural practices, the diversification of income sources and the involvement of communities in accessing long term solutions for improved lives.



Improved livestock practices

Under the project, families are being supported through the formation of "livestock banking systems" where groups are formed in which members receive livestock. They raise the animals and can then sell them when the market price doubles or triples. They then pay back in cash what the animals were worth when bought. With the money returned, the group is able to distribute new livestock to new members.

Livestock banking groups also keep ledgers with records of who receives which animals and how much has been paid back. Basic financial literacy and project/group management training is one of the added-value benefits of UNDP's inputs into this project; with newly attained skills, some groups have started lending collective savings to members at a lower interest rate than local money lenders, an added bonus to rural farmers and their families.



A farmer in Nyaung U with goats that have been specially bred to withstand high temperatures.

Evidenced improvement in adapting to challenges

Since inception, communities in the Dry Zone are seeing tangible benefits. Water capture and storage capacity has been enhanced, benefiting nearly 30,000 households in the region. Over 70 community ponds are now able to store a larger volume of rain water in the dry season of each year. Forty-five diversion canals have been constructed to better manage the flow of the water to those in need. With UNDP assistance, farmers are now rearing climate resistant goats, pigs and poultry, while others are planting climate resistant pulses and other crops, moving away from mono-crop practices.

In addition, over 4,000 hectares of 'micro-watersheds' have been protected and rehabilitated with the leadership of farmers, increasing natural water retention and reducing erosion. Drought-resilient farming methods, including mixed cropping, use of drought-resilient seeds, drip irrigation, post-harvest storage, and seed multiplication have been introduced to approximately 6,000 subsistence farmers.

With one year left in the project, a reduction in the vulnerability and increased adaptive capacity of communities in the Dry Zone through improved water management and crop and livestock adaptation is expected to reduce food insecurity and losses from extreme climate events in more than 50,000 households.

Financial Resources

During 2013-2017, UNDP received support from a number of key partners to implement its country programme. A total of US\$120.48 million was received during this period, and UNDP Myanmar delivered US\$107.54 million, representing 93 percent of the 2013-2017 budget.

Table 2: 2013-2017 Contributions, Budget and Expenditure

| Development Partner | 2013-2017 Contribution Received (US\$) | % of Contribution | 2013-2017 Budget (US\$) | 2013-2017 Expenditure (US\$) | Delivery Rate % |
|---|--|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | <i>a</i> | <i>b</i> | <i>c</i> | <i>d</i> | <i>d/c</i> |
| UNDP Core Resources | 41,723,194 | 34.6 | 41,723,184 | 39,956,695 | 96 |
| Japan | 15,266,328 | 12.7 | 15,074,236 | 15,074,236 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | 9,198,760 | 7.6 | 8,918,956 | 8,058,284 | 90 |
| Global Environment Facility/ Adaptation Fund | 7,865,188 | 6.5 | 7,865,188 | 7,869,985 | 100 |
| Sweden | 7,810,315 | 6.5 | 7,959,914 | 7,332,602 | 92 |
| UNOPS – Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund ** | 7,162,896 | 6.0 | 8,353,105 | 7,162,896 | 86 |
| UNDP Trust/Thematic Funds* | 6,744,066 | 5.6 | 4,484,530 | 3,419,146 | 76 |
| Finland | 6,702,496 | 5.6 | 7,000,890 | 6,647,517 | 95 |
| Denmark | 4,188,672 | 3.5 | 4,284,352 | 4,174,825 | 97 |
| Australia | 3,859,870 | 3.2 | 4,085,091 | 3,684,650 | 90 |
| Norway | 2,511,327 | 2.1 | 2,177,250 | 2,014,087 | 93 |
| Switzerland* | 2,461,737 | 2.0 | 727,593 | 625,890 | 86 |
| UNOPS- Joint Peace Fund | 2,000,000 | 1.7 | 1,250,372 | 208,456 | 17 |
| UN Peacebuilding Fund* | 1,654,548 | 1.4 | 844,485 | 844,485 | 100 |
| European Union* | 728,100 | 0.6 | 118,211 | 91,866 | 78 |
| UN Agencies | 598,519 | 0.5 | 420,018 | 370,915 | 88 |
| Total | 120,476,016 | 100 | 115,287,375 | 107,536,535 | 93 |

*Contribution received during 2013-2017 not fully utilised and will be carried over for future years.

** Contribution received prior to 2013, but utilized in 2013

Table 3: Expenditure by Country Programme Outcome 2013-2017

| Outcome | Expenditure (US\$ '000) | % of Expenditure |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Local Governance | 52,105 | 48 |
| Environment & Disaster Resilience | 17,188 | 16 |
| Democratic Governance | 38,243 | 36 |
| TOTAL | 107,536 | 100 |

Annex 1: List of Acronyms

| | |
|---------|--|
| ACDM: | ASEAN Committee 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 |
| MAPDRR: | Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| MCCDDM: | Myanmar Consortium for Capacity Development on Disaster Management |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| WCS: | Wildlife Conservation Society |



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