

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT  
UNDP MYANMAR**

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# Abbreviations

- ASEAN: Association of South East Asian Nations
- CESVI: Cooperazione e Sviluppo [Cooperation and Development in English]
- COVID-19: Coronavirus 2019 - a respiratory illness caused by SARS-CoV-2
- GDP: Gross Domestic Product
- GIZ: German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation
- HDI: Human Development Index
- HR: Human Resources
- ICT: Information and Communication Technology
- MP: Member of parliament
- Oxfam: Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
- REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
- SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
- UN: United Nations
- UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
- UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
- UN-Habitat: United Nations Human Settlement Programme
- UNHCR: United Nations High Commission for Refugees
- UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
- US: United States
- US\$: United States Dollar

# Highlights 2019



*corruption prevention  
units are now established*



*New laws passed to  
protect Lake Inle*

**2.5k**

*people interviewed about  
their experience with the  
civil service*



**13,000**

*villagers in Mon State  
benefitted from recent  
flood mitigation measures*

**80k** *in Rakhine  
assisted with*

*irrigation*  
*solar powered  
drying facilities*  
*marketing &  
business skills*  
*home gardening*



*The government unveiled  
its national earthquake  
response plan*

*Front  
cover graphic  
is based around  
a traditional  
Myanmar  
parasol.  
Design: Damian  
Kean. Inside  
front and rear  
cover photo:  
Jose  
Arraiza*

# Foreword

At the time of writing this 2019 Annual Report, we are several months into the COVID-19 pandemic. In a short amount of time, the UNDP office, the Government of Myanmar and indeed the whole world has had to learn how to live and work in a new and challenging environment.

Before the outbreak – our expectations were quite different to what they are today. For example, the prospects for economic growth in Myanmar were high, with GDP expected to grow by 6.4 percent between 2019 and 2020. Six months into the pandemic, it seems likely that GDP will in fact fall by half a percent.

Looking to 2019, and with the hindsight of 2020, it is clear that this virus will exacerbate poverty. COVID-19 has highlighted how important it is to understand the most vulnerable in Myanmar. And it has driven home the importance of developing policies that protect the poor.

UNDP in Myanmar has had to reflect on how we can continue to be relevant in this 'new' world. We've reviewed the investments we made in 2019 - and together with our international and national partners, we continue to adapt, build resilience and grow stronger.

For example, we continue to promote access to more inclusive and gender-responsive justice. This has meant expanding mobile legal clinics and referral networks to ensure vulnerable people receive legal assistance. Local media campaigns on gender based violence, land rights, corruption and human rights, continue to inform those in need.

Working with parliaments, the human rights commission and the anti-corruption commission at union, state and regional levels, we have continued to invest in information technology that is helping representatives to remain engaged with political developments, carry out business virtually and keep in touch with their constituents through the pandemic.

In 2019, our township level governance programme helped multiple communities with fiscal decentralization, improved inclusive and participatory engagement, expanded service delivery and drove local policy change. For instance, in Bago, the regional government allocated, for the first time, local development funds through a 'citizen budget' based on a model



developed by UNDP – and in Rakhine State the government approved the expansion of the programme to more townships.

In Myanmar, UNDP continues to support the government's efforts to tackle climate change. Our teams persist in strengthening environmental protection, better managing land and forests, and overseeing the country's protected areas through new polices, laws and regulations.

In 2019, UNDP continued its technical support in the development of Myanmar's REDD+ Strategy that provides a long-term plan to address deforestation. This includes helping to develop guidelines that respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Another significant achievement of 2019 was the passing of a law in Shan State to improve environmental protection and coordination for Myanmar's treasured Inle Lake.

UNDP continued to deliver assistance through our Rakhine area-based development programme. Our livelihood activities had reached more than 80,000 people there by the end of 2019. More than 10,000 people have now received UNDP supported legal assistance on a range of topics including housing, land and property rights. We are training paralegals and have established mobile legal clinics that now provide assistance across most of Rakhine state.

As part of UNDP's response to COVID-19 in Myanmar, we have provided technical leadership - working with the United Nations Resident Coordinator to develop a socio-economic response plan. It is our intention to support the Government of Myanmar to return the country to the path of sustainable development as this crisis eases, supporting the most vulnerable – and working closely with the government and other partners. Ultimately, I am confident that we can bring lasting peace, stability and prosperity for all people of this country.

I would like to extend our appreciation to our partners in Myanmar.

**Dawn Del Rio , Officer-in-Charge/Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Myanmar**



# STRATEGIC FOCUS



# The UNDP Myanmar Country Programme

**UNDP partners with the government of Myanmar, civil society organizations (ethnic organizations), local authorities and communities. We work to foster inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and peace, help the country transition to a more open economy, support democratic accountable institutions, peace and human rights, and alleviate poverty.**

## ***Myanmar's development context***

Recent years have seen improvements in Myanmar, with the number of people living in poverty halving since 2005.

Multiple challenges remain. Approximately one quarter of the population is still considered poor, with the highest concentrations of poverty in rural areas – and urban poverty and inequality are rising.

At the same time, the country is emerging from more than 70 years of conflict between multiple ethnic and political groups. A succession of recent ceasefire agreements and political commitment by many ethnic armed organizations has sparked optimism. However – throughout 2019, armed conflict was still occurring in some parts of the country. In addition, recent armed conflict in Rakhine State has seen hundreds of thousands of people displaced from their homes, which remains a major impediment to sustainable development.

The current civilian government, formed in 2015 is committed to strengthening the country's democratic institutions by promoting accountability and transparency – and improving the delivery of services by building capacity in the civil service and justice sector. The government has also undertaken a process to amend the 2008 constitution.

Whilst economic growth remains strong, most foreign direct investment is concentrated in extractive industries, such as power, oil, gas and mining, which has both relatively limited job creation potential and poses long-term environmental risk. Myanmar's rich biodiversity and natural resources are under increasing pressure as the country develops. The effective management of the country's natural resources will be critical for maintaining sustainable economic growth. It is also central to the discussions on peace, considering that much of the country's mineral wealth is found in areas affected by conflict.

Myanmar also faces frequent disasters, which pose an increasing risk – exacerbated by the country's vulnerability to the climate crisis. In fact, Myanmar is the third most vulnerable country in the world to the impacts of climate change. More intense and more frequent floods, cyclones and droughts have caused loss of life, loss of livelihoods and damage to infrastructure and the economy. Much of the country's population and economic activities are concentrated in disaster risk-prone coastal areas and central dry zones, which have high levels of poverty and lower capacity to prepare or respond. Hence – disasters are a leading cause of people falling back into poverty. Earthquakes also pose a continued risk.

Despite progress, gender inequality continues to be prevalent in Myanmar and women continue to be under-represented in government and parliament – especially at senior levels – and in the public sphere in general. Women lag behind men in labour force participation and financial inclusion. Women and children in female-headed households are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

**135**  
ethnic groups

**US\$ 1,298**  
GDP/capita

**69**  **65**   
Life expectancy the  
lowest in Southeast Asia

Poverty  
has  
decreased  
**2005: 48%**  
**2019: 24%** 

UNDP  
supported first  
aid training  
is an important  
part of disaster  
preparedness.  
Photo: UNDP

## Approach

### Alignment with international and national plans

UNDP's work is aligned to the government's long-term vision for the country's transformation into a peaceful, prosperous and democratic nation – as expressed in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, which is itself rooted in all 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and 79 out of 169 SDG targets.

### Humanitarian, peace and development integration

More than a third of UNDP's programming focuses on the nexus between humanitarian, peace and development. We work in conflict-affected communities alongside humanitarian partners, supporting recovery and resilience based development. Our work addresses the root causes of displacement and vulnerability, to ensure that longer-term development is sustainable.

### Taking an area-based approach

UNDP works with multiple partners to prioritize development in specific geographic locations – where vulnerabilities are identified to be highest – according to criteria such as poverty levels, inequality, climate vulnerability and other peace and state building factors. This has led to the development of area-based projects, which focus on a range of activities in Rakhine and Kachin.

### Leaving no one behind

UNDP projects focus on strengthening the ability of the government to address the needs of the vulnerable. UNDP also works directly with communities to build their long-term resilience to shocks, such as by helping them to improve livelihoods. It also acts with civil society organizations to provide alternative voices/civic space - to foster accountability and transparency, and

*To ensure that UNDP's efforts are centred on the government's priorities, UNDP works to support it in achieving the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030), which is itself firmly aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.*

*The government's plan provides a roadmap for becoming a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic nation by the year 2030. It outlines strategies for achieving:*

- *Peace, national reconciliation, security and good governance*
- *Economic stability and strengthened macroeconomic management*
- *Job creation and private sector led growth*
- *Improved human resources and social development for the 21st Century society*
- *Improved natural resource and the environment management*

with ethnic armed organizations to ensure meaningful engagement in development projects in support of peace.

### Cross-cutting themes

UNDP in Myanmar works to ensure that all programmes take into account gender, conflict sensitivity, the rights of people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction.

### Our focus in Myanmar

UNDP is working with the government and other groups to address inequality, exclusion and vulnerability linked to conflict, climate change, disaster risk and natural resource management.

### Peace and governance

- Supporting ministries, union/regional parliaments, local level officials, and communities to be more conflict-sensitive.
- Working with the government to embed anti-corruption measures into the work of ministries and public administration.
- Strengthening the capacity of the union, regional and state Parliaments – to develop better laws, bolster human rights and engage with local constituents and civil society.
- Providing technical support and training to the Supreme Court of the Union, Attorney General's Office, National Human Rights Commission, civil society and other justice sector agencies to improve access to justice and awareness about human rights issues – especially for women and vulnerable people.
- Supporting the government in developing national and local development plans that contribute to sustainable development goals, as well as monitoring progress and implementation towards achieving these goals and targets.
- Supporting civil service reform.
- Standing ready to assist with the 2020 electoral processes - to support free speech and reduce electoral tensions through transparent processes.
- Strengthening the capacity of senior government leaders in insider mediation and consensus building skills.
- Working with ethnic armed organizations that are signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, alongside state and regional governments - to ensure meaningful engagement of all communities in development programming in the quest for peace dividends.

- Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to provide services to displaced people and other vulnerable groups - in legal aid awareness, social cohesion initiatives, access to housing, land and property rights, and the prevention of gender based violence.

### Planet and prosperity

- Providing support to the government to develop national policies on the environment, climate change, disaster management/ risk reduction, and the development of a green economy.
- Working with communities and the government to build resilience, and develop climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Strengthening the capacity of the government to better manage land and forests so as to reduce deforestation and degradation.
- Introducing measures to help vulnerable farmers diversify livelihoods (especially for female headed households) in poorer states and regions.
- Supporting the development and management of protected areas, and the conservation of ecosystems and wildlife through new laws, systems and tools. This includes ensuring communities have a voice and consent in the management of their own natural resources.
- Assisting the government to promote inclusive growth by improving economic policymaking, expanding entrepreneurial opportunities, and strengthening the financial inclusion capacity of authorities to work with small businesses
- Promoting sustainable energy alternatives – especially in rural areas.

#### *In Myanmar, UNDP works towards delivering:*

- *Better decisions and evidence-based policies made by more effective public institutions, the government and the civil service – that are more in tune with – and responsive to – the needs of the people*
- *Conflict sensitive sustainable development*
- *Better access to justice, enhanced protection of human rights and increased capacity in the justice system*
- *Better management of the environment and disaster risk*
- *Inclusive financial growth and employment creation*

**145th/189**  
HDI ranking

  
**130th/180**  
2019 Perception  
of Corruption  
index

  
**112/  
130**  
ranking for  
rule of law



# STRATEGIC RESULTS 2019



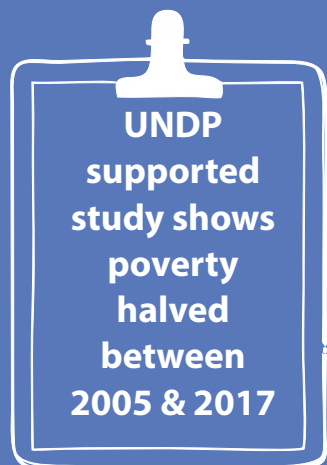
# Enhancing good governance and improving inclusive decision making

Implementing strong democratic governance that is inclusive, accountable, transparent, competent and evidence-based is critical to reducing poverty and achieving the sustainable development goals in all countries. Myanmar has the added challenge of on-going conflict. In Myanmar, building and sustaining long-term peace depends on bolstering confidence in the government, local and regional authorities, and building partnerships between the state and ethnic organizations (especially those that are signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, and civil society organizations).

In 2019 UNDP continued to assist Myanmar to develop more democratic and accountable institutions. UNDP provided support to strengthen the machinery of government and promote transparent and accountable systems that support effective service delivery.

## Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- Assisting the Central Statistical Organization to develop a national indicator framework that integrates the targets and goals of the sustainable development goals. This will be used to monitor the implementation of the government's Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.
- Contributing to the building of a new human resources management framework for the Myanmar Civil Service, including the amendment of the Union Civil Service Board Law.
- Adopting the first ever competency framework for the top ranks of the Myanmar civil servants and a tool kit for developing job descriptions, along with a senior and executive leadership development scheme and a new performance management system.
- In partnership with the World Bank, supporting the government with the publication of poverty and socio-economic reports, based on data from the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey. The reports present key poverty data for development planners and will be used to produce a number of indicators for the national indicator framework and inform development planning and policy-making.
- Supporting the government in conducting a nation-wide perception survey about citizens' level of satisfaction with public service delivery.



*Novice monks enjoy a break.  
Photo:  
Jose Arraiza.*

**2,500**  
people interviewed  
about their  
experience  
with the  
civil service





*Data collection for the living condition survey*

## Poverty in Myanmar has declined – but one in four still poor says new report

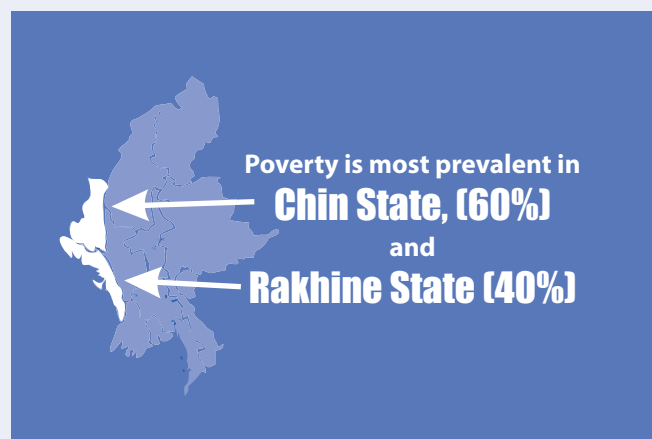
The share of the population in Myanmar living in poverty has halved from 48.2 percent in 2005 to 24.8 percent in 2017.

This is a key finding from a [report released in 2019 by the Central Statistical Organization, with technical support from UNDP and the World Bank.](#)

The Myanmar Living Conditions Survey: Poverty Report provides updated estimates of poverty in Myanmar, and shows that it is strongly correlated with residing in a rural area. Rural inhabitants in Myanmar are 2.7 times more likely to be poor than urban inhabitants. Poverty is the most prevalent in Chin State, where almost six out of ten people are poor, and in Rakhine State, where about four out of ten people are poor. At the other end of the spectrum Tanintharyi, Mandalay, and Yangon Regions have the lowest poverty rates, between 13 and 14 percent.

It also shows that a third of the population is highly vulnerable to falling into poverty in the future. While the poverty rate has declined since 2005, and the share of the population that is “non-poor” has increased, the share of those classified as vulnerable has grown by 18 percent.

The study was part of UNDP efforts to support the government develop national indicators for monitoring development progress, especially in relation to achieving the 2018 Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals. The information that has come to light will bolster the development of national and regional policies, planning, monitoring and evaluation.



## Listening to people's voices: Public services in Myanmar

In 2019 UNDP helped the government to conduct the country's first-ever public perception survey to better understand what people think of government services.

2,500 people in across Myanmar were interviewed about their experiences with the civil service and the delivery of public services, including their experiences with corruption. The results of this survey were presented to all ministries, providing insightful data for improving public services delivery. For example, preliminary data shows that the average number of government services that people use is surprisingly low – just five.

The Central Statistical Organization co-led the process with the Union Civil Service Board. More than 30 IT and statistical staff were trained by UNDP to conduct the survey.



*An enumerator for CSO records survey responses*

**5** The average number of government services used by people in Myanmar

### Key projects:

#### Support to Effective and Responsive Institutions

*This five-year initiative is strengthening the effectiveness of state executives and legislative institutions by assisting them to better understand the needs and aspirations of the people of Myanmar, in all their diversity but also growing inequalities. It also provides support to the government in formulating, implementing and evaluating policies - as well as in using public resources in a way that provides effective, timely and equitable responses to these aspirations.*

#### Leadership, Effectiveness, Adaptability and Professionalism in Myanmar's Civil Service

*This five-year project is supporting the government to professionalize and improve the civil service. In partnership with the Union Civil Service Board, it is working to review and modernize civil service regulations and systems; introduce results-based management practices that promote meritocracy, ethics, transparency, accountability and inclusivity; improve civil servants' performance through enhanced leadership and motivation; and foster public service delivery.*

# Improving the government's ability to engage with all people

Elected representatives and the democratic bodies they work for, such as national and regional parliaments, must possess the resources and skills necessary to represent their constituents.

In 2019 UNDP helped Myanmar institutions to develop effective systems and procedures for performing their representative and oversight functions.

## Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- Supporting the national legislature (the Union Hluttaw) and eight sub-national parliaments to establish business papers and calendars that were adopted during the year – and will allow for better debate preparation and transparency.
- With UNDP aid, the agriculture committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw conducted the country's first-ever committee policy inquiry, including a call for submissions, public hearings, site inspections and recommending policy reforms to government. Similar inquiries (on other subjects) were subsequently launched in Mon State and Rakhine State parliaments, focused on oversight of the Myanmar Investment Commission and the role of seed improvement in supporting sustainable agriculture, respectively.

- Supporting the Shan State Hluttaw initiate Myanmar's first-ever parliamentary committee bill inquiry, which focused on the Inle Lake Conservation Bill.
- Developing and delivering a programme of "masterclasses" for members of parliament focusing on their constituency and representation roles. A new guide for MPs on representation practice in Myanmar is being developed
- Only nine percent of representatives in the national legislature are women. A special drop-in session organized by UNDP and the Inter-parliamentary Union on International Women's Day discussed some of the challenges faced by Myanmar in this field.



## Union Hluttaw launches Parliament intranet as part of e-Parliament System

Myanmar's legislative assembly – the Union Hluttaw launched an internal Intranet system in May with UNDP support.

The Hluttaw's first ever Intranet is an integral part of efforts to create an e-Parliament system that will improve information management and the provision of parliamentary documents to MPs. Better access to documents, such as plenary agendas and minutes, draft bills, committee reports, research, and self-study material will strengthen how MPs conduct their duties and improve workflow across the three Hluttaws.

The use of this new technology will help make the Myanmar parliament more transparent, accountable, accessible and effective. The intranet system, using the Microsoft Sharepoint Platform was installed in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



*Myanmar's legislative assembly - inside (left) and outside (right).*



# Township democratic local governance programming

This project is actively supporting democratic local governance by helping people in selected villages in Bago, Mon and Rakhine to influence township planning and budgeting – and to connect with their own elected representatives. It provides discretionary grants to bolster basic services, strengthen public financial management systems and to promote development planning.

## Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- The project benefitted almost 550,000 people in 20 townships by providing roads, bridges, schools, health centres, water infrastructure and electrification.
- Three rounds of participatory township planning meetings helped locals decide development priorities across 20 townships in Bago Region, Mon and Rakhine States.
- Public presentations to discuss local annual plans and priorities were a first for Myanmar.
- More than 470 people participated in procurement training.

**550k** people  
benefitted  
from



electrification



schools



bridges



health  
centres



water  
infrastructure

## New primary school and health center for Rakhine State



A discretionary grant from UNDP saw a new primary school and health centre built in Thandwe Township in 2019.

The new facilities will serve Kha Maung Tone and Hmyar Chaung villages.

The school and health centre were built with assistance from the Japanese government, which is one of the major donors to UNDP's local governance work.

## New road built in Bago Region

In 2019 construction on a new 1.5km concrete road was completed in Kawa Township, Bago Region.

The road connects to the Yangon-Bago main road, and was built with assistance from the United Kingdom. It will benefit more than 20,000 people from 12 villages and is expected to improve access to health and education services, as well as act as a boon to local commerce and livelihoods. More than 250 female garment factory workers now commute daily to the factories in Bago using the new road.

In planning the road, local people were able to voice their priorities to elected representatives through the project.

**Community meeting to discuss livelihoods in Rakhine.**

By providing discretionary grants to the local government in Rakhine state, the project is assisting townships to put in place responsive services to people in an inclusive, accountable and transparent manner.



## Supporting the road to peace

With armed conflict still occurring in some parts of the country, the peace process slowed down in 2019 and many challenges remain to reconciliation. However, UNDP continued throughout the year to assist Myanmar to develop mechanisms, institutions and the capacity to promote peace and social cohesion.

### Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- 32 senior government officials with representatives from several ministries, the police and the State Counsellor Office were trained in conflict mediation and negotiation skills in a partnership with the Clingendael Institute.
- UNDP backed community based projects in Rakhine to improve livelihoods and build trust between authorities and communities. In Mon State, despite challenging circumstances, UNDP fostered cooperation between local administrations and ethnic armed organizations (the Karen National Union and the New Mon State Party, both signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) in the annual township planning process.

*In Rakhine, a midwife stands in front of the construction of a health centre, built as part of UNDP's Township Democratic Governance project.  
Photo: UNDP*

32

senior govt.  
officials trained  
in conflict  
mediation &  
negotiation

# Rakhine Area Based Programme

In northern Rakhine, UNDP together with UNHCR and UN Women, is working to address the state's complex development challenges in a conflict sensitive and flexible manner. Efforts focus on supporting the recovery, resilience and development of all communities in the state, helping to create conditions conducive for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees and displaced people.

The programme is working to:

- Address the key issues of poverty, vulnerability and exclusion
- Improve service delivery by working with the state Hluttaw and township authorities
- Improve access to justice and the quality of the justice system
- Promote social cohesion by designing and implementing local development solutions
- Augment resilience in local communities and institutions
- Bolster women's empowerment

## Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- More than 80,000 people in 15,000 households were assisted with livelihoods activities, such as the provision of irrigation support, training in home gardening, marketing and business skills, and the establishment of solar powered drying facilities, to process agricultural products.

- 45 "quick impact projects" were implemented in northern Rakhine, including vocational training and income generating activities, which provided help to more than 1,600 households.
- Women's empowerment activities, such as improving women's income generating potential reached more than 6,500 women
- More than 7,300 people in Rakhine were helped through rule of law and access to justice activities. More than 5,100 received legal awareness training related to housing, land and property rights and sexual and gender-based violence. More than 1,200 received legal assistance that included representation in court, or legal advice (in person and through a hotline.)
- More than 500 paralegals were trained to provide legal support in remote communities.
- 19 township development projects were completed, benefitting more than 131,000 people.
- Based on the lessons drawn from the Rakhine programme, UNDP expanded its partnership with UNHCR and UN Women to Kachin State, designing a similar joint area-based approach to support the government's camp closure strategy and assist displaced people. UNDP and partner agencies will work with the central and state government, as well as civil service organizations to improve social cohesion, establish confidence in local administrative structures and promote economic self-reliance.

**UNDP supported construction of local infrastructure in Rakhine.**  
**Photo: UNDP**

**7.4k** people reached through rule of law and access to justice activities in Rakhine.



**80k** people assisted with

irrigation



home gardening



solar powered drying facilities



marketing & business skills





# Promoting accountability, access to justice and the rule of law

In countries that have experienced long conflicts, there is often weak access to justice, security and the rule of law. Human rights may not be routinely enforced and official efforts to strengthen them are not prioritized

In Myanmar, long term peace, security and development depends on ensuring that the population has access to responsive, inclusive and accountable justice services – and that the government is working to ensure human rights protection mechanisms are robust. UNDP works closely with the government at the union and local level to bolster the justice system.

## Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- Supporting Myanmar's attorney general to develop a legislative drafting guidebook which aims to ensure that the country's laws and regulations conform to best practices, are clearly written and do not contradict other laws or the constitution. It will act as the officially endorsed manual for training law officers, parliamentarians, and ministry officials who write laws.
- Assisting with the development of the *Manual on Fair Trial Standards*, which, for the first time in Myanmar, sets out the official position on the fundamental due process rights for people accused of crimes.
- Supporting rule of law centers that train and raise awareness on rule of law principles. In 2019, these expanded their outreach to rural communities. More than 700 local community leaders were trained in rule of law related subjects.

- Reaching more than 10,400 people across the country with rule of law and access to justice activities.
- Establishing corruption prevention units in partnership with the Anti-Corruption Commission. Thirty-two corruption prevention units are now established in 22 Union line ministries and government institutions to improve oversight and accountability.
- Reaching more than 3,000 people with anti-corruption activities.
- Conducting mobile forums on the rule of law, human rights and gender for displaced people in camps in Kachin. These sessions highlighted the importance of understanding and handling sexual assault as a crime.
- Training more than 1,240 women judges, law officers, deputy township administrators, court staff, lawyers, law teachers and community representatives in the rule of law, human rights, how to deliver a fair trial and issues related to gender based violence.
- Training more than 2,000 people from regional government, parliament, the justice sector, business, civil society and media in integrity, ethics and corruption in the private sector.
- Providing advice, support and technical assistance to the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission. In 2019, the commission launched a five year strategic plan.



**3k** people reached with anti-corruption activities

**1,240**

women legal officials, including judges trained in:



human rights



rule of law



sexual and gender-based violence



delivering a fair trial

## Key Project:

### Strengthening accountability and rule of law

*This project supports the government of Myanmar to enhance public trust in state institutions. It builds on efforts by all three branches of the state to promote transparency, accountability and good governance. In 2019 the project reached more than 14,000 people with anti-corruption, parliamentary oversight and access to justice/rule of law activities.*

## Raising awareness about the impact of corruption

International Anti-Corruption Day in December was a good chance to raise awareness about the scourge of political sleaze.

An event held with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in the capital Nay Pyi Taw, corresponded to regional events in all 14 states and regions across the country.

Speaking at the event, His Excellency President U Win Myint underlined his government's opposition to corruption, highlighting that Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Goals specifically encompasses anti-corruption measures. "The Government understands that the problem of corruption has taken root and been thriving for many years - and it is a major obstacle. That is why we have been making strenuous efforts continuously with strong political fervor to create a society free from corruption," he said.

## Stamping corruption out of the business sector

UNDP supported workshops and training sessions on 'responsible governance and business' have been reaching out to business leaders, political officials and civil servants about the dangers of corruption in the business world.

The workshops have brought together several small and medium enterprises, and media and civil society organizations. More than 2,000 people were reached through multiple events throughout the year, with lectures and discussions on business integrity, corporate social responsibility, responsible governance, and the role of the media and civil society organizations in preventing corruption.

At one such event in Bago, U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti Corruption Commission said, "The Commission believes that if both the government sector and the business sector can promote their responsibilities in combating corruption, our country's corruption cases will be reduced."



# Improving disaster and climate risk management systems

Disaster risk, including the risk posed by the climate crisis, threatens to undermine peace, security, prosperity and economic growth across the globe. In Myanmar, people living in disaster prone areas are more likely to be poor and vulnerable. In the country's dry zones, the constant threat of drought exacerbates poverty and undermines peace

Earthquakes remain a constant threat, and 2018 and 2019 saw flooding and landslides occurring in south east Myanmar - demonstrated just how vulnerable the country is to extreme climate events.

There is also often a nexus between areas prone to natural disasters and areas prone to conflict. Disasters compound vulnerability in Myanmar's many conflict prone areas

UNDP works with the government to support Myanmar become more resilient to climate and disaster risk.

## **Selected highlights in 2019 included:**

- The government launched its National Environmental Policy, which was prepared with UNDP's assistance and features a strong climate change adaptation component. The policy will support the government to enhance environmental management.
- Both the national government and Yangon regional government published earthquake preparedness and response plans.
- In 2018 Myanmar experienced severe monsoon floods and landslides, which devastated several parts of the country, including Kayin, Mon, Tanintharyi and Bago. More than 20 people were killed, 268,000 displaced and

## **4** key rivers dredged, benefitting 13k people

US\$ 3.6 million worth of infrastructure damaged. Early recovery interventions in response to the flooding in Mon State paid dividends in 2019. For example, as part of a flood risk reduction exercise, four key rivers were dredged – providing work opportunities for victims of the flooding. As well as reducing future flood risk, this has benefitted approximately 13,000 villagers including 3,000 farmers - through better irrigation.

- 22 officials in Mon State were trained to conduct post disaster needs assessments and recovery planning. In the future, this will allow for faster evaluation of the impact of disasters, understanding recovery needs and more efficient planning of sustainable recovery interventions as they unfold – which will help improve response times and effectiveness.
- UNDP's four year project in the dry zone ended in June. The villages where the project was implemented have already seen improved food security and reduced water scarcity. A follow on project in partnership with Ooredoo, Myanmar will be launched in 2020.

## **Key Project:**

### **Governance for resilience and sustainability project**

*This project is assisting Myanmar to implement recent policy reforms related to environmental governance, climate change and disaster risk reduction to ensure that economic growth in Myanmar is more inclusive, resilient and sustainable. UNDP recognizes that Myanmar's environmental assets present unique opportunities for green economic development, which can directly support women's economic empowerment and community resilience.*

**A recent civil  
defence  
exercise.**

## New government national earthquake preparedness and response plan

In August, the National Disaster Management Committee launched its [National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan](#).

The plan, which is the first of its kind in Myanmar, was developed with UNDP support. It will help the government to prepare for seismic events, minimizing damage to property, and potentially reducing injury and the loss of life.

It also sets out systems for recovery in the aftermath of an earthquake. The plan guides preparedness measures and strengthens response functions and coordination among National Disaster Management Working Committees and other departments and organizations.

Myanmar is highly prone to earthquakes due to its location close to several fault lines. The country experienced major earthquakes that caused loss of life and significant property damage in 1923, 2011, and 2016.

The plan was developed by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in collaboration with other ministries - with technical support from UNDP and funding from the European Union. It was followed up by the launch of the Yangon Region earthquake preparedness plan later in the year.



## Climate change and Myanmar's development

Myanmar faces many development challenges, but climate change is perhaps the greatest challenge of all.

The country is already one of the most vulnerable in the world to extreme weather events. With the memories of 2008's catastrophic Cyclone Nargis still vivid, the development gains that have been made in recent times remain highly susceptible to such risks.

Climate change affects Myanmar in multiple ways. In the dry zone, temperatures are increasing and droughts are becoming more prevalent, while the coastal zone remains at constant risk from intensifying cyclones. And in 2019 extreme flooding and landslides in the wet season saw more than 190,000 people seek emergency shelter, with the damage compounding the impact of previous years flooding.

The loss and damage caused by floods, landslides and droughts in recent years runs into the billions of US dollars, not to mention the deaths and turmoil for people's lives. The need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, these natural disasters costs time and resources that could otherwise be spent on more pressing development priorities.



**190k** people sought emergency shelter in 2019 due to flooding and landslides

- Myanmar's approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions includes reversing the decline of the country's forests.
- The government has committed US\$ 500 million over 10 years for the Myanmar Rehabilitation and Reforestation Programme.
- The energy sector contributes two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions in the Asia-Pacific region. New forms of renewable energy – including solar and biomass – will contribute nine percent of the country's energy mix by 2030.



# Improving the sustainable management of natural resources for economic development

Myanmar has some of the most impressive biodiversity in the world. Properly managed, this has the potential to be the engine of enormous economic growth for the country. However, poor management of these resources could cause them to be lost forever, create environmental catastrophes, and contribute to conflict – as many areas of natural wealth are in contested areas.

UNDP is supporting the government to strengthen environmental protection and promote a green economy, and better manage land and forests so as to reduce deforestation and degradation and oversee the country's protected areas.

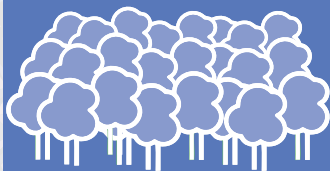
## Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- Supporting Myanmar's development of a national REDD+ strategy, which is an internationally recognized long-term plan to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as to build forest carbon stocks. Significant progress was made in the finalization of the plan throughout the year. More than 15 consultations with ethnic groups were conducted including ethnic armed organizations.
- Assisting the Shan State Parliament to pass a new law to protect Inle Lake, which is one of Myanmar's most recognized areas of natural beauty. UNDP supported the public enquiry process for the Inle Lake Conservation Law, helped establish and strengthen the Inle Lake Management Authority, provided technical inputs and supported inclusive community consultations.
- Drafting regulations for the establishment and governance of the Environmental Management Fund, laying the foundations for the fund to be set up in 2020 –

and helping to establish the Myanmar Biodiversity Fund. Both funds provide Myanmar with a sustainable financing mechanism for the environment and biodiversity sectors. National Species Red lists were also finalized

- Supporting Myanmar's Environmental Conservation Department to conduct a comprehensive organizational capacity needs assessment and develop a new HR strategy. More than 50 environmental impact assessments were also reviewed through the year with UNDP assistance, which has helped reduce the current backlog
- Supporting the government to implement the Nagoya Protocol by drafting a National Access to Benefit Sharing Policy, appointing staff to manage its implementation and helping to raise awareness of the protocol among some ethnic groups and local communities.

**48.3%**  
of Myanmar is  
forested



## Shan state parliament passes law to protect Inle Lake

In 2019, Shan State Parliament passed a law to improve environmental protection and coordination for Inle Lake.

The new law, which was drafted with UNDP's technical assistance and the inclusive participation of local communities will lead to the formation of a lake governing body that will include representatives from civil society organizations and local residents.

The law was passed by the Shan State Parliament in December after consultations with local people, which were followed by a series of public consultations in ten watershed townships. These were led by civil society organizations with the support of UNDP.

In order to conduct community outreach and environmental awareness raising, the Inle Lake Ambassadors Programme was launched in early November. The main goal of the programme is to inspire and support community-based, young person-led conservation and sustainable development in the region. Ten young people from around Inle Lake have been selected through a competitive process.

Despite the importance of the lake to the tourism industry, water quality and biodiversity has suffered in recent years due to over exploitation. Water levels have fallen and the water quality has also suffered due to the use of chemical fertilizers, the clearing of forests for hotel projects and the expansion of floating farms. It is hoped that the new law will lead to increased efforts to restore the lake.

The wetland ecosystem of the freshwater lake is home to 267 species of birds (seven of which are endangered), 43 species of freshwater fish, some of which are endemic, and the Lake is a nesting place of the globally endangered Sarus crane. The lake was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1985, became a UNESCO reserve in 2015 and was designated a Ramsar site in 2018.

## Democratizing land management

Ohn Ta Pin village in Thaton District, Mon State, Daw Wair Wair Win and her husband U Pho Htaung recall a time when the family was dependent entirely on the forest for their livelihood. "Life was very tough," she says.

Recently, however, the family leased land from the local reserve forest for rubber production. While rubber has brought improvements in income to many, the widespread clearance of forest has also had negative consequences. For example, the area now faces flooding and poor water quality. Mining in the area has also caused environmental damage.

This situation is not uncommon in Myanmar – communities are often encouraged to deforest without being provided with full information about the risks - and decisions are taken without their explicit agreement.

As part of efforts to help Myanmar reduce deforestation and forest degradation – and combat climate change – UNDP, with support from the Republic of Korea, is buoying the government to ensure that this happens less often in the future. In



***Villagers in Ohn Ta Pin say climate change and deforestation now cause this waterfall to frequently dry up.***

11 villages, public consultations are now taking place to ensure that future development activities are carried out with consent. In order to facilitate the community consultations, UNDP is working with local civil society organizations, that the local community can trust.

"There should be consultation when it comes to any decision of implementation so that people or villagers could better understand the impacts of the projects and raise their concerns. Yet, it is important to have a consent from the villagers," says Khine Oo Khin - a project support facilitator for the "Youth Conservation Club", which has worked extensively in the district.

She has learnt about forests, climate change, and environment from various UNDP supported training courses, and subsequently won approval from local authorities with a plan to conserve over 100-acres of degraded forest. "It will take time to develop community forest but we hope that we would overcome and establish it, as it is very important for our community."

***Traditional  
boatman on  
Lake Inle.  
Photo: Matan  
Levanon/Pexels***



# Promoting equitable and conflict-sensitive socio-economic development

Across Myanmar, UNDP is working to support the government to develop and implement evidence-based policies and programmes that promote inclusive economic growth and create employment - with particular focus on women and vulnerable groups, such as those displaced from their homes by conflict or violence.

## Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- UNDP and the mobile communications company Ooredoo Myanmar worked together to develop a number of initiatives. Events and projects organized through the partnership have seen a positive response from the community and led to concrete opportunities to promote digital entrepreneurship with a focus on women and youth.
  - The second ever joint UNDP-Ooredoo Hackathon, which saw more than 200 people and 28 teams take part under the theme of 'Promoting Digital Entrepreneurship.' The six winning teams are currently undergoing an incubation and mentoring programme with the Innovations for SDGs Hub established by Ooredoo Myanmar and UNDP.
  - The launch of the micro, small and medium enterprise capacity building programme in four states/region in partnership with the government and other businesses.
  - The mobilization of more than US\$ 250,000 from Ooredoo for implementing the 'Sustainable Enterprises and Agricultural Development' Project in the Dry Zone.



81k

people in Rakhine State  
benefitted from 54  
work schemes

- 81,000 people in four townships in Rakhine State benefitted from 54 work schemes to improve local infrastructure in an inclusive manner. The Muslim community represented 36 per cent of all project beneficiaries.
- Another scheme to conduct community livelihood needs assessments in 27 village tracts in Rakhine resulted in activities designed to diversify incomes in the agriculture and fishery sectors, benefitting 1,500 farmers and fishermen.
- Establishing 17 livelihood recovery forums in villages in four Rakhine townships affected by inter-communal tensions and violence. One of the key outcomes included the fact that important public services, such as agriculture extension services, were offered to farmers from Muslim communities for the first time in several years.

## Ooredoo Myanmar and UNDP collaborate to promote climate resilient farming

Mobile service provider Ooredoo Myanmar and UNDP Myanmar developed a new project to use digital technology to help farmers in the country's dry zone.

The 15 month Sustainable Enterprises and Agricultural Development project will help farmers in 130 villages in Myingyan and Nyaung U townships by providing resources that they can use to farm in more climate resilient ways. It will also help entrepreneurs, especially women, to establish agriculture based businesses through training and links to credit and markets.

Under the project, UNDP, in partnership with Ooredoo will work with the government to develop a virtual agricultural support package for vulnerable farming communities. The project will promote income diversification and the use of mobile money, provide information about climate advisory services and sustainable agricultural and livestock breeding practices, and connect farmers to markets and credit.

*Rural children.  
Photo: Jose  
Arraiza*



# **CROSS-CUTTING DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS 2019**



# Building gender equality

Women's participation and empowerment makes peace agreements stronger, societies more resilient and economic growth more sustainable. Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

UNDP works to create conditions for women in Myanmar to play a meaningful role in and benefit from the country's ongoing transition from conflict to peace, from military rule to democratic governance, and from a closed to a liberalized economy.

## Selected highlights in 2019 included:

- Lobbying the Department of Social Welfare to ensure that women occupy influential positions in the Electoral Commission and that women were appointed as High Court Chief Justices - as this paves the way for their appointment to the Electoral Commission in future. In December, the first female Chief Justice was appointed as the Chief Justice of Rakhine State High Court.
- Assisting the government with the drafting of the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women bill, which once passed, will guarantee women and girls protection from all forms of violence including economic, emotional, domestic and sexual violence. The bill is currently with Parliament awaiting endorsement.
- Working with other UN agencies to strengthen the referral pathway for survivors of gender-based violence - by supporting the installation of 24 hour hotlines so survivors to access legal aid.
- Organizing a special drop-in session for MPs to discuss gender-sensitive parliaments, on International Women's

**246**  
women judges  
and other legal  
officials trained  
in human  
rights, gender  
and fair trials

Day in March - in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. International experts presented strategies and tools that parliaments use around the world. Given that women MPs represent only approximately nine percent of MPs, their high participation in all drop-in sessions is significant.

- In collaboration with Ministry of Planning and Finance, finalizing research into a study called *Gender Equality in Public Administration* - to analyse the situation of women in decision-making institutions and the civil service across the country. In total, more than 500 civil servants were questioned. The study provides the evidence that gender inequality exists in the government workplace - and that barriers to women's equality can take many forms. For instance, one of the conclusions of the study include the fact that there is a greater need for support for women of child-bearing age if they are to reach higher levels of the civil service.
- Ensuring that women's voices were heard and their needs prioritized in activities in Rakhine State - starting from the community consultation process in villages. Vulnerable women beneficiaries were identified and targeted for programme interventions. UNDP also ensured equal pay for equal work for men and women in work projects, which is a departure from the standard local practice of paying between 25 to 30 per cent less to women.
- Training 246 women judges, law officers, deputy township administrators and court staff on the rule of law, human rights, gender and fair trials. The protection of vulnerable groups, particularly the rights of women and children in trial proceedings, is clearly stated in the current Manual on Fair Trial Standards - and equal treatment for women is included in the code of ethics for law officers.

## Promoting conflict sensitivity

The last 70 years of Myanmar's history have been affected by violent conflict – often along ethnic lines. Despite continued improvements and political stabilization in recent years, this peace is fragile and must be nurtured. The potential for violence to reoccur is ever present.

UNDP focuses all of its programming through the lens of “conflict sensitivity.”

### **Some of the ways that this conflict sensitivity manifested in 2019 included:**

- Ensuring that the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan – and the subsequent indicators developed this year in the National Indicator Framework take conflict into account. A number of indicators seek to measure contributions to durable peace in Myanmar.
- Certifying that the survey on the public perception of government services adopted conflict sensitivity to its design and implementation. In order to target a nation-wide sample and collect data in 14 states and regions all across Myanmar, it was necessary to go into sensitive areas. To reduce the potential for conflict, enumerators provided briefings in these villages, explaining the purpose of the survey and taking on board feedback or concerns. In some cases, the questions were modified and the briefings identified threats or security concerns for or enumerators themselves.
- The Township Democratic Local Governance project operates in Mon State in places that are conflict-affected. To reduce the potential for conflict, ethnic armed organizations (signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) in Mon State are included in discussions on improved public service delivery. An analysis of service delivery in areas with ethnic armed organizations was finalized.
- To strengthen conflict sensitivity and social cohesion in Rakhine, UNDP - in partnership with the NGO Respect Accountability Fairness Transparency Myanmar - trained UNDP staff, implementing partners and government officials from Sittwe and Yangon in conflict sensitivity.
- Undertaking monthly context analysis and holding discussions with staff and partners to identify risks in a timely manner and proactively recommend mitigation measures to respond to the unfolding situation.

## Promoting national ownership

Promoting national ownership is vital to the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of UNDP's projects in Myanmar. Government institutions, as well as civil society, communities and ethnic armed groups should feel entitled to own and sustain a development initiative.

Promoting ownership is the best strategy to guarantee that a development project succeeds and expands in the long run. Participants more readily assume ownership when initiatives build on their visions, strategies, and frameworks.

In recognition of this, UNDP Myanmar works to ensure that all programmes, projects and activities are nationally owned.

### **Some of the ways that national ownership was reinforced in 2019 included:**

- Ensuring that national ownership was an integral part of the design and implementation of UNDP's efforts in Rakhine state. Local ownership has been key to the success, sustainability and expansion of UNDP's work in the province (the programme is currently being duplicated in Kachin). In Rakhine UNDP ensured that local voices were heard in the design of the programme – and continue to be heard in development decisions. The communities themselves have expressed their wish to live peacefully together. UNDP and its partners are committed to rebuilding trust and making sure that “quick impact projects” are guided by social cohesion, “do-no harm” and conflict sensitivity principles. It is therefore important to ensure that the community, ethnic armed organizations, and civil society plays a key role in determining which projects are carried out. The project's steering committee includes significant input from communities, government ministries and counterparts. To promote ownership at the state level, UNDP also has regular and frequent engagement with the Rakhine State Government, including with the Cabinet, the Parliament, and state and township authorities.
- In Mon, the Township Democratic Local Governance project has local ownership as both a core objective and a project outcome. The project provides discretionary grants to townships to deliver basic services that they themselves have had a hand in requesting. It is actively

supporting democratic local governance by giving community members a voice – and the opportunity to influence township planning and budgeting through elected representatives. Through these efforts, townships, for the first time, have been able to manage public procurement processes, oversee the implementation of public works and account for expenditure. Local ownership in the scheme has been significantly improved through systematic participation from peoples' representatives – in particular – the Township Planning and Implementation Committees. These committees have taken the lead in explaining regulations, budgets and plans to community members; encouraging them to further raise questions; and bringing the information back to their constituencies. Twenty townships supported by UNDP, including five in Rakhine now use this system for town planning. Moreover, since the Township Development Grants are executed through national institutions and government mechanisms, this model enables local townships to take direct ownership of the process while UNDP provides advisory support. Townships, for the first time, have been able to manage public procurement processes, oversee the implementation of public works and have accounted for expenditure.

- In Shan, national ownership was critical to the support UNDP provided to the long-term management of the Inle Lake region. Significant time and effort has been placed in the early stages of implementation to building relationships with key decision-makers and local community members. The Inle Lake Conservation Law, which was passed in 2019, included an extensive public consultation process, which sought to increase local ownership of the new legislation. Community and civil society input and consultation was prioritized from the outset.
- UNDP helped improve the capacity of the Central Statistical Organization to analyze the data from the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey. Building upon this progress, the organization will be able to play a more active role in data analysis and reporting for future surveys.

- UNDP's technical assistance to the Hluttaws is guided by strategic plans that the Hluttaws developed for themselves. A guiding principle of this is to ensure that the Hluttaws are more responsive to the people they represent. In addition, the Hluttaw implements the strategic plan with support from UNDP. The training of middle managers ensures that the Hluttaws can manage change on their own terms.
- Following advocacy and advice from UNDP, the President's Office endorsed the establishment of Corruption Prevention Units in the Anti-Corruption Commission and most line ministries to improve oversight and accountability.
- Training was conducted in 2019 to prepare the Central Statistics Organization survey team and enumerators for using computer assisted personal interviews. This training will allow the statistics organization to write their own computer based survey programmes in the future.

*Chin women  
attend a  
village meeting.*



# Partnerships

UNDP's projects and programmes in Myanmar act together to ensure that outputs are interlinked and resources are shared strategically across the organization. At the same time, UNDP works with a range of partners to support the government in achieving its development objectives.

UNDP is a critical part of the UN Country Team, and collaborates closely with other UN agencies to overcome Myanmar's humanitarian, peace and development issues. In 2019, joint programmes continued with UNICEF, the UN Population Fund, the World Food Programme, UN Women, the UN Statistics Division, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN High Commission for Refugees, and the UN Environment Programme – to name a few. UN agencies share multiple nexuses with UNDP and this is especially evident in efforts to support people who have been displaced and refugee challenges in areas such as Rakhine and Kachin.

UNDP has partnerships with, non-government and civil society organizations, as well as the private sector in Myanmar. Our development partners often work alongside us – offering advice and technical expertise.

## In 2019, some important partnerships were strengthened in Myanmar. Highlights included:

- Working together with UNICEF to explore ways of better monitoring and evaluating the capacity of the civil service and government to plan for development outcomes. This includes coordinating with the UN Statistics Division to develop systems for obtaining better data, and with the World Bank to bolster the accuracy of living conditions survey. UNDP is also cooperating with German Agency for International Cooperation to develop further Myanmar statistics training curricula, as well as the UN Population Fund to customize township census reports so they are more useful for planning purposes.

- Strengthening technical cooperation with the New Zealand State Services Commission to support a review of Myanmar's civil service, introduce a performance management system and train government staff on the principles of results-based management.
- Collaborating with private sector groups throughout the year to bolster anti-corruption activities, including the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business.
- Partnering with Oxfam UK to engage with civil society in public service delivery in township planning.
- Working with the NGO Mercy Corps, along with local organizations People for People, Swanee Development Foundation and Action for Green Earth — to help provide incomes and livelihoods to four communities in Rakhine.

**A government worker reads the civil service reform strategy.**

## Key partners in Myanmar

Action for Green Earth  
Bago Region Government  
Central Statistical Organization  
CESVI Foundation  
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH)  
General Administration Department  
Inle Lake Management Authority  
International Legal Foundation  
Kachin State Government  
Legal Clinic Myanmar  
Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD)  
Mandalay Region Government  
Mercy Corps  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation  
Ministry of Ethnic Affairs  
Ministry of Health and Sports  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations  
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation  
Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry  
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement  
Ministry of the Office of the Union Government  
Ministry of the President Office  
Ministry of the State Counselor Office

Mon State Government  
Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development  
Myanmar Investment Commission  
Myanmar National Human Rights Commission  
Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (Forest Department)  
Office of the Supreme Court of the Union  
Ooredoo Myanmar  
Oxfam  
People for People  
Rakhine State Government  
Rakhine State Hluttaw  
Sagaing Region Government  
Shan State Government  
Supreme Court of Myanmar  
Thazin Legal Aid Group  
The Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission,  
Union Auditor General's Office  
Union Civil Service Board  
Union Coordination Body for Rule of Law Centers and Justice Sector Affairs  
Union Office of the Attorney General  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
World Vision Myanmar  
Yangon Regional Government

Inclusiveness  
Integrity  
Decentralization  
Accountability  
Honesty  
Federalism  
Anticorruption  
Responsiveness  
Effectiveness  
Ethos  
Ethics  
Efficiency  
Equity  
Meritocracy  
Professionalism  
Service delivery  
Democratization



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# PRIORITIES

# 2020



## Deal with COVID-19 response and recovery

2020 marked the start of the final decade of action towards the sustainable development goals. However, at the time of writing, the COVID-19 pandemic is shifting global and national development priorities, as well as endangering SDG attainment. Some estimates suggest that COVID-19 could reverse development gains in Myanmar by up to six years. Tackling COVID-19 will be essential to preventing a roll-back of development gains. UNDP is contributing to the pandemic response by providing health systems support, raising awareness and advocacy, socio-economic impact assessments and integrated crisis management support. This will continue throughout 2020 to support the UN Country Team, across the humanitarian and development nexus.

## Financing and monitoring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within national development plans

UNDP will continue to work with the government to assist in attaining the SDG national development targets and the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) – as well as fostering efforts to finance SDG achievement - preferably through an integrated financing framework. Work in this area will continue alongside the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring mechanism.

## Promoting innovative ideas and diversifying partnerships

UNDP is establishing an “accelerator lab” in Myanmar to help incorporate innovation into achieving development goals. This will facilitate local innovators, inventors and business people to come up with solutions for vulnerable communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has also opened up opportunities through private sector and tech partnerships, innovation challenges and strengthening the innovation Hub for the SDGs set up in 2019 in partnership with Ooredoo.

## Strengthening UNDP's 'nexus' work

Building on the lessons and partnerships established in Rakhine, UNDP will be looking to expanding its integrated area based work in Kachin. Bringing together the humanitarian, peace and development nexus programming and durable solutions approaches, UNDP will continue to work, together with other UN agencies, on the issues of displacement and inequality, strengthening local governance institutions in equitable public service delivery; enhancing capacity to uphold human rights and housing, land and property rights, improved access to justice and empowering vulnerable groups for better livelihood opportunities.

## Climate policy priorities and climate promises

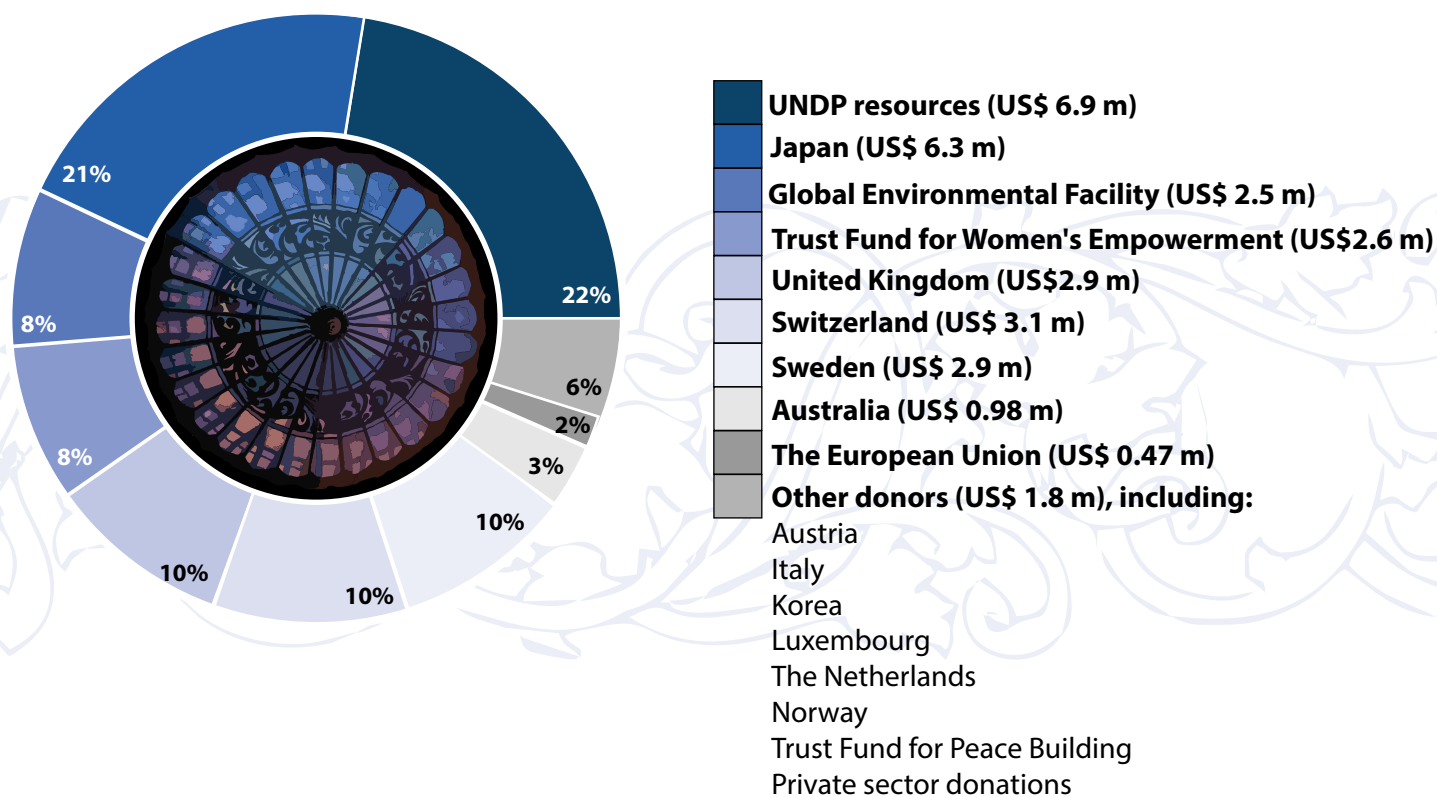
With funding through the Global Environment Facility, and potentially accessing other funds, tackling climate change and bolstering environmental sustainability will remain a priority for UNDP Myanmar in 2020. Support will also be provided to the government to support its Climate Promise National Plan.

## Establishing platforms for peace

UNDP has initiated several activities to support peacebuilding within its programming, but it remains challenging. A new project is being finalized to respond to the urgent need for enhanced social cohesion and community resilience in Myanmar.

Additionally, the UN Peacebuilding Fund recently approved a joint project with UNESCO to promote peaceful and credible elections. This will include measures to counter hate speech and disinformation, as well as strengthen the electoral process. The project will also promote diversity, inclusiveness, gender equality and non-discrimination beyond the 2020 elections.

## Total funding committed to UNDP Myanmar by source - 2019



# Publications 2019



**Asking the people of Myanmar: Public Perception Survey of Government Services**



**Myanmar Rural Renewable Energy Development Project: DRAFT Environmental and Social Management Framework**



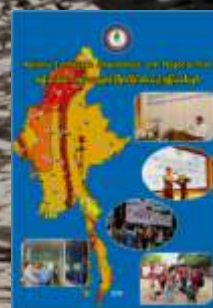
**Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017: Poverty Report**



**Yangon Region: Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan**



**Situation Analysis of Myanmar's Region and State Hluttaws**



**National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan**



**UNDP Myanmar Annual Report 2018 (English and Myanmar language versions)**



**Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2020-2024**

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