

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement  
Myanmar National Committee on Women



National Review on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action  
(1995) and the Outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly  
(2000)

ACRONYMS

ACW	ASEAN Committee on Women
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADDMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AE	Alternate Education
A4AI	Alliance for Affordable Internet
AGIPP	Alliance for Gender inclusion in Peace Process
ANC	Antenatal Care
ART	Anti – Retroviral Therapy
ASEAN	Association of South East Asia Nations
ATIP	Anti-Trafficking in Persons
ATTFs	Anti – Trafficking Task Forces
ATU	Anti – Trafficking Unit
BCATIP	Border Cooperation on Anti – Trafficking in Persons
BLOs	Border Liaison Offices
BPFA	Beijing Platform for the Action
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CBPF	Country – Based Pooled Fund
CBTIP	Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfers
CDD	Community Driven Development Program
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CERA	Community Empowerment and Resilience Association (CERA) in Rakhine State
CESR	Comprehensive Education System Review
CLMS	Child Labour Monitoring System
COMMIT	Coordination Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking
CP	Counter Part
CRSGBV	Conflict – Related Sexual and Gender Based Violence
CSE	Comprehensive Sexual Education
CSGs	Community Support Groups

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CRC	Convention of the Rights of the Child
DACU	Development Assistance Coordination Unit
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
DMTC	Disaster Management Training Center
DRD	Department of Rural Development
DRI	Democracy Reporting International
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
DWCP	Decent Work Country Program
EAOs	Ethnic Armed Organizations
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
EPMM	Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality
ERLIP	Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Incomes Project
EU	European Union
Fojo	Fojo Media Institute
FCA Consortium	Finn Church Aid Consortium
GEN	Gender Equality Network
GEWDG	Gender Equality and Women Development Group
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GEWE – CG	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Coordination Group
GEWE – DPG	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – Development Partners Group
GEWESWG	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Sector Working Group
GSA	Gender Situation Analysis
GTG	Gender Theme Group
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
GIP	Garment Industry Project
GRET	Groupe de Recherches et d'Echanges Technologiques
IASC	Inter – Agency Standing Committee
ICCG	Inter Cluster Coordination Group
ICCO	ICCO Cooperation
ICT	Information and communications technology

IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IDLO	International Development Law Organization
IDPs	Internal Displaced Persons
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IWD	International Women's Day
JPF	Joint Peace Fund
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
LHA	Leave and Holidays Act
LIFT	Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MA	Master of Arts
MAPDRR	Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction
MAT Thailand	Myanmar Association in Thailand
MCCA	Myanmar Climate Change Alliance
MCCSAP	Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
MCCDDM	Myanmar Consortium for Capacity Development for Disaster Management
MCF	Myanmar Computer Federation
MCHVS	Maternal and Child Healthcare Voucher Scheme
MDRF	Myanmar Digital Rights Forum
MHF	Myanmar Humanitarian Fund
MIDO	Myanmar ICT for Development Organisation
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MLRC	Myanmar Literacy Resource Center
MMCWA	Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association
MMK	Myanmar Kyat (Myanmar Currency)
MNCW	Myanmar National Committee on Women
MNHRC	Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
MOE	Ministry of Education
MoHS	Ministry of Health and Sports
MoNREC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation
MoSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

MoTC	Ministry of Transport and Communications
MP	Member of Parliament
MRTV	Myanmar Radio and Television
MSC	Master of Science
MSDR	Maternal Death Surveillance and Response
MSDP	Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan
MSM	Men who have sex with men
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MWAF	Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NCA	Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
NEL	National Education Law
NFPE – EP	Non-Formal Primary Education – Equivalency Program
NEME	Non-Formal Middle Education
NESP	National Education Strategic Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NMSP	New Mon State Party
NSPAW	National Strategic Action Plan for the Advancement of Women
NSPSP	National Social Protection Strategic Plan
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAC	Post Abortion Care
PFA	Psychological First Aid
PGMF	Pact Global Micro Finance Fund
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PoVAW	Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women
PSDP	Post Distribution Monitoring Training
PSF	Peace Support Fund
PSG	Peace Support Group
PWID	Persons who inject Drugs
PMICT	Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
ROLCs	Rule of Law Centers
RWI	Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
SBLP	Summer Basic Literacy Program

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SOPs	Standard Operation Procedures
SSAGE	Set and Share the Agenda for Gender Equality
SSID	Small Scale Industries Department
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TA	Technical Assistance
TCRC	Township Child Rights Committee
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWGs	Technical Working Groups
UEC	Union Election Commission
UEHRD	Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance Resettlement and Development
UHC	Universal Health Coverage's
UTC	Unconditional Cash Transfers
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSG	Secretary General of the United Nations
UNWomen	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPDJC	Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UPWC	Union Peace – Making Working Committee
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VSLA	Village Saving & Loan Associations
WDD	Women Development Division
WFP	World Food Programme

WHO	World Health Organization
WON	Women's Organization Network
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

## Section One: Priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks

### 1. Important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?

In Myanmar, the National Strategic Action Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) came to action in 2013 with its priority areas aligned to the BPFA. For each of NSPAW's twelve priority areas, country specific issues were identified and roadmaps were produced for the strategy's 10-year implementation plan. Currently, the strategy is in its sixth year of implementation. At the national level, gender mechanisms were put in place with its outreach to the states/regional/district and township levels and laws and policies are being revised to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

As Myanmar emerges as a democratic state after prolonged military rule and embarks on a triple reform process which includes economic reform; democratic governance; and national unity, peace, and development, it is of utmost importance that the process is inclusive of gender aspects and that gender equality and the empowerment of women becomes the means as well as the outcome of the reform process. Due to the given past historical and political context, Myanmar had limited progress in gender equality and women's empowerment, especially in terms of understanding and being aware of gender issues as well as in terms of establishing effective national mechanisms, capacities, tools and approaches to address gender imbalances. In the past five years, Myanmar has made important achievements such as in a) setting up a nation-wide multi-stakeholder gender mechanism; b) increasing the number of women in decision-making positions; and c) integrating gender in long-term national development plans, e.g. the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan. These achievements form an important base to work towards further progress in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women.

#### Setting up national-wide multi-stakeholder gender mechanism

In the year 2011, Myanmar re-instituted the structure of the Myanmar National Committee on Women which was formed initially after the Beijing Conference in 1995. In November 2016, this committee was re-structured making it inclusive of different Government agencies, civil society organizations and national level women's networks. This committee, chaired by the Union Minister for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, is responsible for the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of

Women (NSPAW, 2013–2022) which is guided by the principles of CEDAW and the priority areas outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action. This committee is present at all state/regional and district levels and it is currently being established at the Township level too. At all levels, the committee is inclusive of Government line agencies and civil society organizations.

To support the implementation of NSPAW, four national level technical working groups (TWGs) have been formed which deal with specifically prioritized thematic areas such as 1) Gender Mainstreaming; 2) Women’s Participation (political and economic); 3) Women, Peace and Security; and 4) Violence Against Women. All these TWGs comprise of representatives from relevant Government agencies, development partners and civil society organizations. Each group is jointly co-chaired by relevant Government agencies as well as development agencies and civil society organization (national or international ones).

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement further established the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Sector Working Group (GEWESWG) in 2017. The GEWE Sector Working Group which is chaired by the Director General of the Department of Social Welfare is responsible for coordinating and operationalizing NSPAW in collaboration with development partners, line ministries, CSOs, UN and other relevant stakeholders.

Parallel to this, the Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU), a high-level Government body under the Office of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi established in 2016, is in the process of developing a Comprehensive National Socio-Economic Development Plan and has led a process of establishing sector coordination working groups aimed at strengthening development co-operation between the Government and development partners (donors, UN, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, private sector) within the Government’s identified key priority areas.<sup>1</sup>

The responsibility to provide technical guidance to DACU on the integration of gender equality as its agreed guiding principle lies with the Myanmar National Committee on Women, led by the Director General of the Department of Social Welfare with support from wider stakeholders and development partners, including the UN Country Team’s Gender Theme Group (GTG), co-chaired by UN Women and UNFPA.

Myanmar National Committee on Women –MNCW, TWGs and GEWE are all inclusive groups that are represented by relevant Government departments, national level women’s

---

<sup>1</sup> Agriculture and rural development, education, energy and electricity, environment, health, job creation, macroeconomic, nutrition, social protection, disaster management, transportation and ICT.

networks and organizations such as GEN and WON as well as development partners. These structures will further help Myanmar prioritize national activities, harmonize efforts and gather resources, monitor progress on a regular basis and be accountable towards its international gender commitments such as CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, UNSCR 1325 etc.

In 2015, under the Department of Social Welfare/MoSWRR, a new gender specific division, Women Development Division –WDD was established which is responsible for implementing gender specific programmes of the Ministry, coordinating with development partners and stock taking and reporting of all gender related activities. This department serves as a secretariat to MNCW and other national level committees.

The most important structure in terms of influencing decisions, law and policies are the women and child committees formed both at the upper and lower houses i.e the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws. The lower house is formed from equal number of elected representatives from all 15 states and regions and the upper house representatives are elected on the basis of township/population. The upper house has a 15 member committee and the lower house has 12 member committee. These committees have responsibility to pursue the agenda for gender equality and women’s empowerment and to ensure women have equal rights in politics, economy, social affairs and culture. These committees formed at the highest decision-making levels can play very crucial role as they can submit, scrutinize, discuss and approve important bills. Likewise, they can rise motions and raise questions.

### *Increasing the involvement of women as decision-makers*

In the recent years, Myanmar has shown promising progress in increasing the number of women in political leadership. The 2015 elections saw the highest percentage of female candidates (13%) in any general elections since Myanmar’s independence,<sup>2</sup> and the same elections resulted in a doubling of the percentage of female Members of Parliament.<sup>3</sup> The Union Election Commission is committed to increase women’s political participation and in general, their participation throughout the electoral process. Recently, the Union Election Commission has endorsed the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy and Action Plan 2019–2022. Since 2015, UEC added 392 women commissioners and 951 women staff to UEC positions focusing on including representatives from ethnic minority groups. There are 24.24% of women commissioners at state/region level, 16.05% of women commissioners at the district level and 15.19% of women commissioners at the township

<sup>2</sup> TNI (2016). [No Women, No Peace: Gender Equality, Conflict and Peace in Myanmar](#).

<sup>3</sup> Asia Foundation, 2016.

level. UEC has also established a gender working group at the head quarter level as well as state/regional level.

Female civil servants constitute 62.6 % out of nearly one million civil servants.<sup>4</sup> Women also account for almost 40% of staff at the deputy director level and above. However, a wide variation exists between ministries and state administrative bodies in the proportion of staff who are female, both overall and in senior positions. In general, women's representation is strikingly low at director general levels and above in comparison to women's representation in all senior civil service positions.

Over recent years, the percentage of women's participation in peace processes and dialogues has also been increased. In the Union Peace Conference held in 2018, women's participation increased to 17% which is a 2% increase from the last Union Peace Conference. Out of the 700 delegates participating in the conference, 120 were women who all held decision making positions. The delegates who included lawmakers and Government officials, politicians, military personnel and members of ethnic armed groups were allotted 150 seats each and 100 seats were allotted for experts from civil society. Of the 75 lawmakers and 75 Government officials, 18 and 22 were women, respectively. There were also 31 women among the 150 delegates representing the 10 ethnic armed groups that have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement at the conference. In addition, women outnumbered men as observers in this peace conference. Although the desired 30% of women representatives has not been achieved, the number of women participating in the conference reveals that Myanmar is making steady progress in the area of women's participation in peace-building.<sup>5</sup>

Civil society organizations focusing on women's rights and gender justice have been crucial to these progresses made to promote women's participation in the peace process. In 2014, local organizations and networks focusing on gender established the Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP). AGIPP as a national network also co-chairs the Women Peace and Security TWG. AGIPP is comprised of Myanmar organizations and networks all across the country and is focused on national policy change through engagement in state-level policy processes and aims to reflect the voices and demands of relevant women's rights and peace organizations.

In the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) that was adopted on October 15, 2015 gender perspectives have been integrated. It has the following three gender provisions: 1) the

---

<sup>4</sup> UNDP LEAP, <http://www.mm.undp.org/content/myanmar/en/home/projects/LEAP.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Women Playing Larger Role at this year's peace conference, <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/women-playing-larger-role-years-peace-conference.html>.

principle of non-discrimination based on gender; 2) prevention of sexual violence against women; and 3) inclusion of women in the political dialogue.

By integrating gender in the National Agenda with a special focus on the SDG goals, Myanmar has been working towards fulfilling the SDG gender goals since it adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) together with other member states in 2015. By August 2017, a report on the SDG baseline for Myanmar<sup>6</sup> showed that 13 indicators of Goal 5 were already created. Some of these available indicators were related to violence against women (SDG 5.2.1), the elimination of harmful practices such as child, early or forced marriages (SDG 5.3.1), ensuring women's effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making (SDG 5.5.1 and 5.5.2), women's access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property (SDG 5.a.1), etc.

In 2018, Myanmar drafted its Sustainable Development Plan "Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan", which serves as a blueprint for the country's development till 2030. It includes 46 gender indicators which constitutes roughly 17% of all indicators and out of these 46 indicators, 30 indicators relate to SDG indicators. Five of these are related directly to SDG Goal 5. Different sectoral governance agencies are responsible to provide data for these indicators such as the Union Civil Service Board; the Myanmar Police Force on crime against women, specially rape, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Sports on related education and health related data, Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population for migration related data, etc. Additionally, the MSDP also includes indicators on gender budgeting which mandates all Government agencies to conduct gender-responsive budgeting exercises. The inclusion of gender in this National Development Plan has provided a base for the different actors working towards gender equality.

### Challenges and set-backs

Despite all the above-mentioned efforts, certain critical gaps and challenges remain which have to be addressed in order to further advance the Myanmar gender equality and women's empowerment agenda, as outlined below:

Although the National Gender Architecture includes relevant Government agencies at union and state/regional level, the capacity of each agency and their internal mechanism to mainstream gender is yet to be assessed and capacitated. Some important ministries such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Labor, Immigration

---

<sup>6</sup> Measuring Myanmar's starting point for the Sustainable Development Goals, 2017, CSO and UNDP.

and Population, Ministry of Planning and Finance and democratic institutions such as parliaments and the Union Election Commission have been supported by different development agencies to integrate gender into their plans and policies over the past years. However, it is necessary to build additional capacities and mechanisms within these institutions such as “gender units” “gender working group”, “gender focal points”, etc. to ensure that gender analysis, planning and budgeting become a regular part of all processes at all levels, such as sectoral, ministerial and union, state/region. The Union Election Commission has already set an example by establishing its own internal mechanism in the form of a “gender working group” operating at its headquarters and the state/regional level. The Union Election Commission’s gender working group prepared a gender policy for electoral processes and is conducting regular gender trainings to its staff at all levels.

DSW, the Department of Social Welfare within the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, is the Government’s nodal department to implement NSPAW and has overall responsibility to oversee gender mainstreaming across the sectors and at all levels of governance. However, this department is not funded sufficiently to carry out the national level activities needed such as mentioned above and so far, its role has been mainly focused on coordination and carrying out specific prioritized activities and less on ensuring a system-wide integration, mainstreaming and monitoring of gender equality and women’s empowerment. In the coming years, the department plans to strengthen its internal capacity, mechanisms and resources in order to increase its gender mainstreaming efforts in the future.

While the NSPAW provides an overall framework for the advancement of women and is an important policy instrument, it is yet to be translated into actions nationally, at state and township levels. While a mapping of NSPAW related activities<sup>7</sup> conducted at the end of three years of implementation revealed that a lot of activities were being carried out in line with the NSPAW priority areas, a concrete action plan and indicators were not formulated and no baseline study has been done against which progress could be measured. Since 2017, Technical Working Groups have been formed in certain NSPAW priority areas which have recently developed action plans in their respective areas of work. In addition, NSPAW orientation and understanding below the state/region level remains limited despite DSW’s effort to conduct introduction and orientation trainings at the sub-national levels.

---

<sup>7</sup> NSPAW Mapping Analysis Report, MNCW, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, December 2016.

Myanmar is committed to fulfill its obligations for gender equality and women's empowerment and will continue to work together with relevant development partners and civil society organizations at all levels.

## 2. Top priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes

### (i) Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice

Myanmar is determined to fulfill its obligation under the number of international conventions and agreements Myanmar is signatory to. Myanmar recognizes CEDAW as an important instrument to protect human rights of women and ensure equality and non-discrimination against women. In this regard, in the last five years, Myanmar has amended some existing laws like the Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Codes, etc. making them more gender-responsive, along with amendments regarding the age limit of marriage and that associated with child rape and drafting of new laws such as the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Law (PoVAW), Prostitution Law, Child Rights Law etc.

In order to create a conducive environment for the legal protection of women and girls, the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women (PoVAW) bill has been drafted. The PoVAW is at the stage of preparation to submit to the Union Government, and subsequently to the Parliament for approval. This bill will guarantee women's and girls' comprehensive protection against all forms of violence, including economic, emotional, domestic and sexual violence. It includes clear criminal procedures and penalties and also establishes women's right for rehabilitation. The law is hoped to be enacted by end of 2019.

In Myanmar, the Suppression of Prostitution Act, which was adapted from the colonial-era law exists, prescribing prison sentence of up to three years for sex workers. Under this law, any women considered to be involved in sex work or "loitering with intent to solicit" could be prosecuted – even the possession of condoms has been perceived as an evidence of being involved in sex work. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement along with women advocates and civil society organizations made efforts to amend this law in order to protect sex workers and their rights.

Additional amendments of the Penal Code consists of the recent amendment regarding the minimum age of marriage, which has now officially increased to 18 years old for girls. Also, the section on statutory child rape has been amended raising the statutory rape age up to 16 years.

Development agencies and civil society organizations have been active in this area providing awareness raising activities to promote women's access to justice and the provision of quality legal services for both service providers and right holders. They have been actively engaged in campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism Against VAW. Organizations such as GEN have conducted reviews of existing legal provisions and provided recommendations to the Government and have been actively engaged in the advocacy work for required changes or the drafting of new laws.

Myanmar has placed importance on strengthening its Rule of Law and Access to Justice since its restoration of democracy. IDLO is working on the MyJustice programme which is funded by the European Union and implemented by the British Council to strengthen women's and girls' awareness of their rights around sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and to improve women's and girls' accessibility to services. As part of its work with MyJustice to strengthen women's access to justice in Myanmar, IDLO launched a series of trainings for community-based organizations to learn how to support women and girls more effectively in their communities through SGBV awareness raising initiatives.

Moreover, UNODC is working with the Myanmar Police Force with the aim of strengthening women's and girl's access to justice and to strengthen the role of the police in providing gender-responsive services to women. UNODC's project also aims to build the capacity of women to become involved at all levels of the criminal justice system and positions of authority.

Some leading CSOs work to ensure justice and quality service of the regional jurisdictions, support services and assist survivors of SGBV and other forms of violence in their court trials with kind and cash (travel allowance).

### *(ii) Eliminating violence against women and girls*

Although Myanmar's available statistics on violence against women are not complete, the surveys and researches conducted so far have revealed that violence against women is a widespread phenomenon in the country and ranges from emotional and economic abuse to sexual harassment and physical assault. The demographic health survey of 2015–2016 published a comprehensive data on domestic violence<sup>8</sup> which gave a grim picture revealing that 21% of all ever-married women are survivors of spousal violence and that 51% of women in Myanmar think that wife battering is justifiable. There were other related researches and surveys related to VAW knowledge assessment conducted by several

---

<sup>8</sup> Myanmar Demographic Health Survey, <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR324/FR324.pdf>

women’s organizations and their networks like GEN and WON, including on Violence and Women with Disabilities, Violence in Conflict Area, Violence Against Women, Violence Service Mapping<sup>9</sup>, Women’s Needs Assessment<sup>10</sup> and a multi-donor funded assessment of VAW prevention and response services and access in Myanmar.<sup>11</sup>

Over the past five years, the Government of Myanmar has proactively tried to address the issue of gender-based violence against women and girls with multiple approaches and at different levels starting from policy and law changes, awareness raising to legal service providers, police force and right holders (e.g. women and girls and their communities) as well as establishing and providing service centers to survivors of violence. One of the four national level technical working groups formed for the NSPAW implementation focuses on VAW.

Besides the drafting of the POVAW bill and the Prostitution and Child Law, Myanmar has enacted the Anti Trafficking in Person ATIP Law which includes a special chapter called “Special Protection of Trafficked Victims, Women Children and Youth”. For the Purpose of the implementation of ATIP, a Special Police Force called ATIPD was established, which is expected to be filled up with 25% of women police force. Trainings and workshops concerning gender equality and non-discrimination are conducted with the policemen and women who belong to this special task force<sup>12</sup>.

In addition, DSW with the support from different development partners, provides several services such as direct assistance to survivors of SGBV (in the form of cash transfers), case management, hotline/ helpline services as well as awareness raising, trainings and dialogues with different Government agencies.

DSW has also established One Stop Women Support Centers that provide psycho-social counselling, and other social services for women who are affected by and vulnerable to violence. In addition to these services, temporary shelters for survivors of human trafficking have been established. These spaces are places where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe and can express themselves and get help without fear of being judged or further abused.

---

<sup>9</sup> Service Provision for Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Myanmar, [https://www.genmyanmar.org/system/research\\_and\\_publications/rap\\_file\\_engs/000/000/028/original/Service\\_Provision\\_for\\_Gender-Based\\_Violence\\_Survivors\\_in\\_Myanmar-English\\_Version.pdf](https://www.genmyanmar.org/system/research_and_publications/rap_file_engs/000/000/028/original/Service_Provision_for_Gender-Based_Violence_Survivors_in_Myanmar-English_Version.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> NSPAW mapping analysis report, MNCW, 2016.

<sup>11</sup> Violence Against Women (VAW) Prevention and Response services and access in Myanmar.

[https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Report\\_VAW\\_Prevention\\_and\\_Response\\_Services\\_and\\_Acess\\_in\\_Myanmar\\_AJA\\_R\\_2016.pdf](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Report_VAW_Prevention_and_Response_Services_and_Acess_in_Myanmar_AJA_R_2016.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> As per Central Bureau for Anti Trafficking in Person CB-ATIP.

Besides DSW/MoSWRR, the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has also been mobilized to work in this area of gender-based violence response and prevention. It provides health services to survivors of violence and supports with forensic examinations when needed. MoHS also contributes to numerous gender-related national data collections.

Increased interagency coordination between MoSWRR/DSW, MoHS and the Police Department is leading to the development of Standard Operating Procedure for VAWG cases.

In conflict-affected areas of the country, different programmes such as Safe and Fair, Women and Girls First, Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine State are implemented by different UN agencies and in coordination with DSW and local Government and community-based organizations. These programmes have exclusive focus on women and build in activities to address VAW by supporting para legal trainings, legal aid services, safe spaces and shelter homes and by conducting awareness raising programmes on CEDAW, NSPAW etc.

*iii) Access to health care, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights*

The Myanmar 2014 census revealed that Myanmar's maternal mortality rate at 282 per 100,000 live births is the second highest in ASEAN region. Moreover, one in ten deaths among women of reproductive is a maternal death. As a consequence, to these rather shocking results, Myanmar has been putting women and health issues in a high priority in the past five years, specially that of reproductive health.

In MoSWRR's 2014 Social Protection Strategy<sup>13</sup>, which pursues a life cycle approach, pregnancy, childbirth and antenatal care form important parts of the strategy. Although still very limited and only in pilot stage programmes available to pregnant women and children, initiatives include:

- i) Maternal and child health voucher for maternal, pre- and postnatal care and nutrition
- ii) Maternity and young child cash transfer programme to increase infant and young child nutrition
- iii) Free Nutrition programme for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years of age

---

<sup>13</sup> Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan, December 2014.

- iv) Assistance to mothers with multiple births (three or more) for additional care of mother and child

These programmes are implemented by MoSWRR, MMCWA, MoHS/National Nutrition Centre, Save the Children with support from WHO, WFP and LIFT.

UNFPA has been instrumental in working with relevant Government counterparts like MoHS, MoSWRR to implement programmes to prevent maternal death. These include distribution of contraceptives, training of mid-wives and health workers. A “Five Year Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health” (2014–2018) was further launched by the Ministry of Health and Sports. Additionally, “The National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)” Policy has been developed with support from UNFPA.

Civil society organizations also implemented a range of projects on sexual and reproductive health at the community level and contributed significantly to women and health issues by undertaking surveys relating to barriers to access health services like “Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission, PMTCT”, malaria and co-infection in pregnant women, etc.

Myanmar also recorded progress in terms of data availability with data provided by major surveys such as the Demographic Health Survey, the Population and Housing Census and the Gender Thematic Report, which was based on 2014 census data, the Gender Situation Analysis (GSA), etc.

#### *iv) Right to work and right at work*

The Technical Working Group on “Participation” formed under the MNCW for the NSPAW implementation focuses on women’s participation in the political sphere and in the economy and aims to address discriminations at the workplace through appropriate labor regulations, awareness raising and empowerment of women workers.

Over the past five years, labor laws in Myanmar have been undergoing considerable reform aligning them with the International Labor Law standards which entail gender equality as a principle. Moreover, reforms such as decent workspaces, minimum wage, paid leave regulations, non-discrimination at work, social security and compensations for injuries and illness, etc. apply for both men and women equally. In addition to this, women are entitled to 14 weeks of maternity leave and cash benefits for those registered under the social security system. Additionally, special provisions under the “Women Worker’s Health and Maternity Protection” include safety measures such as the prevention of pregnant women from being assigned tasks that require them to touch or clean the machines in operation or to lift and carry heavy loads. Only light work shall be assigned to pregnant women without

having an effect on their wage and salary benefits and they should not be assigned to work overtime after the 7<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy. Moreover, women having severe menstruation problems can notify their employers about their inability to work by proof of a medical certificate.<sup>14</sup>

Several women's organizations and networks have organized themselves over the past five years to promote women's participation in the economic sector as entrepreneurs of small, medium or large businesses. These organizations are involved in empowering women workers to be aware of their rights and entitlements as well as to organize and put forward their concerns.

Initiatives are also taken to increase women's access to the financial market. In March 2019, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, a national level business fair was organized bringing together women entrepreneurs from around the country and holding a panel discussions around themes such as an enabling policy environment, promoting gender-responsive economic policies and programmes, accessing microcredits for women, better marketing opportunities for women entrepreneurs, etc.

### **3. Specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination?**

#### ***Migrant Women***

Myanmar is the largest labor migration source country in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region. Women in Myanmar are increasingly migrating for work. The 2014 census revealed that half of the 20% of Myanmar's population that has migrated are women. Although women migrants are a vital source of contribution to the economy, they are also facing risks of violence, trafficking and discrimination. Realizing migrant workers' entitlements for a safe, fair and decent work environment and the need for strengthened protection and support services, Myanmar welcomed the "Safe and Fair" project to address women migrant workers' vulnerabilities to violence and trafficking pursuing a human rights based approach and strengthening labor migration governance. This project, which is part of the EU-UN Spotlight global and multi-year initiative, is implemented by ILO and UN Women in Myanmar in partnership with the ASEAN member countries.

IOM similarly is implementing several projects that provide direct assistance to vulnerable migrants. The services provided by IOM include medical, legal and psychological services, shelter and rehabilitation, food and clothing, formal and informal education, vocational

<sup>14</sup> ILO Guide to Myanmar Labor Law [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-yangon/documents/publication/wcms\\_577563.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-yangon/documents/publication/wcms_577563.pdf).

training, etc. Since 2015, IOM's Protection Unit provided direct assistance to 1577 victims of trafficking and 1652 other vulnerable migrants.

The Department of Labor overseas Myanmar citizens particularly by building and maintaining relationships with migrants, registering migrants, issuing identity cards and certificates of identity, social security services, work accident compensation on assistance, negotiating on behalf of migrants to ensure their enjoyment of labor rights in their countries of destination and, specifically in Thailand, it also supports with assisting migrants for the nationality verification process. The Department of Labor is also mandated to protect migrant workers from any forms of crises occurring abroad by gathering and circulating information and providing shelter for people in need. There are other agencies including UN agencies and international NGOs, including IOM, ILO, MAT Thailand and the Australia Asia Programme to Combat Trafficking in Persons responsible for providing assistance to Myanmar citizens abroad.

A central committee comprising of different ministers and other key stakeholders under the lead of the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population has been formed to manage all processes related to overseas employment such as registering citizens seeking jobs overseas and issuing a certificate of registration to them before their departure. Pre-departure assistance is provided by several agencies including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Immigration and Population, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Labor and the Myanmar Police Force. The Department of Social Welfare sensitizes women migrants on gender issues and violence in the pre-departure trainings provided to them.

Recently, with the support from ILO, a complaint mechanism for overseas migrants has been put in place, which enables migrant workers to file complaints in their respective countries of residence.

The return of trafficked persons and other migrants are assisted by the Department of Rehabilitation and the Department of Social Welfare. Other bodies have also engaged in assisting migrants such as the Immigration and National Registration Department, Myanmar Embassies, wards and village tracts administrators, the police force (particularly when migrants are being arrested in their host countries), the Department of Labour, and local and international NGOs.

Although these initiatives are not gender-specific in nature, there has been increasing awareness and focus amongst service providers on women-specific issues given the potential violence women are exposed to while migrating to other countries and their vulnerabilities. This increase in focus on more gender-responsive service provisions can be

interpreted as an integral part of the service providers' supporting agencies' gender equality mandates.

*Women living in remote and rural areas*

According to the 2014 census, about 63% of Myanmar's population lives in rural areas and over half of Myanmar's employed citizens make their living from agriculture, of which women make up 47.4%. In the past five years, rural women in Myanmar have been special target beneficiaries for programmes/projects launched for the rural population of Myanmar such as the National Community Driven Development Project, Emerald Green Project, Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF), etc.

Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) is a multi-donor fund managed by UNOPS and implemented by international and national NGOs, UN agencies and civil society actors. Although LIFT became active since 2010 with the aim to help rural people to reach their full potential through improved nutrition, income diversification and skill development, the second phase of the LIFT programme started from 2015 with renewed focus on target beneficiary groups and it has launched its Gender Strategy in 2017 to mainstream gender throughout its programme/projects.

Action Aid, with funding from LIFT, provided nearly 3000 women with trainings in small business development and conducted awareness raising campaigns on their civil rights and how to avail services from local Government.

Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) specifically targets rural women for micro-credits. 99% of PGMF's clients are women. This project is also funded by LIFT.

Similarly, another large project implemented by the Rural Development Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and supported by World Bank and the Myanmar National Community Driven Development Programme (CDD) is a community-based infrastructure project that involves women in over 5000 projects in 27 townships across Myanmar (as of 2017).

Young women in rural Myanmar have limited access to higher education and to professional opportunities and traditional gender roles limit their choices and mobility. To build young women's capacity and capture their potential, UNFPA began to support a village saving and loan programme for women in 2017. Covering 22 villages, the programme reaches 3248 women.

UNDP drew upon members of an existing rural women's network called May Doe Kabar to build, design and user-test the i-Women app. May Doe Kabar, which was created in 2015, brings together more than 20,000 rural women located in eight states and regions in Myanmar. The network members, who are connected via the Women Inspiring Women app, hold capacity development, income generation and advocacy activities at the local and state/region level.

As many women in Myanmar have little to no experience in technology, UNDP trained more than 3,000 women, who volunteered 1,000 hours in total to create and design the app. Moreover, UNDP built a network of about 2,000 “champions” who send feedback on the usability of the app and promote the app in different villages across the country. The i-Women app enables women to become familiar with female role models, learn about their legal rights and join a chat board where they can connect with thousands of other women. The Government uses data and evidence from this app to shape policy and solicit ideas.

#### Internally displaced women

In the past five years, many gender-related projects, programmes and initiatives have focused on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and on women and girl IDPs as a particular category, since women and girls are more vulnerable to all kinds of discrimination, lack of services and opportunities as well as gender-based violence.

Humanitarian actors working on different themes such as child rights, women's rights, reproductive health, violence, livelihood, leadership and women's empowerment are implementing projects/programmes targeting women and girl IDPs. The UN, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs and bilateral and multilateral donors have made significant efforts to promoting gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action for IDPs.

The MHF is a multi-donor country-based pooled fund (CBPF) established to support timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to address important humanitarian needs. The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for Myanmar chairs the Fund and decides on the MHF funding allocations. The HC is supported by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) that manages the Fund, the MHF Advisory Board and the Myanmar sectoral coordination structure through the InterCluster Coordination Group (ICCG). In the year 2017 and 2018 MHF allocated \$ 9.8 million and \$12.8 million respectively. MHF works through partners to provide Humanitarian Service in various areas such as Health, Protection, Water Sanitation Hygiene, Education, Food Security, Emergency Shelter and Nutrition. The projects funded by MHF are to comply to

the gender marker which mandate that all the project should have gender mainstreamed in its design. Consequently, the reports showed that in 2017, a total of US\$9.8 million was allocated to 25 projects targeting 440,150 persons, of whom 53 per cent were women and girls, and 49 per cent, children and adolescents under 18. It provided funding to both national and international humanitarian organizations to respond to crises in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states, as well as supporting the priorities set out in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and responding to cyclone Mora in Rakhine. Allocations targeted both internally displaced persons and the host communities, across targeted areas in clear linkage with the strategic objectives defined by the HRP, updated assessments and existing humanitarian coordination mechanism. In 2018, 26 partners implemented 37 projects and among the beneficiaries 56% were women and girls.

#### **4. BPFA implementation and effect of humanitarian crises – caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events**

In certain states like Kachin, Northern Shan and Rakhine, where the conflict has escalated over the past five years and natural disasters have occurred, the implementation of the BPFA has been affected, especially in terms of the crisis-affected communities within these states. The most vulnerable women are among those disproportionately affected by the crisis.

#### **5. Top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through law, policies and programmes**

The priorities for Myanmar to accelerate progress for women and girls are aligned with the MSDP and related to the SDGs, commitments to CEDAW, BPFA, ASEAN Committee on Women-ACW, ASEAN Committee on Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children-ACWC and the NSPAW which reflects all of these obligations. Four of these priority areas are already reflected in the first four technical working groups (TWGs) that have been formed under the themes i) Women, Peace and Security ii) Violence Against Women and Girls iii) Political and economic participation and iv) Gender Mainstreaming.

The following are Myanmar's specific priority areas for the coming five years:

##### **Eliminating of violence against women and girls**

Once the current draft of the PoVAW law will be finalized and endorsed, it subsequently will be implemented at national scale. To execute this, sufficient and adequate resources

need to be allocated and capacities need to be developed down to the village tract level. The gender focal ministry, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will lead the process and once the PoVAW bill is passed, important stakeholders such as CSOs, Justice and Police Sectors, service providers such as health workers, psycho-social and legal counselors, community leaders and faith-based leaders, social workers, etc. have to be trained and mobilized. DSW, through the technical working groups, will ensure budget allocation and technical support for this task.

The Department of Social Welfare has been developing Standard Operation Procedure (SOPs) in collaborating with UNFPA and UNICEF to establish uniform procedures to manage all cases under the national case management systems. The procedures outlined in these SOPs are directly applicable to the case work of the DSW case managers at Government institutions as well as non-profit organizations as part of the roll-out of the national case management system.

The Department of Social Welfare has established a national case management mechanism since July 2015 with the deployment of professionally trained social work case managers at townships.

Following the implementation of this strategic plan, MoSWRR provided a data base training and post distribution monitoring (PDSP) training for case managers, training for nutrition and social behavior changes for pregnant women and breast-feeding women and awareness raising to social protection committees at village and ward level. From 2017-2018, the Government provided a cash assistance programme to pregnant women and children under two years and now, four states are being covered by this programme. In total, 162281 persons received cash assistance under this programme, which will continue in other states and regions over the coming years.

DSW will further ensure that CEDAW-related trainings continue to be given at all levels and orientation and learning materials to be made available in different languages.

In December 2018, a “Joint Communiqué” was signed between the UN and the Myanmar Government. The Joint Communiqué also focuses on supporting legal reforms; training and capacity building of justice and security sector actors; strengthening service delivery and access to survivors of sexual violence; ensuring that prevention of such crimes is reflected in specific provisions of any peace and/or repatriation agreements; and, ensuring that perpetrators of sexual violence crimes are excluded from amnesty.<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/joint-communicue-signed-between-united-nations-and-government-myanmar-prevent-and>

The national committee on the implementation of Joint Communiqué has been comprised with the high level representatives from the relevant government agencies including Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Home Affairs. The first meeting of committee was conducted on 3rd April, 2019. The national action plan has been drafted to implement the Joint Communiqué.

*Quality Education, training and life – long learning for women and girls*

Women constitute two third of the illiterate population in Myanmar female students are reported to drop out of schools earlier than male students. The educational gender gap is wider in rural areas compared to urban areas. Gender differences are more pronounced among older generations. Although minimal difference exists in the school attendance rate for age 5–20 with female students' attendance being slightly higher than male, there are certain states and regions where gender disparity is more pronounced with women and girls being more disadvantaged.<sup>16</sup>

The Myanmar, National Education Strategic Plan (NESP 2016–2021) was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Education with nine transformational shifts that aim to provide life-long learning opportunities equally for all. This strategy aims to contribute to the achievement of SDG Goal 4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. However, this strategic plan does not contain specific gender-related objectives and plans.

DSW in coordination with MoE will ensure that the existing gender gap will be closed in the education sector, especially in the Technical and Vocational Training sector. Currently, the Ministry of Education is co-chairing the “Gender Mainstreaming” Technical Working Group at the national level, which provides an avenue to ensure that women and girls benefit equally from the implementation of NESP.

DSW will continue to provide and expand its vocational training centers and introduce non-gender stereotyping skills and trainings for women. One of the areas DSW is currently exploring is digital literacy. DSW will also explore options and alternative skills courses for lifetime learning opportunities for women specially for those with low education levels, who might be integrated into income generating initiatives.

In the coming years, Myanmar will also continue to address the root causes, discriminatory norms and practices that hinder women from enhancing their full capability through education and training. The Government of Myanmar will encourage CSOs to work with poor and rural communities for social norm change to close the gender gap in education.

---

<sup>16</sup> Thematic report on gender dimension, 2017, Department of Population/Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and UNFPA.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) is leading the development of a national level curriculum in a phase-wise approach with technical assistance from ADB, DFAT, and EU and is supporting new education infrastructure. The new education system will be fully functioning with revised curriculums by 2022. It will be ensured that women and girls and those from marginalized groups will equally benefit from the revised education system and that the curriculum and infrastructure are gender responsive.

### *Gender-responsive budgeting*

One of the major setbacks in implementing NSPAW has been the lack of specified budget allocated for gender at all levels. In the coming five years, DSW/MoSWRR plan to reach out to all sectoral agencies, ministries at different level to integrate gender into policymaking, budgeting and public service delivery. In the past years, there has been only a few initiatives related to the subject of gender-responsive budgeting, and only a few discussions and workshops took place at various levels. However, in the coming five years, together with ASEAN Committee on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and in support of UN Women, DSW plans to take a phase-wise approach for gender budgeting.

This approach will include the development of national guidelines for gender budgeting, a mapping of gender-budgeting initiatives in different sectors up to date followed by a detailed gender participatory analysis of the different sectors. Based on this analysis, gender-responsive budgeting will be initiated. The MSDP already mandates different Government agencies to do gender budgeting.

Myanmar has also committed to take the lead on mapping gender budgeting in ASEAN countries. It will host regional conferences and learning opportunities as agreed with the ASEAN committee. Currently, the proposed activities are under review by the respective ASEAN committees.

### *Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights*

Realizing that Myanmar has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the region while 60 % of the deliveries takes place at home and 30% of the maternal mortality occur in home delivery, Myanmar will invest in the coming years in providing skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care and access to birth spacing commodities and services. Related initiatives are supported by UNFPA in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports and DSW.

The Ministry of Health and Sports developed a National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy in 2018, which will be launched in June 2019. The strategy fully envisions that all persons living in Myanmar enjoy sexual and reproductive health rights. Policy statements and recommendations were made on six thematic areas, namely, 1. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, 2. Family Planning, 3. Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Right, 4. Gender and Gender-Based Violence, 5. Special groups including disabled persons, migrants, elderly and key populations, and 6. Reproductive Health Morbidities are included in the SRHR Policy.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is also planning to develop a National Strategic Plan on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), which will guide the implementation of the programme activities to be in line with the National SRHR Policy.

In order to realize Myanmar's commitment to Family Planning 2020, endeavors are being made by introducing long acting contraceptives (implants) and the new method called Subcutaneous DMPA (depo medroxy progesterone acetate).

Myanmar with support from UNFPA and CSOs at the local level will continue to provide trainings to service providers in all states/regions and commodities to all public sector health facilities. These services will be focusing on hard to reach, underserved and poor communities.

Moreover, a Reproductive Health Commodity Logistic Management System (RHC LS) is being implemented to increase the availability and accessibility of reproductive health and family planning services. This logistics system has been expanded to twelve states/regions and will achieve nationwide coverage in the coming three years.

To reduce maternal mortality in Myanmar, implementations are being planned based on the EPMM (Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality) Strategy. Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR), which is a nation-wide mechanism, will be strengthened in the coming years by providing refresher trainings to MDSR team and providing reporting forms to all states/regions.

Finally, post abortion care (PAC) trainings were conducted for public sector health care providers and services have been expanded in eight states/regions. Those PAC services are also going to be expanded in all states/regions in the coming years.

## Political Participation and representation

The 2015 elections offered an opportunity for women of Myanmar to contest and take part in elections and be part of representational governance. In this election, the percentage of women representation in the parliament almost doubled from previously 6% to 13.7% while 23 women entered the Upper House and 44 entered Lower House. However, the figure drops to 10.5 % when the 25% appointees are added as only two female representation were added among those 25%. However, although this is an achievement for Myanmar, the scenario regarding women's political representation is far from being satisfying. This is an area where Myanmar has to focus and needs to put increased effort at all levels from law and policy amendments to capacity and leadership building for women at different levels and awareness raising for social norm change in order to build trust in women's leadership among the general public.

Among the 17000 village tract officers present in the country, only 100 are women. DSW will put special emphasis to change this present scenario with support from different agencies working at local and community levels to empower women to take up these positions.

The Government of Myanmar is committed to adhere to the principals of non-discrimination and equality. It will specifically look into increasing representations of ethnic minorities and disadvantaged groups by introducing appropriate capacity and leadership building trainings. It will continue to empower women in humanitarian settings in coordination with humanitarian agencies working in different conflict and post-conflict areas.

The Union Election Commission with support from partners like IFES and IDEA have taken concrete steps to integrate gender in the electoral cycle. The "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, 2019-2022" is reflected throughout the UEC's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. The strategic plan includes measures to ensure equal participation of all genders, ethnic groups, youth, persons with disabilities and IDPs by removing barriers and discrimination throughout the electoral process.

Following the UEC gender equality and women's empowerment policy, the actors will work together to increase women's participation as candidates, election workers, observers, media personals and as voters for 2010 elections. In addition, UEC has plans to conduct education programmes for women candidates, including ethnic groups, persons with disabilities to ensure greater access to and knowledge of the political parties registration law and relevant electoral laws and systems; ensure women

candidates and women are aware of information available on electoral expenses, candidate nomination, campaigning, electoral offences, punishments and illegal actions; cooperate and coordinate with electoral stakeholders especially political parties to increase the number of women Member of Parliament (MPs); and mainstream gender equality in the instruction, directives and code of conduct for political parties.

## Section Two: Progress across the 12 Critical Areas of Concern

### Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity and Decent Work

#### 6. Actions taken in last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment

##### *Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women*

In 2014, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population with support from UNFPA developed a Gender Dimension policy brief highlighting the need to increase the level of female economic and labour market participation.<sup>17</sup> A “Women in the Economic and Political Participation” Technical Working Group has been formed by the Government to directly respond and implement actions for women's economic inclusion and empowerment reflecting the NSPAW priorities.

In February 2015, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar approved the Financial Inclusion Roadmap 2014–2020, which is based on the analysis contained in the “Making Access Possible: Myanmar Country Diagnostic Report, 2014”.<sup>18</sup> The main target of the Roadmap is to increase financial inclusion in Myanmar from 30 percent in 2014 to 40 percent by 2020, providing access to a full range of affordable, quality and effective financial services, with a focus on women, elderly and the disabled population. This includes an increase in adults' access to more than one financial product from 6 percent to 15 percent. To achieve these targets, the Government together with relevant stakeholders set out the following two proposed interventions: (i) strengthening the financial sector and (ii) ensuring financial inclusion for priority segments such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries and MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise) in low income households.

<sup>17</sup> UNFPA Myanmar, [https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pubpdf/policy%20brief%20and%20infographics\\_Gender%20Dimensions.pdf](https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pubpdf/policy%20brief%20and%20infographics_Gender%20Dimensions.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>18</sup> LIFT Fund, <https://www.lift-fund.org/making-access-possible-map-myanmar-demand-supply-policy-and-regulatory> (last accessed: 19 May 2019).

With this proposed agenda, the Government underpins a broader support for low income segments with a targeted focus on policy development for financial inclusion at the intra-household level especially for women, the elderly and the disabled populations.<sup>19</sup> The proposed focus areas include the following: (i) Policy level initiatives on intra-household financial inclusion, especially for women, the elderly and the disabled through research and policy interventions; (ii) non-financial support to accompany financial services through vocational training, international experience and income generating activities. This project is coordinated by the Department of Rural Development, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Education and mobile network operators.<sup>20</sup>

### *Strengthened land rights and tenure security*

In accordance with CEDAW and the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation enacted the National Land Use Policy in 2016 strengthening land rights and tenure security. The said policy provides principles on how to implement, manage, and carry out land use and tenure rights in the country. It is considered as one of the most socially progressive policies in Myanmar, and includes the recognition of customary land rights, the inclusion of women in land governance and the acknowledgement of the rights of ethnic minority groups.

The new National Land Use Law and its Section 9 explicitly states that men and women have equal redistribution of land tenure and management rights. Women are protected by the law to hold individual or joint landholder rights and the right to own property; have the right to inherit land tenure, to hold land tenure and management rights when a spouse dies, when property is divided and when couples divorce; to participate and represent the community when making decisions in land disputes relating to land use, land transfer and land succession rights, including those about customary practices of ethnic nationalities.<sup>21</sup>

Additionally, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in collaboration with the Land Core Group organization conducted several researches on aspects of land issues, land rights and land law to promote and advocate for equal access to land tenure in Government policies and laws.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>19</sup> LIFT Fund [https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/lift-fund.org/files/publication/UNCDF\\_myanmar\\_fi\\_roadmap\\_3\\_Apr\\_2015.pdf](https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/lift-fund.org/files/publication/UNCDF_myanmar_fi_roadmap_3_Apr_2015.pdf), page 32 (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>20</sup> MOPF,

[https://www.mopf.gov.mm/sites/default/files/upload\\_pdf/2017/07/Myanmar%20Financial%20Inclusion%20Roadmap%20\\_Eng\\_.pdf](https://www.mopf.gov.mm/sites/default/files/upload_pdf/2017/07/Myanmar%20Financial%20Inclusion%20Roadmap%20_Eng_.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>21</sup> Nurma Library, [http://burmalibrary.org/docs22/UST-2016-03-NLUP\\_vs\\_National\\_Land\\_Law\\_Formulation-en%2Bbu.pdf](http://burmalibrary.org/docs22/UST-2016-03-NLUP_vs_National_Land_Law_Formulation-en%2Bbu.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>22</sup> MyLaff, [www.mylaff.org](http://www.mylaff.org) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

*Strengthened/enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors and equal pay legislation*

According to the 2014 census, only 50.5% of working age women (those who are 15 years or older) are part of the labour force which is much less compared to 85.2% of men. The 2015 Myanmar Labour Force, Child Labour and School to Work Transition Survey referred to as the 2015 Labour Force Survey found that 48% of women (15+ years old) were outside the labour force, and 64% of women interviewed in the survey cited housework and family responsibilities as the main cause for being outside the labour force. This divide was most pronounced in rural areas, but similar for women across the Union: access to work becomes more difficult for women because of social expectations that women will take on a larger share of household duties. Labour related provisions in the 2008 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar states as such:

- Section 24 – The Union shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of workers.
- Section 349 (b) – Citizens shall enjoy equal opportunity in carrying out occupation.
- Section 359 –The Union prohibits forced labour except hard labour as a punishment for crime duly convicted and duties assigned by the Union in accord with the law in the interest of the public.

In the past years, Myanmar has amended and enacted several laws and regulations relating to labor such as the Labour Organization Law (2011), the Labour Organization Rule, The Settlement of Labour Dispute Law and Rules (2012), The Social Security Law (2012), etc. (for more information, see footnote number 7).<sup>23</sup>

Although the new laws and policies enacted in the past years to protect labor rights are mostly gender neutral<sup>24</sup>, some of the provisions are specific to women’s needs such as

---

<sup>23</sup> [The Leave and Holiday Act \(1951\) \(Myanmar Version\)](#)  
[Overseas Employment Law \(1999\) \(Myanmar Version\)](#)  
[The Labour Organization Law \(2011\)](#)  
[The Labour Organization Rule](#)  
[The Settlement of Labour Dispute Law & Rules\(2012\)](#)  
[The Social Security Law \(2012\)](#)  
[The Social Security Rule \(2012\)](#)  
[The Minimum Wages Law \(2013\)](#)  
[The Minimum Wages Rule \(2013\)](#)  
[The Employment and Skill Development Law \(Aug, 2013\)](#)  
[The Edited Settlement of Dispute Law\(September, 2014\)](#)  
[The Amended Law for Leave and Holiday Law 1951\(July 2014\)](#)  
[The Amended Law for Factory Act\(2016\)](#)

<sup>24</sup> [The Payment of Wages Law 2016\(Jan 2016\).](#)

provisions relating to maternity rights in order to ensure that women are valued and paid in equal terms. The following list includes some of the provisions that were enacted specifically to address women's needs:

- Maternity leave of a total of six weeks before giving birth and eight weeks after giving birth, up to 14 weeks in total.
- An additional four weeks of maternity leave are permitted if twins have been delivered.<sup>25</sup>
- Up to a maximum of six weeks of total leave is allowed to be taken in cases of miscarriage.
- Full wages may be paid for the time of prenatal examinations at the given rate up to a maximum of seven times during the whole period of pregnancy.
- 70% of average wage of the previous year can be taken as maternity leave compensation before giving birth.
- additional 50% of wages which can be taken once the child is born (additional 75% for twins, 100% for triplets). Hence, 120% of average wages will be administered for the eight weeks of maternity leave which may be taken after birth.
- A parent has the right to take leave for medical treatment for their child up until one year following their child's delivery.
- A father is entitled to take up to 15-days of unpaid leave for infant care upon giving birth by his wife.

Some of the provisions regarding welfare, safety and health measures also take special account of women such as the following:

- For factories with over 100 female workers, there must be a child nursery center available for the children under 5 year of age.
- Regarding weaving or spinning machines, female workers and children are not allowed to handle them.
- Females and young workers are not allowed to lift heavy loads.

While these regulations are protective of rights of both female and male workers, there are no affirmative provisions in place that support the increase of women's participation in the labour market.

---

<sup>25</sup> [The Amended Law for Shop and Workplace \(2016\)](#)

## 7. Actions taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work–family conciliation

### *Inclusion of unpaid care and domestic work in national statistics and accounting*

The 2014 Census includes a category of work under which goods produced for household consumption are described as “Own Use Production Work” and uses gender disaggregated data for this category.

The activities included in the said category are: producing and/or processing agricultural, fishing, hunting and gathering products for storage; collecting and/or processing mining and forestry products for storage, including firewood and other fuels; fetching water from natural and other sources; manufacturing household goods (such as furniture, textiles, clothing, footwear, pottery or other durable materials, including boats and canoes); and building or effecting major repairs to one’s own dwelling, farm buildings, etc.

The findings are disaggregated by sex, age, employment status and time used to produce these products and materials. However, the regular cooking, cleaning or child–care duties are not included in this category and hence, the percentage involved in this work shows that more men are involved in this category of work.

Myanmar is currently in the process of conducting an inter–census survey in 2019 and will revise and add the categories as necessary.

### *Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable*

The Myanmar Labor Law demands that if there are over 100 women workers in a specific work place, childcare centers must be established and provided. The provision of childcare centers will help women involved in the labour force to continue their participation after childbirth and will also encourage mothers with small children to join the labour force.

Moreover, the Department of Social Welfare itself has been operating childcare facilities, both residential and non–residential ones, including pre–primary schools.

Myanmar also has comprehensive policy for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD, 2014), which presents major national initiatives for child and family development. The Government of Myanmar places high priority on the development, education, health, nutrition and protection of young children, from conception to eight years of age. The ECCD Policy builds on governmental and non–governmental achievements in the fields of education, health, nutrition, environmental sanitation and child and social protection. It reflects the work and dedication of Myanmar parents with a focus on women from all

ethnic groups and the strengths of communities, townships, districts, regions and states throughout the country.

Among the ten priority strategies along with key ECCD planned activities and services, two are focused on expanded childcare services and making existing services more affordable<sup>26</sup>

Strategy 1 focuses on the development of expanded and accessible services for preconception, reproductive, antenatal and postnatal education, health and nutrition care. Mothers with diseases such as HIV are highlighted, with a strong emphasis on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMCT) and the provision of antiretroviral therapy (ART) services for mothers and their children. Postnatal services will include extra attention for high-risk mothers and children.

Strategy 2 includes the development of an Early and Preschool Strategy and the mapping and assessment of services for children aged 0 to 3. A strong emphasis is placed on ensuring universal birth registration, developing culturally and linguistically appropriate national parent education and support services, and expanding and improving mothers' circles and other early care and development centers. It also calls for developing an expanded emphasis on home visits, especially for vulnerable children and families, single mothers complemented by mobile teams and satellite centers for remote areas. Comprehensive and continuous maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition services are highlighted with emphasis on postnatal services, maternal nutrition and breastfeeding, child health and nutrition services, children affected or infected by HIV, substance abuse or other forms of abuse or neglect.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettle adopted the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer project (MCCT) developed by the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) and launched it in Chin State, Rakhine State and the Naga Self-Administrative zone between 2016–2018 and expanded it to Kayin and Kayah States in 2018–2019.<sup>27</sup> The Treasury Department of The Ministry of Planning and Finance allocated a budget of MMK 17.832 billion and an additional budget of MMK 5.592 billion was allocated from international aid agencies. The MCCT aims to improve nutrition outcomes for mothers and children through the delivery of nutrition-sensitive cash transfers to pregnant women during their first 1,000 Days. The MCCT has been implemented in 338 villages across three Townships of the Dry Zone Region, where 26% of children are stunted.

The list of supported mothers and children included 2,770 mothers and 3,009 children from 257 villages in Thandwe Township; 4,196 mothers and 4,102 children from 215 villages in

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/01\\_ECCD\\_Policy\\_E\\_Version\\_Web\\_72\\_dpi.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/01_ECCD_Policy_E_Version_Web_72_dpi.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>27</sup> [https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/13925/pdf/legacy\\_brief\\_complete\\_version.pdf](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/13925/pdf/legacy_brief_complete_version.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

Tungup Township; and 1,709 mothers and 1,529 children from 162 villages in Gwa Township. The total financial support amounts to MMK 6,7005,000.<sup>28</sup> The MCCT project is one of the eight flagships under the National Social Protection Strategic Plan. This aid is an important investment in the country's future human resource development and is a state-funded project intended to strengthen and build trust with the public.

*Expanded Support for frail, elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care*

The 2014 Census found that the country has an enumerated population of nearly 51.5 million, of whom 2,897,563, or 5.6% were aged 65 or above.<sup>29</sup>

The Department of Social Welfare, currently supports homes for the aged throughout the country. There are about 58 homes supported by DSW/the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement (MoSWRR). These homes are categorized into three levels: 1. Cash for Rice, 2. cash for rice, other food and clothing, and 3. cash for rice, food, clothing and remuneration for the home in-charge. However, the coverage of the support is miniscule. Currently, about 3,000 older persons are being taken care of. Additionally, in order to take care of the older people systematically, the voluntary caregivers and administrators in respective states and regions are being trained at the Social Welfare Training School in Yangon.<sup>30</sup>

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also enacted the Elderly People Law in 2016. Since 2014 Myanmar is implementing MIPAA, Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002–2022). In the year 2015–2016, One-off cash transfers to older persons above 90 years was started together with Social pension pilots by HelpAge and DSW with LIFT support to gain experience and develop delivery system for larger implementation. In 2017, First national Universal social pension commenced for older persons above 90 years with government budget<sup>31</sup>. The Health Care for the Elderly Programme is an integral part of Myanmar's primary health care. The programme promotes health of the elderly in Myanmar and increases the accessibility of geriatric care services for the elderly. The Health Care for the Elderly Programme provided at least 20% of the ambulatory elderly with geriatric clinical services through the primary health-care approach in project townships. It also encouraged home-based geriatric care through families, health volunteers and non-governmental organizations. Training programmes for health staff, voluntary health workers, family members and community volunteers are also included in

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/thandwe-district-receives-ks-1-3-blm-in-maternal-and-child-cash-transfer-as-of-september/> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>29</sup> Household and Population Census, 2014 (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.dsw.gov.mm/index.php/en/content/elderly-care-services> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/8.%20MIPAA%20Focal%20Presentation%20%28Myanmar%29.pdf>

the programme. An important part of the programme is the establishment of “Wednesday” geriatric clinics in the project areas including the rural health centres. The programme also increased awareness on ageing issues in the communities. In the past years, the Department of Social Welfare implements the programme in close coordination with local NGOs such as the Myanmar Maternal and Children Welfare Association (MMCWA) has increased its partners supporting this programme such as Myanmar Red Cross, Fire Brigade, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation (MWF), Voluntary Home Care Services from various NGOs, both local and national.

Monthly Universal Social Pensions are provided to the elderly who are above 85 years of age since 2018–2019. The age bracket was 90 prior to this. The budget request of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for the 2018–2019 fiscal year including fund for the pensions of 140,000 senior citizens who are 85 years old and over was MMK 5,057,340 million in total cash.<sup>32</sup>

With the Government’s approval of the *National Social Protection Strategic Plan* in December 2014, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement (MoSWRR) in collaboration with HelpAge International implemented a one-year pilot cash transfer project with support from LIFT in two townships: Moegaung in Kachin State and Pyapon in the Ayeyarwaddy Region for children, pregnant women, the disabled and the elderly. The project intended to provide practical experience and lessons to the Department of Social Welfare as well as formulated an evidence based, feasible cash transfer delivery system in villages with minimal banking facilities.

In Moegaung, people who are 80 years and older were included in the pilot. HelpAge International devised a system to make cash payments to 736 older people, at a monthly rate of MMK 10,000. Beneficiary identification, cash delivery, and cash transport to the villages were done by the General Administrative Department (village track administrators and their staff).

In Pyapon, pregnant women, people with children under two, and people aged 70 and above were given cash grants. The beneficiaries included the parents of 520 children, 141 pregnant women and 290 older people.<sup>33</sup> The delivery was initially done monthly for pregnant mothers and quarterly for older people. After the first six months, Government staff adjusted the delivery cycle to every three months for both mothers and older people. The delivery and verification of the beneficiary lists were mainly conducted by HelpAge International and the Department of Social Welfare.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/government-lower-eligibility-age-pension-payments-85.html> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.lift-fund.org/social-protection> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

In addition to this, 14 of the 41 LIFT microfinance partners have introduced a beneficiary welfare fund for clients, which is available to clients in case of death or natural disaster. During 2015, nearly 40,000 women received cash transfers of USD 1.6 million.<sup>34</sup>

There were also number of studies and researches made in the past five years such as Older Peoples Service Mapping (2016); Accessing Health Care by older People (2017); Ageing of Myanmar's Farming Population (2017) and the Population and Census Department's Thematic Analytical Report on Elderly Population (2017).

*Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave*

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population developed the Payment of Wages Act (2016), amended the Factories Act in 2016, amended the Shops and Establishments Act in 2016, developed the Foreign Investment Law in 2013 and the Special Economic Zone Law in 2014. According to the Labour Law amendment regarding the Maternity and Paternity Leave (LHA Amended sec 7, secs 25–28, ss rules 115–121), Pregnant Women received six weeks of prenatal leave and eight weeks of postnatal leave, for a total of 14 weeks of maternity leave, and are allowed to take maternity leave and medical leave continuously as long as they require medical leave. Fathers are entitled to 15 days of paternity leave.

*Promoted decent work for paid care workers, including migrant workers*

A Memorandum of Understanding on the Myanmar Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2018–2021 among the Government of Myanmar, workers' and employers' organizations and the ILO was signed in 2018 in order to promote and advance decent work in Myanmar through the country's first Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) which is closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and existing national development frameworks, such as the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), as well as the forthcoming UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

Gender equality and non-discrimination is a cross-cutting policy which underpins the DWCP design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The DWCP ensures that all measures developed under the programme are gender-sensitive to ensure the needs, constraints and that the different impacts on women and men are taken into account considering measures to target specific forms of vulnerability such as disability. The need

---

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.lift-fund.org/social-protection> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

to create decent and productive employment opportunities is high on the Government agenda. The DWCP recognizes and prioritizes the importance of job creation for women to increase their labour market participation.

In addition to DWCP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has launched a project called Improving Labour Relations for Decent Work and Sustainable Development in the Myanmar Garment Industry ILO-GIP 2016–2019, in order to promote decent work for garment industry workers. The aim of the project is to continue contributing to the overall reduction of poverty and the empowerment of Myanmar's women working in the garment industry by improving labour relations, social dialogue and gender equality.<sup>35</sup> Gender equality and women's empowerment are cross-cutting objectives of the project, integrated into all of its activities, where the participation of working women is at the forefront. Furthermore, the ILO-GIP project will deliver a detailed training programme on sexual and reproductive health designed for the Myanmar garment industry. The objective of the training programme targeting workers, factories' clinic staff, peer and natural leaders and HR managers is to raise awareness on and improve access to sexual and reproductive health services mainly at the factory level.

#### **8. Introduction of austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years**

Over the past five years, the Government of Myanmar has increased its expenditures in the public sector. The budget analysis conducted by the World Bank shows that adjustments on budget spending has given increasing priority to social and economic services. An increase of the Health Ministry's budget was the largest followed by Education and Agriculture Sectors. A comparison between the 2009–2010 and 2016–2017 approved budget shows that spending for the above mentioned Ministries grew at a faster pace than spending for all ministries as a whole.<sup>36</sup>

#### Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Social Services

##### *Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls*

The objective of the women and livelihood priority area of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW, 2013–2022) is to develop an enabling systems, structures and practices that improve women's livelihoods and reduce poverty. The 2014 Census revealed that 29% of the people in rural areas (about 71% of the total population

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/yangon/projects/WCMS\\_568604/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/yangon/projects/WCMS_568604/lang--en/index.htm) (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>36</sup> Myanmar Public Expenditure Review 2017: Fiscal Space for Economic Growth, World Bank.

live in rural areas) and 15% of the people in urban areas people live below the poverty threshold. Several national initiatives which address issues of poverty in Myanmar started taking into account gender aspects in the past five years. The projects and programmes implemented in partnership and supported by bilateral or multilateral agencies followed their mandates and principles of gender equality and women empowerment.

The new Social Protection Strategy endorsed by the Government in December 2014 introduces an innovative vision for the reduction of poverty and vulnerabilities affecting the people of Myanmar. It aims at complimenting and leveraging on the work of other sectors such as education, health by providing families the resources that enable them to access these services. It also aims to promote equity and social cohesion, resilience to cope with disasters and sudden economic downturn.

The Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) is a multi-donor trust fund launched in 2009 to address poverty in Myanmar. It has reached 9.4 million people in 74% of the townships across the country and 2.2 million people have increased their food security.<sup>37</sup> In 2014, a major strategic review was conducted by LIFT which focused on women and children in the areas of nutrition, migration, financial inclusion and agricultural portfolios.<sup>38</sup> The new strategy of LIFT 2019–2023 intensifies it's focus on women and children and has one of the impact level outcome as “increased household income and assets, with greater control by women”.

LIFT now has four thematic areas such as Nutrition, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture, markets and food systems and Decent Work and labor mobility. In 2018, LIFT launched a gender policy to integrate gender into all the aspects of the programme.

The National Social Protection Strategic Plan (NSPSP) for Myanmar introduces an innovative set of services promoting access for all, equity and social cohesion in a rapidly growing and changing society and facilitates the departure from a system based on charity. The NSPSP in Myanmar aims at preventing and alleviating economic and social vulnerabilities, promoting access to essential services, infrastructure and economic opportunity and facilitating the ability to manage and cope with disasters or sudden loss. Some of the initiatives that were launched are listed below which specifically target women, children and other vulnerable groups:

- Residential care for children aged 0–5 in 6 institutional houses catering to 1,420 children.

---

<sup>37</sup> Lift Household Survey (2015-2017).

<sup>38</sup> Lift Strategy 2019-2023.

- Cash benefits to mothers bearing triplets, provided by MoSWRR for school aged children and youth.
- 118 Youth centres, 81 primary night schools and eight training schools.
- Training services for 537 children with disabilities in four centres.
- School feeding in food insecure areas and areas with low enrollment rates supported by the World Food Program (WFP).
- Education stipends programme conditioned on school enrollment and attendance (piloted in six townships and expanding over time by the Ministry of Education (MOE) with support from the World Bank.
- Six vocational training centres serving about 1,000 vulnerable women.
- Social security for the formal sector insuring about 2% of the active workforce (710,000 workers) for disability, sickness, maternity and paternity benefits, disaster relief and funerals, provided by Social Security Board.
- Training centre in Yangon for 141 disabled individuals.
- Skills development training centres, provided by Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.
- Micro-capital loan programme providing a total of MMK200 billion to about two million farmers for agricultural equipment, provided by Ministry of Cooperatives.
- Cash for work programmes in different townships and districts, provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, WFP, International Labour Organization (ILO), Save the Children, Oxfam, Action Aid, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and Groupe de Recherches et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET) Old age.
- Older people's self-help groups serving about 5,123 elderly (with support from HelpAge Myanmar).
- 65 voluntary homes for the elderly with 2282 clients.
- Long-term homecare in 56 townships.

These initiatives are expanding over the years and are implemented in very small scale as pilots as of now.

*Promoted women's access to decent work through active labour market policies*

Realizing that men and women are continuing to migrate for work for livelihood, the Myanmar Government is committed to making migration a positive experience for those who opt to do so and not let women and vulnerable groups further fall into the trap of exploitation in labor or to become victims of trafficking. In 2018, UN Women, ILO, and the EU launched the "Safe and Fair" programme designed to promote safe and fair migration

policies, labor rights and to end violence against migrant women. The programme targets current, potential and returnee women migrant workers and their families. From 2019 onwards, ILO will provide technical support to the Government to amend related laws, adopt new policies and develop operational guidelines that promote gender equitable access to labour mobility, including bilateral systems and skill development.

Currently, there is a regional scoping study on women's labour migration and violence against women undergoing with the report expected to be ready by June 2019.

Similarly, cash provisions for women survivors of violence were made with the aim of supporting women in terms of their transportation costs needed to avail different services. The case workers also provide preliminary legal advices and referrals to the survivors.

### *Increased livelihood opportunities for women*

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has taken steps to strengthen gender-responsive livelihood opportunities for women through the implementation of the Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Incomes Project (ERLIP) with support from Japan and in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

ERLIP was designed to improve agricultural productivity and enhance livelihoods in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Central Dry Zone (Magway and Mandalay regions), Tanintharyi Region, and Shan State. The project supported community participation in identifying priority needs, planning, and formulating village development plans, with a target of at least 50% of poor households participating in meetings and consultations. The following actions were included to ensure women's involvement:

- 40% of female participation in meetings and decision-making activities;
- 50% of female membership in village development support committees;
- 40% of the beneficiaries trained in livelihood related skills, including improved crop, fish, and shrimp production, are women;<sup>39</sup>
- at least 80% of all social infrastructure projects prioritized by women are constructed.

The project was aligned with the Government's stated priorities on food security and agricultural growth as articulated in Myanmar's Framework for Economic and Social

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/79613/47311-001-gar.pdf> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

Reforms,<sup>40</sup> and in particular, emphasizes on (i) rural infrastructure, including small- and medium-scale irrigation systems and improved rural roads; and (ii) broader development of the rural sector through community-based development schemes and cash-for-work rural works programs.<sup>41</sup>

An interim survey of randomly sampled villages was undertaken by the project team in November 2018 to capture snapshots of the most significant changes attributed to ERLIP that indicates a very strong perception of positive change among community members in terms of: (i) increased transparency and accountability; (ii) increased opportunities for supplementary income generation especially among women; (iii) strengthened cooperation and coordination among villagers as well as with technical agencies and authorities at the village tract and township levels; (iv) improved skills to participate in community development activities such as village development planning; (v) increased technical knowledge about common livelihood activities; and (vi) increased confidence and greater voices in development, especially among women.

In addition to ERLIP, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation developed and launched the Myanmar Agriculture Strategy & Investment Plan- 2018-19/2022-2023. The Plan's food and security strategy focuses on food supporting, income generation and enhanced livelihood opportunities for women including vulnerable groups in order to broaden access to receive the quality services of land rights.<sup>42</sup>

## **10. Actions taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls**

### *Improved access to conditional and unconditional cash transfers*

In Myanmar, both conditional and unconditional cash transfers are provided; unconditional cash transfers (UCT) for emergency response and conditional cash transfers (CCT) for developing human capital. CCT includes all eligible women (pregnant women and mothers of children under 12 months) in targeted villages regardless of poverty criteria, whereas the Maternal and Child Health Voucher Scheme (MCHVS) prioritizes women in low-income households who cannot afford to access health services and who live in remote areas. Social Cash Transfer pilot provides MMK 13,000/month to mothers in order to meet the nutritional needs of mother and children and contribute to travel expenses for accessing

<sup>40</sup> [http://moi.industry.gov.mm/sites/default/files/tender/2014/05/framework\\_for\\_economic\\_and\\_social\\_reforms\\_english\\_draft.pdf](http://moi.industry.gov.mm/sites/default/files/tender/2014/05/framework_for_economic_and_social_reforms_english_draft.pdf) (last accessed 14 May 2019).

<sup>41</sup> A document drafted by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and launched in January 2013 contains the most detailed articulation of the Government's reform agenda in a 10-point basic Framework for Economic and Social Reforms.

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.myanmarfswg.org/en/news/myanmars-agricultural-development-strategy-officially-launched> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

health and nutrition services. The MCHVS provides vouchers for mothers to cover transport costs to health facilities for antenatal care (ANC), delivery assisted by skilled birth attendants, and immunization of their children. Besides, there are UCT for Internally displaced persons (IDPs) provided with support from organizations like WFP in Northern Shan, Rakhine and Kachin states where most of the humanitarian work is going on have been targeted areas for cash transfer as well. According to the figures presented by the Cash Transfer Working Group in 2018, a total of US\$ 9.9 million was spent on the Cash Transfer programme, 46% of all beneficiaries received UTC and 51% of all Cash Transfer beneficiaries were women. It was also found that a total of 153 projects were involved in CT in 50 townships in eleven states and regions and 32 organization and implementing partners were involved by 2017.<sup>43</sup>

*Reformed contributory social protection schemes to strengthen women's access and benefit levels*

For pregnant women and children, numerous social protection schemes were put in place such as the MCHVS pilot, maternal and young child cash transfer, free nutrition for pregnant and lactating mothers and children, day care centers for working mothers, assistance to mothers with multiple births (more than three). Girls also benefit from youth focused social protection schemes such as youth centers, training services for children with disabilities, school feeding programme, education stipend and support to compulsory primary education.

There are also voluntary homes for women, vocational trainings and women development centers established by MoSWRR, cash benefits for sickness, maternity, paternity, temporary or permanent disability and funerals for civil servants (58.79 % of the total civil servants are women).

For the elderly, there are social protection schemes in place such as civil service pension, older person self-help groups receiving cash and service benefits, home care, etc. in Ayeyarwaddy, Mon, Kayin, Yangon and Mandalay as well as voluntary homes for the elderly. These are supported by the Pension Department, MoPF, and MoSWRR with support from HelpAge International.

In addition, as described in Section 1, several progressive regulations have been put in place to protect labors and specifically labor women in regards to pregnancy and maternity health.

---

<sup>43</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MMR\\_cashtransferprogramming\\_overview\\_180620.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MMR_cashtransferprogramming_overview_180620.pdf)

The major agencies involved in social protection are the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; Ministry of Labour; Employment and Social Security; Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health and Sports; Ministry of Planning and Finance; Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation; Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association; Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation and Myanmar Red Cross Society.

UNICEF provided health services for children with focus on women and girl children in humanitarian settings such as Rakhine, Kachin and Shan and has trained midwives and health volunteers in these states.

### **11. Actions taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country**

#### *Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal and HIV services*

Being aware of the fact that Myanmar has one of the highest mortality rates in the ASEAN region (280 per 100,000 live births), increasing safe birth practices and the capacity of birth attendants has been priority in the past five years. Similarly, an increasing contraceptive prevalence rate to prevent unwanted pregnancies and related complications has been another priority for Myanmar. In this regard, midwifery standards were upgraded by the MoHS according to the ASEAN guideline (National Standards for Midwives; core competencies and education)<sup>44</sup> and midwifery education has been upgraded from a formerly diploma course to a master's course.

A five year strategic plan called the Reproductive health Five Year Strategic Plan (2014–2018) and the costed action plan was put in place to meet the commitments for Family Planning 2020 with support from UNFPA. Similarly, working guidelines like case management Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Clinical Guideline for Caring for GBV Survivors, SOPs for Response and Investigation of Violence against Women were developed with support from UNFPA.

Myanmar also recognized the urgency to address HIV/AIDS and services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Among the particularly affected groups are sex workers, migrant women and men, men who have sex with men (MSM) and women and men injecting drugs (PWID). Pregnant women among these are taken as a special category for the prevention of mother-to-child transmissions (PMTCT). HIV counselling and testing services for all

<sup>44</sup> [https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/NationalStandardsforMidwives\\_preview\\_0.pdf](https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/NationalStandardsforMidwives_preview_0.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2015).

pregnant women have been integrated into antenatal services across the country and this model has been proven to be successful compared to other countries in the Southeast Asia region. 900,000 women have received pre-test counselling and more than 700,000 took HIV tests and received post-test counselling. In 2015, 3,923 HIV-positive pregnant women have received Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and 39% of them were put on lifelong treatment. In 2017, the overall ART coverage among pregnant women living with HIV was 78%. In addition to this, women in Myanmar benefit from antiretroviral treatment facilities as well as HIV testing and counselling facilities provided.

*Provided women and girls in humanitarian settings with access to sexual and reproductive health services*

Myanmar developed its National Health Plan (2017–2020) following the goal of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), e.g. to ensure all people have access to needed health quality services without experiencing financial hardship.

In the humanitarian settings, UNFPA has reached out to women with Minimum Initial Service Package, MISP and dignity packages. The Women and Girls First programme was launched in 2016 and focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as gender-based violence. This is a three-year US\$14.5 million joint initiative launched by UNFPA and the Governments of Australia, Canada, Finland, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This programme protects the rights of the most vulnerable women and girls in Myanmar and covers remote and conflict-affected areas in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Northern Shan.

The “Gender Profile for Humanitarian Action, and across the Humanitarian–Peace–Development Nexus” endorsed in January 2019, reveals that sexual and reproductive health services is one of the most targeted areas of humanitarian initiatives. The following activities are noted in the report:

- *Various stakeholders are implementing sexual and reproductive health services across Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States.*
- *In Rakhine and Kachin States, sexual and reproductive health the technical working group meetings are convened on a regular basis with secretariat support from the Health Sector actors.*
- *In Rakhine State, collaboration between the Health Sector and GBV subsector is ongoing. A IASC GBV Integration Guidelines workshop for Health Sector personnel was held in Sittwe last 26 October 2017 targeting health programme managers and*

*GBV focal persons as participants. As a follow-up activity, a thematic workshop on “Survivor Friendly Clinics” was held on 24 September 2018.*

- *Medical staff in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan have been trained on PFA, GBV, Clinical Management of Rape and referral pathways.*
- *INGO and NGO health staff in northern and central Rakhine are regularly trained on GBV, child sexual abuse, clinical management of rape, and referral pathways. Yet, GBV agencies have been having limited opportunities to reach Government health staff since 2016.*
- *Over 500 UN/INGO/NGO staff members have been trained on Psychological First Aid, PFA including health staff members. PFA trainings have been incorporated into Rapid Assessment Tool trainings for all UN/INGO and Government enumerators in central Rakhine.*
- *MHPSS Peer Support Networks have been established in northern and central Rakhine for ongoing supervised skills development to expand capacity of GBV, CP and health staff to provide higher quality of PSS intervention. 74 health volunteers (50% female) that support safe motherhood and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Rakhine have been recruited, trained and deployed by Health Sector actors.*
- *In Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan, female health staff members (nurses, midwives and auxiliary midwives) are working in IDP camps and government health facilities. In Kachin, female camp health volunteer workers were recruited by a faith-based organization to ensure better outreach to women.*
- *Women and Girls Centers throughout central Rakhine and in Kachin and northern Shan provide extensive reproductive health education to center participants. Information on the menstrual cycle, pregnancy, antenatal and postnatal care, contraception and family planning methods is provided.*
- *Development of health facility protocols for GBV and CP cases by Health/Protection actors in central Rakhine exercise has been started in 2016, and this initiative contributed to the national updating of related policies.<sup>45</sup>*

---

<sup>45</sup> Gender Profile for Humanitarian Action, and across the Humanitarian-Peace-Development Nexus Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan, Myanmar, 2019.

## 12. Actions taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls

Myanmar has fared well in terms of gender parity in education compared to other sectors most notably in achieving gender parity in enrollment in primary, middle and high school. Reports show that Myanmar prior to 2013 already had these achievements; by 2010, girls comprised approximately 50 percent of students at each level. In 2012, 55 percent of exam takers and 58 percent of students who passed the matriculation exam were female and there was greater enrollment of women in higher education institutions in Myanmar. In 2012, 59 percent of undergraduate students, 80 percent of Master's degree students and 81 percent of Ph.D. students were female. By 2012, in the education sector, 82.6% of higher education academic staff members were women.<sup>46</sup>

The 2014 Census shows that women form the majority of higher level students in Myanmar; Women's representation at the undergraduate level is at 59.5%, the MA/MSc level (qualifying) at 87.9% and the Postgraduate Diploma level at 73.5%. 80.6% of the Master's Degree holders are women and 85.5% of Master of Research and 81.2% of PhD holders are female.<sup>47</sup>

However, the problem in Myanmar's education system is the high drop-out rate and consequently, the low level of attainment of education.

In the past five years, Myanmar has put significant effort to improve the quality of its education system and to cater to the needs of those who cannot afford education. These efforts are not gender specific but aimed at increasing the quality of education and encouraging all students to attend school. The initiatives include amongst others:

- **Policy Reforms:** The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 grants rights to education for every citizen, makes basic education compulsory and gives rights to conduct scientific and other research, and allows for creativity in writing and arts. The 2014 National Education Law (NEL) and its 2015 amendments provide an excellent national framework for the implementation of a wide range of complementary reforms across the national education system. The National Education Strategic Plan of 2016–2021 was launched by the MOE with nine transformational shifts that are envisaged to lead to the goals of universal education. **New Initiatives and National Programmes:** Myanmar conducted a three-and-a-half-year comprehensive review of the entire education system (CESR) including an in

<sup>46</sup> <https://borgenproject.org/girls-education-in-myanmar/> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>47</sup> Total 204,204 306,687 510,891 60.0 Source: Gender Equality Network (2015).

depth policy review to identify priority reform areas, strategies and programmes. The Myanmar Government also increased funding for the education sector that enabled MOE to hire more teachers, to give school grants and stipends for basic education schools. It increased the number of teachers dramatically hiring approximately 72,000 new teachers. In 2016, as a result of the major public sector reform, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology have been merged together. This was also followed by the creation of new departments such as the Department of Alternate Education. These reforms simplified the development and management processes related to the new strategic plan. Likewise, a major expansion of the basic education system and investments in school infrastructure were made possible.<sup>48</sup>

Key components of the education system in Myanmar include 1) Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) supported by a number of non-governmental and private sector organizations and led by the MOE and MoSWRR; 2) Basic Education which comprises of five years of primary education (Kg-4<sup>th</sup> standard), four years of lower secondary and two years of upper secondary education; 3) Alternative Education (AE), which is a non-formal Primary Education Equivalency Programme (NFPE-EP) for out of school children and a Summer Basic Literacy Programme (SBLP) for adults; 4) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), which is provided by different ministries as well as private sector actors in 372 technical and vocational education and training centers; 5) Higher Education overseen by eight ministries along with MOE.

Many community level development programmes in rural areas of Myanmar focus on awareness raising initiatives on the importance of education for women and boys and support monitoring and evaluation processes of education programmes. Curriculum revision and teachers' trainings are becoming increasingly gender-responsive and include gender non-stereotyping messages as well as gender-specific topics such as menstrual hygiene and girl child's safety.

**13. Prioritized actions to address forms of violence against women and girls in specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?**

*Gender-based violence (e.g. intimate partner violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, marital rape)*

---

<sup>48</sup> National Education Strategic Plan 2016-21.

Gender-based violence (GBV), especially domestic and intimate partner violence (IPV), exists across Myanmar. Although Myanmar's available statistics on violence against women remain incomplete, the surveys and researches conducted so far have revealed that violence against women and girls is a widespread phenomenon in the country and ranges from emotional and economic abuse to sexual harassment and physical assault.

To fulfill the demand for reliable data and to inform policy makers and programmes to address VAWG, the Government of Myanmar plans to conduct a three years National Study on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) from 2019–2021. The proposed project will be led by DSW with support from UNFPA and in partnership with the Central Statistical Organization and CSOs. The study objectives are to 1) estimate the prevalence, frequencies and forms of gender-based violence against women and girls aged 15–60, who are subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner (this covers SDG indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2); 2) to assess the extent to which VAWG is associated with a range of health and socio economic outcomes; 3) to identify factors that either protect or put women and girls at risk of gender-based violence; 4) to document and compare strategies and services that women and girls use to deal with gender-based violence, their perception of VAWG and the extent to which women and girls understand their legal rights; and 5) to provide estimates of economic costs of VAWG at the household, regional and national levels.

In addition to domestic violence and IPV, there have been reports of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (CRSGBV) perpetrated against women and girls in conflict-affected areas. In December 2018, a “Joint Communiqué” was signed between the UN and the Myanmar Government, Myanmar is committed to give special attention to those affected women and children in humanitarian settings to ensure that women and girl children are protected and have increased access to justice and services needed in the coming years.

Over the past few years, the Government of Myanmar has been prioritizing VAWG as an important issue and has proactively made advancements in addressing it with multiple approaches at different levels, including policy and law changes, awareness raising to legal service providers, police force and right holders as well as provision of service centers for GBV survivors. The Government of Myanmar has launched its first ever National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW, 2013–2022) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (NSPAW 2013–2022), which is guided by the principles of CEDAW and the priority areas outlined in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. One of the twelve NSPAW key priority areas is dedicated to the elimination of all forms of violence

against women and girls and the importance to respond to the needs of women and girls affected by violence. One of the four national level Technical Working Groups formed for the NSPAW implementation also focuses on VAW. In addition, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement together with women's rights groups have drafted a comprehensive Law on Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women (PoVAW). Once the current draft of the PoVAW law will be finalized and endorsed, it subsequently will be implemented at national level.

To respond to the high prevalence of GBV in the country, the Department of Social Welfare has been developing Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) in collaborating with UNFPA and UNICEF to establish coherent procedures to manage all cases under the national case management systems. The procedures outlined in these SOPs are directly applicable to the case management system used by DSW and non-profit organizations as part of the roll-out of the national case management system. In addition, DSW with the support from different development partners provides hotline/helpline services as well as awareness raising sessions, trainings and dialogues with different Government agencies on the issue of GBV.

DSW has also established support centers for survivors of violence such as One Stop Crisis Centers that provide comprehensive treatment and services, One Stop Women Support Centers that provide psycho-social counselling, and other social services for women who are affected by and vulnerable to violence. In addition to these services, temporary shelters for survivors of human trafficking have been established. These spaces are places where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe and can express themselves and get help without fear of being judged or further abused.

Besides DSW/MoSWRR, the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has also been mobilized to work in the area of gender-based violence response and prevention. It provides health services to survivors of violence and supports with forensic examinations when needed. MoHS also contributes to numerous gender-related national data collections.

### *Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment*

A qualitative report published by the Myanmar Gender Equality Network (GEN) in 2014 revealed that it is common for women and girls to experience sexual harassment in Myanmar with sexual touching on overcrowded buses in public spaces as the most common form of sexual harassment in public. Also, a study conducted in Mandalay on sexual harassment at the workplace showed that 58% of all 271 surveyed women experienced at least one form of sexual harassment in their place of employment, including

harassment, unwanted sexual attention and/or sexual coercion).<sup>49</sup> In 2017, the Myanmar Police Force recorded 508 assaults, compared to 429 cases in 2016.<sup>50</sup>

While there are currently no sections specifically on sexual harassment in Myanmar's Criminal Code, once the drafted PoVAW Bill will be endorsed at national level, a legal framework will be in place that protects women and girls from all forms of violence, including harassment at the workplace and in public places as well as other forms of harassments such as stalking.

Some non-government led initiatives related to sexual harassment include:

- UNFPA-supported Respect Her campaign which uses the #ItsNotOK hashtag to call for zero tolerance to sexual assault, harassment and other forms of GBV.
- Whistle for Help Campaign against sexual harassment on buses in Yangon.
- 'To Lon May' (For Our Women): a ground-breaking Burmese-language mobile app that helps survivors of sexual assault and to raise public awareness of the issues associated with it; shows women how to get information, counseling, healthcare, and how to talk to law enforcement.
- Break the Silence: #AskForZarni: An initiative to raise awareness and prevent sexual harassment and assault in Yangon's nightlife.
- 16 Days of Activism #HearMeToo against sexual harassment and assault, 2019.

### Trafficking in women and girls

Given the high prevalence of human trafficking in the country, the Government of Myanmar has increasingly recognized the issue of human trafficking in women and girls as a priority area over the past few years. Key anti-trafficking mechanisms that have been established in recent years include: the Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) established in 2004 with the Anti-Trafficking Task Forces (AFFs), the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) Task Force established in 2005 with UN-ACT as secretariat, the Five Year National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking brought into effect in 2007, the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBTIP) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Border Cooperation on Anti-Trafficking in Persons (BCATIP) mechanisms with Thailand and Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) with China established to support coordination in cross-border cases, the Action Plan on Forced Labour agreed upon between the

<sup>49</sup> Educational Initiatives and Ajar (2015): Violence Against Women Prevention and Response Services and Access in Myanmar: [https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Report\\_VAW\\_Prevention\\_and\\_Response\\_Services\\_and\\_Acess\\_in\\_Myanmar\\_AJAR\\_2016.pdf](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Report_VAW_Prevention_and_Response_Services_and_Acess_in_Myanmar_AJAR_2016.pdf) (last accessed: 16 May 2019)

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/a/metoo-in-myanmar-opening-up-the-conversation-on-sexual-harassment/4667815.html> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

Myanmar Government and ILO, and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division created in 2013 (ATIP under CBTIP).<sup>51</sup> In addition, the 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law criminalizes all forms of labor trafficking including certain forms of sex trafficking, which are penalized commensurate with those penalties enforced for other serious crimes such as rape. The law prescribes penalties of five to ten years of imprisonment and a fine for trafficking offenses involving male victims, and penalties of ten years to life imprisonment for trafficking offenses involving female or child victims. Forced labor, is a criminal offense under the 2005 Anti-Trafficking Law.<sup>52</sup> In 2017, the Government initiated a legal review to redraft and strengthen the 2005 Anti-Trafficking Law.<sup>53</sup>

The third five-year (2017–2021) National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Person plan revised the 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. The main objectives of the National Plan are to (i) prevent human trafficking in person as a national duty and (ii) protect especially women, children and youth from human trafficking in persons. The Government of Myanmar is committed to 1) draft a National Referral Mechanism providing direct support to victims of trafficking, 2) draft a National Standard Operating Procedure for repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, 3) gear up the implementation of preventive measures for human trafficking, 4) raise awareness about safe migrations, 5) improve the efficiency of the Criminal Justice System, 6) draft national standards for the identification of victims of trafficking and 7) increase the number of shelters for victims of trafficking.<sup>54</sup>

Moreover, the framework for the Economic and Social Reforms and the Comprehensive National Development Plan (2011–2030) addresses the issue of VAW and human trafficking under “Youth and Gender” (which is under the Social, Environmental and Cultural Dimensions of Development section).<sup>55</sup> To address this issue, the Government of Myanmar has already started to establish some mechanisms that can be put in place to address and respond to GBV.

In addition, CSOs, INGOs and UN agencies have been actively working to address the issues through awareness campaigns, capacity building, and providing direct service provisions to survivors of trafficking such as through social services, legal services, and shelters. From April 2018 to March 2019, UN Women, in collaboration with the Kachin State Government, DSW, the Small Scale Industries and Agriculture Departments, the ATTF, other UN Agencies, CSOs and humanitarian and development actors implemented a women’s empowerment

<sup>51</sup> UN-ACT Myanmar: <http://un-act.org/myanmar/> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

<sup>52</sup> <http://un-act.org/publication/view/myanmars-anti-trafficking-in-persons-law-2005/> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.president-office.gov.mm/en/?q=briefing-room/news/2018/09/14/id-9000> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.president-office.gov.mm/en/?q=briefing-room/news/2018/09/14/id-9000>

<sup>55</sup> [http://moi.industry.gov.mm/sites/default/files/tender/2014/05/framework\\_for\\_economic\\_and\\_social\\_reforms\\_english\\_draft.pdf](http://moi.industry.gov.mm/sites/default/files/tender/2014/05/framework_for_economic_and_social_reforms_english_draft.pdf)

programme in Kachin State to prevent and mitigate the impacts of trafficking. Key achievements of the programme included the development of a Common Charter of Demands by women's groups in Kachin State, the economic empowerment of 129 women through livelihood support, the sensitization of over 2,500 women and men on their awareness of their rights and the dangers of human trafficking through community mobilizations as well as the support of 15 survivors of trafficking with legal aid and psychosocial support. Additionally, under UN Women and ILO's joint Safe and Fair Programme in Myanmar (2018–2022), which is part of the EU Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, issues of violence against women workers and trafficking will be addressed through information dissemination, service delivery, trainings on essential service packages and social norms around labor migration, and the development of national Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for essential services for labor migrants with a focus on ending VAW. IOM also supports the Government of Myanmar in combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants with technical cooperation and capacity building through improved legislation, operational skills, cross-border cooperation for frontline officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population.

Despite the above-mentioned major advancements that have been made in recent years in the combat of human trafficking, major challenges remain, as out-migration, especially informal migration, remains high due to Myanmar's low socio-economic development and ongoing conflict situations in certain parts of the country, and as the Government's infrastructure remains limited to adequately oversee, monitor and manage trafficking trends.<sup>56</sup>

#### **14. Actions prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls**

##### **Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation**

As mentioned in the earlier sections, Myanmar has drafted the PoVAW law to address violence against women and girls. The PoVAW is not enacted yet but is likely to be enacted by the end of 2019.

DSW has drawn an Action Plan to prevent increasing cases of child-rapes and to protect and provide quick and effective responses to existing child-rape cases and its victims. The Action Plan includes activities such as knowledge sharing and awareness raising via

<sup>56</sup> UN-ACT Myanmar: <http://un-act.org/myanmar/> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

dialogues, events, pamphlets and flyers, and billboards erected in all divisions and states of the country since 2016. From 2017 to April 2019, 427 awareness raising billboards have been erected.

*Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence*

DSW has also been providing in cash support to a total of 601 child-victims from 2017 to 2019, at a total cost of 107, 558, 000 Myanmar Kyats. Non-biased VAW investigations and assistance is being provided to VAW survivors including psychosocial services, and follow-up actions are continuously been carried out by DSW in terms of cases related to violence against women and children.

Led by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and in cooperation with UN Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, a case management system has been put in place. The coverage of the said system originally included 27 townships in 2015 and was extended to an additional 10 townships in 2016. Case Management Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were launched in November 2015 and collaborations with UN Agencies amended to handle not only child protection cases but also gender based violence cases. The purpose of these SOPs is to establish uniform procedures to manage all cases under the national case management systems. The procedures outlined in these SOPs are directly applicable to the case management system used by DSW's case managers at Government institutions as well as by non-profit organizations as part of the roll-out of the national case management system.

In addition, the Department of Social Welfare is operating a Help Line System since in November 2016 and providing case management services (health, psychosocial support, legal and safety services) to survivors through trained case managers.

Based on the SOPs, a case management training curriculum was developed to train case managers. At present, about 200 case managers have already been trained and they are handling GBV cases through the Help Line System. In 2017 and 2018, a total of 861 cases from 15 different state and regions across Myanmar received case management services by DSW's case managers.

In 2016, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement piloted One-Stop Women's Support Centers (OSWSC) at vocational training centers in Yangon and Mandalay to support women who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. The centers offer medical check-ups, shelter for mothers and children, legal advice on their rights and support in the

event of a prosecution. The centers are staffed with medical professionals, police, officers with legal experience and administrative workers.

Moreover, CARE Myanmar operates three centers in the compound of DSW's regional office, in three states funded by UNFPA. DSW, CARE Myanmar and UNFPA are currently taking steps to develop a Myanmar-specific guideline with respect to the GBV guiding principles of safety, confidentiality, non-discrimination and respect as well as a "do no harm" approach.

*Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice*

In line with the new amendments and enactments in laws and regulations in the Defense Service Circle, quick response are conducted. Survivors of sexual violence cases and other human right violations are permitted to report directly to the President Office, Committees of Hluttaw, the National Human Rights Commission or indirectly through the media. Any cases of human rights violations specially crime against women(eg. Harassment or rape)committed by military personnel, heavy punishments could incur on the offenders, as the impunity of security personnel from repercussions is not acceptable based on Myanmar's zero-tolerance policy .

*Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls*

A national level Technical Working Group (TWG) has been established to address VAWG which operates under the MNCW. It is a multi-stakeholder group led by DSW as the chair. The co-chairs are both from CSO and Government side. This group was formed in 2017 and has developed a policy brief and drafted an action plan, which will be implemented in the coming three years. The draft action plan includes large-scale awareness raising trainings, provision of services to women and children survivors of VAW and the involvement of cross-sectoral departments across the education, media, health, security, and other sectors in these process. The Action plan also includes the conduct of in-depth studies and researches aiming to reveal the underlying causes of violence, which will support the development of strategies to address these.

Moreover, Myanmar is currently drafting the National Action Plan for the Joint Communique that was signed between the UN and the Government of Myanmar to address conflict-related sexual violence and which has six agenda points to address.

## 15. Strategies country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls

### Public awareness raising, social norm and behavior change

Over the past few years, the Government of Myanmar has increasingly recognized the importance of public awareness raising in terms of social norm and behavior change to prevent VAWG and to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEWE). As a result, the Government, in collaboration with UN Agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs), has supported the organization of a number of VAW advocacy events in commemoration with international and international women-related celebrations such as the International Women's Day, the Myanmar Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

To celebrate the International Women's Day (IWD) 2019 on March 8, the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, in partnership with UN Women, have organized a high-level event called 'The Women's Leaders Forum' in Naypyidaw in line with the 2019 "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change" theme. The event, which reached over 1000 participants focused on the importance and the way forward of women's economic empowerment and social protection in Myanmar. In addition, DSW, in partnership with UN Women and other organizations working on GEWE, organized a community focused event in Sittwe/Rakhine in commemoration of the International Women's Day. This event, which reached over 600 people, included a community-theater performance, community-led awareness raising on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and legal counseling for VAW survivors, and a declamation contest with Sittwe University students. In Myitkyina/Kachin, DSW and the Myanmar National Committee Women Affairs (MNCWA), in partnership with UN Agencies and development actors, also commemorated IWD through a number of different awareness raising events.

Myanmar, in partnership with UN Agencies, CSOs and local and international non-governmental organizations further organizes a number of events annually in celebration of Myanmar's national Women's Day (3<sup>rd</sup> July) to raise awareness on VAW and to advocate for GEWE.

Since recent years, the Government of Myanmar has further joined forces with UN Agencies, civil society organizations, local and international non-governmental organizations and embassies in campaigning for the 16 Days of Activism, which annually runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10

December, the International Human Rights Day in order to raise awareness of gender-related issues at the local and regional level.

*Work in primary and secondary education, including comprehensive sexuality education*

While the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action recently called on Governments to provide education on sexuality to promote the well-being of adolescent girls and boys, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is also perceived as essential to prevent VAWG.

Having committed to delivering life-skills and CSE in several of its global commitments and national policy frameworks such as the National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy (2019), the National Youth Policy (2017), the Myanmar National Comprehensive School Health Strategic Plan (2017–2022) and the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018–2030), which promotes the development of a comprehensive national curriculum including “21st century skill sets”, Myanmar has included segments of CSE in its life skills school education curriculum for grade 1–11 students as part of its education reform process of primary and secondary school curricula. This incorporation of CSE segments in the primary and secondary life skills school education curriculum provides an opportunity to further improve in- and out-school life skills education so that it will cover all components of CSE in the future to ensure a gender-responsive, human rights-based approach to sexuality education. UNFPA is currently in the process of assessing the current state for school CSE curriculum development, providing technical support and guidance in the development of and capacity building on CSE to the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Education, and conducting advocacy efforts towards parliamentarians and ministries on CSE.

*Grassroots and community-level mobilization*

Over the past few years, the Government of Myanmar has increasingly recognized the importance of public awareness raising in terms of social norm and behavior change to prevent VAWG and to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEWE). As a result, the Government, in collaboration with UN Agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs), has supported the organization of a number of community-based VAW advocacy events in commemoration with international and international women-related celebrations such as the International Women’s Day, the Myanmar Women’s Day and the 16 Days of Activism in recent years.

Programmes implemented specifically to address VAWG or SRHR include the “Safe and Fair” programme which is implemented together with UN Women and ILO. The “Women and Girls First” programme implemented together with UNFPA in conflict-affected states includes awareness raising trainings on CEDAW at the local level for both service providers and women and men of the affected communities as a programme component.

CSOs and national level networks such as GEN, WON, AGIPP, etc. have been crucial in advocacy and awareness raising work and leading campaigns at both national and local level in Myanmar.

#### **16. Actions country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)**

While no specific laws or provisions for technology-related Violence Against Women (VAW) exist in Myanmar’s civil or criminal law, Myanmar does recognize the right to privacy and it has other criminal provisions in place such as the criminal provision punishing obscene publications with offences for “outraging the modesty of women” to address instances of technology-related VAW.<sup>57</sup>

There are currently two laws which can be used in cases of fraud and defamation through internet: the Telecommunication law and the Electronic Transaction Law. People can lodge complaints with the police under these laws. These are not gender specific laws or mention gender but EU’s MYPOL police reform programme trained police officers in Cyber Security introducing them to latest cyber and network security threats.<sup>58</sup> The Government of Myanmar is committed to enact a cyber-law in the near future in line with international standards. DSW will ensure that these laws will address issues of violence against women and girls through cyber.

In order to increase its efforts in strengthening cyber-security in Myanmar, the Government of Myanmar has organized the Third Myanmar Digital Rights Forum (MDRF) in January 2019 (two previous Forums were held in 2016 and 2018), which was attended by around 250 participants from civil society, academia, private and public sector, the Government and the media. Focusing on digital freedom of expression, privacy and access, the Forum aimed at an open consultation on the development of a cyber-security policy and legislative

<sup>57</sup> Marina Kaljurand (2017). Background Paper on Online (Cyber, Technology Related) Violence Against Women (VAW): <http://kaljurand.ee/2017/11/21/4208/> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

<sup>58</sup> <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000192971> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

framework in Myanmar needed to address issues related to e-government, e-commerce and cyber security. The MDRF also hold sessions on issues such as women's rights online, women and the internet: promises and perils, ethnic harmony and ICT for people with disabilities, hate speech and religious tolerance, which provides an important opportunity for continuous discussions on women's cyber security. Concrete action and implementation plans in terms of developing a national Cyber Security Framework, which includes and highlights on women's security in cyberspace, are yet to be developed.<sup>59</sup>

In terms of increasing women's and girls' access to mobile phones and other ICTs,<sup>60</sup> the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) and the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)-Myanmar coalition, together with the Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) organized a workshop on gender-responsive ICT policy, regulations and strategies with the objective to develop the Myanmar Universal Service Strategy in 2016. Myanmar's Universal Service Strategy (2018-2022) developed as part of the telecommunication sector reform process by the MoTC and Post and Telecom Department promotes equal access to basic communication services by women and men including women and men from ethnic and religious minority groups as well as the development and implementation of a digital skills programme with a focus on women to ensure their improved digital capabilities.

In 2015, UNDP in collaboration with May Doe Kabar, the National Network of Rural Women, launched the *iWomen Inspiring Women* app, which aims to share knowledge and information, inspire rural women in Myanmar, to increase their self-belief and -consciousness and foster peer support and network building among 22,000 women across 2,000 villages in order for them to become leaders in their communities and to support their economic and social empowerment. The *iWomen* app is also used to promote GBV awareness among rural women in Myanmar and to collect data on violence against women in rural areas, e.g. a survey on GBV was recently conducted through the *iWomen* app. Joosk Character Design and Animation Studio has been working with May Doe Kabar to produce cartoon series on challenging prevailing gender stereotypes in Myanmar, which were integrated into the *iWomen* app in order to raise awareness on GBV. The Myanmar Government uses data and evidence from this app to shape policy and solicit ideas.

---

<sup>59</sup> Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business: <https://www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/news/digital-rights-forum-2019-report.html> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

<sup>60</sup> Women in Myanmar are reported to be 28% less likely to own a mobile phone compared to men as of 2018: <https://webfoundation.org/2018/01/solving-myanmars-digital-gender-gap/> (last accessed: 16 May 2019).

**17. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women's and girls' discrimination and/or gender biases in the media?**

In comparison to other BPFA areas, women and the media was a relatively less focused area for Myanmar in the past years. UNESCO Myanmar has been engaged with the media with support from the EU to promote democratic reforms and media development in Myanmar. The UNESCO training curriculum for the Media Literacy training course includes a module on gender equality and women's empowerment.<sup>61</sup>

Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) has weekly radio programme that broadcasts interviews with outstanding women from all walks of life to encourage women to take leadership roles and come out of their stereotyped roles. Similarly, TV series like "The Sun, The Moon and The Truth" was telecasted that depicted dramatic legal issues encountered in community and included story line on gender-based violence.

A research "Gender in the Myanmar Media Landscape" was published by FoJo Media with support from Embassy of Sweden. This report analyzed position of women in the media and content generated for women<sup>62</sup>.

**18. Actions in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination**

Violence against women has been a priority gender issue for Myanmar and as mentioned in the sections above there has been a lot of initiatives to address it. Women in conflict-affected areas have been given special priority by many humanitarian organizations and local CSOs present in the area supported by many donor partners present in the country (details in question 11).

Some initiatives to address sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women have been taken by interested group of people like the campaign Break the Silence. This was launched by group of survivors and supporters to combat against sexual harassment in nightlife of Yangon, especially targeting women working in bars and restaurant as well as the customers. This initiative aims to raise awareness as well as provide complaint mechanisms and services to those harassed. This group linked up with the Help Line System which is established by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Women and girls' survivors of abuse and sexual harassment report to the said Help Line

---

<sup>61</sup> <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/unesco-equips-myanmar-ngos-media-and-information-literacy-skills-greater-advocacy-freedom> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>62</sup> DSW, NSPAW Mapping Analysis Report.

and case managers from the Department of Social Welfare who provide case management support.

### Participation, Accountability and Gender-Responsive Institutions

#### **19. Actions and measures taken in the last five years to promote women’s participation in public life and decision making**

Women’s participation in Myanmar’s parliaments increased after the 2015 elections to 10.5% from 4.6% prior to the elections. While this is still far from reaching the goal of a 30% of women’s representation in parliaments, the increase in women’s participation is indicating progress towards the 30% objective. In terms of women’s involvement in civil service, the proportion of women engaged in civil service is higher than men, as women consist 58.78% of the total employees. However, when it comes to higher decision making levels in civil service, women’s representation decreases significantly. At the local level, women’s participation as leaders is very low. Out of 17,000 village tract administrators, only 100 are women.

A number of studies/researches were carried out to understand the situation, barriers and underlying causes for the above-mentioned low participation of women in leadership positions in the past years. UNDP, through its Local Governance Local Development Programme, produced a report that documented journeys of women in local leadership to understand their characteristics, circumstances and how they fared through the election process, their perception of their roles and representation, etc.<sup>63</sup> The Asia Foundation supported study on “Experiences of Women Parliamentarians” conducted in 2017 highlights the experience of women parliament members (MPs) who took office from 2011 to 2016 to identify issues, challenges and achievements of women MPs in this period and to draw recommendations and encourage future female leaders. Similarly, GEN published a study called “Gender and Politics in Myanmar”, that reflected the 2015 elections with a focus on men and women candidates to see the commonalities and differences in their perceptions and experiences of the elections and of being appointed as MPs.<sup>64</sup> All these studies have fed into the current initiatives taken by different development agencies and CSOs to build leadership and increase women’s participation.

<sup>63</sup> Women and Local Leadership, UNDP Myanmar. [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/myanmar/docs/Publications/PovRedu/UNDP\\_Women\\_and\\_Local\\_Leadership.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/myanmar/docs/Publications/PovRedu/UNDP_Women_and_Local_Leadership.pdf) (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>64</sup> Gender and Politics, Women and Men Candidates, [https://www.genmyanmar.org/system/research\\_and\\_publications/rap\\_file\\_engs/000/000/024/original/Gender\\_and\\_Politic-\\_Brief-English.pdf](https://www.genmyanmar.org/system/research_and_publications/rap_file_engs/000/000/024/original/Gender_and_Politic-_Brief-English.pdf) (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

“She Leads” is one example of the targeted programmes that reached out to more than 1,200 women to provide them with electoral and democratic knowledge as well as leadership skills. Similarly, organizations like the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) are working directly with political parties to increase their capacity and understanding of inclusive democracy.

In light of the forthcoming elections in 2020, the Union Election Commission has developed and endorsed the first Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy (2019–2022) for the UEC to address gender issues throughout the electoral cycle. UEC has also formed the Gender Working Group at the Union level and at all state/regional levels. They have further conducted gender sensitization trainings for UEC staff to understand gender issues and to deal with women voters, candidates, election workers in gender responsive ways.

One of the four Technical Working Groups (TWG) formed at the national level, referred to as the “Participation” TWG includes both participation in the political and economic sectors. A policy brief was prepared by the TWG taking into account the CEDAW concluding remarks, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and commitments to ASEAN committee. Since 2018, the Participation TWG has its national level action plan in place to support the NSPAW implementation in the “women and decision making area.”

In terms of increasing women’s participation in the peace process, several initiatives such as the Joint Peace Fund of over 100\$ million, which is funded by multiple donors, as well as the Peace Support Fund of \$ 6 million have encouraged women to become a more active part of the peace process over the last five years. The Peace Support Fund has a focus on contributing to women’s strengthened role in Myanmar’s peace–building processes

In addition, UN Women has over the recent years advocated for the integration of gender mainstreaming into the nationwide ceasefire agreement and framework for political dialogue, trained over 300 senior Government officials at union and state level in Women, Peace and Security and has worked at the state level to create a related action plan for women’s involvement and gender integration into peace processes.

Finally, various CSOs in the country have been proactively engaged in building capacity and leadership and empowering women over the past five years. GEN which has over 130 member NGOs affiliated regularly conducts leadership trainings, advocacy and campaigns.

**Actions taken in the last five years to increase women’s access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICTs)?**

Although Myanmar is currently undergoing technological advancement concurrent with the political and economic changes, women’s involvement in the information and communication sector is found to be low. In the past years, there has been an increase in awareness of the situation and mostly private sectors have started dialogues about involving women’s participation in the media and ICTs.

The Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) and Myanmar ICT for Development Organization (MIDO) organized a conference in May 2019 to encourage the involvement of women in the ICT sector. ICT Works in Myanmar published a research-based article on the gender digital divide in Myanmar which revealed that women are 28% less likely to own a mobile phone and to access the ICT sector compared to men due to the existing lack of awareness of the benefits of women’s involvement ICTs and the deeply ingrained gender stereotypes associated to male entitlements to owning and using ICTs.<sup>65</sup> The Participation Technical Working Group (TWG), which was established for the NSPAW implementation, recently convened a meeting with private sector actors to raise awareness about the importance of women’s digital inclusion in rural areas for financial transfers.

Other trainings conducted in the field of media include trainings on “Gender-Balanced Reporting” conducted by UNESCO, and “Gender Media Trainings” carried out by GEN together with the Women Journalists Society to representatives from the media council and private media institutions such as Mizzima and inter news, DVB. In the “gender Media Training”, participants were given an introduction into story filming on Gender Based Violence and Human Rights in Myanmar’s conflict-affected areas.

ICTs and the media, is a sector that Myanmar will particularly be increasingly focusing in the coming years with the aim of ensuring women are equal participation and benefit from the growing ICT sector in the country.

## **21. Tracking of national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (Gender Responsive Budgeting)**

Currently, no formal system exists to track budget spent on gender in the different Government agencies. Myanmar is committed to start gender responsive budgeting across

---

<sup>65</sup> Waya Vota (2018), What Drives Myanmar’s Gender Digital Divide?: <https://www.ictworks.org/myanmar-gender-digital-divide/#.XNyBrl4zbIV> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

the different Government agencies led by DSW/MoSWRR from 2019 onwards with technical support from UN Women. Myanmar has submitted a plan for GRB mapping of the ASEAN countries and for drafting a roadmap for Gender Responsive Budgeting. This commitment is further aligned with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, which includes Gender Responsive Budgeting as an important indicator which measures the percentage of Government departments that apply GRB.

In the past five years, a few gender budgeting related trainings and workshops to build the understanding of the Government staff about gender budgeting have been conducted with support from UN Women at the Union level. Oxfam carried out a study to look into how women engage with budget allocation processes and revealed towards the need to increase awareness of budget processes and constraints on women's participation in formal leadership roles.<sup>66</sup>

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has looked into its expenditures in the past years to validate how much budget is allocated for different activities, which has later been published. This however was just a disaggregation of the budget expenditure and not an analysis of the impact of the budget allocation on gender.

**22. As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (Gender Responsive Budgeting)?**

N/A

**23. National strategy or action plan for gender equality**

Myanmar endorsed its first ten-year National Strategic Plan for Gender, the "National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women" (NSPAW) in 2013. This ten-year national action plan has adopted the twelve critical areas of concern of the BPFA and localized and adapted it to Myanmar's context. This strategy reflects Myanmar's commitment to BPFA, CEDAW, ASEAN commitments, was drafted in collaboration with relevant Ministries, agencies and organizations. The overall objective of the strategy is stated as: "All women in Myanmar are empowered and able to fully enjoy their rights with the support of the

<sup>66</sup> Oxfam, Women's Budget Priorities in Myanmar:

[https://www.themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Report\\_Womens\\_Budget\\_Priorities\\_in\\_Myanmar\\_Oxfam.pdf](https://www.themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Report_Womens_Budget_Priorities_in_Myanmar_Oxfam.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Enabling systems, structures and practices are created for the advancement of women, gender equality and the realization of women's rights." For each twelve sectors, the strategy has laid out plans in terms of key activities to be carried out, required awareness/capacity building, research and surveys needed to close the data gap and to further help understand issues and make recommendations.

While in 2013 when the strategy was launched, it was not linked to the Millennium Development Goals, the strategy has later been aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) after the SDG global targets have been set. The NSPAW mapping conducted in 2017 linked each of the twelve areas to related available SDG indicators. The SDG baseline mapping conducted by the Central Statistical Organization and UNDP has identified the following SDG 5 indicators that are presently available in the country:

- 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-married women and girls (aged 15–49) subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by their husbands in the last 12 months,
- 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 15–19 years who are married,
- 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments,
- 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in local parliaments,
- 5.5.2 Number of ministerial positions that are held by women as a percentage of the total number of ministerial positions,
- 5.5.2 Number of seats in national parliaments held by women as a percentage of the total number of seats in the national parliaments,
- 5.5.2 Number of women law officers as a percentage of the total number of law officers,
- 5.5.2 Number of women police officers as a percentage of the total number of police officers,
- 5.a.1 Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secured rights over agricultural land,
- 5.a.1 Proportion of female agricultural population with ownership or secured rights over agricultural land,
- 5.a.1 Proportion of male agricultural population with ownership or secured rights over agricultural land,
- 5.a.1 Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land,
- 5.b.1 Proportion of Individuals (total) who own a mobile phone.

**24. Action plan and timeline for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a state party) or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United National Human Rights mechanism that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?**

The action plans drafted by the Technical Working Groups on Mainstreaming, Participation, VAW and Women Peace and Security has taken the UPR recommendations and CEDAW concluding remarks into account. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is currently preparing a report on the implementation of the UPR recommendations.

In December 2018, Myanmar signed a Joint Communiqué to address sexual violence in conflicts. In 2019, a national level committee has been formed which is currently in the process of drafting an action plan for the implementation of the six points of recommendations in the Joint Communiqué.

Myanmar has also committed to drafting a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The Government has started the consultations process at the state level and piloted some state level NAP action plans in Kachin, Kayan and Mon states in 2018 with support from UN Women's Women Peace and Security project.

## **25. National Human Rights institution**

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) was established in September 2011 by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with the aim to promote and safeguard the fundamental human right of its citizens as enshrined in the Constitution of the country. The commission is mandated to monitor and promote compliance with all international and domestic human rights laws, to review the domestic law, to advise the Government on the international instruments available to ratify the conventions, to assist the Government to prepare human rights related reports as per international commitments and to address cases of human rights violation. Although there is no specific mentioning of gender in the HRC mandate, it is their responsibility to ensure Myanmar's compliance with the international human rights instruments such as CEDAW, CRC and ILO.

The MNHRC focuses on longer term awareness raising programmes such as conducting human rights trainings to military officers, police forces, civil servants, and prison staff, and supporting the expansion of the integration of human rights education into public school curricula. The MNHRC has conducted workshops with numerous international organizations, including OHCHR, UN Women, Democracy Reporting International (DRI), and

the RWI. The RWI described a largely positive experience working with the MNHRC, noting that both sides have initiated projects, and that the MNHRC has consistently integrated feedback from the RWI into their working plans. The MNHRC will seek to continue this positive collaboration.

Despite these efforts, there are no significant cases to cite where MNHRC has addressed gender-related cases or sought to promote gender equality.

### Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

**26. Actions taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?**

#### *Integrated women, peace and security commitments into key national and inter-ministerial policy, planning and monitoring frameworks*

A large number of actors are involved in Myanmar's peace processes, the Government's peace process team and the militia groups. The international community, NGOs, CBOs and non-state mediators played a crucial role in brokering, mediating and monitoring peace talks as well as in implementing ceasefire agreements and policy advocacy programmes. The Government of Myanmar demonstrated its commitment to increase women's participation in the peace process and in national reconciliation and has made progress in enhancing women's participation and influence through Myanmar's formal national processes. In 2014, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was drafted outlining the implementation and monitoring of ceasefires, as well as a road map for the peace process. The ceasefire agreement also contains three gender-explicit stipulations: (i) non-discrimination based on gender; (ii) "avoidance" of sexual violence as part of the protection of civilians; (iii) and ensuring "a reasonable number/ratio of women representatives" participating in the Union Peace Conference. In 2015, The NCA was signed between eight armed ethnic groups, the Government and the Tatmadaw. Since then, three Union Peace Conferences took place with a first session organized in 2016, a second session in 2017 and a third session in 2018.

The third session of the Union Peace Conference, the 21st Century Panglong, was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 11 to 16 July 2018 to establish a Union system based on democracy and federalism that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination of rights, founded on the outcomes of the political discussions. At this conference, 14 points were signed as Part II of the Union Accord. The four fundamental agreements on the

commitment to advancing gender equality as a key national policy have been integrated under the political committee as follows:<sup>67</sup>

- To develop a policy on gender equality which protects every citizen of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from gender-based discrimination in the establishment of a Union system based on democracy and federalism.
- To promote a minimum 30% quota system for women in all sectors.
- To develop a policy that protects people from gender-based violence in the establishment of a Union system based on democracy and federalism.
- To empower women and to enhance gender equality.

UN Women's project on "Centering Women and their Priorities in Myanmar's Peace Process: Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and Related Resolutions" contributes to advance women's and girl's rights related to peace and security. The project which is in line with under UNSCR 1325, CEDAW, SDG and National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW), is currently under implementation in three States: Mon, Kayin and Kayah States with financial support from the Government of Norway and in close collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the State Governments, State Parliaments and the Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW).

The overall goal of the project is to advance women's and girls' rights in line with UNSCR 1325, CEDAW, SDGs, and NSPAW through the implementation of national commitments and accountability frameworks on women, peace and security in Myanmar with a focus on three main outcomes: (i) national and local standalone or broader gender plans addressing WPS issues are developed and operationalized; (ii) institutional capacities, awareness and willingness of the military to address a WPS agenda is strengthened; (iii) the gender sensitive security reform is implemented through scalable pilots.

The project's phase I (July 2016 – November 2017) was initiated in Mon state and extended to Kayin and Kayah State and included a series of capacity building sessions and community consultations on the gendered impact of conflict, to identify women's peace priorities and mainstream them into long-term development agenda in line with NSPAW. National Peace Negotiations (UPDJC) have included 4 CEDAW/UNSCR compliant provisions relating to gender equality, women's representation and participation at all level of the peace process, fighting sexual violence and women capacity development.

---

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.statecounselor.gov.mm/en/node/2048> (last accessed: 14 May 2019):

The project phase II (November 2017 – October 2020) has been focusing on promoting local solutions for women participation in decision – making and accelerating the implementation of NSPAW across its pillars including as relates to women’s safety, health and livelihood. 1122 women enhanced their understanding of gender-based impacts of conflict and gendered dimensions of peace and development.

14 consultation meetings have been documented into a joint stakeholder meeting report with concrete action points on mainstreaming gender across peace and political participation, security and violence prevention and economic empowerment

The phase II of the programme also includes two pilot activities: an initiative on Community Peace Centers led by women at community level and capacity building for the Myanmar Police Force focusing on women police officers and gender sensitive community policing. Most of the activities planned under this second phase are directly aligned with the Women, Peace and Security Technical Working Group Work Plan which is one of the Technical Working Groups formed to implement NSPAW.

*Adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan on women, peace and security*

The participation pillar of the UNSCR 1325 has particular importance in Myanmar. The Government takes steps in increasing female participation in high-level decision-making contexts in Myanmar, ensuring quotas and affirmative action policies are in place to guarantee that women’s exclusion from the peace process does not continue.<sup>68</sup> The Government’s proposal for a 30% quota for women’s inclusion in the Myanmar’s political dialogue is a positive step.

The Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is committed the develop and implement the National Action Plan on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (UNCEDAW Concluding Observation 13(a) with the technical assistance of UN Women and in cooperation with the Women Peace and Security Technical Working Group by respecting the Nay Pyi Taw Accord.<sup>69</sup> This includes the consideration of the existing strategic plan, the

<sup>68</sup>[https://www.jointpeacefund.org/sites/jointpeacefund.org/files/documents/international\\_standards\\_guiding\\_gender\\_inclusion\\_in\\_myanmar\\_peace\\_process.pdf](https://www.jointpeacefund.org/sites/jointpeacefund.org/files/documents/international_standards_guiding_gender_inclusion_in_myanmar_peace_process.pdf), page 18, (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>69</sup>The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States was developed through the forum of the International Dialogue and signed by over 40 countries and organizations at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011 at Busan. Myanmar has not endorsed this policy; however, PSG donors and other international partners have endorsed the New Deal to guide their approach in countries such as Myanmar, committing to support nationally-owned and led development plans and greater aid effectiveness in fragile situations (the TRUST principles). The first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum (January 2013) endorsed the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation, embodying the principles of ownership, a focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency. Amongst the coordination structures established as part of Accord were the Cooperation Partners Group (CPG) and 16 Sector Working Groups, which were merged into 13 Sector Working Groups in 2017. The Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Coordination Group is led by the Department of Social Welfare and co-facilitated by UN Women and Finland. This group is tasked to advance NSPAW.

NSPAW, as part of the policy options to advance WPS norms and standards in Myanmar (an ‘NSPAW first’ approach).<sup>70</sup> Secondly, international donors who comprise the Peace Support Group (PSG), the PSF and the Joint Peace Fund (JOF) in Myanmar also have obligations and commitments to ensure women’s equal participation and gender inclusion in the peace process. This includes through their own respective NAPs on WPS and public commitments made in 2015 as part of the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Review on WPS.<sup>71</sup>

In addition, a workshop on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and related Resolutions was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 27–28 April 2015 in cooperation with the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) and UN Women. The workshop was attended by high-level government representatives such as the coordinating Minister for the Peace Process in Myanmar, the Union Minister for the President’s Office, the Union Minister for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Chairperson of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, the Vice Chair of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and Commissioners, Parliamentarians and senior Government officers. During this workshop, the participants discussed the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and Related Resolutions<sup>72</sup> and agreed on the necessity of formulating a financially resourced National Strategy and/or national/local Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security with gender sensitive targets and indicators, monitoring mechanisms and accountability frameworks that engage in open, constructive dialogue on implementation.<sup>73</sup>

*Supported inclusive and gender-sensitive conflict analysis, early warning and prevention mechanisms*

The Women, Peace and Security Forum in 2018 was organized by the Alliance for Gender Inclusion in Peace Process (AGIPP) to promote gender equality in the peace process, and to ensure that key decision makers consider women’s voices and experiences. In addition, AGIPP’s partner organizations have also organized Women, Peace and Security Forums and participated in peace forums organized by different organizations. A total of 102 representatives (91 women and 11 men) in different regions and states attended these

<sup>70</sup> [https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/NSPAW2013-2022\\_0.pdf](https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/NSPAW2013-2022_0.pdf) (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

<sup>71</sup> A list of all countries that have developed NAPs can be accessed from: [peacewomen.org/member-states](http://peacewomen.org/member-states). Several countries, including Sweden, Norway and the United Kingdom, have a specific focus within their Plans on Myanmar. A full list of commitments made at the Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security in October 2015 (High Level Review commitments meeting) can be accessed from: [www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/N1534718.pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/N1534718.pdf) (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.mnhrc.org.mm/en/2015/04/workshop-on-un-security-council-resolution-1325-on-women-peace-and-security-and-related-resolutions-organized-by-myanmar-national-human-rights-commission-and-un-women/> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.mnhrc.org.mm/en/2015/09/outcome-statement-of-senior-officials-workshop-on-implementing-un-security-council-resolution-1325-on-women-peace-and-security-and-related-resolutions-jointly-organized-by-myanmar-national-human-right/> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

forums. The participants addressed the main challenges for women, peace and security and developed with recommendations.

The National Framework for Community Disaster Resilience endorsed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement recognized fully the vulnerability of women during the Disasters. The cash-transfer programmes, Saving and Credit Groups formed and supported by NGOs and Local Community Based Organizations, forestry projects are geared towards empowering women and other vulnerable groups to cope with disasters.<sup>74</sup>

**27. Actions taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peace building, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings**

*Promoted and supported women's meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements*

The national peace architecture involves two women in the Union Peace-Making Working Committee (UPWC) and two women in more senior positions, among others, in the Myanmar Peace Center, which provides technical and secretariat support to the UPWC.<sup>75</sup> Although women were not consistently and adequately represented in negotiations between the Government and the various ethnic armed organizations in the 14 bilateral ceasefire agreements, three ethnic armed groups did have women in their negotiating teams included. The Government included a woman member of Parliament from Kachin State in its negotiating team with the Kachin Independence Organization in May 2013. Two women were included as technical advisors to the Kachin Independence Organization's human resources structure and one as a legal expert to the Karen National Union. Women's civil society groups have participated in the peace roundtables as observers and advocates, although in far smaller numbers than men. The nationwide ceasefire negotiations had one woman each on the 16-member government and 16-member ethnic armed organization teams. An additional two notable women from the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and The Karenni National Progressive Party who have been involved substantively in ceasefire talks at the state level and who were involved in the NCA talks to a certain extent.

---

<sup>74</sup>

[https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core\\_Doc\\_National\\_Framework\\_for\\_Community\\_Disaster\\_Resilience.pdf](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core_Doc_National_Framework_for_Community_Disaster_Resilience.pdf)

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.agipp.org/en/womens-involvement-peace-process-date> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

Women's groups, with the support of UN Women and other partners, presented their priorities to negotiating parties for inclusion in the nationwide ceasefire agreement. These priorities include the inclusion of gender equality and women's rights as a core principle in the agreement's general principles; prohibition of sexual violence and the necessary end to impunity for perpetration of SGBV by different parties involved in the conflict; treatment of sexual violence committed after the ceasefire agreement as a of peace agreement; elimination of amnesty provisions for perpetrators of sexual violence; attention to gender issues in internally displaced persons camps and in reintegration settings; women's equal representation with men on conflict monitoring, early warning systems, and early response mechanisms; and women's and men's equal representation and mechanisms to develop the framework for political dialogue.

Over recent years, Myanmar has seen an increase in the percentage of women in the Union Peace Conferences. According to the official figures released by the Government, the percentage of women delegates involved in the Union Peace Conference – the 21st Century Panglong – Third Session was 17% and the total number of the women who participated in overall conference was 22%.

According to official government figure,<sup>76</sup> women participation ranges from 29% in the Government, 24% in the Parliament to 20% in Ethnic Armed Groups (EAOs) with the least participation figure from the Tatmadaw that amounts 5%. Accordingly, an incremental progress towards fulfilling the agreed-upon quota can be identified. In the third conference, statistics demonstrate a 5% increase of total women participation and a 2% augmentation of women representatives in comparison to the second session of Union Peace Conference.

Comparing the Second Session with the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference, an increase of 5% in women's participation and 2% of women's representatives increased at the third conference is noticeable. 154 women out of 910 participants in the second session increased to 243 women out of 1112 participants including delegates, facilitators, and supporting office team in the third session.<sup>77</sup>

*Promoted equal participation of women in humanitarian and crisis response activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level*

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in collaboration with UN Women and UNDP is implementing the joint "Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women

<sup>76</sup>[https://www.agipp.org/sites/agipp.org/files/publication%20docx/gender\\_analysis\\_paper\\_for\\_third\\_upc\\_english.pdf](https://www.agipp.org/sites/agipp.org/files/publication%20docx/gender_analysis_paper_for_third_upc_english.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>77</sup> [https://www.agipp.org/sites/agipp.org/files/publication%20docx/gender\\_analysis\\_paper\\_for\\_third\\_upc\\_english.pdf](https://www.agipp.org/sites/agipp.org/files/publication%20docx/gender_analysis_paper_for_third_upc_english.pdf), page 8 last accessed: 15 May 2019).

in Rakhine State” programme funded by the Government of Japan from 2018 to 2019. The expected outcomes of this project are: 1) community priorities and needs are better met through inclusive and responsive service delivery, improved access to justice, and increased local development opportunities that promote social cohesion for men and women (UNDP); and 2) women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience, and inclusive growth and development in Rakhine State (UN Women).<sup>78</sup>

The joint programme that focuses on engaging women from conflict-affected areas is being led by the Department of Social Welfare, Small Scale Industries Department (SSID) and the Department of Agriculture at state level. The project is being implemented in four townships and includes nine IDP camps and 89 villages. The activities range from Gender Leadership trainings in camps and Rakhine villages, entrepreneurship training including business development skills, vocational skills (weaving, tailoring, fishing net training, recycle product training), productive assets provision, climate smart agriculture, high yield and stress tolerant rice seed production, and agri-diversification and agri-entrepreneurship training. So far, over 5,000 direct beneficiaries have been reached under this project. The activities under UN Women’s component of the joint programme are implemented by UN Women in partnership with Oxfam, FCA Consortium (LWF, CERA, ICCO), Bridge Asia Japan, and the International Rice Research Institute.

Through capacity building and empowering women leaders, groups, networks and CSOs to engage and lead gender responsive socio economic development policies and programmes of Rakhine and increasing and diversifying women’s access to livelihoods and income generating opportunities, women will become empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience, and inclusive growth and development in Rakhine State.

*Promoted equal participation of women in humanitarian and crisis response activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level*

The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) in the Rakhine Committee which has been established by Order No. 86/2017 dated to 17 October 2017 by the Office of the President. The UEHRD is a public-private Union enterprise with three main goals: providing humanitarian assistance, carrying out resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced persons and working for development in Rakhine State. The State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, acts as Chairperson and Dr. Win Myat Aye, the

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/myanmar/docs/Documents/inclusive-development-and-empowerment-project-document.pdf> (last accessed : 15 May 2019).

Union Minister for Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement acts as Vice Chairman. Out of nine UEHRD Committee members and eleven members of the Task Force, three of them are women.<sup>79</sup> This Union Enterprise brings together the experience and expertise of the public and private sectors and will be funded by public funds and generous donations from UN agencies, international and regional financial institutions as well as by donors inside and outside the country.

The main roles and responsibilities of the UEHRD are to carry out the effective provision of humanitarian aid; coordinate the resettlement and rehabilitation efforts; carry out regional development programmes; to work towards the cessation of conflicts and the establishment of durable peace; and arrange for the UEHRD financial accounts to be audited by the Union Auditor General Office, and by an International auditing company.

Activities under UEHRD are carried out by ten Task Forces that focus on providing humanitarian assistance, resettlement, development and raising funds and awareness for the people of Rakhine:

Under the **humanitarian assistance focus**, Task Forces:

- (1) provide health care checkups, screenings, operations and training to local nurses and doctors.
- (2) provide cash aid.
- (3) provide access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition treatment services.

Under the **resettlement focus**, Task Forces:

- (1) build camps and healthcare and other humanitarian assistance to returnees.
- (2) rebuild houses, villages, communities and livelihoods for all people of Rakhine.
- (3) bring Myanmar youth volunteers from across the country to provide humanitarian assistance.

Under the **development focus**, Task Forces:

- (1) provide loans to small and medium enterprises, open new bank branches and add mobile agents.
- (2) provide vocational training, create job opportunities, and promote tourism in Rakhine.
- (3) develop border trade zones and build roads, dams, rice mills and basic infrastructure for Rakhine's long-term development.

Under the **raising funds and awareness focus**, Task Forces:

---

<sup>79</sup> <http://rakhine.unionenterprise.org/index.php/uehrd-task-force> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

- (1) Keep the public and other stakeholders informed about the work of UEHRD and its task forces.
- (2) Raise funds from actors inside and outside of the country.
- (3) Reach out to the international community to have a dialogue on the progress, opportunities and challenges.

*Integrated a gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response*

The aim of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)<sup>80</sup> is to assist the Government in their efforts to meet emergency needs and for an inclusive political transition of the country, where no one is left behind. The plan provides a framework for international agencies on humanitarian assistance and protection needs within which the United Nations and its partners will respond to the humanitarian assistance and protection needs of crisis-affected people in Myanmar.

In consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including Government counterparts, development actors, donors, the civil society, as well as representatives of affected communities, the plan has been jointly developed by members of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Myanmar.<sup>81</sup>

The Humanitarian Country Team recognizes humanitarian action as a critical component of a broader, long-term engagement that is needed to address the wide range of humanitarian, development, human rights and peace-building challenges in Myanmar holistically. To this end, the 2019 HRP is aligned with other key documents and strategies such as the Final Report and Recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State (August 2017) and the Strategic Framework for International Engagement in Rakhine (April 2018).with the overall aim to enhance coherence and complementarity across these sectors.

The basis of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan forms information collected from many different sources, including the Government, national institutions, United Nations agencies, international organizations and local civil society partners engaged in humanitarian response. The plan is part of a broader engagement by the United Nations and its partners to ensure that all people affected by conflict, violence, insecurity and/or natural disasters have access to the protection and assistance they need, with a particular focus on

---

<sup>80</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/2019-myanmar-humanitarian-response-plan-january-december-2019> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>81</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/2019-myanmar-humanitarian-response-plan-january-december-2019> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

vulnerable people including women and children, the sick, the elderly and people with disabilities. The HCT ensures the use of gender mainstreaming and targeted action for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in preparedness, response, recovery and resilience building. In addition, the HCT advocates for women's leadership, meaningful participation and equal representation in humanitarian planning and response, as well as in longer-term peace and development processes, including through gender transformative approaches. Referring to the HCT, the engagement of women's CSOs and other key partners are critical to foster gender equality and women's empowerment<sup>82</sup> The HCT will promote financial provisions to fully resource programming on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Overall, humanitarian actors and development partners remain committed to working with the Government and local authorities to address the different needs of women, girls, men and boys over the coming year. The Government of Myanmar looks forward to supporting strengthened national capacities to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies.

## **28. Actions taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and nonjudicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response**

### ***Implemented legal and policy reform to redress and prevent violations of the rights of women and girls***

The Joint Communiqué on the Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence has been signed in 2018 between the United Nations and the Government of Myanmar after the visit of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Sexual Violence in Conflict in December 2017. The Joint Communiqué is adopted in the framework of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2106 (2013).

The Government of Myanmar submitted the exceptional report to the CEDAW Committee at its 1668<sup>th</sup> meeting in February 2019.<sup>83</sup> The Committee welcomed the steps taken towards the adoption of the draft Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women (PoVAW) Bill and the technical cooperation established between the Government and UN agencies to ensure its compliance with the CEDAW Convention.

<sup>82</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20Myanmar%20HRP\\_FINAL\\_2018%2012%2018.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019%20Myanmar%20HRP_FINAL_2018%2012%2018.pdf) (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>83</sup> [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fMMR%2fEP%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fMMR%2fEP%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en) (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

*Strengthened institutional capacities, including the justice system and transitional justice*

In Myanmar's 2011 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, the Government of Myanmar accepted several recommendations with respect to ensuring access to justice for victims and survivors of GBV. One of the recommendations that the Government prioritized was to develop the Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women (PoVAW) Bill in line with international standards of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The framework for Economic and Social Reforms and the Comprehensive National Development Plan (2011–2030) addresses VAW and human trafficking under 'Youth and Gender' (under the Social, Environmental and Cultural Dimensions of Development Section).<sup>84</sup> To address this issue, the Government of Myanmar has already started to establish some mechanisms that can be put in place to address and respond to GBV.

In addition, CSOs, INGOs and UN Agencies had been actively working to address the issues through awareness raising campaigns, capacity building, and providing direct service provisions to GBV survivors such as social services, legal services, and shelters in conflict-affected areas.

The Rule of Law Centers (ROLCs) Initiative, launched in 2014 at the request of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee of the Myanmar Parliament, provided communities with the knowledge, skills and values they need to address local justice issues through training, dialogue and access to resources. Currently guided by the Coordinating Body on Rule of Law Centre and Justice Sector Affairs, it aims to increase trust and cooperation between justice providers and the communities they serve. Four centers providing a range of services are located in Mandalay/Mandalay Region, Yangon/Yangon Region, Myitkyina/Kachin State, and Taunggyi/Shan State. Through the ROLCs' training activities, more than 2,000 lawyers, law teachers, Government officials and civil society representatives have completed the Foundations in Rule of Law, Training of Trainers workshop and specialized legal courses. Tracking of replicated trainings shows a significant multiplier effect of the follow-up activities taken up by the 21 organizations formed by the ROLC graduates, who delivered 33 replicated trainings reaching more than 1,500 community members in 2017.

---

<sup>84</sup>[http://moi.industry.gov.mm/sites/default/files/tender/2014/05/framework\\_for\\_economic\\_and\\_social\\_reforms\\_english\\_draft.pdf](http://moi.industry.gov.mm/sites/default/files/tender/2014/05/framework_for_economic_and_social_reforms_english_draft.pdf) (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

The centers also play an important role in supporting community outreach initiatives, reaching more than 7,000 participants, to strengthen public legal awareness, including through mobile trainings at the village level for community leaders.

Gender equality is a priority concern throughout all centers' activities. The centers' course curriculum includes specific sessions and activities focusing on women's equality issues, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). A specialized legal course on gender equality and SGBV has been developed and delivered throughout Myanmar, and in 2017 the centers published an issue brief focusing specifically on SGBV.<sup>85</sup>

An independent evaluation of the centers conducted in late 2017 found that the programme is succeeding in meeting its objectives and is demonstrably having an impact in promoting a rule of law culture and access to justice in Myanmar. Drawing on recommendations of the evaluation, the third phase of this initiative, which commenced in January 2018 and focuses on strengthening national ownership and sustainability, increasing the scale and reach of programming through additional centers and institutionalizing the curricula and training courses. The centers will also expand their outreach programming to communities through additional specialized mobile training courses.

### *Taken measures to combat trafficking in women and children*

The 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law criminalizes all forms of labour trafficking and some forms of sex trafficking. The law prescribes penalties of five to 10 years imprisonment and a fine for trafficking offenses involving male victims, and penalties of 10 years to life imprisonment for trafficking offenses involving female or child victims. The penalties for sex trafficking commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape. Forced labor, including the recruitment of children into the Tatmadaw, is a criminal offense under the 2005 Anti-Trafficking Law.<sup>86</sup> In 2017, the Government issued a legal review to redraft and strengthen the 2005 Anti-Trafficking Law.<sup>87</sup>

The third five-year (2017–2021) National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons revises the 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. The main objectives of the national Plan are to (i) prevent human trafficking in person as national duty and (ii) to protect especially women, children and youth from human trafficking in persons. The Government of

<sup>85</sup> [https://www.rolcmyanmar.org/files/publication\\_docs/rule\\_of\\_law\\_centres\\_issuebrief\\_2sgbv\\_issues\\_english\\_version\\_13nov17.pdf](https://www.rolcmyanmar.org/files/publication_docs/rule_of_law_centres_issuebrief_2sgbv_issues_english_version_13nov17.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>86</sup> <http://un-act.org/publication/view/myanmars-anti-trafficking-in-persons-law-2005/> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.president-office.gov.mm/en/?q=briefing-room/news/2018/09/14/id-9000> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

Myanmar is committed to draft a National Referral Mechanism providing direct support to victims of trafficking, draft a National Standard Operating Procedure for repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, gear up the implementation of preventive measures, raise awareness about safe migration, improve the efficiency of the Criminal Justice System, draft National Standards for the identification of victims of trafficking and increase the number of shelters for victims of trafficking.<sup>88</sup>

Regarding Myanmar's combative actions against trafficking in persons since the observation of the Fifth Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day, 201 trafficking in persons cases have been exposed, and a total of 250 victims of trafficking comprising 32 males and 218 females have been identified. 142 cases have been prosecuted and actions have been taken against a total of 366 offenders comprising 106 males and 260 females. In dealing with trafficking in person cases, efforts are also being made to take actions against money and assets arising from the crimes under the Anti-Money Laundry Law.

From 2012 to 2016, the Government identified 606 trafficking cases and took action on 1751 people (675 males and 1076 females). 1776 trafficked victims (749 males and 1027 females) have been repatriated. 400 convicted traffickers were male and 645 were female, who have been charged with two years of imprisonment up to live-time imprisonment. The types of reported trafficking cases included forced marriage, forced sex workers, forced labor, child trafficking and forced debt tied. 57.8% of all reported human trafficking survivors were women and 42.2% men. The main countries targeted for trafficking people from within Myanmar to outside of Myanmar are China which is target country number one at 63.7%, Thailand which is second at 12.9%, and Malaysia which is third at 3.98%. Trafficking incidents happening within Myanmar stands at 18.8%.<sup>89</sup>

The Government formed the Central Body for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBTIP) in 2016 and the Anti-Trafficking Task Force (ATTF) to implement activities and supervise task forces to prevent human trafficking at state/region/district/township level.

The ATTF is also raising awareness on Human Trafficking and Rape Case. Till 2018, 72,774 participants had taken part in 18,707 sessions conducted for raising awareness on Human Trafficking and 1,105,799 participants taken part in 29810 sessions conducted on Rape case.<sup>90</sup>

*Strengthened capacity of security sector institutions on human rights and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse*

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.president-office.gov.mm/en/?q=briefing-room/news/2018/09/14/id-9000> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>89</sup> Third Five Year (2017-2021) National Plan of Action for Anti-Trafficking in Persons.

<sup>90</sup> Shared by Myanmar Police in BPFA mapping matrix (see annex).

The Government of Myanmar has strengthened its knowledge on gender equality, understanding of gender-based violence, and prosecution of gender-based violence cases as well as developed the skills of respective focal point persons to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills necessary for them to conduct trainings in the future. The Union Attorney General's Office with the support of UNODC carried out training workshops in order to provide capacity building to Myanmar law officers on effective prosecution of gender-based violence in 2018.

UNODC, through UNFPA's Women and Girls First Initiative and in coordination with UNICEF, has been supporting both the Myanmar Police Force and Border Liaison Offices with capacity building to ensure effective response to gender-based violence. UNODC adapted training modules on effective police response to violence against women and together with UNFPA have been rolling out trainings since 2017 focusing on gender-based violence as well as investigating GBV. The workshops fostered and strengthened the capacity of the security sector institutions' prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence. Overall, all of the three said workshops were successful, with participants at all sessions showing improvement in their knowledge and confidence on investigating GBV. In 2018, UNODC conducted an additional TOT for 30 officers from across Myanmar, using the previously developed materials from 2017.

## **29. Actions country has taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child**

### ***Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training***

The Department of Social Welfare of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement established three Girls' Training Schools in two regions in Myanmar to support vulnerable girls under 18 years old, who are in need for care and protection according to Article 32 of the 1993 Child Law,<sup>91</sup> in terms of schooling in or to reintegrate them into the society, provide them with vocational trainings such as sewing, embroidery and others according to their interests and link them with job placements. Most of the girls at the Girls' Training Centers are street children and orphans with an age range from 10 to 18 years old. Girls who are 18 years old are directed to the Women's Development Centers under the MoSWRR. The Girls' Training Centers support girls with the continuation of secondary education as well as vocational training.

<sup>91</sup> <http://displacementsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/THE-CHILD-LAW-1993.pdf>, page 679 (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

In implementing youth welfare services, the Department of Social Welfare focuses on preventative and protective measures. Regarding the preventive measure, 70 Youth Centers are opened in States and Regions with the aim to empower and enable youth to be active citizens and contribute to the development of the country. A total number of 7,584 youths are involved in these youth centers<sup>92</sup> In order to increase access to primary education, voluntary primary night schools have been established for the children who cannot attend formal schools for various reasons. There are 89 voluntary primary night schools opened by the communities across the country. A total number of 252 voluntary teachers are providing education to a total number of 5,842 students. The Department of Social Welfare has provided budget to cover the expenses for voluntary teachers, electricity power charges, furniture, stationery and sports accessories on an annual basis. With regards to protective measures, the Department of Social Welfare is carrying out an institution-based child protection system as well as a community-based child protection system. The Department of Social Welfare opened ten youth training schools and provides support to children between 8–18 years old.

The Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with Terre des Hommes works towards reuniting the children with their families or communities, on family tracing and reintegration activities in nearly 90 townships across all 15 different states and regions of Myanmar. Under this programme, 427 children have been reunited with their families/guardians from 2011 to 2017, 443 children attended formal education, 292 children attended vocational training such as hair style training, flower decoration training, bamboo crafting training, motor vehicle service training, electrical skill training and sewing training. In addition, DSW in cooperation with UNICEF, Terre des Hommes and the Child Focus Network has been implementing the Foster Care System in two townships of two regions across Myanmar.

*Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training*

Two Women's Development Centers are run by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) in Yangon and Mandalay. The target population is women who are 18 years old and above and who are need of social help. These two centers successfully provided support to 150 persons including girl children in order to strengthen their access to education, skills development and training opportunities.<sup>93</sup> The technical and professional vocational skills trainings, which the centers provide are sewing, weaving, embroidery; knitting; and primary

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.dsw.gov.mm/en/content/youth-welfare-services> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.dsw.gov.mm/en/women> (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

education for girls.<sup>94</sup> While the current initiative is still rather small-scale, DSW hopes to expand it with support from development partners in the future.

*Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training*

The Non-Formal Primary Education Programme (NFPE), which was initiated by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in collaboration with UNESCO and UNDP, is being implemented by the Myanmar Literacy Resource Centre (MLRC) with support from the MoE and UNICEF. The NFPE programme is used as an accelerated education programme for children who have missed schooling or have never attended school. The target group consists of out-of-school children aged between 10 to 14 years old. The duration of the NFPE is two years and there are two levels: the first year is equivalent to Grade 3 and the second year is equivalent to Grade 5. A total of 75,000 students attended the NFPE programme taught by more than 7,200 teachers over the past ten years according to the MLRC.<sup>95</sup>

The Non Formal Middle Education (NFME) programme is a follow-up to the NFPE which started in the 2016-17 academic year. The NFME programme takes three years to be finalized. In the 2017-2018 academic year, the NFPE programme has been conducted in 93 townships nationwide, and nearly 70 of its students took the matriculation exam. Both programmes increase access to formal education promoting the awareness of the benefits of primary and secondary education.

*Implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices*

UNICEF and the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) strengthen state/regional and township Child Rights Committees (TCRC) to address child protection cases in collaboration with Community Support Groups (CSGs, made up of volunteers) which have been set up in 303 villages through NGO partners.<sup>96</sup> CSG members are trained to recognize, prevent and respond to child protection cases. More complicated cases are referred to the TCRCs. Child friendly and gender appropriate police investigation and court procedures are strengthened through trainings conducted with the police, law officials and judges. Free legal aid to children and women is provided in 245 townships by pro bono lawyers in partnership with a national NGO. The programme supports children who suffer from abuse and domestic violence; children without parental care, including children affected by HIV/AIDS; street and working children; children with disability and provides family tracing and reintegration

<sup>94</sup> <https://www.dsw.gov.mm/sites/default/files/download/7.Social%20Protection%20Strategy.pdf> (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.accu.or.jp/litdbase/literacy/lrc/mmr.htm> (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

<sup>96</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/UNICEF\\_Myanmar\\_CP\\_Booklet\\_2011\\_Eng.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/UNICEF_Myanmar_CP_Booklet_2011_Eng.pdf) (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

support for children in residential care facilities and repatriated trafficked women and children.

As part of the process to integrate social services, the Department of Social Welfare has been establishing a national case management system since July 2015 with the deployment of professionally trained social work case managers at township level. The total number of case managers amounts to 110 across 37 townships. The case managers handled a total number of 2,328 children cases from 2015– 2018 in regards to the following cases: children in conflict with the law, physically and sexually abused children, , trafficked children, and children in armed conflict.<sup>97</sup>

*Implemented policies and programmes to eradicate child labour and excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by girl children*

In 2013, the Myanmar Parliament ratified the ILO Convention for the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182), for its elimination. The Department of Labor of the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population in collaboration with ILO made efforts to reduce child labor through a multi-stakeholder response and launched the Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor (My-PEC), 2013–2017.<sup>98</sup>

The My-PEC programme and its Labor Force Survey, the Child Labor Report conducted in 2015 and a rapid assessment on child domestic work enabled to expand and strengthen the available knowledge base and directly supported the establishment of a Child Labor Monitoring System (CLMS). As a result of the said programme, the public awareness on child labour has increased at the national and community levels which triggered changes in the perception towards child labor and initiated a dialogue to properly address the issue. 87 awareness raising activities were conducted at national and community levels in different regions and 116 organizations participated in advocacy activities.

In 2018, the Myanmar National Child Labor Committee on Child Labor Eradication was formed with 37 members led by Vice President. The committee is implementing the national-level programme for Myanmar's Child Labor Eradication Project; preparing a policy on Child Labor Eradication, issuing of notifications, regularly assessing the work of the committee, reviewing the work of the committee every six months and providing the necessary guidelines; managing of coordination between the relevant ministries, Governments of states/regions and self-administered zones; cooperating with local and

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.dsw.gov.mm/en/node/1831> (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

<sup>98</sup> [http://www.mol.gov.mm/en/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/03/MMR-CL-Child-labour-in-Myanmar-IB-edit-final-version\\_21.11.2.pdf](http://www.mol.gov.mm/en/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/03/MMR-CL-Child-labour-in-Myanmar-IB-edit-final-version_21.11.2.pdf) (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

international organizations on child labor eradication; maintaining the donated cash and kind from international organizations, donors and local organizations; and managing and reporting to the Government annually on the implementation of project aims.<sup>99</sup>

In 2018, the Myanmar National Child Labor Committee on Child Labor Eradication approved the final draft of the National Action Plan and developed a budget plan to be submitted to the Parliament. The Government is planning to launch the National Action Plan towards the end of 2019. The Child Labor Eradication project is providing direct services to a total of 3,600 children or 1,200 children each from 3 townships in two states and one region of Myanmar. These services were able to safeguard 1,440 children from the worst forms of child labor and to successfully prevent 2,160 children at high risk of becoming child laborers.

### Environmental Conservation, Protection and Rehabilitation

#### **30. Actions taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies**

The Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (MCCSAP, 2017–2030), which was developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, presents a roadmap to guide Myanmar’s strategic responses and actions to climate-related risks and opportunities over the next 15 years and beyond. The strategy fully recognizes gender differentials such as women’s role and burden, vulnerability and issues of access and control over resources.

With a thorough analysis of the impact of climate change, environmental degradation on gender and women’s contribution, roles and resilience, the section on gender in the strategic plan states that

*“Throughout the implementation of climate change planning on a national level, women should be consulted and targeted as programme beneficiaries through best practice. This can include quotas for including women on local climate change-related committees, women-only consultation meetings and providing safe transportation and childcare for women to attend meetings. Myanmar signed the 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1997. It also has a National Committee for the Advancement of Women and assigned the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and*

<sup>99</sup> <http://www.moi.gov.mm/moi:eng/?q=news/14/11/2018/id-12810>

*Resettlement responsibility for implementing and monitoring the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women, a ten-year plan (2013–2022) that aims to advance women’s status in 12 areas to reach substantive gender equality by 2022.*

*Myanmar is a signatory to the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and recently underwent a review with the United Nations. After the parties to the UNFCCC recognized the importance of addressing issues of gender and climate change and involving women and men equally in the UNFCCC, the Myanmar Government stated that it would pay attention to gender considerations in its climate change policy design (GoM 2014). Ensuring the full and effective participation of women in decision making means women can act as agents of change in all circumstances. Climate change-related actions would benefit from the insights, knowledge and other resources that women bring in crafting effective and sustainable solutions for adapting to and mitigating climate change impacts. MCCSAP includes capacity building and guidance on mainstreaming gender into climate change actions, how to ensure equal participation of men and women in interventions and improve the availability of sex-disaggregated data.<sup>100</sup>*

NSPAW’s objective for its priority area of ‘Women and the Environment’ is to “strengthen systems, structures and practices to ensure women’s meaningful participation in the management and safeguarding of natural resources, the environment and in adapting to climate change.”

Currently, neither the MoSWRR nor the TWGs have specific programmes and projects addressing issues of women and environment in place but the 2017 NSPAW mapping revealed a number of projects, programmes and researches conducted in this priority area which contribute to achieving the NSPAW objectives.

*Strengthened evidence and /or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards*

Although, no specific national level survey regarding women and the environment and climate change has been carried out in the past five years, considerations on gender and the environment, women’s role in environmental conservation, and the effects of environmental degradation, climate change, etc. on women have been part of a number of national level researches and surveys.

<sup>100</sup> <https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/MCCSAP-Feb-Version.pdf> (last accessed: 14 May 2019).

The multi-authored study “Gender Equality and Women’s Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis”, published in 2016, highlights Women’s role in agriculture and land ownership status as well as the differences in types of work they perform in Agriculture. The study revealed the large percentage of rural women engaged in farming who are directly affected by adverse climate change.<sup>101</sup>

Various CSOs have also undertaken local level assessments/surveys for example on environmental and social management frameworks, women’s role in sustainable environment management, etc.

*Supported Women’s participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance*

The Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA, 2013–2018) was a flagship programme in response to climate change launched by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) in 2013. It was co-financed by the EU and implemented by UN Habitat and UN Environment. It helped Myanmar raise awareness on the implications of climate change; build institutional, policy and technical capacity to address climate change through pilot planning exercises; and test initial methodologies to assess and implement adaptation measures including ecosystem-based ones at the local level.

In 2017, the MCCA supported the selection of the most appropriate actions within the six sectoral plans for their integration into the budget of the fiscal year 2018–2019, as part of the annual budget proposal. One of the recommendations made was to better address gender equality at implementation level through actions at the socio-economic, ecosystem and infrastructure levels.

Furthermore, the MCCA has plans to support gender equality through the development of a gender analysis which will inform the implementation of the activities and will complement the baseline with regards to gender indicators. The study will analyze the specific impact of climate change on men and women and it will give a first insight into the different needs linked to their occupations, interests and roles in the community and household. The results will be taken into account to better address and mainstream gender in the implementation of the respective actions. Special attention will be given to strengthen women’s participation in decision-making processes in climate and environmental issues and increase their understanding and knowledge on climate resilience.

<sup>101</sup> <https://www.adb.org/documents/gender-equality-and-womens-rights-myanmar-situation-analysis> (last accessed: 12 May 2019)

Active measures in this programme to address gender inequalities include: the use of sex-disaggregated data to ensure women's active participation in all consultations with a focus on community planning processes, and sectoral adaptation efforts; promotion of gender-sensitive trainings that include sensitization on gender issues that arise in the event of disasters including gender-based violence; facilitation of dialogue sessions to help men and women learn and share information, especially indigenous and gender knowledge on climate change and adaptation, particularly focusing on experiences and trends that would help in adaptation. The Gender Equality Network (GEN) is part of the Programme Steering Committee to facilitate the promotion of actions that contribute to increasing gender equality in climate and disaster related contexts.

Mercy Corps in cooperation with Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves have worked in Myanmar's dry zone, Mandalay, to supply modern and efficient cook stoves. It empowered women by involving them as sales-persons and has reached out to 22,000 households by 2018 over a 2.5 years period. The women supported in these households also benefit from cleaner air and increased efficiency thanks to these stoves.<sup>102</sup>

Moreover, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation implemented a women-focused project on Environment and Community Forestry called "Women, Environment and Community Forests for the Food Safety in Rakhine" from 2015–2018. It aimed to raise awareness and help establish sustainable management of resources for food security, specifically involving women and youth as target groups. The total number of beneficiaries reached during the project amounted to 200,000 inhabitants of rural villages in Gwa and Thandwe. In addition, ten micro enterprises out of which 50% were formed by women and eleven user groups with 50% of women's participation were established during the project period.

Set and Share the Agenda for Gender Equality (SSAGE) – a Korean Government initiative in collaboration with DSW – supports women to produce eco-friendly products.

Also, a Solar Electrification Project is implemented by the Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation (MWCDF) in collaboration with Barefoot College (India) to train women in Myanmar to set up solar home systems. The training in solar engineering is given in India for six months. 48 women have been trained so far.

Finally, the Forest Department has listed about 45 projects and programmes on their website, which are currently being implemented throughout Myanmar and most of them are supported by international agencies with gender components incorporated. However,

---

<sup>102</sup> <https://envirofit.org/envirofit-partner-spotlight-mercy-corps-myanmar-stoves-campaign/>

this is an important area which requires more targeted and gender specific efforts in the coming years.

### 31. Actions taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?

#### *Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters*

Since the cyclone Nargis struck southern Myanmar in May 2008, disaster mitigation, preparedness, its effect on poor disadvantaged communities and women have been a dominant topic of research and studies in Myanmar and projects and programmes were launched for disaster preparedness and risk reduction interventions.

In 2012, OXFAM published the Myanmar Case Study: Putting Women at the Centre of Disaster Risk Reduction, which focused on the lessons learned from OXFAM's women-centered DRR project that promoted livelihood as an effective DRR strategy. Basically, this study gave insights into the benefits of involving women in DRR project interventions, increasing women's incomes and leadership abilities, as this contributes to the society's acceptance of a changed perception of women's role in the social, public and economic sphere besides directly benefiting the women beneficiaries.<sup>103</sup>

In addition, a comprehensive stock-taking of current and past efforts to address gender issues in humanitarian settings, specifically in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan, was carried out and a report was published in early 2019 by the national and sub-national humanitarian coordination system of Myanmar. The report was based on collective inputs from key humanitarian stakeholders from across the UN, INGOs, NGOs and CSOs and with technical and coordination support from UN Women. The report describes the gendered context in each of these conflict-affected states of Myanmar and identifies gender needs and gaps. On the basis of experiences and lessons learned from all ongoing and past humanitarian initiatives, the report draws key strategies and recommendations for each of these humanitarian areas separately.<sup>104</sup>

Similarly, a post-disaster assessment conducted in 2015 and led by UN Women and the World Bank highlights the disproportionate impact of crises and disasters on women in Myanmar and the differences in priorities of women and men in terms of their needs for

<sup>103</sup> Burma Library: <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/Myanmar-Case-Study-Putting-women-at-the-centre-of-disaster-risk-reduction.pdf> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>104</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/gender-profile-humanitarian-action-and-across-humanitarian-peace-development-nexus> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

recovery. It also highlights that despite being more vulnerable, women display great resilience and a play crucial role in building back.<sup>105</sup>

*Supported women's participation and leadership including those affected by disasters in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects*

Myanmar had already endorsed the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and signed the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) which is the first legally binding HFA-related instrument. Since then, the Government of Myanmar has made efforts to continuously strengthen its policy, capacity, and institutional landscape for disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA). Actions include the adoption of the National Disaster Management Law (2013) and Rules (2015); the formulation and implementation of the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR, 2012) and updated the MAPDRR 2017–2022 in line with the Sendai Framework; the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) (2012); the Myanmar National Framework for Community Disaster Resilience (2017); the establishment of the National Disaster Management Fund (2016); and the Disaster Management Training Center (DMTC, 2015). In addition, the Myanmar Climate Change Policy, Strategy, and Master Plan has been approved in 2019. Through the DMTC, inclusive disaster risk management has been integrated into the training courses supported by the Myanmar Consortium for Capacity Development for Disaster Management (MCCDDM). The Government is collaborating with development partners to implement the strategies and action plan of the MCCDDM. In line with the international standards that Myanmar is committed to, gender concerns are reflected in these endeavors.

The Department of Disaster Management of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is implementing a technical assistance (TA) project called “Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience of Myanmar Communities (2017–2021)” with the aim to improve the capacity of Government agencies at the national level and in the Ayeyarwady region to manage climate and disaster risks. This project is implemented with support from the Asian Development Bank and funded by the Government of Canada. The TA project supports climate and disaster resilience interventions and the implementation of key DRM and CCA frameworks across Government departments especially, the Department of Disaster Management together with the Department of Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Department of Financial Regulatory

---

<sup>105</sup> <https://iwda.org.au/post-disaster-assessment-in-myanmar-highlights-disproportionate-impact-on-women/> (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

and the Department of Environment Conservation. The provision of gender trainings on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change to relevant departments and raising awareness on gender, and sharing on gender analysis of the project to the project's focal and gender focal constitute essential parts of the capacity building. The programme also aims to strengthen available data on gender and disaster and information on vulnerable groups affected by disaster to help develop the Gender Responsive Myanmar National Disaster Recovery Guideline and Ayeyarwady Region Disaster Management Plan.<sup>106</sup>

In addition, the 'Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters' (BRACED,2015–2017) – Programme contributed to the transition of economic and social change from household to national policy level, through building the resilience of over 350,000 vulnerable people, particularly women and children residing in 155 villages in 8 townships across hilly, dry and coastal ecological zones in Myanmar. The project also supported more than 2,000 Government officials to strengthen their capacities in resilience building approaches and tools. 2,600 people (around 90% of whom were women) received access to financial services through the BRACED supported microfinance Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Saving & Loan Associations (VSLAs). 87 VSLAs/SHGs were established and operationalized engaging 1,775 members (around 90% of whom were women) assisted with improved capacity, facilitation support, and seed grants. Around 1,000 microfinance clients were provided with affordable loans for livelihood and income generation activities and for household and family activities including the establishment of small businesses, children's education, house improvements, livestock breeding, fisheries and inputs for agriculture. Over 5,000 women and 2,500 children (50% of whom were girls) were trained and educated on climate change adaptation, resilience, women's leadership and community resilience assessment, and were engaged in local level planning and decision making. All the target villages ensured some level of women's representation at the community level compared to a 57% of women's representation as captured in the 2015 baseline survey.<sup>107</sup>

---

<sup>106</sup> [http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Presentation\\_5.\\_Royal\\_Haskaning\\_DHV\\_26Sep2018.pdf](http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Presentation_5._Royal_Haskaning_DHV_26Sep2018.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

<sup>107</sup> [https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Final\\_Evaluation\\_Report\\_BRACED\\_Myanmar\\_Alliance\\_Feb2018.pdf](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Final_Evaluation_Report_BRACED_Myanmar_Alliance_Feb2018.pdf) (last accessed: 15 May 2019).

### Section Three: National institutions and Processes

#### **32. National machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.**

The new administration under Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as State Counsellor has taken an important step towards institutional reform to achieve the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment. In the process of institutional reform, several Government and non-governmental bodies have been established over the years and function as specific institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality, with the Department of Social Welfare under Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement being primarily responsible for advancing the women's empowerment agenda. The Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW), previously called the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs<sup>108</sup>, is the main "national gender machinery" originally established in 1996. It was reinstated in 2011, and functions as the main inter-ministerial mechanism for overall decision-making, policy-making, coordination and accountability for the implementation of the Government's first ever National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW), 2013–2022. The NSPAW provides a framework for women's empowerment and aims to create enabling systems, structures and practices for the advancement of women, and the realization of human rights in accordance with the 12 priority areas of the Beijing Platform for Action. It includes a series of targets and interventions to be implemented in coordination with various Government agencies, national and international NGOs, UN Agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.

Myanmar is one of the world's most diverse countries, with over 135 distinct ethnic groups (recognized by the government). Its transition to democratic, peaceful and prosperous country needs to ensure that it leaves no section of the population behind and includes women who constitute about 52% of the total population<sup>109</sup>. Encouraging policy frameworks exist towards this goal, namely: on the international level, Myanmar is a signatory to key international human rights instruments including the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, among others. Myanmar is also committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under Agenda

---

<sup>109</sup> Myanmar Household and Population Survey, 2014

2030 which guides the key socio-economic reform dialogues currently ongoing. Myanmar is also a member of the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) and an active member of the ASEAN Commission on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW). As a member state to the UN, Myanmar is also party to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related resolutions 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106 and 2122.

### Government Bodies Mandated to Address GEWE

These key institutions include:

- The Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW) is the “national women’s machinery” originally established in 1996, was reinstated in 2011, and functions as the main inter-ministerial mechanism for overall decision-making, policy-making, coordination and accountability for the implementation of the Government’s first ever National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW), 2013–2022. The Department of Social Welfare under MoSWRR serves as the main coordinator and the secretariat of the MNCW.
- The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, is the nodal ministry on gender equality and women’s empowerment at the Union level and State levels. They also lead inter-ministerial and development partner coordination for the implementation of NSPAW and other gender commitments in national policy and plans.
- The Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Co-ordination Group (GEWE-CG): The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement formed the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) Sector Working Group in accordance with the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation. Reconfigured as the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Co-ordination Group (GEWE-CG), the GEWE-CG aims to facilitate a nationally led policy dialogue and to coordinate technical and financial support for the implementation of the Myanmar National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) and to advance Myanmar’s regional and global gender commitments. The GEWE-CG is chaired by the Director General of the Department of Social Welfare, supported by two facilitators from development partners, following the guidelines set out by the DACU Sector Coordinating Groups.

- **Technical Working Groups:** Currently, DSW facilitates four technical working groups who are responsible for operationalizing the following four key priority areas of the NSPAW: 1) Women, Peace and Security, 2) Gender Mainstreaming, 3) Participation, and 4) Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. The main responsibility of the technical working groups is to develop annual operational plans for the NSPAW within the four identified areas, as well as budget and monitor their implementation at the regional and state levels.

However, as noted in the background section above, these bodies are often challenged by limited clarity of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the roles of other line ministries and departments, limited resourcing and institutional capacity to ensure effective implementation of NSPAW and other gender commitments at union and state/region levels.

#### Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU)

The DACU, which is a high-level government body under the Office of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi established in 2016, is in the process of developing a Comprehensive National Socio-Economic Development Plan and has led a process of establishing sector coordination working groups aimed at strengthening development co-operation between the Government and development partners (donors, UN, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, private sector) within the Government's identified key priority areas. The localization of the DACU structure at regional and state levels as well as the process of developing state level development plans is still underway and has so far, already been initiated in Rakhine state. The agreed overarching guiding principles and objectives of the sectoral coordination groups include: national reconciliation, democratic values, human rights, inclusive economic growth, and importantly, gender equality. The responsibility to provide technical guidance to DACU on the integration of gender equality as its agreed guiding principle lies with the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Sector Working Group, led by the Director General for the Department of Social Welfare together with the co-facilitators of the group (UN Women and Finland) in partnership with wider stakeholders and development partners, including the UN Country Team's Gender Theme Group (GTG), co-chaired by UN Women and UNFPA.

#### Union Parliament

The Union Parliament is composed of the Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (upper and lower house); in both Houses, 75% of the seats are determined through elections and 25%

are appointed by the military. The two Houses of Parliament approve bills, make resolutions on ratifying, annulling, and revoking treaties, and may confer power on the President to conclude on annul agreements.<sup>110</sup> As the Union Parliament has the right to enact laws relating to union defense and security, foreign affairs, finance and planning, the economy, agriculture and livestock, energy, industry, transport, society, and justice,<sup>111</sup> the Parliament is a key player in the development, revision, and approval of bills relating to gender equality and women's empowerment, including the PoVAW Law.

### State/Region Parliaments

The 2008 Constitution marked an important development with the creation of 14 state/regional Governments with executives, legislatures and judiciaries at the subnational level in Myanmar. While the executive branch of the subnational Government is led by a Chief Minister, appointed by the President; the legislative branch consists of a partially elected Parliament (state/region Hluttaw).

The 2015 elections ushered in the institutionalization of a new electoral and political party space at the local level. The state Hluttaws have a significant representation and participation with 21 different parties represented with about one-third of elected seats won by regional or ethnic parties and a tripling of women representatives in proportion to the state/region Hluttaws. In the absence of a constitutional decree on local governance, the township and ward/village levels have assumed growing importance with efforts to ensure the Government is more participatory and responsive to the local electorate.

Both the Hluttaws (upper house and lower house) have formed women and child committees. These committees are responsible to look into gender or women related matters, review the submitted laws and policies, debate on these and put forward agendas that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

33. National Machinery for gender and institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)

In the process of developing the National Indicators for Myanmar Sustainable Development Plans, thirteen task teams were formed and all of the task teams included Department of Social Welfare as a nodal department for gender. Besides these the drafts were sent twice

---

<sup>110</sup> USAID (2017). Land Stakeholder Analysis: Governance Structures and Actors in Burma.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

to the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Development Partners Group (GEWE DPG) for their inputs to the first draft and second draft.

For the implementation of MSDP and NIF, currently there is discussion going on to form a National Monitoring Committee. This committee is envisaged to be inclusive of all related ministries. However, it is still at the discussion stage.

34 and 35. Formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) has ten sector coordination working groups and three non-sector working groups. The Gender Equality and Women Development Group (GEWDG) is one of the three non-sector working groups.<sup>112</sup> These groups are formed to facilitate effective and coordinated development assistance within designated sectors. All these groups are chaired by respective Union Ministers and the members of the group represent all relevant Government agencies, development partners, international and national NGOs, UN agencies etc. With gender being a cross-cutting issue, the members of the Gender Equality and Women Development Group are part of every other sector coordination groups. These groups together ensure the implementation of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan which has incorporated SDGs.

Similarly, the NSPAW is a country strategic plan that basically implements the BPFA. It has adopted the 12 critical areas of concern (women and Livelihoods; Women, Education and Training; Women and Health; Violence Against Women; Women and Emergencies; Women and Economy; Women and Decision making; Institutional mechanisms for the Advancement of Women; Women and Human Rights; Women and the Media; Women and the Environment; The Girl Child) . As mentioned in the previous section, the MNCW and TWGs are specific structures created for the implementation of the NSPAW. These structures are inclusive of Government agencies, non-government organizations, and development partners. The MNCW is responsible for the monitoring and reporting of all gender related commitments of Myanmar.

The national level women networks and organizations such as GEN<sup>113</sup>, WON<sup>114</sup>, and AGIPP<sup>115</sup> are included at all levels of these national machineries. GEN is a diverse and inclusive

---

<sup>112</sup> The sector coordination working groups are: 1. Agriculture and Rural Development; 2. Education and TVET; 3. Energy and Electric Power; 4. Environmental Conservation; 5. Health Sector; 6. Job Creation; 7. Macroeconomic Management; 8. Nutrition; 9. Social Protection and Disaster Management; and 10. Transport and ICT. The non-sector coordination groups are: 1. Yangon Urban Development; 2. Statistical Quality Development; and 3. Gender Equality and Women Development.

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.genmyanmar.org/> (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

network of more than 130 civil society organizations, national and international NGOs and technical resource persons. WON has over 30 organizations affiliated with it and operates in a number of conflict and post-conflict areas across Myanmar like Karen, Shan and Mon States and represents the voices of women in these conflict affected areas. AGIPP, formed in 2014, is an alliance that focuses on women's rights, gender justice and peace processes. This alliance includes leading and important CSOs and networks such as the Gender and Development Institute (GDI), Gender Equality Network (GEN), Kachin State Women's Network (KSWN), Mon Women's Network (MWN), Nyein (Shalom) Foundation, Women's Organization Network (WON), Women and Peace Action Network (Shan State) and others. MNCW, TWGs, GEWEDG include all these stakeholders and believes that they all are the drivers and agents to ensure NSPAW implementation as well as fulfill the goals of MSDP that reflect SDGs.

*a) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?*

The MNCW is established in all states/region and its establishment at the districts and township levels is currently underway. Like the union level MNCW, these sub-national level MNCW will also comprise of members from line agencies, DSW office, CSOs and women networks. In Mon and Kayah, ethnic women groups such as Mon Women Network and Women Organizations Network-Kayin are members of the state level MNCW. These organizations are also part of larger CSO networks such as WON, GEN or AGIPP. Different development agencies working in these specific areas also include these organizations in their consultation processes and ensure that the voices of these marginalized groups are heard.

Similarly, in Kachin State, there is Kachin, State Women Network (KSWN), Htoi Gender and Development Foundation, Momauk Women Network, Shan Women Development Networking, Myusha Zimlum Organization, Kachin Development Networking Group, Kindness Women Networking Group, TLG Women Group, etc. which represent ethnic women. These women's organizations, many of whom are not formally registered yet, are members of the Kachin State Women Network (KSWN). These groups are affiliated with AGIPP and are indirectly represented through AGIPP in the Government established structure.

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.peaceinsight.org/conflicts/myanmar/peacebuilding-organisations/won/> (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

<sup>115</sup> <https://www.agipp.org/en> (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

*b) Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.*

The present National Country Review is the first attempt of Myanmar to participate in BPFA reporting. The Department of Social Welfare/Ministry of Social Welfare lead the reporting process with technical support from UN Women. In Myanmar, since the implementation of the NSPAW, numerous gender specific and responsive projects and programmes have been implemented in line with the 12 priority areas of NSPAW (mirroring BPFA areas). The achievements of past five years have not been fully assessed and quantified but the relevant initiatives in these areas had been mapped in 2017. The present report draws upon that mapping analysis, the statistics provided by different development agencies and the Central Statistics Organization as well as the numerous reports and studies produced by women's NGOs and networks.

The achievements of the past five years have been possible through combined effort of Government, civil society organizations, national and international NGOs and the technical and financial support by the donor partners and UN agencies present in the country. To acknowledge the efforts of all the stakeholders, DSW organized a national level workshop in April 9, 2019. This consultative workshop was attended by different representatives of Government agencies, donor partners, INGOs, civil society organizations and especially, GEN, WON and AGIPP who together represent more than 150 women's organizations of the country.

The workshop was divided into two sections, each of which had several breakout sessions. Each of the guideline questions were discussed one by one during these sessions and answers were reached in consensus of all participants. There was also a time-line exercise in the beginning of the workshop where participants were asked to fill in any major projects/programmes launched during the past five years, important events held and researches conducted. This has also generated a wealth of information to be referred to for the report writing.

The report was built upon the unanimously agreed upon points by the civil societies, Government agencies and DPs. The report thereafter was elaborated by DSW/MoSWRR.

Due to time constraints, consultations at state/region level and wider consultations with the community, especially with women and girls and the programme beneficiaries could not be held. As the National Consultation Workshop had CSOs and major women networks participating, it was hoped that the programmes and projects, achievements and challenges experienced on the grounds were adequately discussed.

To gather the data, prior to the workshop the agencies were already sent a matrix for BPFA mapping and asked to fill in their activities and achievements of the past five years. Consultations were done with CSO and Population Department for further data and statistics.

36. Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan<sup>116</sup>, MSDP (2018–2030), is the roadmap for the development of Myanmar’s coming decade. It is the single national strategy that will guide the future planning of all sectoral, ministerial and sub-national plans. In the MSDP, which is drafted in line with the global development goals set by SDGs, gender falls under the cross cutting theme “Equity and Inclusion”. The MSDP has three pillars, five goals and 28 strategies. It further has 46 gender related indicators which is roughly 16% of all indicators in all sectors. Out of these 46 indicators, thirty gender related indicators are taken from the SDGs. These indicators included are indicative of the commitment of the Myanmar Government to work towards fulfilling the SDG gender goals.

#### **Section 4: Data and Statistics**

36. Areas in which country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?

*Re-processed existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics*

Myanmar has made a substantive progress in gender statistics over the period of last five years. The country conducted its National Census in the year 2014 which was after 30 years gap and in the five years’ time following that, it has produced a gender specific statistical report.

---

<sup>116</sup> Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018–2030), The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Ministry of Planning and Finance [http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core\\_Doc\\_Myanmar\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_Plan\\_2018\\_-\\_2030\\_Aug2018.pdf](http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core_Doc_Myanmar_Sustainable_Development_Plan_2018_-_2030_Aug2018.pdf) (last accessed: 13 May 2019).

The “Thematic Report on Gender Dimensions”<sup>117</sup> was extracted from the 2014 Population and Housing Census with support from UNFPA. The report provided quantitative evidence based on the results of the 2014 census about the gender disparity across wide range of demographic and socioeconomic variables and characteristics covering health, education, marriage, employment, disability, household headship, migration, child labor and so on. However, several gender gaps were identified while making the gender thematic report which contributed to learning for the next census. Similarly, the population department also produces Gender Info-graphs for easy reference. These are all made available in the department website and can be accessed by anyone.

In the past five years, Myanmar has put special effort to have the HDI and GDI related indicators fulfilled for Myanmar. Prior to this reports on Myanmar lacked some basic data needed for the calculation of GDI such as in political participation, economic participation, female legislators, senior officials and managers. However, since last five years, Myanmar has these data available and as a result, the HDI and GDI indicators are available for the Human Development Report.

Reviewing the four major national level surveys such as The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census; Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey (MPLCS) 2017; Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey (2015–16 MDHS) and also the Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment 2010, it can be said that there has been more effort to include sex disaggregated data over the years. While the disaggregation for 2014 census were don’t for population, literacy, disability, employment and migration the poverty survey in 2018 included 13 indicators among which only 5 were used in 2010 poverty report. Myanmar Demographic Survey and Health mentioned all the indicators related to people were disaggregated by sex and some gender specific questions such as related to sexual health of women were asked.

Two gender-related sub-sections were put in this health report: Women’s empowerment and Domestic violence. In the women’s empowerment section, employment and cash earnings of currently married women and men, control over cash earnings and relative magnitude of women’s cash earnings, ownership of assets, participation in decision making etc. were included and for domestic violence, experience of physical and sexual violence, persons committing physical, sexual and other form violence, marital control exercised by

---

<sup>117</sup> Thematic Report on Gender Dimensions, 2017, [https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/4J\\_Gender%20Dimensions.pdf](https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/4J_Gender%20Dimensions.pdf)

husbands, forms of spousal violence, injuries to women due to spousal violence, help seeking practice to stop violence were included.

The Central Statistics Organization(CSO) has also strengthened its administrative data collection system and produced data related to gender on women's participation on civil service, parliaments, local government.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement endorsed a situation analysis report in 2016 produced jointly by ADB, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women. This report was used further to support NSPAW implementation and fed the CEDAW report.

In 2017, with support from Australia, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the Central Statistical Organization and UNDP produced a baseline SDG indicator report. This comprehensive report captures all the SDG Goal 5 related indicators that is currently available in the Myanmar's National Statistical System to monitor SDG goals.

*Established an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)*

Two government entities are important in generating, maintaining and disseminating Statistical records in Myanmar; The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) within the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Population Department within Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population. The Department of Social Welfare within the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has the prime responsibility of implementing the National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women. There are ten inter-agency clusters formed under the National Strategy for development of statistics (NSDS). Out of these ten thematic clusters, the cluster on Demography and Social clusters are important clusters that look into gender indicators in these areas.

The National Strategy for Statistical Development (NSDS) recognizes Social, Gender and Labor data as one of the 12 critical statistical priorities to be addressed. Household living conditions survey, Labor Force Survey were some planned activities under this where gender was integrated and gender disaggregated data were generated.

To address the SDGs, Myanmar has formulated the “Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan” MSDP that provides blueprint for the development of the country in line with SDG goals. The formulation of national level indicators for MSDP was a rigorous, participatory exercise where 12 task teams were formed involving government institutions, civil society organizations and development partners. In each task teams it was ensured that gender experts were included. Furthermore, the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Development Partners Group comprising of International development agencies and the Civil Society Women Organizations provided their feedback to the indicators to further strengthen it. As a result of this process the MSDP indicators now include 46 gender related indicators out of 286 and out of these 46 indicators 30 are related to SDG indicators.

*iii) Engaged in capacity building to strengthen the use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)*

To develop the understanding on importance of gender related data and statistics, Department of Social Welfare DSW provided trainings to the related government staff in 2015. As a result, CSO started gender disaggregating the administrative data. Prior to these training the many CSO collected data was not gender disaggregated. To further build the capacity of the two most important government institutions for data collection and statistics the related government staff and representatives from Women Organizations have been provided opportunity to train in Sweden on gender statistics. There will be a second round of training in Sweden to further enhance the capacity of the related staff. Staffs from CSO, Population Department and Civil Society Organization will participate in this meeting.

37. Country’s top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years

*Conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)*

Myanmar has plan to conduct a three years National Study on Violence against Women and Girls to fulfill the demand for reliable data and inform policy makers and programmers to address VAWG. The proposed project will be led by DSW with support from UNFPA and in partnership with the Central Statistical Organization, CSO from 2019–2021. The study objectives are to 1) estimate the prevalence, frequencies and forms of gender-based violence against women and girls aged 15–60, subjected to physical, sexual or psychological

violence by a current or former intimate partner (this covers SDG indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2); 2) to assess the extent to which VAWG is associated with a range of health and socio economic outcomes 3) To identify factors that make either protect or put women and girls at risk of gender based violence;4) to document and compare strategies and services women and girls use to deal with gender-based violence, perception of VAWG and the extent to which women and girls understand their legal rights; and 5) To provide estimates of economic costs of VAWG at the household, regional and national levels

In 2019, an inter-census is being carried out by the population department. Currently the department is conducting consultations with related institutions and DSW in particular to improve the gender aspect and fill the gender gaps identified in 2014 census. This inter-census will collect more than 500,000 samples across the country. The learning and outcome of this inter-census will feed into the 2024 census.

In addition, the Central Statistical Organization has plans to produce yearly gender statistical records based on the administrative data.

*Statistical capacity building of users to increase statistical appreciation on and use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)*

As Myanmar progresses with gender data and statistics generation there is a need to build the capacity of users to understand and use these data. In the coming years DSW plans to work closely with different ministries and government departments specially the planning sections to understand the relevance of gender planning and use of gender statistics in planning. This will be embedded in its 3 year plan to introduce and implement gender responsive budgeting across the ministries.

Similarly, DSW will also conduct orientation and awareness trainings for the 15 state/regional level officers on MSDP gender indicators in the coming five years to strengthen the state/regional level capacity to generate and use gender data for effective gender mainstreaming.

*iii) Establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)*

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan mandates collection of 30 SDG related gender data and 16 non-SDG country specific data. DSW as being the focal department for the implementation of National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women will coordinate with the relevant departments which generate these data to ensure its quality and timely collection.

**Production of Knowledge products on gender statistics (user friendly report, policy briefs, research papers)**

Based on the population and housing census conducted in 2014, a gender thematic report was produced by the population department with support from UNFPA. Further, to this CSO has plans to produce Gender Statistical Year book every year.

A multi-year National study on Gender Based Violence Against Women and Girls will be carried out under the leading role of CSO and in partnership with DSW/MoSWRR and technical support of UNFPA. This is a

30 months nation wide survey across all 15 states and regions and rural and urban areas. This study hopes to close the data gap that exists in VAWG.

DSW/MoSWRR will also keep track of all the gender programs and projects being implemented currently and those in future at the state and regional level. This will help in identifying the gaps in BPFA implementation, areas where activities and resources overlap and areas which need more effort.

**38. National set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs**

MSDP is structured around 3 Pillars, 5 Goals, 28 Strategies and 251 indicators. These are firmly aligned with the SDGs. Out of these indicators there are 46 gender indicators out of which 30 are taken from SDGs. The list of Gender indicators relating to SDGs and those not-relating to SDGs are as provided in the Annex.

### 39. Data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs

In the SDG baseline study conducted by UNDP, 13 SDG Goal 5 related gender indicators were found to be available in Myanmar<sup>118</sup>.

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-married women and girls (aged 15–49) subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by any husband, in the last 12 months\*

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 15–19 years who are married

5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in local parliaments

5.5.2 Number of ministerial positions that are held by women as a percentage of total

5.5.2 Number of seats in national parliaments held by women as a percentage of total

5.5.2 Number of women law officers as a percentage of total

5.5.2 Number of women police officers as a percentage of total

5.a.1 Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land

5.a.1 Proportion of female agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land

5.a.1 Proportion of male agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land

5.a.1 Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land

5.b.1 Proportion of Individuals (total) who own a mobile phone\* 2015 76.7%

40. Disaggregation is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?

Referring to the four major country-wide studies such as Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey (MPLCS) 2017; Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment 2010; Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey (2015–16 MDHS); and the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census; it can be said that disaggregation of sex, geographical locations and rural/urban divide were routinely mentioned in the major surveys.

Sex disaggregation is mentioned in all the surveys and census. In the poverty surveys and census, the disaggregation of sex has been used increasingly. For e.g., in 2014 census fewer sex disaggregated data were used that showed distribution of population, population pyramid, literacy, disability, employment and migration. In the poverty survey 2018, the 13

<sup>118</sup> Measuring Myanmar's starting point for the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG Indicator Baseline Report <https://www.csostatat.gov.mm/Pdf%20report/SDG%20Indicator%20Baseline%20Report%20v9.pdf>

indicators were listed by sex. Among them, while the 5 indicators were already used in the 2010 poverty report there were new 8 ones in the 2018 poverty survey. The same indicators used in both the surveys were enrollment in primary education, literacy, employment, individual sectoral participations of main employment, unemployment. The new ones were average daily wages, enrolment in secondary education, drop-outs in primary and secondary educations, estimated education premium, no-schooling or only monastic schooling, returns to schooling and child-labor. Thus, it can be said that the sex disaggregation has been increasingly presented.

Disaggregation of geographical locations was used mainly used in the country-wide surveys. Myanmar has been divided into 15 states, regions and territory. These are important for the sake of administration and have been disaggregated in all above mentioned surveys except for the latest survey on poverty profile produced in 2018. This survey, instead of using geographical disaggregation, uses ecological zones. Since the climate change has extremely impacted all aspects of the country and its people, the ecological zones were used as geographical variation. It was argued due to extensive variation in the rate of poverty across agro-ecological zones these four zones were used: Hills and Mountains, Dry Zone, Delta and Coastal zones.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar Demographic Survey and Health mentioned all the indicators related to people were disaggregated by sex and also included sexual health related questions like age at first sexual intercourse and recent sexual activity for women. The two gender related sub-sections of the report focusing extensively on gender were Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence.

As for disaggregation of income, the MPLCS included questions on income, allowing for a holistic analysis of income generating activities to be presented for the first time in Myanmar. However, instead of the disaggregation of income level, these assessments used that of poverty status or wealth quintile as lowest, second, middle, fourth and highest level of wealth.

Since Myanmar is disaster-prone country, the surveys sometimes reported on female-headed households. The related indicators were the characteristics of the female headed households and their age and population, educational levels and types of their houses. Disaggregation of disability, races and marital status were rarely used in survey.

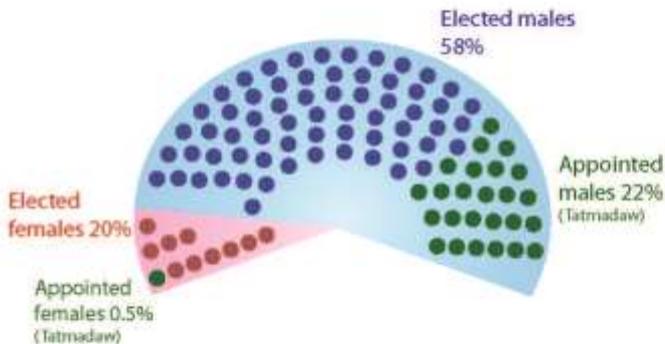
**Annexes**

- 1. Info graph of Gender Equality in Myanmar**
- 2. Gender Indicators from National Indicator Framework s**
- 3. List of Researches**
- 4. Mapping for BPFA Report**
- 5. Invitation Letter and Agenda of the BPFA Consultation Workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019**
- 6. List of the participants of the BPFA consultation workshop 9<sup>th</sup> Apri l**

Annex 1 – Info graph of Gender Equality in Myanmar

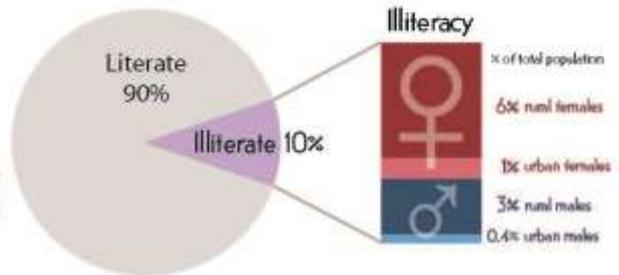
# Gender Equality in Myanmar

## Equality in Representation<sup>1,2</sup> across all levels of government



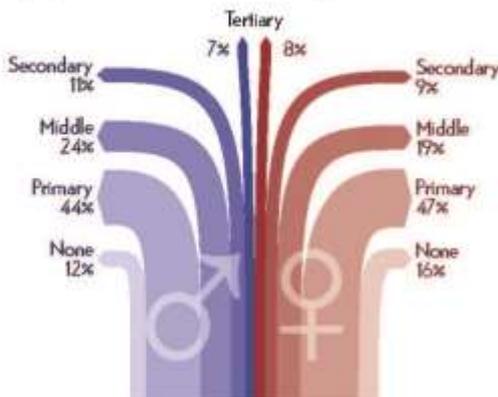
- Female representation tripled to 13% after 2015 elections<sup>4</sup> -
- Senior civil service positions only 1.5% female<sup>4</sup> -
- Village administrators: 0.1% female<sup>4</sup> -
- No female township administrators<sup>4</sup> -

## Equality of Literacy<sup>3</sup>



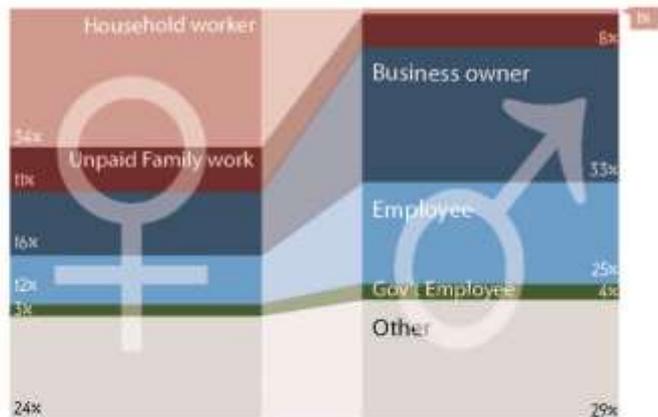
- Two thirds of illiterate persons in Myanmar are female -

## Equality in Education<sup>3</sup> by highest level attained, across the whole population



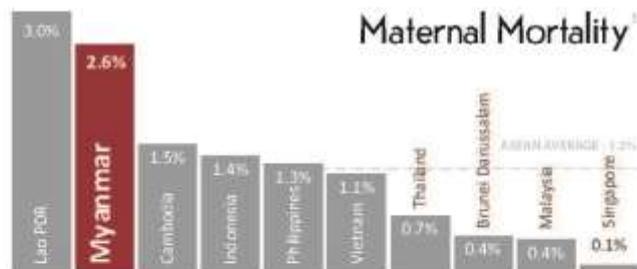
- Similar access and completion -
- More females leave school early -
- Fewer women drop out of tertiary study -

## Equality in Employment<sup>4</sup>



- Men are twice as likely to be engaged in paid work, but are very unlikely to be a household worker -

## Maternal Mortality<sup>5</sup>



- Second highest maternal mortality in ASEAN -

MIMU



Myanmar Information Management Unit



European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

Canada

1. Burma News International (<http://bit.ly/2tGsvYS>); 2. Union Electoral Commission (<http://uecmyanmar.org/>); 3. The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census Union Report (<http://bit.ly/2tOdyGR>); 4. Myanmar gender situation analysis (<http://bit.ly/2tEJ0sZ>); 5. ADB Basic Statistics 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2ufl53j>)

## Annex 2 – Gender Indicators from National Indicator Framework

Gender Indicators from National Indicator Framework		
Sr.	SDG gender related indicators adopted in MSDP	Data Producers
1	Crime rate per 100,000 population for (a) intentional homicides, (b) drug-related, (c) rape, (d) trafficking in person (16.1.1, 16.2.2)	Myanmar Police Force
2	Women holding senior position in the civil service (Director level or equivalent and above posts) as (a) a percentage of total senior civil servants and, (b) increase in percentage points from previous year. (5.5.2)	UCSB
3	Percentage of female employed in public institutions (16.7.1)	CSO
4	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) Union parliaments; (b) S/R parliaments. (5.5.1)	Union Elections Commission
5	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group (16.7.2)	UCSB CSO
6	Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex (5.a.1 (a+b))	CSO, World Bank
7	Average daily earnings of employees by sex and age (8.5.1)	MoLIP/DoL CSO
8	Unemployment rate by sex, age and persons with disability (8.5.2)	MoLIP/DoL CSO
9	Proportion and number of children aged 5- 17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age group (8.7.1 (a) (b))	MoLIP/DoL CSO
10	Proportion of informal employment by sex and age (8.3.1)	MoLIP/DoL
11	Frequency rate for non-fatal occupational injuries by sex and age (8.8.1)	MoLIP/DoL MoLIP/FGLLD
12	Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status (8.8.2)	ILO Center for Global Workers' Rights

<b>Gender Indicators from National Indicator Framework</b>		
<b>Sr.</b>	<b>SDG gender related indicators adopted in MSDP</b>	<b>Data Producers</b>
13	Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or a line of credit, by sex of company manager (9.3.2)	MoALI/SSID, MoIND/DISI World Bank
14	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age (11.2.1)	MoTC
15	Death rate due to road traffic injuries by sex (3.6.1)	Myanmar Police Force MoHS WHO
16	Proportion of teachers in (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; (d) upper secondary education; and (e) alternative education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level, by sex. (4.c.1)	MoEDU/ERPTD UNESCO/UIS
17	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including climate change, gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in curricula. (4.7.1)	UNESCO
18	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex (4.2.2)	MoEDU/ERPTD UNESCO/UIS
19	Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex (4.1.1)	MoEDU/ERPTD
20	Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the last 12 months, by sex (4.3.1)	CSO MoEDU/ERPTD
21	Percentage of the population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in (a) literacy, (b) numeracy skills, by sex. (4.6.1)	CSO
22	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (3.1.2)	MoHS/DPH
23	Mortality rate (a) total, (b) infant per 1,000 live births; (c) under 5 per 1,000 live births; (d) maternal per 100,000 live births (3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.1)	CSO

<b>Gender Indicators from National Indicator Framework</b>		
<b>Sr.</b>	<b>SDG gender related indicators adopted in MSDP</b>	<b>Data Producers</b>
24	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union (a) before age 15 and (b) before age 18 (5.3.1)	MoHS/DPH
25	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual (5.2.2)	MoHS/DPH
26	Prevalence of Undernourishment in (a) pregnant women, (b) adolescents (2.1.1)	FAO
27	Prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age (15-49 y.o) (2.1.1)	MoHS/DPH
28	Frequency rates of (a) fatal and (b) non- fatal occupational injuries, by sex and by migrant status (international, domestic) per 100,000 employees (8.8.1)	MoLIP/DoL
29	Proportion of primary school facilities with access to (a) basic drinking water; (b) latrines adequate” for boys and girls separately; (c) basic handwashing facilities (4.a.1)	MoHS MoEDU/DBE UNICEF
30	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure (1.4.2)	CSO

Sr.	Gender Related Indicators (Not originating from SDG)	Data Producers
1	Percentage of women participating at the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong	NRPC
2	Multidimensional Disadvantage Index (MDI) in conflict-affected townships as a % of MDI value in (a) non-conflict affected townships, and (b) whole country.	MoLIP/ DoP WB
3	Number of people by sex and age who received legal aid services in a year	UAGO/ ULAB
4	Women Ward / Village Tract Administrators (a) total number; (b) percentage of all W/VTAs	MoHA
5	Proportion of women to men running as candidates in Union and State/Region parliamentary elections.	Union Elections Commission
6	Percentage of government departments which apply gender budgeting approach to their own budget	MoSWRR/ DSW/ UNWOMEN
8	Percentage of working women with decent jobs	MoLIP/DoL/ ILO
9	Proportion of Master's Degree / PhD degree holders by sex per 100,000 population	CSO/ MoLIP/ DoP
10	Contraceptive prevalence rate (any method), women 15-49	MoHS/DPH
11	Coverage rate for (a) antenatal, (b) postnatal care	MoHS/DPH
12	Prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age (15-49 y.o)	MoHS/ DPH
13	Percentage of internal migrants who cite conflict as a main reason for migration, by sex and location	MoLIP/ DoP
14	Number and percentage of farmers benefiting from the introduction of climate- smart technologies and other responses, by sex	MoALI/ DoA/ MoTC/ DMH
15	Proportion of logged sexual and gender- based violence complaints that are actually prosecuted through the formal justice system	USCO/ MoSWRR/ UAGO
16	Number and percentage of population receiving social cash transfers, of which percentage of (a) disabled people, (b) pregnant women, (c) school going age children, and (e) elderly.	MoSWRR/ DSW/ MoHS UNICEF

## Annex 3. List of Researches

Research/Data related to 12 areas in BPFA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
1	Women and poverty	2015 Gender and Social Inclusion study	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	ANALYSIS OF GENDER GAPS AND EXCLUSION: Gender situation analysis in rural sector, Social inclusion, Agricultural policy, Research, Extension, Rural finance, Other services, Forestry, Off-farm opportunities, Institutional Environment: Advancement of women	Union	Rural Women	FAO
2		Livelihoods and Social Change in Rural Myanmar: QSEM Round 5 Report	Quantitative method	Average daily wages for harvesting across rounds (female, peak) average daily wages for harvesting across rounds (female, non-peak) migration patterns by location	Chin, Rakhine, Ayeyarwady, Magway, Mandalay, and Shan	Migrant Youths and Women and rural women	UNOPS- LIFT Programme
3		The Migrating out of Poverty Consortium	Quantitative method			Migrants	UNOPS- LIFT Programme, International Organization for Migration, University of Sussex, and the Metta Foundation
4		Including Women and their Priorities in Gender and Agriculture				Rural Women	FAO and UN-Women
5		2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, The Union Report: Occupation and Industry	Census	Labour Force Participation Rate, males and females aged 15-64 years,	Union	All people, including women	Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population and UNFPA
6		The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, The Thematic Report on Gender Dimensions	Census	Gender issues in the Myanmar context, Analysis of gender dimensions, Demographic overview, Gender dimensions in education, Gender dimensions in the labour force, Gender dimensions of disability, Gender dimensions of households and housing	Union	All people, including women	Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population and UNFPA

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
7	Women and poverty	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: An Overview 17 Gender equality and women's rights in the government's reform agenda 17 Signposts of progress on gender equality and women's rights, Gender Equality and Women's Rights to Poverty Reduction, a Livelihood, and Full and Equal Participation in the Economy, Gender Equality and Women's Right to an Education, Gender Equality and Women's Right to Good Health, Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Right to Freedom from All Forms of Violence, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Political Processes and Governance, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Peace Process in Myanmar	Union	All women and girl child	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, an UN agency and Asian Development Bank
8		Integrated Livelihood and Market Survey	Survey Method				Civil Society Organizations
9		Social Impact Analysis					Civil Society Organizations
10		Food Security Assessments					Civil Society Organizations
11		Linking Women and Land in Myanmar					All women, particularly rural phesant women

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
12	Education and training of women	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: An Overview 17 Gender equality and women's rights in the government's reform agenda 17 Signposts of progress on gender equality and women's rights, Gender Equality and Women's Rights to Poverty Reduction, a Livelihood, and Full and Equal Participation in the Economy, Gender Equality and Women's Right to an Education, Gender Equality and Women's Right to Good Health, Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Right to Freedom from All Forms of Violence, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Political Processes and Governance, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Peace Process in Myanmar	Union	All women and girl child	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, an UN agency and Asian Development Bank
13		The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, The Thematic Report on Gender Dimensions	Census	Gender issues in the Myanmar context, Analysis of gender dimensions, Demographic overview, Gender dimensions in education, Gender dimensions in the labour force, Gender dimensions of disability, Gender dimensions of households and housing	Union	All people, including women	Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population and UNFPA
14		Myanmar Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR)			Union	Women and Gild Child	Ministry of Education
15		Education and gender bottleneck analysis		Gender equality: Social cohesion, Gender inequality and the social environment, Gender inequality and education	Kayah State	Gild Childe (Primary and Middle School students)	UNCEIF
16		Ethnic Conflict and Social Services in Myanmar's Contested Regions	Qualitative method		Chin, Kachin, Karen, Kayah, Mon and Shan	Conflict-affected people, including the women and gilds	The Asia Foundation

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
17	Education and training of women	Social Assessment on the Myanmar Decentralization Funds to Schools			Project level		GEN-WON
18	Women and health	Demographic and Health Survey 2015	Survey Method	Marriage and sexual activity by sex, fertility by sex, fertility preferences by sex, fertility planning by sex, infant and child mortality by sex, maternal health care by sex, child health by sex, nutrition of children and women by sex, malaria by sex, hiv/aids-related knowledge, attitudes, and behavior by sex, adult and maternal mortality by sex, women's empowerment by sex, domestic violence by sex and early child development and child discipline by sex	Union	All people, including women	Ministry of Health and Sport, USAID
19		Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: An Overview 17 Gender equality and women's rights in the government's reform agenda 17 Signposts of progress on gender equality and women's rights, Gender Equality and Women's Rights to Poverty Reduction, a Livelihood, and Full and Equal Participation in the Economy, Gender Equality and Women's Right to an Education, Gender Equality and Women's Right to Good Health, Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Right to Freedom from All Forms of Violence, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Political Processes and Governance, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Peace Process in Myanmar	Union	All women and girl child	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, an UN agency and Asian Development Bank

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
20	Women and health	The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, The Thematic Report on Gender Dimensions	Census	Gender issues in the Myanmar context, Analysis of gender dimensions, Demographic overview, Gender dimensions in education, Gender dimensions in the labour force, Gender dimensions of disability, Gender dimensions of households and housing	Union	All people, including women	Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population and UNFPA
21		Surveys on barriers to access to Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services	Survey Method		Local	Female sex workers	Civil Society Organizations
22	Violence against women	Gender Based Violence (GBV) Service Providers Mapping	Qualitative and Mapping analysis		Union	GBV	Department of Social Welfare and Gender Equality Network
23		Voices from the intersection: Women's Access to Justice in Myanmar's Plural Legal Systems			Union	Women Vitims	UN Women
24		Demographic and Health Survey 2015	Survey Method	Marriage and sexual activity by sex, fertility by sex, fertility preferences by sex, fertility planning by sex, infant and child mortality by sex, maternal health care by sex, child health by sex, nutrition of children and women by sex, malaria by sex, hiv/aids-related knowledge, attitudes, and behavior by sex, adult and maternal mortality by sex, women's empowerment by sex, domestic violence by sex and early child development and child discipline by sex	Union	All people, including women	Ministry of Health and Sport, USAID
25		Behind the Silence: Violence Against Women and their Resilience in Myanmar	Qualitative method	Women's Experiences of Violence, Consequences of Violence Against Women, Coping strategies and Help-seeking Behaviour, Features of Abuses and pathways into violence	Union	All women and female vitims	Gender Equality Network

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPFA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
26	Violence against women	Knowledge Assessment for VAW			Local level		Civil Society Organizations
27		Violence and Women with Disabilities			Local level		Civil Society Organizations
28		Violence in Conflict Area			Local level		Civil Society Organizations
29		Survey on VAW			Local level		Civil Society Organizations
30		Violence service mapping			Local level		Civil Society Organizations
31		Women's needs assessment			Local level		Civil Society Organizations
32	Women and armed conflict	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AIC HR) thematic study on women			Union	Disaster-affected Women	AIC HR-ASEAN and Department of Social Welfare

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
33	Women and armed conflict	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: An Overview 17 Gender equality and women's rights in the government's reform agenda 17 Signposts of progress on gender equality and women's rights, Gender Equality and Women's Rights to Poverty Reduction, a Livelihood, and Full and Equal Participation in the Economy, Gender Equality and Women's Right to an Education, Gender Equality and Women's Right to Good Health, Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Right to Freedom from All Forms of Violence, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Political Processes and Governance, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Peace Process in Myanmar	Union	All women and girl child	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, an UN agency and Asian Development Bank
34		Post Disaster Floods and Landslides Needs Assessment (PFLNA)	Quantitative method	Cross Cutting: Gender- Amount of unpaid family labor, males versus females (hours per day), Number and proportion of deaths in flood and landslide disaster	Flood and Landslide-affected areas	Disaster-affected Women	UN-Women and the World Bank
35		Humanitarian Data Standards			Rakhine, Kachine and Shan		Information Management Network
36		Gender Needs Assessment, Myanmar Floods, 2015			Flooded areas	Disaster-affected Women	Gender Equality Network
37		Women in Conflict and Peace (2015)	Qualitative method	Mapping women's involvement in conflict, Reasons for participation in the conflict, Mapping women's involvement in peace, Reasons for participation in the peace movement	4 countries, including Myanmar-Kachin	Disaster-affected Women and women-related with peace process	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEFA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
38	<b>Women and armed conflict</b>	a Bibliography of resources on women's participation and gender justice of relevance to the Myanmar peace process	Qualitative method.	Women's involvement in public decision-making	Union	Women with peace process	AGIPP
39		Women are ready: an opportunity to transform peace in Myanmar (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative	Factors inhibiting the participation of the women in the peace process and Strategies to enhance women's contribution to sustianable peace in Myanmar	Union	Conflicts-affected Women and women-related with peace process	Peace Support Fund
40		Why Gender Matters in Conflict and Peace	Qualitative method	Demographic and Socio-Economic Context, Women in Armed Conflict: Gender-Based Roles, Impacts, Immediate Response Strategies and Contributions to Peace, and Women and Men in the Peace Process in Myanmar	Mon and Kayin States	Disaster-affected Women and women-related with peace process	UN Women
41		No Women, No Peace: Gender Equality, Conflict and Peace in Myanmar (2016)	Qualitative method.	Gender (in)Equality, Conflict and Peace and Gender (in)Equality and Conflict in Myanmar	Union	Disaster-affected Women and women-related with peace process	Transnational Institute
42		Gender Profile for Humanitarian Peace & Development Nexus Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods		Rackhine, Kachine and Northern Shan	Women in conflict	UN Women
43		Landmarks in Myanmar's Post 2011 Peace Process	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Women's Participation in Bilateral Ceasefire Negotiations, Women's Participation in the Nationwide Ceasefire Negotiation, Gender Equality and Women's Rights Content in Bilateral Ceasefire Agreements, Gender Analysis of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement	Union	Women in conflict	UN Women

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPPA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
44	Women and armed conflict	Advancing Gender Equality in Federal Governance model	Qualitative Method	GENDER AND FEDERALISM IN MYANMAR- Division of Law-making Powers and Administrative Functions, Equal Gender Representation in Public Office, Security for Women and Girls, Institutional Protection and Implementation of Women's Rights	Union	Women in decision making, WPS	UN Women
45		Myanmar Business Survey 2015	Survey Method		Union	All people, including women	Central Statistic Organization, Planning Department, UNDP and ISTAT
46		The situation of Myanmar Domestic Workers from to Thailand and Singapore			Myanmar women in Thailand and Singapore	Migrant women	Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population and UN Women
47	Women and the economy	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: An Overview 17 Gender equality and women's rights in the government's reform agenda 17 Signposts of progress on gender equality and women's rights, Gender Equality and Women's Rights to Poverty Reduction a Livelihood, and Full and Equal Participation in the Economy, Gender Equality and Women's Right to an Education, Gender Equality and Women's Right to Good Health, Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Right to Freedom from All Forms of Violence, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Political Processes and Governance, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Peace Process in Myanmar	Union	All women and girl child	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, an UN agency and Asian Development Bank

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
48	Women and the economy	Women and the economy in Myanmar	Quantitative method.	Gender equality impacts of private sector development, Rapid assessment of women and the economy in Myanmar: Women in business, waged work, economic resources and Gender equality and economic destinies, legal framework and de facto conditions, Policy leadership and coordination, women's representation and decision-making, networks and collectives	Union	all working women	DFAT
49		a series of sector-wide impact assessments on oil and gas, tourism, ICT and mining			Union	Youth and Women	Myanmar Center for Responsible Business (MRCB)
50		Analysis on women's economic activities in Myanmar	Quantitative method	Gender Issues in Myanmar: Government's Approach to Mainstreaming Gender in Policies, Women's Participation in Economic Activities, Gender Issues in Economic Activities; Situation and Challenges of Women's Access to Finance, Women's Needs and Access to Capacity Building Programs; Service Providers for Women's Economic Activities, Challenges in Women's Access to Capacity Building Programs; Gender Perspective on MSME Development; Relationship between Gender Issues and Microfinance under Donor Projects; Donor Projects on Gender Issues; and Microfinance as a Tool to Alleviate Gender Issues	Union	All women and girl child	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
51		Access to finance for youth and women entrepreneurs in Myanmar				Union	Youth and Women

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
52	Women and the economy	Myanmar Unlocking the Potential - Country Diagnostic Study		Women's political participation, school enrolment, social and political decisions and activities	Union		Asian Development Bank
53		Assessment on Rubber Market Information			Local		Civil Society Organizations
54		Assesmet on delivering Prosperity in the Dry Zone			Local		Civil Society Organizations
55		Weaving Gender: Challenges and Opportunities for the Myanmar garment industry	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Gender equality in the sector, Sexual and reproductive health for women in the sector, Workplace gender-equality opportunities, Workplace gender experiences, Workplace promotion of sexual and reproductive health	Union	Women and child gnil in garment sector	ILO
56		Respectful Workplaces: EXPLORING THE COSTS OF BULLYING AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT TO BUSINESSES IN MYANMAR	Qualitative method	Sexual Harassment Affects All Workplaces, Men and Women Both Experience Bullying and Sexual Harassment in Myanmar Workplaces, but Their Experience is Different, Incidence of sexual harassment and bullying by gender, Participants who hold negative attitudes by gender, Employee attitudes by gender	Union	Women and Gild Child as well as LGBT	DANA facility, UK AID, Austrlian Aid, UFFE, World Bank Group, International Finance Cooperation
57		Study on the impact of protective policies for Myanmar migrant domestic worker	Qualitative method	Restrictions on women's migration, Data on women migrants, Recruitment of domestic workers, DOMESTIC WORKERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Union	Migrant Women	UN-Women and Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPPA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
58	Women in power and decision-making	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: An Overview 17 Gender equality and women's rights in the government's reform agenda 17 Signposts of progress on gender equality and women's rights, Gender Equality and Women's Rights to Poverty Reduction, a Livelihood, and Full and Equal Participation in the Economy, Gender Equality and Women's Right to an Education, Gender Equality and Women's Right to Good Health, Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Right to Freedom from All Forms of Violence, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Political Processes and Governance, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Peace Process in Myanmar	Union	All women and girl child	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, an UN agency and Asian Development Bank
59		Women, Peace and Security Policy making in Myanmar (2015)	Quantitative method	Status of women in Myanmar, National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women and Number of women in the peace process 2011 to 2015	Union	Conflict-affected women and women-related with peace process	AGIPP
60		Resources on Women's Participation & Gender Justice of Relevance to The Myanmar Peace Process (2016)			Union	Conflict-affected women and women-related with peace process	AGIPP
61		a Bibliography of resources on women's participation and gender justice of relevance to the Myanmar peace process	Qualitative method.	Women's involvement in public decision-making	Union	Women with peace process	AGIPP
62		Women are ready: an opportunity to transform peace in Myanmar (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Factors inhibiting the participation of the women in the peace process and Strategies to enhance women's contribution to sustainable peace in Myanmar	Union	Conflicts-affected Women and women-related with peace process	Peace Support Fund

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
63	Women in power and decision-making	Gender (In)Equality in the Governance of Myanmar: Past, Present, and Potential Strategies for Change (2016)	Quantitative method.	Women's Representation in Myanmar's Union-Level Parliament, Women's Representation in Myanmar's State and Region Parliaments, Women MPs as a Proportion of Their Party's MPs in Union and State/Region Parliaments Combined, Female Representation in Selected State Administrative Bodies and Ministries, 2014, Women's Representation in Myanmar's National Parliaments since 1948, Key Influences on Men's and Women's Participation, Approaches to Increase the Gender Equality of Participation in the Governance of Myanmar, Gender (in)Equality and Policymaking, Budgeting, and Public Service Delivery	Union	Women in Governments	The Asia Foundation, UK Aid and Australian Government
64		Women's Participation in the Subnational Governance of Myanmar (2014)	Qualitative method	Women's Participation in Myanmar's Governance Structures and Why Women's Participation in Governance Structures Matters	Union	Women in Governments	The Asia Foundation and Myanmar Development Resource Institute
65		Series of 12 publications on WPS			Union	Conflict-affected women and women-related with peace process	UN Women
66		No Women, No Peace: Gender Equality, Conflict and Peace in Myanmar (2016)	Qualitative method	Gender (in)Equality, Conflict and Peace and Gender (in)Equality and Conflict in Myanmar	Union	Disaster-affected Women and women-related with peace process	Transnational Institute
67		Gender Impact Analysis of 2015 election (on-going)			Union		Gender Equality Network
68		Women & Local Leadership: Leadership Journeys of Myanmar's Female Village Tract/Ward Administrators (2015)	Survey Method	Women's participation and leadership in local governance, Location of female VT/Was, Characteristics and experiences of female VT/Was, Expanding the number of female VT/Was, and Support needs for current female VT/WAs	Union	Female village leaders	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
69	Women in power and decision-making	Women's Participation in Legislation and Executive Branches of Myanmar			Union	Working women	Phan Tee Eain (Creative Home), European Union and Trocaire
70		KAP survey on Women and Decision Making			Local		Civil Society Organizations
71		Research on women and leadership			Local		
72		Research on women and eadership			Local		
73		Research on on women's participation and decision making roles in political parties			Local		Civil Society Organizations
74		Women Participation in Politics (Election: 2015)	Qualitative method	Background of Women in Parliament, The Impact of Election on Female Representatives, Women's Representation in Parliamentary Committees, Women's Engagement in Parliamentary Activities, Reflections on Increasing Women's Political Participation, The Future for Women in Myanmar's Parliaments	Union		Gender Equality Network

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
75	Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (2016)	Both Quantitative and Qualitative methods	Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: An Overview 17 Gender equality and women's rights in the government's reform agenda 17 Signposts of progress on gender equality and women's rights, Gender Equality and Women's Rights to Poverty Reduction, a Livelihood, and Full and Equal Participation in the Economy, Gender Equality and Women's Right to an Education, Gender Equality and Women's Right to Good Health, Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Right to Freedom from All Forms of Violence, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Political Processes and Governance, Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Peace Process in Myanmar	Union	All women and girl child	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, an UN agency and Asian Development Bank
76		2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, The Union Report: Occupation and Industry	Census	Labour Force Participation Rate, males and females aged 15-64 years,	Union	All people, including women	Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population and UNFPA
77		Raising the Curtain: Cultural Norms, Social Practices and Gender Equality in Myanmar	Qualitative method	Cultural and Religious Norms and Practices, Transgression of Norms, Men, More Valuable than Women?, Socialization and Internalization, Observations of Cultural Changes, Gendered	Union	Women and Gild Child	Gender Equality Network
78	Human rights of women	2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, The Union Report: Occupation and Industry	Census	Labour Force Participation Rate, males and females aged 15-64 years,	Union	All people, including women	Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population and UNFPA
79		Raising the Curtain: Cultural Norms, Social Practices and Gender Equality in Myanmar	Qualitative method.	Cultural and Religious Norms and Practices, Transgression of Norms, Men, More Valuable than Women?, Socialization and Internalization, Observations of Cultural Changes, Gendered Division of Labour, Education, Health, and Media regarding gender aspect	Union	Women and Gild Child	Gender Equality Network

Research/Data related to 12 aread in BPPA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
80	Human rights of women	Research on justice			Local		Civil Society Organizations
81		Research on land tenure rights			Local		Civil Society Organizations
82		Research on political parties facts books			Local		Civil Society Organizations
83		Research on rule of law and access to justice mapping			Local		Civil Society Organizations
84		Research on rural leadership			Local		Civil Society Organizations
85		Research on institutional analysis			Local		Civil Society Organizations
86		Gender Analysis of the Rights to Nationality in Myanmar	Qualitative Method	Compliance with international obligations: Women's ability to acquire citizenship on an equal basis with men, Women's ability to acquire, retain or confer their citizenship following marriage, Women's ability to confer citizenship to their children	Union	All women and girl child	Norwegian Refugee Council, The Seagull, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, SNAP, UN Women, UNHCR
87	Women and the environment	Research on environmental and social management framework			Local		Civil Society Organizations

Research/Data related to 12 areas in BPEA conducted in past five years in Myanmar							
Sr.	Critical Areas of concern	Research/ Title	Research Method	Data generated (for Eg. % of women affected, % of women participation)	Coverage	Target Studied Group	Organization/ Contact persons for the information
88	Women and the environment	Research on women's role in sustainable environment management			Local		Civil Society Organizations
89		Gender in the Myanmar Media Landscape (2015)			Union		Embassy of Sweden
90	The girl-child	Myanmar labour force, child labour and school to work transition survey (2015)	Survey Method	Labour force by sex, Child labour by sex, and School-to-work transition by sex	Union	All working people, including women and girls	Ministry of Labour and Central Statistic Organization
91		Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey					UNICEF









## Mapping for BPFA Report

SR.	Name of Organizations	Women and Livelihood (1)										Women Education and Training (2)										Women and Health (3)																
		Policy/ Legal Reform	Capacity Building	Training	Infra/ Material	Research/ Studies	Advocacy	Direct Services	Others	Key Government	Local CSOs	Achievement	Project Status	Policy/ Legal Reform	Capacity Building	Training	Infra/ Material	Research/ Studies	Advocacy	Direct Services	Others	Key Government	Local CSOs	Achievement	Project Status	Policy/ Legal Reform	Capacity Building	Training	Infra/ Material	Research/ Studies	Advocacy	Direct Services	Others	Key Government	Local CSOs	Achievement	Project Status	
48	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Forest Department			X						X		Com																										
49	University of Toronto and Myanmar Institute of Peace and Security (support from IDRC - Canada and Global Affairs Canada)																																					
50	International Labour Organization (ILO)		X	X						X	X	OnGo	X	X		X						X	X	X	OnGo													
51	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)																					X	X	X					X			X	X			Com		
52	UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)																																					
53	United Nations Development Programme																																					
54	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)			X	X	X				X		OnGo																										
55	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)																																					
56	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (support from IACSY, Sweden, Finland, Australia and Japan)																					X	X	X	OnGo	X	X	X		X								OnGo
57	World Food Programme (WFP)	X	X							X	X	OnGo	X	X	X						X			OnGo	X	X	X			X		X					OnGo	

Annex – 5 Invitation Letter and Agenda of the BPFA Consultation Workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009



ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်

လူမှုဝန်ထမ်း၊ ကယ်ဆယ်ရေးနှင့် ပြန်လည်နေရာချထားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

လူမှုဝန်ထမ်းဦးစီးဌာန

စာအမှတ်၊ ၃၆၃၃ / ၅-၃၅ / Gender / ၂၀၀၉

ရက်စွဲ ၊ ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ( ၁ ) ရက်

သို့

-----  
-----  
-----

အကြောင်းအရာ။ Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – BPFA အကောင်အထည်ဖော်ဆောင်ရွက်မှုများတွင်ရင်ဆိုင်ရသည့်စိန်ခေါ်မှုများနှင့် တိုးတက်မှုများအပေါ်အမျိုးသားအဆင့် ပြန်လည်သုံးသပ်မှုပြုလုပ်ရေးအတွက် အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲဖိတ်ကြားခြင်း

၁။ ၁၉၉၅ ခုနှစ်တွင် တရုတ်ပြည်သူ့သမ္မတနိုင်ငံ၊ ဘေဂျင်းမြို့၌ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်ခဲ့သည့် စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်မြောက် ကမ္ဘာ့အမျိုးသမီးညီလာခံတွင် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံမှ ပါဝင်တက်ရောက်ခဲ့ပြီး Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – BPFA ကြေညာစာတမ်းပါ အချက်များအနက် အမျိုးသမီးများဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းယန္တရားတစ်ရပ် ဖော်ဆောင်ရန် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံလုံးဆိုင်ရာအမျိုးသမီးကော်မတီကိုဖွဲ့စည်းခဲ့ပြီး အဆိုပါကော်မတီ၏ဦးဆောင်မှုဖြင့် အမျိုးသမီးများဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးဆိုင်ရာအမျိုးသားအဆင့်မဟာဗျူဟာစီမံကိန်း(၂၀၁၃-၂၀၂၂) ကိုရေးဆွဲပြီး လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်များ အကောင်အထည်ဖော် ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။

၂။ ယခုအခါ စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်မြောက် ကမ္ဘာ့အမျိုးသမီးညီလာခံ၏ (၂၅)နှစ်မြောက် အထိမ်းအမှတ်အဖြစ် Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – BPFA အကောင်အထည်ဖော်ဆောင်ရွက်မှုများတွင် ရင်ဆိုင်ရသည့်စိန်ခေါ်မှုများနှင့် တိုးတက်မှုများ

-၂-

ပါဝင်သော သုံးသပ်ချက်များပြုလုပ်၍ နိုင်ငံအဆင့်အစီရင်ခံစာ တင်သွင်းရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၃။ သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ နိုင်ငံအဆင့်သုံးသပ်မှုနှင့်အစီရင်ခံစာရေးသားနိုင်ရေးအတွက် အလုပ်ရုံ ဆွေးနွေးပွဲတစ်ရပ်ကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါအတိုင်း ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ပါ၍ လူကြီးမင်းတို့ ဌာန/အဖွဲ့အစည်းမှဆွေးနွေးပြောကြားနိုင်မည့် ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာကိုယ်စားလှယ်တစ်ဦး တက် ရောက်ပေးနိုင်ပါရန်နှင့် တက်ရောက်မည့်ကိုယ်စားလှယ်၏ အမည်၊ ရာထူး၊ ဌာန၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရန် ဖုန်းနံပါတ်တို့အား အီးမေးလ် - [dswwwd2018@gmail.com](mailto:dswwwd2018@gmail.com) နှင့် ဖုန်း- ၀၆၇-၃၄၀၄၅၅၀၊ ၃၄၀၄၅၅၁ သို့ ပြန်ကြားပေးနိုင်ပါရန် ညှိနှိုင်းဖိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်-

- (က) နေ့ရက် - ၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဧပြီလ (၉) ရက် (အင်္ဂါနေ့)
- (ခ) အချိန် - နံနက် (၀၉:၃၀) နာရီ မှ ညနေ (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီထိ
- (ဂ) နေရာ - မင်္ဂလာသီရိပုဂံတယ်၊ နေပြည်တော်



ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ် (ကိုယ်စား)  
(ရူပါမြ၊ ဒုတိယညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်)  
၈၆-

မိတ္တူကို-

- (၁) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်ရုံးခန်း
- (၂) အဓိကစာတွဲ
- (၃) လက်ခံစာတွဲ
- (၄) စာတွဲအမှတ်၊ ၉၉၉/ ၁-၂/ ၂၀၁၉

၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဧပြီလ(၉)ရက်နေ့တွင် နေပြည်တော်၊ မင်္ဂလာသီရိဟိုတယ်၌ ကျင်းပ ပြုလုပ်မည့် Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action(BPFA) အကောင်အထည်ဖော် ဆောင်ရွက်မှု များတွင် ရင်ဆိုင်ရသည့် စိန်ခေါ်မှုများနှင့် တိုးတက်မှုများအပေါ် အမျိုးသားအဆင့် ပြန်လည် သုံးသပ်မှုပြုလုပ်ရေး အလုပ်ရုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲအစီအစဉ်

အစီအစဉ်(၁)	(၁၀:၀၀) နာရီမှ (၁၀:၁၀)နာရီအထိ	လူမှုဝန်ထမ်း၊ ကယ်ဆယ်ရေးနှင့် ပြန်လည်နေရာ ချထားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုဝန်ကြီးက အဖွင့်အမှာစကားပြောကြားခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၂)	(၁၀:၁၀)နာရီမှ (၁၀:၂၀)နာရီအထိ	UN Women Country Representative Mr. Nicolas Burniat ကကြိုဆိုနှုတ်ခွန်းဆက်စကား ပြောကြားခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၃)	(၁၀:၂၀) နာရီမှ (၁၀:၃၀)နာရီအထိ	လက်ဖက်ရည်သုံးဆောင်ခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၄)	(၁၀:၃၀)နာရီမှ (၁၀:၅၀)နာရီအထိ	ကမ္ဘာ့အမျိုးသမီးညီလာခံလုပ်ငန်းစီမံချက် (၁၉၉၅) Beijing Platform for Action လေ့လာ သုံးသပ်ခြင်းနှင့် အစီရင်ခံစာတင်သွင်းခြင်း လုပ်ငန်း စဉ်များအားရှင်းလင်းတင်ပြခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၅)	(၁၀:၅၀)နာရီမှ (၁၁:၅၀)နာရီအထိ	Time-Line Exercise
အစီအစဉ်(၆)	(၁၁:၅၀) နာရီမှ (၁၂:၅၀)နာရီအထိ	အုပ်စု(၄)စုခွဲ၍ ဆွေးနွေးခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၇)	(၁၂:၅၀)နာရီမှ (၁၃:၂၀)နာရီအထိ	စုပေါင်းဆွေးနွေးခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၈)	(၁၃:၂၀) နာရီမှ	နေ့လည်စာသုံးဆောင်ခြင်း။

၂

	(၁၄:၂၀) နာရီအထိ	
အစီအစဉ်(၉)	(၁၄:၂၀) နာရီမှ (၁၅:၅၀) နာရီအထိ	လုပ်ငန်းနယ်ပယ်(၁၂)ခုကို အုပ်စု(၆)စုခွဲ၍ ဆွေးနွေးခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၁၀)	(၁၅:၅၀) နာရီမှ (၁၆:၀၅) နာရီအထိ	လက်ဖက်ရည်သုံးဆောင်ခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၁၁)	(၁၆:၀၅) နာရီမှ (၁၇:၃၅) နာရီအထိ	အစိုးရဌာနများ၊ CSOs၊ သုတေသနအဖွဲ့များထံမှ ရရှိနိုင်မည့် သတင်းအချက်အလက်များ၊ တိုးတက်မှု အစီရင်ခံစာများ၊ သုတေသနစာတမ်းများစသည်ဖြင့် စာရင်းကောက်ယူခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၁၂)	(၁၇:၃၅) နာရီမှ (၁၈:၀၅) နာရီအထိ	ရှေ့လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်အတွက် စုပေါင်းဆွေးနွေးခြင်း။
အစီအစဉ်(၁၃)	(၁၈:၀၅) နာရီ	ဆွေးနွေးပွဲပြီးမြောက်ခြင်း။

Annex – 6 List of the participants of the BPFA consultation workshop 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2009

Participants' List at BPFA Consultation Workshop on 9th-April-2019 (Female = 88; Male = 20; Not mentioned =1)					
Sr.	Name	Title	Organization	Gender	
				M	F
1	Dr. Cho Cho Myint		FRI		X
2	U Thwin Hein Kyaw		DSW	X	
3	U Htun Linn		DSW	X	
4	Dr. Thiri Htike San	Assistant Director	DSPE		X
5	Daw Thinzar Naing	Assistant Director	DOER		X
6	U Zaw Linn Htun	Assistant Director	DALMS	X	
7	Dr. Kyaw Ko Ko	Assistant Supervisor	MMCWA	X	
8	Daw Mi Mi Win	Director	GAD		X
9	Daw Han Ni Win	Editor	MOI		X
10	Dr. Thet Hnin Aye	Director	DTVET		X
11	Daw Thin Thin Swe	Deputy Director	MRTV		X
12	Daw Aye Aye Win	Assistant Director	DSW		X
13	U Swan Yi	Director	DoR	X	
14	Daw Pwint Phyu Kyaw		DSW		X
15	Daw Thuzar		DSW		X
16	Dr. Mu Mu Kyaw	Director	DAR		X
17	Daw Naung Naung Soe	Assistant Director	MSWRR		X
18	Daw Nelly Sann	Assistant Director	UEC		X
19	Daw Khin Ma Ma Lat	Assistant Director	DRD		X
20	Daw New Ni	Deputy Director General	DHE		X
21	Daw Khine Zar Win	Assistant Director	DOT/ MOC		X
22	Dr. Mya Thidar	GSADCPAC	APCPAT		X
23	Daw Thit Thit Khine	Deputy Director	DBE/ MOE		X
24	Daw Zar Kyi Win Baw	Assistant Director	ECD		X
25	U Sai Maung Maung	Assistant Director	MSWRR	X	

Participants' List at BPFA Consultation Workshop on 9th-April-2019 (Female = 88; Male = 20; Not mentioned =1)					
Sr.	Name	Title	Organization	Gender	
				M	F
26	Daw Su Yin Myint	Assistant Director	DOE		X
27	Daw Aye Aye Thin	Assistant Director	DSW		X
28	Daw Yi Yi Shwe	Deputy Director	DSW		X
29	Daw Mya Mya Htay	SO	DSW		X
30	U Nyi Nyi Aung	UD	DSW	X	
31	Daw Tin Zar Hlaing	UD	DSW		X
32	Daw Lay Lai Lai Waing	SO	DSW		X
33	Daw Yu Yu Wai	Assistant Director	DSW		X
34	Daw Ruyar Mya	Dupty Director General	DSW		X
35	Daw Ya Ta Nar Moe	BC	DSW		X
36	Daw Lay Lay Myat	Assistant Director	DSW		X
37	Daw Saw Yu Thwai	BC	DSW		X
38	U Myint Zaw	Deputy Director	DSW	X	
39	U Aung Kyaw Zin	DV	DSW	X	
40	Dr. Aye Thinzar Khaing	Deputy Director	LBVD		X
41	Dr. San San Aye	DG	DSW		X
42	Daw Mi Ni Oo	POLTCOL	ATIPD		X
43	Daw Ohn Mar Moe	Deputy Director	DOF		X
44	Dr. Padamyor	Deputy Director	DRI		X
45	Dr. Hnin Hnin Lwin	Deputy Director	DOPH		X
46	Daw May Yin Htun	President	APCPAC		X
47	U Soe Aung	Deputy Minister		X	
48	U Zaw Lwin	Assistant Director		X	
49	Daw Swe Swe Linn	Director	DSW		X
50	Daw Tin Mar Lu	Director	MOI		X

Participants' List at BPFA Consultation Workshop on 9th-April-2019 (Female = 88; Male = 20; Not mentioned =1)					
Sr.	Name	Title	Organization	Gender	
				M	F
51	U Zaw Phyo	D.S.O	DSW	X	
52	U Ndop Htin Bay	UD	DSW	X	
53	Daw Khaing Thae Su	SO	DSW		X
54	U Tin Aung Lin	D.V	DSW	X	
55	Daw Thaw Thaw Han Thar	Staff Officer	GAD		X
56	Daw Khin San Myint	Director	DOA		X
57	Daw Than Than Win	Deputy Director	DSW		X
58	Daw Yin Yin Mya	SO	DAE		X
59	Dr. Shwe Sin New	Deputy Director	DOMS		X
60	Dr. Aye Mya Aung	Deputy Director	DHRH		X
61	Daw Kyawt Kay Khine	Deputy Director	DSW		X
62	Daw Swe Swe Than	Assistant Director	IPRD		X
63	Dr. Thet Thet Tin	President	MWAF		X
64	Dr. Thin Myat Khine	National Programme Officer	The Embassy of Switzerland		X
65	Daw Nway Nway Soe	DDM	MSWRR		X
66	U Po Po Thent	Interpreter	Freelance	X	
67	Daw Su Sandy	Program Officer	UN Women		X
68	Diary Saw		WFP		X
69	Daw Phyo Thet Nandar Aung	PA	UN Women		X
70	U Thant Sim Htun		MWCDF	X	
71	U Myint Htwe	SDU-Trainer	MEDG	X	
72	Akari Myo	National Gender Consultant	DSW/Dana		X
73	Naw Freeciq	Coordinator	WON		X
74	Daw Lu Lu San	Director	DAWN		X
75	Daw Mya Mya Thet	Interpreter	Freelance		X

Participants' List at BPFA Consultation Workshop on 9th-April-2019 (Female = 88; Male = 20; Not mentioned =1)					
Sr.	Name	Title	Organization	Gender	
				M	F
76	Daw Aye Aye Nwe	Policy Officer	UNAIDS		X
77	Daw Aye Myat Thanda	Senior Development Officer	Canadian Embassy		X
78	Hutin Phan	Program Specialist	UNFPA		
79	Sillion San San Aye	Social Policy Specialist	UNCEF		X
80	Daw Thuzar Tin	SO	WON		X
81	Nan Khan Yone	TRP	GEN		X
82	Rachel@ Niang Han Dim	Program Officer	Ar Yone OO-SDA		X
83	Thin Thin Soe	Secatry	SWIMM		X
84	Nang Phyu Phyu Lin	Advisor	AGIPP		X
85	Daw Omma Rangmi	Advisor	Akkaya		X
86	Mhwe Lon	Program Officer	ILO		X
87	Poe Ei Phyu	General Cultural Social Indicator	Da Na Facility		X
88	Ni Ni Myint	Head of Program	Christian Aid		X
89	Su Su Mar	NPPP	UNFPA		X
90	Su Mar Latt	GBV Programme Officer	UNFPA		X
91	Naw Pwint Hlwar Moe	Interpreter	Freelance		X
92	Joelle Chrleme	Candy Advisor	MODC		X
93	Ni Ni Thaug	Program Officer	WFP		X
94	Tin Ko Oo	Nation Consultant	UN-Women	X	
95	Naw Aye Aye Hlaing	Nation Consultant	DSW		X
96	Ma Witt Yee Win	Assistant Director	MNHRC		X
97	Hla Hla Cho	Director	Wild ROSE		X
98	Eric Nilsson	GPQA	NPA	X	
99	Swe Mar Oo	Founder	Generation Tree		X
100	Lin Lin Oo	DAWN	WON		X

Participants' List at BPFA Consultation Workshop on 9th-April-2019 (Female = 88; Male = 20; Not mentioned =1)					
Sr.	Name	Title	Organization	Gender	
				M	F
101	Lahpai Ja Ra	SC	AGIPP		X
102	Than Dar Ko	Director	Business Kind		X
103	Cherry Ohn	E.D	GCIN-Peace		X
104	Khin Thet Maw	Sec. Gen	MWEA		X
105	Hnin Swe Zin Hlaing	Head of Policy Advocacy	GEN-CU		X
106	Cho Cho Yee	Nation Consultant	DSW		X
107	Paway Zun Thein	Advisor	GEN		X
108	Khin Lay Nwe Tun	Programme Coordinator	AAM		X
109	Tin Mg Mg Ohn	Interpreter	Freelance	X	

