

Implementation of the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the agreed conclusions on “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development” for the preparation of Secretary General’s report on progress made on the review theme at the national level

- Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW) (previously named Myanmar National Committee of Women’s Affairs – MNCWA) was established on 3 July 1996 as a national mechanism chaired by the Union Minister for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for inter-ministerial cooperation and the implementation on women development programmes in order to integrate women rights and gender issues into government policy. At present, 30 members from government institutions as well as 11 active women organizations comprise in the committee. MNCW has organized the State/Region, District and Township Levels Women Committees, implemented women’s development activities in each region, conducted the bi-annual meetings, made the review on women development activities, monitored and evaluated on regional implementation and proposed the way forward.
- Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement submitted the Beijing Platform for Action Country Review Report BPFAR + 25 to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on 16th June, 2019 by collecting the five-year implementation activities (2014-2019) of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) on women development to review the challenges and progress on the implementation of the twelve priority areas set by the Fourth World Conference on Women.
- According to the guidance of MNCW, Myanmar is operationalizing National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women, NSPAW (2013-2022), in line with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- Four Technical Working Groups (TWG), namely Violence against Women TWG; Women Participation in economic and politics TWG; Women, Peace and Security TWG; and Gender Mainstreaming TWG are formed to implement NSPAW (2013-2022) effectively. Operational Plan (2020-2022) has been developed to effectively implement the rest of three years of NSPAW.
- Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues are protected under the existing laws: the Penal Code, the Anti-trafficking in Persons Law and Child Rights Law in Myanmar. The Protection and Prevention of Violence Against (PoVAW) Law is developed to effectively protect women from any form of violence including sexual violence and the discussion on the draft bill is made at the Amyotha Hluttaw (House of Nationalities) in order to adopt the law.
- Department of Social Welfare (DSW-MoSWRR) carries out strengthening gender equality and protection programmes for vulnerable groups with prevention, protection and responses approaches. As the prevention activities, DSW conducts

the GBV awareness activities including standing billboards on child rape case awareness and distribution of pamphlets.

- DSW-MoSWRR conducts 24 hours Help Line Services via 0673-404222 and 404999 started from November 2016 to protect and respond the Gender based Violence against women.
- If GBV cases and Violence against Women and Girls have happened, the survivor herself or any dutiful citizen can reliably report through the Help Line, States and Regions DSW office, or Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement or Myanmar Human Rights Commission or PMs. DSW gives priority on the information of survivors as confidential.
- DSW has assigned well-trained DSW Case Managers in states and regions including Naypyitaw Union Territory and provides services in order to respond the complaints systematically.
- DSW conducts One Stop Women Support Center (OSWSC) in Yangon, Mandalay, Lashio, Mawlamyine and Loikaw to provide temporary shelter for survivors. There are (116) clients who have accessed the services at the OSWSC from March 2019 to July 2020.
- Besides, health care services and legal aids, psychosocial support (PSS) and vocational trainings as well as cash transfer for their rehabilitation are also provided. From 2019 to 2020, 811 cases have been handled and PSS and cash assistances have been provided based on their needs.
- DSW-MSWRR conducts temporary Hot Line in States and Regions and provides PSS to the people through call service to reduce the stress as a consequence of COVID-19 and to strengthen their mental health. There are (306) clients who received Hot Line PSS services up to now.
- Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) which was developed from the Child Protection Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) of DSW by adding the response process for the violence against women in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), was launched in 2019 and implemented.
- As part of the institutional based programme, DSW conducts two Women Development Centers, four Vocational Training Centers for Women and Centers for Women Care and Development, for women who need the care due to the social condition.
- DSW organizes eleven Schools for Home Science for women empowerment and conducts community based trainings for women who are difficult to come to the schools of home science in order to provide livelihood skills, better self-confidence as well as to reduce poverty and to raise standard of living. 155 community based vocational trainings have been conducted for 3883 local trainees from March 2019 to July 2020.
- DSW conducts vocational trainings in IDP camps in order to promote gender equality, job opportunities and peace in family life. The vocational trainings such as trainings on sewing, embroidery, variety of snack producing, floristry, cooking,

making-wine, mushroom plantation, beauty salon, computer, cycle and car repair trainings and driving trainings which meet local needs and can be applied in their daily lives, are conducted based on the needs and interest of local trainees.

- DSW conducted 13 vocational trainings for (266) trainees at the IDP camps in Kachin State, three trainings for (90) trainees at the IDP camps and another three trainings for 90 trainees at the temporary camps for local displaced people in Rakhine State as well as 23 trainings for (372) trainees at the IDP camps in Shan State from March 2019 to July 2020.
- Personal hygiene kits with 19 items were given to women at the age above 12 from (56) IDP camps in Kachin State and (16) IDP camps in Namhkam and Kutkai townships, Shan State with the lead of DSW and support of UNFPA. (14135) dignity kits were given at the (56) Kachin IDP camps and (2141) dignity kits, at the (16) Shan IDP Camps.
- According to the Joint Communique on Prevention and Response to Conflict Related Sexual Violence, the National Committee and Working Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence have been organized, the draft action plan is developed and necessary measures are carried out to adopt.
- To provide support data for the implementation areas of National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022), Myanmar National Survey on Women's Life Experiences will be conducted under the supervision of DSW – Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) and Central Statistical Organization, with the technical and funding support of UNFPA.