

Human Development Initiative 2010



U N
D P

Myanmar





FOREWORD

FROM THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Since 1993, UNDP Human Development Initiative (HDI) has focused on building the capacities of communities to improve food security and livelihoods. HDI also strengthens community groups to plan, implement and manage their own development activities in the areas of health, education and water and sanitation.

Operating within its mandate, UNDP is focusing on interventions at the grass roots level. The programme budget for 2008-2011 approved by the Executive Board amounts to \$103.9 million (\$38.9m in core resources, and \$65m in non-core resources).

UNDP's activities cover 60 of 325 townships throughout the country, and reach over three million people. They include:

- Two Integrated community development projects are the main vehicles of HDI directly delivering assistance to over 5,000 self-reliance groups and 1,800 community based organisations in 4,200 villages. The projects build social capital of the poor and vulnerable in rural communities by providing access to economic opportunities, basic health and education services, skills and knowledge, through participatory process and multi-sectoral approach.
- The Microfinance project has proven to be a very effective means to reach out and empower rural poor women by increasing their households' income and productive assets. The project has expanded its coverage with more than 100,000 new clients, bringing its total outreach to almost a half a million borrowers – 97 percent of them women.
- HIV/AIDS project focuses on empowering the people living with HIV/AIDS through capacity building of Myanmar Positive Network together with psychosocial and livelihoods support.
- Integrated Households Living Conditions Assessment project provides reliable national data on the extent and nature of poverty disaggregated at the Division/State level. UNDP Myanmar has assessed

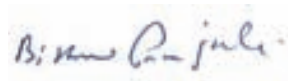
the changes in living conditions and tracked progress towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The most recent HDI survey has been completed and the results will be available in January 2011.

UNDP's efforts in the Ayeyarwady Delta and the Rakhine State continue with the restoration of livelihoods foremost, on the agenda. The HDI allocates a significant proportion of its efforts in these cyclone affected regions to agricultural and fisheries support and micro-finance and group lending initiatives. Damaged buildings, roads and footpaths used by villagers are being reconstructed. UNDP is also running a comprehensive disaster risk reduction project to bring awareness and mitigate disasters.

UNDP is dedicated to assisting the country meet its Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and is working closely with the UN system to turn its four priorities into concrete actions. The four priorities include:

- Increase equitable access to quality social services
- Encourage pro-poor growth (both rural and urban), including agricultural development and enhancement of empowerment opportunities
- Promote good governance, democracy and human rights
- Reduce vulnerabilities to natural disasters and climate change

I thank you for your support, and look forward to stronger collaboration and partnership to meet the existing needs of the people of Myanmar.



Bishow Parajuli
UN Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative
Myanmar

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience, and resources to help people build better lives.

We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people in UNDP and our wide range of partners.

UNDP in Myanmar

UNDP is implementing the Human Development Initiative (HDI) to provide support to poor communities in areas of food security, microfinance, environment, as well as training and education. UNDP is on the ground in 60 townships and reaches almost three million beneficiaries. UNDP's HDI targets the most vulnerable communities and works to increase and improve opportunities for livelihoods.

Photos courtesy of UNDP Myanmar
Credit to: Hein Latt Aung

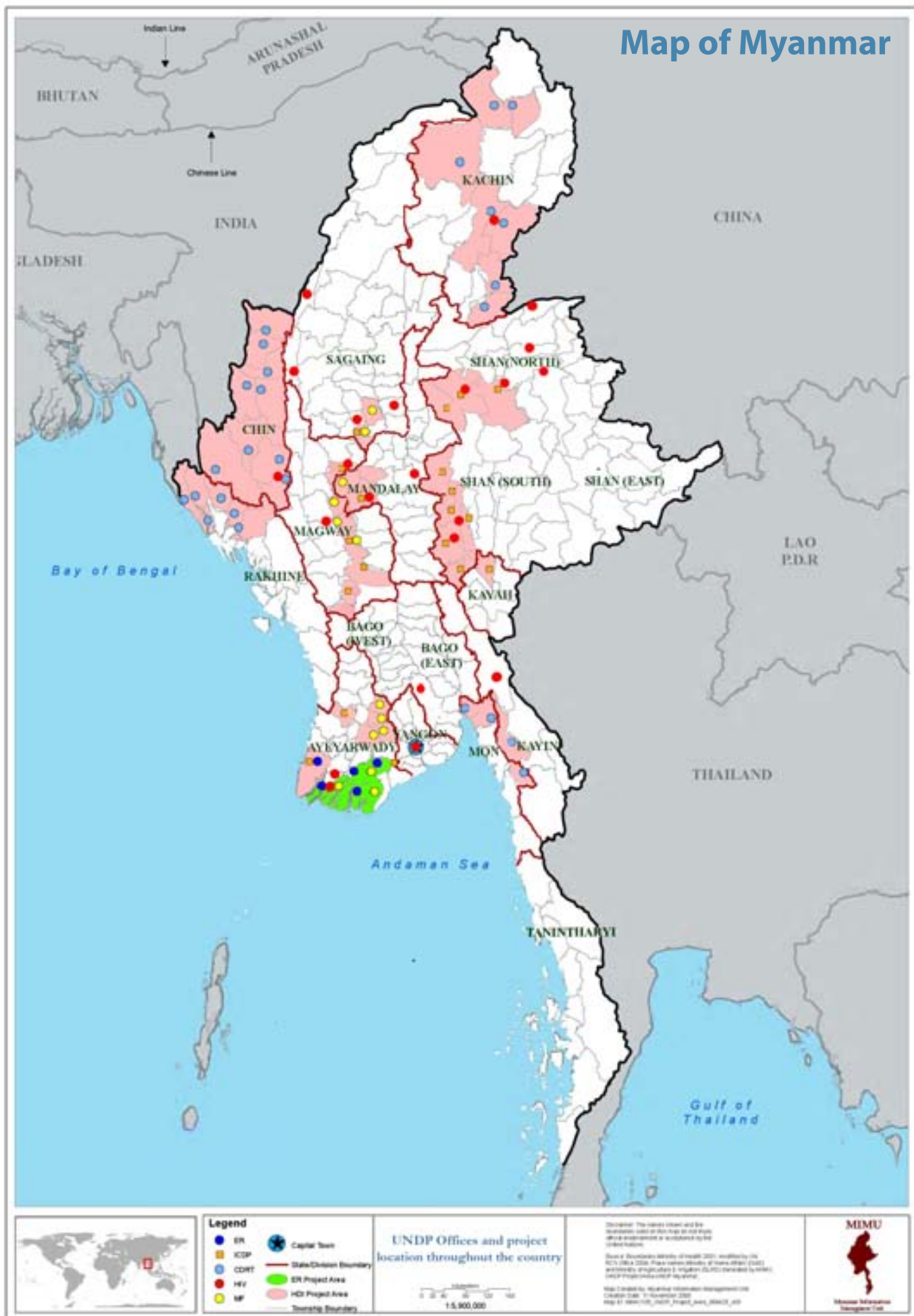
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Political Map on page 17 adapted from the following website: <http://matt2819.com/myanmar/2010/03/mission-to-myanmar-newsletter-march-2010/>







ACRONYMS

AIDS	Aquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CAP	Community Action Plan
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CBDRM	Community-Based Disaster Risk Manangement
CDRT	Community Development For Remote Townships Project
DfID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
DRC	Disabilities Resource Centre
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ER	Early Recovery Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FECG	Forest and Environmental Conservation Groups
HDI	Human Development Initiative
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICDP	Integrated Community Development Programme
IHLCA	Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MAPDRR	Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction
MDG	Millenium Development Goals
MFP	Microfinance Project
MPG	Myanmar Positive Group
MPP	Micro Project Proposals
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PLHIV	Persons Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PTA	Parents and Teachers Association
SHG	Self Help Group
SRG	Self Reliance Group
TfD	Theatre for Development
TLMI	The Leoprosoy Mission International
UNAIDS	United Nations AIDS Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Populations Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VDMC	Village Disaster Management Committees
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation



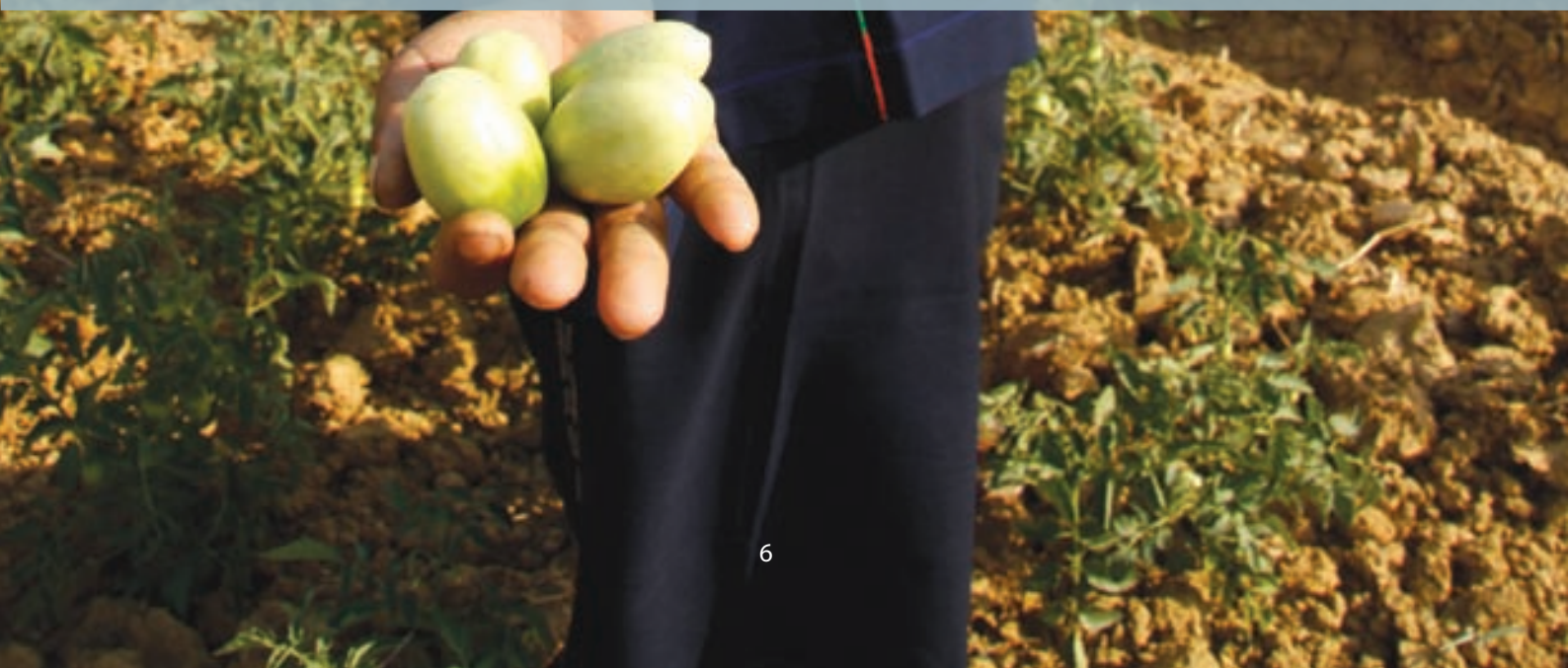
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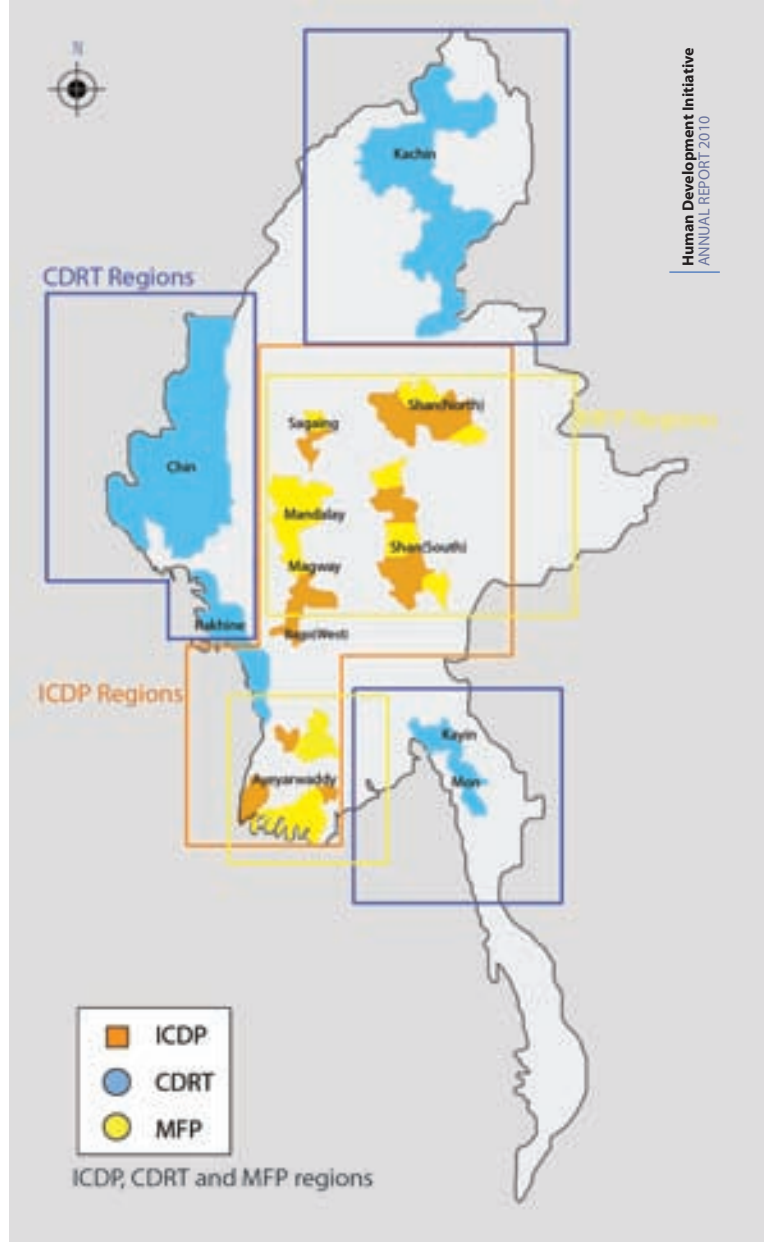
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AT THE CENTRE - MDG 1

Organized Initiatives for the most vulnerable



UNDP's Human Development Initiative (HDI) is providing access to a combination of capital assets, technical support and livelihood opportunities to poor villagers in Pindaya Township and these communities, just like their contemporaries elsewhere, have gradually begun moving themselves out of poverty.

Just four years ago poverty rates in Shan State's Pindaya Township were seven percentage






points higher than the national average of 32 percent. Now, there is evidence that life is steadily improving for some poor communities in Pindaya.

However most villagers in Myanmar are far more impoverished than the residents of Pindaya Township. This is particularly true in some of the country's border states where the UNDP-supported Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA) survey estimated poverty rates to be more than 70 percent in 2004-05.

Poverty reduction has been addressed through the organization of community groups, particularly women's and livelihood-based groups. More than 60 percent of HDI's direct beneficiaries are women.

Leadership and community participation is also effective in Myanmar's rural societies because there is a strong tradition of extended kinship, as well as collective action in pooling labour and resources in times of need.

	Name of Programme	States												
	Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) and Delta	<div>The ICDP Project covered 23 Townships, in 6 States/Regions:</div> <table><tr><td>Shan State:</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Dry Zone:</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Ayeyarwady Delta:</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>23</td></tr></table>	Shan State:	10	Dry Zone:	7	Ayeyarwady Delta:	6	Total	23				
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Dry Zone:	7													
Ayeyarwady Delta:	6													
Total	23													
	Community Development for Remote Townships Project (CDRT)	<div>The CDRT Project covered 26 Townships in 5 States/Regions:</div> <table><tr><td>Kachin:</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Chin:</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Rakhine:</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Kayin:</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Mon</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>26</td></tr></table>	Kachin:	7	Chin:	9	Rakhine:	6	Kayin:	1	Mon	3	Total	26
Kachin:	7													
Chin:	9													
Rakhine:	6													
Kayin:	1													
Mon	3													
Total	26													
	Microfinance Project (MFP)	<div>The MFP covered 22 Townships in 5 States:</div> <table><tr><td>Shan State:</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>The Dry Zone:</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>The Ayeyarwady Delta:</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>22</td></tr></table>	Shan State:	5	The Dry Zone:	10	The Ayeyarwady Delta:	7	Total	22				
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Total	22													

The effectiveness and impact of community organizations in improving economic opportunities is the focus of UNDP's assistance programmes across 60 out of the country's 325 townships.

The Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) and Community Development for Remote Townships project (CDRT) are focused on community development, creating and expanding economic opportunities and livelihood options for targeted communities. The Microfinance Project (MFP), which has been recognised as being among the 20 largest programmes in the world, financially supports the poor to emerge from poverty.

Self-Reliance Groups (SRGs) are formed through a process of self-selection based on wealth-ranking and consist of 10 to 15 poor women. Participants gain increased financial and livelihood assets through their involvement in the groups, share knowledge and become more aware of health and social concerns, enabling them to advance economically and find solutions to their own problems.

The project also provides skills training for many such activities. This practice builds the wealth

of families and entire communities, paving the way for economic independence and socio-economic advancement.

Women from poor households in project villages have acquired greater decision making roles in managing family affairs and a more pronounced voice in village level development activities as a result of their involvement in SRGs. By June 2010, more than 5100 SRGs had been formed countrywide and at least 4330 were already involved in savings and income generation activities that included nearly 60,000 people.

An estimated 10 percent of UNDP's poor beneficiaries achieved improvement in their socio-economic status last year. This was achieved primarily through the SRG modality as SRGs advanced in their wealth ranking.

The result is that women who were previously considered destitute, or who were totally dependent on others for their livelihood, are now able to participate in income generation activities and contribute more money to their SRG group revolving fund.

Self-Reliance Groups in Action



Ten to 15 women can form each SRGs. The groups are formed through a process of self-selection based on mutual affinity. To qualify for membership, they must be in the C, D and E categories of wealth.

(See illustration on Page 10)



In the first six months, the women do not know very much about lending programmes. They begin by saving small sums of money to establish revolving funds. They also learn about lending and savings practices with HDI staff.



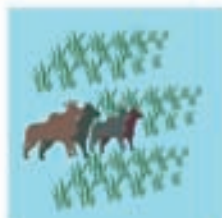
After six months of training and saving enough money, the women set their own rules for the group, establish interest rates and prepare to begin lending. They determine their meeting schedules.



The women prepare Micro Project Proposals (MPPs) and with help from UNDP staff apply for funding, and then receive matching funds from the HDI. These grants are used for livelihoods, health and education activities.



Now that their SRG is up and running, the women distribute funds to each other, pay back those funds through their profits and other inputs.



With the money saved, the women can repay their loans. They can build new businesses or use the money to renovate their homes and help their families.



As the SRG matures, the women are able to continue supporting each other and can apply for credit with HDI's microfinance project.

Mentoring for success

Strengthening existing SRGs remains a priority for HDI in 2010. For this purpose, UNDP began a system of mentoring or “clustering” SRGs in targeted townships. Successful and established SRGs were paired with newer groups whose revolving funds were smaller and repayment rates to the groups were lower. This allowed both groups to receive support and encouraged expansion into a larger network of SRGs within a township. A typical cluster covers between 20 and 30 SRGs.

A total of 114 SRG clusters were established in 2010 in the ICDP, covering more than 900 villages. A 2009 assessment of the HDI programme found the availability of affordable credit, together with access to occupational knowledge, skills, training and technology support was crucial in securing improvement of livelihoods and socioeconomic well being in the community. The assessment also highlights that the longer an SRG exists in a community, the greater its chance of success.

To be eligible for livelihood assistance through the HDI, villagers must fall into the lowest three categories of wealth. After being identified as poor (C), very poor (D) or poorest (E), villagers are invited to join together with those from the same, or similar wealth ranking to form an SRG, or CBO (see page 12), depending on their gender and geographical location.



Wealth Ranking	Category	Assets	Key
A	Rich		House
B	Middle		Farm
C	Poor		Land
D	Very Poor		Money
E	Poorest ***(PoP)		Cart
***the Poorest of the Poor (PoPs) typically are landless, sometimes homeless, and often dependent on others for their livelihoods and shelter			
			Animal
			Boat



Community leading development

Individuals are able to access funds and accumulate wealth through SRGs and the Microfinance Project (MFP), but HDI also supports larger, community development groups to carry out poverty reduction activities. These groups, called Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), operate under the CDRT project and, like the SRGs, mostly receive grants and pool money to establish revolving funds for community projects.

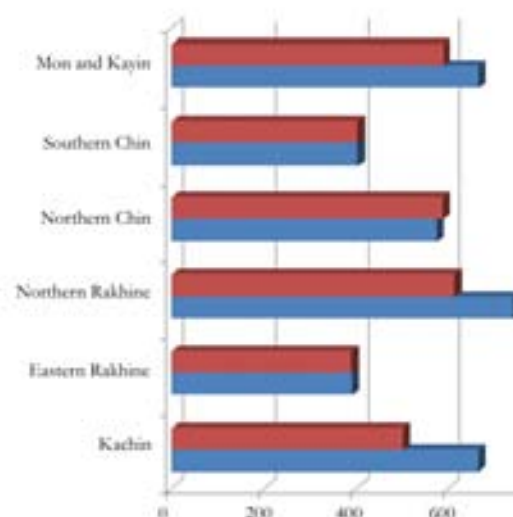
CBOs identify and determine development priorities, reinforcing their decision-making processes in communities. The SRG model aims to empower individuals to improve their lives, CBOs empower whole communities and community groups. The groups encourage saving and internal lending among members and serve as forums for training and skill development.

These groups are organized by activity and categorized as either Livelihood or Social Activity groups:

(1) Livelihood Groups utilize a revolving fund and operate similarly to SRGs. Livelihood Groups are focused on agriculture, livestock, fisheries and natural resources.

(2) Social Activity Groups work collectively for the village on social issues such as education, health, water and sanitation, construction projects and Disaster Risk Reduction.

There are more than 3400 CBOs operating under the CDRT in the border regions of Myanmar with an estimated 310,000 members. CBOs are an effective tool for implementing project and livelihood initiatives.





FINANCING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Microfinance Project (MFP) reaches 466,681 clients in more than 5,000 villages. First launched in 1997, MFP meets the credit needs of the poor and poorest households in rural areas of the Ayeyarwady Delta, the Dry Zone and Shan State. The project offers an opportunity to its members to save in a secured, interest-bearing account managed by UNDP's implementing partner, PACT.



The Microfinance Project (MFP) adopts a three-pronged strategy that consists of facilitating access to microfinance services using a group lending methodology, offering micro credit without asset collateral, and stimulating small business ventures through small enterprise and business development support services.

Despite the challenges Cyclone Nargis presented in 2008, the MFP had a highly successful year in 2009 and was able to meet its pre-Nargis targets by year's end. The project resumed operations in October 2008 in the cyclone-affected Delta townships, and was able to open 26 new branches countrywide. Countrywide, more than 100,000 new members joined the MFP in 2009 and another 43,000-plus had joined by October 2010.



The MFP differs from savings and loan operations of the community development projects in a number of aspects. MF groups have five members per group. The smaller groups organize into village-based community organizations called “centres”, which can include up to 50 individuals. Ninety eight percent of MFP clients are women.

The MFP practices a “solidarity” lending methodology, building on the Bangladesh-based Grameen

Bank model, which has been adapted to meet the needs of the local culture. In Myanmar, it has been tailored to include Solidarity Group Lending, recognizing that the power of the group in Myanmar is a more successful cultural indicator for motivation than the individual. Loans are distributed to individuals and it is the individual's responsibility to the group of five to repay on time.

MF clients follow the repayment terms and conditions set by the project as part of its banking policy, rules and regulations. There are several different loan options apart from livelihood loans, and additional loans are also available to clients to meet a variety of needs, such as educational and health loans.

The 2009 impact assessment of HDI highlighted that SRGs will need to have linkage to the private sector, financial institutions, other financing facilities and other service providers. HDI has begun to create those linkages with the project's implementing partner, Pact, and through other “bridging” mechanisms in the ICDP project. Activities to actualize these projects were initiated in 2010.

Because of the demand in the country for microfinance services, new loan programmes were introduced in 2009-2010 to help clients continue to recover from the cyclone and offset the economic hardships caused by economic instability.

The most notable of these programmes was the Beneficiary Welfare Programme, or Micro-Insurance Programme, which provide clients with financial coverage of damage or loss of their livelihood assets on account of natural hazards and fire. Members put aside a small amount of their income every month towards “insurance,” which, provides them a one-time lump sum of K50,000 to be used either for loan outstanding write-off or loss of property due to fire, flood, storm, or earthquake.

Three-quarters of the MFP's borrowers enrolled in the plan in 2009 and 974 claims were settled by year's end. Another 32,471 MFP borrowers had enrolled in the plan by October 2010, with 1,649 claims made during the year.

Boosting Rural Finance



By October 2008, the Microfinance Project resumed operations in the cyclone-affected Delta townships, and was able to open 26 new branches countrywide.

In order to assist clients living in the affected areas of the Delta, the Microfinance Project's stakeholders agreed to write off US\$2.85 million in outstanding loans in 2009.

An additional liability of US\$1.24 million in client savings was returned to members or the authorized family members of 4,192 clients who tragically perished in the storm.

Subsequently, the majority of activities involved rebuilding networks and preparing for a re-launch of projects, because the clients who had survived were extremely vulnerable and were unable to begin repayments.

Type of Loan	Amount of loan (USD)	What is needed to qualify for the loan
Regular Income Generating	\$60 to \$150	A new borrower can start from \$60 and then have access to higher loans with successful repayment of a current loan
Micro-Enterprise	Up to \$500	Based on capacity and profitability
Health Care	\$50	For an individual and dependent
Education	\$50	School enrollment for a dependent
Agricultural	\$75	Per acre
Seasonal/Consumer	Up to \$100	To boost capacity and take advantage of seasonal planting
**Wholesale for SRGs	\$1,500	Provided as a group loan to boost the SRGs capital base
Vulnerable	\$30	A flexible loan to include most vulnerable members
Beneficiary Welfare Fund	\$50	Life, property and loan write-off

From disaster, to a hopeful future

The Microfinance Project started its operations in Nyein Oo village, Mawlamyinegyun Township in the Ayeyarwady Delta 12 years ago, helping members by giving them access to credit.

Daw Htay Hlaing had been one of the first villagers to join the Microfinance Project. She and her husband owned two acres of cultivable land and Daw Htay Hlaing needed money to fund her business idea of raising ducks.

Her first loan – only K6,000 or about US\$6 – was easily repaid by working as a casual laborer in her village. Concurrently, she began selling duck eggs, expanding her sources of income.

Daw Htay Hlaing remained a project member and used further loans to raise pigs, cultivate rice paddy, buy farm animals and eventually renovated her family home.

Daw Htay Hlaing was soon in an enviable position. She owned a house with a tin roof and wooden walls, two cows and two buffaloes that she and her family of five used to farm five acres of rice paddy.

But everything changed on 2-3 May, 2008 when Cyclone Nargis struck the region. Daw Htay Hlaing's house was flattened, the livestock were killed and the paddy fields were inundated with salt water.

After the cyclone Daw Htay Hlaing said that she and her family couldn't even find a place to live, and had to "live with other families in the village monastery".

Within three weeks, the Microfinance Project was ready to begin helping its members again. Debts were written off and members who had savings were allowed to withdraw them to use as they saw fit.

Daw Htay Hlaing immediately withdrew her savings of K35,230 and had her outstanding debt of K144,000 written off.

Using salvaged materials and buying building materials, Daw Htay Hlaing built a temporary house for her family.

Ten months after Nargis struck, the Microfinance Project called a meeting in Nyein Oo village to restart its activities and all of the old members, including Daw Htay Hlaing, rejoined.

Daw Htay Hlaing applied for loans totaling K150,000 and used the money to open a grocery store and buy two pigs.

In mid-June 2009, Daw Htay Hlaing applied again for a monsoon paddy loan of K150,000. After harvesting the monsoon paddy, she renovated her house with new bamboo matting walls and added a tin roof.

Daw Htay Hlaing's assets now include a grocery shop, two pigs and three acres of land. She is also earning money to pay for her children's school books and uniforms.

As a smart business woman, she is also investing her money to offer more products to her customers: "Adding more investment into the shop means there will be more money for me and my family."



Every One Counts

In 2009-10, an extensive survey was conducted to evaluate poverty levels, household living conditions and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators for Myanmar. Results provided poverty estimates for the country and revealed disparity between regions

Below are the outcomes from the IHLCA-1:

Chin State State with highest levels of food insecurity, however not the lowest in terms of education (primary school enrollment) and safe drinking water

Shan State One of the poorest states although some disparities were found between Northern and Eastern Shan State.

Kayin State Lowest poverty rates and the highest percentage of people who did not have access to drinking water.

Yangon Division Myanmar's economic center and largest city, but pockets of poverty remained. Access to safe drinking water, skilled health workers, and low primary school enrollment need improvement.





The Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA) is a nationwide survey in which data is collected from more than 18,000 households to determine poverty levels, household living conditions and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators for Myanmar. The survey is a joint project between UNDP and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development in Myanmar.

The survey contributes towards improving living conditions of the poor through to evidence-based analysis that is pro-poor. To capture seasonal variations in agriculture, the survey is conducted in two rounds - post and pre-harvest.

The first IHLCA survey was conducted in 2004-05 and provided important poverty estimates for Myanmar.

At the national level, the survey found 32 percent of the population live in poverty and 10 percent live in extreme poverty. The 10 percent living in extreme poverty did not have enough resources to cover their basic food needs. The survey also highlighted

that the level of poverty between states and divisions, and rural and urban areas, were substantial.

The second IHLCA was conducted during 2009-2010. The IHLCA-2 probes more deeply into untapped areas of development data, providing gender-related MDG indicators. Data relating to 23 MDG indicators has been collected, including awareness on HIV/AIDS, contraceptive prevalence rate and adolescent birth rates.

UNDP cooperated with UNICEF, the World Bank and Statistics Sweden which provided technical assistance on the survey design and analysis. In December 2009, the first round of data collection was conducted. The second round of data collection was completed in June 2010 and the data processing and analysis is underway.

IHLCA-2 will provide an opportunity to inform and strengthen poverty reduction efforts of the government, UNDP and other UN agencies as well as INGOs/NGOs and other stakeholders.

States	Poverty head count	Food poverty head count	Net enrollment in primary education	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Proportion with access to safe drinking water
Chin	73%	40%	81%	45%	77%
Shan E	52%	20%	78%	64%	76%
Shan N	51%	21%	79%	74%	74%
Mon	22%	5%	83%	91%	87%
Yangon	15%	4%	88%	88%	86%
Kayin	12%	2%	86%	59%	55%



SOWING THE SEEDS OF LIVELIHOODS

Uniting Efforts for the Poorest



UNDP continues to support target beneficiaries by expanding livelihoods options and diversifying income sources. HDI focuses on empowering poor women by improving their access to financial resources, technology and trade skills. Securing market access and linking beneficiaries to local government-sponsored technical services and other local service providers remains a challenge.



More than 1.75 million villagers received support from HDI community development projects during the reporting period. The support is structured on the basis of assessed needs and priorities identified by the beneficiary communities through participatory planning processes.

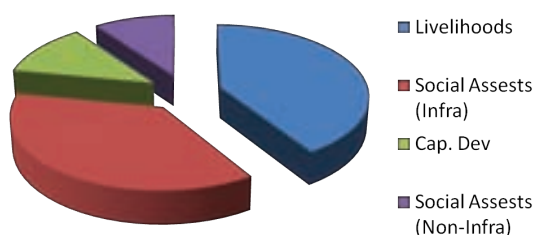
HDI provides small capital grants to augment the “common fund” of the Self-Reliance Groups (SRG) and a specialised support line (cash grant and inputs such as livestock, poultry and farm tools) to meet the special needs of the poorest of the poor (PoP) who cannot participate in SRG activities.

HDI field staff work closely with the communities to help them develop their skills in partici-

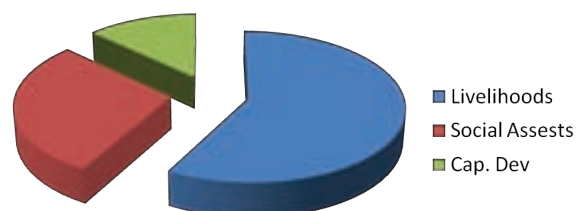
patory planning and provide technical assistance, as needed, for the preparation of Micro Project Proposals (MPP) that allow them to access livelihood grants from the HDI. Small and marginal farmers, subsistence fishermen, the landless poor, and the most vulnerable were primary beneficiaries of this support.

In the Integrated Community Development Project, 56 percent of all funding between January 2009 and July 2010 was spent on livelihoods support. The corresponding figure for the Community Development for Remote Townships project was 63 percent.

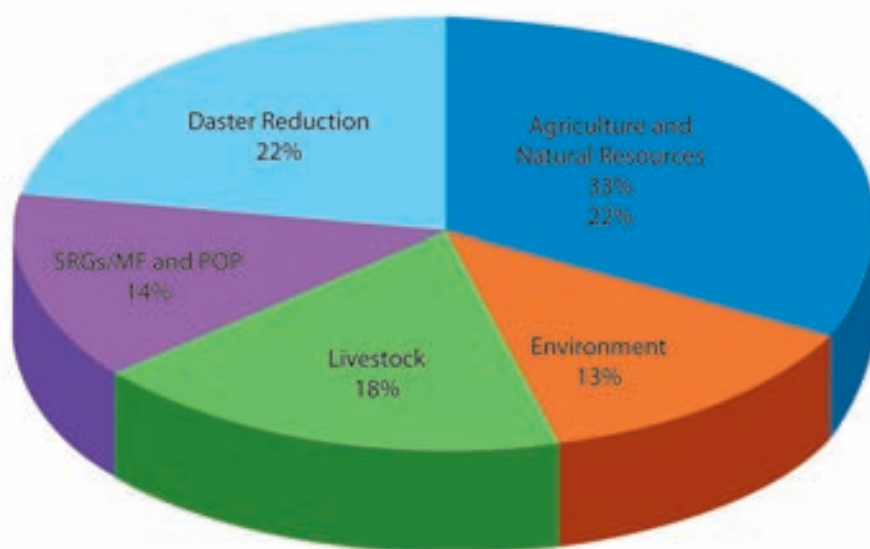
Distribution of Funding (\$USD) ICDP



Distribution of Funding (\$USD) CDRT



HDI Livelihood Sector Inputs(US\$) Year 2010



Farmers received much of the support, which consists of technology for seed multiplication, land reclamation, and cash grants for the purchase of natural insecticides. On-farm trials demonstrating crop production techniques are carried out and farm co-operatives are encouraged.

Livestock breeding remains a popular income generation activity in the HDI. The practice is considered by the rural poor as a traditional form of asset creation and income diversification. With HDI support, beneficiaries acquire knowledge of improved breeding practices, animal husbandry methods, and gain access to animal vaccination.

An estimated 19 percent of all funding in the CDRT is spent on livestock and fishery support, much of which is provided to SRG members. In the

ICDP, small-scale livestock breeding of chickens and goats, for instance, is among the favourite options of the poor who find this activity easy to manage and which achieves cash returns in a relatively short time.

As a strategy to improve the coping capacity of the poor, the HDI places emphasis on diversifying household livelihood activities to enable beneficiaries to earn regular income.

Small and marginal farmers are encouraged to engage in off-farm income generating activities such as running grocery stores or making and selling snacks. Credit to fund these activities is drawn from SRG common funds, and trade skills and small business management training is imparted by HDI project staff and technical experts.



Women find strength in SRGs



Daw Nan Htwe was able to improve her life through UNDP Myanmar's HDI programme. She now owns two cows and has been able to renovate her home.

Daw Nan Htwe has been an SRG member in Htin Shu Kone village in Pindaya Township, Shan State, since in 2003. She used the training and funding provided through the group to start a textile business and to buy and sell livestock. Today, Daw Nan Htwe owns two cows and rents land to grow taro and ginger.

Nan Htwe has renovated her home, sends her children to school, and recently purchased a sewing machine.

Self-Reliance Group members are given training in financial record keeping to enable them to keep track of the groups' finances. At the same time, UNDP provides livelihoods diversification training to enable members to identify new ways to earn money. SRG common funds and finances the business ideas of individual members.

Another SRG member, Ma Chaw Su Hlaing from Shwe Dar May village in Pakokku Township,

Mandalay Region worked in an incense factory before she joined the 16-member SRG in her village.

She joined the SRG in December in 2005 and was responsible for managing the groups financial records.

In 2007, she took a loan of K100,000 from the common fund and started her own incense-making business. Since then Ma Chaw Su Hlaing's business has now employs up to 30 people in peak season. She has decided not to work for anybody else due to her successful business.

In the future, she plans to "to produce my own brand of incense sticks and explore markets in other areas," she explained.

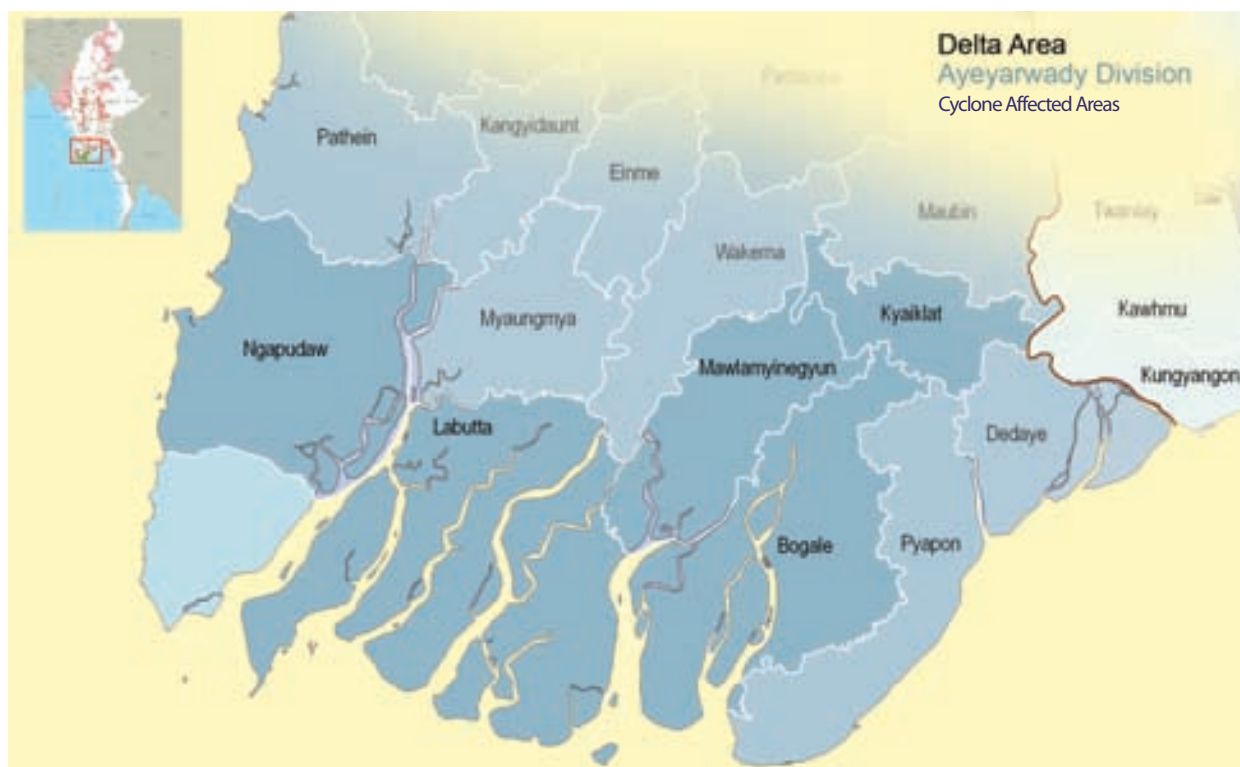
Shwe Dar May village's SRG has a total common fund of K4,876,982 (nearly US\$4,900) and has disbursed loans of K3,580,000 (about US\$3,600) to its members, earning K1,656,850 (US\$1,650) in interest.



ADVANCING RECOVERY

Farmers and fishermen in the Ayeyarwady Delta are re-establishing their livelihoods; children are attending schools; and many of vital roads, foot-paths and bridges have been repaired.





In the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), consisting of senior-level representatives of the Government, UN and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), was established. The cooperation under the TCG mechanism in delivering emergency relief, early recovery and recovery assistance to those most in need were good lessons-learned for continued partnership with the Government.

Recovery teams were able to organize quickly because of UNDP's on-the-ground presence in the Delta and due to the facilitation of access through the TCG

mechanism. Through the Post-Nargis Community Based Recovery Component of the Integrated Community Development Project and the Microfinance Project, the most affected villages in four of the five hardest-hit townships in the Delta - Bogalay, Mawlamyinegyun, Kyaiklat, and Labutta - received comprehensive assistance from UNDP Myanmar.

UNDP greatly expanded coverage and support to communities living in the Delta in 2009, doubling the number of supported villages. An estimated 300,000 people have so far benefitted from the US\$20 million in assistance across project townships.



Rebuilding Livelihoods

UNDP has been implementing and supporting community initiatives in the delta region for more than 14 years. Immediately after Cyclone Nargis ferociously swept away peoples lives, livelihoods and dreams, UNDP has been working hard to meet the needs of the Cyclone affected communities.

To date, more than 509 cyclone affected villages of Bogalay, Kyaiklat, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, and Ngapudaw townships have received livelihood assistance from the UNDP. Focusing on addressing the emergency and recovery needs in the Ayeyarwady Delta, the core objectives of this project is to strengthen the capacity of poor communities to address these basic needs. Communities are beginning to re-establish their livelihoods, and seasonal job opportunities are being created by providing access to capital, improved technologies and training..

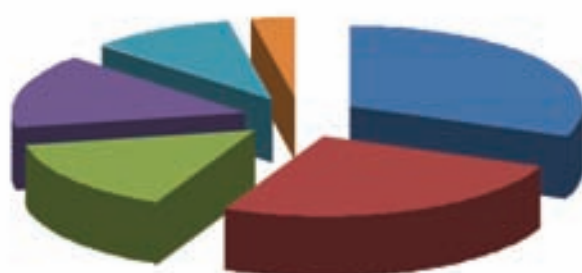
Two years ago, most landless labourers were left with nothing after the storm passed and had no

job opportunities on the horizon either. Focusing on the poorest, landless and most vulnerable households, UNDP has been providing livelihoods regeneration activities and employment through cash-for-work programmes to plant and harvest paddy crops across four townships.

UNDP is also assisting marginal and small-scale farmers with access to credit through a revolving fund mechanism. More than 7800 small-scale farmers received such support totalling \$355,000 during 2009.

Technology and skills enhancement programmes have included innovative and adaptable techniques in agriculture, livestock and fisheries management to improve income opportunities.

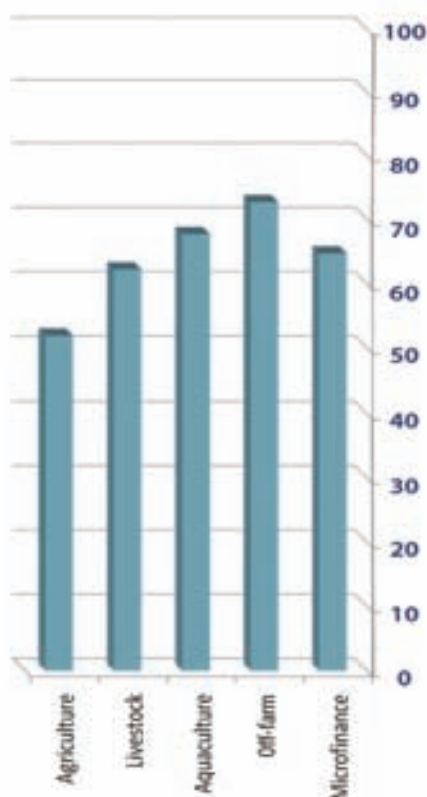
UNDP Fifty-four percent of all funding spent in the Recovery project by July 2010 was spent on livelihood activities, followed by WASH (23 percent) and Disaster Risk Reduction (15 percent).



Distribution of Livelihood Grants

- Casual Worker
- Farmer
- Fisherman
- Livestock, Forestry, Other
- Skilled worker
- Trading, Services

68 percent of fisheries respondents felt that UNDP's assistance "noticeably improved" their livelihood.



Livelihood grants were distributed to fishermen allowing them to immediately replace many assets. The money was used to purchase boats, nets, and materials needed to restart their businesses. Training and technical assistance were also provided to landless, poor fishermen on sustainable and productive fisheries management and aquaculture. An assessment conducted in late 2009 showed that 68 percent of fisheries respondents felt that UNDP's assistance "noticeably improved" their livelihood.

Suitable varieties of high-yield paddy were also introduced to increase food production. Over 35,000 baskets of seeds containing high yielding varieties of paddy were distributed to small scale and marginal farmers for planting on approximately 17,600 acres of land.

Over 14,000 bags of three types of chemical fertilizers were also supplied to the 1628 farmers in five townships to support the cultivation of paddy. In addition to these inputs, power tillers and buffalo were distributed to ensure farmers' ability to cultivate a large portion of land following large-scale losses of draught animals due to the cyclone.

Livestock

UNDP provided over US\$ 575,000 livelihood cash grants to the poorest and most vulnerable households to restore their livestock and resume income earning. Other efforts to support villagers included extensive vaccination schemes, improved access to veterinary services and support to SRGs.

A qualitative assessment in 2009, indicated that, on average, 80 percent of recipients were able to increase their income.

UNDP was able to re-establish more than 1,200 SRGs in the Delta region. There was also an increase in off-farm micro and small enterprises in 2009 and 2010 as HDI members were encouraged to diversify livelihood options. More grants were provided to SRGs starting small businesses related to trading or selling groceries and services such as sewing, tailoring, and transportation.

UNDP Myanmar also commissioned a team of rural development specialists in 2009 and conducted a qualitative study to understand post-Nargis livelihood trends in the Delta, particularly with regard to off-farm livelihoods. With this information, a pilot project was initiated in a village in Bogalay Township. The project established a secondary market in a central location for rural communities to buy and sell their products without spending too much on transportation. An assessment showed that 73 percent of all UNDP's off-farm livelihood grant beneficiaries in the Delta were "highly satisfied", with assistance received and responded that off-farm assistance had been "effective".

However, 61 percent of UNDP's beneficiaries said that they still needed assistance to fully recover. UNDP has continued in 2010 to distribute livelihood grants to the underserved community members.



REDUCING THE IMPACT OF DISASTERS

Preparation, Preparedness, and Response

***UNDP** is working with communities across Myanmar on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities.*

A 2010 external evaluation concluded that villagers said they felt safer as a result of UNDP's DRR projects, both because of physical items and training measures taken to systemize actions in the event of another storm.

Disaster Management in Myanmar

RAKHINE STATE - Tropical Cyclone Giri hit Myanmar on 22 October 2010, flattening houses, structures and destroying paddy in Rakhine State. Within 24 hours, UNDP and partner agencies responded to the emergency by distributing food and other relief items. UNDP also launched income-generating activities in partnership with local nongovernmental organizations to give households financial support and repair damaged houses, reclaim paddy fields, clean water sources and wells, and repair embankments.

CHIN STATE - Remote Chin State has been beset by an infestation of rats, a problem that has plagued the region since 2007. Three townships were assessed in 2009 and approximately 25 percent of households in the 199 villages located in the region were affected. The Community Development for Remote Townships (CDRT) project provided money through CBO groups to enable villagers to buy rice and grow crops in the rainy season to alleviate food insecurity in the village.

DRY ZONE - UNDP further helped 50 villages in the Dry Zone with fire-prevention training and water containers to fight sudden fires.

The effectiveness of UNDP's interventions is clearly demonstrated by comparing villages where UNDP supported DRR activities to those that were not assisted. A 2009 Impact Evaluation report shows that villagers who participated in UNDP's trainings were

able to explain what to do before, during and after a disaster than those from non-UNDP villages. The study also showed that UNDP-supported villages had more effective preparedness plans than other villages.

Currently the HDI is examining mechanisms to expand DRR in hazard-prone areas, at the community level. In some areas this will involve HDI townships and villages as well as others, beyond the HDI area. Additionally, UNDP will be disseminating good practices and lessons learned in community based assistance.

Through the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP), various activities and networks were set up to enable communities develop comprehensive and integrated DRR strategies.

- UNDP and Action Aid co-chaired a DRR working group consisting of UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs, and relevant ministries to strategies and plan DRR initiatives and programmes.
- UNDP is considered a lead agency in the Myanmar Action Plan for DRR (MAPDRR) for its role in promoting DRR awareness and capacity development in the country.
- UNDP also led the development of the DRR Sector Plan to ensure that DRR is mainstreamed and integrated effectively into recovery initiatives.
- Communities now have early warning systems due to UNDP's efforts. In the advent of another cyclone, residents would be warned by radio about an impending storm.



Codes	Meaning
Yellow	A storm is developing in the Bay of Bengal or in the Andaman Sea.
Orange	A tropical storm is moving towards Myanmar's coastline
Red	A storm will enter Myanmar within 12 hours
Brown	The storm has crossed Myanmar's coastline and is now raging
Green	The storm has abated

Early warning color codes were introduced to be in line with Government codes and developed in consultation with the Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC). To accelerate response times when future storms are forecast to hit villages have also been provided with radios and early warning kits.

One of the most important lessons learned from Cyclone Nargis was that the number of lives lost could have been significantly reduced if villagers had had access to safe areas or if there were greater numbers of durable shelters where people could have sought refuge from the storm.

UNDP's has almost completed constructing seven cyclone-resistant shelters in Bogale and Labutta townships in the Ayeyarwady Delta. Communities were consulted to determine the location of the sites, the function of the buildings during normal periods, and how the shelters would be maintained and managed.

Additionally, UNDP helped to establish Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) in target villages in the Delta. VDMC members facilitate disaster risk reduction awareness and plan. These Committees have developed community disaster preparedness plans and conducted emergency drills. VDMC members are also trained on community-based disaster preparedness and response, including the provision of basic first aid and search and rescue techniques. Nearly 50 percent of the trainees are women.





Safe Shelter

Two years on shelter remains a problem in the Delta. The construction of cyclone-resistant shelters has been initiated but many villagers still do not have individual shelters that could sustain the impact of another storm of the similar magnitude.

As of September 2009 due to UNDP support, 81 percent of houses had either been rebuilt or almost rebuilt. About 15 percent of the cyclone shelters were partially rebuilt in the project areas. 6,825 poor households were provided shelter grants of K120,000 (US\$120) to rebuild their houses with better materials.

More than 175,821 work days of jobs were created through UNDP cash-for-work infrastructure

activities. The retrofitted buildings will protect communities should another cyclone hit the Delta region. The cash-for-work programme ensured that:

(1) UNDP supported community-based rehabilitation and critical community infrastructure projects throughout the Delta creating employment opportunities for people.

(2) Essential community infrastructure such as primary schools, health centers, water facilities, footpaths and small bridges were rebuilt.

(3) Various economic activities facilitated the construction and renovation of 265,920 feet of footpaths, 96 bridges and 654 jetties.



Cyclone Giri

On 22 October 2010, Cyclone Giri, reaching a category four status on the Saffir-Simpson scale, struck the Eastern Rakhine coast close to the town of Kyaukphyu. The hardest hit areas are Kyaukphyu, Myebon, Pauktaw and Minbya townships, where UNDP already had an operational office, as part of its Community Development in Remote Townships (CDRT) project implemented in 443 villages in Rakhine State. Ann, Yanbye and Man Aung townships were hit to a lesser extent, while damage was also caused further inland, including in Magwe Division.

At least 260,000 people have been affected by cyclone Giri, which constitutes the most serious natural disaster to hit Myanmar after cyclone Nargis of 2008. Ahead of the cyclone reaching coastal areas, the Government of Myanmar in collaboration with the Red Cross issued warnings to the population and organized the evacuation of people in coastal areas to safe locations.

A number of international and national NGOs, the Red Cross movement, as well as UN agencies have conducted rapid assessments to confirm the extent of the impact. The Government has confirmed that at least 45 deaths have been recorded to date, while almost 102,000 people remain homeless and at least 20,380 houses were completely destroyed, with a total of at least 52,000 households / 260,000 people affected. Relief agencies responded quickly with food, shelter, WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) and health.

UNDP, through its outreach presence, responded immediately to support the affected communities through distribution of food items received from WFP and tarpaulins received from UNHCR as well as initiation of cash-for-work activities in approximately 90 villages. At the same time, UNDP conducted a rapid assessment of the four most affected townships.

Headline findings include:

i. Mostly 49,020 small holders of the farming households and 7,500 of mostly artisanal fishermen, were rendered food insecure and will continue to be de-

pendent on food aid for a longer period unless their livelihoods are recovered.

ii. The landless poor, who make up 40% to 70% of the population in each of the four most affected townships, have been left without coping mechanisms and will also depend on food aid until the next harvest.

iii. More than 20,300 homes were completely destroyed in addition to the thousands of homes partially and severely damaged. Extent of homes damaged or destroyed was highest in Myebon at 51%; Pauktaw at 46%; Kyaukphu at 41% and Minbya at 15%

At a recent meeting called by the UN RC/HC, the stakeholders concurred that the current priorities for funding are shelters and livelihood activities. UNDP has begun working on livelihoods early recovery in order to ensure that communities are food-secure and self-reliant to meet their own basic needs when the food aid ends in a few months time. Work on the recovery of livelihoods will prioritize immediate creation of labor-opportunities, the replacement of lost productive assets or the enhancement of livelihoods assets such as small livestock to mitigate the impact of the lost harvest, the rehabilitation of damaged natural and physical assets, and injections of cash into the local economy.

UNDP recently completed cash-for-work projects in 50 villages in Myebon and 40 villages in Minbya that has generated immediate and much needed income to these Cyclone affected communities and resulted in debris cleaning, repair of embankments and small infrastructure repairs.

UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery provided an initial support of US\$ 100,000 that has been used to setting up an initial operational structure on the ground at UNDP country office and field level, conducting the rapid assessment and market surveys, facilitating field coordination in two of the most affected townships; and starting up some initial livelihoods activities in approximately 90 villages.

UNDP also has received two CERF grants (CERF WASH grant of US\$ 93,625 and CERF Shelter grant of US\$ 347,750), which will enable 12 remote villages facing acute water shortages with access to drinking water for a period of three months as well as shelter support to some of the many households, whose houses have collapsed or been severely damaged due to the cyclone.

UNDP considers it imperative to immediately start activities in the livelihoods sector to avoid the development of a dependency syndrome; to harness the capacity of local communities, who in most cases can achieve significant results with relatively modest input and support, and ultimately to support a sustainable response to Giri.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with a ruffled neckline, stands under a traditional thatched roof made of bamboo and dried leaves. She is holding a large, rectangular white sheet or cloth that is draped over a wooden frame. The background shows more of the thatched structure and some greenery.

ENSURING EQUALITY

Working with community groups, women, and vulnerable individuals on the ground has been a central pillar of UNDP Myanmar's approach to development. Through education and training programmes villagers are oriented with HDI's projects and activities. Women continue to thrive through Self-Reliance Groups; youths in the Ayeyarwady Delta are trained to express themselves through theatre; and those living with HIV organize activities through Self Help Groups. Outside organizations, large and small, local and international, work with UNDP Myanmar to develop creative programming that changes lives.

The intention of these projects is to lift self-esteem and improve the quality of life for participants, but they have another effect: The projects influence the way people see issues of HIV, gender, and disability.

Engendering development

It is a commonly held belief (even among women) that the relation between men and women in Myanmar is harmonious. However, this is not the case and the “hidden” inequalities hamper truly equitable development of households and communities. More than 70 percent of Myanmar’s population resides in rural areas, where gender inequality is particularly pervasive. A gender study found the subordination of women’s satisfaction to men to be one of the most taken for granted features of gender norms in rural villages.

UNDP’s HDI is building women’s economic power through Self Reliance Groups (SRGs) and through the Micro Finance Projects (MFP) by addressing the lack of access to credit for women. Since 1997 the MFP has provided micro loans and financial services to poor households. Ninety-seven percent of clients are women. The MFP’s clients invest their loans and savings in income-generating businesses such as livestock raising, fishing and small trading.

In addition to the MFP, 99 percent of SRGs are exclusively comprised of women. As of December 2009, ICDP and CDRT had formed 5,427 functioning SRGs in Chin, Kachin, Mon, Kayin, and Rakhine states and in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Dry Zone and Shan State. SRGs are formed with women who have a com-



mon background, face similar financial constraints and are interested in improving their livelihoods. Groups are usually made up of between 10 and 20 women. At the center of the group is a common fund established through member’s savings and which serves as the initial resource base. Members are trained in book-keeping, fund management and organizational management. With the common fund and financial support from ICDP/CDRT projects, SRGs provide loans to members and earn income from the interest on these loans.

Studies of the MFP and SRGs show that women with access to credit are enabled to diversify their household livelihood base. The MFP’s Impact Study recorded significant improvement in the socio-economic conditions of MFP client families. Beneficiary families have been able to accumulate productive assets, spend more money on the education of their children, and have increased financial resources to meet expenses for family health, social and cultural activities. SRG members have similarly been found to have improved their economic well-being and to have accumulated productive assets for income-generating activities.

Participation in SRGs and MFP groups is believed to have increased the individual capacity and confidence of women, and has widened their social networks and those of their families.



United Against Discrimination



The HDI is committed to supporting effective responses to the HIV epidemic that take account of links between HIV and development. Projects address the underlying conditions that affect HIV transmission and the impact of HIV on individuals, families and communities. Working with local and international NGOs and UN partners, initiatives focus on what works to build local/community capacity and improve the lives of those living with HIV and AIDS in Myanmar.

HDI's HIV project trains groups of "peer educators", men, women and youth (ages 16-24) to be more aware of methods of transmission, encouraging villagers to get tested and to be proactive in their approach to HIV. UNDP also began providing more volunteer training for AIDS Support Volunteers, teaching volunteers how to use home-based care kits and how to better support the needs of their community.

The project also supports the Myanmar Positive Group (MPG), a network of individuals living with HIV. Within MPG there are 120 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which comprise more than 9,000 individuals living with HIV who are in need of social, economic and medical support. UNDP provides small grants, income generation assistance and other basic needs to the SHGs. Through these income generation activities the SHGs support their members.

Key international partners in the field of HIV are also vital to the project's success. UNDP partners with the US-based NGO Population Services International to survey and educate high-risk groups, especially men who have sex with men (MSM). Also, the National Positive Network Forum is being supported by UNDP Myanmar, UNAIDS, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and other groups.

Living Lives with Dignity



The post-Nargis recovery process brought about a newfound awareness surrounding those living with physical disabilities, leading UNDP to work with the Myanmar government to assess how many people in Nargis-affected areas were disabled. The results of that assessment led to the development of a National Action Plan (NAP).

A National Disability Survey conducted by the Government and supported by a wide range of stakeholders indicated that Myanmar has approximately 1.2 million persons living with disability, or one person with a disability in every 10 households. The socioeconomic status of people living with disabilities is considerably lower than the national average, with only 15 percent reporting any current livelihood and less than 10 percent attending high school or having access to healthcare.

In 2009, a needs assessment of persons with disabilities was conducted using Social Promoters from UNDP's Theatre for Development project and the Leprosy Mission International (TLMI). The assessment was carried out in 100 Nargis-affected villages and identified 950 people living with a disability. People living with disabilities also have limited opportunities to participate in community life and activities, and are excluded from the benefits of programmes that could improve their quality of life.

Of those identified, 549 individuals are now being assisted with livelihood support, assistive devices, physiotherapy and counseling through existing UNDP projects and TLMI's Disability Resource Centre (DRC).

UNDP is also working to support the implementation of the national plan. This includes inclusion of people living with disabilities in community development work by focusing on Community-Based Rehabilitation. This strategy ensures access to basic services including health, education and livelihoods so that persons with disabilities are both part of the social networks in their communities, and have access to information related to recovery and development. The intended long term outcome of the National Action Plan is the recognition of fundamental human rights for persons with disabilities by mainstreaming disability issues into the national development agenda.

Youth Action



One of the most vulnerable populations in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis was the youth of the Ayeyarwady Delta because many lost their parents, relatives, friends, and teachers in the storm.

To help this vulnerable population overcome trauma and move on with their lives, UNDP introduced Theatre for Development (TfD). Using psycho drama techniques, youth were able to enact the traumatic incidents from their lives and then seek new solutions to mitigate the challenges they faced. The project was a huge success and eventually expanded to include more villages, themes, and initiatives within HDI.

With the assistance of two theatre consultants from UK-based Pan International Arts Academy, TfD served as a medium for providing psychosocial support to local communities.

Villagers identified youths and sent fifty young people to Yangon to be trained as “Social Promoters”. Once trained, the group travelled to 300 villages in five Nargis-affected townships providing healing through drama.

This initiative encouraged other agencies and partner organisations such as UNFPA to use UNDP-trained theatre teams to raise awareness on gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. It also influenced Action Aid to adapt the method for their own programming. In partnership with Action Aid, UNDP initiated a study to explore “Youth Issues in Labutta Township” and analyze the key social issues affecting youth in a post-disaster context. The study was the first of its kind to focus on youth and led to development of “youth leaders” in the communities - young people aged 16 to 22 who received training and helped raise awareness within their towns and villages.

Village support committees were also established in 30 villages offering advice to young people on issues such as health and Disaster Risk Reduction, to sports and fitness. Booklets discussing underage marriage, migration and social cohesion were also developed and distributed.



Sustainable Future

Natural disasters destroyed natural resources, particularly mangrove forests and paddy fields. The mangrove forests are vital to the Ayeyarwady Delta as they provide a natural barriers against strong winds, provide critical breeding grounds for shrimps and fish, and provide timber for communities to use as fuel or construction.

UNDP is working to conserve the environment through community participation. In 2009, UNDP focused on mangrove reforestation, which continues to be a major activity in environmental rehabilitation under UNDP's post-Nargis reforestation strategy.

Nurseries were established and some 1.57 million freshwater seedlings were sown, and an additional 886,000 mangrove seedlings were also planted in villages in the Ayeyarwady Delta.

Forest and Environmental Conservation Groups (FECG) were also formed at the village level in the Delta, with groups responsible for the management of forest and environmental activities in the villages. FECGs play an active role in coordinating tree planting, protection, maintenance and community motivation.

Community awareness activities in the Delta also helped to educate villagers to take care of their

mangrove forest as it would provides a buffer against strong winds.

In the Integrated Community Development Project, villagers are educated to be more environmentally aware and receive training in the use of fuel-efficient stoves. Soil conservation activities and agro-forestry techniques were also introduced in 183 villages in the community development programme. Members of villages from almost all townships were trained in this technique.

Innovative environmental awareness training and ongoing preschool programming are important elements of the Integrated Community Development Project. In 2009, 22 Environmental Awareness Trainings were held and 17 additional preschools were built in ICDP project regions adding to the 92 preschools schools already in place. Materials for those schools were also purchased and distributed.

The introduction of fuel-efficient stoves, community forestry, organic farming, crop diversification and natural resource management practices all contribute to environmentally sustainable livelihoods.

All activities throughout the country are conducted with the participation of local communities in order to strengthen the management of environment and natural resources.



Healthy Lives

Access to clean water and sanitation allows individuals to maintain good hygienic practices and fight disease. Many people in Myanmar still die every year from waterborne diseases that are 100-percent preventable, making health and sanitation education and awareness issues major HDI priorities.

HDI projects continue to target the most needy villages by providing them with the materials, supplies and technical advice necessary to build sustainable and reliable water systems. At the same time UNDP is addressing sanitation needs that have not previously been met.

Access to improved sanitation is 28 percent more prevalent in HDI-supported villages than non-HDI villages. HDI-supported villages are also 9 percent more likely to have access to safe drinking water than non-HDI villages.

Funding is provided to village community organizations to construct and renovate sanitation outlets, critical water supply sources, rural health centers and water and sanitation facilities. For example, materials to build fly-proof latrines were distributed and technical advice on installation was provided to an estimated 70 percent of all project villages in the HDI. Awareness campaigns on how to use and maintain the latrines are further carried out in these villages.

Different regions of the country experience wildly different weather patterns: Some parts suffer through prolonged periods of extremely hot weather and zero rainfall, while others receive as much as five months of rain annually. But in most areas rainwater collection is an important source of fresh water. HDI assists villagers by providing rainwater tanks, water filter pots and the technical support needed to build and maintain wells and ponds.

Safe drinking water facilities consisting of village ponds with water filtration systems, rainwater catchment, gravity flow water systems, low-cost treadle pumps and tube wells are promoted and supported by HDI and implemented by village implementation committees.

Health Support for HDI Communities

HDI continues to target community groups and provide awareness training through its Community Health Education Programme (CHEP). This programme addresses general health well-being and prevention of diseases. CHEP workers provide regular information sessions for villagers relating to water disease, HIV/AIDS, and other topics, including issues relevant to new mothers.

CHEP programming is extended through training based on the “Facts of Life” developed by UNICEF. Different forms of media are utilised to promote the “Facts of Life” messages, such as posters, leaflets, campaigns, DVDs and on-the-job training sessions.

The need to focus on disease prevention is also paramount, particularly with the prevalence of the A(H1N1) influenza epidemic around the world. The prevention and control of this virus is an important development issue for UNDP Myanmar.

UNDP promote activities among the HDI communities to combat A(H1N1) in partnership with the European Commission, UNICEF and WHO.

Furthermore, the technical expertise of the FAO is solicited through a working group.

In partnership with UNICEF, additional advocacy and awareness campaigns on A(H1N1) benefiting villages, staff and community volunteers reached more than 1.1 million people in 2,180 villages.

HDI also provides funding for the construction of healthcare facilities. Additional training for Auxiliary Mid-Wives (AMW) is conducted in rural regions to improve the skills of existing auxiliary midwives and provide better services for villagers. The AMWs are a valuable and effective resource for rural people who cannot easily travel to hospitals.





Education for All

Nay Lin Tun's life and education were put on hold in May 2008. He lost his mother and two younger brothers during Cyclone Nargis.

Many of his teachers also died, and the school that he attended was badly damaged. Nay Lin Tun's father depended on fishing for his livelihood and was left without a job or an income.

With a surviving son and daughter to support, Nay Lin Tun's father, U Khin Win, received a livelihood grant of K120,000 (US\$120) from UNDP and used it to purchase a fishing boat and nets.

By May 2010, both Nay Lin Tun and his sister were able to return to school. U Khin Win said he was able to afford the school fees by saving K200 (about 20 US cents) from the K2,000 (US\$2) he earns each day fishing.

There are many young adults and children like Nay Lin Tun. Even though these young people are the future of Myanmar, many parents simply cannot afford to send them to school.

In a 2009 assessment survey of villagers in the Ayeyarwady Delta, 54 percent of respondents said they could not afford the cost of education for their children, with 12 percent citing that the school was far from the village; and 15 percent stating that the children were needed to earn money or had to help with housework.

HDI focuses on providing education support to children of the poorest households, in the form of provision of textbooks, teaching and learning materials, desks, and construction materials used to build schools.

UNDP also improves footpaths, roads and jetties to facilitate access to schools and supports the formation of educational organizations in villages that allow villagers to make decisions about the education of their children.

The strongest support for education is less tangible and provided by villagers through SRGs and Community-Based Organisations (CBO). The assessment study showed a 10 percent increase in the ability of a family to afford an education beyond Grade 5 in SRG project villages compared with non-project villages. Enrollment in primary education, for both boys and girls, was dramatically higher (142 percent) in SRG households than in non-SRG households.

In the CDRT project, Parents and Teachers Associations helped poor students to pay school fees, buy learning materials and perform minor school repairs. Stipends for poor students and the provision of rice paddy was also made available for teachers through community paddy banks.



United Partnerships

"The results on the ground are impressive, especially the organizing of the poor into Self-Reliance Groups and the evident self-confidence among the participants that has been created."

- Mr Jorgen Schonning, Councillor of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

UNDP recognizes the value of working in partnership with donors, UN agencies, International NGOs, local NGOs and other organizations both where specialized expertise is required and also to contribute to mutual learning and development.

Donors: International assistance to the people of Myanmar has been gradually increasing. UNDP works closely with donors to support efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Myanmar focusing on sustainably supporting poverty reduction in ways consistent with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and independence. UNDP coordinates its work with donors and potential donors through discussions, special events and field visits to HDI communities.

UN System: UNDP is committed to and taking a key lead role in enhancing aid effectiveness through its support to Post-Nargis Recovery Coordination Center and various inter-agency working groups: livelihoods, microfinance, disaster risk reduction, environment, gender, protection, monitoring and evaluation, and other geographic region based working groups. UNDP is supporting the formulation of the UN Strategic Framework of Cooperation covering the period of 2012-15, which will bring almost all UN agencies' programming cycles into alignment.

Government: UNDP also supports the overall UN coordination with the Government of Myanmar on the post-disaster response efforts contributing to the Post Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PON-REPP), the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR), as well as various technical working groups. Closer collaboration with partners is always considered in implementation of the HDI activities, particularly for the activities that require establishment of a national mechanism, such as disaster risk reduction. At the township level, sharing of in-

formation with township authorities and line departments is done on a regular basis in order to ensure smooth implementation of activities.

Non Governmental Organizations: In particular, we are constantly looking at partnerships with local organizations where we can build capacity through joint programmes. UNDP itself helps with the formation of a number of actual Community-based Organisations (CBOs) – Self-Reliance Groups (SRGs), Microfinance groups and Livelihood groups. Throughout its work, UNDP seeks to work more actively with NGOs, building capacity at the local level wherever feasible through a partnership approach.





THE ROAD AHEAD

MDG Acceleration on the Road to 2015

Moving into 2011, assistance under the HDI will continue to focus on addressing the needs of the rural poor in Myanmar to the greatest extent possible. 2011 marks the last year of the HDI IV, and UNDP Myanmar is undertaking to formulate a new programme, in line with UNCT Strategic Framework (2012-2015), and in close consultation with donors and partners, sharpening the focus of the programme to have greater impact on poverty alleviation of UNDP target beneficiaries and adjusting the support strategy to focus on households.

Working through the UNCT mechanism, UNDP is leading the process for developing a comprehensive analytical report on the Options for Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction based on a number of background analytical studies. This initiative will prepare the grounds for engaging in structured discussions with key stakeholders for instituting appropriate policies and institutional configurations for accelerating development and reducing poverty in Myanmar.

Additionally, UNDP has undertaken analytical work pertaining to Goals 1, 7 and 8 of the MDG as part of the technical process of developing the UN Strategic Framework 2012 – 2015. The Strategic Framework will provide structured guidance to UN agencies to be strategic and align their assistance to MDGs and advocate for joint programmes.

UNDP Myanmar has also taken into account the Independent Assessment Mission 2010 recommendations to sharpen the focus of the HDI to have greater impact on poverty alleviation of the target beneficiaries. Lessons drawn from this work will be incorporated in improving the effectiveness of targeting the poorest and most vulnerable country wide.

Further issues of sustainability and scaling up of support are being addressed by linking relatively well functioning and under-capitalised SRGs to the HDI Microfinance project, placing greater emphasis on access to markets, facilitating village communities to have better linkages to the private sector, developing business management capacity of HDI ben-

eficiaries engaged in microenterprises, and exploring innovative ways to link the village communities to technical and administrative services available from the line departments and local authorities while working within the constraints of our programme mandate.

UNDP is also aiming to expand the capacity development scope of the Microfinance project by engaging more partners that will help establish conditions for a gradual development of an expanded and competitive microfinance sector.

The operating environment in Myanmar in the post-Nargis period has provided greater opportunity for external and domestic agencies to organise their support activities across the country.

Considering the country's ongoing development and humanitarian challenges, national and international efforts are critical for the attainment of the country's MDG targets. UNDP will continue to strive to help bring about results while continuously improving how we work in order to create a better tomorrow for the people of Myanmar.



FUNDING OVERVIEW 2009/2010

UNDP's interventions and achievements would not have been possible without the generous contribution of donors comprising of governments, agencies and foundations. Following is an overview of the funding received to date:

Donor	Contribution in US\$
AusAID	1,898,105
Denmark	1,703,001
DFID	2,062,546
ECHO	3,235,603
France	6,293
Germany	37,213
Japan	4,491,662
New Zealand	567,787
Norway	3,548,345
SIDA	5,472,792
UNDP	23,975,416
USAID	2,819,000
Total	49,817,759





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