

At Work Together

United Nations in Myanmar

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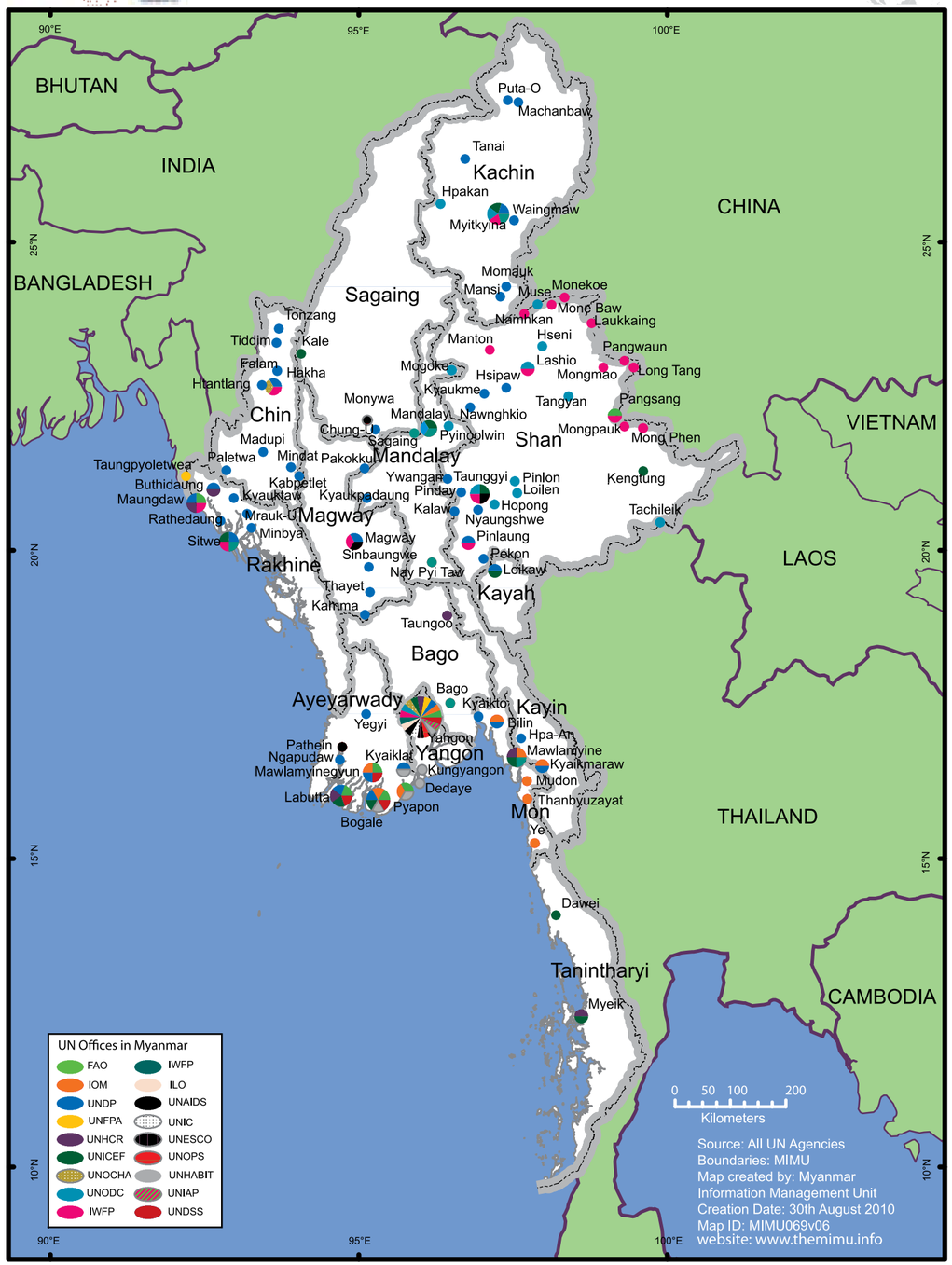
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Myanmar UN Offices



Information correct as of August 2010. Disclaimer: The names and the boundaries used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Foreword

This publication captures the multifaceted nature of the United Nations' work in Myanmar. It presents a snapshot of activities within a range of thematic areas, demonstrating how and where members of the UN family in Myanmar are working together, in close cooperation with national and international partners.

Through partnerships, the UN in Myanmar is committed to continue its support in the country's socio-economic development and providing access to health, nutrition, food security, protection and livelihood opportunities for its people. Assistance to the people and communities affected by Cyclone Nargis, which struck in May 2008, remains on the agenda, as well as efforts to build capacity and take measures to reduce the risks of future disasters in the country.

Represented by 16 funds, programmes, specialized agencies and offices, and with activities throughout the country, the UN is able to demonstrate that it can deliver assistance in an accountable, transparent and efficient manner. The results that have been achieved – since the first UN office opened in 1948 – are attributable to the cooperation with the authorities, national and international nongovernmental organization, regional institutions, donors and other key partners that characterizes our work.

The UN System is striving to enhance effectiveness and improve coordination internally, as well as with its partners. As part of this process, the UN Country Team in Myanmar is developing a Strategic Framework for Assistance in close cooperation with national authorities and other development partners, taking its starting point in the country's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Four priorities have been set for 2011-2015:

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

The UN is dedicated to turning these priorities into concrete actions that matters to the people of Myanmar. For that, we count on continuous partnership and cooperation to meet existing humanitarian needs and overcome barriers to socio-economic development.

Bishow Parajuli
UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator
Myanmar

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Working Together

Seldom has the United Nations been called upon to do so much for so many. I am determined to breathe new life and inject renewed confidence into a strengthened United Nations firmly anchored in the twenty-first century, and which is effective, efficient, coherent and accountable.

United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

- **The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. Today, 192 States are members of the UN.**

- **The work of the UN reaches every corner of the globe. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.**

- **The UN has been operating in Myanmar since the country's independence. The third UN Secretary-General, U Thant, was from Myanmar and served from 1961 to 1971. Through its more than 1,500 staff – the majority of whom are national – the UN agencies work in areas like health, education, protection, food security, human development, disaster preparedness, and livelihoods.**

We the peoples of the United Nations United for a better world

These are the opening lines of the UN Charter and get to the heart of why the UN is present in Myanmar, working for a common cause. The charter mandates the UN "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

Progress toward that goal requires a coherent, effective and relevant UN and calls for continued improvement in its performance at the country-level to ensure the delivery of results that bring about real change in the lives of people.

Reforming the UN – enhancing its relevance and effectiveness for the world's people in the 21st Century – is a priority concern of the Member States. At the 2005 World Summit world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a strengthened UN with enhanced authority and capacity to effectively and rapidly respond to the full range of global challenges of our time. With the Organization engaged with a range of pressing global issues in every part of the world, a responsive UN is needed more than ever.

The reform agenda includes moving forward on development challenges, strengthening efforts to maintain peace and security, bringing human rights to all people in the world, strengthening humanitarian action, and reforming management and operations practices.

The UN in Myanmar is committed to this reform process and is increasingly moving towards a more unified presence that speaks, acts and serves as one. It is present to ensure the delivery of concrete results, in support of national development objectives and priorities, through a well-coordinated UN.

Achieving Results For and With the People of Myanmar

Through a number of agencies and its partners, the UN is providing development and humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar, in line with humanitarian principles of neutrality and humanity and with global development goals.

The UN in Myanmar is currently present through the following Specialized Agencies, Programmes, Funds, Offices and other entities: FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDSS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNIAP, UNIC, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP and WHO. IOM, as an inter-governmental organization, also works closely with the UN System in Myanmar. Some, like WFP and UNICEF, run operational budgets of more than 100 million USD, while others have one or two programmes and very few staff. In addition, several non-resident agencies and regional entities – such as the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) – carry out activities in Myanmar. The country-level coordination processes are managed by the UN Country Team (UNCT) that encompasses all entities of the UN system, carrying out operational activities for development, emergency, recovery and transition in the country, and is led by the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, who is also the UNDP Resident Representative.

The UN works within a broad spectrum of areas such as health, education, protection, child labour, food security, shelter and livelihoods, and collaborates with partners both in- and outside the country to address issues that go beyond national borders, such as HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, drugs and crime, climate change, conflict, displacement and natural disasters.

With its presence in some 80 locations in the country covering all regions, the members of the UN family in Myanmar are widely present to carry out their mandates. All agencies share one common objective: to enhance the lives of the people of Myanmar.

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ARights -based Approach

An important guiding principle for the UN is the common understanding of the rights-based approach. Adopted by all agencies, this principle recognizes the existence of rights and reinforces capacities of duty bearers to respect, protect and guarantee these rights.

It is the UN's belief – as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – that rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The members of the UN family in Myanmar are committed to work for the most vulnerable and focus on the needs and the rights of the people with a view to overall human development.

The UN, in collaboration with national authorities and other partners is helping the people of Myanmar fulfil their right to food, shelter, health and education and services that enable women and girls to participate in society equally with men. Programmes also address the issues of children and armed conflict, protection and forced labour.

Protecting the Most Vulnerable

The term protection covers a wide range of activities under the UN banner. It is essentially about reducing vulnerability: ensuring that people are safe, that people can access the basic services that they need to live in dignity, and that they can enjoy their rights despite the difficult situation in which they find themselves.

Protection means that when providing any kind of assistance or implementing any programme, the UN and its partners ensure that those they are trying to help are fully informed and participate meaningfully in decision-making processes. The UN aims to support all vulnerable groups and individuals: children, the elderly, the chronically ill or disabled, and the landless, to name a few.

Protection is an issue that cuts across sectors and populations.

The UN, in collaboration with national authorities, plays an important role in ensuring that risks are mitigated, and that the ability of communities to protect themselves is supported through community-based, systemic structures.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On 10 December, 1948 the General Assemblyof theUNadoptedand proclaimed the Universal Declaration of HumanRights .

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

DECLARATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

The right to development was proclaimedb ytheUnitedNations in 1986 in the "Declaration on the Right to Development," which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 41/128.

"The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy, economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized."

Working Together

UN agencies, funds, and programmes currently resident in Myanmar are working closely together through the UN Country Team, which meets biweekly and when needs arise. The team's members are increasingly planning and carrying out joint programmes, when there is an added value of going together. Some recent examples of joint programming include:

- UNDP and UNICEF's collaboration on the Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment Project
- UN-HABITAT and UNDP's joint Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities in Cyclone Nargis affected areas
- UNHCR, UNDP and WFP's Project for Enhancement for Human Security in Northern Rakhine State
- UNFPA,UNICEF and WHO's Mother and Child Health & Nutrition Programmes

In many other areas, UN agencies are planning and executing as one, which is described in more detail in the following chapters.

PARTNERSHIP IN COORDINATION

Examples of inter-agency working groups

National level:
Food Security and Agriculture
Health
Water & Sanitation
Shelter
Disaster Risk Reduction
Trafficking
HIV/AIDS
Women s Protection
Gender, Education
Environment
Human Rights
Protection

Geographic areas:
Ayeyarwady Delta
Northern Rakhine State
Chin State
South East Region







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A United Humanitarian Community

The UN Resident Coordinator in Myanmar is also the Humanitarian Coordinator, taking up a leadership role for the international humanitarian community in Myanmar. As of September 2010, some 16 UN entities, 61 international non-government organizations (INGOs), and 66 local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs) operate in Myanmar, in addition to an estimated 455 community based organizations (CBOs) countrywide. Coordination and cooperation is essential at both central level and when it comes to implementing programmes and projects at the community level.

A wide range of working groups, covering most sectors, have been established with representation of UN agencies, NGOs, private sector representatives, and others, depending on the theme.

UN agencies and INGOs, as well as representatives from LNGOs, are united through the Humanitarian Country Team (formerly the IASC). The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), is a key coordination structure composed of organisations that undertake humanitarian action in-country and that commit to participate in coordination arrangements.

Its objective is to ensure that the activities of such organisations are coordinated and that humanitarian action is principled, timely, effective and efficient, and contributes to longer-term recovery. The overall purpose is to alleviate human suffering and protect the lives, livelihoods and dignity of populations in need. The HCT is ultimately accountable to the populations in need. Whenever possible, the HCT operates in support of and in coordination with national and local authorities for the purpose of fulfilling common and shared humanitarian goals.

The HCT has developed various strategies aimed at strengthening the humanitarian response, influencing policies and joint advocacy and communication on humanitarian issues.

On the side of the international community, UN agencies, donors and INGOs have set up the Myanmar Humanitarian Partnership Group (MHPG) to share information on a wide range of humanitarian and development issues, policy gaps and programmatic initiatives undertaken by the partner agencies. The MHPG also offers a platform to inform donors on the resources that are needed to meet urgent humanitarian needs of the population.

Working With the Government

UN agencies in Myanmar work closely with line ministries in providing technical support in a variety of areas such as the development of strategic plans for reproductive health, gender equality and advancement of women, anti-trafficking, children and armed conflict, protection of women in emergency situations, disaster preparedness, HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, agricultural production and livelihood opportunities.

After Cyclone Nargis, the cooperation with the Government of Myanmar was strengthened through the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), comprising the UN, the Government, and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which ensured a high level coordination and an effective relief and recovery effort up to July 2010, where TCG's mandate came to an end.



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Setting a New Agenda for Development



We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world s people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.

The Millennium Declaration

- At the Millennium Summit in 2000, leaders of 189 countries endorsed the Millennium Declaration, a commitment to work together to build a safer, more prosperous and equitable world. The leaders reaffirmed that values like freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance and shared responsibility are universal and must be at the core of any development efforts.
- The Declaration was translated into a roadmap setting out eight time-bound and measurable goals to be reached by 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals.
- The UN in Myanmar has made the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals a top priority for the coming years.

Towards a New Strategic Framework for the UN

The eight Millennium Development Goals represent human needs and basic rights that every individual around the world should be able to enjoy: freedom from extreme poverty and hunger; quality education; productive and decent employment, good health and shelter; the right of women to give birth without risking their lives; and a world where environmental sustainability is a priority, and women and men live in equality. Leaders have also pledged to forge a wide-ranging global partnership for development to achieve these universal objectives.

Taking a starting point in the Millennium Development Goals, the UN in Myanmar is developing a strategic plan to support the country's socio-economic development. A UN Strategic Framework is being drafted, covering the period from 2012-2015.

Throughout its programmes, the UN will align its work with national priorities, based on analytical assessment of gaps and needs. This will result in a common UN vision, strategy and framework for Myanmar for the coming years.

The framework's overarching goal is to help Myanmar achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It will offer concrete strategic, operational and technical support to programmes that help eradicate hunger and poverty, promote gender equality, advance the health of the people and protect the environment and people's livelihoods.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. *Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*
2. *Achieve universal primary education*
3. *Promote gender equality and empower women*
4. *Reduce child mortality*
5. *Improve maternal health*
6. *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*
7. *Ensure environmental sustainability*
8. *Develop a global partnership for development*













Key Development Challenges

Myanmar faces a number of humanitarian and development challenges. There is a need to support poverty reduction, nutrition, health, education and human capacity. National and international efforts are helping to address these challenges, but there is a clear need to do more.

With the right set of policies and institutions, Myanmar can bring rapid progress in economic growth and improvements in human development. The country is endowed with natural resources with immense possibilities, including agricultural land, forestry, natural gas, various metals and gems and water resources.

As noted by Economist and Noble Prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz in December 2009 during an UN-ESCAP-organized visit to the country, Myanmar is strategically placed in Asia to take advantage of the resurgence of economic growth in Asia which is “likely to be the most prosperous region in the world in the next decade.”

The UN system is uniquely placed to contribute to the country’s future development and economic transformation process. The UN Country Team is keen to help in reforms centred on economic growth and high priority human development issues.

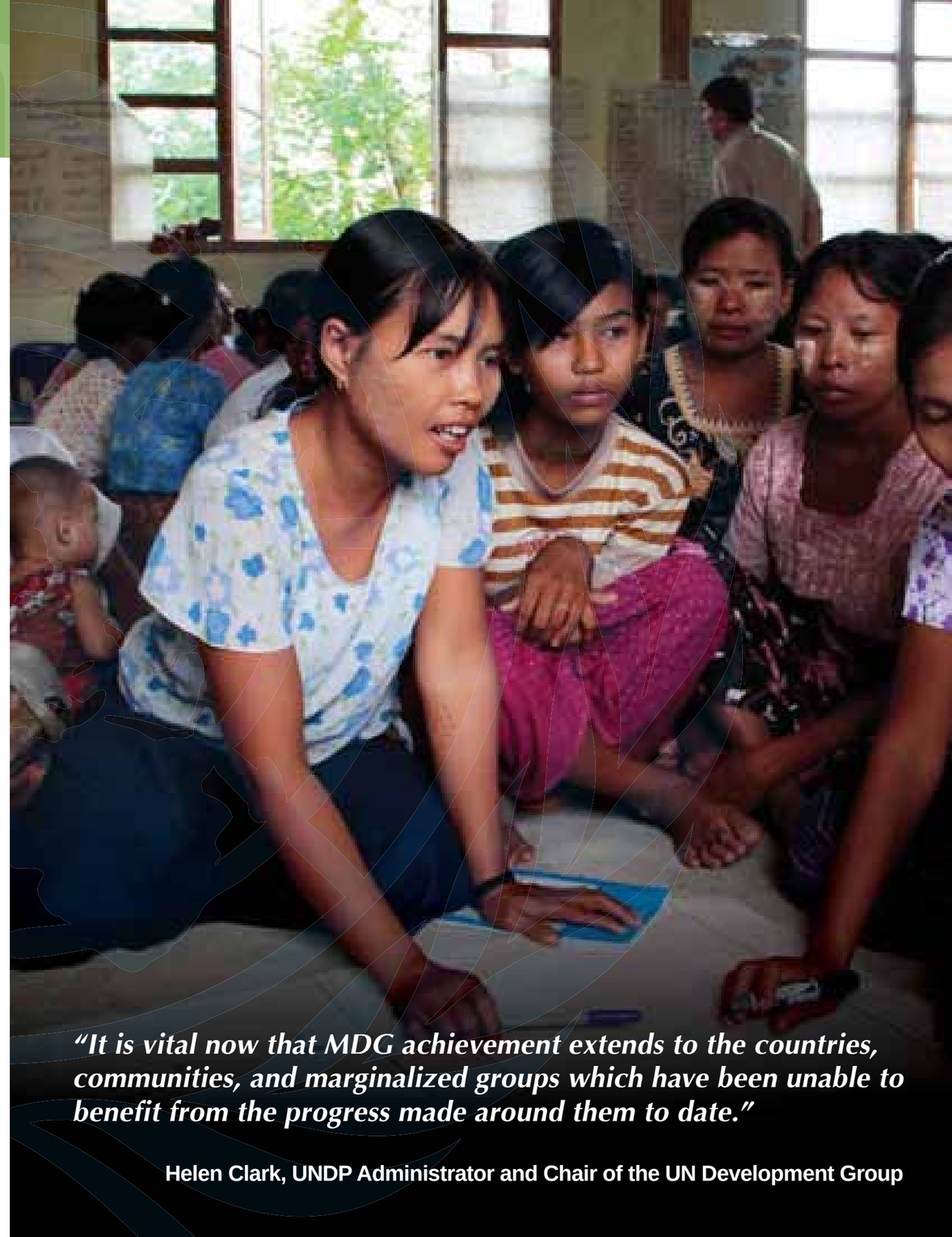
EVERYONE COUNTS

Everyone has the right to be counted, including the poor and marginalized. Numbers and data tell us about people, their needs, concerns, living conditions and aspirations.

Reliable data are the foundation of evidence-based policies, plans and programmes to meet people s needs and improve their lives.

Despite the limitations in terms of access to comparable data, a range of studies conducted by the UN and partners are used for programming and interventions in Myanmar. These include:

- ***UNDP’s Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (2004/5 and 2010/11)***
- ***UNFPA’s Situation Analysis of Population and Development, Reproductive Health and Gender in Myanmar (2010)***
- ***UNICEF’s Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (2010)***
- ***WFP’s Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping countrywide (2005-2010)***



“It is vital now that MDG achievement extends to the countries, communities, and marginalized groups which have been unable to benefit from the progress made around them to date.”

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator and Chair of the UN Development Group





Strengthening Data and Information Management

Lack of routine data collection combined with weak monitoring and evaluation systems make it difficult to assess progress – particularly in poverty reduction.

Access to good analytic data is a component of good planning, governance, transparency and accountability. Data help leaders make informed decisions about policies and programmes to reduce poverty and hunger, and advance education, health and gender equality. Complete, accurate and reliable data are also needed to effectively respond to humanitarian crises.

There are significant challenges that lie ahead in Myanmar, such as the need to undertake a population, agricultural and housing census, develop a master plan of official statistics, update the statistics and census laws, strengthen human resource capacity in data collection and analysis, and harmonize the national statistics with international estimates.

In 2007, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) established the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU), a common information exchange service for the humanitarian and development community in Myanmar.

The MIMU supports HCT partners, the UN Country Team and other actors both inside and outside of Myanmar. Some of the MIMU's core services and products include "Who What Where" databases, maps and reports, contact lists and meeting schedules, GPS training, standardized place names and codes, inventories of data sets and indicators, as well as an inter-agency website (www.themimu.info).

The UN in Myanmar has also established an inter-agency Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Group, chaired by UNFPA, to assess availability of data on the Millennium Development Goals as the basis for a strategic planning, policy formulation, and programme development. The group also aims to strengthen national capacity for data collection, analysis, and monitoring and evaluation. The M&E Group's work will provide a basis for the UN's Strategic Framework for Myanmar 2012-2015.

The UN has forged a good partnership with the Government in the area of data collection and analysis that have lead to improvement of access to demographic and health related data.



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Reducing the Impact of Disasters



The worth of the individual human being is the most unique and precious of all our assets and must be the beginning and end of all our efforts. Governments, systems, ideologies and institutions come and go, but humanity remains.

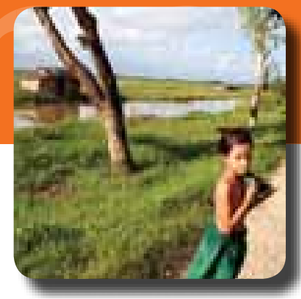
U Thant, former UN Secretary-General

• Cyclone Nargis, perhaps the greatest natural disaster in the history of Myanmar, struck the coast on 2 May 2008. Moving across the Ayeyarwady Delta and southern Yangon Division over a day and a half, the cyclone flattened villages, damaged or destroyed over 750,000 houses, killed 140,000 and left an estimated 2.4 million people destitute.

• The humanitarian community responded rapidly to the disaster and provided a substantial amount of support to the cyclone-affected communities. There continues to be a substantial need for livelihood support, shelter and other assistance for years to come.

• Cyclone Nargis underscored the need for concerted efforts towards disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness. Myanmar is prone to cyclones, flooding, earthquakes, and preparing for these remains a key priority to the UN in Myanmar.







THE IMPACT OF NARGIS

- *4,100 schools were destroyed or severely damaged*
- *75% of health facilities were destroyed or severely damaged*
- *360,246 homes were destroyed, and an additional 392,053 homes were damaged*
- *Over 600,000 hectares of agricultural land was flooded, killing 50% of draught animals, destroying fishing boats, food stocks, and agricultural tools*

With wind speeds of up to 200 km/h, Cyclone Nargis made landfall in the Ayeyarwady Division and passed on to Yangon. Families were torn apart, homes and schools were flattened, crops and trees were destroyed and people were deprived of livelihood and income opportunities.

Through its more than 500 field staff and project personnel already on the ground, UN had immediate access to aid the cyclone survivors in the worst hit townships.

The cluster approach was activated in the first days of the emergency to ensure a coordinated response from the international community. In total, 11 clusters were established, forging partnership between international agencies, international and local NGOs and line ministries as well as local authorities in Yangon and at the township level.

Additionally, the high-level coordination and cooperation was fostered through the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), comprising of the Government, ASEAN and the UN.

The international community displayed great solidarity with the people of Myanmar and provided a large volume of assistance for emergency relief. The Revised Appeal (May 2008 to April 2009) was 73% funded with USD 349 million received (out of USD 477 million required). In addition, many countries provided bilateral aid outside of the Revised Appeal.

Emergency relief operations and early recovery efforts largely succeeded in meeting basic life-saving needs, such as food aid, shelter, pond cleaning and water distribution, and vaccination campaigns.

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Moving Towards a Full Recovery and Development

In order to address the longer-term recovery needs of the cyclone-affected people, the international humanitarian community developed the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP) for the period 2009-2011, amounting to USD 691 million. Despite evident achievements, there are still critical needs in the Delta requiring support. It is likely that the cyclone-affected communities would require assistance beyond the PONREPP period of end 2011, especially in the livelihoods and shelter sectors.

The experience of post-Nargis relief and recover efforts demonstrated that delivery of large-scale humanitarian assistance to people in an efficient, accountable and transparent manner is possible in Myanmar.

Aid has helped improve food security, built schools, enhance health facilities and improve livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of people.

ReducingtheRis kofDis aster

Cyclone Nargis brought into focus the extremely high vulnerability of communities to natural hazards. The tragedy highlighted the need for concerted efforts towards disaster risk reduction especially at the community level, focusing not only on preparedness and response but also on prevention and mitigation measures.

National authorities have drafted the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction that aims to strengthen capacities at central, state and division levels in reducing risks. Myanmar has also ratified the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and committed itself to undertake a review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA).

The PONREPP and the Government's Plan both emphasize 'building back better' and propose interventions at different levels and by different stakeholders. Some of these interventions include building community cyclone shelters, cyclone resistant homes, clinics, monasteries and schools; all of which contribute to disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

To complement these physical efforts, investment has been made in training communities on preparedness initiatives, mainly through community-based disaster risk management programmes and in information material from the UN and other stakeholders.

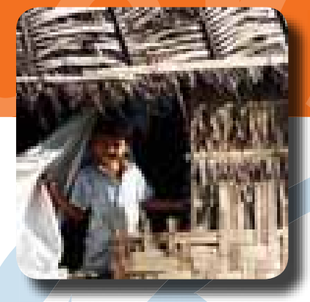
AJ ointPlan for Response

The international humanitarian community in Myanmar has strengthened its emergency response capacity with the completion of the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for Myanmar. The plan outlines when and how members of the humanitarian community in Myanmar should respond to natural disasters in the country. The Plan covers all potential hazards to Myanmar and has pre-identified cluster leads and potential membership of each cluster. It also identifies preparedness measures currently taken by different sectors, as well as response strategies.

A disaster resilient community is one that understands and manages the risks that it confronts. The UN is working to incorporate the principle of disaster resilience into aspects of natural disaster arrangements. The UN will continue to work with authorities and local partners to find practical ways to strengthen disaster resilience in the communities it serves.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TWO YEARS YEARS AFTER CYCLONE NARGIS

- *344,000 households received crops, livestock, fishing, forestry and other l ivelihoods support*
- *1.1 million were supported through food assistance*
- *209,000 people benefited from food/cash for work activities in support to livelihoods*
- *38,965 malnourished children received nutrition support*
- *575,000 children received essential learning materials*
- *1,500 schools were repaired and more than 280 schools were constructed*
- *An effective Disease Surveillance, Early Warning and Response System was put in place*
- *257,904 people participated in health education sessions held by community health workers. 1057 rural health facilities were provided with essential drugs covering an estimated population of 9.1 million*
- *182,083 households have been provided with shelter assistance*
- *500 village shelter committees have been trained in disaster preparedness*
- *35,000,000 litres of water were distributed*
- *344,112 households received agriculture support*
- *88% of the 1884 registered separated and unaccompanied children have been reunified with their families*
- *11,000 people with disabilities were provided with physical therapy*
- *1,282 Women Self Reliance Groups were formed with a total of 19,230 members have been established*







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Sowing the Seeds of Livelihood

"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work"

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 23

- Livelihood is 'the means of securing the necessities of life . Supporting livelihoods is supporting people s ability to cope, to ensure an income, and to care for themselves and their families.

- An estimated 32% of the population in Myanmar live in poverty, according to the Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA), the vast majority in rural areas. Agriculture accounts for some 43% of GDP and over 50% of employment.

- The UN is actively promoting people's livelihoods and human development through a range of activities, focusing on the rural poor and people affected by natural disasters. Livelihood activities build on and promote skills, assets and potentials.

Targets within the first of the eight Millennium Development Goals seek to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day and achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

One of the most effective ways to fight poverty is to create jobs and income opportunities. The majority of Myanmar's poor are located in rural areas and draw income from agriculture as a primary source.

Raising farm productivity and incomes are essential elements of a poverty reduction strategy. At the same time, with high landlessness in the rural area, the landless poor must depend on non-farm economic activities. In essence, what is needed is a scaled-up and holistic support to the agrarian rural economy. This includes rural credit, market access, non-agricultural economy and infrastructure.

UN projects and activities aim to ensure that communities have access to critical livelihood capital assets. This includes access to arable land and fertile soil, agricultural inputs, microfinance, health and nutrition, education and skills, community and village infrastructure, water and sanitation systems, as well as access to technology, farming systems, understanding and awareness of health issues and disaster risk reduction management.

TARGETING THE MOST VULNERABLE WITH DONOR SUPPORT

The Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) is a multi-donor fund of USD 100 million for the poorest and most vulnerable people in Myanmar.

LIFT is governed by a donor consortium including the European Commission (EC), UK, Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

Geographical areas include prioritized townships of the Delta, Dry Zone, Shan State, Chin State, Rakhine State and Kachin State. Implementing partners include UN Agencies, international and local non-governmental organizations and professional associations authorized to operate in the prioritized areas.

Established in October 2009, LIFT will run for five years. It is managed by UNOPS.







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Human Development at the Centre

UNDP´s Human Development Initiative (HDI), operational in 60 townships in 11 different regions of the country, provides support to poor communities in Myanmar through grassroots level projects with particular focus on strengthening livelihoods.

Through formation and capacity building of Self Reliance Groups and Microfinance groups (formed almost entirely of women) as well as Livelihood groups (based on occupational activity), poor households are provided with access to credit and skills to improve their income-generating activities.

Through the project, households get greater access to and knowledge about agricultural inputs, such as quality seeds, fertilizers, composts and pesticides. Increased income from agriculture improves food security and enables these households to reinvest in land or other income-generating assets. Improved incomes and access to loans also provide poor households with a chance to diversify their family income by engaging in additional activities.

Some groups are particularly vulnerable to poverty and hunger. Efforts are therefore taken to support livelihood activities and income generation of these most vulnerable groups, including people living with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS.

NOBEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Myanmar is well-positioned to learn from other countries in the region that have developed on the back of gains in agriculture, according to Joseph Stieglitz, former World Bank chief and 2001 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics. He spoke at the Second Development Forum on Myanmar, organized by UN-ESCAP in December 2009.

Recommendations to the Government of Myanmar to boost rural development:

- ***Promote access to appropriate agricultural financing***
- ***Take measures to boost access to seeds and fertilizers***
- ***Dramatically boost spending on health and education***
- ***Create well-paid jobs in construction of rural infrastructure in order to stimulate development and raise incomes and spending***

WE ARE MASTERS OF OUR FATE...

Nothing will happen if you blame all of your troubles on bad fortune. Good luck will come; you just have to have a keen desire for change and a positive attitude about the future. This is the motto of Daw Khin Swe Oo from Kyar Net village, a cyclone survivor who is trying to rebuild and improve her life with the help of her Self Reliance Group (SRG).

Daw Khin Swe Oo has had her share of misfortune. She lost four of her five children during Nargis, as well as her house, boat and nets, and all of her savings. Despite all of her losses, she had to try to find a way to survive because of her remaining son. Realising that she needed help to get back on her feet, she joined an SRG named "Myaw Lint Chat Pan Dine" (Hopes and Goals) group.

"I recognized that we needed to make a long-term plan for our future. If our family spends all of my husband's income on our daily consumption, we will not have any money saved when we are older and unable to work. By saving money little by little every week, we will have enough capital one day to start our own business," she said.

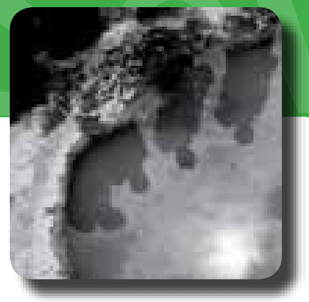
The initiative, managed by UNDP, aims to increase household incomes by building the capacity of women, to build their self-esteem and skills, and to take part in decision making roles. The groups are comprised of 15 to 20 members who are among the poorest of the village. The groups are also provided with livelihood grants to supplement their activities. As of today, more than 1,200 groups are functioning in the worst hit areas of the Delta, with over 19,200 members and common funds, totaling USD 1.81 million.

Tailored Interventions Targeting the Poor

A similar pro-poor approach is taken by UN-HABITAT. In its Coastal Communities Livelihoods Assistance Programme community and village based groups are created, enabling people to actively participate in job creation. The programme targets 250 villages across five townships in the Delta and will benefit 25,000 families, representing some 125,000 people.

WFP´s Integrated Livelihood Support Programme uses food for work, cash for work and food for training to support integrated livelihood activities in five states and three divisions across the country. The activities facilitate the construction or rehabilitation of agricultural and other community assets.

FAO helps modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices in Myanmar. Special attention has been given to developing rural areas, home to the majority of Myanmar's poor and hungry people. Sustainable agriculture and livelihood programmes are implemented in several regions in the country, including Northern Rakhine State, Ayeyarwady Delta and Wa Special Region.





Rebuilding Livelihoods in the Delta and Beyond

Cyclone Nargis severely affected the livelihoods of more than 2.4 million people in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta. Traditionally, livelihoods in the Delta have been based on crop farming, fishing and landless labourers, engaged in casual and seasonal labour. Cyclone Nargis devastated this architecture and impacted all possible sources of income generation and livelihoods.

The international humanitarian community has been supporting efforts to re-establish livelihoods for the cyclone-affected communities. UN agencies and their partners have helped restore farming communities, fisheries and aquaculture production. Programmes have also helped replace lost livestock, build livestock management capacity, and protect existing livestock. Mangrove rehabilitation and plantation has been promoted to enhance livelihoods of households dependent on forestry and reduce the impact of future disasters. Improved access to credit, especially microfinance, has also helped increase livelihood opportunities.

Despite the achievements, many gaps remain due to lack of funding, and people are still struggling to rebuild their livelihoods.

The post-Nargis response is by far the largest intervention made by the UN in the livelihood sector in the country in recent years; although joint initiatives are also being launched in others parts of the country.

In Northern Rakhine State (NRS), as part of the Joint Humanitarian Initiative for NRS, UN agencies and INGOs seek to widen the coverage of food interventions, increase sustainable agricultural production, and improve access to employment opportunities.

PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES TO OPIUM FARMERS

Myanmar is the second largest producing country of opiates in the world. Opium poppy has been cultivated in Myanmar for more than a century.

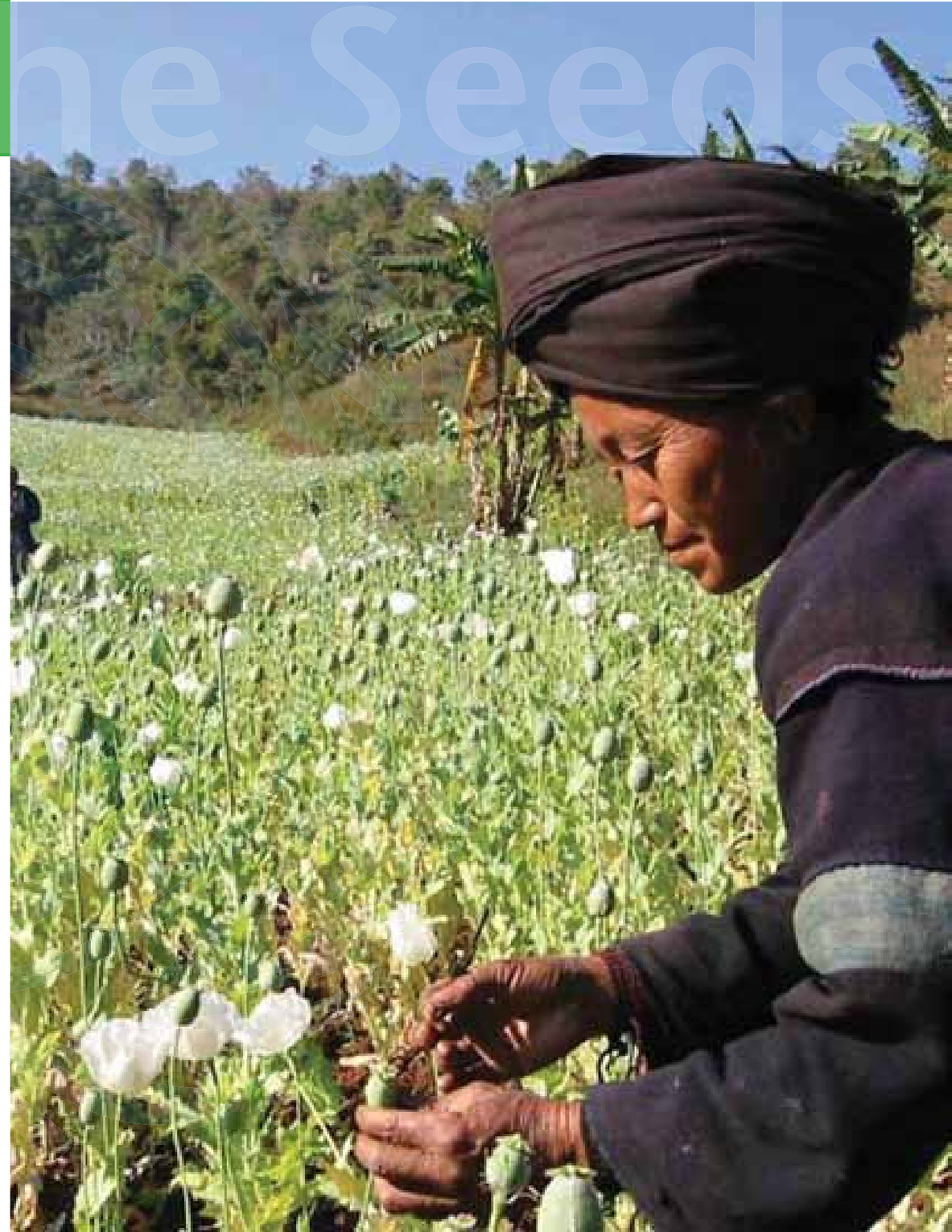
Farmers have traditionally relied on its cultivation to offset rice deficits and to purchase basic goods.

The UN in Myanmar has led initiatives to provide poor farmers, who suffered as a result of rapid opium eradication, with food security and livelihoods.

Through a 10 year project implemented in Wa Special Region 2, UNODC helped improve the alternative and sustainable livelihood of ex-opium poppy growers, enabling them to survive after an Opium Ban was declared.

UNODC plans to launch similar sustainable livelihood projects in Hopong, Loilen and Pinlon Townships in Southern Shan State.

The projects aims to influence farming communitiestoalter f armingpr actices thatwills eemor eof their timeand investmentss pentinincr easing diverse foodcr oppr oductionandtheendingof opiumpopp yculti vation. Withf oodneeds met, surplus will be used to expand the villageeconom y.



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Fighting Hunger



Hunger is a winnable problem that we can all help solve. Today the world is nourishing more people than ever before in human history. Ending hunger and malnutrition is not rocket science: it requires no new huge scientific breakthroughs. It is, on one level, quite simple: People need access to an adequate amount of nutritious food.

Josette Sheeran, WFP Executive Director

- **Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.**
- **The first of the eight Millennium Development Goals aims to reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. In Myanmar today, 10% of the population are considered 'food poor'.**
- **UN agencies are working together to improve food security and nutrition across the country, targeting the most vulnerable.**







Today, globally, one in six people does not get enough food to lead a healthy, active life. Hunger and malnutrition combined continue to be the number one risk to health worldwide.

Among the causes of hunger are natural disasters, conflict, poverty, poor agricultural infrastructure and over-exploitation of the environment. Recently, financial and economic crises have pushed more people into hunger.

Recent household surveys show that more than one third of the population in Myanmar lives below the poverty line, and over 10% of the population do not have adequate access to proper food.

Malnutrition is widespread among children with one-quarter of all infants born underweight, and one third of children under five years severely or moderately stunted.

Despite the fact that Myanmar is a food-surplus country with significant agricultural potential, unfavourable economic policies, vagaries of weather, impaired social cohesion and the marginalization of some populations adversely affect livelihood opportunities and adequate access to food requirements, especially along the border areas.

The UN and its partners are working together to improve food security across the country. These activities are especially targeting the poorest and most vulnerable households.

During 2009, WFP food assistance reached over 1.9 million people in the most food-deficit areas of the country. This number included over 550,000 people recovering from the impact of Cyclone Nargis. FAO is also contributing to better food security by increasing the supply and availability of agricultural products.

UNODC is tackling food insecurity through the implementation of transportation, irrigation, and agricultural interventions designed to develop sustainable alternatives for households in illicit drug cultivation-affected areas.

BRINGING FOOD SECURITY TO THE DRY ZONE

The Framework for Action for the Dry Zone, an initiative of the multi-agency Food Security and Agriculture Thematic Group (FSATG) is a joint initiative to improve food security in one of Myanmar's poorest regions.

The Dry Zone's chronic food deficit is aggravated by a weak infrastructure, harsh climate, inadequate farming inputs and lack of access to land. Irregular and scarce rainfall leads to extreme water shortages which is a constant threat to the viability of rural livelihoods.

The Framework aims outlines the key challenges and indicates where the humanitarian community can bring capacity and expertise to support the response outlined in the Government's National Medium Term Priority Framework.

Over 35 organizations have been involved in developing the Framework's five programmatic action areas: Dry Land Farming, Environmental Protection, Water Management, Access to Credit and Capacity Building.

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THREATS TO FOOD SECURITY

- *Regional production disparities caused by local policies*
- *High food prices*
- *General increased vulnerability*
- *Natural disasters*
- *Pest outbreaks*
- *Limited agricultural and financial inputs*

Source: WFP

The Right Nutrition

While the obvious sort of hunger results from an empty stomach, there is also a hidden hunger of micronutrient deficiencies, which make people susceptible to infectious diseases, impair physical and mental development, reduce their labour productivity and increase the risk of premature death.

Proper nutrition can help give every child a good start in life. The UN in Myanmar is committed to an integrated approach that aims to fulfil people's right to adequate nutrition.

UNICEF provides interventions through programmes such as infant and young child feeding, de-worming of children under five years, elimination of iodine deficiency disorders (DD), provision of vitamin A, and prevention of vitamin B1 deficiency. UNICEF also provides therapeutic feeding for severely malnourished children treated at hospitals. These programmes, supported by training and IEC activities, aim to improve infant and young child feeding practices; increase the knowledge and skills of health providers and community health workers in the prevention, detection, and management of malnutrition at the household level; and create a functioning system for community-based management of malnutrition.

GAINING WEIGHT – AND SKILLS

Three-year old Ma Tan weighed just over 10 kg, when she joined the Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD) in Mone Koe Township in Lashio in June 2009.

At the beginning she was shy and kept herself away from her classmates. But with the care and support given by the staff at the centre she is now gaining weight, has many friends and has become one of the best students in her class.

The Early Childhood Development Programme – a joint WFP/UNICEF initiative – started in 2005 in Taunggyi and in 2006 in the Lashio area. The objective of the programme is to prepare children to enroll in primary schools. WFP provides nutritious food, rice and blended food for the children, while UNICEF provides equipment and supplies such as kitchen utensils, blankets, technical support, and training of ECD teachers.

unicef | UNITED NATIONS Office on Drugs and Crime | WFP World Food Programme





Advancing Health







"Reaching the health-related Goals is not about national averages. It is about reaching the poor, who are almost invariably the hardest to reach. This is the challenge, and the measure of success.

Dr. Margaret Chan,
Director-General of WHO

• Worldwide, millions of women, newborns and children die from preventable causes every year. Hundreds of thousands of women – 99 % of them in the developing world – die annually as a result of pregnancy or childbirth.

• Maternal and newborn related diseases have both short-term and long-term effects impacting educability, productivity, morbidity and mortality. These effects perpetuate poverty and impede economic development.

• Despite some achievements in recent years, Myanmar still faces significant challenges when itcomes topr ovidingacces stohealth care for all people. UN agencies are working with the governmentan dlocalpa rtners to preventand treatdis easesandincr easetheco verageof healthpr ogrammesinthec ountry.

In Myanmar, as in many other cultures, it is common for parents to bless the health of their loved ones before tucking them in. In a sense they are echoing what world leaders have pledged to do – to advance the health of every man, women and child.

Three out of the eight Millennium Development Goals focus on health. Governments have pledged to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

The under-five mortality rate remains high in Myanmar, estimated at 77 per 1000 live births in 2007. Nearly 8% of all children will not survive to celebrate their 5-year birthday. Maternal Mortality Ratio is estimated to be 16 deaths per 100,000 live births, which is among the highest in Asia.

An explanation for these high indicators can be found in the weak health infrastructure in Myanmar, in rural areas in particular, and the low public expenditure on the health sector. In some places the existing public health structures open only one day a week. In Buthidaung township in Northern Rakhine State, for example, an assessment found that only two government doctors serve a population of 300,000 inhabitants; there is only one nurse for every 18,400 people, and one midwife for every 5,500 women. The vast majority of pregnant women deliver at home without any support from skilled health workers.

UN agencies are working to provide essential medical services to all regions in the country and continue to advocate for increased focus on gaps and needs in the health sector in Myanmar.

Since the early 1990s, WHO has been supporting a family health care programme in Myanmar. WHO is a key member, along with UNICEF and UNFPA, of the

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT IN HEALTH IN RECENT YEARS

- *Maternal and neonatal tetanus cases has been reduced to the level of elimination, which was validated in May 2010*
- *Poliomyelitis is on the verge of eradication and the goal of measles control is near fulfillment*
- *Under-five malaria deaths have been reduced from 242 per 100,000 in 2006 to 137 in 2008, implying a 43% reduction*
- *Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) coverage is improving*

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National Reproductive Health Working Committee led by the Ministry of Health. The Reproductive Health Strategic Plans (2004-2008) and (2009-2013) were developed collaboratively in order to implement coordinated programmes by the various actors. A National Child Health Strategy 2010-14 has also been finalised.

UNFPA's reproductive health programme covers almost half of the population of Myanmar. It procures and distributes essential reproductive health commodities, including contraceptives, clean delivery kits, medicines, supplies and equipments for maternal, newborn and emergency obstetric care, to the public sector service delivery points in 132 project townships. Through training, UNFPA upgrades the skills of health personnel to provide quality antenatal and post natal care, emergency obstetric care and birth spacing. With UNFPA's support, community support groups have been formed to facilitate access of pregnant women and women in labour to life-saving reproductive health services. Community-based peer education programmes have promoted positive attitudes and practices of young people towards reproductive health and HIV prevention.

UNICEF also implements programmes focusing on Maternal and Newborn Health. Women and Child Health Development (WCHD) project has provided training to basic health staff on Pregnancy, Child Birth and Post Natal Care (PCPNC) in 149 townships.

JOINT EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POLIO

Through a series of National Immunization Days more than 7.4 million children under five children were immunized with Oral Polio Vaccine in 2009. The fight against polio is a good example of how UN agencies complement each other.

UNICEF provides vaccines, maintains the cold chain, transports the vaccines and IEC materials to the immunization posts and carries out social mobilization at the local level.

WHO provides technical assistance to training and advocacy meetings and supports staff and volunteers. Promotional materials such as posters and banners are produced by both UNICEF and WHO.

UNHCR supports cold chain and transportation in the Northern Rakhine State.

UNDP-trained community-based workers help at the immunization posts.

IOM provides motor boats for the transportation of vaccines to remote places in the Delta.

WFP provides transportation of the vaccines and staff in the Wa region in the border areas.







UNHCR operates health programmes in Northern Rakhine State and Myanmar's South-East area. These programmes support Rural Health Sub-Centres and the distribution of impregnated mosquito nets to pregnant women in townships in Mon State, Kayin State and Tanintharyi Division. In Northern Rakhine State, UNHCR and partners focus on reproductive health, while maintaining, for example, an ambulance service for a medical referral system and interventions to strengthen access and increase the quality of primary healthcare, also through mobile clinics.

WFP's activities focus on preventing malnutrition among children aged 6 to 35 months and pregnant and lactating women through blanket supplementary feeding. This programme aims to contribute to an improved nutrition status and health of the target population. Food assistance is a part of a package of complementary interventions provided by other agencies, such as immunization, de-worming and promotion of breastfeeding.

Protecting against Preventable Diseases

The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) was initiated in 1978 in Myanmar, and more recently a comprehensive universal child immunization programme has been implemented for the entire nation.

UNICEF provides approximately 90% of the vaccines used to immunize children in Myanmar against seven major vaccine-preventable diseases (tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles and hepatitis B). UNICEF's programmes include training on management of childhood illnesses and management of critically ill children to basic health staff and hospital staff.

WHO also assists in disease surveillance and supports the conduction of supplementary immunization activities.

FIGHTING THE THREE DISEASES WITH DONOR SUPPORT

The Three Diseases Fund (3DF), launched in 2006, has signed grant agreements with 33 implementing partners for 53 projects, making it the biggest single contributor to the fight against TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS in Myanmar.

The fund, administered by UNOPS, was established as a consortium by a number of key donors: European Commission and the Governments of Australia, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Denmark joined the Fund in 2009.

3DF's core aim is to provide a simple and transparent instrument to finance a nationwide programme of activities to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria and enhance care and treatment through access to essential drugs and related services.

With a total budget of USD 125 million over five years (until end of 2011) it targets vulnerable and under-served population groups, especially those living in remote and inaccessible areas, and those most at risk.

Five UN agencies have implemented projects under the 3DF: UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNODC, WHO and IOM.

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Fighting TBandM alaria

Tuberculosis (TB) and malaria are two of the most serious public health problems in South East Asia, with one of the highest number of deaths occurring in Myanmar.

Malaria is ranked as the number one priority in the current National Health Plan. Malaria is endemic in 284 out of the country's 324 townships, meaning that the majority of the population is at risk. Populations most vulnerable are those living in remote and hard-to-reach areas, migrant workers and marginalized ethnic groups.

Myanmar is listed among the 22 high TB burden countries. In 2007, approximately 125,000 cases were reported, corresponding to 265 cases per 100,000 populations.

Important logistical challenges remain in tackling the diseases. There are not enough facilities to diagnose and treat all malaria and TB cases.

UNICEF has been active in 80 endemic townships that report half of the country's malaria cases supporting a range of preventive and curative services.

WHO is providing technical support to the Ministry of Health for prevention and control of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases. It also supports the Ministry of Health and other partners in addressing major issues on malaria control such as multi-drug resistance, fake/ counterfeit drugs, malaria among migrant workers and ethnic groups, quality assurance of drugs and diagnostics.

WHO is also backing the National TB Programme (NTP), particularly in developing TB control policies and strategies and building capacity.

DEALING WITH A HUMAN PANDEMIC

A human pandemic of influenza could cause significant socio-economic and politicaldis ruptions and wouldthus seriouslyaf fect the UN agencies ability to function and deliver their key operations.

In response to the declaration of influenza pandemic alert to Phase 5 in 2009, the UN Country Team commissioned a Task Force, comprised of focal points from each UN agency and technical staff, to develop a Human Pandemic Influenza Action Plan, focusing on staff health and operationalcontinuity .

The purpose of the plan is to ensure preparedness for a timely, consistent and coordinated response of the UN in the event of a pandemic.

In addition to counseling and support to improve food intake, WFP is providing food for TB patients on DOTS to ensure adherence to treatment.

IOM's migration health programme focuses on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malaria and tuberculosis in addition to HIV/AIDS. The programme targets migrants and mobility-impacted communities in 140 villages across Mon State.



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"We must transform the AIDS response so that it works for people especially for those who are marginalized and without a voice.

Michel SidibŽ, UNAIDS Executive Director

- **Myanmar is impacted by the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Treatment and prevention service coverage remains low and stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS persists.**
- **It is estimated that the number of cases could be around 240,000 adults with 13,000 new infections per year, and 75,000 adults and 1,600 children in need of antiretroviral treatment.**
- **UN agencies are jointly advocating for universal access to HIV treatment, prevention, support and care and work closely with the government, national and international non-governmental organizations and other partners to assist people affected by the disease.**

The support to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Myanmar is one of the best examples of how UN entities work together across mandates.

UNAIDS – the joint UN programme against AIDS sponsored by UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, World Bank, ILO and UNODC – is present in Myanmar, providing guidance in the coordination efforts. In addition, many agencies have included HIV/AIDS components in their programmes.

The HIV/AIDS related work conducted by UN agencies is coordinated through the UN Theme Group on AIDS, which is comprised of concerned UN agencies. UNAIDS provides secretariat support to the Theme Group, which has been chaired by UNICEF since 2007. The technical support to the Theme Group is provided by the Joint UN Team on AIDS, comprised of all technical staff working on HIV/AIDS.

UN entities work together in jointly selected priority areas. These include support for the grant application to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, review of the National Strategic Plan on AIDS (2006-2010), development of a new national strategic plan for 2011-2015 and its operational plan, support to Harm Reduction Sector review, and the development of the Continuum of Care framework and that of HIV testing and counselling.

WHY UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HIV TREATMENT, PREVENTION AND CARE?

- *Worldwide, 7,400 people become infected with HIV every day.*
- *Nearly 4 million people are currently receiving treatment, while 9.7 people are still in need.*
- *For every 2 people put on treatment, 5 more become infected.*
- *With universal access, approximately 6.7 million people would receive life-saving antiretroviral treatment, 2.6 million new infections could be averted and 1.3 million lives saved.*

Source: UNAIDS







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The UN System s Workplace Programme on HIV

In May 2008 the UN system-wide workplace programme on HIV - UN Cares - was launched by the UN Secretary-General. The UN Cares programme, which operates in the spirit of “Delivering as One” was designed to make efficient use of resources at country level while ensuring compliance with the UN Personnel Policy on HIV/AIDS.

The guiding framework of UN Cares encompasses learning and training components as well as service provision and system strengthening. UN agencies cover a wide range of activities in many locations across the country, which calls for coordinated measures in reaching out with HIV prevention messages to a diverse and often remotely located workforce.

Under the guidance of the UN Cares Team Myanmar, system-wide trainings for UN staff on HIV awareness are undertaken. In 2009, orientation sessions for new staff and refresher sessions for all staff reached 80% of national staff through 100 training sessions in 35 locations.

Key features of the training include reaching out to staff in remote communities, building the in-house capacity of UN staff and increasing the involvement of people living with HIV. A network of trainers from different UN agencies and people living with HIV has been created.

CHANGING ATTITUDES THROUGH UN CARES

Regular training provides UN employees with a chance to meet and discuss issues openly with people living with HIV. Seeing healthy and active people in the role of trainers and having a chance to hear their personal stories can have a strong impact on the views of participants in terms of reduced fear and increased acceptance.

Before:

- *1/4 of UN personnel reported not being comfortable working with HIV positive colleagues*
- *More than half of field-based personnel thought candidates must disclose HIV status before joining the UN*
- *2/3 of field-based personnel believed they needed to inform their supervisor if they are HIV+*

After:

- *96% of personnel comfortable working with HIV positive colleagues*
- *90% of field-based personnel know they don’t need to disclose their HIV status to join the UN*
- *84% of field-based staff knew they are not required to inform their supervisor of their HIV status*

Saving Lives Through Targeted Programmes

UNICEF and UNFPA jointly supports the implementation of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT) programmes in 170 townships and prevention of HIV transmission among children and young people by targeting in and out-of-school children. The intervention includes care for and protection of orphans and vulnerable children. This programme has been one of the most successful HIV prevention programmes in Myanmar, reaching an estimated 32% of all HIV positive pregnant women, and has also contributed to the expansion of HIV knowledge and counselling skills of health workers.

UNFPA supports HIV interventions for prevention, treatment, care and support among sex workers and other high-risk groups in Myanmar.

As HIV/AIDS represents one of the biggest health threats to migrants, IOM’s migration health programme aims to prevent transmission by building the resilience of selected source communities and improving access to free testing, care and support for infected patients and their families.

UNDP has integrated HIV/AIDS support in its Human Development Initiative since 1992, addressing HIV/AIDS through community-based organizations.

WHO provides technical assistance to the National AIDS Programme (NAP) in its efforts to prevent HIV infection and provide comprehensive care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

WFP provides food assistance to prevent deterioration of the nutritional status of people living with HIV/AIDS and ensure adherence to treatment. The activities are carried out through home, clinic and community-based care programmes. Support for community coping mechanisms is also provided through food supplements for HIV/AIDS-affected households.

UNHCR implements HIV/AIDS programmes as integrated part of health and education interventions throughout Northern Rakhine State and in townships in Mon State, Kayin State and Tanintharyi Division.

UNOPS has been the fund manager for the Three Disease Fund since 2006 and has been appointed as one of two Principle Recipients for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

UNODC has worked with HIV/AIDS prevention and care related to injecting drug users in partnership with the Government of Myanmar, NGOs and local communities since 1994. There are an estimated 60,000 to 90,000 injecting drug users in Myanmar. One in three is infected, according to estimates. Currently, UNODC is working in 17 of the 29 priority townships identified in the National Strategic Plan. The support focuses both on reducing HIV risk behaviour related to illicit drug use as well as reducing drug demand overall through provision of greater access to drug dependence treatment. This work is complimented through partnerships with civil society groups, which provide care and support for illicit drug users and their partners.

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Education for All



All of our goals and all of the gains we may make – whether child survival, maternal and child health, or child protection – hinge in the long run on education. It is the only way to sustain the gains we make."

Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director

- Every child is entitled to an education. Education is critical to our development as individuals and as societies. Education enhances quality of lives. It ends generational cycles of poverty and disease and provides a foundation for sustainable development.

- A quality basic education better equips girls and boys with the knowledge and skills necessary to adopt healthy lifestyles and take an active role in social, economic and political decision-making

- Although school attendance rates are rising rapidly worldwide, there is much work left to be done. For international education goals to be achieved, all children must not only enrol in school, but also complete the required years of schooling.

EDUCATION FOR ALL GOALS

In April 2000 more than 1,100 participants from 164 countries gathered in Dakar, Senegal, for the World Education Forum. They affirmed their commitment to achieving Education for All (EFA) by the year 2015. They identified six key education goals which aim to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015.

1. *Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children*
2. *Ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to and complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality*
3. *Ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes*
4. *Achieving a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults*
5. *Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality*
6. *Improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills*

In Myanmar, 82% of primary school aged children are enrolled, out of which nearly 70% complete the full five-year primary cycle, according to Ministry of Health's 2007 Education for All (EFA) Mid Decade Assessment Report. Only 49% of children of the appropriate age attend secondary school in Myanmar, compared with 60% at the global level.

The limited investment and public spending in education means that many families have to shoulder the bulk of the cost of children's education on top of their already over-stretched economic situation. In addition, the language barriers for many non-Myanmar speaking children in border areas and the shortage of qualified teachers also have negative bearing on both access to and quality of primary education.

Improving Access and Quality

The UN and its partners are committed to improving access and quality of education in Myanmar. The response to Cyclone Nargis demonstrated that agencies, NGOs and government authorities were able to effectively deliver assistance to the educational sector. Approximately 500,000 children in more than 27 cyclone-affected townships benefited from the coordinated educational, humanitarian response.

The Education Cluster, which was set-up immediately after the cyclone struck, has transformed itself into a nation-wide Education Thematic Working Group (ETWG) co-chaired by UNICEF and Save the Children since July 2009.

The UN and its partners work towards the collaborative establishment of a sound and sustainable national education system in Myanmar, where the rights to education, development and the participation of





children, women and citizens are realized according to the obligations and responsibilities assumed by Myanmar as a State Party to international conventions and agreements such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

This is done by offering policy and strategic recommendations to donors, governmental ministries and departments, and implementing bodies working in education.

UNICEF Comprehensive Quality Education Programme targets children in hard to reach areas and has three interlinked projects: Early Childhood Development (ECD), Quality Basic Education (QBE) and Life Skills and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education. The programme aims to increase equitable access to and quality in early childhood development and basic education, with extended learning opportunities for all children. As part of the intervention, UNICEF provides textbooks, education supplies to all children and schools in 25 townships.

Through the Child Friendly School (CFS) initiative, 574,600 children from approximately 4,000 schools and 19,800 children in 139 monastic schools have access to improved quality of primary education. UNICEF has also supported the government in developing a new national curriculum of Life Skills, which teach children about safe and healthy behaviours. More than 13,800 primary school teachers received training in 2009. UNICEF also provided non-formal education opportunities for 42,890 out-of-school adolescents in 2009.

Through UNESCO's support, the Myanmar Education Recovery Programme (MERP) is providing assistance with the objective of enhancing the resilience of the educational sector, to cover both disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness. UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), has conducted 76 rollout workshops for 2,102 principals and teachers in eight cyclone-affected townships in the Ayeyarwady Delta and three rollout workshops for teacher educators from 20 Colleges of Education across the country. Moreover, UNESCO and the MoE have been convening the Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) Working Group, comprised of representatives from UN Agencies, INGOs and NGOs, since August 2008.

WFP is providing monthly rations for families who send their children to primary schools in food-insecure areas with a view to increasing enrolment and attendance and reducing gender disparities. Rations also contribute to building a community safety-net mechanism. On-site nutritious meals are also provided to children between 3 and 5 years in Early Childhood Development centres. This provides children with preparatory support before enrolment in primary schools.

UNDP, under its Human Development Initiative, seeks to improve learning conditions by helping poor communities to construct or renovate school buildings. The project also helps communities to develop alternative learning opportunities through non-formal primary education activities such as the establishment of community learning centres. The projects seek to reduce costs involved in sending children to school through initiatives such as supporting Parent-Teacher Association through income generating activities to assist poor families, and subsidise school fees, minor repairs of school building and other direct costs. In addition, training in environmental education and vocational skills is also provided by the project.



CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES

Approximately 1 million out of the 2.3 million people affected by cyclone Nargis were children, creating a massive demand for child protection measures. As a response, the UN and its partners adopted the concept of Child Friendly Spaces.

Located in temporary settlements and supervised by trained social workers and community members, Child Friendly Spaces offer a sorely needed sense of normalcy and help traumatized young survivors cope with emotional turmoil.

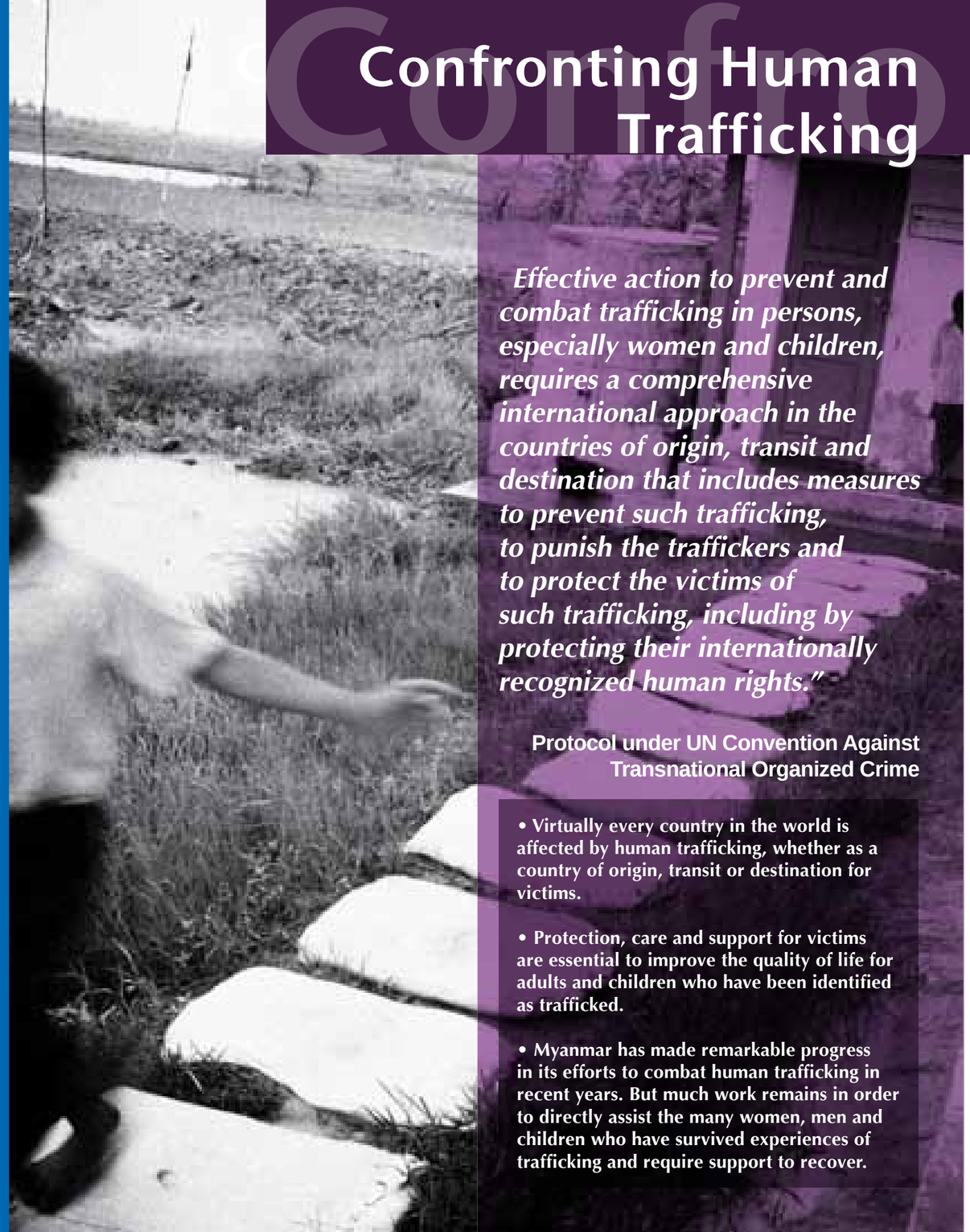
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Confronting Human Trafficking



Effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking, including by protecting their internationally recognized human rights."

Protocol under UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime

- **Virtually every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.**
- **Protection, care and support for victims are essential to improve the quality of life for adults and children who have been identified as trafficked.**
- **Myanmar has made remarkable progress in its efforts to combat human trafficking in recent years. But much work remains in order to directly assist the many women, men and children who have survived experiences of trafficking and require support to recover.**

Human trafficking is a global concern. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad.

In Myanmar, people are trafficked abroad for the purpose of forced labour, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and forced marriage. Men, women and children are typically trafficked to Thailand, China, Malaysia, and other parts of Asia, but Myanmar is also a transit country for trafficking of Bangladeshis to Malaysia and Chinese to Thailand.

There are no reliable estimates on the number of persons trafficked annually from Myanmar, although 155 trafficking cases were investigated in 2009, up from 134 in 2008, involving 302 victims. 429 perpetrators were convicted.

The UN in Myanmar works towards prevention of trafficking through the Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), a coordination body between government, UN agencies, and NGOs. UNIAP's aim is to improve the overall counter-trafficking response in the country, from the policy level to grass root prevention, on issues ranging from prosecution to victim protection.

IOM focuses on strengthening direct assistance available to Myanmar victims of trafficking. This involves operational cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and NGOs at every stage of assistance to victims, from interim care, to cross-border return, to transit shelter assistance in Myanmar, and to victims' eventual integration. Some 700 victims have been assisted over the past two years through such cooperation.

In parallel, IOM supports the establishment of cross-border mechanisms between Myanmar and the two key destination countries – Thailand and China – for the return of victims in a manner that is safe, rapid and humane. Overall, its aim is reducing the risks and maximizing the benefits of migration.

UNICEF works with the Ministry of Social Welfare in prevention of trafficking of children and women by training government officials (police officers, social workers, etc) in high-risk areas. The training also involves rehabilitation and reintegration of victims.

Since 2002, UN agencies and NGOs have collaborated through regular meetings of a 'Human Trafficking Working Group' (HTWG) in Myanmar. The different programmes implemented and supported by the UN and INGO members of the HTWG ensures that the working group has a multi-sectoral response to trafficking and works towards ensuring protection of victims supporting national mechanism and forums for the anti-trafficking community to combat human trafficking. The members of the working group also engage in awareness raising, capacity building initiatives, and vulnerability reduction measures, including response to Cyclone Nargis.

The Human Trafficking Working Group has contributed to the adoption of the Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, the first anti-trafficking law in the region that is in compliance with international definitions and standards, the adoption of the National Plan of Action (NPA) and bilateral agreements with China and Thailand. Also, the group has contributed to the formation of an Anti-Trafficking Police Unit and Task Forces at central, state and divisional levels. The challenge today is to operationalize these frameworks on the ground, particularly in the remote areas where much of the trafficking takes place.

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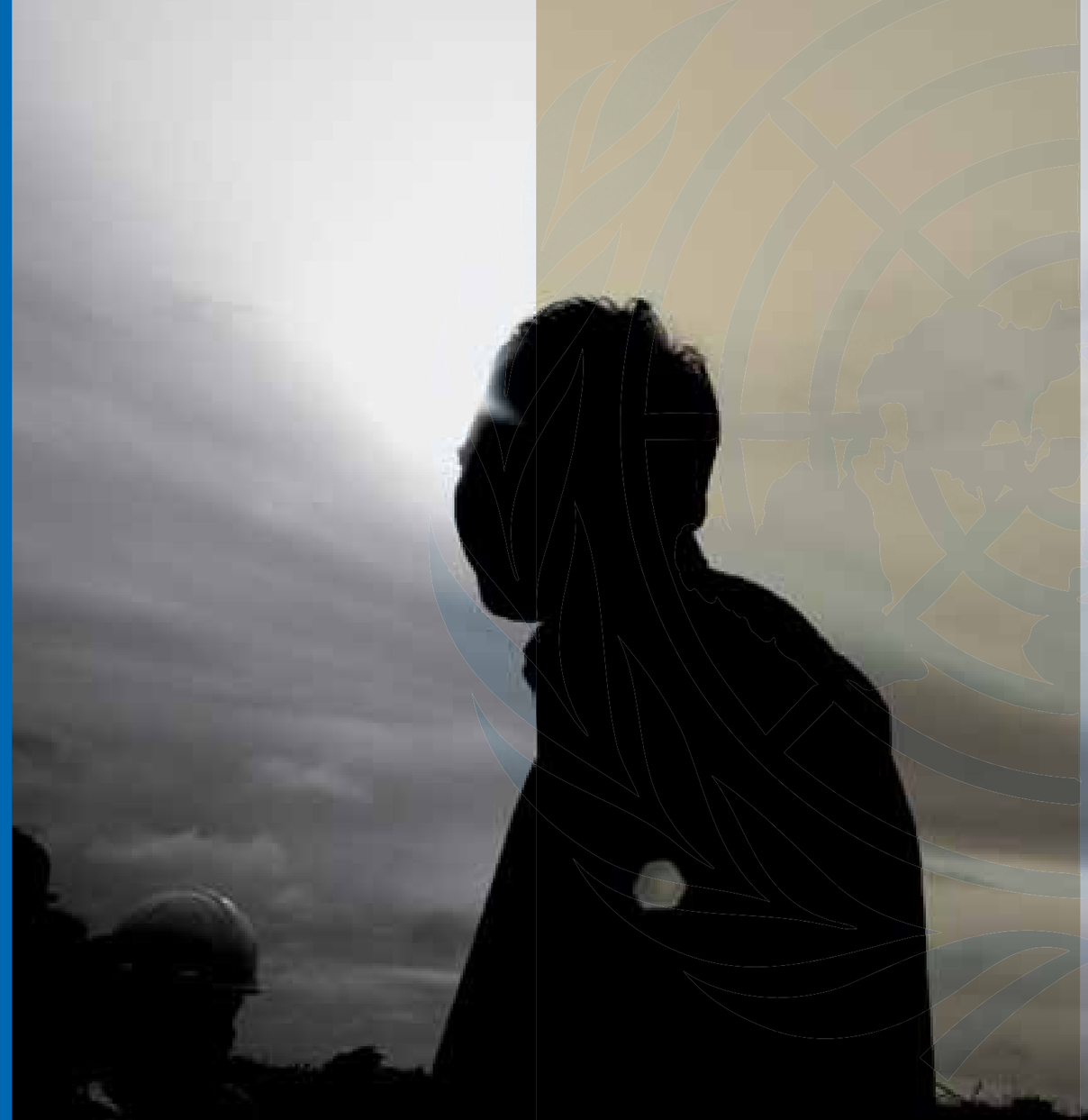
Reducing Forced Labour

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The Forced Labour Convention, established in 1930, defines forced labour as 'all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily'. Myanmar has signed the convention and has declared forced labour illegal in every sector, including the military.

In 2007 the Government and ILO reached an agreement on a Supplementary Understanding (SU) which provides a mechanism for the receipt, assessment, investigation and resolution of forced labour complaints including underage recruitment into the military. This mechanism supports the application of the law towards the prevention and elimination of forced labour in Myanmar. Citizens may lodge a complaint with the ILO Liaison Officer. Complainants and persons supporting complaints are protected from harassment or retribution.

Persons responsible for using forced labour can be punished, and at all times a major emphasis is placed on raising the awareness of people at all levels as to their rights and responsibilities under the law.







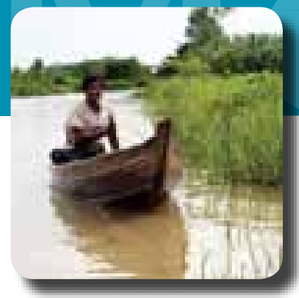
Helping Communities Affected by Population Movements



"Our ultimate goal is to put an end to forced displacement. To put an end to statelessness. To find a dignified, durable solution for every refugee.

Ant–nio Guterres,
UN High Commissioner for Refugees

- **When people move they embark on a journey of hope and uncertainty whether within or across international borders.**
- **Irregular migration increases the vulnerability of several groups including that of migrants, the communities that they originate from and eventually come back to, the transit communities, and the host communities at their destination.**
- **Mobile populations can become vulnerable to human trafficking, labour exploitation, occupational injury, poor reproductive and maternal-child health, the spread of communicable diseases and various other health hazards.**







Myanmar has a wide range of population movements within and out of country. The migration to Thailand, Malaysia and further afield, mostly by irregular means, is a significant phenomenon affecting the country. The migration into Thailand is one of the largest in the region with an estimated 2-2.5 million people, with many being vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

The UN in Myanmar works with communities affected by population movements in the South East of Myanmar along the border to Thailand and with communities and returned refugees in Northern Rakhine State (NRS) near the border to Bangladesh.

In the South East, some 451,000 people are affected by population movements inside Myanmar, according to estimates. Unlike refugees, they have not crossed an international border to find sanctuary but have remained inside their home countries.

Wherever possible, UN agencies have been working with people affected by population movement to provide them with essential humanitarian services and livelihood support. The complex environment, on the basis of which the Government of Myanmar has given agencies only restricted access to areas of displacement, as well as the vast area and remote locations pose major challenges in reaching all populations in need.

However, in 2010, humanitarian space and access to affected populations have increased through regular dialogue with the government, local authorities and community organizations.

UNHCR's programme in the South East builds on experience and lessons learned in previous years to guarantee a strong element of sustainability of projects. UNHCR will maintain its focus of activities by addressing specific needs of different communities in a number of locations. The emphasis will therefore continue to be on relocation sites, in host communities, urban areas and vulnerable communities.

The projects focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, mainly in the water, education, and health sectors. Shelter projects target groups with specific needs such as female-headed households. In 2009, a programme on HIV/AIDS prevention and response was launched, and communities were encouraged to participate in all stages of project implementation. A second strategic objective is to enhance livelihood opportunities for families and communities to increase their coping capacity.

IOM's migration health programme aims at reducing the morbidity and mortality related to communicable diseases by facilitating access to and providing free diagnosis and treatment – directly or through Community Based Organizations (CBOs) – to the most vulnerable migrants and members of migration-affected communities. In addition to providing increased awareness, preventive measures, diagnosis and treatment or care, the programme builds the capacity of local health structures to deliver services and the capacity of communities to address and reduce their own health vulnerabilities.

UNOCHA supports the Humanitarian Coordinator in advocacy, coordination and fund-raising. Advocacy include initiatives for increased humanitarian access, delivery of aid to all communities in need, and support to the formulation of common humanitarian strategies and coordination in times of small-scale natural disasters. Fund-raising efforts include applications to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the allocation of small-scale grants.

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The population of Northern Rakhine State (NRS) faces a combination of challenges. This area has been characterised in the past by large refugee outflows of the Muslim population into Bangladesh. The first outflow in 1978 was followed by a second wave in 1991 and 1992, when approximately 250,000 people left the country. By 2010, most of the refugees have returned to Myanmar, but still a considerable support is needed for these people in light of their status.

In addition, there is growing food insecurity, high malnutrition rates, and weak health infrastructure. UN assistance aims to ensure that all residents of NRS have access to basic public services and equal opportunities to contribute to the development of the area. An important aspect of all interventions is the promotion of the peaceful coexistence and trust between the different communities living in NRS. UN agencies, like UNHCR, support the formal education system and offers non-formal education for girls and women through its community centres as well as supporting basic life skill trainings in hygiene, nutrition and health.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS WITH GIRL'S HOSTELS

As part of UNHCR s Community Education Programme, the Community Social and Education Project (CSEP) implements a Girls' Hostels Programme in Northern Rakhine State. The programme is also supported by WFP.

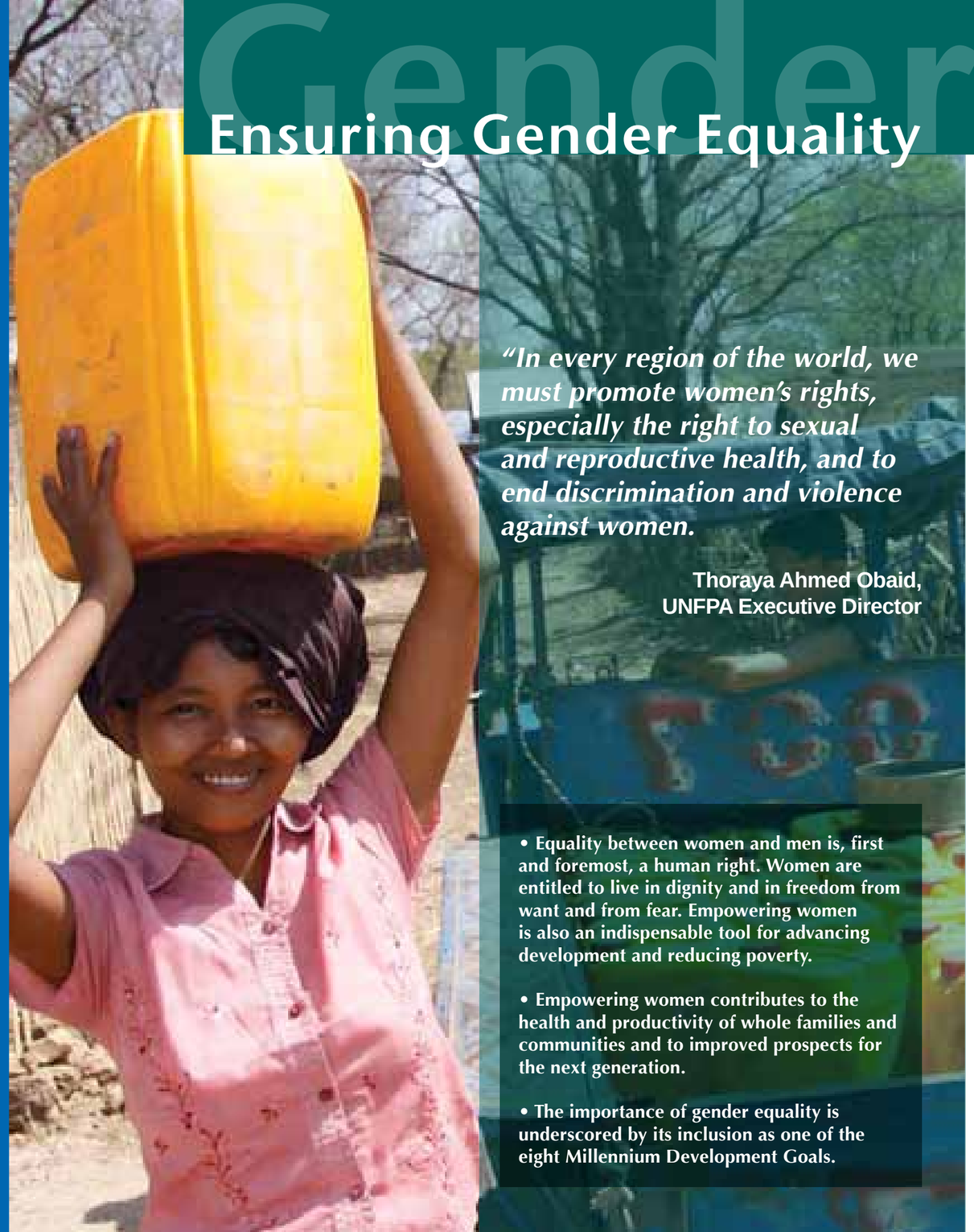
The main objective of the Girls' Hostel Programme is to promote girls education throughout the Muslim community, where few girls continue in schooling after puberty, due to cultural constraints and the lack of secondary schools in many areas of NRS. The programme is designed to include girls from both the Muslim and Rakhine communities and, thereby, encouraging grater inter-ethnic relations and understanding.

The Girls' Hostels provide a safe environment where girls live under the care of trained staff, and go to nearby middle or high schools. It has gained strong support from parents, as well as both Muslim and Rakhine host community members.

UNHCR intends to continue assisting the Programme not only to empower Muslim women, but also to facilitate peaceful coexistence between Muslim and Rakhine communities.



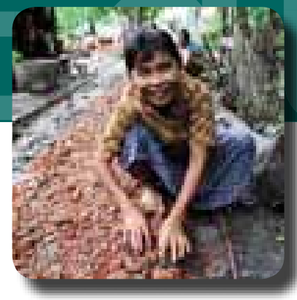
Ensuring Gender Equality



"In every region of the world, we must promote women's rights, especially the right to sexual and reproductive health, and to end discrimination and violence against women.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid,
UNFPA Executive Director

- Equality between women and men is, first and foremost, a human right. Women are entitled to live in dignity and in freedom from want and from fear. Empowering women is also an indispensable tool for advancing development and reducing poverty.
- Empowering women contributes to the health and productivity of whole families and communities and to improved prospects for the next generation.
- The importance of gender equality is underscored by its inclusion as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals.







ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination:

"...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

Myanmar signed the convention in 1997 and thereby committed itself to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including:

- *to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women;*
- *to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; and*
- *to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises.*

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in China in 1995, governments pledged to advance equality, development and peace for all women everywhere. The landmark Beijing Declaration has since had a wide-ranging impact. It has guided policy making and inspired new national laws and has sent a clear message to women and girls around the world that equality and opportunity are their inalienable rights.

There are many examples of progress. Most girls now receive an education, particularly at primary level, and more women are now more likely to run businesses or participate in government. A growing number of countries have legislation that supports sexual and reproductive health and promotes gender equality.

Nonetheless, much work remains. Women represent 70% of the world's poor. They are often paid less than men for their work, with the average wage gap in 2008 being 17%. Less than 16% of the world's parliamentarians are women, two thirds of all out-of-school children are girls and, both in times of armed conflict and at home, women are still systematically subjected to violence. Women and girls also bear enormous hardship during and after humanitarian emergencies.

In Myanmar, women in general have traditionally enjoyed a high social and economic status and have exercised most of the same basic rights as men. However, women remain underrepresented in higher positions. Nor do women receive equal pay for equal work. The burden of poverty also falls disproportionately on women.

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The UN is strongly advocating for equal rights and opportunities for all men and women. A key objective for the UN is to build national capacity on gender conceptualization, analysis and mainstreaming in policies, plans and programmes.

Through its Gender Theme Group, chaired by UNFPA and comprised of focal points from all agencies, the UN is providing technical support to the government for implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It is engaged with local partners, including women's organizations, to ensure that gender issues are raised at both national and community level. It is supporting the establishment of a knowledge base on gender, which will collect and share much needed information on gender issues in the country. Gender is also being integrated into programme design and implementation by all UN entities.

A PLAN FOR ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

ANational ActionPlanf or the Advancement of Women for 2011-2015 is being adopted by the Government of Myanmar with support from the Gender Theme Group and Women's Protection Technical Working Group, comprised of UN agencies, international and national NGOs and government counterparts in Myanmar.

The Plan of Action outlines interventions and anticipated results in key areas to promote gender equality, the protection of women and the promotion and realization of women's economic, social, civil and political rights. The Plan focuses on capacity building, strengthening mechanisms to ensure equal access to resources and services, and women's participation in development and decision-making processes.

The vision is that Myanmar will be an equitable, inclusive and sustainable society where all women can achieve their rights and aspirations while building a stronger society. This requires:

- ***Equitable access to resources, opportunities and social services***
- ***Full and active participation in society***
- ***Adequate resourcing and support for women s needs and initiatives***
- ***Commitment to the inclusion of all members of society in all spheres of life***
- ***Valuing women's contribution to society***
- ***Safeguarding and promoting the human rights of women***



Members of the United Nations Country Team in Myanmar

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The United Nations (UN) has been present in Myanmar since the country gained its independence. The UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator is the top UN official in Myanmar for humanitarian, recovery and development activities. The UN country-level coordination is managed by the UN Country Team.

UNRC /HC - Office of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator
To coordinate the development and humanitarian activities of UN and partner agencies, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities. www.un.org

PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS:

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme
To provide a link to the global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge experiences and resources to help people build a better life. www.mm.undp.org

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
To promote the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. www.unfpa.org

UN-HABITAT - United Nations Urban Settlements Programme
To promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. www.unhabitat.org

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
To lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees/IDPs/stateless populations, resolve refugee/IDP problems and reduce statelessness worldwide. www.unhcr.org

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
To advocate for children's rights and to help meet the needs of children worldwide. www.unicef.org

WFP - World Food Programme
To combat global hunger, use its food to save lives during emergencies and as a means to build assets, spread knowledge and nurture stronger, more dynamic communities. www.wfp.org

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES:

FAO - Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
To raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. www.fao.org

ILO - International Labour Organization
Advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work. www.ilo.org

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
To contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture. www.unesco.org

WHO - World Health Organization
The attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. www.whomyanmar.org

DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES:

UNIC - United Nations Information Centre
To serve as a reliable source of up-to-date information about the UN, delivering information to a wide range of people, including journalists, government officials, civil society representatives, students, educators and researchers. http://yangon.unic.org/

UNOCHA - United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
To mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies; advocate for the rights of people in need; promote preparedness and prevention; and facilitate sustainable solutions. http://ochaonline.un.org/

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
To assist member states in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. www.unodc.org

UNDSS - United Nations Department for Safety and Security
To provide security advise to the Designated Official, Myanmar Security Management Team, UN Agencies, Programmes and Funds, INGOs and Implementing Partners of the UN. http://dss.un.org/public/

OTHER UNCT MEMBERS:

IOM - International Organization for Migration
To help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need. www.iom.int

UNAIDS - United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS
To bring together the efforts and resources of ten UN system organizations to help the world prevent new HIV infections, care for those already infected, and mitigate the impact of the epidemic. www.unaids.org

UNOPS - United Nations Office for Project Services
To expand the capacity of the UN system and its partners to implement humanitarian and development operations that matter for people in need. www.unops.org

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