

MEDIA RELEASE

Yangon, 25 April 2007 - The Karen Human Rights Group has recently released a report entitled, "Development by Decree: The politics of poverty and control in Karen State". The UN System in Myanmar agrees with the report's basic premise that the challenges and constraints confronting the humanitarian aid community in Myanmar are formidable.

However, it is regrettable that, prior to publication, the authors of the report were not able to review or discuss with UN agencies, or even with the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, some of the assertions in the report concerning UN agencies. Many of the points made are either incorrect or dated, and thus lead to a depiction of the humanitarian response by international community that does not reflect the reality.

The UN response to alleviation of the suffering in Myanmar is defined by a strict adherence to basic humanitarian principles.

The UN System in Myanmar looks forward to working closely with all partners to help improving living conditions for the people of Myanmar, particularly those of the vulnerable and the marginalized.

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