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Resilient nations.



Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine

Annual Narrative Report

For the period 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Canada Support

Programme Title & Project Number - Programme Title: Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine - MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00115407 (Output ID) - Programme Number: 00104308 (UNDP Project ID) 00114697 (UN Women Project ID)	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results Country / Region: Myanmar / Asia and the Pacific Priority area / Strategic results: People in Myanmar live in a more peaceful and inclusive society governed by democratic and accountable institutions and benefit from strengthened human rights and rule of law protection.																						
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ABBREVIATIONS

AMD	Agricultural Mechanization Department
CSA	conflict sensitivity assessment
CSO	civil society organization
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DRD	Department of Rural Development
DRR	disaster risk reduction
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
GAD	General Administration Department
GBV	gender-based violence
GEWE	gender equality and women's empowerment
GiHA	gender in humanitarian action
GLP	Gender Leadership Programme
GoM	Government of Myanmar
GRB	gender-responsive budgeting
HDPN	humanitarian–development–peace nexus
HLP	housing, land and property
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group
ICT	information and communications technology
IDP	internally displaced person
INGO	international non-governmental organization
IP	implementing partner
IWUMD	Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department
JP	joint programme
LCM	Legal Clinic Myanmar
LRF	Livelihood Recovery Forum
MNCW	Myanmar National Committee for Women
MSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
MOALI	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
MOFPI	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Industry
MP	member of parliament
PUNO	participating United Nations organization
QIP	quick impact project
RABP	Rakhine Area-Based Programme
RAFT	Respect, Accountability, Fairness, Transparency
RSG	Rakhine State Government
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
SSID	Small Scale Industries Department
TDLG	Township Democratic Local Governance
ToT	training of trainers
TPIC	Township Planning and Implementation Committee

TRAC	Township Tender Receiving and Assessing Committee
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WPUG	water pump user group
W/VTa	ward/village tract administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual report covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and provides a narrative account of the implementation of the Rakhine Area-Based Programme (RABP) jointly supported by the Governments of Canada, Germany and Japan. Where relevant, it attributes progress and results to the specific contribution of each donor. When no specific attribution is noted, the progress and results are supported from their joint contributions.

During the reporting period, the joint programme (JP) progressed in meeting the priorities of communities in Rakhine by: (i) developing **more inclusive and responsive service delivery** through: building the State Hluttaw's capacity to draft legislation more responsive to community needs, providing support to its integrated information management capacity and ICT, and delivering training to Hluttaw middle management to support implementation of the 5-Year Strategic Plan; implementing a model for township annual planning (857 participants in five townships (29 percent women)); applying strengthened capacities to understand environmental and disaster risks related to service delivery (769 beneficiaries of SES/DRR training, 215 of them women); and completing 19 township development projects by March 2020, benefiting more than 131,350 people; (ii) contributing to improving the quality of and access to a **more inclusive and gender-aware justice system** (more than 4,200 people (50 percent women) received legal awareness training and legal assistance and training focused on women's needs); (iii) facilitating partnerships to strengthen **community capacity to build trust and reduce conflict while increasing resilience** through livelihood interventions (reaching more than 80,000 people), including the provision of agriculture extension services to 1,647 vulnerable smallholder farmers (24 percent women, 26 percent Muslim); (iv) implementing 45 quick impact projects (QIPs – supported by Japan) that benefited 1,642 households in Rakhine and Muslim communities in northern Rakhine, contributing to setting conditions conducive for the **eventual return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)**.

With a strong focus on addressing the needs of women and girls from conflict-affected villages and IDP camps, the JP has further supported women in Rakhine by: (i) increasing access to and control over financial resources and new sources of income for 2,680 women; (ii) strengthening the gender machinery in Rakhine, including by building the capacity of 20 key Rakhine State Government (RSG) institutions, including the Myanmar National Committee for Women (MNCW)¹ in gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) and gender in humanitarian action (GiHA); (iii) enhancing the capacity and skills of more than 470 women and 18 civil society organizations (CSOs) to engage in and benefit from gender-responsive policies and projects; (iv) challenging communities' gender perceptions through a comprehensive range of community outreach and community-based initiatives reaching more than 12,000 people; (v) leading efforts in placing gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) at the centre of humanitarian action, as well as across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus (HDPN) in Myanmar and Rakhine; (vi) enhancing collaboration and trust between the RSG and CSOs working to improve the situation of women and girls.

The JP strengthened a multi-stakeholder platform for UN agencies, the international community and national actors to coordinate programming across the humanitarian and development nexus in Rakhine, for example, through facilitation of the Project Steering Committee meeting, attended by representatives of the Government and RSG, donors and participating UN agencies. It also reinforced partnerships with the Government and civil society at the central, state and community levels, assisting implementation of activities and institutionalizing new approaches—for example, the township planning process under the local governance component with a focus on GRB—despite a challenging operating environment. It promoted women's empowerment and gender equality across its activities, reaching over 6,500 women² and is practically integrating conflict sensitivity and social cohesion across its interventions.

In late March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, both UNDP and UN Women rolled out its COVID-19-specific Business Continuity Plans (BCP). It is underpinned by an extensive programme and

¹ The Myanmar National Committee for Women (MNCW) is known as such at the national and state levels, but as Women's Committees at the township level.

² The number reflects an approximate indication of the JP's reach of direct beneficiaries during the reporting period.

operational criticality analysis that was led by the UNDP and UN Women Myanmar Country Office and included every project and field office and its own management units. As part of BCPs, UNDP and UN Women repurposed some of its existing programme to provide support to the local authorities and communities in a wide range of areas to effectively respond to COVID-19. The areas of support include:

[UNDP]

- Procuring health equipment to the Rakhine State Government, such as ventilators, portable X-ray and personal protective equipment (PPE) with procurement;
- Support to the General Administrative Department (GAD) in the COVID-19 response and awareness raising, through existing government structure such as GAD;
- Support to MPs on COVID-19 response, through providing information to elected representatives on issues including public health, disease mitigation, economic response measures, gender-related Covid-19 impacts; capacity development support on how to engage and inform constituents and develop constituency projects related to COVID-19 response and recovery through online delivery; and briefings and resources to Hluttaw leadership on how Parliaments and MPs are continuing to fulfil their roles in other countries during the Covid-19 pandemic, and peer-to-peer support from other Parliaments;
- Under its Rules of Law component, tracking and research on GBV cases is ongoing and UNDP is joining other agencies in the development of SOPs for dealing with GBV cases in Rakhine. Also, PPE, such as hand gels and temperature scanners, has been delivered to its CSO and government partners;
- In the context of the livelihood, a rapid telephone survey is ongoing with community leaders to gather early indications of the COVID-19 impact on the livelihood in the project areas, remote planning process with government and implementing partners to support COVID-19 response;
- In Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships in northern part of Rakhine, UNDP and UNHCR have been working on awareness raising on COVID-19 through distributing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in 35 QIP villages, and also working on raising awareness on cloth face mask making and safe use, and supporting materials to families to make cloth face masks for themselves as per the MoHS guidelines;

[UN Women]

- Dissemination of clear and accurate information on COVID-19 to women and the broader communities in IDP camps and conflict-affected areas via appropriate channels by GLP alumni and existing women leaders and potential male champions;
- Assisting women to access health and social protection services, including distribution of hygiene kits and personal protective equipment, awareness-raising and strengthened referral on GBV and psychosocial support, as well as other health services;
- Local advocacy to promote women's rights and safety in the context of the pandemic, to be led by women leaders and male champions to influence local authorities in wards, townships and camps and shape service delivery;
- As part of the livelihoods support, women artisans were trained to produce masks. These are being procured by humanitarian agencies to meet increased need in Rakhine, through a cash-for-work modality that contributes to preventing the spread of COVID-19, raises awareness about proper mask wearing and hygiene measures, and supports livelihood and income-generation activities for women artisans.

The RABP to date attracted additional funding from the United Kingdom (UK) to support QIPs in the north of Rakhine, and from Germany to further support the entire RABP. The lessons drawn from two years of RABP implementation prompted the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNRCO to design a similar joint, area-based approach in Kachin State, for which support was recently received from Japan.

I. Purpose

UNDP, UN Women, UNHCR and UNRCO have been working together since April 2019 with the Government of Myanmar (GoM), other UN agencies, civil society and communities to address the development challenges and some root causes of the tensions and conflict in Rakhine State. Their multisectoral JP—the RABP—leverages their humanitarian, recovery, peacebuilding and development capacities to create synergies between their interventions and provide impact at scale. The approach builds on a 12-month project (April 2018–March 2019) funded by Japan that helped set up the institutional bases and programming methods of the current RABP.

The RABP consists of two JPs, which contribute to complementary development outcomes:

- Women’s Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine. This is funded by Canada for three years (April 2019–March 2022) and Germany for one year (January–December 2020) and implemented by UNDP and UN Women to promote socially cohesive and resilient communities that empower women. It combines support to government, civil society and communities to help realize two long-term development outcomes:
Outcome (D)1 (pursued with the support of UNDP): Community priorities and needs are better met through inclusive and responsive service delivery, improved access to justice, and increased local development opportunities that promote social cohesion for men and women in Rakhine State;
Outcome 2 (pursued with the support of UN Women): Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience, and inclusive growth and development.
- Humanitarian and Development Assistance in Rakhine State. This is funded by Japan for one year (April 2019–March 2020) and implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNHCR, with coordination support from RCO.³ It aims to help create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of displaced persons from and within Rakhine, supported by recovery, resilience and development for the benefit of all communities living in Rakhine.

II. Results

This section highlights progress made from April 2019 to March 2020 towards achieving the JP’s development outcomes and outputs. On the attribution of results, the following should be noted:

- Some results achieved in the first phase are attributable to Japan’s 2018–2019 support, which helped establish trust with Rakhine stakeholders and piloted the JP approach. They demonstrate positive working relationships with the State, local authorities and civil society, which were achieved through regular and frequent engagement and collaboration.
- The narrative underscores how the RABP’s results are due to the joint approach used to tackle a complex situation: (i) from the donor perspective, complementary funding by Canada, Germany and Japan is flexible enough to adapt to evolving needs and challenges; and (ii) from the participating UN organizations’ (PUNOs) contributions, UN Women’s work on gender-responsive governance, women’s leadership and civil society strengthening complements UNDP’s legal and institutional work to ensure that government programmes and services are inclusive of and accessible to women. Through UNDP’s community-led projects, UN Women plans to train women to actively participate in social cohesion and community development initiatives. Where relevant, this report highlights joint results achieved from the synergies of UNDP’s and UN Women’s work rather than attributing those results to the work of a single organization.
- Annex I details the outputs supported by Canada, Germany and Japan, respectively.
- Annex II provides an indicator-based performance assessment by output.
- Annex III presents success stories under various programme components.

³ Humanitarian outcomes are reported by UNHCR in a separate document as per agreement with Japan.

A. Progress on Outcomes

Outcome (D)1: *Community priorities and needs are better met through inclusive and responsive service delivery, improved access to justice, and increased local development opportunities that promote social cohesion for men and women in Rakhine State*

The JP is aligned with the outcomes of UNDP's 2018–2022 Country Programme Document: (i) Sustaining peace through national reconciliation and building an effective democratic State; (ii) Promoting inclusive, resilient and sustainable development and environmental management. Phase 1 (April 2018–March 2019), funded by Japan, allowed UNDP and UN Women to build strong relationships with local actors to test intervention methodologies and begin to demonstrate the impact of a joint approach to supporting more inclusive, people-centred development in Rakhine. The trust established with Rakhine authorities and good relationships built with communities were invaluable in gaining acceptance and enabled a rapid start to the programme in April 2019. Experience also helped refine the approach to promoting social cohesion. Building social capital at community level was insufficient to engage marginalized groups such as women or strengthen cohesion between ethnic groups. Improving the status of minorities requires multisectoral economic, social and institutional approaches and concerted efforts at state, local and community levels.

During the reporting period, the JP made notable strides towards meeting the priorities of Rakhine communities by: (i) developing inclusive and responsive service delivery through institutional and programmatic work with the State Hluttaw and township authorities; (ii) contributing to improving the quality of and access to a more inclusive justice system; and (iii) helping increase local development opportunities that promote social cohesion and conditions conducive to the eventual return of displaced persons. It helped empower women to engage in community resilience initiatives through enhanced leadership skills training, new livelihood options to advance their economic empowerment, and identifying and orienting implementing partners (IPs) dedicated to the improvement of women's lived experiences. It also strengthened the international/national/local stakeholder platform to coordinate programming across the HDPN in Rakhine.

These concerted efforts helped further the approach to developing a model for annual township planning in seven townships. A much larger and more diverse group of people participated than ever before.⁴ The approach opened space for democratic dialogue in which government officials engage in open discussions with communities, disclose budgets, explain the annual planning and budgeting process and involve citizens in the planning and selection of public projects. The new iteration of planning process in the original five townships also placed greater emphasis on conflict sensitivity, social cohesion and disaster risk reduction (DRR), through application of the skills learned in Social and Environmental Standards (SES)/DRR training. Of 63 members of Township Planning and Implementation Committees (TPICs) from 14 different departments, 41 percent (20 men, 6 women) participated in the training prior to the planning session and incorporated their knowledge on SES/DRR into township planning.

Gender-responsive budgeting and planning across planning and budgeting cycles leverages opportunities to enable inclusive and gender-responsive service delivery that meets community needs and priorities. UN Women and UNDP, in close collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Industry (MOFPI), built government and stakeholder capacity to apply GRB linked to the government planning and budgeting cycle. Technical GRB expertise was also provided at five Township Democratic Local Governance (TDLG) planning workshops (see Outputs (D)1.1 and 2.2). Programme components will be further coordinated and integrated to promote evidence-based real-time local planning and budgeting, linking with the Hluttaw's work and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) localization. The JP recognizes the need to find durable solutions for the settlement and integration of returning refugees and IDPs, an increasingly urgent issue in Rakhine. Building on the TDLG planning and financing model, the programme partners, including PUNOs, will support the humanitarian, peace and development impetus towards durable solutions to enhance more inclusive participation by all ethnic groups in the planning process.

⁴ In total, 969 people (33 percent women) participated in the three rounds of the inclusive and participatory township planning process from December 2019 to February 2020.

B. Progress on Outputs

Under Outcome (D)1: *Community priorities and needs are better met through inclusive and responsive service delivery, improved access to justice, and increased local development opportunities that promote social cohesion for men and women in Rakhine State*

Supported by Canada and Germany

Output (D)1.1. Local governance institutions strengthened for inclusive, accountable, and responsive public service delivery that better meets the priorities and needs of local communities

Township Democratic Local Governance component. The JP strengthened capacities of government institutions to manage local governance and supported township administrations to develop and implement annual plans and budgets to support local achievement of the SDGs and contribute to the goals of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP).

- For FY 2019/20, three rounds of participatory planning workshops were conducted in each of the target townships, Gwa, Ponnagyun, Ramree, Thandwe and Toungup, and five annual township development plans were finalized. Each includes an overview of sectoral capital investments and costs and follows good governance principles, guided by the participatory annual township planning process outlined in the Grant Manual agreed on by UNDP and the GoM. The 857 workshop participants (29 percent women) included ward and village tract administrators (W/VTAs), civil society representatives, members of parliament (MPs), 10-household (10-HH) leaders and township departmental officials. Nineteen projects were selected for implementation.
- The TPICs then gave public presentations in all five townships (777 attendees, 30 percent women) to discuss the annual plans and priorities—a first for Myanmar. This enabled community members to receive first-hand information on their township development plan and better understand the mandates and budgets of (and constraints on) public service delivery departments—an accountability mechanism that will become integral to the township planning process.
- Guided by these processes, 112 women (29 from TPICs, 83 from ward/village tract administrations) received social accountability training in May 2019. In June and July, procurement training was conducted for 311 participants (19 percent women), including members of the Rakhine State Planning and Implementation Committee, State Hluttaw, TPICs and Township Tender Receiving and Assessing Committees (TRACs), plus private contractors, across all target townships.
- All 19 infrastructure projects began in November 2019 and were completed in March 2020—14 rural roads and a school, health centre, bridge, water pond and children’s playground, with a total value of \$US 2 million of township development grants allocated to Rakhine.⁵ More than 131,350 people gained better access to this infrastructure and public services.
- In September 2019, a two-day lessons learned workshop attracted 90 participants (19 women), including W/VTAs, the five township governance officers (TGOs) and TRAC and CSO representatives. Such platforms encourage dialogue on decentralization policy and local governance reforms, deepen regional understanding, improve response to community needs, increase participation and, hence, help build trust in government institutions.
- In December 2019, government officials, representatives of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and CSOs and other stakeholders convened for the annual national workshop for female W/VTAs. The 113 participants included four of the five female W/VTAs in Rakhine. They discussed mechanisms to overcome barriers to GEWE, drawing on the experiences of female Union MPs and W/VTAs, national and international specialists and the work of UNDP and its partners, and debated women’s role in sustaining peace, increasing female W/VTAs’ awareness of their role in addressing gender-based violence (GBV), community consultation, identification of and tools for development projects, and mobilization of female W/VTAs to strengthen the voices of female community representatives (less than 1 percent of W/VTAs in Myanmar are women).

⁵ Canada’s funding supports some of the participatory planning processes involved in developing the township development plans. The grants to implement these plans are supported by Japan.

- Building on the November 2018 solid waste management (SWM) study tour of Sweden, UNDP conducted a situation analysis of SWM in Rakhine, focused on coastal areas and tourism, with a proposal to develop a SWM Master Plan. In March 2020, training sessions were organized in Sittwe and Thandwe for 92 officials (46 percent women) from the RSG and TPICs from the five target townships.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) component. In line with mainstreaming SDGs into the township planning process, the JP supported a risk-informed approach to development planning and implementation by strengthening capacities of relevant key authorities to understand environmental and disaster risks, to apply a risk informed approach to different sectors, including in infrastructures investments and to strengthen disaster management local entities by facilitating dialogue between them and relevant sectoral decision makers. Under the JP the following key components contributed to DRR mainstreaming, capacity building, and inter-sectoral dialogue towards risk informed development:

- To make township development plans more disaster and climate resilient, the JP supported the Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) in Thandwe and Toungup in July 2019 regarding local hazards identification, risk management mechanisms and strengthening DRR in development planning. In December 2019, a workshop attended by 27 members (7 female) of the State Planning and Implementation Committee and one planning minister identified potential opportunities, challenges and barriers in relation to SES/DRR relevant to improving township development planning processes and project implementation. It revealed that transitioning from disaster preparedness to a wider risk management approach will require significant support, including institutional reform, expansion of DMCs' terms of reference and extensive capacity-building. Later that month, an SES/DRR workshop was conducted in Thandwe for TPICs/DMCs from Gwa, Ponnagyun, Ramree, Thandwe and Toungup (43 participants, 9 female).
- Synergies and integration of DRR/SES considerations were promoted with the TDLG project. It helped strengthen capacities of targeted townships to manage social and environmental risk, resulting in minimizing or mitigating potential negative disasters-generated impacts exerted by projects, while promoting resilient and sustainable investments. A few key highlights included:
 - Based on analysis of local needs and priorities, capacity building on SES/DRR mainstreaming was integrated into TDLG planning workshops in six target townships (Gwa, Manaung, Pauktaw, Ramree, Thandwe and Toungup). The 699 participants (199 female) included W/VTAs, government officials, members of TPICs and CSOs, MPs and 10 female HH leaders. The training focused on enhancing conceptual understanding of DRR, linkages between development and disaster risk, DRR mainstreaming, and UNDP's SES policies and related local rules and regulations.
 - SES/DRR was mainstreamed into 2nd Planning workshop through technical SES/DRR input, especially for potential land acquisitions and impact on environmental sensitive areas. Through SES/DRR considerations, potentially high-risk projects could be avoided during prioritizing projects by considering alternation options avoid, minimize and mitigate approach.
 - SES/DRR checklist were attached in the planning booklets as the key output after participatory planning workshops, which is planned to be submitted to Rakhine State Government for Approval.
 - SES/DRR can be integrated during Operation and Maintenance of existing project through SES considerations in regular maintenance (e.g. Water Quality Monitoring to ensure community health and safety, monitor water quality to identify potential Water Quality issues)
- The JP also conducted technical consultations for the township planning workshops and field monitoring visits to development project sites, enabling DRR stakeholders to provide technical input to township planning processes to support risk-informed decision-making. Lessons learned from these activities will inform an SES and DRR checklist to be added to the Grant Manual.
- Community profile surveys and DMC surveys were conducted in Gwa, Manaung, Ramree, Thandwe and Toungup to support future development of disaster risk profiles for selected townships in Rakhine and Guidance Notes on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) mainstreaming, which will be shared with TPICs to ensure more risk-informed decision-making.

Parliamentary component. The JP supported the State Hluttaw to: (i) implement its strategic plan, by helping strengthen its capacity to set policies and draft legislation more responsive to community needs; and (ii) perform effective oversight of government budgeting and expenditure.

- In April 2019, a programme was conducted for Hluttaw middle management. Hluttaw units started formulating “statements of services” detailing the services they will deliver to MPs. Supporting the reform of Hluttaw Office processes and services contributes to making the Hluttaw’s business more predictable and transparent and allows for greater and better-informed participation of MPs.
- In August 2019, support provided to legislative and policy work led to the Hluttaw Speaker and its Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Irrigation Committee identifying the topic for the first committee policy inquiry, The Role of Seed Improvement in Supporting Sustainable Agriculture in Rakhine State. The Committee launched the inquiry in November, called for submissions and conducted comprehensive stakeholder mapping and engagement (including gender and inclusivity) to ensure public participation. It held its first hearing in Ponnagyun in December, continues to receive written submissions and will hold further hearings and site visits. Its final report is expected in 2020. Throughout this work, Hluttaw staff are supported to develop the knowledge and skills required to provide MPs with administrative, research and writing services to support the inquiry.
- In November 2019, the JP conducted a professional development programme on MPs’ Role in Anti-Corruption and the Committee Inquiry Process. International best principles and practices were discussed and MPs supported to consider how best to adapt them as appropriate to the Rakhine context.
- The JP continued to support the Hluttaw’s integrated information management and information and communications technology (ICT). The first shared drive was established, allowing the Hluttaw to move to electronic document management, and the Hluttaw was supported to develop ICT governance arrangements and an ICT unit to serve MPs and staff and maintain the new infrastructure. Staff capacity is being built to support development of an electronic document management policy framework, intranet and website.
- The JP continued to support Hluttaw staff development. Two new training focal point officers attended an introductory programme in February 2020 for counterparts in all region and state Hluttaws. In March 2020, two staff attended ICT training in Mandalay and others will receive committee skills training, initially online.
- The JP consolidated past gains in maintaining business transparency and identifying good consultation practices. The Hluttaw uses and updates its calendar, which will be published on the new website. In June 2019, the Deputy Speaker, two Committee Chairs and the Hluttaw Deputy Director General were briefed on options to publish a business paper at a seminar on inclusive business management for region and state Hluttaws. The JP will support its production in the next year.

With improved business management and more inclusive rules and procedures, MPs should be able to participate more meaningfully in debates, represent the diversity of their constituents in the Hluttaw and encourage public participation in decision-making. At the same time, more skilled parliamentary staff and improved parliamentary services will increase MPs’ effectiveness and improve the Hluttaw’s capacity to engage with and inform the public on policies that affect them.

Output (D)1.2. Values, skills, and knowledge of local communities and justice actors enhanced to uphold human rights, promote gender equality, and improve access to justice for women and vulnerable groups

Rule of law and access to justice component. Strengthening its cooperation with relevant government stakeholders, CSOs and PUNOs, the JP achieved tangible results through targeted legal-awareness campaigns, legal services and thematic workshops, mainstreaming GEWE throughout its activities.

- In partnership with Legal Clinic Myanmar (LCM), Thazin and International Legal Foundation (ILF), the project reached 4,275 people (2,137 women): 2,621 people attended awareness-raising sessions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and housing, land and property (HLP) rights in 15 townships; 620 benefited from legal counselling in person and 267 via a hotline; and 302 were trained to provide paralegal support in remote communities. In total, 2,002 women and girls benefited from these activities. In addition, 190 people (135 women) were represented in court.

- ILF has taken on 42 cases for clients from different communities. It secured the release of a Muslim client on his own bond, a real rarity in Myanmar. Although prior information intimated that IDPs were not generally being prosecuted in the formal justice system in Rakhine, 14 of the 42 clients are Muslim IDPs who have been arrested in IDP camps and charged under the Myanmar Penal Code.
- With the support of ILF, the project also strengthened the capacity of the Rakhine Legal Aid Board (RLAB) to lead on access to legal aid throughout Rakhine. In August 2019, a workshop was held to raise awareness of legal aid and the Legal Aid Act, enhance practical knowledge of the right to and eligibility for legal aid, share best practices and international standards, and enhance coordination among justice stakeholders. Participants included the RLAB, legal aid providers, the General Administration Department (GAD), state judiciary, law office, prison authority, police and immigration, CSOs, lawyers in private practice, community members and academics.
- Rakhine women lawyers, law teachers and community representatives received training on the rule of law, human rights and SGBV issues. UNDP, UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized a symposium on “Women’s Access to Justice” (November 2019) and a two-day workshop on “Women, HLP and Inheritance Rights” (February 2020) to discuss the challenges women encounter in their access to justice and how women can be better assisted. The symposium mapped the legal aid providers and referral systems for women in Rakhine and stakeholders committed to working towards a more gender-responsive justice system with an improved and sustainable referral system. The workshop disseminated knowledge, increased awareness and sensitized administrators and service providers to the issues faced by women and identified strategies to advance the protection of their rights at the state and Union levels. Together, the events attracted more than 200 participants, including representatives of GAD, township and village tract administrations, law officers, police, women farmer leaders, Gender Leadership Programme (GLP) alumni, civil society actors and development partners (see also Output 2.1).

Output (D)1.3. Target communities and institutions have improved opportunities for gender-responsive community cohesion and economic development, and strengthened capacities to build peace

Livelihoods and social cohesion component. Livelihood interventions were initiated in consultation with community and government counterparts; partnership and coordinating mechanisms with the GoM and communities were established; conflict sensitivity, baseline and livelihood needs assessments were conducted; and conflict and access conditions were assessed in all townships in coordination with the GoM and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

- Mrauk-U, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung Townships were selected for livelihood interventions. To ensure continuity with communities and build on previous efforts, the JP continued to work in the same 88 villages, aiming to reach 81,200 beneficiaries from all ethnic groups.
- Three local CSOs became IPs: People for People in Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun, Swanyee Development Foundation in Pauktaw, and Action for Green Earth in Rathedaung. Capacity-strengthening and technical support was provided to them and activities began in September 2019, including conflict sensitivity assessment (CSA), baseline and livelihood needs assessment and others.
- Livelihood Recovery Forums (LRFs) are a community coordination and consultation mechanism to identify livelihood interventions inclusive of all communities. Sixty LRFs were organized in 15 geographical clusters covering all 27 village tracts. Each LRF established a women’s sub-group, where women could use their voice and articulate their demands. Representatives from Muslim villages participated in 98 percent of all LRFs, and female representatives participated in 96 percent.
- A coordination mechanism has been established with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) to strengthen national ownership and provide guidance to project activities. A Working Group of officials from the Departments of Agriculture (DoA), Fisheries (DoF), Rural Development (DRD), Agricultural Land Management and Statistics, Irrigation and Water Utilization Management (IWUMD) and Agricultural Mechanization (AMD) has held three meetings. Other activities include a one-day workshop for DoA, GAD and DRD on smallholders’ irrigation planning; a two-day training of trainers (ToT) for DoA on good agriculture practice and home gardening; and a coordination meeting on agricultural irrigation policy involving all MOALI departments in Rakhine and UN

agencies and INGOs implementing agriculture support. A key outcome was agreement with DoA to provide agriculture extension services to all communities in all the livelihood project villages.

- CSA was conducted in 15 project locations in the period September–December 2019 to inform the programme approach to maximize positive and minimize negative impacts of the interventions. The findings indicate positive perceptions in all communities of increased intercommunal interactions in LRFs.
- Agriculture extension services were initiated from September 2019 and provided to farmers from all communities, including Muslims. For most Muslim farmers, this was the first time in several years they had received any support from DoA. As part of the initiative “From Farm to Market for All”, which promotes inclusive gender-responsive agro-fisheries value chains and market linkages in rural areas, DoA, DoF and UNDP distributed 352 water pumps to 1,647 vulnerable smallholder farmers (24 percent women, 26 percent Muslim) organized into water pump user groups (WPUGs), along with training on their operation and maintenance, and provided training on good agriculture practices and home gardening to 324 farmers (34 percent women) from all communities. The positive spillover effects in the target areas benefited 15,000 households (around 80,000 people) directly or indirectly.
- Based on the priorities identified in LRFs, UNDP, DoA and DoF began planning construction of seven solar dryer dome (SDD) facilities in Pauktaw. Location selection is ongoing through a consultative process and an initial socio-economic impact assessment has been completed. The SDDs will support value-adding processes for agricultural and fishery production and serve as focal points for market linkages. Collaboration was also initiated with the Ministry of Commerce in Sittwe, with the aim of working together to raise awareness of trading opportunities in project locations.
- The project approach is aligned with UN Women’s activities in project locations. To strengthen overall impact and sustainability, selected women farmers, all beneficiaries of “From Farm to Market for All”, will participate in the business development skills programme supported by UN Women.
- Four focus group discussions with 32 women farmers and nine interviews to identify gender-related obstacles to water pump use and agriculture support were held (January–February 2020). The main obstacles for women farmers are their lack of on- and off-farm skills and access to financing, and shortage of agriculture inputs.

Social cohesion pilot. Based on experience to date, UNDP has developed a concept to pilot new approaches complementary to its social cohesion work, based on the Conflict and Peace Analysis report commissioned by UNDP Country Office in Myanmar and completed in 2019. The report outlines the nationwide peace and conflict issues and focuses in particular on Rakhine and Kachin States, where the project plans to work. Detailed analysis of the conflict context in Rakhine and consultations with relevant stakeholders in Sittwe and Yangon form the basis of ongoing discussion on the implementation strategy of the pilot.

The assessment of social cohesion needs and opportunities in potential pilot village clusters is scheduled to begin in April–May 2020 and to be conducted in Sittwe, northern Rakhine, rural areas of central Rakhine and new areas of concern near Chin State borders. Building on the RAFT assessment (see Output (D)1.3), it will support identification of locations to strengthen understanding of how quality interactions can be promoted to foster equality and have beneficiaries share positive feelings, rather than being transactional. With the high level of complexity and differentiation of local contexts, as well as intercommunal relations, local tailored approaches are required.

Supported by Germany

Output (D)1.4. Resilience-based recovery and development activities implemented to support dignified solutions to displacement and the creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs

Supporting implementation of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create conditions conducive for the return of refugees from Bangladesh, the RABP engaged communities and vulnerable households to help identify, plan and undertake activities to restore productive assets, generate income,

rehabilitate community infrastructure and promote community interaction and social cohesion. The participation of beneficiaries from different ethnic backgrounds increased intercommunal interaction.

- With Japan's support and funding from UNDP and UK Aid, four rounds of rapid needs assessment (RNA) were conducted in 67 of the 72 target villages in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships (April 2019–March 2020).⁶ Fourteen QIPs were implemented,⁷ restoring some capacity to resume livelihoods and improve income-generation; 28 village steering committees were established to implement community-driven income-generating and livelihood initiatives that have benefited 1,642 households (801, or 49 percent, headed by women); 21 vocational training courses improved the awareness, knowledge and skills of 354 households on income generation and small-business opportunities; and households received in-kind support and cash grants for home gardening, livestock rearing, welding, carpentry, masonry, handicrafts and business start-up. QIPs covered in total 26 villages in 11 VTs, 18 Muslim villages (1,085 HHs), eight Rakhine, Daignet and Hindu villages (557 HHs).
- With their respective partners World Vision International and Bridge Asia Japan, UNDP and UNHCR continued to implement 44 of the 45 community-led QIPs approved: 26 on infrastructure (school renovation, water supply, pond renovation, solar streetlights, road rehabilitation, drainage and culvert construction), 14 on skills training and income-generating activities, and four for persons with specific needs. Joint teams assessed 129 GoM-approved villages to understand the challenges faced and inform identification of community-based initiatives to address priorities, build trust and promote social cohesion. In August 2019, the GoM again rejected the JP's request to conduct follow-up visits to 11 villages from round three of the RNA, citing security concerns. In September 2019, the Technical Working Group approved 14 follow-up visits by UNDP and UNHCR to six village tracts to prioritize community initiatives and facilitate QIP design (RNA Round 4). Consequently, UNDP designed and submitted 7 QIPs to GoM, of these 6 QIPs together with 3 other QIPs (1 QIP from RNA Round 1 and 2 QIPs from RNA Round 2) were approved in March 2020. These 9 QIPs cover 14 villages, eight Muslim villages (1,352 HHs, 7,321 individuals (3,546 M and 3,775 F)) and six Rakhine and Burmese villages (478 HHs, 2,219 individuals, 1,036 M, 1082 F). Consultation with local administration and implementation planning is under progress.
- In April 2020, the GoM approved two pilot projects for the return of IDPs to their places of origin. The pilot will be implemented in two phases, beginning with shelter and thereafter addressing other service requirements. UNDP is developing a concept note to diversify from QIPs to more medium- and long-term interventions in Rakhine.

Supported by Canada and Germany⁸

Under Outcome (D)2: Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience and inclusive growth and development in Rakhine State⁹

The JP takes a bottom-up approach to empower women and places a strong focus on addressing the needs of women and girls in conflict-affected villages and IDP camps. It works across the HDPN through an integrated approach covering multiple, mutually reinforcing thematic areas. It created an enabling environment for women's economic participation, supporting 2,680 women to increase their access to and control over financial resources and new sources of income. It enhanced women's leadership competence, knowledge and self-reliance, building the capacity and skills of more than 460 women and 18 CSOs to engage in and benefit from advances in inclusive and effective policy implementation and gender-responsive projects. It made concerted efforts to strengthen the gender machinery in Rakhine, building the capacity of 20 key RSG departments, training members of MNCW/Women's Committees and TPICs in GRB and GiHA, improving national and state coordination of GiHA and increasing trust and collaboration between the RSG and CSOs. It undertook comprehensive community outreach and community-based initiatives to challenge gender perceptions, reaching more than 12,000 people.

⁶ RNAs in the five remaining target villages are currently on hold, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁷ In 17 villages in nine village tracts in Maungdaw, and nine villages in two village tracts in Buthidaung.

⁸ German support is applied to Outputs 2.1 and 2.3 from 2020.

⁹ UN Women works with the following IPs for the implementation of Outcome (D)2: Oxfam (under Output 2.1), World Vision Myanmar (under Output (D)2.3), Mercy Corps (under Output D.2.1), Finn Church Aid Consortium (under Output D.2.2).

Output 2.1. Women and women's groups have enhanced capacities, resources and skills to benefit from and contribute towards gender-responsive policies and programmes on development, humanitarian action and peace in Rakhine

UN Women trained 186 women and representatives of 18 CSOs to engage in gender-responsive programming and policies, including through strengthening implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW, 2013–2022) and promoting gender mainstreaming strategies such as gender budgeting for inclusive and effective policy implementation; organized 556 consultations, dialogues and events for knowledge sharing; developed four gender knowledge and information products;¹⁰ and trained 139 people (74 women) in GiHA.

Women's leadership. Through the GLP, women in six IDP camps in Sittwe and 16 villages in four townships learned to proactively advance gender equality in their households and communities. Testimonials show that GLP alumni emerged with a changed view of power dynamics in their household and community and more inclusive understanding of leadership and rights. A GLP Master curriculum was developed and 22 project staff and camp-based staff and volunteers (17 women) trained as GLP Master trainers.

- Through awareness-raising campaigns and the engagement of 121 influential leaders¹¹ in IDP camps in Sittwe in gender equality sessions, the JP contributed to shifting deeply held patriarchal attitudes and beliefs that pose significant barriers to GEWE, as reflected in beneficiaries' testimonials. More than 9,000 people¹² participated in awareness-raising sessions on basic gender concepts, women's empowerment and the importance of women's participation and leadership, run by 63 GLP alumni (34 IDP women, 29 women from Rakhine villages) who had been trained through an intensive GLP course under Phase I of UN Women's Rakhine Programme.¹³
- Four GLP alumni (one during the reporting period) have been elected to IDP Camp Management Committees (CMCs), a hitherto male-dominated domain, following an RSG policy change in 2019 allowing for the phased inclusion of female representatives. Their election is great recognition of their leadership skills by their own communities.
- The power of collective action among women and community recognition of women leaders was enhanced by strengthening existing women's groups in IDP camps and forming eight women's groups in eight villages across four townships. The village-based groups managed mini-grants and led community projects that benefited 420 people (174 women) directly and 7,174 people (3,704 women) indirectly. Projects included upgrading village libraries to support girls' education and constructing fences and bridges to protect water sources from animal and human pollution.
- Women's leadership and confidence was strengthened through participation in events on "Women's Access to Justice" and "Women's Access to Land, Property and Inheritance Rights" (see Outputs (D)1.2 and 2.1). Valuable contributions were made by 14 women farmers¹⁴ and 10 GLP alumni who highlighted the difficulties women face due to discriminatory formal and customary practices, as well as women's lack of knowledge and fear of accessing services. Women's voices were crucial in identifying areas in need of reform and in support of advocacy to influence policy discourse in these areas.

GiHA coordination and capacity-building. Leveraging UN Women's coordination mandate and strategic partnerships, the RABP, in collaboration with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNFPA, successfully led efforts to place GEWE at the centre of humanitarian action and across the HDPN in Myanmar. Resources were developed to provide technical assistance on GiHA, including the updated [Myanmar Gender in Humanitarian Action Profile](#) and 11 [Gender Mainstreaming Checklists](#)¹⁵ that offer practical guidance on mainstreaming GiHA. The GiHA coordination mechanisms

¹⁰ See Indicator C2.1.3, Annex II.

¹¹ Including just seven women; this is because the majority of leaders in Muslim communities are male.

¹² This number includes 1,000 women reached across four IDP camps in Sittwe through storytelling sessions on women's leadership and their shared experiences.

¹³ The term "UN Women's Rakhine Programme" includes the Canada/Germany-funded JP "Women's Empowerment and Inclusive Communities in Rakhine" (2019–2022), the Japan-funded JP "Project for Humanitarian and Development Assistance in Rakhine" (2019–2020) and the Japan-funded UNDP–UN Women JP "Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine State" (2018–2019). While Phase I of UN Women's Rakhine Programme refers to the JP "Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine State" (2018–2019), Phase II refers to the two JPs, "Women's Empowerment and Inclusive Communities in Rakhine" (2019–2022) and "Project for Humanitarian and Development Assistance in Rakhine" (2019–2020).

¹⁴ These women farmers are supported under the Japan-funded Output D.2.1.

¹⁵ Both were endorsed by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Humanitarian Country Team during the first quarter of 2020.

were strengthened through the formation of a pool of trained GiHA experts in UN agencies and INGOs in Myanmar and creation of an informal network of GiHA experts in central Rakhine. The GiHA expertise of humanitarian workers in Rakhine was built through three training sessions delivered to 17 UN agencies and INGOs, 20 CSOs and seven RSG departments.

GEWE community outreach. Community-derived transformation was fostered through community participatory theatre on GEWE-related topics. This form of theatre encourages the audience to identify, address and discuss problems and explore solutions in collaboration with the performers. A group of actors and facilitators was trained in community participatory theatre techniques with the aim of creating a cascade effect in their communities. Close to 250 people were involved in workshops, training and performances in Sittwe. The JP also engaged CSOs and broader audiences through specific campaigns and events such as 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, International Women's Day and Myanmar National Women's Day to raise awareness of the societal conditions women face, reaching more than 2,000 people at state, township and camp levels across Sittwe and Pauktaw.

Gender sensitization of Rakhine media. The importance of gender-sensitive reporting was enhanced through a media roundtable on International Women's Day organized by UN Women, DSW and UNFPA, involving seven media outlets, the Department of Communication and Information and 14 CSOs. Kick-starting ongoing engagement with local media, participants developed an action plan to enhance media/civil society collaboration to advance gender equality and end GBV.

Output 2.2.¹⁶ Institutional capacities of government enhanced at the national, state and local levels for gender-responsive policies and service delivery

Positive results were achieved at the national, state and local levels. Five informal and formal institutional mechanisms that actively engage women's groups, leaders and relevant government departments in dialogue were formed and/or strengthened to inform policy-making and public service delivery, and 11 key policy and planning documents¹⁷ that incorporate substantive reference to GEWE were developed.

Gender-responsive budgeting in local governance. Technical support was provided to initiate GRB across government agencies at the national, state and local levels. In partnership with DSW, UN Women supported the GoM to assess Myanmar's current gender budgeting trajectory and achievements through a scoping study and a roadmap, as required under the MSDP to institutionalize GRB. In Rakhine, UN Women, in collaboration with UNDP, DSW and MOFPI, built individual and institutional GRB capacities of 20 government departments, and members of the TPICs and MNCW/Women's Committees across seven townships, through one state-level and six township-level trainings that linked the application of GRB to the government planning and budgeting cycle; 266 people (112 women) attended. Staff from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR)/DSW took part, increasing their GRB understanding and training skills. Technical GRB expertise was provided at five TDLG planning workshops (see Output (D)1.1), enabling TGOs to mainstream gender in project proposals and ensure that gender is considered in nominating proposals for grants. The lessons learned in Rakhine contributed to the national roadmap on GRB and will assist DSW to upscale GRB capacity development across Myanmar.

Facilitation of dialogue between the Government and CSOs, women and women's groups. UN Women's role as a convener of regular gender-related dialogues between the RSG and CSOs working on GEWE in Rakhine contributed to enhanced collaboration, information exchange and trust between them. A major result of this support was that, for the first time, five CSOs were invited by the DSW to attend the state MNCW meeting in May 2019 and to be standing invitees henceforth.

The 2019 Annual Dialogue, organized in collaboration with DSW, on the topic of women's participation and leadership across the HDPN, further enhanced cooperation between the GoM and CSOs working on GEWE. Based on identified challenges and opportunities, representatives of five key government departments, the Myanmar Red Cross and 19 CSOs presented recommendations to strengthen women's participation and leadership and enhance RSG-CSO collaboration in the areas of humanitarian action, development and social cohesion. The Dialogue provided a safe space and opportunity to initiate the extensive trust-building that is required between the GoM and civil society actors.

¹⁶ Supported by Canada alone.

¹⁷ See Indicator C2.2.1, Annex II.

An intergenerational Women's Evening on 8 March 2020 enhanced networking, trust and support among 120 women of diverse backgrounds, social segments and age groups in Rakhine, including from the RSG. Building on the first such evening, organized in July 2019 by the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar with support from UN Women, this forum was convened by UN Women and UNDP, in collaboration with DSW, to mark International Women's Day 2020. The constructive exchanges among the women present paved the way for longer-term engagement, potentially producing ideas for gender-transformative reform beyond individual and organizational agendas.

Output 2.3.¹⁸ A supportive environment established to increase women's access to and control over financial resources and new sources of income for promoting their leadership and participation outside household duties

Significant progress was made, with 442 women gaining entrepreneurship, saving and marketing skills and two partnerships being formed to enhance women's access to business opportunities and financial services.

- Nearly 400 women artisans were supported to establish and strengthen their business through the provision of micro-grants¹⁹ based on their business plan. Most used them to buy additional raw materials to expand their business. Nearly 200 women entrepreneurs registered their business with the Small Scale Industries Department (SSID), which entitled them to several benefits that will strengthen their business, including the ability to apply for micro-loans channelled through the GoM as well as private enterprises. Following the successful establishment of market linkages under Phase I of UN Women's Rakhine Programme, women artisans continue to sell their products in Sunflowers Organic Dye Textiles and Crafts Shop in Yangon, resulting in a sustained increase in their income. Women entrepreneurs also sell their products in local markets and at fairs and sales promotion events.
- The business development skills of 411 women artisans from IDP camps and villages across four townships were improved. Thirty-eight village- and camp-based entrepreneurship coaches (25 women) were selected, 35 of whom were trained as Start and Improve your Business (SIYB) trainers. The first steps were taken to establish and strengthen women-led community partnerships through saving groups. ToT workshops were conducted with project staff on the Saving for Transformation project model, through which women's access to finance, new and diversified income-generating activities and saving capacity will be enhanced.
- Partnership with community leaders and stakeholders was strengthened to assess context-specific concerns and increase women's access to financial services and new income sources. To enhance community ownership of the project, 17 gender- and social-inclusion sessions were conducted with 255 village, religious and women leaders (72 women) in two townships. Key government departments, including GAD and DSW, were included in the 42 project orientation sessions attended by 3,107 people (2,342 women) across four townships.
- Options were explored with Vision Fund Myanmar (VFM) as it undergoes a digital transformation process to link women entrepreneurs to formal financial services. The feasibility of including women entrepreneurs in the JP in VFM's digital micro-credit scheme is being assessed.
- The joint analysis by UN Women and the International Labour Organization (ILO), "Gender-Transformative Livelihoods: A Pathway to Women's Empowerment: Findings of a Study into the Economic Opportunities and Barriers for Women in Rakhine State, Myanmar" strengthened the evidence base on women's economic empowerment. A study validation workshop was held in May 2019, a conflict sensitivity review has been conducted and publication is planned for the latter half of 2020.

C. Qualitative Assessment

The second phase of the RABP saw further progress achieved, notably in: (i) the trust developed with the RSG and GoM; (ii) the refinement of a methodical approach to integrate conflict sensitivity and social

¹⁸ The activities of Output (D)2.3 are cost-shared by funding from the Governments of Canada, Germany and Japan.

¹⁹ Individual grants of MMK 120,000 (USD 85.47 at the UN Operational Exchange Rate of 1404 in April 2020).

cohesion across the JP; (iii) mainstreaming of the promotion of GEWE; and (iv) coordination among PUNOs. The JP focused on developing successful partnerships with 12 line ministries, the RSG, seven INGOs, five CSOs and community members, as well as strengthening collaboration and coordination among PUNOs and synchronizing activities in line with the JP's outcomes.

(i) The development of key partnerships

Despite the complex Rakhine context, through its programmatic activities, the JP has developed key partnerships, steadily establishing close ties with government departments at the Union, state and township levels, CSOs and community members. Mutually beneficial cooperative relationships have also been strengthened among the UN agencies involved in the JP. The aim is that, over time, JP activities will be increasingly instrumental in fostering trust between communities and the Government.

- In the area of local governance, TDLG's close working partnerships with TGOs demonstrated that it is possible to improve local democratic processes by systematically bringing together key stakeholders, building on solid analyses of ongoing reforms and using township development grants to catalyse transparent, inclusive and accountable planning. The JP successfully showcased the participatory planning model in five targeted townships. The RSG has requested that this approach be expanded to Manaung and Pauktaw Townships in FY 2020/21 and will co-fund the township development grant for Manaung by 50 percent. The RSG's decision to replicate the model and take financial ownership is a major step in response to increasing demand for decentralization and is considered a crucial aspect for sustainable development beyond project outcomes.
- Trust and partnership with communities is developed through the assistance provided to people to engage with administrative and legal processes that affect them and their livelihoods. The JP strengthens the dissemination of legal aid information to communities and provides paralegal training on legal rights and administrative processes, including on legal systems, processes, bodies, actors, jurisdiction and international norms, with an emphasis on land rights, family/marriage law, inheritance and property, GBV, customary laws under different faiths, and the fundamental rights and duties of citizens. Interventions aim to raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities enshrined in existing laws, as well as the basic workings of the legal system in Myanmar.
- In supporting livelihoods to strengthen social cohesion, the JP continued to develop partnerships with MOALI departments and SSID to strengthen their capacities to provide services promoting the inclusion of women and marginalized communities in the target areas. The working group of senior officials from six MOALI departments conducted three meetings and provided effective guidance in planning agricultural and fishery activities, while building national ownership of the project. Notably, it endorsed the provision of agriculture extension services to all project locations, which effectively included Muslim villages and provided DoA-led training to some²⁰ Muslim villages for the first time.

(ii) The gradual mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity and social cohesion across activities

Based on review of Phase 1 of the RABP (2018–2019), Phase 2 (2019–2020) adopted conflict sensitivity technical support to accompany implementation across all outputs to maximize positive and minimize negative impacts of the interventions. This entailed: a joint conflict-context analysis in preparation for Phase 2 and review of the JP through a conflict sensitivity lens; quarterly roundtable discussions with JP staff and IPs to review existing and emerging risks and provide recommendations; field-based conflict sensitivity activities for all UNDP JP outputs; and strategic provision of ad hoc technical support to the JP on developments and emerging needs.

To this end, in September 2019, UNDP organized a workshop with RAFT and Search for Common Ground to discuss the next steps in refining and implementing a conflict-sensitive approach and strengthening social cohesion in the JP's outputs. Informed by the discussion and updated conflict analysis, the JP will undertake participatory analysis and problem-solving, community dialogue and capacity-building for social cohesion, to identify community needs and solutions that can contribute to reducing tensions and increasing social cohesion under Outputs (D)1.3 and (D)1.4. It will then provide communities with financial and technical support to implement solutions they propose. RAFT conducted a conflict sensitivity review of the UN Women–ILO study of economic opportunities and barriers for women (see Output 2.3).

²⁰ The baseline data is still under review.

The JP will continue developing the capacity of the RSG, CSOs and communities to operate in more conflict-sensitive ways and initiate and promote trust-building and peacebuilding activities. These will strengthen and scale up the work initiated in Phase 1 and be linked to ongoing social cohesion work in local governance and other coordination initiatives (e.g. by Independent Rakhine Initiative (IRI), RAFT and UK Department for International Development (DFID)), where applicable. Given the Rakhine context, by adopting a careful approach, UNDP will further strengthen the capacities of individuals who can work as insider-mediators on conflict sensitivity and social cohesion.

Under Output (D)1.3, in November 2019, UNDP worked with its IPs and RAFT to design and implement the CSA. It aims to provide: i) a contextual analysis in Mrauk-U, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung; ii) a critical analysis on the impact of the JP intervention on interactions; and iii) strategic and concrete recommendations for adaptive programming. Key findings include high levels of fear, mistrust and animosity towards particular armed groups across all communities, and high levels of human insecurity and risk exposure—aspects that contribute to the creation of more insular communities and possibly further entrench ethnic segregation.

Some key programming findings on Phase 1 indicate that key Connectors in the building intercommunal trust, in the wider social cohesion context, relates to economic interdependence. This was strong factor that helped bridge initial gaps between communities and create wider community acceptance for intercommunal interactions (CSA report 2020). Example of this were cash-for-work planning and implementation where communities appreciate receiving cash for work—the project provided income-generating opportunities while also improving community infrastructure. There is varying evidence of greater social cohesion during activities. While some reports stated that Rakhine and Muslims worked separately to avoid interacting, there are other more encouraging that reported increased interaction between communities after the completion of infrastructure projects. Based on the endline data, acceptance between community leadership and intercommunal trust have significantly increased since the beginning of the project.

(iii) A focus on gender

Gender equality is central to the RABP. To strengthen the JP's gender-responsive approach, UNDP and UN Women collaborated closely to introduce gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) to VTAs and TPICs and mainstream it in the annual township planning process. UN Women joined local development planning workshops in five townships (see Outcome (D)1) and the two agencies jointly planned and conducted GRB training courses for 20 government departments and Women's Committees and TPICs across seven townships (see Output 2.2).

In supporting the Hluttaw Committee inquiry, the JP focuses strongly on mainstreaming gender and inclusivity, with good results. To support the Committee to take a gender-sensitive approach, Hluttaw staff have been assisted in developing strong capacity to identify barriers to the participation of women and marginalized groups, along with inclusivity strategies, integrating measures to increase broad community engagement, including stakeholder mapping, inquiry design, hearing planning and evidence collection. The JP will continue its support to ensure that the Committee's inquiry and report incorporate both gender and inclusivity analysis.

The JP continues to mainstream gender equality into its rule-of-law and access-to-justice activities (see Output (D)1.2 and Output 2.1).

UNDP is currently coordinating with the RSG's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Committee and UN Women to develop and implement a joint action plan. Efforts by UNDP and UN Women to empower women and build inclusive communities in Rakhine have led to their increasingly synchronized geographical presence and better utilization of both agencies' expertise and relationship networks.

(iv) UN coordination

To strengthen the JP's area-based approach, UNDP, UN Women and UNHCR committed to work together to explore collaboration and programme implementation synergies. During the reporting period, they conducted a joint visit to their Pauktaw (April 2019) project sites to begin discussing collaboration, organized five planning sessions, identified areas of collaboration and discussed possible JP locations. UNDP and UN Women prepared a common monitoring and evaluation framework and tools. UNHCR conducted training on programming for the stateless population, for UNDP and UN Women in Sittwe and Yangon.

Coordination and collaboration among all JP stakeholders, in terms of geographical coverage, national ownership of the programme and its alignment with national priorities, was further enhanced through the RABP Project Steering Committee Meeting in November 2019, attended by representatives of 17 GoM and RSG institutions, the donor organizations, including the Governments of Canada and Japan, and UNDP, UNHCR, UNRCO and UN Women staff. UNDP also chairs a bi-monthly Development Coordination Group (DCG) meeting is held in Sittwe with the participation of UN agencies and NGOs working on development and early recovery in Rakhine State. UNDP leads the work of the DCG to support coordination of development actors and ensure joined-up strategies among participating agencies, which in turn strengthens the humanitarian-development nexs and informs the overall JP strategy.

The complementarity of UNDP and UN Women's activities is strengthened through the monthly Technical Coordination Meeting and Context Updates Meeting in Sittwe. Areas of cooperation are discussed and planned in line with identified risk factors and contextual changes, facilitating the synchronization of livelihood interventions (e.g. Output D.2.1). This further strengthens the capacities of women beneficiaries and provides a potentially multiplying effect on the promotion of women's agency. The two agencies also worked closely on capacity-building for township officials, using the local platforms supported by UNDP as an entry point for UN Women to deliver training to build government and stakeholder capacity to apply GRB linked to the government planning and budgeting cycle.

D. Challenges and Delays

Ongoing armed clashes between the Myanmar military and ethnic armed groups in Rakhine contribute to the volatile security environment and continue to create challenges for JP implementation. Conflicts and security operations endure in central and northern Rakhine and have expanded to part of the southern townships, resulting in increased restrictions on access to populations in need, which has impaired the programme's ability to ensure a fully inclusive approach and reach the most vulnerable.

In October 2019, the RSG decided to reinforce a 2016 GoM instruction on travel authorization (TA) to non-permitted areas. Consequently, all UN agencies must apply for TA for international staff based in Rakhine and staff who travel into and out of Rakhine. Ongoing security concerns and formal and informal movement restrictions continue to hinder meaningful engagement and participation of beneficiary households in capacity-building training, impacting the delivery of project results. Especially affected is the work supporting Hluttaw MPs (particularly during the Agriculture Committee inquiry) to engage effectively with the public in the field. There have been delays to staff training due to the complexity of securing approval for activity that involves all 14 region and state Hluttaws and the Union Hluttaw. The JP mitigates this by providing standalone training in Rakhine State Hluttaw where necessary, while working towards a national training network to advance peer-to-peer training between staff of different Hluttaws.

Formal and informal restrictions on movement and economic activities for Muslim populations greatly limit IDP women's ability to use their skills to increase income, hindering successful programme implementation. The potential for the Government to close IDP camps where the JP operates poses additional challenges. In June 2018, MSWRR announced plans to close camps across Myanmar and it remains unclear whether restrictions on movement and economic activities will be lifted. RABP partners continue to monitor the situation and restrictions, and work with the authorities and communities to adapt as necessary. Similarly affected is the implementation of livelihood activities in Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung. This was particularly reflected in frequent restrictions on access to project locations in villages. For UNDP and UN Women staff, further government restrictions on travel caused difficulties in conducting various planning and monitoring activities. While delays have had no significant impact on overall delivery, the JP continues to coordinate and advocate with the national and state governments, including through the Humanitarian Country Team, to ease visa and TA restrictions, change locations for affected project activities (mainly to the township level) and adapt activities to the local context.

The fluid security context and denial of TA also affects the mobilization of labour for the implementation of QIPs and hampers skills training, as potential beneficiaries are required to furnish documents to travel to Maungdaw and Buthidaung. Delay in gaining approval for QIPs poses an additional challenge under Output (D)1.4, as project interruptions jeopardize partnerships with IPs. Project delays are also caused by the difficulties IPs face in recruiting suitable staff. Often, vacancies are only filled after several announcement rounds, impacting the IP's human resource capacity and, consequently, its ability to implement JP

activities. While IPs apply mitigation measures, such as maintaining flexibility when negotiating candidates' working conditions, the situation remains challenging.

The conduct of activities at village level is challenged by the lack of suitable training venues. Monasteries in rural areas are often the only venues available. However, caution must be exercised in using monasteries as they may be affiliated with particular armed groups. As part of their mitigation measures when planning activities, IPs assess the suitability of available venues and, wherever possible, choose alternative sites.

The lack of male participation in GEWE activities further impacts project implementation. The engagement of men and boys in women's empowerment is pivotal for the advancement of women and girls but it has sometimes been difficult to spark men's motivation and willingness to attend GEWE-related events and training. Recognizing that changing deeply rooted gender norms, roles and perceptions is complex and requires long-term intervention, the JP uses innovative and creative approaches to promote men's and boys' engagement in gender initiatives.

Further unpredictable challenges occurred as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has wide-ranging social and economic implications for Rakhine and impacts the continuation of JP activities. In line with preventive measures imposed by the GoM, numerous JP activities are on hold and travel is widely restricted for the time being (see also Section IV on programmatic response to challenges and delays).

E. Lessons Learned and Good Practices

The RABP's platform approach is proving effective in addressing multifaceted and longstanding challenges. It allows multiple UN agencies, the international community and national actors to integrate, coordinate and collaborate in programming across the HDPN, while its single governance structure engages both Union and state ministerial collaboration.

- The collaboration between UNDP and UN Women to initiate GRB capacity-building in Rakhine will be an essential entry point to the GRB capacity-development process led by DSW across Myanmar. A key lesson learned from the GRB training delivered to Women's Committee and TPIC members is the importance of involving and coordinating with MOFPI and GAD on GRB initiatives rather than relying solely on DSW, which tends to be weak. The very different reception that government departments have given the MSDP in contrast to the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013–2022) is largely due to MOFPI being the ministry in charge of MSDP coordination.
- The JP's support to parliament focuses on assisting MPs to take a systematic approach to their complex and challenging constituency work, while also identifying (through data) those issues that require a policy response rather than action on an individual case. This requires MPs to educate their constituents about the work of MPs in oversight and law-making, to ensure accurate public understanding of the different roles of the Hluttaw and the Executive and reasonable expectations about the pace of change. The inquiry process, still in the pilot phase, is an ideal vehicle for MPs to transform constituents' individual concerns to action at the state policy level, and to inform the public about the work that MPs do in the Hluttaw. Participants at hearings appreciate having had the opportunity to share their concerns and learn about the role of committees in government oversight.
- With the support of its IPs, the JP enhanced access to justice for women and other vulnerable groups in Rakhine. It mitigated the lack of available government-supported legal aid services and capacity of legal aid providers, and underuse of the formal justice system by vulnerable populations such as women and religious and ethnic minorities. Its bottom-up approach enables it to constantly engage and coordinate activities with local communities and build social cohesion. In total, 4,275 people (50 percent women) benefited from the project.
- To support planning and coordination of livelihood and social cohesion interventions at the community level, the JP and local CSOs are working through inclusive VTA-led LRFs, with the participation of village leaders and women from all villages, including Muslim villages.²¹ Each LRF has established a women's sub-group, which separately discusses the agenda. There were high levels of participation by all minority groups and women's representatives in the 60 LRFs and consultation meetings, which was crucial to promote intercommunal trust and create a space for meaningful participation by women.

²¹ 98 percent of all villages (86 percent of Muslim villages) had at least one representative at each LRF, and there was at least one women's representative from each village at 86 percent of the LRFs.

- The JP's role as a facilitator of regular dialogues between RSG departments and CSOs working to improve the situation of women and girls in Rakhine contributes to enhanced collaboration, information exchange and trust between them. A major result of this support was the inclusion of CSOs working on GEWE as standing invitees to MNCW meetings in Rakhine.
- The GLP's strong participatory approach includes ongoing community consultations through focus group discussions and listening exercises in the design, development and delivery of all activities. The JP's community-led outreach empowers women to become agents of change by using their voices to influence community members, and ultimately challenges discriminatory gender practices and beliefs. The election of four GLP alumni to CMCs is an important first step in the advancement of GEWE in humanitarian action. However, more work is needed to ensure that women can actively participate in decision-making and avoid being used as mere tokens to improve the gender composition of CMCs. The JP is therefore exploring potential ways to strengthen gender awareness among CMCs.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations

In line with the integrated approach of the JP, evaluations are conducted and finalized across agencies and projects to support learning and direct adaptive management of the JP's interventions.

- UNDP's TDLG project, introduced in Bago Region and Mon State, undertook a mid-term review (MTR) in November 2019. With the replication of the project in Rakhine State, first conclusions can be drawn based on the findings of the MTR.²² The planning process in Rakhine will also be subject to review as part of the MTR of the SERIP project scheduled in 2020.
- From January to February 2020, under Output (D)1.2, UNDP, jointly with UNFPA, engaged an evaluation team to conduct an assessment of the Peace Building Fund (PBF) project "Overcoming Barriers to Strengthen the Voices of All Women in Rakhine State for Social Cohesion and Peace". This final evaluation covered the full project implementation period, April 2018–September 2019.
- To inform programming under Output (D)1.3, community livelihood needs assessments were conducted across 27 village tracts in the four target townships (Mrauk-U, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung).
- RAFT conducted a conflict sensitivity assessment under Output (D)1.3, in 15 project locations over the period September–December 2019, to inform the programme approach to maximize positive and minimize negative impacts of the interventions.

IV. Programmatic Revisions

The first quarter of implementation was considered an inception phase under the Canada-funded part of the RABP, building on the initial 12 months supported by Japan. Based on results of the updated situational and needs analyses, no major programmatic revision was deemed necessary, although some RABP methodologies were finalized, including the mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity and social cohesion across components, as were the project locations for 2019–2020. The results framework was reviewed and a detailed monitoring and evaluation methodology developed to measure the effects of JP interventions. The methodology continuously updates key indicators on the quality of the operating environment across Rakhine, enabling planning for access by and the security of project teams and beneficiaries.

In late March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP rolled out its COVID-19-specific Business Continuity Plan (BCP). It is underpinned by an extensive programme and operational criticality analysis that was led by the UNDP Myanmar Country Office and included every project and field office and its own management units (two programme units, strategic management unit and programme support

²² The MTR of TDLG, initiated in November 2019, showed that there is considerable positive change in capacity and/or approach among townships that can be traced in part to TDLG activities, including improvement in information flows and horizontal coordination among township departments, clear progression among supported townships towards a more strategic and practical approach in prioritizing infrastructure projects, and reflection on and application of alternative models and behaviours by township administrative officials. Overall, the project remains highly relevant to Myanmar's governance and decentralization reforms. Yet, for the continuation of the project, special emphasis is required on strengthening the lessons learned so that the outcomes of the project feed into policy discussion and change. The findings of the MTR are expected to be equally applicable to the seven townships in Rakhine, since the overall approach to strengthening township capacities to effectively manage the participatory planning process is the same across Bago Region, Mon State and Rakhine State.

unit). UN Women has also rolled out its COVID-19-specific BCP, underpinned by an extensive programme and operational criticality analysis that was led by the UN Women country team and field offices in Rakhine and Kachin.

In Rakhine, the pandemic and the escalating conflict have both impacted project activities, limiting the capacities of project teams and IPs to move within the project areas and engage with communities in groups. Some project work has been managed by email and telephone, enabling some personnel to continue working with modest adjustments, while other components are affected more, notably due to the constraints imposed in the current situation. Under its BCP, UNDP has identified areas of focus to repurpose some of its existing components under RABP, which includes:

- In coordination with the Rakhine State Government, UNDP has procured health equipment such as ventilators, portable X-ray and personal protective equipment (PPE) with procurement and is also in discussion with DDM and DSW on the needs for PPE for distribution to Muslim IDP camps as well as new displacement camps in Rakhine as a result of the conflict.
- Potential support to the GAD in the Covid-19 response and awareness raising, recognizing that the GAD's structure reach to very remote areas across the country, for which a short survey was carried out to understand the coordination committees to respond to COVID-19 and their Terms of References, information sharing mechanisms and financing of local response measures in place as well as the support TDLG could potentially provide in this regard.
- As part of parliamentary support, UNDP will provide support to MPs on Covid-19 response, through providing information to elected representatives on issues including public health, disease mitigation, economic response measures, gender-related Covid-19 impacts; and capacity development support on how to engage and inform constituents and develop constituency projects related to Covid-19 response and recovery through online delivery. UNDP has also provided briefings and resources to Hluttaw leadership (Speakers & DDG) on how Parliaments and MPs are continuing to fulfil their roles in other countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, and will offer peer-to-peer support from other Parliaments.
- Under its RoL component, tracking and research on GBV cases is ongoing and UNDP is joining other agencies in the development of SOPs for dealing with GBV cases in Rakhine. Also, personal protective equipment has been delivered to its partners in Rakhine, including 280 bottles of hand gels and 24 temperature scanners to Thazin, Legal Clinic Myanmar and Rakhine Legal Aid Board.
- In the context of the livelihood, a rapid telephone survey is ongoing with community leaders to gather early indications of the COVID-19 impact on the livelihood in the project areas, remote planning process with government and implementing partners over modification of planned project activities to support COVID-19 response, online training for CSO implementing partners under planned organizational development support.
- In northern part of Rakhine, UNDP and UNHCR raised awareness on COVID-19 and distributed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in 35 QIP villages in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships. UNDP and UNHCR are also working on raising awareness on cloth face mask making and safe use, and supporting materials to families to make cloth face masks for themselves as per the MoHS guidelines. The initiative will cover 26 villages in 11 VTs of Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, with total household beneficiaries of about 3449 households, 17538 individuals.

As of May 2020, UNDP is in discussion with the GoM, RSG, development partners and donors on operationalizing the response to the crisis, under three main pillars: health systems response; socio-economic intervention; and humanitarian, migration and social cohesion.

The UN Women Country Office prepared its response plan, building on the GoM's requests and priorities, current programme areas, broader UN country team collaboration across a range of development areas and consultations with women's organizations. Discussions with UN Women's IPs, who have suspended most of their activities in the current Project Partner Agreement, are ongoing and focus around repurposing some activities towards rapid response and recovery. Areas identified for this in Rakhine include:

- Dissemination of clear and accurate information on COVID-19 to women and the broader communities in IDP camps and conflict-affected areas via appropriate channels by GLP alumni and existing women leaders and potential male champions;
- Assisting women to access health and social protection services, including distribution of hygiene kits and personal protective equipment, awareness-raising and strengthened referral on GBV and psychosocial support, as well as other health services;
- Local advocacy to promote women's rights and safety in the context of the pandemic, to be led by women leaders and male champions to influence local authorities in wards, townships and camps and shape service delivery;
- As part of the livelihoods support under Output D.2.2, women artisans were trained to produce masks. These are being procured by humanitarian agencies to meet increased need in Rakhine, through a cash-for-work modality that contributes to preventing the spread of COVID-19, raises awareness about proper mask wearing and hygiene measures, and supports livelihood and income-generation activities for women artisans. Discussions are ongoing with IPs to embark on/upscale soap making and hand sanitizer production to allow women to participate in rapid response and maintain their livelihoods.

For the activities that are ongoing, COVID-19 risk mitigation plans were developed and adaptations made to ensure precautionary measures are applied, such as the integration of COVID-19 sensitization and health and hygiene precautions and distribution of COVID-19 information, education and communication materials to project activities.

V. Resources

During the reporting period, the programme attracted additional funding from the UK (USD 450,000) to support QIPs in the north of Rakhine, and from Germany (USD 5.5 million for 2020) to further support the entire RABP. Japan also renewed its commitment to the continuation of activities in Rakhine and the initiation of a project in Kachin from April 2020 to March 2021, with USD 3.5 million.

UNDP recruited a gender specialist in September 2019 with support from Canada, and a new head of office in Maungdaw field office in April 2020.

In support of the implementation of Outcome 2 of the JP, a number of human resource changes took place during the reporting period, including the departure of a UN Women's Programme Analyst (P2) and National Programme Officer (NOB), and successful recruitment of the new National Programme Officer (NOB), Head of Sittwe Sub-Office, GiHA Specialist (P3), Driver (G2) and Programme Analyst (IUNV).

Annex I: Attributing Progress and Results²³

Outcome	Output	PUNO	Source of funds
(D)1: Community priorities and needs are better met through inclusive and responsive service delivery, improved access to justice, and increased local development opportunities that promote social cohesion for men and women in Rakhine State	(D)1.1: Local governance institutions strengthened for inclusive, accountable, and responsive public service delivery that better meets the priorities and needs of local communities	UNDP	Canada: Capacity-building/training Germany and Japan: funding of township plans
	(D)1.2: Values, skills, and knowledge of local communities and justice actors enhanced to uphold human rights, promote gender equality, and improve access to justice for women and vulnerable groups	UNDP	Canada, Germany and Japan
	(D)1.3: Target communities and institutions have improved opportunities for gender-responsive community cohesion and economic development, and strengthened capacities to build peace	UNDP	Canada, Germany and Japan
	(D)1.4: Resilience-based recovery and development activities implemented to support dignified solutions to displacement and the creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs	UNDP	Germany and Japan
2: Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience, and inclusive growth and development	2.1: Women and women's groups have enhanced capacities, resources and skills to benefit from and contribute towards gender-responsive policies and programmes on development, humanitarian action and peace in Rakhine	UN Women	Canada and Germany
	2.2: Institutional capacities of government enhanced at the national, state and local levels for gender-responsive policies and service delivery	UN Women	Canada
	2.3: A supportive environment established to increase women's access to and control over financial resources and new sources of income for promoting their leadership and participation outside household duties	UN Women	Canada and Germany
	D.2.1: Women's skills and access to markets are strengthened for climate-resilient agriculture	UN Women	Japan
	D.2.2: Women's skills, resources and access to markets for weaving and handicrafts programmes are strengthened and scaled up	UN Women	Japan
	D.2.3: Women have increased knowledge of financial inclusion, market linkage and access and business development skills and opportunities	UN Women	Japan

²³ Note: Both Canada-funded and Japan-funded elements of the RABP use similar numbering, with D (for Development outcomes) added in the Japan results framework to dissociate from H (for Humanitarian outcomes) that are under the responsibility of UNHCR (reported in a separate document as per agreement with Japan). For UN Women, outputs under the Canada project document are numbered 2.1 etc. and outputs under the Japan project document are numbered D.2.1 etc.

Annex II: Indicator-based Performance Assessment, Rakhine Area-Based Programme, April 2019 to March 2020

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Source of Verification
Indicator J.1.A:²⁴ # of government development plans, at national / sub-national level, formulated with UNDP support based on the following principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs: use of data, inclusive participation, cross-sectoral coordination Baselines: Union: 0/0; Township: 0/0 (2017) Target: Township: 5 (2021)	Status: On track UNDP supported the Government in preparing development plans in seven townships, with reasonably satisfactory levels of inclusive participation and cross-sectoral coordination. • More diverse population groups are planned to be included in the next iteration of planning cycle • SDG localization initiative under TDLG country programme will also inform the programme of the better forms of data collection and its use	Review of project documents; government records
Indicator J.1.B: % of trained government participants who successfully apply the knowledge and skills on social cohesion and conflict sensitivity gained from training initiatives into their work Baseline: 0 (2017) Target: 75% (2021)	Status: On track Of 63 members of TPICs in five townships, 26 members (41%, 6 female and 20 male) participated in the training prior to the planning session and thereby incorporated their knowledge on SES/DRR into township planning	Review of project documents; Survey, using questionnaire (annually)
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of supported townships which meet set criteria to perform participatory planning effectively (functionality index) Baseline: All supported townships start at level 1 (April 2019) Planned Target: Out of 5 townships, all 5 meet: • level 3 across 4 functions (March 2020) • level 4 across 4 functions (March 2021) • level 5 across 4 functions (March 2022)	Status: On track All 5 supported townships reached level 3 across 4 functions: • Function 1. Inclusivity of key stakeholder groups: No systematic data reported yet²⁵ • Function 2. Facilitation capacities of township administrations: All 5 townships reached level 3 • Function 3. Enhanced use of evidence in annual township plan: All 5 townships reached level 3 • Function 4. Respect of Public Financial Management standards: All 5 townships comply with over 75% of standards • Function 5. Accountability and Monitoring: All 5 supported townships reached level 3	Function 1: planning workshop attendance sheet Function 2: planning workshop report Function 3: procurement guidelines checklist Function 4: public financial management standards checklist Function 5: monthly situational reports

²⁴ Indicators numbered J.1.A and J.1.B derive from the Japan project document.

²⁵ Comprehensive information (including observations on independent engagement and inclusion of disadvantaged stakeholder groups) will be collected for FY 2020/21 and included in the semi-annual report in 2020.

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Source of Verification
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of supported townships in which at least five social accountability mechanisms are used. Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: Out of 5 supported townships: • 3 use at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2020) • 4 use at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2021) • all 5 use at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2022)	Status: On track All 5 supported townships used 4 social accountability mechanisms: • Mechanism 1. Public presentation of the township development plan: Applied in all 5 townships • Mechanism 2. W/VTAs presents project activities to their constituents for feedback: Applied in all 5 townships • Mechanism 3. Public notice of the contract signing and announcement published on the noticeboard of the implementing department and of GAD: Applied in 3 of the 5 townships • Mechanism 4. W/VTAs are part of the TRAC and QAVC: Applied in all 5 townships • Mechanism 5. Grievances are addressed by Tender Committee that is responsible for resolving complaints: No complaints reported to Tender Committee for FY 2019/2020.	Social accountability mechanisms checklist
Indicator 1.1.3: Number of supported townships where projects meet minimum benchmarks as per Procurement Guidelines. Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: Out of 5 supported townships: • 3 partially comply with criteria (March 2020) • 3 fully comply with criteria (March 2021) • 5 fully comply with criteria (March 2022)	Status: On track All 5 supported townships fully complied with set criteria where applicable. • Step 1. TRAC and QAVC are formed: in all 5 townships • Step 2. Tender documents produced and respect mandatory sections as in Procurement Guidelines: in all 5 townships • Step 3. Tender notice advertised according to Procurement Guidelines: in all 5 townships • Step 4. Tender opening meeting conducted and bid opening timeline respected: in all 5 townships • Step 5. Report of tender assessment drafted and mandatory sections included: in all 5 townships • Step 6. Public notice of the contract signing and announcement published: in 2 of the 5 townships	Procurement Guidelines checklist
Indicator 1.1.4: % of parliamentary committee reports on policy inquiries with recommendations that receive government response. Baseline: No policy inquiries completed (April 2019) Planned Target: of all completed policy inquiries in Rakhine State, 10% (March 2020) 20% (March 2021)	Status: On track The ongoing Rakhine State Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Irrigation Committee inquiry into The Role of Seed Improvement for Sustainable Agriculture in Rakhine State, is currently benefiting from strong government participation. At its first hearing, in December 2019, the Committee heard evidence from officials of the Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation and Agricultural Statistics and Land Records. They were supported by Ponnagyun Township GAD staff. The Rakhine State Agriculture Minister is fully supportive of the inquiry and has undertaken to make	Hluttaw records (yearly)

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Source of Verification
40% (March 2022)	officials available for future hearings. However, Covid-19 has forced the Hluttaw to suspend sittings and activities for the coming weeks (at least), which has prevented planned hearings with government officials taking place. While the full inquiry cycle has not yet completed – and therefore no report has been presented for Government consideration and response – the Government’s collaboration on the inquiry to date is very promising.	
Indicator 1.1.5: % of parliamentary committee inquiries that integrate gender and diversity analysis (different degree of compliance – partial vs. full integration into all stages of inquiry process). Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: of policy and bill inquiries in Rakhine State: • partial integration in 20% and full integration in 10% (March 2020) • partial integration in 40% and full integration in 20% (March 2021) • partial integration in 50% and full integration in 30% (March 2022)	Status: On track Integration of gender and diversity analysis in the above ongoing inquiry is assessed according to four stages: • Consideration in the definition of inquiry ToR; • Consideration in stakeholder mapping stage; • Consideration in preparing for and conducting hearings and field visits; • A report on analysis of evidence integrating gender and diversity analysis. Supported by UNDP, Committee members and staff have integrated gender and diversity analysis in the first three stages. This has been supported in a number of ways, including: • Inquiry planning workshop with MPs and staff, including design of ToR and inclusive stakeholder mapping and engagement; • Consideration of the barriers to participation faced by women, youth and marginalized groups, and development of strategies and mitigation actions to overcome these barriers; • Planning and reviewing conduct of hearings in order to assess actual inclusion, and remedial actions to address any shortcomings. As the inquiry moves towards drafting a final report, the Committee and staff will be supported to integrate gender and diversity analysis in the report.	Hluttaw records (yearly)
Indicator 1.1.6: Level to which the Hluttaw manages plenary and committee documents electronically and publishes these documents on their websites Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: • Level 1: Backup server, intranet infrastructure and ICT governance structure in place in Rakhine State Hluttaw – March 2020	Status: On track The Hluttaw is on the verge of reaching Level 1. • Backup server is in place. • ICT unit has been designed, including unit’s detailed terms of reference, duties and responsibilities based on Hluttaw’s ICT requirements and future developments. Supported capacity-building of ICT staff on internal operations, future operational duties and services for MPs.	Hluttaw records (yearly)

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Source of Verification
- Level 2: Intranet working and modules for plenary and committee systems launched – March 2021 - Level 3: Website linked to intranet developed and regularly updated by Hluttaw – March 2022 - Level 4: Plenary and committee documents regularly published on the Hluttaw website – March 2022	Progress towards intranet infrastructure ongoing, including policy development, inventory of documents, data migration, technical documentation and configuration management, and ICT security work.	
Indicator 1.1.7: Number of MPs applying a systematic approach in representing constituents in an inclusive manner Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: - Level 1: Union Hluttaw administrations provide official data for use in constituency work for all townships in Myanmar (all 17 Rakhine townships) (March 2020) - Level 2: Constituency work professional development is delivered to MPs, introducing use of official data and a case management approach to constituency work (March 2021) - Level 3: MPs apply a case management approach to solve constituent problems; MPs use official data to identify priorities for constituency development and advocate at the Hluttaw for the interests of their constituents (March 2022)	Status: On track Following professional development support for MPs in the Rakhine State Hluttaw on constituency and representation, UNDP has provided ongoing support to MPs on a demand basis to facilitate more systematic and inclusive representation of constituents. This has a particular focus on the use of ICT to simplify the extraction of constituency-level data about constituent needs, as well as case monitoring and tracking. Three MPs have been supported to develop and apply systematic case management processes, using a simple database to record individual constituency cases and track progress in addressing each case. 50% of constituency profiles for Rakhine State townships have been prepared by Union Hluttaw research staff, for sharing with Rakhine State MPs. UNDP is currently developing a <i>Guide to Good Practices on Constituency and Representation</i> (with strong focuses on both gender inclusivity and conflict sensitivity), which will be tested alongside further professional development support for Rakhine State MPs in the second half of 2020, with full rollout in the induction of the third Hluttaw expected in early 2021.	Twice in project period through case studies
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of government officials trained by UNDP on the rule of law, GBV and human rights Baseline: 95 (April 2019) Planned Target: (cumulative) 110 (March 2020) 130 (March 2021) 150 (March 2022)	Status: On track 250 law officers trained on the rule of law and fair trial standards	Training reports
Indicator 1.2.2: % of men and women trained who show an increased understanding of the rule of law, SGBV, gender equality and women's rights, and barriers to women's access to justice Baseline: N/A (April 2019) Planned Target: 60% (March 2020) 65% (March 2021)	Status: On track On rule of law and access to justice, understanding increased from 45% of participants pre-training to 93% of participants post-training (i.e. by 48%)	Training feedback reports (pre- and post-training assessments) participants, lists, community feedback reports, service provider mapping report

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Source of Verification
70% (March 2022)		
Indicator 1.2.3: Number of women, girls, and other vulnerable individuals benefiting from legal information, counseling and/or representation Baseline: 200 (April 2019) Planned Target: (cumulative) 3,000 (March 2020) 6,000 (March 2021) 9,000 (March 2022)	Status: On track 2,137 women and girl beneficiaries: 2,002 women and girls benefiting from legal information such as trainings and awareness-raising sessions and counselling through consultations and hotline, and 135 women and girls represented in court	CSOs and legal aid providers' records; UNDP progress reports
Indicator 1.2.4: Number of actions/initiatives jointly developed by communities and local government actors to address women's justice issues and women's rights Baseline: 2 (April 2019) Target: (cumulative) 4 (March 2020) 6 (March 2021) 8 (March 2022)	Status: On track 2 forum discussions on women's access to justice and addressing challenges around HLP and inheritance rights conducted	Agenda, list of participants, UNDP project reports
Indicator 1.2.5: Number of government / land administration bodies strengthened to deal with housing, land and property cases Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Target: [cumulative] 2 (March 2020) 4 (March 2021) 8 (March 2022)	Status: On track 5 VTAs strengthened through training on land laws	Training reports
Indicator 1.3.1: % of community members reporting increased trust between ethnic groups after the introduction of inter-village/village tract activities Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: 50% (March 2022)	Status: On track²⁶ Baseline data (March 2019) indicates the following: - Only 31% of community members reported collaboration with other communities on any initiatives since 2012 20% of community members do not support cooperation with other communities	Project reports, partners' reports
Indicator 1.3.2: % of targeted stakeholders reporting increased awareness on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding Baseline: 0 (April 2019)	Status: On track Reported progress, based on the targeted stakeholders' self-evaluation, is 46% to date	Project reports, partners' reports

²⁶ Due to the restriction imposed on community activities under the COVID-19 situation, the annual progress data is planned to be collected when the situation improves.

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Source of Verification
Planned Target: 60% (March 2022)		
Indicator 1.3.3: % of community-led cohesion projects implemented assessed by communities as successful in building trust and reducing conflict Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: 75% (March 2022)	Status: On track ²⁷ 99% of LRF members report that LRF meetings are helping improve relations between different communities (March 2019 data)	Project reports, partners' reports
Indicator 1.3.4: # of lessons-learned case studies produced with communities used to replicate successful approaches Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: 10 (March 2022)	Status: On track 3 lessons-learned cases (March 2020)	Case studies
Indicator 1.4.1: Number of persons accessing new infrastructure, disaggregated by gender Baseline: N/A (April 2019) Planned Target: 10,000 (March 2020) (direct and indirect)	Status: On track 11,947 persons (total no. accessing facilities built by UNHCR through QIPs) ²⁸	Project reports, partners' reports
Indicator 1.4.2: % of beneficiaries in target communities reporting increased household income after receiving programme support Baseline: N/A (April 2019) Planned Target: 6,000 (March 2020) (direct and indirect)	Status: On track 44% (723) of 1,642 beneficiary households (approx. 8,210 individuals) reported increased household income	Project reports, partners' reports

²⁷ Due to the restriction imposed on community activities under the COVID-19 situation, the annual progress data is planned to be collected when the situation improves.

²⁸ At this point the data is not disaggregated by gender and coordination is underway to collect gender-disaggregated data in the coming rounds.

Canada/Germany support to Outcome 2	Achieved Indicator Targets	Source of Verification
Indicator 2.1: Number of women who have enhanced capacities and skills to contribute to gender-responsive policies and projects in Rakhine State Baseline: 63 women (GLP alumni) Planned Target: 4,563 women	Status: On track 460 women learned about the importance of mainstreaming gender, women's rights and ways to address challenges women face	Project reports, case studies, community feedback, consultation records
Indicator 2.2: Number of women who have increased access and control over financial resources and new sources of income in Rakhine State Baseline: 2,495 women Planned Target: 4,342 women	Status: Achieved Including baseline data, 4,990 women supported: • 2,495 women's skills and resources in weaving and handicrafts making, business development, climate-resilient agriculture, agri-entrepreneurship and organic toiletries making were enhanced during the Japan-funded "Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine State" JP (2018–2019) (baseline) • 880 women's skills, resources and capacities were enhanced in climate-smart agricultural practices • 1,615 women's skills, resources and capacities in weaving and handicrafts making were improved, of which 411 were trained in business development, 393 received small grants to start up their businesses and 194 were supported with business registration at SSID	Project/training reports, case studies, participants lists, community feedback
Indicator C2.1.1: Number of women leaders, groups, networks and CSOs trained by UN Women to engage in gender responsive policies and programming Baseline: 63 women leaders, 16 women's groups, networks and CSOs Target: 4,563 women leaders; 40 women's groups, networks and CSOs Baseline data includes: 63 women who graduated from Gender Leadership Programme; 11 CSOs trained on gender advocacy in quarter 1 of 2019; 5 MNCW/Women's Committees at Rakhine state level and across 4 townships trained on advancing gender equality and operationalizing gender equality commitments in quarter 4 of 2018 and quarter 1 of 2019	Status: On track 186 women and 18 CSOs were trained to engage in gender responsive policies and programmes. • 112 women trained in GRB • 48 women trained on GiHA in Rakhine State • 26 women trained as trainers on GiHA in Yangon • 18 CSOs trained on GiHA	Project/training reports, case studies, participants lists, community feedback
Indicator C2.1.2: Number of consultations, dialogues and events for knowledge sharing organized Baseline: 120 consultations, dialogues and events	Status: Achieved Including baseline data, 676 consultations, dialogues and events organized: • 3 community theatre performances (baseline) • 1 16 Days of Activism event (baseline)	Attendance sheets, participants lists

Target: 550 consultations, dialogues and events	• 1 meeting and sharing session of GLP graduates in villages with community members (baseline) • 2 awareness-raising session with local CSOs in Rakhine (baseline) • 2 International Women's Day events in Sittwe and Nay Pyi Taw (baseline) • 3 exposure visits (national) for GLP participants (baseline) • 3 sharing sessions between women led by GLP graduates (baseline) • 8 discussion sessions between GLP graduates, CSOs and government representatives (baseline) • 5 community awareness-raising sessions on gender-responsive WASH services (baseline) • 50 community-based awareness-raising sessions led by GLP graduates (baseline) • 12 mass meetings by Finn Church Aid (FCA) (baseline) • 14 focus group discussions by FCA (baseline) • 11 seed production and rice production activities by the International Rice Research Institute (baseline) • 1 inception workshop by FCA (baseline) • 4 farmer field visits (baseline) • 2 International Women's Day events (at township and state levels) • 28 16 Days of Activism events (state, township, village and camp levels) • 1 media roundtable • 1 Annual Dialogue in 2019 • 3 GiHA updating consultations (1 with CSOs, 1 with women beneficiaries, 1 with the Rakhine Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)) • 17 gender and social inclusion sessions • 1 follow-up consultation with Rakhine-based CSOs • 1 Myanmar National Women's Day event • 2 Women's Evening forums • 4 participatory community theatre performances • 394 community-based awareness-raising sessions led by GLP alumni • 11 Sharing sessions on natural toiletries production by GLP alumni • 4 gender awareness workshops with CMCs, religious leaders and community leaders • 76 women's leadership stories sharing sessions in safe spaces • 11 awareness-raising sessions on gender-responsive WASH services	
Indicator C2.1.3: Number of gender knowledge and information products developed by UN Women through the inter-agency gender mainstreaming working group and circulated to the Humanitarian Country Team, Rakhine Coordination Group, and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group Baseline: 1 gender knowledge and information product Target: 3 gender knowledge and information products	Status: Achieved Including baseline, 5 gender knowledge and information products were developed: • 2019 GiHA Profile (baseline) • Gender Mainstreaming Checklists for Humanitarian Action • 2020 Myanmar GiHA Profile (updated version of the 2019 GiHA Profile) • Gender Alert for COVID-19 Outbreak (localized to Myanmar context and translated into Myanmar language)	Documents

	Gender package for COVID-19 quarantine centres	
Indicator C2.1.4: Number of people who received training on gender in humanitarian action including members of inter-agency gender mainstreaming working group, and other Government, UN, INGO, NGO, CSO and other humanitarian/HDP actors in Rakhine State, including women's CSOs, networks and groups Baseline: Approx. 40 people (one GiHA training conducted in 2018 in Sittwe) Target: 100 people	Status: Achieved Including baseline, 179 people were trained on GiHA. The reporting period saw 4 trainings on GiHA, including 1 GiHA ToT in Yangon, 3 GiHA trainings for Rakhine-based CSOs, UN/INGOs and RSG departments. These 4 trainings reached 139 participants (74 women) in total.	Participants lists, attendance sheets

Output 2.2: Institutional capacities of government enhanced at the national, state and local levels for gender-responsive policies and service delivery		
Indicator C.2.2.1: Number of key policy and planning documents with substantive reference to gender equality & women's empowerment Baseline: 12 key policy and planning documents Target: 20 key policy and planning documents	Status: Achieved Including baseline data, 22 key policy and planning documents with substantive reference to GEWE were developed. National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (baseline) Rakhine Advisory Commission Report (baseline) - Report on the Mapping Analysis for National Strategic Plan on the Advancement of Women (baseline) Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (Joint Study of DSW, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women) (baseline) - Terms of Reference for Myanmar National Committee for Women for States and Townships (baseline) - Gender and Age Analysis: Sociocultural and Structural Barriers to Essential Services in Central Rakhine (INGO Rakhine Initiative study) (baseline) 2019 Myanmar GiHA Profile (baseline) 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (baseline) 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (baseline) - Emergency Response Preparedness Plan (baseline) - Joint Communique of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the United Nations on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (baseline) - United Nations Country Team Confidential Report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on the situation of women and girls from northern Rakhine State, Myanmar (baseline) Gender Mainstreaming Checklists for Humanitarian Action - GiHA Action Plan	Documents

	• UN Women–ILO joint study, “Gender-Transformative Livelihoods: A Pathway to Women’s Empowerment: Findings of a Study into the Economic Opportunities and Barriers for Women in Rakhine State, Myanmar” • 2020 Myanmar GiHA Profile • 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview • 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan • Myanmar COVID-19 HRP 2020 Addendum • Analysis and suggested HCT/ICCG messages on the MSWRR “Action Plan for the Control of COVID-19 Outbreak in IDP Camps” • Interim Operational Guidance for COVID-19 Isolation in Humanitarian Settings in Myanmar GRB Roadmap	
Indicator C.2.2.2: Number of informal and formal institutional mechanisms that actively engage women’s groups, leaders and relevant government departments in dialogue to inform policymaking and public service delivery Baseline: 5 mechanisms Target: 10 mechanisms	Status: Achieved Including baseline data, 10 informal and formal institutional mechanisms have been formed and/or strengthened: • Network of Rakhine-based CSOs working on GEEW (baseline) • Women’s groups in villages and IDP camps that can engage with community leaders in four townships (baseline) • Coordination Group for 16 Days of Activism (baseline) • Coordination Group for International Women’s Day (baseline) • Informal network of GEWE focal points among the protection cluster/sector in Rakhine (baseline) • Informal GiHA Coordination Group in central Rakhine • MNCW meetings • CMCs – 1 GLP beneficiary elected to CMC during the reporting period • Annual Dialogue Women’s Evening forum	Meeting minutes and records
Output 2.3: A supportive environment established to increase women’s access to and control over financial resources and new sources of income for promoting their leadership and participation outside household duties		
Indicator C2.3.1: Number of women with increased knowledge on solutions to addressing barriers they face, including through ICT innovation, business development and entrepreneurship Baseline: 416 Target: 1,200 Baseline data includes 416 women farmers and artisans who were trained in business development and agri-	Status: On track • 25 village and camp-based entrepreneurship coaches and project staff members trained in SIYB methodology • 6 project staff members trained in Saving for Transformation training 411 women artisans with increased skills, knowledge and resources in business development and entrepreneurship. Of these, 393 received small grants to start up their businesses and 194 were supported with business registration at SSID during the reporting period	Project/training reports, case studies, participants lists, community feedback, beneficiaries’ business plans

entrepreneurship during the Japan-funded 'Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine State' JP (2018–2019)		
Indicator C.2.3.2: Number of partnerships formed to enhance women's access to financial services, resources and business opportunities Baseline: 0 partnerships Target: 3 partnerships	Status: On track 2 partnerships formed and/or strengthened. • SSID • Sunflowers Organic Dye Textiles and Crafts Shop	Project/partners report

Annex III: Stories of achievement

Supporting townships in participatory planning – Township Democratic Local Governance

UNDP's TDLG project is supporting townships with participatory planning workshops related to designing and implementing development projects. During the second workshop in Gwa Township, 10 projects were prioritized for FY 2020/21, the most important being construction of a water storage earth dam in Kyway Chaing village tract. The VTA and TPIC conducted a site visit and estimated that the embankment would be 1,000 feet long and 20 acres of agricultural land would be flooded.

The Social and Environmental Screening Procedure was new for the VTA and TPIC and thus required significant capacity-building to implement. Nonetheless, in conjunction with UNDP, the VTA and TPIC applied the procedure and found that the proposed project would likely result in a number of SES risks related to property rights, climate change impact, significant clearance of trees and possible flooding. Given the potential for these risks, and the time it would take to manage them, alternative options were considered. With the assistance of UNDP, the VTA and TPIC concluded that they would renovate an existing pond and also build a small ground tank. This was agreed during the third planning workshop using participatory stakeholder engagement. This decision will likely help to limit the social and environmental risks of the project and expedite the time needed to build and renovate the structures, and thus have an immediate and positive impact on the Kyway Chaing community.



SES/DRR workshop for members of TPICs in Ngapali/Thandwe

Supporting public engagement in parliamentary process – Parliamentary support

In December 2019, the JP supported the Rakhine State Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Irrigation Committee to conduct its first public hearing in its inquiry into The Role of Seed Improvement in Supporting Sustainable Agriculture in Rakhine State, held in Ponnagyun. The Committee invited members of the public, particularly local farmers, as well as government representatives at the township level, to attend and provide information relevant to the inquiry's terms of reference. Those attending included 163 villagers, and officers from the DoA, Department of Irrigation and Department of Agricultural Statistics and Land Records. They were supported by township GAD staff.



Members of the public attending and participating in a public hearing for the Rakhine State Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Irrigation Committee inquiry into seed improvement, Ponnagyun Township

The hearing was a valuable opportunity for MPs to learn in detail about the problems faced by farmers, as well as current policy and action taken by the Government in the township. Challenges included interpreting the dialects used by some participants, as well as participants' limited understanding of the inquiry's focus and the specific purpose of the hearing (to gather evidence for use in policy review). A further challenge was the limited attendance and participation of women. Reflecting on this, the Committee and staff have identified strategies to increase the participation of women at coming hearings.

Providing training in housing, land and property rights – Rule of law and access to justice

Thida Oo comes from a rural village in Rakhine, where she works in her parents' shop selling snacks. When she went to her first paralegal training with the UNDP-supported CSO Thazin, she knew nothing about HLP rights but thought that having more skills could help her gain a livelihood and become self-sufficient.

At the initial training course, she felt very intimidated as she was surrounded by much older males whom she considered much more knowledgeable than she was. However, she persevered and learned all that she could. Through her commitment, she was accepted into the more intensive training course. She is now one of the most knowledgeable people in her village on HLP issues. She is trusted to provide advice to villagers and depended upon as a focal point in her community. She says, "I never thought that I would be involved in a group and would speak out in front of many people. I can speak out and discuss basic concepts of HLP issues now."

Thida Oo has discovered how HLP rights have affected her own family and community. By speaking with her family and village elders she learned that her grandparents, who used to grow and sell rice, had lost their land through land grabs. With the knowledge she now possesses, Thida Oo believes she is empowered to ensure that such practices do not recur, and she will speak up so that HLP rights are upheld and respected.

Having regained her confidence, she continues to advise the community on HLP rights, striving to improve both herself and her village.

Supporting farmer cooperation in the use of water pumps – Livelihoods and social cohesion

Under the "From Farm to Market for All" initiative, UNDP and DoA delivered 352 water pumps to 1,647 small farmers (24 percent women; 26 percent Muslim; including 427 from 16 Muslim villages). These farmers are organized into WPUGs and received water pump operation and maintenance training to facilitate proper pump use, as well as cooperation between themselves. After receiving training on Standard Operating Procedures for water pump operation and maintenance, DoA staff rolled out the training to representatives of all WPUGs in all project locations. This included farmers from Muslim villages, who received support from DoA for the first time since the 2012 outbreak of intercommunal violence in Rakhine. Instrumental to including Muslim farmers was approval of the respective LRFs, as well as endorsement of the training plan by the MOALI working group.



Testing water pumping unit, Ponnar Chay village, Pauktaw Township

Gender Leadership Programme



GLP alumni participating in an introductory session of community participatory theatre in an IDP camp in Sittwe Township, 2019
[Photo credit: Cecilia Truffer/UN Women]

Two GLP participants from an IDP camp in Sittwe attended a Camp Management Committee members' meeting after the GLP training. As one of them explained, "The situation is very different now ... In the past, we didn't have enough confidence to speak out in front of the CMC about women's issues. Because we thought that they will not listen to us because we are women. But we attended the meeting with the CMC and presented some of the current women's issues that need to be solved. The CMC listened to our opinions and accepted to take actions on these. So, we are very happy and also thankful for being part of this programme which gives us the strengths through the

training. In the future, we will try to represent women in the camps like this as much as we can.”

Strengthening informal mechanisms through the engagement of women’s groups, leaders and GoM representatives to foster dialogue, trust and networking to inform gender-responsive policy-making and service delivery

As part of the mission of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Myanmar to Rakhine State in July 2019, UN Women supported the Special Envoy’s Office to organize a Women’s Evening, bringing together more than 30 women from diverse sectors in Rakhine, including politics, government, business, youth groups, civil society, agriculture, and minority women from IDP camps. The Women’s Evening forum allowed women to discuss experiences and challenges, share stories of resilience and make requests to the Special Envoy on issues of GEWE, including the need for more gender-responsive policies and service delivery in Rakhine. Women’s recommendations included the need for high-quality education, such as access to tertiary education for IDPs, the development of an industrial zone targeted at women to increase opportunities for women’s employment, strengthening the rule of law, and improved protection and assistance of displaced minority groups, including advocacy for their possible return to their places of origin.



*Women’s Evening attendees, Sittwe Hotel, 2019
[Photo credit: Phyo Min Thu/UN Women]*

Saw May Hat Aung from Rakhine Women Union CSO stated that, “There is a lack of engagement between women in Rakhine, and we need to work on this to improve cooperation. Such gatherings are very good to know about each other and hear from women from different backgrounds. Women are working for gender equality and women’s rights but they have challenges from different sides. It would be great to have such gatherings more frequently so that women can voice their opinions and be heard widely.” Closing the forum, the Special Envoy highlighted that she will convey the messages shared by the women to the UN globally and reiterated the importance of social cohesion and the role women can play in this process, building on women’s common strengths and challenges across different groups and sectors.

Gender-responsive planning and budgeting

From November 2019 to February 2020, UN Women, in collaboration with UNDP, DSW and MOFPI, conducted a series of training sessions on GRB at the state and township levels in six townships in central and southern Rakhine.

In Ramree, a township officer from the Information and Public Relations Department commented: “The training has been very useful. Before, whenever I went to the villages for advocacy or public awareness sessions on subjects determined by the upper levels of the department, I never thought about gender. I just went on to address the subjects, but now I know that it’s important to involve women, those with disabilities and the elderly in the advocacy sessions.”



Group work during GRB training in Ramree Township, 2019
[Photo credit: Nan Sanhom/UN Women]

The GRB training targeted members of the Women’s Committees and TPICs and state departmental officers. Through the collaboration between UN Women and UNDP, GRB and gender mainstreaming principles will be applied to the community projects supported by the township grants under the TDLG programme—those related to school infrastructure, rural health care, vocational training and water supply.