

UNDG-HRM Project
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 3 JULY 2013– 31 DECEMBER 2015

<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Human Rights Mainstreaming in Myanmar • Programme Number 00087085 • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 	<p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>Myanmar</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Human Rights is one of four pillars under the UN Repositioning Strategy in Myanmar 2015-2017 (annexed to this report)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCO and OHCHR, with UNCT 	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCT
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: USD \$100,000 MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USD \$85,000 Agency Contribution • USD \$15,000 (OHCHR) Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i> Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i> <p>TOTAL: \$100,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration 29 months</p> <p>Start Date⁵ (3.7.2013)</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ (31.12.2014)</p> <p>Current End date⁷(31.12.2015)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Peter Barwick ○ Title: Peace and Development Advisor ○ Participating Organization (Lead): RCO ○ Email address: peter.barwick@one.un.org

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Human Rights Mainstreaming in Myanmar (HRM) project has yielded two important achievements. First, it helped prompt the creation and continued functioning of the UNCT's Human Rights Theme Group (HRTG). The UNCT established the HRTG in August of 2013, functioned as an active mechanism throughout 2015, and is preparing to expand its activities in 2016. Second, the HRM project allowed the RCO organize a Human Rights Up Front training for all UN staff in Myanmar. This one-day training was attended by 1,923 out of 1,966 staff, making for over 98% participation. The provided essentially all the UN staff with an overview of basic human rights concepts, as well as provided an indications of what areas and require follow-on attention to further raise the level of understanding of staff.

I. Purpose

The HRM project sought to promote capacity-building on human rights issues for both UNCT and Government staff, as well as foster linkages to civil society actors and international community efforts. This effort was conceived as a response to Myanmar's long isolation from the international community, and the widespread lack of knowledge of core human rights concepts among both UN and Government personnel.

The HRM project was designed with three outcome areas:

- UNCT has strengthened capacity to address critical human rights issues in Myanmar through sustained and focused public and private advocacy on jointly identified priorities.
- UNCT and Government have strengthened capacity to apply human rights standards and tools in the policy development and programming process
- Strengthened engagement by the UNCT, Government, civil society and other stakeholders to advance the implementation of the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures, the treaty bodies and other monitoring mechanisms of the UN system

At the time of project design, its outcomes were linked with the UN's Myanmar Strategic Framework 2012-2015, in particular Strategic Priority 4 (Promote good governance and strengthen democratic institutions and human rights). In 2015, however, the UN began implementing a new four pillar Repositioning Strategy in Myanmar 2015-2017. The HRM project was then linked to the strategy's Human Rights pillar, as well as with its Annex A which refers to the UNCT internalization of the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan. It bears mention that the UNCT does not currently have an UNDAF, and this is foreseen as being developed for the 2018-22 period.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

In broad terms, the HRM has made an important contribution to furthering the UNCT's understanding of human rights concepts, as well as the institutionalization of UNCT mechanism, the Human Rights Theme Group, to identify human rights trends and discuss policy and advocacy issues. In this regard, the project has done much to move human rights into the UNCT's mainstream. The project had more modest impact, however, in strengthening the Government or civil society human rights capacities, although it did help raise awareness among some senior government officials and parliamentarians of international human rights standards as they pertain to some legislative initiatives carried forward during the HRM period.

Outcome 1: UNCT has strengthened capacity to address critical human rights issues in Myanmar through sustained and focused public and private advocacy on jointly identified priorities.

Over the course of the HRM project, it was able to make an important contribution to strengthening the capacity of the UNCT to address human rights issues through public and private advocacy. The HRM project provided a strong impetus for the creation of the UNCT's Human Rights Theme Group (HRTG), which has now existed for more than two years. It is co-chaired by OHCHR and another UNCT entity on a rotating basis. The first co-Chair seat was ILO and in 2014 UNICEF took assumed these duties through the present time.

The HRTG has established an institutional platform for the agencies, funds and programmes of the UNCT to exchange information about human rights cases and trends. Although this has largely happened on an anecdotal basis to date, the HRTG has developed a plan for systematically compiling human rights information from across the UNCT in 2016 – which is an important testament to the sustainability of the HRM effort beyond the project timeline.

It bears mention that the UNCT in 2015 was a vocal advocate for multiple human rights issues. This was most notable with regard to a set of four legislative initiatives, that later were later passed into law by Parliament, called the Protection of Race and Religion laws. This legislation contained a number of elements that appeared to be discriminatory against some religious communities, particularly Muslims, as well as include provisions that undermine the rights of women. The UN pursued a vigorous advocacy campaign, using both private and public channels, to rectify the negative aspect of these laws. Although this advocacy was not led by HRTG, the HRM had helped contribute to an atmosphere in which the UNCT felt both obligated and empowered to bring these concerns forward. Moreover, the staff capacity-building on human issues (see Outcome 2) also contributed to the staff's ability to carry out well-founded advocacy efforts.

Outcome 2: UNCT and Government have strengthened capacity to apply human rights standards and tools in the policy development and programming process.

The HRM project played a significant role in strengthening the UNCT's capacity to apply human rights standards and tools in its policy development and programming processes. This contribution of the HRM project was made through the undertaking of a one-day training course for all UN staff in Myanmar on Human Rights Up Front. This training included an overview of basic human rights instruments and obligations, including the UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as Humanitarian Principles, Conflict Sensitivity and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Over the course of the

HRM project, more than 98% of the UN's 1,966 staff in Myanmar attended these training. A dedicated report on the Human Rights Up Front sensitization training has been included as an Annex.

It is important to point out that for many staff, particularly national staff, this was their first-ever structured exposure to human rights concept, and many said that they went into the training with a very limited understanding of these concepts. It is clear that there are limits to the number of concepts that can be imparted in a one-day training, and in this regard the HRM project undertook a "wide" rather than "deep" approach, opting to provide a limited training programme to virtually all staff. The limited resources and timeframes did not allow the HRM to undertake more in depth training or coaching on more advanced topics such as a gap analysis or Human Rights Based Approach. Such a wide approach appears to have been justified by the very limited understanding of human rights concepts across a broad cross-section of staff – which clearly has repercussions on how staff understand and react to different policy and on-the-ground situations.

The HRM one-day training effort and its findings about staff knowledge and attitudes has prompted the HRTG to develop an initial plan for more diversified training of staff in 2016. This diversified training would include a basic training, similar to the one-day training, for an incoming new staff recruited to UNCT agencies, funds and programmes. A second tier, aimed at mid-level managers, will be multi-day in duration and offer detailed explanations of main human rights concepts. A third tier, for senior managers, will focus on periodic seminars that explore challenging or complex human rights issues. In this regard, the HRM has helped the UNCT to better understand the capacity-building needs of its staff, and use the HRTG to formulate a viable plan for addressing such needs.

Outcome 3: Strengthened engagement by the UNCT, Government, civil society and other stakeholders to advance the implementation of the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures, the treaty bodies and other monitoring mechanisms of the UN system

The HRM project facilitated a strengthened engagement of the UNCT on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. In March 2015, the UNCT made a consolidated set up recommendations (see Annex) which constitute a coherent and consistent input into the UPR. This was an effort that was closely supported by the HRTG, and helped foster constructive and systematic discussion within the UNCT on a wide range of human rights issues.

Over the course of the HRM project, the HRTG successfully involved itself in advocacy and technical cooperation with Parliament, Government, donors, and civil society around draft legislation on registration of non-governmental associations. The HRTG was also fundamental in organizing an inter-active panel on Human Rights Day 2014, which brought together key speakers from state institutions, civil society and the UN around the theme that *Human Rights matter every day for everyone, everywhere*. This was the third time that the Human Rights Day was celebrated in Myanmar since 1998 and thus an important event not only for the importance of raising awareness on Human Rights, but also as a space for promoting inter-action and dialogue between the public and government officials, CSOs and the UN.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)
<p>Outcome 1⁸ UNCT has strengthened capacity to address critical human rights issues in Myanmar through sustained and focused public and private advocacy on jointly identified priorities</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>		
<p>Outputs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building / human rights prioritization exercises for UNCT Heads of Agencies and Deputies Establishment / revitalization of UNCT Human Rights working / theme group High-level human rights and development dialogues/roundtables with Government and civil society <p>Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Priority human rights issued identified jointly by UNCT, supported by HR working group Communication and advocacy plan on human rights priorities formulated and implemented, including align national legislation with human rights treaties formulated and implemented UNCT has successfully advocated for greater protection and promotion of human rights in at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HR theme group established Prioritization of human rights issues undertaken by the HR Theme Group and UNCT The UNCT, through the HR Theme Group, has actively supported the association law, amongst others, during its formulation The UNCT has actively advocated for protection and promotion of Human Rights, through the association law, the rights of Rohingya, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HR TG has been constantly monitoring upcoming legislations and other initiatives to coordinate inputs and comments. Since new legislations are coming up in a unpredictable manner, the TG considered it more effective to be closely monitoring this and respond as needed rather than develop an advocacy plan. The environment is highly fluid in Myanmar.

⁸ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>least one priority area</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. UN support to specific national laws, administrative reforms and policies concretized through on incorporation in relevant and UNCT identified priority programs and projects 5. Institutionalized UNCT mechanism for interagency coordination on human rights issues 			
<p>Outcome 2 UNCT and Government have strengthened capacity to apply human rights standards and tools in the policy development and programming process incl. the UNDAF 2015 -... and in national development policies and programmes</p>			
<p>Outputs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of the use of a Human Rights Based Approach in UN and Government policies and programmes 2. Capacity development (incl. Training of Trainers) on a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to policies and programming of UN senior programming staff and human rights focal points in Government 3. Networking with civil society advisory group for UN human rights programming <p>Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gap analysis and assessment of challenges and opportunities in mainstreaming the HRBA in programmatic practices drafted and agreed 2. Training/coaching plan (including add. budget if necessary for UNCT and staff on HRBA methods developed 3. Training/coaching plan fully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNCT has developed a Repositioning Strategy to replace the Strategic Framework 2012-2015 that is outdated due to the rapid political developments in Myanmar. The strategy is valid 2015-2017 and will be valid until the first UNDAF is developed, expected for 2018. • The UNCT and HR Theme Group are consistently monitoring upcoming laws and provide inputs and advocacy as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HR Theme Group and RCO carried out a one-day sensitization training for more than 98% of 1,966 UN staff in Myanmar, to raise knowledge /awareness in light of the Rights Up Front, in human rights, conflict-sensitivity/do-no-harm, humanitarian principles, etc. as a first step in internal capacity building. 	

<p>implemented within a two-year period</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Evaluation report on results of training/coaching on HRBA produced 5. Increase in joint or individual agency programs/projects that respond to HR concerns 6. UN support to specific national laws, administrative reforms and policies concretized through on incorporation in relevant and UNCT identified priority programs and projects 7. Civil society has commented and provided input on UNSF implementation 			
<p>Outcome 3 Strengthened engagement by the UNCT, Government, civil society and other stakeholders to advance the implementation of the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures, the treaty bodies and other monitoring mechanisms of the UN system</p>			
<p>Outputs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutionalization of UN-Government coordination in the field of human rights through a network of human rights focal points in Government ministries, Parliament, judiciary and other relevant institutions, including the MNHRC 2. Capacity development on UPR for human rights focal points in Government, with UNCT and civil society <p>Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted UNCT support carried out to prepare Government and civil society for UPR 2015 process and implement UPR recommendations, concluding observations of treaty bodies and recommendations of special procedures 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under outcome 3, the UNCT compiled a UPR submission report. Activities supporting the government and CSO to complete their reports is being facilitated. 	-U

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. UNCT has prepared its own UPR input to stakeholder report 3. Monitoring and reporting system on implementation of treaty body obligations improved by Government and UPR 4. At least one thematic special procedure visit to the country 5. Progress in process of ratification of one additional core treaty 6. Civil society engagement in UPR, TB and SP monitoring, reporting and implementation processes institutionalized 		
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iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

There has not been an evaluation undertaken of the HRM project, as such, but there has been structured feedback on the central component of the HRM effort, the one-day Human Rights Up Front Sensitization training given to virtually all UN staff in Myanmar. This feedback is detailed in Appendix II of the training report (in Annex). Key elements include:

- 49% of the participants found that Human rights session is most valuable followed by conflict sensitivity/Do no harm session with 23% and the remaining sessions, PSEA and Humanitarian Principles with 15% and 12% respectively.
- 57% of the participants mentioned that they want more time for conflict sensitivity/Do no harm session and the remaining participants mentioned they would like more time for human rights (26%), Humanitarian Principles (10%) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (7%).
- 99% of participants liked the methodology on how the session were delivered.

Other feedback trends include the following suggestions:

- Training should be expanded to include government officials, CSO's and international partners
- Training was very short time/, and future efforts should be longer in duration.
- The trainings should be conducted annually or at least once in every two years
- Avoid using sensitive examples(e.g: Rohingya)
- Training very theoretical, and other approaches required to help change attitudes and values

iv) A Specific Story/Photos (Optional)

The dedicated report on Human Rights Up Front Sensitization training includes multiple photos from the sessions.