

**Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine**  
**PROGRAMME NARRATIVE REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: FROM Jan 2019 TO Dec 2022**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: <b>Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine</b></li> <li>Programme Number: <b>00104308</b> (UNDP Project ID)  <b>00114697</b> (UN Women Project ID)  MPTF Office Project Reference Number: <b>00115407</b> (Output ID)</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</b></p> <p><i>Country/Region</i>  <b>Myanmar / Asia and the Pacific</b></p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i>  <b>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.</b></p>																												
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme  <b>UNDP, UN Women</b></li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National counterparts (government, private, NGOs &amp; others) and other International Organizations  <b>As detailed in the report</b></li> </ul>																												
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<p align="center"><b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b></p> <p>Evaluation Completed  No  Evaluation Report  No</p>	<p align="center"><b>Report Submitted By</b></p> <p><b>UNDP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Adnan Cheema</li> <li>Title: Deputy Resident Representative</li> <li>Email address: adnan.cheema@undp.org</li> </ul> <p><b>UN Women</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Karin Fueg</li> <li>Title: Country Representative, UN Women Myanmar</li> <li>Email address: karin.fueg@unwomen.org</li> </ul>																												

## Abbreviations

4W	Who, What, Where, and When
AA	Arakan Army
AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BNFs	Beneficiaries
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBI	Cash-Based Interventions
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDM	Civil Disobedience Movement
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CERP	COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan
CMC	Camp Management Committee
CoP	Community of Practice
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPRP	Country Preparedness and Response Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCA	Finn Church Aid
FS	Fresh Studio
FY	Fiscal Year
GAD	General Administration Department
GB	Great Britain
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVCWG	Gender-Based Violence Coordination Working Group
GEEWG	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
GLP	Gender Leadership Programme
GoM	Government of Myanmar
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
GTWG	Gender Thematic Working Group
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HDI	Human Development Initiative
HDPN	Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus
HLP	Housing, Land and Property
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group

ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IGA	Income-Generating Activity
ILF	International Legal Foundation
ILO	International Labour Organization
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
iPG	Institute for Peace and Governance
JP	Joint Programme
LASP	Legal Aid Service Provider
LCM	Legal Clinic Myanmar
LLH	Livelihood
LRF	Livelihood Recovery Forum
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAF	Myanmar Armed Forces
MARA	Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements
MC	Mercy Corps
MDF	Management for Development Foundation
MERRP	Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan
MHF	Myanmar Humanitarian Fund
MIDO	Myanmar ICT for Development Organization
MMK	Myanmar kyat
MNCW	Myanmar National Committee on Women
MOALI	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation
MoHS	Ministry of Health and Sports
MP	Member of Parliament
MSDP	Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan
MSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement
N/A	Not Applicable
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSPAW	National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women
OD	Organizational Development
PCM	Project Cycle Management
POVAW	Prevention of Violence Against Women
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSEA	Protection Against Sexual Abuse
PSN	Person with Special Needs
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organization
Q	Quarter
QIP	Quick Impact Project
RABP	Rakhine Area-Based Programme
RAFT	Respect, Accountability, Fairness, Transparency
RCA	Rapid Care Analysis
RCO	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
RLAB	Rakhine Legal Aid Board

RNA	Rapid Needs Assessment
RoL	Rule of Law
RSG	Rakhine State Government
S4T	Savings for Transformation
SDD	Solar Dryer Dome
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SIYB	Start and Improve Your Business
SMS	Short Message Service
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
SSID	Small-scale Industries Department
SWM	Solid Waste Management
TDLG	Township Democratic Local Governance
TDMC	Township Disaster Management Committee
TOR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TPIC	Township Planning and Implementation Committee
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund [formerly United Nations Fund for Population Activities]
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USD	United States dollar
VSC	Village Steering Committee
W/VTA	Ward/Village Tract Administrator
WASH	Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene
W-CSO	Women-Civil Society Organization
WEDO	Women's Environment & Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WLO	Women-Led Organization
WRO	Women's Rights Organization
YCDN	Youth and Community Development Network

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ‘Women’s Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine’ Programme has made significant strides towards empowering women and fostering resilient communities in Rakhine, Myanmar. This final programme report is an inclusive assessment of programme results. Where relevant, this report 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.

The JP sought to work along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Rakhine state by empowering vulnerable segments of the population, especially conflict-affected women, and enhancing their resilience. Both agencies have built upon their pre-existing work in Rakhine and have created synergies between their interventions to provide impact at scale.

The COVID-19 pandemic shaped the joint programme (JP) from 2020, with wide-ranging implications for both programme activities on the ground and the population’s shifting priorities. However, the military takeover of the civilian government on 1 February 2021 had an even more drastic effect.

The UN Country Team (UNCT), in conjunction with the Headquarters-based Permanent Monitoring Group on Myanmar, developed the common guidelines for managing the UN’s work in the country under the current context. The guidelines, which are a living document to be reviewed and updated as the situation evolves, urge the UN to focus on life-saving humanitarian assistance and COVID-19 health responses as well as programming that directly benefits the population of Myanmar. UN Women and UNDP conducted a programme review after the military takeover to suggest pivoted interventions to project partners. UN Women and UNDP submitted and agreed respective programme review documents with Canada and Germany that outlined how programming was adjusted/pivoted in line with the UN’s Engagement Principles.

Nonetheless, while looking back at a turbulent period, the RABP made progress in meeting the needs of communities in Rakhine by:

- Contributing to improving the quality of and access to a **more inclusive and gender-aware justice system**, with 11,832 direct beneficiaries (6161 women) representing 52% benefiting from legal awareness training, legal assistance, and land registration support.
- Facilitating partnerships to strengthen **community capacity to build trust and reduce conflict while increasing resilience** through livelihood interventions (reaching more than 140,000 people), including the distribution agriculture and fishery inputs to around 10,000 vulnerable households.
- Supporting the recovery from flooding disasters of 33 villages across four townships, four urban wards, and six IDP camps, for a total of 3,291 households and 16,455 beneficiaries.
- Implementing eight quick impact projects (QIPs)<sup>1</sup> in 58 villages of Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships and supporting income-generating activities (with 35,000 beneficiaries) in northern Rakhine, contributing to setting conditions conducive for the **eventual return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)**.
- Implementing two IDP pilot projects, supporting 58 households return to their original house-plots, and IGA to 2,481 beneficiaries (covering both IDP and host communities).
- Supporting numerous community consultations and **providing extension services as well as direct support, agriculture inputs and vocational training** for hand-sanitizer production to 3,500 of the most vulnerable households in target townships, under the livelihood’s component.
- **Raising awareness in Northern Rakhine** with UNHCR and distributing COVID-19 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to 40 villages. In Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships, 5,939 households (comprising 29,930 individuals) in 48 villages were provided with mask-making kits, each producing 20 cloth masks, along with information on how to use a face mask safely. PPE support was also provided to local CSOs supporting COVID response.

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<sup>1</sup> In collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and supported by Japan.

- Raising additional awareness on **preventative measures and the gender implications of the pandemic** alongside distribution of dignity kits to 18,678 women and girls in 8,142 households from six IDP communities, and hygiene kits to 2,110 households from eight villages in Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U and Sittwe townships. A further 2,443 households in three IDP camps received hygiene kits.
- **Enhancing leadership capacities and skills** to contribute to gender-responsive policies and projects in Rakhine State reaching a cumulative total<sup>2</sup> of 2,910 women.
- Supporting a cumulative total of 9,998 women to have **better access to income security, decent work, and economic opportunities** through provision of skills and resources in climate-resilient agriculture, agri-entrepreneurship, weaving and handicrafts, and business development in Rakhine State.
- Training 44 women in tailoring through UN Women’s livelihood component to produce and sell nearly 100,000 masks, managing to **generate income for themselves and their families** during this particularly challenging economic time.

The critical elements of the programme included its focus on restoring livelihoods, capacity-building, and skill development, particularly for women. The programme’s efforts to alleviate the care burden of women and its innovative approach to social cohesion are also noteworthy. The lake restoration efforts, which directly benefit women and girls, further underscore the programme’s commitment to women’s empowerment.

## I. Purpose

The ‘Women’s Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine’ Programme is a significant initiative aimed at fostering peace, inclusivity, and empowerment in Rakhine, Myanmar. Implemented by UNDP and UN Women, the programme focused on restoring livelihoods, particularly for women, and strengthening social cohesion in the region. It has undertaken a range of projects, including capacity-building, skill development, and lake restoration efforts, which have directly benefited thousands of families. The programme also piloted new approaches to social cohesion work, based on detailed analyses of the conflict context in Rakhine and consultations with relevant stakeholders.

Per the Joint Programme Document, the main objectives of the programme were:

1. To establish a supportive environment that increases women’s access to and control over financial resources and new sources of income for promoting their leadership and participation outside household duties. This objective is measured by the number of women with increased knowledge on solutions to addressing barriers they face, including through ICT innovation, business development, and entrepreneurship. The baseline was 416 women, with a target of 1,200 women.
2. To conduct routine inquiries on important issues for more effective legislative and oversight work, involving the public in decision-making. This included the initiation of a pilot inquiry in Rakhine State Hluttaw and capacity-building for inquiry support.
3. To ensure that Hluttaw has effective evidence-based processes for reviewing budgets and overseeing government expenditure. This included support to budget review for FY2020/21.
4. To enhance Hluttaw members’ skills and access to quality data to effectively represent their constituents, including women. This involved the development of a constituency development programme and skills training on Rule of Law (RoL), local governance, and other topics.

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<sup>2</sup> This indicates the overall total number of beneficiaries from the start of the RABP in 2018 to the end of this reporting period.

5. To ensure that Hluttaw's administration conducts public outreach and education to constituents and provides quality services to MPs in line with their needs. This included the development of a Rakhine State Hluttaw outreach plan and constituency profiles.

The expected outcomes of the programme included:

1. The initiation of an organizational development programme for selected CSOs, which played a central role in building trust and reducing tensions.
2. The provision of advisory services that accompany the implementation of community-driven gender-responsive solutions that foster social cohesion, resilience, and interdependence. This included the selection of a technical partner for community-driven gender-responsive solutions and the provision of technical assistance in these solutions.
3. The support of upstream work on women-driven community cohesion processes, including highlighting best practices to inform donor policy, creating strategic alliances for policy dialogue and advocacy with Government and development partners. This involved preparing policy briefs/discussion papers and organizing participatory review and reflections workshops on best practices on community-led gender-responsive initiatives.
4. The drawing of lessons from the Rakhine experience on proven community-led gender-responsive initiatives that reduce tensions and build trust to inform further initiatives in the state and in other areas in conflict. This included undertaking assessments and organizing lessons learnt workshops with implementing partners and government counterparts.

## **II. Assessment of Programme Results**

### **i) Narrative reporting on results:**

While highlighting the progress made in Rakhine towards achieving the JP outcomes and outputs, this section places emphasis on the programmatic adjustments undertaken to align with the twin crises situation that unfolded in Myanmar during the implementation period. On the attribution of results, it should be noted that results achieved build on a 12-month project funded by Japan (April 2018–March 2019), which focused on establishing trust among key stakeholders and piloting the JP approach, which enabled the strengthening of working relationships with the State, subnational authorities, and civil society through the implementation of multisectoral activities across 15 townships. Furthermore, experiences gained under the JP in Rakhine allowed its successful expansion to Kachin State alongside continued support to Rakhine by Japan in Phase 3 (April 2020–September 2021).

The section underlines how results were achieved through the coordinated approach of the JP: (i) from the donors' perspective, complementary funding by Canada, Germany and Japan was flexible enough to adapt to evolving needs and challenges; and (ii) from the participating United Nations organizations' (PUNOs) contributions, UN Women's work on gender-responsive governance, women's leadership and civil society strengthening complemented UNDP's legal and institutional work to ensure that government programmes and services were inclusive of and accessible to women in Rakhine. Where relevant, area-specific aspects are highlighted. Some measures of achievements are attributable to the joint efforts of UNDP and UN Women; however, sections follow the structure given in the Programme Document.

### **Contextual Background:**

**Armed conflict in Rakhine State and military takeover** –Fighting in Rakhine between the Arakan Army (AA) and Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) significantly impacted implementation. In 2021, there were relatively minor clashes in Rakhine, but the country was severely affected by the 1 February Military takeover. The military detained democratically elected political leaders and transferred all legislative, executive, and judicial powers to itself. The military takeover, which represents a significant setback for Myanmar's

transition towards democracy, fundamentally changed the dynamics of the peace process and has created considerable uncertainty with regards to Myanmar's future development trajectory.

**COVID-19 pandemic** – The impact of COVID-19 was significant. Despite precautionary measures, COVID-19 profoundly affected Myanmar in general and Rakhine in particular, especially in 2021, with mortalities in the many thousands. JP project activities were restricted as part of the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. This limited the capacities of project teams and Implementing Partners (IP) to move within project areas and engage with communities. The military takeover in February placed further restrictions on travelling.

With the growing complexity of the Rakhine context, and the implications for development and humanitarian actors on the ground, continued efforts were required to manage and respond to the rapidly changing circumstances.

Informed by regular programme criticality assessments and consequent adjustments in working modalities, the JP made efforts 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 (up to January 2021); (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 and girls, including those from conflict-affected villages and IDP camps, to engage in community resilience initiatives through enhanced leadership skills training, new livelihood options (including women's enhanced financial inclusion and entrepreneurship capacity to advance their economic empowerment), and identifying and orienting IPs dedicated to the improvement of women's lives. Women's contribution to gender-responsive policies and projects was enhanced by: improving women's leadership skills; increasing the collective voice and power of women to change adverse gender norms; engaging women's CSOs, other groups and leaders in formal and informal institutional mechanisms to inform policy-making and public service delivery; and building trust between women from different communities and professional sectors, including between women from civil society and the RSG, through dialogues and sharing and learning exchanges. The JP also strengthened the international/national/local stakeholder platform to coordinate programming across the humanitarian–development–peace (HPD) nexus in Rakhine.

- **Outputs:**

**Outcome 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.**

**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**

Up until 1 February, the JP focused on enhancing planning and budgeting capacities of subnational government institutions in an inclusive and transparent manner to contribute to SDGs and the goals of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). Over 20 infrastructure and one vocational training course benefited more than 100,000 people in Rakhine State. An Impact Assessment, conducted in 7 townships where grant-based infrastructure support was implemented, highlighted positive aspects such as improved access to public services; enhanced mobility leading to economic opportunities and increased community income, and 3) strengthened collaboration between the community and township authorities.

Surveys conducted after 1 February 2021 including a Household Vulnerability Survey (2021), and a Human Development Initiative Stocktaking Survey provided recommendations and lessons learned for future programming, including the design of UNDP's new medium-term programme for Myanmar.



The JP contributed to integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction considerations into local development planning in the five townships of Gwa, Manaung, Ramree, Thandwe and Tounoup. After 1 February, the support was shifted towards the recovery of highly vulnerable communities affected by the July 2021 floods in 41 villages across the 5 townships. The JP also strengthened local civil society capacity for enhanced disaster preparedness, including through the planting of 150 local plant species and 140 mangrove seedlings by the local communities as part of the community awareness programme on nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction

Several interventions were initiated to enhance the capacity of the Rakhine State Hluttaw (Parliament) in setting policies, drafting legislation, and performing effective oversight of government budgeting and expenditure. These included a report of the enquiry into seed improvements developed based on written submissions and a pre-pandemic hearing in Ponnagyun, and an induction programme planned for the new Rakhine State Parliament, in early February after the 2020 elections. The programme focused on professional development for the Speaker, Committee Chairs, and all MPs, covering representation, legislation and oversight responsibilities and cross-cutting themes such as gender equality, inclusion, and evidence-based policy development. The induction programme was also supported by pre-induction staff training to ensure that the Hluttaw staff had the skills and knowledge to assist MPs to effectively take up their positions in the new Hluttaw. However, these interventions were suspended following the military takeover. The community-based dispute resolution mechanism helped resolve over 100 disputes.

**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**

Under this output, support included: provision of legal services; raising awareness of rights in law through a variety of media products; establishment of two community paralegal centres to facilitate outreach to ethnic minorities living in remote areas and supporting paralegal networks; and conducting thematic virtual and in-person paralegal peer legal knowledge sharing sessions and workshops.

Legal aid organizations raised awareness and provided assistance on housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and criminal defence reaching 6,895 beneficiaries (which included 3,695 women). In addition, legal awareness and counselling sessions, mediation, mobile legal aid services and hotlines resulted in support for 1,736 individuals on issues related to GBV, HLP and land registration.

Legal awareness-raising activities through social media, printed materials, educational videos reached 546,397 viewers. Several capacity building initiatives strengthened the capacities of law students and graduates in legal skills. Two community paralegal centres opened in Mrauk-U and Thandwe is enabling outreach to more ethnic minorities living in remote areas in central and southern Rakhine.

Organizational capacity assessments and trainings conducted for UNDP's partners resulted in their enhanced capacities for better governance, financial and operations management, strategic planning, and programme management to enable them to produce their own internal policies and engender organizational sustainability.

PPE and home care packages that included essential medicines, blood pressure monitors, oximeters etc. were provided for the safety partner organization staff. Additionally, ancillary phones and power banks were also provided for key UNDP staff to enable travelling and safely communicate with clients as a precautionary measure. Printers and cartridges were also provided for staff to be able to conveniently work from home during the COVID period.

**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**

Under this output, the JP aimed to support the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households in 43 village tracts across six townships, with a particular focus on women and vulnerable groups. It made significant contributions to State Departments by supporting the training of agricultural officers and building trust and social cohesion between government departments and farmers. The livelihood support reached over 95,000 rural beneficiaries from all ethnic groups in 84 villages across four townships. The activities included agricultural and fishery extension training, women leadership capacity-building, provision of agriculture and fishery-related livelihood assets, and supporting market linkages development. By end of the JP, direct support benefited 6,624 vulnerable farmers and fishers, including over 11% women and 23% minority religious populations.

The project also established an inclusive community platform, the Livelihood Recovery Forum (LRF), to support planning and coordination at the community level. The LRF contributed to behavioural change and enhanced participation of the beneficiaries. The platform enabled interactions between marginalized communities and local authorities, with 476 community LRF members participating in 35 LRF meetings and consultation joint meetings.

To support the successful implementation of the project, UNDP's IP, Mercy Corps provided technical assistance and capacity-building support to local implementing partners. This included 12 training modules through 19 training days to 193 trainees from local CSO partners. Additionally, its second IP, MDF Asia Myanmar delivered tailored organizational development capacity-building trainings to each CSO of RoL and LLH projects, strengthening the organizational capacities of five CSOs.

The project also supported the construction of seven large greenhouse-type solar dryer dome (SDD) facilities for farmers and fishers in project village tracts in Pauktaw and Ponnagyun townships. These facilities supported value-added processes for agricultural and fisheries production and served as focal points for market linkages.

Until 1 February 2021, UNDP worked closely with the established working group of officials from various departments to align livelihood support activities with pandemic response priorities. Through machinery provisions, 6,854 committee and user members of hand tractors and threshers in four townships, and 301 committee and user members of solar dryer domes in two townships were benefitted by the UNDP livelihood project.

As part of the COVID-19 response, the UNDP livelihood project explored a possible opportunity for targeted distribution of livelihood assets and benefited 5,245 farmers who received seeds and fertilizers for home gardening. A further 1,600 fishers benefited from fishing nets and crab traps to preserve livelihoods and food security.

The livelihoods component also developed and delivered a capacity-building programme for comprehensive technical and managerial capacity-development of MOALI staff. The capacity-building programme was suspended on 1 February 2021 and was refocused towards capacity-strengthening of CSO partners and their relevant staff. As a result, participants increased their knowledge by an average of 31% in technical knowledge and 39% in managerial knowledge.

The Social Cohesion pilot was developed based on the UNDP's 2019 Conflict and Peace Analysis report. The pilot aimed to explore new approaches complementary to its social cohesion work. Despite a delay of implementation of piloting projects due to the military takeover, UNDP explored existing issues between communities and how communities solved issues in a peaceful and mutually beneficial manner. The pilot also conducted a mapping exercise during the rapid needs assessment in Northern Rakhine to better understand the situation and identify potential pilot sites. The implementation strategy, including the methodology for needs assessment and initial activities, was drafted and is in the process of being approved.

**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**

Eight rounds of Rapid Needs Assessments conducted in more than 173 locations with over 3000 focus group discussions with community members, and consultations with 4,000 persons, resulted in the identification and design of 154 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) of which 95 QIPs were approved for implementation, with 65 technically completed, 30 on-going. During the implementation period, the QIPs, implemented in 58 locations in Maungdaw and Buthidaung, contributed to restored livelihoods and well-being of over 35,000 individuals, and increased family income by 66%.

The beneficiaries benefited from income-generating activities (IGAs): such as home gardening, livestock rearing (goat/chicken and pig), small business start-ups, foodstuff production, vocational skills training on tailoring, masonry and carpentry, welding, and auto motorbike mechanics. Vocational skills trainings for women and youth helped reduce unemployment levels from 84% to 4% and promoted interactions and social cohesion among community members and between communities. 38 Village Steering Committees (VSCs) were established to support planning and monitoring of livelihoods activities and of which 50% of its members are women.

Additionally, 807 families in the Tha Yet Oke village tract were supported with fuel-efficient cook stoves and waste management tools contributing to a 50% reduction in household fuel wood consumption and decreased smoke emissions from traditional cookstoves. Community waste management was enhanced through the installation of 232 dustbins at local shops and community gathering locations; waste disposal bins in six schools; mobile garbage bins in 20 public locations; and distribution of four pushcarts and four iron drums were distributed to the local waste-management working committee. These were complemented by environmental conservation awareness and waste management trainings that covered 355 individuals from five villages in Maungdaw North and Buthidaung, and 255 families in Let Thar village, Buthidaung.

Social cohesion was strengthened through inter-communal exchange and joint projects, supporting beneficiaries to interact and collaborate in greater harmony. These activities primarily took the form of livestock sales, vocational skills training, small business and trade, skilled labour exchange, etc.

Implementing two IDP pilot projects, UNHCR provided shelter support to 58 households returning to their old house-plots, water holes and road renovations, while UNDP provided livelihoods support to 496 families, benefitting 2,481 individuals in six villages of Nyaung Chaung and Pa Din village tracts, Maungdaw (covering both IDPs and members from host communities).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP and UNHCR conducted public health campaigns in 40 villages. The campaigns provided mask-making kits to 5, 939 households (comprising 29,930 individuals) in 48 villages within Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships, including PPE items support to Buthidaung and Maungdaw hospitals and three local CSOs supporting the COVID-19 response.

**Outcome 2: Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience and inclusive growth and development in Rakhine State <sup>3</sup>**

The JP focused on enabling conflict-affected and vulnerable women improve their resilience and participation in decision-making and inclusive development in their local communities. This was achieved through strategies such as supporting the development of women's leadership and advocacy skills, strengthening women's civil society networks, and enhancing women's entrepreneurship and access to livelihoods through

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<sup>3</sup> 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).

supporting their business development capacity, access to finance, and specific skills in climate resilient agriculture and the weaving and handicrafts industries. Under this outcome, there was also a component on developing an enabling environment for women's participation and empowerment by engaging men, boys, and the broader local community, facilitating CSO engagement on government policies, and fostering a gender-responsive policy and coordination environment by building expertise on gender-responsive budgeting/planning and Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA).

Through this outcome, 2910 women from 6 IDP camps in Rakhine and 16 villages from Sittwe, Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U and Pauk Taw Townships in Rakhine State have enhanced capacities and skills. It contributed to some extent of behaviour change among the target beneficiaries both from the camps and villages. Target beneficiaries were more confident than before, they could step forward to discuss their needs and claim their rights bravely. Women are going out and working to support their family incomes as they are aware that they will be more respected by supporting incomes like men. Men engaged more in families by helping in housework by cooking and caring for babies since they were aware housework must be respected even if they are not paid. Male champions supported changing the men's attitude toward respecting women and violence against women reduced in the camps and villages as a result. Literacy training for target beneficiaries was found to be as contributing factor to enhancing women's empowerment by reading books and accessing more job opportunities after they can read and write.

**Output 2.1.<sup>4</sup> 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**

### **Women's leadership and participation**

The Gender Leadership Programme (GLP) made significant strides in fostering women's leadership in villages and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps across four townships in central Rakhine. In 2019, four GLP alumni were elected to IDP Camp Management Committees (CMCs), a domain previously dominated by men. This election marked a significant recognition of their leadership skills by their communities. The GLP alumni have also demonstrated their leadership and mobilization skills by engaging constructively with village leaders to conduct activities without external support<sup>5</sup>. Village-based GLP alumni managed mini-grants and led community projects that benefitted 420 people directly and 7,174 people indirectly. These projects included upgrading village libraries to support girls' education and constructing fences and bridges to protect water sources from pollution.

The GLP have been instrumental in cascading skills and knowledge to other women and community members, creating conditions for greater participation and decision-making by women. A total of 2,344 women increased their leadership skills through multiplier trainings conducted by GLP alumni. These trainings covered topics such as sex and gender, gender roles, CEDAW and NSPAW, leadership skills, and self-reflection. UN Women established 'Women's Clubs' in six IDP camps to nurture women's leadership and networks and provided additional basic literacy trainings to 36 GLP graduates from the camps. The clubs have had eight meetings during the implementation period, and attracted approximately seven participants each, including women and men.

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<sup>4</sup> The activities of Output 2.1 under the Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine JP and Output D2.2 under the Project for Strengthening Recovery and Development Assistance in Support of Durable Solutions in Rakhine and Kachin States JP are cost-shared by funding from the Governments of Canada, Germany, and Japan.

<sup>5</sup> Final Report of implementing partner Oxfam GB, *Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine* (Sep 2019-Dec 2021) submitted in January 2022.

A participatory Rapid Care Analysis (RCA) conducted in target villages and IDP camps in the four target townships involved focus group discussions at the community level on the nature of women's care work. As a result of the RCA, five village projects with the aim of providing local solutions to women's care burden were supported. These included building a childcare centre out of bamboo, constructing a protective fence around the lake<sup>6</sup>, distributing plastic buckets to households<sup>7</sup>, and lake restoration efforts<sup>8</sup>.

The programme also focused on male engagement and encouraged the development of positive masculinities. A total of 25 men from villages in central Rakhine and IDP camps in Sittwe trained as male champions of gender equality organized dialogue sessions to share their learning with others in their communities. The Male champions played a key role alongside the GLP alumni in carrying out gender-responsive COVID-19 prevention outreach via the '16 Days of Activism' advocacy campaigns, as well as in facilitating participatory Rapid Care Analyses in their communities.

## **Gender-responsive COVID-19 prevention and response**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a rapid response initiative was implemented to support women, girls, and households in IDP camps and host communities in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, and Mrauk-U. A total of 18,678 women and girls from 8,142 households and 2,110 households comprising 5,272 female and 4,645 male members received dignity and hygiene kits<sup>9</sup>. Additionally, 2,443 households in three IDP camps who benefitted from agricultural assistance also received hygiene kits.

To support income generation during the economic challenges posed by the pandemic and contribute to COVID-19 preventive efforts, 44 women trained in tailoring produced and sold nearly 100,000 masks. Most of these masks were procured by humanitarian and development partners and distributed to vulnerable people in Rakhine.

A 'COVID-19 Prevention Measures and Gender Responsive Awareness Raising' curriculum developed and delivered to 124 IDPs from six camps and 36 villagers from Sittwe and Ponnagyun townships enabled participants to disseminate information on COVID-19 prevention in their local communities.

Outreach efforts related to COVID-19 provided 325 women, girls, men, and boys in camps and villages with information on the prevention of COVID-19 and GBV, and how to access support services. These efforts involved direct outreach, vinyl posters, distribution of pamphlets and personal protective equipment (PPE), and text messaging. The advocacy efforts were informed by survey research conducted to gauge women's understanding and experience of the COVID-19 crisis. The research was based on 246 interviews with women leaders and male champions in IDP camps and villages.

## **Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA): GiHA coordination and capacity-building.**

Significant strides in placing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) at the centre of humanitarian action in Myanmar were made. This was achieved through the development of resources for technical assistance on Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA), including the updated Myanmar Gender in

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<sup>6</sup> Constructing a protective fence precluded the entry of animals and thereby prevents water contamination (in the village of Nat Taungpyin in Pauk Taw township). This in turn helps villagers access clean water, which has a direct correlation to the workload of women.

<sup>7</sup> Distribution of plastic buckets in Thaywe village, Pauk Taw township helps women and girls store water and thus saves them time by reducing the burden of fetching water frequently during the day.

<sup>8</sup> Lake restoration efforts in two villages of Yar Chaung and Ahtet Myat Hlay in Ponnagyun township enables ready access to water by villagers. Women and girls, who disproportionately shoulder the cooking and washing responsibilities, directly benefit from these efforts.

<sup>9</sup> Hygiene kits contained towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, cleaning disinfectant, shampoo, bathing soap, laundry soap, carbolic soap bars as well as sanitary napkins.

Humanitarian Action Profile and 11 Gender Mainstreaming Checklists. The JP also strengthened GiHA coordination mechanisms and built the GiHA expertise of humanitarian workers in Rakhine through training sessions. Capacities of 30 participants from Women's Leadership Organizations (WLOs) and Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) working in humanitarian response, was enhanced contributing to their organization's humanitarian activities.

Through the GiHA work stream, it ensured that the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) was gender-responsive and supported the gender mainstreaming of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

With increased demand for gender expertise due to the escalating humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, the GiHA work stream was expanded to become a GiHA Community of Practice (CoP) with additional membership from UNHCR, UNOCHA, WFP, Gender Equality Network, OXFAM, CARE International, and ACTED. Lessons learned from the Rakhine GiHA CoP informed scale-up strategies of field-based GiHA CoPs in other humanitarian coordination hubs.

The JP also ensured technical support within the COVID-19 response, by contextualizing the IASC Gender Alert for COVID-19, with sector-specific recommendations for gender integration. UN Women and UNFPA developed gender guidelines and a code of conduct for safe COVID-19 quarantine spaces for women and children. These tools were used as reference documents by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in formulating volunteer worker guidelines for quarantine facilities.

A Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) was carried out for both Myanmar as a whole and in Rakhine State specifically, captured the changes in the realities of women and girls since the start of COVID-19. The RGAs have been cited and informed further projects, such as initiatives to include sex workers as a vulnerable group in the COVID-19 response work.

Lastly, the support under GiHA also extended to technical assistance to the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund's (MHF) review committee. UN Women reviewed the MHF Standard Allocation Strategy twice in 2020, with the purpose of strengthening its analysis and responsiveness. During several rounds of MHF fund allocations in 2020, 2021, and 2022, UN Women increased the gender responsiveness of MHF project proposals by reviewing several pre-selected proposals for their use of the Gender and Age Marker. This led to enhanced gender mainstreaming and gender-targeted actions throughout the project cycle of each proposal. UN Women also reached out to several organizations and provided additional support, including efforts to include three women CSOs from Rakhine in the initial due diligence assessment of OCHA for consideration of the MHF.

## **Civil Society Strengthening**

Significant results were achieved in strengthening the capacities of CSOs in Rakhine. A total 38 representatives from 17 CSOs, NGOs and WLO/WROs were trained resulting in enhanced capacities in inclusive participation, leadership and decision making in planning, implementation, and monitoring of GEWE. Strategies to end GBV in development and humanitarian settings were also strengthened.

UN Women also supported 15 local CSOs working on gender related issues in Rakhine, focused on skill development in advocacy, coordination, consensus building, facilitation, and the creation of spaces for human rights and gender equality. A further, 31 participants from 15 different local CSOs received training on bolstering women's rights and participation in leadership and peace processes.

Efforts to promote human rights awareness and understanding amongst Women-Civil Society Organization and other CSOs resulted in enhanced critical analysis skills of human rights situations for 22 representatives from 12 CSOs. Additionally, advocacy and communications skills of 41 participants from 20 CSOs were enhanced for advocating for gender equality and addressing human rights issues at various levels.

## **Output 2.2. 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 in the first years of the JP. UN Women's role as a convener of regular gender-related dialogues between the Rakhine State Government (RSG) and CSOs working on GEWE in Rakhine contributed to enhanced collaboration, information exchange and trust between participants in 2019-2020. A major result of this support was that, for the first time, five CSOs were invited by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) to attend the state MNCW meeting in May 2019 and to be standing invitees thereafter. However, after 1 February 2021, the engagement with DSW was discontinued.

The JP also contributed to significant results in capacity-building and institutional strengthening in the areas of fair trial standards and gender-responsive justice systems. Led by UNDP, capacity building initiatives contributed to enhanced skills of Legal aid providers on gender-inclusive legal aid provision and gender-responsive service delivery. The establishment of Legal Aid Boards in five townships were effective in improving access to justice, and the creation of the Rule of Law Coordination Body brought together representatives from government departments, the police, judiciary, private and state lawyers, and CSOs. It played a crucial role in improving coordination and knowledge sharing among the relevant departments. Community members also reported positive perceptions of these improvements. UNDP's engagement with the DSW at the national level contributed to advocating for women's increased representation in influential positions of authority. This initiative served as a platform for lobbying efforts, leading to the appointment of women in key positions, including the appointment of the first female Chief Justice in Myanmar, who was appointed in Rakhine State.

### **Annual dialogues between the government and CSOs**

Since the first Annual Dialogue organised by UN Women to facilitate policy dialogues between CSOs and the Rakhine State Government (RSG) in December 2018, these dialogues occurred yearly until the military takeover in 2021. The dialogues provided a platform for government departments and CSOs working on GEWE to discuss challenges and opportunities for strengthening women's participation and leadership. It contributed to enhanced RSG-CSO collaboration in the areas of humanitarian action, development, and social cohesion.

### **Gender-responsive budgeting in local governance**

Technical support provided to initiate gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) across government agencies at the national, state, and local levels enhanced the capacities of Township Planning and Implementation Committees (TPICs) and MNCW/Women's Committees across seven townships in the application of GRB to the government planning and budgeting cycle, and specifically to township projects implemented by the TPICs.

### **Engendering COVID-19 response policies**

An online 'Strategic Dialogue Forum' with seven CSOs and DSW in 2020 enhanced dialogue and civil society engagement on the gender-related aspects of humanitarian, development, and peace issues in Rakhine in the context of COVID-19 and contributed to an action plan between CSOs and the government (through DSW) to map the GEWE agenda in Rakhine and a decision to continue monthly dialogues.

UN Women - in collaboration with State DSW, the State and Township Women Committees, and 15 CSOs, including WROs and WLOs, recommended greater gender responsiveness in the new Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP) based on learning from the gender gaps in the government's 2020 Covid

Economic Relief Plan (CERP). The next step was to advocate with the Union Government for the reflection of these recommendations in the MERRP. However, after February 2021, all engagement, coordination and support to the union and state-level governments have stopped, and follow-up activities that were expected from both forums were placed on hold.

### **Strengthening Women CSOs in Rakhine to respond with essential basic dignity kits**

UN Women empowered and supported WEDO (W-CSO) to take initiative in responding to the essential needs of newly displaced women and girls who are residing in monasteries and IDP camps via the distribution of dignity kits. A total of 2,100 dignity kits were distributed to 1,556 women and girls in December 2022.

### **Women's leadership in local institutions**

During 2021, efforts to strengthen women's institutional leadership at the local level were increased. Specific capacity-building activities targeting women currently holding positions or aspire to hold positions on Camp Management Committees (CMCs) or Village Tract Administrations (VTAs) were carried out. 29 IDP participants (11 women currently on CMCs and 18 GLP alumni) were provided training in foundational principles of gender, power, women's leadership, as well as skills development related to communication, active listening, confidence-building and the roles and responsibilities of the CMC. Pre- and post-test results showed that 70% of participants demonstrated increased knowledge of the topics covered.

In the villages, UN Women supported capacity development for women aspiring to take up leadership in VTAs by collaborating with UNDP's Township Democratic Local Governance (TDLG) programme through a mutual implementing partner (Oxfam). A total of 15 GLP alumni from the villages were selected to attend the VTA leadership training, which covered topics such as Village Tract Administration law, functions of the local governance system, election campaign strategy for VTA members, CEDAW, NSPAW, and gender and women's rights. While the VTA elections were cancelled following the military takeover, several women who underwent the training remain committed to standing for VTA elections when the next opportunity arises.

### **Output 2.3.<sup>10</sup> 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**

A cumulative total of 9,998 women were supported to have better access to income security, decent work, and economic opportunity through provision of skills and resources in climate-resilient agriculture, agri-entrepreneurship, weaving and handicrafts, and business development in Rakhine State. After the twin crises, the most vulnerable women in communities in central Rakhine were also provided humanitarian support, including cash transfers to strengthen their livelihoods and food security. As part of fostering a supportive environment for women's empowerment, advocacy and outreach was conducted in local communities and specific events were held to sensitize policy makers and other stakeholders on issues of gender equality and women's empowerment.

### **Livelihood strengthening in climate-smart agriculture**

UN Women supported women's livelihood strengthening in climate resilient agriculture in Rakhine state in partnership with Mercy Corps through a peer-to-peer learning model. Assistance also included provision of inputs such as water pumps and small starter kits containing seed packs and seedling trays and facilitating market linkages to increase income generation.

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<sup>10</sup> The activities of Output 2.3 under the *Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine* JP and D2.1 under the *Project for Strengthening Recovery and Development Assistance in Support of Durable Solutions in Rakhine and Kachin States* JP are cost-shared by funding from the Governments of Canada, Germany, and Japan.



6,320 women, including from the IDP camps, were supported to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices. Vegetable and perennial crop production, vertical farming (in IDP camps), and System of Rice Intensification (SRI) (in the villages) were key practices adopted, and areas of capacity development included general concepts of climate-smart agriculture, compost production, fish amino acid production, seedling tray preparation, nursery management, land preparation, mulching, trellis preparation, nutrient management, pest and disease management, and food processing training. Due to limited land availability in IDP camps, assistance to IDP women focused on advanced vertical gardening, mushroom cultivation, and mushroom spore production (as mushroom cultivation is an effective way to provide nutritious food for household consumption and for meeting local market demands). Vegetable production training was also provided to selected women in the camps, although demonstration plots were located outside the camps. The assistance resulted in increased production, strengthened market linkages, and higher income among programme participants. UN Women's field monitoring visit to Thiri Thae village in June 2021 confirmed that women farmers who received the training and input support for cultivating vegetables and perennial crops reported income generation between 300,000-600,000 MMK<sup>11</sup> (depending on the size of the land owned). The women interviewed expressed satisfaction with the results of assistance received, both in terms of the agricultural skills and business knowledge they gained, as well as the increases in their monthly income<sup>12</sup>.

### **Livelihood strengthening in weaving and handicrafts**

The livelihood strengthening component on weaving and handicrafts was implemented in partnership with Finn Church Aid with the aim to ensure increased livelihood security and community resilience.

450 women artisans were directly trained to develop their skills in weaving and handicrafts production, which was then disseminated to a further 1,776 women. Specific areas of training included natural dying, fishing net production, business planning and enterprise development, quality control, innovative design, and digital marketing. Further, inputs and equipment were provided in the form of high-quality weaving looms, 56 sewing machines, and raw materials for producers. Among the beneficiaries, 393 women were selected to receive small grants in the amount of 120,000 MMK<sup>13</sup> to scale up their businesses. As reported under Output 2.1, 44 female textile entrepreneurs trained under this component produced 100,000 cloth masks. These masks, which were affordable and well-made, were sold to humanitarian and development partners based in Myanmar, such as UNOPS, World Bank, UNOCHA and Mercy Corps, who in turn included them in their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distributions to local communities. The production of cotton masks served a dual purpose of enabling these women artisans to contribute to the COVID-19 response efforts while sustaining their livelihoods during difficult economic conditions under the pandemic.

UN Women worked with 507 women (200 Rohingya and 307 Rakhine) who were previously involved in the first phase of the RABP (thereby building upon earlier skills-development endeavours) to start their own businesses and improve the quality of their weaving and handicrafts, while improving their leadership and cooperative business skills. Apart from assisting individual women, five cooperatives were established in the production areas of fishing net production, soap production, weaving and tailoring, benefitting 100 women artisans from both Rakhine and Rohingya communities. Another five women's cooperatives were established to provide a revolving seed fund (each with MMK 2.5 million<sup>14</sup>) to help women start businesses, which enable 470 women entrepreneurs to access finance.

According to an assessment conducted by Finn Church Aid with a sample of 100 women in Q2 of 2020<sup>15</sup>, around half of the sampled women beneficiaries trained in weaving and handicrafts in Sittwe and Ponnagyun

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<sup>11</sup> ~US\$143-\$286 at current exchange rates

<sup>12</sup> UN Women's field-monitoring visit to Thiri Thae village on 14 June 2021.

<sup>13</sup> ~US\$57 at current exchange rates

<sup>14</sup> ~US\$1,192 at current exchange rates

<sup>15</sup> This was an assessment conducted by UN Women's partner Finn Church Aid in Q2 of 2020, with the aim of ascertaining progress on the output on 'Women's skills, resources and access to market for weaving and handicrafts programmes are strengthened and

(two of the four townships in Rakhine where UN Women operates) reported gaining access to new markets. A total of 72 per cent of women surveyed stated that they were able to sell the products they produce, and 62 per cent of respondents reported an increase in income. UN Women's field monitoring visit to Thin Pone Nan village and Yoe Yoe Pyin village in June 2021 confirmed that the women who had undergone tailoring and weaving training reported increased income ranging from 150,000 to 240,000 MMK per month<sup>16</sup>. The women interviewed recounted how their husbands and families, who had previously prevented them from leaving the village to attend the training, changed their views and are now encouraging them to carry on their income-generating activities, showing the women more respect for their greater economic autonomy<sup>17</sup>.

## **Business development and financial inclusion**

The JP supported women's entrepreneurship development and financial inclusion by building the capacity of 1,956 women in 70 villages and four IDP camps in central Rakhine through the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training methodology. Based on a survey sample, 93 per cent of the women who took the pre- and post-tests following the SIYB training<sup>18</sup> displayed increased knowledge, skills, and self-reliance. These women also underwent six months of business development coaching and created business plans, following which 250 of the trained women received seed grants (each of 200,000 MMK<sup>19</sup>) to develop their businesses, and 30 women accessed the micro-finance services of Vision Fund - a financing partner formed during the programme. In addition, 74 Women's Advisory Groups for those who completed the SIYB training were formed in target communities to support women's entrepreneurship and knowledge exchanges, and 12 Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups were established with 173 members in 10 villages.

## **Humanitarian support to ensure livelihoods and food security**

In Q4 of 2021, UN Women repurposed part of the funding for humanitarian support to the most vulnerable women in Rakhine who were particularly hard-hit by economic conditions following the twin crises. The interventions focused on cash and livelihoods support with a view to enhancing food security, income generation, and dignity. This assistance builds upon the livelihood strengthening work implemented from 2019 to 2021 but was humanitarian in nature and in full alignment with the strategic objectives of the 2021 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) that aimed to build resilience of women and girls in central Rakhine amidst a multi-layered crisis heightened by COVID-19.

In partnership with Mercy Corps, UN Women provided e-cash support to 4,753 crisis-affected women and vulnerable farmers from 26 villages in the four townships of Sittwe, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Mrauk-U. From these, 4,741 vouchers were redeemed. From this total, 3,123 e-vouchers were distributed to vulnerable women<sup>20</sup> from non-farming households (among which 3,205 e-vouchers were redeemed) to enable them to buy food as well as non-food items of their choice to meet their basic needs and to reduce negative coping mechanisms. To vulnerable women farmers<sup>21</sup>, 1,540 e-cash vouchers were distributed (of which 1,536 were redeemed) to buy basic agricultural input needs at Mercy Corps' contracted vendors' shops in preparation for

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scaled up', specifically looking at the level to which the women applied the knowledge and skills gained from the training, and to what extent the training and support they received translated into increases in income and market linkages. The sample of 100 women was comprised of 60 women beneficiaries from Sittwe and 40 from Ponnagyun townships. The respondents who were surveyed received more than one training.

<sup>16</sup> Cf. The official poverty line in Myanmar is living below 1,590 kyats/day, which is 47,700 MMK per month. 150,000-240,000 MMK ≈US\$71.50-114.42; 1,590 kyats ≈US\$0.75; 47,700 MMK ≈US\$22.75.

<sup>17</sup> Views heard from women interviewed during UN Women's field visit to Thin Pone Nan village, Sittwe township on 9 June 2021 and Yoe Yoe Pyin village on 11 June 2021.

<sup>18</sup> 777 women out of 834 women (trained between December 2020 and January 2021) showed increased knowledge on business and financial knowledge according to pre- and post-tests. The test results of 114 participants who accomplished the SIYB training in February 2021 are yet to be finalised.

<sup>19</sup> ≈US\$95.33 at current exchange rates

<sup>20</sup> 65% of crisis-affected and vulnerable women belonged to ethnic minority groups

<sup>21</sup> 53% of vulnerable farmers belonged to minority groups

the winter 2021 and summer 2022 crop seasons. This support has strengthened the resilience of female farmers by improving local value-added processing and market access along the agricultural value chain. According to Mercy Corps' post distribution monitoring reports, 86% of the women supported with vouchers were able to buy farm inputs that enabled them to continue their farming activities, while 89% of recipients reported that the voucher had enabled them to meet their household basic needs. The voucher provision was also a significant source of income for contracted vendors, all of which were managed by women, as the vendors noted that the partnership had helped them to stay afloat during this particularly challenging economic time. As part of a COVID-19 prevention effort, hygiene kits (including masks) were distributed alongside the e-vouchers to 4,753 women, and information was disseminated on the importance of wearing masks, social distancing, vaccination, and regular hand washing.

Another intervention to improve food security through cash-based transfers was conducted in partnership with Finn Church Aid. Through this support, 3,615 vulnerable people (2,082 women and 1,533 men) from 22 different communities were assisted to enhance food security and promote resilience through cash for food distribution activities. In addition, building upon the support to weaving and handicrafts industries, efforts were made to promote market linkages and increase women's access to markets in the weaving and handicrafts sector. Under this support, small grants were provided to 100 women from 27 different communities after outreach sessions on marketing and entrepreneurship were delivered. Productive inputs were also provided to three women entrepreneurs to support the operationalization of their unique business plans. The small grants programme was made possible through three women's cooperatives (two in Rakhine and one in religious minority communities) established during 2020-2021 under the component on strengthening livelihoods in weaving and handicrafts. Further, under the assistance implemented in 2022, 139 women improved their knowledge and skills in financial management, soap and shampoo making and mask production training, which also serve to contribute to COVID-19 response efforts at the local level.

### **GEWE advocacy and outreach**

From 2019 to 2022, advocacy and outreach on GEWE was conducted in Rakhine, especially during International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism. Cumulatively, these campaigns and outreach events have reached close to 104,000 people in Central Rakhine over the period of the JP. The campaigns and events were organized both at the state and community levels in partnership with implementing partners, CSOs and the RSG. However, after 2021, collaboration with the government ceased, and since the pandemic, events have increasingly been held virtually. Over the years, the issues highlighted during the advocacy campaigns included social norms on gender, women and climate change, women's leadership and participation, gender-based violence, the economic impact of COVID on women, codification of the Prevention of Violence Against Women (POVAW) law, and women's economic autonomy and social protection.

Outreach and awareness raising have also been carried out as part of support activities for women's leadership. GLP alumni both in villages and IDP camps, joined by the male champions of gender equality, have worked over the years to shift deeply held patriarchal attitudes and beliefs. Approximately 10,000 people have been reached through their outreach efforts, and community awareness has improved on basic gender concepts and the importance of women's participation and leadership. Further, prior to the pandemic, 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.

Three Women's Evening events were organized from 2019 to 2022. These events brought together women from diverse backgrounds and different generations and social segments to network and share their

experiences, achievements, challenges, and opportunities. These constructive exchanges provided women opportunities to gain new knowledge and ideas, enabling them to build a broader network for future collaboration and mutual support.

Efforts were also made to bring awareness on specific legal issues relating to women, namely access to justice and HLP issues to policy makers, legal aid providers and other stakeholders. UN Women and UNDP together with UNFPA jointly organized a symposium on ‘Women’s Access to Justice’ in November 2019, and a two-day workshop on ‘Women, HLP and Inheritance Rights’ in February 2020 to discuss the challenges women encounter in their access to justice and how they can be better assisted. Valuable contributions were made by UN Women’s programme participants – women farmers and GLP alumni<sup>22</sup> - 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. These voices were crucial in identifying areas in need of reform and in support of advocacy to influence policy discourse in these areas. The events attracted more than 200 participants, including representatives of GAD, township and village tract administrations, law officers, police, civil society actors and development partners.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

### **The development of key partnerships**

The JP continuously strengthened and developed partnerships with key stakeholders and aimed to establish sustainable exchange platforms among key partners that foster collaboration as well as mutual trust and ownership between communities. With new priorities that emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic and the military takeover, new entry points were explored. This resulted in a collaboration with UNFPA on health, legal services, and psychosocial support, including a Rapid Assessment of COVID-19’s Impact to GBV Service Provision, and a noteworthy joint mission with OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, RCO to Kyauk Phyu for the camp closure strategy as part of the durable solutions core working group. In the IDP camps, UNDP and UNHCR collaborated to ensure that women’s rights under HLP issues were correctly dealt with. Women and girls in need of legal services when faced with GBV violations were referred by UNHCR and its partners to UNDP’s implementing partners for support.

### **Support to humanitarian and development coordination**

There was strong humanitarian and development coordination efforts throughout implementation. The RCO and UNDP co-chaired the Rakhine Coordination Group meetings and the Rakhine-based Durable Solutions Working Group. The RCO, UNHCR and OCHA provided coordination on the humanitarian front. To support the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, the JP actively led or took part in various thematic groups in the UNCT, including the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN) Work Stream, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment working group (GEWE), Gender Thematic Working Group (GTWG), MARA and the Gender based violence coordination working group (GBVCWG).

PUNOs also collaborated with WFP to ensure access to firewood in the IDP camps through the expansion of the latter’s fuel-efficient stoves programme to cover some of the camps that had not initially been targeted for the project.

### **A focus on gender**

COVID-19 crisis provided the opportunity to build the capacity of partners to promote gender equality in Myanmar and in Rakhine State while working online. JP provided data packages to help CSOs to remain engaged online.

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<sup>22</sup> 14 women farmers and 10 GLP alumni participated in these forums.

The JP advocated for the expansion of GBV services in non-humanitarian settings to strengthen coordination and partnerships. GBV prevention and response services capacity-building to partners enabling them to better respond to community needs, reached an estimated 70,430 women and girls. This was complemented by a GBV prevention and response SOP, translated into local languages to ensure that partners use it effectively. A Joint GBV safety Audit Plan, prepared to maximize coverage of GBV risk assessments ensured that no one was left behind, reaching the most vulnerable people in need of services.

The JP also contributed to the drafting of the Rakhine quarantine guidelines which were used in quarantine facilities, ensuring gender sensitivity was respected through ensuring that women had separate facilities to reduce chances of GBV in the centres. Contributions by the JP were also made towards the Draft Guidance on GBV in Cash-based interventions (CBI) in Rakhine State. The livelihood component, which has a CBI aspect, benefitted from the guidance note.

As ensuring that broader sectoral interventions are in place requires that services are implemented, the JP worked towards strengthening the referral pathway for GBV survivors by supporting access to the justice component. Using this network, GBV survivors in northern Rakhine were referred to legal aid service providers. This activity was implemented with WFP to ensure gender inclusion at the community level, and to find ways of ensuring the participation of men, women, boys and girls in both humanitarian and development programmes.

With UNFPA, a joint rapid assessment on COVID-19 impacts on GBV service provision was conducted and key findings shared with relevant partners. A Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) consultant was hired under the ‘rule of law and access to justice’ component to work with IPs in Rakhine to integrate GESI principles into their programming from early June 2020. This started with a review of the CSOs’ outreach materials and progressed to training sessions and mentoring on how to integrate GESI into planning, implementation, monitoring, etc. From 3–7 August 2020, 32 staff (19 women) of CSOs and legal aid service providers (LASPs) received training on integrating gender principles into HLP programming. According to pre- and post-training assessments, participants showed an increased understanding of gender issues in this context.

Among the numerous negative socio-economic implications of the triple crisis triggered by COVID-19 is an increase in GBV incidents compared with the pre-COVID-19 period. In collaboration with other UN agencies, UNDP contributed to the drafting of TOR for the PSEA working group in Rakhine as well as inputs for the PSEA compliance tracker to promote and undertake a joint tracking of PSEA minimum operating standards compliance. This helped meet the protection concerns of vulnerable groups in local communities. During 2021, the JP expanded its collaboration and partnerships and worked closely with UN Women and UNFPA on a joint initiative on strengthening civil society organizations to respond to humanitarian and development concerns in Rakhine. Further joint activities were undertaken in 2022. The JP also jointly supported the 16 days of Activism in 2021. In addition, the JP produced a ‘Gender, Political Participation and Conflict in Rakhine - Thematic’ paper to be better able to understand the gendered dynamics of conflict from a gender-responsive lens. The research on women’s access to HLP rights was completed and translated into English. An HLP guidebook to help inform HLP rights was drafted; to help strengthen HLP rights awareness, UNDP hired a HLP advisor.

Moreover, the JP worked closely with national partners on legal and policy frameworks to address GBV, and to support national capacities on access to justice and protection through multi-sectoral support and services. UNDP and UN Women made headway in linking legal aid services to women in villages and IDP camps, and once COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, supported IPs to access the camps and provide much-needed legal services. Women in conflict with the law continue to face difficulties in having their cases sped up due to COVID-related court closures. As part of the repurposed activities in the context of COVID-19, the JP supported the strengthening of referral pathways on GBV, legal, and health services to include new partners in Rakhine. To improve availability and accessibility of essential services for GBV survivors during the

pandemic, gaps, and challenges in GBV service provision needed to be assessed and suitable action identified. In this regard, UNDP collaborated with UNFPA on the rapid assessment of GBV essential services package provision in Myanmar, which was completed in July 2021. This provided a baseline and recommendations on how best to strengthen the essential services package in Myanmar. A gender-sensitive rapid socio-economic impact assessment conducted by the livelihood's component in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak in Rakhine assessed its negative impact on women's economic activities and provided recommendations for mitigation measures.

### **iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned**

The complex and rapidly changing environment in Rakhine posed numerous challenges to the implementation of the JP. Implementation was highly impacted by the wide-ranging implications of the COVID-19 outbreak and the military takeover, resulting in delays in activity implementation, as well as the introduction of new working modalities and programmatic repurposing to adapt to the evolving context. The situation in Rakhine was also strongly shaped by a fluid security context in relation to the military takeover.

#### **Implications of the military takeover**

While Myanmar continued to experience widespread and growing civil unrest, Rakhine remained relatively calm state. Nevertheless, the situation affected the partners' movement to the villages and IDP camps. Face to face training continued to be impossible, and hence all training became virtual and dependent on available internet.

The protests and associated strikes by the civil disobedience movement (CDM) have also caused disruptions to travel and supply chains, which exacerbated underlying issues. These also affected banking operations in Rakhine, with increasing difficulties for financial transactions and implementation.

#### **Implications of COVID-19**

Though the military takeover overshadows the implications of COVID-19, the pandemic had serious implications, especially in the summer of 2021 when there was an unprecedented amount of morbidity and mortality. These implications included:

- Access restrictions and consequent delays in activity implementation
- Limited capabilities and capacities to adapt to new working modalities
- Reputational risk/changing socio-ethnic dynamics
- Changing priorities triggered by COVID-19
- Challenging working environment for staff in field offices

#### **Lessons Learned and Good Practices**

The importance of close collaboration and exchange on experiences, challenges faced, lessons learned, and best practices became even more evident during these challenging times. The RABP's platform approach proved effective in addressing multifaceted and long-standing challenges and in coordinating initiatives and responses by key stakeholders. Some of the key lessons learned are:

- A risk management plan thoroughly spelling out alternative plans for business continuation in cases of military takeover and similar political changes and armed conflicts in Rakhine State for future project planning and implementation was needed.
- For components affected by the change in political context, such as township local governance, there should have been a well-designed exit strategy for project implementation at the township level from project inception.

- It was learned that proactive planning, coordination and collaboration among project staff and project implementation partners of local government at different levels including private sector construction contractors helped make the project successful.
- There is a need to strengthen capacity of local NGOs and CSOs, enhance partnership and upscale project implementation through national NGO/CSO engagement.
- Where possible, expand and include beneficiaries at a village tract level, to enhance community harmony and social cohesion. An ‘all of communities’ and ‘village tract’ approach for assessments and programming – in the spirit of building trust and ensuring conflict sensitivity – would be useful.
- Considering lingering disruptions to the local banking system, increased scrutiny of transactions by the Myanmar Central Bank, and a prolonged fund transfer process, the establishment of expedited project financing and fund transfer mechanisms from the PUNOs to IPs and RPs would increase success. These restrictions have ultimately led to delays in transferring funds from PUNOs to IPs and RPs. One such restriction that illustrates the additional constraints is Myanmar’s current Registration law, which imposes a criminal sanction for working with unregistered organisations. This sanction includes possible imprisonment for the members of that organisation. As a result, the PUNOs continue to explore alternative means of transferring money in a safe and secure way that does not put the IPs at risk. The lesson drawn is that the current political restrictions require more dexterity and resourcefulness – including direct funding mechanisms - by relevant parties to achieve expeditious funds transfers without jeopardising IPs and RPs. One possible solution mooted is the creation of fund transfer pathways that directly resource IPs and RPs, thereby obviating the additional layer of PUNOs and decreasing risks to all parties.
- **Gender transformative programming in Rakhine requires interventions that are concerted and long-term.** Implementing partners observed that it is difficult to address deep-set gender norms, harmful and inhibitive social practices, and simultaneously bring about sustainable impact that includes transforming gender roles through a one-year programme. Addressing structural challenges, particularly in areas such as women’s meaningful leadership and participation, and women’s economic empowerment, require long-term interventions. Strengthening women’s economic empowerment through the creation of micro-enterprises and small business involves multiple stages and sustained assistance - from business set-up and building specific skills, to providing financial literacy and marketing training, to analysing value chains and creating market linkages. Longer-term programming would allow for more concerted planning from the beginning, and with respect to agricultural assistance, it would also enable the seasonality factor to be considered.
- **Promoting social cohesion and an active role for women along the value chain are key elements of a holistic approach to women’s economic empowerment in Rakhine.** UN Women’s livelihood assistance worked to strengthen social cohesion where possible by creating an environment in which Rakhine and Rohingya women could directly interact with and support one another, particularly in terms of market linkages and value chain development. For example, Rakhine women brought products directly from IDP camps to the Sittwe market, where they negotiated with market actors. Although it would have been preferable for Rohingya women to access the markets themselves, in the context of movement restrictions for IDPs it is nevertheless a very positive step that women from different communities are supporting one another along the value chain, and thus strengthening social cohesion and peacebuilding through the creation of joint businesses and horizontal inter-communal linkages. A related lesson was that livelihood programmes in the future could benefit from encouraging women to take a more active role along the value chain (e.g., as buyers, processors) by providing targeted support to this end. During this programme, some women were already organically transforming themselves to assume such roles by acting as aggregators, especially after an increased reliance on brokers and traders was seen because of transportation constraints and movement restrictions.
- **Virtual and digital channels of communication were pivotal to programme adaptability and versatility during the double crisis.** The COVID-19 pandemic and overlapping political crisis in Myanmar made flexibility and adaptability in implementing the programme imperative. Different

channels of communication (Viber, SMS, digital learning platforms, and video tutorials) some of which was enabled through the provision of tablets among beneficiaries, as well as digital programme implementation solutions such as e-cash vouchers, were critical in ensuring continued access of participants to training, guidance and continued implementation even when travel to programme sites became impossible. Participants were able to switch to online communication from their homes, reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission while abiding by the stay-at-home orders.



## ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<b>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</b>			
<b>Indicator J.1.A:</b> <sup>23</sup> # of government development plans, at national/subnational 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 <b>Baselines:</b> Union: 0/0; Township: 0/0 (2017) <b>Target:</b> 7 townships (2021 <sup>24</sup> )	<b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021 Up to Feb 2021, UNDP supported the Government in preparing development plans in seven townships, with reasonably satisfactory levels of inclusive participation and cross-sectoral coordination.	In line with the UNCT's Principles of Engagement, the Local Governance Forum was postponed. There is no variance as the 7 Townships had been targeted	Review of project documents; government records
<b>Indicator J.1.B:</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. <b>Baseline:</b> 0 (2017) <b>Target:</b> 75% (2021)	<b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021. Not completed	In line with the UNCT's Engagement Principles, the Insider Mediation Training was put on hold.	Review of project documents; survey, using questionnaire (annually)
<b>Output D1.1 Local governance institutions strengthened for inclusive, accountable, and responsive public service delivery that better meet the priorities and needs of local communities</b>			
<b>Indicator 1.1.1:</b> Number of supported townships which meet set criteria to perform participatory planning effectively (functionality index) <b>Baseline:</b> All supported townships start at Level 1 (April 2019) <b>Planned Target:</b> Out of 5 townships all 5 meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>level 3 across 4 function (March 2020)</li> <li>level 4 across 4 function (March 2021)</li> <li>level 5 across 4 function (March 2022)</li> </ul> <b>Additional Planned Target:</b> Out of 2 townships all 2 meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>level 3 across 4 function (March 2021)</li> </ul>	<b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021 Up to Feb 2021: Function 1. Inclusivity of key stakeholder's groups: <b>5 townships at level 4; 2 townships at level 3</b> Function 2. Facilitation capacities of township administration: <b>5 townships at level 4; 2 townships at level 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Function 3. Enhanced use of evidence in annual township plan: <b>2 townships at level 3</b></li> <li>Function 4. Respect of Public Financial Management standards: <b>5 townships at level 4.</b></li> </ul>	In line with the UNCT's Engagement Principles, this workstream was suspended	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

<sup>23</sup> Indicators numbered J.1.A and J.1.B derive from the Japan project document.

<sup>24</sup> Target for March 2021 has been adjusted as the Township Development Local Governance project has been expanded from five existing target townships to seven townships across Rakhine State.

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>level 4 across 4 function (March 2022)</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.2:</b> Number of supported townships in which at least five social accountability mechanisms are used.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> Out of 5 supported townships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 use at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2020)</li> <li>4 use at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2021)</li> <li>all 5 uses at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2022)</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Planned Target:</b> Out of 2 supported townships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 use at least three social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2021)</li> <li>2 use at least four social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2022)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021 Up to Feb 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mechanism 1. Public presentation of the township development plan: <b>in all 7 townships</b></li> <li>Mechanism 2. W/VTAs present project activities to their constituents for feedback: <b>in all 7 townships</b></li> <li>Mechanism 3. Public notice of the contract signing, and announcement published on the noticeboard of the Implementing Department and of GAD: <b>in all 7 townships</b></li> <li>Mechanism 4. W/VTAs part of the TRAC and QAVC: <b>in all 7 townships</b></li> <li>Mechanism 5. Grievances are addressed by Tender Committee that is responsible for resolving complaints: <b>in all 7 townships</b></li> </ul>	<p>In line with the UNCT's Engagement Principles, this workstream was suspended</p>	<p>Social accountability mechanisms checklist</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.3:</b> Number of supported townships where projects meet minimum benchmarks as per Procurement Guidelines.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> Out of 5 supported townships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 partially comply with criteria (March 2020)</li> <li>3 fully comply with criteria (March 2021)</li> <li>5 fully comply with criteria (March 2022)</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Planned Target:</b> Out of 2 supported townships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 partially comply with criteria (March 2021)</li> <li>At least 1 fully comply with criteria (March 2022)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021 Up to Feb 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Step 1. TRAC and QAVC are formed: <b>in all 7 townships</b></li> <li>Step 2. Tender documents produced and respect mandatory sections as in PGL: <b>in all 7 townships</b></li> <li>Step 3. Tender notice advertised according to PGL: <b>in all 7 townships</b></li> <li>Step 4. Tender opening meeting conducted and bid opening timeline respected: <b>to be reported</b></li> <li>Step 5. Report of tender assessment drafted, and mandatory sections included: <b>to be reported</b></li> <li>Step 6. Public notice of the contract signing, and announcement published: <b>to be reported</b></li> </ul>	<p>Tender bidding process has been closed in all 7 townships. Tender opening meetings were postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions in Rakhine State.</p>	<p>Procurement guidelines checklist</p>

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.4:</b> % of parliamentary committee reports on policy inquiries with recommendations that receive government response.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> No policy inquiries completed (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> of all completed policy inquiries in Rakhine State, 10% (March 2020) 20% (March 2021) 40% (March 2022)</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021 Up to Feb 2021: Policy inquiry was finalized in the reporting period. Given the state of emergency, it is considered unlikely that a government response will be made, as there is not democratically elected Hluttaw nor government in existence.</p>	<p>In line with the UNCT's Engagement Principles, this workstream was suspended</p>	<p>Hluttaw records (yearly)</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.5:</b> % of parliamentary committee inquiries that integrate gender and diversity analysis (different degree of compliance – partial vs. full integration into all stages of inquiry process).</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> of policy and bill inquiries in Rakhine State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partial integration in 20% and full integration in 10% (March 2020)</li> <li>Partial integration in 40% and full integration in 20% (March 2021)</li> <li>Partial integration in 50% and full integration in 30% (March 2022)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021 Up to Feb 2021: Rakhine State Seed Improvement Policy Inquiry is complete. Gender and diversity analysis partially integrated, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Inquiry ToR</li> <li>Consideration in stakeholder mapping</li> </ul> <p>Consideration in preparing for and conducting hearings and field visits.</p>	<p>In line with the UNCT's Engagement Principles, this workstream was suspended</p>	<p>Inquiry reports</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.6:</b> Level to which the Hluttaw manages plenary and committee documents electronically and publishing these documents on their websites</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1: Backup server, intranet infrastructure and ICT governance structure in place in Rakhine Hluttaw – March 2020</li> <li>Level 2: Intranet working and modules for plenary and committee systems launched – March 2021</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021 Up to Feb 2021: In the Rakhine State Hluttaw, a file server, intranet infrastructure and ICT governance structure are in place and by 1 February staff were using them.</p>	<p>In line with the UNCT's Engagement Principles, this workstream was suspended</p>	<p>Plenary and committee meeting documents, meeting minutes, training records, Hluttaw reports</p>

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 3: Website linked to intranet developed and regularly updated by Hluttaws – March 2022</li> <li>Level 4: Plenary and committee documents are regularly published on the Hluttaw website – March 2022</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.7:</b> Number of MPs applying a systematic approach in representing constituents in an inclusive manner</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1: Union Hluttaw administrations provide official data for use in constituency work for all townships in Myanmar (all 17 Rakhine townships) (March 2020)</li> <li>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)</li> <li>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)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021</p> <p>Up to Feb 2021:</p> <p>Level 2: Profiles for all townships in Rakhine produced and made available to Rakhine State Hluttaw. Constituency work professional development delivered to MPs. MPs were able to use the data from both government office and their constituents, with a small number already using electronic case management tools to support representation, oversight, and advocacy.</p>	In line with the UNCT's Engagement Principles, this workstream was suspended	Case studies, plenary session documents, RSG Record, meeting minutes
<b>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</b>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.2.1:</b> Number of government officials trained by UNDP on rule of law, GBV and human rights</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 95 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> (cumulative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>110 (March 2020)</li> <li>130 (March 2021)</li> <li>150 (March 2022)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> On hold as of 2021, Partially achieved</p> <p>Up to Feb 2021:</p> <p>2020 and 2021 a total of 295 government officials (212 W/VTAs and 83 law officers) have been trained on the rule of law, Fair Trial Standards, HLP and SGBV standards</p>	The target for this indicator was Partially Achieved as the baseline was achieved for 2020 and 2021. Indicator target for 2022 could not be achieved as workstream was placed on hold in line with the UNCT's Engagement Principles	IP reports, field monitoring reports, agenda/list of participants
<p><b>Indicator 1.2.2:</b> % of men and women trained who show an increased understanding of the rule of law, SGBV, gender equality and</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>The understanding on rule of law and access to justice increased from N/A to 44% of participants</p>	The COVID-19 and challenges associated with recent political developments - such as sporadic internet connection, restriction in	Training feedback reports (pre- and post-training assessments) by participants, lists, community

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<p>women's rights, and barriers to women's access to justice</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> N/A (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% (March 2020)</li> <li>65% (March 2021)</li> <li>70% (March 2022)</li> </ul>	<p>during pre-training to 95% of participants post-training (increase of 51%)</p>	<p>movements and security concerns – refrained the project from organizing in-person workshops. This in turn limited the options to gather adequate information from the ground.</p>	<p>feedback reports, service provider mapping report</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.2.3:</b> Number of women, girls, and other vulnerable individuals benefiting from legal information, counselling and/or representation</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 200 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> (cumulative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,000 (March 2020)</li> <li>6,000 (March 2021)</li> <li>9,000 (March 2022)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>In Rakhine, 11,832 direct beneficiaries (1,180 women) benefited from legal information such as training and awareness-raising sessions and counselling through consultations and hotlines, and representation in court.</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19 and related restrictions, the project was not able to hold enough in-person training, awareness-raising sessions, and representations in courts.</p> <p>Since after the military takeover, courts have resumed the operations in Rakhine and closed again in July till September due to 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of COVID-19. In person outreach awareness sessions, peer legal education sessions were held where permitted.</p>	<p>CSOs and legal aid providers' records; UNDP progress reports</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.2.4:</b> Number of actions/initiatives jointly developed by communities and local government actors to address women's justice issues and women's rights</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 2 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> (cumulative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 (March 2020)</li> <li>6 (March 2021)</li> <li>8 (March 2022)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>Up to Feb 2021:</p> <p>6 meetings/discussions on women's access to justice and addressing challenges around HLP, GBV and inheritance rights conducted. A Study on Women's Access to HLP rights was conducted</p>		<p>Meeting minutes of Rakhine Coordinating Body for Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector; agenda/list of participants of Rakhine IPs meeting.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.2.5:</b> Number of government / land administration bodies strengthened to deal with housing, land, and property cases</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> (cumulative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 (March 2020)</li> <li>4 (March 2021)</li> <li>8 (March 2022)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>Up to Feb 2021:</p> <p>5 VTAs strengthened through training on land laws. GAD Land Records department officials trained in 2020 on HLP Laws.</p>		<p>Training reports</p>
<p><b>Output (D)1.3: Target communities and institutions have improved opportunities for gender-responsive community cohesion and strengthened capacities to build peace</b></p>			

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<b>Indicator 1.3.1:</b> % of community members reporting increased trust between ethnic groups after the introduction of inter-village/village tract activities <b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019) <b>Planned Target:</b> 50% (March 2022)	<b>Status:</b> Achieved 98% of LRF members reported that their community collaborated with other communities on joint initiatives		Project reports; partners' reports
<b>Indicator 1.3.2:</b> % of targeted stakeholders reporting increasing in awareness on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding <b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019) <b>Planned Target:</b> 60% (March 2022)	<b>Status:</b> Not achieved, below target Progress reports, based on the targeted stakeholders' self-evaluation, is 46%	Due to COVID-19 restrictions, data collection on Indicator 1.3.2. proved challenging.	Project reports; partners' reports
<b>Indicator 1.3.3:</b> % of community-led cohesion projects implemented assessed by communities as successful in building trust and reducing conflict <b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019) <b>Planned Target:</b> 75% (March 2022)	<b>Status:</b> Achieved 99% of LRF members report that LRF meetings are helping improve relations between different communities 93% participation of representatives from religious minority villages at LRF meetings		Project reports; partners' reports
<b>Indicator 1.3.4:</b> # of lessons-learned case studies produced with communities used to replicate successful approaches <b>Baseline:</b> 0 (April 2019) <b>Planned Target:</b> 10 (March 2022)	<b>Status:</b> Not achieved, below target 4 case studies developed with community	COVID 19, Access constraints and TA approvals slowed progress	Case studies
<b>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.</b>			
<b>Indicator 1.4.1:</b> Number of persons accessing new infrastructure, disaggregated by gender. <b>Baseline:</b> N/A (April 2019) <b>Planned Target:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10,000 (March 2020) (direct and indirect)</li> <li>10,000 (March 2021) (direct and indirect)</li> </ul>	<b>Status:</b> Achieved By 2022 (cumulative): over 48,000 persons benefiting from infrastructure projects		UNDP-UNHCR QIPs Progress Tracker & beneficiary data
<b>Indicator 1.4.2:</b> % of beneficiaries in target communities reporting increased household income after receiving programme support <b>Baseline:</b> N/A (April 2019) <b>Planned Target:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6,000 (March 2020) (direct and indirect)</li> <li>6,000 (March 2021) (direct and indirect)</li> </ul>	<b>Status:</b> Achieved By 2022 (cumulative) 35,000 people.	QIPs delayed in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions were completed in June 2021	UNDP-UNHCR QIPs Progress Tracker & beneficiary data

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<b>Outcome 2: Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience, and inclusive growth and development in Rakhine State<sup>25</sup></b>			
<b>Canada/Germany support to Outcome 2</b>	<b>Achieved Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<b>Indicator 2.1:</b> Number of women who have enhanced capacities and skills to contribute to gender-responsive policies and projects in Rakhine State <b>Baseline:</b> 63 women (GLP alumni) <b>Planned Target:</b> 4,563 women	<b>Status:</b> Target needs adjustment Including baseline data, 2,910 women have enhanced capacities and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>566 learned about the importance of mainstreaming gender, women's rights, and ways to address challenges women face.</li> <li>2,344 women (1,140 IDP women and 1,204 village women) from Sittwe, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun increased their leadership skills through the multiplier trainings conducted by GLP alumni.</li> </ul>	The number of women trained could not reach the target as there was significant variance in the number of women that the implementing partner planned to reach as compared with the target that was initially set in the project document on <i>Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine</i> . The partnership agreement with the implementing partner was necessarily formed after the finalization of the project document, and the realities of implementation and the nature of the women's leadership multiplier training meant that lesser number of women could be feasibly selected as project participants.	Project reports, case studies, community feedback, consultation records
<b>Indicator 2.2:</b> Number of women who have increased access and control over financial resources and new sources of income in Rakhine State <b>Baseline:</b> 2,495 women <b>Planned Target:</b> 4,342 women	<b>Status:</b> Achieved Including baseline data, 9,998 women were supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> <li>Skills, resources, and capacities of 3,771 women were enhanced in climate-smart agricultural practices</li> <li>Skills, resources, and capacities of 1,776 women<sup>26</sup> were enhanced in weaving and handicrafts making (including mask production)</li> </ul>	The target of Indicator 2.2 has already been exceeded since the selection of project beneficiaries supported under the JP's business development component did not share common beneficiaries supported under UN Women's livelihoods component as initially planned. As different sets of women beneficiaries were reached under each component, consequently more women were supported under this output than the initial target.	Project/training reports, case studies, participants list, community feedback

<sup>25</sup> Progress reported under Outcome 2 in the results framework reflects cumulative progress of the indicators since the beginning of this JP programme funded by Canada and Germany.

<sup>26</sup> Among these 1,700 women artisans, 450 were trained in business development (of whom 393 received small grants to start up their businesses) and 194 were supported with business registration at SSID.

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,956 women were capacitated in business development</li> </ul>		
<b>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</b>			
<p><b>Indicator C2.1.1:</b> Number of women leaders, groups, networks and CSOs trained by UN Women to engage in gender responsive policies and programming</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 63 women leaders, 16 women's groups, networks and CSOs</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 4,563 women leaders; 40 women's groups, networks and CSOs</p> <p>Baseline data includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63 women who graduated from Gender Leadership Programme.</li> <li>11 CSOs trained on gender advocacy in quarter 1 of 2019.</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved for CSOs</p> <p>2,530 women and 73 CSOs were trained to engage in gender responsive policies and programmes, as of now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>112 women trained in GRB</li> <li>48 women trained on GiHA in Rakhine State</li> <li>26 women trained as trainers on GiHA in Yangon</li> <li>18 CSOs trained on GiHA</li> <li>2,344 women (1,140 IDP women and 1,204 village women) from Sittwe, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun increased their leadership skills through the multiplier trainings conducted by GLP alumni.</li> <li>8 CSOs in Rakhine provided guidance on applying to the MHF to mobilise resources to increase women's leadership and participation in humanitarian action.</li> <li>15 CSOs in Rakhine orientated to discuss gender gaps of COVID-19 policies and services with a view to reflecting the insights in the Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP)</li> <li>17 CSOs engaged to devise a capacity development plan for civil society strengthening to respond to humanitarian and development needs in Rakhine in September 2021</li> <li>15 CSOs trained to Project Cycle Management tools such as proposal writing, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and to integrate gender analysis at every stage of project cycle management in the context of humanitarian, peace, and development of Myanmar.</li> </ul>	<p>While the target for CSOs was achieved, the number of women trained could not reach the target as there was significant variance in the number of women that the implementing partner planned to reach as compared with the target that was set in the project document on <i>Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine</i>. The partnership agreement with the implementing partner was necessarily formed after the finalization of the project document, and the realities of implementation and the nature of the women's leadership multiplier training meant that lesser number of women could be feasibly selected as project participants.</p>	<p>Project/training reports, case studies, participants list, community feedback</p>
<p><b>Indicator C2.1.2:</b> Number of consultations, dialogues and events for knowledge sharing organized</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline data, 685 consultations, dialogues and events organized:</p>	<p>The target for this indicator has already been achieved since the number of community-based awareness-raising sessions led by GLP</p>	<p>Attendance sheets, participants list</p>



Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<p><b>Baseline:</b> 120 consultations, dialogues, and events</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 550 consultations, dialogues, and events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 community theatre performances (baseline)</li> <li>• 1 16 Days of Activism event in 2018 (baseline)</li> <li>• 1 meeting and sharing session of GLP graduates in villages with community members (baseline)</li> <li>• 2 awareness-raising sessions with local CSOs in Rakhine (baseline)</li> <li>• 2 International Women's Day events in Sittwe and Nay Pyi Taw (baseline)</li> <li>• 3 exposure visits (national) for GLP participants (baseline)</li> <li>• 3 sharing sessions between women led by GLP graduates (baseline)</li> <li>• 8 discussion sessions among GLP graduates, CSOs and government representatives (baseline)</li> <li>• 5 community awareness-raising sessions on gender-responsive WASH services (baseline)</li> <li>• 50 community-based awareness-raising sessions led by GLP graduates (baseline)</li> <li>• 12 mass meetings by Finn Church Aid (FCA) (baseline)</li> <li>• 14 focus group discussions by FCA (baseline)</li> <li>• 11 seed production and rice production activities by the International Rice Research Institute (baseline)</li> <li>• 1 inception workshop by FCA (baseline)</li> <li>• 4 farmer field visits (baseline)</li> <li>• 2 International Women's Day events (at township and state levels)</li> <li>• 28 16 Days of Activism events in 2019 (state, township, village, and camp levels)</li> <li>• 1 media roundtable</li> <li>• 1 Annual Dialogue in 2019</li> <li>• 3 GiHA updating consultations (1 with CSOs, 1 with women beneficiaries, 1 with the Rakhine ICCG)</li> <li>• 17 gender and social inclusion sessions</li> <li>• 1 follow-up consultation with Rakhine-based CSOs</li> <li>• 1 Myanmar National Women's Day event</li> <li>• 2 Women's Evening forums</li> <li>• 4 participatory community theatre performances</li> <li>• 394 community-based awareness-raising sessions led by GLP alumni</li> <li>• 11 sharing sessions on natural toiletries production by GLP alumni</li> </ul>	<p>alumni was significantly higher than planned thanks to the success of the GLP under the first phase of the RABP (2018–2019) and the continued need for additional community outreach sessions.</p>	

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 gender awareness workshops with Camp Management Committees (CMCs), religious leaders and community leaders</li> <li>• 76 women's leadership stories sharing sessions in safe spaces</li> <li>• 11 awareness-raising sessions on gender-responsive WASH services</li> <li>• 1 dialogue consultation with Rakhine-based CSOs and DSW</li> <li>• 1 UNDP–UN Women Peer Review Workshop</li> <li>• 6 sector-specific consultations held with WASH, food-security, health, protection, and education clusters including a Rakhine-specific breakout room</li> <li>• 1 knowledge sharing forum in January 2021 with 15 CSOs in Rakhine to discuss the gender gaps of COVID-19 policies and services with a view to reflecting the insights in the Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP)</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Indicator C2.1.3:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 1 gender knowledge and information product</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 3 gender knowledge and information products</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline, 7 gender knowledge and information products were developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">2019 GiHA Profile</a> (baseline)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Gender Mainstreaming Checklists for Humanitarian Action</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2020 Myanmar GiHA Profile</a> (updated version of the 2019 GiHA Profile)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Gender Alert for COVID-19 Outbreak</a> (localized to Myanmar context and translated into Myanmar language)</li> <li>• Gender package for COVID-19 quarantine centres</li> <li>• <a href="#">Myanmar Rapid Gender Analysis</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Rakhine Rapid Gender Analysis</a></li> </ul>		Documents

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<p><b>Indicator C2.1.4:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> Approx. 40 people (one GiHA training conducted in 2018 in Sittwe)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 100 people</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline, 179 people were trained on GiHA.</p>	<p>The target of this indicator has already been exceeded, as additional resources for GiHA were mobilized from UN Women's HQ.</p>	<p>Participants lists, attendance sheets</p>
<b>Output 2.2. Institutional capacities of government enhanced at the national, state, and local levels for gender-responsive policies and service delivery</b>			
<p><b>Indicator C.2.2.1:</b> Number of key policy and planning documents with substantive reference to gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 12 key policy and planning documents</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 20 key policy and planning documents</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline data, 25 key policy and planning documents with substantive reference to GEWE were developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women</a> (baseline)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Report of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State</a> (baseline)</li> <li>• Report on the Mapping Analysis for National Strategic Plan on the Advancement of Women (baseline)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis</a> (Joint Study of DSW, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women) (baseline)</li> <li>• Terms of Reference for Myanmar National Committee for Women for States and Townships (baseline)</li> <li>• Gender and Age Analysis: Sociocultural and Structural Barriers to Essential Services in Central Rakhine (INGO Rakhine Initiative study) (baseline)</li> <li>• <a href="#">2019 Myanmar GiHA Profile</a> (baseline)</li> <li>• <a href="#">2019 Humanitarian Response Plan</a> (baseline)</li> <li>• <a href="#">2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview</a> (baseline)</li> <li>• Emergency Response Preparedness Plan (baseline)</li> <li>• Joint Communique of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the United Nations on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (baseline)</li> </ul>		<p>Documents</p>

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Country Team Confidential Report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women about women and girls from northern Rakhine State, Myanmar (baseline)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Gender Mainstreaming Checklists for Humanitarian Action</a></li> <li>• GiHA Action Plan</li> <li>• 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’</li> <li>• 2020 Myanmar GiHA Profile</li> <li>• <a href="#">2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2020 Humanitarian Response Plan</a></li> <li>• Myanmar COVID-19 HRP 2020 Addendum</li> <li>• Analysis and suggested HCT/ICCG messages on the MSWRR ‘Action Plan for the Control of COVID-19 Outbreak in IDP Camps’</li> <li>• Interim Operational Guidance for COVID-19 Isolation in Humanitarian Settings in Myanmar</li> <li>• Gender-Responsive Budgeting Roadmap</li> <li>• 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview</li> <li>• UN Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) for COVID-19 and its Operational Plan</li> <li>• 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Indicator C.2.2.2:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 5 mechanisms</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 10 mechanisms</p> <p>Baseline data includes 5 mechanisms that were formed during the Japan-funded ‘Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine State’ JP (2018–2019).</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline data, 12 informal and formal institutional mechanisms have been formed and/or strengthened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of Rakhine-based CSOs working on GEEW (baseline)</li> <li>• Women’s groups in villages and IDP camps that can engage with community leaders in four townships (baseline)</li> <li>• Coordination Group for 16 Days of Activism (baseline)</li> <li>• Coordination Group for International Women’s Day (baseline)</li> <li>• Informal network of GEWE focal points among the protection cluster/sector in Rakhine (baseline)</li> </ul>		Meeting minutes and records

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal GiHA Coordination Group in central Rakhine</li> <li>• Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW) meetings</li> <li>• CMCs – 1 GLP beneficiary elected to CMC during the reporting period</li> <li>• Annual Dialogue</li> <li>• Women’s Evening forum</li> <li>• Strategic Dialogue Forum between RSG and CSOs to strengthen gender-responsiveness of humanitarian, development, and peace efforts in Rakhine in the context of COVID-19</li> <li>• Annual consultations to update the GiHA Profile to inform the Humanitarian Need Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)</li> </ul>		
<b>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</b>			
<p><b>Indicator C2.3.1:</b> Number of women with increased knowledge on solutions to addressing barriers they face, including through ICT innovation, business development and entrepreneurship</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 416</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 1,200</p> <p>Baseline data includes 416 women farmers and artisans who were trained in business development and agri-entrepreneurship during the Japan-funded ‘Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine State’ JP (2018–2019)</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline data, knowledge of 2,814 women on solutions addressing barriers they face, including through business development and entrepreneurship, was increased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 416 women farmers and artisans who were trained in business development and agri-entrepreneurship during the Japan-funded ‘Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine State’ JP (2018–2019) (baseline)</li> <li>• 442 women capacitated with knowledge on solutions to addressing barriers they face from April 2019-March 2020</li> <li>• 1,956 women equipped with business development and entrepreneurial skills through the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme.</li> </ul>	<p>The target of Indicator C2.3.1 has already been exceeded since the selection of project beneficiaries supported under the JP’s business development component did not share common beneficiaries supported under UN Women’s livelihoods component as initially planned. As different sets of women beneficiaries were reached under each component, consequently more women were supported under this output than the initial target.</p>	<p>Project/training reports, case studies, participants list, community feedback, beneficiaries’ business plans</p>
<p><b>Indicator C.2.3.2:</b> Number of partnerships formed to enhance women’s access to financial services, resources, and business opportunities</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 partnerships</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 3 partnerships</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Achieved</p> <p>3 partnerships formed, as of now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSID</li> <li>• Sunflowers Organic Dye Textiles and Crafts Shop</li> <li>• Vision Fund</li> </ul>		<p>Project/partners’ reports</p>



#### iv) A Specific Story

##### From women's involvement in livelihood activity towards social cohesion

May Nyein Saw, aged 25, lives with seven family members in traditional, male-dominated rural society. Her challenge in such a community relates to her own family. Social norms and cultural traditions discourage female participation in decision-making, particularly in group activities. In 2018, UNDP and its partner, community representative group Livelihood Recovery Forum (LRF), started livelihood recovery activities in four village clusters in Pauktaw Township under the JP. In 2019, May Nyein Saw was appointed an LRF member in Pyaing Taung cluster.

“Nobody would recognize me, [such an ordinary woman involved in the LRF], but in the next few months, at any LRF gathering, [through me] you’ll be listening to what the women think about their visions and cultures,” she says.

Since being appointed, she has engaged proactively in the JP, participating in LRF meetings, and engaging in the distribution of water pumps and agricultural training. “To me, it looks like women are fantastic at being a part of the LRF to serve the interests of society. I guess even men can’t count all the trees from a large forest. Doesn’t it sound like it reflects the collective opinions when you stop to think about it?” she asks.



*Daw May Nyein Saw's involvement in a community meeting*

Her family lives in Pyaing Taung village, situated on the bank of the river Sin Tet Maw. Ethnic and religious minority communities live in nearby villages. As those poor villages are nearer a river, all household income comes from fishing and lowland farming. But since the intercommunal conflict in 2012, these groups have been living separately, rather than in an interactive socio-economic partnership with their neighbours, sharing domestic resources, for example. The result has been few benefits and poor employment opportunities.

“When LRF meetings started among villages, we organized different groups at one place,” May Nyein Saw said. “People initially had mild worries at such events like training sessions and joint implementation, but later, the atmosphere became like a party. We laugh, smile and chat together at such events.”



*Daw May Nyein Saw helps distribute farming and community assets.*

In collaboration with the DoA, the JP and its local partner provided “water pump engines” to the community for their winter crop cultivation. Training is conducted in good agricultural practice following distribution of agricultural tools and materials. May Nyein Saw actively participates in such activities to assist with her community’s development, which is strongly appreciated by community members.



“It’s amazing! After some collaborations, religious and ethnic minority communities have both begin arriving in our village. We also then dare to go to their villages. Nowadays we can resume our rapport by sharing freshwater resources as well as casual labouring and selling fish and vegetables across the different villages. Think about that! During these days, I’m going here and there in religious and ethnic minority villages to sell my fresh fish and farm products. Those people are also coming to our village to find jobs and sell their farm products.”

#### Women tackling COVID-19: Countering economic impact and strengthening women’s involvement in the health response

UN Women supported women trained in sewing under its current weaving and handicrafts interventions to transition their production skills to help meet COVID-related needs and maintain their livelihoods. During the reporting period, 44 women from villages and IDP camps across three townships have been engaged in making 100%-cotton masks according to the guidelines issued by MoHS. Each of the women involved in the mask production cooperatives has a specific role in the production process. Using their collective bargaining power, the women were able to achieve lower prices when procuring raw materials.



*Photo Credit: FCA Consortium (FCA, LWF and CERA), Myint Myint Than*

The families of the women producers are grateful for the economic contributions the women make through their mask production, alleviating the financial burden on their families while helping reduce the spread of COVID-19. At a household level, women reported positive transformations from a gender perspective, such as husbands and other family members taking over some of the women’s household work. “Fifty to sixty per cent of our household burden has been delegated to other members of the household”, women from the Kyauk Tan Gyi cooperative in Sittwe explained proudly. While aiming to achieve a sustainable source of livelihood for the women in the mid to long term, initially, masks are being sold to

humanitarian actors and distributed to those most in need. The women produced more than 100,000 reusable cloth masks by the end of 2021, most of which were sold to humanitarian and development partners who distributed them to particularly vulnerable people in Rakhine. UN Women’s efforts towards mask production have been commended at national and global levels.