

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE 2023
 (Regular Funding Cycle)

<p>Country Myanmar</p> <p>MPTF Project Number 00129062 (Regular Funding Cycle)</p> <p>Reporting Period 1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023</p> <p>Funding Call <i>Select all that apply</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Funding Cycle <i>Specify Call (Round 1, 2, 3, etc.) CfP, Round 1</i> <input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 Emergency Response Window</p>	<p>Submitted by PUNO(s) UN Women or NUNO(s)¹ Name of Entity: UN Women Myanmar Name of Representative: Karin Fueg, Country Representative a.i.</p> <p>Implementing Partners Women-led and women rights organisations</p>		
<p>WPHF Outcomes² to which report contributes for reporting period <i>Select all that apply</i></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 1: Enabling environment for implementation of WPS commitments <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 2: Conflict prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 3: Humanitarian response </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 4: Conflict resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 5: Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 6: Peacebuilding and recovery </td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 1: Enabling environment for implementation of WPS commitments <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 2: Conflict prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 3: Humanitarian response	<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 4: Conflict resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 5: Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 6: Peacebuilding and recovery
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<p>Programme Start Date 10 December 2021</p> <p>Programme End Date 8 November 2025</p>			

¹ Non-UN Organization. Applicable to Rapid Response Window for Peace Processes

² As per WPHF results framework nested model, WPHF outcome areas are equivalent to the impact level for grantees

Executive Summary

In 1 page, summarize the most important achievements of the Programme during the reporting period. The executive summary should be an analysis and consolidation of the achievements and should serve as a standalone summary of the WPHF country' results for the year.

Please include:

- a) Background on WPHF: overview of calls for proposals (CfPs) that were launched (date), and details on NSC meetings, how many CSOs were selected, and when implementation is estimated to begin/has begun*
- b) overall/consolidated WPHF impact at the country level (how WPHF funding has contributed to WPS, gender equality and peacebuilding, gender-responsive humanitarian action etc) and explain if any linkages with national processes (NAPs, humanitarian response, peace processes, etc). and how WPHF funding/grantees contributed.*
- c) one sentence with the consolidated direct and indirect beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex).*
- d) overall challenges*
- e) if the country has received additional funding for capacity building or peer learning initiatives, one sentence on the results of the capacity building project.*

This 2023 annual report covers the progress update and results of local women's rights and women led organizations funded by the Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) under the 2022 Regular Funding Cycle, and with UN Women Myanmar's management and technical support.

In 2023, Myanmar plummeted into deeper humanitarian crisis because of [Cyclone Mocha in May 2023](#) and intensification of conflict. In October 2023, the "[Operation 1027](#)", a coalition of ethnic-armed organisations launched a counter-offensive against the military that is continuing and spreading in major states and regions north of the country

Myanmar suffers a surging humanitarian crisis with 18.6 million people in need of assistance and increasing and intensifying mass displacement (2.6 Mio in February 2024), and deterioration of women rights in Myanmar. With the deteriorating humanitarian situation, women rights organizations (WRO)/ women led organizations (WLO) including WPHF grantees continue to deliver humanitarian response in low profile while ensuring that their organization and personnel remain safe and secure while some organizations has relocated personnel and opted for work from home arrangement due to the increase in armed conflicts in some parts of Myanmar.

Main achievements during the reporting period:

In 2023, the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in Myanmar provided grants to women's rights and women-led organizations, which sub-granted to a community women's groups, network members, community-based organisations, self-help groups and reached **direct beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries** in conflict and crisis affected situation.

1. Programmatic Funding Stream

IMPACT AREA 1. Enabling Environment for Women Peace and Security (WPS)

Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments.

Impact Indicator 1.2 Number/types of propositions by civil society that are included into policy documents.

Contributing to this indicator, grantees helped create an enabling environment for women, peace & security through:

- (1) Policy development** - the development of a new Gender Policy
- (2) Research and data for evidence-based advocacy** - the completion of a WPS research that provides evidence for advocating for women's participation in peace processes in Kachin, which will be shared with key stakeholders during March 2024

Outcomes under Impact Area 1:

Under this Impact area, direct and indirect beneficiaries were reached through the creation of an enabling environment that enhanced the role of civil society organizations in advocating for WPS commitments and strengthening accountability for these commitments.

Moreover, grantees were able to contribute to the following key outcomes:

1. **Increased percentage and number of women engaged in influencing** and advocating for WPS;
2. Updated the WPS curriculum and **strengthened capacities of WCSO members, women and men, and young women leaders** to raise the awareness on WPS, gender equality and women's empowerment, and advocate for women's rights and GBV prevention in their communities;
3. **Strengthened the capacities of women rights defenders** on WPS through trainings on research and advocacy, legal aid, gender mainstreaming and media advocacy on WPS areas
4. **Increased support of stakeholders for women's meaningful participation** in WPS
5. **Increased income generation of young women leaders** to facilitate participation in WPS agenda; and Implemented **Social Media advocacy** on WPS,

IMPACT AREA 3. Humanitarian and crisis response

Enhanced inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming.

Impact Indicator 3.1 Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in humanitarian and crisis response

Progressing towards this indicator, grantees strengthened inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis programming through directly contributing to women participating in humanitarian / crisis response decision-making. Grantees contributed to impact under this indicator through achieving the following:

Executive Summary

- (1) **WCSO capacity building and participation** – WCSOs capacities were increased to enhance their meaningful participation and decision-making in humanitarian/crisis response, especially in Gender Responsive Humanitarian Action, Preparedness and Response Planning, Accountability, and Inclusive Safeguarding Crisis Management and conducting women leadership training on women, peace and security provided in various communities.
- (2) **Support for livelihoods and Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)** – women were supported to increase their economic resilience to enhance support for their participation in humanitarian / crisis response.
- (3) **Inclusion of marginalised groups facing intersecting disadvantages** - applying LNOB, grantees reached the most marginalized with humanitarian assistance such as women and girls, PWDs, victims of human trafficking, GBV survivors, pregnant women, returning migrants, IDPs and HIV positive persons.

Impact Indicator 3.2 Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive humanitarian and crisis planning, framework and programming

- (1) **Inter-Ethnic Crisis Action Resource Hubs** - grantees established with CSOs and held inter-ethnic dialogue sessions
- (2) **Self-help women groups** - self-help women's groups were established through the support of the grantees along with networking meetings to connect women with local community-based organizations and services.
- (3) **Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (PVCA)** – women leaders were trained to conduct PVCA sessions to inform action plan development and implementation. The use of PVCA built the analytical skills to identify gender-sensitive risks, hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities, informing community-level emergency preparedness and response plans.

Outcomes under Impact Area 3:

Under this Impact area, direct and indirect beneficiaries were reached through enhancing inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian programming. Moreover, grantees were able to contribute to the following key outcomes:

1. **Community consultations to enhance participation in humanitarian response and gender sensitive programme** reached community members.
2. **Humanitarian assistance** through food and non-food items provided to women and girls, **including to marginalised groups facing intersecting disadvantages**:
 - a. Cash for food assistance and assistive devices for livelihood purposes for **PWD** and their families provided, benefitting individuals with in-kind items and assistive devices.
 - b. Food and hygiene items provided to **returning migrants**
 - c. **Pregnant women and mothers** in humanitarian need received essential items.
 - d. **Internally displaced people** received emergency aid including food, medicine, and hygiene and dignity kits.
3. **Women-led small enterprises** received business training and inputs.
4. Constituted women with disability rights committee and financial policy for women with disabilities organization.
5. Training for organizations on Inclusive planning, policy, and programmes particularly for women with disabilities organizations
6. **Men and boys** were engaged with awareness raising sessions on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and GBV.
7. **Mobile Health Clinics provided** sexual & reproductive health services to community people
8. **Provided referral for psychosocial, GBV and Health services** GBV survivors including men and women victims of human trafficking through established GBV counselling centers and hotlines

Context/New Developments

Describe any relevant updates in the peace/security/humanitarian/political/human rights context experienced by the country during the reporting period. Specifically describe how it impacts women and operations at the country level.

2023 has been characterized by a further deterioration of safety and security, socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Myanmar. The UN estimated that around 9.2 million women and girls would be in need in the country. In the study by UN Women and UNDP revealing that one in three women felt unsafe in their own homes at night, and 40% of households experienced declining incomes affecting family and women's welfare. Additionally, 8% of women don't feel safe walking alone at night in their city or area (WPS 2023 Index).

In May 2023, Cyclone Mocha – the second strongest cyclone since Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, devastated 4 northern states of Myanmar with Rakhine as the hardest hit impacting 3.4 million people while adding 1.6 million to the 2023 humanitarian response targets of which 53 per cent are women and 34 per cent children under 18. Despite these increased needs and vulnerability, access to communities including the conduct of rapid assessments were not permitted by the de facto authorities. Humanitarian assistance continued through innovative strategies like piggy backing with pre-cyclone activities and with community-based organizations.

Due to the increase in armed conflicts in some parts of Myanmar civilian casualties increased. In October a counter offensive by Ethnic Armed Groups sparked a new front of conflict intensified spanning from Northern Shan, Rakhine, and Southeast. This has forced more than 200,000 people into displacement, more than 2 million people became internally displaced, some 18.6 million people - nearly one third of the population - are estimated to be in humanitarian need in December 2024. The compounded crisis means an erosion of many hard-earned gains in terms of gender equality.

Furthermore, gender inequalities in Myanmar are underpinned by rigid social norms and stereotypes that define gender roles and determine the different opportunities to livelihoods and leadership and decision-making between women and men. These conservative gender norms are further promoted by the militaristic ideology and current government in place. Women and girls increasingly face the brunt of the complex situation. Vulnerable population especially women and girls are resulting to negative coping mechanism with extremes of suicide. Aside from bearing the burden of care work, women, girls, and boys of youth age must look for income generating activities and better livelihood opportunities fueling trafficking and illegal migrations. Access to health care especially for pregnant women, wounded and ill people has extremely deteriorated as with other basic social services.

The surging humanitarian situation has deteriorated livelihood and employment opportunities, increased insecurity posed major threats in conflict-affected regions. Violence against women multiplied exponentially with the security of women and children threatened by arbitrary arrests and detention and increased gender-based violence in communities. Despite the deteriorating humanitarian situation, Women-CSOs stayed and continue to deliver using their minimal funding while others their internal funds gaining recognition of the importance of community-based local organizations in the continuity of humanitarian response.

In 2023, the black-market exchange rate was almost 1.5 times the official rate and sometimes almost double. High inflation, fluctuating foreign currency exchange rates, fuel shortages, under an unstable military regime policy, led to surging prices of basic commodities and services These is contributing to challenges faced by grantees to be able to implement activities, constant consultations, adopting budget and mitigation measures helped organizations continue to conduct activities.

Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

Provide a short, consolidated COUNTRY LEVEL description of the impact and results achieved for all projects (1-2 paragraphs maximum, drawing on the impact level indicators)

Overall Impact/Results of Country (1-2 paragraphs drawing on the impact level indicators):

In 2023, the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in Myanmar provided grants to women's rights and women-led organizations in Myanmar, which sub-granted to community women's groups, network members, community-based organisations, self-help groups and reached **direct beneficiaries** and **indirect beneficiaries** in conflict and crisis affected situation.

Under the Programmatic Funding streams for **Impact Area 1. Enabling Environment for Women Peace and Security (WPS)**, **Impact Area 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response**, the grantees implemented projects to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities in Myanmar.

During the reporting period encompassing CSOs, community women's groups, network members, and self-reliant groups, a significant outreach was achieved and the funding contributed directly to alleviate the situations and lives of conflict and crisis affected people and **increased percentage and number of women engaged in influencing** and advocating for WPS.

Outcome AREA 1. Enabling Environment for Women Peace and Security (WPS)

Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments.

Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

Impact Indicator 1.2 Number/types of propositions by civil society that are included into policy documents.

Contributing to this indicator, grantees helped create an enabling environment for women, peace & security through:

(1) Policy development - the development of a new Gender Policy by a key stakeholder;

(2) Research and data for evidence-based advocacy - the completion of a WPS research that provides evidence for advocating for women's participation in peace processes;

Below are details on the specific work of the grantees that led to these results:

- Successfully advocated to key stakeholders, and CSOs, on issues related to GBV protection, gender sensitivity in COVID-19 response, and enhancing women's participation in leadership and decision-making. The positive outcome of these efforts was the development of a Gender Policy which aims to facilitate increased participation of women in decision-making processes and leadership positions within their party.
- Conducted research on WPS to advocate key stakeholders about barriers for women in to participate in peace-building process. The research involved respondents to identify barriers preventing women from participating in the peace-making process. Some key findings and recommendations are to deliver WPS trainings to the youth, to coordinate with traditional leaders to broaden their understanding on WPS issues, to establish women centres and to facilitate dialogues and talk shows for communities, to use social media to advocate and address WPS issues.
- Conducted a consultation meeting with the Executive Coordinator, technical resource individuals, and organization members on the WPA issues identified in the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS).
- Developed a Universal Periodic Report which will serve as an advocacy tool at global and national levels on how women's rights are infringed and violated in terms of their economic and social well-being in Myanmar.

Outcomes under Outcome Area 1:

Under this Impact area, direct and indirect beneficiaries were reached through the creation of an enabling environment that enhanced the role of civil society organizations in advocating for WPS commitments and strengthening accountability for these commitments. Moreover, grantees were able to contribute to the following key outcomes:

- Updated the WPS curriculum and **strengthened capacities of WCSO members, women and men, and young women leaders** to raise the awareness on WPS, gender equality and women's empowerment, and advocate for women's rights and GBV prevention in their communities;
- **Strengthened the capacities of women rights defenders** on WPS through trainings on research and advocacy, legal aid, gender mainstreaming and media advocacy on WPS areas
- **Increased support of stakeholders for women's meaningful participation** in WPS
- **Increased income generation of young women leaders** to facilitate participation in WPS agenda

Outcome AREA 3. Humanitarian and crisis response

Enhanced inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming.

Impact Indicator 3.1 Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in humanitarian and crisis response.

Progressing towards this indicator, grantees strengthened inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis programming through directly contributing to women participating in humanitarian / crisis response decision-making. Grantees contributed to impact under this indicator through achieving the following:

- **WCSO capacity building and participation** – WCSOs capacities were increased to enhance their meaningful participation and decision-making in humanitarian/crisis response, especially in Gender Responsive Humanitarian Action, Preparedness and Response Planning, Accountability, and Inclusive Safeguarding Crisis Management and conducting women leadership training on women, peace and security provided in various communities.
- **Support for livelihoods and Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)** –women were trained and received small grants to set up businesses and thus increase their economic resilience to enhance support for their participation in humanitarian / crisis response.
- **Inclusion of marginalized groups facing intersecting disadvantages** - By implementing the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) approach, the recipients effectively provided humanitarian assistance to the most marginalized individuals (including women and girls, persons with disabilities - PWDs, victims of human trafficking, GBV survivors, pregnant women, returning migrants, IDPs, and individuals living with HIV). This assistance encompassed crucial support such as - essential items for pregnant women, COVID-19 prevention materials for returnees in quarantine centers, psychosocial support for GBV survivors, and emergency cash assistance for returnees, IDPs, GBV survivors, and individuals facing crisis situations in Myanmar.



Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

Impact Indicator 3.2 Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive humanitarian and crisis planning, framework and programming.

Grantees contributed to impact under this indicator through establishing the following mechanisms:

- **Inter-Ethnic Crisis Action Resource Hubs** – To increase coordination among communities and women led CSOs/CBOs for gender responsive humanitarian planning, preparedness, and mitigation, inter-ethnic crisis action resource hubs were established with CSOs and held inter-ethnic dialogue sessions with CSOs leaders.
- **Self-help women groups** - self-help women's groups were established through the support of the grantees along with networking meetings to connect women with local community-based organizations and services.
- **Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (PVCA)** – women leaders were trained to conduct PVCA sessions to inform action plan development and implementation. The use of PVCA built the analytical skills to identify gender-sensitive risks, hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities, informing community-level emergency preparedness and response plans.

Outcomes under Impact Area 3:

Under this Impact area, direct and indirect beneficiaries were reached through enhancing inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian programming. Moreover, grantees were able to contribute to the following key outcomes:

1. **Humanitarian assistance** through food and non-food items provided to women and girls, **including to marginalised groups facing intersecting disadvantages:**
 - a. Cash for food assistance and assistive devices for livelihood purposes for **PWD** and their families provided, benefitting individuals with in-kind items and assistive devices.
 - b. Food and hygiene items provided to individuals, who are **returning migrants**;
 - c. **Pregnant women and mothers** in humanitarian need received essential items.
 - d. **Internally displaced people** received emergency aid including food, medicine, and hygiene and dignity kits.
2. **Women-led small enterprises** received business training and inputs.
3. Constituted women with disability rights committee and financial policy for women with disabilities organization.
4. Training for individuals (males, females, others) on Inclusive planning, policy, and programmes for and with women with disabilities organizations
5. **Men and boys** were engaged with awareness raising sessions on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and GBV.

Impact Indicator 3.1 Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in humanitarian and crisis response.

- Empowered women through their participation to business groups that promote women's decision-making while supporting their socio-economic activities thereby ensuring their inclusion to contribute to the promotion of gender equality, peace, and security in Myanmar.
- Empowered beneficiaries from youth and women's rights community-based organizations to assume leadership positions in humanitarian response mechanisms. This transformation followed their increased participation in various training programs, including the 3-day Civic Education Training, 45-day Women Leadership Training School, 3-day Crisis Management Training, 3-day Women Leadership Training, 15-day Bakery and Juice Training, and Advocacy to Keep the Environment Clean.
- Women actively assumed leadership roles within their communities through receiving training. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the community displayed greater acceptance of women in leadership positions as they witnessed women leaders engaging in community service, including the distribution of dignity kits and nutrient food to female survivors. Furthermore, these women leaders conducted awareness campaigns reaching beneficiaries on COVID-19 prevention, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- Conducted Disability Inclusion Trainings for Gender-Oriented Organizations, benefiting women with disabilities. Following the training sessions, the women were able to apply their learnings by being actively engage in decision-making processes and disability mainstreaming discussions in humanitarian response coordination platforms including technical support in policy and programmes review. An exemplification of this effort was providing emergency cash assistance to Women with Disabilities affected by Cyclone MOCHA in May 2023.
- Conducted capacity-building training sessions for a group of women (comprising HIV-positive women and sex workers). The training enhanced their knowledge and understanding of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV, as well as case referral procedures. Following these sessions, they successfully organized meetings, engaging individuals from Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), Charity Associations, and legal organizations. These women played a pivotal role in establishing networking linkages among various agencies to facilitate the provision of health services to survivors and patients. Their efforts resulted in the referral of cases to access services such as psychosocial first aid counselling, legal support, and basic nutrition food.

Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

- Formed women groups and trained on women leadership, GBV, basic gender and mental health issues. After the trainings, women leaders became more aware of the characteristic of women leaders and became more confidence to lead their groups. Moreover, they led and organized the distribution of emergency nutrition kits to vulnerable women headed households. In addition, trainings were provided on women rights and increased their knowledge in managing local CBOs.
- Provided digital resources (computers, printers and A4 papers) to the women Self Help Groups which helped self-help groups for them to use when they echo and share their learnings. In addition, career counselling services and financial supports provided to females to attend vocational skills trainings.
- Conducted media literacy training to community women on social media including basic concept, ethics, collecting information and writing story, making video and documentary that will contribute to the timely sharing of information. The social media platform was used to also inform about the devastating effects of Cyclone Mocha in Rakhine. The CSO conducted 3-day awareness sessions on GBV prevention, legal knowledge, and GBV referral to community members.
- Supported young women in attending a nine-month sewing training program to increase their opportunities for having income generating activities. During the practical sewing training, participants learned to sew clothes that they were able to sell in the markets. The training included lessons on marketing strategies, motivating all trainees because of the additional daily income by sewing and selling their products in the market.

Impact Indicator 3.2 Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive humanitarian and crisis planning, framework and programming.

- Conducted accountability and safeguarding awareness for inclusive crisis management sessions with people covering five types of violence, dissecting how such violence manifests within the community. Through real-life case studies in the community, participants gained valuable insights into the tangible impact of violence on individuals and the community as a whole and learnt a three-pronged approach to effectively mitigate communal violence. The two inter-ethnic dialogue sessions were conducted with representatives from CSOs, Village committees, Camp management committees and Network members in the inter-ethnic resource hubs. During the sessions, participants shared the updated information and challenges of respective organizations because the inter-ethnic resource hubs were safe spaces for them to freely interact and learn from each other.
- Directly benefiting individuals through their activities that support returnees in quarantine centres, offering professional training for skill development, empowering women from local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and providing essential healthcare services to patients through mobile clinics and maternity initiatives. In addition, was able to indirectly reach people who expressed experienced positive effects because of the project's activities.
- Delivered 45-days civic education training for participants resulting to a federation that participated in democratic procedures including electoral process, fair mediation and negotiation, and ethnic minorities participation in political and human rights processes within their communities. Also conducted Advocacy campaigns about Keeping a Clean Environment during which participants planted 1,066 plants and gained knowledge about the impacts of plastics and the advantages of growing plants or trees. The community has a small forest, and they committed to take care of plants they planted.
- Local CBOs were able to refer women for GBV and SRH services as a result of technical trainings provided. The organization's counselling centres and helplines supported psychosocial needs of women in the community who became more confident and felt safe to express their feeling and experiences. The counselling centers became safe places for women to solve their problem and cases in the community. Further, the CSO produced two video clips related to GBV and posted on social media for raising community awareness.
- Established the Women Committee's for Constitutional and Financial policy development mechanism that strengthened the institutional capacity of the committee members and capacity of women and girls with disabilities on advocacy and empowerment activities/movements. Moreover, coordination meetings were organized resulting to the successfully coordinated case referrals, share knowledge about mental and legal protection services. As a result of the meetings, the partners supported discussions among community members on issues affecting their community also were able to share and update each other on community activities and concerns.
- Conducted community level awareness session on SRH, HIV and GBV and Covid 19 preventing measures with individuals working in factories, living in hostels, and sex workers. Following the sessions, participants reported increased knowledge and access to resources and services. Also conducted male engagement sessions with participants on gender equality, SRH, HIV & GBV. Infographics (with pictures, cartoons to make people more interested and easy understanding on the topics) and an animation video about A GBV survivor connecting to a woman leader trained by the CSO being referred to the hospital was produced and disseminated to women leaders for use during community level awareness sessions for public awareness raising.

Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

- Delivered awareness training on GBV, basic gender and mental health to participants. According to pre/post test result, women participants mentioned that they didn't know how gender and health issues are related before the trainings, and after attending the awareness session, they learned how to handle stress and challenges and they could share this knowledge with their family members and their communities.
- Female survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) received critical hotline services, along with additional support for transportation, meals, and assistance with legal issues. Additionally women self-help groups were also established, connecting them to other organizations through their participation in networking meetings with other women self-help groups.

A Specific Story (1/2 page maximum)

Include a profile of an individual beneficiary or CSO partner, success story or case study to highlight a concrete example that has been important during the reporting period. It can be at the programmatic level (a specific achievement) or an individual story. Attach photos to illustrate the story and include captions (close-up photo portraits of individual beneficiaries and CSO partners being profiled are encouraged). The story should illustrate the main objective of the project (WPHF impact area).

**Please ensure that consent has been obtained from the individual beneficiary or CSO partner to use the story and photo in the WPHF global annual report, website, community of practice and/or social media. Also, consider using a pseudonym (not the person's real name) to ensure protection/security. If obtaining a story could cause an individual harm/emotional stress, please consider doing a story on an organization instead.*

Story 1

Aye, a 41-year-old daily maid, faces significant challenges. Living with HIV and undergoing antiretroviral therapy, she is the sole breadwinner for her family of four, including two children. Despite her health condition, her husband is unemployed and reluctant to support the family due to her HIV status. When Aye suggested her husband find employment to contribute, he reacted violently, physically assaulting her, and causing her injuries.

In distress, Aye's children witnessed the altercation and sought help. With assistance from the community, she was taken to No. (14) Clinic. Unable to leave home due to her injuries, Mya San Aye later reached out to a women leader, disclosing the violence she endured. The women leader informed her about an ongoing plan to address Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), HIV, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), assuring support for her medical travel expenses. Psychological counseling and mental support were provided to help her cope.

Receiving emotional strength from the women leader, Aye decided to seek medical treatment and regularly visited the clinic. Eventually, her husband left their home. Remaining connected with local women leaders, she found ongoing support and advice. Over time, she overcame depression and now lives with her children, expressing confidence in reaching out to the women leader if she faces further victimization from her surroundings.

Story 2

Ma Kyawe, 48 years old, residing in a village, actively participated in the project, engaging in community affairs, religious festivals, and community development activities as a volunteer. Despite her previous involvement, she had never received Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness training. During the 3-day GBV awareness training, she acquired insights on gender concepts and various types of GBV. She expressed that "I learned gender concepts and types of GBV in the training. After learning that, I reflected on this, tried to change my opinion on gender, and shared my knowledge with my family members and colleagues. And requested the supporting organization that gender and GBV awareness-raising training should be provided not only to women and girls but also to men and boys, because they should be aware of GBV to prevent committing it within their own families."

U Aung ng, a 34-year-old male participant from an IDP Camp, expressed, "I have attended some training, such as disaster awareness and data collection training. However, Gender and Humanitarian Awareness Training was the very first time for me. After attending the training, I learned about the concepts of sex and gender and the importance of coordination between committee members and the community when we work for the community. I applied that knowledge in my daily life and encouraged youth to participate in such training so that they could improve their knowledge and skills because it must change the gender stereotype mindset." He continued, "These changes have a positive impact on the community, and most women and men are accepting while I explain gender norms in the community. We should keep these positive changes. Encouraged organizations to try to support such kinds of additional awareness activities in our communities for sustainable changes."

Story 3

Nang, a 40-year-old woman, is deeply committed to volunteer work for her community. Despite her limited knowledge and coordination skills, she strives to contribute positively. Having received education only up to middle school, she faces challenges understanding technical terms. However, she is proficient in her mother tongue, Shan language, and dedicates her summers to

volunteering as a Shan language teacher for children in her village. Unsatisfied with her initial voluntary efforts, she aspires to broaden her impact on village development.

Upon the initiation of the project, she actively engaged in its activities, enhancing her capacity for village development work. Initially involved in planning meetings and training sessions, she later became proficient in coordinating between donors and village communities, bolstering her confidence in leadership.

Through the acquisition of PVCA knowledge, she gained a comprehensive understanding of her village's needs and gaps. Empowered, she advocated for support from donors, collaborating with a UN agency to provide agricultural materials and seeds for her community. Additionally, she played a crucial role in the "cash for work" program, actively participating in constructing much-needed drainage during the rainy season. Recognized as an essential figure in her village, she demonstrated her leadership by facilitating the construction of a vital road, addressing transportation challenges during the rainy season.

Her success continued as she secured grants for road construction by presenting the village's needs to the UN agency. She emerged as the main coordinator for her village, leading discussions with civil society and facilitating inter-ethnic dialogue among diverse women's groups.

Today, she holds a pivotal role in her village, actively contributing to the Village Development Committee. Her suggestions are now valued and considered, showcasing the transformative change brought about by the project. The training provided empowered her with full leadership skills, enabling her to make a positive impact through dedicated volunteering for her community.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable training and support provided, fostering connections with other donors. Knowledge sharing has proven indispensable for our village. Previously, I faced significant challenges engaging with the village community due to my limited knowledge. Moreover, the prevailing skepticism towards women leaders hindered the acceptance of my suggestions. However, following the training provided, a positive transformation has taken place. I now possess the confidence to actively participate in village activities and fearlessly voice my opinions. The empowerment received has not only enhanced my capabilities but has also broken-down barriers, allowing me to contribute meaningfully to the betterment of my community", she said.

Story 5

A group of three young women, aged 24, 18, and 34, initiated a small tailoring enterprise with prior experience working in other tailoring shops but lacking entrepreneurial skills. The project facilitated necessary training and coaching for them. Currently, their business is thriving, showcasing a consistent monthly profit increase, fostering economic independence. The focus is now on elevating product quality and standards to transform the shop into a high-quality establishment. This success has empowered more women to achieve economic independence during challenging times. *"The most challenging phase was the startup, and the support from UNW funds and the organizations' expertise played a crucial role in providing freedom and building a new life for these women. Maintaining an accounting book is vital for identifying areas of improvement, and the CSO meticulously tracks it, discussing general challenges and solutions during monthly meetings, empowering the beneficiaries."* The three young women expressed.

Story 6

"I am Lasi Htoi Bu³, and I am 36 years old. I sew at home by myself. After advanced sewing training, I have improved than before because of the opportunity to learn latest model of designing and sewing and I am able to practice in my daily home sewing. I am continuing to study sewing process online; my daily average income is 15000 kyats and I am trying to work harder to provide daily family food and also contributing to the family daily income. I want to learn more on how to conduct ready-make sewing. As for me, I thank so much to the supporting organization, and if there is a course like this in the future, I would like to suggest that it would be more convenient if the participants were recruited by setting a qualification."

Story 7

My name is Nang Ra⁴. I am 23 years old. I am now working in a sewing shop because I cannot afford to open my own sewing shop and doing sewing by myself at home. As for me, attending the sewing course provided by the supporting organization contributed to my personal growth and increased my sewing skills. Concerning my skills, I had more confidence than before, and because of those benefits, I had become brave enough to accept any kind of order to sew clothes for customers. I apply the lessons I learned in my daily life especially the sewing methods. My daily income increased to 10,000 kyats and I am also now a sewing worker for another shop with an addition of 2800 kyat. I plan to conduct similar training for the local women in my community to share what I learned in sewing and share my knowledge gains in the gender training, GBV training, marketing training, team-building training, and leadership training. I am continuing to study tailoring."

³ Name changed for protection

⁴ Ibid.

Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility

a) Report on any new knowledge products and communication materials produced by UNW or ME during the reporting period. This can include case studies, major surveys/research, evaluations, or assessments conducted during the reporting period. This section should also include a list and description of any new products (websites, policy briefs, social media, case studies etc.) developed to increase visibility of the projects and programme, and of WPHF.

b) List any public knowledge product developed by CSO partners (e.g. research, case studies, etc.) that would be relevant for other WPHF partners.

** Please attach a copy of the study/evaluation/survey/assessment as an Annex and include the weblinks in this section, if available.*

During this reporting period several knowledge products and communications materials were produced by the grantees. These are:

- A video clip and two Infographic on addressing SRH, HIV/AIDS, and GBV were created
- IEC materials on SRHR, CEDAW, and accessing GBV services, including an audio version for persons with visual disabilities and a sign language video version were developed
- A social media campaign for IWD 2023, featuring women with disabilities organized
- A video clip for IWD 2023, was developed and posted in their Facebook page.
- A short video documentary on gender-responsive humanitarian response and women's participation in humanitarian activities produced
- A Facebook page for advocacy purposes on gender-responsive humanitarian actions established
- The Gender-Based Analysis Report after Cyclone MOCHA authored
- T-shirts and calendars with the slogan “Keep Green, Keep Clean” produced in three languages (Mon, Myanmar, and English) to promote a clean and green environment.
- A card on raising awareness about GBV and available hotline services developed and distributed to community people.
- Videos for media advocacy focusing on Women Peace and Security were developed.
- Two video clips “Breaking away from tradition” and “Stop Gender-Based Violence,” produced and shared
- A Research `on WPS conducted by Htoi and resulted in a comprehensive research report

Capacity Building of CSOs by UNW Country Office/Management Entity

Briefly describe any capacity building sessions (webinars, in-person, workshops, etc.) that were conducted by the Country Office, Management Entity or other external agencies with CSOs/grantees. DO NOT include capacity building that was conducted by CSO grantees as part of their projects (except for the Women Have Wings Award). *If your country has received additional funding from WPHF for capacity building initiatives, please report against your prodoc in this section.

For CB initiatives Indicate i) the topic/subject; ii) who conducted the capacity building; iii) where (virtual/in person) and when it took place; iv) number of WPHF partners and CSO representatives that participated (disaggregated by sex). Describe any results from pre and/or post training surveys that may have been completed. Finally, if any capacity building materials were produced and would benefit other CSOs, please share these with WPHF Global L-Hub team.

UN Women conducted regular monthly coordination meetings with WPHF grantees to discuss project progress, challenges, issues, and achievements. WPHF grantees were invited to join humanitarian cluster meetings. From November 22-24, MCO organized a three-day Project Induction workshop, for the newly selected grantees and their sub-grantees with participants representing CSOs who received trainings on PSEA, LNOB, How to develop human interest stories, Result based reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Digital Security as part of the capacity building project supported by the WPHF. In addition to capacity assessment of direct implementing agencies as the mandatory of signing partnership agreement with UN Women, a survey was conducted with 19 direct and sub-implementing agencies during the induction workshop to identify participants' training needs, and UN Women will organize follow-up trainings based on the survey and staff observations throughout 2024 aligned with CSOs capacity building plan.

Risks and Mitigation

Using the table below, identify any risks that occurred during the reporting period and assess their i) risk level; ii) likelihood of it occurring; and iii) the impact this risk would have on the project, programme, or country. What are the mitigation measures to minimize the risk to prevent it or respond to it if it occurs? Consider risks related to COVID-19, new or escalating conflict/tensions, climate change, programmatic or institutional risks, monitoring and evaluation and Do No Harm

Risk Area (contextual, programmatic, institutionally, briefly describe)	Risk Level 4=Very High 3=High 2=Medium 1=Low	Likelihood 5=Very High 4=Likely 3=Possible 2=Unlikely 1=Rare	Impact 5=Extreme 4=Major 3=Moderate 2=Minor 1=Insignificant	Mitigation Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period to address the risk
Armed conflicts	3	3	3	Continuous monitoring of the situation in project locations. Maintained close collaboration and discussions with local partners to assess the situation in target areas, prioritizing safety. Collected



Risks and Mitigation				
				<i>information and announcements from SAC and local armed forces, sharing relevant details with the grantees.</i>
<i>Natural disaster</i>	3	4	4	<i>Adapted implementation during the rainy season, pausing activities amid heavy rains and floods, with adjustments made based on up-to-date weather information from reliable sources.</i>
<i>High Inflation and Increase commodity prices</i>	4	4	4	<i>Providing flexibilities to the grantees to decide on the best possible solutions to continue the project activities by coaching them on how to identify criteria for prioritization and adjustment of quantity or procurement strategies where possible. Providing timely information on the movement of foreign exchange rates that would have impacts on their activities</i>
<i>Difficulty to access to the Internet.</i>	2	3	3	<i>Proper planning of trainings and getting timely information on access related issues including internet access. Timing internet-based activities with other activities to consolidate for possibility of doing face-to-face. Provision of internet top-up money to beneficiaries to access better internet service providers.</i>
<i>Electricity power shortages</i>	3	3	3	<i>Prepositioning fuel for generators and including it in operations cost. Purchase of potable power banks as alternative power source during power outage periods. Coordination and close collaboration with capable organizations that have back-up electrical power generating equipment.</i>
<i>Covid-19</i>	3	4	3	<i>Took precaution and prevention measures and provided vaccination, available services.</i>
<i>Security and Safety</i>	4	4	4	<i>Stay low profile and conducting remote monitoring whenever possible. Follow UNDSS guidance for movements. Allowing work from home arrangements.</i>

9. Delays and Adaptations/Revisions

If there were delays at the country level, please explain the delays and reasons/factors for contributing to the delay, actions taken to mitigate future delays, and adaptations made to account for the delays. Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes that took place. This section should also include information on contracting and programmatic changes related to COVID-19 or other crisis.

The compounded and protracted crises and escalating conflict caused severe challenges the safety and security of grantees. Travel authorization and mobility remains limited for UN Women staff and partners' staff, inter-cities travelling is banned in Rakhine state for everybody, armed conflict led to changed project sites, delays in project implementation or (temporary) relocation of staff or even closure of offices. UN Women regularly communicated with the grantees allowing flexibility and adaptability in terms of grantees' management.

In air attacks and explosions resulted in the closure of grantee offices and non-movement to project locations by project staff. The entire Kachin state experienced an internet outage, forcing communication with grantees to rely mainly on phone communication. Additionally, submitting quarterly progress reports to UN Women became challenging for the grantees. Grantees fled to border areas between Thailand and Myanmar.

In Rakhine, the breaking of the informal cease-fire agreement between the Arakan Army and the State Military has led to widespread displacement. Since October 2023, all means of transportation were banned in Rakhine restricting inter-city movement and impeding the delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid. The conflict in the project areas has raised concerns on the safety and security of project staff, and the arbitrary arrests of men and boys including women and their children who are fleeing their villages stricken with fighting. The intensifying armed conflict and the impact of Cyclone Mocha impeded project implementation resulting to civilians increased suffering and significant losses of assets like their homes, farmlands and closure of their businesses resulting in adverse changes to their living conditions.

10. Lessons Learned⁵			
<i>What challenges and lessons were learned during the reporting period at both the project and country level? Include those lessons that can benefit other WPHF countries and of the fund overall. For each challenge, identify and describe the challenge, provide details on what are the factors that may have contributed to it occurring, describe how the challenge was addressed in the reporting period, or will be addressed in the future, and summarize the key lesson that can help inform the project, or improve in the future. These should include both programmatic and operational challenges. Add rows as required.</i>			
Identify Challenge/Describe <i>Challenges can be programmatic or operational affecting the country program and/or of projects.</i>	What are the factors/reasons contributing to this challenge?	How was the challenge addressed? What was done differently, or what will be done to address the challenge?	Key Lesson Learned <i>As a result of the challenge what did you (and partners) learn from the situation that has helped to inform the project, or improve how the project is implemented or for future interventions?</i>
Delay on project implementation	The escalation of armed conflicts between State military and ethnic armed forces.	Adjusting project work plan and budget to adopt to the fluid situation. Granting no cost extension requests of grantees within the period they see needed to complete their project activities implementation.	Fast action to flexibility and mitigation measures is required. Scenario building to anticipate potential challenges and issues in the changing context and plan accordingly.
Shortage of Electricity.	Anti-coup groups in Myanmar have destroyed many power supplies, causing widespread power outages. This has severe implications for essential services, communication networks, and daily life, creating significant challenges for communities and hindering normalcy.	UN Women supports its staff by providing alternative power sources like batteries and inverters. Additionally, certain CSOs have adopted flexible working hours for their employees.	Support from both the organization and the donor is crucial to ensure staff can work full-time.
Limited access to the fields.	Travel authorization is not granted due to armed conflicts and heavy weapon attacks in some project areas.	Adapt online mode for trainings, events, and conduct online monitoring. For CSOs, utilize volunteers, community facilitators, women groups, and local CBOs for some activities (distribution of materials).	Maintaining a strong network and good relationships with village-level or grassroots-level organizations' activists and community leaders is crucial for sustaining project implementation.
Fluctuation of prices of commodities and services.	The increased inflation rate in Myanmar is largely attributed to the heavy reliance on imports, compounded by a decrease in foreign currency due to sanctions and the departure of some foreign businesses amid the country's instability.	Permit partners to redistribute surplus funds from certain activities to cover budget shortfalls in other areas.	Closely monitor partners and provide flexibility where needed.
Insufficient budget to complete projects.	There is a significant disparity between the black market and UN exchange rates. The partnership agreement relies on the currency of the project's implementation location, with partners receiving a Myanmar kyat amount equivalent to the approved	UN Women permits partners to revise budgets and shift the modality of certain activities from in-person to online to reduce costs. The UN exchange rate has been adjusted twice during 2023, and the latest exchange rate aligns with the market rate.	UN agencies should actively listen to partners' voices and collectively communicate their challenges to the UN country team, facilitating relevant changes.

⁵ A lesson learned is a systematic reflection of challenges (or successes) that have occurred during the reporting period which has resulted in a change, adaption, or improvement as a result of the challenge, or a planned change or adaptation in the future.

10. Lessons Learned⁵

	USD multiplied by the UN exchange rate. This leads to budget shortfalls when prices increase.		
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11. Innovations and Best Practices⁶

Please include information on any innovative practices (programmatic and operational) that emerged during the reporting period, especially those that can be beneficial for other WPHF countries, expand the body of knowledge on women, peace, and security and humanitarian action. Innovations and best practices can be from projects or country level. Please provide details such as CSO name, location, etc.

Innovations:

1. Adapting internal process: to address volatile changing operational environment most especially on ensuring fund transfers and utilization that is safe and secure. Flexibility and adaptive measures for partner agreements has been crucial obtaining an exception to corporate policies and procedures and grant management from UN Women HO.

2. Adapting M&E and reporting methodologies: The grantees have conducted projects monitoring based on the content and areas where they are working such as hiring the external consultant to conduct in person monitoring, online monitoring, bringing some key persons from the fields to Yangon (a safer place) and holding project evaluation and lessons learnt workshops. Fund grantees has gained valuable lessons learned operating since the escalation of conflict in Myanmar. From the usual process of doing face-to-face project site visits and directly connecting with beneficiaries, Grantees gather updated security situations from all sources including social media to decide and plan for their monitoring visits. Some have learned to consolidate activities when opportunities arise for field monitoring and gather as many information as possible. Members of Women's Civil Society Organizations (WCSOs) and women leaders typically undergo various training sessions from different agencies. Knowledge acquired are adjusted to the context to apply in practice while also taking a proactive approach to monitor the outcomes of project activities. This is achieved by organizing themselves into a network and conducting regular networking meetings to sharing of knowledge and experiences.

3. Increasing digital security. The conflict and crisis have not changed the limitations on the use of information technology much with the access to internet. The procurement of licensed software and IT equipment with better security features however have reduced the risk of project personnel exposure to unannounced checks of phones and laptops that could result to arbitrary arrests. At program side, the IT devices enabled intended beneficiaries to open video clips which were shared with passwords and passwords were shared via signals, and information materials that supports their work on raising awareness and campaigns in communities. This became more convenient for them of not carrying bulky materials around further not exposing them for further scrutiny by armed groups. This effective sustained awareness efforts even when staff cannot physically travel to villages due to armed conflicts. Notably, virtual images and videos have proven to be valuable tools in educating illiterate women about GBV and women's rights. Following this initiative, nearby villages have expressed interest in using similar materials for GBV advocacy in their communities.

b) Best Practices:

1. Contributing to localization and increasing possibilities of Women-CSOs directly accessing humanitarian fund. One of the unintended outcomes of the fund, is the increasing solidarity among Women-CSOs by organizing themselves as a network or consortium to support each other address the challenging operational context including their higher chances of accessing humanitarian funding. This is evident with the growing recognition on the important role of local community-based organizations to continue to deliver humanitarian aid despite working low profile and the increasing layers of constraints imposed by de facto authorities. The local organizations are more knowledgeable of the local context and have the necessary understanding of community dynamics. This advantage has influenced strategies among humanitarian aid organizations on leveraging the opportunities of access by piggy backing where possible. Further informing for the need to recalibrate funding strategies easing criteria to direct fund local organizations.

⁶ A best practice is strategy, approach, technique, or process that has proven to work well and deemed to be effective or appropriate for addressing a problem based on experience, evaluation or in comparison to other practices, and is therefore recommended as a model. It is also a practice that has been tested and validated and has potential to be replicated and there is value in sharing with others working in similar contexts, sectors, or with similar target groups.

11. Innovations and Best Practices⁶

Please include information on any innovative practices (programmatic and operational) that emerged during the reporting period, especially those that can be beneficial for other WPHF countries, expand the body of knowledge on women, peace, and security and humanitarian action. Innovations and best practices can be from projects or country level. Please provide details such as CSO name, location, etc.

- 2. Including vocational skills trainings to increase livelihood opportunities and access to income generating activities through cash-based interventions.** Some WPHF fund grantees, included in their package intervention vocational skills trainings and some forms of cash-based interventions to increase livelihood opportunities and access income generating activities. This is evident in the feedback of sewing training beneficiaries being able to have alternative income sources while increasing their seeking behaviour for GBV services and support especially among women and girls' survivors of GBV or at risk of protection. This approach has contributed to positive change in perceptions that despite the situation they are still able to get inspiration and continue to thrive for better learning to alleviate their situations. The cash-based intervention served as a buffer for women and their families for food and other basic needs.

12. Auditing and Financial Management

Mention if any projects were audited during the reporting period and provide a brief summary of results. Do not include detailed findings of the audit as reports are public. Alternatively, you can share an audit report with your programme lead, if relevant.

UN Women conducts annual external audits, randomly selecting implementing partners for audit by HQ. As of now, none of the WPHF grantees have been included in the audit. One CSO also underwent external audits annually, with the audit for the current year pending due to security concerns preventing travel.

13. Next Steps and Priority Actions

In bullet form, please list the priority actions for the coming year including onboarding of new grantees, monitoring missions or other planned initiatives related to WPHF.

UN Women will closely monitor the progress of the partners' implementation through regular meetings and field visits where possible. Continuous monitoring will be conducted, adapting support measures as needed, with a focus on flexibility and security without compromising personnel and beneficiary safety. UN Women will consistently review, document, and seek support from the WPHF Secretariat when necessary. Strengthening technical and operations personnel will ensure timely and effective assistance to partners while maintaining due diligence and risk assessments.

In terms of financial management, liquidation, and utilization this will be monitored continuously and support partners to properly document activities ensuring safe keeping of all financial documentations.