



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENT INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN RAKHINE

NARRATIVE REPORT

For the period 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Canada Support

<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Women's Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00115407 (Output ID) Programme Number: 00104308 (UNDP Project ID) 00114697 (UN Women Project ID) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p>Country / Region: Myanmar / Asia and the Pacific</p>												
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ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Arakan Army
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
CERP	COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan
CMC	Camp Management Committee
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
GAD	General Administration Department
GBV	gender-based violence
GiHA	gender in humanitarian action
GLP	Gender Leadership Programme
GoM	Government of Myanmar
GRB	gender-responsive budgeting
HDPN	humanitarian–development–peace nexus
HLP	housing, land and property
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group
ICT	information and communications technology
IDP	internally displaced person
IEC	information, education and communication
INGO	international non-governmental organization
IP	implementing partner
JP	joint programme
LASP	legal aid service provider
LCM	Legal Clinic Myanmar
MAF	Myanmar Armed Forces
MMK	Myanmar kyat
MoHS	Ministry of Health and Sports
MP	member of parliament
NGO	non-governmental organization
PPE	personal protective equipment
PSEA	Protection Against Sexual Abuse
PUNO	participating United Nations organization
QIP	quick impact project
RABP	Rakhine Area-Based Programme
RAFT	Respect, Accountability, Fairness, Transparency
RCO	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
RLAB	Rakhine Legal Aid Board
RSG	Rakhine State Government
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
TDLG	township democratic local governance
TDMC	Township Disaster Management Committee
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
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USD	United States dollar
W/VTA	ward/village tract administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, providing a narrative account of the implementation of the Rakhine Area-Based Programme (RABP) jointly supported by the Governments of Canada, Germany and Japan. Where relevant, it attributes progress and results to the specific contribution of each donor. When no specific attribution is noted, the progress and results are supported from their joint contributions.

The COVID-19 pandemic shaped the joint programme (JP) from April 2020, with wide-ranging implications on both programme activities on the ground and the population's shifting priorities. However, the military takeover of the civilian government on 1 February had an even more drastic effect. To direct JP's engagement during this interim period, interim engagement principles were drafted to ensure that the benefits of programming accrue primarily and directly to the people or local communities without discrimination; that programming supports the strengthening of the rule of law and the protection and promotion of human rights; and that it contributes to preserving, to the extent possible, the democratic space. At the same time, the JP's programming should not pose a risk of legitimizing the de facto authorities; have a potential negative impact on human rights, create a negative conflict dynamic, do-no-harm; or present potential reputational damage for the United Nations given current circumstances. Programmes and activities aiming at strengthening government institutions, providing policy advice, and/or with participation of government officials have been paused until further notice.

Nonetheless, while looking back at a turbulent year, the RABP still progressed in meeting the needs of communities in Rakhine by:

- (i) developing **more inclusive and responsive service delivery** through: building the State Hluttaw's capacity to draft legislation more responsive to community needs, providing support to its integrated information management capacity and information and communications technologies (ICT) and delivering training to Hluttaw middle management to support implementation of the 5-Year Strategic Plan; expanding the participatory township planning model from five to seven townships in Rakhine (1,090 participants, 32% women); strengthening capacities to understand environmental and disaster risks and enhancing risk-informed decision-making related to service delivery (five township risk profiles and mainstreaming guidance notes are under development);
- (ii) contributing to improving the quality of and access to a **more inclusive and gender-aware justice system**, with 688 beneficiaries (352 women) benefiting from legal awareness training, legal assistance and land registration support and joint initiatives to strengthen GBV knowledge by capacity building of 15 government staff;
- (iii) facilitating partnerships to strengthen **community capacity to build trust and reduce conflict while increasing resilience** through livelihood interventions (aiming to reach more than 80,000 people), including preparing to distribute agriculture and fishery inputs to around 10,000 vulnerable households;
- (iv) implementing eight quick impact projects (QIPs)¹ (in 13 villages of Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships) and supporting income-generating activities (9060 beneficiaries) in northern Rakhine, contributing to setting conditions conducive for the **eventual return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)**;
- (v) 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);
- (vi) strengthening the skills, resources and capacities of 1,766 women in business development, climate-resilient agriculture, and weaving and handicrafts making, benefiting more than 8,130² people indirectly;

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

² The indirect beneficiary numbers were calculated taking into account the extended benefit family members of direct beneficiaries have received through the programme interventions. The numbers were calculated by multiplying the direct beneficiary numbers by 4.4 for villages, as per the mean household size number for Rakhine State as reported in the 2014 National Census, and by 5.4 for IDP camps, which is the mean household size number of the IDP populations in Sittwe and Pauktaw where UN Women's implementing partners (IPs) operate.

- (vii) creating 21 Women’s Advisory Groups and establishing a systematic forum for dialogue between civil society organizations (CSOs) and the Rakhine State Government (RSG) through the Department of Social Welfare (DSW);
- (viii) raising awareness on COVID-19 prevention and response in villages and IDP camps, and engaging women leaders to assist;
- (ix) building the capacities of project and camp-based staff to conduct Rapid Care Analysis (RCA) through the use of essential methodological tools.

As part of their Business Continuity Plans (BCPs), UNDP and UN Women continued to repurpose existing programmes to support local authorities and communities to respond effectively to COVID-19 as the situation unfolded.

At the national level, UNDP, UNHCR and UN Women participated with other agencies in the development of the United Nations Socio-Economic Recovery Framework in Myanmar (UN-SERF). The UN-SERF provided guidance to the JP on its immediate response interventions in Rakhine.

UNDP

- **Situational and programmatic assessment** – To understand COVID-19 response and recovery efforts at the township level and assess entry points for support, a rapid survey was carried out in all townships targeted under the township democratic local governance (TDLG) component. In addition, the livelihoods component led a rapid telephonic COVID-19 assessment in four Rakhine townships to evaluate the impact of the pandemic on the economic activities of community members, particularly women. The findings indicated that the crisis had had a high impact on small-scale farmers and fishers in particular. On the basis of the assessments, programmatic adjustments were made and targeted COVID-19 response initiatives implemented.
- **Distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies** – As part of the COVID-19 response, the Programme Management Unit of the RABP distributed a set of Medical Oxygen Concentrator Supply System and 12 Units of Patient Monitor to Sittwe General Hospital and also distributed PPE to the people from IDP camps, FQC and host community through Department of Disaster Management, Department of Social Welfare and CSO. In addition, the rule of law and access to justice component delivered PPE to its implementing partners (IPs) —the Rakhine Legal Aid Board (RLAB), High Court and Rakhine Attorney-General’s Office—to enable their work to continue, and the TDLG component took lead in the supply of medical (ECG machine, patient monitor) and non-medical equipment (CCTV cameras, hospital beds, air conditioners, ventilators, etc) to the health facilities in 5 target townships.
- **Awareness-raising and community support** – The JP supported numerous community consultations and provided 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 livelihoods component. In northern Rakhine, UNDP and UNHCR jointly launched awareness campaigns and distributed 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.

UN Women

- **Women and broader communities in IDP camps and conflict affected villages have increased knowledge on COVID-19.** Information was provided via GLP alumni and existing women leaders in these communities;
- **Women have increased access to health and social protection services,** including through the distribution of health and dignity kits and personal protective equipment, awareness-raising, strengthened referral on GBV and psycho-social support, as well as other health services;
- **Women’s rights and safety during the pandemic is increasingly realize through local advocacy.** Women leaders and male champions are capacitated to influence local authorities in wards, townships and camps and shape service delivery;

- **Vulnerable women have improved livelihood opportunities and community received personal protective equipment.** As part of the livelihoods support, women artisans produced nearly 100,000 masks to meet increased need in Rakhine. Provision of masks was complemented by awareness raising on proper mask wearing and hygiene measures.

Considering the unpredictability of the situation, the activities under the Outcome 2 of the JP has focused on women resilience and livelihoods at community level and strengthening women leadership in humanitarian and development response outside the administrative state structures.

I. Purpose

UNDP and UN Women, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and with coordination support from the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), have been working together since April 2019 with the Government of Myanmar (GoM), other UN agencies, civil society and communities to address the development challenges and some root causes of the tensions and conflict in Rakhine State. Their multisectoral JP—the RABP—leverages their humanitarian, recovery, peacebuilding and development capacities to create synergies between their interventions and provide impact at scale. The approach builds on a 12-month project (April 2018–March 2019) funded by Japan that helped set up the institutional bases and programming methods of the current RABP, which has continued on an annual basis since April 2019.

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

- Women’s Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine. This is funded by Canada for three years (April 2019–March 2022) and Germany for one year (January–December 2020)³ and implemented by UNDP and UN Women to promote socially cohesive and resilient communities that empower women. It combines support to government, civil society and communities to help realize two long-term development outcomes:
 - Outcome (D)1 (pursued with the support of UNDP): Community priorities and needs are better met through inclusive and responsive service delivery, improved access to justice, and increased local development opportunities that promote social cohesion for men and women in Rakhine State;
 - Outcome (D)2 (pursued with the support of UN Women): Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience, and inclusive growth and development.
- The Project for Strengthening Recovery and Development Assistance in Support of Durable Solutions in Rakhine and Kachin States. This is funded by Japan for one year (April 2020–March 2021) and implemented by UNDP and UN Women in cooperation with UNHCR, with coordination support from the RCO,⁴ to deliver recovery and development assistance in support of the GoM’s efforts to implement comprehensive and durable solutions to the issue of displacement from and within these two states, as well as to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The RCO supports the coordination of this project as well as other related initiatives funded by Japan, in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States.

II. Contextual Background for Rakhine

Armed conflict in Rakhine State and military takeover – The fighting reached a new peak in the period of March-April 2020, with clashes unfolding on a daily basis in various parts of southern Chin and Rakhine States between the Arakan Army (AA) and Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF). The rhythm slowed with the onset of the monsoon season, but then steadily picked up again with the return of the dry season in October. In 2020, the proceedings (initiated in late 2019) against Myanmar before the International Court of Justice alleging violations of the Genocide Convention against the Rohingya, continued. Myanmar submitted its first report to the court in May 2020. In parallel, the International Criminal Court (ICC) continued an ongoing investigation into the alleged crimes against humanity in relation to the Rohingya crisis, which Myanmar has so far declined to cooperate with.

Recent year’s limitations on fundamental freedoms including freedom of expression and access to information, including internet shutdowns in particular in Rakhine State continued in 2020, and the Telecommunications Law was arbitrarily used to block access to some ethnic media websites and the websites of selected civil society groups. Hate speech on social media increased significantly in the context of COVID-19 and in the lead-up to the election.

³ For UN Women, the funding duration is January 2020 to June 2021.

⁴ Humanitarian outcomes are reported by UNHCR in a separate document as per agreement with Japan.

On November 8, 2020, Myanmar held its first general election organized under civilian rule and the National League for Democracy won almost 80% of the elected seats. The election was generally considered to be credible and was undertaken in a peaceful and orderly manner, despite some townships in Rakhine were excluded from the election due to the hostilities taking place. The results of the election illustrated the strong popular mandate for the NLD. If upheld, the results would have given the NLD Government enhanced control of the law-making process and increase the operating space to undertake reforms. The election would also have been an important milestone in the country's transition towards democracy. However, on February 1, 2021, the military detained the 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, will fundamentally change the dynamics of the peace process and has created considerable uncertainty with regards to Myanmar's future development trajectory.

COVID-19 pandemic – With the report of the first COVID-19 case in Myanmar on 23 March 2020, the country applied precautionary measures to contain the spread of the virus. Along with the escalating conflict, the COVID-19 outbreak has negative social and economic impacts on communities, including on rural food production and the livelihoods of thousands of farm labourers, most of whom are women. Additionally, the growth of women's empowerment, which is strongly linked to financial contributions to the household, has been negatively affected. JP project activities have been restricted as part of the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. This has limited the capacities of project teams and IPs to move within project areas and engage with communities. In response, UN agencies developed and rolled out BCPs underpinned by an extensive programme and operational criticality analysis. Until the military takeover the JP following the BCPs, but the coup made an abrupt end to most of the activities.

With the growing complexity of the Rakhine context, and the implications for development and humanitarian actors on the ground, continued efforts are required to manage and respond to the rapidly changing circumstances. Information on new working modalities is provided in Section III of this report. Indications of programmatic revisions and adjustments for the coming months can be found in Section V.

III. Results

While highlighting the progress made from April 2020 to March 2021 in Rakhine towards achieving the JP outcomes and outputs, this section places emphasis on the programmatic adjustments undertaken to align with the COVID-19 situation. On the attribution of results, the following should be noted:

- For Rakhine, results achieved build on Phase 1 (April 2018–March 2019), which focused on establishing trust among key stakeholders and piloting the JP approach, and Phase 2 (April 2019–March 2020), 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, supported by Japan.
- The section underlines how results were achieved through the joined-up approach of the JP: (i) from the donors' perspective, complementary funding by Canada, Germany and Japan is 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 complements UNDP's legal and institutional work to ensure that government programmes and services are inclusive of and accessible to women in Rakhine. Where relevant, area-specific aspects are highlighted. Achievements are attributable to the joint efforts of UNDP and UN Women. Nevertheless, some sections follow the structure given in the Programme Document.
- Annex I details the outputs supported by Canada, Germany and Japan, respectively.
- Annex II provides an indicator-based performance assessment by output.

- Annex III presents success stories under various project components.

A. Progress

Progress on Outcomes

Outcome (D)1 under the JP is aligned with UNDP's 2018–2022 Country Programme Document, striving for: (i) sustaining peace through national reconciliation and building an effective democratic State; and (ii) promoting inclusive, resilient and sustainable development and environmental management; and Outcome (D)2 with UN Women Myanmar's Strategic Note 2019–2021, which aims to ensure that: (i) women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; (ii) women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; and (iii) women and girls are able to contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and from humanitarian action.

- **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.*
- **Outcome (D)2:** *Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience and inclusive growth and development in Rakhine State.*⁵

Phase 1 (April 2018–March 2019), funded by Japan, built strong relationships with local actors to test intervention methodologies and begin to demonstrate the impact of a joint approach to supporting more inclusive, people-centred development in Rakhine. Building on this experience and the network established, Phase 2 (April 2019–March 2020) successfully linked Rakhine authorities and communities, strengthening trust and promoting social cohesion to improve the status of minorities with their integration into multisectoral economic, social and institutional approaches and concerted efforts at the state, local and community levels.

Informed by regular programme criticality assessments and consequent adjustments in working modalities, the JP continued its efforts towards meeting the priorities of Rakhine communities by: (i) developing inclusive and responsive service delivery through institutional and programmatic work with the State Hlut-taw and township authorities; (ii) contributing to improving the quality of and access to a more inclusive justice system; and (iii) helping increase local development opportunities that promote social cohesion and conditions conducive to the eventual return of displaced persons. It helped empower women 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 nexus (HDPN) in Rakhine.

However, the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020 and spike in positive cases in Rakhine by mid-August widely influenced the dynamics in Rakhine State as well as the needs and priorities of the people living in the region. Adjustments in the JP and activities were necessary to address the shift in needs and respond to the changes in environment while maintaining a conflict-sensitive approach. Programme criticality assessments were conducted to align the JP's interventions to both the GoM's COVID-19 Economic Relief

⁵ UN Women works with the following IPs for the implementation of Outcome (D)2: Oxfam (under Outputs 2.1, 2.3 and D.2.2), World Vision Myanmar (under Output 2.3), Mercy Corps (under Outputs 2.3 and D.2.1), Finn Church Aid Consortium (under Outputs 2.3 and D.2.1).

Plan (CERP) and newly emerging realities and, thus, community priorities. In view of the triple crisis fostered by the pandemic, new entry points for health, crisis response and socio-economic support were explored to extend the JP's areas of activities while enhancing ties with key stakeholders to mitigate negative implications and simultaneously contribute positively to the JP outcomes.

With the expansion of the participatory township planning model to two additional target townships in Rakhine, the JP contributed significantly to strengthening local governance structures while promoting the use of evidence-based planning, inclusion and cross-sectoral coordination. To build on these activities, a national Local Governance Forum to contribute to a wider local governance policy discourse and reform was planned for mid-2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this has been postponed until 2021. On a local level, capacity-building training on insider mediation, negotiation and consensus-building is part of wider efforts under UNDP's Sustaining Peace project to engage actors at national level on policy and practice, and at subnational level on horizontal relations, that will promote long-term engagement in durable solutions. This initiative was planned to take place in Rakhine in quarter 2 of 2020, but was also rescheduled due to COVID-19. It builds on the Insider Mediation Training conducted in January 2020 in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, a three-day negotiation and consensus-building skills training for 32 staff members from the Ministry's three departments.

Progress on 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

Township democratic local governance component. The JP focused on strengthening the 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). The impact of COVID-19 on work under this component during the reporting period was rather limited, as most of the activities are government led and the peak of activities falls in quarters 1 (October to December) and 4 (January to March), in line with the RSG's fiscal year. Nevertheless, travel restrictions and limitations on the number of participants at public events and meetings impacted the participatory planning process, specifically the public presentations that normally take place in summer once the RSG budget is finalized. Accordingly, some adjustments were made to the conduct of public presentations in line with the precautionary measures in place but without compromising the inclusivity of the process.

Key results are as follows:

- Three rounds of FY2020/2021 participatory township planning workshops were held in seven townships in Rakhine, opening up space for a democratic, inclusive and gender-responsive dialogue between the RSG and communities on the planning and selection of public projects. On average, 1,090 people (32% women) attended each of the three rounds across Rakhine.
- Expansion of the approach to Manaung and Pauktaw Townships for FY 2020/2021 has been requested by the RSG, which will allocate the equivalent of USD 180,000 to cover the cost of three of six projects in Manaung. The RSG's decision to replicate the model and take financial ownership is a positive indication of its buy-in and response to increasing demand for decentralization.
- Through participatory planning workshops, 16 priority infrastructure projects were selected, including 13 roads and/or bridges, two water and sanitation projects and one vocational training course, aiming to benefit more than 100,000 people. The Letter of Agreement between the RSG and UNDP was signed in June 2020, enabling the transfer of Township Development Grants totalling USD 2.02 million (MMK 2,970,143,000) and commencement of the projects.
- To date, all 16 projects prioritised in 7 townships of Rakhine State have been completed.
- Building on the situation analysis of solid waste management (SWM) in Rakhine focused on coastal areas and tourism, training was held in Sittwe and Thandwe for 92 RSG and Township

Planning and Implementation Committee (TPIC) representatives (46% women) from the five target townships. As a result, SWM Masterplan was developed. The initial plan was to hand over the masterplan to RSG by the end of March 2021. However, with introduction of the UNCT Engagement principles in February 2021, the masterplan will not be handed over to RSG. Instead, it will serve as RABP knowledge product to be used by UNDP and donors in the future when/as situation allows.

- During June and July 2020, five procurement guideline refresher training sessions in the five existing townships and two introductory training sessions in Manaung and Pauktaw were held, with 197 participants (12% women), including representatives of TPICs, the General Administration Department (GAD) and private contractors.
- Public presentations—one of the five social accountability measures—were organized on 30 July 2020 to ensure the public is informed about the selected infrastructure projects and the inclusivity, transparency and accountability of the process remains in place despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentations were delivered in line with the precautionary measures put in place by the GoM and RSG (e.g. social distancing, wearing of masks, use of hand sanitizer, etc.). To conform with social distancing protocols, the number of participants in public presentations was reduced from an average of 150 in previous years to an average of 60 in 2020. Across the seven townships, a total of 439 people (8% women) participated.
- During August 2020, tender notices were advertised publicly in local newspapers and the tender process officially closed on 4 September 2020.
- To counteract the consequences of the pandemic, effective responses are required, which in turn call for local coordination capacities and information-sharing mechanisms. Accordingly, a rapid survey was carried out in all target townships of Rakhine State in May 2020 to understand the response and recovery efforts at the township level and entry points for support. Among other findings, the survey highlighted the acute lack of budgetary resources available to townships which could be used at their discretion to ensure flexible and prompt responses to an emergencies such as COVID-19. Instead, townships continued to rely on requests to the RSG, and on mobilizing local private and civil society resources, both of which include a degree of uncertainty as their release is often delayed, even when they have been approved in principle. Accordingly, support was provided to mobilize resources to finance unfunded TDLG project proposals (especially water and health projects) that are key to the response to COVID-19.
- To ensure consistent implementation of the UNCT's Engagement Principals, the following activities related to local governance for FY 2021-22 (starting in October 2021) have been cancelled:
 - All participatory planning workshops and public presentations as well as associated Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Social and Environmental Standards (SES) mainstreaming work.
 - Procurement trainings as these activities require interactions with sub-national governments.
 - The Local Governance Forum and Lessons Learnt Workshops.
 - Parliamentary activities under this Output relate to support to the Rakhine State Parliament. These activities are not in line with the UNCTs engagement Principals and therefore cannot be implemented, because they support strengthening government institutions.

To support township level COVID-19 response efforts, UNDP Myanmar has received funds from Japan Supplementary Budget. The following activities were accomplished using JSB funds:

- Cash for work (CfW) activities were initiated and completed in 5 townships in Rakhine. The CfW beneficiaries were selected using vulnerability criteria. Quotas were introduced to ensure that both women and men equally benefit from CfW activities. CfW activities were carried out throughout February and March 2021. The payments to CfW beneficiaries were disbursed weekly based on the attendance sheets. The daily payment was equivalent to MMK 6,000/days. The overall volume of CfW activities is equivalent to 9,906 men/days, including a total of 1,163 in Gwa, 1,521 in Pauktaw, 2,911 in Ramree, 3,100 in Toungup and 1,211 in Ponnagyun townships, providing in average 200 CfW beneficiaries per township in average. In total, 9,916 beneficiaries were involved in CfW schemes.

- PPE items (disposable gloves, surgical gowns, masks, surgical caps, etc) for health professionals and for the population (cloth masks, hand sanitisers/soaps) were procured and delivered.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) component. Building on earlier phases of the JP, including capacity-building, development of tools and checklists and policy support, and to further integrate Social and Environmental Standards (SES)/DRR considerations into local development planning, the JP has completed drafting township disaster risk profiles and mainstreaming guidance notes on DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) for five selected townships in Rakhine (Gwa, Manaung, Ramree, Thandwe and Toungup). These tools were designed to strengthen township planning processes and reinforce risk-informed decision-making. Synergies and continued integration of SES/DRR activities were promoted jointly within the TDLG project through the development of SES/DRR toolkits and in the support offered to resilient and sustainable investments. Integration of SES/DRR in the revised TDLG grant manual and the Cash for Work (CfW) guidelines implemented as part of the Covid Response Cash strengthened SES/DRR in township level planning and in community-based activities. JP supported SES/DRR consideration in construction of Solar Dryer Dome (SDD) facilities under Output (D) 1.3.

- Data related to Township Disaster Management Committees (TDMCs) were collected through a survey and have been processed to gain understanding of a wide range of TDMC members' perceptions on hazards knowledge and risks, TDMCs' functions, the disaster risk management (DRM) cycle, DRR and CCA mainstreaming and disaster risk governance. Based on this analysis, the need to revise the terms of reference for selected TDMCs will be explored. There were 39 survey respondents from TDMCs from the five target townships. The survey outcomes were integrated in township disaster risk profiles and guidance notes.
- Township risk profiles and mainstreaming guidance notes have been developed however, due to several limitations, including COVID 19 and current political crisis in Myanmar, the validation and dissemination of the guidelines could not occur, as prescribed by the UN principles of engagement with government counterparts. The risk profiles and guidance notes will be still utilized to inform JP activities and in particular, will be used as basis for future village level development planning in the respective covered townships.
- Due to the Covid-19 related restrictions imposed in Rakhine, the component related to community-based DRM, as well as impact-based forecasting and needs assessment, planned for quarter 3, was reconsidered as part of a CO criticality exercise. In discussion with local authorities and other UN agencies working in Rakhine on COVID19 related response and recovery, the JP supported DDM capacities to reach out communities by providing face masks and face shield and equipment for community-based quarantine centres (beds, curtains, etc.) for IDP quarantine centres and community quarantine facilities. Distribution of PPE and awareness raising on COVID19 and other disasters was also conducted to mark IDDRR2020.
- In addition and as part of the criticality exercise, the JP enabled DDM to ensure continuity of their operations, strengthening their capacities as the main focal department for reaching out to IDPs by providing IT and office equipment. Part of the delivery of the IT items procured had to be halted following the political events post-1st February 2021.
- Under TDLG, SES toolkits will be integrated into CfW initiatives to support the COVID-19 response. CfW guidelines are currently being developed and will integrate the Environmental code of practices (EcoP) and SES/DRR checklist; including integration of SES/DRR in the revised TDLG grant manual.
- SES/DRR screening were remotely conducted for proposed sites for Solar dryer dome facilities (under Output (D)1.3) in Ponnagyun township. The final screening is expected to be completed in early April 2021 The screening report also guided relevant precaution/mitigation measures for potential SES/DRR risks and concerns regarding construction, operation and maintenance of solar dryer dome facilities.
- Following the coup and the programme review of activities against the UNCT's engagement principles, it was been proposed that capacity building activities on integrating DRR and SES analysis for sustainable and resilient livelihoods can continue but will focus on awareness raising with CSOs and CBOs as implementing partners and stakeholders. The Township Planning Implementation Committees (TPICs) will no longer be engaged in these activities.

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

During the course of the Myanmar military coup's unconstitutional actions on 1 February 2021, numerous MPs were arbitrarily detained, including the Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker, Chief Minister and Ministers. UNDP immediately suspended the Parliamentary component on 1 February.

During the first ten months of the reporting period (before the coup), the functioning of the Hluttaw was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic impacted the ability of members of parliament (MPs) to conduct business with external stakeholders (government officials, members of the public, media, CSOs etc.), reduced staff capacity due to rotational working arrangements, and limited UNDP's ability to work from its office within the Hluttaw buildings. The JP transitioned much of its support to remote/virtual delivery.

- The JP supported the Rakhine State Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Irrigation Committee to finalise and present the report of its inquiry into the Role of Seed Improvement in Supporting Sustainable Agriculture in Rakhine State. During the reporting period, activities focused on further stakeholder engagement (resulting in additional submissions), desktop research, reporting drafting and preparation for the report to be presented to the Hluttaw. The Chair of the Committee presented the report in late January. The report represents the culmination of methodical and inclusive stakeholder engagement that aimed to understand policy challenges in context and identify solutions for government consideration, including recommendations for policy change.
- Through the national training network implemented through the Union Hluttaw Learning Centre, UNDP supported Committee Skills training for Hluttaw staff (7 women, 3 men), which was delivered through the newly developed Online Learning Centre. Further online training has been made available to staff, including on foundational ICT skills.
- The JP continued to support the Hluttaw's integrated information management and ICT systems, including the development of a Hluttaw SharePoint (intranet) site. This work was suspended due to the coup.
- Following delivery of an introductory training of trainers (ToT) course in February, an advanced ToT course for the Hluttaw's two training focal points was delivered between September and October 2020, delivered online by Melbourne Polytechnic. The course provides opportunities for online collaboration and peer-to-peer learning across staff of all 14 Regional and State Hluttaws, despite the restrictions of the pandemic.
- The JP also provided training to staff of the Hluttaw's Complaints Committee (2 women, 1 man) to support them to be more systematic in their recording and processing of individual complaints. This was designed to support the Committee and MPs by strengthening their approach to systematically address complaints and to facilitate a more aggregated approach, instead of taking actions on a case-by-case basis, and consequently, increase the impact of their advocacy work on behalf of complainants.
- The JP shifted its focus from delivering professional development support to MPs, and commenced planning and materials development for the induction of the new Hluttaw, which was to have occurred in February 2021. The induction did not occur due to the coup, and the Hluttaw has effectively been dissolved. The induction was to have been a particularly important opportunity to link the old Hluttaw with the new Hluttaw, to support new MPs in educating about Hluttaw practice and procedure, transmitting accumulated knowledge and supporting the new Hluttaw to build on the successes of the old.

Rule of law and access to justice component. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and recent political developments in the country, SARL continued supporting its relevant partners and beneficiaries in Rakhine State. This support included: legal services; raising awareness of rights in law through a variety of media products; training paralegals and supporting paralegal networks; building capacity to mainstream gender equality; conducting thematic e-workshops; and supplying various stakeholders with personal protective equipment (PPE).

- In Rakhine, SARL reached 1,809 beneficiaries (904 women) over this period. Through three legal aid organizations – Legal Clinic Myanmar (LCM), Thazin and ILF (International Legal Foundation) - the project raised legal awareness at community level and provided legal assistance on housing, land and property (HLP) rights, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and criminal defence. Through 9 legal awareness sessions on SGBV and HLP matters, the project reached 772 people; 430 individuals received legal counselling in person and 374 through hotlines; 187 people were represented in court; 88 paralegals were trained to provide legal support in remote communities; and, 74 land registration cases submitted successfully. Geographically, legal assistance work went far beyond Rakhine borders, and reached additional 6 States/Regions. Those are, Kachin, Mandalay, Chin, Kayin, Mon, and Ayeyarwady. In numbers, this constitutes 23 townships, 36 village tracks, and 66 towns/villages. This was primarily possible through promotion of 24-hour telephone hotlines by partners and regular Q/A livestream videos with lawyers on social media.
- Awareness raising activities in Rakhine through social media, printed materials, production of educational videos, radio and TV discussions reached 414,302 viewers, with 67,543 likes, and nearly 8,700 reposts. Overall, the project and its partners developed 18 videos, 2,083 copies of printed materials, and conducted four social media quizzes. A series of animated films were developed on various topics: countering stigma during the pandemic; and obtaining land registration and compensation entitlements. These films are intended primarily for social media and each is produced in four languages with audio versions produced for radio. With the help of local media outlets and radio stations, those films were broadcasted to cover population in grander scale.
- With onset of the pandemic, SARL delivered 280 bottles of hand gels and 24 temperature scanners to all its partners in Rakhine (Thazin, LCM, ILF, RLAB, High Court and the Rakhine AGO) so that they can continue their work aimed at supporting women, girls, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other disadvantaged groups with legal support and assistance. Following the second outbreak of the virus in August, SARL provided further PPE to implementing partners (IPs). This included, 8 PPE suits, 11000 masks, 230 bottles of hand sanitizer, 6200 pairs of gloves, 150 surgical head-covers, 170 face shields and 60 bottles of disinfectant spray. Project's partner - Thazin disseminated masks and hand sanitizers among community members throughout Rakhine and in IDP camps. Paralegals from Ann Township distributed PPEs among community members and in hospitals, and they also volunteered in the local quarantine center. As a result, the organization received acknowledgement from the Rakhine State Government for its contribution and support during the COVID-19 crisis.
- A consortium of RAFT and Search for Common Ground conducted a conflict sensitivity analysis of RABP's rule of law component with respect to its outreach and awareness training practices and processes. The study provided number of meaningful recommendations for project's rule of law and access to justice activities, as well as for its partners in Rakhine. Based on the analysis, an action plan was developed to take forward the main in future programming. Some recommendations have already been acted on such as engaging more women and ethnic minority paralegals and engaging organizations working with ethnic minorities (hill tribes).
- International NGO – MDF was contracted to conduct organizational capacity assessments and develop a programme of capacity building for Thazin and LCM as well as three CSO partners active under the Livelihoods component. The first round of online capacity building training was conducted in early June and covered strategic planning, risks-based performance management, etc.

- SARL has further supported the Rakhine Legal Aid Board (RLAB) with necessary hardware and software so that it effectively communicates and coordinates its efforts during the pandemic. The project handed over to its national counterpart 20 laptops, 48 desks, 96 office chairs, and 16 storage cupboards. The equipment is also expected to build capacity of RLAB's 16 township offices by making online meetings and training possible. SARL also supported RLAB with in-person training on Legal Aid Eligibility Standards organized for RLAB officers, legal aid providers and judicial stakeholders.
- An international consultant was hired to support Rakhine IPs in mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles into their programming. The IPs outreach & training materials were assessed, and they were then trained and mentored on how to integrate GESI into planning, implementation, monitoring, organizational policies, etc.
- The project has also been working in close coordination with UNW and UNDPs Livelihoods component linking them with SARLs partners as well as with the paralegal networks active in the townships where UNW and the livelihoods team operate. By linking IPs and beneficiaries with the paralegal networks it is hoped that more vulnerable groups will be able to access legal services. Especially, during the current political crisis in the country.
- In February, the project in cooperation with Myanmar ICT for Development Organization (MIDO) delivered a series of short trainings on issues pertaining to digital literacy and cyber security. An online training involved several representatives from each IP in Rakhine. Further to this, SARL on regular basis organizes regular check-in meetings with partners to inform programming, discuss current developments and challenges related to implementation of joint initiatives. Project's partners in Rakhine were also allowed to use some of the existing funds to enhance their security measures in office. This includes, installation of CCTV cameras, purchase of fire extinguishers, and hiring additional security personnel.

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

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

- With the support of three local CSOs—People for People in Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun, Swanyee Development Foundation in Pauktaw and Action for Green Earth in Rathedaung—the livelihoods component is implementing activities in 80 villages⁶ across the four townships, covering rural population of above 80,000 from all ethnic groups. The activities include provision of agriculture and fishery extension training at specialized demonstration farms, supporting value adding process through training, women leadership capacity building, provision of agriculture and fishery related livelihood assets and supporting market linkages development. To date, local implementing partners provided direct support to over 4,500 vulnerable farmers and fisherfolks, including over 20% of women and 20% of Muslim population.
- Implementation is supported by Mercy Corps and MDF as technical partners responsible for strengthening local CSO capacities and providing technical solutions such as standard operating procedures (SOPs) on community engagement, agro-fishery value-adding process, developing local business models to promote value adding while engaging farmers and fisherman from all communities, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).
- Technical partners provided 37 training modules through 102 training days to 567 trainees (45% women) from local CSO partners, including livelihood technical assistance trainings by MC such as M&E framework, technical SoP application, market mapping & market linkage training etc. and organisational development trainings by MDF such as strategic planning, CSO governance,

⁶ Based on the security and access situation, 8 villages in Rathedaung remained inaccessible to local implementing partners, thus total number of villages reduced to 80.

financial management, results-based project management, human resource management, operation & maintenance etc.

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Livelihood Recovery Forum (LRF) meetings were organized in a limited scope and with a limited number of participants, in line with government precautionary measures. To maintain communication with community leaders and beneficiaries, alternative channels such as phone calls were used.
- Based on the priorities identified in LRFs, in collaboration with the DoA and Department of Fisheries (DoF), the JP began the construction of seven solar dryer dome (SDD) facilities in Pauktaw and Ponnagyun. The facilities will support value-adding processes for agricultural and fishery production and serve as focal points for market linkages. Through an extensive and gender-sensitive consultative process, seven locations were identified and a socio-economic impact assessment has been completed. Construction has started in three locations at Chaung Wa, Kone Tan and Pyaing Taung villages in Pauk Taw township but was stalled temporarily due to COVID-19 restrictions and now by the overall security issues in Myanmar. The study on developing a community-led business model for SDDs, including consultations with local stakeholders and potential beneficiaries is on-going.
- Until 1 February 2021, the JP worked closely with the established working group of officials from the DoA, DoF and the Department of Rural Development, Agricultural Land Management and Statistics, Irrigation and Water Utilization Management and Agricultural Mechanization to align livelihood support activities with pandemic response priorities such as increased agricultural productivity, improved access to extension services, market linkages and distribution of agriculture and fishery assets to the most vulnerable households. In coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UN Women, technical support was provided in coordinating implementation of the GoM's CERP and the RSG's Seed Production and Food Security Action Plan.
- In June 2020, a rapid telephonic COVID-19 household-level impact assessment in four Rakhine townships was conducted to assess the economic impact of the pandemic on community members, including women's economic activities. Initial findings indicated that households whose livelihoods depend on the agro-fishery sector, as well as small farmers, fishers and livestock farmers, are the most affected. Reportedly, around 80 percent of them are negatively impacted and require support. The responses showed a drop in income by 50 to 80 percent in the first three months since the outbreak in March 2020.
- Based on the report findings, and building on the CERP and the RSG's Seed Production and Food Security Action Plan, the JP initiated several livelihood interventions. In close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI), the JP initiated procurement and distribution of agriculture and fishery inputs (such as winter crop seeds and fertilizers, threshers, hand tractors, fishing nets, crab traps and small boats) to over 20,000 of the most vulnerable and affected households in four target townships.
- Additionally, the livelihoods component developed a capacity-building plan and identified a service provider for the comprehensive technical and managerial capacity-development of MOALI. The capacity building programme was suspended on 1 February, and refocused towards capacity strengthening of CSO's technical staff to provide necessary extension training to planned beneficiaries from all communities.

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

- Reflecting the impact of COVID-19 and ongoing armed conflict, the originally planned steps for designing social cohesion pilot activities in Rakhine were further adjusted and it was agreed to apply a phased implementation, in which Sittwe and surrounding areas and rural areas of central

Rakhine are prioritized, and northern Rakhine and new areas of concern near the Chin state border will be considered at a later stage.

- Two national staff were recruited for leading the implementation on the ground.
- From August to September 2020, a mapping exercise was conducted to better understand the situation and identify locations, in order to strengthen understanding of how quality interactions can be promoted. The exercise reviewed the presence of social cohesion actors/interventions, existing knowledge materials, past and current dynamics around security, safety and access, and social cohesion impacts, such as the presence of mixed populations and IDP camps and the possibility of furthering a durable solutions agenda.
- Once the locations are finalized, implementation strategy, including the methodology for needs assessment and initial activities, will be refined in response to the current local transmission of COVID-19 and its short-term and long-term impacts in target communities.

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

The tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) among the GoM, UNDP and UNHCR was signed on 6 June 2018. It aims to create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh while supporting recovery and resilience-based development for the benefit of all communities living in Rakhine. On 11 May 2020, the MoU was extended for a third year until 5 June 2021. Supporting its implementation, the JP engaged communities and vulnerable households to collectively identify, plan and undertake livelihoods and income-generating activities to restore productive assets and rehabilitate socio-economic community infrastructure, while promoting interactions and social cohesion among community members and between communities. QIPs are implemented jointly with UNHCR, and through World Vision and CARE International as Implementing Partners. While much of the UNDP's programming are suspended or repurposed due to the military takeover, QIPs in Northern Rakhine will continue. It remains a critical intervention in providing direct and tangible benefits to IDPs and vulnerable populations in northern Rakhine and are in line with UNCT Engagement Principles.

The QIPs have strengthened recovery and resilience-based development of IDPs and communities living in northern part of Rakhine State. The completed projects from 2019 have benefited around 19,000 people. The 2020 projects benefit over 11,000 people. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP and UNHCR conducted public health campaigns in 40 villages. They provided mask-making kits to 5,939 households (comprising 29,930 individuals) in 48 villages under Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships.

- During the reporting period, Rapid Needs Assessments (RNA) were conducted in 28 locations (RNA Round 7) in Maungdaw and Buthidaung. To date seven rounds of RNAs were held: +130 locations assessed, +200 focus group discussions with community members and +2,600 persons consulted resulting in identification and design of 115 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs).
- 95 QIPs approved for implementation, with 45 technically completed, 30 on-going and 20 at planning and technical review stage.
 - Supported restoring livelihoods of 9713 beneficiaries through income generating activities (IGA): home gardening, livestock rearing, small business, vocational skills training on tailoring, masonry & carpentry, and auto motorbike mechanics.
 - On-going IGA support to 9060 beneficiaries covering 13 villages under Maungdaw and Buthidaung.
 - Established 38 Village Steering Committees (VSC) to support planning and monitoring of livelihoods activities, 50% of members are women.
 - UNHCR with its partner, Bridge Asia Japan, restored eight access roads and village footpaths providing 8 villages with better roads and safe bridges, resulting in better market connectivity and enhanced livelihood conditions. 8 are on-going which will benefit additional 10 villages.
 - Renovation of 5 schools improving access and schooling opportunity to children in 5 villages. Renovation of additional 5 school is on-going.

- Improved health conditions and access to safe drinking water for 12 villages, with the completion of 12 safe and accessible water points, additional 13 projects are on-going.
 - Persons with special needs (PSN) support provided to 4749 BNFs.
 - Social cohesion strengthened through inter-communal exchange and joint projects, supporting them to interact and collaborate in greater harmony. Particularly through livestock sales, vocational skills training, small business and trade, skilled labor exchange, etc.
- Implementing 2 IDP pilot projects providing shelter support to 58 households returning to their old house-plots, water holes & road renovation, and livelihoods support to 2, 481 beneficiaries (covering both IDPs and members from host communities)

Outcome 2: Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience and inclusive growth and development in Rakhine State ⁷

The JP takes a bottom-up approach to empower women and places a strong focus on addressing the needs of women and girls in conflict-affected villages and IDP camps and strengthening their resilience. Since the year 2020 to date, women have increasingly played a significant role in building and sustaining peace and resilience in Myanmar and in Rakhine State in particular.

CSOs in Rakhine were supported to voice their challenges and obstacles to their participation in humanitarian, development and peace processes in the context of COVID-19 to the Rakhine State Government through an online “Strategic Dialogue Forum” conducted in September and October 2020. The dialogue further contributed to efforts to raise awareness on the challenges of women having a voice in politics and governance.

Efforts were made to increase the knowledge on gender and COVID-19 of public servants across line ministries in Rakhine state through the existing gender architecture (DSW and MNCW) and to engender the government’s COVID-19 response and recovery policies (CERP and MERRP). Whilst headways were made in this regard in Rakhine as elaborated below, the military coup in February meant that these activities are currently halted.

Following the 2020 symposium on “Women, HLP and Inheritance Rights” organised together with UNDP and UNFPA, where legal aid providers, local government staff, village women were brought together to discuss the challenges women face with regard to realising their rights to housing, land, property, and inheritance, UN Women and UNDP worked together to link women in rural villages in Rakhine with the legal aid service providers supported by UNDP. .

In the reporting period, the JP created an enabling environment for women’s economic participation, by equipping 948 women from 37 targeted villages in Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Mrauk U, with skills to start their own businesses; and 40 women were able to access financial resources and take control of their business and own income. Output 2.1.⁸ 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

The JP strengthened the understanding of the Women’s Committees in 5 townships on gender responsive budgeting (GRB), and advocated for resource allocation on gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) with state and local planning authorities. This led to allocation of budget to projects aligned to

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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.

the needs of women in the TDLG project areas⁹ through the Township Planning and Implementing Committees. 32% of those participating in the township planning workshops were women. The training on GRB was conducted with the aim to build capacity of the gender machinery (DSW and the Myanmar National Committee on Women at the state level, and the Women's Committees at the townships level), a priority identified by the Gender Mainstreaming Technical Working Group and DSW. Moreover, UN Women provided technical assistances to UNDP's TDLG project through a half-day training specifically designed to address the gender-responsiveness of infrastructure projects, and provided technical inputs to the TDLG project selection workshops. Despite the positive progress on GRB in Rakhine during quarter 4 of 2019 and quarter 1 of 2020, planned training in other townships were postponed due to COVID 19 restriction measures.

Women's leadership and participation. During the reporting period, this component has been adjusted to meaningfully address the needs of women and girls to empower them to respond to ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis. Skills and capacities of the Gender Leadership Programme (GLP) alumni continued to be enhanced through their involvement in coaching and supporting women and girls in their respective communities.

- The 63 GLP alumni trained in women's leadership, gender advocacy and life skills during the first phase of the RABP were equipped with the skills to cascade their learning through a Training of Trainers (ToT) course. The GLP alumni themselves inputted into the content of the ToT to adapt the curriculum to the changing needs on the ground. The ToT curriculum includes seven topics on Sex and Gender, Gender roles, Women leadership, Self-care, Self-reflection, CEDAW and NSPAW. 29 GLP alumni from the villages and 30 alumni from the camps completed the ToT in quarter 3 of 2020 and quarter 1 of 2021 respectively.
- Following the completion of the ToT for the GLP alumni in the villages, multiplier trainings on women's leadership were conducted in the villages of Sittwe, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun, and delivered to a total of 720 women. The multiplier trainings in IDP camps are scheduled to take place in quarter 2 of 2021.
- In addition to capacity building in women's leadership, the JP supported the fostering of male champions of gender at the local level. Selected men were engaged through a 5-day training on positive masculinities taking place in quarter 1 of 2021, which resulted in capacitating 12 men from 6 camps in Sittwe, and 16 men from 8 villages across four townships (Sittwe, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U, and Ponnagyun). The age range of the male participants were between 19-35 years old and included both married and single men. Following the training on positive masculinities, the participants were recognized as "male champions" and supported to organize dialogue sessions on gender equality, women's care burdens, and women's participation in local decision-making in their respective villages as an activity following the training. The male champions are expected to play a key role in changing the existing gender norms and discriminatory practices at the local level.
- A "Covid-19 Prevention measures and Gender Responsive awareness raising" curriculum was developed and delivered to 32 GLP alumni from 6 six camps. The content covered in the training included sex and gender, local power dynamics (power over, power within, power to, power with), GBV and its various forms, measures to be taken for COVID-19 prevention (eg. handwashing, avoiding the 3Cs and pathways to infection) and quarantine processes.
- As part of supporting COVID-19 prevention, support was provided to IDP and village households in the form of the distribution of PPEs and hygiene and dignity kits. In quarter 1 of 2021, 18,678 women and girls in 8,142 households from six IDP camps and one host community in Sittwe received dignity kits, containing longyi, underwear, sanitary napkins, and soap. 1,731 households (3,956 female members, 3,578 male members) from 8 villages in Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U and Sittwe received dignity and hygiene kits. The hygiene kits contained towels, tooth brushes, tooth paste, cleaning disinfectant, shampoo, bathing soap, laundry soap, carbohc soap bars as well as sanitary napkins. The GLP alumni in both the camps and villages played an important role in facilitating the distribution of the kits and were instrumental in conducting in-person COVID-19

⁹ Township Planning and Implementing Committees of Tandwe, Rambree, Toungup, Gwa and Ponnagyun

prevention awareness raising at the time of distribution. Prior to the distribution of the kits in December 2020, COVID-19 and GBV advocacy messages were also disseminated via the GLP alumni through phone texts, posters and vinyl billboards. A subset of the GLP alumni from the villages formed a group to produce hand sanitizers locally and sample products were tested and certified by SSID. Hand washing stations were installed in 8 villages, benefitting 1,372 households.

- To inform advocacy priorities and efforts, survey research was conducted through a research consultancy firm to gauge women's understanding and experience of the COVID-19 crisis. Data collection was done through telephone interviews with key women leaders and male champions in different villages and camps. In total, 246 interviews were conducted (140 interviews in six IDP camps in Sittwe and 106 interviews in the eight villages across four townships). Drawing on insights from this survey research, women leaders will be supported to advocate to local authorities and decision-makers regarding the gender responsiveness of COVID-19 responses and approaches.
- Following the UNCT Common Guidelines after the coup in February 2021, the International Women's Day commemoration activities with DSW were cancelled. However, implementing partners reached 70 people in 6 camps through community campaigns in March 2021.

Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA). The GiHA workstream, consisting of UN Women and UNFPA, works to ensure that the Myanmar humanitarian needs overview (HNO), and the humanitarian response plan (HRP) are engendered. In 2020, the workstream engaged in the HNO process by providing inputs to the HNO COVID-19 addendum and its subsequent revisions, the HNO narrative and cluster/sector analysis and the HRP narrative documents and cluster/sector inputs both through the protection working group and OCHA. Through the GiHA workstream, UN Women supported cluster leads prioritizing WASH and nutrition in Myanmar to better integrate GiHA within their work and programming.

As part of the GiHA workstream, UN Women developed 11 Gender Mainstreaming Checklists endorsed by the HCT in April 2020. The tools build on the IASC GiHA Handbook and incorporate sector-specific elements of the GiHA Profile. The localized checklists provide practical, sector and cluster specific guidance on strengthening gender mainstreaming efforts, ensuring that gender issues, gaps and needs are adequately addressed, and provide tips for gender-transformative outcomes in humanitarian programming.

To support the system-wide efforts of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) to integrate Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) into the HNO and HRP in Myanmar and strengthen the evidence base on GiHA, UN Women and UNFPA jointly led sector-specific workshops to review to update the GiHA Profile in partnership with UNOCHA. The 2021 GiHA Profile will primarily focus on capturing key changes related to the context and priority sections from the 2020 profile. The exercise will validate and update existing recommendations, identify new areas which require interventions, highlight areas of progress and recognize persistent and new challenges which may have emerged in the past year. The sector specific workshops also allowed for engaging sectors in GiHA related work more widely. The COVID-19 context and the inability to carry out face-to-face workshops has limited the reach of the consultations that was carried out this year and forced workshops to be carried out over Zoom. Within the reporting timeframe, GiHA workshops were conducted with 6 humanitarian clusters¹⁰ with 137 members (84 women and 53 men) of the clusters and coordinators from Rakhine, Kachin, Kayin and Northern Shan participated in the virtual workshop. Workshops were held in Myanmar language to ensure strong inputs from local actors and a specific breakout session was held for Rakhine participants in each workshop. An English breakout room was available for English speakers. The final workshop will be held in April, followed by a survey, and analysis of inputs. The draft profile will be shared with the national level ICCG members for inputs and verification, followed by a consultation with the ICCG in Yangon in early May 2021. The GiHA Profile will be shared with HCT for endorsement as a final step before being launched. All efforts will be made to adhere to the timeline to ensure that the Profile is available to inform the 2022 HNO and HRP planning processes.

¹⁰ Health, Food Security, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter/NFI/CCCM, and WASH. (EiE to be held in April 2021).

As a member of the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund's (MHF) review committee, UN Women provided substantial technical support to the MHF Reserve Allocations administered by OCHA by reviewing the MHF Standard Allocation Strategy twice in 2020. The support focused on strengthening the gender analysis in the Standard Allocation Strategy and advanced its strategies on gender-responsiveness. In three MHF fund allocations in 2020, UN Women supported increased gender responsiveness in the MHF project proposals by reviewing pre-selected proposals for their use of the Gender and Age Marker. Through the review, UN Women ensured that gender mainstreaming and gender targeted actions were enhanced and applied throughout the project cycle of each proposal. UN Women also reached out to some organizations and provided additional support to enhance their capacities for gender mainstreaming.

Leveraging UN Women's coordination mandate and strategic partnerships, the RABP, in collaboration with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) organised a Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) information session to representatives of 8 CSOs (6 female and 4 male representatives) in Rakhine State, in response to the CSOs' request for support in applying for funding through MHF. Efforts were made particularly to encourage women-led and women-rights organisations (WLO/WRO) to participate to increase women's leadership and participation in humanitarian action and the session equipped the participating CSOs to prepare for the next call for funding in 2021.

UN Women Myanmar provided support to Care International in carrying out a Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) both in Myanmar and in Rakhine State to capture the changes in the realities of women and girls since the start of COVID-19. The RGAs purpose was to ensure that planned humanitarian programming activities address the current needs of women and girls. The RGA for Myanmar has been published on ReliefWeb in early June 2020, while the RGA for Rakhine was published early August 2020. Both RGAs have been cited and informed initiatives (such as initiatives to include sex workers as a vulnerable group in the COVID-19 response work).

UN Women 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 also participated in developing the UNCT Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 and ensured its operational plan actions were gender responsive and upheld the gendered impact of COVID-19 during regular national health sector led meetings on COVID-19. UN Women and UNFPA also developed gender guidelines and a code of conduct for safe COVID-19 quarantine spaces for women and children with support from PSEA Network, ICCG and Migration Task Force. Both tools were used as reference documents by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in formulating volunteer worker guidelines for quarantine facilities. The Ministry of Health and Sports Central Epidemiological Unit approved the tools in late 2020.

GEWE community outreach. UN Women supported DSW in Rakhine to engage CSOs and broader audiences through specific campaigns and events during Myanmar National Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism Against GBV to raise awareness of the social conditions faced by women, reaching more than 2,000 people at state, township and camp levels.

Virtual commemorations for 16 Days of Activism in 2020 were conducted in collaboration with the State DSW and was attended by 115 participants (75 women and 40 men), members of the Myanmar National Committee for Women (MNCW) from Sittwe, Mrauk-U, Maungdaw, Kyauktaw, Buthidauang, Kyaukpyu, Ann, Rambree, Manaung, Thandwe, Toungup townships. There was a panel discussion that focused on advocating the codification of the Prevention of Violence Against Women (POVAW) law, enhancing holistic services on health and legal access, and reporting GBV to the police. GBV awareness campaigns conducted by UN Women's partners were held in four areas in Sittwe township with a reach of approximately 100,000 people.

Due to the increased security tensions created by the coup d'état in February, text messaging has been used as a channel to disseminate key advocacy and awareness messages on COVID-19 prevention and

GBV. Through messaging, 325 women, girls, men and boys in camps and villages have been provided with information on the prevention of COVID-19 and GBV, and how to access support services.

Output 2.2. Institutional capacities of government enhanced at the national, state and local levels for gender-responsive policies and service delivery

Apart from the GRB training conducted at the beginning of 2020 as reported above, all other trainings were postponed as the results of COVID 19 restrictions. The situation has not permitted convening participants from different townships for face-to-face trainings. However, dialogues and capacity development efforts continued via virtual means.

Enhancing the knowledge of state level gender architecture actors on Gender and COVID-19.

Rakhine State DSW and the state-level MNCW were supported to organise a virtual five-module training on Gender and COVID-19, which was developed by DSW at the union-level with UN Women's technical support. The training aimed to build participants' understanding on gender and on the importance of leaving no one behind in the COVID-19 response policies. The training was scheduled to take place in the first week of February 2021 but was postponed due to the coup d'état.

Engendering COVID-19 Response Policies (CERP and MERRP).

UN Women in collaboration with State DSW, the State and Township Women Committees, and CSOs organised a knowledge sharing forum on 22-23 January with 15 CSOs (23 women; 12 men), including women's rights and women-led CSOs, where the challenges and obstacles of women's economic participation, such as access to finance, movement restrictions, and access to health services during COVID-19 were discussed with a view to reflecting the insights into COVID-19 response policies. Learning from the gender gaps in the government's 2020 Covid Economic Relief Plan (CERP), the women representatives of the CSOs recommended greater gender responsiveness in the new Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP), and following the forum the next step was to advocate with the Union Government for the reflection of these recommendations in the MERRP. However due to the coup in February 2021, all engagement, coordination and support to the union and state level governments have stopped.

Facilitation of dialogue between the Government and CSOs and engagement of women and women's groups in humanitarian and development processes at the State level. UN Women's role as a convener of gender-related dialogues between the RSG and CSOs working on GEWE in Rakhine contributed to enhanced collaboration, information exchange and trust between them. An online "Strategic Dialogue Forum" was conducted with 7 CSOs and DSW in September and October 2020 with the objective of enhancing dialogue and civil society engagement on the gender-related aspects of the humanitarian, development and peace issues in Rakhine in the context of COVID-19. The forum led 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. As the result of the coup, however, these dialogues have been put on hold.

Output 2.3.¹¹ A supportive environment established to increase women's access to and control over financial resources and new sources of income for promoting their leadership and participation outside household duties

Significant progress was made during the reporting period, with 9,545 women supported to have better access to income security, decent work and economic opportunity through provision of skills and

¹¹ 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.

resources in climate-resilient agriculture, agri-entrepreneurship, weaving and handicrafts, and business development in Rakhine State.

- Around half of the 100 women trained in weaving and handicrafts across two of the four townships in Rakhine where UN Women operates reported gaining access to new markets. Further, 72% of the women surveyed stated that they were able to sell the products they produce and 62% of the women reported an increase in income. UN Women also showed innovation and versatility in its economic empowerment work in light of the COVID-19 pandemic by training women's groups in Rakhine on mask production. So far, 44 women have produced and sold nearly 100,000 masks, managing to generate income for themselves and their families during this particularly challenging economic situation.
- In the reporting period, the JP created an enabling environment for women's economic participation, by equipping 948 women from 37 targeted villages in Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Mrauk U, with skills to start their own businesses. This is in addition to the 882 women previously trained in the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) curriculum, bringing the cumulative number of women provided with entrepreneurial skills to 1,830 women from 70 villages. Of these entrepreneurs, 40 women accessed financial resources through a small grants programme. 93 per cent of the women who took the pre- and post-tests following the SIYB training¹² displayed an increase of their knowledge, skills and self-reliance.¹³
- In cooperation with Small-Scale Industries Department (SSID), 194 women engaged in weaving and handicrafts in Sittwe, Ponnagyun and Mrauk-U townships were supported to register their businesses. Business registration helps the women to freely and legally advertise and market their products for business growth.

B. Qualitative Assessment

(i) The development of key partnerships

Building on existing relationships and partnerships under the RABP, the JP is continuously strengthening and developing partnerships with key stakeholders, aiming to establish sustainable exchange platforms among key partners that foster collaboration as well as mutual trust and ownership between communities. With new priorities emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and the military takeover, new entry points are being explored. With UNFPA currently collaborating on health, legal services and psychosocial support is ongoing, including a Rapid Assessment of COVID-19's Impact to GBV Service Provision, to be completed in May 2021. The UN agencies partnered closely together in the reporting period, with a noteworthy joined-mission of OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, RCO and UNDP to Kyauk Pyhu 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 to HLP issues are 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. In the reporting period UNDP also added CARE as a partner for its QIPs work.

Support to humanitarian and development coordination

During the reporting period, there have been strong coordination efforts. The RCO and UNDP chair the Rakhine Coordination Group meetings and the recently established Rakhine-based Durable Solutions Working Group. The RCO, UNHCR and OCHA provide coordination on the humanitarian front. At the same time, in an effort 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),

¹² 777 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.

¹³ Pre and Post-test survey results

Gender Thematic Working Group (GTWG), MARA and the Gender based violence coordination working group (GBVCWG).

In the IDP camps during discussions UNDP observed that most women highlighted the issue of firewood as a major concern as they are not allowed anymore to collect firewood by the military for security concerns and cannot afford to buy it. UNDP discussed with WFP who expanded their fuel-efficient stoves programme to cover some of the camps that had not initially been targeted for the project .

The RCO was not able to proceed to finalize recruitment for the senior RCO staff position in Rakhine supported by Germany. Since the arrival of the new UN Resident Coordinator at the end of 2019, the RCO has been in the process of reviewing and redesigning the RCO structure including its field presence across the country, considering political sensitivities at different levels as well as the evolving situations on the ground in different states and regions. There are ongoing discussions on more effective UN and partner coordination through an HDPN approach with a specific focus on the need to consider effective implementation of durable solutions in Rakhine as well as other states. The RCO intends to fill the senior staff position in Rakhine according to the new proposed RCO structure that has been shared with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). Despite the delay in the process of recruitment for the senior staff position in Rakhine, the RCO's support continued to provide the UNCT with nexus coordination support and political analysis, including through leading the regular Rakhine Coordination Group meetings and the recently established Rakhine-based Durable Solutions Working Group.

COVID-19 as an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with government and CSOs – In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the GoM launched the CERP in April 2020. Although the pandemic has precipitated a triple crisis, the fiscal measures implemented through the CERP are modest considering its particular impact on economic indicators. As the CERP is largely gender blind, in response to the GoM's request, UN Women has provided technical support at the national level to engender the CERP and its M&E framework. With the urgent need to boost and support the capacities of subnational entities in Rakhine, the TDLG component of the JP continues to collaborate and support the RSG, TPICs and ward/village tracts to strengthen planning and budgeting capacities around COVID-19 response and recovery in line with the CERP. It is also exploring options to collaborate with CSOs in applying a cash-for-work scheme in seven target townships in Rakhine with due consideration of the precautionary measures required.

Even though the component related to community-based DRM, impact-based forecasting and needs assessment could not be initiated in quarter 3 of 2020 as planned, the situation created an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the JP and the Rakhine Department of Disaster Management (DDM), which is the designated department to provide relief in the COVID-19 response. Discussions continue on how best to support DDM to effectively deliver relief and assistance to communities while also ensuring operational continuity, and implementation of the delayed activities will likely occur early in quarter 4. The JP's long-standing support to the Rakhine State Hluttaw in multiple areas has facilitated continuity of activity, even for long periods when project staff were not able to attend the Hluttaw physically due to COVID-19 restrictions. Staff of the Hluttaw are able to participate in online training with colleagues from Hluttaws around the country, and the JP's ICT support has strengthened the Hluttaw's ability to provide services and support to MPs in the extremely challenging environment. The ongoing support to the inquiry—now being delivered online—has continued to incorporate a focus on inclusivity and gender sensitivity, and the inquiry report will include mainstreamed approaches across the key areas of the inquiry.

In collaboration with FAO and UN Women, the livelihoods component provided further technical support in coordinating implementation of the CERP and the RSG's Seed Production and Food Security Action Plan. This involved technical advice on the translation of identified priorities into policies and activities, such as those related to inclusive identification and targeting of affected households, agro-fishery assets distribution and post-distribution procedures, and defining agriculture and fishery support packages.

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

Based on experience from the first two phases of the JP, a consortium of two non-profit organizations—RAFT and Search for Common Ground (SFCG)—provided conflict-sensitivity technical support to implementation across all outputs to maximize positive and minimize negative impacts of the interventions. During the reporting period, the consortium closely worked with the TDLG, DRR, parliamentary and rule of law & access to justice components to provide technical assistance. As a result of constructive feedback, approaches and documents have been adapted, including those of partners. A main observation was there is still a strong reliance in some RABP components on government administration officials as interlocutors with communities, which can reinforce the perception that UNDP programming benefits the government more than the communities. This is a dynamic that can greatly affect UNDP's reputation given the pervasive communication gap between government and communities so UNDP would be strongly advised to more proactively counter this. UNDP's outreach will benefit greatly if it can extend beyond its traditional partners, by engaging with more civil society (including non-registered organisations) and religious actors, and improving already existing partnerships with these actors. It is also important for UNDP to find ways to engage with the different ethnic and religious minority communities and other marginalised stakeholders in Rakhine State, who would also like to benefit from UNDP partnerships and activities.

UNDP is cognisant of the above and the Rule of Law component already started reaching out to a wider range of CSOs, including those covering ethnic and religious minorities. UNDP is also aware that government officials are the key, and often sole, interlocutors between the JP and communities, and that some communities perceive this relationship from a particular angle. UNDP acknowledges that its close relationship with the GoM is by design, as the TDLG component of the JP works directly with government agencies, including GAD. As a significant way of balancing this with the perceptions of a range of stakeholders, the conflict-context analysis suggests integrating more communication and feedback avenues that support community engagement with the project, in order to increase community perceptions of transparency and understanding of the decision-making process.

With respect to DRR, options for integrating conflict sensitivity and the human rights context into township disaster risk profiles and mainstreaming guidance notes were explored in partnership with RAFT and SFCG to ensure conflict-sensitive consideration in the township-level planning process. In addition, a small analysis exploring the connection between DRR and social cohesion implications will be conducted by RAFT and SFCG. In particular, the analysis will focus on copying mechanisms used in affected communities in post-disaster contexts and explore the correlation between this and the possible worsening (or, conversely, improvement) of local social ties.

The analysis recommended to provide advocacy support and accompaniment to IPs liaising with government officials; arrange space for monthly roundtable discussions with local government officials; support IPs in expanding their paralegal activities and services; continue promoting an acute sensitivity to language inclusiveness; support IPs to select training participants at the village level; strengthen IP reporting and feedback mechanisms to capture conflict sensitivity concerns; and invest additional resources in increased coordination with other RABP components, etc. Based on these recommendations, the rule of law and access to justice component has developed an action plan to ensure compliance in future programming, which will inform programming across all areas where it operates.

The JP will continue developing the capacity of the RSG, CSOs and communities to operate in more conflict-sensitive ways and initiate and promote trust-building and peacebuilding activities. Given the Rakhine context, by adopting a careful approach, UNDP will further strengthen the capacities of individuals who can work as insider-mediators on conflict sensitivity and social cohesion.

(iii) A focus on gender

The COVID 19 crisis provided the opportunity to promote gender equality in Myanmar and in Rakhine State in particular.

The JP advocated for the expansion of GBV services in non-humanitarian settings so as to strengthen coordination and partnerships. The 4Ws analysis was recently completed aiming at providing a clear picture of the GBV services that are readily available in Rakhine. In 2020 GBV partners UNDP included provided GBV prevention and response services to an estimated 70,430 women and girls. Being part of the working group finalised the GBV prevention and response SOP which will be rolled out in May /

June 2021. The SOP will be translated into local languages to ensure that partners use it effectively. Coordination and partnerships lead to the Joint GBV safety Audit Plan been prepared for maximizing coverage of GBV risk assessments. This will ensure that no one is left behind. Reaching the most vulnerable people in need of the much-needed services.

Furthermore, the JP contributed to the drafting of the Rakhine Quarantine guidelines to be used in the Quarantine facilities ensuring gender sensitivity is respected through ensuring that women had separate facilities so as to reduce chances of GBV in the centers. 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, would benefit from the guidance note.

Ensuring that broader sectoral interventions are in place requires that services are in place, the JP worked towards strengthening the Referral pathway for GBV survivors by supporting the access to justice component. Using the network recently referred GBV survivors in northern Rakhine to legal aid services providers. Working with WFP to ensure gender inclusion at community-level and to find ways of ensuring activity participation of men, women, boys and girls in both Humanitarian and development programmes. Next step towards this is developing a questionnaire that gives an insight into the level of participation by women.

With UNFPA a Joint Rapid Assessment on COVID-19 impact to GBV on service provision was conducted and 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 the 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 UNFPA and DSW, the JP identified the need for a joint and standardized approach to this issue. Accordingly, the initiative for an SOP on GBV was launched and is currently under review, aiming to harmonize the work on GBV in Rakhine. The JP also worked with DSW and the MNCW to raise awareness on the effect of COVID-19 on women and girls and dedicated the 2020 Myanmar National Day for Women entirely to COVID-19 related gender issues.

Moreover, the JP is working 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 have made headways in linking legal aid services to women in villages and IDP camps. As part of the repurposed activities in the context of COVID-19, UN Women will support the strengthening of referral pathways on GBV and health services. To improve availability and accessibility of essential services for GBV survivors during the pandemic, gaps and challenges in GBV service provision need to be assessed and suitable action identified. In this regard, UN Women and UNDP are collaborating with UNFPA on an ongoing rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on GBV essential service provision. Findings are expected in May 2021 and will strengthen evidence-based decision-making and thus improve service provision for GBV survivors as a part of the COVID-19 response effort and in the recovery phase in the longer term.

A gender-sensitive rapid socio-economic impact assessment conducted by the livelihoods 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.

(iv) United Nations coordination

Continuous effort is made to identify synergies among partners of the RABP, UN agencies and donors, to strengthen the area-based approach. During the reporting period, new areas of collaboration have been explored and developed.

- The JP sought to strengthen referral pathways between partner LASPs and UN agencies, INGOs and CSOs working in Rakhine. On 13 August 2020, UNDP briefed the Protection Working Group (PWG) on activities under the rule of law and access to justice component and shared details on LASPs. This participation in the PWG facilitates coordination and strengthens synergies among UN agencies.
- Further efforts were made to link RABP activities implemented under the livelihoods and rule of law and access to justice components and activities implemented under UN Women, through close coordination. By linking IPs and beneficiaries with paralegal networks, greater numbers of vulnerable people will be able to access legal services.

Overarching coordination across UN agencies is key to counteracting the wide-ranging consequences of the triple crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Based on the rapid survey conducted under TDLG, the project supported the coordination and communication of proposals to mandated UN agencies such as WHO and UNICEF (in respect of health) and the World Food Programme and IOM (for provision of food and non-food items to support the management of facility quarantine centres).
- The lack of standard guidelines on GBV to support activities in Rakhine led to a joint initiative to develop a Rakhine-specific SOP on GBV covering IDPs in camps as well as non-displaced persons. With technical assistance from UNDP, UN Women and various INGOs and CSOs, UNFPA is leading the development of such guidelines. Several meetings were held, including with justice sector officials, DSW and GAD, to ensure their participation in the development process.
- The Programme Management Unit of the RABP has been engaging the RSG to ensure that efforts in response to requests are coordinated and held monthly meetings to ensure that gaps and existing needs are made known to UN agencies and INGOs. Through such coordination, UNDP has been able to respond to needs by providing PPE, lime bags and bleaching powder,¹⁴ ensuring that the most vulnerable are included in the distribution. Procurement of other medical supplies has started.

Due to the Government's COVID-19 restrictions, as well as the RSG's shifting priorities during the surge of COVID-19 cases in Rakhine, donor missions and the regular Project Steering Committee meeting have been postponed. Alternatively, an online donor meeting, including Canada, Germany and Japan as well as UNDP, UNHCR, the RCO and UN Women, was held to update on current progress and discuss the way forward. Details on the programme criticality assessment conducted and discussed during the meeting can be found under Sections III and IV below. The monthly Technical Coordination and Context Update meetings, which provide a forum for UNDP and UN Women to discuss complementarity in project implementation in Rakhine, are being continued remotely.

UNDP, UN Women and the RCO have worked together to review the JP in the context of the pandemic, including holding meetings with donors to provide updates on the impact of COVID-19 on the JP and possibilities for adaptation and repurposing. A peer learning exercise was held on 23–24 September 2020 to promote collaboration among the IPs, focusing on livelihood and women's empowerment programmes in central Rakhine and providing opportunities for all partners to learn from each other's approach and discuss any adaptation of their ongoing project activities.

C. Challenges and Delays

The complex and rapidly changing environment in Rakhine posed numerous challenges to the JP implementation. As reported above, the reporting period has been highly impacted by the wide-ranging implications of the COVID-19 outbreak and the coup d'état, 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 is also strongly shaped by a fluid security context in relation to the coup.

Implications of the military takeover

¹⁴ Lime (term used in Myanmar for powdered chlorine) and bleaching powder are used as disinfectant to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While Myanmar continues to experience widespread and growing civil unrest combined with frequent reports of violent clashes between protesters and security forces, Rakhine happens to have a temporary cease fire since the coup. The COVID 19 restrictions were eased, and the State government allowed convening of groups of not more than 30.

However, the military orders countrywide, including suspension of internet services affects communication and operations in Rakhine. Curfew orders in Rakhine have remained the same but there have been police patrols and increased check points that affects humanitarian actors' movements. This has affected our partners movement to the villages and IDP camps. Face to face training continue not to be possible and hence all training is virtual and schedule depending on available internet.

The protests and associated strikes by the civil disobedience movement (CDM) have also caused disruptions to travel and supply chains, which are likely to exacerbate. These have affected banking operations in Rakhine and partners have temporarily not been able to access funds and alternative means to disburse funds are under discussion.

Implications of COVID-19 (April 2020 – January 2021 especially)

Despite the coup overshadows the implications of COVID-19, these implications were real for especially the April 2020 to January 2021 period. These challenges included:

- **Access restrictions and consequent delays in activity implementation** – Precautionary measures imposed by the GoM in April 2020, including national and international travel restrictions and limitations on the number of participants allowed at events across Myanmar, led to a number of constraints on the RABP. The situation became even more challenging with the spike in COVID-19 cases in mid-August 2020, and the tightening of restrictions, particularly in Rakhine State, limit interventions to lifesaving activities only. To comply with the precautionary measures, some activities were temporarily suspended, larger scale activities and events were postponed and new working modalities were developed to continue project implementation in line with MoHS guidelines and the safeguards in place to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Non-essential travel by project staff and consultants was curtailed, while coordination and communication with key stakeholders, as well as capacity-building activities, were conducted remotely.

Despite the additional challenges arising from the restrictions, the JP adjusted rapidly to the situation by developing scenario-based plans and coordinating with its counterparts to switch to alternative working models. An example is the JP's significant and long-term investment in ICT, which enabled the Rakhine State Hluttaw to be more resilient and more effectively continue functioning despite the challenging circumstances. Steady support for remote staff training and capacity-building through the Online Learning Centre and ICT development strengthen the Hluttaw's capacity to cope with the situation and sustain its work, including continuing its major inquiry.

- **Limited capabilities and capacities to adapt to new working modalities** – Unlike the centralized state bodies, those at the state level in Rakhine had to adapt to new working realities. Limited internet connection and the inability of smaller government institutions to work online brought additional challenges in implementing project activities. Under the rule of law and access to justice component, options to provide hardware and software to the RLAB are being explored, to mitigate delays in delivery of project results and build the capacity of this key partner in Rakhine. Similar challenges were faced when organizing training, coordination meetings and community consultations, which resulted in reduced participation due to limited connectivity and technical devices. Project implementation was further constrained by limited access to the internet, making telecommuting difficult for project staff, particularly in Buthidaung.

Containment measures led to the closure of some government offices, including the courts. This resulted in the indefinite suspension of pending court cases. Against this backdrop, LASPs in Myanmar, including ILF and Thazin, jointly signed a letter to the GoM emphasizing the need for courts to remain active in addressing critical matters related to the liberty, health and safety of detainees, while postponing non-critical matters. The same letter requested a reduction in the number of detainees in detention centres and prisons, which resulted in the pardoning of almost 25,000 inmates to mark New Year festival.

- **Reputational risk/changing socio-ethnic dynamics** – With a high number of COVID-19 cases identified as having been imported, a narrative developed associating COVID-19 spread with foreigners. This was accompanied by reported cases brought by illegal returnees from Bangladesh, stimulating antagonistic sentiments towards specific population groups. Accordingly, a high level of awareness and sensitivity was required to mitigate the potential risk of socio-ethnic tensions as well as reputational risk for the organization.
- **Changing priorities triggered by COVID-19** – The wide-ranging implications of COVID-19 on the communities in Rakhine State, and particularly people in northern Rakhine, added to existing challenges related to the increasing armed conflict, resulted in a shift in priorities and needs. Given the limited access to the area and the consequent shortage of food delivery, all communities in northern Rakhine depend on food aid delivered by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Meanwhile, the crucial need for livelihood interventions became evident.
- **Challenging working environment for staff in field offices** – The ongoing conflict coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a challenging working environment for staff members. Among the key challenges is the lack of adequate health services, the ever-changing context and the blanket ban on activities other than critical lifesaving activities. Staff have had to readjust accordingly and it has become difficult to implement activities. Restrictions imposed by the GoM and the RSG, as well as the internal emergency operations mode, pose further challenges to field staff.

D. Lessons Learned and Good Practices

The importance of close collaboration and exchange on experiences, challenges faced, lessons learned and best practices has become even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. The RABP's platform approach is proving effective in addressing multifaceted and long-standing challenges and in coordinating initiatives and responses by key stakeholders.

- **Multi-sectoral approaches provide entry points to understand the situation from multiple angles and identify solutions swiftly** – Through rapid situational assessments and with the development of scenario-based implementation plans, the various process steps of the TDLG participatory township planning model meant that activities could continue, while maintaining an inclusive, transparent and accountable approach. Swift adjustments in working modalities under the parliamentary component have enabled Hluttaw staff to join online training and learn from, and share experiences with, colleagues in other Regional and State Hluttaws, as well as the Union Hluttaw. Unlike the centralized state bodies, the state and regional bodies in Rakhine were not able to adapt to new working realities. Sporadic internet connection and the inability of smaller and non-mainstream government institutions to work online brought additional challenges in implementing project activities. To mitigate delays in delivery of project results and build the capacity of a key partner in Rakhine, the JP anticipates delivering hardware and software to the RLAB. Moreover, the QIP component was very successful in integrating village volunteers in raising awareness about COVID-19 and distributing mask-making kits, in the context of restricted access to communities. Project staff monitored and remotely supervised such volunteer support for project activity implementation.
- **Continuous cross-fertilization furthers the JP's internal resilience and adaptive programming** – The JP's strong participatory and peer-to-peer learning approaches have proved particularly impactful during the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely limited access to project sites due to travel restrictions imposed by the RSG. As part of the JP's COVID-19 response strategy, the implementation modality of a number of activities under the livelihoods component has been adapted. Women leaders who were trained as trainers through programme interventions under previous phases of the JP have been engaged to implement activities under their leadership with community members, with remote mentorship and guiding support from project staff. This approach proved essential to building community ownership and ensuring sustainability of the

project interventions during humanitarian crises and beyond. Additionally, the first peer-review session with UNDP's and UN Women's livelihood IPs was held in September 2020. Six IPs and 31 participants reviewed each other's project approaches and activities. Recommendations based on different project experiences were produced, focusing on strengthening women engagement, gender awareness of local government counterparts, improving existing community accountability reporting mechanisms (CARMs) and the use of ICT for consultation and planning in the current environment.

IV. Other Assessments or Evaluations

Throughout the reporting period, several assessments have been conducted, analysing different components of the RABP. These have all been mentioned under their respective outputs. Planning and preparation for a mid-term review of the RABP is ongoing.

V. Programmatic Revisions/ Programme Criticality Assessments

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the military takeover, programmatic criticality assessments were undertaken and discussed with the donors.

COVID-19 (April 2020 – January 2021):

- Based on the findings of the rapid survey of townships conducted in May under the TDLG component, alternative approaches to responding to the current situation were explored, including the potential application of cash-for-work schemes. In view of the economic pressure and lack of income opportunities as a consequence of the pandemic, UNDP, in partnership with a CSO, will work with township administrations to strengthen the provision of low-value grants, allowing rapid delivery of smaller, community-level investments to reduce vulnerabilities and risks to targeted communities and populations. Much of this support will come through cash-for-work schemes, aiming to mobilize citizens to participate in the social and economic rebuilding of their own communities in the aftermath of the pandemic. Taking the local context, needs and circumstances into account, the overall goal is to stabilize livelihoods and improve the social and economic conditions required to “build back better”.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, CSOs working under the rule of law and access to justice component were requested to postpone community awareness sessions and mobile legal clinics. Simultaneously, the project activities focus shifted towards conducting outreach for awareness-raising via radio, social media and printed materials. With coordination support, CSOs disseminated materials produced by other partners in their own programmes. Moreover, legal advice hotlines were heavily advertised to respond to the increasing demand for remote legal assistance.
- The livelihoods component aligned its activity with government priorities within its COVID-19 response, to mitigate negative impacts on the most vulnerable households in the project townships. This will include distribution of agriculture and fishery inputs to the most vulnerable households, while building government capacities to improve access to the extension services to all communities. The livelihood and business development support under Output 2.3 continued as planned but with added emphasis on adapting the interventions to the context of COVID-19, such as by including and scaling up women artisans' capacity for mask production and emphasizing food security as part of UN Women's climate-resilient agriculture support to women farmers in Rakhine.
- In light of COVID-19, UN Women repurposed some activities and programmed the following interventions: (i) dissemination of clear and accurate information on COVID-19 to women and the broader communities in IDP camps and conflict-affected areas via appropriate channels by GLP alumni and existing women leaders and male champions; (ii) assisting women to access health and social protection services, including distribution of hygiene kits and PPE, awareness-raising and strengthened referral on GBV and psychosocial support, as well as other health services; (iii) local advocacy to promote women's rights and safety in the context of the pandemic, to be led by women leaders and male champions to influence local authorities in wards, townships and camps.

Military takeover (February 2021 onwards):

- Following the military coup, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Myanmar in conjunction with the Head Quarters based Permanent Monitoring Group on Myanmar developed common guidelines for managing the UN's work in Myanmar in the current context. The guidelines, which are a living document that will be reviewed and updated as the situation evolves, specify that under the current context the UN will suspend all policy work, technical assistance, capacity building and institutional strengthening with the de facto authorities and associated government bodies and focus instead on its life-saving humanitarian and COVID-19 health response mandates as well as on programming that benefits directly the population of Myanmar and does not require working through the de facto authorities.
- The guidelines also require all UN agencies in Myanmar to proceed to a programme review to determine what programming and activities can go on and what need to be stopped, suspended, or modified.
- JP agencies conducted the programme review at the end of February/early March 2021. The proposed workplan is based on the results of that programme review and proposes a way forward for the programme that fits within the agreed UNCT common guidelines. It is important to note that this exercise is based on the current situation and that further reviews may be needed considering how fluid and unpredictable the situation is.
- The Programme Review found that while UN Women's technical support to DSW in Rakhine and UN Women's work on GRB for township committees in partnership with UNDP TDLG's interventions would need to stop, the rest of the work planned by UN Women under the RABP was authorized to continue as the benefits of these activities accrue directly to the population.
- In addition, UN Women proceeded to a secondary assessment of the programmatic context to ensure that the activities that can continue could still be delivered.
- Despite the additional limitations since the coup, implementing partners remain confident that they can proceed with the work as of the day of the analysis. The monthly coordination meetings with implementing partners continue as planned and are geared to support them in adjusting to the situation including support to conduct virtual training, coaching, and monitoring as movement to the villages and IDPs have been made stricter.
- Should there be any further development to the situation on the ground, the JP agencies will work with the donors to assess whether a deeper redesign of the programme at a later point in the year is needed.

Annex I: Attributing Progress and Results¹⁵

Outcome	Output	PUNO	Source of funds
(D)1: Community priorities and needs are better met through inclusive and responsive service delivery, improved access to justice, and increased local development opportunities that promote social cohesion for men and women in Rakhine State	(D)1.1: Local governance institutions strengthened for inclusive, accountable, and responsive public service delivery that better meets the priorities and needs of local communities	UNDP	Canada: Capacity-building/training Germany and Japan: funding of township plans
	(D)1.2: Values, skills, and knowledge of local communities and justice actors enhanced to uphold human rights, promote gender equality, and improve access to justice for women and vulnerable groups	UNDP	Canada, Germany and Japan
	(D)1.3: Target communities and institutions have improved opportunities for gender-responsive community cohesion and economic development, and strengthened capacities to build peace	UNDP	Canada, Germany and Japan
	(D)1.4: Resilience-based recovery and development activities implemented to support dignified solutions to displacement and the creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs	UNDP	Germany and Japan
(D)2: Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience, and inclusive growth and development	2.1: Women and women's groups have enhanced capacities, resources and skills to benefit from and contribute towards gender-responsive policies and programmes on development, humanitarian action and peace in Rakhine	UN Women	Canada and Germany
	2.2: Institutional capacities of government enhanced at the national, state and local levels for gender-responsive policies and service delivery	UN Women	Canada
	2.3: A supportive environment established to increase women's access to and control over financial resources and new sources of income for promoting their leadership and participation outside household duties	UN Women	Canada and Germany
	D2.1: Women in villages and IDP camps have increased access to skills, opportunities and resources for livelihood strengthening, entrepreneurship development and financial inclusion.	UN Women	Japan
	D2.2: An enabling environment established to promote women's leadership, participation and gender-responsive governance.	UN Women	Japan

¹⁵ Note: Both Canada-funded and Japan-funded elements of the RABP use similar numbering, with D (for Development outcomes) added in the Japan results framework to dissociate from H (for Humanitarian outcomes) that are under the responsibility of UNHCR (reported in a separate document as per agreement with Japan). For UN Women, outputs under the Canada project document are numbered 2.1 etc. and outputs under the Japan project document are numbered D.2.1 etc.

Annex II: Indicator-based Performance Assessment, Rakhine Area-Based Programme, April 2020 to March 2021

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
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			
<p>Indicator J.1.A:¹⁶ # 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</p> <p>Baselines: Union: 0/0; Township: 0/0 (2017)</p> <p>Target: 7 townships (2021¹⁷)</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>UNDP supported the Government in preparing development plans in seven townships, with reasonably satisfactory levels of inclusive participation and cross-sectoral coordination.</p> <p>Through the organization of the Local Governance Forum, further initiative to strengthen UNDP support based on the following principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs: use of data, inclusive participation, cross-sectoral coordination, was planned for mid-year 2020.</p>	Due to COVID-19 and its implications, the Local Governance Forum has been postponed.	Review of project documents; government records
<p>Indicator J.1.B: % of trained government participants who successfully apply the knowledge and skills on social cohesion and conflict sensitivity gained from training initiatives into their work.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2017)</p> <p>Target: 75% (2021)</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>Building on the Insider Mediation Training conducted in January 2020 on a national level, capacity-building training on insider mediation, negotiation and consensus building is part of wider efforts under the Sustaining Peace project to engage actors at national level on policy and practice and subnational level on horizontal relations that will promote long-term engagement in peacebuilding work; planned in Rakhine for quarter 2 of 2020.</p>	Due to COVID-19 and its implications, the Insider Mediation Training at state level have been postponed.	Review of project documents; survey, using questionnaire (annually)
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			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1: Number of supported townships which meet set criteria to perform participatory planning effectively (functionality index)</p>	<p>Status: On track</p> <p>Function 1. Inclusivity of key stakeholder's groups: 5 townships at level 4; 2 townships at level 3</p>	Function 4 and Function 5 will be covered under the next reporting cycled.	Function 1: planning workshop attendance sheet Function 2: Planning workshop report

¹⁶ Indicators numbered J.1.A and J.1.B derive from the Japan project document.

¹⁷ 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
<p>Baseline: All supported townships start at Level 1 (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: Out of 5 townships all 5 meet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • level 3 across 4 function (March 2020) • level 4 across 4 function (March 2021) • level 5 across 4 function (March 2022) <p>Additional Planned Target: Out of 2 townships all 2 meet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • level 3 across 4 function (March 2021) • level 4 across 4 function (March 2022) 	<p>Function 2. Facilitation capacities of township administration: 5 townships at level 4; 2 townships at level 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Function 3. Enhanced use of evidence in annual township plan: 2 townships at level 3 • Function 4. Respect of Public Financial Management standards: 5 townships at level 4. 		<p>Function 3: Procurement guidelines checklist</p> <p>Function 4: Public financial management standards checklist</p> <p>Function 5: Monthly situational reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.2: Number of supported townships in which at least five social accountability mechanisms are used.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: Out of 5 supported townships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 use at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2020) • 4 use at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2021) • all 5 use at least five social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2022) <p>Additional Planned Target: Out of 2 supported townships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 use at least three social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2021) • 2 use at least four social accountability mechanisms effectively (March 2022) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanism 1. Public presentation of the township development plan: in all 7 townships • Mechanism 2. W/VTAs present project activities to their constituents for feedback: in all 7 townships • Mechanism 3. Public notice of the contract signing and announcement published on the noticeboard of the Implementing Department and of GAD: in all 7 townships • Mechanism 4. W/VTA part of the TRAC and QAVC: in all 7 townships • Mechanism 5. Grievances are addressed by Tender Committee that is responsible for resolving complaints: in all 7 townships 	<p>Mechanism 3 and Mechanism 5 will be covered under the next reporting cycle.</p>	<p>Social accountability mechanisms checklist</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.3: Number of supported townships where projects meet minimum benchmarks as per Procurement Guidelines.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: Out of 5 supported townships:</p>	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1. TRAC and QAVC are formed: in all 7 townships • Step 2. Tender documents produced and respect mandatory sections as in PGL: in all 7 townships • Step 3. Tender notice advertised according to PGL: in all 7 townships 	<p>Tender bidding process has been closed in all 7 townships. Nonetheless, tender opening meetings were postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions in Rakhine State. Accordingly, reporting on Step 4 to Step 6 will be covered in the next reporting cycle.</p>	<p>Procurement guidelines checklist</p>

Indicator	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 partially comply with criteria (March 2020) 3 fully comply with criteria (March 2021) 5 fully comply with criteria (March 2022) <p>Additional Planned Target: Out of 2 supported townships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 partially comply with criteria (March 2021) At least 1 fully comply with criteria (March 2022) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 4. Tender opening meeting conducted and bid opening timeline respected: to be reported Step 5. Report of tender assessment drafted and mandatory sections included: to be reported Step 6. Public notice of the contract signing and announcement published: to be reported 		
<p>Indicator 1.1.4: % of parliamentary committee reports on policy inquiries with recommendations that receive government response.</p> <p>Baseline: No policy inquiries completed (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: of all completed policy inquiries in Rakhine State,</p> <p>10% (March 2020) 20% (March 2021) 40% (March 2022)</p>	<p>Status: On track</p> <p>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 no democratically-elected Hluttaw nor government in existence.</p>		Hluttaw records (yearly)
<p>Indicator 1.1.5: % of parliamentary committee inquiries that integrate gender and diversity analysis (different degree of compliance – partial vs. full integration into all stages of inquiry process).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: of policy and bill inquiries in Rakhine State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial integration in 20% and full integration in 10% (March 2020) Partial integration in 40% and full integration in 20% (March 2021) Partial integration in 50% and full integration in 30% (March 2022) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <p>Rakhine State Seed Improvement Policy Inquiry is complete. Gender and diversity analysis partially integrated, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Inquiry ToR Consideration in stakeholder mapping <p>Consideration in preparing for and conducting hearings and field visits.</p>		Inquiry reports

Indicator	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<p>Indicator 1.1.6: Level to which the Hluttaw manages plenary and committee documents electronically and publishing these documents on their websites</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1: Backup server, intranet infrastructure and ICT governance structure in place in Rakhine Hluttaw – March 2020 • Level 2: Intranet working and modules for plenary and committee systems launched – March 2021 • Level 3: Website linked to intranet developed and regularly updated by Hluttaws – March 2022 • Level 4: Plenary and committee documents are regularly published on the Hluttaw website – March 2022 	<p>Status: On track</p> <p>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>Plenary and committee meeting documents, meeting minutes, training records, Hluttaw reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.7: Number of MPs applying a systematic approach in representing constituents in an inclusive manner</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1: Union Hluttaw administrations provide official data for use in constituency work for all townships in Myanmar (all 17 Rakhine townships) (March 2020) • Level 2: Constituency work professional development is delivered to MPs, introducing use of official data, and a case management approach to constituency work (March 2021) • Level 3: MPs apply a case management approach to solve constituent problems; MPs use official data to identify priorities for constituency development and 	<p>Status: On track</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>		<p>Case studies, plenary session documents, RSG Record, meeting minutes</p>

Indicator	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
advocate at the Hluttaw for the interests of their constituents (March 2022)			
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			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1: Number of government officials trained by UNDP on rule of law, GBV and human rights</p> <p>Baseline: 95 (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: (cumulative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110 (March 2020) • 130 (March 2021) • 150 (March 2022) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <p>295 government officials (212 W/VTAs and 83 law officers) have been trained on the rule of law, HLP and SGBV standards</p>		IP reports, field monitoring reports, agenda/list of participants
<p>Indicator 1.2.2: % of men and women trained who show an increased understanding of the rule of law, SGBV, gender equality and women's rights, and barriers to women's access to justice</p> <p>Baseline: N/A (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% (March 2020) • 65% (March 2021) • 70% (March 2022) 	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>The understanding on rule of law and access to justice increased from 44% of participants pre-training to 95% of participants post-training (increase of 51%)</p>	The COVID-19 and challenges associated with recent political developments - such as sporadic internet connection, restriction in 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.	Training feedback reports (pre- and post-training assessments) by participants, lists, community feedback reports, service provider mapping report
<p>Indicator 1.2.3: Number of women, girls, and other vulnerable individuals benefiting from legal information, counselling and/or representation</p> <p>Baseline: 200 (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target: (cumulative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 (March 2020) • 6,000 (March 2021) • 9,000 (March 2022) 	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>In Rakhine, 3,687 women and girl beneficiaries: 2,943 women and girls benefited from legal information such as training and awareness-raising sessions and counselling through consultations and hotlines, and 194 from representation in court.</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. Once the situation allows, the rule of law and access to justice component will commence its anticipated activities.	CSOs and legal aid providers' records; Rule of Law Centres' referral reports; UNDP progress reports
<p>Indicator 1.2.4: Number of actions/initiatives jointly developed by communities and local government actors to address women's justice issues and women's rights</p> <p>Baseline: 2 (April 2019)</p>	<p>Status: On track</p> <p>6 meetings/discussions on women's access to justice and addressing challenges around HLP, GBV and inheritance rights conducted.</p>		Meeting minutes of Rakhine Coordinating Body for Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector; agenda/list of

Indicator	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
Target: (cumulative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 (March 2020) • 6 (March 2021) • 8 (March 2022) 			participants of Rakhine IPs meeting.
Indicator 1.2.5: Number of government / land administration bodies strengthened to deal with housing, land and property cases Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Target: (cumulative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 (March 2020) • 4 (March 2021) • 8 (March 2022) 	Status: On track 5 VTAs strengthened through training on land laws.		Training reports
Output (D)1.3: Target communities and institutions have improved opportunities for gender-responsive community cohesion and strengthened capacities to build peace			
Indicator 1.3.1: % of community members reporting increased trust between ethnic groups after the introduction of inter-village/village tract activities Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: 50% (March 2022)	Status: On track 98% of LRF members reported that their community collaborated with other communities on joint initiatives		Project reports; partners' reports
Indicator 1.3.2: % of targeted stakeholders reporting increasing in awareness on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: 60% (March 2022)	Status: In progress As of now, reported progress, 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
Indicator 1.3.3: % of community-led cohesion projects implemented assessed by communities as successful in building trust and reducing conflict Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: 75% (March 2022)	Status: On track 99% of LRF members report that LRF meetings are helping improve relations between different communities 93% participation of representatives from Muslim villages at LRF meetings		Project reports; partners' reports
Indicator 1.3.4: # of lessons-learned case studies produced with communities used to replicate successful approaches Baseline: 0 (April 2019) Planned Target: 10 (March 2022)	Status: On track 4 case studies developed with community		Case studies

Indicator	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
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.			
<p>Indicator 1.4.1: Number of persons accessing new infrastructure, disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>Baseline: N/A (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 (March 2020) (direct and indirect) • 10,000 (March 2021) (direct and indirect) 	<p>Status:</p> <p>14,761 (total no. of persons accessing facilities build by UNHCR through QIPs)¹⁸</p>		<p>UNDP-UNHCR QIPs Progress Tracker & beneficiary data</p>
<p>Indicator 1.4.2: % of beneficiaries in target communities reporting increased household income after receiving program support</p> <p>Baseline: N/A (April 2019)</p> <p>Planned Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,000 (March 2020) (direct and indirect) • 6,000 (March 2021) (direct and indirect) 	<p>Status:</p> <p>4,781 direct beneficiaries</p>	<p>Due to the surge of COVID-19 cases in northern Rakhine and as per the RSG's order, implementation of field activities related to QIPs was delayed.</p>	<p>UNDP-UNHCR QIPs Progress Tracker & beneficiary data</p>

¹⁸ At this point, data is not disaggregated by gender; coordination is under way to collect gender-disaggregated data.

Outcome 2: Women are empowered to engage in, contribute to, and benefit from community resilience, and inclusive growth and development in Rakhine State¹⁹			
Canada/Germany support to Outcome 2	Achieved Indicator Targets	Variance	Source of Verification
<p>Indicator 2.1: Number of women who have enhanced capacities and skills to contribute to gender-responsive policies and projects in Rakhine State</p> <p>Baseline: 63 women (GLP alumni)</p> <p>Planned Target: 4,563 women</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>Including baseline data, 1,286 women have enhanced capacities and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 566 learned about the importance of mainstreaming gender, women’s rights and ways to address challenges women face. • 720 women from villages in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun increased their leadership skills through the multiplier trainings conducted by GLP alumni. 	<p>Significant efforts were made during the reporting period to repurpose programme interventions as part of UN Women’s COVID-19 response, such as amending the Project Cooperation Agreement of UN Women’s IP under the women’s participation and leadership component to align it with the JP’s COVID-19 prevention and response strategy, as well as adjusting the mode of implementation in line with the GoM-imposed COVID-19 measures. While GLP multiplier trainings were able to be held in Q4 of 2020 and Q1 of 2021, the planned target of this indicator might need to be revised given the further challenges posed by the restrictions following the military coup in February 2021.</p>	<p>Project reports, case studies, community feedback, consultation records</p>
<p>Indicator 2.2: Number of women who have increased access and control over financial resources and new sources of income in Rakhine State</p> <p>Baseline: 2,495 women</p> <p>Planned Target: 4,342 women</p>	<p>Status: Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline data, 9,545 women were supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • Skills, resources and capacities of 3,520 women were enhanced in climate-smart agricultural practices • Skills, resources and capacities of 1,700 women²⁰ were enhanced in weaving and handicrafts making (including mask production) • 1,830 women were capacitated in business development 	<p>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.</p>	<p>Project/training reports, case studies, participants lists, community feedback</p>
<p>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</p>			

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

<p>Indicator C2.1.1: Number of women leaders, groups, networks and CSOs trained by UN Women to engage in gender responsive policies and programming</p> <p>Baseline: 63 women leaders, 16 women’s groups, networks and CSOs</p> <p>Target: 4,563 women leaders; 40 women’s groups, networks and CSOs</p> <p>Baseline data includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63 women who graduated from Gender Leadership Programme; • 11 CSOs trained on gender advocacy in quarter 1 of 2019; • 5 MNCW/Women’s Committees at Rakhine state level and across 4 townships trained on advancing gender equality and operationalizing gender equality commitments in quarter 4 of 2018 and quarter 1 of 2019 	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>906 women and 26 CSOs were trained to engage in gender responsive policies and programmes, as of now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 112 women trained in GRB • 48 women trained on GiHA in Rakhine State • 26 women trained as trainers on GiHA in Yangon • 18 CSOs trained on GiHA • 720 women from villages in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun increased their leadership skills through the multiplier trainings conducted by GLP alumni. • 8 CSOs in Rakhine provided guidance on applying to the MHF so as to mobilise resources to increase women’s leadership and participation in humanitarian action. 	<p>Significant efforts were made during the reporting period to repurpose programme interventions as part of UN Women’s COVID-19 response, such as amending the Project Cooperation Agreement of UN Women’s IP under the women’s participation and leadership component to align it with the JP’s COVID-19 prevention and response strategy, as well as adjusting the mode of implementation in line with the GoM-imposed COVID-19 measures. While GLP multiplier trainings were able to be held in Q4 of 2020 and Q1 of 2021, the planned target of this indicator might need to be revised given the further challenges posed by the restrictions following the military coup in February 2021.</p>	<p>Project/training reports, case studies, participants lists, community feedback</p>
<p>Indicator C2.1.2: Number of consultations, dialogues and events for knowledge sharing organized</p> <p>Baseline: 120 consultations, dialogues and events</p> <p>Target: 550 consultations, dialogues and events</p>	<p>Status: Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline data, 685 consultations, dialogues and events organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 community theatre performances (baseline) • 1 16 Days of Activism event in 2018 (baseline) • 1 meeting and sharing session of GLP graduates in villages with community members (baseline) • 2 awareness-raising sessions with local CSOs in Rakhine (baseline) • 2 International Women’s Day events in Sittwe and Nay Pyi Taw (baseline) • 3 exposure visits (national) for GLP participants (baseline) • 3 sharing sessions between women led by GLP graduates (baseline) • 8 discussion sessions among GLP graduates, CSOs and government representatives (baseline) • 5 community awareness-raising sessions on gender-responsive WASH services (baseline) • 50 community-based awareness-raising sessions led by GLP graduates (baseline) 	<p>The target for this indicator has already been achieved since the number of community-based awareness-raising sessions led by GLP 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>	<p>Attendance sheets, participants lists</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12 mass meetings by Finn Church Aid (FCA) (baseline) ● 14 focus group discussions by FCA (baseline) ● 11 seed production and rice production activities by the International Rice Research Institute (baseline) ● 1 inception workshop by FCA (baseline) ● 4 farmer field visits (baseline) ● 2 International Women’s Day events (at township and state levels) ● 28 16 Days of Activism events in 2019 (state, township, village and camp levels) ● 1 media roundtable ● 1 Annual Dialogue in 2019 ● 3 GiHA updating consultations (1 with CSOs, 1 with women beneficiaries, 1 with the Rakhine ICCG) ● 17 gender and social inclusion sessions ● 1 follow-up consultation with Rakhine-based CSOs ● 1 Myanmar National Women’s Day event ● 2 Women’s Evening forums ● 4 participatory community theatre performances ● 394 community-based awareness-raising sessions led by GLP alumni ● 11 sharing sessions on natural toiletries production by GLP alumni ● 4 gender awareness workshops with Camp Management Committees (CMCs), religious leaders and community leaders ● 76 women’s leadership stories sharing sessions in safe spaces ● 11 awareness-raising sessions on gender-responsive WASH services ● 1 dialogue consultation with Rakhine-based CSOs and DSW ● 1 UNDP–UN Women Peer Review Workshop ● 6 sector-specific consultations held with WASH, food-security, health, protection, and education clusters including a Rakhine-specific breakout room ● 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) 		
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<p>Indicator C2.1.3: Number of gender knowledge and information products developed by UN Women through the inter-agency gender mainstreaming working group and circulated to the Humanitarian Country Team, Rakhine Coordination Group and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group</p> <p>Baseline: 1 gender knowledge and information product</p> <p>Target: 3 gender knowledge and information products</p>	<p>Status: Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline, 7 gender knowledge and information products were developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 GiHA Profile (baseline) • Gender Mainstreaming Checklists for Humanitarian Action • 2020 Myanmar GiHA Profile (updated version of the 2019 GiHA Profile) • Gender Alert for COVID-19 Outbreak (localized to Myanmar context and translated into Myanmar language) • Gender package for COVID-19 quarantine centres • Myanmar Rapid Gender Analysis • Rakhine Rapid Gender Analysis 		Documents
<p>Indicator C2.1.4: Number of people who received training on gender in humanitarian action including members of inter-agency gender mainstreaming working group, and other government, UN, INGO, NGO, CSO and other humanitarian/HDP actors in Rakhine State, including women’s CSOs, networks and groups</p> <p>Baseline: Approx. 40 people (one GiHA training conducted in 2018 in Sittwe)</p> <p>Target: 100 people</p>	<p>Status: Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline, 179 people were trained on GiHA.</p>	The target of this indicator has already been exceeded, as additional resources for GiHA were mobilized from UN Women’s HQ.	Participants lists, attendance sheets
Output 2.2. Institutional capacities of government enhanced at the national, state and local levels for gender-responsive policies and service delivery			
<p>Indicator C.2.2.1: Number of key policy and planning documents with substantive reference to gender equality and women’s empowerment</p> <p>Baseline: 12 key policy and planning documents</p> <p>Target: 20 key policy and planning documents</p>	<p>Status: 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"> • National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (baseline) • Report of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State (baseline) • Report on the Mapping Analysis for National Strategic Plan on the Advancement of Women (baseline) • Gender Equality and Women’s Rights in Myanmar: A Situation Analysis (Joint Study of DSW, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women) (baseline) 		Documents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terms of Reference for Myanmar National Committee for Women for States and Townships (baseline) ● Gender and Age Analysis: Sociocultural and Structural Barriers to Essential Services in Central Rakhine (INGO Rakhine Initiative study) (baseline) ● 2019 Myanmar GiHA Profile (baseline) ● 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (baseline) ● 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (baseline) ● Emergency Response Preparedness Plan (baseline) ● Joint Communique of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the United Nations on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (baseline) ● United Nations Country Team Confidential Report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on the situation of women and girls from northern Rakhine State, Myanmar (baseline) ● Gender Mainstreaming Checklists for Humanitarian Action ● GiHA Action Plan ● UN Women–ILO joint study, “Gender-Transformative Livelihoods: A Pathway to Women’s Empowerment: Findings of a Study into the Economic Opportunities and Barriers for Women in Rakhine State, Myanmar” ● 2020 Myanmar GiHA Profile ● 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview ● 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan ● Myanmar COVID-19 HRP 2020 Addendum ● Analysis and suggested HCT/ICCG messages on the MSWRR “Action Plan for the Control of COVID-19 Outbreak in IDP Camps” ● Interim Operational Guidance for COVID-19 Isolation in Humanitarian Settings in Myanmar ● Gender-Responsive Budgeting Roadmap ● 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview ● UN Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) for COVID-19 and its Operational Plan ● 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan 		
<p>Indicator C.2.2.2: Number of informal and formal institutional mechanisms that actively engage women’s groups, leaders and relevant government departments in</p>	<p>Status: Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline data, 12 informal and formal institutional mechanisms have been formed and/or strengthened:</p>		<p>Meeting minutes and records</p>

<p>dialogue to inform policymaking and public service delivery</p> <p>Baseline: 5 mechanisms</p> <p>Target: 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Network of Rakhine-based CSOs working on GEEW (baseline) ● Women’s groups in villages and IDP camps that can engage with community leaders in four townships (baseline) ● Coordination Group for 16 Days of Activism (baseline) ● Coordination Group for International Women’s Day (baseline) ● Informal network of GEWE focal points among the protection cluster/sector in Rakhine (baseline) ● Informal GiHA Coordination Group in central Rakhine ● Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW) meetings ● CMCs – 1 GLP beneficiary elected to CMC during the reporting period ● Annual Dialogue ● Women’s Evening forum ● 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 ● Annual consultations to update the GiHA Profile to inform the Humanitarian Need Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 		
<p>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</p>			
<p>Indicator C2.3.1: Number of women with increased knowledge on solutions to addressing barriers they face, including through ICT innovation, business development and entrepreneurship</p> <p>Baseline: 416</p> <p>Target: 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>Status: Achieved</p> <p>Including baseline data, knowledge of 2,688 women on solutions addressing barriers they face, including through business development and entrepreneurship, was increased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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) ● 442 women capacitated with knowledge on solutions to addressing barriers they face from April 2019-March 2020 	<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 lists, community feedback, beneficiaries’ business plans</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,830 women equipped with business development and entrepreneurial skills through the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme. 		
<p>Indicator C.2.3.2: Number of partnerships formed to enhance women's access to financial services, resources and business opportunities</p> <p>Baseline: 0 partnerships</p> <p>Target: 3 partnerships</p>	<p>Status: Achieved</p> <p>3 partnerships formed, as of now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSID Sunflowers Organic Dye Textiles and Crafts Shop Vision Fund 		Project/partners' reports

Annex III: Stories of achievement

Seeking justice for rape survivor

A Rakhine woman, a 36-year-old mother of four children, from Oo Gar village in Rathedaung township, reported a crime and filed a case at the Sittwe police station on July last year. The case was against three Tatmadaw soldiers, who reportedly gang raped her earlier in June. According to a woman soldiers entered the village around 6 pm on June 29 and fired some shots. As a result, most people fled the village immediately. When almost no one left in the Oo Gar village, soldiers approached her. They pointed a gun, and took her to a nearby house, where she was raped. When everything was done, soldiers gave her 20,000 kyats and told not to speak about what had happened.

When LCM heard about this case, it immediately conducted coordination meeting with other local CSOs. Based on the meeting, it was agreed that one of the local CSOs would bring her to Sittwe and keep in a safe place. At first, the woman was too frightened, and depressed both physically and mentally. LCM and other CSOs provided her with psychosocial support. After a week of therapy, she showed desire to file a case against soldiers who raped her. She was given legal consultation and briefed about procedures for filing the case. With the support of LCM and its relevant partners, she filed the case on July 10 at the Sittwe Police Station under sections 376, 366 and 114 of the Penal Code.

At first Tatmadaw officials denied accusations and announced that this is just an allegation. A total 121 CSOs led by LCM released a statement demanding justice. As a result, the case went viral on social media and received desired public attention. With public pressure in place, Myanmar Military officially agreed to investigate the case. After some time, three Myanmar soldiers admitted that they had committed a crime at the court of inquiry. They were sentenced to 20 years of prison.

This success is a result of joint efforts of CSOs and media outlets. There are numerous cases like this, and LCM remains committed to its core values in protecting rights and dignity of women in Myanmar.



*Caption: Survivor of sexual assault from Oo Gar village
Photo credit: Bangkok Post.*

Home gardening – Contributing to food security and income generation for IDPs and host community members

U Noor Ahmed is a 55-years old farmer from Naung Chaung village, two miles from the town of Maungdaw. In 2017 he and his family of four have been displaced and been living in the north of Naung Chaung. Before,

U Noor Ahmed grew paddy, vegetables and reared livestock to earn living. Since the displacement, he worked as a casual labourer to provide his family with food. With limited opportunities and low income, he was not able to do so and had to borrow money, with high interest rates. This resulted in debts which the family has little way to repay.

As the COVID-19 pandemic grinds on, the situation worsened. Opportunities for casual labour have become rarer as the time bore on. Movement restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 virus challenged access to markets. Moreover, it also increased the prices of key food commodities such as rice, onions, chickpeas, and chilies as well as related goods such as fuel in northern Rakhine . These consequences highly risked income generation and access to food for income-poor people.

In the first phase of income generating activities implemented through the IDP pilot , UNDP supported 333 households in Naung Chuang and Pa Din village tracts with necessary agricultural inputs and equipment for home gardening in July 2020. The households were provided with a home gardening package including five different vegetable seeds (bitter melon, okra, long bean, roselle and water cress), ginger and turmeric roots as well as a fencing net and gardening tools.

U Noor Ahmed and his family were one of the beneficiaries of the home gardening kit. It helped the family in the difficult situation struggling to have enough food. After he received the kit, he directly started his home gardening project in his backyard growing the vegetables, the ginger and turmeric. From August to October, the family was able to harvest the vegetables. The yield provided the family on the one hand with fresh vegetables and thus, diversified nutrition for the young children. On the other hand, U Noor Ahmed was able to generate an income by selling the excess in the local market earning over MMK 180,000. With this, the family was able to buy additional food, clothes and necessary medicine.

“We had fresh vegetable from our own garden. We did not need to travel to Maungdaw to buy it. We also saved money.” - U Noor Ahmed.



Caption: U Noor Ahmed harvesting vegetables from his home garden in the backyard.

In December, the family harvested ginger and turmeric. They earned an additional income of MMK 120,000 from sell of ginger and turmeric, after keeping aside enough for family consumption and seeds for next season. This will help them to grow more vegetables, ginger and turmeric in the coming season. Together with the income generated through livestock farming (also supported through QIPs), the family saves around MMK 50,000 on an average per month, which they want to invest in their children’s education and health.



Caption: Family enjoying three kinds of vegetables, harvested from their home garden.

Women leaders support COVID-19 prevention through hygiene- and dignity-kit distribution and increasing prevention awareness among village and Internally Displaced Persons households in Rakhine

The crisis caused by the protracted conflict in Rakhine State and the outbreak of COVID-19 has exacerbated the economic situation for many households, making access to needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and materials to ensure hygiene more difficult. As part of the repurposed activities for COVID-19 response and prevention, UN Women, through implementing partner Oxfam (and sub-partner Yaung Chit Thit) supported the distribution of hygiene and dignity kits to 1,731 households (benefitting 3,956 female and 3,578 male members) from eight villages in Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U and Sittwe townships, and dignity kits to 8,142 households (benefitting 18,678 women and girls) in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps.

The hygiene kits contained towels, tooth brushes, tooth paste, cleaning disinfectant, shampoo, bathing soap, laundry soap, carbolic soap bars as well as sanitary napkins; Included in the dignity kits were longyi for women, underwear, sanitary napkins and soap.

“Our village was badly affected by the conflict between Arakan Army and Myanmar Armed Forces. There has always been fighting near the villages. I have three children and my husband died three years ago. I am now 62 years old. The conflict makes it very difficult to work and now with COVID-19 it is harder to travel from one village to another. The support in the form of hygiene and dignity kits are a big help for our people the village”, said Daw Hla Yee Oo from Tim Nyo Village in Mrauk-U.

The Gender Leadership Programme (GLP) alumni and women leaders in the villages and camps played an important role in facilitating the distribution of the kits and they were also instrumental in conducting in-person COVID-19 prevention awareness raising at the time of distribution. Prior to the distribution of the

kits, COVID-19 and GBV advocacy messages were also disseminated via the GLP alumni through phone texts, posters and vinyl billboards. A subset of the GLP alumni from the villages formed a group to produce hand sanitizers locally and sample products were tested and certified by SSID. Hand washing stations have been installed in 8 villages.

The number of women leaders who can engage in gender advocacy and sensitization has increased exponentially with the multiplier trainings conducted by the GLP alumni. Since late 2020, 720 women leaders in villages have been equipped with leadership skills. Multiplier trainings on women's leadership in the IDP camps are planned for the second quarter of 2021.



Distributing hygiene and dignity kits at Ahtet Myat Hlay Village, Ponnagyun Township in December 2020. Photo credit: YCT/ Mg Win Zaw, 2020



Distributing dignity kits in an IDPs camp in Sittwe in January 2021. Photo credit: Oxfam/2021