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Dear UNICEF partners,

2017 was the final year of the 2011-2017 Programme of Cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UNICEF. During the year, a new Country Programme of Cooperation for 2018-2022 was prepared and approved by the UNICEF Executive Board.

The achievements of the year were overshadowed by the attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on Government military posts in Rakhine State, and the response by the Myanmar army, which led to over 655,000 refugees fleeing into neighbouring Bangladesh. The ARSA attacks took place the day after the Rakhine Advisory Commission, led by Kofi Annan, released its report and recommendations for addressing the situation in the State. The impact of these events on peace and development are still unfolding and will continue to have a significant influence on UNICEF’s programme of support in the country for some time to come.

Despite the challenges, significant results for children were achieved over the course of the year. Working with partners in Rakhine and Kachin, UNICEF supported nearly 130,000 children affected by violence to access psychosocial services and reached nearly 14,280 adolescents with life skills training. UNICEF and partners, with funding from GAVI, supported the Government to implement a major campaign to vaccinate children against Japanese Encephalitis. To-date the campaign has reached 13 and a half million children. A school construction programme in Rakhine State, originally conceived as a response to damage caused by 2015 floods and cyclone, has rehabilitated or reconstructed classrooms in 64 schools benefiting over 17,000 children from all communities. And in Chin State, a pioneering social protection and cash transfer programme targeting pregnant women and children under two years of age has been successfully launched with UNICEF technical support and funding from the LIFT multi-donor fund. Nearly 11,500 women and children have been reached so far. This programme is now to be replicated in Rakhine State using Government funds, and expanded to other states and regions in the future.

UNICEF has supported major policy initiatives that have reached important milestones in 2017. These include the launch of the Vital Registration Manual to support making birth registration available to all children in the country. Guidelines on the minimum Standard of Care and Protection for Children in Residential Facilities were launched in November 2017. Also, during the year the National Education Strategic Plan was launched and the Early Childhood Intervention Strategic Plan adopted.

The Government has introduced new approaches to coordination of development assistance, including the creation of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) and the adoption of a Development Assistance Policy. UNICEF has engaged closely with these processes and is playing a key role in facilitating two of the Sector Coordination Groups operating under the DACU – one for Education and one for Social Protection – as well as participating in other relevant groups, including Health and Nutrition.

The preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the first to be done in Myanmar and which is in the process of being finalised, has helped identify opportunities for closer partnerships between UN agencies. In particular UNICEF and UNFPA have developed two joint programmes to address gender-based violence and violence against children, and improve the capacities of social welfare agencies to respond.

The U-Report platform continues to grow in membership, now reaching over 18,000 adolescents and youth from across the country. Partnerships have been developed with Teen Radio and MRTV, to provide programmes for discussion of U-Report poll results. A forum of 60 U-Reporters and 80 Members of Parliament provided an
opportunity for young people to influence key decision-makers and help them better understand the needs of children in their constituencies.

A new partnership with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, and the Myanmar Responsible Tourism Institute is providing a platform for addressing the issue of orphanage and child sex tourism and, hopefully, acting early to prevent the kind of challenges seen in some neighbouring countries.

UNICEF remains committed to improving children’s lives in Myanmar, to give every child the best start in life, the best opportunities to learn and acquire skills for life, the safest transition to adulthood, and the best protection against external shocks and poverty.

UNICEF is thankful to its range of partners, including private and public donors. In 2017, Japan and GAVI were the top two donors to UNICEF Myanmar, in addition to millions of generous individuals donating through UNICEF National Committees. We remain committed to improving our efficiency to deliver the results children deserve and the accountability our supporters demand.

June Kunugi
UNICEF Representative to Myanmar
In 2017, UNICEF and its partners continued to support the delivery of services with a focus on expanding further into areas that are hard to reach, filling critical capacity gaps and demonstrating sustainable models. Key results include:

**SOCIAL PROTECTION:**
Nearly 11,500 pregnant women and children under two years of age benefited from the universal Maternal Child Cash Transfers (MCCT) programme rolled out in Chin State. Work with humanitarian and development stakeholders also progressed with the programme’s expansion into Rakhine.

**CHILD PROTECTION:**
49 children and youth were released from the Myanmar army, bringing the total number released since the signing of the Action Plan in June 2012 to 849. Socio-economic support continued to be provided to 173 children and adolescents released from the army since 2012.

UNICEF’s technical and financial support contributed to the investigation of 283 cross-border child trafficking cases and reintegration of 130 repatriated girls and women during 2017.

150 new child victims of landmines/ explosive remnants of war were reported and assisted. Meanwhile, 51,968 children from mine-infested communities were reached with critical information through mine risk education sessions in schools and communities.

**EDUCATION:**
Over one million children in kindergarten benefited from learning and playing materials.

17,410 children from all communities in Rakhine State benefited from 64 reconstructed and/ or rehabilitated schools out of the total 102 schools, which had been damaged by the 2015 floods and targeted. UNICEF’s school construction programme considered flood levels, rainwater harvesting and drainage, as well as protection of the environment during construction.

**WASH:**
22,622 school children (51 per cent girls) and 327 teachers from 140 schools have gained access to basic WASH facilities in schools and are practicing good hygienic behaviour.

84,147 people in Rakhine, Kayin, Magwe and Sagaing have access to basic water supply services through the installation of community managed household water metering systems.

204 villages with 87,326 people (51 per cent women) in three States/ Regions were verified and declared as open defecation free villages.

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**
Over 13.5 million children aged 9 months to 15 years were reached through two rounds of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) immunization campaigns. At the same time, the necessary measures were put in place to introduce the JE vaccine into routine immunization as of 2018.

All townships in Magway and Kayin regions and 29 per cent of townships in Rakhine have started to provide community-based Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) services, where a total of 2,820 basic health staff and 4,932 community health volunteers have been trained and equipped to support mothers.

**HIV/AIDS:**
In 2017, 93 per cent of pregnant woman attending antenatal care in facilities received HIV counselling and testing as part of services to prevent mother-to-child transmission. Meanwhile, 80.5 per cent of HIV positive pregnant women were provided with antiretroviral therapy.
Improving the lives of children in their communities

Results 2017: Quick facts and figures

- 11,500 pregnant women and children benefited from the Maternal Child Cash Transfers programme in Chin
- 130 victims of child trafficking were reintegrated (175 in 2015)
- Over 1 million children enrolled in kindergartens benefited from KG kits
- 49 children and youth were released from the Myanmar army bringing the total number to 849 since 2012
- 22,622 students in 140 schools accessed improved WASH facilities
- 93% of pregnant women attending antenatal care were tested for HIV and received counselling
- 80.5% of HIV positive pregnant women received antiretroviral therapy
- 204 new villages were certified as open defecation free
- 51,968 children reached with mine risk education in schools and communities
- 13.5 million children aged 9 months to 15 years received the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccination
- 93% of pregnant women attending antenatal care were tested for HIV and received counselling
- 80.5% of HIV positive pregnant women received antiretroviral therapy
- 13.5 million children aged 9 months to 15 years received the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccination
- 84,147 people in Rakhine, Kayin, Magwe and Sagaing have access to basic water supply services

Delivering Results for Children 2017 - Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and UNICEF
In 2017, UNICEF reached over 130,000 children through its humanitarian response in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. However, challenges existed in ensuring access to basic health and education and protection for all children, as a result of increased insecurity, restricted access, and limited funding. In its advocacy for children’s rights, UNICEF has called for unimpeded humanitarian access to these areas to provide support for all children in need.

**CHILD PROTECTION:**
Through its partners in Rakhine and Kachin, UNICEF supported access to psychosocial services for nearly 130,000 children including over 94,000 children in Rakhine, and over 35,000 in Kachin and Shan.

A total of 14,280 adolescents affected by conflict received life skills training to prevent negative coping mechanisms.

Case management services were provided to 2,021 children survivors of violence or abuse.

341 UN/INGO/CBO staff were trained on the Monitoring Reporting Mechanism (MRM).

428 incidents of grave violations against children were reported, including 109 grave violations following the August conflict in northern Rakhine.

**EDUCATION:**
18,000 school-aged children accessed UNICEF supported formal or non-formal education opportunities in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states.

In Kachin and Shan, UNICEF and partners supported Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) children in government schools through the provision of teaching and learning materials and Temporary Learning Classrooms (TLCs). In non-government controlled areas, UNICEF and partners provided teachers’ training, teaching and learning materials, and teachers’ incentives.

Throughout the year, UNICEF worked closely with government counterparts in Rakhine and Kachin focusing on continued education service delivery support for children in camps and host/surrounding communities.

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**
Integrated Maternal and Neonatal Child Health services, including immunizations, emergency referrals and nutrition support, were provided to over 52,000 IDPs and other vulnerable women and children in hard to reach areas in Rakhine and Kachin. Of these, over 13,000 children between nine and 18 months were vaccinated against measles.

Over 23,650 children between the ages of six and 59 months and 12,140 women received multiple micronutrient supplementation in hard to reach areas of Rakhine and Kachin.

7,031 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for therapeutic treatment in Rakhine. This was less than the annual planned target due to the disruption of humanitarian assistance provision and displacement of people between August-December.

In Kachin, UNICEF supported integrated health, nutrition and WASH services to conflict-affected and other vulnerable community members in both government controlled and non-government controlled areas. Even so, poor access restricted some interventions. For example, only 47 per cent of children targeted for measles immunisation through NGO partners in both Kachin and Rakhine were reached, but over 30,000 women and children had access to health services, reaching over 200 per cent of the target.
**WASH:**
Access to water was extended to over 62,340 children, women and men, and nearly 62,200 people had improved access to appropriate sanitation services.

Hygiene promotion activities reached nearly 115,600 people.

As WASH Cluster lead, UNICEF conducted trainings for government officials and local partners, and protection. Meanwhile, gender mainstreaming trainings were carried out at the national and state levels. UNICEF also supported the study on functionality of ceramic water filters in collaboration with the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The WASH cluster made gender one of its key priorities and activated a Thematic Working Group (TWG) to address Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) to improve MHM response across Myanmar in both the humanitarian and development contexts.
Rising to humanitarian challenges

Results 2017: Quick facts and figures

- 14,280 adolescents affected by conflict received life skills training
- 130,000 displaced and other conflict-affected children received psychosocial support
- 130,000 displaced and other conflict-affected children received psychosocial support
- 115,600 people were reached with hygiene promotion activities
- 18,000 children accessed formal or non-formal education in temporary learning facilities
- 52,000 displaced women and children in Rakhine received Maternal and Neonatal Child Health services and nutrition support
- 13,000 children between 9 and 18 months were vaccinated against measles
- 2,021 children survivors of violence benefited from case management services
- 7,031 children with severe acute malnutrition were treated in Rakhine
- 62,340 people in humanitarian situations accessed and used safe drinking water
- 64 schools in Rakhine were built or rehabilitated in disaster affected areas
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- 7,031 children with severe acute malnutrition were treated in Rakhine
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- 64 schools in Rakhine were built or rehabilitated in disaster affected areas
CHILD PROTECTION:
The new Child Rights Bill was finalised by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) with UNICEF support, and was submitted to Parliament for approval. The ‘Guidelines on Registration and Support for Voluntary Organisations and the Minimum Standards of Care and Protection for Children (MSC) in Residential Facilities were developed with the support of UNICEF, aimed at bettering the lives of children in residential care.

The first National Foster Care Guidelines were developed and finalized, and are awaiting final endorsement. The foster care model will be in full operation with 9 potential foster care parents trained in Yangon and Mandalay region and placement of children to start in January 2018.

EDUCATION
The first National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) 2016-21 was launched in February by Myanmar’s State Counsellor. The Plan was developed with assistance from UNICEF and other development partners and, for the first time ever, provides a clear framework to guide all investments in education.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to draft an Alternative Education Framework to provide a wider range of learning opportunities for disadvantaged children aged 10-14 years+ who have no or limited access to the formal education system.

UNICEF supported the MSWRR to lead the development and adoption of an integrated Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Strategic Plan. The Plan will benefit all young children from 0-5 years through early identification and follow up action on developmental delays, abnormal behaviours, disabilities, and malnutrition. Preparatory work carried out this year will enable the roll out of ECI interventions across nine sites in 2018.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION
UNICEF collaborated with other stakeholders of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) country network to support Government in drafting the new national multi-sectoral plan of action for nutrition, involving the key sectors of Health, Agriculture, Education and Social Welfare.

With UNICEF’s support, mandatory iodized salt and standards have been included in the updated national food law and national mechanisms to enforce salt iodization and the code of marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes have been established with high level committee oversight.

With UNICEF Myanmar’s support and in collaboration with WHO, the Child Death Surveillance and Response system (CDSR) was rolled out in April 2017, which complemented the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response system (MDSR). These systems have greatly improved tracking and understanding about mortality and can better inform policy makers on decisions related to maternal, new-born and child health policies, interventions and strategies.

UNICEF provided technical support to the State Education Department (SED) to develop guidelines for accepting returnee (both migrant and repatriates) students in schools.

Making the reforms work for children

UNICEF continued to work closely with the Government to accelerate social sector reforms initiated under the previous government, and to advance its commitments to children which were formulated in the “New Vision: New results for children in Myanmar” high level conference in October 2016.
HIV AND AIDS
As a member of the Human Rights and Gender working groups, UNICEF provided inputs to the HIV Law currently under development on access to HIV services for people aged 16 years and above.

WASH
With UNICEF support, Myanmar finalized its first ever Rural WASH Strategy and Investment Plan (2016-30), which was launched in February by the Ministers of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Health and Sports, and Education.

SOCIAL PROTECTION
UNICEF contributed to the creation of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) through the UN Gender Thematic Group. Meanwhile, UNICEF supported partners to generate policy recommendations on the global goal focused on Gender Equality (SDG 5).

BIRTH REGISTRATION
A new ‘Manual for the Birth and Death Registration System’, aimed at simplifying the registration process for births and deaths was issued by the Ministry of Planning and Finance, with support from UNICEF and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sports.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
UNICEF supported inclusiveness in national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies and measures through work with the Government of Myanmar on the Myanmar Action Plan for DRR.

The second Child Centred Risk Assessment was finalised, providing a detailed and extensive view of risk across the country-explicitly placing children at its centre-and serving as a decision-support tool for development partners interested in risk-informed planning and programming.
Strengthening government systems

Strong systems are needed to deliver good quality services to improve children’s lives. UNICEF worked with the Government to strengthen education, social and health care systems.

**CHILD PROTECTION:**
UNICEF supported the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) to strengthen and expand the child protection case management system from 37 Townships in 2016 to 46 townships in 2017, with more than 100 DSW and NGO social work case managers trained and deployed to the field.

36 district court judges and 392 township police officers were trained in how to effectively respond to child sexual abuse, reportedly on the rise in Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady.

UNICEF supported the development of a Mine Risk Education (MRE) application for iOS and Android mobile devices to reach communities in areas affected by landmines. The application also enhances teachers’ ability to access critical information.

UNICEF supported the Myanmar Police Force and civil society organizations to design communication/information materials aimed at preventing the trafficking of women and girls to China and increasing awareness on safe migration.

UNICEF supported MSWRR and the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) to jointly plan and roll out an integrated model to prevent and manage sexual violence against children in Mandalay.

**EDUCATION:**
National and sub-national education officers were trained in evidence-based analysis and planning. Meanwhile, 80 State education officials gained support to prepare annual costed plans for 2018, while 240 were trained in Human Resource Development planning.

UNICEF supported Myanmar to benefit from the South-East Asia Primary Learning Metric, the first standardized test designed to improve learning outcomes in reading, writing, mathematics and global citizenship. Through a field trial completed in 2017, over 2,000 Grade 5 students were tested.

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**
UNICEF helped strengthen immunization and cold chain systems through the provision of solar powered refrigerators (SPR). More than 200 SPR were installed in 150 townships, including some with no access to power.

To improve health care waste management practices, UNICEF partnered with PATH to improve injectable waste management systems at Government health facilities in four townships.

Through the Emergency Paediatric Care Programme (EPCP), UNICEF helped train health staff in 18 district hospitals. As a result, paediatric and neonatal resuscitation skills improved by 28 per cent, while systematic management of childhood pneumonia skills improved by 16 per cent.

UNICEF conducted Communication for Development (C4D) training for staff at the Health Literacy and Promotion Unit at sub-national level, and supported the University of Community Health to improve their behaviour change communication curriculum.

**WASH:**
With UNICEF’s support, the sixth WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange was hosted in Myanmar by the Ministry of Education (MOE). This event brought over 50 participants from 11 countries of the South/East Asian and Pacific regions, representing governments, international organizations...
and research institutions, together with WASH experts. It contributed to increase the momentum for WASH in schools and to grow the community of practitioners in the region.

HIV/AIDS:
Myanmar boosted its capacity to develop a national Elimination of Maternal-to-Child Transmission of HIV implementation plan through a UNICEF-supported learning exchange trip by Myanmar’s health officials to Thailand.

In partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), UNICEF helped improve data sharing between the national health laboratories and the National AIDS Programme. A key innovation involved introducing an SMS printer in high-volume sites, enabling a reduction in the time required to deliver reports to health providers.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:
Government officials were trained in effectively managing warehouses that store DRR supplies. This training included components on the needs of people with disabilities.
Understanding the situation of children and ways to improve it

Evidence is vital to better understand the situation of children in Myanmar, to measure the extent of any problems, to identify potential policy solutions, and assess the costs of such solutions. The main achievements in 2017 were:

**OVERALL SITUATION OF CHILDREN:**
An updated report on the situation of children in Myanmar was produced drawing on major sources of comprehensive data on women, children and other vulnerable groups. The analysis was used extensively to inform policy discussions within several ministries, and to inform the government’s vision for addressing key child rights issues. Specifically, the evidence on low budget allocations for key social sectors was used to successfully advocate for the raising of budget allocations for children to the MSWRR in the 2017-18 national budget.

UNICEF continued supporting the production of cross-sectoral sub-national data profiles focused on children. These profiles have resulted in the establishment of platforms for data sharing at State/Region level that inform local policy makers.

The engagement of UNICEF in the national process for monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, in partnership with the Central Statistical Organisation, provided an opportunity to influence the development of national systems supporting the collection and compilation of quality data.

**EDUCATION**
UNICEF commissioned an analysis on the gender dynamics affecting participation in secondary schools, which revealed that gender inequalities are perpetuated by the school system. As a result, gender mainstreaming was applied to School-based In-Service Teacher Education (SITE) activities as of 2017.

At the request of MoE, UNICEF conducted an Independent Review of the Quality Basic Education Programme’s (QBEP) Child Friendly Schools, which will be completed in 2018.

**HIV AND AIDS:**
In collaboration with the Department of Medical Research, UNICEF supported the Assessment on the quality of ART treatment services for children living with HIV. The study was completed and findings will be disseminated in 2018.

**CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:**
The Situation Analysis on children with disabilities was used extensively in 2017: to advocate for the establishment of the national commission on the rights of people with disability; to inform the shadow report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and to advocate for the establishment of the national registration and certification mechanisms for people with disability. This mechanism will be piloted in two locations in January 2018.

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:**
UNICEF commenced a Climate Landscape Analysis for Children with inputs from government departments, UN agencies, local and international partners.
UNICEF has eight field offices (FO) in Myanmar, strategically located in different parts of the country. These offices support the delivery of Country Programme results at the sub-national level. They support the generation of data at State/Region and Townships level; facilitate multi-sector coordination and monitor bottlenecks preventing children from accessing services.

Increased conflict and insecurity across a number of States and Regions – specifically Rakhine, Kachin and Shan – have challenged UNICEF’s delivery of results at sub-national level. Even so, progress has been made, albeit slowly, with further opportunities for advancement remaining.

**CHIN**

Chin is one of Myanmar’s least developed states, with the highest poverty rates of all States and Regions (73 per cent, 2014). Its mountainous terrain and lack of infrastructure act as significant obstacles to improving service delivery. At the end of 2017 there were skirmishes between the Arakan Army and the Tatmadaw in Southern Chin.

**Key results:**
- The Maternal Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme was piloted in Chin State with technical support from UNICEF.
- The Chin State Government was supported by UNICEF to organize a Chin State Development Actors’ Conference in December, to identify priority development issues and strengthen mechanisms for coordination and collaboration at the State level.
- The team continued engaging with Members of Parliament at the State level to conduct ongoing advocacy on children’s issues and build alliances, with a focus on calling for the extension of services for children in hard-to-reach areas.

**DRY ZONE**

UNICEF supports over five million children living in the Dry Zone (Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway) through its Field Office in Mandalay. Although these are the most developed regions in Myanmar, child poverty rates remain high, in particular in remote and hard-to-reach areas, such as Nagaland in Northern Sagaing. The Dry Zone experiences regular flooding and drought. 2017 saw record flood levels in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway, with UNICEF providing supplies to support the government responses. In addition to supporting the delivery of humanitarian and development programmes, the FO supported a number of cross-sectoral initiatives.

**Key results:**
- Children took over the Mandalay Regional Parliament as part of the World Children’s Day celebrations, resulting in the parliament agreeing to discuss proposals put forward by children at the next parliamentary session.
- The Magway Regional Government was supported to develop township profiles, engaging a wide range of regional, district and township-level government bodies in collecting, verifying and analysing data on child welfare.
- In 2015 the Magway Regional Government established a multi-sectoral coordination platform with UNICEF’s support. In 2017, with technical inputs from UNICEF and other agencies, the Regional Government utilised this platform to engage seven ministries and 30 NGOs in developing multi-sectoral action plans for supporting rural development, including pillars on WASH, education and health and nutrition. This plan will be jointly financed by the Regional Government and line ministries.
**KACHIN**

Kachin continues to be one of Myanmar’s most conflict-affected states, with fighting causing loss of life and displacement, as well as disrupting access to services and livelihoods. Over the course of 2017, the conflict in Kachin has continued, with increases in the frequency and intensity of clashes between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).

As of December 2017, there are 87,000 IDPs in Kachin, with only a handful of national and international actors able to support delivery of both humanitarian and development programmes in areas that are insecure, conflict-affected and controlled by Non-State-Actors (NSA).

**Key results:**
- The Kachin State Planning Department was supported to strengthen bottom-up planning, by improving the quality and use of township-level data, as well as bringing together the State Government, NSA representatives and CSOs to review progress on UNICEF-supported interventions. The latter included a focus on engaging participants in equity-based planning and bottlenecks analysis, strengthening their capacity in these areas through learning-by-doing.
- The Kachin FO supported the effective functioning of the state-level Mine-Risk Education (MRE) Working Group and Child Rights Committee (CRC), ensuring participation of a wide range of stakeholders including state-level government bodies, parliamentarians and CSOs.
- UNICEF facilitated the Kachin high level Ethnic Language Policy Dialogue involving the Kachin Ethnic and Literature Foundation (KEF), the Ministry of Education, representatives from 11 different ethnic groups, State Parliament, State Social Affairs and Ethnic Affairs Ministers, and a final draft of the Language Policy was submitted to Parliament.

**RAKHINE**

Rakhine is one of the poorest states in Myanmar, with children across the state facing a myriad of challenges. Armed attacks on Myanmar Border Guard Police Posts on the 25th of August 2017 and subsequent military operations led to a large outflow of Rakhine Muslims to Bangladesh, with over 655,000 refugees reported to have entered as of the 31st December.

There has been widespread damage to villages across the northern part of Rakhine, with reports of homes, schools and health centres being damaged and destroyed. As of December 2017, women and children in the most affected areas continue to have urgent needs for food, water and healthcare. At the same time the situation of the 129,000 children and families living in IDP camps has been impacted, with UNICEF and partner’s ability to access the camps decreasing due to security concerns and restrictions.

**Key results:**
- Working with the broader UN, UNICEF called for urgent and unimpeded access for the UN and INGO/NGO partners to assess the situation, provide humanitarian assistance to all populations in need and continue to implement critical development programmes to address long-term deprivations faced by children in northern Rakhine, as well as resuming services in central Rakhine to ensure the humanitarian needs of children in IDP camps are met.
- UNICEF continued to work with the government and other partners to address long-term deprivations faced by all children in Rakhine state.
- Over the course of 2017, the UNICEF FO supported the implementation of a wide range of humanitarian and development programmes, with a focus on working towards the inclusion of children who are vulnerable and hard-to-reach, including those in IDP camps and host communities in Central Rakhine, as well as strengthening access, quality and inclusion in education and health systems in both Central and northern Rakhine.
SHAN

Shan has the largest population of children, covering 55 townships and five of the country’s six self-administered areas of ethnic minority groups. Shan is home to many remote, hard-to-reach areas, as well as areas that are affected by violent conflict between NSAs and the government.

Over the course of 2017, there were outbreaks of fighting between the Myanmar Army, the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), with around 12,000 persons displaced by the end of the year.

Key results:

- The partnership between the State Public Health Department and ethnic health organizations (EHOs) was strengthened in both Shan and Kayah, by facilitating dialogue and organizing joint health meetings. In northern Shan, a workshop was conducted where the State Health Department and EHO participants reviewed progress, mapped resources and developed work plans for extending health coverage to hard-to-reach areas.
- The Shan FO played a critical role in extending the nationwide Japanese Encephalitis campaign to hard-to-reach areas across Shan, including the Wa Self-Administered Division in Northern Shan by facilitating dialogue with EHOs and training their staff.
- 150 government offices from townships across Shan were brought together to launch a local social planning exercise (to be completed in 2018).
- The office supported the participation of government departments, CSOs and mine victims in Mine Risk Working Group (MRWG) meetings held in both Shan and Kayah.
THE SOUTH EAST

In 2017, the FO in the South East moved to Hpa-An to increase its proximity to children facing deprivations in Kayin. It continued to support almost two million children living in Mon and Kayin States and the Tanintharyi Region. Whilst this is an area that has seen the most progress in terms of a progression towards peace, there continues to be outbreaks of conflict, in particular in Kayin, and NSAs continue to maintain parallel administration and service delivery structures that were established during decades of conflict.

Over the course of 2017, the situation has remained relatively stable, but with continued outbreaks of small-scale fighting in areas controlled by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and tensions between signatory and non-signatory parties to the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA).

Key results:

- The South-East FO also played a critical role in supporting the roll out of the JE campaign in hard-to-reach areas.
- UNICEF contributed to peacebuilding in the South-East by working to increase access to services for all children and facilitating dialogue and cooperation between the Government and NSAs on service delivery, including to develop common standards and extend government services to hard-to-reach areas. This included facilitating coordination meetings between the Mon and Kayin State Education Departments, the Karen National Union’s Education Department (KED) and the Mon National Education Committee (MNEC).
- UNICEF supported the participation of representatives from hard-to-reach areas in a range of workshops on topics including Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), HIV, WASH and MRE.
- All S-E 17 DSW Case Managers (social workers) benefited from pilot innovative training based on a “design thinking” approach promoted by the NGO Point B based at Mawlamyine University, which will be scaled up at national level.
UNICEF continued to strengthen its partnerships with key influencers in Myanmar society, mobilising them as champions for child rights, and persuading them to take action to support UNICEF’s advocacy priorities.

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR ADVOCACY**

The partnership with the Myanmar Parliaments was further strengthened in 2017. A debate for 150 parliamentarians on child rights was organized; in-depth briefings on the Child Rights Bill were conducted; over 150 parliamentarians in Kachin, Shan, Kayin State Parliaments participated in humanitarian mine action workshops.

The ***voices of youth*** were mobilised as an advocacy force through the U-Report. 18,000 U-Reporters signed up and participated in weekly polls. Partnerships with Teen Radio and MRTV were established to discuss the polls results. A forum of 50 U-Reporters and 80 Parliamentarians was delivered to discuss how Parliamentarians could use U-Report to better understand the needs of young people in their constituencies.

The partnership with the Myanmar Interfaith for Children platform resulted in them producing a short video calling for peace and social cohesion, disseminated through social media ahead of the second Panglong Peace Conference.

National media partnerships were expanded to increase coverage and debate on the advocacy priorities among key influencers in Myanmar and the public. Public engagement through social media expanded with the Social Media Fan base increasing from 48,140 in December 2016 to 61,574 in December 2017.

Partnerships with State and non-State actors, and local NGOs expanded to reach children in hard-to-reach and conflict affected areas such as Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, Nagaland and Northern Shan, to ensure equitable access to education, health, nutrition and WASH interventions.

**ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

**Increased public finance for children:** During the Parliamentary review of the 2017-18 national budget, UNICEF met with the Joint Public Accounts Committee to make the case for increased budget allocations for children. An advocacy flier with key budget asks and messages was distributed to 660 MPs. The 2017-18 Budget allocation to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement increased substantially.

**Children Affected by Conflict:** Constructive dialogue to prevent grave violations of children’s rights continued with the Myanmar Army and with five Non State Armed Groups. In February 2017 the Government signed the Paris Principles on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups. The Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting on grave violations against children continued to report on the situation, however, following the rapid escalation of violence in northern Rakhine state, the CTFMR has faced difficulties securing safe, full and unimpeded access to the affected areas.

**CRC Reporting:** UNICEF supported MSWRR to prepare the State Party Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which was due to be submitted in 2017 but has been delayed to 2018.
Advocating for children’s rights

- In its public statements and in private dialogue with authorities, UNICEF consistently raised its concerns about the child rights situation in Rakhine State as well as other areas of child vulnerability in Myanmar.
- UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Justin Forsyth, visited Rakhine and NayPyiTaw, and met privately with the State Counsellor and Commander in Chief of Defence services, specifically calling for action for children in Rakhine State among other priorities.
- UNICEF issued the Child Alert: Lives on Hold, Making sure no child is left behind in Myanmar, in May 2017. The report and strong multimedia materials focused on the challenges facing children in Myanmar despite moves towards national reconciliation and reform, with specific focus on the impact of conflict on children in Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan States.
- UNICEF provided regular reports on the situation of children in Rakhine and on other groups of vulnerable and disadvantaged children to various UN entities and mechanisms.
- On the 5th of September, UNICEF’s Executive Director spoke out globally against the violence in Rakhine and its impact on children, calling for access to affected areas for support to children on both sides of the border.
Being fit for purpose

During 2017 UNICEF’s management team finalised the new Programme of Cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UNICEF for the period 2018-22, which was approved by the organisation’s Executive Board in September.

The environment for a stronger United Nations working together greatly improved through the still ongoing preparation of the first United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Myanmar (UNDAF), including the development of greater harmonization between humanitarian, development and peace programming.

An external audit was conducted in early 2017. Five out of the nine recommendations issued by the auditors were successfully completed. The remaining four recommendations will be completed by early 2018.

UNICEF continued to implement the Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME), monitored by the Monitoring & Evaluation Committee and the Country Management Team.

Staff were trained on the use of the standard operating procedure for research, evaluation and studies that was included as a good practice as part of Regional Evaluation Strategy.

In 2017, UNICEF conducted an Energy Audit with the International Institute for Energy Conservation. Conducted in the Yangon, Myitkyina and Mandalay offices to assess the overall energy consumption and propose energy conservation measures.

Over 40 staff collaborated in the development of a risk profile for Myanmar, the first phase of the Evidence-Based Planning Process (EPP) for which Myanmar is a pilot country. In addition, 50 per cent of staff participated in Emergency Preparedness Response training and simulations.

Efficiency and effectiveness was ensured by streamlining and simplifying business processes. In 2017, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) relating to supply, human resources and finance were updated and a new SOP on low value procurement was issued.

During 2017, UNICEF utilised more than USD 53.1 million, out of which approximately USD 12.5 was for the humanitarian response.

UNICEF Myanmar has 214 staff:

- 80% National
- 57% Female
- 20% International
- 43% Male
For the last 67 years UNICEF has been working to positively change the lives of every child throughout Myanmar. Through its programme of cooperation in the country, UNICEF has a strong relationship with government, whilst at the same time engaging with other partners from civil society and the private sector in order to strengthen its efforts to improve children’s lives.

To successfully meet the goals set for the next years, UNICEF and the government of Myanmar cannot do this work on their own. Partnerships with donors, international and national NGOs, the private sector, the media and civil society have shown that by working together we can create real and lasting change for children.

UNICEF continued to coordinate its support with sister UN agencies: in health with WHO, UNFPA, and UNAIDs; in nutrition with WFP, WHO and FAO; in social protection with ILO, WB, WFP, and IOM; in child protection with ILO, IOM, and UNHCR; in education with UNESCO; in decentralisation and governance for children with UNDP; and in emergencies with the whole Humanitarian Country Team. Such agencies have also played a key role in promoting children’s rights within their own mandates.

INGOs and CSOs have been crucial partners in the emergency response. UNICEF continued to lead or co-lead the following sectors or clusters in 2017: WASH Cluster, Education Sector Working Group, Social Protection Working Group, Nutrition and Child Protection sub-sectors; Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting grave violations against children.

The above-mentioned results would not have been possible without the partnership UNICEF Myanmar continues to enjoy with the international development community and the array of donors who have supported us so generously (see list on page 22). This year we were particularly touched by the visit of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, who raised close to 900,000 US dollars to support UNICEF’s work in Myanmar.

Almost seven decades later, UNICEF Myanmar remains committed to building effective partnerships and improving children’s lives in Myanmar.
In 2017, UNICEF Myanmar programme has been financed with support from:

- EAP/US Dept Bureau of EAP 0.4%
- European Commission / ECHO 2%
- USAID/Food for Peace 2%
- Denmark 2%
- UNICEF Thematic Fund 3%
- Others* 1%

Contributions from:

- Japan 12%
- The United Kingdom 8%
- The GAVI Fund 9%
- UNICEF National Committee 8%
- USA USAID 5%
- UNOPS - New York 5%
- European Commission/EC 5%

Other entities:

- Australian Committee for UNICEF
- French Committee for UNICEF
- Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF
- Japan Committee for UNICEF
- Swiss Committee for UNICEF
- United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF
- United States Fund for UNICEF
- UNICEF (For GR Allocations Only) 30%
- UNICEF Myanmar programme 30%
- EAP/US Dept Bureau of EAP 0.4%
- SIDA - Sweden 1%
- UNOCHA 1%
- Turkey 1%
- Australia 2%
- UNOCHA 1%
- Turkey 1%
- Australia 2%
- Others* 1%