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Dear UNICEF partners,

The year 2018 was the first year of the UNICEF Country Programme 2018-2022. It was also in this year that the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) 2018-2030, was launched representing a comprehensive and nationally-led development vision for the country.

However, the situation in Myanmar continues to be dominated by the aftermath of the violence of August 2017 in Rakhine State, which led to the exodus of over 730,000 refugees into Bangladesh. While there is a bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, to-date no refugees have voluntarily returned, as they reportedly consider that the conditions in Myanmar are not conducive. On the other hand, on-going conflicts in Kachin and northern Shan states continue to have humanitarian consequences including displaced populations. UNICEF has maintained a significant programming component in these three states, not only to address humanitarian issues but also to support the foundations for development which are so essential for lasting peace and stability.

Despite these challenges, significant results were achieved for children in 2018. More than 78,000 children received Education in Emergency (EiE) supplies to enable continued learning, which far exceeded the 2018 target. Working with partners in Rakhine and Kachin states, UNICEF supported nearly 90,000 children affected by violence to access psychosocial services.

UNICEF played a critical role in supporting Myanmar to obtain the GAVI Health System Strengthening grant this year and worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Sports, WHO and GAVI to develop key plans and procedures to guide its effective implementation over the coming years (2018-2021). UNICEF supported the installation of newborn care (NBC) corners in areas with high infant mortality rates, where 1,900 sets of NBC corner equipment for rural health centres and 150 sets for hospitals were distributed.

UNICEF launched an innovative breastfeeding campaign in partnership with Save the Children, GIZ, Alive and Thrive, and multi-donor trust funds, to reach 42,000 mothers in person and 5.2 million people through social media. A new migration-related programme started in the framework of the EU-funded cross-regional programme, ‘Protecting children affected by migration in Southeast, South, and Central Asia’. UNICEF also supported the strengthening of the electronic Vital Registration platform through the launch of a mobile Birth and Death Registration pilot in Mon State in partnership with Telenor.

In September 2018, an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (IIFMM) on Myanmar, established by the Human Rights Council, issued a report that described serious violations of human rights law as well as international humanitarian law in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. UNICEF, with the Humanitarian Country Team and others, is reviewing the recommendations of the IIFMM. UNICEF has increased internal due diligence for activities in Rakhine State to ensure activities ‘do no harm’.

With the Tatmadaw listed for two additional grave violations against children (killing and maiming; rape and other forms of sexual violence) in the 2018 report of the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (CAAC), in addition to its previous listing for the recruitment and use of child soldiers, UNICEF started engaging the Government and the military, advocating that new Joint Action Plans be developed and adopted to address these grave violations, in addition to the existing Joint Action Plan to end under-age recruitment and use. Capitalizing on the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to Myanmar, UNICEF as co-chair of the Country Taskforce on Monitoring...
and Reporting Mechanism (CTFMR) led high-level engagements with Government
and the military, consolidating progress made since 2012 and supporting efforts to
complete the Joint Action Plan.

The recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission, accepted by both
the Government and development partners, remain the agreed pathway towards
making progress in Rakhine State. In certain sectors such as education and health,
important steps have been taken, including with UNICEF support. Schools have
been reopened, rehabilitated and reconstructed in Muslim, Rakhine, and mixed
communities, and teachers were trained. In health, the Government has worked
with the UN and others to try and ensure health facilities are accessible by all, have
adequate trained staff coming from the different population groups, and that services
reach all those in need.

In an effort to address the second decade of a child’s life, UNICEF initiated evidence-
informed programming of adolescent-targeted interventions that include life skills
training, civic engagement/community development, psychosocial support, all
of which are intended to provide skills to prevent or mitigate violence, abuse and
exploitation. For the first time in Myanmar, on World Children's Day, children and
adolescents represented by 100 U-Reporters from across the country, took over the
Union Parliament and engaged with more than 300 Parliamentarians on how to build
Myanmar for children with children.

Finally, with the launch of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, investments
and partnerships are now needed to turn these goals into reality for all children
in Myanmar. UNICEF remains committed to continuing its support for children
regardless of ethnicity, race, citizenship status of their parents, socio-economic
status, or ability.

UNICEF is deeply thankful to our partners, including private and public donors who
made possible the results achieved for children. We look forward to continuing
this partnership, so that our common goals for the children of Myanmar may be
realized.

June Kunugi
UNICEF Representative to Myanmar
Improving the lives of children in their communities

Results 2018: Quick facts and figures

| 25,000 newborns were delivered and managed by Emergency Paediatric Care Programme (EPCP) teams |
| 1,997 children aged 0-59 months with suspected pneumonia received appropriate antibiotics |
| 3,395 cases of child protection were addressed by the case management system |
| 1,900 sets of New Born Care (NBC) corner equipment for rural health centres and 150 sets for hospitals were distributed |
| 41,507 children under the age of 5 benefitted from multiple micronutrient supplementation |
| 7,896 children learned in the non-formal primary education (NFPE) programme |
| 110,000 people gained access to basic water supply facilities |
| 130,000 children under the age of 10 received their birth certificates |
| 151,018 people are now living in clean environments as 214 villages became open defecation-free (ODF) |
| 100,000 pregnant women and children under two years of age benefitted from the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme |
Improving the lives of children in their communities

In 2018, UNICEF and its partners continued to support the delivery of services with a focus on the need to holistically address children’s and adolescents’ development following a life-cycle approach and expanding further into areas that are hard to reach. Key results include:

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**
More than 25,000 newborns were delivered and managed by UNICEF-supported Emergency Paediatric Care Programme (EPCP) teams in 11 district hospitals. Meanwhile, 1,997 children aged 0-59 months with suspected pneumonia received appropriate antibiotics by UNICEF-supported partners and ethnic health workers.

UNICEF supported the installation of New Born Care (NBC) corners in areas with high infant mortality rates, where 1,900 sets of NBC corner equipment for rural health centres and 150 sets for hospitals were distributed, contributing to increase in coverage to 80 per cent for newborns receiving postnatal care within two days of births.

Through UNICEF’s support, 41,507 children under the age of five benefitted from multiple micronutrient supplementation, while 21,028 pregnant and lactating women received counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) to support exclusive breastfeeding and optimal complementary feeding.

1,760 HIV exposed infants received early infant diagnosis within two months after their birth.

**EDUCATION:**
7,896 children learned in the non-formal primary education (NFPE) programme that provides a second chance for out-of-school children, aged 11-14 years, to complete primary education.

In partnership with 25 Ethnic Language and Cultural Committees, culturally and linguistically appropriate and gender sensitive materials for children aged 3-4 years were developed in 10 languages.

**WASH:**
110,000 people gained access to basic water supply facilities through the construction of community managed household water connections.

304 schools reaching approximately 37,642 children and 34 health centres covering approximately 27,079 households were supported with basic WASH facilities.

214 villages became open defecation-free (ODF) through which 151,018 people are now living in clean environments.

**SOCIAL PROTECTION:**
The Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme reached almost 100,000 pregnant women and children under two years of age.

**CHILD PROTECTION:**
3,395 cases of child protection were addressed by the case management system.

**ADOLESCENCE:**
To reduce school drop outs, 7,500 adolescents, including 3,941 girls, in 177 target secondary schools participated in the pilot initiative of revitalizing school-based student clubs.

**BIRTH REGISTRATION:**
Using the universality approach, three birth registration campaigns were conducted in Naypyidaw, Tanintharyi and Shan states, giving birth certificates to nearly 130,000 children under the age of 10.
Rising to humanitarian challenges

Results 2018: Quick facts and figures

75 children and youth were released from the Myanmar army, bringing the total number to 924 since 2012

3,000 children survivors of abuse or violence received case management services

108,611 children and women utilised antenatal care, delivery care, post-natal visits

928 patients with severe and complicated illnesses received referral support

36,290 children received psycho-social support

78,007 children benefited from Education in Emergency (EiE) materials

13,301 children received education through Temporary Learning Classrooms in IDP camps

3,000 children under the age of 5 suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition received lifesaving therapeutic nutrition treatment

333,910 people were reached through water, sanitation and hygiene services
Rising to humanitarian challenges

Over the course of 2018, the number of people in Myanmar in need of humanitarian assistance increased from 862,851 to 941,351. In addition to providing lifesaving and life sustaining services, UNICEF continued to advocate for additional and unhindered access to ensure that the full complement of services can be provided to those in need, including in hard-to-reach or isolated locations.

CHILD PROTECTION:
75 children and youth were released from the Myanmar army, bringing the total number released since the signing of the Joint Action Plan in 2012 to 924.

Over 36,290 children received psycho-social support, including access to child friendly spaces, while case management services were provided to over 3,000 children survivors of abuse or violence.

Through UNICEF’s intervention, 13,226 adolescent girls and boys received life skills training that built their protective behaviours as well as resilience.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION:
108,611 children and women in conflict affected areas of Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, utilised antenatal care, delivery care, post-natal visits and referrals for emergency obstetric and newborn complications.

In addition to routine health services, 928 patients with severe and complicated illnesses received referral support in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine states.

49,654 children and women benefitted from essential nutrition services in conflict affected areas of Rakhine and Kachin States, including micronutrient supplementation, infant and young child feeding support, nutrition screening and the management of acute malnutrition.

EDUCATION:
26,472 children aged 3-17 years were supported by UNICEF to access formal and non-formal basic education while 78,007 children benefitted from Education in Emergency (EiE) materials.

13,301 children received education through Temporary Learning Classrooms in IDP camps in central Rakhine while UNICEF-supported school construction work has enabled over 7,600 children to access 14 child-friendly schools across the State.

WASH:
UNICEF reached an estimated 333,910 people with humanitarian WASH response through CSOs, government counterparts and direct implementation across seven states and regions covering protracted emergencies and monsoon floods.
Making the reforms work for children

Reforms represent a unique opportunity to generate new and at scale, results for children. Among other significant reforms, the launch of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) in 2018 and the development of the supplementary National Indicators Framework (NIF) that includes many of the national priority SDG indicators for children presents a great opportunity to put children at the centre of long-term development.

CHILD PROTECTION:
UNICEF continued providing regular and direct technical advice to the Government of Myanmar and the Union Parliament, as they review and finalise the Child Rights Bill which has been benchmarked with international best practices.

EDUCATION:
UNICEF supported the Government’s work to advance the operationalization of the 2014 Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) policy including the finalization of the first costed ECCD Strategic Plan under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR).

With UNICEF support, 35 townships have developed evidence-based, disaster risk-sensitive Township Education Improvement Plans (TEIPs).

The Ministry of Education finalized the Alternative Education Sub-Sector Framework.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION:
UNICEF’s efforts and contributions to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) country network over the past years, in collaboration with other UN agencies, NGOs and World Bank, has resulted in the Government’s launching of the inception phase and steering committee for the Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (2018-2022). The committee involves four sectoral Ministries: Health, Education, Social Welfare and Agriculture.

ADOLESCENCE:
Through UNICEF’s advocacy and technical support, consensus was achieved among Government and development partners to include Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) as a component of the National Policy on SRHR.

SOCIAL PROTECTION:
Myanmar’s first-ever Costed Medium Term Social Protection Sector Plan was endorsed. UNICEF supported the development of a robust roadmap to make social protection more shock-responsive.

WASH:
UNICEF supported the initiation of the National Sanitation Policy development, Thant Shin Star guidebook for WASH in Schools (WinS) and water supply guidelines.
Strong systems are needed to deliver good quality services and improve children’s lives. UNICEF has cooperated with the Government to strengthen Education, Health, Protection, WASH and other social systems:

**EDUCATION:**
Over 8,000 teachers reinforced their competency in child-centred teaching methodology through in-service teacher training, taking into account gender responsiveness, benefitting over 618,000 children.

With UNICEF support, 35 townships have developed evidence-based, disaster risk-sensitive Township Education Improvement Plans (TEIPs).

Following the successful completion of the Out-of-School Children study, over 530 stakeholders from 11 Ministries at sub-national level supported awareness raising on this issue within their localities.

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**
190 staff received competency-based training in managing common childhood illnesses.

UNICEF supported the National AIDS Programme to establish an electronic patient management and record system (OpenMRS) to improve patient management and data linkages across the continuum of care. The software training and installation was gradually scaled up and 16 new ART sites in Mandalay and Naypyidaw regions were set up.

3,749 Basic Health Staff (BHS) and clinical staff from Chin, Kachin, Magway and Rakhine (over 60 per cent of health workers in these states/regions) were trained and equipped to provide Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) services, and an additional 5,529 BHS and community health volunteers were trained in community-based infant and young child feeding (cIYCF) in the same locations.

**CHILD PROTECTION:**
Task-shifting of around 300 medical social workers managed by the Ministry of Health and Sports was undertaken to address child protection caseload.

Led by the Department of Social Welfare, UNICEF supported the expansion of the national case management system to 49 townships.

**WASH:**
UNICEF and the WASH Cluster provided capacity building support to key government partners which contributed to improve preparedness and timely and efficient humanitarian action.

**SOCIAL PROTECTION:**
Together with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) UNICEF conducted gender mainstreaming training for 50 frontline workers from civil society organization, faith-based organization and staff from DSW.
Understanding the situation of children and ways to improve it

Evidence is vital for a better understanding of the situation of children, to help find better solutions, to improve their lives and to guide actions for children. Here are the main undertakings in 2018:

OVERALL SITUATION OF CHILDREN:
The Myanmar Living Conditions Survey (MLCS), the most significant national survey which includes key data on the situation of children in the country, was published by Central Statistics Organisation in collaboration with World Bank and UNDP and in consultation with UNICEF and other partners.

EDUCATION:
UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Planning and Finance in the development of the Education Budget Brief that will inform equity-based education planning and budgeting.

CHILD PROTECTION:
UNICEF initiated:
- Legal Analysis of the Rights and Protections for Children in Conflict with the Law in Myanmar
- Operational research on social norms underpinning violence affecting adolescents in Myanmar
Mobilising states and regions for children

UNICEF has eight field offices (FO) in Myanmar, strategically located in different parts of the country. These offices support the delivery of the Country Programme results at the sub-national level. They support the generation of data at State/Region and Townships levels; facilitate multi-sector coordination and monitor bottlenecks preventing children from accessing services. Here are key results at the sub-national level:

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. The World Bank and Asian Development Bank are supporting the State Government to develop roads and infrastructure, which are priorities both at the State and Union level. The skirmishes between the Arakan Army and the Tatmadaw in southern Chin that started at the end of 2017 continued throughout 2018.

Key results:
- Learning materials for lower grades of primary education have been developed based on the local curriculum and within the National Curriculum Framework.
- Through UNICEF child protection system strengthening support to legal institutions, five child sexual abusers were detected and three were sentenced to 20 years jail term. The victims received support from the Department of Social Welfare.
- The township level roll-out of community-based infant and young child feeding (cIYCF) and Integrated management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) trainings were conducted where 836 Basic Health Staff (BHS) completed cIYCF training and 935 BHS, including hospital health staff, completed a six-day cIYCF and three-day IMAM protocol trainings.
- UNICEF continued its engagement with Members of the State Parliament to advocate on children’s issues and build alliances, with a focus on calling for the extension of services for children to 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 Region. The Dry Zone experiences regular flooding and drought.

Key results:
- For the first time in Myanmar, an entire township - Myinmu township in Sagaing Region (comprising 84 villages) - was declared ODF.
- UNICEF supported the expansion of the Emergency Paediatric Care Programme (EPCP) in Magway and Sagaing regions.
- 21st century skills and related facilitation and monitoring methodology benefitted 19 university student trainers, 150 peer-to-peer educator student advocates, and 30 teachers, who mentor and support the facilitation of educational talks. So far, a total of 8,337 students in 15 schools participated in the talks and acquired new knowledge on the effects of drug use and menstrual hygiene education in addition the skills trainings.
- 60 hoteliers and transporters, and 298 tour guides acquired knowledge on how to make the growing tourism industry safe for children particularly in addressing child trafficking and physical and sexual abuse.
KACHIN

Kachin continued to experience conflict with escalation during the first half of 2018 resulting in additional displacement of 14,000 people and bringing the total number of people displaced since 2011 to 97,000 at 140 camps and camp like settings. In some areas, fighting was in close proximity to villages and existing IDP camps, with affected people entrapped and with humanitarian agencies denied access to provide support.

**Key results:**
- 71 safe spaces were created to provide psychosocial support to children living in IDP camps.
- With the collaboration of WASH and Health Clusters, a state-level Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) preparedness and response plan was developed to contribute to the early warning health system and WASH response.
- A Child Protection Referral Pathway (CPRP) in humanitarian settings was developed with the participation of Child Protection actors from Kachin State and the Department of Social Welfare.
- Local Curriculum Development (LCD) was conducted representing the Myanmar language and 11 ethnic dialects from Kachin State.
RAKHINE

Rakhine is one of the poorest states in Myanmar, with children across the state facing a myriad of challenges. In northern Rakhine, first-hand information has been difficult to obtain for the UN due to access restrictions. However, recent assessments conducted by UNHCR and UNDP have revealed a population living very precariously, with limited access to food, livelihoods and other basic necessities. The poor nutritional status of many children has worsened in areas without access to therapeutic nutrition services, which are only now being re-established.

Conditions in central Rakhine remain difficult, particularly for the Muslim population which has largely been confined to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps since the inter-communal violence of 2012. Some 128,000 Muslims remain in these camps or camp-like settings, with children making up around 53 per cent of the population. This population continues to face restrictions on their freedom of movement, which contributes to limiting their access to livelihoods and essential services, including health and education. The camps are often poorly located, vulnerable to flooding, overcrowded and unsanitary.

Key results:

- Despite limited access in some areas, UNICEF and partners were able to reach 2,740 children under the age of five suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition with lifesaving therapeutic nutrition treatment.
- UNICEF supported the training of cold chain personnel and the construction of a sub-depot in the state capital, Sittwe, and successfully piloted a harmonized paper-based logistics management information system.
- 5,940 children aged 9-18 months were immunized against measles.
- Through UNICEF’s Rakhine Health System Strengthening initiative, the multi-donor 3MDG health fund was mobilized to scale up the Facility-based integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (F-IMNCI) training for hospital staff across all 17 townships in Rakhine State.
- Using the whole state approach, 69,990 children aged 3-17 years across the Rakhine State received education and recreational materials.
- Over 65,000 Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) beneficiaries were reached in all townships and IDP camps.

SHAN

Shan State 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 Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) and the Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw). The Tatmadaw declared a one-sided ceased fire with some limitations from 21st December 2018 to 30th April of 2019. However, tracking of the EAOs movement is still ongoing. Events of IDPs fleeing away from and going back to home were more frequent in 2018 with over 8,800 people remaining displaced in northern Shan State.

Key results:

- With the coordination of the State Government and other local and international partners, UNICEF organized and developed township level Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for each township in northern Shan State.
- In southern Shan, adolescents with support from UNICEF conducted drug-awareness talks in schools targeting more than 10,000 school children in middle and high schools.
- A new open defecation-free (ODF) campaign modality was piloted in southern Shan State in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sports.
- In partnership with State Planning Department, UNICEF brought together over 100 government officers from townships across Shan State working in different administrative and social service departments to successfully prepare a State-wide Local Social Plan which includes seven key projects that support vulnerable populations.
THE SOUTH EAST

The Field Office in Hpa-An 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 significant steps in terms of a progression towards peace, there continue to be outbreaks of conflict particularly in Kayin State. Non-State Actors (NSAs) continue to maintain parallel administration and service delivery structures that were established during decades of conflict.

Key results:
- Kayah State allocated funds from the State Government budget to develop a local curriculum to contextualise the contents of teaching and learning materials and to promote inter-cultural respect and understanding.
- UNICEF supported the expansion of the Myanmar Newborn Care Programme in Kayin State.
- 24,731 people (52 per cent women) from 64 villages at Kyar Inn Seik Kyi Township in Kayin State established Open Defecation Free communities.
- 3,600 school children from 18 schools received messages on the importance of handwashing through the 2018 Global Handwashing campaign in Hpa-An Township.
- With UNICEF support, 25 Case Managers received social work case management training and responded to 795 child protection cases including conflict with the law, unaccompanied and separated children, trafficking, domestic violence and severe physical violence.
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.

**ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

**Rakhine:** UNICEF supported the launch of two UNICEF Child Alerts: *Lives in limbo* and *Futures in the Balance* at global level. A briefing with the international media was conducted at the UN Palais in Geneva. UNICEF also provided regular reports on the situation of children in Rakhine to the various UN entities. Through sustained advocacy with national and state level authorities - UNICEF’s access to northern Rakhine increased, and access to IDP camps in central Rakhine resumed.

**Children Affected by Armed Conflict:** through advocacy with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and UN partners on Children and Armed Conflict, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on grave violations against children (CTFMR) is now engaging with listed ethnic armed organizations which are signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement to develop action plans to address underage recruitment and use.

**The first 1,000 days:** UNICEF supported the National Code on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and Universal Salt Iodization - both under the national food law. Improvements in monitoring, governance and coordination were made.

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR ADVOCACY**

**Partnership with the Myanmar Parliaments** - the partnership with the Myanmar Union Parliament, and State and Regional Parliaments, was drawn upon in 2018 to mobilise Parliamentarians on key issues concerning hard to reach children. Briefings on the Child Rights Bill were organized, targeting the Bill Committee and the Citizens’ Fundamental Rights Committee, to ensure that crucial provisions in the Bill are maintained as it is reviewed by the Parliament. Eighteen MPs were mobilized to attend the ‘Costed Medium Term Social Protection Sector Plan workshop’ in Nay Pyi Taw, to obtain their support for increased budget allocation to social protection sectors. Forty MPs from States/Regional Parliament were mobilized to participate in the Out-of-School Initiative (OOSCI) workshops in Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan and Rakhine states.

The voices of adolescents and youth were mobilized as an advocacy force through U-Report. 22,480 U-Reporters have now signed up to the platform and they participated in 52 weekly polls during 2018. Efforts were made to recruit U-Reporters from each state and region including hard-to-reach areas, particularly in IDP camps in Kachin and northern Shan.

For the first time in Myanmar, on World Children’s Day, children and adolescents represented by 100 U-Reporters from across the country, took over the Union Parliament and engaged with more than 300 Parliamentarians on how to build Myanmar for children with children. Together with the Union Parliament, UNICEF supported the U-Reporters to present the most pressing issues for children and adolescents, based on the results of U-Report polls during 2018.

The Partnerships with Teen Radio and MRTV continued through which poll results were discussed on monthly radio and TV programmes.

**National media partnerships** continued 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 61,574 in January 2018 to 70,239 in December 2018.
Being fit for purpose

The rapidly changing context of the country means UNICEF needs to constantly keep close oversight of programme direction, funds, and staffing, and be prepared to adjust as necessary.

In order to further strengthen the relationship with the Government, UN agencies, including UNICEF, have rented space in the offices of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) creating a ‘One UN House’. UNICEF located seven staff positions in Nay Pyi Taw to start from January 2019, to facilitate the close collaboration required with government counterparts for the work on health systems strengthening and social protection.

Continuous effort was made throughout the year to reduce operating costs. Persistent negotiation led to a 40 per cent reduction in rent for the Yangon Office resulting in a saving of US$363,600 per year with effect from 1 September 2018. Moreover, in line with the Secretary-General’s Reforms, co-location at UNICEF Offices is being implemented: UNICEF is co-locating with UN Women in Yangon; with UNDP in Mandalay and Taunggyi; and with UNFPA and UNDSS in Hpa-An with cost-shared value of US$ 99,743.

During 2018, UNICEF utilised more than USD 38 million, out of which approximately USD 10 million was for the humanitarian response.

UNICEF Myanmar has 215 staff:

- 80% National
- 20% International
- 57% Female
- 43% Male
Advancing children’s rights together

In 2018, UNICEF launched its new Country Programme for 2018-2022, which it started implementing in close collaboration with the Government of the Myanmar and other partners from local and international NGOs, civil society and the private sector among others. Building on the successes of the previous Country Programme, UNICEF continued its collaboration with other organizations to accelerate and strengthen results 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.

UNICEF continued to work with UNFPA towards creating a harmonized approach to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and violence against children (VAC) response, under a common framework of operation.

UNICEF and other UN partners supported the mid-term review of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Young People’s Health 2016-2020 in March 2018. The review further defined an effective, integrated operational plan for adolescents and young people’s health, to promote their healthy living and lifestyles.

UNICEF continued collaboration with WHO to strengthen universal immunization coverage. UNICEF’s support contributed to equitable coverage of children under one year receiving DTP-containing vaccine at the national level.

In December, agreement between DFID and UNICEF was reached to initiate the Learning Together initiative in 2019 in northern Rakhine State to promote inclusion and social cohesion in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Rakhine State Government.

These results for children have only been possible thanks to the generous and effective partnership UNICEF Myanmar has with the local and international development partner community, including donors. In 2018, GAVI, USA and the Republic of Korea were the top three donors to UNICEF Myanmar, in addition to millions of generous individuals donating through UNICEF National Committees.
In 2018, UNICEF Myanmar programme has been financed with support from:

Of the US$58 million in revenue received by UNICEF Myanmar in 2018, 26 per cent was in flexible regular resources received from UNICEF headquarters.

Top 10 global resource partners*

- United States
- United Kingdom
- European Commission
- Germany
- World Bank Group - International Development Association (WBG-IDDA)
- US National Committee for UNICEF
- Sweden
- Norway
- Japan
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

*2017 data