

DELIVERING RESULTS FOR CHILDREN 2016

*Programme of Cooperation between the Government of
the Union of Myanmar and UNICEF*



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Foreword



Dear UNICEF partners,

The 2016 UNICEF report “Delivering Results for Children in Myanmar” gives us the opportunity, one more time, to take stock of the progress made for children under the programme of cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UNICEF, in what remains overall a promising, yet still challenging, environment for children.

More than 100 children and young people have been released from the armed forces, bringing the total to 800 since the signing of the Joint Action Plan in 2012. In targeted townships, the proportion and number of children aged 3-5 years accessing early childhood facilities has reached close to 155,000, an increase of 50% compared with 2015. Five hundred new born health corners were established and investment in cold chain strengthening this year represented 65% of the last 10-year investment. Emergency interventions reached almost 100,000 children.

UNICEF continued to mobilise the Myanmar society in support of children’s rights. Regular sessions were held with the Committees of the new Parliament at Union and State levels, and the Interfaith Platform for Children was mobilized ahead of the 21st Century Panglong Conference to urge parties to make peace in the interests of children. More than 5,000 young people signed up to the new U-report platform, making their voices heard by policy makers on subjects such as domestic violence, poverty, health and peace. UNICEF engaged with Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) on several initiatives for children. In the South-East of Myanmar, such partnerships included joint Mine Risk Education and WASH initiatives between Government and Ethnic Groups. UNICEF strengthened relationships between the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) and health departments of other non-state entities, resulting in services being provided to women and children such as immunization (polio campaign) water and sanitation, HIV prevention, nutrition, and maternal and child health in Kayin, Kachin and Shan.

In an effort to further build and use Government systems, UNICEF has accelerated the rolling out of the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers among Government entities with 14 departments now adopting the modalities. Similarly there was a \$20 Million increase in procurement services from 2015 to 2016 reflecting the greater reliance on government systems and finances, which allowed for greater use of UNICEF resources for support to policy reforms and system strengthening. Technological innovations capitalizing on the rapid expansion of telecommunications have been mainstreamed into the health systems, child protection, the promotion of youth voices and birth registration. UNICEF Field Offices have moved further in empowering the State and Region governments, namely through the development of plans for children (Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing and Tanintharyi).

In spite of progress, one out of five children continue to be born without registration, between 100 and 150 die every day before having a chance to celebrate their 5th birthdays, close to 30% of children under 5 suffer from moderate and severe malnutrition, half of them reach adulthood with incomplete education, and more than half live in poverty. A UNICEF supported analysis of the situation of children with disabilities revealed that 2 out of 3 do not attend school and 90 per cent do not visit the doctor. An estimated 1.8 million children still need peace, and restrictions of freedom of movement placed on thousands of children in Rakhine prevent them from accessing adequate health care, good nutrition and education. Low indicators affect children from all communities in Rakhine and Chin and call for urgent and comprehensive solutions.

The inauguration of a new Administration and a new Parliament in 2016 have provided significant opportunities to accelerate and deepen commitments to children in Myanmar, and to capitalise on social sector reforms initiated under the previous government. Systematic investigation and analysis of data arising from new sources of information - most prominently the 2014 census and the 2016 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) – has generated a fresh understanding of the challenges and opportunities for the approximately 17 million children living in Myanmar. All of this helped the Government and children’s advocates formulate a “New Vision” and



“New Results” for children in Myanmar during a high level conference in October this year. The new Administration seized the opportunity of its first budget submission to gradually implement its new commitments for children, including through the financing of its Social Protection strategy.

Much remains to be done to fulfill our promise 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 Myanmar is thankful to its ever broadening range of partners, including public and private donors. Japan and the 3 MDG fund have now become the top 2 donors to UNICEF in Myanmar, in addition to GAVI, and millions of individuals donating to Myanmar through UNICEF National Committees (most notably Korea and Australia).

We remain committed to improving our efficiency to deliver the results children deserve, and the accountability our supporters demand.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Bainvel'.

Bertrand Bainvel
UNICEF Representative to Myanmar

Improving the lives of children in their communities

In 2016, UNICEF and partners supported service delivery interventions to help fill essential gaps, improving the lives of millions of children in Myanmar. Key results include:

> CHILD PROTECTION:

101 children and young people were released from the armed forces, which brings the total number released since the signing of the Action Plan in June 2012 to 800.

265 children and families, who are victims of child trafficking, received reintegration support

103 new victims of landmines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) were reported and assisted. 80,000 people from mine-infested communities were reached with life-saving information after the roll out of the new mine risk education (MRE) toolkit

> EDUCATION¹:

UNICEF began its provision of 45,000 kindergarten (KG) kits to all schools across the country. Bilingual teachers' guides and big story books for KG students in 65 ethnic language groups were developed. Mobile early childhood care and development (ECCD) services were pilot tested in communities in Kachin and Rakhine States.

2 cyclone resistant school-based preschools were constructed along with outdoor playgrounds in the Cyclone Nargis affected Laputta Township. A maintenance manual and handbook for establishing outdoor playgrounds was developed.

154,675 children (3-5 year old) in 34 targeted townships are accessing early childhood development (ECD) services and 44,256 children out-of-school children aged 10-17 have been enrolled in non-formal education.

> HEALTH AND NUTRITION:

Nearly 4.6 million children were reached through three rounds of polio immunisation campaigns following a polio outbreak in the Northern part of Rakhine State. More than 16,000 children aged 9 months to 15 years were vaccinated as a response to the measles outbreak in Nagaland Self Administrative Region.

The Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine was introduced and UNICEF contributed to cold chain expansion, with more than 1,000 types of equipment installed, representing more than 65 per cent of all cold chain investment made in the past 10 years.

Medical supplies worth US\$ 3.2 million were distributed to 120 hard-to-reach townships. Newborn corners in 500 health centres and 50 primary hospitals were established.

94% of children were covered by bi-annual Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) and deworming with UNICEF support to procurement, micro-planning and community mobilisation.

Coverage of Iron and Folic Acid supplementation has continued to increase over the past years and is currently at 83 per cent. UNICEF procured anthropometric equipment to cover 100 per cent of health facilities (2,158) in the four targeted states (Rakhine, Chin, Kayin, Magway)

1. The Myanmar Quality Basic Education Programme (QBEP) is supported by the Multi Donor Education Fund (MDEF), comprising Australia, Denmark, the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom, and by UNICEF in partnership with the Government of Myanmar. Since July 2016, the KG support is being provided through the "Building on QBEP" partnership, funded by Denmark, European Union and UNICEF.



HIV/AIDS:

86% of pregnant women attending antenatal care in facilities received HIV counselling and testing as part of services to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), an increase from 71.7% in 2015. Also with UNICEF support, 90% of HIV positive pregnant women were provided with antiretroviral therapy (ART) compared to 84.3% in 2015.



WASH:

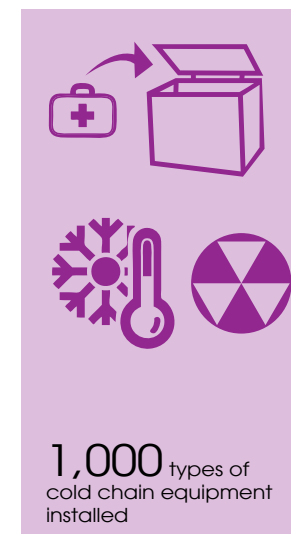
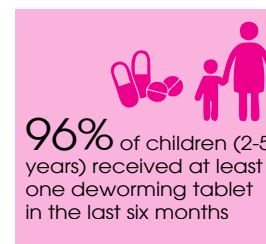
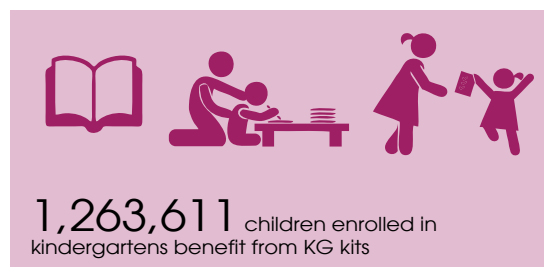
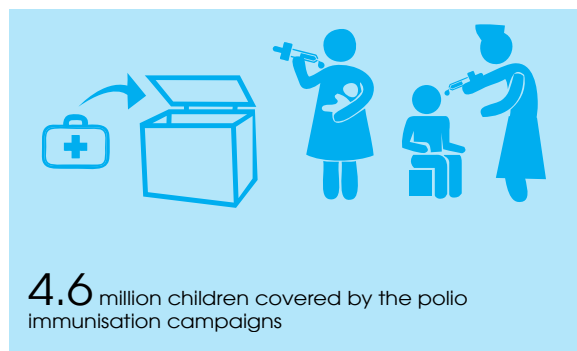
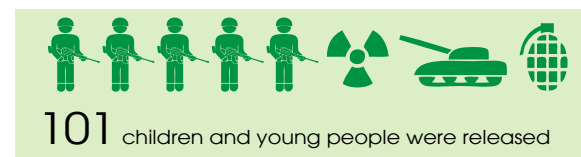
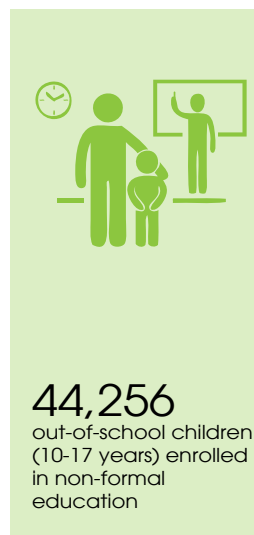
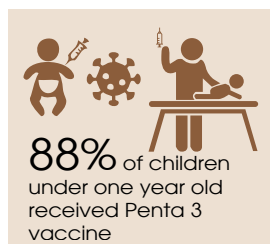
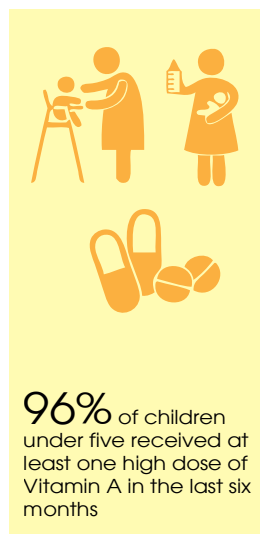
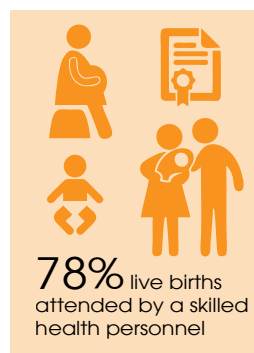
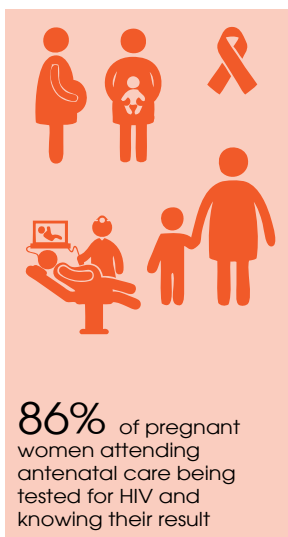
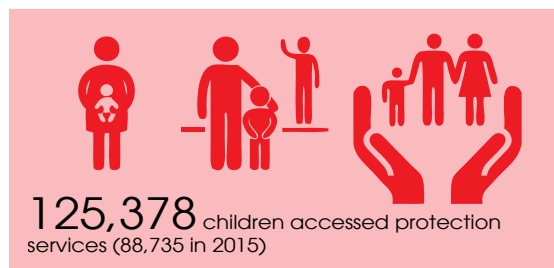
125,215 people from 146 communities in dry areas have access to safely managed drinking water through installation of household water metering systems. For sustainability, all 146 Water User Committees were trained in book keeping, water meter reading, and meeting minute writing.

A total of 189 new communities have already been declared open defecation free. Meanwhile, the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) programme has been extended to an additional 215 villages reaching 103,992 people in 19,478 rural families.

A total of 43,147 students and 986 teachers in 245 schools have access to improved WASH facilities which meet the “Three Stars School” standards.

Improving the lives of children in their communities

Results 2016: Quick facts and figures



Rising to humanitarian challenges

In 2016, UNICEF reached over 99,000 children through emergency interventions. UNICEF led robust responses to the protracted crises in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states in partnership with the government and NGOs. In addition, UNICEF supported the flood response efforts in Sagaing, Bago, Magway and Mandalay.

Challenges exist in ensuring access to basic health and education services for vulnerable children in Kachin, northern Shan and Rakhine: due to denial of access to the northern part of Rakhine state following the 9 October attacks and subsequent security operation; and because of limited and restricted humanitarian access to areas beyond government control in Kachin and northern Shan states. In its advocacy for children's rights, UNICEF has called for the lifting of restrictions on freedom of movement and humanitarian access to these areas to provide support to all children in need.

➤ **WASH:**
In Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states, UNICEF worked with government to continue provision of basic services to IDPs in camps, and promoted government leadership of services for IDPs including integration of the WASH cluster into broader sector development coordination and planning structures, operation and maintenance of WASH hardware in IDP camps, latrine desludging activities, and water supply. UNICEF supported the government and communities to minimise vulnerabilities to climate-related disasters through provision of WASH supplies, funding and technical support. Overall, emergency WASH activities reached 313,000 people in 2016 including over 249,000 people affected by the 2015 floods.

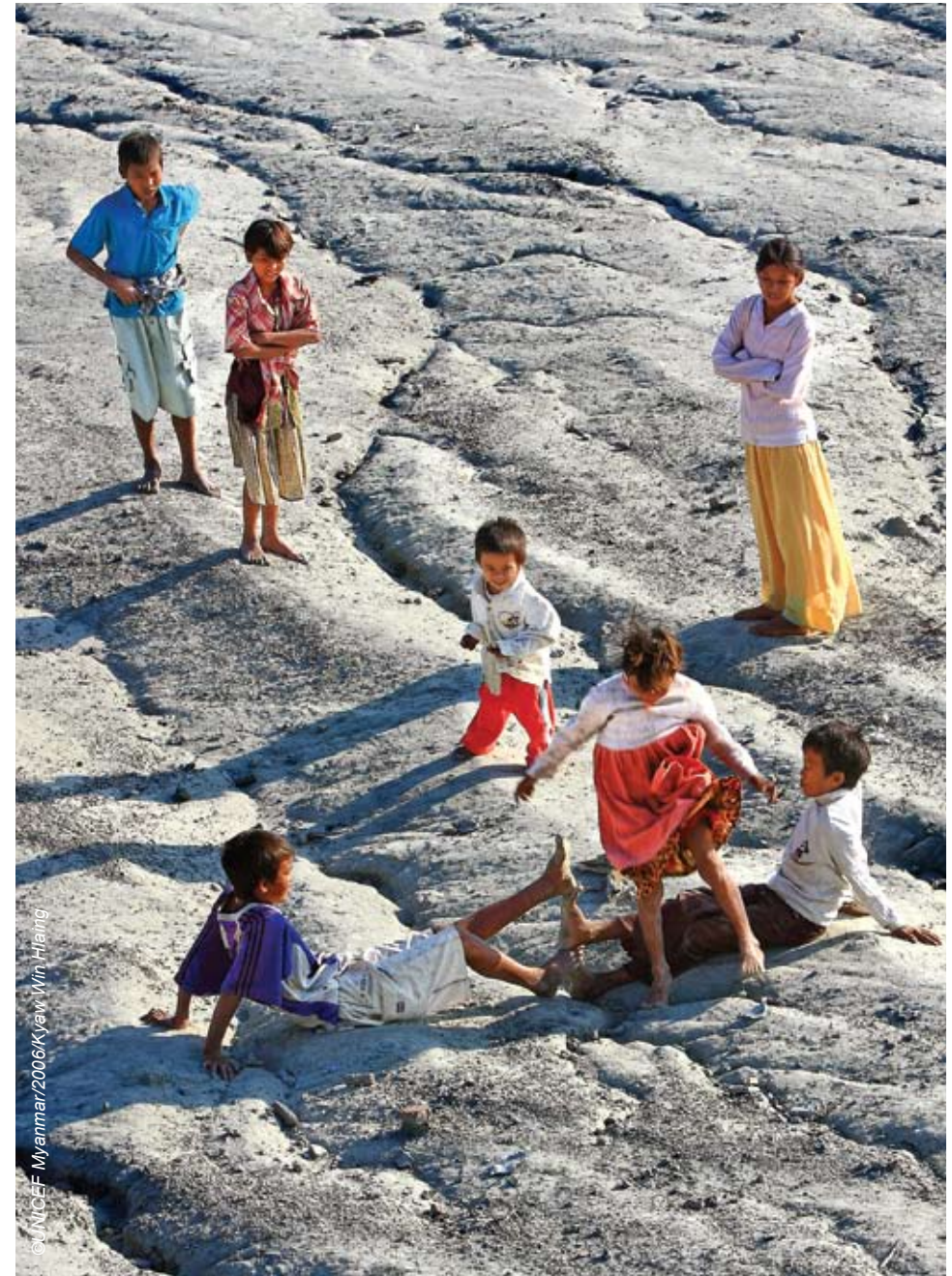
➤ **NUTRITION AND HEALTH:**
High achievements in the nutrition sector this year were largely due to an expansion in partner capacity, particularly in Rakhine. In all, nearly 27,000 children aged 6-59 months received micronutrient supplementation in Rakhine and Kachin, and over 8,000 children aged 6-59 months were treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition. Furthermore, over 11,600 pregnant and lactating women received support for Infant and Young Child Feeding through emergency programmes. UNICEF worked to improve access to health services across 10 townships in Rakhine and nine conflict-affected areas in Kachin and Shan. Over 7,800 children and women were vaccinated against measles and an additional 8,780 children under one year of age received other required vaccinations.

➤ **CHILD PROTECTION:**
More than 20,500 displaced and other conflict-affected children received psychosocial support through UNICEF and its partners in 2016. UNICEF monitored progress toward the Joint Action Plan to end use and recruitment of children by the Myanmar Army and also accelerated its engagement with ethnic armed groups listed as persistent perpetrators of use and recruitment of children. 101 children were released from armed forces and armed groups this year, and UNICEF and partners continued to provide socio-economic support to 650 children and young people in 2016. To improve data collection on Grave Violations against children, UNICEF trained 223 frontline workers on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for violations against children. Over 6,000 teachers, IDPs and host communities, including 2,400 children, received direct lessons in mine risk education.

➤ **EDUCATION:**
This year, over 26,300 children in Rakhine and nearly 6,200 children in Kachin and Shan benefitted from pre-primary, primary and non-formal education, in safe spaces. UNICEF advocated for the Rakhine State Education Department to continue supporting community volunteers in temporary learning spaces (TLS) leading to volunteer teachers being included in in-service teacher training.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

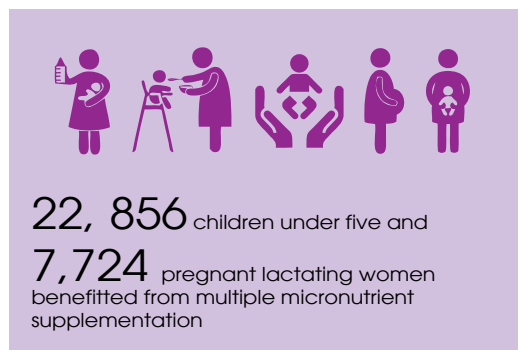
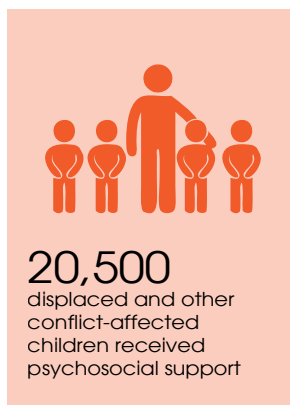
UNICEF continued to support the capacity building and training of government staff on inclusive disaster risk reduction planning, warehouse management and promotion of inclusive and child-focused public awareness regarding eight common hazards. UNICEF has received a seat on the government's Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) Task Force (TF) and will steer the drafting of an action plan for the National Disaster Management Committee. UNICEF participated in the first MAPDRR TF meeting on the 27th October, and advocated for greater emphasis on inclusion and protection of vulnerable groups, ensuring a cross-sectoral approach as well as tackling the underlying causes of vulnerability, and building resilience and adaptive capacity. UNICEF also organized a consultation on the DRR Youth Volunteer (DRR-YV) Programme Strategy and supported the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) in implementing the DRRYV Strategy in nine townships of Mon, Rakhine and Ayeyarwaddy. UNICEF has completed a revised child-centred risk assessment in addition to a climate change vulnerability analysis to identify the areas where children are most at risk. This information will be used by programme sections for prioritization of activities and areas within the 2018-2022 country plan.



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Rising to humanitarian challenges

Results 2016: Quick facts and figures



Making the reforms work for children

A new committed administration and recently available sets of data represent a unique opportunity to generate new results for children. These combined with newly developed plans, policies and legislative advances make the reforms work for children.

➤ **PUBLIC FINANCE FOR CHILDREN:**
UNICEF initiated a Public Financial Management (PFM) Technical Assistance project with the Ministry of Planning and Finance. As a result, the MSWRR received a budget ceiling increase for the first time, part of which will go towards recruiting, training and equipping the newly hired child protection social workers.

➤ **CHILD PROTECTION:**
The Child Law was finalised by the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) with UNICEF support. Parliamentarians were briefed on the draft law to prepare them for when it is submitted to parliament for approval in early 2017.

A national platform on adolescents was established, and the first adolescent conference held, feeding into the development of the Government's Youth Policy.

➤ **EDUCATION:**
A comprehensive, evidence-based and widely consulted upon National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) 2016-2021 was produced with UNICEF assistance - Myanmar's first joint policy framework to guide education investments.

As part of this Comprehensive Education Sector Review, the new basic education curriculum framework was developed and endorsed by parliament in 2016. As a result, the new education system (KG+12 years) has started to be implemented, bringing the cycle length into alignment with many ASEAN counterparts.

Great strides were made in language policy development with initiatives such as Myanmar's first ever International Conference on National Language Policy and Planning; and the drafting of three state-level language policies in Mon, Kachin, and Kayin through inclusive, participatory approaches.

➤ **HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**
As a result of continued advocacy, the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) allocated nearly USD 3 million for procurement of traditional vaccines for the first time in history. Thanks to UNICEF technical support, the country leveraged nearly USD 52 million for its immunisation programme for the period 2017-2019.

The Basic Essential Package of Health Services was drafted with UNICEF's and partners' support, as a basis for the country's National Health Plan (2016-2021) that aims to ensure universal access to evidence-based health and nutrition interventions to reduce newborn and under-five mortality.

➤ **HIV/AIDS:**
A new National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2016–2020 was developed with strong emphasis on achieving the elimination of Maternal to Child Transmission and improved Health Information Systems for better evidence-informed programming and corrective action.

➤ **WASH:**
Myanmar developed its first ever National WASH Strategy and Investment Plan (2016/2030) which has been submitted to the Economic Policy Committee of the national parliament for review and approval. UNICEF provided assistance to develop National Standards for WASH in Schools (WinS) and Thant Shin Star School Guidebook (Three Star Guidebook).



SOCIAL PROTECTION:

A key flagship programme of the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) – the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) – has received donor funding for implementation in Chin State, starting in 2017. This is the first NSPP programme to be implemented throughout a state via an integrated, government-led implementation modality.



CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: UNICEF used the findings and recommendations from the “2016 Analysis of the Situation of Children with Disabilities” to inform the formulation of draft by-laws for the implementation of the national law on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Strengthening government systems

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

> **CHILD PROTECTION:**

UNICEF continued to support the Union Supreme Court, which launched its 5-year strategic plan in 2016. Justice reforms for children have been incorporated within this, including revisions to the core training curriculum for judges to reflect the changes in the draft Child Law.

UNICEF trained 198 judges on child rights in the justice system and child-friendly judicial proceedings, bringing the total number of judges trained well over the target of 500 since 2011. In addition, 240 police were trained in child-friendly procedures.

Support to the police also continued, including development of plans to revise the core curriculum for Police, and provision of training including for border guard police in Rakhine State.

UNICEF continued its work with the Government and Travel and Tourism sector to prevent orphanage tourism: regulatory frameworks are being developed, and family based alternatives are being rolled out. 14,000 pamphlets and other awareness raising materials were distributed, and 180 travel and tourism sector staff were trained in 2016.

UNICEF conducted training on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations against children, for an additional 223 people from 28 faith-based and grass-root organisations including in remote and ethnic-controlled areas. A joint curriculum on mine risk education (MRE) was developed. 35 MRE trainers were certified.

> **EDUCATION:**

With UNICEF support, the MSWRR developed the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) System, which identifies developmental delays in children

under 5, through an integrated approach from professionals and para-professionals, and parents. The ECI pilot programme has been designed, and tools are being adapted for training of ECI para-professionals.

Approximately 590,000 children in primary and secondary schools benefited from UNICEF supported training that reached 30,800 teachers, head teachers and township-level facilitators, increasing their capacity to deliver child friendly teaching. UNICEF advocated for teachers from monastic schools and "volunteer" teachers from IDP camps to be included in this training, contributing to the enhancement of the quality of education in government schools, non-State schools, and in Temporary Learning Spaces for children affected by conflict.

> **WASH:**

The Water Safety Planning manual for piped water supply systems in rural areas was drafted, and tested in 110 villages. 16 participants from local NGOs and township level staff were trained on water safety planning. To strengthen the capacity in water quality monitoring and testing systems, 40 engineers (22 female) from the Department of Rural Development (DRD) were trained and equipped with testing kits and reagents.

> **HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**

"CommCare" - an innovative mobile health application - was piloted in the first three townships and is already being used by around 120 midwives. The App aims to improve the quality of care in reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health services.

The first-ever Child Death Surveillance and Response (CDSR) system was launched. UNICEF provided support to develop the training materials and



guidelines which will ensure the successful roll-out of the CDSR in 2017 and beyond.

80 staff from Wa Special Region were trained on immunisation service provision and microplanning which contributed to 60,000 children receiving the polio vaccine for the first time.

To enhance Emergency Paediatric Care (EPC) and the quality of care at referral hospitals, seven hospitals received hands-on competency based training. Over 160 hospital staff received training on EPC, resulting in increased capacity to manage major childhood illnesses.

Government-led training on the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) was conducted, starting with a central Training of Trainers (ToT) for 36 managers and other staff. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) training was conducted, covering 17 townships in Rakhine, Magway and Kayin. A total of 750 health managers and workers and 2,240 community health workers have increased skills and tools to provide IYCF support according to the national standards.

UNICEF supported Government to revitalise the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) by updating assessment guidelines and training materials. A total of 52 medical staff from 18 large hospitals were trained on these guidelines.

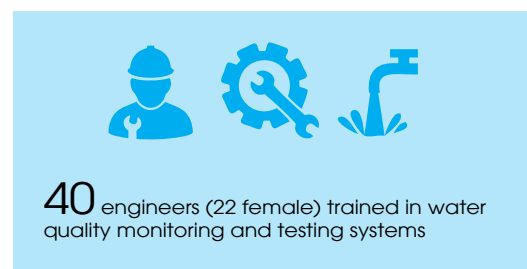
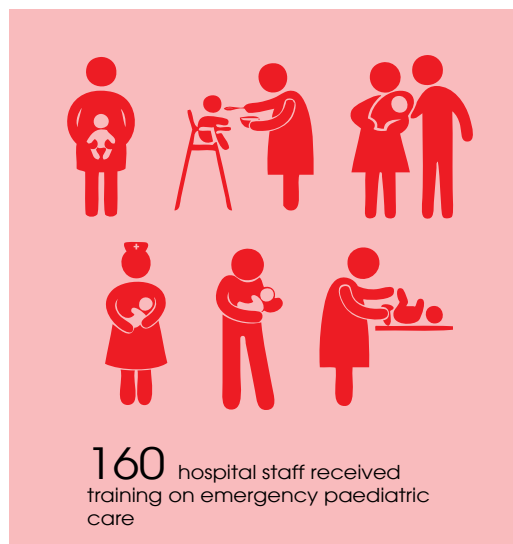


BIRTH REGISTRATION:

A new Vital Registration manual was finalised, removing previous limitations to birth registration in terms of age, geographic location and late registration. UNICEF provided training in all states/regions towards the effective functioning of the vital registration e-platform for births and deaths.

Strengthening government systems

Results 2016: Quick facts and figures



Understanding the situation of children and ways to improve it

Evidence is vital for a better understanding the situation of children, to help find better solutions to improve their lives, and to guide action for children. Here are the main achievements in 2016:

➤ **CHILDREN'S SITUATION:**

UNICEF brought a new understanding of the situation of children in Myanmar, drawing on major sources of comprehensive data on women, children and other vulnerable groups (2014 Census, DHS, etc). The analysis has been used to inform policy discussions within several ministries, including during the high-level New Vision New Results for Children conference, led by the Ministry of Planning and Finance with the support of UNICEF. The outcome of this conference has led to an evidence-informed new government vision for addressing key child rights issues.

Child Focused Township Profiles have helped advance discussions at the State/Region level on the availability, quality and use of child related data.

➤ **HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**

UNICEF supported the evaluation of the “Seven Things This Year” initiative, which mobilized mother support groups in selected townships through the social network of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA). The final report was disseminated and key findings, lessons learned and recommendations presented.

UNICEF supported the preparation phase of the large-scale micronutrient and food consumption survey, as well as a nutrition stocktaking exercise. These will provide evidence and inform discussions on equity, strategic results, targets and resource allocations for nutrition.

➤ **HIV/AIDS:**

UNICEF supported the MoHS to develop a reporting tool to collect data on HIV testing, disaggregated by age and sex. This reporting tool is now being used in all HIV testing facilities.

UNICEF's partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) has resulted in an electronic patient management system, developed and tested in 5 ART sites, to improve the quality of treatment services.

Digitalised reporting (including for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV) has been made available in the country and electronically interfaced with the District Health Information System 2, a web-based platform of the Health Management Information System (HMIS).

UNICEF supported the development of a laboratory information management system (LIMS) that improved the quality of data on testing of HIV exposed infants and reduced the time in delivering test results to care providers and caregivers. This LIMS has enhanced data sharing among the National Health Laboratory and the National AIDS Programme in 2016

➤ **WASH:**

A Sustainability Assessment in Myanmar was conducted to determine the current status and longer-term sustainability of WASH services delivered under a programme developed with the government in the dry zone.

A CLTS review was conducted to understand how approaches could be better adapted to the Myanmar context; after which a CLTS toolkit with guidelines, training manuals and verification checklists was developed.

➤ **EDUCATION:**

An assessment of the quality of preschools was conducted showing that 61.1 per cent of preschools meet the national quality standards in 2016, compared to 4.4 per cent in 2015. A strong relationship was identified

between the provision of training for school principals on parenting education and management, and the quality of the preschool.

The manual for Township Education Improvement Plans (TEIP) was revised based on an evaluation conducted by UNICEF office. Revisions to the manual include the addition of qualitative analysis, and the involvement of students, parents, community members, General Administrative Department (GAD) in the consultation. The original TEIP manual focused on quantitative analysis and targeted only education officers.

The results of other key studies- a bottleneck analysis of gender dynamics affecting participation of girls and boys in secondary school with implications for social cohesion; the Out of School Children Initiative; and a study on factors affecting drop-out from Non-Formal Primary Equivalency Programme- will all inform dialogue with the MoE on strengthening the inclusiveness of the education system.

CHILD PROTECTION:

An important study examining the willingness of families to be foster parents in the two areas where foster care will be implemented in 2017 (Mandalay and Yangon) found that a majority of families are willing to take in children who are not their own, on a temporary or long term basis. The findings of the study were discussed with Government stakeholders, and options for developing supported kinship care and foster care were developed.

A joint UNICEF and IOM study on the Impact of Migration on Children in Myanmar is undergoing final revisions for publication in early 2017.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:

The first ever Situation Analysis on Children with Disabilities in Myanmar was launched and the event has accelerated momentum around disability programming. The recommendations from the report are actively being used by DSW to inform key national plans and frameworks aimed at improving social inclusion for children with disabilities, such as the development of by-laws, the national Strategy on People with Disabilities, the design of a

registration and certification tool, and several inter-ministerial coordination initiatives on inclusivity.

BIRTH REGISTRATION:

UNICEF supported the Government to conduct a need assessments in Rakhine, Shan and Kachin, to prepare for a 2017 Birth Registration Campaign in 2017 in the 8 States/Regions not covered by the 2014/15 campaign.

Children's Situation

Fast Facts



34% of the population



More than 1.2 million children aged 5-17 are working, and on average they work 52 hours per week



children represent over half of Myanmar's poor



3.6 million children were out of school at the time of the census (almost 25% of the school-aged population)



almost 20% do not have any toilets



30% of children do not have access to clean drinking water sources



Between 100 and 150 children under 5 die every day

Mobilising states and regions for children

UNICEF Myanmar has nine field offices (FO) that are strategically located in different parts of the country. These offices play a fundamental role in child rights advocacy at the sub-national level, with government, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-state actors (NSA). They support the generation and the use of data on children at State/Region and Township levels, as well as multi-sector coordination processes at state level. Finally, they are in a key position to monitor barriers and challenges in reaching the most vulnerable children and achieving relevant programme results. The different State Plans for children, as well as the Townships profiles, both developed with UNICEF support, are effective ways of supporting decentralization.

Rakhine

Through the 2016/2017 UNICEF-Rakhine Programme of Cooperation, UNICEF has sought to address the long term deprivations in Rakhine state and to improve quality and coverage of basic social services for all children in Rakhine through the “whole-state approach”. This has involved promoting inclusive solutions which bring both communities together, as well as ensuring the humanitarian needs of children in IDP camps are met.

Still there continue to be fundamental discriminations of children’s human rights, restrictions on freedom of movement, and challenges in ensuring access to basic health and education services for vulnerable children including denial of access in the northern part of Rakhine state following the 9 October attacks and subsequent security operation. UNICEF has called for full resumption of essential services and the urgent lifting of all restrictions of movement, as well as urged the government to take urgent measures to protect children in Rakhine from all violence and to support independent investigations.

Key results:

- A positive collaboration with the Rakhine State Police Force resulted in the effective management of individual child protection cases.
- UNICEF worked closely with DSW to strengthen the case management system, which included setting up a buddy system to enable DSW social

workers to learn from NGO social workers, and bridging the gap between DSW and other government departments.

- Child protection partners worked together to develop and print IEC materials; contributing funds and staff to facilitate inter-agency workshops for external partners, and for each other. UNICEF led an inter-agency child protection assessment mission to follow up 34 reported cases of family separation in Kyauktaw, in December 2016. This was a clear achievement in terms of inter-agency collaboration, to follow up on reported child protection cases in a township where none of the agencies have a child protection programme.
- UNICEF worked with state-level government counterparts to develop a results-based management and Activity Tracking framework, underscoring not only the monitoring and evaluation of the Rakhine State Plan for Children, but also the operational implementation of activities for the field office sections, sectors and clusters
- The ‘Development Food Security and Nutrition Strategy’ for the northern part of Rakhine State was launched and 2 workshops were conducted in Maungdaw District on “Nutrition Causal Analysis” and “Solutions/Interventions” through a multi-sectoral approach involving different government departments concerned with nutrition sector including Health, WASH, Fisheries, Agriculture, Education and Border Affairs.

Kachin

Kachin is the state that has been most affected by conflict in recent years, where around 100,000 people continue to be displaced. The resurgence of conflict since 2011 has caused many victims and interrupted services and livelihoods. Only a few actors are able to provide social services in areas affected by the conflict, limiting service quality and reach.

Key results:

- UNICEF leadership was provided in inter-agency coordination for Humanitarian response in WASH, Nutrition, Education and Child Protection with regular analysis of gaps and minimum needs for displaced children covered based on funding available.
- As a result of the UNICEF extended partnership with the State Department of Health, the Health Department of the non-state actor (NSA) KIO and the NGO Health Poverty Action, 151,499 children under five were immunised against Polio through support to routine and national immunisation campaigns in government and non-government controlled areas. Additionally, a total of 10,554 children and 4,648 pregnant women from Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs), and remote and border zones were reached with life-saving health and nutrition basic services
- Volunteers from NGCA were trained by the MoHS on PMTCT and reported back on performance for the first time in many years since the onset of conflict in Kachin. Through this partnership, 100 pregnant women received HIV testing in antenatal care, 4 HIV positive pregnant women and 2 spouses in NGCAs of Kachin, were identified, provided with antiretroviral drugs for PMTCT, and put under active follow-up in 2016.
- 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.

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. To this day, many children in Shan are affected by violent conflict between ethnic armed groups and the government, and are deprived of essential services. UNICEF is partnering closely not only with the Shan but also with the Kayah authorities. At the same time, UNICEF is reaching out to other actors still active in the two states and the self-administered areas, to make sure interventions can reach all children, regardless of where they live.

Key results:

- Advocacy with the State Health Department, coordination with Wa Health Department and capacity building for community vaccinators, as well as establishment of a cold chain sub-depot, enabled those children in non-state areas to have access to immunization services.
- The Mine Risk Education Working Group (MREWG) for Northern Shan was formed and the Education department agreed to conduct MRE curriculum in priority schools within the region. The newly-developed MRE tools were shared with about 20 participants from all mine-risk NGOs and CSOs in Kayah State.
- UNICEF facilitated the first ever meeting which brought together ethnic health organizations and the parliamentarians with development partners and the department of public health at State and Union levels. Participants discussed ways of cooperating to support access for all children to health services, especially those children from conflict-affected areas.
- The UNICEF-Kayah Programme of Cooperation for Children (2016-2017) was prepared and launched.

Chin:

Chin remains one of the least developed areas of Myanmar and schools and healthcare facilities are largely inadequate. Southern Chin is home to some of the most remote and isolated communities in the country. In addition to having the highest poverty rate among all states and regions (73 per cent), Chin State also fares among the worst on a number of social development indicators.

Key results:

- Chin State and UNICEF launched the State Plan of Cooperation 2016-2017, which was developed in consultation with two consecutive State Governments.
- State Working Groups on Nutrition, Education and WASH Coordination are functioning and led by the Department of Public Health and Department of State Education respectively with UNICEF support.
- UNICEF and State Government jointly organized Development Partners Forum in Yangon, which resulted in a stronger presence of UN agencies, bi-lateral donors and NGOs implementing programmes in Chin.
- UNICEF advocated for Mother Tongue Based Education for children in early grades, with the Minister of Social Affairs and members of the State Education Sector Working Group. State Government decided to teach Chin languages for a period per day during school hours.



South-East

UNICEF is supporting the almost 2 million children living in the South-East (Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi) through its Field Office in Mawlamyine (Mon) and Sub-Office in Dawei (Tanintharyi). The economic and social situation of children in Mon state is influenced by migrant workers, with many parents leaving to work in Thailand. Almost 20% of children in Mon live without a biological parent, the highest rate in Myanmar.

Kayin is among the most conflict-affected states in Myanmar, with several Non-State Actors maintaining a parallel administration and service delivery structure to the official Government authorities. UNICEF contributes to peacebuilding in the South-East by strengthening non-discriminatory education, health and child protection services as well as coordinating distinct Government and Non-State Actor service systems.

Key results:

- Through the State-level Education sector coordination platforms in Mon and Kayin States, KNU-Karen Education Department (KED) and the Kayin State Education Department, as well as the Mon National Educational Committee (MNEC) and the Mon State State Education Department, have reached “soft agreements” on grade equivalencies, transfer certificates, placement tests, MoE schools’ construction and teachers’ transfers. Joint MoE-MNEC-KED teacher training was conducted.
- State language policies were developed in both Mon and Kayin States through inclusive participatory processes. The policies are now ready for State Parliaments’ endorsement.
- A Roadmap for the expansion of immunization and nutrition services to KNU controlled areas of the S-E has been developed.
- A Kayin State Mine Risk Working Group has been established under the leadership of Kayin State Department of Social Welfare (DSW), supporting the roll-out of the new national Mine Risk Education curriculum as well as initial discussions on demining in Kayin State. Training was conducted for Government, Non-State Actors’ and NGO/CBOs’ staff.

- In Tanintharyi, the development of a Local Social Plan (LSP) has resulted in the insertion of LSP projects into the 5-year regional development plan and annual regional budget submissions to the Union level.
- 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.

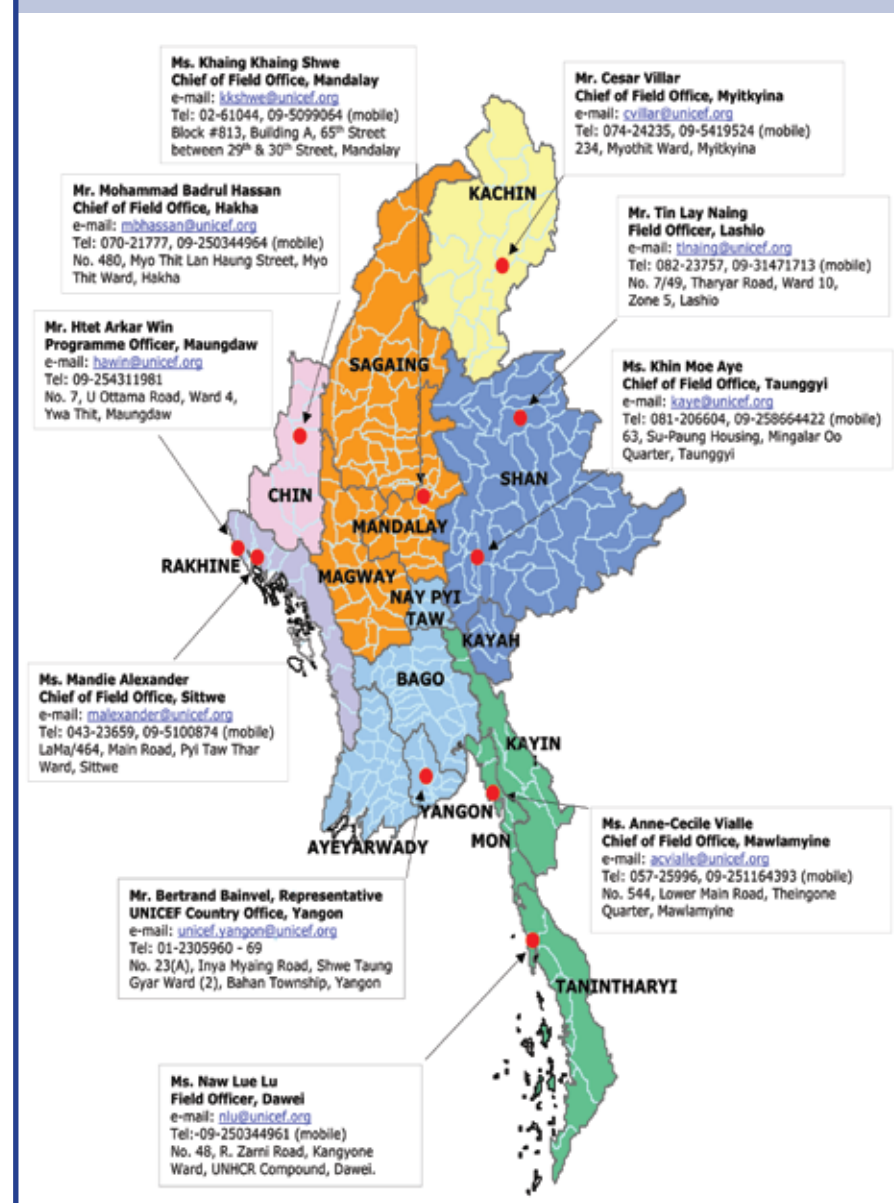
Dry Zone

UNICEF is supporting the over 5 million children living in the Dry Zone (Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway) through its Field Office in Mandalay. Although it is one of the more developed regions in Myanmar, child poverty rates are around 38%. Sagaing's townships at the region's northern border are among the most remote and difficult to reach in Myanmar. Magway is the region in Myanmar where families most frequently face water scarcity and particularly need assistance to ensure regular supply of clean water- essential for children's health and nutrition.

Key results:

- Through UNICEF advocacy, Magway and Mandalay governments strengthened disaster preparedness, management and risk reduction, by including the UN and NGOs in the Regional Disaster Management Committee, and NGOs and CSOs in the camp management.
- The UNICEF-Sagaing Region Programme of Cooperation was prepared and launched. The government called on other development partners to also adopt such planning processes which it believes help improve effectiveness, reduce gaps and overlaps, and supports the efficient allocations of regional budget and development assistance.
- The Township Profile Data Analysis Workshop was successfully conducted, during which the health and nutrition situation of children living in 37 townships of Sagaing Region was analysed using the indicators established for the Township Profile.
- The Magwe multi-sectoral coordination meeting was the first-ever meeting which was led by the regional government covering different sectors. As a result there have been multiple requests to organize similar multi-sectoral coordination meetings at the district and township levels.

Location of UNICEF Field Offices in Myanmar



Promoting a culture of child rights

UNICEF Myanmar has continued to build its partnerships with government, parliament, UN agencies and NGOs/CSOs, as well as with key influencers in Myanmar society mobilising them to build an environment conducive to the realisation of children's rights.

UNICEF has built its partnership with the newly elected and vibrant parliament to mobilise them as an advocacy force for the realisation of children's rights. An inventory and analysis of all members of Union, and State/Region Parliaments has been produced. UNICEF has conducted workshops to increase their capacity to support children's rights in law making, oversight, and budgeting, including briefings on the CRC, Child Law, social protection, and mine action awareness.

Media partnerships have been further developed to ensure children's rights are prominently featured in print, broadcast and social media. Child Rights, ethics and journalism training workshops were conducted for Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, Mandalay and South-east (Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi) media with 72 journalists mobilised to cover stories on children's rights. At the same time public engagement through social media has continued to expand rapidly with UNICEF's Social Media Fan base increasing from 29,848 in January 2016 to 48,140 in December 2016.

In addition to partnering on the CAAC agenda, UNICEF has engaged with Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) on several initiatives for children. In the South-East of Myanmar, such partnerships included joint Mine Risk Education and WASH initiatives between Government and Ethnic Groups. UNICEF strengthened relationships between MoHS and health departments of other non-state entities, resulting in services being provided to women and children such as immunization (polio campaign) water and sanitation, HIV prevention, nutrition, and maternal and child health in Kayin, Kachin and Shan.

Religious leaders from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities, forming the Interfaith for Children platform, organised a prayer event ahead of the

21st Century Panglong Conference calling for children's needs and rights to be put at the centre of the peace discussions, and met with the UN Secretary General to highlight the impact of conflict on children.

UNICEF is partnering with adolescents and youth, to help build a youth movement and mobilise the voices of young people as an advocacy force. U-Report, an innovative social messaging tool allowing adolescents and young people from communities across the country, to speak out on issues that matter to them, was launched in Myanmar in 2016. Four months after its launch U-Report Myanmar already has more than 5000 U-Reporters signed up and participating in polls. A National Adolescents' Conference brought together 300 youth and resulted in a list of recommendations for the national youth policy, currently being developed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

UNICEF Myanmar has played a leading role in human rights-focused advocacy efforts. These include using the human rights reporting mechanisms on adherence of Myanmar government to basic human rights obligations. For instance, UNICEF provided input for the visits of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and key child rights concerns were reflected in her report to the Human Rights Council March 2016. Similarly, input was provided to the Secretary General on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar in May 2016; as well as to High Commissioner for Human Rights report to the Human Rights Council in June 2016 on the situation of Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar. Finally, UNICEF is currently supporting the MSWRR to prepare the State Party Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child which is due in February 2017.

Being fit for purpose

UNICEF Myanmar monitored effective programme implementation, through regular review of key performance indicators, revisiting programme risks and mitigation strategies identified as part of the 2016-2017 theory of change.

UNICEF continued to make significant progress towards enhancing its evaluation function and national evaluation capacity development in 2016. The Country Office (CO) completed an evaluation of the Project 'Seven Things This Year Initiative' (rated highly satisfactory by Geros); the Midterm Evaluation of Township Education Improvement Plan Activities Pilot Activities (rated highly satisfactory) and the Final Performance Evaluation of School-based In-service Teacher Education (SITE) Pilot Programme (rated satisfactory) whose recommendations relate to the effectiveness of the Quality Basic Education Programme (QBEP).

Efficiency and effectiveness has been ensured through the establishment of long term agreements (TAs) for goods and services, pre-qualification of vendors and prepositioning of emergency supplies in multiple locations in the country.

The CO actively collaborated with other agencies to harmonize operational needs and carried out joint activities such as procurement, capacity building, and common services, namely security and medical. Micro-assessments are shared among UN agencies thus generating savings and eliminating duplications.

In an effort to further build and use Government systems, UNICEF has accelerated the rolling out of the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers among Government entities with 14 departments now adopting the modalities. There was a \$20 Million increase in procurement services from 2015 to 2016 reflecting the greater reliance on government systems and finances, which allowed for greater use of UNICEF resources for support to policy reforms and system strengthening.

Internal and financial controls and work processes were effectively implemented and monitored. The office ensured efficient and effective utilization of organizational resources in a transparent manner. In addition, UNICEF collaborated with verification and audit missions from its key donors to assess the organisation's performance.

The office completed the Environmental Footprint Assessment to establish a baseline for energy usage and carbon footprint.

Business Continuity Plans for the country office and nine field offices were updated and tested, taking into account potential risks and mitigation measures to reduce the impact of an emergency on UNICEF staff, physical infrastructure and programmes, and to maintain continuity of critical functions. The zone warden system was tested on a regular basis particularly after the increased level of conflict in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states, as well as small-scale explosions in Yangon. In addition, UNICEF organized support from the Regional Security Advisor and Stress Counsellor, in the light of increased tensions in the country.

UNICEF Myanmar management team has been leading the preparation of the new Country Programme 2018-2022, ensuring that all staff are engaged in the process. Training in Results-Based Management has ensured a strong results focus. An Enterprise Risk Management workshop was held to update the office risk profile and build staff capacity in risk management.

During 2016, UNICEF utilised more than USD 59.6 million, out of which approximately USD 15.36 million was for the humanitarian response.

UNICEF Myanmar has 211 staff:



Advancing children's rights together

For the last 66 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 had 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.

The ongoing political and economic reform process, including decentralization, is an excellent opportunity to achieve major gains for all children. Recently released data, most notably the Census 2014, were analysed comprehensively and utilised widely to inform the policy efforts of various line ministries such as health, education, social welfare, and planning and finance. In addition, it also helped shape thinking around the Government-UNICEF's new country programme of cooperation (2018-22) by for example, illustrating the scale of deprivations faced by children across States and Regions. This analysis has also represented the basis for a Situation Analysis (SitAn) on Children in Myanmar, developed in the form of a comprehensive presentation, which was validated and shared widely with Government counterparts, and other partners.

UNICEF's support will continue focusing on equitable service delivery, strengthening systems in education, health and child protection and making them accessible to the most vulnerable children across the country. It will support capacity building at Union, State and Township levels to develop and implement plans and budgets for children. UNICEF will also support sector reforms towards the development of policies and legislation that will enable accelerated realisation of children's rights. Strengthening partnerships at national and state/regional levels with other organizations, civil society and Non-State Actors will be fundamental to delivering results for children.

UNICEF Myanmar has been implementing a comprehensive advocacy strategy to influence a range of decision makers and other relevant audiences. Increasing public finance for children; protecting and promoting the rights of all children in

Rakhine State; children affected by armed conflict; the first 1000 days of a child's life's; and children with disabilities are the five office-wide advocacy priorities until the end of 2017.

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, media and civil society have shown that by working together we can create real and lasting change for children.

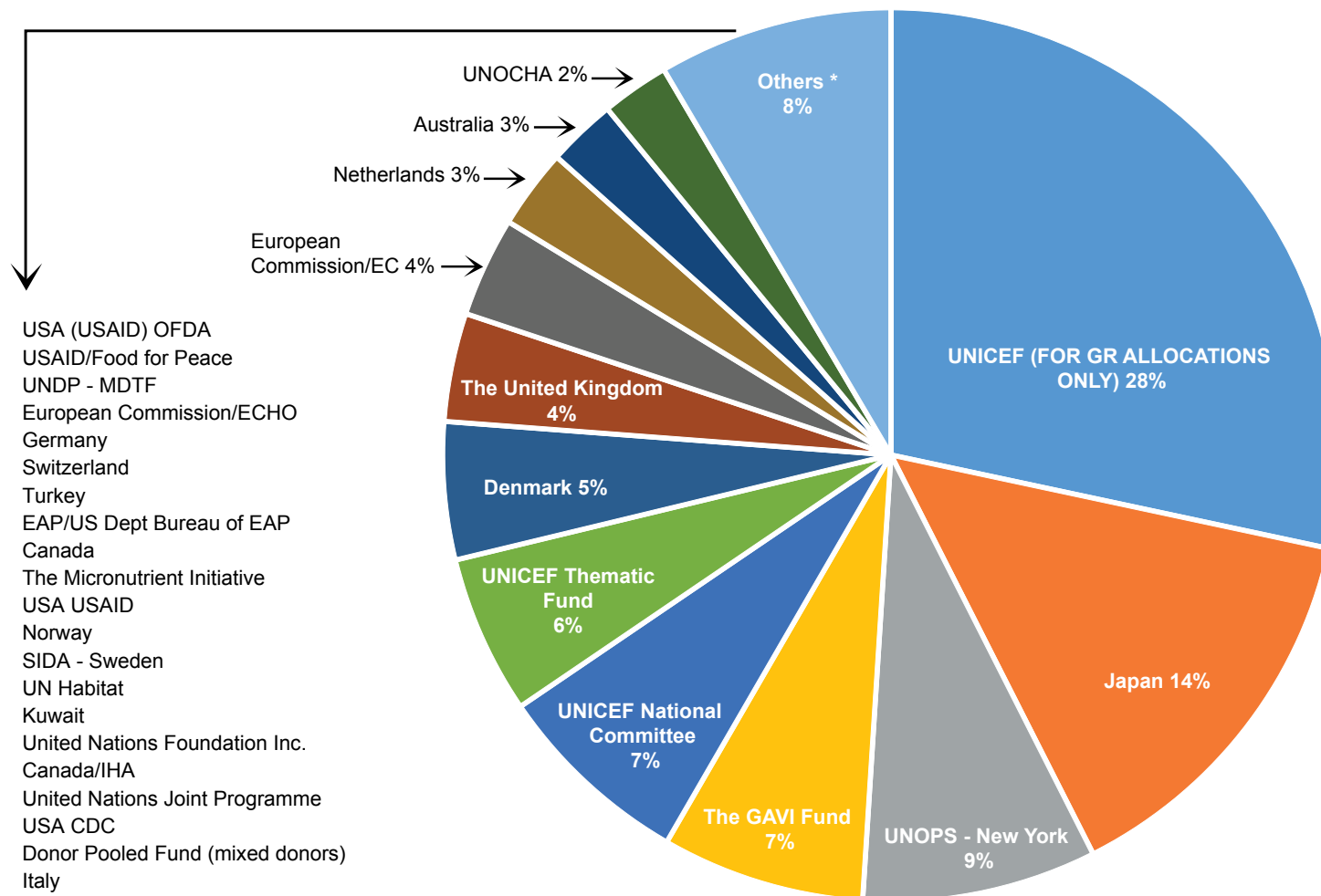
UNICEF continued to coordinate its support with sister UN agencies: in health with WHO, UNFPA and UNAIDS; in support of the National Plan for Food and Nutrition with WFP, WHO and FAO; in social protection with ILO, WB, WFP, IOM; in child protection with ILO, IOM, and UNHCHR; in education with UNESCO; in decentralisation and governance for children with UNDP; and in emergency with the whole Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) CT family. Such agencies have also played a key role in promoting child rights within their own mandates.

INGOs have been crucial partners in the emergency response, especially in Rakhine. UNICEF continued to lead or co-lead the following sectors or clusters in 2016: WASH cluster, Education Sector Working Group, Social Protection Working Group, Nutrition and Child Protection sub-sectors, Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (child rights violations - with a focus on use and recruitment of child soldiers).

The above mentioned results would not have been possible without the partnership UNICEF Myanmar continues to enjoy with the international development partner community, and donors.

More than 6 decades later, UNICEF Myanmar remains committed to building effective partnerships and changing children's lives in Myanmar.

In 2016, UNICEF Myanmar programme has been financed with support from:



* Amounts include rolled over from 2014





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