**Country/Region/Global: MYANMAR**

**Initiation Plan**

**Project Title:**  Strengthening COVID-19 Recovery and Resilient Livelihoods

**Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s):** CP Outcome 2: By 2022, Myanmar becomes more resilient to climate and disaster risk with efficient environmental governance and sustainable use of natural resources

**Expected CPD Output(s):** Output 2.3: Evidence-based policies and programmes developed to promote inclusive economic growth and employment creaton with particular focus on women and vulnerable groups

**Initiation Plan Start/End Dates:** September 2020-February 2022

**Implementing Partner:** United Nations Development Programme (in partnership with Government, UN agencies, Private Sector Organizations, Civil

Society Organizations and Relevant Universities in Myanmar)

**Brief Description**

An integrated immediate crisis programmatic response and medium recovery interventions are required to step up support to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 on key impacted groups and businesses aligned to the Government of Myanmar (GoM) COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan (CERP) and UN Framework for immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 in Myanmar (UN-SERF).

This Initiation Plan is to operationalize UNDP Myanmar’s COVID-19 response and recovery offer under its Sustainable and Inclusive Growth portfolio from September 2020 to February 2022 as well as to design an inclusive and integrated accelerated recovery policy and programming based on the evidence coming out of the socio-economic impact assessment surveys being carried out by a range of UN agenices, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in Myanmar and aligned to the CERP and UN-SERF.

The expected outputs of the project are:

* Output 1: RRF COVID-19 support for socio-economic rapid survey and impact assessments
* Output 2: TRAC 2 COVID-19 support for socio-economic impact assessment and catalytic digital transformation
* Output 3: JSB support for COVID-19 response in Rakhine
* Output 4: Resilience-based recovery and development activities implemented to support dignified solutions to displacement and the creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs
* Output 5: Resilience of agricultural sector increased in the Dry Zone of Myanmar to climate change and COVID-19 impacts by promoting and scaling up innovative and resilient agricultural practices, value chains and access to technologies for vulnerable farmers with a focus on women households
* Output 6: Strengthening systems to respond to COVID-19
* Output 7: Efficient mechanisms in place to facilitate access to real time data and information on COVID-19

Programme Period: 2018-2022

Atlas Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Atlas Output ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gender Marker: GEN 2

Total resources required **USD 5,824,600**

Total allocated resources: **USD 5,824,600**

* TRAC **USD 88,562**
* TRAC2 **USD 495,875**
* RRF **USD 85,602**
* Other:
  + Japan **USD 1,866,689**
  + Canada **USD 670,031**
  + Germany **USD 1,255,445**
  + DFID **USD 308,370**
  + Private Sector
  + (Ooredoo) **USD 200,000**
  + Private Sector **USD** **38,496**
  + CIDCA (China) **USD 815,530**
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Agreed by UNDP:

# Purpose and Expected Output

Myanmar’s economic growth is projected to fall from 6.8 percent in 2018-2019 to a low of 0.5 percent in 2019-2020 in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.[[1]](#footnote-1) MSMEs across the formal and informal sectors, contributing more than 90 percent of economic activities and employment in Myanmar, have faced sudden concurrent demand and supply related shocks on account of the severe COVID-19 related restrictions on business activities applied domestically, regionally and internationally. These multiple shocks to fledgling MSMEs in Myanmar, continue to play out in an uncertain operating environment and have had significant prolonged impact on their functioning including on working capital, cash flows, employment and existing business models of MSMEs across the board.

The scale and severity of the COVID-19 shock has been significantly compounded due to the pre-existing structural weaknesses in Myanmar vis-à-vis its growth needs as one of the fastest growing country in South-East Asia. Preliminary telephone surveys on the evoloving impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar as well, have highlighted increased communities’ vulnerabilities and posed additional challenges for development actors as well as policy-makers. It is now clear that the distribution of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis will be prolonged and amplified in the key vulnerable populations and groups in Myanmar including population living in conflict impacted areas, migrant workers and urban poor. An integrated immediate crisis programmatic response and medium recovery interventions are required to step up support to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 on key impacted groups and businesses aligned to the Government of Myanmar (GoM) COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan (CERP) and UN Framework for immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 in Myanmar (UN-SERF).

The purpose of this Initiation Plan is to operationalize UNDP Myanmar’s COVID-19 response and recovery offer under its Sustainable and Inclusive Growth portfolio from September 2020 to February 2022 as well as to design an inclusive and integrated accelerated recovery policy and programming based on the evidence coming out of the socio-economic impact assessment surveys being carried out by a range of UN agenices, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in Myanmar and aligned to the CERP and UN-SERF

The expected outputs of the project are:

**Output 1: RRF COVID-19 support for socio-economic rapid survey and impact assessments**

COVID-19 has placed data and analysis based on telephone surveys at the front and centre of COVID-19 response. It is important to realise that high frequency monitoring surveys, coordination of data collection and dissemination across government, and structures for systematically applying data to decision making; are not only necessary for an effective response to the COVID-19 crisis, but important elements of any National Statistical System (or to Effective and Responsive Institutions in general). This Output delievered in partnership with the Governance for Sustaining Peace Unit (GSP), supports the needs of Government of Myanmar as well as the needs of UN agencies and development partners for timely critical information and up to date data on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on key vulnerable groups and entreprenuers in the country. Key findings and policy recommendations from these assessments will inform both the response of GoM, UN and development partners on policy and programmatic dimensions to cushion and mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

This output shares its results with Output 2, Activity Result 2.1.

Key activity result include:

* **Activity Result 1.1**: Technical and coordination support provided for socio-economic impact assessments, data management and development of socio-economic recovery framework to inform and ensure alignment with national recovery plan

**Output 2: TRAC 2 COVID-19 support for socio-economic impact assessment and catalytic digital transformation**

Activity Result 2.1 of this Output complements the assessments envisioned under Output 1 as presented above. Further, it aims to support the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, and the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar to respond to capacity challenges of COVID-19 impacted MSMEs and its e-commerce sector through the design and implementation of catalytic and innovative digital solutions. This is expected to also contribute to the acceleration of digital transformation and building back better policy and programmatic interventions that are aligned to Goal 2 of the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan of the Government of Myanmar.

Key activity results include:

* **Activity Result 2.1**: Technical and coordination support provided for socio-economic impact assessments, data management and development of socio-economic recovery framework to inform and ensure alignment with national recovery plan
* **Activity Result 2.2** Digital solutions for combating COVID-19 supported in the e-commerce and MSME sectors

**Output 3: JSB support for COVID-19 response in Rakhine**

A recent telephone survey carried out by UNDP in Rakhine has highlighted a number of advsere impacts on vulnerable groups and small busineses. Business earnings inclusing for own account workers have fallen between 40-60% on average. The informal economy was especially hard hit as casual labourers depending on daily wage payments have been laid off across a wide range of sectors. Village tract administrators approximate that there are 70% fewer employment opportunities and that wage earnings for those still hired fell by on average 63%. These vulnerable groups need support in the form of food, material or cash distributions. Also, it is important to target vulnerable women and single women headed households since there are currently no direct, targeted support measures aimed at women who have lost their livelihoods as a result of the pandemic. Alongside being equally and proportionally affected economically, many women carry the double burden of income earners and caretakers for family members and now out-of-school children.

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Key activity results include:

* **Activity Result 3.1**: Immediate inputs and services in the agriculture, livestock and fishery sector provided to vulnerable population groups to stabilize livelihoods and build income resilience

**Output 4: Resilience-based recovery and development activities implemented to support dignified solutions to displacement and the creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs**

Under this output, COVID-19 adapted quick impact resilience-based recovery and development activities in Rakhine, including the northern part of Rakhine will support the implementation of dignified solutions to displacement and the creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs. They will include:

* Supporting COVID-19 adapted assessments on community resilience-building, including through promoting sustainable livelihoods or developing disaster risk reduction plans.
* Supporting participatory planning processes for resilience-based recovery and sustainable development that will benefit all communities in need.
* Implementing initiatives benefiting all communities in potential refugee and IDP return areas to support dignified solutions to displacement through community-based projects aimed at fostering social cohesion, rebuilding trust among communities and re-establishing economic linkages.
* Supporting access to livelihoods through the design and implementation of community-based interventions.
* Improving economic production that can strengthen positive interdependencies between communities in part by promoting agricultural cultivation and livestock production, and by facilitating access to markets.
* Building or rehabilitating community infrastructure, including roads, markets, drainage, irrigation systems, or waste management in labor intensive projects that provide work (and skills) to many in the community, while benefiting all.
* Distributing inputs and tools, supporting livestock rearing and poultry farming at community or household level, providing agricultural extension services to farm seasonal crops or to develop household level gardening.
* Providing seed grants to develop rotating saving and loans programs that would fund the creation of small businesses.

Key activity results include:

* **Activity Result 4.1** Communities and institutions have improved opportunities for gender responsive community cohesion and economic development, and strengthened capacities for peace building
* **Activity Result 4.2** COVID-19 and resilience based recovery and development activities implemented to support dignified solutions to displacement and creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs

**Output 5: Resilience of agricultural sector increased in the Dry Zone of Myanmar to climate change and COVID-19 impacts by promoting and scaling up innovative and resilient agricultural practices, value chains and access to technologies for vulnerable farmers with a focus on women households**

The Activity Results under this Output are expected to establish a model for COVID-19 adapted, inclusive and sustainable development in Myingyan Township and Nyaung-U Townships in Myanmar’s Dry Zone and for strengthening local capacities to respond and recover from the impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that this output would be encompassed into the new recovery programme document to be initiated in Q4.

Key activity results include:

* **Activity Result 5.1** Agricultural value chains enhanced through strengthened capacities of extension services, suppliers, farmers and access to COVID-19 adapted innovative technologies and market facilities
* **Activity Result 5.2** Increased adoption and utilization of inputs, access to markets, financial services, storage, and technologies by farmers and casual laborers.

**Output 6: Strengthening systems to respond to COVID-19**

The aim of this output is to support the Government of Myanmar in crafting immediate responses to stop the transmission of the COVID-19 pandemic through sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies and enhanced capacities for the management of health care waste (HCW) in Myanmar.

* **Activity Result 6.1** Technical and logistical support provided for establishing safe health care waste management system in contain the spread of COVID19

**Output 7: Efficient mechanisms in place to facilitate access to real time data and information on COVID-19**

This output supports the establishment of the Myanmar Statistical Data Dashboard in collaboration with the Central Statistial Organization to provide easy assess to up-to-date statistics on the key impacts of COVID-19 in Myanmar. It also supports the development of the COVID-19 chatbot for the Ministry of Health and Sports providing a centralized interactive 1-stop platform where Myanmar citizens can seamlessly access specific COVID-19 information and get all their queries answered on a real time basis.

* **Activity Result 7.1:** Digital solutions for adapting to COVID-19 impacts supported through the provision of accurate and up to date information on COVID-19

# Management Arrangements

The size and scope of the project does not require the establishment of a Project Board. The project will be administered by the UNDP Myanmar Country Office, and implemented under Direct Implementation (DIM) modality.

Oversight and quality assurance of the project will be provided by the Chief of Unit, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Unit. Project management function will be performed by Technical Advisors for the respective Outputs assisted by a Project Manager. A Project M&E Officer (cost shared with Governance for Resilience and Sustainability Project (GRSP) and a Project Associate will be recruited to support project implementation. The Project Manager will be responsible for day to day management of the project as well as ensuring that the project produces the results specified in the PIP under the guidance of the Chief of UNDP and/or relevant Technical Advisors.

UNDP’s Strategic Management Unit will also play the oversight and quality assurance role, monitoring and evaluating the project as objectively and independently as possible.

# Monitoring

In accordance with UNDP’s programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following:

* Activation of Issue Log in Atlas updated by Project Manager on a quarterly basis to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or request for change;
* Activation of Risk Log based on risk analysis and updated quarterly by the Project Manager based on review of external environment that may affect implementation;
* Activation of Lessons Learned Log and updated quarterly by Project Manager to ensure ongoing learning and adaptation, and to facilitate the preparation of the Lessons Learned Report at the end of the project;
* Activation of monitoring schedule plan in Atlas, and updating quarterly to track key management actions/events; and
* Quarterly progress reports shall be prepared by the Project Manager and shared with CO management, and a final annual report at the end of the project period.

# WORK PLAN

**Period[[2]](#footnote-2):**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EXPECTED OUTPUTS  *And baseline, indicators including annual targets* | PLANNED ACTIVITIES  *List activity results and associated actions* | **TIMEFRAME**  **(SEP 2020-FEB 2022)** | | | | | | **RESPONSIBLE PARTY** | **PLANNED BUDGET** | | |
| Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Funding Source | Budget Description | Amount |
| Output 1: RRF COVID-19 support for socio-economic rapid survey and impact assessments  *Indicators:*  *Number of socio-economic rapid survey and impact assessments successfully completed in partnership with the Central Statistical Organization*  *Baseline: 0*  *Targets: 2* | *1.1 Technical and coordination support provided for socio-economic impact assessments, data management and development of socio-economic recovery framework to inform and ensure alignment with national recovery plan* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 Technical and coordination support for socio-economic impact assessments, data management and development of socio-economic recovery framework | x | x |  |  |  |  | UNDP | RRF | Firm  International Consultant  National Consultant | 15,000  35,486  20,000 |
|  | x | x |  |  |  |  | UNDP | RRF | DPC | 9,516 |
|  | x | x |  |  |  |  | UNDP | RRF | GMS | 5,600 |
| ***Sub-total*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***85,602*** |
| Output 2: TRAC 2 COVID-19 support for socio-economic impact assessment and catalytic digital transformation  *Indicators:*  *Number of socio-economic impact assessments successfully completed*  *Baseline: 0*  *Targets: 2 (same as Output 1)*  *MSME capacity building e-platform operational*  *Baseline; 0*  *Targets: 1* | *2.1: Technical and coordination support provided for socio-economic impact assessments, data management and development of socio-economic recovery framework to inform and ensure alignment with national recovery plan* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 2.1.1 Impact Survey for Key Vulnerable household and entreprenurs | X | X |  |  |  |  | UNDP | TRAC 2 | International Consultant  National Consultant  Training/Workshop | 20,000  10,000  10,000 |
| *2.2 Digital solutions for combating COVID-19 supported in the e-commerce and MSME sectors* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 2.2.1 Digital E-Commerce Innovation Challenge in partnership | X | X | X |  |  |  | UNDP | TRAC 2 | International Consultant  National Consultant  Firm  Training/Workshop | 20,000  20,000  85,000  80,000 |
| Activity 2.2.2 Technical support for digital transformation of learning platform for MSMEs | X | X |  |  |  |  | UNDP | TRAC 2 | Firm  Training/Workshop | 120,000[[3]](#footnote-3)  102,359 |
|  | x | x | x |  |  |  | UNDP | TRAC 2 | DPC (7%) | 28,516 |
|  | ***Sub-total*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***495,875*** |
| Output 3: JSB support for COVID-19 response  *Indicators:*  *Percentage of farmers/fisherfolk provided with essential inputs and access to improved extension services*  *Baseline:*  *Targets:* | *3.1: Immediate inputs and services in the agriculture, livestock and fishery sector provided to vulnerable population groups to stabilize livelihoods and build income resilience* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 Immediate inputs and services in agriculture for vulnerable populations | x | x | x |  |  |  | UNDP | Japan | Firm/Services  Training/workshop | 350,000  21,000 |
|  | x | x | x |  |  |  | UNDP | Japan | DPC (10%) | 37,100 |
|  | x | x | x |  |  |  | UNDP | Japan | GMS (8%) | 32,648 |
| ***Sub-total*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***440,748*** |
| Output 4: Resilience-based recovery and development activities implemented to support dignified solutions to displacement and the creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs  *Indicators:*  *% of community members reporting increased trust between ethnic groups after the introduction of inter-village/village tract activities*  *Baseline: 0*  *Target: 50%*  *% of affected people having recovered their livelihood through UNDP's interventions*  *Baseline: 0*  *Target: 30 villages (Rakhine)* | *4.1 Communities and institutions have improved opportunities for gender responsive community cohesion and economic development, and strengthened capacities for peace building* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 4.1.1: Design and implement innovative and sustainable interventions for enabling rural communities to diversify their livelihoods and develop their productive capacities while factoring in COVID-19 related impacts | x | x | x |  |  |  | UNDP | Japan, Germany  Canada | Firm/Services  Training/Workshop  Staff Cost | 400,000  80,000  69,379 |
| Activity 4.1.2: Strengthen capacities of civil society in Rakhine to promote community resilience and local economic development while linking with COVID 19 crisis related response and recovery | x | x | x |  |  |  | UNDP | Japan, Germany  Canada | Firm/Services  Training/Workshop | 442,506  80,000 |
| Activity 4.1.3: Building capacities of township and state institutions in designing and implementing inclusive and conflict sensitive livelihood enabling policies including on COVID 19 related response and recovery needs | x | x | x |  |  |  | UNDP | Japan, Germany  Canada | Firm/Services  Training/Workshop  Staff cost | 166,783  34,677  16,187 |
| *4.2 COVID-19 and resilience based recovery and development activities implemented to support dignified solutions to displacement and creation of conducive conditions for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 4.2.1 Quick Impact Projects | x | x | x | x | x | x | UNDP | Japan, Germany, DFID, Private Sector | Firms/Services  Training/Workshop | 1,550,000  25,325 |
| PMC Cost | x | x | x | x | x | x | UNDP | Japan, Germany, DFID, Private Sector, Canada | Travel and workshop  Staff Cost | 116,776  29,387 |
|  | x | x | x | x | x | x | UNDP | Japan, Germany, DFID, Private Sector, Canada | GMS (Japan 8%, Germany 7%, Canada 7%)) | 331,008 |
|  | x | x | x | x | x | x | UNDP | Japan, Germany, DFID, Private Sector, Canada | DPC (13.5%) | 406,255 |
| ***Sub-total*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***3,748,283*** |
| Output 5: Resilience of agricultural sector increased in the Dry Zone of Myanmar to climate change by promoting and scaling up innovative and resilient agricultural practices, value chains and access to technologies for vulnerable farmers with a focus on women households  *Indicators*  *Institutional strengthening of Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) in two townships.*  *Baseline:* *Agricultural extension services are weak and poorly connected with research, relevant industries and the private sector.*  *Target:*  *The project envisions the strengthening of institutional capacities in agricultural extension by enhancing facilities and strengthening human resources in relevant government agencies.*  *Training programmes for Interactive workshops between farmers and agricultural/livestock businesses and input suppliers.*  *Baseline:* *Agricultural extension services are weak and poorly connected with research, relevant industries and the private sector.*  *Targets: 260 Farmers will be trained in the use of mobile phones to collect data via geo-tagged photographs of pests and crop conditions for analysis and feedback by experts in the Dept. of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Research.* | *5.1 Agricultural value chains enhanced through strengthened capacities of extension services, suppliers, farmers and access to Innovative technologies and market facilities* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1.1 Capacity building of extension services to farmers in the Dry Zone | x | x | x | x |  |  | UNDP | PrivateSector | Firm/Services  Audio Visual/Printing  Staff Cost | 30,000  20,000  4,000 |
| *5.2 Increased adoption and utilization of inputs, access to markets, financial services, storage, and technologies by farmers and casual laborers.* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.2.1 Improved access of rural communities, especially farmers and casual labourers to markets, financial services, inputs, storage and rental of machinery and transport | x | x | x | x |  |  | UNDP | PrivateSector | Firm/Services  Training/Workshop  Audio Visual/Printing  Staff Cost | 65,000  20,000  19,080  4,232 |
|  | x | x | x | x |  |  | UNDP | PrivateSector | DPC (13.5%) | 22,723 |
|  | x | x | x | x |  |  | UNDP | PrivateSector | GMS (8%) | 14,965 |
| ***Sub-total*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***200,000*** |
| Output 6: Strengthening systems to respond to COVID-19  *Indicators*  *Number of health centers have strengthened capacity for effective and safe management of COVID19 related medical waste*  *Baseline: 0*  *Targets: 2* | *6.1 Technical and logistical support provided for establishing safe health care waste management system in contain the spread of COVID19* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.1 Provide technical support of medical waste treatment, including procurement of essential and appropriate technology | X | X | X |  |  |  | UNDP | CIDCA | International Consultant  National Consultants  Workshop/training  Procurement  Printing/ Translation | 20,000  12,000  9,000  435,120  91,000 |
| 6.1.2 Develop and produce visual advocacy and awareness materials on COVID-19 | X | X | X |  |  |  | UNDP | CIDCA | National Consultant  Printing/AV | 18,000  30,500 |
| 6.1.3 Develop and provide virtual training and materials on general health precautionary measures to targeted groups | X | X | X |  |  |  | UNDP | CIDCA | Workshop/Training  Printing | 16,000  123,500 |
| Management Fee (8%) | X | X | X |  |  |  | UNDP | CIDCA | GMS | 60,410 |
| ***Sub-total*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***815,530*** |
| Output 7: Efficient mechanisms in place to facilitate access to real time data and information on COVID-19  *Indicators:*  *Number of COVID-19 innovative digital solutions initiated*  *Baseline: 0*  *Targets: 2* | *Activity Result 7.1: Digital solutions for adapting to COVID-19 impacts supported through the provision of accurate and up to date information on COVID-19* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7.1.1 Support government with digital solutions for adapting to COVID-19 impacts | x | x |  |  |  |  | UNDP | TRAC | Firm/services  International Consultant  National Consultant  Workshop/Training | 30,000  20,000  15,000  19,081 |
|  |  | x | x |  |  |  |  | UNDP | TRAC | DPC (31%) | 4,481 |
|  | ***Sub-total*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***88,562*** |
| **TOTAL** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **5,824,600** |

1. <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/806001593183687694/pdf/Myanmar-Economic-Monitor-Myanmar-in-the-Time-of-COVID-19.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Maximum 18 months [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. USD 60,000 is from Regional Catalytic Digital Transformation project (TRAC 2). While amount is included here, it will be budgeted against the Regional Project [↑](#footnote-ref-3)