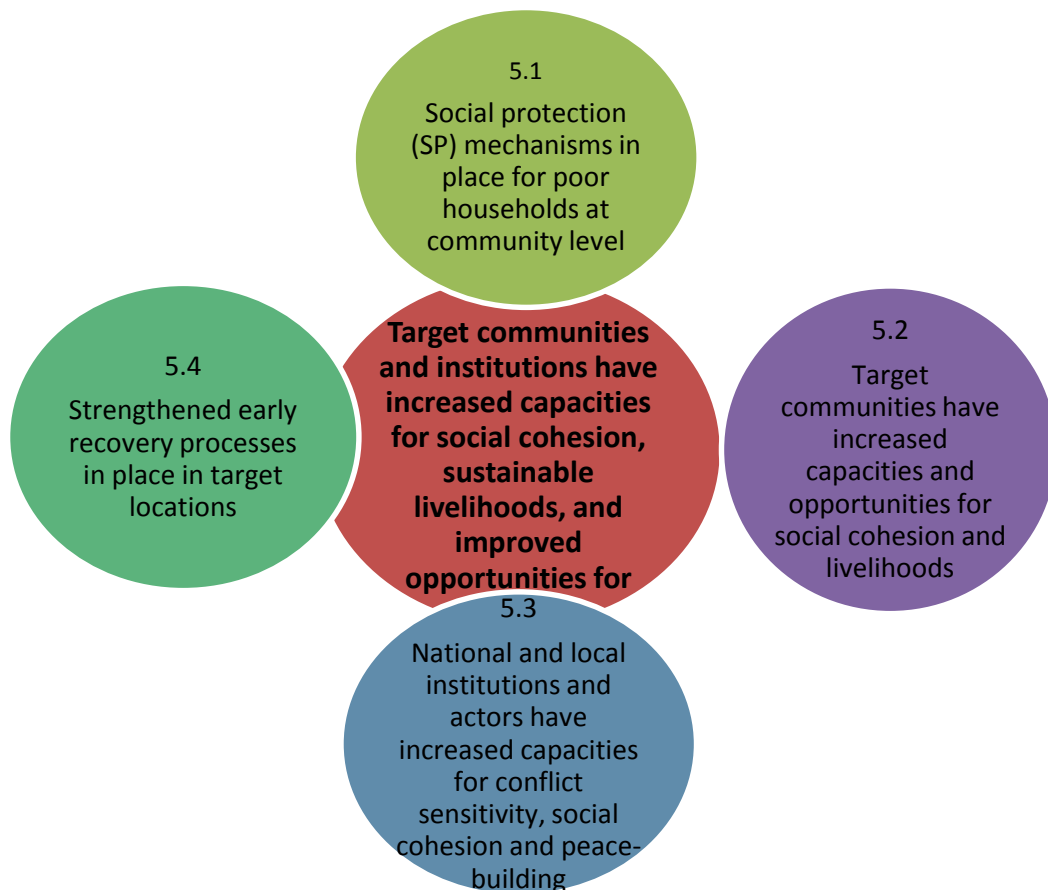


1. OVERVIEW

The 'Improved Livelihoods and Social Cohesion' Project (Output 5) is situated under the Local Governance Pillar (Pillar 1) of the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD 2013-2015). The Output targets ceasefire and high-poverty areas in Rakhine, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Chin and Mon; uses livelihoods as a tool to improve community social cohesion; supports capacities for peacebuilding of government and civil society partners; and facilitates early recovery coordination in Yangon, Rakhine and Kachin. The output and sub-outputs of the project are as follows:



Output 5 is directly implemented (DIM) by UNDP. The project is implemented by a team of UNDP programme and technical and operation personnel through a network of UNDP area offices in the relevant states. At the national/union level, the Output works in close consultation with the Progress of Border Affairs and National Races Development Department (NaTaLa) of the Ministry of Border Affairs (MoBA), other relevant line ministries, other United Nations (UN) agencies and donors, under the overall direction of its Output Board. At the state level, Output 5 collaborates with state and union government institutions, relevant technical departments, other UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (I/N-NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and members of the community. As of reporting date, with respect to its village-based activities, the project is working in 311 villages in the 07 above-mentioned states. (Refer Annex 1 for list of townships and villages).

This report presents the status of project implementation for the period January to June 2014, and summarizes cumulative results (January 2013 to June 2014), challenges, best practices and lessons learned, as well as relevant financial information.

2. PROJECT PROGRESS AND CUMULATIVE RESULTS

5.1 Social protection (SP) mechanisms in place for poor households at community level

- Following consultations with government institutions at union and state level, UNDP identified 36 organizations (NGOs) as implementing partners (IPs).
- Under the Output, UNDP completed livelihood and social cohesion assessments and village planning exercises (including poverty score-cards) in 311 villages, to establish baseline information and identify village-level dynamics, needs and priorities.
- UNDP provided social protection through 194 village rice-banks in Shan, Kayah, Chin, Kayin and Mon. 3452 CBO members received training on how to set-up and maintain rice-banks.
- To-date, social protection assistance is reaching 89,847 persons (18,260 HHs), of which 46,364 (52%) are women. These rice-banks are helping to reduce food insecurity among poor households, particularly during the rainy season and ahead of cultivation season.

Table a. # of HHs and persons benefitting from rice-banks

State	HH	Male	Female	Total
Kayah	3657	6681	6953	13,634
Kayin	2894	8155	8196	16351
Shan	3585	9557	9347	18904
Mon	5511	11625	14209	25834
Chin	2613	7465	7659	15124
Total	18,260	43,483	46,364	89,847

5.2 Target communities have increased capacities and opportunities for social cohesion and livelihoods



Daw Then Win and her daughter stand outside the grocery shop set-up with capital assistance from UNDP, Maungdaw Township, Rakhine.

- Following village planning and assessment exercises, UNDP set-up community mechanisms (Livelihood and Social Cohesion Committees) in all village locations. Out of 2232 CBO members, 696 (31%) are women representatives. These community mechanisms help facilitate project implementation and serve as a foundation for strengthening relations between different groups within and between villages. These mechanisms received basic training on concepts (e.g. livelihoods and social cohesion) and skills (e.g. book-keeping) to improve their capacities to support project implementation. To-date, 4158 CBO members have received basic training in these concepts.

- To-date, capital assistance (cash grants) for agricultural, fisheries, livestock and small and medium enterprises (SME) has reached 93,665 persons (17,406 HHs) of which 46,612 (49.7%) were women. This assistance is providing primary or supplementary income generation opportunities to vulnerable HHs and thereby helping to reduce socio-economic disparities as a way of strengthening social cohesion at the local level.

Table b. # of HHs and persons benefitting from livelihood assistance

State	HH	Male	Female	Total
Kachin	3370	10905	11417	22322
Kayah	2651	7553	7578	15131
Kayin	2400	8504	8939	17443
Shan	2943	2967	1973	4940
Rakhine	3595	9311	9639	18950
Chin	2447	2603	1044	3647
Total	17406	47053	46612	93665

- Under the Output, 296 persons received agriculture and livestock community extension training in agriculture and livestock enabling them to provide community extension services to fellow villages. These persons, majority of whom are youth, now work voluntarily offering their technical advice and services to the village community, as a strategy for strengthening inter-community relations, particularly between village youth and the rest of the village community.
- UNDP provided 2020 fuel-efficient stoves to conflict-affected households in 24 camps in 24 villages in Rakhine in 2014, adding to the 12, 029 HHS that received stoves in Rakhine and Kachin in 2013. Additionally, in all locations, communities participated in trainings that demonstrated their safe and proper use. These stoves are helping to reduce socio-economic burdens on women and children (who otherwise spend long hours collecting firewood) and contributing to improving health and environmental conditions.



Cash-for-work activities in progress for new access road, Loukkai, Shan

- As of reporting date, infrastructure activities are ongoing in Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan states, targetting improved access for upto 212,750 persons (31,777 HHs), of whom 107,501 (50.5%) are women.
- The Output undertook a scoping and project formulation mission on introducing affordable technologies to vulnerable communities in two townships in Mon and Kayin as a potential strategy for deepening UNDP's livelihood and social cohesion activities in existing locations.
- In May 2014, UNDP was requested by the Rakhine State Government (RSG) and Emergency Coordination Committee (ECC) to support development activities in one additional village and to

construct the Ye Chan Pyin Bridge, both in Sittwe Township, Rakhine State. Under the Output, planning activities for both actions have been initiated and implementation is ongoing.

5.3 National and local institutions and actors have increased capacities for conflict sensitivity, social cohesion and peace-building

- UNDP facilitated a study visit to Indonesia for Union and Rakhine State Government representatives to gain first-hand knowledge on social cohesion experiences, models and lessons. During their visit, the delegation, which was led by HE Major General Maung Muang Ohn, former Deputy Minister for Border Affairs (now Chief Minister for Rakhine State) and included 03 Ministers from Rakhine State Government, had discussions with a wide range of Indonesian stakeholders from government and civil society, both at the national and provincial level, and exchanged ideas and information on many issues relating to social cohesion and peacebuilding. Key issues of value and interest include: social cohesion and peacebuilding policies; conflict and violence monitoring; participation of civil society in social cohesion and peacebuilding, especially women's organizations; and the use of media and technology for social cohesion and peacebuilding.
- The Output developed a rolled-out a 3-day social cohesion training module for implementing partners and staff. The training reached 115 representatives from partner organizations (of whom 65%) were women and 30 staff.
- UNDP engaged the services of an international dialogue expert to advise on dialogue opportunities and to provide initial training and sensitization to key government and civil society partners and staff. To-date, dialogue training workshops have reached officials from the Ministry of Border Affairs, the General Administration Department (GAD), the Myanmar Police Force (MPF) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Shan and Mandalay.

5.4 Strengthened early recovery (ER) processes in place in target locations

- UNDP engaged the services of two international ER experts in the design and roll out of the ER in Rakhine and Kachin. Recruitment for longer term dedicated senior ER capacity has been completed and experts are expected to join by the end of August 2014.
- UNDP continues to provide regular dialogue platforms for early recovery for a wide range of interested ministries/ political actors and early recovery agencies. UNDP continues to produce ER 4Ws map and share with partners in order to strengthen inter-agency coordination on recovery.
- As a result of UNDP's ER coordination capacity, both in Yangon and in Rakhine and Kachin, there is increasing recognition of ER as a cross cutting element within humanitarian operations. Towards this end, UNDP has worked closely with humanitarian agencies to identify and build upon ER outcomes within humanitarian operations which have been reflected in cross sector plans for 2014.
- Contingency Plans for Early Recovery Sector Strategies were developed for 2014 for Kachin and Rakhine through a highly consultative process involving government institutions, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs. These strategies will serve as reference documents for early recovery partners to identify priorities and gaps.
- Under the Output, UNDP led or participated in several field assessments, including the Inter-Agency assessment on Monitoring and Sustaining Durable Solutions in Kachin State and the Pa La Na Relocation Assessment.
- UNDP had regular engagement with authorities on recovery and reintegration of IDPs in Kachin State. A draft Terms of Reference for a technical working group on Durable solutions has been prepared, with active participation of the government, to coordinate all support to the government on durable solutions.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - PROGRAMME

DONOR	DURATION	TOTAL ALLOCATION	2014 Budget	CUMULATIVE DELIVERY (JAN 2013 – JUN 2014)	DELIVERY (JAN-JUNE 2014)	DELIVERY AS % OF ALLOCATION
GOVT.JAPAN	2013-2014	10,018,894	6,132,612	7,693,527	3,807,245	62%
UNDP CORE	2013-2015	1,075,405	195,500	974,169	93,804	48%
UNDP BCPR	2013-2015	441,829	401,829	10,5761	65,761	16%
DANIDA	2013-2015	1,210,279	142,800	-	-	0%
TOTAL		12,746,407	6,872,741	8,773,457	3,966,810	58%

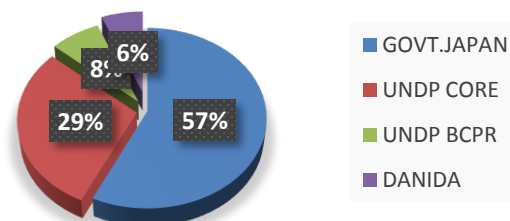
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OPERATIONS

DONOR	DURATION	TOTAL ALLOCATION	2014 Budget	CUMULATIVE DELIVERY (JAN 2013 – JUN 2014)	DELIVERY (JAN-JUNE 2014)	DELIVERY AS % OF 2014 ALLOCATION
GOVT. JAPAN	2013-2014	1,516,350	672,885	1,328,076	484,611	72%
UNDP	2013-2015	4,875,034	2,068,495	339,489	275,060	13%
UNDP BCPR	2013-2015	1,058,171	516,388	282,165	122,382	24%
DANIDA	2013-2015	35,681	35,681	-	-	0%
TOTAL		7,485,237	3,293,449	1,949,730	882,053	27%

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OVERALL

DONOR	DURATION	TOTAL ALLOCATION	2014 Budget	CUMULATIVE DELIVERY (JAN 2013 – JUN 2014)	DELIVERY (JAN-JUNE 2014)	DELIVERY AS % OF 2014 ALLOCATION
GOVT. JAPAN	2013-2014	11,535,244	6,805,497	9,021,603	4,291,856	63%
UNDP CORE	2013-2015	5,950,439	2,263,995	1,313,657	368,864	16%
UNDP BCPR	2013-2015	1,500,000	918,217	387,926	188,143	20%
DANIDA	2013-2015	1,245,960	178,481	-	-	0%
TOTAL		20,231,644	10,166,190	10,723,187	4,848,863	48%

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS/ALLOCATIONS OVERALL (2013-2015)



4. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

- In Rakhine, UNDP's efforts to improve social cohesion between Muslim and Rakhine communities were demonstrating initial results. Unfortunately however, due to the unrest in March and attacks on UN/INGO premises, UNDP was compelled to suspend project implementation for several months. Project activities are slowly resuming; however, UNDP is consulting all stakeholders once more to obtain their buy-in for using social cohesion approaches. Despite the sensitive context, the work of rebuilding relations and trust remains important.
- UNDP was compelled to expedite implementation during the second half of 2013, which meant that in some cases, the team was not able to give adequate time for conducting systematic assessments and for strengthening capacities of implementing partners ahead of project initiation. While some of these gaps have been redressed mid-stream, in the future, it will be important to give adequate attention to project planning and capacity-development in order to achieve full results and desired impact.
- Output 5 has used the Simple Poverty Score Card (SPS) as part of its assessment and village-planning exercises for identifying poor households at the village level for social-protection assistance. This SPS was devised in 2012 for use by UNDP and it is an easy-to-use tool that can be used to estimate whether a household has per-capita consumption below a given poverty line, the poverty rate of a group of households at a point in time, and which also may be used to target services and assistance to the poor. UNDP's implementing partners and staff have had mixed experiences with the SPS. It will be important to review and improve this tool, and to also look at other tools that are being used for poverty targeting in Myanmar.

5. FUTURE DIRECTIONS (July – December 2014)

- In partnership with the Small Scale Industries Department (SSID) of the Ministry of Cooperatives, UNDP will roll-out mobile livelihood and vocational skills training workshops in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states, targeting 621 persons.
- In Rakhine, UNDP will continue livelihood and social cohesion activities in 3 townships (Minbiya, Mruak-Oo and Kyauk-Taw). This work will focus on strengthening inter-community mechanisms for planning, strengthening social cohesion awareness among local level partners, and constructing critical livelihood infrastructure that facilitates inter-community interdependence. Also in Rakhine, UNDP will continue livelihood support activities in Ohn Re Paw including construction of Ye Chan Pyin Bridge.
- In Kachin, UNDP is formulating a programme of support for an additional village (Pa La Na, Myitkyina Township) in support of the Government's relocation programme.
- Under the Output, a pilot project will be initiated in Shan, Kayin and Mon states for introducing affordable livelihood technologies to poor and vulnerable communities.
- UNDP will develop and roll-out a multi-audience training module on social cohesion trainings to government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) and UNDP staff.
- UNDP will continue to support the Union and State level governments' capacity to develop and lead the ER agenda in Rakhine and Kachin through the support on articulation of a medium term plan, township planning exercises and training.

Case Study 1 **THE FUTURE IN THEIR HANDS**

Villagers from Demoso and Hpruso townships are enjoying lunch together. This is not something they do every day. Today, they are on the first leg of an inter-village exchange visit, sharing experiences about community infrastructure.

The visit is facilitated by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) infrastructure partner in Kayah state. The construction of roads, bridges, culverts and community halls using community labour through cash-for-work schemes is meeting critical infrastructure needs and contributing to quick-impact income-generation in the target villages. Visits such as this one are helping to strengthen relationships and networks between these ethnically-diverse and otherwise isolated communities.



A newly constructed road

"We learnt that the Demoso villagers planned their cash-for-work schedules more systematically than we did. We need to do that better next time." reflects U Jeronimo, of Htitaw Tini Khu village in Hpruso Township.

In Kayah state, where UNDP is supporting livelihoods and strengthening social cohesion across 40 villages in Demoso and Hpruso townships, in partnership with NYEIN Foundation, Kayah Phu Baptist Association, Karuna Myanmar Social Services, Kayah Baptist Association, Kainayar Rural Social development Organization, Kay Hto Boe Social Development and IRC, there are many such reflections about a 'next time' future.

Village rice banks (a rice stock that allows poor families to borrow or buy rice) set-up by UNDP, are adding a layer of social protection assistance to the most vulnerable households, as people become food insecure in the lead-up to harvesting. In Oh Kay village, in Demoso Township and Law Gyar village in Hpruso Township, the village committees have already decided to keep the rice-bank mechanism going for the next two to three years. *"We want to do it on our own next year"* says U Thei Roh of Law Gyar.

Livelihood assistance in cash and kind, provided by UNDP, is helping people like U Kay Kaw Ley and U Ste Tyar No, of Hasang Du Kar village in Demoso Township, to buy livestock and to make a net profit of approximately USD 200 at the time of sale. They are helped by community extension workers, trained by UNDP in partnership with the livestock department, who help with vaccinations and share information about keeping the animals healthy and disease-free. Daw Tar Malar Hpaw, one of the few women livestock extension workers, says she has conducted information sessions for all livestock breeders in her village, and due to growing demand, she is voluntarily extending her services to other villages in the area. She'd like to be considered for more advanced training so she can improve herself and provide better services to her community next time, she says.



*Community extension worker -
Daw Tar Malar Hpaw*

This work is part of a UNDP programme that covers 300 villages in 24 townships in 07 states in the country. In partnership with over 35 non-governmental organizations, UNDP is supporting the livelihood and social cohesion needs of these communities by providing them with social protection assistance; grants for agriculture, livestock and micro-enterprises; vocational training; community mobilization and training; and infrastructure. The work aims to strengthen community cohesion by

reducing socio-economic disparities and vulnerabilities and strengthening community networks and relations. The work is made possible with funds from Japan, DANIDA and UNDP.

The village-based committees, were set-up by UNDP to oversee project activities. Now these committee are leading consultations, planning and monitoring community development activities beyond UNDP's support. For example in Hprusos' Htee Taw Tani Khu village, villagers have elected the committee to install a water supply system using household contributions to meet water shortages in the village, a request that has not been met by authorities to-date. In Law Gyar, also in Hpruso Township, the households were spread-out across a large mountainous area, and didn't have a habit of meeting. "We didn't come together before" says U Thei Roh, a village committee member. "Now we are more like a family. We plan to train the young people about the rice-bank method, so they can take it forward next time".

A next time future for the villagers of Demoso and Hpruso awaits.

Case Study 2

LEARNING TOGETHER: UNDP'S IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS COME TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL COHESION TRAINING WORKSHOPS

In a local hall in Loikaw, about 30 people are working excitedly in small groups. Crowding around sheets of flip-charts, they are in intense discussion. The groups have an hour to design a community cohesion project intervention. While they have worked on exercises like this before, this is the first time they are developing a project using the information, skills and tools they've newly acquired. Occasionally, laughter breaks through the otherwise serious atmosphere.

Similar exercises happened in Mawlamyine, Hpaan, Taunggyi, Mytikyna and Yangon in June and July this year, as part of a UNDP effort to increase capacities for social cohesion among its staff and implementing partners in Mon, Kayin, Kayah, Shan, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine. These three-day training workshops reached over 115 people, including from 35 of UNDP's implementing partners.

Daw Nang Mo Mo Theda, Secretary of the Southern Shan State Branch of Mana Organization who participated in the training says she found it very helpful because she hadn't thought about how social cohesion connected to topics like human rights, governance and gender. "The idea of social cohesion is important for Myanmar because it can help solve the ethnic conflicts in our country" she says.

The trainings covered concepts, skills and tools for social cohesion, and gave participants opportunities to test their knowledge in real time. For example, in one activity, participants were asked to analyze a dispute among neighboring villages using conflict analysis tools. In Hpaan, they identified the lack of water as a root cause of the conflict and shared ideas on what kind of intervention could help the situation. In another activity, participants designed a community dialogue process and used dialogue facilitation skills to mediate a conflict between the community, the local government representative and a development agency.



A participant presents a conflict tree

The aim of these trainings was to encourage UNDP's partners to take forward social cohesion in their future work, above and beyond their ongoing partnerships with UNDP. Daw Wai Wai Aung from ACTED says, "I plan to use these tools for future programming, especially participatory planning and conflict resolution."

This work is part of a UNDP programme that covers 300 villages in 24 townships in 07 states in the country. In partnership with over 35 non-governmental organizations, UNDP is supporting the

livelihood and social cohesion needs of these communities by providing them with social protection assistance; grants for agriculture, livestock and micro-enterprises; vocational training; community mobilization and training; and infrastructure. The work aims to strengthen community cohesion by reducing socio-economic disparities and vulnerabilities and strengthening community networks and relations. The work is made possible with funds from Japan, DANIDA and UNDP.

Back in Loikaw, an hour later, the groups are ready to present their new projects. It's been an opportunity to showcase their new knowledge and skills. It's been a good day of learning, interacting and networking with other people. Each team presents their ideas, answers questions and receives feedback from their peers. Occasionally, the laughter still breaks through.

Annexes

1. List of States, Townships and Villages