

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 a directly implemented (DIM) project of UNDP. The project is implemented by a team of UNDP programme and technical specialists, with support of the UNDP Field Implementation Unit (FIU) and UNDP area and satellite offices in the relevant states.

At the national/union level, the project 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, the Project 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.

To-date, with respect to its village-based activities, the project is working in 312 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 July to December 2013, and summarizes cumulative results (January to December 2013), challenges, best practices and lessons learned, as well as relevant financial information.

2. PROJECT PROGRESS AND RESULTS

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

- UNDP undertook consultations with government institutions at union and state level, to brief them on UNDP's planned interventions and to obtain feedback on the selection of townships and villages.
- 33 local organizations (NGOs and CBOs) were identified as Implementing Partners (IPs) to support livelihood delivery activities.¹ The project delivered a 2-day orientation and training workshop to the IPs, which provided them with an overview of the project and deliverables and introduced them to approaches (livelihoods and social cohesion) and tools (village planning, poverty score-card, livelihoods and social cohesion assessment).
- In partnership with the IPs, UNDP completed village planning exercises in all 312 villages. These exercises used participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools and additionally, a poverty score-card analysis² and a livelihood and social cohesion assessment. These exercises helped inform the design of activities and selection of beneficiaries at the village-level, and to sensitize the communities about UNDP's planned interventions and encourage their participation and ownership.
- The project set-up 33 food banks in Chin state to disburse social protection assistance to poor households.



In progress

- The project will set-up a further 105 food banks in Kayah, Kayin, Shan and Mon to disburse social protection assistance to poor households by January-February 2014.

¹ These organizations were identified competitively, through a review mechanism comprising also of government institutions at the local level. In locations where IPs were not identified, UNDP is implementing activities through its field-based staff.

² The poverty score-card is an easy-to-use tool for targeting poor income households and for tracking changes in poverty rates over time. The score-card under reference was tailor-made for Myanmar for UNDP's use under its Human Development Initiative (HDI).

- UNDP will provide 8000 identified households with social protection assistance through food banks in Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Chin and Mon by the first quarter of 2014.

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

- In Rakhine, the project initiated pilot activities in 12 villages in 03 townships in April 2014. These activities were designed and implemented in ways that improved relations between Rakhine and Muslim communities, by setting-up Early Recovery and Social Cohesion Committees bringing together people from both ethnic groups and facilitating cash-for-work activities with both communities for constructing or rehabilitating infrastructure that would benefit both groups. UNDP has constructed or is in the process of constructing 27 units of livelihood and community infrastructure. To-date, these activities have generated cash-for-work (C4W) for approximately 82,295 persons (16,063 households) of whom 50% are women. As a result, affected communities have been able to access their livelihood mainstays as well as public and social services, in addition to earning much-needed income. As a result of the community mechanisms and joint activities, there is preliminary evidence of improved social cohesion among the communities.
- Following village planning and assessment exercises in remaining 300 villages, UNDP set-up community mechanisms (Early Recovery and Social Cohesion Committees) in all village locations. These community mechanisms, often comprising of inter-ethnic or inter-village representation, 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.



- UNDP provided fuel-efficient stoves to 12029 conflict-affected households in 103 camps and 06 villages in Rakhine and Kachin states. Additionally, in all locations, communities participated in trainings demonstrating their safe and proper use. These stoves are helping to reduce the burden on women and children (who otherwise spend long hours collecting firewood) and contributing to improving health and environmental conditions.
- The project delivered agriculture and livelihood related trainings in 4 townships in Kayah, Shan and Chin reaching 190 persons (of whom 26 are women), enabling them to provide community extension services to fellow villages.

In progress

- UNDP will provide 6000 persons identified through the village planning and livelihood and social cohesion assessments with grant support for agricultural, livelihoods and small enterprises by the first quarter of 2014.
- The project will deliver livelihood extension training activities in all remaining townships and states reaching 350 persons by January-February 2014.
- UNDP, with support of 03 IPs has initiated work on constructing livelihood and community infrastructure in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin, to be completed by June 2014. The construction activities will use cash-for-work, which will be used as a strategy to inject cash flows into the local economy and to facilitate inter-village cohesion. Additionally, community members will be trained on infrastructure repair and maintenance, as a strategy to increase their involvement and the durability of the investment.

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

- The project facilitated a South-South knowledge-sharing exercise between the Country Offices of Myanmar and Indonesia, where experiences on social cohesion from Indonesia were shared with union and state government officials in Rakhine, UNDP partners and staff. As a result, there is increased awareness of the relevance of social cohesion among government official, UNDP staff and community partners.

In progress

- UNDP will facilitate a study visit to Indonesia for Union and Rakhine State Government representatives to gain first-hand knowledge on social cohesion experiences, models and lessons in February 2014.

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

- UNDP rolled out Early Recovery Sector coordination in Yangon, Kachin and Rakhine in the latter half of 2013. The roll out of ER sector coordination is providing a platform for engagement between government, L/I NGOs and UN agencies.
- UNDP developed Early Recovery Sector strategies 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.
- The project provided orientation sessions for 20 representatives from township administrations in Rakhine and Kachin, to increase their awareness of ER concepts and principles.
- UNDP, as ER lead, and on behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) developed and submitted a concept note on the medium term recovery and development of Rakhine to union government for review and further discussion.
- 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 the Humanitarian agencies to identify and build upon ER outcomes within humanitarian operation which will be reflected in cross sector plans for 2014.



3. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY -PROGRAMME

DONOR	DURATION	TOTAL ALLOCATION	2013 BUDGET	DELIVERY JULY - DEC 2013	CUMULATIVE DELIVERY JAN-DEC 2013	DELIVERY AS % OF 2013 BUDGET
GOVT. JAPAN	April 13 - Dec 14	10,118,894	7,021,288	3,626,651	3,702,081	53%
UNDP CORE	Jan - Dec 13	742,606	725,742	846,892	846,892	117%
UNDP BCPR	Jan - Dec 13	384,175	42,346	40,000	40,000	94%
TOTAL		11,245,675	7,789,376	4,513,543	4,588,973	59%

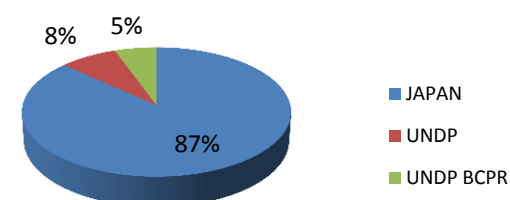
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OPERATIONS

DONOR	DURATION	TOTAL ALLOCATION	2013 BUDGET	DELIVERY JULY-DEC. 2013	CUMULATIVE DELIVERY (JAN-DEC 2013)	DELIVERY AS % OF 2013 BUDGET
GOVT. JAPAN	April 13 - Dec 14	1,566,349	1,661,651	1,103,882	1,211,630	73%
UNDP CORE	Jan - Dec 13	289,964	457,387	69,725	74,873	16%
UNDP BCPR	Jan - Dec 13	365,825	157,654	152,497	157,025	100%
TOTAL		2,222,138	2,276,692	1,326,104	1,443,528	63%

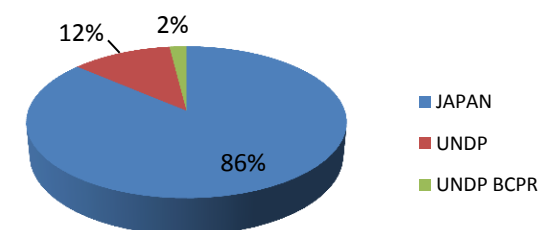
FINANCIAL SUMMARY OVERALLL

DONOR	DURATION	TOTAL ALLOCATION	2013 BUDGET	DELIVERY JULY - DEC 2013	CUMULATIVE DELIVERY JAN-DEC 2013	DELIVERY AS % OF 2013 BUDGET
GOVT. JAPAN	April 13 - Dec 14	11,685,243	8,682,939	4,730,533	4,913,711	57%
UNDP CORE	Jan - Dec 13	1,032,570	1,183,129	916,617	921,765	78%
UNDP BCPR	Jan - Dec 13	750,000	200,000	192,497	197,025	99%
TOTAL		13,467,813	10,066,067	5,839,647	6,032,501	60%

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS/ALLOCATIONS OVERALLL (at end Dec 2013)



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS/ALLOCATIONS 2013



4. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

- In Rakhine, UNDP’s efforts to improve social cohesion between Muslim and Rakhine communities have produced some preliminary results. However, as a recently concluded stock-taking assessment confirms, in order to make these results sustainable, the project needs to move beyond joint community mechanisms and joint infrastructure works, and increase the involvement and accountability of government institutions at the local level, increase the role and ownership of the community, and take steps to promote positive values parallel to supporting socio-economic incentives.
- Many of the project’s IPs have strong local knowledge, but at the same time, have limited technical and institutional capacities. These organizations require capacity-development, including technical training on relatively new topics and approaches (i.e. social cohesion). At the same time, short implementation time-frames have required UNDP to launch implementation ahead of or in parallel to its efforts to strengthen capacities of its partners.
- Given that many stakeholders, both in government and the aid community are still relatively new to the concept of early recovery, and given that many partners, including government, do not have fully developed early recovery strategies, it is difficult to discuss the subject in abstract and to build consensus around joint strategies and approaches.
- Due to the time needed for putting in place management, implementation and partnership arrangements for a new project, including for consulting partners, recruiting staff and establishing field offices, project implementation was predictably slow in the first two quarters of 2013.



5. FUTURE DIRECTIONS (2014)

- With existing funding, complete all planned social protection, livelihoods, infrastructure and social cohesion activities in target locations reaching approximately 307,700 beneficiaries at completion.
- In Rakhine and Kachin, the project will plan its future livelihood and social cohesion interventions within the framework of early recovery. UNDP will use the Early Recovery sector strategies developed through broad-based consultations with early recovery partners including government institutions at the local level, to identify needs and gaps, and to design interventions accordingly.
- In Rakhine, based on the lessons learned, UNDP will introduce new strategies to improve the social cohesion results of its ongoing work. Proposed strategies include creating steering mechanisms at state and township level with the involvement of government institutions at the local level, strengthening the mandate of the community mechanisms, activities to promote values such as tolerance and diversity and increasing the involvement of groups like women and youth.
- With potential new funding, UNDP plans to deepen its livelihood activities in existing locations. For example, in February 2014, the project is undertaking a feasibility assessment for introducing affordable livelihood technologies to vulnerable communities in order to design interventions accordingly.



- In partnership with the UN agencies, UNDP will join an effort develop the capacities of UN staff and partners on conflict sensitivity.

- 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 exercise and training.

Annex 1: list of townships and villages