

# Annual Report 2018



The United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency



UNFPA stands for the safety and dignity of every woman and girl in Myanmar. Let us listen to them, and let us champion their rights and choices. Let us keep moving forward together for a Myanmar where every woman can make her own choices about whether or when to become pregnant; where no woman loses her life while giving life; and where every woman and girl can live free from sexual abuse and violence."

Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan UNFPA Representative for Myanmar



The UNFPA team in Myanmar, working for a Myanmar where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled

#### **UNFPA** in Myanmar







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## Sexual and reproductive health and rights & Gender equality and women's empowerment

Myanmar's maternal mortality ratio is the second-highest in ASEAN, with "abortive outcome of pregnancy" (primarily unsafe abortion) the second-leading cause of maternal death. The most effective way to bring down maternal death is to make family planning options available to women so that they can decide for themselves when and if to have children. Yet one in six women in Myanmar cannot access modern contraceptives. In 2018, UNFPA supplied US\$1.3 million worth of contraceptives to the public health system and NGO providers, making them available to women for free or for a nominal charge. UNFPA trained over 10,000 health staff to administer contraceptives, and to keep stocks filled using a UNFPA-supported logistics system. Support to the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response mechanism helped analyse causes and patterns, and contributed to systematic action against maternal death. To raise the skill-level of midwives, and to strengthen the midwifery workforce, UNFPA supported curriculum and policy development. Improved quality family planning services and safe disposal of medical waste were supported through technical guidelines. At decision-making level, UNFPA supported development of the national sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) policy.

For displaced and conflict-affected people, access to SRHR services remained a challenge. Hence, in 2018 UNFPA expanded service and information provision in conflict areas. Engagement with men and young people about SRHR also increased, and the number of UNFPA-supported youth and men groups more than doubled in 2018. Services and information for gender-based violence (GBV) and gender equality were closely integrated with SRHR humanitarian assistance and development programming. In 2018, UNFPA provided integrated SRHR-GBV services through 74 Women and Girls Centers, health facilities and safe spaces in Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan, reaching over 200,000 people. UNFPA also responded to natural disaster in the south-east of the country by delivering emergency reproductive health kits and dignity kits to assist women and girls displaced by floods.

At policy level, 2018 saw the result from several years of sustained technical assistance towards development of national GBV guidelines that focus on the needs of survivors: The Government launched the *Guidelines on healthcare response for GBV*, and significant progress was made on sectoral policies for social workers and the police. With UNFPA'S support, the Government organized a policy dialogue that called for strengthened systems for GBV response and data collection. In addition, indicators on gender and GBV were included in the framework for the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

#### **Population data for development**

The UNFPA-supported 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census produced the data that is needed for evidence-based planning, allocation of resources, and policy making, but also for journalism, advocacy, democratisation and development. However for genuine impact, planners and decision-makers must know how to access, interpret and use the data. To address this gap, UNFPA supported the Department of Population to build the data capacity of government officials, politicians, religious leaders, ethnic representatives, youth groups and women's organisations throughout the country. A data portal was launched, and trainings were organised for journalists and stakeholders in Myitkyina, Nay Pyi Taw, Sittwe and Yangon. In addition, UNFPA worked with the Government and a local NGO to hold census dissemination workshops in 22 townships in hard-toreach and conflict-affected areas in Chin, Kachin and Shan. These workshops were attended by over 1,300 township stakeholders and served as a vehicle for civic engagement and dialogue between civil society and public officials.

#### Adolescent and youth empowerment

Young people need knowledge to make safe choices about their bodies and their lives. Every year, almost 50,000 teenage girls in Myanmar give birth, and over 170 teenage girls die in pregnancy and childbirth. An estimated 36,000 young people are living with HIV. To safeguard the health, well-being and dignity of young people, UNFPA empowers them with information on how to protect themselves against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and sexual violence. In 2018, over 70,000 of adolescents and young people received SRHR information and services through youth-friendly health services, educational sessions, family planning counselling, and a mobile app. UNFPA advocated for rights-based, gender-responsive, comprehensive sexuality education to be provided in schools as well as outside of schools. UNFPA also equipped young people with leadership skills to promote meaningful participation in policy formulation and peace processes. Thousands of young people participated in youth camps across the country, learning about their rights, youth leadership and life skills. Youth journalists and youth documentary film makers were trained to cover peace issues, and youth volunteers were placed in staff positions in key peace institutions.



**432,436 Contraceptives provided** (couple-years of protection)



**36,391** Women received sexual and reproductive health care



2,126 Safe births supported through clean delivery kits



**10,105** Women received dignity kits

**61** Safe spaces for women and girls

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**102,194** People received gender-based violence services/information



### 72,158

Youth received sexual and reproductive health information

#### **2018 EXPENSES**



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