



UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,

BRIEFING NOTE ON UN-HABITAT'S WORK IN THE UNION OF MYANMAR

CPR Subcommittee

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The importance of the United Nations in Myanmar country programme was again demonstrated this September, by the Secretary General completing his 5th visit to the country, in order to support the complex transition ongoing. These include migration and urbanisation.

UN-Habitat is supporting the Government and people of Myanmar with a comprehensive country programme, with currently 12 projects. Key donors are the Governments of Japan, Norway, UK and USA. It also implements programmes with support of the EU, DIPECHO (EU), the Asian Development Bank, the Cities Alliance, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund. Furthermore, Dutch support reaches Myanmar via UN-Habitat's Urban Planning and Design branch. Discussions for collaboration with a Swedish programme (symbiocities) have started.

UN-Habitat established a presence in Myanmar in the early 1990s through 2004 where the agency pioneered the 'People's Process' by establishing the first community led projects in the Dry Zone, Shan State and the Delta. Over 2.1 million people were supported through developing community social infrastructure networks and facilitating access to safe water.

In 2008, after Cyclone Nargis, UN-Habitat re-established a country office. The agency operates under four MOUs with line ministries. The country office currently deals with slum reduction and low-income housing provision, housing policy, land management, urban planning, urban policy, WASH, DRR, training and capacity building and climate change mainstreaming. The projects entail both policy advisory engagements with multiple institutions and implementation on the ground. The contexts are both development and humanitarian assistance. Over the past years, a significant volume of assistance has been directed to community water and sanitation assistance, and the provision of community infrastructure with ongoing support of Japan, the USA and the forementioned trust fund. The most recently Japan supported programme targets post-flood support to settlements of poor communities in the remote Chin State.

UN-Habitat works on an increasingly urban agenda and on projects relevant to an urbanising Myanmar. It supports National Urban Policy development nationally, and advises on a national housing policy. With the Ministry of Construction as partner, urban planning guidelines have

been published. In Yangon, UN-Habitat currently undertakes slum mapping and technical advice against forced eviction. With support of the Government of Japan, it supports extremely vulnerable slum households, organising them in community units and building with them new housing in the city. A pilot project to modernize the land records management of Myanmar was recently concluded. Complementary DRR actions range from the development of the Building Code, capacity building of government DRR training institutes to a wide range of community and neighbourhood training programmes. Citywide resiliency strategies are being promoted with Mandalay, the city largest city of Myanmar. Advocating climate change risks and assessing the vulnerabilities of townships is being done through the Myanmar Climate Change Action, funded by the EU and implemented together with UNEP.