Country Programme: 0600/A0/05 - MYANMAR CP (2018 - 2022)



#### Output:0600/A0/05/204/003 CAAC & MRM

Output Statement: By 2022, key civil society groups and Government actors have improved capacity to monitor grave violations against children and risks related to land mines/ERW and advocate for prevention and accountability of parties to conflict.

Output Assessment Status: Finalized

Reporting Year: 2020 Assessment Type: End-year assessment Assessment Date: 07.12.2020 Assessment Approval Date: 03.02.2021

Rating:



On-track

#### **Headline Statement:**

UNICEF continued to demonstrate technical leadership and ensured nationwide coordination on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) and Mine Action in Myanmar. As the co-chair of the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) and the Mine Risk Working Group, UNICEF bolstered high-level advocacy with Government, donors and key international actors to advance the CAAC agenda. The CTFMR signed its first ever bilateral Joint Action Plan (JAP) with an Ethnic Armed Organisation (EAO), the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), which represents an important new chapter for efforts to end and prevent grave violations against children in Myanmar.

## **Output Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In its capacity as the Co-chair and the Secretariat of the CTFMR, UNICEF has provided technical leadership and ensured nationwide coordination on the CAAC agenda in Myanmar, successfully mobilizing member agencies, including UN agencies and INGOs, for concerted advocacy to end grave violations against the children of Myanmar. The year 2020 marked a major breakthrough in the CTFMR's engagement with EAOs listed in the Secretary General's Annual CAAC report, with the signing of its first ever JAP with an EAO the DKBA to end and prevent recruitment and use of children. The CTFMR secured the firm commitment of another group to sign additional JAPs in 2021. UNICEF also managed to successfully strengthen informal collaboration with another EAO, the Kachin Independence Army, to secure the release and reintegration of children associated with the group. The delisting of the Tatmadaw for recruitment and use required significant adjustments in the manner the CTFMR engages with the Tatmadaw, which was successfully done through the joint development of a roadmap to put an immediate end to the recruitment and use of children for the 12 months following the delisting period. The roadmap was developed in close collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the SG for CAAC. In partnership with World Vision, UNICEF developed an online training on the monitoring and reporting mechanism on the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict (MRM) and so far, 93 existing monitors (46 female) and 266 newly selected community-based monitors (146 female) have completed the online training modules. Switching to online trainings has significantly facilitated access to monitors living in remote communities, which prior to COVID-19 would have been impossible to reach due to the security situation and the complexity of the travel authorization procedures required on the ground. In 2020, 73% of boys and girls affected by landmines and other explosive weapons were provided with mine risk education by UNI

#### **Lessons Learned and Innovations:**

The CTFMR, under UNICEF's technical leadership, was able to turn the restrictions imposed as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 into opportunities and has made groundbreaking achievements this year. The establishment of online communication with the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) enabled regular and smooth negotiation which led to the signing of the first ever joint action plan with a NSAG, which may have been more difficult and lengthier to achieve with physical meetings in a pre-COVID situation, given the cumbersome travel authorization processes to reach DKBA's area of operation and the political and security sensitivities. In addition, holding an online ceremony enabled wide participation of key stakeholders including the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict as well as key actors in country, representing the Government of Myanmar, the



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UN and NGO communities and various diplomatic representations. Such level of participation was not only appreciated by the DKBA but has also served as an encouraging factor for other NSAGs to emulate the DKBA and sign similar plans with the CTFMR.

The CAAC programme has a strong focus on boy children due to the fact that boys are recruited by armed forces in higher trends than girls. However, the CAAC programme is being re-evaluated to understand the needs of girls who are recruited, particularly for use by armed forces. In 2021, this focus on gender-tailored programmes will be increased.

The needs of beneficiaries of MRE are factored into the MRE programme, both in the design as well as in the implementation of our programmes. Also, beneficiary feedback is tailored in. UNICEF will continue to strengthen the gender lens in programming during 2021.

## **Details of UNICEF's Contribution (Optional):**

In its capacity of co-chair and technical secretariat of the CTFMR, UNICEF played a prominent role in all of the achievements of the Task Force. UNICEF handled all communications with non-state armed groups (NSAGs), which led to the first ever signing of a Joint Action Plan with a NSAGs, as well as the strengthening of informal collaboration with another group, leading to the release and reintegration of children. UNICEF also led all CTFMR advocacy initiatives, which included the first ever release of a joint statement by the CTFMR prepared and endorsed collegially by all member agencies, to condemn an aggravated grave violation against children committed by the Tatmadaw. UNICEF also led all communications with the Tatmadaw, which took place in a volatile context in 2020 as a result of the delisting of the Tatmadaw for recruitment and use of children.

Partnerships (Optional):

Output Assessment Status: Finalized

Reporting Year: 2020 Assessment Type: Mid-year assessment Assessment Date: 28.07.2020 Assessment Approval Date: 26.08.2020

Rating:

On-track

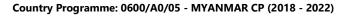
#### **Headline Statement:**

UNICEF continues to provide technical leadership on Children and Armed Conflict and Mine Action in Myanmar. UNICEF, as co-chair of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting and co-lead the Mine Risk Working Group organized high-level advocacy with Government, donors and key international actors to advance Children and Armed Conflict agenda. UNICEF's continuous engagement with all listed parties led to continued progress on the Joint Action Plan with Tatmadaw to end under-age recruitment and very close to signing of Joint Commitment with two listed non-state actors (NSAs).

### **Output Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The first half of 2020 witnessed progress on the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) agenda, in particular on the implementation of the joint action plan (JAP) to end under-age recruitment and the engaged with Non-State Armed Groups (NSAs) listed in the SG's Annual Report. The Special Representative of the Secretary General on CAAC took a five-days mission Myanmar in January 2020. She met with key Government and NSA stakeholders, UNICEF as co-chair of UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) intensified its advocacy to support the Government on the few remaining priority areas towards the completion of the Joint Action Plan (JAP) to sustainably prevent recruitment and use of children within the Tatmadaw. This advocacy led to commitments made by Tatmadaw to end and prevent the use of children in Rakhine State, which has spiked since 2019, including through the issuance of military directive and an invitation for CTFMR to train its troops on the prevention of use of children in hotspot areas when the security situation improves. UNICEF, as CTFMR co-chair, had fruitful engagement with NSAs as well, which culminated in the firm commitment of two NSAs (the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army and the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army - Peace Council) to sign joint action plans with the CTFMR on recruitment and use of children by end 2020.

During the first six months of 2020, UNICEF and Mine Risk Working Group (MRWG) reported 146 casualties, 47% were women and children. UNICEF, as technical advisor, continued to play a key role to support leadership and ownership of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Relief in the Mine Action in Myanmar. UNICEF coordinated with various diplomatic agencies and donors for strategic engagement and support to the government to advance the mine action agenda in Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar has formed a task force to establish a National Mine Authority in Myanmar. UNICEF supported Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Victim Assistance for survivors, family members & communities affected by landmines/ERWs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, face to face Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities were limited and UNICEF advised Mine Action partners to use the





alternative ways to reach EORE messages to the communities such as radio transmission and mobile application. During January to June 2020, UNICEF reached 6,211 children (3,295 girls and 2,916 boys) with EORE.

#### **Lessons Learned and Innovations:**

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF and its partner World Vision have managed to keep the community-based monitoring and reporting system running through the design and delivery of an online MRM training module and through the use of smartphone applications for the sharing of data.

## Details of UNICEF's Contribution (Optional):

### Partnerships (Optional):

UNICEF, in partnership with World Vision, continued its technical leadership to increase geographical coverage of reported grave violations, through regularly updating mapping of trained NGOs, community-based monitors and "eyes and ears". A systematic follow up of reported cases, response and referrals at local level has been implemented despite challenges of access, security and communication. Despite movement restrictions due to COVID-19, UNICEF and World Vision continued to train new monitors and provide refresher trainings for existing ones, including through the design and application of an MRM online training module.

Indicator(s)	Baseline			Target		Finalized	Indicator	Rating	Actual	Source	Approval
	Year	Value	Year	Value	Туре	Date	Rating Type				Status
Standard Indicators											
Percentage of UNICEF Targeted boys and girls in areas affected by landmines and other explosive weapons provided with relevant prevention and survivor assistance interventions	2017	201	2018	30	PERCENT	31.12.2018	End-year assessment	Fully achieved	0	Sector Review(s)	APPROVED
			2019	40	PERCENT	05.12.2019	End-year assessment	Fully achieved	66	Sector management information system	APPROVED
			2020	45	PERCENT	01.01.2020	End-year assessment	Fully achieved	73	Sector management information system	APPROVED
			2021	55	PERCENT						
Additional Indicators											
Number of listed armed groups in the annex to the report of secretary General on children and armed conflict that implement signed action plans with UN to stop and prevent use and recruitment of children(55451)	2017		2018	2	NUMBER	31.12.2018	End-year assessment	Partially achieved	0	Sector Review(s)	APPROVED
			2019	2	NUMBER	05.12.2019	End-year assessment	Partially achieved	0	Other	APPROVED

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2020	4	NUMBER	01.01.2020	End-year assessment	Partially achieved	2	Sector Review(s)	APPROVED
2021	5	NUMBER						