

UNICEF Myanmar

Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Thematic Report January to December 2016



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBO	Community-based organization
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DBE	Department of Basic Education
DPH	Department of Public Health
DRD	Department of Rural Development
JMP	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation
ILE	International Learning Event
IPME	Independent Process Monitoring and Evaluation
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOHS	Ministry of Health and Sport
MRCS	Myanmar Red Cross Society
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ODF	Open defecation free
PTA	Parent Teachers Association
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SVS	Social Vision Services
UNICEF	United Nations Childrens' Fund
US Fund	United States Fund for UNICEF
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WinHCF	WASH in Health Care Facilities
WinS	WASH in schools
WMC	Water Management Committee

Credit of the photo on the cover page:

© UNICEF Myanmar/2016, Community managed water supply system in dry zone areas

Executive Summary

This is the annual progress report for the thematic fund for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme in Myanmar which covers overall achievement of WASH programme in 2016. The report covers the support received from thematic fund from Swedish government and the United States Fund for UNICEF as well as other non-thematic funding sources. The thematic and non-thematic funds have facilitated to achieve the outcome and output results.

In 2016, the main focus of WASH programme was strengthening the enabling environment by supporting the government with the development of national standard, strategy and plan, and strengthening sectoral coordination among key line ministries. UNICEF has supported the Government to develop Myanmar's first National WASH Strategy and Investment Plan, which is expected to contribute towards increased budget allocation for reaching the goal on "sanitation and water for all by 2030". The strategy covers rural WASH, WASH in schools, WASH in health care facilities and WASH in emergencies, for the period of 2016 to 2030. The strategy moves the WASH sector away from short term, time-bound project approach to an approach which ensures continuous quality of service delivery to communities for sustaining the facilities.

With the objective of establishing standardized WASH facilities and services in all schools in Myanmar, UNICEF provided technical assistance to develop National Standards for WASH in Schools (WinS) and Thant Shin Star School Guidebook (Three Star Guidebook). The draft documents have been presented to the government for review and finalization.

Sectoral coordination among Government departments and WASH partners at State/Regional level was strengthened through organisation of WASH coordination meetings in Kachin, Magway and Rakhine with the leadership of State/Regional governments and Regional Department of Rural Development (DRD) office. Although the Yangon based WASH Thematic Working Group is functioning and UNICEF is playing coordinating role, the government participation is low. UNICEF is advocating for restructuring the sector coordination mechanism at the national level to ensure that the government takes leadership role in sector coordination.

A Sustainability Assessment in Myanmar (SAM) was conducted to determine the current status and longer-term sustainability of WASH services delivered under the Accelerating Water and Sanitation for All (ASWA) programme in Myanmar. The findings and recommendations of SAM will be useful for further strengthening WASH sector as well as improving UNICEF Myanmar's WASH programme.

UNICEF continued to work with the national and sub national level governments for modelling of community managed approaches to improve rural water supply, demonstration and evidence generation on sanitation through community led total sanitation (CLTS) approaches and illustrating the effectiveness of group handwashing activities in schools.

The CLTS approach has been introduced in eight states/regions (Kayin, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Chin and Rakhine). In 2016, a total of 189 new communities have been declared open defecation free (ODF) with direct support of UNICEF. Scaling up of total sanitation approach remains a challenge. The country does not have national sanitation policy and plan. There are very few national and international organizations active in ODF campaigns. In this context, UNICEF conducted CLTS review and developed CLTS toolkits which will be used for advocating for scaling up of CLTS works as well as capacity development.

A total of 125,215 people (65,080 female) from 146 communities in Myaing, Pauk, Nahtogyi and Wetlet townships have access to basic improved water supply through installation of

community managed household water metering systems. Water safety planning approach has been introduced in these water supply projects. Similarly, with the direct support of UNICEF, a total of 43,147 students (52 per cent girls) and 986 teachers in 245 primary and post primary schools from 11 townships have access to improved WASH facilities which meet “Three Stars School standards”. Thant Shin (Mr Clean) is a main character of Thant Shin Star School approach and it has become a model for promoting good hygiene behaviour among schoolchildren. Group handwashing activities were introduced in all schools.

The UNICEF led WASH Cluster continued to support WASH coordination of protracted emergencies in 3 states (Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan) and the Cluster reached 341,561 people with access to safe and reliable WASH facilities of which UNICEF reached 18 per cent (64,154 people). Due to the protracted nature of these crisis long term humanitarian assistance remains likely to be continued and the Cluster will remain in place until the conflicts are fully resolved.

The contribution from thematic fund and other donor funds has enabled UNICEF Myanmar to address the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of vulnerable rural families and schools of rural areas of Myanmar. This progress report presents the achievements of WASH programme during the reporting period of January – December 2016.

1. Strategic Context in 2016

At first glance, WASH services in Myanmar compare well to those in other Southeast Asian countries. Access to improved water supply is reported by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (2014) as 86 per cent nationwide, while for sanitation it is 77 per cent, with open defecation at just 5 per cent. The 2014 census results, however, released in May 2015, gave a slightly less favourable picture. It reports that 74 per cent of households have ‘improved sanitation facilities’¹ with 19 per cent of rural households having no facilities of any description. Just over 30 per cent of the population use ‘unimproved water sources’. Moreover, there is concern that the census data does not take account of serious deficiencies in quality and reliability, which are often seasonal in rural areas.

For children, addressing water and sanitation challenges remains a top priority as stunting and mortality rates remain high. Across the country 30 per cent of households (including 5 million children) do not have improved water supplies and about 1.9 million households do not have any toilet facilities (including 1.4 million children)². These children are not spread equally and disparities in access to WASH are rooted in underlying social, political and environmental factors.

Robust national level data on coverage of WASH services in health facilities and schools remains weak but limited studies to date suggest that 50 per cent of schools³ and more than 50 per cent of health facilities have severe deficits in WASH services. It is not possible to deliver quality health care services without reliable access to safe water and sanitation facilities and in schools absence of facilities can lower attendance and educational achievement. Gender segregated facilities are often not available in schools which is especially important for girls who have reached menarche.

¹ Described as either a flush toilet or a water seal (improved pit latrine)

² Myanmar Census 2014

³ According to the Myanmar WASH Sector Situation Analysis 2014, only 23 per cent of schools meet the international benchmark of 1 toilet per 25 students, while 51 per cent achieve 1:50, with the designs being not generally child-or-disability friendly

The Myanmar WASH sector is fragmented across multiple ministries with many overlaps in roles and responsibilities for provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services. Further challenges are associated with limited decentralisation which limits the scope for States, Regions, Districts and Townships to address localised water and sanitation issues. Major barriers to implementing localized responsibilities include limited human resource capacity and insufficient management information systems to effectively control risks associated with increased funding to local governments.

With the opening up of the country, new civil society organisations (CSOs) and private sector organisations are getting involved in delivery of water and sanitation services which will require increasing coordination efforts. Without sufficient policies, standards, human resource and management information systems it is likely to become increasingly difficult for the government to regulate the sector and ensure the equitable delivery of sustainable services to those in most need.

Apart from drinking water quality standards which were published in 2014 (but not yet approved) there is almost no guidance on standards of service for community water supply, sanitation, WASH in schools and WASH in health care facilities. This lack of definition makes it difficult to determine coverage and put in place systems that can manage information required to track service delivery performance and progress. Extensive efforts are now required to generate evidence around WASH needs that can be used for advocating for greater investments.

Myanmar remains one of the most disaster prone countries in the world with multiple ongoing conflicts in different parts of the country. Government emergency coordination mechanisms remain weak with many ministries functioning and responding to disasters independently without significant coordination with other ministries or civil society. Early warning systems need strengthening to better anticipate slower onset disasters such as drought and flood. Capacity of district and township level government staff and civil society actors needs to be strengthened to ensure that they can provide effective response in first stages of an emergency.

Due to long standing relationships with four key departments (DRD, DPH, DBE, RRD)⁴ there is a unique opportunity for the UNICEF WASH section to promote greater coordination between ministries and support the development of new initiatives that put child rights and gender equity at the centre of a growing WASH sector. In addition new relationships will also need to be forged with city corporations and municipalities around urban WASH, with the ministry of environment around climate change and with the ministry of planning and finance around public financial management. Partnerships with CSOs remain especially important for emergency response and expected to play a significant role in bringing best practices and new innovations to the Myanmar WASH sector.

2. Results in the Outcome Area

⁴ DRD –Department for Rural Development (Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Irrigation)

DPH – Department for Public Health (Ministry of Health and Sports)

DBE – Department for Basic Education (Ministry of Education)

RRD- Relief & Resettlement Department (Ministry of Social Welfare)

Outcome: Improved and equitable use of safe drinking water, sanitation, and improved hygiene practices

2.1 Enabling Environment Work for Myanmar WASH Sector

(SP Output c: Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for scaling-up of interventions to promote safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and good hygiene practices)

Under the leadership of a multi-sectoral task force chaired by the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Myanmar's first ever National WASH Sector Strategy and associated Investment Plan for 2016-2030 commenced development in 2015 and was completed in 2016. Sectoral Ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MALI), Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) and Ministry of Education (MOE) have endorsed the Strategy and Investment Plan in 2016, and launched in February 2017. Covering 2016-2030 and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national priorities, the Strategy and Investment Plan include rural WASH, WASH in Schools (WinS), WASH in Health Care Facilities (WinHCF) and WASH in emergencies. UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance throughout the process, whilst ensuring broad national and sub-national stakeholder participation.

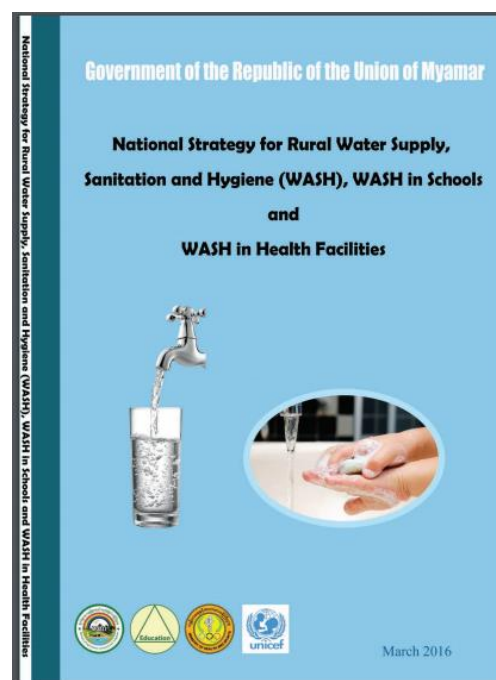


Figure 1. National WASH Strategy (2016-2030)

With the objective of establishing standardised WASH facilities and services in all schools in Myanmar and setting up a systematic monitoring system, UNICEF provided technical assistance to develop National Standards for WASH in Schools (WinS) and Thant Shin Star School Guidebook (Three Star Guidebook). A technical working group comprising the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Rural Development (DRD), UNICEF and NGOs was formed which has provided overall support and guidance to the consultants. Through a series of national and subnational consultations, final draft documents have been prepared which are being reviewed by the relevant departments and ministries, and it is expected that these will be endorsed by MOE and MOHS in 2017. Meanwhile, UNICEF together with partners has tested the draft Thant Shin Star Guidebook in targeted areas.

2.2 Sanitation and hygiene promotion, and safe drinking water supply

(S.P. Output a: Enhanced support for children and families leading to sustained use of safe drinking water, adoption of adequate sanitation and good hygiene practices)

By the end of 2016, CLTS approach was introduced in eight states/regions (Kayin, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Chin and Rakhine) and a total of 189 new communities have been declared ODF status. In addition, CLTS programme have been extended to 215 villages reaching 103,992 people in 19,478 rural families.



Figure 2. Director General of DRD handing over water supply project certificate to Water User Committee in ASWA project areas

As a result of the DFID funded Accelerating Sanitation and Water For All (ASWA) project, 125,215 people (65,080 female) from Myaing, Pauk, Nahtogyi and Wetlet townships have access to basic improved drinking water through installation of household water metering systems. After completion of the water supply projects 110 Water User Committee have started preparing water safety plans.

a) CLTS review and toolkits development

With the objectives of reviewing of CLTS programme, which were implemented by NGO partners with support from UNICEF, and identifying lessons learnt and good practices for scale up through an open defecation free campaign, a CLTS review was conducted. The review also helped to provide information on better understanding of approaches that could be contextualised to the Myanmar context. During the review, specific attention was given to enabling factors, implementation procedures and factors affecting sustainability that could help scaling up. Key findings of the review are: CLTS is well known and accepted by the Government; MoHS has a high number of human resources in the field; and there is an active private sector. The review also highlighted some opportunities in CLTS promotion and scaling up such as: the Government is open to include CLTS in the national policy; slippage appears very low in Myanmar; a tradition of constructing latrines already exists in Myanmar. After the review, a CLTS toolkit including guidelines, training manuals and verification checklists was developed with the participation of DPH and key CLTS implementing partners.

b) Sustainability Assessment of Myanmar

A sustainability Assessment in Myanmar (SAM) was conducted to determine the current status and longer-term sustainability of WASH services delivered under the ASWA programme in Myanmar. The SAM was carried out by Aguaconsult (UK) and its national partner MSR (Myanmar) under the Independent Process Monitoring and Evaluation (IPME) contract mechanism, led by WYG International and Aguaconsult. It was approached and designed in a collaborative and participatory manner with the UNICEF Country Office, government and other stakeholders. Consultative workshops at national and sub-national levels, interviews and field surveys were carried out between February and June 2016. Data collection took place in 225 villages in the four townships of Wetlet, Nwahtogyi, Pauk, and Myaing and in a total of 1,788 households across all four townships; field visits included water quality testing (168 sample points).

Objectives of the assessment were as follows:

- To determine the current status of WASH services delivered under the ASWA programme.
- To determine the likely longer-term sustainability of WASH services delivered under ASWA programme in Myanmar.

The following methodologies were used for the assessment:

- Assessment framework developed.
- Multistage stratified cluster sampling method used (4 ASWA project townships selected).
- 447 households per township for an overall target sample size of 1,788 households across all.

Limitation of the assessment were as follows:

- Does not focus on determining the extent to which programme targets have been achieved.
- An observation of services delivered under the ASWA programme against a benchmark and conditions of likely sustainability which go beyond the scope of the ASWA programme.
- Absence of comprehensive national norms and standards for defining service levels - basis of international good practice and used to categorize services observed against a set of criteria used.
- Assessment contemplated all dimensions of sustainability, and therefore being broad in scope has limitations on the depth in any area.
- Given the transitional context of the political economy and the rapidly reforming WASH sector, the assessment of enabling conditions might lead to observations either outdated or in the process of being addressed.
- Lack of a sector-level monitoring system, including on service levels, water quality, wealth distribution or clear definitions on aspects.

Summary of key findings are as follows:

a) Water supply services

- Household outcome conditions for water interventions are partially achieved in the intervention communities - 68 per cent of HHs have access to an improved source of water and use for drinking and cooking purposes.
- 88 per cent of households surveyed have access to piped schemes provided under the ASWA programme, mainly in their yard or plot (96 per cent).
- 54 per cent households continue to use unimproved sources despite the convenience of the piped scheme – despite piped into yard.
- Majority of households using unimproved sources do treat their water.
- Very low levels of service across the four townships compared to proposed service levels. This was beyond the ASWA project purposes.
- Low water quality and worrying levels of e-coli contamination.
- Service providers –Water Management Committee (WMC) are in place but need further formalizing.

b) Sanitation and hygiene services

- Outcome for sanitation interventions almost achieved – 83 per cent of HHs households have access to a latrine.
- Very high levels of open defecation - as evidenced by traces of human faces found in 41 out of the 44 communities surveyed, open defecation is still practiced by some households.
- No formal processes in place to certify and document ODF communities.
- A majority of households are equipped with clean pit latrines with a slab and used by all- 81 per cent indicated that all members were using the latrines.
- Limited sanitation services recorded in the households- only 29 per cent met the internationally defined service level.

c) Hygiene behaviors

- The outcome conditions at household level with regards to hygiene are partially achieved (53 per cent satisfies outcome conditions).
- Despite the low levels of participation in hygiene promotion activities, appropriate knowledge on hand washing (91 per cent of respondents indicated washing their hands before eating and 86 per cent after going to the toilet).
- Presence of hand-washing facilities, but not always with water and soap (80 per cent households have access to handwashing facilities).
- Household water storage practices could be improved.
- Limited hygiene service levels.
- Hygiene behavior change implementation can be improved.

The findings and recommendations will be useful for the design of new WASH projects in Myanmar as well as strengthening enabling environment of WASH sector. Since the indicators/questionnaires and methodologies used for the assessment were not user friendly, it will not be possible to replicate the similar tool and methodologies for future sustainability assessment works in Myanmar. Therefore, UNICEF Myanmar in consultation with UNICEF regional office and the government, a simplified sustainability checks method will be developed.

2.3 Humanitarian assistance works

(S.P. Output d: Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure girls, boys and women have protected and reliable access to sufficient safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in humanitarian situations)

The UNICEF led WASH Cluster continued to support WASH coordination of protracted emergencies in 3 states (Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan) and the Cluster reached 341,561 people with access to safe and reliable WASH facilities of which UNICEF reached 18 per cent (64,154 people). WASH Sector information management system (4W) is regularly updated and used for planning and monitoring of the humanitarian response work of cluster members. For improving effectiveness of humanitarian responses and long-term sustainability, UNICEF together with key partners has been advocating and generating examples on greater integration of humanitarian to development programmes.

Preparedness strengthening activities have continued over the course of 2016. Long term agreements (LTAs) for rapid local procurement have been put in place and contingency stock levels in Rakhine and Kachin increased. Numerous WASH in emergency trainings have been supported through the Cluster and an international training contract has been signed to provide training of trainers to key the government and CSO staff.

2.4 Results Assessment Framework

The outcome result of WASH is “**improved and equitable use of safe drinking water, sanitation, and improved hygiene practices**”. The results achieved by 2016 compared to the baseline and targets are as follows:

No	Outcome Result Indicators	Baseline 2014	Target for 2017	As of Date	Status 2016	Primary Source
1	% of households have an improved source of drinking water	62.8%	66%	31/12/2016	62.8%*	2014 Census
2	% of the population has an improved sanitation facility	67.3%	75%	31/12/2016	67.3%*	2014 Census
3	% of primary and secondary schools have WASH facilities meeting national standards	N/A	50%	31/12/2016	N/A	MOE report
4	% of households have appropriate hand-washing facilities	40%	60%	31/12/2016	40%	MOHS report, KAP survey
5	% of population practises open defecation	14%	12%	31/12/2016	14%*	2014 Census
6	Number and percentage of people in humanitarian situations who access and use (a) safe drinking water, (b) adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, (c) handwashing facilities	N/A	Water: 150,000 Sanitation: 150,000 Handwashing: 120,000	31/11/2016	Water: 313,455 people Sanitation: 139,307 people Handwashing : 157,644 people	Cluster Management Information System

Note: * 2014 census data. Updated data are not available.

3. Financial Analysis

Table 1: Planned budget by outcome area

Outcome Area 3: WASH

Myanmar

Planned and Funded for the Country Programme 2016 (in US Dollar)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type ¹	Planned Budget ²
103-001 WASH (WASH policies, standards and guidelines)	RR	140,400
	ORR	41,764
103-002 (WASH practices promotion)	RR	254,091
	ORR	1,592,009
103-003 WASH (Community and institutional WASH)	RR	300,000
	ORR	1,785,181
103-004 WASH in emergencies	RR	170,000
	ORE	5,000,000
103-005 Leadership and Technical Assistance	RR	650,514
	ORR	527,225
Total Budget		10,461,184

¹ RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources - Regular (*add ORE: Other Resources - Emergency, if applicable*)

² Planned budget for ORR (*and ORE, if applicable*) does not include estimated recovery cost.

³ ORR (*and ORE, if applicable*) funded amount exclude cost recovery (only programmable amounts)

Table 2. Country and Regional Thematic Contributions to outcome area received in 2016

Outcome Area 3: WASH

Thematic Contributions Received for Outcome Area 3 by UNICEF Myanmar in 2016

(in US Dollars)

Donors	Grant Number*	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
United States Fund for UNICEF	SC1499030131	51,168	48,731
Total		51,168	48,731

Table 3: Expenditures in the Outcome Area**Outcome Area 3: WASH****Myanmar****2016 Expenditures by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)**

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Other Resources-Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
03-01 Water supply		618,826	391,389	1,010,215
03-02 Sanitation		148,967	313,669	462,636
03-03 Hygiene		87,558	178,459	266,017
03-04 WASH in Schools and ECD centres		785,989	184,380	970,369
03-05 WASH and emergencies	3,966,250	4,751	200,336	4,171,337
03-06 WASH in General	783,567	440,608	1,665,991	2,890,166
Total	4,749,817	2,086,699	2,934,224	9,770,739

Table 4: Thematic expenses by programme area

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2016
Business Area	Myanmar – 0600
Prorated Outcome Area	03 WASH
Donor Class Level2	Thematic
Programme Area	Expense (in US Dollars)
Other Resources – Emergency	568,620
03-05 WASH and emergencies	191,989
03-06 WASH # General	376,631
Other Resources – Regular	354,143
03-03 Hygiene	56,864
03-04 WASH in Schools and ECD centres	77,419
03-06 WASH # General	219,860
Grand Total	922,763

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2016
Business Area	Myanmar – 0600
Prorated Outcome Area	03 WASH
Specific Intervention Codes	Expense (in US Dollars)
03-01-01 Rural water supply	646,139
03-01-03 Water safety (including Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage)	262,750
03-01-04 Water Supply Sustainability	3,686
03-02-01 Open defecation elimination and improved sanitation: rural	384,681
03-03-01 Hand-washing with soap	13,348
03-03-02 Other hygiene promotion	208,315
03-04-01 WASH in Schools (general)	904,119
03-05-01 WASH coordination # humanitarian	7,456
03-05-02 WASH emergency preparedness	3,910,088
03-05-04 WASH emergency response # Sanitation	37,312
03-06-01 WASH sector coordination (non-humanitarian)	309,137
03-06-03 WASH # General	1,799,590
03-06-04 WASH # climate change adaptation and environment	11,263
03-06-05 WASH technical assistance to regional and country offices	78,847
03-06-06 WASH support to achieving global and regional goals	149,006
03-06-08 WASH monitoring and bottleneck analysis	66,378
08-01-06 Planning # General	99,523
08-01-07 Humanitarian Planning (CAP/SRP, HAC) and review related activities	35,874
08-02-08 Monitoring # General	6,921
08-03-01 Cross-sectoral Communication for Development	43,703
08-03-02 Communication for Development at sub-national level	227
08-03-03 C4D # training and curriculum development	5,599
08-05-01 Supply # General	63,014
08-09-01 Innovation activities	14,095
08-09-06 Other # non-classifiable cross-sectoral activities	709,215
10-07-12 Management and Operations support at CO	8,210
5021 Support to MICS, DHS and other data collection systems and their analyses	463
7921 Operations # financial and administration	-8,220
Grand Total	9,770,739

Table 6: Planned budget for 2017**Outcome Area 3: WASH****Myanmar****Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2017**

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget ¹	Funded Budget ¹	Shortfall ²
103/001 WASH Policies, Standards and Guidelines	RR	180,259	195,346	-15,087
	ORR	32,803	362,616	-329,813
103/002 WASH Practices Promotion	RR	343,662	195,992	147,670
	ORR	1,247,775	1,002,795	244,980
103/003 Community and Institutional WASH	RR	231,085	385,770	-154,685
	ORR	1,399,499	2,508,620	-1,109,121
103/004 WASH in Emergency	ORR	600,000	598,583	-1,417
	ORE	4,600,000	1,309,275	3,290,725
103/005 WASH Leadership and Technical Assistance	RR	788,990	752,852	36,138
	ORR	429,660	636,717	-207,057
	ORE	1,500,000	994,785	505,215
Sub-total Regular Resources		1,543,996	1,529,960	14,036
Sub-total Other Resources – Regular		3,709,736	5,109,332	-1,399,596
Sub-total Other Resources – Emergency		6,100,000	2,304,060	3,795,940
Total for 2017		11,353,732	8,943,352	2,410,380

¹ Planned and Funded budget for ORR (*and ORE, if applicable*) excludes recovery cost. RR plan is based on total RR approved for the Country Programme duration

² Other Resources shortfall represents ORR funding required for the achievements of results in 2017

4. Future work plan

For the remaining current Country Programme cycle, UNICEF will focus on the following key areas:

- **Operationalization of National WASH Strategy and Investment Plan:** UNICEF will support the national and state/regional governments for developing medium term costed WASH plans. Few States/Regions will be selected for developing the costed plan in 2017.
- **Rural Sanitation Policy Development:** UNICEF will support Ministry of Health and Sports for developing rural sanitation policy and plan. It is expected that the process will be started in 2017 and completed in 2018.
- **First ODF townships:** UNICEF has identified two townships from Kayin State and Sagaing Region for declaring township wise ODF status. Together with the Department of Public Health and NGO partners, advocacy and awareness campaigns will be launched.
- **Finalize the National Standards for WASH in Schools and Thant Shin Star Schools (TSS) Guidebook:** The National Standards and Guidebook have already been drafted and UNICEF will support the government for finalizing and approving these documents.
- **Support to organize International Learning and Exchange Conference in Myanmar:** The Ministry of Education has already agreed to host the 2017 International Learning Event (ILE) event in Myanmar. A working group led by the Ministry of Education will be formed and UNICEF will provide technical and financial assistances as required.
- **Formative research on Handwashing with Soap:** The research will be conducted in two townships and an 18-month high impact handwashing project will be implemented. Findings from the research will be used for developing nationwide handwashing programme.
- **WASH in Health Care Facilities Assessment:** UNICEF together with MOHS and Water Aid is conducting WinHCF assessment. It is expected that the assessment will be completed in the last quarter of 2017. The findings will be used for evidence generation for developing WinHCF standards and guidelines as well as WinHCF programme.
- **Institutional arrangement:** Defining institutional roles and responsibilities of state and regional level government departments and establishing WASH sector coordination group will be a priority.
- **Service delivery:** UNICEF will continue service delivery of rural WASH project activities in dry zone areas and Shan state; WASH in school projects in Kayin, Chin and Kachin; and climate resilience WASH project in Rakhine and Ayayarwaddy. Humanitarian assistance works will be continued in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan.
- **Planning and monitoring:** Supporting the government for setting up WASH sector performance monitoring system will be a priority for 2017/2018. This will also include establishment of SDG baseline for WASH.
- **Capacity development:** Priority areas of capacity development of WASH sector partners include WASH in emergency, water quality and water safety planning, CLTS facilitation, implementation of That Shin Star Approach, etc

5. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Myanmar would like to offer sincere thanks to the thematic fund contributors mainly Swedish Government and the United States National Committee for UNICEF. UNICEF Myanmar would also like to thank the other donors such as UK Aid and the National Committees for UNICEF for providing much needed financial support to provide access to improved WASH facilities for Myanmar's most vulnerable children and improve their participation in school and their communities. The thematic fund has particularly allowed UNICEF to provide technical assistance in humanitarian assistances, WASH cluster leadership and coordination.

As a result of thematic fund's support, the children in Myanmar, and in particular more girls and boys from disadvantaged groups, have been able to improve their participation in school and their communities fulfil their potential for a brighter future. UNICEF would also like to acknowledge the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Public Health, the Department for Rural Development, the national and international NGOs, and local authorities involved in this project, whose collaboration is key to achieve these results for children.

Annexes

Annex 1. Field Diary “Make Handwashing a Habit”

By Khin Mar Win, WASH Officer

“Practicing handwashing with soap is among the most effective way to prevent diarrheal diseases and pneumonia. Lets **‘Make Handwashing a Habit!’** and practicing handwashing with soap consistently at key critical times in our lives”. These words were from Anne Cecile Vialle, chief of UNICEF Southeast Field Office, during the celebration of Global Handwashing Day (GHD) in Kyarinseikgyi Township, a non-government controlled area (NGCA) in Kayin State, Southeast of Myanmar.

The event joined together around 1,500 school children from primary and middle schools from both government and non-government controlled areas. Similarly, representatives from Township Education Office (TEO), the Karen National Union (KNU), the national NGO Social Vision Service, school teachers, and parents didn’t miss the celebration supported by UNICEF.

The communities in NGCAs have been neglected for many decades and rarely exposed to these kind of events and information of good hygiene practices. Indeed, , this was only the second time that the Handwashing Day was celebrated in Kyarinseikgyi Given the lack of handwashing awareness, UNICEF supported a local communication campaign, which included not only posters and billboards in public places, but also a mobile car decorated with handwashing messages, which was driven around the town with handwashing songs and messages. The car was an effective and funny way to reach a higher number of families with essential messages and information.

In addition, a media campaign was launched, which helped to distribute education information and communication (EIC) materials about handwashing practices, reaching 300 vulnerable households. For some of those families, it was the first time they were receiving information on the importance and benefits of handwashing with soap, namely in terms of health, education and nutrition.

Throughout the celebration, schoolchildren participated in handwashing quiz and games competitions. Group handwashing demonstration was also part of the agenda. In their delivered messages, all the participants reinforced the importance of handwashing with soap and its benefits to a better health and hygiene. “Access to functional WASH facilities in schools and promotion of handwashing practices is very important to develop good hygiene behaviour among schoolchildren”, affirmed Kyarinseikgyi Township Education Officer in his closing remarks “This also contributes to children’s learning achievement”.

Local media was also essential to convey the Global Handwashing Day’s messages to the general public. “Handwashing with soap is as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases” was the key message received by school children and general public. Indeed, handwashing with soap is the most effective and inexpensive way to prevent diarrheal diseases and pneumonia.



Schoolchildren playing sanitation and hygiene game during the GHD celebration day



KNU representative delivering GHD message



Handwashing demonstration by schoolchildren



A vehicle moving around the town with handwashing songs and messages



Handwashing demonstration by ethnic students



Performance of 2016 Handwashing Theme



Winner. The best of Thant Shin Champion (Mr. Clean) who won the quiz



Thant Shin Champions with Township Education team

Donor feedback form

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below in relation to this report and return to Penelope Campbell (pcampbell@unicef.org) who will share your input with relevant colleagues in the country office and at headquarters. Thank you.

SCORING: 5 indicates "highest level of satisfaction" while
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1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what could we do better next time?

2. To what extent did the fund utilization section of the report meet your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1	0

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3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings, as well as the remedies to these?

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5. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

6. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?
