

focus on equity, evidence based programming driven by the needs of underserved and hard to reach children; and through multi-sectoral engagement in social sectors such as health, nutrition, WASH, early childhood development, education and child protection. UNICEF has proven capacities for disaggregated data collection, analysis and communication for development. Long term support has already been provided for WASH in emergencies, rural WASH, policy support and WASH in Schools with more recent support focus on urban issues, climate change, public financial management and WASH in Health Care Facilities. This means that UNICEF is uniquely well positioned to convene different stakeholders across a fragmented WASH sector. As a sector leader in health, nutrition, child protection and education UNICEF can ensure that WASH is well integrated into key policies and strategies within these areas. UNICEF also maintains strong partnerships with national and international CSOs and helps to bridge relationships with government. As National WASH Cluster lead UNICEF coordinates with all stakeholders in times of humanitarian emergency and can reach vulnerable communities in non-government controlled parts of the country. WASH Field presence in seven offices across the country continues to build linkages with State/Regional administrations and drive for inclusive programming. Globally UNICEF provides strategic WASH support to governments and communities in over 85 countries through a mix of emergency and development approaches.

2.3. Theory of Change

Outcome: By 2022, families and institutions in 7 high burden states and regions of Myanmar have equitable access to and utilize safe, affordable, adaptive, adequate and equitable WASH services across the lifecycle, especially the most vulnerable children and women.

Ensuring the equitable access to and utilization of sustainable, universal, safe, adequate and affordable WASH services across the lifecycle has a profound impact on a child's ability to survive, grow, learn and rise out of poverty while contributing to increased overall productivity and economic development of a country. UNICEF's theory of change for WASH will contribute towards the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation which is a core of UNICEF's mandate for children through the vision of changes described within this document.

This outcome embodies the priority issues, bottlenecks and barriers identified in the context of Myanmar, which if achieved, will significantly contribute to reduce neonatal, under 5 (U5) and maternal morbidity and mortality. This WASH outcome will also contribute to increase school attendance, create a better learning environment and protect girls and boys from violence in schools.

In order to achieve the outcome, UNICEF will deliver on five key outputs specified below, which are necessary conditions and changes required during the country programme cycle in order to achieve the outcome. These outputs will specifically address bottlenecks related to the enabling environment, supply and demand.

UNICEF's theory of change for WASH states that:

- **If** GoM has strengthened political commitment and accountability, and financial, technical and institutional capacity for leading and scaling up basic WASH service; **and**

- **If** GoM and WASH sector partners have enhanced technical and institutional capacity to support equitable, gender sensitive, climate resilient and sustainable water supply service delivery, at scale, taking into account those most deprived and in the targeted areas; **and**
- **If** GoM and WASH sector partners have enhanced technical and institutional capacity to support improved service delivery of equitable, gender sensitive, and sustainable sanitation and hygiene services to reduce open defecation, at scale, taking into account those most deprived in the targeted areas; **and**
- **If** GoM, especially MOHS and MOE have increased technical and institutional capacity to ensure all institutions (health and schools) in five high burden states/regions have institutional WASH facilities that meet defined national standards; **and**
- **If** targeted communities have enhanced capacity to demand for quality services and the capacity to cope and adapt with climate change impacts; **and**
- **If** the Government and WASH sector partners have increased capacities in emergency preparedness and service delivery to ensure girls, boys, men and women have access to safe and reliable WASH facilities in humanitarian situation;

Then, families and institutions in seven high burden states and regions will have equitable access to and utilize sustainable, universal, safe, adequate and affordable WASH services across the lifecycle, especially the most vulnerable, children, adolescents, women, and girls.

The *preconditions* for change to achieve this outcome result is strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity for scaling up WASH interventions; improved access to adequate, safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation at homes and institutions; availability of adequate financial resources; good hygiene practices among vulnerable children and families; and increased community capacity and resilience to cope with hazards supplemented by government and CSO capacities in emergency preparedness and support to humanitarian situation.

Equity is an underlying important principle of the outcome and expected changes. Given the different ways rural and/or conflict affected communities are affected by a lack of access to WASH services and interventions, UNICEF's strategies and support to the GoM will target communities that experience multiple and overlapping deprivations and risks. Since girls, boys, women and men, and children with special needs and vulnerabilities are also impacted differently by varying levels of WASH coverage (with women/girls and children disproportionately affected by inadequate domestic water supply and sanitation services) the programme will also integrate gender and equity considerations to promote inclusion. UNICEF therefore supports the Ministry of Education (MoE) to review and assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and sustainability of the use of sanitation in schools, including whether designs are child, gender and disability friendly and suitable for menstrual hygiene management (MHM). Similarly, the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach promulgated by UNICEF deliberately ensures women participate in identifying their community's sanitation needs and plans to address them with improved sanitation options. Aside from closely monitoring sex- and age-disaggregated data on service coverage, UNICEF will continue to ensure gender-sensitive approaches to new construction and rehabilitation to enable both a protective environment and safe, adequate access to established facilities. Further, approaches taken will commit to the principle of 'do no harm' to ensure that

WASH interventions not only do not exacerbate conflict dynamics, but mitigate existing conflicts and also that proposed technical WASH solution will take environmental realities into account. This includes ensuring the provision of assistance to displaced and non-displaced communities, mitigating inter-community tensions, and working towards a reduction of reliance on humanitarian assistance, which will strengthen community resilience and sustainability. Finally, noting Myanmar's propensity to disasters, the programme will aim to ensure that all new policies, strategies and guidelines consider disaster risk reduction (DRR) elements as an integral element of UNICEF's support.

In light of these priority issues, bottlenecks and barriers UNICEF's WASH programme will adopt the following strategies and approaches for achieving the outcome result.

- **Reducing inequality by promoting human rights to water and sanitation and robust WASH programming:** Disparities in access to WASH are rooted in underlying structural social and political factors, including gender inequality, and exacerbated by the fact that resources are still not targeted to those most in need. Over the last decade UNICEF has learned that unless poor and vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, are specifically prioritized in programme and policies; disparities will continue to widen. UNICEF will continue to work with the GoM and other stakeholders to reduce inequalities for disadvantaged families and children through robust rights focussed WASH programming targeting areas of Myanmar with the lowest access to water and sanitation services. UNICEF will ensure that all the WASH policies, strategies and plans that are developed with UNICEF support will address the realization of women's and girl's rights. All WASH campaigns such as sanitation and hygiene, WASH in schools and safe water promotion campaigns will target men and boys as agents of change, including male community leaders. Data collection and analysis will be disaggregated by sex and age, including baselines/targets. In every WASH committee, UNICEF will advocate to ensure that there is equal and meaningful participation of women.
- **Capacity development for accountability in WASH, sector monitoring and service delivery:** UNICEF will support on capacity building of national level government partners mainly in accountability in WASH, periodic sector reviews, monitoring and service delivery. At the sub national level, institutional and human resource capacity gap analysis of district and township level government partners such as Department of Rural Development, Township Education Office and Township Medical Office will be conducted to better understand human resource and institutional capacity development requirements. Advocacy with DRD and DPH for increasing WASH human resource and institutional capacity at the township and district level will be a priority.
- **Promoting climate resilient and risk-informed WASH programming:** WASH infrastructure facilities are frequently disrupted by disasters, conflict, and other shocks in Myanmar. The negative effects of climate change and environmental degradation have further compounded these risks. For enhancing community resilience and building resilience sector systems, WASH programme will be designed based on multi-hazard risk analysis and risk-informed programming approach. UNICEF will work with government and other stakeholders to help communities to build local capacity for resilience planning and WASH facilities management.

UNICEF will also ensure that national and state/regional WASH plans reflect the needs and priorities with special attention to climate resilient WASH development. UNICEF Myanmar will work closely with Global Water Partnership initiative for strengthening climate resilient WASH programming.

- **Integrating humanitarian assistance with development programming:** For improving effectiveness of humanitarian responses and long-term sustainability WASH programme including community resilience capacity development, UNICEF will continue to advocate on greater integration of humanitarian to development programmes. UNICEF will continue to work with government and other stakeholders for strengthening holistic sector coordination mechanism at national and state/regional levels including transitioning from cluster approach to national coordination mechanism. UNICEF will also ensure that the state and regional WASH plans includes emergency preparedness and capacity development component.
- **Working with other sectors and outcome areas (nutrition, health and education) to achieve results for children:** Water, sanitation and hygiene activities will be integrated with other sectoral programmes such as education, nutrition and maternal child health activities during the project cycle in order to address determinants that are inextricably linked (e.g. diarrhoeal disease and hygienic infant and young child feeding practices). This includes communication for development (C4D), which plays a vital role in awareness creation and sustainable behavioural changes. WASH programme seeks to ensure that good health and hygiene practices are taught to both girls and boys as mandatory subjects in schools and that school sanitation facilities are designed as friendly for boys and girls and are separated, with girls' needs for menstrual hygiene management taken into account.
- **Determining programming context by state and region according to capacity (infrastructure functionality, government effectiveness and resource availability):** The national, state and regional context in Myanmar varies from emergency and fragile to low capacity. Some of the states such as Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin will most likely remain emergency and/or fragile situation, and therefore programming approach will be different than other states and regions. Some states and regions such as dry zone, Chin, Kayin, etc have low capacity and facing challenges due to insufficient fiscal resources and low functioning infrastructure facilities. While preparing state and regional WASH plans, UNICEF will support the government on context capacity situation mapping and analysis, and designing of appropriate programming approaches. UNICEF's direct delivery of services and supplies will be more intensive in emergency and fragile states and regions which will be gradually diminished as capacity increases. At the national level, UNICEF's involvement will be mainly in strengthening enabling environments as well as implementation of national level programme together with government and other partners.
- **Strengthening partnership and collaboration:** UNICEF will continue to maintain and strengthen partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MALI), Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) and Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the national and sub national government including stakeholders outside WASH sector such as nutrition, health and education. UNICEF will work with development partners at national, regional and global level including UN family, NGOs and academic institution for policy change, sanitation and hygiene campaign and safe water

promotion. For effective service delivery and technological innovation, UNICEF will work with private sector.

- **Knowledge management and evidence generation:** Advocacy is essential in all outputs, as the WASH sector suffers from lack of adequate policies, strategies and sector plans, and insufficient funding. It does not always receive the political support necessary to ensure adequate resource allocation. Knowledge management and evidence generation are therefore very relevant because the large number of sector partners coupled with weak coordination has led to a scattered and poorly documented knowledge base on WASH programming. Therefore, the programme will focus on building a quality and accessible knowledge base system and evidence generation that highlight disparities in coverage and access. UNICEF will support the national government for improving the existing the national WASH sector monitoring system that will also include collection of good quality data and their analysis and use.

UNICEF will advocate and support the national and sub national level governments to take the lead role in sector coordination through WASH sector working groups. UNICEF will work with four key ministries: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MALI), Ministry of Health and Sport (MOHS) and Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The key UN partners are WHO, UNHABITAT and UNDP. UNICEF will continue to work with national and international NGOs who have good presence in Myanmar and has mandate to work on contribution for achieving Myanmar's national targets on WASH.

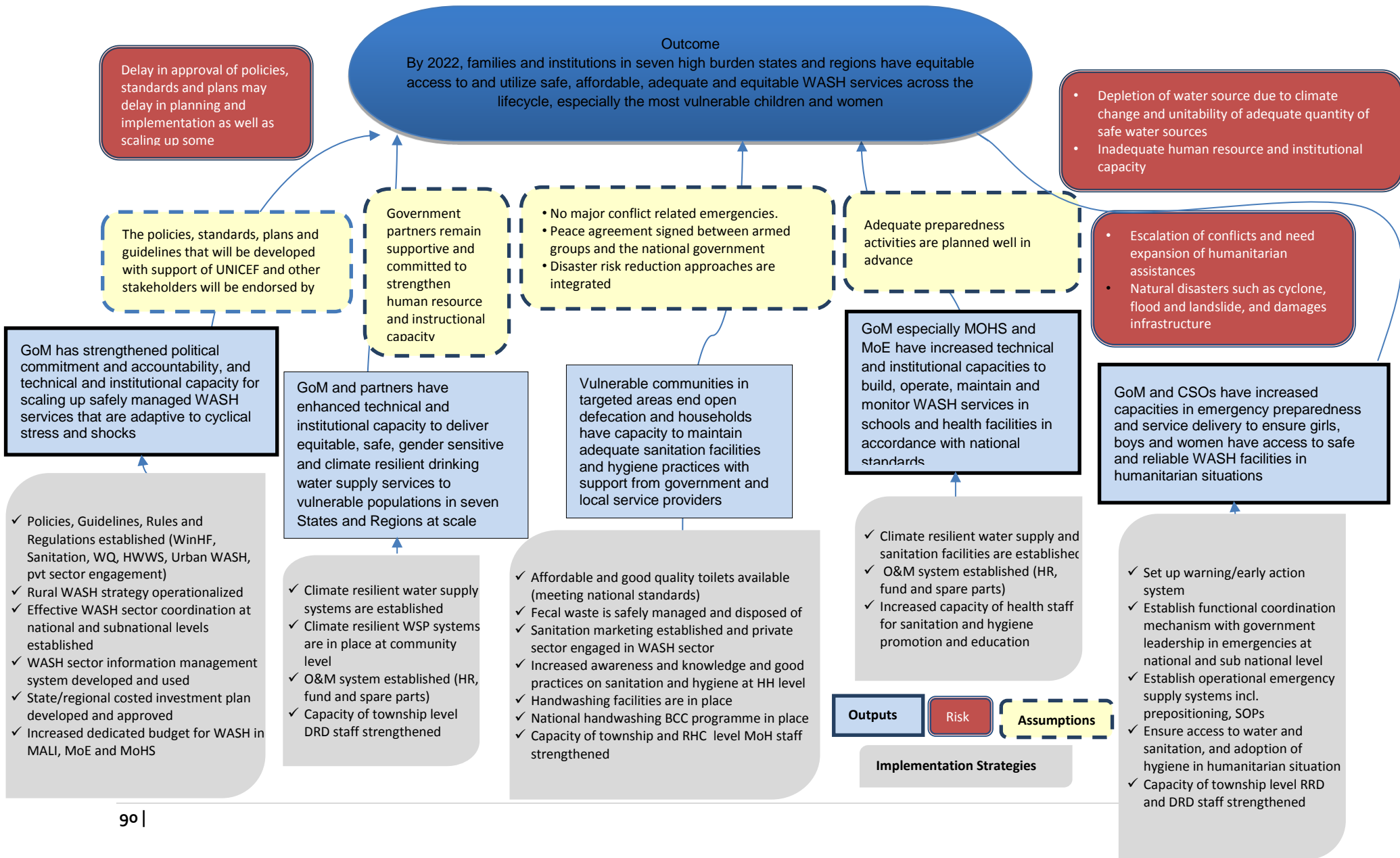
Geographical priorities and equity focus: The programme will focus on reduction of disparity by targeting most vulnerable states and regions including hard-to-reach areas where access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is limited. The programme will contribute to achieve the plan and targets set under the Myanmar National WASH Strategy and Investment Plan for 2016- 2030. The programme will prioritise five core states and regions (Rakhine, Ayeyarwaddy, Chin, Kachin and Shan) and three target areas (Magwe, Kayin and peri-urban areas of Yangon). UNICEF selected the target areas based on child deprivation index such as poor access to basic WASH services, under 5 mortality (U5MR), stunting, wasting, girls not in school (11-17), child employment (10-17), children exposed to conflict, etc.

2.4. Programme Results

Output 1: By 2022, GoM has strengthened political commitment and accountability, and technical and institutional capacity for scaling up safely managed WASH services that are adaptive to cyclical stress and shocks

Lack of adequate law, regulations, policies, guidelines and plans are the major bottlenecks in WASH sector. Sector coordination between ministries and development partners is weak and the sector is fragmented between different ministries. Information management system at national and sub national level are outdated and poorly connected. Myanmar has recently developed the National WASH Strategy and Investment plan (2016-2030), however detailed investment planning at state and regional levels is non-existent. Inappropriate social norms such as social acceptance of drinking water from unsafe source and open defecation and poor hygiene practices have also contributed to worsen the sector situation.

2.9. Theory of Change Diagram



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Note for the Record

Subject: **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

As part of the development of the [REDACTED] and in accordance with recommended practice, the UNICEF Country Office [REDACTED] has undertaken an initial screening of all proposed activities within each draft programme component to assess their potential impact on the environment.

The Country Office applied the recommended assessment methodology as described in the PPP Manual, Chapter 6, Section 3 (the Manual's 2011 version), namely Checklist 1 "Initial Screening". The completed checklist attached to this note reflects that the Country Office considers that the programme components contemplated in the draft Country Programme Document, submitted to the UNICEF [REDACTED], should have no impact on the environment.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 1 – Checklist 1 "*Initial Screening*"

[REDACTED]

Checklist 1- Initial Screening

Does the proposed programme or project contain activities that fall under one or more of the following categories? If the answer is **NO**, and EIA is not required, and the process is complete

- Extraction of water (e.g., groundwater, surface water, and rain water) NO
- Disposal of solid or liquid wastes (e.g., human faeces, animal wastes, used supplies from a health centre or health campaign) NO
- Use of chemical (e.g., pesticides, insecticides, paint and water disinfectant) NO
- Use of energy (e.g., coal, gas, oil, wood and hydro, solar or wind power) NO
- Exploitation of natural resources (e.g., trees, plants, minerals, rocks, soil) NO
- Construction work above household level (e.g., hospital or school) NO
- Changing land use (deforestation, forestation, and developing industrial housing or recreational centres) NO
- Agricultural production (e.g., growing crops, fish farming) NO
- Industrial production (e.g., small scale town/village workshops) NO

