

Good Practice Example:

# UNCT-SWAP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 5.1

## Virtual Toolkit Resource



### What?

Terms of Reference UN Gender Theme Group Myanmar  
(United Nations Myanmar n.d.)



### Why?

The TOR for the gender coordination mechanism in Myanmar provides background on the history of the GTG since 2008 to work with the Government and CSO to support gender equality in the country. The group objectives include specific reference to reporting and advocacy in line with UNCT-SWAP Scorecard recommended actions together with objectives that support UNSDG requirements for systemwide GEWE coordination in line with UNCT-SWAP Performance Indicator 5.1 Gender Coordination criteria b) as well as other Performance Indicators (e.g. 1.3 M&E, 2.1 Joint Programs, 3.1 Government Partnership, 3.2 CSO Partnership, 5.2 Gender Capacities).



## Performance Indicator 5.1 Gender Coordination

### Approaches Minimum Requirements

Meets **2** of the following:

- a. A coordination mechanism for gender equality is chaired by a HOA;
- b. The group has an approved TOR and annual work plan;
- c. Members include at least 50% senior staff (P4/NOC and above or equivalent);
- d. The group has made substantive input into the UNSDCF including the CCA, Cooperative Framework design, results framework and M&E.



## Performance Indicator 5.1 Gender Coordination

### Meets Minimum Requirements

Meets **3** of the following:

- a. A coordination mechanism for gender equality is chaired by a HOA;
- b. The group has an approved TOR and annual work plan;
- c. Members include at least 50% senior staff (P4/NOC and above or equivalent);
- d. The group has made substantive input into the UNSDCF including the CCA, Cooperative Framework design, results framework and M&E.

### Exceeds Minimum Requirements

Meets **all 4** of the following:

- a. A coordination mechanism for gender equality is chaired by a HOA;
- b. The group has an approved TOR and annual work plan;
- c. Members include at least 50% senior staff (P4/NOC and above or equivalent);
- d. The group has made substantive input into the UNSDCF including the CCA, Cooperative Framework design, results framework and M&E.



## **Terms of Reference for the UN Gender Theme Group in Myanmar**

### **I. Background**

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, particularly the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, has demonstrated commitment to address gender equality and women's empowerment in Myanmar. To this end, it has developed a ten-year National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) 2013-2022, that was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013. The Plan is in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979 and is based on the twelve areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, 1995. Four Technical Working Groups have been formed to operationalize the NSPAW under the Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW) led by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement: Women Peace and Security (WPS), Gender Mainstreaming, Participation, and Eliminating Violence Against Women (EVAW). Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is further integrated across the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030 with a vision "to build a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Myanmar", as well as the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). Following the "Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation" 2013, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and Development Partners (DPs), led a process that established 15 sector working groups aimed at strengthening development co-operation between the government and development partners. The Enhancement of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Non-Sector Coordination Group (GEWE SCG), is one of the 3 Non-SCGs and 10 SCG established to support the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, via a more holistic engagement between the government and development partners. The GEWE Non-SCG is chaired by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and supported by the co-lead development partners - UN Women for the multilaterals and the Embassy of Finland for the bilateral.

The UN Country Team in Myanmar is committed to promoting gender equality and women's rights in support of national priorities and commitments to the issue, guided by CEDAW, 1979, other related international and regional human rights standards, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995, the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820 and related, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls. The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022 in Myanmar has a strong emphasis on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across all areas of people, planet, prosperity and peace, in line with the overall focus on human rights and 'leaving no one behind'. UN agencies provide upstream policy advice and technical support on a range of gender equality and women's rights issues to the government, supported the generation of knowledge, advocate for policy change, strengthened capacities of national partners, broker multi stakeholder partnerships and supported programme implementation, including



interventions to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

For better co-ordination of this work, the UN Country Team (UNCT) established a United Nations Gender Theme Group (UN GTG) in 2008, which has been working with the government, civil society organizations and networks to support the advancement of gender equality agenda in Myanmar. Since 2010, the UN GTG has played an important role in supporting the development and implementation of the NSPAW (2013-2022) and has provided technical advisory, advocacy and knowledge management support to the UN system and its partners.

The latest UN General Assembly resolution 71/243 from the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) adopted in December 2016 reaffirmed that promoting gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of relevant UN conferences and resolutions of the General Assembly, is of fundamental importance and has a multiplier effect for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. The QCPR resolution furthermore calls upon all entities of the UN development system to continue to promote women's empowerment and gender equality by enhancing gender mainstreaming through the full implementation of the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women as well as the UNCT performance indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women (the "gender equality scorecard"), in particular with regard to gender-responsive performance management and strategic planning, the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, reporting and resource tracking, and drawing on available gender expertise in the system at all levels to assist in mainstreaming gender equality in the UN development assistance planning frameworks.

## **II. Mandate**

The UN GTG will function as the mechanism that works to ensure higher levels of coherence and co-ordination within the UN system based on mission, mandate, institutional expertise and comparative advantage of UN agencies, in support of national commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

## **III. Objectives of Gender Theme Group**

The UN GTG aims :

1. To convene the gender expertise within the UN system in Myanmar to improve coherence and co-ordination to deliver as one on a gender equality and women's empowerment agenda.
2. To develop and implement a work plan that supports the implementation of national development strategies and plans on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Myanmar, especially the NSPAW.
3. To serve as a technical advisory group to the UNCT on priority gender-related policy, programming, reporting and advocacy actions to be taken by the UNCT in line with SWAP Gender Equality Score Card recommendations.



4. To ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment issues are well embedded in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Myanmar UNDAF 2018-2021.
5. To ensure synergies and complementarity between UN programs on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls including through the promotion of joint programming/programmes.
6. To function as a knowledge hub on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls including by consolidating, mapping, disseminating and promoting knowledge and evidence by the UN and other partners in Myanmar.
7. To strengthen capacities of the UNCT, including GTG members, on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
8. To enhance coordination and partnerships with civil society, including Women's NGOs, academic institutions, their networks and their programs

#### **IV. Composition and Management of the UN Gender Theme Group and Leadership**

*Membership:* The Gender Theme Group will include all UN representatives from resident and non-resident agencies and focal points on gender, nominated by their respective UN agencies (resident and non-resident) and UN RCO, with alternatives participating in meetings when nominated members are unable to participate. Members should have the ability to take decisions or obtain prompt decision-making from senior management. The Gender Theme Group will implement its activities in partnership with government, civil society and other development co-operation partners. Partners will be invited on an as needed basis to discuss specific activities.

*Leadership:* The Gender Theme Group will be co-chaired by a UN organization (as of August 2018 UN Women), on a rotating annual basis, while a second UN agency will function as co-chair (currently UNFPA unless another UN agency self-nominates). The roles of chair and co-chair will be undertaken based on competence, commitment and time availability. The co-chairs of the UN GTG will be responsible for:

- Developing and following up on the implementation of an annual work plan in a participatory manner with members of the group
- Organizing regular meetings of the group
- Updating the UNCT, GEWE Non-SCG and the MNCW TWGs on the work of the UNGTG

*Secretariat:* UN Women will provide secretariat support to the co-chairs and UN GTG, including by providing support to the development and implementation of the workplan. The Secretariat will invite participants for meetings, provide logistics support, record and circulate minutes of meetings. The theme group shall also establish coordination with non-resident UN agencies.



## **V. Modalities of Work and Finances**

The UN Gender Theme Group will meet periodically twice a quarter, every six weeks, or as needed at ad-hoc basis. A meeting agenda will be drafted and circulated to all members a week before the meeting, for inputs and finalization.

The theme group will develop an annual costed work plan highlighting the anticipated outputs, activities, parties responsible for implementation and the time frame. GTG clusters will be formed to implement activities, with agencies volunteering to lead/co-lead cluster based on mission, mandate, institutional expertise and credible history of work.

These clusters will report to the Chair and co-Chair of the Gender Theme Group, who will in turn update to the UNCT, the GEWE Non-SCG and the MNCW TWGs on its work as required. The Gender Theme Group will implement its activities in partnership with government, civil society and other development co-operation partners. Partners will be invited on an as needed basis to discuss specific activities. As gender equality and women's rights are critical to the human rights framework, the UN GTG will synergize its work closely with the UN Human rights Theme group.

In addition to these reports, the GTG will produce a high quality, results-oriented annual report for the Resident Coordinator, that forms a critical part of the Resident Coordinator's annual report.

The financial resources required to cover the Gender Theme Group operations will be mobilized from donors and UN agencies.