

Guidance on Integrating Principles of GEWE, Human Rights and LNOB Approaches into the Common Country Analysis

Photo: UN Women

Background

The UNCT in Myanmar is in the process of developing its Common Country Analysis (CCA), a repository of data and analysis that will inform a range of UN processes, including the development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

The CCA is no longer a one-off exercise conducted every four years in connection to the development of a new UN program, but a core integrated analytical function carried out by the UN development system on an ongoing and inclusive basis about the situation in the country and the regional/cross border issues that shapes the context for sustainable development. The new CCA process places a strong focus on the 2030 Agenda and the interlinkages of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), international norms and standards on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), and the central transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind (LNOB) and to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population who are left furthest behind. Greater emphasis also lies on cross-pillar thinking in terms of integrating and linking elements across the Humanitarian-Peace-Development Nexus – with human rights and GEWE principles as cross cutting elements.

The establishment and maintenance of a UNCT Data and Analysis Repository that will provide source material for more frequent analytic products, and generate evidence and analysis is one of the core outputs of the CCA. This shall be responsive to understanding developmental priorities and needs, existing gaps and challenges in achieving them, while taking into account the groups left behind or at risk of being left behind and the root causes of these challenges.

Capacity Building of the UNCT

As part of the CCA process, an orientation session was provided to the UN SERF Research and Analysis Working Group (R&A WG) and the CCA drafting focal points under the overall leader-

ship of UN Women and OHCHR Asia-Pacific regional experts and the UNRCO Myanmar on 22 September 2020. The orientation was aimed to strengthen the UNCT's technical expertise and capacity in the application of the Guiding Principles of LNOB, Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), and GEWE, in the development of a CCA and delved into the application of HRBAs, gender mainstreaming strategies, and additionally the [UNSDG LNOB Operational Guide](#).

The orientation also increased the participants' understandings of the use and interpretation of gender statistics, including sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific data in the CCA, with the aim to enhance the Myanmar UNCT's capacity in ensuring the country Data and Analysis Repository is gender-responsive. The goal was to provide the group with guidance and recommendations for adaptations in UN programming that would enhance the UN's capacities to identify key human rights concerns, including gender-related challenges and their implications for Myanmar's development priorities, and progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, based on updated evidence and analysis of key development challenges and opportunities.

Outcome

This guidance note intends to provide key recommendations on the minimum standards for the application of an integrated approach of GEWE, HRBA, and LNOB principles in the CCA. It shall equip the UNCT's research, analysis and drafting focal points of the Myanmar CCA with practical guidance, ensuring cross-cutting gender-specific challenges and bottlenecks, human rights issues and LNOB-related vulnerabilities are meaningfully integrated in the development of the CCA, and its annual updating process.

Key Learnings and Recommendations

LNOB, HRBA and GEWE are interlinked guiding principles of the UNSDCF, which need to be mainstreamed across all sections of the CCA to ensure the analysis pursues a people-centered approach. Common elements of HRBA, LNOB, GEWE include the 1) need to align plans and programming with international norms and standards, 2) focus on addressing the root causes of inequalities and discrimination, 3) ensure active and meaningful participation of all, and 4) ensure integration of robust accountability mechanisms.

Recommendations

1. Guiding principles/alignment with international norms and standards

- Place GEWE, LNOB and HRBA at the heart of programming and mainstream them throughout the UNSDCF, as these are integral principles to realizing the [2030 Agenda](#) and all [SDGs](#).
- Ensure the HRBA cuts across vision, process and outcome of the UNSDCF. This means human rights standards and principles should guide the UNCT's work, which should contribute to enhancing the capacities of rights-holders and duty-bearers.
 - Identify human rights standards relevant to Myanmar ([UDHR](#), [9 core conventions](#) and [general comments](#)) and refer to relevant [human rights recommendations](#). The [Universal Human Rights Index](#) can be a helpful tool.
- Adopt a GEWE, HRBA and LNOB lens when drafting and reviewing all aspects and chapters in the CCA. Refer to the [UNSDG LNOB Operational Guide](#).

2. Focus on addressing the root causes of inequalities and discrimination

Look at deprivations (lacks) and disadvantages (limitations/

constraints) faced by various groups, populations and segments of the society across different life cycle stages. In doing so:

- Collect quantitative and qualitative data and disaggregate data beyond sex and age to cover all patterns of exclusion, including discrimination, geography, vulnerability to shock, governance and socio-economic status. Identify where data gaps exists.
- Avoid clustering people, including marginalized and vulnerable people as a homogenous group.
- Apply a HRBA in the collection, disaggregation and analysis of data. Refer to the guidance note [A HRBA to Data](#).
- Identify differences in rights, equality, empowerment, meaningful participation and capacity development and identify the underlying causes of deprivations, disadvantages and discriminations.
 - Conduct a **root cause analysis** to identify the root and underlying causes of development challenges and non-fulfillment of rights for all persons in the country, as well as to find out who is left behind to what degree, including **those furthest left behind**. In doing so, focus on getting to understand the *root causes, roles and patterns, and gaps in capacity* in relation to the issues at stake.
 - Who* has been left behind?
 - Why* are they left behind? Which rights are at stake?
 - Who* has to do something about it? Who are the rights-holders?
 - What* do they (the rights-holders and duty-bearers) need to take action? What type of capacity building is needed for them to be able to take action?
 - Look at current and emerging **risks** and how these impact people's well-being and enjoyment of rights, particularly those furthest behind.
 - Integrate **gender analysis** across *all* sectors of the

Key Learnings and Recommendations (cont.)

CCA including understanding of underlying root causes and ensure comprehensive availability of sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data. Ensure to include gender analysis also in those sections of the CCA that tend to be gender-blind such as governance, including budgeting and planning, economy, climate change and environment.

Gender analysis is a systematic methodology for examining the *differences in roles and norms* for women, men, girls and boys; the *different levels of power* they hold; their *differing needs, constraints, and opportunities*; and the *impact* of these differences in their lives.

- The [Jhipiego Gender Toolkit](#), a gender analysis framework, can help to define the type of information needed to be identified across different sectors to achieve a comprehensive picture of the situation of women and men, including the most disadvantaged groups, and to identify potential options and solutions to address inequalities. The toolkit focuses on mutually reinforcing the domain and roles of both women and men:

- 🏠 **Access to assets and resources** (land, capital, knowledge, information, education, household control, technology),
- 🗣️ **Beliefs and perceptions** (socio-cultural norms),
- 👤 **Roles, practices and participation** (as a result of norms that influence women and men's behavior),
- ⚖️ **Institutions, laws and policies** (differences in how women and men are represented in, participate in and benefit from policies, rules governing institutions and services),
- 💡 **Power dynamics** (power to acquire, expend assets and decisions).

3. Active and meaningful participation of all

- Multi-stakeholder engagement: ensure meaningful participation from **diverse stakeholders** throughout all stages of planning, programming, monitoring and reporting, including the CCA process, and that the feedback from stakeholder consultations is incorporated into the analysis.
- Apply active measures to engage groups left behind in ways that address their particular constraints or barriers to participate (e.g. language, location, security concerns, stigma, discrimination, lack of awareness/access to information) and ensure their views and contributions are taken into account.

Examples of such measures: consultations, use of community data, and participatory target-setting, planning and review processes.

4. Ensure Integration of robust accountability mechanisms

- Engage civil society in CCA development and review processes, including women's groups, minority communities, human rights defenders and other groups and associations that directly engage those left behind or at risk of being left behind, and strengthen their capacities to engage and be heard.
- Promote innovative and informal forms of accountability, including downward accountability mechanisms, such as participatory needs assessments, and focus group discussions and facilitate the information gathered into the CCA process.
- Create an enabling environment for threatened or discriminated groups to participate in the CCA process and ensure safe spaces where communities can be consulted.

Key Learnings in Gender Data

- Data is typically disaggregated by sex and not by gender, including the SDG indicators.
- Gender-disaggregated data is very rare and only a handful of countries have now started integrating other variables such as sexual orientation/identities in national censuses, in addition to sex (male/female).

*Example of **sex-disaggregated data**: proportion of urban dwellers, by sex → the collected data is disaggregated by whether the people living in urban households are male or female.*

*Example of **gender-disaggregated data**: number of people receiving HIV-treatment, by gender identity → the collected data is disaggregated by the people's personal sense of their own gender, which can differ from their biological sex.*

- While sex-disaggregated data are part of gender statistics, **gender statistics go beyond mere sex disaggregation** and are much broader. Gender statistics capture the particular realities of the lives of women and men. They comprise 3 groups:

- Sex-disaggregated data,
- Data pertaining specifically to women or to men,

Examples: maternal mortality rate; proportion of prostate cancer among men.

- Data that captures specific gender issues, even when non-explicit. Gender data looks at socially constructed issues and roles.

Example of gender data: women being disproportionately responsible for cooking.

Example of data that captures gender data in non-explicit ways: number of households that use clean cooking fuel → since women spend more time with domestic chores such as cooking and as a result, the air produced by unclean fuel affects women's health disproportionately, this data is perceived as gender-related data.

Key macro and micro gender data sources:

- Global macro gender data sources:
 - [UN Women data portal](#): 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍
 - [SDG database](#): 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍
 - [UN data](#): 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍 🏠 🌍
 - [Sendai Monitor](#): 🌍 🌍 🌍 🌍
- Micro gender data sources: [DHS STATcompiler](#), [IPUMS International and IPUMS Tabulator](#) (for census data)

Type of available data: humanitarian 🌍 socio-economic 🏠
peacebuilding 🌍 SDGs 🌍 politics 🏠



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