

**Draft Inception Report:  
Formative Evaluation of Community-Led Water  
Supply and Sanitation Interventions in Magway  
and Ayeyarwady Regions Myanmar**

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# 1 Introduction of Inception Report

This report serves as the inception document for the evaluation of community-led Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions in Myanmar, specifically focusing on the Magway and Ayeyarwady regions. Commissioned by UNICEF, this evaluation aims to assess the effectiveness of WASH initiatives implemented after 2021 and their role in fostering climate resilience and sustainable access to WASH services in these regions. The inception report is designed to outline a cohesive framework and direction for the evaluation, aligning with UNICEF’s objectives and incorporating established methodologies and ethical standards to ensure rigorous analysis and meaningful outcomes.

The purpose of this evaluation is to generate insights and lessons that will inform future WASH programming in Myanmar, contributing to strategic decisions that enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of services. Myanmar faces complex socio-political and climate-related challenges, which this evaluation will address by examining how community-led approaches have been applied to respond to local WASH needs and reinforced resilience amidst political instability and economic strain. The evaluation scope is limited to Magway and Ayeyarwady regions, covering WASH interventions conducted post-2021. This specific focus allows for a targeted examination of recent programming, while intervention since military takeover and emergency WASH efforts in other regions remain outside the scope.

The report is structured to provide a clear roadmap for the evaluation process. It begins with an introduction outlining the evaluation’s background, objectives, and contextual analysis of Myanmar’s socio-political landscape, economic situation, and national WASH strategies while emphasising how these intersect with the evaluation’s objectives. The report then details the evaluation’s purpose and objectives, methodology and mixed-methods approach, as well as the evaluation scope and potential limitations. Finally, a work plan is provided, setting out a timeline for key activities and deliverables.

## 1.1 Myanmar Profile

### 1.1.1 Geography of Myanmar

Myanmar, the second-largest country in Southeast Asia by area, is geographically bounded by the Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north, China, Laos, and Thailand to the east, the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal to the south, and the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh, and India to the west. Encompassing a total area of 676,578 square kilometres, Myanmar exhibits diverse landscapes—from fertile, tropical deltas in the south to the rugged Himalayan foothills in the north. The coastal region, often referred to as Lower Myanmar, contrasts with the interior, known as Upper Myanmar. With a 2,800-kilometer coastline, Myanmar’s strategic access to sea routes and deep-sea ports portrays its significance in regional trade, supported by rich natural resources such as arable land, forests, minerals, natural gas, and marine resources (UNDP, 2024).

Myanmar is one of the world’s most culturally diverse countries, hosting approximately 135 ethnic groups and an extensive array of cultural and religious traditions. As per Myanmar census 2014, the population of the country was 51.48 million and this is reported 54.45 million in the 2019 Intercensal survey of Myanmar. However, the current population estimates vary widely, ranging from 48 million to over 60 million (average 55 million), with a notable rural-urban divide (two-thirds of the population reside in rural areas, while urban concentrations are predominantly in Yangon and Mandalay). Nearly 1/4th of the population (24 percent) is below 14 years, and only 7 percent is estimated with age more than 65 years. National average fertility rate is 2.1 percent. Myanmar’s population density remains low relative to Southeast Asia, yet urban centres reflect significant density variations (Asian Development Bank, 2023).

Topographically, Myanmar is distinguished by a horseshoe-shaped mountain complex and the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River valley. Rising to 5,881 meters at Hkakabo Razi, the highest peak in Southeast Asia, the mountains mostly follow a north-south axis. The Arakan Yoma range forms a natural barrier with the Indian subcontinent, with peaks reaching over 2,740 meters. To the south, the Bilauktang range extends along the boundary with Thailand, while the Shan Plateau, originating in China, rises to an average height of 910 meters. Myanmar’s central lowlands, particularly the Ayeyarwady-Sittaung delta, cover approximately 46,620 square kilometres of fertile plains, marking the nation’s most agriculturally productive and economically vital area (World Bank, 2022). Administratively, Myanmar is divided into seven states, seven regions, and one union territory (Nay Pyi Taw). States—Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan—are predominantly upland

areas, primarily inhabited by ethnic minorities. Regions—Ayeyarwady, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing, Tanintharyi, and Yangon—lie mainly on the plains and are primarily populated by Bamar-majority communities (Myanmar Information Management Unit, 2024).

**Figure 1: Myanmar Map with Regions and Neighbouring Countries**



*Figure 1. Myanmar with labelled states. Townships are the next administrative level down.*

### 1.1.2 Socio-Economic Profile

Myanmar’s economic outlook for 2024-2025 is marred by numerous challenges rooted in domestic instability and broader global economic trends. The country’s growth has decelerated significantly since the 2021 military coup, which introduced severe political and economic disruptions. After achieving 4% GDP growth in 2022, Myanmar’s economy slowed to 2.8% in 2023, and projections suggest further deceleration to 0.8% in 2024. A modest rebound to 1.7% is anticipated for 2025; however, this remains well below pre-coup levels, indicating the lasting impact of instability on economic activity (ADB, 2024). Economic hardship has deepened, with over half of Myanmar’s population now living below the poverty line. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reports that nearly 49.7% of people subsist on less than USD 0.76 per day, and the proportion of households classified as “urban middle class” has halved since February 2021(UNDP, 2024).

Agriculture, a cornerstone of Myanmar's economy, has been hindered by conflict, disrupted supply chains, and adverse weather, impeding productivity. Industrial activities are also constrained due to the exodus of foreign firms, concerns over human rights violations, and unreliable energy supplies (ADB, 2024). Inflation poses another substantial challenge, with consumer purchasing power and poverty levels worsening. Following an inflation rate of 19.3 percent in 2022, a slight reduction to 16 percent was observed in 2023; however, inflation is spiking again reaching 20.7 percent in 2024, before expected easing to 15 percent in 2025. The primary drivers are currency depreciation, heightened import costs, trade restrictions, and supply chain issues, which have limited essential goods and inflated prices, further straining household budgets and domestic manufacturing (UNDP, 2024). The military's restrictive economic policies, particularly currency controls, have further impacted both imports and exports, causing the local currency to depreciate by over 16 percent in early 2024. Additionally, the military has lost control over key border areas, especially since late October 2023, leading to significant declines in customs revenues. Conflict, trade, and logistics disruptions, coupled with unreliable electricity, have constrained economic activity, while labour access issues and job shortages exacerbated (World Bank, 2024).

Myanmar has seen a stark reduction in foreign direct investment (FDI), largely due to political instability and concerns over human rights. Foreign firms have scaled back or exited, leading to job losses and a weakened industrial base. Trade restrictions have worsened the current account balance, with exports hampered by disrupted supply chains and limited access to global markets. The military's diminished control over key border areas has further reduced customs revenues, exacerbated currency depreciation and limiting foreign currency reserves (World Bank, 2023). According to the ADB (2024), Myanmar's economic recovery highly depends on political stabilisation and renewed investor confidence, requiring policy reforms that encourage liberalisation, improved governance, and infrastructure investments, particularly in energy and transportation. However, these efforts' effectiveness depends on the resolution of internal conflicts and Myanmar's re-engagement with the international community, which remains cautious due to ongoing governance and human rights issues. Myanmar's trajectory has been derailed by overlapping crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters such as Cyclone Mocha in May 2023, which displaced 1.2 million people. These events have collectively eroded much of the socio-economic progress made over the past decade. Economically, Myanmar has struggled to recover, with GDP estimated to grow less than 1% in the fiscal year ending March 2024—leaving the economy around 10 percent smaller than in 2019. The intensification of conflict since October 2023 has driven internal displacement, disrupted trade, and increased logistics costs, further hindering agriculture, manufacturing, and trade (ADB, 2024 & World Bank, 2023).

Investment in human capital, vital for long-term growth, has significantly declined. Public spending on health and education has fallen from 3.8 percent of GDP in 2020 to about 2 percent in 2023—far below regional averages, with Cambodia at 5.1 percent and Laos at 3.1 percent. This reduction has limited access to essential services, especially in conflict-affected areas, impacting the population's overall health and educational outcomes, which are critical for future economic resilience (UNDP, 2024). Food security remains an escalating crisis, driven by high food prices, reduced agricultural productivity, and widespread displacement. Nearly half of farming households reported food insecurity in 2023, up from 26 percent in 2022, with rising costs forcing households to cut back on nutritious foods. This threatens public health and productivity, compounding the financial strains on households (World Bank, 2023). Increased state control over the economy has discouraged FDI, stifling job creation and skills development. Additionally, the out-migration of skilled workers seeking stability abroad has resulted in a "brain drain," depriving Myanmar of essential talent (ADB, 2024). The country's current trajectory risks creating a "lost generation," with reduced human capital investment and economic opportunity, potentially leading to long-lasting productivity and income declines. Poor health and education outcomes among today's youth are likely to have intergenerational consequences, weakening Myanmar's resilience to future shocks (UNDP, 2024).

### **1.1.3 Humanitarian Situation**

The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar has escalated as the conflict drives mass displacement and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. Since October 2023, an estimated 1.8 million people have been forced to flee due to widespread violence, contributing to a surge in humanitarian needs across the country. As of June 2024, credible sources report at least 5,350 civilian deaths since the February 2021 coup, with 2,414 of these occurring in the recent reporting period. Many young people are seeking refuge abroad to avoid forced conscription, further highlighting the population's desperation (UNHCR, 2024). The conflict has spread across multiple regions, with devastating impacts on civilian lives. In Kachin State's south, intense fighting includes frequent airstrikes and artillery attacks. The northwest, particularly Chin State, has seen large-scale displacements; about 90 percent of

residents from Mindat fled to lowland areas in the Magway Region following increased military air assaults. In Rakhine State, at least 50 civilians were killed by airstrikes, artillery fire, and landmine explosions, with reports of arbitrary arrests and extortion intensifying the insecurity. Clashes in Maungdaw in early August 2024 forced 20,000 people to seek refuge along the coast, with artillery and drone attacks claiming an estimated 60 to 100 lives (UNHCR, 2024). Sagaing Region remains the most perilous area for civilians, highlighting the mounting security concerns faced by Myanmar's population (UNHCR, 2024; World Bank, 2024).

The conflict has also resulted in over 52,000 refugees crossing into Thailand since the coup, although no new official entries were reported in the recent period. In the west, border closures with India have led to severe shortages of food, fuel, and medicines. Heavy monsoons have exacerbated these challenges, caused widespread flooding, landslides, and infrastructure damage, and fuelling outbreaks of malaria, typhoid, and diarrhoea among displaced populations. Food, healthcare, basic medicines, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services remain urgent priorities for both local authorities and humanitarian organisations supporting displaced people in Mizoram and Manipur (UOCHA, 2024). Military-imposed restrictions on information access and the Internet are further isolating conflict-affected areas. Internet shutdowns in Rakhine, Sagaing, Magway, and southeast regions have limited access to critical protection-related information and online services essential for employment, education, and financial transactions. Media restrictions, coupled with the blocking of key online platforms, have severely curtailed the public's access to vital information (UNOCHA, 2024). Myanmar's humanitarian situation remains dire, with sustained and coordinated international assistance urgently needed to address the escalating crisis. Military-imposed limitations, compounded by socio-political and economic instability, continue to drive vulnerability, obstructing the delivery of life-saving aid and constraining recovery efforts (UNHCR, 2024; UNDP, 2024; World Bank, 2024).

#### 1.1.4 Climate Change

Myanmar is highly vulnerable to climate change, with significant exposure to natural disasters that are increasingly intensified by environmental degradation. The country ranks among the world's most affected nations by natural hazards, with disasters estimated to cost Myanmar up to 3 percent of its annual GDP<sup>1</sup>. Climate change exacerbates these vulnerabilities, leading to a greater frequency and severity of floods, storms, droughts, and landslides, which have devastating impacts on both rural and urban communities.

**Flooding** is Myanmar's most frequent natural hazard. Nearly 51 percent of flood related disasters between 1970 and 2015 had affected more than 100 people in each episode. With an estimated 28 million people living in flood-prone districts, particularly along the coasts, Ayeyarwady River, and Kayin State, the risk of flooding remains high. Intense rainfall, likely due to climate change, has made extreme flooding events more common over the past decade, which has repeatedly overwhelmed local infrastructure and resilience capabilities.

**Cyclones and Storms** also pose significant risks, particularly for coastal communities in Rakhine and Ayeyarwady States. Myanmar has experienced severe cyclones, including Cyclone Nargis in 2008, which killed around 140,000 people and displaced millions. Climate change is expected to increase ocean temperatures, which in turn could intensify cyclonic wind speeds and rainfall. Such events not only cause immediate destruction but also disrupt long-term livelihoods by damaging rice paddies and other critical agricultural areas.

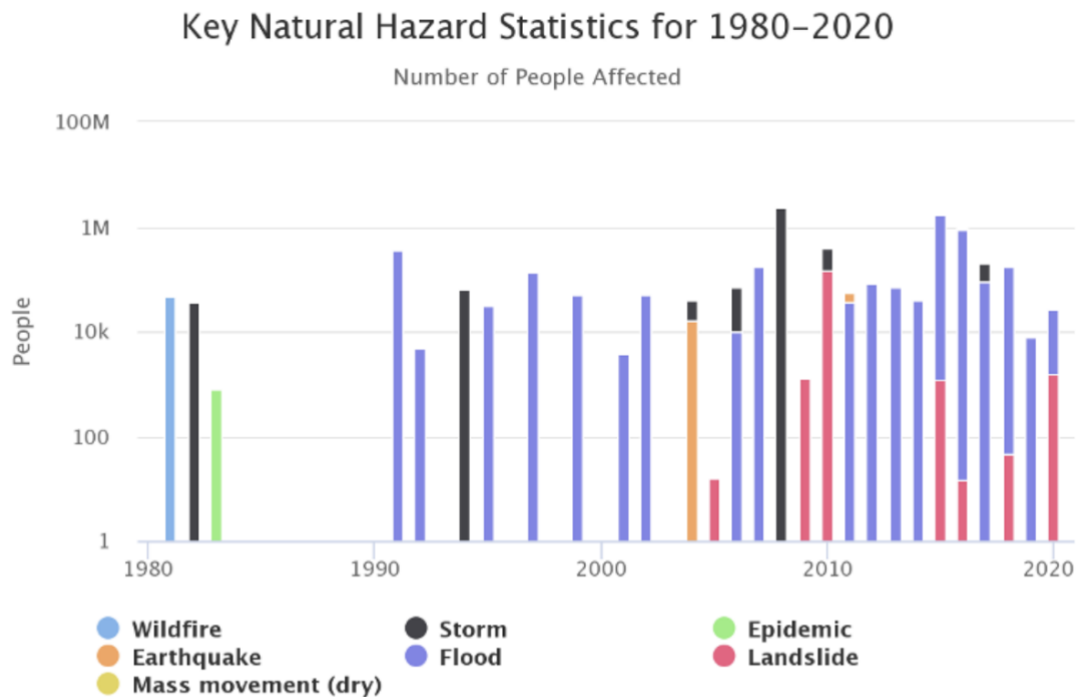
**Drought and Heatwaves** are increasingly likely to affect Myanmar, with the Central Dry Zone that includes Magway, Ayeyarwady Delta, and Northern Hilly Regions particularly at risk. Approximately 4.6 million people in the Central Dry Zone face heightened vulnerability to drought due to both climate variability and existing water scarcity. Severe drought impacts agriculture, water security, and food supply, posing serious challenges to rural livelihoods and the country's food security. **Landslides** primarily threaten Myanmar's mountainous regions, especially in Chin State and Sagaing Region. Around five million people live in high-risk landslide zones, which are exacerbated by deforestation and unsustainable land use practices. These landslides not only endanger lives but also disrupt transportation and access to essential services, particularly in remote and under-resourced areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Myanmar Information Management Unit. (2022, May). *Analytical brief on climate change impacts in Myanmar*. Retrieved from <https://www.themimu.info>

**Environmental degradation**, particularly **deforestation** and loss of **mangrove forests**, further increases Myanmar’s vulnerability to climate hazards. Mangroves, which provide critical protection from storm surges and saltwater intrusion, have declined rapidly due to shrimp farming, urban expansion, and logging activities. This degradation undermines natural coastal defences, leaving communities more exposed to rising sea levels and powerful storms. Researchers estimate that mangroves in Myanmar reduce storm surge impacts by approximately USD 165 million per year, underscoring the economic and protective value of these ecosystems.

**Figure 2: Natural Hazards Statistics 1980- 2020 MMIU Brief**



**Figure 8: Number of people affected by natural hazards by year from 1980 - 2020 in Myanmar. (Source: Climate Change Knowledge Portal)**

**Vulnerable Populations:** The impacts of these climate-related hazards are not evenly distributed. Densely populated coastal areas and districts with limited infrastructure investment, such as those in Rakhine, Ayeyarwady, and Yangon Regions, are highly vulnerable. The Ayeyarwady Delta, which produces about one-third of Myanmar’s rice, faces severe risks from sea-level rise and storm surges. In these regions, natural and human-induced vulnerabilities overlap, leaving millions at heightened risk of disaster impacts. The impacts of climate change in Myanmar, particularly in the Magway and Ayeyarwady regions, highlight an urgent need for robust and adaptive disaster risk management strategies. To mitigate these risks, Myanmar requires investments in natural ecosystem restoration, infrastructure improvements, and climate-resilient agricultural practices. Efforts to restore mangrove forests along the Ayeyarwady coast, for example, could provide essential storm protection while also enhancing biodiversity and fisheries. Strengthening early warning systems and data collection on climate impacts are equally important steps towards building community resilience. Without decisive action, the cumulative effects of climate change will continue to undermine Myanmar’s economic stability and worsen poverty, leaving millions vulnerable to future shocks.

### 1.1.5 Disability Profile

As of 2019, approximately 5.9 million people in Myanmar, representing 13 percent of the population, were reported to be living with disabilities with nearly equal numbers in urban (12 percent) and rural (13 percent) areas. This prevalence is expected to increase due to an ageing population, rising incidence of chronic illnesses, and limitations in healthcare infrastructure (UNDP, 2021). Disability prevalence is notably high in states such as Chin (21 percent) and Ayeyarwady (17 percent). Ayeyarwady also have the largest absolute number of individuals with disabilities—about 960,000 people or roughly one in six persons with a disability in Myanmar.

**Children with Disabilities** in Myanmar face significant barriers to accessing education. The lack of trained educators who can address diverse disabilities, combined with limited accessible facilities and societal stigma, results in low school attendance rates among disabled children. In 2019, approximately 600,000 school-age children stopped attending school due to illness, injury, or disability, and an estimated 200,000 individuals aged three and older had never attended school for the same reasons. Only 36 percent of children with disabilities aged five to nine are literate, highlighting the need for inclusive education policies and support (UNDP, 2021).

**Women with Disabilities** in Myanmar are slightly higher than males, with an estimated 3.5 million females with disabilities compared to 2.5 million males. This disparity becomes more pronounced with age, as older women are disproportionately affected by disabilities, partly due to their higher life expectancy. Women with disabilities face significant barriers to economic participation. In 2014, men with disabilities were about seven times more likely to be employed than women with disabilities, who are often excluded from the labour market due to cultural expectations around domestic responsibilities. Additionally, women with disabilities are less likely to receive external support, further compounding their economic and social marginalisation.

**Support for people with disabilities** remains limited in Myanmar. Only 7 percent of individuals with disabilities reported receiving any assistance from external sources in 2019, and just 0.4 percent of persons aged 60 and over received a disability allowance. Although the government has introduced frameworks such as the 2015 Law of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and signed international commitments, the current level of support is insufficient to meet the needs of this vulnerable population. Disability grants and inclusive social policies are crucial to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, especially women and children, who face unique barriers.

## 1.2 Access to WASH in Myanmar

Access to WASH services in Myanmar reveals substantial disparities across different regions, with pronounced gaps between urban and rural areas. The country faces distinct challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for WASH, particularly in providing “safely managed” water and sanitation services. According to SDG definitions, “safely managed” drinking water require sources that are improved while being accessible within premises, available whenever needed, and free from contamination. Similarly, safely managed sanitation includes improved sanitation facilities that are not shared and have on-site or-offsite treatment options before discharge into water bodies or reuse.

### 1.2.1 Access to Drinking Water

The 2019 Intercensal Survey highlights that 82% of Myanmar’s population uses drinking water from improved sources, but only 41 percent of households have access to “safely managed” water. Urban areas generally fare better, with 64 percent of households having access to safe drinking water, in contrast to only 33 percent in rural areas. Regions such as Ayeyarwady and Rakhine, which heavily rely on surface water, show particularly low levels of safe drinking water access, while urban centres like Yangon have higher rates. While the reliance on surface water is falling, arsenic contamination is a threat to certain drinking water sources in some areas of Myanmar. Arsenic, a naturally occurring geological element, can be a threat to human health when it leaches into drinking water sources; chronic exposure to high concentrations of arsenic is associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and neurological effects, particularly in children.

**Ayeyarwady Region:** As per the 2019 Intercensal survey, around 66 percent of households use improved water sources, but safe drinking water access remains limited, particularly in rural areas. Approximately 29 percent of households in **Ayeyarwady still rely on surface water for drinking**, which is highly vulnerable to contamination and presents significant health risks. The continued reliance on unprotected water sources elevates the risk of waterborne diseases, including cholera, dysentery, and diarrhoea. The Ayeyarwady region reduced its use of surface water by 15 percent from 2014 to 2019, yet it still faces challenges in establishing safe and sustainable water sources due to its low-lying, flood-prone landscape.

**Magway Region:** Water scarcity in Magway region is a key challenge due to its location in the Central Dry Zone, where **seasonal water availability** fluctuates significantly. While Magway has seen improvements in transitioning to improved water sources, droughts and prolonged dry seasons restrict year-round access to water. Unlike Ayeyarwady, the primary concern in Magway is not contamination but the sheer availability of

water, which affects both drinking water access and agricultural productivity. Smallholder farmers, who depend on rainfall, are particularly impacted, struggling to meet water needs during the dry season (UNDP, 2021)

### **1.2.2 Access to Sanitation**

The 2019 Intercensal Survey highlights that around 79.6 percent of households in Myanmar use improved sanitation facilities and 4.9 percent still practice open defecation. However as per JMP 2022, more than 78 percent of urban households have access to improved sanitation, while in rural areas, access to improved sanitation is 72 percent excluding the limited sanitation. Around 6.8 percent of households practice open defecation and 7.32 percent have un-improved sanitation with much higher rates in specific areas. Safe sanitation, as defined by SDG standards, requires that human waste be safely separated from human contact and effectively treated, which remains a challenge in many rural parts of Myanmar, where open defecation is still common. In terms of sanitation facility types, households in Myanmar use a range of latrines, from basic pit latrines without a slab or cover to flush toilets connected to a septic system or sewer. Improved latrines, which safely contain and dispose of human waste, are used by approximately 54 percent of households. However, in many rural areas, especially in Ayeyarwady and Magway, a large number of households still rely on unimproved latrines, including open pits or shared facilities, which do not meet safely managed sanitation standards.

Approximately 9.6 percent of households in rural areas of Myanmar practice open defecation. In Ayeyarwady, open defecation is prevalent, particularly in low-income, rural communities where infrastructure and financial constraints hinder access to improved sanitation. This poses severe health risks by increasing the likelihood of faecal contamination in nearby water sources, especially during flooding events. In Magway, open defecation is also present, though it is less prevalent than Ayeyarwady region. The dry climate in Magway reduces some health risks associated with waterborne contamination; however, open defecation still poses environmental and public health risks and highlights the need for improved sanitation infrastructure. The high prevalence of open defecation in Ayeyarwady, combined with a heavy reliance on surface water, creates a hazardous cycle of contamination that impacts community health. The 2019 survey indicates that areas with high surface water use and inadequate sanitation, such as Ayeyarwady, experience elevated incidences of diarrhoeal diseases and other health issues related to faecal contamination. In Magway, the limited availability of water further complicates sanitation improvements. Although the dry climate reduces some waterborne disease risks, the lack of safely managed sanitation facilities still contributes to environmental degradation and health risks. The use of unimproved latrines or open defecation pollutes soil and contributes to long-term contamination, which can affect community health and productivity.

### **1.2.3 WASH and Gender**

The provision and accessibility of water and sanitation services in Myanmar reveal substantial gender disparities, with a notable impact on women and girls, particularly in rural and vulnerable regions. In urban areas, improved water sources, such as piped and bottled water, have become more prevalent, whereas in rural regions, surface water remains a common source, posing heightened health risks due to contamination. Gender roles are a critical factor in water collection practices. In households without on-premises drinking water, women disproportionately bear the burden of water collection, especially in rural areas. Data from 2019 shows that in rural settings, females are solely responsible for water collection in 32% of households, compared to 23% for males. This gendered responsibility places an additional physical and time burden on women, limiting their capacity to engage in other productive activities. In urban areas, males are more frequently responsible for water collection, suggesting a variance in gender roles based on locality. Female-headed households reportedly access improved water sources slightly more than male-headed households (82% vs. 79%), with lower reliance on surface water. Nevertheless, the quality of bottled and piped water remains inconsistent across the country, and the safety of these sources is not assured without regular quality monitoring. In terms of sanitation, access to safely managed services remains limited, particularly in rural and poorer areas. Open defecation persists in several regions, exposing communities to significant health risks and further affecting women and girls who face additional privacy and safety concerns. The lack of gender-sensitive sanitation facilities, such as those catering for menstrual hygiene management (MHM), impacts women's and girls' ability to engage fully in education and other socio-economic activities. Without adequate facilities, girls are more likely to miss school, and women may face restrictions in public participation, perpetuating gender inequalities. Regional disparities are particularly evident in areas such as Rakhine and Ayeyarwady, where access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation services is notably low. Heavy reliance on surface water and inadequate infrastructure in these regions heightens vulnerability to climate change impacts, further exacerbating water scarcity and contamination issues. Women

and girls in these regions are disproportionately affected due to their roles in water collection and household water management, placing them at the forefront of coping with climate-induced water challenges.

### **1.2.4 Achieving SDGs**

The community-led water and sanitation initiative of Myanmar is closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 6, which focuses on clean water and sanitation, and it contributes to broader objectives related to health, gender equality, and climate action. By addressing fundamental needs for safe drinking water and improved sanitation in vulnerable communities, the programme directly supports the achievement of SDG 6. It emphasises equitable access to WASH services, highlighting the importance of safe and sustainable practices. The project aims to improve health and well-being (SDG 3) by reducing the prevalence of waterborne diseases, particularly in rural and underserved areas where reliance on surface water remains high. By enhancing access to safe water and promoting hygiene practices, the programme mitigates health risks, especially for women and children who are most affected by poor sanitation and unsafe water. These health improvements contribute not only to SDG 3 but also to broader social and economic resilience within these communities. Advancing gender equality and social inclusion (SDG 5) is another key objective. In rural Myanmar, women and girls often bear the responsibility for water collection, which can restrict their time for education and economic activities. This programme seeks to alleviate this burden by improving access to safe, local water sources. Additionally, it includes gender-sensitive sanitation facilities, such as menstrual hygiene management, to ensure the specific needs of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups are met. Increasing women's participation in water user committees and decision-making processes further supports gender equality and strengthens community resilience. The project also builds climate resilience (SDG 13) and promotes sustainable communities (SDG 11) by addressing the significant challenges climate change poses to water security in Myanmar. Many regions face heightened risks from floods and droughts, and this project promotes climate-resilient water infrastructure, ensuring that facilities can withstand extreme weather events. Through training and community engagement, the project fosters local capacity to adapt to climate impacts, making water resource management more sustainable. Finally, the project fosters partnerships and systemic change (SDG 17) by adopting a multi-stakeholder approach and collaborating with local governments, NGOs, and international partners like UNICEF. By building partnerships across various levels, the project seeks to embed sustainable WASH practices within national and local systems. Capacity building and real-time monitoring systems are used to track progress, ensure accountability, and adapt strategies to evolving community needs.

### **1.2.5 Universal Instruments of Human Rights**

The community-led WASH project in Myanmar provides special emphasis on rights, in light of the country's complex socio-political context, marked by ongoing conflict and human rights challenges. In an environment where access to essential services is compromised for many, particularly in conflict-affected and rural areas, the project aligns closely with universal human rights instruments that recognise the rights to water, sanitation, and a dignified life. Despite these challenges, the project strives to uphold the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which affirms the right to an adequate standard of living, including safe water and sanitation, as essential to human dignity. By prioritising access to clean and sustainable water sources, the project addresses pressing health risks linked to contaminated water and inadequate sanitation—issues exacerbated by the instability and limited infrastructure in certain areas of Myanmar. Gender equality and non-discrimination are foundational to the programme, reflecting the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In Myanmar, the responsibility of water collection disproportionately falls on women and girls, often restricting their opportunities for education, economic engagement, and social participation. The project seeks to ease this burden by providing closer access to safe water and integrating gender-sensitive facilities, such as menstrual hygiene management. This approach not only upholds the right to water but also advances gender equality in a challenging socio-political landscape, empowering women by involving them in water management decisions and enhancing their agency in their communities. Aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the project recognises children's right to a healthy and safe environment. In Myanmar's rural and conflict-affected areas, inadequate WASH services place children at significant health risks and hinder their educational prospects due to waterborne diseases and poor hygiene conditions. By prioritising the needs of children and other vulnerable populations, the project ensures that clean water and adequate sanitation are accessible to all, supporting children's health, growth, and educational opportunities, even in challenging conditions. Furthermore, the programme integrates climate resilience, which aligns with the emerging recognition of the right to a healthy environment. Myanmar is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including water scarcity and increased risk of extreme

weather events, which exacerbate existing infrastructural challenges. By promoting climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, the project enables communities to adapt to climate pressures, reinforcing their right to a safe and sustainable environment even amidst conflict and instability.

### **1.2.6 WASH Related Policies and Plans**

Myanmar's National WASH Strategy and Investment Plan (2016-2030) provides a detailed roadmap for achieving universal WASH coverage by 2030, with climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) as key components. The plan highlights investment in resilient infrastructure, including solar-powered water systems and decentralised wastewater treatment facilities designed to withstand extreme weather events. Notably, the Investment Plan allocates specific funding to support climate-adaptive WASH infrastructure in rural and underserved areas. The Investment Plan further calls for coordinated efforts across multiple government departments and development partners to secure sufficient financing for climate-adaptive WASH services. By setting clear investment targets and priorities, the plan seeks to establish a sustainable financing model that ensures long-term service provision, especially in schools and health facilities, where the impacts of climate change can critically disrupt access to safe water and sanitation. UNICEF's global strategy on WASH calls the urgency of integrating climate resilience into WASH programs to protect vulnerable populations. UNICEF advocates for a comprehensive, risk-informed approach to programming that addresses the growing frequency of climate-related disasters and their disproportionate impact on children and marginalised groups. Key objectives include safeguarding water resources, building sustainable infrastructure in schools and healthcare facilities, and engaging with local communities to foster ownership and resilience. UNICEF also emphasises the need to adapt WASH interventions to different contexts, prioritising measures such as drought-resistant water systems and flood-resilient sanitation facilities. This strategy aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming for universal and equitable WASH access by 2030, while addressing the climate-related vulnerabilities of women, girls, and disabled individuals in affected regions.

The integration of climate change adaptation in WASH policies, as highlighted in both UNICEF's strategy and Myanmar's National Investment Plan, represents a proactive approach to safeguarding water and sanitation services against climate-related threats. By aligning WASH investment priorities with climate resilience objectives, these policies not only enhance infrastructure durability but also promote sustainable development. Continued research and investment in climate-adaptive WASH systems are essential to achieving universal access to safe water and sanitation by 2030, particularly in the context of rising climate vulnerabilities globally. The UNICEF Myanmar 2020 Annual WASH Report highlights significant advancements in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services across Myanmar, focusing on enhancing community resilience and addressing disparities in access. In spite of challenges like COVID-19 restrictions and the complex political landscape, UNICEF's WASH program reached over 231,000 people with safe water access and supported 317 schools with WASH facilities, prioritising climate-resilient, solar-powered systems during 2020. Additionally, initiatives like Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) have been instrumental in declaring communities open-defecation-free, thereby improving public health outcomes. The report emphasises capacity building through technical training and real-time data monitoring, including the integration of WASH data into Myanmar's national indicators framework. Despite notable progress, gaps in sector financing and the need for innovative service delivery approaches in humanitarian settings persist, underscoring priorities for climate-resilient WASH systems and durable support for vulnerable populations moving forward.

## **1.3 Object of the Evaluation**

Myanmar faces significant climate-related risks, such as floods and droughts, alongside socio-political instability, which often disrupt WASH programme implementation. This formative evaluation is timely, and essential to assess whether WASH interventions integrate climate resilience, inclusivity, and equity, particularly for vulnerable groups, while fostering sustainability and community ownership. By addressing emerging risks, service delivery gaps, and evolving community needs, the evaluation ensures the programme remains adaptive and relevant. The findings will guide evidence-based adjustments, improve resource utilisation, and enable scalability while fostering collaboration with key sectors, including the private sector. Insights from the evaluation will support scaling up strategies for climate-induced disaster-prone and fragile areas, maximising impact and sustainability. Ultimately, it establishes a foundation for equitable, resilient, and community-led WASH services aligned with local development need.

The object of this evaluation is UNICEF’s strategic implementation of community-based and climate-resilient WASH interventions in the Magway and Ayeyarwady regions of Myanmar, initiated in response to the socio-political disruptions since February 2021. This intervention framework, focused on equitable access to safe and sustainable WASH services, is designed to empower communities in managing their own water and sanitation facilities and ensuring resilience against climate variability and other external challenges. These WASH interventions address the following core areas:

1. **Water Supply Interventions:** The water supply component of the programme includes the establishment of community-managed systems that are engineered to be both climate-resilient and sustainable. Utilising gravity-fed pipe networks, solar-powered water systems, and robust infrastructure (including uPVC piping), the project seeks to meet the water needs of vulnerable populations, ensuring that systems remain functional across seasons and during environmental stresses. These installations serve approximately 28,755 people (as per ToRs) and are maintained by water user committees, formed within communities to oversee service delivery, collect tariffs, and conduct minor repairs, ensuring the programme's self-sufficiency.
2. **Sanitation and Hygiene Interventions:** The sanitation segment of the programme targets open defecation and fosters demand for climate-smart sanitation facilities, focusing on both equitable service provision and sustainable usage practices. Since inception, this component has provided 43,786 people across multiple townships access to basic, climate-resilient sanitation services. Furthermore, community-wide hygiene promotion has been reinforced through a handwashing behaviour change initiative, reaching 499,024 individuals through community volunteers who deliver standardised hygiene messages. Notably, 190 communities have been certified as open defecation-free, benefiting an additional 116,195 individuals by enhancing sanitation standards.
3. **Community Engagement and Ownership:** Central to the project’s success is the community engagement model, which encourages local participation at every stage – from planning and financial contribution to implementation and ongoing maintenance. Communities contribute towards capital investment (e.g., overhead water storage tanks and pipe installation), while local water user committees take full responsibility for the daily management and upkeep of these facilities. Additionally, young professionals within the community are trained to support these climate-resilient systems, ensuring that the programme builds local capacity and promotes a high level of community ownership. Local volunteers are provided to CLTS and WASH IPC trainings. In sanitation programs, UNICEF supports the infrastructure of the toilet. The toilet superstructure and transportation cost has been paid by beneficiary households. Local mason and sanitation entrepreneurs are trained for building CR toilet infrastructures.

The evaluation will focus on assessing the programme’s relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, and coherence, particularly in relation to UNICEF’s goals for climate resilience and community empowerment. By examining the alignment of the programme with the identified needs of the target populations, as well as its responsiveness to changing socio-political and environmental conditions, this evaluation aims to inform evidence-based decision-making, guide future programme expansion, and enhance the humanitarian-development nexus, especially in preparing for emergency WASH response within Myanmar’s dry and delta regions

### 1.3.1 Theory of Change/Logical Framework

UNICEF implemented Accelerated Sanitation and Water for All (ASWA-II) from 2018 to 2022, and some part of this programme is being covered under this evaluation especially initiatives taken from February 2021 onwards till 2022. A logical framework of the ASWA-II provided a good basis for the theory of change. Similarly, UNICEF Myanmar Programme Strategy Note 2018-2022 has a theory of change for the WASH programme of UNICEF. This has been further supplemented with UNICEF Annual Work Plans from 2021 to 2024 that has a strong focus on climate-resilient WASH services and sustainability of sanitation, drinking water and hygiene behaviours. By reviewing these documents, a revised version of the theory of change for this evaluation has been developed that covers ASWA-II as well as the WASH programme strategy component of UNICEF Myanmar. On the next page, the constructed theory of change for this evaluation has been described, and this will be used as a key instrument of the evaluation to understand the logical connection between different strategic actions.

**Long term Vision:**

Improved health, hygiene, and climate resilience for vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, through equitable, sustainable, and community led WASH services.

**Intermediate Outcomes**

**2.1 Equitable Access to WASH Services:** Vulnerable populations, including women, children, and people with disabilities, have sustained access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services that meet their specific needs.

**2.2 Enhanced Climate Resilience:** WASH facilities and services are designed and maintained to adapt to and withstand climate risks (e.g., droughts, floods) while ensuring reliable service delivery during climate events.

**2.3 Strengthened Community Ownership and Capacity:** Communities are empowered to plan, manage, and maintain WASH systems, with inclusive participation from all groups, including women, youth, and people with disabilities.

**2.4 Institutional Strengthening:** Government agencies and stakeholders have the capacity to implement, monitor, and sustain inclusive and climate-resilient WASH programmes effectively.

**Key Outputs**

**3.1 Infrastructure Development:** Construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities that are climate-resilient and gender-sensitive, including flood-resistant systems and gender-segregated facilities in schools.

**3.2 Community Engagement and Behaviour Change:** Establishment of water user committees, implementation of hygiene promotion campaigns, and certification of communities as Open Defecation Free (ODF).

**3.3 Capacity Building:** Training for local communities, youth, and stakeholders on managing and maintaining WASH facilities, including tools for real-time monitoring and risk management.

**3.4 Policy Advocacy and Coordination:** Strengthened collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and private sector actors, and advocacy for policies that integrate climate resilience and gender equality into WASH initiatives.

**Activities**

**4.1 Community-Centred Planning:** Conduct consultations to ensure WASH facilities are tailored to local needs, particularly for vulnerable groups.

**4.2 Development of Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:** Construct flood-resistant sanitation systems and develop sustainable water sources (e.g., rainwater harvesting and solar-powered pumps).

**4.3 Hygiene Promotion Campaigns:** Implement campaigns to promote handwashing and menstrual hygiene management, targeting behavioural change.

**4.4 Capacity Development for Stakeholders:** Provide training to local authorities, water user committees, and youth on the operation and maintenance of WASH systems.

**4.5 Strengthening Partnerships:** Facilitate collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and NGOs to mobilise resources and enhance technical support.

**4.6 Monitoring and Evaluation Tools:** Develop and deploy real-time monitoring systems for tracking the usage, functionality, and sustainability of WASH facilities.

**5. Assumptions:**

5.1 Communities are willing and capable of participating in the planning and management of WASH systems.

1.4 Financial and technical resources will be mobilised and made available for sustained implementation.

2.4 Coordination among stakeholders (government, NGOs, private sector) will remain effective despite socio-political challenges.

3.4 Climate risks will be adequately mitigated to protect WASH infrastructure and services.

**6. Risks and Mitigation:**

1.3 **Financial Constraints:** Insufficient or delayed funding. Mobilise additional resources through partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms.

2.3 **Socio-Political Instability:** Community and government engagement may be disrupted. Build adaptive mechanisms for programme continuity in unstable contexts, such as remote monitoring and decentralised decision-making.

3.3 **Environmental Challenges:** Severe climate events (e.g., floods, droughts) may damage facilities. Integrate advanced climate-resilient designs and contingency plans to ensure rapid recovery and service continuity during climate shocks.

### 1.3.2 Project Areas

The Myanmar Community-led Climate Resilient WASH programme primarily targets two regions: **Magway** and **Ayeyarwady**. These areas are particularly vulnerable to climate-related impacts such as droughts, flooding, and inadequate access to water and sanitation. In Magway, the project focuses on rural communities in Chauk, Ngape, Pwintphyu, and Salin townships, where access to safe drinking water is limited, and sanitation services remain insufficient. In Ayeyarwady, the programme is implemented in Bogale Township, addressing water scarcity and improving climate-resilient sanitation facilities to support community health and well-being.

### 1.3.3 Key Partners

This project is implemented in collaboration with several key partners:

**UNICEF:** Provides technical guidance, capacity building, and oversight.

**Local NGO/CSOs like Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA):** Supports the delivery of gender-sensitive and climate-resilient WASH services in targeted communities, focusing on Magway and Ayeyarwady.

**Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Water User Committees, Volunteers, etc:** Work directly with communities to mobilise local resources, promote hygiene practices, and support the maintenance of water and sanitation systems.

**Local Governments:** Collaborate on policy support, localised monitoring, and emergency preparedness to sustain WASH interventions amidst Myanmar's socio-political challenges.

**Private Sector Partners:** Engage with local entrepreneurs and suppliers for sanitation products, maintenance services, and climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in collaboration with local sanitation businesses.

### 1.3.4 Project Beneficiaries

Overall, 30 water supply schemes have been implemented in 200 communities/villages benefitting nearly 158,293 individuals (83,700 females) and 33,448 households from 2021. The Specific interventions under this programme in Magway and Ayeyarwady regions, where evaluation taking place, from 2021 onwards benefitted to 6,658 households and 28,840 individuals (15,094 females) in 48 villages. From 2021-2024, 515,886 population has been triggered under community led total sanitation in 846 villages/communities. As a result, making 462 communities/villages open defecation free with overall 51,270 households and 215,693 population in these villages. Nearly 40,340 households (171,565 individuals) have access to at least basic sanitation, and 12,350 households benefitted from climate resilient sanitation. Another 47,825 population has access to basic hygiene and 89,272 have been reached with hand washing messages. The programme incorporates climate-resilient designs, such as **solar-powered water systems** and **infiltration galleries**, to ensure sustainability even in extreme weather. Community contributions are encouraged to sustain operations, with water user committees overseeing maintenance and tariff systems to cover ongoing costs. This community-led model fosters local ownership and resilience, making the programme more adaptable to Myanmar's changing environmental and socio-political landscape.

## 1.4 Purpose, Objectives and Scope

### 1.4.1 Evaluation Purpose

This formative evaluation is designed for a systematic assessment of the programme implementation, outcomes, and sustainability of UNICEF's community-led, climate-resilient WASH interventions in Myanmar's Magway and Ayeyarwady regions. Launched in the socio-political turmoil following the events of February 2021, these interventions aim to provide safe water access, promote sustainable sanitation practices, and enhance community ownership and resilience, especially in areas highly vulnerable to climate impacts. The evaluation seeks to determine the programme's effectiveness, relevance, sustainability, and coherence with UNICEF's goals, offering valuable insights for strengthening climate-resilient WASH programming in Myanmar and potentially in similar contexts globally.

By generating evidence and identifying best practices, the evaluation will serve as a critical reference for UNICEF and its partners, informing future WASH strategies, refining emergency preparedness, and enhancing adaptive capacity in community-led interventions. Special attention will be given to gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches that meet the unique needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. The findings will guide UNICEF's strategic planning and decision-making, particularly in addressing the challenges associated with climate change, political instability, and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Employing a 'utilisation-focused' approach, the evaluation is tailored to cater to the specific needs of primary and secondary stakeholders. The possible uses of the evaluation for each category are also described based on evaluators/consultants' comprehension of the ToRs.

Name of Stakeholders	Intended Use
UNICEF Myanmar	Utilise findings to inform decisions on scale-up, replication, and adaptation of WASH interventions in Myanmar and also use insights to enhance WASH programming, optimising efficiency and sustainability in high-risk regions. Strengthen UNICEF's advocacy for climate-resilient WASH policies in Myanmar, supported by data-driven insights and leverage findings for funding proposals to secure additional resources, demonstrating programme impact and community needs.
UNICEF Regional and Global Offices	Apply findings to enhance regional/global best practices in WASH. Integrate insights into regional WASH strategies and UNICEF's global humanitarian response frameworks for climate resilience.
Magway and Ayeyarwady Regional Authorities	Utilise evaluation insights to inform policy and improve local WASH and climate-resilient practices. Align efforts with regional development objectives, enhancing climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable service delivery.
Local Communities (women, children, vulnerable groups)	Strengthen community ownership and resilience through improved WASH services. Encourage adoption of best practices in sanitation, hygiene, and water use, fostering safer and healthier communities.
Local Private Contractors and Entities (water and sanitation system construction, maintenance, etc.)	Use evaluation feedback to improve construction quality, adopt resilient designs, and understand community infrastructure needs, ensuring sustainable and high-quality WASH facilities. Identify business opportunities to support sustainable WASH services, promote investment in resilient infrastructure, and explore models for local economic empowerment, particularly in the provision and maintenance of sanitation facilities.
NGOs involved in Behavioural Change (e.g., Myanmar Health Assistant Association,)	Apply evaluation insights to refine community engagement and behavioural change strategies, enhancing the long-term adoption of safe sanitation and hygiene practices.

## 1.4.2 Evaluation Objectives

**Assess Programme Relevance and Responsiveness:** Examine the extent to which the WASH interventions meet the specific needs of communities in Magway and Ayeyarwady, focusing on climate resilience, gender inclusion, and responsiveness to local socio-political and environmental challenges.

**Evaluate Programme Effectiveness:** Assesses the programme's success in achieving its goals, specifically in improving water, sanitation, and hygiene, reducing open defecation, and enhancing community resilience to climate hazards.

**Examine Sustainability and Capacity Building:** Evaluate the programme's long-term sustainability by examining the community ownership, resilience, and local capacity built through the interventions, ensuring continued WASH service delivery beyond the programme's duration.

**Analyse Resource Use and Efficiency:** Review the programme's resource allocation and cost-effectiveness, assessing whether financial, human, and material resources were optimally used to maximise impact in the target regions.

**Identify Lessons Learned and Best Practices:** Capture key insights from the implementation, documenting successful approaches and best practices that can be replicated or scaled in similar contexts.

**Support Evidence-Based Advocacy and Scale-Up:** Generate evidence to support advocacy for scaling up WASH interventions, providing data to inform policies that integrate WASH with climate adaptation and emergency preparedness.

**Strengthen Integration with the Humanitarian-Development Nexus:** Assess the programme's alignment with both humanitarian and development goals, examining how it builds resilient community structures to withstand socio-political and environmental challenges.

### 1.4.3 Evaluation Scope

**Thematic / Programmatic Scope:** The evaluation will focus on assessing UNICEF’s WASH interventions in Magway and Ayeyarwady, with emphasis on community-led and climate-resilient approaches in water, sanitation, and hygiene, including climate adaptation and emergency preparedness.

**Geographic Scope:** This evaluation covers the Magway and Ayeyarwady regions, chosen for their climate vulnerability and socio-political challenges, to provide insights applicable to similar contexts across Myanmar.

**Temporal Scope:** The evaluation will examine interventions implemented from 2021 onwards till October 2024, providing insights into both immediate and longer-term effects and sustainability of the WASH programme.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Guided by OECD/DAC criteria—Relevance, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Coherence—the evaluation will assess the programme’s operational and strategic dimensions.

**Climate Change Integration:** The evaluation will examine the integration of climate resilience into WASH programming, assessing adaptation strategies and community resilience to climate impacts.

**Gender and Human Rights Integration:** The evaluation will assess how gender and human rights considerations are embedded in the programme, ensuring equitable access and responsiveness to the needs of women, children, and marginalised groups.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Evaluation Questions

Evaluation Criterion	Evaluation Questions	Feedback and Comments by the Consultants on Questions
<b>Relevance</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is the programme relevant to the identified needs of target populations and their families? Are the programme and interventions customised enough to address the needs of the target population by age, gender, and other factors?</li> <li>Were relevant partners involved in the programme design and implementation, including target population, and their families? To what extent are community perceptions monitored and included in programme design, including through feedback and complaint mechanisms (under Accountability to Affected Populations)?</li> <li>Is the project responsive to changing needs and circumstances, including climate change? Was it adjusted through the course of its implementation, including through adoption of climate-resilient approaches?</li> <li>To what extent has emergency preparedness been built into the design of the programme, in order to enhance community resilience? How do existing programmes contribute to emergency preparedness in the target communities?</li> </ol>	<p>Add a focus on the quality of partnerships, transparency in decision-making, and the level of community influence.</p> <p>Specify “how” feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, complaints systems) were used to influence programme adjustments.</p> <p>Clarity required by specifying the types of adjustments made (e.g., redesign of infrastructure, policy alignment).</p> <p>Explicitly add examples such as “disaster risk reduction measures or contingency planning” to clarify scope.</p>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent have the WASH programme objectives been achieved, particularly regarding improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene practices, and enhanced climate resilience?</li> <li>What are the main barriers affecting access to WASH services for the target populations? Are there specific solutions or adjustments that could overcome these challenges?</li> </ol>	<p>Reflection includes external challenges and their impact on programme implementation</p>

	7. From the community perspective, what are the perceived benefits and challenges associated with the programme, and how have these influenced outcomes?	A strong qualitative question. Consider splitting it into two: one focusing on benefits and the other on challenges to ensure depth in responses.
<b>Sustainability</b>	8. To what extent has the programme built the capacity of local communities and other stakeholders to maintain WASH services sustainably, especially under climate-resilient frameworks? Are there any specific capacity gaps that need to be addressed and/or strengthened to further support community resilience? 9. Are there adequate mechanisms, including funding, community engagement, and private-sector involvement, to support the long-term sustainability of the interventions? 10. How effective have demand-generation activities been in fostering continued support and commitment for WASH services in target communities? Is there sufficient private sector engagement to support future sustainability	Skills training, resource availability, or institutional support” as examples of capacity-building aspects to explore.  Clarity required on mechanisms: financial, operational, or governance”- which one we need to explore.  This would be presented as “examples of successful or unsuccessful demand-generation efforts” and also examples around community campaigns, etc.
<b>Coherence</b>	11. To what extent are there synergies and interlinkages between the programme and other interventions carried out by partners? o Do coordination mechanisms between key stakeholders exist, and if so, to what extent are they well designed, clear and active? Are there differences in coordination at national or sub-national levels? o To what extent have partners’ and stakeholders’ perspectives been monitored and included into programme prioritisation and adjustments?	Examples of synergies and interdependencies between WASH and other sectors, such as health and education or only within WASH.  This would be more of stakeholders’ perception about coordination mechanisms rather their voices in need assessment and adjustments.
<b>Cross-Cutting Themes: Climate Change, Gender, and Human Rights</b>	12. Are there any difficulties in accessing water supply and sanitation services for women or persons with disabilities? Are there any special barriers or concerns from a gender or disability perspective? 13. What are the main concerns and/or barriers linked to the assessment of different age groups, particularly young children and the elderly? 14. How well does the programme promote equitable access and uphold human rights principles, ensuring inclusion and responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable groups?	Add how these were addressed  For young and elderly, it is important to know how they were involved in designing and implementation of WASH.  Rephrasing this as “what specific actions taken to promote equity and inclusion?”

## 2.2 Evaluation Approaches

The evaluation will adopt a participatory and contributory analysis framework, combining qualitative methods to assess the relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, and climate resilience of the WASH programme in the Magway and Ayeyarwady regions. This approach prioritises stakeholder engagement, ensuring that community members, local authorities, NGOs, and private sector partners contribute to shaping the findings and recommendations. The data collection process will include: **Literature Review** (analysing programme reports and relevant policies); **FGDs and KIIs** (capturing the lived experiences, perspectives, and insights of stakeholders); **Field Observations** (assessing infrastructure resilience and community engagement); and **Case Studies** (providing detailed, region-specific analysis of WASH interventions). A theory-based evaluation approach will assess the alignment between programme activities and intended outcomes using the logical framework, identifying any gaps that may hinder long-term impact. Stakeholder engagement is central to this participatory approach. Community members and other stakeholders will be involved in FGDs and validation sessions to share their experiences and feedback. This ensures local ownership of the findings and makes recommendations actionable and relevant. Contributory analysis will clarify the roles of various stakeholders—UNICEF, local authorities, NGOs, and contractors—in achieving WASH objectives. Data triangulation will ensure reliability by cross-referencing findings from multiple sources. Qualitative data will be analysed using software such as MAXQDA or Nvivo. This participatory framework is designed to generate actionable insights to support the adaptation and scale-up of WASH interventions, making them more responsive to local needs, resilient to climate impacts, and adaptable to Myanmar's evolving socio-political landscape.

## 2.3 Integrating Cross Cutting Issues

The evaluation will include cross-cutting themes in the evaluation to highlight the essential, interconnected aspects that affected various areas of project, shaping its overall success and impacts. These themes majorly include gender equality, sustainability, equity and social inclusion, environmental impact, and climate resilience. Evaluating these themes will ensure a holistic understanding of a project's efficacy and sustainability. Integrating these cross-cutting themes will examine the project's alignment with gender equality, assessing its capacity for continued impact, addressing inclusivity for marginalised groups, analysing environmental implications, and considering its adherence resilience and standards. These themes, interwoven throughout the evaluation process, will serve as critical basis through which the overall effectiveness and implications of the project will be thoroughly understood.

## 2.4 Evaluation Matrix

The detailed Evaluation Framework, added as Annexure 1, will specify the sources and methods for collecting data related to each evaluation question, as highlighted in the ToRs. It provides a structured framework for planning and conducting the evaluation while ensuring that no critical aspects are overlooked.

## 2.5 Inception Phase

**Interviews and discussions with UNICEF Team:** During inception phase, the consultants have four online meetings including first as kick off meeting on 21 October followed by description of WASH projects on 28th October and 5th November, and then finally on 13th November. These meeting were useful to draw the expectations, access to some key information, data and consensus on some proposed logistic arrangements including current security situation. In addition, since 2021 after military takeover in Myanmar, UNICEF is not working directly with Government partners so the engagement of government partners will be limited.

**Desk Document Review:** An initial desk review has been conducted to inform the preliminary stages of the Inception Report for the Myanmar WASH evaluation. This involved following key documents

- Project Documents of AWSA II extension 2021-22, and 2022-23,
- AWP 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024
- SWA-II logical framework (log frame),
- Risk Matrix,
- WASH Disability and Gender Checklist,
- Knowledge Management Tracker Myanmar
- GESI Assessment Report
- Sanitation Market Survey
- UNICEF Myanmar 2020 Annual WASH Report,

- UNICEF Global Strategy for WASH 2016-2030,
- Asian Development Bank. (2023). *Population and demographics in Southeast Asia: Myanmar analysis*. Manila: Asian Development Bank.
- Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU). (2024, August). *Myanmar geographic and population data overview*. UNDP.
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- Myanmar Information Management Unit. (2022, May). *Analytical brief on climate change impacts in Myanmar*. Retrieved from <https://www.themimu.info>.
- Myanmar Information Management Unit. (2021, February). *Analytical brief on drinking water access in Myanmar* (pp. 5-6). Retrieved from <https://www.themimu.info>.
- Myanmar Information Management Unit. UNDP (2021, August). *Analytical brief on disability in Myanmar*. Retrieved from <https://www.themimu.info>.

This initial review provided foundational insights into the project's design, objectives, and early implementation outcomes, which have shaped the development of the evaluation framework and methodology. This literature review serves as a foundation for preliminary findings against key evaluation questions. It provides an initial understanding of the project's context, implementation, and outcomes. These preliminary findings will be validated and refined during subsequent data collection, ensuring a robust and comprehensive evaluation process.

## 2.6 Data Collection Methods

### 2.6.1 Detailed Desk Review

**Document Review:** A more exhaustive document review is planned, encompassing an array of sources. This includes, but is not limited to, the project progress reports and its datasets, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports, routine data generated by the monitoring mechanism, reports from implementing partners, and monitoring reports for the log frame indicators. Additionally, project documents such as ASWA-II Final Report 2021, GESI Assessment Report, GESI MER Framework, Market Survey and Sanitation Micro-Financing, Myanmar National WASH Strategy and Investment Plan (2016- 2030), UNICEF Myanmar 2020 Annual WASH Report, UNICEF Global Strategy for WASH 2016-2030, etc.

**Data Sources and Limitations:** All existing project development and monitoring data will be supplied by UNICEF, acknowledging potential limitations in data availability and completeness. External secondary sources, including reports from UN agencies, research papers, reports, assessments, and datasets produced by external entities involved in similar initiatives will also be explored to enrich the data review process.

**Availability of Disaggregated Data:** A focused effort will be made to evaluate the availability of disaggregated data by gender and other vulnerable populations. This includes examining data sets for the representation of diverse groups within the project's impact areas. However, it is essential to note that data limitations, especially in terms of granularity, may exist, and these limitations will be communicated in the evaluation findings. Efforts will be made to work with available data to draw meaningful insights, recognising potential constraints in the existing datasets.

## 2.6.2 Data Collection Tools

### 2.6.2.1 Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews

The evaluation will employ Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) to assess the relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, and coherence of community-led WASH interventions. FGDs will involve diverse community members, including men, women, youth, adolescents, disabled persons, volunteers, and members of water user committees. KIIs will target key stakeholders with in-depth knowledge of the project, such as UNICEF Myanmar staff involved in project design, implementation, and monitoring; UNICEF Regional and Global staff providing technical and programme support; Magway and Ayeyarwady Regional Authorities; local private contractors engaged in water and sanitation infrastructure; and local NGOs such as the Myanmar Health Assistant Association. Key informants will be selected based on their expertise, diverse perspectives, and roles relevant to the project, ensuring access to critical data and insights. UNICEF will facilitate connections with these informants. FGDs will provide a platform to explore shared experiences and collective attitudes, while KIIs will enable one-on-one discussions to gather specialised knowledge and perspectives from individuals in influential positions. The collected data will be triangulated with project reports, documents, and other secondary sources to respond comprehensively to the evaluation questions. Stakeholder consultations will ensure an inclusive evaluation process and provide a multi-dimensional understanding of the project's impact, alignment with the Theory of Change/Logical Framework, and overall effectiveness. By capturing diverse perspectives, the evaluation will deliver a well-rounded analysis, enabling informed decisions and improving future project initiatives.

**Figure 3: Stakeholders, Number, Methods, Relevance and Focus**

Stakeholder Group	No. & Method	Relevance	Focus Areas
Male Community Members	03 FGDs 2 Magway 1 Ayeyarwady	Men often play significant roles in water-related activities and decision-making at the community level.	Perception of WASH services' relevance and effectiveness; role in community decision-making and WASH facility maintenance and unique challenges faced by men in accessing WASH services.
Female Community Members	03 FGDs 2 Magway 1 Ayeyarwady	Women are typically responsible for water collection and household sanitation, providing vital insights into service relevance and effects on daily lives.	Access challenges specific to women, including sanitation and privacy needs; effects of WASH facilities on household responsibilities and feedback on menstrual hygiene management facilities.
Youth (both male and female)	02 FGDs 1 Magway 1 Ayeyarwady	Youth are key to future sustainability, often involved in WASH activities, and provide insights on WASH awareness and behaviour change.	Awareness of hygiene practices and WASH education; role in promoting WASH practices among peers and challenges faced in accessing WASH facilities.
Disabled Persons	02 FGDs 1 Magway 1 Ayeyarwady	Persons with disabilities may face unique accessibility challenges, making their input crucial for inclusive WASH programming.	Accessibility of WASH facilities for disabled persons; Barriers in using current WASH infrastructure; and suggestions for improving inclusive design and accessibility.
Volunteers	02 FGDs 1 Magway 1 Ayeyarwady	Volunteers often support WASH behavioural practice promotion and facilitation, providing insights into	Effectiveness of community engagement and behavioural change strategies; challenges faced in promoting WASH practices and

		community engagement and programme outreach.	suggestions for improving outreach and volunteer support.
Water User Committees	02 FGDs 1 Magway 1 Ayeyarwady	Water User Committees are instrumental in the management and maintenance of community water systems, directly impacting service sustainability and community ownership.	Effectiveness of community-managed water systems; challenges in operation, maintenance, and tariff collection. The community engagement and participation in water service management; and suggestions for enhancing water service sustainability and reliability.
UNICEF Myanmar	05 KII 1 Chief, 2 WASH specialist, 1 emergency and 1 M&E	UNICEF Myanmar plays a central role in overseeing the WASH interventions and has critical insights into program objectives, challenges, and future directions.	Decisions on scaling up and replicating successful interventions.; strategies to optimise WASH program efficiency and sustainability; advocacy for climate-resilient WASH policies in Myanmar; and Identification of data gaps and areas for resource mobilisation.
UNICEF Regional and Global Offices	2 KII Regional Advisor and Climate Change focal	The regional and global offices provide strategic direction and can leverage findings to inform best practices across similar contexts.	Alignment of Myanmar WASH interventions with global humanitarian response frameworks; insights on enhancing WASH strategies and integration of climate resilience; and utilisation of findings to improve WASH initiatives regionally and globally.
Magway and Ayeyarwady Regional Authorities	02 KII One from each region	Local authorities are essential for the long-term sustainability of WASH initiatives, particularly in ensuring alignment with regional policies and development objectives.	Any strategic implications of evaluation findings; alignment with regional WASH and climate resilience goals.; understanding of local challenges in infrastructure and service delivery; and engagement in enhancing sustainable WASH practices.
Local Private Contractors (sanitation system construction)	4 KIIs, two from each region	Contractors are involved in the implementation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure, making their perspective vital for understanding operational challenges and quality.	Quality and resilience of construction practices; Understanding community infrastructure needs; Potential for adopting climate-resilient designs; and recommendations for enhancing service quality and long-term facility sustainability.
NGOs involved in Behavioural Change (e.g., Myanmar Health Assistant Association, etc.)	4 KII 2 from each region	NGOs play a critical role in promoting hygiene practices and community engagement, which are key to achieving long-term effects and behaviour change.	Effectiveness of behavioural change strategies and challenges; community engagement and feedback mechanisms; and Insights into sustainable adoption of safe sanitation and hygiene practices. Recommendations for refining community-led approaches.

Given the security challenges in the target communities, data collection will be limited to qualitative methods through FGDs and KIIs. **A total of 12 villages have been selected for the evaluation**, representing all towns across the two regions. This includes four villages from Ayeyarwady and eight from Magway region. In **Ayeyarwady**, the criteria for village selection focused on areas where both water and sanitation interventions with climate-resilient features have been implemented. Two villages were selected under this criterion. Another village has been selected that received interventions exclusively for water and another exclusively for sanitation. All the selected villages in Ayeyarwady also have back up options. In **Magway**, four towns have been prioritised: Magway, Chauk, Pwintphyu, and Salin. The selection approach considered various factors. For Magway and

Chauk, which have only water supply interventions, schemes that are solar-powered and serve both communities and institutions (e.g., health and education facilities) were prioritised. In Pwintphyu, only one water scheme existed and that has been selected, while for sanitation, two villages have been chosen based on Open Defecation Free (ODF) and median population. The villages were selected with an assumption of including households with persons with disabilities and ensuring coverage for both small and large settlements. For Salin town, three locations have been chosen based on ODF households randomly alongside a replacement option from the same village tracts to address potential data collection gaps. List of villages with replacement option is provided in Annexure 2

**Figure 4: Sample Villages for FGD and Distribution Among Groups**

Region	Village Tract	Village	FGD						
			Male	Female	Community	Disabled/ Elderly	Youth	Volunteer	Water User
<b>Magway</b>	Min Ywa	Pon Tat- Water	1						1
<b>Chauk</b>	Ywar Ma	Ywar Ma- Water		1					
<b>Pwintphyu</b>	Kywe Ta Ga	Pya Pin Water	1						
	Kywe Ta Kar	Kywe Ta Kar-sanitation					1		
	Meza Li	Htu Pauk-Sanitation						1	
<b>Salin</b>	Lin Zin (Nyaung)	Tha Yet Kone Sanitation		1					
	Gway Pin Zin	Lay- Sanitation			1				
	Tha Yet Taw	War Yon Su-Sanitation				1			
<b>Bogalay</b>	Set San	Asi Gyi- WASH		1					1
	Thon Dat	Kokkosu- WASH			1	1			
	Su Kyun	La Waing Kyun (W) Water Only	1					1	
	Haing Si	Kan Kone (Haing Si) Sanitation - Only					1		
<b>Total</b>			3	3	2	2	2	2	2

Assent forms for different participants have been developed and attached as Annexure 3. Key issues/questions have also been developed and shared in Annexure- 4 for FGDs and Annexure 5 for KIIs. A determined effort has been made to develop common question for each group followed by additional questions for each specific group and key informant.

### 2.6.2.2 Field Observations

Field observations will also be used alongside other evaluation methods to provide a comprehensive and well-rounded assessment of performance. The purpose of field observations will be to confirm whether the objectives of the project have been met and will provide tangible evidence of progress and achievement. Field observations will provide a first-hand understanding of the implementation and effects of WASH initiatives, gender and disability inclusivity, and climate resilience measures within communities or specific settings The Checklist of field observation is given in Annexure 6 which covers following areas:

1. WASH Infrastructure and Facilities
2. Community Engagement and Ownership
3. Climate Resilience
4. Inclusivity and Accessibility
5. Functionality and Usability
6. Hygiene and Behaviour Change

### 2.6.2.3 Case Studies

Case studies will serve as a vital component of the evaluation, offering in-depth insights into the implementation, outcomes, and broader impact of WASH interventions. Using the outlined checklist, case studies will systematically document how WASH services align with community needs, address climate resilience, and promote sustainability. By exploring specific examples, they will highlight improvements in health, hygiene practices, and equity, as well as the empowerment of women, youth, and vulnerable groups. These studies will also capture community feedback and perceptions, identifying challenges and areas for enhancement. Personal stories and testimonials will bring a human dimension to the evaluation, illustrating the tangible effects of interventions on individuals and households. Additionally, photographs and contextual documentation will visually convey the integration of WASH services within the local environment and climate challenges. A template for case studies is provided as Annexure 7.

### 2.6.3 Hiring, Training, and Deployment of Data Collection Team

A team of local field enumerators that have experience in qualitative data collection and qualification needed for the assignment has been identified with the support of local consultant Win Ei Mon Khine. The selected field enumerators and facilitators are fluent in local language(s), adequately aware of the local contexts and customs to facilitate efficient data collection. Maximum possible efforts have been made to ensure diversity and equity among the field enumerators by ensuring unbiased selection criteria, equal training opportunities, and creating an inclusive work environment.

### 2.6.4 Training and of Data Collection Team

The data collection team (enumerators and field supervisors) will undergo a two-day online training by the Team Leader with the support of Local National Consultant to overcome any language and interpretation issues. The two-day training shall include, but not limited to following:

- Background of the evaluation and highlights of target communities and locations
- Objective of the evaluation
- Interviewing techniques/rapport building
- How to collect data for FGDs and KIIs
- Orientation on geographic area and local norms
- Ethics of the research
- How to select the participants and their criterion for FGDs and KIIs
- Geographic and locational accuracy in the execution of the sampling plan at the cluster level
- Orientation on research tools and mock exercise

### 2.6.5 Pre-Testing of Tools

Pre-testing of the tools (the FGDs checklists) will be part of the training. The tools will be revised based on the feedback from the field to improve the quality of the translation, the comprehension of the questions by respondents, and potential sources of error or bias arising from the design of the tools including the wording of questions on potentially sensitive topics.

## 2.7 Data Management and Analysis

The qualitative data for the evaluation will be analysed through manual coding and transcription techniques or using appropriate software, such as MAXQDA. The analysed data will be triangulated with both published and unpublished reports, including data collected during consultations with UNICEF, CSOs, NGOs, and local authorities. In the data management and analysis process, several key components will be addressed:

- **Logic and Assumptions:** A detailed examination of the logical connections and assumptions underlying the Theory of Change (ToC)/ Log frame will be conducted.

- **Implementation:** The evaluation will rigorously assess how project activities were executed relative to ASWA-II or UNICEF Myanmar Programme Strategy Note/ AWP framework.
- **Outcomes and effects:** This component will gauge the outcomes achieved and their alignment with the expected changes outlined the log frame of ASWA-II or UNICEF Myanmar Programme Strategy Note/AWP framework.
- **Unintended Consequences:** The evaluation will systematically identify any unforeseen positive or negative impacts of the project.
- **Contextual Analysis:** A comprehensive analysis of economic, social, environmental, and political factors will be conducted to understand how these may have influenced project implementation and outcomes.
- **Stakeholder Perspectives:** Insights from youth, children, and other community groups will be actively collected and analysed to incorporate diverse viewpoints on the project's effectiveness, relevance, coherence and sustainability.
- **Lessons Learned:** Key insights from the project's implementation will be documented, including best practices, case studies and challenges encountered.

## 2.8 Confidentiality, Ethical Considerations and Data Protection Protocols

Ensuring the safety and confidentiality of FGD and KII participants will be a top priority throughout the evaluation. Identifiable personal information will only be collected when necessary, and where such information is collected, anonymity will be safeguarded by removing identifiable details and substituting personal data with coded identifiers or recording names separately. Secure storage protocols, both digital and physical, will be implemented to protect all data. Open communication channels will be established to keep participants informed and promptly address any concerns. To ensure participants feel comfortable, the evaluation process will respect and adapt to local norms and customs. Participants will be informed that their involvement is entirely voluntary and that they are free to withdraw at any stage. Verbal and written consent, whichever is convenient, will be obtained from all participants prior to data collection (see Annex 10 for consent procedures). Children participating in the evaluation will provide assent, and additional consent will be obtained from their parents or guardians. The interviews will be done in Burmese language with notes, and then translated into English.

Local teams will receive training to uphold confidentiality principles, fostering trust among all participants, including children and adolescents. The evaluation will adopt an inclusive approach, particularly during community consultations, ensuring the representation of all vulnerable groups, such as women, widows, divorced individuals, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and displaced populations. Each participant in group discussions will have an equal opportunity to express their views, with all responses given equal importance. This approach will ensure a balanced and respectful environment for open dialogue.

Ethical oversight from relevant review boards will further ensure adherence to ethical standards. A Research Ethics Review Document has been submitted to HML Ethics Review Board. The data collection will be initiated after the Board has provided clearance. The Board will ensure that (i) the evaluation being carried out upholds to ethical considerations to safeguard the well-being and rights of participants, (ii) adequate protocols are available so that the subjects are well-informed about the evaluation's purpose and assured that their involvement does not pose undue risks, (iii) the principle of voluntary and confidential participation is emphasised, with subjects provided and consenting to informed consent that can be written or verbal or both before engaging in the study, (iv) rigorous protocols are in place to ensure the protection and safety of participants, and stringent measures are adopted to prevent any violation of privacy or discrimination during the collection and analysis of data. The Lead Consultant has taken the online training of UNICEF "Introduction to Ethics in Evidence Generation (Basic)". Appropriate data protection and confidentiality measures shall be ensured to secure management of sensitive data. The transcription and raw data shall be shared with UNICEF for its records and shall be discarded by the Team Leader after two years of the assignment, preventing any future unauthorised access. Ethical oversight by relevant review boards, including the HML Ethics Review Board, will ensure adherence to ethical standards. Clearance from the Ethics Review Board will be obtained prior to the start of data collection.

## 2.9 Risks and Challenges

Sr No.	Perceived Risk(s)	Mitigation Measure(s)
1	<b>Data Quality and Reliability:</b> The quality and reliability of data, especially in terms of self-reported outcomes, may be questionable.	Self-reported data will be cross verified with other sources, including project documents and field observations. It will be ensured that the interviewers are trained in data collection techniques.
2	<b>Cultural Sensitivity:</b> Cultural norms and taboos may affect the willingness of respondents to discuss certain sensitive topics, such as Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), etc.	Interviewers will be sensitised regarding local cultural norms and practices. Local community members will be involved in the data collection process for trust building with the communities.
3	<b>Limited Time and Resources:</b> Constraints in time and resources may limit the depth and breadth	A realistic timeline has been developed and sufficient resources have been allocated to conduct the evaluation comprehensively.
4	<b>Data Security and Confidentiality:</b> Protecting the confidentiality and security of sensitive data, particularly MHM, safeguarding, etc is crucial.	Strict data security protocols will be developed and adhered to. Interviewers will be trained on data privacy and confidentiality. Data will be aggregated when reported.
5	<b>Lack of Trust of Community Members:</b> Some stakeholders may be resistant to the evaluation process, or trust issues may exist due to previous experiences.	Trust will be developed with the stakeholders through clear communication, transparency, and active engagement. All the concerns of the stakeholders will be adequately addressed. Respected community leaders will be involved to facilitate the evaluation process.
6	<b>Lack of Access to External Data:</b> Access to external data may be limited.	Alternative data sources will be explored, seeking comparable information that aligns with evaluation needs. The efforts made to access external data will be documented and any challenges encountered will be transparently reported.
7	<b>Security Situation:</b> The security situation in some of Myanmar regions especially Magway is very fluid and can't be predicted. It changes on day-to-day basis	A security check before travel will be made by contacting security agencies and local groups. Back-up option to replace sampled villages has been part of the sampling plan. However, villages can be changed as per situation. Local enumerators from the region shall be part of the team to provide guidance and facilitation to overcome this challenge.

A centralised risk register will be maintained, which will be accessible to the UNICEF team and reference group. This will document identified risks, their potential impact, probability, and the mitigation strategies in place. The periodic risk review meetings will be scheduled with the evaluation and field teams to discuss the identified risks, their status, and the effectiveness of existing mitigation strategies. Continuous communication with the UNICEF team and reference group will be established to encourage the reporting of potential risks or changes in risk landscapes.

## 2.10 Management Arrangements

Based on the UNICEF's evaluation policy, this evaluation will be managed by the Multi-Country Evaluation Specialist (Peter Leth) as the Evaluation Manager with Pravin More Chief WASH UNICEF Myanmar Country Office, Brooke Yamakoshi Regional WASH Manager, Than Kyaw Soe, WASH Specialist UNICEF Myanmar (leading on Sanitation) and Khin Aung Thein WASH Specialist UNICEF Myanmar (leading on water) being part of the Evaluation Reference Group providing guidance and direction to the entire evaluation. The consultant and his team will be responsible for the impartial and independent evaluation of the project in line with project's evaluation objectives. The consultant has developed the guides for KIIs and FGDs and will undertake the interviews/ discussions, analyse all collected data, and write the report based on UNICEF's standards. Looking

at the tight deadlines of the assignment and to increase efficiency and reduce cultural and language barriers, the lead consultant has engaged one local experienced consultant from Myanmar with a team of enumerators.

Mr. Niaz Ullah Khan is lead consultant of the assignment, where Win Ei Mon Khine will act as a local national consultant and coordinator for day-to-day updates and regular communications with local office where needed. Quality assurance measures have been drafted to ensure the integrity and reliability of the evaluation, ensuring that the insights gained are credible and valuable for future strategies and actions. Win Ei is responsible for hiring and extending additional support to the training of the field enumerators and ensuring ethical and efficient data collection. Local data collection assistance by the local consultant and enumerators in Myanmar holds a critical role in the evaluation process. Their significance lies in their deep understanding of the local culture and context, ensuring that data collection methods are culturally sensitive and contextually relevant. These local field collectors will execute the data collection process diligently, conducting interviews and facilitating focus groups while ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the collected data. The whole process will be overseen by Lead Consultant Niaz Ullah Khan while facilitated locally by local consultant Win Ei Mon Khine Win Ei will also extend support in inception phase in finalising the sampling and reviewing the preliminary findings.

### 2.10.1 Team Responsibilities

Name	Country	Position for the Evaluation	Role in Evaluation
<b>Mr. Niaz Ullah Khan</b>	Pakistan	Team Lead and Climate Resilient WASH Expert	Inception Report including tools development. Participation in selected KIIs and quality assurance, data analysis and report writing and final presentation
<b>Win Ei Mon Khine</b>	Myanmar	National Lead Consultant and Data Collection Coordinator.	Brief and train team members, lead scheduling and coordination for KIIs with government officials, UNICEF staff, NGO partners, and local authorities; conduct KIIs, analyse and interpret data, and assist with reporting.
<b>Yu Wah Hlaing</b>	Myanmar	Facilitator to conduct KIIs interviews and facilitator for FGDs and KIIs in Magaway region	Currently resides in Magway, with strong familiarity with the local area- have WASH experience. Lead on FGDs, etc.
<b>Kay Zin Oo</b>	Myanmar	Field In charge, Facilitator for FGDs and KIIs in Bogalay Ayeyarwady region	Conduct KIIs interviews, manage data processing, transcription, and analysis for both KIIs and FGDs.
<b>Kan Kaung</b>	Myanmar	Facilitator Conduct KIIs interviews and facilitator for FGDs in Bogalay	Experienced in data collection, including WASH projects; currently resides in Bogalay, with in-depth knowledge of the local area and context.

### 2.10.2 Management and Logistic Support

Mr Peter Leth, Multi Country Evaluation Specialist will be responsible for the management of this evaluation through UNICEF Myanmar. The evaluation will be designed and carried out by the consultant, while WASH Unit of Myanmar will provide support throughout the process. UNICEF Myanmar will be responsible for the following management and logistic support:

- Provision of relevant documents, reports, or data that are essential for the evaluation.
- Technical guidance or clarification on specific technical aspects related to the evaluation.
- Introducing the consultant to the stakeholders at national and district level.
- Assistance in arranging meetings with project stakeholders, beneficiaries, or other relevant parties.
- Support in disseminating the evaluation results to the appropriate audiences within and outside of UNICEF.
- Approving the introduction letter (prepared by consultant) to be taken by the consultant when going to the field. Sending out invites for participation of stakeholders in validation workshops.

## 2.11 Schedule of Work and Deliverables

Deliverable	Key Activities	Planned Date	Completion
<b>Draft Inception Report</b>	Submission of draft Inception Report including data collection tools, informed consent guides, and quality assurance measures for ethical clearance	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	
<b>Feedback from UNICEF</b>		23 November 2024	
<b>Submission of Ethical Review</b>		27 November 2024	
<b>Final Feedback from UNICEF and Ethical Approval</b>			
		7 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	
Final Inception Report	Revision of Inception Report, tools, informed consent guides submission of final Inception Report	10 December 2024	
Training, pre-testing and data collection	Training of enumerates, conduct data collection i.e. FGDs, KIIs, Field Observations and Case studies	15 <sup>th</sup> December – 15 January 2025	
Data Analysis and Interpretation Completed	Analyse and interpret the data, triangulation of data, etc. Pre-liminary findings	15-25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	
<b>Preliminary Findings Sharing</b>		25-28 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	
Draft Formative Evaluation Report Submitted	Draft formative evaluation report submitted on the agreed format, key findings to include data visualisation, such as charts, graphs, and infographics, where needed.	15 February 2025	
<b>Feedback from UNICEF</b>		28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	
<b>Conduct a Validation Workshop to Present/Discuss Findings, Learning, etc.</b>	Conduct a validation workshop to present and discuss evaluation findings, lessons learned and recommendations.	4- 5 March 2025	
<b>Based on Validation Meeting and Written Comments from Technical Review, Finalise the Evaluation Report to be Submitted to UNICEF HQ</b>	Finalise and submit the final report.	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	
<b>Learning Brief and PowerPoint Presentation, Submitted to UNICEF</b>	Finalise and submit the learning brief, incorporate any remaining feedback on the report, if required, present a PowerPoint presentation.	25 March 2025	
<b>Evaluation Dissemination</b>	The report will be crafted for accessibility, balancing technical depth for policymakers and practitioners while ensuring clarity for the wider public. Dissemination efforts will include the use of digital platforms to reach a global audience. Executive summaries and targeted briefs will offer quick references for diverse stakeholder groups.	31 March 2025	

\*A detailed Gantt Chart is attached as Annexure 08

## Annexure 1: Evaluation Matrix

OECD Evaluation Question	Criteria	Sub-Questions	Data Sources / Approach	Data Collection Methods	Indicators / Success Standards
<b>Relevance</b>					
<b>To what extent are the WASH interventions aligned with the needs of target populations in Magway and Ayeyarwady, particularly in terms of climate resilience, gender inclusiveness, and response to local socio-political and environmental challenges?</b>		<p>How well do the interventions address community needs in terms of climate resilience and socio-political challenges?</p> <p>Are there specific strategies for vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and persons with disabilities?</p> <p>How adaptable are interventions to changing community needs and local contexts over time?</p>	Document review, Logical Framework Analysis, KIIs with UNICEF staff, FGDs with community members, gender and social inclusion analysis	Logical framework analysis, Document Review, KIIs, FGDs, Case Studies and Field Observations	Alignment of programme objectives with community needs and UNICEF goals; Perceptions of programme relevance among community members; Evidence of community and stakeholder involvement in planning and implementation; Level of engagement and satisfaction among local stakeholders
<b>How well do the programme's design and objectives correspond with the broader goals of UNICEF for community-led, sustainable WASH services, and the specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and people with disabilities?</b>		<p>Do the programme's objectives align with UNICEF's strategic priorities?</p> <p>Are the needs of vulnerable groups effectively addressed through tailored approaches?</p> <p>To what extent does the programme promote community-led approaches that empower local stakeholders?</p>	UNICEF's strategic documents, programme reports, KIIs with UNICEF staff, FGDs with community members, gender and social inclusion analysis	Document review, KIIs, FGDs and field observations	Degree of alignment between programme objectives and UNICEF strategic goals; Proportion of interventions tailored for vulnerable groups; Level of satisfaction among women and vulnerable groups
<b>Were local partners, including communities and relevant stakeholders, adequately involved in the design and implementation phases? How effectively were community perceptions and feedback integrated into programme adjustments?</b>		<p>Were local communities consulted during programme design?</p> <p>Were their insights effectively integrated into programme adjustments?</p> <p>How transparent and inclusive were the decision-making processes?</p>	Programme design documents, KIIs with stakeholders, FGDs with community members	Document review, KIIs, FGDs	Evidence of community and stakeholder involvement in planning and implementation; Level of community satisfaction with engagement processes; Proportion of feedback incorporated

<p><b>To what extent has emergency preparedness been built into the design of the programme, in order to enhance community resilience? How do existing programmes contribute to emergency preparedness in the target communities?</b></p>	<p>What specific emergency preparedness measures have been included in the programme design?</p> <p>How has the programme contributed to increasing community knowledge and skills in emergency preparedness?</p> <p>What resources and partnerships have been mobilised to support emergency preparedness within the community?</p>	<p>FGDs, KIIs and document reviews including project records and data.</p>	<p>FGDs with community leaders, KIIs with local authorities and UNICEF and other implementing partners, document analysis</p>	<p>Documented emergency preparedness plans</p> <p>Community training sessions recorded</p>
<b>Effectiveness</b>				
<p><b>To what extent have the WASH programme objectives been achieved, particularly regarding improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene practices, and enhanced climate resilience?</b></p>	<p>What is the level of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene practices compared to baseline?</p> <p>Has the programme enhanced community resilience to climate impacts?</p> <p>Are programme activities contributing to long-term health and hygiene improvements?</p>	<p><b>Document Analysis:</b> Reviewing project documents, such as reports, progress summaries, and log frames, to evaluate the major achievements and alignment with the Log frame</p> <p><b>Interviews and Discussions:</b></p>	<p>Project monitoring data analysis, FGDs, KIIs</p>	<p>Percentage increase in safe water access; Reduction in open defecation rates; Adoption of hygiene practices; Level of improvement in resilience indicators</p>
<p><b>What are the main barriers affecting access to WASH services for the target populations? Are there specific solutions or adjustments that could overcome these challenges?</b></p>	<p>What challenges were identified in accessing WASH services?</p> <p>How were these barriers addressed?</p> <p>Are there alternative strategies that could improve service access in the future?</p>	<p>Interviewing project staff, stakeholders, and experts to gather information on the project's effectiveness and any changes made to achieve the desired results.</p>	<p>FGDs, KIIs and documents review including progress reports and case studies</p>	<p>Identification of barriers; Documented solutions and adjustments made to address challenges</p>

<p><b>From the community perspective, what are the perceived benefits and challenges associated with the programme, and how have these influenced outcomes?</b></p>	<p>What are the community-reported benefits of the programme? What challenges have communities encountered?</p> <p>How have community attitudes and practices toward WASH changed over time?</p>	<p><b>Capacity-Building Assessment:</b> Evaluating the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts through interviews and reviewing training materials and reports.</p>	<p>FGDs, KIs, case studies and progress reports.</p>	<p>Level of community satisfaction with programme benefits; Community-reported challenges and effects on outcomes</p>
<p><b>Sustainability</b></p>				
<p><b>To what extent has the programme built the capacity of local communities and other stakeholders to maintain WASH services sustainably, especially under climate-resilient frameworks? Are there any specific capacity gaps that need to be addressed and/or strengthened to further support community resilience?</b></p>	<p>Have training and capacity-building initiatives led to sustainable community-led WASH practices?</p> <p>Is there evidence of community ownership and engagement in managing WASH services?</p> <p>Are there specific skills or knowledge gaps that may hinder sustainability?</p>	<p>Capacity assessment reports, sustainability plan, training logs, FGDs, KIs</p>	<p>KIs, FGDs, document review, site visits</p>	<p>Number of community members trained; Presence of local management structures for WASH sustainability; Evidence of community engagement and ownership in WASH maintenance; Identification of skills and knowledge gaps</p>
<p><b>Are there adequate mechanisms, including funding, community engagement, and private-sector involvement, to support the long-term sustainability of the interventions?</b></p>	<p>Are there clear plans for long-term financial sustainability?</p> <p>Is private-sector engagement supporting WASH infrastructure maintenance?</p> <p>Are there exit strategies in place for external support?</p>	<p>FGDs with community members, KIs with stakeholders, document review</p>	<p>KIs, FGDs, sustainability plans</p>	<p>Existence of funding strategies for WASH sustainability; Engagement level of private-sector partners in WASH maintenance; Community support for sustainability mechanisms; Presence of exit strategies for external support</p>
<p><b>How effective have demand-generation activities been in fostering continued support and commitment for WASH services in target communities? Is there sufficient private sector engagement to</b></p>	<p>What types of demand generation activities were implemented?</p> <p>How did these activities impact community commitment to WASH practices?</p>	<p>Programme reports, FGDs with community members, KIs with local government, NGOs and private sector</p>	<p>FGDs, KIs, document analysis and any financial or economic data from the private sector and local communities</p>	<p>Level of community commitment to WASH maintenance; Community feedback on demand-generation activities; Evidence of continued adoption of WASH</p>

<p><b>support future sustainability</b></p>	<p>Are there indications of sustained behaviour change in communities?</p> <p>What forms of engagement have been established with the private sector to support the programme?</p> <p>How is private sector engagement integrated into the programme's long-term sustainability strategy?</p>			<p>practices; Indicators of sustained behaviour change</p>
<p><b>Coherence</b></p>				
<p><b>How well do the WASH interventions align with other UNICEF programmes, government initiatives, and activities by development partners in Myanmar? Are there synergies that enhance the programme's impact?</b></p>	<p>Are WASH interventions aligned with other UNICEF programmes?</p> <p>Do interventions complement government and partner initiatives?</p> <p>Are there opportunities for greater synergy and alignment in future programmes?</p>	<p>Document review, KIIs with UNICEF, review of government policies, partner FGDs</p>	<p>Document review, KIIs</p>	<p>Degree of alignment between WASH interventions and other UNICEF and government programmes; Identification of complementary actions and synergies with other stakeholders; Opportunities identified for future synergy</p>
<p><b>Are there clear and active coordination mechanisms among key stakeholders, and how effectively are these applied at national and sub-national levels?</b></p>	<p>How frequently do stakeholders coordinate on programme activities?</p> <p>Are there clear mechanisms for joint decision-making and implementation?</p> <p>Are any improvements needed in coordination approaches?</p>	<p>KIIs with UNICEF staff, local authorities, partner NGOs, coordination reports</p>	<p>KIIs, FGDs, document review</p>	<p>Existence of coordination platforms; Frequency and effectiveness of coordination meetings; Stakeholder satisfaction with coordination mechanisms; Recommendations for improved coordination</p>
<p><b>To what extent have partners' and stakeholders' perspectives been integrated into</b></p>	<p>Were partner perspectives actively sought in programme adjustments?</p>	<p>KIIs with partners, FGDs with community representatives</p>	<p>KIIs, FGDs</p>	<p>Evidence of stakeholder input in programme planning; Partner satisfaction with</p>

<p><b>programme prioritisation and adjustments?</b></p>	<p>How well were stakeholder insights reflected in programme adaptations?</p> <p>Do partners feel that their contributions are valued and integrated?</p>			<p>level of collaboration; Partner feedback on their perceived value in the programme</p>
<p><b>Cross-Cutting Themes: Climate Change, Gender, and Human Rights</b></p>				
<p><b>To what extent does the programme address the specific needs of women, children, and persons with disabilities? Are there additional barriers or considerations from a gender or disability perspective including adolescent and elderly that need to be addressed?</b></p>	<p>Does the programme ensure equitable access for women, children, and persons with disabilities?</p> <p>What barriers exist for these groups?</p> <p>Are there additional support mechanisms in place to address these barriers?</p>	<p>Gender and social inclusion analysis, FGDs, KIIs with community and UNICEF</p>	<p>FGDs, KIIs</p>	<p>Accessibility of facilities for women, children, and persons with disabilities; Satisfaction levels among vulnerable groups; Evidence of targeted support for vulnerable populations; Presence of mechanisms to address identified barriers</p>
<p><b>How well does the programme promote equitable access and uphold human rights principles, ensuring inclusion and responsiveness to vulnerable groups?</b></p>	<p>Does the programme uphold equity and inclusion standards in all its activities?</p> <p>How are human rights principles embedded within programme activities?</p> <p>What mechanisms exist to monitor and address inclusion gaps?</p>	<p>Document review, FGDs, KIIs with beneficiaries</p>	<p>FGDs, KIIs, site visits</p>	<p>Evidence of inclusive WASH practices; Perceptions of safety and equity among community members; Compliance with human rights principles in programme delivery; Presence of mechanisms to monitor and address inclusion gaps</p>
<p><b>How effectively has the programme integrated climate adaptation strategies to enhance resilience in water, sanitation, and hygiene practices in addition to special measure for women, persons with disabilities, etc.?</b></p>	<p>Are climate-resilient infrastructure and practices in place?</p> <p>Have communities received training in climate adaptation?</p> <p>Is there evidence of improved resilience to climate risks?</p>	<p>Climate resilience assessment, programme reports, KIIs</p>	<p>Document review, KIIs, site observations</p>	<p>Presence of climate-resilient infrastructure; Community training on climate adaptation; Number of climate-resilient practices adopted by communities; Evidence of enhanced resilience</p>

## Annexure 2: Sampled Villages and Recruitment of Participants

### Section 1: List of Sampled Villages and Replacement Options

Region	First Option			Second Option		
	Village Tract	Village	Rationale	Total	Village Tract	Village
<b>Magway</b>	Min Ywa	Pon Tat	SPWS -Health & School	1	Kun Ohn	Kun Ohn (N)
<b>Chauk</b>	Ywar Ma	Ywar Ma	SPWS- health, etc	1	Than Bo	Kan Ye Gyi(S)
<b>Pwintphyu</b>	Kywe Ta Ga	Pya Pin	Water Only	1		
	Kywe Ta Kar	Kywe Ta Kar	Sanitation	1	Ah Nauk Kaing	San Pya
	Meza Li	Htu Pauk	Sanitation	1		
<b>Salin</b>	Lin Zin (Nyaung)	Tha Yet Kone	Sanitation	1	Lin Zin (Nyaung)	Shan Su
	Gway Pin Zin	Lay	Sanitation	1	Gway Pin Zin	Gway Pin Zin
	Tha Yet Taw	War Yon Su	Sanitation	1	Tha Yet Taw	Lel Thar
<b>Bogalay</b>	Set San	Asi Gyi	SPWS Water and Sanitation Both	1	Thon Dat	Thon Dat
	Thon Dat	Kokkosu		1		
	Su Kyun	La Waing Kyun (W)	Water Only	1	Chaug Bye' Gyi	Pauk Sein Kya
	Haing Si	Kan Kone (Haing Si)	Sanitation	1	Haing Si	Phoe Shwe Lone
<b>Total</b>				12		

### Section 2: Recruitment Criterion for Participants of FGDs and Case Studies

Participant Categories and Selection Criterion Distribution

<b>Community Members</b>	
<b>Men FGDs</b>	Adult men from various socioeconomic backgrounds, including those who use the WASH facilities and those involved in their maintenance
<b>Women 2 FGDs</b>	Adult women, ensuring representation of different age groups and economic statuses, including those responsible for household water and sanitation management
<b>Vulnerable Groups</b>	
<b>Persons with Disabilities 1-2 FGDs</b>	Individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities to understand their specific challenges and needs related to WASH services
<b>Elderly 1-2 FGDs</b>	Elderly community members to capture their experiences and any age-related challenges in accessing WASH services
<b>Youth and Children 2 FGDs</b>	School-aged children and adolescents who use the WASH facilities, ensuring a mix of boys and girls- not less than 14 years

Total Sample Size for Case Studies 3-5 case studies of selected communities-

Selection Criteria	Key Consideration
<b>Geographic Diversity</b>	Select communities from both urban and rural areas in the Magway and Ayeyarwady regions.
<b>Intervention Variability</b>	Choose communities with varying levels of intervention complexity (e.g., different types of water supply systems, sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion activities).
<b>Performance Outcomes</b>	Include communities with both high and low performance outcomes to identify best practices and areas needing improvement.

## Annexure 3: Consent Form\*

\*These will translated into Burmese language

### NOTE FOR FACILITATOR

#### REMEMBER!

- **CONFIDENTIALITY** – 1) tell participants they are NOT being asked to share information about individual issues/cases; 2) try to find a quiet/private place to have the discussion
- **INFORMED CONSENT** – 1) explain the purpose of the activity; 2) participation is in group and voluntary
- **SAFETY** – if you feel any staff conducting this activity or participants may be at risk, do not proceed with the activity. When probing, no information linking to individual survivors should be asked.

• **Conclusion:** At the end of this discussion, thank the participants for their participation. Remind them to contact relevant agencies if they have any concerns.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location of FGD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facilitator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Note Taker:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Translator (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time FGD started:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time FGD ended:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Translation used:** Yes/ No

If yes, the translation was from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Sex of FGD participants:** Female/ Male

**Age of FGD participants:** 18-19 years/ 20-30 years/ 30-40 years/ Over 40 years

**List Other Key Demographics** (caretakers, participants with physical or intellectual disabilities, etc.)

### CONSENT FORM

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am working as team member of Formative Evaluation of Community Led Water and Sanitation Interventions in Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions supported by UNICEF. We would very much appreciate your participation in this evaluation. Your participation involves a Focus Group Discussion about your experiences and learning about access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, including the resilience, maintenance and management of services in collaboration with local authorities, NGOs and private entities in your areas. This discussion would last for approximately 45 minutes or less. Please understand that your participation is voluntary, and you can choose to not to answer any question or not to participate at any time. You can also withdraw from the discussion at any time, *without any consequences*. Your decision about whether to participate in this study or to answer any specific questions will in no way affect any services that you receive. If you do choose to participate, please answer the questions honestly and openly, so that we can understand your experience and find out what you really think and have experienced.

The information you provide will be strictly confidential and never connected to you. Other people will not know if you are in this study or what you have said. We will put information we learn from you together with information we learn from other people in the evaluation. No one will be able to tell what information came from you. Please do not share what is discussed here with anyone. When we tell other people about this evaluation, we will never use your name, and no one will ever know what answers you gave. Only a few researchers will have access to this information, and all information will be stored safely and destroyed under the care of the lead evaluator. The discussions will be recorded with your consent for record-keeping purposes but will be discarded later. The information provided by you will not be misused in any form or way. Please be assured that the provided information (such as pictures, recordings etc.) will not be misused in any way and is only being collected for record keeping and evidence purposes. With your consent, your pictures might be used in the Evaluation Report. Your participation in this discussion will not involve any monetary or other form of compensation, and there will be no associated risks.

This evaluation is funded by UNICEF. This means that the team is being paid by the sponsor for doing the evaluation. The researchers do not, however, have a direct financial interest in the sponsor or in the final results of the evaluation. **This evaluation process is being** reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, or if you would like to obtain information or offer input, you may contact: Ms. Win Ei Mon Khine on 09798 482 259 or by email to: winei07@gmail.com

Before you say yes or no to being in this study, we will answer any questions you have.

I understand the purpose of this Focus Group Discussion. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost:

- If you consent to the recording of the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box.
- If you consent to sharing of the Focus Group Discussion to authorised partners, please ✓ the box.
- If you consent to taking and using your pictures (for Evaluation Report) during the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

### CONSENT FORM

**(To be signed by the parents/ guardians of the participants under the age of 18 years)**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am working as team member of Formative Evaluation of Community Led Water and Sanitation Interventions in Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions supported by UNICEF. We would very much appreciate your participation in this evaluation. Your participation involves a Focus Group Discussion about your experiences and learning about access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, including the resilience, maintenance and management of services in collaboration with local authorities, NGOs and private entities in your areas. This discussion would last for approximately 45 minutes or less. We would like to obtain your consent for the participation of your child(s) in this discussion. Please understand that their participation is voluntary, and they can choose not to answer any question or not to participate at any time. They can also withdraw from the discussion at any time, *without any consequences*. Their decision about whether to participate in this study or to answer any specific questions will in no way affect any services that you receive. The information they provide will be strictly confidential. We will put information we learn from your child together with information we learn from other people in the evaluation. No one will be able to tell what information came from them. Please do not ask from them what was discussed in the discussion. When we tell other people about this evaluation, we will never use names, and no one will ever know what answers your child(s) gave. Only a few researchers will have access to this information, and all information will be stored safely and destroyed under the care of the lead evaluator. The discussions will be recorded with you and your child(s) consent for record-keeping purposes but will be discarded later. The information provided by your child will not be misused in any form or way. The information provided by you will not be misused in any form or way. Please be assured that the provided information (such as pictures, recordings etc.) will not be misused in any way and is only being collected for record keeping and evidence purposes. With your and your child's consent, their pictures might be used in the Evaluation Report. Your participation in this discussion will not involve any monetary or other form of compensation, and there will be no associated risks.

This evaluation is funded by UNICEF. This means that the team is being paid by the sponsor for doing the evaluation. The researchers do not, however, have a direct financial interest in the sponsor or in the final results of the evaluation. **This evaluation process is being** reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, or if you would like to obtain information or offer input, you may contact: Ms. Win Ei Mon Khine on 09798 482 259 or by email to: [winei07@gmail.com](mailto:winei07@gmail.com)

Before you say yes or no to being in this study, we will answer any questions you have.

I understand the purpose of this Focus Group Discussion. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost:

- If you consent to the recording of the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box.
- If you consent to sharing of the Focus Group Discussion to authorised partners, please ✓ the box.
- If you consent to taking and using pictures of your child (for Evaluation Report) during the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**Please provide the initial of your child's name:**

**ASSENT FORM**

**(To be signed by participants under the age of 18 years)**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am working as team member of Formative Evaluation of Community Led Water and Sanitation Interventions in Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions supported by UNICEF. We would very much appreciate your participation in this evaluation. Your participation involves a Focus Group Discussion about your experiences and learning about access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, including the resilience, maintenance and management of services in collaboration with local authorities, NGOs and private entities in your areas. This discussion would last for approximately 45 minutes or less. Please understand that your participation is voluntary, and you can choose to not to answer any question or not to participate at any time. You can also withdraw from the discussion at any time, *without any consequences*. Your decision about whether to participate in this study or to answer any specific questions will in no way affect any services that you receive. If you do choose to participate, please answer the questions honestly and openly, so that we can understand your experience and find out what you really think and have experienced.

The information you provide will be strictly confidential and never connected to you. Other people will not know if you are in this study or what you have said. We will put information we learn from you together with information we learn from other people in the evaluation. No one will be able to tell what information came from you. When we tell other people about this evaluation, we will never use your name, and no one will ever know what answers you gave. Only a few researchers will have access to this information, and all information will be stored safely and destroyed under the care of the lead evaluator. The discussions will be recorded with your consent for record-keeping purposes but will be discarded later. The information provided by you will not be misused in any form or way. Please be assured that the provided information (such as pictures, recordings etc.) will not be misused in any way and is only being collected for record keeping and evidence purposes. With your consent, your pictures might be used in the Evaluation Report. Your participation in this discussion will not involve any monetary or other form of compensation, and there will be no associated risks. Please be assured that your parent/ guardian has also signed a consent form on your behalf. However, you can still refuse to participate in this study.

This evaluation is funded by UNICEF. This means that the team is being paid by the sponsor for doing the evaluation. The researchers do not, however, have a direct financial interest in the sponsor or in the final results of the evaluation. **This evaluation process is being** reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, or if you would like to obtain information or offer input, you may contact: Ms. Win Ei Mon Khine on 09798 482 259 or by email to: [winei07@gmail.com](mailto:winei07@gmail.com)

Before you say yes or no to being in this study, we will answer any questions you have.

I understand the purpose of this Focus Group Discussion. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost:

- If you consent to the recording of the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box.
- If you consent to sharing of the Focus Group Discussion to authorised partners, please ✓ the box.
- If you consent to taking and sharing your pictures (for Evaluation Report) during the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

## CONTACT CARD

If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, or if you would like to obtain information or offer input, you may contact:

Name: Ms Win Ei Mon Khine  
Organisation: Local Consultant  
Phone Number: 09798 482 259  
Email: [winei07@gmail.com](mailto:winei07@gmail.com)

### Consent Form Acknowledgment:

I, Ms Win Ei Mon Khine, acknowledge that the information provided above is accurate and complete. I understand that this contact card will be used for official communication related to the evaluation project and will be kept confidential.

Evaluator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

## Annexure 4: Checklist for FGDs

### Common Questions for All FGDs.

#### Relevance

- Do the WASH facilities meet your community's water and sanitation needs? What aspects of the facilities work well? What improvements are still needed?
- Were community members involved in planning and deciding where the facilities should be built? Do you think the involvement was enough? How could the planning process be improved?
- Do the facilities meet the needs of everyone, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities? Are there any groups whose needs were not fully considered?

#### Effectiveness

- How well are the water and sanitation facilities working? What aspects of the service in quantity and quality are successful, and what problems or limitations do you see?
- Have hygiene practices, like handwashing, and personal hygiene improved since the programme started? Are these improvements consistent, or are there still challenges?
- How has access to clean water and sanitation improved health and safety in your community? Are there specific health benefits, or are there areas where more support is needed?

#### Sustainability

- How were you involved in the planning and implementation of climate resilient WASH services. What were innovations and what are demerits?
- How are community members involved in maintaining the facilities? Have you or others received any training or support? Do you think this is enough for long-term sustainability, or are there gaps?
- What systems or funding are in place to keep the facilities running? Are these effective, or do you see potential problems in the future?
- Are essential items like soap and sanitation materials always available? Where are they usually located? If not, what challenges cause this, and what could improve the situation?

#### Climate Resilience

- How well do the facilities perform during extreme weather events, like floods or droughts? What measures have been successful in maintaining functionality, and what problems remain?
- Has the programme helped your community prepare for climate-related challenges, such as water scarcity or contamination after floods? Are there areas where you feel more support or resources needed?
- Have the communities equipped with emergency preparedness plans especially for climate induced hazards? What types of local emergency plan and early warning systems exist. What improvements noted after UNICEF intervention.

#### Community Involvement

- How would you describe your sense of ownership over the WASH facilities? Are there community-led initiatives to manage or maintain these facilities, and do they seem effective or in need of improvement?
- How often communities meet to discuss climate resilient WASH issues and services in their communities. What type of record keeping or documentation maintained?

### Additional Questions for Each FGD Group

#### Community Members (Men, Women, and General Community)

- How prepared do you think the community is to maintain these facilities on its own if external support were to end? Are there strengths that can support this independence, or are there challenges that might prevent it?
- What types of training or knowledge have you received to help protect water sources, sanitation facilities or adapt hygiene practices during extreme weather conditions? Has this training been useful, or are there areas where more guidance is needed?

- Are there any specific barriers preventing certain groups, like women, children, or the elderly, from fully benefiting from the WASH facilities? What efforts have been made to address these barriers, and where do you see room for improvement?
- What was the role of volunteers in your communities. What changes are required in their role in future interventions.
- What type of knowledge and services for Menstrual Hygiene Management have been contributed by the programme. What were weak areas and how these could be improved?

#### **Youth and Children**

- How well do these facilities meet the specific needs of young people, especially in places like schools or community centres? Are there successes you would highlight, as well as any problems that still need addressing?
- What have you learned about hygiene practices, like handwashing, through this programme? Have these lessons made a difference, and are there any challenges to following these practices regularly?
- What do you know about climate change in the context of WASH, and which areas you would like to learn about climate change.
- How do young people contribute to keeping these facilities clean and well-maintained? Are these contributions effective, or could young people play a bigger role in upkeep?

#### **Vulnerable Groups (Elderly and Persons with Disabilities)**

- How accessible and easy to use are the facilities for elderly individuals and people with disabilities? What features are particularly helpful, and what difficulties do you encounter?
- How has your ability to access clean water and sanitation been affected by extreme weather conditions? Have any adaptations been made for these circumstances, or are there ongoing barriers?
- What additional changes would make these facilities safer and more accessible for you or others with similar needs? Have past improvements addressed your needs, or are further modifications necessary?

#### **Water User Committees and Local Leaders**

- How do community contributions, like fees or volunteer hours, support the maintenance of these facilities? Are these contributions effective, or do you face any issues in collecting or managing them?
- How prepared do committee members feel to manage and repair the WASH facilities? What types of training have been successful, and are there additional resources needed?
- What steps have been taken to make the facilities resilient to extreme weather? Are these measures proving successful, or are there other improvements needed?

#### **Volunteers**

- What challenges have you encountered in promoting hygiene practices and climate awareness in the community? Are there successes in these efforts, and what barriers still exist?
- How well do you think the programme addresses the community's climate-related health risks, such as waterborne diseases during floods? Are there particular strengths or weaknesses in this approach?
- How has the programme improved access to WASH facilities for vulnerable groups? What further support do you think is needed to make these services more inclusive and accessible?

## Annexure 5: Checklist for KIIs

### Common Questions for All KIIs

#### Relevance

- How well do the WASH interventions address the specific cultural and socio-economic needs of the community? Are there areas that could be better tailored to local contexts?
- In what ways has community feedback influenced the design and delivery of WASH services? What could be done to enhance this process in future programmes?
- Are the facilities and services aligned with local priorities, including the needs of marginalised groups? What adjustments would improve alignment?

#### Effectiveness

- What specific changes in community health and hygiene practices can you attribute to the WASH programme? Are there ongoing challenges that need to be addressed?
- How do community members perceive the reliability and quality of the WASH services? Are there areas where expectations were not met?
- How effectively has the programme addressed gender-specific needs, including menstrual hygiene management? Are there gaps that still need to be resolved?
- In what ways has the programme successfully coordinated with local authorities and NGOs? Are there opportunities to strengthen partnerships?
- What innovative practices or technologies introduced in the programme have worked well, and which could be improved?
- How the M&E of the project intervention was conducted and reported. What is key learning and what should be done differently in future.

#### Sustainability

- Are the maintenance systems in place sufficient to keep the facilities functional over time? What additional measures or resources might be needed?
- How do community members feel about their ability to manage the facilities independently? Are there specific areas where they feel unprepared or unsupported?
- Are financial systems, such as user fees or community funding, effective in supporting ongoing maintenance? What improvements could ensure long-term viability?

#### Coherence

- How well do the WASH interventions align with national policies and local development priorities, such as climate resilience and gender equity? Please share the examples and suggestion for improvement.
- How effectively were partnerships with local authorities, NGOs, and other sectors (e.g., health, education) coordinated to ensure complementary efforts and avoid duplication? What additional linkages should be established?
- How well do the WASH interventions complement or build on other ongoing community development programmes and initiatives in the region?

#### Climate Resilience

- How well have the facilities adapted to climate challenges like droughts or floods? Are there examples of successful resilience strategies?
- In what ways has the programme supported the community to anticipate and adapt to climate-related risks? What additional resources or strategies are needed?
- Have water sources been safeguarded against contamination or depletion due to climate events? What measures could enhance water security?
- What types of measures have been adopted for climate resilient sanitation interventions? What are success and barriers and suggest for innovation?

### **Inclusivity and Community Engagement**

- How accessible are the facilities for vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, women, children, and the elderly? Are there specific barriers that still exist?
- How has the programme encouraged the participation of women and youth in decision-making processes? Are there examples of successes or missed opportunities?
- What methods were used to mobilise the community for WASH activities? Which methods were most effective, and what could be improved?

### **Specific Questions for Each KII Group**

#### **UNICEF Staff (WASH Programme Manager, M&E Specialist, etc.)**

- How well do the WASH interventions address community needs and UNICEF's objectives for climate-resilient WASH services? What has worked, and where do gaps remain?
- Were resources, including funds and staff, allocated effectively across programme components? What were the successes, and were there any inefficiencies?
- How the elements of climate resilience for WASH were identified? Any risk assessment conducted and were communities involved?
- What steps are in place to ensure the long-term functionality of WASH facilities, especially during extreme climate conditions? Are there potential challenges in maintaining sustainability?
- How was the experience of digitalised M&E and record keeping worked? What were key challenges on online data collection and collation? How this should be improved in the future?

#### **Local Government Officials (Public Health, Water and Sanitation Departments)**

- How does the WASH programme align with local government priorities for public health and climate resilience? What aspects align well, and are there areas where alignment could improve?
- What role does the government play in supporting the long-term sustainability of these services? Are there successes, or are there areas where government involvement could be strengthened?
- How prepared is the local government to manage WASH facilities independently during extreme weather events? What support would enhance this readiness?

#### **Local NGO Implementing Partners**

- How effective has the programme's training and support been for health assistants and NGO workers in promoting climate-resilient and inclusive WASH practices? What aspects have been beneficial, and where is there room for improvement?
- How responsive have communities been to the programme's training and capacity-building activities? What successes have you seen in community engagement, and what challenges remain?
- How well does the WASH programme align with other health and climate resilience initiatives in the area? Are there synergies that have enhanced impact, or are there gaps that need addressing?

#### **Private Sector Contractors and Sanitation Entrepreneurs**

- What challenges and successes have you encountered in constructing climate-resilient and inclusive WASH infrastructure? How well do you feel the infrastructure meets community needs?
- Are the materials used for WASH facilities durable and appropriate for the local climate? What has worked well in terms of material choice, and where could improvements be made?
- How effectively do partnerships with NGOs, government bodies, and local communities support the maintenance and sustainability of WASH facilities? What has strengthened these partnerships, and what could enhance them further?

#### **Community Leaders and Water User Association**

- How actively involved are community leaders and elders in managing WASH facilities? Are there successes in fostering community ownership, and are there challenges in ensuring full engagement?
- What plans are in place to support the long-term maintenance and sustainability of WASH facilities? How effective are these plans, and what potential gaps might hinder sustainability?
- How well do you think the WASH facilities handle climate-related challenges, such as seasonal floods or water shortages? What aspects of the facilities have proven resilient, and where could they be strengthened?

## Annexure 6: Field Observation Checklist

Field Observation Checklist with a Scoring Sheet designed to evaluate various aspects of community WASH interventions in Myanmar. Each item is scored on a 3-point scale, with **3 = Fully Meets Criteria**, **2 = Partially Meets Criteria**, and **1 = Does Not Meet Criteria**. The scoring sheet provides a quick, quantifiable assessment, helping evaluators identify strengths and areas needing improvement.

Observation Area	Criteria	Score (1 - 3)
<b>1. WASH Infrastructure and Facilities</b>		
<b>1.1 Water Source</b>	Type and condition of water source (e.g., clean, well-maintained, safe from contamination)	
	Accessibility for all community members, including people with disabilities	
	Consistency of water availability and reliability	
<b>1.2 Sanitation Facilities</b>	Condition and cleanliness of toilets/latrines	
	Presence of separate, private facilities for men and women	
	Adaptations for people with disabilities (e.g., ramps, handrails)	
<b>1.3 Handwashing Stations</b>	Availability and location of handwashing stations near latrines and other high-use areas	
	Presence of soap or ash for handwashing	
	Cleanliness and usability of handwashing facilities	
<b>2. Community Engagement and Ownership</b>		
<b>2.1 Local Involvement</b>	Evidence of community-led committees or groups managing WASH facilities	
	Visible signs of community ownership, such as local maintenance efforts	
<b>2.2 Maintenance Practices</b>	Regular maintenance routines observed (e.g., scheduled cleaning, repairs)	
	Availability of maintenance tools and materials on-site	
<b>3. Climate Resilience</b>		
<b>3.1 Adaptations for Extreme Weather</b>	Presence of structural adaptations to protect against floods, droughts, or extreme weather	
	Energy efficient, solarisation, gravity led, filtration, etc.	
<b>3.2 Location and Site Conditions</b>	WASH facilities are located away from flood-prone areas or other climate risks	
<b>3.3 Community Preparedness</b>	Visible resources or signs for emergency use during climate events	
<b>4. Inclusivity and Accessibility</b>		
<b>4.1 Facility Design</b>	Facilities designed for inclusivity, accommodating all community members	
	Access pathways and ramps for people with mobility challenges	
<b>4.2 Signage and Privacy</b>	Presence of signage indicating separate facilities for men, women, and children	
	Private and secure areas for vulnerable groups, especially women and girls	
<b>5. Functionality and Usability</b>		
<b>5.1 Reliability of Water Supply and Sanitation</b>	Consistent water availability and quality indicators (e.g., clarity, Odor)	
	Suitability of sanitation facilities for regular use by the community	
<b>5.2 Availability of Hygiene Materials</b>	Presence of soap, hand sanitiser, or ash at handwashing stations	
	Availability of menstrual hygiene products in facilities for women and girls	
<b>6. Hygiene and Behavioural Change</b>		
<b>6.1 Hygiene Promotion Materials</b>	Presence of posters or materials promoting hygiene practices	
<b>6.2 Behavioural Observations</b>	Evidence of community members practicing handwashing after using sanitation facilities	

## Annexure 7: Checklist for Case Studies

Key Areas	Description
<b>1.Meeting Community Needs</b>	<p><b>Needs Alignment:</b> How well do WASH interventions address community-specific needs, including those of vulnerable groups? Was community input considered in the planning and prioritisation of WASH services?</p> <p><b>Accessibility and Inclusivity:</b> Are WASH facilities accessible for all, including women, children, and people with disabilities? Do the facilities provide privacy and safety for women and girls?</p> <p><b>Local Adaptation:</b> How well do interventions fit the local environmental and socio-political context?</p>
<b>2. Resilience</b>	<p><b>Climate Resilience:</b> Are WASH facilities designed to withstand local climate challenges (e.g., floods, droughts)? Are community members trained to adapt WASH practices during extreme weather events?</p> <p><b>Adaptability:</b> How adaptable are WASH services to changing climate conditions and community needs?</p>
<b>3. Sustainability</b>	<p><b>Community Ownership:</b> To what extent have community members been trained to manage and maintain WASH facilities? Are there established community committees to oversee WASH services?</p> <p><b>Maintenance and Funding:</b> Are financial mechanisms in place to support ongoing maintenance? Is there local or private sector involvement in sustaining WASH infrastructure?</p> <p><b>Exit Strategy:</b> Is there a clear plan for communities to continue managing WASH services independently?</p>
<b>4. Impact</b>	<p><b>Health and Hygiene:</b> What improvements in health and hygiene practices are observed since the programme began? Has there been a reduction in waterborne diseases or open defecation?</p> <p><b>Community Empowerment:</b> How has the programme influenced community attitudes and roles, especially for women and youth, in WASH management?</p> <p><b>Economic and Environmental Impact:</b> Has the programme reduced time spent on water collection or improved economic conditions? Are there positive environmental changes, such as reduced contamination of water sources?</p> <p><b>Equity:</b> Has the programme ensured equitable access for all community members, especially vulnerable groups?</p>
<b>5.Community Feedback and Perceptions</b>	<p><b>Satisfaction and Benefits:</b> How do community members perceive the benefits of the WASH interventions?</p> <p><b>Challenges and Suggestions:</b> What challenges remain, and what improvements do community members suggest?</p> <p><b>Personal Stories:</b> Gather testimonials or narratives illustrating the impact of the WASH programme on individuals and households.</p>
<b>6.Documentation and Visual Evidence</b>	<p><b>Photographs:</b> Capture images of WASH facilities, climate-resilient features, and inclusive adaptations.</p> <p><b>Contextual Documentation:</b> Provide visual context of the surrounding environment to highlight the integration of WASH facilities with local climate challenges</p>

## Annexure 8: Draft Work Plan

Months	October		November		December				January				February				March						
Weeks	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Key Activities																							
Kick Off Meetings																							
Literature review and inception report																							
Submission of draft report and ethical clearance																							
Feedback on report																							
Final Inception Report and ethical approval																							
Training, pre-testing and data collection																							
Data Analysis and Interpretation Completed																							
<b>Preliminary Findings Sharing</b>																							
Draft Formative Evaluation Report Submitted																							
<b>Feedback from UNICEF</b>																							
Validation Workshop and Lesson Learnt																							
<b>Final Report</b>																							
<b>Learning Briefs and PPT</b>																							
<b>Report Dissemination</b>																							