

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

TEL: (212) 744-1271 · FAX: (212) 744-1290  
EMAIL: myanmarmission@verizon.net

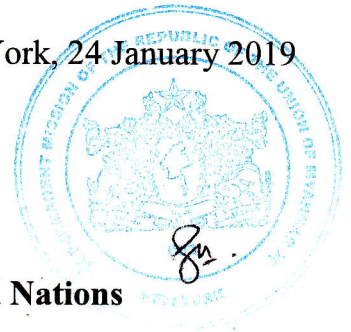
10 EAST 77th STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10075

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's Note No. 2018/0089183/5 dated 7 December 2018 addressed to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations as the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) for the month of December 2018, requesting for the response of the members of the Asia-Pacific group to the guiding questions for the Two Cluster issues of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of OEWSGA, namely "Education, training, life-long learning and capacity building" and "Social Protection and Social security", has the honour to enclose herewith the inputs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 24 January 2019



**Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations**  
**CC: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations**  
**Email: [ageing@un.org](mailto:ageing@un.org)**

## **Education, Training Life-Long Learning and Capacity Building Cluster National Legal Frameworks**

According to the Elderly People Law which was enacted on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016, elderly people in Myanmar are entitled to be provided with vocational and professional training to promote their active participation and income security. Likewise, Myanmar National Social protection Strategic Plan (2014) highlights the establishment of Older People Self Help Groups across the country aiming at capacity building of active aging population and boosting their contribution to the community to be visibly recognized.

### **Availability, Accessibility and Adaptability**

Some elderly people are illiterate and majority of aging population in rural ethnic areas can communicate only through their respective languages. This makes communication process during trainings more challenging. In addition, traditional stereotypes such as gender issue and physical barriers are still decreasing inclusiveness.

In collaboration with INGOs, Older People Self Help Groups in (118) villages across the country have been formed and empowerment trainings and activities for elderly regarding livelihoods, financial management, leadership, basic health care, disaster awareness as appropriate to individual's preference. Gender equality and inclusion are foregrounded in every measure.

The number or percentage of elderly people who have certain level of literacy and have completed formal education is available in the Thematic Report on Older Population (2017). The situation of older persons in Myanmar (2013) report also provides information about education and literacy status of elderly.

### **Equality and Non-discrimination**

Although the minimum age to enter the primary education is enforced, maximum age limit to continue education is not applied. Excepting the eligibility criteria on age of certain trainings and education programs, there is no apparent discrimination on age regarding education for elderly.

## **Accountability**

The complaints about denying the older persons' right to education are hardly reported and there is no individualized channel to redress such issues yet. However, any attempts of violation of elderly people's rights can be reported either to the Department of Social Welfare Hotline or to State/Region/District Department of Social Welfare Offices. Depending upon the types, areas and involving agents, necessary actions and collaborative efforts are to be made.

## Social Protection and Social Security Cluster

### National Legal Frameworks

Myanmar National Social protection Strategic Plan endorsed in 2014 is an initiation to unconditional cash transfer program (Universal Social Pension) for elderly people aged 85 and above currently being implemented. The Pension Act (1871), the political pension law and the social security law are legal documents for elderly to be protected in terms of income security after retirement. The Elderly People Law (2016) legally ensures that elderly population can get access to social care, family and community support for better health and living condition.

### Availability

Every older person regardless of status, ethnicity, religion, income is entitled to the social pension program (10,000 MMK per month) if any official document of being 85 years old or above is provided. This is a universal and non-contributory program. The program was started with eligibility age of 90 and the age limit is reduced to 85 since 2018-2019 fiscal year. In 2017-2018 fiscal year, 10000 MMK per month was provided to each of ( 40982 ) elderly aged 90 and above. In 2018-2019 mini budget year, (43439 ) received their monthly social pension and in the first quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, ( 168578 ) elderly aged 85 and above have been provided. The cash amount provided under this program is complementary to other supports to the elderly for better living.

The Department of Social Welfare is running Day Care Center for elderly aged 70 and above as well as sharing technical know-how and aids with voluntary organizations to ensure that ageing population can have more access. To be able to create more community-based elderly care opportunities and promote elderly independent living, existing Older People Self Help Groups (OPSHGs) that are composed of sub-groups such as health care services,

livelihoods and income generating activities, disaster risk awareness and preparedness activities are strengthened and new OPHGs are formed.

### **Adequacy**

The National Social Protection Strategic Plan (2014) urges to lower the eligibility age and increase the benefit amount in a gradual manner and as appropriate. Depending upon the fiscal space available for elderly, the social pension program is to be scaled up in terms of age limit as well as benefit amount in order that elderly population can access to health care and social assistance.

### **Accessibility**

Information about Universal Social pension program, eligibility criteria, application process and complaint mechanism is provided to the public through newspapers, popular TV channels, radio and billboards. Their beneficiary cards include information that they can contact for further enquiry and complaints including contact number of the focal department and the Helpline number of the Department of Social Welfare a means of complaint reporting channel.

The universal social pension benefit is directly disbursed to every eligible elderly. Although the authorized proxy can receive the benefit, the government staff service providers and village/ward heads reach to their homes and disburse the benefit directly to the elderly in general. As it is an unconditional cash transfer, elderly can make their own decision on spending of the benefit.

### **Equality and Non-discrimination**

The key challenge of the program for equity occurs when some beneficiaries cannot provide necessary document to prove their age. Most of those people are homeless or institutionalized due to abandonment. Such groups of people are more vulnerable and are more likely to lose their

entitlement. Collaborative effort among various line departments is being made for more inclusion and social justice.

### **Accountability**

Monitoring and evaluation of the program process and its impacts are randomly undertaken across the country by the leading department and cash disbursement is cross-checked by the government audit team.

Both older persons and public are informed how to complain about any injustice and fraud regarding their rights to the social pension benefit. Complaints and grievance are solved or referred at appropriate level of administration ( Headquarters or Regional or State level of Department of Social Welfare) and on a case-by-case basis.