
Human Rights

Myanmar has faced a profound regression in human rights. Protection of human rights will be promoted by this action as a part of responsible business conduct, especially concerning equality of opportunity and treatment, adopting a human rights-based approach and applying its working principles of participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency. Due diligence in terms also of social and environmental standards will be promoted.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the disability is a significant objective.

Women, men, and children with disabilities face discrimination and stigmatization in Myanmar. For Myanmar women and girls with disabilities, gender inequality compounds these challenges. They are disproportionately affected by the new and protracted crises, and their needs, including food security and nutrition, were amplified by the conflict. Given the socioeconomic collapse, people with disabilities struggle to find livelihood opportunities. As FAO-WFP Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment show, they have fewer jobs and are more likely to suffer abuses, even more so in hard-to-reach areas. The action is set to address these exacerbated hardships through supporting generation of inclusive income activities, as well as through capacity building and skills development trainings, technical and vocational training. The Action will ensure that the rights of women and men with disabilities are going to be respected, and the envisaged interventions are disability responsive and inclusive. The Action is going to invite the organisations representing persons with disabilities (DPOs) when possible and it will make sure that (at least physical) accessibility of planned events is guaranteed.

Reduction of inequalities

As the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey from 2020 showed, more than half of the employed labour force work in agriculture and 64 per cent of households earn income from agricultural activities. Compared to non-agricultural activities, agricultural ones (particularly wage labour) are associated with lower returns. On average, earnings from agricultural activities account for just 22 per cent of total household income. The poor are significantly more likely than the non-poor to be engaged in agriculture. Geographical variations in income can also be attributed to differences in engagement in non-farm business and non-agricultural labour.

As the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey shows, women are 30 per cent less likely than men to be in the labour force, but their engagement in housework and childcare present significant barriers to their workforce participation. There is an untapped potential in the inclusion of a subsidized childcare component in the agricultural livelihoods and women's empowerment programmes not only in Southeast Asia. Evidence shows³² that subsidized childcare accompanied by relevant capacity-building measures could be a powerful mechanism to promote economic empowerment and improve women's labour outcomes, incl. reducing structural gender inequalities.

The action will contribute to tackling these inequalities by improving rural livelihoods and women's empowerment by improving household and community food production in conflict-affected areas, supporting the integration of vulnerable smallholder farmers into more sustainable value chains, supporting generation of income activities through capacity building and skills development trainings, technical and vocational training and by support and promote decent and attractive employment opportunities in agricultural value chains with a focus on women through building skills and capacity of female workers and strengthening women farmers.

Democracy

The action will contribute to strengthening the resilience and local capacities of farmers and fishermen in view of locally-led and community-based natural resources management and promoting businesses adhering to social standards, creating a more conducive environment for dialogue with workers.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

³² Warner & Zhilin (2006), Del Boca (2015) or Clark et al. (2017)