



# Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Call to Action 2024



## Myanmar

### Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Solutions in Asia and the Pacific with Young People at the Forefront

#### SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

##### SDG 1: No Poverty

Myanmar has remained vulnerable and at risk of falling into poverty in the face of negative shocks, which could rollback progress and cause setbacks in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar on the socioeconomic impacts of both the pandemic and the ongoing coup d'état, the study warns that, if unchecked, the combined effect of these two crises could push up to 12 million people into poverty. That could result in as many as 25 million people - nearly half of Myanmar's population - living below the national poverty line, a level of impoverishment not seen in the country since 2005.

Myanmar is facing an economic crisis. Before 2021, the dollar rate was 2100 kyats and now it is 3580 kyats. For the factory workers, they only get 4800 kyats (1.34 US Dollars) a day. All these multiple situations are pushing the poverty crisis.

##### SDG2: Zero Hunger

Food insecurity in Myanmar has risen sharply amid the worst humanitarian crisis in its recent history, affecting 12.9 million or one in four people. Political crisis, conflict, economic downturn, pre-existing poverty and climate-related shocks are all driving the emergency. Conflict is spreading into new areas, driving displacement at a record scale. Most displaced people are cut off from access to food and often dependent on WFP assistance for survival. Meanwhile, the country is highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters. In May 2023, Cyclone Mocha left a devastating trail, with WFP launching a life-saving response for hundreds of thousands of people. Unprecedented floods in October 2023 prompted WFP to provide emergency food assistance to 24,000 people. Despite immense security constraints, humanitarian access and funding challenges, WFP is doing its utmost to assist at least 2 million people in 2024, increasingly working with local partners. [WFP - World Food Programme, 2023].



Humanitarian needs in Myanmar continue to rise sharply since February 2021 as a result of political and economic upheaval and increased conflict. Myanmar is facing a rapidly growing food security crisis, and nearly one in four people are already food insecure. Ongoing violence, economic crisis, recurrent climate-induced shocks, population displacement and COVID-19, among other factors, are disrupting the entire national food system. [UN Myanmar, June 2023]

### SDG 13: Climate Action

There is a lack of capacity building, skill-building opportunities in Myanmar for youth who want to pursue a career in climate change related fields. Youth are facing barriers in implementing on-ground climate activities projects in Myanmar due to political, instability and security concerns. Finally, there is a lack of resourceful people in this climate change field to address current climate issues happening in Myanmar.

## OUR KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

### SDG 1: No Poverty

#### Stabilise the Economy and Stimulate Investment:

- Implement policies and measures to stabilise the economy, control inflation, and manage the rising prices of essential commodities. International support in the form of economic aid and relief packages can be instrumental in this regard.
- Create incentives for both local and international investments in stable and non-conflict regions, focusing on sectors that can generate immediate employment opportunities and contribute to economic stability.

#### Create Alternative Employment Opportunities:

- Invest in vocational training and skill development programmes to equip the displaced and unemployed population with new skills, making them suitable for various non-agricultural job sectors.
- Promote small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing microfinance, business development services, and market access to stimulate job creation and economic diversification.

#### Community Resilience and Social Protection:

- Develop social protection programs that target the most vulnerable populations, including cash transfers, food aid, and health assistance, to cushion the impacts of economic instability and conflict.
- Support community resilience-building initiatives that empower communities to cope with economic shocks, rebuild their livelihoods, and contribute to the local economy.

### SDG 2: Zero Hunger

- Reduce hunger for people living in conflict zones as well as those facing hunger due to lack of employment in urban areas.
- Zero hunger is needed to reduce the immune deficiency that follows hunger. People in Myanmar do not have good access to health services as well.
- Remedy as a great deal as viable the lack of protected pad usage; girls and women are facing these issues as an outcome of hunger.

### SDG 13: Climate Action

- Connect, Collaborate and Coordinate Research and Action driven Climate Initiatives in Myanmar so young people, working professionals and experienced resource persons can gather together to solve these issues with a common purpose.
- Foster inclusivity in climate action planning and creating community-based climate mapping to listen and integrate every voices and concerns happening in their community and region
- Organise more climate entrepreneurship and skill-building training programmes for youth to get more involved in climate action movements in Myanmar and beyond.

### SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Ensure collaborations and initiative with organisations and communities.

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*The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum in Bangkok on February 15-17, 2024. The Myanmar drafting team consists of Shar Thae Hoy, Phyu, and Si Thu Wai. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.*

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