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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX I

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the special measure in favour of the people of Myanmar for 2023

Action Document for Support to Peace, Democratisation and Resilience in Myanmar

SPECIAL MEASURE

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Support to Peace, Democratisation and Resilience in Myanmar OPSYS number: ACT-62181 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Myanmar
4. Programming document	N/A
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	N/A
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 1: Governance & Peace
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 16. Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies Other significant SDGs and where appropriate, targets: 1. No Poverty; 5. Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls; 10. Reduced Inequalities:
8 a) DAC code(s)	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society 35% 15160 - Human Rights. 10% 15170 - Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions. 5% 15220 - Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution. 50%
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	United Nations - 41000

9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	education and research			
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 Total estimated cost: EUR 20 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 20 000 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 20 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial year following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing ¹	Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.3 and 4.4.4			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Two years after the military coup, positions have hardened, armed conflict has spread to large parts of the country and a peaceful resolution is not in sight. The conflict has escalated and now dominates most parts of the country. The humanitarian and human rights situation has continued to deteriorate. Progress achieved from 2010 to 2021 in terms of economic development, democratic governance, individual freedoms and rights is lost. Despite the increasing repression, the majority of Myanmar's population refuses normalisation and the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) continues. The opposition to the military, including the National Unity Government (NUG), other pro-democratic bodies and the different Ethnic Resistance Organisations (EROs), have gained ground internally and externally, despite the difficulties they face. However, agreeing on a unified shared vision for the country remains a political challenge. In this context, local community networks and civil society organisations (CSOs) have increased their prominent role in the delivery of basic services in many areas, filling gaps where the state has failed, while also carrying out life-saving activities, contributing to accountability for human rights violations and supporting conflict transformation.

The overall objective of the action is to support stakeholders engaged in constructive efforts to monitor, manage and mitigate conflict at local level, and in consolidating a shared vision for an inclusive federal, democratic union and for sustainable peace, while at the same time supporting local actors and organisations to contribute towards building resilience.

The specific objective of the action is to strengthen the capacity of local non-state actors so they can assume their role as active participants in the peacebuilding and democratisation efforts while at the same time contribute to the resilience of local populations.

The outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the specific objective (outcome) are the following:

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

1. Capacities, confidence and trust among local peace actors and communities are strengthened, allowing for conflict management and for an inclusive political dialogue for sustainable peace;
2. Capacities at community level for societal resilience and peace-building are strengthened, allowing for conflict transformation;
3. Capacity and autonomy of local civil society organisations to deliver services, enhance social cohesion and promote and protect individual rights in Myanmar are enhanced.

The action takes a Nexus (Humanitarian-Development-Peace) approach by addressing the immediate needs of the Myanmar population deriving from the current crisis while building a foundation for a national dialogue and reconciliation process. With this additional funding, the ongoing Joint Peace Fund (JPF), Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM) and civil society organisations (CSOs) community level conflict reduction and peace-building interventions will be reinforced. The action capitalises on the added-value of each separate funding instrument in a complementary manner to support peace-building: the JPF using long established partnerships with peace actors across the country, the NRM working with conflict affected communities through area-based approaches, and direct support to CSOs to continue to build capacities in navigating the closing civic space. It will integrate a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach which is inclusive of the rights of persons with disabilities. No funding will go directly to political parties, nor to any parties to the conflict.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

When the military seized control of all state powers on February 1 2021, Myanmar's democratic transition was abruptly reversed. The military coup brought about massive citizen protests, a civil disobedience movement (CDM) and widespread armed resistance by people's defence forces (PDFs) beyond the traditional peripheral areas under the control of Ethnic Resistance Organisations (EROs). The junta responded with more repression and violence. The 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) peace-building framework consequently lost relevance and the armed conflict escalated. Civilians have been disproportionately affected assuming prominent roles on the frontlines of protests, the CDM and in the armed resistance. Restrictions in Myanmar's banking system and collateral effects of the CDM have led to severe economic deterioration, creating concerns about a nationwide food security crisis. Moreover, access to cash has become increasingly difficult for the population and organisations. Poverty and repression has exacerbated the situation of people already living in vulnerable conditions, such a people with disabilities². The military junta has restricted access to information through internet shutdowns and cracking down on media outlets and information providers.

Conflict and violence is increasingly affecting civilians

The last 2 years saw a dramatic proliferation of violence and increased brutality including bombardments, mass killings, torching villages, gender-based violence, conflict-related sexual violence, and violence against children. Civilians are being targeted every day and hundreds of thousands have been displaced while the military authorities continue to restrict the delivery of humanitarian aid³. The emergence of hundreds of People's Defence Forces/local defence forces (PDFs/LDFs) – many of whom are associated with the National Unity Government (NUG) – has resulted in armed conflict moving from border areas to now also include parts of the Bamar heartland, with armed activity in major urban centres. They are actively resisting the SAC in almost all states and regions.

² Relief web: <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/strengthening-support-and-inclusion-persons-disabilities-amid-humanitarian-crisis-myanmar>. According to 2019 Myanmar Inter-Censal Survey, 12.8% of the population (estimated 5.9 million people) are living with disabilities in Myanmar, and 12.4% for Yangon region. It means 896,242 people are living with disabilities in Yangon region alone. COVID-19 pandemic and political crisis have exacerbated the situation of persons with disabilities. It has imposed a triple burden on persons with disabilities particularly women and girls with disabilities. Moreover, persons with disabilities in Myanmar aged 15 and over are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than those without disabilities.

³ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/myanmar/report-myanmar/>.

Eight regions and states are particularly impacted by the resulting violence⁴, which amounts to two-thirds of the country being affected, with one-third of townships under Martial Law and the other third affected by some type of conflict. Myanmar ranked second in terms of fatalities from political violence (over 20,000) in 2022 - just behind Ukraine - and topped the global list in terms of “weighted severity”⁵ According to the figures provided by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), over 22,624 people have been arrested since the coup, with more than 18,407 still incarcerated and over 3,580 civilians killed⁶. In July 2022, the military junta executed four political prisoners, the first executions in over 30 years. The Humanitarian Needs Overview of OCHA⁷ 2023 estimates that 17.6 million people (52 percent women, 32 percent children and 13 percent with disability) are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance requiring 768 million USD. Almost 50 percent of the population is estimated to be living in poverty in 2023, wiping out the gains made since 2005. The number of children and their families displaced by the conflict has increased by 60 per cent since December 2021 to more than 1.4 million people, including the 330,400 who had been living in protracted displacement prior to the coup. In addition, UNHCR counts 1.2 million refugees outside the country, mostly Romyingha in Bangladesh. It is estimated that millions of Myanmar citizens have fled to Thailand and other countries in the last 2 years.

Peace and democracy stakeholders remain divided

The stakeholders of sustainable peace in Myanmar and their respective agendas are complex and diverse. A fundamental faultline is between the SAC and those opposing it and seeking, amongst other things, the removal of the military from political power in Myanmar. However, there are also divisions within the broad spectrum of groups and actors positioned in opposition to the SAC about what a federal democratic state should look like. Faultlines within the SAC and its allies are also visible. While a united opposition front that agrees on a unified shared vision for the country remains far from reality and the conditions for a national dialogue and reconciliation process are not currently in place, there is a need to forge alliances and if possible create a common vision for an inclusive pathway to peace.

Alongside this political process, the people of Myanmar also have a role to play and as such are key stakeholders in the process. They have been subjected to authoritarian rule, which normalised an exclusionary national identity based on a singular ethno-religious foundation that has ignored the needs and concerns of Myanmar’s diverse population. Following the 2021 coup, it has become clear that achieving a lasting, positive peace requires supporting the people of Myanmar to develop a new social contract that redefines the role of the Myanmar military, reimagines a more inclusive national identity, and rebuilds Myanmar’s institutions to be more participatory, transparent and accountable.

Civil society faces new challenges

Civil society is facing a number of challenges related to a continuous shrinking of the space in which they operate. The main difficulties they are facing concern security and safety of their staff, registration requirements to operate, control of their accounts, access to cash and overall control of their movements and activities. Women Rights Organizations (WROs) working on issues related to gender-based violence face particular challenges due to the sensitive nature of their work. The military junta has taken a number of steps towards using legislation for further tightening its control on CSOs and ostracizing the political opposition. On 28th October 2022, the new Registration of Associations Law was enacted, imposing additional pressure and control on the capacity of international and domestic CSOs to operate in Myanmar. By criminalizing noncompliance with a set of cumbersome and costly administrative procedures, the military junta introduced a new layer of scrutiny with damaging consequences⁸.

⁴ The 8 conflict zones are the following: Chin State, Magway/Sagaing regions, Kachin State, North Shan State, East Shan State Kayah State/South Shan State, Kayin State, Mon State and East Bago region, Tanintharyi region (NRM Car Facility).

⁵ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) <https://acleddata.com/conflict-severity-index/>.

⁶ <https://aappb.org/>. Figures from 22 May 2023. AAPP political prisoner definition to be found here: https://aappb.org/?page_id=5830.

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-needs-overview-2023-january-2023>.

⁸ Despite the possible severe impact on civil society of the new Registration of Associations Law, a recent survey by the international non-governmental organization (INGO) Forum with 60 INGOs confirmed that INGOs are exploring a range of registration options and operational modalities and most INGOs remain committed to stay and deliver with less than 2 percent of respondents considering ceasing or suspending all their operations in-country. About 57 percent responded that they will pursue registration under the new Registration of Associations Law while other options include registration under the Directorate

This trend is expected to continue. The military junta's adoption on 27 January 2023 of the Political Parties Registration Law has resulted in the dissolution of 40 political parties who decided not to abide. Among the parties dissolved is Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), a party that obtained 83% of the votes in the 8 November 2020 elections and 77% in the 2015 elections. On 1 February 2023 the military junta extended the state of emergency for another six months.

2.2 Problem Analysis

The action addresses the immediate needs of the Myanmar population deriving from the current crisis and conflict situation and aims at supporting efforts for strengthening people's resilience and for creating a space for meaningful dialogue for peace. This directly implements the Council Conclusions of February 2021 which identified EU engagement in the country as essential to i) promote EU fundamental values ii) support Myanmar people, now more than ever in need of direct assistance and protection, and iii) look for opportunities to support positive developments of the current crisis in particular with a view to engage on a return to the democratic path and support opportunities for sustainable peace.

The specific problems the action seeks to address are the need for civilian protection and conflict transformation, strengthening resilience of conflict affected communities and countering the shrinking space for civil society organisations.

Conflict mitigation and civilian protection

Since the military coup and over the past two years, violence has spilled over to encompass large parts of the country with mounting civilian casualties and massive population displacements. The military junta increased military force against armed resistance, which has resulted in severe population suffering and impoverishment. The conflict can be expected to be a protracted one with continued negative impact on the population. Against this backdrop, there is a need for continued support to ethnic liaison offices and community peace support actors operating in the various conflict theaters to continue serving in their early warning functions and as emergency responders, thus saving lives through conflict management mechanisms that respond to conflict incidents, prevent violence, and mitigate the impact on civilians, in a gender sensitive manner.

The country scores 10/10 for hazards and exposure to human conflict and has a vulnerability score of 5.5/10, with development, deprivation, and inequality being the highest concerns. It has a 6.1/10 lack of coping capacity, which is largely institutional. The country ranks 16th on the Inform risk list because of high hazard and exposure, vulnerability, and a lack of coping capacity (OCHA Inform 14/04/2023).⁹

Conflict transformation and peace building

In the Myanmar context it is of importance to support peace at political level ("big P") while at the same time, as this is a highly localised conflict, continue to support local level mediation/conflict management/peace efforts ("small p") and build the capacity of the grassroots actors.

Although it appears unlikely that the conflict will be resolved in the short term through any negotiations between the military junta and the pro-democracy movement, the prolonged stalemate between the military junta, the pro-democracy forces and the EROs provides a narrow window of opportunity to build the strength of "key stakeholders who wish to resolve the situation in good faith"¹⁰, thus broadening the constituency in support to the peace process and preparing stakeholders for a return to negotiations.

of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) as a non-profit company and maintaining presence and support to partners from inside and outside the country.

⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – OCHA Service: <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/acaps-briefing-note-myanmar-update-post-coup-humanitarian-situation-04-may-2023>

¹⁰ Council Conclusions of February 2021.

In addition, a broader societal change will be required to address the structural issues at the heart of the conflict, which includes redefining roles of actors and institutions, reimagining a more inclusive national identity, and rebuilding Myanmar's institutions to be more participatory, transparent and accountable.

Need to strengthen the resilience of CSOs

In response to the popular uprising, the military junta has increased repression also in the form of restrictive legislation directed against civil society and the political opposition. This despite or in response to CSOs taking on an increasingly instrumental role in service delivery in the country, replacing the state in many areas, while also carrying out life-saving activities across the country's conflict affected and vulnerable communities, contributing to accountability for human rights violations, to conflict mitigation and dialogue initiatives. Community Based/grassroots Organisations (CBOs) have also become vital in distributing relief aid in areas of conflict and have historically been pivotal in supporting community resilience to crisis. Women Rights Organisations (WROs) and Women-Led Organisations (WLOs) have been instrumental in addressing the various challenges faced by women and girls in the country and striving for positive social change. Border-based/diaspora organisations have been active in supporting humanitarian response within Myanmar, including of the Rohingya populations, youth and youth-led groups have become active players in the CSO landscape while networks of well-established local organisations. This broad spectrum of civil society actors are now the key partner for aid delivery, given their local knowledge and networks. However, the operating context has become more dangerous and they face a growing number of safety and security challenges. The localisation of aid requires building further the capacities of CSOs/CBOs across Myanmar through coaching and mentoring.

This action reflects the role of the EU as a global actor and illustrates the EU Global Strategy priority of taking an integrated approach to conflicts and crises as a means to support peace and prosperity. Importance will be given to enabling peace actors, including local communities and women, to demand and participate in the peace process. The engagement allows the EU to consolidate its standing with important players of the peace process and to continue to build foundations for future opportunities.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

As Right holders:

CSOs are the key implementing partners of the action both as peace enablers and as first responders to the needs of local communities. The action will engage with other key stakeholders as well and to promote peace and democracy, such as EOs. Special attention will be given to engage with Women Rights Organisations (WROs), and Women-Led Organisations (WLOs) and Organizations of People with disabilities.

As Duty bearers:

The EU has long been recognised as an important partner for civil society in Myanmar and has established a good network with organisations; this role has taken on a heightened importance since the coup and the EU's decision to remain engaged in Myanmar. This was reconfirmed during the consultations that the EU organised in the framework of the EU-CSO partnership strategy (Roadmap) between September and December 2022 with over 170 organisation in order to better understand the needs, challenges and priorities for civil society.

The international community remains engaged in development cooperation, although, like for the EU, direct cooperation with the authorities no longer takes places. In this context, multi-donor funds managed by UNOPS play a uniquely important role in Myanmar, by allowing international partners to join forces around common development objectives. In this case, 2 UNOPS-managed funds are of relevance:

- The Joint Peace Fund (JPF) is a multidonor initiative¹¹ that embodies a public stance in favour of peace; The EU is the biggest donor in terms of budget to the JPF since its inception in 2016 to support the 2015 NCA. The EU has therefore positioned itself at the centre of the peace process and remains a key player in this area.

¹¹ There are currently a total of 8 donors: Canada, EU, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland and the UK.

- The Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM) is a flexible mechanism that demonstrates the value of the humanitarian, development and peace nexus through an area-based approach and strong partnerships with local organisations. The NRM also regularly produces conflict analyses and conflict sensitivity assessments.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The overall objective of the action is to support stakeholders engaged in constructive efforts to monitor, manage and mitigate conflict at local level, and in consolidating a shared vision for sustainable peace, while at the same time supporting local actors and organisations to contribute towards building resilience.

The specific objective of the action is to strengthen the capacity of local non-state actors so they can assume their role as active participants in the peacebuilding efforts while at the same time contribute to the resilience of local populations.

The outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the specific objective (outcome) are the following:

1. Capacities, confidence and trust among local peace actors are strengthened, allowing for conflict management and for an inclusive political dialogue for sustainable peace;
2. Capacities at community level for societal resilience and peace-building are strengthened, allowing for conflict transformation;
3. Capacity and autonomy of local Civil Society Organisations to deliver services, enhance social cohesion and promote and protect civil rights in Myanmar are enhanced.

The overall objective of the action will be achieved by a two-pronged approach: 1) continued support to the multi-donor Joint Peace Fund (JPF) – EUR 5 million and the Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM) – EUR 5 million and; 2) direct support to civil society – EUR 10 million.

Output 1: The action, through the Joint Peace Fund (JPF), will support negotiations and dialogue between the parties to seek to build a basis for a future inclusive national dialogue process. Particular attention will be paid to the inclusion of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Even though the NCA formal peace process has stalled after the military coup, the JPF remains a valuable platform of peace networks, partners and expertise that is in a privileged position to reduce the impact of violence on civilians and promote peace in a conflict sensitive way. This includes building up negotiation and mediation capacities from the grassroots level up, in complement to other higher political-level peace-making actions.

Output 2: The action, through the NRM's peace pillar, will complement the JPF by focusing on conflict affected communities focusing at society level conflict transformation and peace-building through three approaches: 1) supporting Myanmar civil society's efforts to promote and protecting the rights of the Myanmar people; 2) contributing to the development of a stronger and more inclusive national identity by supporting intra- and inter-group solidarity, including through grassroots peacebuilding initiatives, intra- and inter-group social cohesion activities, trust- and relationship-building across identity groups and governance bodies, women and youth peace initiatives, and conflict prevention and mediation support; and

Output 3: This component of the Action will ensure continuity of funding for CSOs to create an enabling, safe environment for building their capacity as peace, human rights and democratisation actors, and service deliverers.

Conflict sensitivity of local initiatives and inclusion of gender equality, human rights based approaches and persons with disabilities will be pursued throughout the action. No funding will go directly to political parties, nor to any parties to the conflict.

As for the zone of intervention, JPF will now expand to the dry zone (Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway), as well as Chin, Rakhine, where conflict has intensified since the coup and new democratic governance initiatives have emerged. NRM peace pillar will build upon and grow within its area-based project work, seven states and regions, and beyond as needed, including through the CSO component of the action.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities contributing to the outputs include:

Activities relating to Output 1:

- Support relevant stakeholders conflict management platforms and mechanisms (for example Liaison Offices¹²);
- Support communication and coordination initiatives among conflict and peace actors;
- Reinforce community peace support networks (for example peace observers and early warning/early response mechanisms);
- Build the capacity of stakeholders for peace and conflict monitoring, data collection and analysis;
- Support the production of regular reports on peace and conflicts;
- Support key actors and their initiatives contributing to an inclusive and peaceful resolution of the conflicts;
- Build the capacity of local non-state actors, including women and youth leaders/activists groups/networks organisations, in peace negotiation and mediation;
- Promote confidence and trust-building activities among civil society and democracy actors involved in peace making;
- Raise awareness with local stakeholders on the women, peace and security agenda.

Activities relating to Output 2:

- Support efforts to develop a stronger and more inclusive national identity by supporting intra- and inter-group solidarity, including through grassroots peacebuilding initiatives, intra- and inter-group social cohesion activities, trust- and relationship-building across identity groups and governance bodies, women and youth peace initiatives, and conflict prevention and mediation support;
- Support capacities for participatory and accountable governance processes and policies;
- Build the capacity of stakeholders for community-level peace and conflict monitoring, data collection and analysis;
- Support the production of regular reports to ensure conflict sensitivity of local initiatives with a gender, human rights and persons with disabilities sensitive approach.

Activities relating to Output 3:

- Provide technical support and training to build the capacity of local actors and civil society;
- Create an enabling environment for civil society through structured dialogues, consultations, creation of platforms and research activities;
- Carry out research and analysis feeding into the identification of evidence-based solutions to localised peace-building challenges as well as HR monitoring;
- Explore and identify alternative ways to work with and through non-state actors at local levels in Myanmar;

¹² Liaison Offices were created in the context of bilateral peace agreements and the NCA back in 2015 (see NCA articles 16, 17 and 18). Their role as conflict management mechanism for signatories EROs has evolved after the coup and the intensification of conflicts, shifting from addressing ad hoc ceasefire violations to focus on civilian protection measures and conflict prevention/de-escalation. They do this by communicating with local armed actors, coordinating information about troop movements, or intervening before tensions escalate into clashes or when civilians are threatened or at risk, and advocating for adherence to codes of conduct and international humanitarian law.

- Promote rights of persons and communities living in the most vulnerable situations with particular focus on women and girls survivors or at risk of GBV, indigenous peoples, discriminated minorities and IDPs and other conflict-affected populations;
- Enable civil society and local actors to identify emerging needs and basic services, and provide assistance for them to respond timely;
- Support to women’s rights and people with disabilities CSOs and CSO networks with the objective of strengthening their structure and addressing their immediate needs, allowing them to continue their important activities in the new context;
- Support cultural and artistic actors that promote social cohesion, peacebuilding, fostering intercultural dialogue, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Control over abundant natural resources and weak governance are among the root causes of the conflict and most likely of the military coup. Few of the anticipated activities are likely to have significant environmental consequences, but this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that particular attention will be paid to gender mainstreaming throughout the action.

Prior to the coup, Myanmar was making slow advances towards including gender in policy making. But despite advocacy efforts of CSOs and the international community, Myanmar’s national legal framework still contains discriminatory clauses¹³. The present crisis not only suggests a regression of women’s rights, but is also a direct threat to their physical safety¹⁴. Studies have long shown that higher rates of gender inequality correlate with an increased risk of violence against women. United Nations human rights experts found that “the extent of gender inequality in Myanmar makes it especially prone to sexual and gender-based violence¹⁵”. Civilian government and women’s rights groups had been drafting a national law to protect women from this violence¹⁶.

¹³ Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025 Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP Myanmar.

¹⁴ Regressing Gender Equality in Myanmar: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/mn-Myanmar-Women%20Report-NEW-06032022.pdf>.

¹⁵ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/FFM-Myanmar/sexualviolence/A_HRC_CRP_4.pdf.

¹⁶ https://www.globaljusticecenter.net/files/20200710_MyanmarPOVAWlawAnalysis.pdf.

The action aims to promote women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities at all levels of decision-making in Myanmar peace process, It notably involves addressing barriers to participation such as gender parity and increased participation of women at all levels, including in conflict mediation and peace negotiations.

Women will not only benefit from the action but they will be key actors in the implementation of all the outputs. In the area of peace, the action targets women's rights in the peace process and increased participation of women at all levels, including in conflict mediation and peace negotiations. The consultations with CSOs in 2022 included consultations with women's organisations and other organisations working in gender equality (particularly LGTBQI) and is addressing their specific priorities and needs. Gender issues will be addressed in the structured dialogues with CSOs and links between the EU CSO roadmap and the CLIP (Country Level Implementation Plan) of the Gender Action Plan (GAP)¹⁷ are included.

Under this action, there will be at least two projects marked G2 (according to the OECD-DAC gender marker), under outputs 1.2 and 2.1, aiming at:

- i) supporting the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, with a focus on increased representation of women.
- ii) strengthening women's rights organisations and networks to address their immediate needs and facilitate their work in the new context.

Human Rights

The ongoing violent repression of the population following the military takeover of 1 February 2021 reinforces the importance of mainstreaming the promotion of Human Rights and demands for active Human Rights protection of categories at risks. The action will consider the status of the target groups as well as the concerns of the different ethnicities in the areas of intervention. Systematic integration of a human rights-based approach in activities aiming to meet the population's immediate needs will be ensured.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the action will address the inclusion of socially marginalised groups with particular attention to persons with disabilities, in the peace and political process.

The number of persons estimated to live with disabilities in Myanmar is almost 6 million. Persons with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed; and women with disabilities in particular are more likely to experience gender-based violence.¹⁸ The COVID-19 pandemic and the post-coup crisis have worsened the challenges persons with disabilities face.

Reduction of inequalities

Myanmar has long been characterized by significant levels of inequality across various dimensions, including access to resources, education, and basic services as well as on the basis of ethnicity, rural location and gender. Disparities are observed between urban and rural areas, with urban centres generally experiencing higher levels of development and greater access to resources. Insufficient social protection mechanisms strongly contribute to the challenges faced.

Inequality in Myanmar has worsened since the COVID19 pandemic and the military coup. Ongoing conflicts and displacement, especially in certain regions, further contribute to inequalities and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in conflict-affected areas and within IDP camps.

¹⁷ https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/library/clip-myanmar_en?refpage=search

¹⁸ Reliefweb: <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/strengthening-support-and-inclusion-persons-disabilities-amid-humanitarian-crisis-myanmar>.

Democracy

The democratic transition in Myanmar started in 2012 and has dramatically been halted by the military coup in February 2021, preventing the elected Parliament to take seat and proclaiming a state of emergency. The action will support activities tailored to find spaces to promote inclusive participation and constructive exchange, with the aim to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflicts and to the reestablishment of democracy.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

A conflict analysis screening has been finalised at the end of 2021. It reviews and updates the assessments carried out in 2019, prior to the military coup, and as such builds on a continuous process of conflict sensitivity considerations, which in the current context has become even more important than before. Conflict sensitivity is particularly crucial in Myanmar's current operating environment and its recommendations and is supported by the Conflict Analysis Research facility in the NRM.

In addition, a conflict analysis with civil society organizations was carried out in the second quarter of 2021; a second conflict analysis was conducted in the third quarter of 2022 for JPF. This action has incorporated the final recommendations of the conflict analysis, the action has adopted a conflict sensitive approach that will act to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts of the intervention on conflict. Through this action, civil society actors will be enabled to take conflict sensitive approaches in their work and interactions.

Disaster Risk Reduction

With the escalating effects of climate change, Myanmar is increasingly susceptible to hazards of greater frequency and intensity, resulting in the potential displacement of populations. The country ranks 2nd out of 180 countries in the Global Climate Risk Index (2021, data for 2000 to 2019) and 18th out of 191 in the Index of Risk Management (INFORM, Mid-2022). The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 recognizes that the State bears primary responsibility for disaster risk reduction (DRR), but that this responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders. However, given the current political situation in Myanmar, the development of a comprehensive DRR strategy at the state level is not feasible.

While this action does not directly focus on supporting DRR, it will strengthen resilience within civil society and ethnic health organisations.

Attention will also be given throughout the action to the national and any complementary early warning systems and to the level of exposure to natural hazards such as cyclones, storm surges, floods and tsunamis that target communities are facing. If the national system is not working/reliable, "complementary" systems and support will be sought by e.g. Copernicus services or other regional systems/organisations (e.g. ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre/Regional Climate Centre). This will facilitate adaptive implementation of the action in response to evolving levels of risks.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1- External environment	Political and security situation in	H	M	Due diligence protocols will be put in place;

	<p>the country does not allow for effective implementation of programmes.</p> <p>Women are prevented from participating for a multitude of reasons, including cultural customs, prejudicial gender norms, inadequate legal frameworks and protection mechanisms, poor access to education and land ownership rights and practices. The same risk applies to people living with disabilities.</p> <p>Natural hazards such as cyclones, storm surges, floods and tsunamis do not allow for the effective implementation of the programme.</p>	<p>M</p> <p>M</p>	<p>M</p> <p>M</p>	<p>A conflict sensitive approach will be applied;</p> <p>Flexible procedures of the crisis declaration will be applied;</p> <p>Special attention will be paid to safety and security of women and other vulnerable populations when planning and implementing activities, including risks that greater visibility might bring. Additional or emergency protection measures will be considered.</p> <p>Organizations and networks of women and persons with disabilities will be among the groups consulted, thus strengthening women's participation in decision-making of peace and mediation process, planning and access to economic opportunities.</p> <p>Attention will also be given throughout the action to the national and any complementary early warning systems and to the level of exposure to natural hazards such as cyclones, storm surges, floods and tsunamis that target communities are facing.</p>
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3 - People and the organisation	<p>Weak capacity of national actors, including the Ethnic Resistance Organisations, political parties, and CSOs results in major constraints for finding a common ground to re-engage into a process conducive to stability and peace.</p> <p>Polarisations and fragmentation of national actors/stakeholders.</p> <p>Limited commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, the human rights-based approach and persons with disabilities on the part of targeted entities non-state actors.</p>	M	M	<p>Trainings in technical support, capacity building and soft skills will be combined;</p> <p>The capacity to engage in evidence-informed policymaking of stakeholders will be built; including use and collection of disaggregated data;</p> <p>Implementing partners will be carefully and transparently selected;</p> <p>Activities will support coordination and consensus-building.</p> <p>The action will provide sufficient resources to work with targeted entities and non-state actors on the importance of gender mainstreaming, the human rights-based approach and the rights of person with disabilities.</p>
4 - Legality and regulatory aspects	Application of the Registration of Associations Law.	H	M	The EU Delegation will look into good practices to overcome security/safety, financial and logistic challenges based on a number of coping strategies which have been effectively adopted by civil society actors.

Lessons Learnt:

An overall lesson over the last two years is that, following the EU's stance in support to the people of Myanmar and a commitment towards contributing to a peaceful resolution of the conflicts, expectations are there on part of stakeholders, and this action secures the necessary continuity.

Another important lesson is that localisation is working; there is a lot of potential absorption capacity in CSOs and the partnerships are in place to grow this potential. Since the coup, the localisation agenda has taken on much more

importance. Newly established and existing networks of local CSOs have demonstrated their potential during the last two years and more donors are giving support to these networks. With the on-going capacity building of CSOs, the local absorption capacity is anticipated to grow and therefore new potential opportunities for support will materialise.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic (theory of change) for this action is that if local conflict monitoring and management mechanisms are strengthened; and if stakeholders are enabled to prepare for and engage in communications and inclusive dialogue; then the impact of violent conflict on stakeholders can be mitigated; and an inclusive, long-term, and peaceful resolution of the conflict could become more likely, contributing to the prospects for conflict transformation, alongside conflict-sensitive development and humanitarian actions which are responsive to the shifting needs of communities.

The context requires a specific focus on peace making and peace building, in particular, in absence of a functioning national peace process, on direct assistance to the communities to achieve peace at the local level. While the formal peace process is stalled, the action contributes to creating the demand and establishing functioning structures for peace building, conflict prevention and mitigation at the local level. Strengthening local civil society and democracy actors and assisting them to provide the support needed to local communities as well as advocating for their rights and needs, will help achieving resilience and peace.

With increased resilience of the population of Myanmar, in particular the most vulnerable segments, and local structures and organisations in place demanding and making peace, this action contributes – jointly with other programmes implemented by the EU, member states and other development partners – to solutions that allow for lasting peace, security, stability and sustainable development in Myanmar. The underlying assumption here is that strong communities, with an important role and participation of all segments of the community including women, and capacitated inclusive civil society organisations, will build the basis for social cohesion, life in security and peace, and also advancement towards development.

This action builds on previous ones. The peace pillar has been expanded to be more comprehensive. It continues to respond to the immediate conflict mitigation needs at the same time that it builds the capacity of key stakeholders for coordination, dialogue and negotiated approaches towards conflict transformation and a future federal democratic union (through JPF – output one). Furthermore, there is now an emphasis on community level cohesion to address the problems stemming from an exclusionary national identity while promoting accountability through bottom up governance as preconditions to peace (through NRM – output two). Finally, substantial support is provided to the central role CSOs working on peace and governance play in the current context, building up their capacities (CSO pillar – output 3).

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To support stakeholders engaged in constructive efforts to monitor, manage and mitigate conflict at local level, and in consolidating a shared vision for sustainable peace, while at the same time supporting local actors and organisations to contribute towards building resilience.	<p>1 Annual number of victims of armed clashes (disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and displacement status).</p> <p>2 Annual number of peace/ceasefire agreements signed or enforced.</p> <p>3 Level of material (level of income/assets) and non-material (access to public services) poverty in the conflict-affected areas, disaggregated by gender, age groups, location, displacement status and ethnic group indicators).</p>	To be defined at contracting stage	To be defined at contracting stage	<p>JPF conflict and peace analysis platform, data.</p> <p>NRM CAR Facility.</p> <p>Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP).</p> <p>Specialised reports by respected think tanks and institutions.</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome	Strengthen the capacity of local non-state actors so they can assume their role as active participants in the peacebuilding efforts while at the same time contribute to the resilience of the populations.	<p>1 % of established (different) conflict management mechanisms functioning in the state and regions.</p> <p>2 Results and case studies of conflict management mechanisms in mitigating, preventing, de-escalating of conflicts in the States and Regions.</p> <p>3 Evidence of constructive efforts towards a long-term peaceful resolution of conflict (for example, descriptions of and results from formal and informal dialogues and coordination initiatives).</p> <p>4 Perception of conflict stakeholders on how support contributed to a long-term peaceful resolution of the conflict and</p>	To be defined at contracting stage	To be defined at contracting stage	<p>Lists of liaison and coordination offices and community peace support networks operating in states and regions disaggregated by townships.</p> <p>Surveys and partner-led case studies from quarterly, bi-annual and annual reports.</p> <p>Verbal, ad-hoc reports by implementing</p>	<p>Broader peace and security conditions do not hinder implementation.</p> <p>There is space for implementing partners to work without endangering their lives/freedom.</p> <p>No unwarranted interference by authorities.</p>

		<p>advancing their roles and influence in dialogue.</p>			<p>partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>Interviews/ workshops with implementing partners, advisors/consultant reports (written and verbal).</p> <p>JPF conflict and peace analysis platform, data.</p> <p>NRM CAR facility</p> <p>Project reports</p>	
<p>Output 1</p>	<p>1 Capacities, confidence and trust among local peace actors and communities are strengthened, allowing for conflict management and for an inclusive political dialogue for sustainable peace;</p>	<p>1.1 # and % of liaison and coordination offices that continue to prevent and mitigate conflicts in states and regions.</p> <p>1.2 # of townships where community peace support networks and early warning/response mechanisms are established and functioning with trained women and men peace observers to prevent, mitigate and protect civilians.</p> <p>1.3 # and description of initiatives supported to prepare conflict parties and coalitions to participate in dialogue (including # of women-led initiatives).</p> <p>1.4 # and types of stakeholders (f, m, disabled) supported in advancing skills and knowledge for dialogue and negotiation.</p>	<p>To be defined at contracting stage</p>	<p>To be defined at contracting stage</p>	<p>Lists of liaison and coordination offices and community peace support networks operating in states and regions disaggregated by townships.</p> <p>Surveys and partner-led case studies from quarterly, bi-annual and annual reports.</p> <p>Verbal, ad-hoc reports by implementing partners and stakeholders.</p>	<p>Broader peace and security conditions do not hinder implementation.</p> <p>There is space for implementing partners to work without endangering their lives/freedom.</p> <p>No unwarranted interference by authorities.</p>

		<p>1.5 # and types of specifically designed support for women leaders in advancing their roles in dialogues and negotiation.</p> <p>1.6 # of trainings/coaching, # of participants (w, m, disabled) and topics of trainings/coaching specifically designed for women leaders to increase their capacity to participate in, and influence in dialogues.</p> <p>1.7 # of research, news and analysis papers produced and disseminated to engaged stakeholders and public (% of which relate to the WPS agenda tracked).</p>			<p>Interviews/ workshops with implementing partners, advisors/consultant reports (written and verbal).</p>	
<p>Output 2</p>	<p>2 Capacities at community level for societal resilience and peace-building are strengthened, allowing for conflict transformation;</p>	<p>2.1 # of community-level peace-building initiatives supported (including # of women-led initiatives).</p> <p>2.2 # and types of stakeholders supported in advancing skills and knowledge for peace-building.</p> <p>2.3 # of community-level conflict prevention and mediation initiatives supported;</p> <p>2.4 # and types of stakeholders supported in advancing skills and knowledge for in conflict prevention and mediation.</p> <p>2.5 # and types of specifically designed support for women leaders and women organizations in advancing their roles</p>	<p>To be defined at contracting stage</p>	<p>To be defined at contracting stage</p>	<p>Lists of community peace-building support and conflict prevention and mediation networks operating in states and regions disaggregated by townships.</p> <p>Surveys and partner-led case studies from quarterly, bi-annual and annual reports.</p>	<p>Broader peace and security conditions do not hinder implementation.</p> <p>There is space for implementing partners to work without endangering their lives/freedom.</p> <p>No unwarranted interference by authorities.</p>

		in peace-building, conflict prevention and mediation.			Verbal, ad-hoc reports by implementing partners and stakeholders. Interviews/ workshops with implementing partners.	
Output 3	3 Capacity and autonomy of local Civil Society Organisations to deliver services, enhance social cohesion and promote and protect civil rights in Myanmar are enhanced.	<p>3.1 # of persons benefitting from improved basic services and human/technical/financial resources provided with support from the action (disaggregated by sex and disability) (GAP III).</p> <p>3.2 # of mechanisms (civil society organizations, women rights organizations, community-based organizations, civil society networks, consultation groups, etc.) established or strengthened that foster citizen and civil society engagement.</p> <p>3.3 # of women-led organisations or women’s right and people with disabilities organisations, supported.</p> <p>3.4 # of legal actions launched.</p> <p>3.5 # of HR defenders and activists assisted (disaggregated by sex and disability).</p> <p>3.6 # of abuses and cases of violence collected.</p>	To be defined at contracting stage	To be defined at contracting stage	Reports developed by the technical facility and CSO projects reports.	<p>Broader peace and security conditions do not hinder implementation.</p> <p>There is space for implementing partners to work without endangering their lives/freedom.</p> <p>No unwarranted interference by authorities.</p>

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁹.

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant(s) will contribute to achieving Output 3 "Capacity and autonomy of local civil society organisations to deliver services, enhance social cohesion and promote and protect individual rights in Myanmar are enhanced", as described in section 3.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant(s) must:

- be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, international (inter-governmental) organisation, or other types of organisations active in areas of relevance to this Action, and
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or one of the eligible countries under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) as stipulated in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947, and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the type of applicant(s) listed in point b) above, selected using the following criteria:

- capacity for managing projects in the peace and/or governance sector;
- ability to work directly with relevant national counterparts and civil society partners in Myanmar;
- demonstrated experience in conflict sensitive approaches to development and in due diligence compliance
- demonstrated experience in applying a human rights based approach
- demonstrated experience in capacity building for civil society organisations; and
- presence and experience in operating in Myanmar.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals can be justified because the country is in a crisis situation referred to in Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation²⁰ at the date of the Financing Decision, and/or because of the nature of the action with regard to Article 27(3) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria defined in section 4.4.1.c above.

4.4.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieving Output 3 "Capacity and autonomy of local civil society organisations to deliver services, enhance social cohesion and promote and protect individual rights in Myanmar are enhanced", as described in section 3. The call for tenders (services) will target the contracting of technical assistance for support to the CSOs and the CSO roadmap/strategy.

4.4.3 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Demonstrated capacity to manage conflict mitigation and management support as well as peace negotiation and consultation support projects with peace and democracy actors in a conflict sensitive and multi-donor environment;
- Demonstrated experience: a) in conflict management in conflict affected areas b) in peace making in conflict affected areas and c) in collaborating with CSOs involved in in conflict management and peace making;
- Demonstrated experience in implementing conflict sensitive projects/programs and in due diligence compliance;
- Demonstrated experience in capacity building for CSOs;
- Established operational capacity in Myanmar/Burma and experience in the management of funds;
- Willingness to accept EU's leading role in policy/political dialogue with all stakeholders and to provide adequate visibility to the EU as per the EU visibility guidelines.

The implementation by this entity entails contribution to achieving Output 1 "Capacities, confidence and trust among local peace actors are strengthened, allowing for conflict management and for an inclusive political dialogue for sustainable peace", as described in section 3.

²⁰ In line with [art.195\(a\) FR](#)

If negotiations fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.4.5.

4.4.4 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Demonstrated capacity to manage conflict mitigation and management support as well as peace negotiation and consultation support projects with peace and democracy actors in a conflict sensitive environment;
- Demonstrated experience in managing projects/programs in the area of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus;
- Demonstrated experience: a) in providing support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), b) in peace making in conflict affected populations and c) in collaborating with CSOs in conflict areas involved in providing access to basic services (health, education, livelihood);
- Demonstrated experience in implementing conflict sensitive and human rights based development projects/programs and in due diligence compliance;
- Demonstrated experience in capacity building for CSOs;
- Established operational capacity in Myanmar and experience in the management of funds;
- Willingness to accept EU's leading role in policy/political dialogue with all stakeholders and to provide adequate visibility to the EU as per the EU visibility guidelines.

The implementation by this entity entails contribution to achieving Output 2 "Capacities at community level for societal resilience and peace-building are strengthened, allowing for conflict transformation"; as described in section 3.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.4.5

Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If the preferred implementation modality for Output 1 "Capacities, confidence and trust among local peace actors are strengthened, allowing for conflict management and for an inclusive political dialogue for sustainable peace"(indirect management with an entrusted entity, as specified in 4.4.3) cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the modality can be replaced with direct management with award of grant(s):

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The objective and expected results of the grant(s) will contribute to the achievement of Output 1 "Capacities, confidence and trust among local peace actors and communities are strengthened, allowing for conflict management and for an inclusive political dialogue for sustainable peace"

(b) Type of applicants targeted

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant(s) must:

- be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, international (inter-governmental) organisation, or other types of public or private none pillar assessed organisations active in areas of relevance to this Action.
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or one of the eligible countries under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) as stipulated in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947, and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

Furthermore, the applicant(s) will be selected using the following criteria:

- Demonstrated capacity to manage conflict mitigation and management support as well as peace negotiation and consultation support projects with peace and democracy actors in a conflict sensitive and multi-donor environment;
- Demonstrated experience: a) in conflict management in conflict affected areas b) in peace making in conflict affected areas and c) in collaborating with CSOs involved in in conflict management and peace making;
- Demonstrated experience in implementing conflict sensitive projects/programs and in due diligence compliance;

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the grants may be awarded without calls for proposals to an entity or entities selected using the criteria listed in 4.4.3.

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals can be justified because the country is in a crisis situation referred to in Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation²¹ at the date of the Financing Decision, and/or because of the nature of the action with regard to Article 27(3) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

If the preferred implementation modality for Output 2 “Capacities at community level for societal resilience and peace-building are strengthened, allowing for conflict transformation” (indirect management with an entrusted entity, as specified in 4.4.4) cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission’s control, the modality can be replaced with direct management with award of grant(s)):

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The objective and expected results of the grant(s) will contribute to the achievement of Output 2 “Capacities at community level for societal resilience and peace-building are strengthened, allowing for conflict transformation”

(b) Type of applicants targeted

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant(s) must:

- be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, international (inter-governmental) organisation, or other types of organisations active in areas of relevance to this Action.
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or one of the eligible countries under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) as stipulated in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947, and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

Furthermore, the applicant(s) will be selected using the following criteria:

- Demonstrated experience in managing projects/programs in the area of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus;
- Demonstrated experience: a) in providing support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), b) in peace making in conflict affected populations and c) in collaborating with CSOs in conflict areas involved in providing access to basic services (health, education, livelihood);
- Demonstrated experience in implementing conflict sensitive and human rights based development projects/programs and in due diligence compliance;

(c) Justification of a direct grant

²¹ In line with [art.195\(a\) FR](#)

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the grants may be awarded without calls for proposals to an entity or entities selected using the criteria listed in 4.4.4.

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals can be justified because the country is in a crisis situation referred to in Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation²² at the date of the Financing Decision, and/or because of the nature of the action with regard to Article 27(3) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

If the preferred modality for Output 3: “Capacity and autonomy of local civil society organisations to deliver services, enhance social cohesion and promote and protect individual rights in Myanmar are enhanced” (direct management grants, as specified in 4.4.1) cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission’s control, the modality can be replaced with indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the following criteria:

- capacity for managing projects in the peace and/or governance sector;
- ability to work directly with relevant national counterparts and civil society partners in Myanmar;
- demonstrated experience in conflict sensitive approaches to development and in due diligence compliance
- demonstrated experience in applying a human rights based approach
- demonstrated experience in capacity building for civil society organisations; and
- presence and experience in operating in Myanmar.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4	
Output 1 Capacities, confidence and trust among local peace actors and communities are strengthened, allowing for conflict management and for an inclusive political dialogue for sustainable peace; composed of	5 000 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity 1 (JPF) - cf. section 4.4.3	5 000 000
Output 2 Capacities at community level for societal resilience and peace-building are strengthened, allowing for conflict transformation; composed of	5 000 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity 2 (NRM) - cf. section 4.4.4	5 000 000
Output 3 Capacity and autonomy of local Civil Society Organisations to deliver services, enhance social cohesion and promote and protect civil rights in Myanmar are enhanced composed of	10 000 000

²² In line with [art.195\(a\) FR](#)

Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	9 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	1 000 000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.4.1	9 000 000
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.4.2	1 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	May be covered by another Decision
Contingencies	N.A
Totals	20 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The JPF and NRM respective programme level steering committees will oversee and monitor progress. For the CSO component, consultations will take place concerning project monitoring and evaluation as well as concerning annual/strategic planning.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

4.8 Pre-conditions [Only for project modality]

N/A

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex and age, and disability if possible.

Reports shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components by independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

Mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving, and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the chosen implementing modality and its efficiency and effectiveness in supporting peace building and conflict transformation, strengthening Civil Society Organisations and promoting an inclusive development model for all conflict affected and vulnerable populations.

Final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the volatile context of Myanmar/Burma. The final evaluation will assess progress towards expected results by comparing start/end points as defined in the inception phases.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 2 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

In addition, all evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 "[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)", it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.