

## SUPPORT TO ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND DEMOCRACY (STEP DEMOCRACY MYANMAR)

### ABOUT STEP DEMOCRACY

The 'Support to Electoral Processes and Democracy – STEP Democracy' programme supports inclusive, peaceful, and credible electoral processes and enhances the capacity of key election stakeholders – the Union Election Commission (UEC), Political Parties, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and citizens/voters - to strengthen Myanmar's democratic transition.

STEP Democracy is funded by the European Union and implemented under the leadership of International IDEA with the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD), Democracy Reporting International (DRI), and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)/DemoFinland, Scholar Institute, Paññā Institute and Badeidha Moe Civil Society Organization.

### KEY AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT

#### Technical assistance to the UEC

- Support to legal and electoral reform based on 2015 EU EOM Recommendations
- Technical assistance to improve internal UEC processes and transparency
- Facilitate UEC engagement and dialogue with CSOs and Political Parties
- Training of UEC on conflict resolution and public outreach, including on social media

### Key achievements:

- ➔ 10 of 17 EU EOM Recommendations addressed by UEC based on STEP advocacy
- ➔ Digitization of UEC internal procedures including development of Candidate Nomination Database
- ➔ Revision of domestic and international observation procedures in line with international standards
- ➔ 14 UEC Sub-Commission Facebook pages verified
- ➔ 303 new UEC staff ToTs on gender and elections conducted
- ➔ 93 UEC and 3426 Sub-Commission staff trained

## Support to Political Parties

- Strengthen capacities of political parties to improve internal democracy
- Support political parties in engaging in dialogue with UEC and CSOs on election reform
- Empower women and youth in political party structures and to prepare for elections
- Strengthen capacities of political parties to navigate and effectively use social media

### Key achievements:

- ➔ Facilitation of dialogue and establishment of intra political party networks and constructive relationship with the UEC on election preparations
- ➔ Support to establish Political Party Youth Wings and 4 Youth Action Plans, including one cross party Action Plan
- ➔ Development of 6 Political Party Gender Action Plans
- ➔ Establishment of STEP Women's Academy network of women candidates on local level
- ➔ Policy based responsive trainings supported Political Parties to define policies towards voters
- ➔ Foundations of Women Caucus established in Shan State
- ➔ 41 political party Facebook pages verified
- ➔ 295 political party representatives trained on inclusion
- ➔ 436 women politicians from 67 political parties trained
- ➔ Political parties on state and regional level who participated in STEP female empowerment training nominated more women as candidates in 2020 than in 2015.

## Strengthening CSO advocacy for reform

- Strengthen capacities of CSOs to advocate for electoral reform
- Technical assistance to domestic election observers including social media monitoring
- Facilitate dialogue between UEC, CSOs and political parties on election preparation

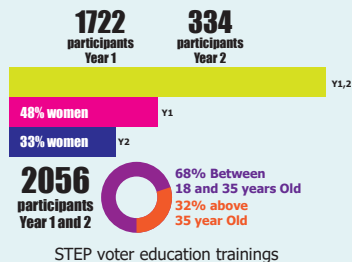
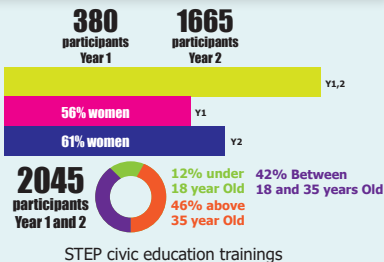
### Key achievements:

- ➔ Joint advocacy statement of CSO network "Vision 2020" entitled "Call for Action: Five key fixed ahead of 2020 elections" and an action plan by the ICCPR Action Group to advocate for ICCPR ratification
- ➔ Technical assistance to prepare CSOs to conduct election observation including social media monitoring
- ➔ Establishment of dialogues between UEC, CSOs and Political Parties on election preparations and COVID-19 challenges built trust and communication
- ➔ 19 advisory workshops and webinars for CSOs
- ➔ 14 multi-stakeholder dialogues involving 695 participants

## Civic and Voter Education

- Educate and mobilize voters including youth, women, persons with disabilities, migrants, IDPs, ethnic minorities
- Support the UEC in conducting voter education ahead of the 2020 elections
- Conduct inclusive civic education in schools and for adults

### Key achievements:



## Local governance support

- Facilitate dialogue among CSOs and sub-national government on election reform
- Empower women to participate and train women candidates on sub-national level
- Support the preparation of sub-national level elections in Yangon

### Key achievements:

- On local level, the Mandalay State Parliament is considering revisions to the Mandalay Township Committees Law due to CSO advocacy efforts and STEP Democracy supported public hearings.
- YCDC women candidates and elected women who participated in STEP campaign management training established a network of elected women representatives to share knowledge and exchange experiences
- Supported Yangon City Development Election Commission (YCDEC) in the preparation of the March 2019 YCDEC elections including preparation of working guidelines for polling station procedures, election observer accreditation procedures and trainings for the township sub-commissions



**32,360**

participants in STEP activities in Year 1 and 2



**14,238**

women reached in STEP activities in Year 1 and 2



**1010**

Youth reached STEP activities in Year 2



**922,054**

reached STEP Facebook posts

**MyVote**

**6.7 Million**

reached 8 MyVote episodes via DVB TV

**1057000**

reached 8 MyVote episodes on Facebook

