



GREENING THE DRY ZONE

Conserving land while improving water access and food security in Myanmar

Daung Yi is a young mother living in the Dry Zone, where water is scarce, vegetation cover is thin, and soil is severely eroded. The communities living here are increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity and severe environmental degradation.



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The major economic activities are small-scale livestock rearing and subsistence farming such as paddy, sesame, pulses and groundnuts. Many landless people, including marginal farmers, work as seasonal farm labourers, migrating to urban regions during non-planting time to find temporary employment. Chronic poverty in Myanmar's Dry Zone is directly correlated with the effects of drought and dry spells.

In response to these issues UNDP is supporting efforts to secure water resources and reduce food insecurity in 42,000 households in five of the most vulnerable townships of Myanmar's Dry Zone.

With financial support from the Adaptation Fund, UNDP and the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry are addressing environmental risks through community-based and community-driven adaptation. By reducing the risks and effects from recurring droughts, floods and erosion, the project will enhance water capture and storage in 116 villages, providing continuous freshwater availability and making the difficulties in procuring sufficient water for livelihood and survival a thing of the past.



The increase in water availability will be further leveraged by promoting climate-resilient agricultural and livestock practices. Efforts are underway to rehabilitate 4,200 hectares of micro-watersheds through farmer-managed natural regeneration strategies, and establishing community-based agro-forestry plots on 5,100 hectares of private and communal lands. These initiatives will ensure the conservation of the region's soil and water, enhance livelihoods, and promote water and food security for the vulnerable communities in the Dry Zone.

For more information: www.undp-alm.org/projects/af-myanmar



UNDP CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Adaptation-undp.org is UNDP's knowledge-sharing platform, highlighting UNDP's support to countries on climate change adaptation.

For UNDP, adaptation to climate change means climate-resilient economic development and sustainable livelihoods, especially for vulnerable populations - the poor, women, and indigenous peoples. UNDP supports these goals by assisting over 90 countries to integrate current and future climate risks and uncertainties into national and sub-national development efforts.

