This document aims at helping partners to develop a better proposal, but it is not a policy and does not include all the possible topics. This is a living document developed thanks to the feedback received from partners. For any further question or clarification, please contact OCHA at MHF-Myanmar@un.org.

1. **Is any MHF staff based at sub-national level?** No, only six staff in Yangon, but available to support sub-national activities when possible.

2. **How to submit the project proposal?** Proposal submission: Go to the GMS website first for submission of proposal. Proposal template word version and budget excel version can be downloaded and prepared via offline before working in GMS.

3. **Can we share the draft proposal to the field staff? How?** Yes, it can be downloaded from GMS in word and excel.

4. **Is there any specific requirement for already eligible partners to apply to MHF funding?** Project proposals from eligible partners who did not address key questions requested by the MHF during current or previous projects’ implementation (e.g. monitoring and audit recommendations, alleged fraudulent cases) and demonstrate to have specific provisions on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and anti-fraud and conflict of interest will not be considered and be excluded of the strategic review. Any technical questions with regards to eligibility and/or partnership arrangements can be directed at OCHA: MHF-Myanmar@un.org, +95 12305682 ext. 204.

5. **Is the overall objective covering the whole project?** Yes, it is.

6. **Should partners consult their proposal before submitting to MHF?** Yes, proposals should be designed and consolidated after consultation with clusters, sector and thematic advisers. This includes the Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group (MIAG) for proposals covering the northern part of Rakhine State, and the South-East Working Group for those proposals to be implemented in the South-East part of Myanmar.

7. **Can we create an indicator?** Yes, it is but at least one standard indicator must be included in each output. Standard indicators can be found under each cluster/sector.

8. **How to include a custom indicator?** Custom indicator can be created by the partners and these should be related to the output and outcomes.

9. **Is there any mandatory indicator?** Yes, for each targeted sector, one standard indicator as per HRP should be included from the list. In addition, other three indicators are mandatory, covering the whole project, as follows: accountability to affected population (AAP), cash-based intervention (CASH) and number of actions carried out to remove barriers and increase access to humanitarian assistance to persons with disabilities (PWD). These three indicators should be included in one sector but the partner will report for achievement across the whole project.
10. **What is the definition of boys and girls?** People under 18 years old can be defined as boys and girls. For elderly people over 60 years old.

11. **Which sector (Education or Protection) should be selected for the psycho-social supports ToT to teachers, CSOs and camp leaders?** Protection sector should be selected.

12. **Gender and age disaggregation:** number of men, women, girls and boys must be included. Also, important to include the number of people with disability and elderly people.

13. **How can we estimated the number of people with disabilities if we do not have adequate data?** We suggest applying 4.6 per cent to the total of targeted population. This is the percentage as per last 2014 Census. Even if underestimated, it is better that N/A or zero. Partner can estimate the people with disabilities based on this percentage and, later, report against the actual number of people with disabilities during the narrative reporting process.

14. **When to apply the Gender Age Marker (GAM)?** Firstly, complete the draft of the proposal. After that go to [https://iascgenderwithagemarker.com](https://iascgenderwithagemarker.com), register the project (a code will be generated) and conduct the assessment online. Once done, please add the score and the code generated in the website to the application. The GAM will help to know if your proposals is gender- and age-sensitive.

15. **Budget description:** Need to explain in detail the cost of expenditures in budget narrative. Some budget will be needed to breakdown, which can be provided in excel file and uploaded under “Documents” tab.

16. **What is the maximum flexibility of the budget for each category?** A maximum of 15 per cent tolerance allowed between budget categories, except for category 1 (Staff and other personnel costs). The calculation of the budget must be logical and realistic. For support staff: one budget line is enough, but partner needs to provide breakdown in an Excel with all the support staff that may be charged under this budget line, indicating unit costs and total (percentage and amount) to be charged to MHF. Equipment costs should go under budget category 3. MHF will not approve purchasing of equipment every time and will review the list of equipment provided in the previous MHF funded projects, considering approvals case by case.

17. **Where should staff be including within the budget?** All staff positions from the MHF funded organization signing the Grant Agreement should be added in budget category 1. Staff positions from the sub-implementing partners should be included under a related budget line in budget category 6, with detailed breakdown.

18. **Can direct staff costs be pooled in one single budget line?** No, exactly. It should be disaggregated in different budget line. However, MHF will allow to have a single budget line for a group of direct staff under the same activity (e.g. Protection Team), indicating in an Excel all the related staff that may be charged under this budget line, indicating unit costs and total (percentage and amount) to be charged to MHF.

19. **What is the maximum allowable percentage for staff cost over total budget?** A maximum of 20 per cent of total budget is accepted, but depending on the project and activities. Some projects require bigger staffing costs. MHF consider case by case.

20. **How to do cost sharing for project implementation staff?** It will depend on the time that the staff works for the MHF funded project. For support staff, it could be grouped under a single budget line. Number of staffs per group / position should be mentioned in the breakdown, including unit cost per
month and total percentage to be charged to the MHF applied to the total of all the positions. If there is a change in the breakdown, as including an extra position, due to the context of the implementation conditions, the partner should inform MHF before applying it, providing a revised breakdown and getting written approval.

21. **Can staff development costs be accepted by MHF?** Yes, if related to the project, small amounts are accepted, but please think that MHF is a humanitarian fund and cannot support all field assessments, capacity building, etc. Depends of the policy of the organization. If training is part of the “contract”, it must be in budget category 1 as part of the staff salary. If it is over normal cost, should be shown in the general budget as part of the staffing costs (one budget line, category 1). If the training is related to the project, it should be included in category 2. That applies also to induction meetings with staff working in a related project. Specific trainings need to show how the total costs was estimated (breakdown: venue, trainers, refreshments, etc.).

22. **Are allowances for staff accepted?** Yes, but only if supported by clear human resources policy.

23. **Where should consultancy costs and volunteers’ incentives be included in the budget?** Consultancy costs should be included under budget category 4. Volunteers receiving incentives should be linked to the relevant activity under budget category 2.

24. **How detailed should the activities costs be reflected in the budget?** MFH requests to include number of the related activity as per the logical framework. A group of activities with a similar area could be grouped under a single budget line. A clear breakdown, including specific activity, unit cost per month and total percentage to be charged to the MHF applied should be added in an annexed Excel document.

25. **Is equipment cost accepted by MHF?** Depending on the type of project and requirements, new equipment directly linked to the project may be approved and it should be included under budget category 3. General support (lumpsum) based on an estimation (list of equipment that may be required should be written) can be added in budget category 7 (specific separated budget line), just in case some equipment needs to be replaced, this lumpsum could be used, but linked to the project. Inventory could be provided, with the proposal and explanation about how assets are used.

26. **Can partner contract private service providers for implementing some activities?** Yes. Activities developed through a private service provider should be included in budget category 4. BoQ should be provided. In the case that the activity is done through a CSO, local partner or other type of humanitarian partners, but not a private service provider, it should be included in budget category 6.

27. **How to present travel costs within the budget?** MHF recommend grouping each type of travel costs (national, international) under one single budget line, with clear breakdown showing the calculation of the estimated expenditures, including percentage to be charged to MHF as needed. It could include: accommodation, perdiem, flight travel, internal transportation, visa costs. This split is essential to understand how the project has been done. Specific rental car for monitoring activity need to be added in budget category 5. Possible means of transport to be added as needed, even with small amount, to have more flexibility and avoid unnecessary budget revision.

28. **How to present the budget for sub-implementing partners?** Under budget category 6. If many sub-implementing partner, just including a single budget line per partner. If just one or two sub-implementing partners, please include a budget line indicating the name of the partner following the same structure than the general budget (staff, supplies, equipment, contracts, travel, transfer to
counterpart and general operating costs) as needed. Breakdown for sub-implementing partners should be provided in an annexed Excel document.

29. **Which costs can be included under budget category 7 “General Operating and Other Direct Costs”?**
There is no a fixed percentage to calculate these costs because it depends of the size of the project, the kind of project. As an emergency fund, MHF cannot be too much supportive for general operating cost. If the budget explains well the logic for calculation rule of the support costs (including HR, rental cost, etc.), then it can be accepted proportionally. If it is accepted, the costs need to follow the cost allocation methodology used by the partner. presented. Warehouse costs could be included here. MHF will accept to group under one single budget line related costs, with clear breakdown and calculation of the estimated expenditures, showing percentage to be charged to MHF. One single budget line grouping expenditures for field related office and one single budget line for expenditures in Yangon. On each of those single budget lines, partner should provide a breakdown including vehicle support, IT and communication support, office rental and maintenance, guest house support cost. Breakdown should clearly show the calculation of the estimated expenditures, showing percentage to be charged to MHF. In addition, single budget lines can be added for bank fees and visibility, considering that not a mandatory requirement for MHF, but depending on the project a small amount could be requested. Hospitality costs (coffee, tea, sugar, water dispenser, etc.) are not accepted by MHF.

30. **Can the sub-implementing partner include a budget line for Programme Support Cost (PSC of 7 per cent) under category 6 (Transfer and Grants to Counterparts)?** No, it depends on the agreement between implementing partners and sub-implementing partners. PSC of 7 per cent against the total budget is allowed only in the general budget. However, administrative costs to support implementation, linked to specific positions, can be included in sub-implementing partners budget (budget category 6) as needed.

31. **Can the partner overspend the approved total budget?** No, the partner can spend up to the approved budget. The expenditure beyond the approved budget will be considered ineligible expenditure. Between budget category a maximum of 15 per cent of over expenditure is accepted against saving in other budget categories. However, no over expenditure is accepted in category 1 (Staff and other personnel costs).

32. **Can all staff costs be extended during the no-cost extension period if the partner has saving from other budget lines?** Partner cannot extend all staff costs for NCE period. MHF may accept some extension of key staff who will implement the activities during the NCE period.

33. **Partners have the difficulty to do a realistic budgeting by townships, how to do?** MHF suggest planning as best as the partner can with the available information. Projects can be later amended as needed.

34. **Should volunteer payment (incentives) be included in the cash tracking?** No, only the amount of money directly goes to the beneficiaries as part of a cash-based intervention. Incentive should be included as part of the category 2 (Supplies, Commodities, Materials) indicating the related activity.

35. **For instance, if community-based organizations (CBOs) receive grants for construction/renovation of schools, are these considered as cash-based interventions?** No, MHF funded partner should have an agreement or contract between with the CBOs. It should be reflected under category 6 (Transfer and Grants to Counterparts).
36. **Can we consider cash-based intervention the cash support provided to GBV survivors?** Yes, these interventions are allowed and funded by MHF. Just reflect in the cash tracking tool.

37. **Location:** Only at township level, not lower, indicating budget distribution by sector, and later distribution of beneficiaries by sector using the same percentage. The sum of all townships should be the same that the total budget and the total targeted people.

38. **If the partner cannot implement the planned activities due to the security or other reasons on the ground, what should they do?** Partners should inform OCHA HFU in writing by email about any significant challenges or deviations from the original proposal, including access, budget, location, beneficiaries, implementation plan, etc. In some case, OCHA will request a formal revision.

39. **Can the partner include a budget line for emergency response activities?** Yes, it is possible. We suggest including a small budget for these questions, and in case that this is not used, the budget can be transferred to other budget lines prior the end of the project.

40. **Who (MHF or partner) requests endorsement from clusters/sectors in the case of project location change?** Always the cluster/sector. To speed-up the process, the partner must discuss with the cluster/sector and get endorsement and then inform MHF.

41. **What should the partner do when there is an incident (fire, theft) and some material is lost?** All the alleged cases of fraud, corruption and other incidents, should be immediately reported by the partner, submitting the incident report to MHF.

42. **Do the partners need to give the PSEA trainings to staff and suppliers?** Training on PSEA are mandatory for all the partner’s staff and involved personnel in managing MHF funding. Partner must explain suppliers and contractors about its PSEA policy.