

Building Federal Democracy Myanmar (2023-2025)

Programme Factsheet

The 2023-2025 Building Federal Democracy (BFD) Myanmar programme, implemented by International IDEA supported democratic actors in Myanmar in advancing an inclusive federal constitutional framework, strengthening interim governance institutions and expanding civic participation in an extremely constrained post-coup environment. Operating amid ongoing conflict, shrinking civic space and a deteriorating humanitarian situation, the programme maintained focus on constitutionalism, inclusion and institutional capacity, contributing to the foundations of a future federal democratic transition.



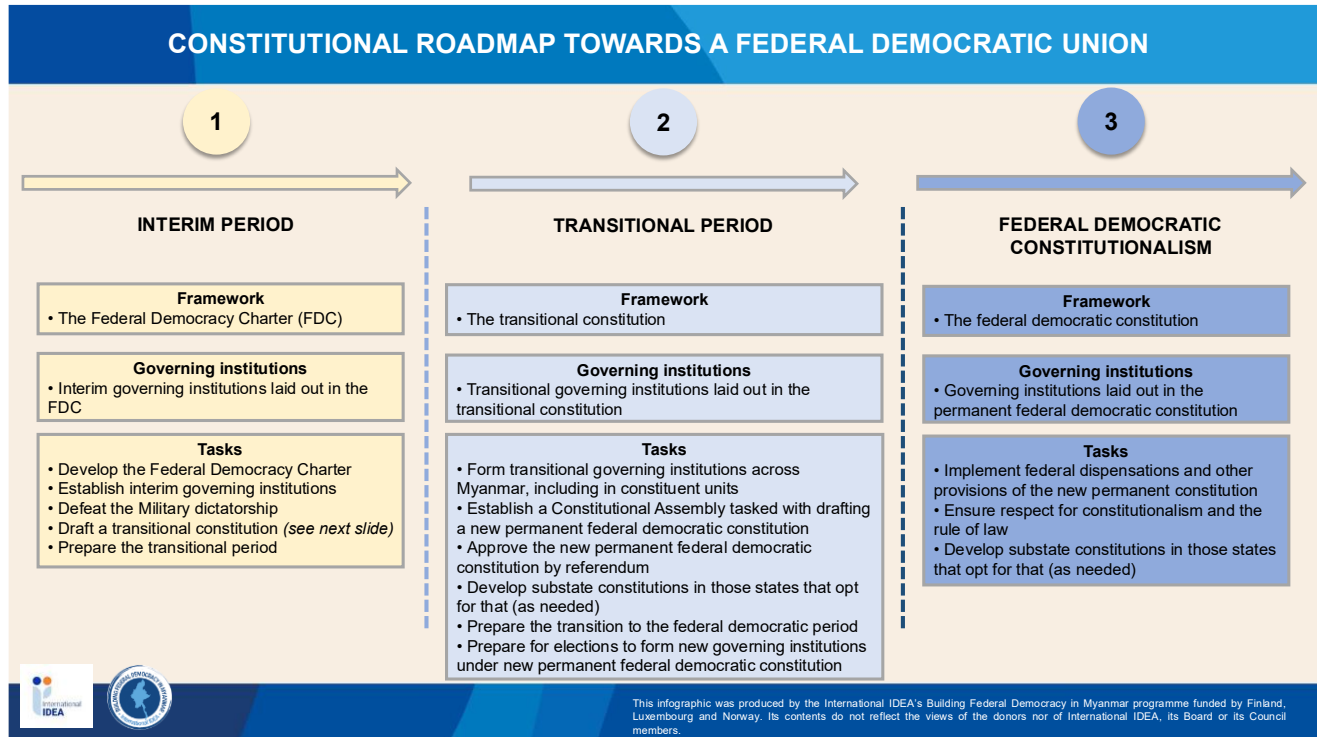
Key Figures

Activities, Reach and Resources: January 2023–December 2025	
Total Events (online & in person)	399
Total Participants reached directly	14,657
– Male	6,200
– Female	7,977
– Other	480
IDEA and External Resources developed/translated	40
Publications Disseminated directly	6,773
People reached via print & digital dissemination	40,647
Facebook Reach	514,665
Facebook Followers (2025)	18,718
Overall Implementation Rate (2023–2025)	98%
Total Budget	€ 3,982,212 Donor Contribution and €314,143 IDEA core contribution

The programme was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Achievements, Outcomes and Impact

From 2023 to 2025, the Building Federal Democracy Myanmar programme delivered a set of interconnected results that advanced constitutional dialogue, strengthened governance capacity, expanded civic participation and embedded inclusion across Myanmar’s pro-democracy movement.



Constitutionalism & Governance

At the core of these efforts was **the advancement of a post-coup transitional constitutional pathway and governance capacity development**. Through sustained facilitation, mediation and technical support, the programme enabled structured dialogue among key stakeholders, including the National Unity Government (NUG), the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), ethnic revolutionary organisations (EROs) and political actors. In the programme period, more than 125 constitutional and governance workshops and dialogues brought together over 1,600 participants.

On union level, these activities contributed to **tangible progress in the development of the Articles for Federal Transitional Arrangement**, with approximately 80 percent of the draft completed by mid-2025. Equally important was the programme’s role in preserving dialogue at critical moments, supporting the re-engagement of key actors and helping to shift interactions from fragmented consultations to an emerging inclusive and coordinated process.

Governance capacity at union and subnational levels increased, with **emerging state and regional entities drafting, refining and adopting a total of six of fourteen state/regional transitional constitutional frameworks**, while understanding of local governance structures and the need to coordinate across governance levels to ensure inclusive service delivery increased. More than **160 governance-related dialogues and capacity-building activities reached over 2,600 participants which led them to develop greater clarity on federal design, division of powers and administrative systems**, increasingly linking constitutional principles to practical governance and service delivery needs. This contributed to improved institutional awareness, stronger coordination and more coherent approaches to transitional governance.

Political Participation and Civic Education

In parallel, the programme significantly expanded opportunities for political participation through civic education and knowledge dissemination. Digital learning platforms engaged 4,828 learners, while civic education initiatives reached more than 1,700 teachers and contributed to education delivery for over 750,000 students in interim education systems, enabling stakeholders to engage with concepts of democracy, governance and constitutional reform, creating a shared vocabulary and strengthening confidence in reform discussions.

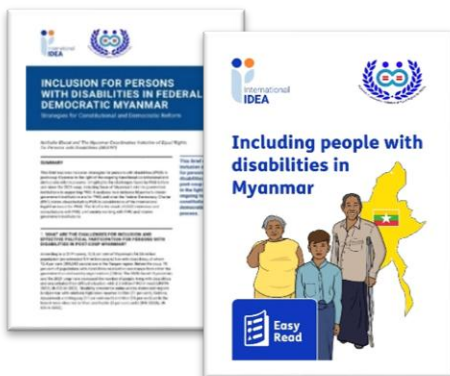


Collaboration with the interim Ministry of Education supported the integration of civic education into curricula and teacher training, extending the programme's reach in both physical and online learning environments. Additional outreach initiatives extended democratic literacy to more than 26,000 people in rural areas and IDP camps. These efforts generated multiplier effects, as trained educators, youth and civil society actors transferred knowledge into their communities and institutions, reinforcing democratic awareness under conditions of limited civic space.

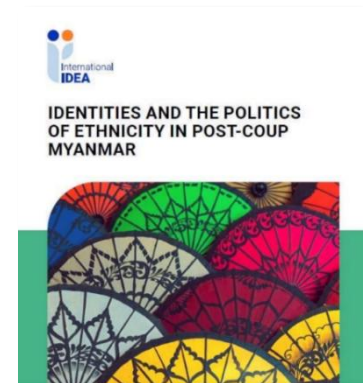


Inclusion and Diversity

A defining feature of the programme's impact was the systematic integration of inclusion and diversity. Women consistently represented 53–54 per cent of participants across activities, and targeted support contributed to the development of institutional gender policies and strengthened the role of women parliamentarians in governance and outreach. In 2025 alone, inclusion-focused activities reached over 1,800 participants.



The programme also expanded engagement with youth, persons with disabilities (PWD) and Rohingya representatives through tailored activities, accessible and animated formats and dedicated dialogue platforms. These efforts enabled more diverse actors to contribute to constitutional and governance discussions, gradually translating inclusion commitments into more concrete practices within interim institutions.



Advocacy and Outreach

The programme strengthened the international visibility and legitimacy of Myanmar's democratic actors. It supported participation in major international forums, facilitated diplomatic engagement and disseminated 36 structured political briefings to more than 400 international stakeholders. Programme support enabled participation in key international fora including the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assemblies*, the *OECD Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains (Paris)*, the *Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development*, *UN Human Rights Council engagements in Geneva* and *advocacy events in Washington D.C., Prague and Tashkent*. Outreach throughout 2023-2025 included engagement with embassies and diplomatic missions from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, European Union representatives and Southeast Asian counterparts. These efforts enabled interim institutions to articulate coherent positions on constitutional reform and to advocate effectively against the military regime's election narrative, contributing to maintaining Myanmar on the international agenda and reinforcing recognition of democratic actors as legitimate representatives of the country's future.



Project website: <https://constitutionnet.org/idea-myanmar>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MyConstitutionIDEA/>

Sustained engagement was maintained with the diplomatic community and democracy assistance providers across New York, Stockholm, Canberra, Ottawa, Washington, Jakarta and Bangkok. Partnerships included collaboration with International IDEA Member State representatives and coordination with *the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Myanmar, the UN Political Affairs Unit in New York, OHCHR, UN Women (Regional Office), UNDP Thailand, and the Joint Peace Fund*. The programme also engaged closely with *Human Rights Watch, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia, the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) network, the Berghof Foundation, the CMI — Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and the Hertie School in Berlin*.

Lessons Learned

Key Lesson	What Worked in Practice and Why It Matters
Credibility requires both political support and impartiality	International IDEA combined principled support to democratic actors with neutral facilitation. This built trust across CRPH, NUG and NUCC and enabled engagement at all levels.
Safe spaces and mediation sustain dialogue	Confidential dialogue formats and facilitation prevented breakdowns and supported re-engagement. Trust-building proved essential for progress in Myanmar’s post-coup fragmented context.
Demand-driven approaches increase effectiveness	Tailoring activities to partners’ needs created a virtuous cycle of trust and openness. This ensured relevance and improved problem-solving.
Flexibility enables delivery in volatile contexts	Adaptive planning and flexible donor support allowed the programme to adjust quickly. This ensured continuity despite political and operational constraints.
Mixed capacity development improves outcomes	Combining training with coaching, mentoring and peer exchange strengthened learning and influenced behavior. This improved practical application of skills.
Inclusion requires both mainstreaming and targeted action	Embedding inclusion across activities while supporting specific groups increased meaningful participation. This strengthened representation and ownership.
Civic education builds resilience	Expanding democratic literacy enabled stakeholders to engage more constructively. Shared understanding contributed to enhancing the potential for sustainable reform processes.
Evidence-based research strengthens dialogue	Research provided a common basis for discussing sensitive issues. This reduced polarization and improved decision-making.
International advocacy depends on domestic credibility	Advocacy was most effective when grounded in coherent reform efforts and partnerships. This strengthened legitimacy and global influence.

Overall, the Building Federal Democracy Myanmar programme contributed to maintaining a credible and inclusive democratic alternative to the unconstitutional 2021 coup during a devastating humanitarian and human rights crisis. By strengthening constitutional dialogue, governance capacity, civic participation and international engagement, it helped lay the groundwork for a future federal democratic transition while ensuring that democratic actors remained connected, capable and visible despite ongoing conflict and uncertainty.

As the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) noted, *“International IDEA’s technical expertise, financial assistance, and strong cooperation, particularly in standing with us against the sham election and advocating for federal democracy have been invaluable to our movement and to the people of Myanmar.”*