

Overview of Achievements and Good Practices



Partnering for a Safer and Resilient Myanmar

BACKGROUND

The DRR Working Group (DRR WG) in Myanmar was established in 2008 as a coordination and information-sharing mechanism during the early recovery phase from cyclone Nargis, as part of the mandated Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC) recommended by the Post Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP). Since its establishment, the mandate and work plan of the DRR WG has been articulated around four key areas: strengthening DRR institutions, community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation, building DRR knowledge and awareness, and mainstreaming DRR into development sectors. The DRR WG has evolved towards a network working on policy as well as operational issues through its technical task forces.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The DRR WG mainly functions as a plenary group of 54 agencies (as of 2014) meeting on a monthly basis to share information and updates on their respective DRR work. Every year, the DRR WG members have been electing representatives who comprise the DRR WG Steering Committee (SC) with representation of UN agencies, INGOs, LNGOs, Red Cross and professional bodies. The Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) has been the honorary chair of the DRR WG since its formation. The members of the SC meet on a monthly basis, prior to the plenary meeting, in order to discuss the agenda and other issues requiring the DRR WG's attention and involvement.

Progress and Achievements

Over the years, the DRR WG focused on consensus building and partnership as its overarching strategy and has relied on voluntary membership, and the mobilization of human and financial resources from its members to maintain and expand its activities.

The working group developed and updated its annual work plan by compiling all the activities of the members and partnering on common area of interest.

Several technical task forces have been formed under the umbrella of the DRR WG to work on specific joint initiatives and in response to opportunities for technical cooperation on specific tasks such as the Disaster Management Course, the Disaster Management Law Rules and Regulations, the Township Disaster Management Planning and the Strategic Planning. Below are key achievements of the DRRWG.



Dr. Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discussed the importance of IEC materials with DRR WG during the commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Support to Policy Dialogue and Strengthening DRR institutions

- Technical support to RRD for the preparation of HFA Monitoring Interim Reports 2010-2013
- Organization of civil society consultations on MAPDRR prior to official endorsement
- Organization of civil society consultations on the Disaster Management Bill prior to submission to Parliament and translation of the document in English language
- Organization of workshops on strengthening the role of civil society in DRR, and improving early warning systems and protocols
- Organization of a National Consultation Workshop on Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction in Myanmar
- Consultations on and technical support to the preparation of regulations under the Disaster Management Law
- To accompany and ensure the implementation of the policy and legal framework at sub-national level and its dissemination at regional and global levels, the DRR WG also undertook a number of capacity-building initiatives.
- Technical support to RRD for the upgrading of the curriculum of the Disaster Management Course for township and state/division level and formation of a pool of inter-ministerial Government trainers on DMC through TOT courses; and support to the roll-out of the DMC course in over 15 townships
- Technical support to the Township Disaster Management Planning Process in close to 10 townships;
- Development of a capacity-building strategy for disaster management and support to RRD for the establishment of a Disaster Management Training Centre;
- Technical and/or financial assistance to RRD to share progress with ASEAN and UNISDR in events such as ASEAN Day for Risk Reduction, ASEAN Ministerial Conference on DRR, International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) Day or the Global Platform on DRR
- Leadership Training Program for Civil Society Organizations (CSO) on AADMER



Building DRR Knowledge, Awareness and Research

- Support to the organization and participation in the celebration IDDR Day every year at national and sub-national levels
- Distribution of various IEC materials (multi-hazard) to communities, Government and other agencies
- Contribution to updating information on the DRR Web Portal hosted by the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU) and the DRR-DIAS
- Participation in the Views from the Front Line survey, capturing community perceptions on the progress of the Government against the HFA
- Two-day sensitization workshop on DRR for the media

Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction

- Standardization of DRR terminology and definitions in Myanmar language and validation by the Government
- Formation of a pool of trainers and development of a TOT curriculum on CBDRR, acting as resource pool for members and external agencies upon request
- Documentation of good practices and lessons learnt on key aspects of CBDRR
- Organization of sharing sessions on IEC materials for CBDRR

Mainstreaming DRR into Development Sectors

- Initial discussions with the team working on the “Comprehensive Education Sector Reform” (CESR) under the Education Working Group
- High level advocacy workshop at region/state levels to increase DRR awareness ahead of sub-national development planning
- Formulation of advocacy messages for the incorporation of DRR in the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms of the government

WAY FORWARD

A lot of progress has been made on DRR since the DRR WG was established thanks to the combined efforts of the Government, the communities and the working group’s members; however significant gaps remain for Myanmar to become a disaster resilient nation. The DRR WG itself has evolved since it first started working and the context in which it operates has changed dramatically, shaping new opportunities and threats for DRR work and calling for a re-alignment of the DRR WG’s engagement strategy. Recognizing the momentum created by the reform process and the importance of positioning itself strategically vis-à-vis the ongoing changes, the DRR WG commissioned a Situational Analysis of DRR in Myanmar in 2013 with the overall objective of providing a comprehensive picture of the upcoming opportunities and challenges for DRR in Myanmar and subsequently in January 2014, one of major achievements of the DRR WG is the development of a Strategic Framework and Plan (2014- 2018) with improved governance structure in consultation with the Government, DRR WG members and donors to advance the DRR Agenda in the changing context of Myanmar.

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DRR

Working Group
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