

Inclusion of DRR concepts and practices in school curricula and education material

The Ministry of Education (MoE) revised the General Science Subject for lower secondary school curriculum in 2006 and included the study on ‘Earth and Space’ with lessons on storms. The lower secondary Life Skills subject also covers Flood, Emergencies, Earthquake, Tsunami, Landslides and Fire. The revised upper secondary school curriculum includes a lesson titled ‘Earthquake’ in Grade 10 English and ‘Earth Surface Process’ in Grade 11 Geography. At the primary level, a chapter on Caution in Emergencies’ is included.. A complementary reading material that contains information on 8 disasters is available as a self-study booklet for Grade 5, 6 and 7 students. General Studies Textbook (Level 2) with ‘Earthquake’, ‘Storms’, ‘Tsunami’, and ‘Preparedness’ topics and a story book ‘Be prepared’ are available for Non-Formal Education. Recently, RRD along with State / Regional Government and MOE has incorporated Do’s and Don’t on various natural hazards into the student exercise book provided by the Government.



Building Codes and improving construction practices

The Ministry of Construction (MOC) is in the process of developing Myanmar National Building Code (MNBC) and it has recently endorsed Provisional MNBC while the full code is being developed. Currently the Ministry is also working on promoting safer construction practices as part of National Skills Standards Authority programme (NSSA) through which the Government is in the process of enhancing the skills of persons engaged in construction sector.

Myanmar Environmental Conservation Law (2012)

Myanmar Environmental Conservation Law was enacted on 30 July 2013. It covers formation of Environmental Conservation Committee, Duties and Responsibilities of the Ministry, establishment of Environmental Management Fund, stipulation of Environmental Quality Standards, Environmental Conservation and management of Urban Environment, conservations of Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage.

The National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (2012-2021)

The Department of Social Welfare (DSW) drafted the National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women 2012-2021 (NSPAW). NSPAW encompasses the principles of CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action. Twelve priority areas have been set out with specific objectives and strategic components to implement respective areas. “Women and Emergencies” is one of the priority areas of NSPAW that envisions to strengthen systems, structures and practices to ensure women’s and girls’ rights to protection in emergencies and to ensure their participation in emergency preparedness, response and disaster and conflict risk reduction.



Youth Volunteer Network

Government has embarked on DRR Youth Volunteer programme providing DRR related Training of Trainers (TOT) for young representatives from Ayeyarwaddy Region. Those young volunteer will be serving as a leader of community disaster management committee then to become a change agent who can promote the necessary change in behaviors. It plans to scale up the initiatives.

Looking ahead

Since the new elected government came into power in March 2011, Myanmar is pursuing a four waves reform process; the political, economic and administrative reform and development of private sector, aiming to achieve political stability and economic development. The development partners and the international community welcome these changes and join in hands with the government. Accordingly, there is much potential for international assistance as well as foreign investment flowing into the development sectors. These will inevitably result to increase investments in infrastructure and rapid urbanization that encourages rural to urban migration. Meanwhile, if improvements in the development sectors do not integrate disaster risk reduction, they could exacerbate existing disaster risk and create new forms of disaster risk Building disaster resilience in Myanmar becomes more important than ever, to safe lives of Myanmar people, to protect investment and to ensure the sustainability of development gains.



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DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN MYANMAR

Myanmar is exposed to a plethora of natural hazards, including earthquakes, fires, droughts, floods, landslides, cyclones and tsunamis. A total of 27 natural disasters have been recorded between 1980 and 2010, causing the death of approximately 140,000 people, and affecting the lives and livelihoods of 3.9 million people. During 2002-2012, three cyclones affected over 2.6 million people, floods affected over 500,000 people, two major earthquakes affected over 20,000 people.



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| Official Name: | The Republic of the Union of Myanmar |
| Capital: | Nay Pyi Taw (Established since 2005) |
| Area: | 676,577 sq km. |
| Coastline: | 2,832 km |
| Population: | 60.97 million (Male: 49.43%, Female: 50.57%) |
| Population Growth: | 1.84% |

Myanmar’s vulnerability to hazards is compounded by wide-spread poverty and poor infra-structures. The combination of hazard vulnerability and low capacity makes Myanmar the “most at risk country” in Asia-Pacific according to the UN Risk Model.

Improvements in building disaster resilience to-date

Institutional Arrangement on Disaster Management

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC) has been constituted to take systematic preparedness measures and to undertake effective emergency response and recovery. NDPCC is a 23 member body for Disaster Management in the country and is under the chairmanship of the Vice-President. Under NDPCC, the National Disaster Preparedness Management Working Committee (NDP-MWC) was also constituted to supervise the implementation of Disaster Management activities in accordance with the guidelines from the NDPCC. NDPMWC is chaired by the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Disaster Preparedness Committees have been constituted at Region/ State, district, township and village tract levels to implement disaster management activities.



Myanmar Disaster Management Law (2013)

Myanmar Disaster Management Law was enacted in July 2013. The Law includes the provisions for formation of disaster management bodies and their duties and responsibilities for all phases of disaster, establishment of disaster management fund at national and Region/ State level. The Law also provides the guidance to carry out the measures of disaster risk reduction along with the development plans in the country. The rules for implementation of Myanmar Disaster Management Law has been also drafted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in consultation with disaster risk reduction experts and Myanmar Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group composed of (56) international and national organizations, led by UNDP.



Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR), 2012

The Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR), that provides a framework for multi-stakeholder engagement on DRR in the country, was prepared with substantial consultation with various stakeholders. MAPDRR’s goal is “to make Myanmar Safer and more Resilient against Natural Hazards, thus Protecting Lives, Livelihood and Development Gains”. MAPDRR identifies (65) projects that need to be implemented to meet the Government’s commitments to HFA and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AAD-MER).



The Disaster Management Training Centre (DMTC)

The government approved establishment of the Disaster Management Training Centre (DMTC) in order to build up the capacity of people implementing disaster management activities. The DMTC will build upon the existing pool of experts within the Relief and Resettlement Department and the existing Disaster Management Course, which has supported capacity development of officials from Government Departments and Social Organizations, since 1977. DMTC will be located in Hinthada Township in Ayeyarwaddy Region. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is now undertaking the three-year plan (2013-2015) for establishment of DMTC. Under Phase 1 (2013-2014), construction of the three main buildings is now underway. The Ministry is collaborating with international and local partners to mobilize the technical and financial resources for:

- Human resource and institutional capacity development
- Infrastructure development
- Development of Curriculum and procurement of Teaching Aids
- Networking and partnership with International and Regional Training Institutes and Centers

Emergency Operation Centre

With the aim to provide the supports for emergency management, response and logistic through information sharing on network and quick decision making, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement plans to set up Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). The functions of EOC will include;



- Monitoring/ Watching weather related information and early warnings were received
- Developing research on disasters occurred in Myanmar
- Developing the response plans for each type of disaster
- Exchanging weather information with local/international organizations
- Documentation of disaster information, Distribution and Coordination
- Reporting the news acquired from affected area to the higher levels in emergency situation continuously and timely

Myanmar Disaster Loss and Damage Database

The Myanmar Disaster Loss and Damage Database has now been initiated by the Relief and Resettlement Department with the objective to develop national capacities for monitoring and analyzing risks and vulnerabilities to support disaster risk reduction, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The National framework for the database has been finalized and the pilot data collection is now under-way. The database could be linked with the Regional and global networks in the near future.



Improvement for Early Warning

Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) generates weather forecast and early warnings for cyclone, storm surge and flood. Color-coded cyclone warning message was started to use in 2009, as an attempt to make early warning message to be user friendly. Once the early warning on disaster is issued by DMH, it is informed to the public through media and TV. In order to improve the quality and accuracy of the weather forecast and early warning, DMH still needs to upgrade the capacity of equipment and tools for weather forecast. The DMH organizes Monsoon Forum as a mechanism for fostering a closer dialogue between forecast producers and users to enhance the uptake of weather and climate forecasts for disaster mitigation. The broader goal of the Forum is to build the national capacity to mitigate disaster risks by linking national hydro-meteorological agencies to sectors that are vulnerable to climate risks, notably agriculture, water resources, health, and disaster management project in collaboration with DMH, General Administration Department and JICA to enhance the capacity of the government officials and the community. The pilot projects for Ayeyarwaddy and Rakhine have been implementing. RRD is also implementing the End-to-End Early Warning system. UN and NGOs are likewise assisting in the production of IEC materials related to early warning as well as on public awareness. The use mobile phone SMS for early warning is also being explored.

