

DISASTER RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND URBAN RISK (DRP- CURB)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Over the past three years, the programme has supported range of strategic interventions with cross cutting issues such as Gender, DRR, Environment and local actions at community level.

1. Strengthening its strategic partnership with Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Border Affairs and Ministry of Environment Conservation and Forestry.
2. Support strengthening legal, policy and institutional framework for Urban, DRR, Post disaster recovery and Environment Sector.
3. Various assessment technical guidelines for sustainable recovery such as Shelter Sector Recovery- Cyclone Nargis, Giri and Tarlay Earthquakes, Cyclone Shelter Assessment, Guidelines on Land Issues etc.
4. Support establishment of Urban Research and Development Institute (URDI), a think tank for the Ministry of Construction (MoC) in the areas of urbanization, urban development, housing and disaster risk reduction providing policy advice, capacity development and urban research.
5. Support formulation of Provisional Myanmar National Building Code-2012(MNBC) and development of various technical guidelines on safer construction practices.
6. Training on Safer Construction Practices and demonstration of disaster resilient construction technologies.
7. Support formulation of key environment polices / reports such as State of Environment Report, Inle Lake Restoration Plan.
8. Provide technical assistance for long term capacity building by supporting establishment of URDI, National Disaster Management Training Centre.
9. Support local government in developing disaster management and local action plans and local communities in implementing mitigation activities through its people's process approach.

Geographical Coverage:

DRP-CURB, provides key strategic support at National Level on Urban, DRR, Post Disaster Recovery, Environment and Climate Change while also targeted interventions along the entire coastal States and Region of Myanmar from Rakhineto Tanintharyi Region, hazard prone rural and urban settlements in Myanmar. In addition, the programme also supports any emergencies that may strike the country in the coming future.



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Disaster Risk and Development

Due to its geophysical location, Myanmar is prone to range of natural hazards as well as long term climate change impacts. While natural hazards are part of environment, disaster risks are intrinsically linked to development. Myanmar ranks among one of the high risk countries to natural hazards due to high degree of vulnerability to natural hazards. Impacts of climate change are already being felt in terms of changes in weather patterns and in future it may exacerbate disaster risks. Cyclone Nargis (2008) was the worst natural disaster in the history of Myanmar, and the most devastating cyclone to strike Asia since 1991. Some 2.4 million people were severely affected by the cyclone; in addition to the tragic loss of life, the total amount of damage and losses in the Nargis-affected areas was estimated at US\$ 4.057 billion.

Evolution of DRP- CURB

Cyclone Nargis provided a development opportunity to "Build Back Better" as well as and opened the gates to the country, in a way never experienced before by Myanmar. A milestone agreement was reached between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Government of Norway and UN-Habitat for implementation of a comprehensive multi-hazard DRR programme: Disaster Response and Preparedness – Resilient Coastal Communities and Urban Risk which prioritizes cost effective service delivery to:

- A the most vulnerable communities in terms either/and disaster risk and climate change as well as
- B ensuring institutional policies and capacities are in place for a supportive environment for service delivery
- C instilling and institutionalize capacities of local stakeholders including the public, for preparedness, mitigation and adaptation measures while underscoring the importance of crosscutting issues such as Mainstreaming Gender, DRR and Environment etc.

This agreement forms the backbone of UN-Habitat's DRR strategy the 'Myanmar Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (MCDRRP)' as well as UN-Habitat's Urban Support Strategy 'Myanmar Safer Settlements and Urban Research Programme (MSSURP)' and has been successfully being implemented since 2009.

Key Areas

During the course of evolution and implementation from recovery to long term development support, the programme has taken a need and demand based approach in following areas and it continue to support the Government's long term reform process.

Towards Resilient Development
Phase III - (2012- 2013)
Phase IV (2013- 2014)- Ongoing

Key Approach/Results Area 1:

Mitigation measures at community level inks to the first key approach 'Gender-based community response to disasters'. As the lead agency for the Shelter Working Group (SWG) during post disaster recovery for Cyclone Nargis, Giri and Tarlay Earthquakes, through the programme UN-Habitat conducted review and analysis of shelter sector needs, strategies and action plans, implementation type. Further building on UN-Habitat's technical expertise in disaster resistant construction, the programme supported the development of designs for disaster resistant shelters for different types of disasters such as Earthquakes, floods, cyclones, storm surges, and fires and community members were trained on safer construction practices in Ayeyarwaddy, Yangon and Rakhine through its partners. The programme also providing community level support and grants to "Build Back Better" which are in turn guided UN-Habitat's "Peoples Process" by establishing Community Development Committees (CDCs) and participatory action planning (CAP) while also addressing the special needs of women and most vulnerable groups.



Result Area 1
Mitigation measures at community level inks to the first key approach 'Gender-based community response to disasters'.

Key Approach/Result Area 2:

Policy support with mainstreaming and capacity building links to the second key approach "Mainstreaming DRR". In order to scale up and sustain DRR interventions, UN-Habitat supports key Government Partners such as Relief and Resettlement Department, Department of Human Settlements and Housing Development, Department of Rural Development and Environment Conservation Department on mainstreaming and long term capacity building on DRR and climate change issues. In order to promote sustainable urbanization and safer settlements, it provides technical advice through establishment of Urban Research and Development Institute (URDI) as a think tank for the Ministry of Construction (MoC) in the formulation of Housing Policy, Myanmar National Building Code, National Urban Development Strategy, City Development Strategies, and implementation of Safer Settlements Initiatives. It also provides technical advice and support to Relief and Resettlement Department on mainstreaming DRR into DM legal, policy and institutional frameworks, strengthening DRR institutional mechanism through formulation of DM plans, advocacy with State / Regional Government on DRR, long term capacity building along with DRR WG in review and updating Disaster Management Course and establishment of National DM Training Centre.



Result Area 2:
Policy support with mainstreaming and capacity building links to the second key approach "Mainstreaming DRR"

Key Approach/Result Area 3:

Public Education & Awareness (PEA) Risk Knowledge is a key element for saving lives and addressing long term risk reduction in the communities. UN-Habitat in partnership with Relief and Resettlement Department and key stakeholders such as Myanmar Engineering Society, DRR WG has developed range of materials on covering various natural hazards, standard DRR terminologies in Myanmar, safer construction practise to raise awareness and enhance risk knowledge to address risk reduction. It is also supporting RRD in establishing the online National DRR Knowledge Portal DRR-DIAS to be a one-stop information source on DRR related information in Myanmar.



Result Area 3:
Public education & Awareness (PEA)

Key Approach/Result Area 4:

Climate Smart DRR (CSDRR) & Environment Disaster risk is intrinsically linked with environment and climate change and often it exacerbates existing risk. UN-Habitat address key environmental concerns including climate change in Myanmar through a tri-pronged approach: public education, community based mitigation measures and support to authorities for research and development of appropriate national policies and strategies. UN-Habitat works closely with Ministry of Environment Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF) to support formulation of Status of Environment Report (SoER), with UNEP and in formulation of Inlay Lake- 10 Year Restoration Plan. It also supports Environmental Awareness programme including wider dissemination of Environment Conservation Law in Myanmar with the Ministry. Leveraging its work in the area of climate change in Myanmar, it is currently partnering with UNEP along with European Commission - the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) programme to provide policy and technical support on climate change issues through Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA). Currently it is supporting the formulation of Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI), UN-Habitat's Global Programme to address climate change mitigation and adaptation in cities.



Result Area 4:
Climate Smart DRR (CSDRR) & Environment

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