

## B Settlement Planning:

Land is central for any development. In the past, many countries in the Asian region discouraged urbanization, while many cities continued to expand often in hazard prone areas without proper or no land use planning, leading to increasing disaster risk. While there are many land related laws and regulations there are no clear policies and procedures on land use planning. Currently, the land use decisions are taken at various levels, for example State governments are responsible for reclassification of land use (agricultural to non agricultural land) based on the request from District and Township governments and government officials at Ward / Village tract and Township level plays an important role in approval of new settlements. However there is no clear understanding on how the local government officials identify, select and approve those new settlements, particularly whether the process takes into consideration of natural hazards in that area. Furthermore, practices seem to differ from State to State and by land typology.

Considering the exposure to various hazards, vulnerability and also future development prospects, there is a need in Myanmar to promote safer settlement planning addressing both exposure through land use planning and vulnerability reduction through hazard resistant construction practices to reach the vulnerable households along with other complementary DRR tools.



### Project Area:

4 Townships / 4 State and region Bogalay Township (Ayeyarwaddy Region), Kun Chan Gone Township ( Yangon Region), Ye Township ( Mon State) and Kyun Su Township (TanintharyiRegion)

### Project Partners:

Department of Human Settlements and Housing Development (DHSHD)  
Public Works Department (PWD)  
Urban Research and Development Institute (URDI),  
Myanmar Engineering Society (MES)  
Academic and Professional Institutions, relevant stakeholders from key Ministries and Departments, Township Administration, DRR WG members etc.

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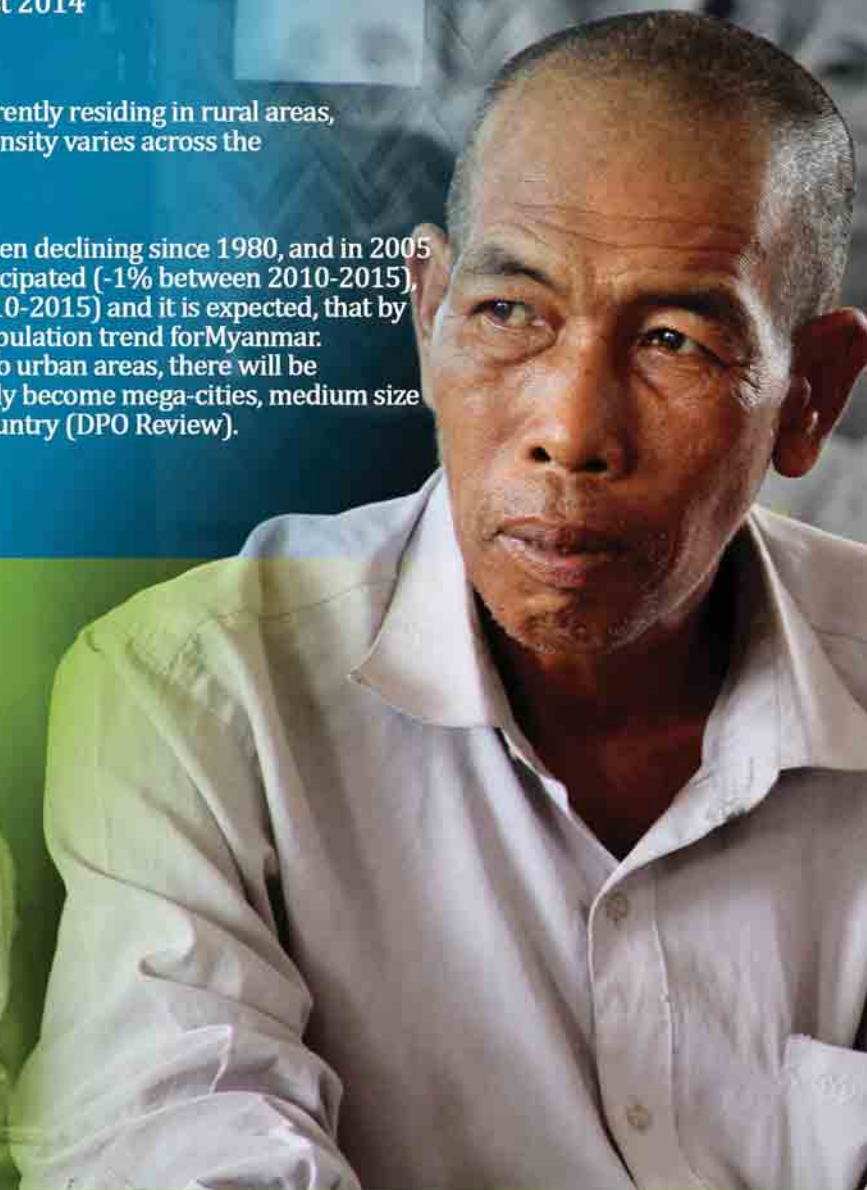
# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

## FOR SAFE AND RESILIENT BURMESE COASTAL COMMUNITIES (DRR-SBCC)

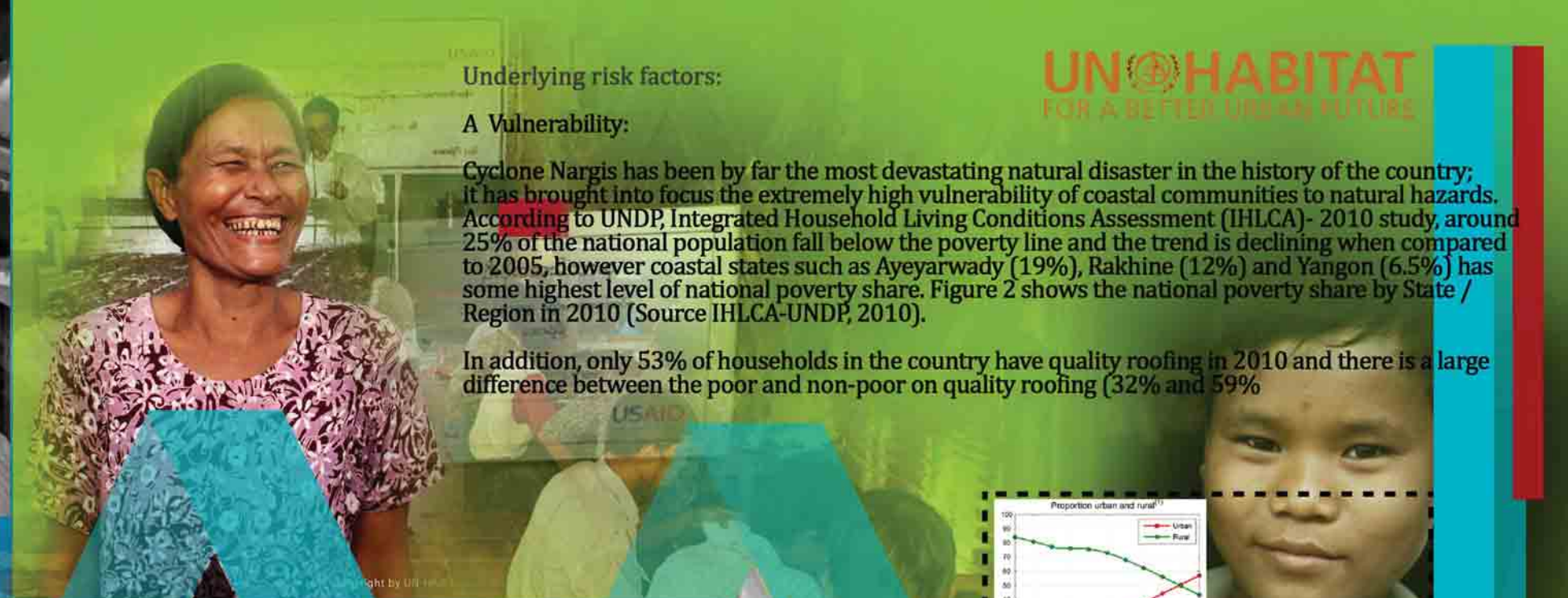
Project Duration: September 2012 – August 2014

Myanmar is characterized as an agrarian economy with 66.1 % of the population currently residing in rural areas, however it is on a fast track mode to urbanization (33.9% as of 2010). Population density varies across the country and coastal states .

According to World Urbanization Prospects (2011), overall population growth has been declining since 1980, and in 2005 population growth in rural areas registered negative growth with further decline anticipated (-1% between 2010-2015), whereas, urban population growth rate will be on an upward trend (3% between 2010-2015) and it is expected, that by 2040 Myanmar will cross the 50% landmark. Figure 1 shows the urban and rural population trend for Myanmar. With modernization, changes in the economic structure and reclassification of rural to urban areas, there will be increased rural- urban migration. One scenario projects that large cities will eventually become mega-cities, medium size cities will become large cities and many new smaller cities will crop up across the country (DPO Review).



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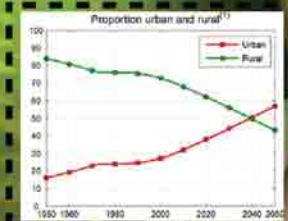


Underlying risk factors:

A Vulnerability:

Cyclone Nargis has been by far the most devastating natural disaster in the history of the country; it has brought into focus the extremely high vulnerability of coastal communities to natural hazards. According to UNDP, Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA)- 2010 study, around 25% of the national population fall below the poverty line and the trend is declining when compared to 2005, however coastal states such as Ayeyarwady (19%), Rakhine (12%) and Yangon (6.5%) has some highest level of national poverty share. Figure 2 shows the national poverty share by State / Region in 2010 (Source IHLCA-UNDP, 2010).

In addition, only 53% of households in the country have quality roofing in 2010 and there is a large difference between the poor and non-poor on quality roofing (32% and 59%



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### Overarching Goal:

Is to “enhance resilience of coastal communities to current and future risks through evidence based information for policy advocacy and mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development planning”.

### Strategy:

Following strategy is proposed in order to achieve the programme goal,

**Objective 1:** Minimize exposure and vulnerability of coastal communities to current and future risks through safe settlement planning by assessing existing policy and practices related to land use planning for town and city planning, and develop guidelines for land use planning in the context of Myanmar and demonstrate priority mitigation activities to minimize future exposure to disaster risk. Further it will establish linkages for training of relevant staffs on land use planning at Urban Research and Development Institute (URDI), under the Ministry of Construction.

**Objective 2:** Institutionalize capacity building of carpenters in vulnerability reduction of built environment through disaster resilient construction practices and though incorporation of green building concepts. In addition to training of carpenters from the pilot townships and communities in disaster resistant construction practices, this activity will strategically support competency based skills certification for construction trades (carpentry) through Ministry of Construction and Myanmar Engineering Society.

**Objective 3:** Advocacy on all of the above targeted to high level government officials at National, State and Township levels and awareness rising at community level.

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