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Linking DRR and Water Management for Community Resilience

Case study from Myanmar

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Case study overview

WASH in disaster-prone areas

hazards: floods, droughts

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Integrated DRR

Water-related shocks and stresses in Myanmar

- Myanmar ranks 2nd out of 187 countries in the Global Climate Risk Index
- High-risk country according to Index for Risk Management (INFORM)
- High frequency: Floods severely affect the country on an annual basis

Doing the right thing

Project outline: CBDRR phase II

- Duration: **2013 – 2016**
- Implemented in **50 villages**
- **Integration of DRR in water sector** in 20 most water-stressed villages in the Delta region

- **Objective:** Build resilience in the villages by improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in disaster-prone areas.

Pillars of intervention

- **Awareness and capacities:** Formation of village committees on disaster risk and water management, formulation of joint action plan.

- **Risk reduction:** Risk sharing mechanisms in the form of a community emergency fund, tree plantation to reduce water run-off during small-scale floods .

- **WASH:** structural and non-structural measures

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Steps to link DRR and WASH

1. Hazard, Capacity, Vulnerability Assessment → WASH Assessment

2. Community Action Plan → WASH Interventions

3. Formation of VDMC & TFGs → Formation of WRMC & WUG

Capacity Building, Networking, Implementation and Monitoring

Risk Situation in Ayeyarwaddy Region

- 6.1 million people (12% of population)
- Economic activity mostly related to rice cultivation and fishing
- Prone to water-related shocks and stresses
- Impacts affect health, assets, agriculture

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Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Assessment

Hazards

- Participatory multi-hazard identification

Vulnerability

- Exposure of people and assets (risk zone mapping)
- Identification of people with special needs

Resources & Capacities

- Resources within community
- Need for external support
- How to access resources

WASH relevance

- Floods and drought affect WASH infrastructure
- WASH infrastructure in flood-prone areas
- Low level of hygiene
- DW at risk of contamination
- Work through schools and teachers
- Trainings

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WASH-related challenges

Water sources

- **Water ponds:** Low embankment, no protection from floods and contamination
- **Shallow tube wells**: at risk of contamination
- **Open wells:** Neither roof nor platform, run dry in dry season

Sanitation

- **Latrines:** not flood proof, risk of contamination
- **Awareness:** Lack of knowledge on sanitation and hygiene and its linkages with disaster risk

Community Action Planning

- Identifying **support structures** for most vulnerable families and people
- Identification of DRM measures, including feasibility assessment and rough budget calculation
- **Ranking of measures** according to relevance, cost and benefit (rough estimation)
- **Mobilization of resources** (internal/external)
- **Implementation of measures**

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Examples of DRR-mainstreaming measures

Integral part of resilient infrastructure development:

- Elevation of houses, latrines, paths, filters, gardens
- Protected/closed wells
- Flood safe community water filters
- Hygiene awareness (for flood season, for dry season)

Linked to resilient livelihood development

- Stabilisation of slopes through terracing
- Irrigation channels (drought risk)
- Drought resistant seeds & rice banks

Examples of standalone DRR measures

- Emergency Recovery Fund
- Early warning systems incl. setup of rain gauges
- Safe havens
- DRR mitigation infrastructure: wind fences, tidal barriers to reduce impact of floods and coastal storms

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Major Achievements

Structural

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Major Achievements

Non-Structural

Challenges

- Embrace two communities of practice
- Risk imperative: requires different approach
- Scope for better alignment of interventions

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So… why mainstream DRR?

- Issue of relevance
- Widen the window of opportunity
- Risk-sensitive development is key

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Doing the right thing

Firstname Name, Division, Position

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