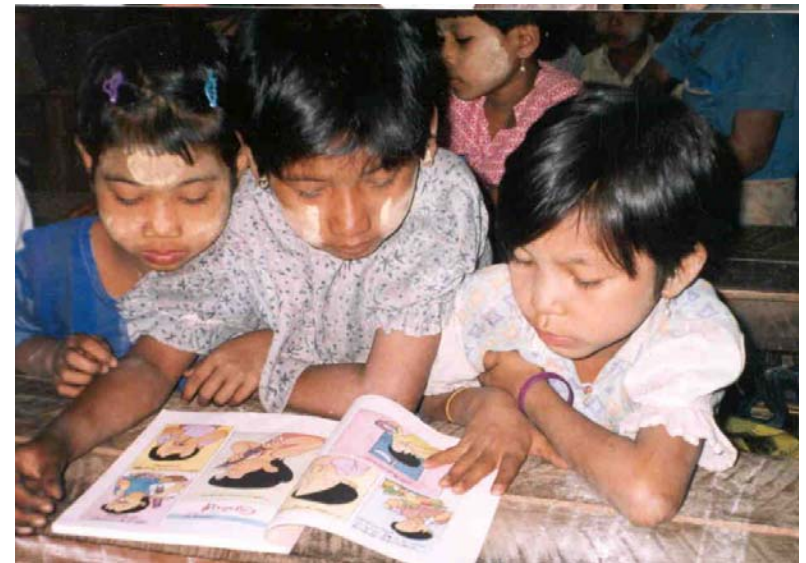


# School Safety Initiative in Myanmar: *A way forward to ensure child safety*

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Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

A presentation by  
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Source: UNICEF



## Menu for discussion

- Background
- Impact of Disaster on Education sector in Myanmar
- Existing mechanisms for School Safety Initiatives in Myanmar
- Key School Safety Initiatives
- Conclusion



## Background: Overview

- Largest country in mainland SE Asia, total area of 676,578 kms<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 56.52 mn (2006-07)
- Administratively divided into 7 Divisions and 7 States
- Coastline is 2000 kms
- Agriculture-based country as it accounts for 40.2% of the GDP
- 135 national groups speaking over 100 languages & dialects



## Background: Hazard Profile

- Prone to frequently occurring hydro-meteorological and less frequent geophysical hazards.
- Coastal regions are exposed to cyclones, tropical storms/storm surges, and tsunamis.
- Rainfall-induced flooding is a recurring phenomenon across the country.
- The whole country is at risk from earthquakes, droughts and fires.
- Hilly regions are also exposed to landslide risks and less frequent events include tornadoes, thunderstorms and heat.

## Impact of Disasters on *Education Sector*

- In last 100 years, there were at least 17 major windstorms, 6 earthquakes, 1 Tsunami and 12 major floods.
- Cyclone Nargis of 2008 was most devastating, led to loss of 138,373 lives and displaced 800,000 people
  - It also damaged/destroyed 50-60 % of public schools, apart from trauma suffered by children
- Cyclone Giri of 2010 at least 45 people, affected 200,000 people
  - It destroyed/damaged 673 primary, middle and high schools and 90,000 children affected

## Damage to education sector, Cyclone Nargis

| Sub-sectors                                              | Damage in USD  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Public general education</b>                          |                |
| Totally or partially damaged schools                     | 68,040         |
| Roof damaged schools                                     | 12,518         |
| Furniture, equipment and learning materials              | 25,832         |
| <b>Monastic education</b>                                |                |
| Partially damaged schools                                | 1,584          |
| Furniture and learning materials                         | 259            |
| <b>Early childhood, youth and adult literacy centers</b> |                |
| Partially or totally damaged public institutions         | 392            |
| Furniture and learning materials                         | 84             |
| Partially or totally damaged private institutions        | 2,939          |
| Furniture and learning materials                         | 508            |
| <b>Higher education</b>                                  |                |
| Roof damaged higher education institutions and offices   | 2,742          |
| Furniture, equipment and learning materials              | 208            |
| <b>Administrative offices</b>                            | 559            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                             | <b>115,665</b> |
| Source: PONJA, 2008                                      |                |



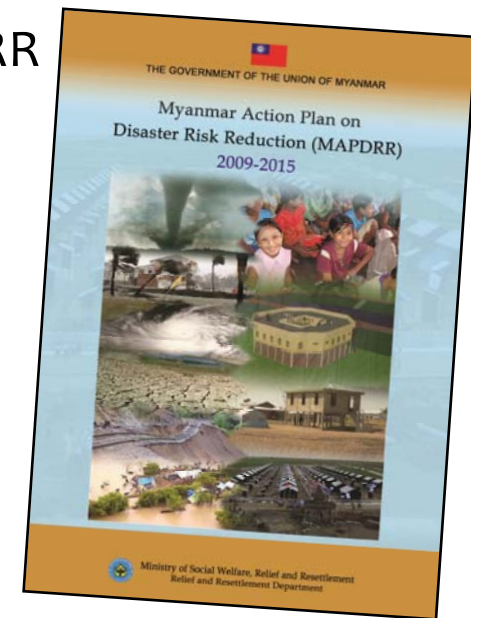
# Mechanisms for School Safety

- *National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee [NDPCC]*, a 37 member committee under the Prime Minister and Minister, Education as member, is the highest body for Disaster management
- *Information and Education Sub-committee*, under Minister Information and Deputy Minister Education as Member, is a 11-member Sub-committee under NDPCC for effective implementation of NDPCC
- *Ministry of Education* with its nine departments is the nodal ministry for School safety initiatives. It is working with UN, INGOs and local NGOs on DRR issues.



# Mechanisms contd...

- *Education Cluster/Education thematic working group (ETDG)* co-chaired by UNICEF and Save the Children which advocates and supports the establishment of a sound and sustainable national education system
- *Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) Working Group*, under ETWG, is convened by Ministry of Education and UNESCO, and focuses on disaster preparedness.
- *Disaster risk reduction working group* focuses on overall DRR including school safety
- *Individual agencies* such as UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children, Action Aid, ADPC, UNDP, Red Cross, etc
- *Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction [MAPDRR]* 2009-15 drafted through inter-ministerial mechanism has identified 4 sub-components related to school safety





## School Safety in Curriculum

- *Ministry of Education and UNICEF* started working, since early 1990, on the School-Based Healthy Living and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education (SHAPE) project targeted to schools and extended to out-of-school youth
- *Natural Disasters* were included in the post- Indian Ocean Tsunami, period

| Level     | Grade    | Lesson Topic            | Subject         |
|-----------|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Lower     | Grade 6  | Thunderstorm            | General Science |
| Secondary | Grade 8  | Storms                  | General Science |
| Upper     | Grade 10 | Earthquakes             | English         |
| Secondary | Grade 11 | Earth surface Processes | Geography       |

# School Safety in Curriculum

- *Preparedness and mitigation* aspects have been included by incorporating it in *Life skill subjects*

| Level                  | Grade | Lesson Topic                                                                     |
|------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Primary                | 5     | Caution in Emergencies (floods, tsunami, etc )                                   |
| Lower Secondary        | 6     | Emergency! It is Flooding!                                                       |
|                        | 7     | Disaster preparedness (8 disasters-family plan , emergency kit, evacuation map ) |
|                        | 8     | Earthquake, Landslides                                                           |
| Safety in Case of Fire |       |                                                                                  |

- Complementary reading material developed for Life Skills Subject →



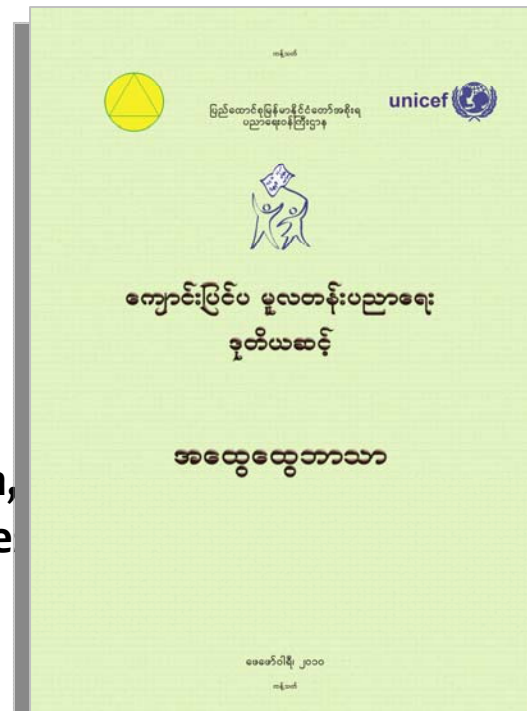
# Non-Formal Education for Out-of School Children

- *Ministry of Education and UNICEF* started Extended & Continuous Education & Learning (EXCEL) project
- A number of NGOs involved in training



Flooding

Earthquake , Storm,  
Tsunami, Preparedne



# Disaster Preparedness Resource Pack

- DPRE Working Group led by Ministry of Education and UNESCO developed the Resource Pack in aftermath of Cyclone Nargis
- It include information on *Risk assessment, school disaster management plans, Drills, Teaching and learning materials and Recovery.*
- Training on usage of the Resource Pack is provided and 2100 schools have been covered under DPRE.
- The Resource Pack has evolved over time



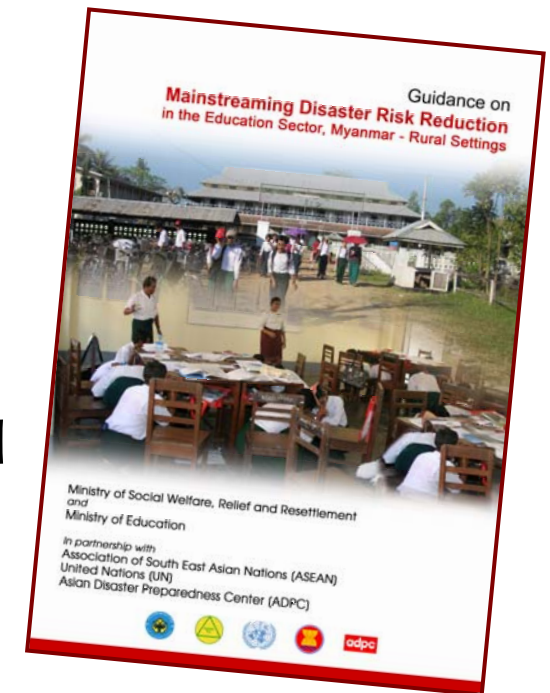
# Contents of Resource Pack



International Workshop  
 People Centered Approach in Flood and Land Management in the Mekong Basin:  
 Sustained Implementation and Planning for Future Challenges

# School Safety : *Guideline and Manual*

- *Guidance on mainstreaming DRR in the Education sector, Myanmar- Rural settings* developed by Government, UN, ASEAN and ADPC provides guidance on Structural, Pedagogical and non-structural aspects of the education system in DRR context
- *School Safety Manual* developed by UNDP and ADPC with the aim to assist the school level stakeholders on what to do for school safety
- *DRR in Education 7 Training Modules* developed by Ministry of Education and UNESCO



# Capacity building

- *School Principal and Teachers* have been trained approx. 3,200 principals and teachers in 2009-10
- At least *1 teacher per school* received training in project area



## Safer School Construction

- Multi-purpose disaster resistant School building design have been developed by UNICEF, SDC (Swiss), JICA, NRC, etc
- Other agencies involved in safe school construction include World Vision, WHH, JEN, MRCS/JRCS/IFRC, Samaritan's Purse and AMURT





## Child Friendly Schools (CFS)

- Myanmar Education For All National Action Plan (EFANAP) is aiming at all primary schools to be Child Friendly Schools by 2011
- CFS is a school which is healthy, safe and protective
- DRR in Education contribute to Myanmar EFA NAP



# Conclusion

- School safety initiatives in Myanmar *started in early 2000* and got impetus in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis of 2008
- The initiatives include structural, non-structural and policy and many of the initiatives are well *inter-twined with other education sector* initiatives
- A *robust institutional mechanism* exist for school safety initiative exist
- There is a *need to upscale* these initiatives at national levels



# Thank you

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