

MYANMAR

I. Natural hazards in Myanmar

1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

Annually Myanmar has to suffer from impacts of disaster: **fire, storm, flood, and earthquake**. 70% of disasters are caused by fire, 13% by storm, 10% by flood and the remaining 7% by other causes of disaster.

1.2 Recent major disasters

year	dis_subset	killed	injured	total_affected	dam (US '000s)
2005	Landslide	17	16	16	—
2004	Tsunami	71	0	12500	—
2004	Cyclone	236	0	25000	688

Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, www.em-dat.net - Université catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium"

II. Disaster Management system

2.1 Administrative system

Conventional long form: Myanmar
Conventional short form: Myanmar
Government type: military junta
Capital: Yangon
Administrative divisions: 7 divisions (taing-myar, singular - taing) and 7 states (pyi ne-myar, singular - pyi ne).

2.2 Legal system, legal framework

2.3 Structure of disaster management

Myanmar has its own system and practice for disaster prevention and preparedness base on its own social, economical, cultural and administrative practice. In order to carry out disaster preventive measure effectively, the central committee for natural Disaster Prevention, Relief and Resettlement has been formed by the guideline of State Peace and Development Council's Security and Management Committee. The chairman of the committee is Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement and members are head of Departments concerned State, Divisional and Township level committees are also organized and disaster prevention activities are being implemented.

Source: ADRC country report

In order to effectively carry-out disaster preparedness and prevention measures the Government established a Central Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief, a policy formulating body headed by the Minister of Home and Religious Affairs. A National Disaster Prevention Relief and Rehabilitation Committee was formed under the Central Committee, so as to facilitate the practical implementation of the preparedness and preventive measures, and the National Committee was headed by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Social Welfare with 9 members from other Ministries.

Fire Services Department under Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement is responsible for fire precaution, fire prevention, extinction, training of fireman, relief and rescue work, educating the public for awareness of fire and disasters

In the delta regions where flooding of the river is the problem, the dykes and water barriers are maintained and reinforced as necessary by Irrigation Department. In area of Rakhine state which are vulnerable to cyclone and storm surge earthen mounds are constructed.

In case of disaster, readily and Development Association, Schools, Army, Reserved Volunteers, Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and Police Force.

2.4 Priority on disaster risk management

III. Disaster management plan

Disaster Reduction Plan

Department of relief and resettlement have cooperated with the Department of Health, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Fire Services Department, Human Settlement and Household Development Department, Irrigation Department and Myanmar Red Cross society in the field of disaster prevention and reduction measure.

Fire prevention: The State Peace and Development Council is the authority concerned to manage a systematic resettlement of homeless who trespassed in restricted areas to new towns. On the other hand, the authority made town plans at the fire stricken areas as post disaster activities. The victims were provided rehabilitation plans, resettlement and development schemes. Reducing vulnerabilities by doing physical plan and construction, disaster mitigation will be achieved for the future.

Some of the examples are Meiktila Fire (1991) and Myangyan Fire (1993). As the main causes of fire outbreak are due to unplanned development and use of flammable construction materials, the authorities have undertaken the task of physical planning to prevent potential disaster and have also established low cost building materials development unit to develop non-flammable building materials with indigenous raw materials. Systematic establishing of new towns on accordance with town plan is another activity to reduce Fire disaster.

Cyclonic storm and flood preparedness: Having a long coastal line along the western part of the country, Bay of Bay of Bengal is regarded as cyclone vulnerable area. Being a heavy rainfall country, Myanmar suffers from flood disaster in mid-monsoon period of August to October. Along-term prevention and preparedness plan for cyclone and storm surge, (8) earthen high-mounds (embankments) which consists of refuge shelters and drinking water ponds were constructed in Pauk-taw, Myebon and Minya Township in Rakhine state, cyclone prone areas. During the cyclone season (April, May, September, October), Local populace can take refuge in these high mounds and shelters in case of emergency to avoid from storm surge, and strong wind. Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, is responsible for improving cyclone and flood warning and forecasting system. Hence, broad disseminating of warning are being made through the mass media such as television, radio, wireless, and newspaper.

IV. Budget size on national level

V. Progress and situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by Ministry

VII. ADRC Counterpart

General Director of Relief and Resettlement Dept
Office of the Minister