

Stories of Impact

A series highlighting achievements in disaster risk management

Roads to Recovery in Myanmar



REGION: EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
FOCUS: RESILIENT RECOVERY
COUNTRY: THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR



RESULTS:

- A rapid floods and landslides post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) provided a comprehensive overview of the damages, losses, and recovery priorities, informing national and sectoral recovery and reconstruction strategies.
- Identifying priority needs in critical sectors, the PDNA was instrumental for mobilizing substantial resources for recovery and reconstruction, including \$32 million for the agriculture sector through the first-ever activation of the World Bank's Immediate Response Mechanism.
- The PDNA helped secure a \$200 million Emergency Recovery Credit, with \$100 million from the IDA Crisis Response Window, for improved road infrastructure.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Heavy rains brought intense flooding and landslides in Myanmar from July to September 2015. Over 1.6 million people were temporarily displaced and 132 lives lost, with vulnerable populations most severely affected. In response, the Government of Myanmar, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the World Bank, and more than 17 partner organizations worked to rapidly assess the damages and priority interventions across 14 sectors.

A \$330,000 grant from GFDRR initiated an in-depth dialogue on disaster risk management (DRM) with the Government, leveraging three World Bank projects totaling \$353 million, focusing on recovery and reconstruction in the agriculture and transport sectors, and strengthening DRM.



CONTEXT:

Myanmar is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, ranking 9th out of 191 countries in the INFORM Index for Risk Management. Torrential rains from July 2015 and the onset of cyclone Komen triggered severe and widespread flooding and landslides across 12 out of 14 states. Half of the most-affected 40 townships were in the two poorest states: Rakhine and Chin. Landslides severed road connectivity, making the transport sector the most-impacted public sector, with agriculture sustaining the heaviest damages and losses overall.

APPROACH:

Responding to Government needs, GFDRR and the World Bank supported a rapid PDNA and mobilization of disaster recovery financing. The assessment of 14 sectors and socio-economic impacts was delivered in a three-week timeframe and presented to a wide range of stakeholders. The PDNA comprised inputs from more than 20 government entities, 17 partner organization, and 17 World Bank Group teams. "Build back better" principles, which were integrated throughout the PDNA's recommendations, aim to reduce vulnerability and improve living conditions, while promoting more effective and sustainable reconstruction. The PDNA results helped to leverage substantial World Bank funding for recovery and DRM efforts, totaling over \$350 million.

NEXT STEPS:

GFDRR, including its Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance and Hydromet programs, continues to contribute to the World Bank's dialogue on resilience in Myanmar. The PDNA findings have been integrated in the design of ongoing and planned projects. The Emergency Recovery Credit addresses resilient rehabilitation with community-engagement, while the first-ever activation of the World Bank's Immediate Response Mechanism is supporting agriculture sector recovery. A proposed future DRM project will strengthen physical, operational and financial resilience to future disasters.

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*ALL MONETARY VALUES IN USD



"The multi-sector multi-agency effort was an important step in the Government's efforts to ensure that the recovery and reconstruction would address the needs on the ground and help the country to increase its resilience to disasters."

– U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

LESSONS LEARNED:

Time and data constraints pose challenges for post-disaster assessments. To tackle data constraints, the PDNA drew on additional analysis of precipitation levels, rainfall data, and hydrologic simulation to understand the causes of the disaster, a rapid social impact assessment to identify the most-affected townships, and a survey on commercial activity to assess business impacts.

Coordination with partners facilitates a common, strategic approach to disaster recovery. The Bank helped to coordinate a multi-stakeholder assessment, synthesizing expertise across institutions, preventing inconsistent results and approaches.

Inclusion of "building back better" principles in PDNAs can help open a new dialogue on resilience. Building on the PDNA, the Emergency Recovery Credit helps to mainstream risk reduction into investment planning for example through improved drainage and slope/landslide protection safeguarding communities and assets.