

Education Cluster, Myanmar
Working Group on Disaster Preparedness and Response Education
Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of establishing the Working Group on Disaster Preparedness and Response Education is to share information on disaster risk reduction among members, coordinate and jointly plan for Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) activities relevant to the Myanmar context.

2. Background

Cyclone Nargis badly hit Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions on 2-3 May 2008. Its impact on the education sector was enormous. An estimated 50 to 60 percent of public schools, including monastic ones, were destroyed or damaged: The total damage and losses in education are estimated at about K 116 billion, including K 25 billion from the damage to educational materials (PONJA Assessment Report, 21 July 2008, p.9).

Along with other clusters, the Education Cluster, led by UNICEF and Save the Children, has been formed in Myanmar to ensure a coherent and effective response by mobilizing groups of agencies, organizations and NGOs to respond in a strategic manner across all key sectors or areas of activity to the devastating situation after cyclone.

One of the five objectives stated in the Education Cluster Response Plan (Revised Humanitarian Appeal) is to build the capacity of schools in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Following the discussion in the Education Cluster meetings held at the Chatrium Hotel in July, the Education Cluster suggests that there is a need to establish a sub-cluster working group on disaster risk reduction education within the Education Cluster and for this group to be led by UNESCO.

3. Objectives

Reducing risk and vulnerability to disasters requires school administrators, teachers, students and the community at large to understand how they can best protect themselves, their property and their livelihoods. This working group will focus on DPRE with an aim to ensure that education response to the disaster includes activities and systems that can help reduce risk, and mitigate the impacts, of future disasters.

The specific objectives of the DPRE working group will be to support the Government of Myanmar in:

- Recommending existing resource materials and best practices on DPRE relevant to Myanmar
- Promoting DPRE to become a national priority and normal practice implemented in all schools of Myanmar
- Facilitating the organization of training, seminars, workshops and potentially model implementation of DPRE at school level

4. Membership of the Working Group

The Working Group will comprise of approximately fifteen Education Cluster members, who are interested in DPRE and made themselves available for meetings. A list of Working Group members is provided in Annex 1.

5. Convenor of the Working Group

The Working Group will be convened by UNESCO with support from the Education Cluster. The convenor will be responsible to:

- act as a point of contact for the Education Cluster and Working Group members
- organize and convene Working Group meetings
- co-ordinate planned activities
- organize agendas and minutes of Working Group meetings, and disseminate as appropriate

6. Meetings

Meetings will be held bi-weekly. The Working Group will decide the location of its meetings. In addition to meetings, Working Group members may be consulted individually through email or telephone when required. Agendas and other resource materials and documents will be forwarded by the convenor to Working Group members.

9. Term

The Working Group will carry on until it is terminated by decision of the Education Cluster, Myanmar.