



MAGWAY REGION FIELDTRIP: COORDINATOR REPORT

Monday 12th of October 2105

1 Summary of Key Findings

Overview

The Floods Response Regional Shelter Cluster Coordination Team has prepared this report following a field trip to **Magway** from 1st to the 3rd October 2015. **Pwintbyu, Pakokku** Townships were visited as well as **Magway Town** itself. The reason for the visit was to meet local government, International and local NGOs working in the area to get a better idea of both shelter and recovery needs in **Magway Region**.

The coverage of iNGOs in Magway region is limited to the most affected townships. Shelter kit distributions (including 2 tarpaulins, mosquito net, rope and knife) were distributed at the first stage to the most vulnerable to cover the most essential needs.

For the shelter context only a few iNGOs are based in Magway region: MRCS, Save the Children, World Vision, Action Aid and ADRA.

Key findings

- Limited iNGO response.
- High need to support iNGO/NGO at township level (DRR training, Sphere Standards, Fund raising).
- Focus on most affected villages especially to those which are relocated or lost their land (safe location).
- Shelter assistance must go hand in hand with DRR.
- Technical guidance (for reconstruction – basic guidelines for how to build a house).
- Extra support needed to relocate female headed HHs, and those with disabilities.
- Livelihood and adequate sanitation facilities are of significant concerns.
- Health – more mosquitoes as a result of increased standing water; need for more mosquito nets everywhere. Health assistance needed for vulnerable population (pregnant women, children, disabled people, elderly people).
- Food security is a particular concern as farming lands have been destroyed – 3 feet deep layers of mud on some farmlands.
- Issues with access – muddy roads; some villages have become inaccessible by road.
- Other environmental issues – salt contamination of drinking water, engines being submerged leading to hazardous leaks, septic tanks overflowing.
- Those people who've started to rebuild have been using salvaged materials or purchased new materials. Those who can't afford to rebuild or retro-fit themselves have moved in with relatives or elsewhere.



(From left to right) **Pwintbyu** during the flood (source: CBO); **Pwintbyu** after the flood (source: CBO); Beneficiaries in **Pakokku** during distributions (source: Action Aid).



2 Situation Overview

Magway's population is 3.912.711 million. 7.87% are affected meaning 308.046 people may need some kind of assistance. According to RRD (Department of Relief and Resettlement 24/08/2015) 464 shelters were destroyed and 63,233 people were displaced.

Many of Magway's villages are close to the Ayerwaydy River and are subject to seasonal floods every year. This year, several townships which are not usually affected by seasonal flooding were also hit. The attention of the government and International/local NGOs is needed as many people are vulnerable to frequently occurring natural hazards. This year's particularly severe floods have led to greater losses and damages across a larger geographical area.

According to the information which was provided by Save the Children, Social Care Volunteer Group (CBO), Township ECCD Network Group) and MRCS in Magway region, the 6 most affected townships by the recent floods are:

Pwintbyu, Sidoktaya, Pakokku, Yesagyo, Yenangaung, Saw.

TABLE 1 – MAGWAY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND DAMAGE (2014 CENSUS AND RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT, MYANMAR GOVERNMENT)

Magway Townships	Total Population (2014 Census)	Total Households (2014 Census)	Displaced People (RRD - 23/08/15)	% of Displaced People Per Township	Collapsed Houses (RRD - 23/08/15)	% of Collapsed Houses Per Township
Pwintbyu	163,314	39,802	25,809	15.80	361	0.91
Magway	288,883	68,705	1,269	0.44	0	0.00
Saw	68,673	15,944	2	0.00	2	0.01
Gangaw	132,648	29,865	94	0.07	37	0.12
Sidoktaya	47,474	10,781	2,258	4.76	8	0.07
Yesagyo	214,969	47,333	1,395	0.65	0	0.00
Yenangaung	134,057	32,498	60	0.04	0	0.00
Chauk	185,133	44,633	1,272	0.69	0	0.00
Minbu	188,688	43,837	3,158	1.67	0	0.00
Salin	236,110	55,798	9,785	4.14	0	0.00
Ngape	51,413	12,459	71	0.14	0	0.00
Thayet	104,108	25,991	2,070	1.99	1	0.00
Minhla	122,411	31,934	741	0.61	6	0.02
Sinbaungwe	117,514	28,650	1,524	1.30	0	0.00
Kamma	75,135	19,180	1,556	2.07	0	0.00
Aunglan	234,947	57,706	7,096	3.02	49	0.08
Pakokku	289,650	66,762	4,798	1.66	0*	0.00
Seikphyu	102,655	23,423	265	0.26	0	0.00

*According to local sources, number of collapsed houses in **Pakokku** is 171 (and 166 houses partially damaged) – figures needs to be confirmed.

Field Trip Assessment by Shelter Cluster Team

Pwintbyu Township

Total Population – 163,312; Total HHs – 39,802

Affected Pop – 115,478 (70.7%); Affected families – 25,809

115,478 people and 25,809 families affected according to the local CBO. Number of collapsed HHs is 404 according to the local authorities and 361 is the figure according to RRD. Number of partially destroyed HHs according to a local CBO is 100.

Pwintbyu is not usually inundated by seasonal floods. This year, 153 villages and 4 urban wards were affected. The water levels have reduced now and people are going back to their villages and homes. In the village of **Mezali**, 58 out of 460 HHs collapsed and need to be relocated rather than reconstructed in the same location.

So far, MRCS has distributed NFIs in Pwintbyu – 120 tarpaulins and 60 mosquito nets.

The Ministry of livestock and rural development is the responsible body for recovery.

Operational iNGOs and NGOs in Pwintbyu are: SC, HAI, WV, IOM, NAG, CDA, KMSS, MHA, MRCS.



Sidoktaya Township

Total Population – 47,474; Total HHs – 10,781

Affected Pop – 9,310 (19.6%); Affected families – 2,219

9,310 people and 2,219 families affected according to the local CBO. 30 villages were flooded and 2 urban wards.

Sidoktaya is also not usually inundated by seasonal floods. Two villages, **Ngale** and **Pwindauk** 249 HHs and 1,129 people need to be relocated. The responsible body for recovery is the Ministry of Livestock and Rural Development.

249 tents were distributed by MRCS. Operational INGOs and NGOs here are: SC, HAI, WV,IOM, NAG, CDA, KMSS, MHA, MRCS.

Pakokku Township

Total Population – 289,650; Total HHs – 66,762

Affected Families – 5,589; Affected HHs – 5,020 (7.5%)

According to the local CBO, 81 villages were flooded and 22,062 people were displaced and either lived with relatives, in monasteries or in makeshift homes (there were 24 temporary shelters), 6 wards were also affected by the floods. Most of those displaced have since returned to their homes.

Two villages, **Htauk Shar Pin** (182 HHs) and **Thirilay** (35 HHs) need to be relocated. **Kyat Htan Kone** (Sabai Kone previously) with 96 HHs and 400 people was relocated last year after a landslide and needs to be relocated again after this year's floods. Challenges for them are getting provisions for new land and the reconstruction of safe homes.

So far the government has provided assistance for **Htauk Shar Pin**. **Thirilay** were not assisted to move by the government as there was a lack of communication. Overall, in Pakokku there were 1,679 Shelter Kits.

During our visit to Pakokku the Shelter Cluster met Action Aid and People Union Network (CBO). 171 houses are totally damaged and 166 are partially damaged (this figure still has to be confirmed). In Pakokku Township 5 primary schools were damaged: **Ah Shae Nan Kat, Shar Pin, Ku Kukyun, Lat Pan Kyun, Htauk Shar Pin**.

Access is a big issue – even though people have moved back, many roads and fields are still covered with mud. Roads are either totally damaged or still not usable. The bridge to Chaung Pauk (to be confirmed) village is completely destroyed.

People living in affected wards do not have toilets in their home. Now diarrhoea cases are being reported. Need for assistance for WASH and Health in affected areas.

To get a snapshot of the situation in Pakokku, we visited the village of **Kyun Ka Lay** with Action Aid where the water level reached up to 13 feet (3.96 metres). There are 58 households and 247 people living there. Agriculture is the main source of income. The village is situated in a flood plain. It is just 0.5 miles (0.8 km) from the Ayerwaydy River. The village is usually flooded twice a year but was flooded 3 times this year. People are prepared for floods; however this year the water level was higher than in previous years and after the third flood, water remained for 20 days, and people had to temporarily relocate. They moved to farming areas, schools, monasteries, neighbouring villages, or stayed with relatives/friends. The flood water almost reached elevated floor levels of raised houses. There was a high risk of snake bites. People with houses which are sufficiently elevated stayed in their homes and those who were affected by water retrieved by boats. No reports of people staying in transitional shelters here. Those people whose house has minor damages are staying with relatives or moved to another place. In general, houses are quite robust and look solid. Houses elevated were safe during the flood. One of the villagers built a house after the flood (pictures attached) - this house is not sufficiently elevated – given reason for that is shortage of money as wood is expensive. It seems that also that there is a price influx for building materials in the region.



(From left to right) Utilisation of Shelter Kit in **Pakokku** (source: Action Aid); Tarpaulin re-used for partly damaged house (source: Action Aid).



Seikphyu Township

In 5 villages where 275 out of 303 HHs were affected, in total there were 93 shelter kit distributions. World Vision is the only INGO working here. 7 villages were flooded overall, but now people have gone back to their homes. Minor damages to Shelter Cluster reported.

3 Recovery

Relocation

In **Magway Region**, at least 5 villages – **Ngale** and **Pwindauk** (Sidoktaya Tsp), **Htauk Shar Pin**, **Thirilay**, and **Kyat Htan Kone** (Pakokku Tsp) were made uninhabitable long-term by the floods. The government is so far assisting with relocation. Some smaller villages are still waiting for engagement of local agencies and actors.

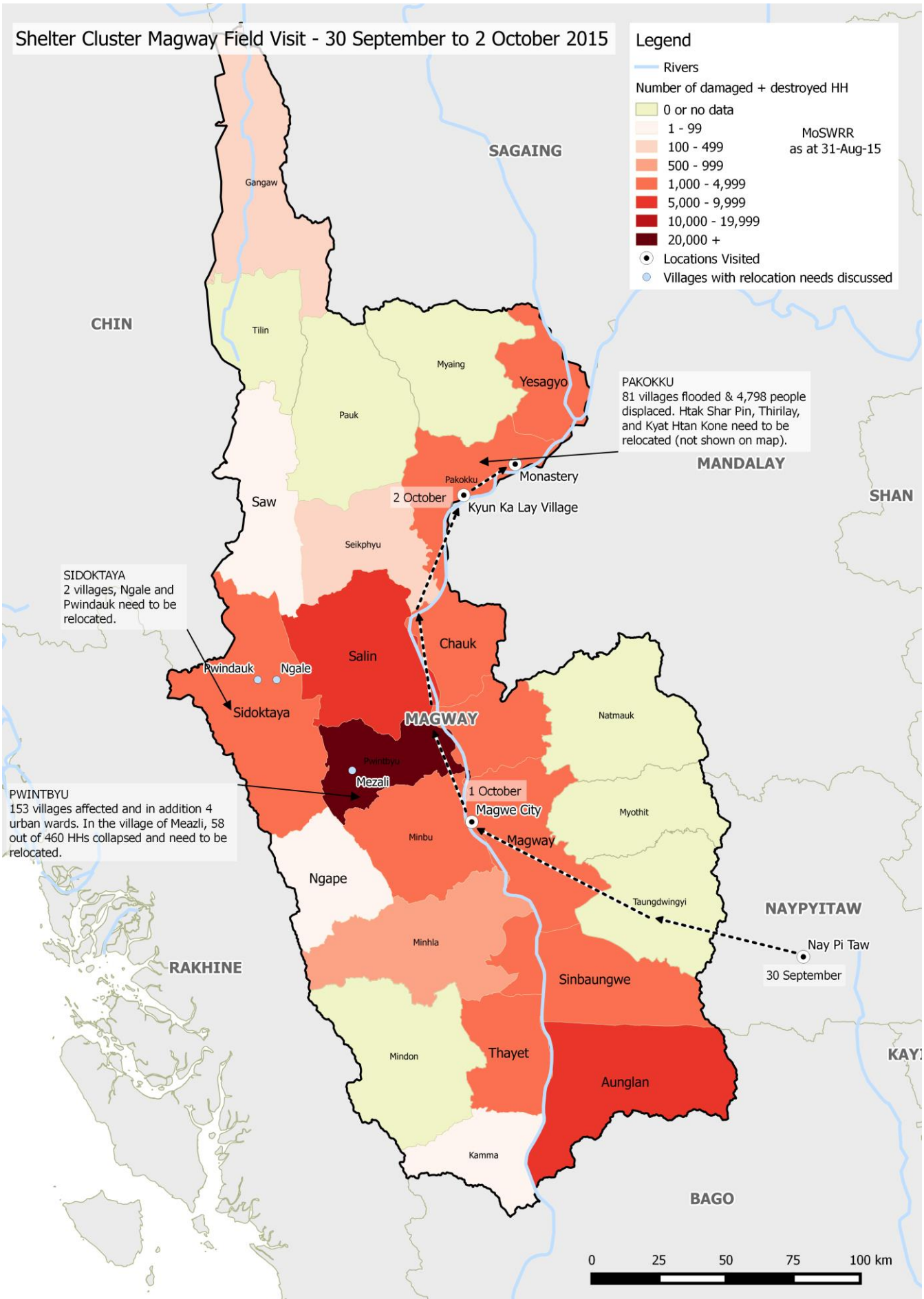
Technical, environmental and social concerns

The field visit showed us a perfect example in one of those villages how “not to build back safer”. The village is faced by seasonal floods. The owner of the house constructed his house after the flood. (See picture below) One of the main fault was, that the house was not elevated. In fact the floor level would be immediately flooded in the next flood. There is a high need of technical trainings and support (not only for new houses but also repair works/retrofitting), especially in regard to natural hazards, safety and accessibility. Appropriate use of building materials, safe land and access to drinking water.

Robust designs and durability of construction is necessary that people feel safe and protected. During the visit we saw also that there is a need of better accessibility for disabled children and elders. Sanitation and drinking water are other issues.



Reconstructed house in Kyun Ka Lay village, Pakokku Township. House not elevated sufficiently. Photo taken by Shelter Cluster.





Acronyms Used

DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction

RRD – Relief and Resettlement Department

CBO – Community-Based Organisation

MoSWRR – Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

CDA – Community Development Association

SC – Save the Children

HAI – Help Age International

WV – World Vision

IOM – International Organization for Migration

NAG – Network Activities Group

KMSS – Karuna Mission Social Solidarity

MRCS – Myanmar Red Cross Society