



# Forum on DRR in Myanmar

## “Children and youth participation in DRR”



**Jointly organized by**  
**Myanmar Red Cross Society & French Red Cross**  
**(DRR Program)**

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## **1. Introduction**

Disaster risk is a global concern due to the fact that devastating impacts are stated almost every day. The scope of these impacts is principally linked to many vulnerability factors such as population growth, unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation, lack of knowledge; education and awareness, etc. Regarding this situation, the vulnerability of children due to disasters is expected to increase (175 million children every year being affected by disasters brought about by climate change - *IFRC World Disasters Report 2006*). Thus; children and youth have the right to participate in efforts intending to protect them from disasters, particularly through their participation in planning, implementation, decisions making process and risk reduction mechanisms.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities are implemented by governments, local and international non-government organizations. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 186 countries cooperatively agreed on a 10 year strategic plan to provide humanitarian support to vulnerable people all over the world, including through DRR activities. Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) is implementing humanitarian activities according to the Red Cross Principles and in line with this strategy. In continuous collaboration with Red Cross and Red Crescent movement partners, MRCS provides humanitarian services to the most vulnerable people. MRCS activities are mainly based on organizational humanitarian capacity. The effectiveness of this capacity is MRCS' major role in response to disasters.

Hazards such as flood, landslides, drought, cyclones, earthquakes and fires affect communities in Myanmar. MRCS has sought the support of other Participant National Societies (PNS) to conduct disaster risk reduction activities in vulnerable communities. Thus, in 2009 MRCS and French Red Cross (FRC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the CBDRR Program in 6 targeted States and Divisions over 5 years (2009-2013), starting with selected townships in Ayeyarwaddy Region in 2009-2010 and Yangon Region in 2011.

As part of the MRCS/FRC partnership, this forum intends to improve experience sharing and exchanges on practices regarding DRR mechanisms in Myanmar. Thus, the main goal of the DRR Forum is to invite representatives of different government departments and organizations working in DRR to share experiences, strategies and approaches, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges, and lessons learnt through children and youth participation in DRR. The general objective expected through this DRR Forum is to step forward on strengthening DRR concepts and practices in Myanmar.

## **2. General Objective**

The overall objective of the Forum is to upgrade the strengthening of DRR concepts and practices in Myanmar.

## **3. Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives are to:

1. Increase DRR knowledge, experiences and practices among youth and children in Myanmar
2. Share different strategies and approaches of DRR actors working with youth and children
3. Enhance youth and children participation in DRR activities
4. Strengthen coordination and collaboration among different DRR implementing partners in Myanmar

#### **4. Forum Development Strategy**

1. To support organizing a workshop with line ministries, institutions, organizations and other actors involved in disaster risk reduction in Myanmar;
2. To present key elements related to children/youth and disaster risk reduction;
3. To stimulate exchanges and understanding of disaster risk reduction issues at all levels;
4. To improve DRR knowledge and concepts in Myanmar in line with the international context

#### **5. Expected outcomes**

- Strengthened communication, cooperation and collaboration among the related ministries, institutions, organizations and other DRR actors.
- Increased DRR knowledge, concepts and understanding concerning CBDRR interventions in Myanmar.
- Enhanced sharing of experiences and lessons learnt and different strategies of DRR activities among different sectors implementing in Myanmar.
- Exchanges on CBDRR approaches and practices to tackle major challenges and needs linked to DRR mechanisms in Myanmar context.

#### **6. Participants of DRR Forum**

The DRR Forum was attended by 126 participants representing the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, DRR related Ministries, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs including members of the DRR Working Group (Attachment 1: List of participants).

#### **7. Organization of DRR Forum**

The Forum was initiated under the guidance of the MRCS governance and FRC as part of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Program. The concept paper, agenda and arrangements have been organized by the DRR Unit, MRCS DM Division, with the French Red Cross support (Attachment 2: DRR Forum Agenda).

## 8. Opening Session



*Opening Address by MRCS EC Member*

Dr. Tun Myint, EC Member of MRCS gave the opening address and welcomed all participants on behalf of the President of MRCS. The EC Member said that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is implemented by Governments, UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs and MRCS in cooperation with IFRC and PNSs. The "World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction", held in Japan in 2005, guided the development of the "Hyogo Framework for Action" (HFA). In line with the HFA, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 186 countries cooperatively agreed to work on DRR activities cooperating with Governments Agencies, UN Agencies, INGOs, and NGOs. In this regards, since 2009 MRCS is implementing DRR activities with French Red Cross support.

The "Fourth Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction", held in Incheon - South Korea from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010, led to "Incheon Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Asia and the Pacific". This today forum has direct links to that declaration knowing that the world faced many kinds of disaster which affected mainly woman and children. Thus, it is important to focus more on children and discussions should permit to find out the way to reduce the impacts of disasters on them.

The first forum on "Community Based Disaster Preparedness Interventions in DRR " had been held in Yangon on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and today's forum is the second one which will focus more on children and youth participation in DRR.

MRCS (with FRC support according to the MoU signed in 2009) has already implemented DRR activities in Kyaunggon, Yekyi and Kyonpyaw Townships located in Ayeyarwaddy Region. Regarding the children and youth participation in DRR, MRCS CBDRR program conducted risk education training at school level, donated Risk Land Games and distributed IEC materials for students and teachers of the program targeted schools. Thus, He urged the participants to have open discussions and thanked the forum organizers and attendants.



*Opening Remark by the IFRC Program Coordinator*

Mr. Chang Hun Choe, Program Coordinator (IFRC), delivered the opening remarks. He welcomed all participants from respective organizations. According to the fundamental principles of Red Cross, the IFRC considered that the disaster risk reduction is one of the key actions to prevent human suffering. Therefore, IFRC organizing the national societies to participated in DRR. Before 1980, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies were involved in DRR activities. In 1980, the new DRR activities including community based disaster preparedness programs had been implemented in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In 1999, the IFRC developed the new policy of disaster preparedness with linkages to emergency response, recovery and development. The "World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction", held in Japan in 2005, guided the development of the "Hyogo Framework for Action" (HFA). In line with the HFA, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 186 countries cooperatively agreed on a 10 year strategic plan to provide humanitarian support to vulnerable people all over the world, including through DRR activities. IFRC is implementing four (4) main areas in DRR notably mitigation, preparedness, early warning and recovery and is working closely with partners and government agencies. More and more affected by disasters every year, children and youth are a part of it. He concluded by saying that this workshop will contribute more and more to part in DRR activities in Myanmar.



*Keynote Address by the French Red Cross HoD*

Mr. Aaron Brent, Head of the French Red Cross Delegation, gave the keynote address and welcomed all participants. At the beginning of 2004, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and French Red Cross made discussions for working together. The partnership agreement between MRCS and FRC had been acted by the presidents of the two national societies in 2007. In line with this agreement, the 5 year disaster risk reduction program has been started in 2009. This is the context of this program to organize the DRR forum by MRCS. As mentioned by IFRC Program Coordinator, Disaster Risk Reduction is a priority for Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and FRC is fully supporting it. In this interest, the French Red Cross is supporting national societies in South Asia, Indian Ocean, Pacific and Caribbean.

The aim of this forum is to share the experiences and exchange on knowledge between the partners and organizations working in DRR. According to the IFRC World Disasters Report 2006, 175 million of children are affected by disasters in each year. So, the children and youth are needed to participate in DRR activities. There are children and youth involving activities in Red Cross and Red Cross Crescent Societies as well as School Red Cross. The topic of the forum is appropriate due to the International Year of Youth (August 2010-August 2011). In this forum, there are huge amount of experiences and knowledge from Government Agencies, UN, INGO, NGO and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. The objectives of this forum are to increase DRR knowledge, experiences and practices among youth and children, to share different strategies and approaches of DRR actors, working with youth and children and to enhance youth and children participation in DRR activities. He wished that the forum to be successful and to gather lessons learnt from different topics.

## **9. Presentation Session**

### **9.1 Children and youth participation in DRR by MRCS**



U Maung Maung Khin, HoD of MRCS DM Division, presented children and youth participation in MRCS/FRC CBDRR Program. He highlighted the program targeted regions and selected townships, main objective, previous and ongoing activities. Afterward, he put special emphasis on children and youth participation in DRR education activities of the program. The MRCS/FRC

CBDRR Program is implementing DRR education activities according to following approaches and strategies:

Strategies & Approaches (1):

- Involvement of RCVs in DRR education activities

Strategies & Approaches (2):

- Mobilization/awareness sessions for school headmasters and teachers on DRR concepts, processes and existing pedagogic supports

Strategies & Approaches (3):

- Mobilization or Forming of School Disaster Management Committees

Strategies & Approaches (4):

- School Preparedness Plan Set up

Strategies & Approaches (5):

- Multi hazards awareness/risk education sessions

He also presented the MCRC School-based DRR program(SBDRR) supported by the IFRC. The MCRC DM Division started the SBDRR Program in 5 townships of Bago (East) and 5 townships located in Nargis affected area. The activities of the SBDRR program are as follow:

- Training of 2-teachers from each targeted school, the Township Education Officer (TEO) and ZIC from targeted townships.
- These latter's will act as multiplier of the training in their respective schools and in charge of forming School Disaster Management Committees.
- Donation of SBDRR Kits to selected schools of the program targeted area.
- Production and dissemination of the SBDRR Manual (in Myanmar language).



U Ye Min from School Red Cross (MRCS) presented the children and youth participation in School Red Cross activities. He presented in brief the history of School Red Cross and its linkages with

DRR field. Mainly, DRR education in basic education level and Red Cross Youth Camp is regularly organized by School Red Cross .

## 9.2 Children and youth participation in DRR education activities by UNESCO and DEPT



The DEPT and UNESCO presented jointly the Children and youth participation in their DRR education activities. Daw Myint Myint San, UNESCO Program Officer, started by clarifying terminologies notably “Children” and “Youth”. She highlighted the definitions and scope, importance of children and youth participation and the place of DRR education in the Asia Pacific Region.

Afterward, Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT Assistant Director, presented the DRR education activities in Myanmar. Regarding the DRR education in Myanmar, activities implemented by MoE are mainly linked to capacity building of teachers, development of school curriculum (formal education), involvement of out of school youth (non-formal education) and development of self-learning mechanisms (informal education).

Daw Myint Myint San, UNESCO Program Officer, also presented the Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) Working Group. This working group has produced the DPRE Resource Pack which is disseminated through the schools in different regions.

The planned activities of UNESCO/DEPT are:

- Capacity building of teachers in other disaster prone areas
- More attention to youth and children participation in DRR through Formal, Non-Formal & Informal education
- Monitoring of school DRR activities and providing necessary support



### 9.3 Child Led Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) by Save the Children



Daw Lu Sam, Education Program Coordinator from Save the Children, presented the topic linked to Child Led DRR. The child led DRR (CLDRR) activities are implementing in townships of Yangon (Kyoungchongone) and Ayeyarwaddy region (Mawlamyinegyun, Hlaingbon, Laputta, Pyarpon and Myaungmya). Afterward, she highlighted the achievements, challenges and lessons learnt of the CLDRR through aspects listed below;

#### **Achievements**

- 1552 children and 388 adults from 97 villages received the CLDRR training
- 14000 children and 5000 adults from 97 villages involved in community risk reduction activities
- 105 schools have been renovated
- 1700 adults from 105 villages benefited from the Safer Technique training

#### **Challenges**

- Difficult to organize the children from work environment to participate in the training.
- Funding
- Monitoring
- More expenses for Cyclone Shelter than other activities

## Lessons learnt

- To focus CLDRR activities on more at-risk areas
- To conduct more DRR practice sessions
- To coordinate within community-based organizations working on DRR

## 9.4 Youth and children participation in CBDRR by Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS)



U Nyi Nyi Soe, DRR Project Manager of Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS), presented the Youth and Children participation in their DRR activities. He presented in brief the KMSS DRR Frame Work which includes Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Response, Recovery, Capacity Building and CBDRR.

Through its CBDRR project, KMSS is implementing the following activities:

- Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis
- Community Action Plan
- Community Risk Reduction Implementation
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

He presented the outcomes and impacts of Children and Youth participation in the CBDRR project through the following points:

- School and communities are more aware of disaster preparedness
- Risk and resource maps and education campaigns conducted by children are taken into account in community disaster preparedness plans
- Children gained Knowledge/skills/confidence
- Children's participation in community affair

He also presented the lessons learnt through the project notably:

- Participatory Approach to Motivate Participation of Youth and Children
- Integration of DRR concept into school curriculum.
- Participation of youth and children is crucial
- Continuing Process

## **10. Working Session:**

All participants selected one of the following topics for the group discussion:

1. School-based DRR and strengthening DRR practices in education
2. Children role in family DRR practice
3. Different strategies and approaches to enhance youth and children participation in DRR

Each topic was discussed to achieve the following results:

- Current situations/practices
- Main challenges
- Major needs

## **11. Group Discussion & Presentation**

### **11.1 Group – 1: School-based DRR and strengthening DRR practices in education**



Daw Myat Myat Khing (DEPT) facilitated the discussion on School-based DRR and strengthening DRR practices in education.



### **Current situations/practices**

Daw Swe Ye Myint (Freelance Researcher) presented the current situation/practices as follow;

- First aid training are provide to teachers
- School based education session are conducted

### **Main challenges**

- DRR practices session is needed in night time because disasters can happen during in night time. There are some difficulties to conduct the practices session at night time.
- Regarding the warning sign of Cyclone, many organizations are working on it but the communities are needed to understand to the different system of warning.
- The community involved in project implementation. The community can't participated in sustainability of mechanisms because they priority is to work for basic needs (food, cloth and shelter).
- The organizations are selecting areas which have been affected by disasters but should also focus on the other areas (e.g. Mountain range).

### **Major needs**

- DRR education activities should be implementing not only in basic level education but also in middle and high school level education.
- Should be cooperating between organizations for information sharing.
- First aid training should be provided to Education Colleague.
- The school curriculum of DRR education should be uniformed.

## **11.2 Group – 2: Children role in family DRR practice**



Daw Naw Romana Soe Soe (KMSS) facilitated the discussion on Children role in family DRR practice.



Daw Ni Ni Tun (World Vision) presented the Current situations/practices, Main challenges and Major need as follow:

### **Current situations/practices**

The parents are not allowed to involve the children in DRR activities because of their lack of DRR knowledge. The parents do not also well-understand about the Child Right.

### **Main challenges**

- Lack of sharing DRR information between parents and children
- Involvement of local authority
- Financial Needs

### **Major needs**

- School-based DRR education activities.
- DRR education for the out of school children.
- IEC material distribution covering the whole country
- Harmonize definition of DRR terminologies.
- Linkage between livelihood and DRR
- Should be increase the advocacy and coordination

### 11.3 Group – 3: Different strategies and approaches to enhance youth and children participation in DRR



Daw Lu Sam (Save the Children) facilitated the discussion on Different strategies and approaches to enhance youth and children participation in DRR.



#### **Current situations/practices**

Daw Aye Aye Khing (FRC Sr. Administrative Assistant) presented that the education sessions are conducted within and outside school level. The government is implementing, from national to community level, activities by sector wide system.

#### **Main challenges**

- Community participation
- Funding sources
- Accountability and transparency between the government agencies and DRR actors
- Development of Common Strategic Plan and Framework

#### **Major needs**

- Contribution from government agencies
- Education session and training

- Community ownership

## 12. Plenary Discussion



The DRR Forum speakers sat on the panel to answer questions from participants. They were: U Maung Maung Khin, DM HoD (MRCS), Daw Khin Thin Phyu , Assistant Director (DEPT), Daw Myint Myint San, Program Officer (UNESCO), Daw Lu Sam , Program Coordinator (Save the Children), U Nyi Nyi Soe, DRR Project Manager (KMSS) and Diene DIOUF, FRC DRR Coordinator. The main points flagged through discussions and questions are detailed below:



### **Question** (U MinNaing, World Concern):

The Task Force Groups are part of Village Disaster Management Committees and he wanted to know the structure of Task Force Group. He also wanted to know the capacity building for the Task Force Group.

### **Answer** (U Nyi Nyi Soe, KMSS):

The KMSS implemented the CBDRR activities in 7 project areas in the Ayeyarwaddy River Delta, Dry Zone and NantPan (Northern Shan Region). Due to the different areas, the risks of disaster are different. The Task Force Groups are formed through VCA results thus, their structures are different. For example, in Delta, the Task Force Groups are formed by subgroups notably on early warning, search/relief and first aid. KMSS plan to conduct the capacity building for the Task Force Group in July 2011.

**Question** (U MinNaing, World Concern):

He wanted to know how Save the Children selects the school for Safer School Project. Does they select the action plan from the school or from the Project. He also wanted to know how they manage if the school had to be rebuilt according to the action plan.



**Answer** (Daw Lu Sam, Save the Children)

The Safer School Project embeds its selection process on the result of school assessment. The safer School Project is only conducting renovation of schools but and rebuilding activity is carried out. If the school had to be rebuilt according to the action plan, negotiations are fostered with the community because of funding issues.

**Question** (U Min Naing, World Concern):

He wanted to know the name of committees formed at school level.

**Answer** (Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT)

The name of committees is School Level Disaster Management Committee.

**Question** (U MinNaing , World Concern):

He asked if other task forces were included in School Level Disaster Management Committees.

**Answer** (Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT)

There was no task force in the committee and they formed only small group according to the need of committee.

**Question** (U MinNaing , World Concern):

What were the duties and responsibilities of School Level Disaster Management Committee?

**Answer** (Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT)

There was no details and responsibilities for School Level Disaster Management Committee.

**Question** (U Than Htike, Terre des Hommes Italia):

The Save the Children CLDRR project provided 300,000 MMK for grant. He wanted to know who kept this cash and when they can use this grant?

**Answer** (Daw Lu Sam, Save the Children)

The committee members from Early Childhood Care and Development Program (ECCD) were already involved in CLDRR and the grant was provided to this committee through an agreement. This grant has to be used when a disaster occurs.

**Question** (U Than Htike, Terre des Hommes Italia):

The DRR education trainings were conducted by DEPT/UNESCO and the multiplier courses were also conducted. He wanted to know if there was monitoring and evaluation.



**Answer** (Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT):

The monitoring was done but for the time being there is no evaluation from DEPT side. By UNESCO side, the evaluation of the program has been already carried out.

**Question** (Dr Aung Kyaw Htut, MRCS):

The school-based DRR education activities was presented and discussed today. He asked to Save the Children that how could be organized the out of school children and youth involvement in DRR? He asked again to explain the definition of Children and Youth. How was the cooperation and coordination between DRR actors? How does sharing IEC between organizations?



**Answer** (Daw Myint Myint San, UNESCO)

Regarding the cooperation and coordination between DRR actors, there is a DRR Working Group (DRRWG) led by UNDP. The DRR Working Group is conducting regular monthly meeting permitting members to share information on DRR field. There is also a Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) Working Group led by UNESCO and MoE. The DPRE working group meeting is on a bimonthly basis with involving organizations working on education and DRR. Moreover, the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU) distributed the 3W (Who, What, Where) information for smooth cooperation and coordination between DRR actors. The sharing IEC material is through the different working groups but also bilaterally.

**Answer** (Daw Lu Sam, Save the Children)

Regarding the involvement of out of school children in DRR, Daw Lu Sam answered that her organization implemented many education activities through Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Program and Transiting Curriculum. After cyclone Nargis, according to communities' DRR needs the Child Led DRR has been started. The out of school children are respectively involved in CLDRR and ECCD programs.

**Answer** (Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT)

Regarding the definition of children and youth, the EXCEL program carried out by the MoE and NGOs defined children between 10 and 17 years and the United Nations defined youth between 15 and 24 years.

**Answer** (Mr. Diene DIOUF, DRR Program Coordinator):

Regarding the cooperation and coordination between the organizations working on DRR, as mentioned by UNESCO representative, the DRR and DPRE working groups are working on information sharing, cooperation and coordination.

Regarding the out of school children involvement in DRR, the process learning is not only at school level but also through other sources. Beyond interventions at school, the DRR activities are also focusing on disaster preparedness at family level. Thus, the out of children are involved in mechanisms linked to family disaster preparedness and education activities.



**Suggestion** (Daw Aye Aye Thant, MRCS):

The IEC materials from MRCS were distributed to organizations without capacity to provide huge amount. Regarding organizations that would like to reprint these documents, MRCS allows it depending only on a request letter.

**Question** (Daw Shwe Sin Myint, MRCS):

She wanted to know the DRR education activities at university level.



**Answer** (Daw Myint Myint San, UNESCO):

Today presentations were mainly focusing on activities at basic education level. University education is higher education level and for the time being there is no DRR education activities.

**Question** (Daw Shwe Sin Myint, MRCS):

She wanted to know if there are activities for youth from work environment

**Answer** (U Nyi Nyi Soe, KMSS):

The KMSS conducted some training and activities for the youth from work environment.

**Question** (Daw Shwe Sin Myint, MRCS):

She wanted to know the coverage of DEPT DRR activities.

**Answer** (Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT):

After the cyclone Nargis, DEPT started DRR activities with the DPRE working group. The coverage area is 10 townships targeted by the DEPT current project. It is planned to extend the project to other townships and for the curriculum, coverage of the whole country is expected.

**Question** (U Han Wai Sat, CBI):

There are many discussions and workshop held for encouraging the children and youth participation in DRR activities. He would like to know that if the involvement of children and youth is actually needed in promotion the DRR awareness session. He also wanted to know that if the approach of targeting children and youth is more effective than others. Otherwise, would

it be more suitable and more effective for investing the resources in the means of implementing the DRR activities instead of focusing on children and youth participation approach.

**Answer** (U Maung Maung Khin, MRCS)

Children and youth are very vulnerable persons when disaster occurred. Thus, children and youth participation in DRR is very important for the future because they are leading to next generation. Therefore, children and youth participation is essential to be considered in DRR activities.



**Answer** (Daw Myint Myint San, UNESCO)

Children are more than 30% of the world population thus, there is a need to involve them in DRR activities. If children have knowledge about DRR they will be able to reduce the risk of disaster at their level but also for their families. The real the effectiveness of education activities in DRR will be known when the next disaster will occur.

**Question** (U Han Wai Sat, CBI):

He wanted to know if there was any research linked to participation of children and youth in DRR.

**Answer** (Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT)

There is no research. According to DEPT experiences, children and youth are showing interest and willingness to get involved in DRR education sessions.

**Answer** (Daw Myint Myint San, UNESCO)

Even if there is no research, children are always interested to learn new things and they can easily get used to the passive learning process.

**Question** (U Han Wai Sat, CBI):

Communities have usually expectations that are beyond project capacities. He wanted to know the challenges of the children and youth participation in DRR.



**Answer** (Daw Lu Sam, Save the Children)

According to experiences, there were some difficulties to organize the community at the beginning of education session. During the training, participants interested to involve in it. After training the interesting of community is increase.

**Answer** (Mr. Diene DIOUF, DRR Program Coordinator):

As mentioned by Save the Children, at the beginning of each project there are some difficulties but communities' interest is progressively increasing when activities' implementation goes along. Regarding expectations of communities, the availability and requirements of fundings cause sometime additional challenges. A solution can be to introduce the project to targeted community through advocacy session on the different components and activities.

**Question** (Daw Ni Ni Tun, World Vision):

She wanted to know the definition of children and youth in UNESCO and DEPT program.



**Answer** (Daw Myint Myint San, UNESCO):

Youth is not defined by UNESCO but by the United Nations. The United Nations defined youth between 14 and 25 years but there are differences in some countries according to their context.

**Answer** (Daw Khin Thin Phyu, DEPT):

In Myanmar, youth are defined over 16 years. In the EXCEL program carried out by UNICEF and MoE, children are defined between 10 and 17 years.

**Answer** (Mr Diene Diouf, FRC):

Regarding the definition of the children and youth, there are many differences between the United Nations, Governments and Organizations. The definition of children and youth should be fixed in line with the Myanmar context (culture, rules, regulations and commitment to international agreements).

### **13. Evaluation and Feedback**

**(See attachment-3)**

### **14. Closing Remark**



Mr. Diene DIOUF (FRC DRR Program Coordinator) delivered the closing remarks by hoping that all participants have spent useful time to discuss on children and youth participation into DRR mechanisms. At the end of the day, the aim is to influence, in a long-term period, mindsets and behaviors regarding the involvement of children and youth in DRR activities. In MRCS CBDRR program, the involvement of youth and children in awareness and knowledge building and transfer is fostered. This forum is part of the program DRR advocacy component and regarding the different discussions, the turnout is in line with expectation.

He thanked the MRCS DM Division for the organization of the forum and implementation of the program field activities. He also thanked UNESCO, DEPT, KMSS, School Red Cross and Save the Children for their respective presentations and experience sharing. He hoped that the needs and challenges flagged though the forum will be taken into account in future programs' planning and design. He also thanked all participants who shared experiences and livened up the forum discussions.



U Maung Maung Khin (DM HoD, MRCS) gave a word of thanks to all participants for their effort to attend the forum. He added that disaster preparedness is a core component in DRR field. Disaster preparedness activities are highly cost-effective: one dollar invested can save up to 100 dollars in disaster response and recovery costs. For example, there was Typhoon in Vietnam every year destroying many dams had been destroyed. The Vietnam Red Cross planted mangroves that reduced the effects of storm surge. The impacts of Nargis and Giri cyclone in Myanmar can also be compared. Due to the level of preparedness, the impacts of Giri cyclone had been reduced. There were valuable suggestions from the group discussions at this Forum. Thus, MRCS would like to express its gratitude for the active participation and attendance.

## 15. Findings and Recommendations

- All together 126 participants from Government Ministries/Departments, non-governmental organizations and MRCS and PNS staff attended the one day Forum.
- In the forum presentation session, the 4 DRR specialists from DM Division and School Red Cross of MRCS, UNESCO and DEPT, KMSS and Save the Children presented their specific topics.
- In the plenary session, answers to the participants' questions and have been given by the panel of speakers.

During the presentation and group discussion sessions, INGOs and LNGOs that are implementing humanitarian activities in Myanmar debated on their respective DRR activities and programs:

1. Group 1 presented the topic of **School based DRR and strengthening DRR practices in education**. The DRR practices need to consider night time factors, warning sign of Cyclone, long term involvement of children and youth are the main challenges flagged through this topic. The group proposed to meet needs as follows: DRR education activities should be conduct in middle and high school level; first aid training should be provided to Education Colleague and school curriculum of DRR education should be uniform.
2. Group 2 presented the topic of **Children role in family DRR practice**. The main challenges are lack of DRR knowledge sharing between parents and children and financial needs.

The DRR education for the out of school children is needed. The advocacy and coordination should be increased with more focus on linkages between livelihood and DRR.

3. Group 3 presented the topic of **Different strategies and approaches to enhance youth and children participation in DRR**. Funding sources and Common strategic plan and framework are main challenges. It is needed to improve the ownership of community and contribution of government agencies.

## 16. Conclusion

The impacts of natural disasters are a problem for the entire population of the world. These problems come from population growth, urban extension, environmental degradation, climate change, etc. In this regards, Myanmar is a disaster prone area by its societal framework (geomorphology, settlements, hydrographic network, socioeconomically context, etc.).

The need to prioritize the most vulnerable and ensure their participation in disaster management and risk reduction is now widely accepted. The humanitarian sector can no longer restrict the role of children in disasters to beneficiaries or passive victims. By providing them the opportunity to be directly involved in disaster risk reduction activities, children and young people are encouraged to develop skills to be better prepared for disasters and potential threats and involved in efforts to protect their safety and wellbeing. The main aim of this DRR Forum was to promote greater commitment of stakeholders in increasing children and youth involvement in their respective DRR programs and activities. This forum intended also to advocate on DRR mainstreaming into education and to increase children and youth involvement and interest under the sign of the International Year of Youth (August 2010 – August 2011).

The outcomes of the DRR Forum are mainly technical discussions rooted on experiences, strength, knowledge, procedures, privileges and challenges that can provide more effective implementation of DRR activities. The occurrence of natural hazards is quite impossible to be stopped however; appropriate preparedness mechanisms could reduce the impacts of disasters. The DRR Forum was jointly organized by MRCS and FRC to provide an additional coordination lever to DRR actors in Myanmar notably on sharing of working experience, lessons learnt, challenges and requirements. The final goal is to figure out together solutions to address major issues linked to the implementation of respective activities and programs.

This Forum has provided good suggestions and results. The outcomes from group discussions on four topics highlighting main DRR challenges and major needs were valuable results. This Forum's results and the problem solving tools for more achievements are basis for programs' effectiveness. In this process, continuous cooperation and collaboration are needed through the different existing mechanisms.

## **Attachment 1: List of Participants**

### **MRCs Governance**

- |    |                    |                    |
|----|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Hla Pe         | Honorary Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Tun Myint      | EC Member          |
| 3. | Dr. Aung Kyaw Htut | Chief Coordinator  |

### **IFRC Representatives**

- |    |                      |                       |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Sanjeev Kumar Kafley | DM Delegate           |
| 2. | Chang Hun Choe       | Programme Coordinator |
| 3. | Zone Yaw             | Translator            |

### **FRC Representatives**

- |     |                             |   |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1.  | CHAPATTEE HUESCAR ANNE LISE | Head of FRC office for Eastern Europe, Asia, Oceans and Islands |
| 2.  | Aaron Brent                 | Head of Delegation  |
| 3.  | Diene Diouf                 | DRR Coordinator   |
| 4.  | Lu Zaw                      | Program Officer   |
| 5.  | Aye Aye Khine               | Senior Administration Assistant                                 |
| 6.  | Swe Thuzar Aung             | Translating Officer   |
| 7.  | Hla Key Khine Aung          | Admin/Finance Manager   |
| 8.  | Nay Nay Win Htoo            | Finance Assistant   |
| 9.  | Tun Linn Aung               | Logistic Assistant  |
| 10. | Khin Ei Ei Hlaing           | Admin/HR Assistant  |

### **ICRC Representative**

- |    |                   |                          |
|----|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Takanori Hosokawa | Head of Office, Mandalay |
| 2. | Joil NININGER     | Head of Project          |
| 3. | Zin Min Htike     | PRP Field Officer        |
| 4. | Sai Kong Kham     | Field Officer            |

### **DRC Representative**

- |    |               |   |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1. | Myo Hein Htut | Project Officer, Community Health Development |
|----|---------------|---|

## MRCS Staff

1.	U Maung Maung Khin	Head of Division (DM)
2.	Daw Khin Khin Shein	Head of Division ((First Aid and Safety Unit)
3.	Daw Shwe Cin Myint	Head of Division (Communication)
4.	Daw Aye Aye Thant	Dy. Head of Division (DM)
5.	U Hla Myint	Dy. Head of Division (DM)
6.	Daw Phyu Phyu	Dy. Head of Division (DRR Unit)
7.	Dr. Khin Myo Myint	Dy. Head of Division (Health)
8.	Su Su Htay	Assistant Programme Coordinator (DRR Unit)
9.	U Win Oo	Field Coordinator (DRR Unit)
10.	Ko Ye Htwe	Field Coordinator (DRR Unit)
11.	Mar Mar Sein	Finance Officer (DRR Unit)
12.	Tin Win	DRA Officer (DRR Unit)
13.	Nay Chi Hla Win	Mitigation Officer (DRR Unit)
14.	Sai Phong Kham	Communication Officer (DRR Unit)
15.	Dr. Aye Myint	Translator Officer (DRR Unit)
16.	Tin Ko Oo	M&E Officer (DRR Unit)
17.	Aye Zar Myo Han	TBCB Officer (DRR Unit)
18.	Swe Swe Nyein	Field Admin/Finance Officer (DRR Unit)
19.	May Thiri Htun	TBCB Training Officer (DRR Unit)
20.	Kyi Kyi Shein	TBCB Training Officer (DRR Unit)
21.	Min Min Htwe	DRA Training Officer (DRR Unit)
22.	Oo San Nyunt	DRA Training Officer (DRR Unit)
23.	Yan Naung Htun	CBDP Training Officer (DRR Unit)
24.	La Min Aung	CBDP Training Officer (DRR Unit)
25.	Aung Ko Ko Htun	DRR Education Training Officer (DRR Unit)
26.	Naing Naing Yee	DRR Education Training Officer (DRR Unit)
27.	Cho Nwe Oo	Mitigation Training Officer (DRR Unit)
28.	Khai Do Cin	Mitigation Training Officer (DRR Unit)
29.	Kyaw Htet Tun	Logistics Training Officer (DRR Unit)
30.	Thuyein Linn	Logistics Training Officer (DRR Unit)
31.	Daw Su Su Lynn	Restoring Family Link (RFL)
32.	U Ye Min	School Red Cross

33.	U Khin Mg Lay	School Red Cross
34.	U Aung Taung Shwe	Programme Coordinator (DM)
35.	U Ohn Thwin	First Aid and Safety Unit
36.	Daw Shwe Sin Kyaw Soe	Dissemination Officer
37.	Daw Myint Myint Thwin	Child protection project (MRCS/UNICEF)
38.	Dr. Ye Myint	Programme Manager, MRCS/UNHCR Project
39.	U Ye Lwin	G2 Officer, Yangon
42.	U Win Naing	2IC, Tone Gwa
43.	U Aung Kyaw Oo	G2 Officer, Kyauk Tan
44.	U Kyaw Soe	DM Consultant
45.	Hnin Phyu Phyu Myint	IR Officer
46.	Aye Htwe Moe	Logistics Officer

#### **Government Organizations**

1.	Daw Khin Thin Phyu	Department of Education Planning & Training (DEPT)
2.	Daw Myat Myat Khine	Department of Education Planning & Training (DEPT)
3.	Dr. Than Chein	Department of Psychology, Yangon University
4.	Daw Khine Shwe Nyunt	TEO, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township
5.	U Aung Myint	TEO, Kyie Myin Daing Township
6.	Daw Khin Htar Win	TEO, Dagon (East) Township
7.	U Sein Than Aung	TEO, Khayan Township
8.	U Tin Nu	ATEO, Hlaing Taryar Township

#### **UN Agencies**

1.	Hta Nu Nu Ohn	UNHCR
2.	Daw Myint Myint San	UNESCO
3.	Yupa Nwe	UN-HABITAT

#### **Local NGOs**

1.	U Nyi Nyi Soe	Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS)
2.	Rose Mary	Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS)
3.	Naw Romana Soe Soe	Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS)
4.	Han Wai Sett	CBI
5.	Kyie Soe Thu	CBI

6.	U Maung Maung Thein Pe	Rakhine Coastal Region Conservation Association (RCA)
7.	Hein Min Zaw	Rakhine Coastal Region Conservation Association (RCA)
8.	Nan Mouk Seng	Rakhine Coastal Region Conservation Association (RCA)
9.	U Nyi Nyi	Center for Vocational Training (CVT)
10.	U Ko Ko Gyi	Myanmar Engineering Society (MES)
11.	Aye Aye Phye	Metta Development Foundation
12.	Thida Htun Aung	Myanmar Credent Technology
13.	Min Than	Child Focused Network
14.	Daw Myat Myo Than	Child Focused Network
15.	Moe Thanda Nge	Wimutti
16.	U Myo Lwin	Community Development Association (CDA)
17.	U Kyaw Zaw	Community Development Association (CDA)
18.	Thura Myint Soe	Myanmar Business Coalition on AIDS (MBCA)
19.	U Soe Min	Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA)
20.	Thiri Myat Htin	Comprehensive Development Education Centre
21.	Shwe Yee Win	Freelance Researcher
22.	Victor	ABC Myanmar

#### **International NGOs**

1.	Thinn Hlaing Oo	Seeds Asia
2.	Daw Thanda Kyaw	Save the Children
3.	Daw Lu Sam	Save the Children
4.	U Htain Lin Aung	Save the Children
5.	Min Naing	World Concern
6.	Jessica Choix	Oxfam
7.	Ni Ni Htun	World Vision
8.	Sudhir Kumar	ADPC
9.	Than Than Myint	ADPC
10.	Dr. Khin Mg Thwin	Merlin
11.	Than Htike	Terre des Hommes Italia
12.	Daw Kyi Kyi Soe	Pestalozzi Children's Foundation
13.	Myitung Ying Lwi	Pestalozzi Children's Foundation
14.	Philip Tun Hla Aung	Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)

**Press (Journalist)**

1.	Kyaw Zay Yar Tun	The Voice Weekly
2.	Moe Min	News Watch
3	Zin Moth Moth Aye	Popular News
4.	Aye Thu Zar	Yangon Media Group
5.	Aye Pa Pa	The Weekly Eleven
6.	Aye Myint San	Ecovision
7.	Htay Htay Win	Hot News
8.	Yin Yin Hla	Myanmar Post
9.	Zar Chi Win	Pyi Myanmar
10.	Khin Myat	The Myanmar Times
11.	Jue May Zin	Myanmar News week
12.	Aye La Pyae Win	Modern

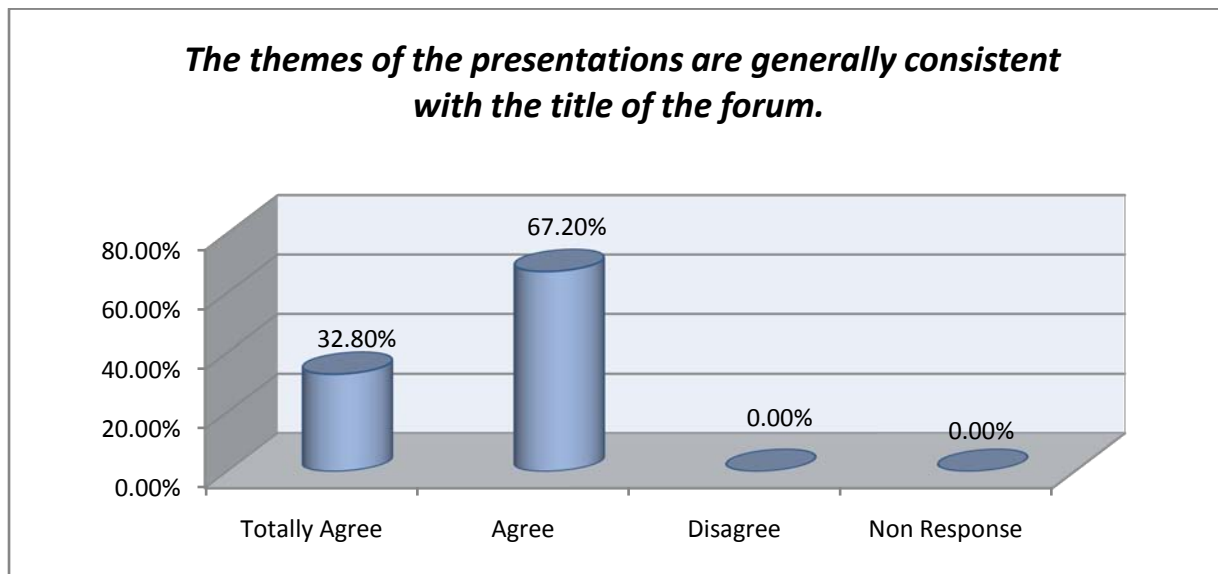
**Attachment 2: Forum Agenda****AGENDA**

Time	Program Details	Presenter
8:30 - 9:00	Arrival and Registration	
Opening Session: Welcome and Keynote Speakers		
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Address by MRCS President	Dr. Htun Myint
9:15 - 9:30	Opening Remark by IFRC	Mr. Chang Hun Choe
9:30 - 9:45	Keynote Address by HoD, French Red Cross	Mr. Aaron Brent
9:45 - 10:00	Tea/Coffee Break	
Forum Session: Presentations		
10:00 - 10:40	Children and youth participation in DRR	- U Mg Mg Khin, Head of Division (Disaster Management Division, MRCS) - U Ye Min, Instructor (School Red Cross, MRCS)
10:40 - 11:20	Children and youth participation in DRR education activities	- Daw Myint Myint San, Programme Officer (UNESCO) - Daw Khin Thin Phyu, Asst. Director (DEPT)
11:20 - 12:00	Child Led Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	Lu Sam, Education Programme Coordinator (Save the Children)
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 - 13:40	Youth and children participation in CBDRR	U Nyi Nyi Soe, Project Manager (Karuna Myanmar Social Services-KMSS)
Working Session: Group Work and Plenary Discussion		
13:40 - 14:40	Group - 1 (School based DRR and strengthening DRR practices in education )	UNESCO / DEPT
	Group - 2 (Children role in family DRR practice)	KMSS
	Group - 3 (Different strategies and approaches to enhance youth and children participation in DRR)	Save the Children
14:40 - 15:00	Tea/Coffee Break	
15:00 - 15:45	Group Presentations & Discussion	Group Representatives
15:45 - 16:50	Plenary Discussion	MRCS / FRC / UNESCO / DEPT / KMSS / Save the Children
Closing Session: Evaluation and Feedback		
16:50 - 17:00	Closing Remark	Diene Diouf, DRR Programme Coordinator (FRC) & U Mg Mg Khin, HoD (MRCS)

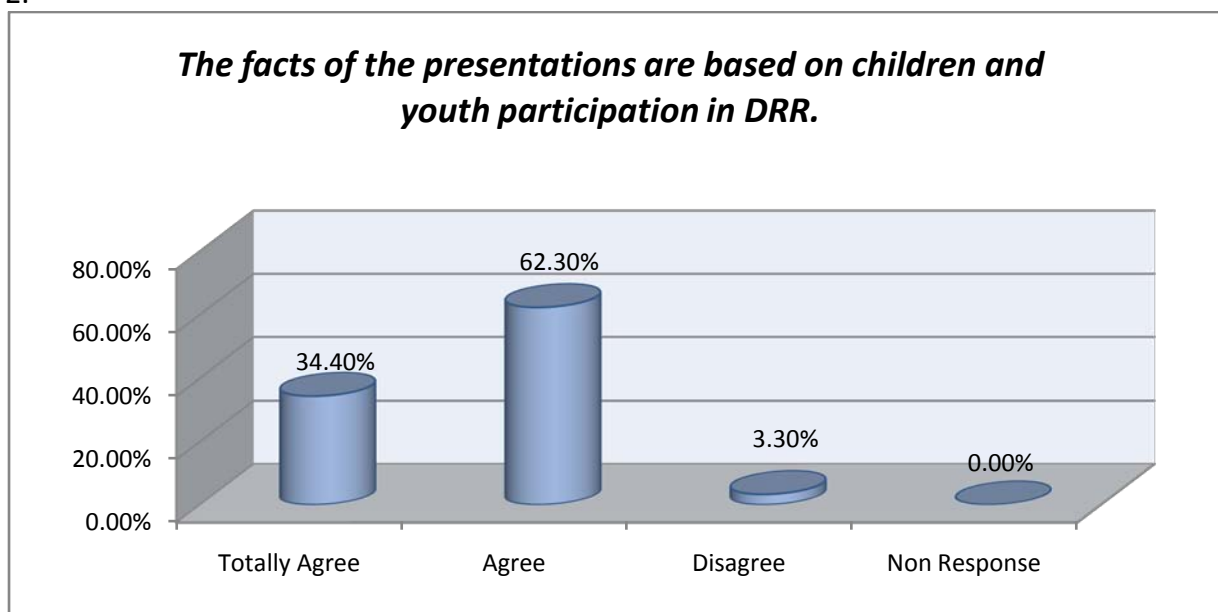
### **Attachment 3: Evaluation and Feedback**

Sixty-one (61) participants of the Forum on DRR provided feedback on the forms provided at the end of the day. Their feedback was tabulated and presented below.

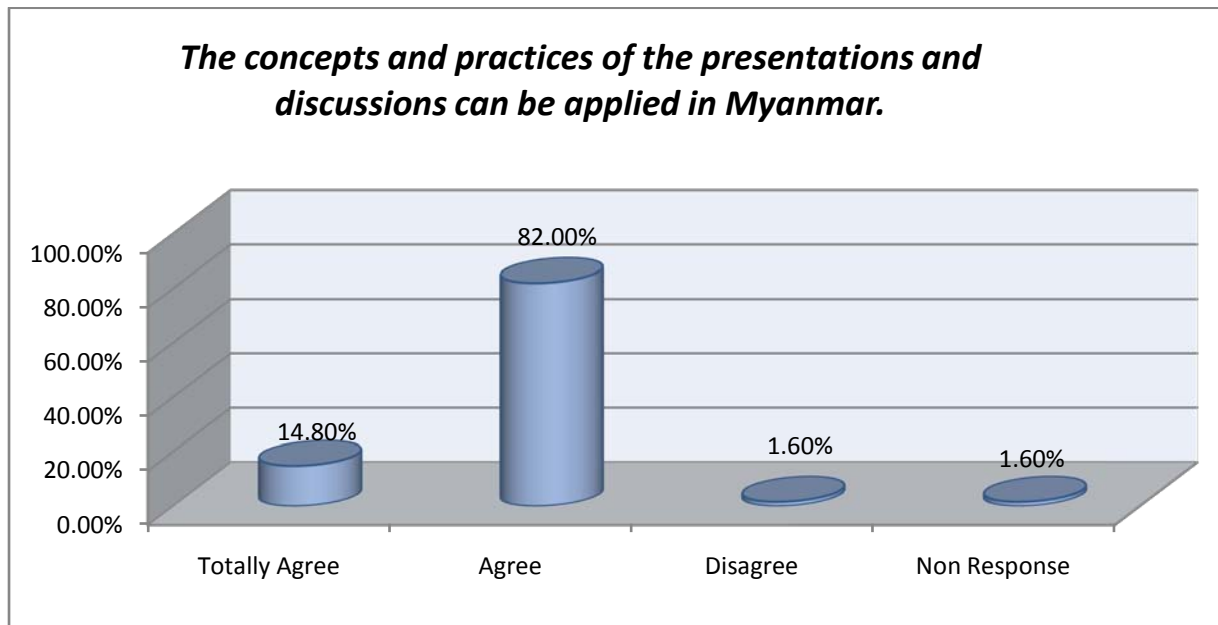
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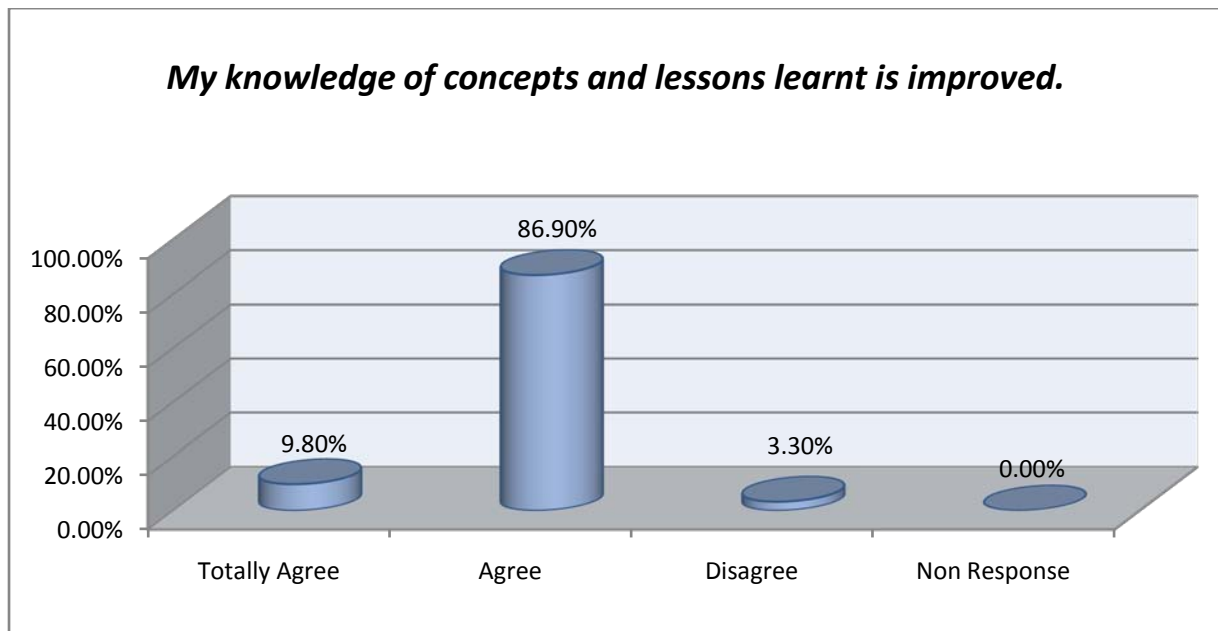
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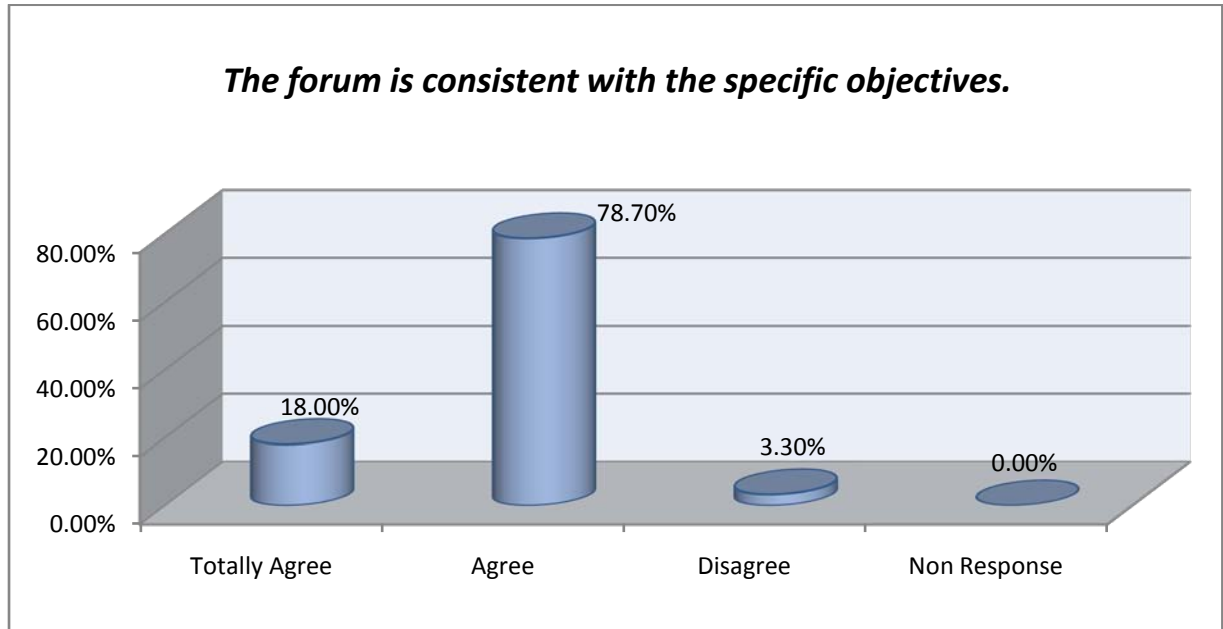
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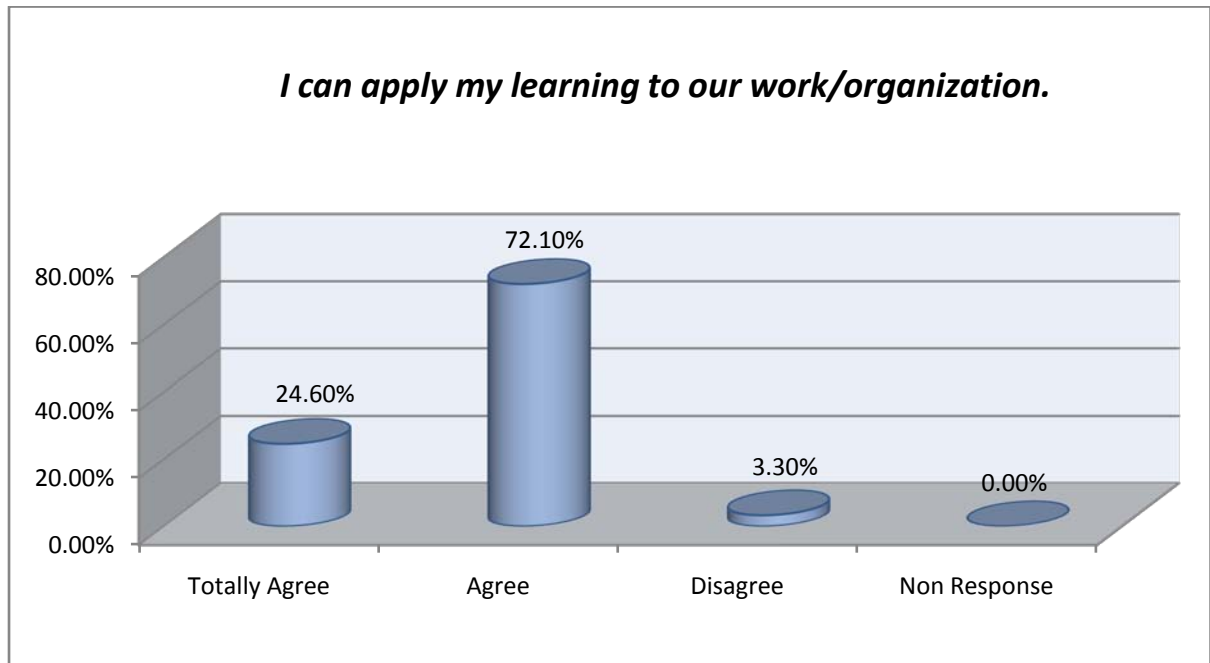
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5.



6.



7. The Forum Agenda:

- I was interested in all discussed topics.
- Well organized.
- The whole time of the Forum was short.
- Meet the objectives.
- Fair.
- It was a good and excellent agenda.

- Consistent with one day program.
- Time management should be improved.
- Discussion time was short.
- Some presentations took much longer than planned.

#### 8. The Forum Arrangement (Room, Foods, Facilities, etc.):

- Excellent.
- It was a good Forum arrangement.
- Good sitting plan.
- Arrangement of seat in group discussion is no good.

#### 9. Next Forum:

- Emergency Response Plans
- Mainstreaming DRR in development projects
- Sustainable livelihood framework approach in DRR
- Integrating DRR into sustainable development
- It should be conducted more frequently or regularly.
- The role of youths to emphasized in next forum.
- Next forum needed.
- Other local NGOs/INGOs should be invited more to the next Forum.
- Action to be taken on findings/results of previous forums.
- It should be included information sharing session from each organization.
- More time should be given for discussions.

#### 10. Any other comments:

- All participants should be introduced.
- It should be shared and distributed IECs to attendees. Should not only to display.
- More government officials and other organizations should be involved for wider participation.
- Preferred brainstorming session in next one.
- Some presentation goes into more details than necessary.
- The Forum report should be delivered to other related organizations.
- We don't have much time for group discussion.
- Group facilitator should be professional.
- "Giving perfect knowledge before striking disaster is better than aftershock"
- All DRR actors should involve.
- Forum should be held two times per year.
- Presentations were good but it takes a long time.