

# BEING PREPARED IN MYANMAR



Save the Children

**Emergency Response Team (ERT)**

Integrated WASH in Emergencies



**CYRIL CADIER**

**TECHNICAL ADVISER:**

**WASH**

**“WASH is an urgent need in a response, because people can’t survive for more than three days without water.”**

“Myanmar is an emergency prone country, natural disasters including cyclones, floods and droughts and earthquakes take regularly place in costal and central areas. There are also conflicts ongoing in both eastern and western parts of the conflict and displacement of populations to temporary settlements is frequent. So there is quite often a need for an emergency response.

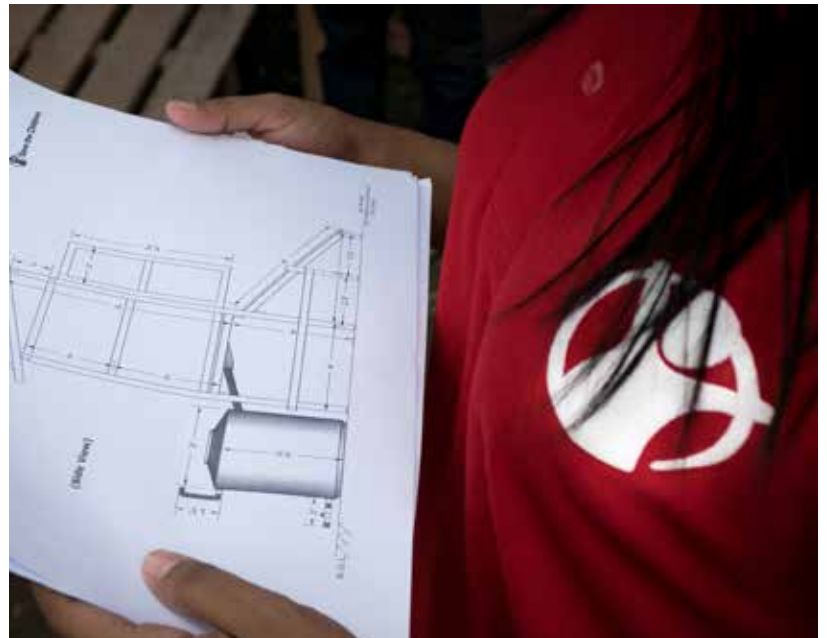
The Emergency Preparedness and Stand-by (EPS) team has been created in order to increase the country office preparedness and to lead the field response in case of intervention. In order to progress towards a sufficient level of preparedness, Save the Children field staff from across the country is being trained to the key basic activities.

Both development and emergency field teams should be involved in any future emergency response and their technical capacity should be increased - and WASH is one of the main sectors of the emergency response. When a natural disaster hits, the immediate risk of

disease outbreaks is very high due to the quality of the water. Affected people cannot wait for response teams coming from outside the country. This is the reason why an emergency response team is crucial for countries like Myanmar.

The participants here have been deployed from offices all over Myanmar and from all sectors and departments - we have people from WASH, Health, Logistics and Finance, Child Protection and Education. All of them should be able to react in case of an emergency and initiate a multi-sectoral response. WASH is an urgent need in a response, because people can’t survive for more than three days without water. It’s these essential skills around WASH that participants are receiving and practicing in this training.

This training builds common sense and understanding of how an emergency happens - and how we respond as Save the Children - particularly WASH integration through all sectors.”





**SHWE MI HTWE**  
**PROJECT ASSISTANT**  
**PAUK TAW**

**“It’s very practical and useful for people like us who are working on the ground for emergencies.”**

“On the first day we were taught thorough steps and procedures to implement when an emergency occurs – things like evaluation, proposal writing and monitoring.

I’m gaining so much more knowledge here than I’ve ever had before. For example, I now know the specific things that should be implemented in a real emergency situation – like constructing latrines, ensuring people have access to clean water and hand washing.

Correct hand washing has a great impact on the health conditions of people in an emergency environment. It can prevent things like a cholera outbreak by almost 50 per cent. These are key messages that we should give to people in an emergency.

I like this training very much. In the first three days, we learned about theory and today we get practical exposure to the WASH process for an emergency. It’s very practical and useful for people like us who are working on the ground for emergencies.”

“As the title of the training says ‘Integrated WASH in Emergency’, we are being given the knowledge, through theory and practice, to successfully integrate WASH in an emergency.”



**DR. SHWELINN HTET**  
**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER**  
**HOMALIN**

“I always wanted to attend training like this. I now know how to respond effectively in an emergency situation.”



**GLORIA CA CHIN ZING**  
**PROJECT ASSISTANT**  
**HAKHA**

“This is my first time attending a training like this and it’s of great benefit to me. Previous emergency training sessions I have attended have only taught us theory, but in this training I’ve also been given practical steps to implement in an emergency.

I’ve learned about things like taking assessments - and I think I am now becoming a very capable person who is ready to get involved in an emergency.”

“I am very happy to attend this training because I have learned new things and I am confident that I will be ready for future emergencies.”



**WIN HTIKE AUNG**  
**OPERATIONS SUPPORT**  
**COORDINATOR**  
**LABUTTA**

“Though I have had a lot of exposure to operations, I have learned a lot more technical things in this ERT training such as the correct steps of implementation. I’ve got more knowledge about how we can be more effective and efficient responding to emergencies.”

“This training is really building my capacity. It is useful and practical, and I now believe I can apply what I have learned here to our project and the community as well.”



**ZAW WIN NAING**  
**PROJECT ASSISTANT**  
**PAKKOKU**

“Before this training, I only had knowledge about our HIV project. We weren’t able to respond well in previous emergencies in our township. But now, through learning about important things like WASH, I believe that I will be able to help respond if an emergency occurs in the future.”

“I am very happy to get a chance to attend this training because we have learned many things that we didn’t know before - and then we got to practice them.”





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