

# Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters

(BRACED) Alliance Myanmar



## Introducing the BRACED Myanmar Alliance

The Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) Myanmar Alliance is a partnership between international NGOs, national implementing agencies, and research agencies focused on furthering the resilience agenda in Myanmar. The Alliance members include the lead agency Plan International, Action Aid, BBC Media Action, World Vision, The Myanmar Environment Institute and UN Habitat. The Alliance additionally coordinates with a number of technical and collaborative partners, recognising partnership and collaboration as a building block to strengthening resilience.



- 1 Kyauk Phyu and (Rakhine State)
- 2 Taungup Township, (Rakhine State)
- 3 Dagon Seikkan Township, (Yangon Region)
- 4 Hpa-An Township, (Kayin State)
- 5 Meikhtila Township, (Mandalay Region)
- 6 Labutta Township, (Ayeyarwaddy Region)
- 7 Mawlamyine Township, (Mon State)
- 8 Keng Tung Township, (Shan State)



## BRACED Resilience objectives

The Alliance guiding objective is: 'To build the resilience of 350,000 people across Myanmar to climate extremes: saving lives, protecting livelihoods, improving institutional coordination, and influencing national policy'

The Alliance is working to achieve this by focusing on three areas of work:

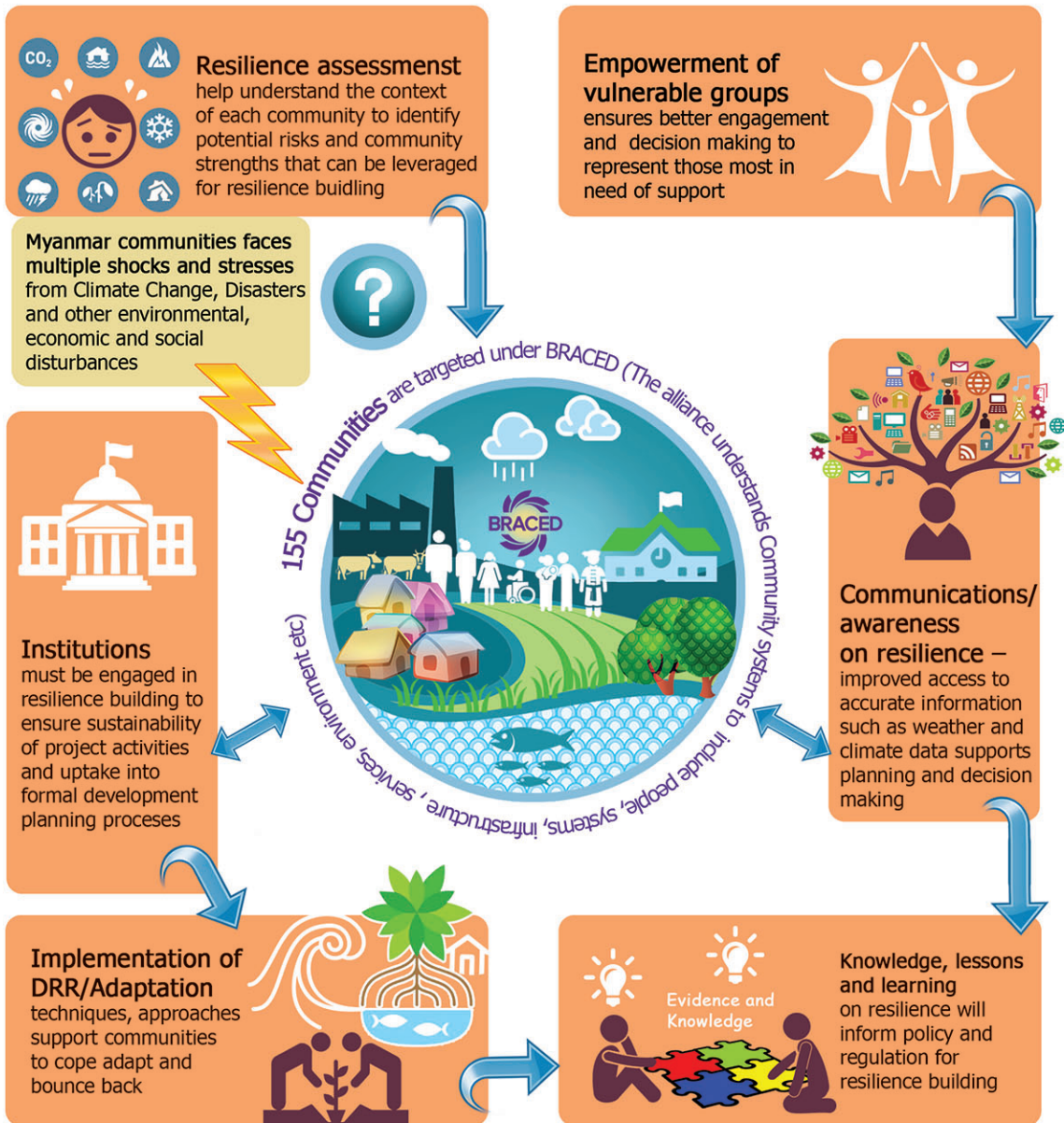
- **Knowledge and Resources:** Developing communities' knowledge, skills and increasing access to resources to mitigate the risks of and recover from disaster and climate shocks and stresses and other disturbances.
- **Governance:** Support Institutions (government, non-government and private sector) to be more coordinated and responsive, to manage climate and disaster risks.
- **Learning and advocacy:** Document and disseminate evidence on best practices of strengthening resilience that is used to inform international, national and local policies and practices



*Water pond protection in Zeya Thiri Village, Mawlamyine, before and after.*

The BRACED Alliance delivers these activities whilst ensuring harmonisation between the many different components of the programme as highlighted in the diagram below.

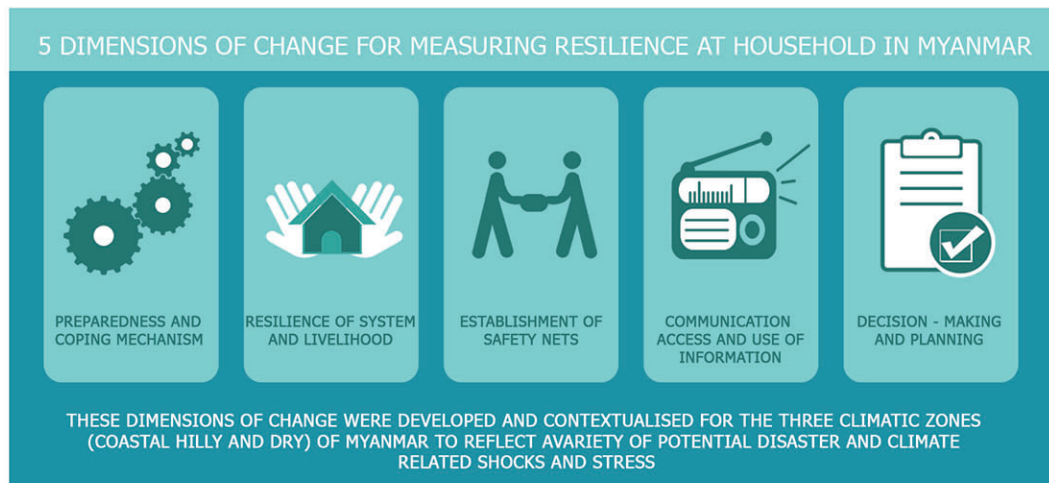
## BRACED Myanmar Resilience Framework



## Measuring resilience in BRACED

The BRACED Myanmar Alliance monitoring framework tracks both process and results comprehensively in systematic manner. The outcome monitoring focuses on improvements of target beneficiaries resilience which allows BRACED to track the number of target beneficiaries who are improving their resilience to disasters and climate extremes <sup>1</sup>. The project evaluation strategy has adopted quasi-experimental approach surveying both target and control areas involving 50% women respondents. The project has developed and operationalized a comprehensive framework to timely and accurately monitor results, value for money and lessons and communicate them effectively to better fed into project management and informed decision making.

### BRACED DIMENSIONS OF RESILIENCE



<sup>1</sup> DFID International Climate Fund Key Performance Indicator 4 'Number of people whose resilience has improved as a result of BRACED'



## BRACED Progress

The Alliance programme runs from Jan 2015 – Dec 2017. There has been significant progress during the first 18 months of implementing the project in community engagement, planning and also improving the quality and accessibility of resilience related data and information through research, studies and reports.

Key Achievements to date include:

- BRACED has provided resilience support to over 60,000 community members including more than 32,000 women and girls.
- More than 300 community based organisations have been engaged through consultations, training, planning and awareness activities, including village disaster management committees, school disaster management committees, local governments, administrative departments and local NGO's.
- 50 community resilience assessments and action plans have been completed that identify risks from different shocks and stresses and prioritise key community resilience actions.
- More than 100 trainings have been held on resilience skills and awareness, covering; women's empowerment, resilience assessment and planning, proposal development, child centred resilience and use of climate and weather information.
- The BRACED Myanmar community resilience assessment and action planning handbook have been published in English and Myanmar languages together with associated community leaflets that provide guidance on understanding resilience.
- 2 regional monsoon forums were held in Mandalay and Ayerwaddy regions and were attended by government representatives, civil society and private sector stakeholders. In these regions, seasonal monsoon forecasts help participants to make decisions and plan based on the expected length and intensity of the monsoon season.
- Initial results and drafting of the Climate Asia Report where BBC Media Action has built a nationally representative picture of how people in Myanmar live and deal with changes in the weather and environment. This helps planning and implementation of programmes to support people to adapt to the changes they face.
- The Alliance has initiated a component to support local community based organisations with small grants to implement small scale environmental activities. The proposals are being reviewed and up to 8 grants will be disbursed.
- A monitoring system has been designed and implemented that will use mobile based surveys to track responses in real time to disasters occurring within the BRACED project areas.

## Key lessons and learnings

- Collaboration and coordination are key to strengthening resilience. A strong and effective working relationship takes time to build to ensure trust between all the partners and develop effective ways of working in place.
- Community resilience begins with meeting immediate disaster resilience needs and only then do community members begin to identify and address issues that will take effect over a longer period. The prioritised activities in the first round of community resilience assessments focused on evacuation shelters, community infrastructure, early warning systems, and only after these needs were met did communities start to address longer term needs including livelihoods, basic services (water, food, energy) and agriculture.
- Resilience can't be built in one attempt, so sustained activities and interventions need to be implemented within communities building on new knowledge and information. This requires leadership and ownership by the community over their development activities and ongoing risk assessment. Engagement and support from local government department is also critical to ensure the resilience assessments are kept up to date using accurate information and technical expertise.





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