
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: INTEGRATING GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN COMMUNITY CLIMATE ADAPTATION FOR LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Climate Adaptation Championship

LANGUAGE
English



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Executive Summary

This report delves into the intricate intersectionality of gender equality and social inclusion, with a focus on community-led climate adaptation tailored to address the priority concerns of residents in informal settlements impacted by climate change and inadequate infrastructure. Supported by a microgrant from International Institute for Environmental Development (IIED), the project is conceptualized by Doh Eain and implemented by four key members: Social Empowerment with Ethical Responsibility, Sharing Myanmar, Young Changemakers Community, and the Yangon Kayin Baptist Women Association (YKBWA). These organizations are integral to the Yangon Neighborhood Network (YNN), a dynamic initiative initiated by Doh Eain in 2020, uniting over 150 local neighborhood groups deeply embedded within their communities.

Marginalized communities bear the brunt of climate change impacts, leading to the deterioration of their adaptive capacities and exacerbation of pre-existing vulnerabilities. Coupled with socio-economic challenges, these impacts significantly affect overall welfare and hinder development activities, disrupting the well-being of inhabitants in these areas. Informal settlement communities in developing countries experience a multitude of climate change impacts, including heightened occurrences of flooding, intense heatwaves, water scarcity, storms, cyclones, landslides, illnesses, economic disruptions, and inadequate infrastructure. Viewing these events through a gender lens reveals nuanced impacts, varying from place to place, household to household, and for individual household members due to institutional and social factors, including expectations and responsibilities during challenging times.

As such, the core objectives of this action research are:

- To assess the overall resilience of communities by integrating diverse perspectives and empowering underrepresented voices.
- To examine the complex intersectionality of gender and social inclusion within the context of climate adaptation, facilitating meaningful participation for women and marginalized individuals.
- To disseminate knowledge through a published storybook distributed across the Neighborhood Network (NN), fostering awareness and engagement.

1. Introduction

Climate change affects both natural ecosystems and human societies, resulting in a multitude of effects. This includes increases in global temperatures, leading to more frequent and prolonged hot periods, as well as an increase in extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall. These changes are primarily driven by the escalation of greenhouse gas emissions, largely stemming from human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes.

Often referred to as global warming, climate change stands as a significant and urgent environmental challenge, drawing international attention and concern. Its complexity necessitates a unified global effort, alongside individual commitments, to address its impacts. Despite the formidable challenges it presents, concerted efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to changing environmental conditions, and protect vulnerable ecosystems offer the potential to mitigate its most severe consequences and build a future that is both sustainable and resilient.

Communities living in informal settlements are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on their living conditions and infrastructure. However, they possess valuable resources and innovative ideas. By harnessing these assets and translating them into action, local communities can effectively address the challenges of adaptation in a rapidly changing environment, offering solutions to the struggles faced by many individuals.

1.1 Climate Change in Myanmar.

Situated in the western part of Southeast Asia, Myanmar boasts a diverse array of climates, shaped by its geographical features, including delta regions, coastal areas, the central dry zone, and mountainous regions. Projections indicate significant climate change in the coming decades, promising lasting and profound impacts on Myanmar's ecosystems. These changes are expected to reverberate across various sectors, including human health, agriculture, food security, infrastructure, local livelihoods, and the economy. According to the WWF (2018), between 1981 and 2010, Myanmar experienced an estimated increase of 0.25°C per decade in average daily temperatures and 0.4°C per decade in maximum temperatures. On April 17th, 2023, temperatures soared to 44°C in Kalewa, Myanmar, posing significant threats to health and livelihoods..

Coastal areas, such as Yangon, are particularly vulnerable, experiencing a more pronounced rate of temperature increase, especially during the monsoon season. Projections suggest a sea level rise along the Myanmar coastline ranging from 20 to 41 centimeters by mid-century, contingent upon global greenhouse gas emission scenarios. This rise exacerbates coastal flooding, both during and independent of cyclones. Addressing the projected changes in cyclone intensity and frequency requires concerted research efforts to alleviate uncertainties.

Yangon, Myanmar's largest economic and commercial hub, grapples with rapid population growth and urbanization, exacerbating strain on infrastructure, natural resources, and the environment. Flooding emerges as a significant threat, particularly during the monsoon season from June to October. Coastal surges, combined with high tides and river levels, contribute to extensive inundation depths, disrupting economic activities and precipitating health problems. Inadequate drainage facilities exacerbate pluvial flooding, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities settled in flood-prone areas. Tackling both coastal and flash floods is paramount to safeguarding the nation's future and the well-being of its citizens.

Water scarcity emerges as another pressing concern, driven by climate change-induced alterations in temperature and rainfall patterns. Increasing heat extremes threaten key sectors like agriculture, livestock, and hydropower production, exacerbating water availability and quality issues. Addressing these challenges necessitates a combination of adaptive measures and sustainable water management practices.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) underscores the disproportionate impact of climate change on the Global South, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and escalating the risk of violent conflict. However, understanding and addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change in conflict-affected contexts remain areas of ongoing research and action.

1.2 Climate Change and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns in Yangon due to climate change are presumed to impact vulnerable communities in varied ways. When viewed through a gender lens, the additional responsibilities faced during challenging times, such as addressing climate-related events, significantly influence the vulnerability of each individual. The adverse effects of climate change have been widely recognized and

extensively documented, particularly by policymakers and researchers, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), who are deeply invested in fostering a sustainable global future. Evidence indicates that already vulnerable societies, individuals, and social classes are disproportionately susceptible to the threats and impacts of climate change. Women, in particular, are known to bear a heavier burden of climate impacts compared to men. This discrepancy is partly attributed to disparities in the ownership of economic resources, including labor and capital, as well as entrenched cultural norms, social and political discriminations, which disadvantage women. The generally elevated poverty levels among women further exacerbate their vulnerability to severe climate impacts and diminish their adaptive capacities. In Myanmar, the underrepresentation of women in decision-making processes is a notable characteristic of modern democratic societies. Additionally, women are less likely to be employed and receive lower wages, further compounding their economic disadvantages and rendering them more susceptible to the impacts of climate change. This underscores the importance of addressing inadequate resources that could otherwise mitigate their vulnerability.

To mitigate the vulnerabilities faced by communities, climate action contributes to efforts aimed at combating climate change and its impacts. One strategy in response to climate change is the adoption of climate adaptation mechanisms. Climate adaptation is often embraced as an anticipatory, reactive, or proactive measure to mitigate climate impacts. It entails adjustments by humans to both current and anticipated consequences of climate change. Notably, recent environmental initiatives in Africa have focused on climate adaptation.

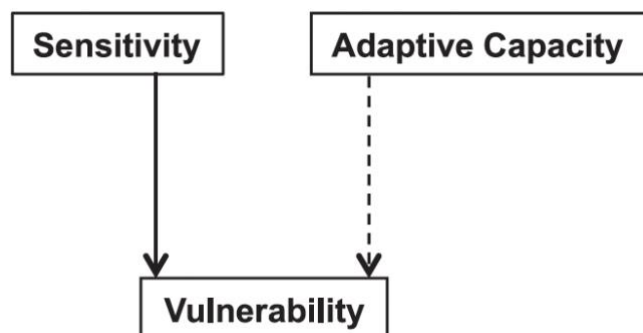
Enhancing adaptive capacity is crucial for enduring the impacts of climate change and bolstering resilience. In Myanmar, social inclusion is often overlooked in the development of comprehensive climate adaptation strategies at the community level. Community ownership plays a pivotal role in monitoring and evaluating the success of community-led projects. The effectiveness of climate adaptation practices can be gauged through the participation of communities in their development. Improving adaptive capacities necessitates fostering social inclusion and participation in various forms.

2. Methodology

2.1 The concept of Vulnerability

The interpretation of vulnerability to climate change varies, with several definitions existing, sometimes presenting contrasting perspectives. These definitions diverge in terms of the components that define vulnerability and the timing and character of vulnerability. Contextual vulnerability, also known as starting-point vulnerability, refers to the current inability of a system to cope with change and does not consider potential adaptation strategies. On the other hand, outcome, or end-point, vulnerability involves an analysis of potential adaptive options—the impacts that remain after adaptation occurs thus defining levels of vulnerability. Vulnerability is shaped by a multitude of socioeconomic, demographic, biophysical, cultural, and institutional factors, including levels of poverty, gender, age, ethnicity, and education.

Applying the IPCC 2014 framework for hazard-specific vulnerability assessment under climate change, the first component of vulnerability is adaptive capacity, which refers to 'the ability of systems, institutions, humans, and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences'. For instance, biological richness contributes to the resilience of forest ecosystems, while the availability of irrigation facilities or higher crop diversity enhances the robustness of agricultural systems. Conversely, the lack of adaptive capacity contributes to vulnerability, with indicators parameterized accordingly. The second component of vulnerability is sensitivity, defined as 'the degree to which a system or species is affected, either adversely or beneficially by climate variability or change'. This effect may be direct, such as changes in crop yield in response to temperature variations, or indirect, such as damages caused by an increase in the frequency of coastal flooding due to sea level rise. Attributes that render a system weak are identified as sensitivity indicators, such as high ground slope of farmland or the marginalization of households in a community.



IPCC 2014 Paradigm

2.2 Participation in Climate Adaptation

The emphasis on climate change adaptation, rather than mitigation, has become increasingly prominent since the turn of the century. Consequently, it is crucial to assess the progress made thus far, particularly in the realm of community-based approaches, which have garnered significant attention from practitioners and donor agencies in the sector.

Communities are displaying an increasing reluctance to passively accept decisions made by politicians and technocrats that impact their living environments. The concept of public participation in planning has evolved significantly over time, with a plethora of methods and techniques proposed to facilitate consensus-building. Beginning in the early 2000s, the literature began to highlight the emergence of community-based adaptation (CBA), driven by several factors: recognition of the human dimensions of climate change; acknowledgment of the role of local knowledge in enhancing adaptive capacity; and a shift towards addressing impacts at the scale where they are felt, linking this action with pro-poor development outcomes.

Active participation in collective visioning processes can foster trust, as participants in the process are likely to find certain visions of the future more desirable and understandable, while considering other potential futures as highly undesirable.

Many of the typologies and frameworks for participation that have been developed focus on the intentions and approaches of those initiating participation. In this project, the level of participation was examined based on the criteria outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 – Typologies of Participation, adapted from *Arnstein's (1969) ladder of participation*

Level	Typologies	Description
Level 3	Self mobilization	People participate by taking initiatives independently of external institutions to change systems.

Level 2	Tokenism (Functional Participation)	'Functional participation' captures the form of participation that people participate to meet project objectives more effectively after the main decisions have been made by external agents.
Level 1	Passive Participation	Subsequent to decisions that have already been taken. The decision was informed, without considering the voices and physical participation.
Level 0	No Participation	There is no participation whatsoever, regarding sharing the information and relevant insights.

2.3 About Climate Adaptation Champions

The Climate Adaptation Championship, a community-led action research initiative led by Doh Eain and funded by the Adaptation Research Alliance's Grassroots Action-Research Micro-Grant, addresses the priority concerns of residents in informal settlements in relation to climate change and infrastructure. Employing an action research framework, CAC utilizes methods such as general assessments, KOBO surveys, and focus group discussions, along with hands-on prototype implementations. In addition, led by Doh Eain, CAC adopted a community-led approach through partnerships with four local neighborhood groups, i.e Social Empowerment with Ethical Responsibility (SEER), Sharing Myanmar, Young Changemakers Community, and Zero Waste Community Myanmar. Each group focuses on addressing specific climate challenges within their targeted informal settlement areas. SEER addresses flooding in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Sharing Myanmar focuses on water scarcity in Dagon Myothit (East), Young Changemakers Community addresses water scarcity in North Okkalapa, and Zero Waste

Community Myanmar tackles flooding and livelihood concerns in Hlegu. The Objectives of Climate Adaptation Championship are to

1. To identify burning challenges in informal settlement communities in relation to climate change and infrastructure.
2. To develop and test community-based solutions to address those challenges.
3. To share knowledge via a published solution toolkit, disseminating it across local neighborhood groups through the reach of the Yangon Neighborhood Network (YNN).

In this stage of the project: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in 2024, Climate Adaptation Champions (CAC) re-engaged with their vulnerable communities in informal settlements to introduce the concept of gender equality and social inclusion in the context of climate change. A new member - Yangon Kayin Baptist Women Association (YKBWA) has joined the CAC team and they address water scarcity issues in HlaingTharYar township. The additional objectives are to

1. To empower communities in informal settlement with increased gender and social inclusion awareness through storytelling sessions, scenarios-building exercises and empathy-building simulations.
2. To deliver impactful awareness sessions about the role of gender and impact of climate change, actively engaging marginalized communities.

2.4 Community-based Climate Adaptation Toolkit

Communities in informal settlements are at the forefront of the impact of climate change on their living conditions. However, these communities are rich in resources and ideas. The Climate Adaptation Championship is driven by the belief that by channeling these resources and ideas into actions, these vulnerable communities can be empowered to adapt to the changing climate effectively. The community-based climate adaptation toolkit is intended for a broad range of individuals and groups involved in climate adaptation efforts within informal settlement areas, including community members and local groups who are actively working to address water scarcity and flooding challenges in their neighborhoods. The aim of this toolkit is to empower informal settlement communities and stakeholders involved in climate adaptation efforts within these areas by providing comprehensive guidance and resources. In this project, the toolkit plays an important role when assessing the participation level of vulnerable communities in the implementation process of the community-based climate adaptation. This improves the sense of ownership and involvement at the community level, resulting in the incremental awareness of climate adaptation solutions.

2.5 Expected outcomes and impacts

The YNN members are all local neighborhood groups that are deeply embedded in their local communities. Neighborhood community groups have incredible resourcefulness, manpower, dedication, knowledge, and relationships. By combining action and research, the Climate Adaptation Champions are able to harness local knowledge at the core of a climate issue and support the development of solutions by grassroots actors that respond directly to the needs of the local community. Through the active participation of these groups, the research solutions will be direct, impactful, flexible, and adaptable across other areas and groups. The research will provide solutions that respond directly to the needs of local communities. Through our previous work engaging with YNN members in informal settlements for infrastructure improvements, we have become aware of the acute issues that local people challenge. In our previous projects, this has been identified as a challenge around flooding, safe water supply, energy supply, resilient shelters, etc. Through our approach of engaging with local community groups to identify one challenge and one solution, we will support communities to be able to develop tangible options for adaptation. The expected outcomes from the Climate Adaptation Championship are

- Local neighborhood groups have the chance to test and implement innovative solutions for climate adaptation in informal settlements.
- Enhanced collaboration between local neighborhood groups and local stakeholders, resulting in improved reporting of climate-related issues and more effective allocation of funding.
- Increased community awareness of climate change, coupled with the dissemination of research findings and solutions, fosters the promotion of sustainable practices and resilience.

Doh Eain believes that the impact of this community-led action research is tremendous for the local communities, enhancing local resilience and preparedness, fostering sustainable development, and adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.

2.6 Limitations

The Climate Adaptation Championship faced some limitations, as follows;

1. Political Constraints

The military coup in Myanmar has induced significant political constraints in the Climate Adaptation Championship. This political turmoil has escalated into an ongoing conflict between anti-coup groups and military factions, creating an uncertain and challenging environment for the implementation of project activities on sites.

2. Informal Settlement Areas

The project encountered unique challenges due to its focus on informal settlement areas. These areas often lack of formal infrastructure and government support, making it more difficult to implement and maintain climate adaptation solutions. The informal nature of these settlements poses obstacles in terms of land tenure, resource allocation, and community mobilization, impacting the project's ability to execute its activities seamlessly. The demands of the community extend beyond initial expectations. Beyond the climate related challenges, there is a pressing demand for solutions that not only alleviate environmental concerns but also foster economic resilience, social equity, and political stability for sustainable and inclusive development.

3. Project Overview and Partnership with Climate Adaptation Champions

The participating 4 local neighborhood groups for Climate Adaptation Championship, namely 4 Climate Adaptation Champions, are Social Empowerment with Ethical Responsibility (SEER), Sharing Myanmar, Young Changemakers Community, and Yangon Kayin Baptist Women Association (YKBWA). Each of these groups conducted individual research in different project areas. Sharing Myanmar conducted their research in Ward 108, Dagon Myothit (East), while the Young Changemakers Community focused on Shu Khin Thar Kannar Road, North Okkalapa. SEER's research area encompassed Ward 93 in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), and YKBWA in Shwe Nyaung village, Hlaing Tharya Township. The following sections provide detailed community profiles for each of the research areas.

3.1 Climate Adaptation Champions

3.1.1 Social Empowerment with Ethical Responsibility (SEER)

Social Empowerment with Ethical Responsibility (SEER) was established on January 8, 2012, and comprises five permanent employees and 16 members. Its operational presence spans Yangon Region, Shan State, Kayin State, Rakhine State, and Sagaing

Region. SEER's goal is to create a peaceful and prosperous society in which all human beings have full rights and justice. The objectives are:

1. Ensuring every citizen can enjoy a better social life through awareness of rights and responsibilities, and a participatory society.
2. Providing necessary assistance to vulnerable groups in social distress.
3. Promoting awareness of basic knowledge on human rights and strengthening knowledge among the community.
4. Establishing networking among respective organizations to provide necessary referrals and links.



3.1.2 Sharing Myanmar

Sharing Myanmar collaborates with small businesses in natural settings, focusing on food waste management, including kitchen waste like rice, curry, fruit pulp, and sawdust. Their initiatives involve implementing natural soil recycling, cultivating home and kitchen gardens with recycled materials, and promoting environmental awareness.



3.1.4 Yangon Kayin Baptist Women Association

The Yangon Kayin Baptist Women Association (YKBWA) was established and registered in 1858. The organization consists mainly of women and tries to promote the holistic development of women. Their vision is for women in the community to live abundantly and work together to achieve their own socio economic development with dignity, whereas their mission is to stand for all round development of women, physically and spiritually.

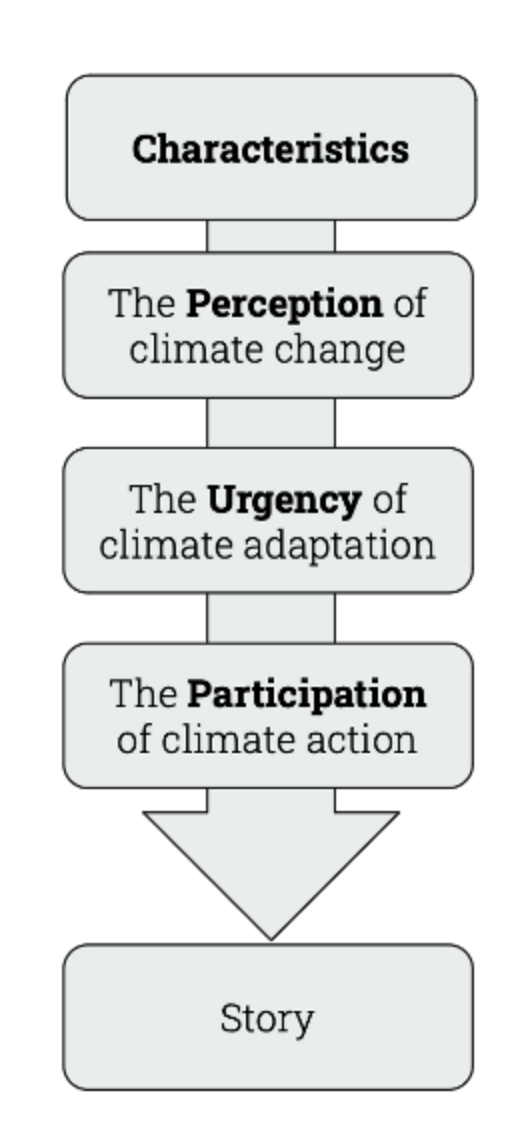


3.2 Capacity Building with Climate Adaptation Champions

In developing the narrative stories of gender equality and social inclusion, six distinct characters were identified: female, male, elders, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, and children under 7 years old. To enhance their understanding of climate adaptation, capacity building efforts were focused on four climate adaptation champions. These champions were trained to recognize vulnerability, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity concerning flooding and water scarcity.

As depicted in Figure 1, the perception of climate change among the adaptation champions was explored to gauge their general knowledge and awareness. This assessment aimed to measure their sense of urgency in addressing climate change and their willingness to engage in adaptation efforts. Based on their readiness to adapt, their involvement in applying community-based climate adaptation toolkits was considered, enhancing community participation and ownership of the solutions.

Throughout this process, the participation levels and vulnerabilities of each character were synthesized to develop compelling narratives that highlight the diverse perspectives and experiences within the community.



To enhance awareness of climate change, a training session was conducted focusing on imparting general knowledge about climate change and the implications of climate adaptation. The climate adaptation champions were tasked with effectively disseminating this knowledge and promoting climate adaptation practices at the grassroots level. Following this, training on community-led climate adaptation toolkits was delivered, incorporating the complex intersectionality of gender and social inclusion.

Additionally, a panel discussion was organized to facilitate the sharing of experiences and insights into cultural and social norms in Myanmar. To ensure gender balance in participation in capacity-building programs, the number of participants was carefully managed, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table – 1: Number of participants

	Female	Male	Total
Interactive Workshop	15	3	18
Toolkit Training	16	4	20
Panel Discussion	27	5	32
Story Creation Workshop	10	8	18
Total Capacity Building Sessions	68(77.27%)	20(22.73%)	88

3.2.1 Component 1 - Interactive Workshop

Date: 02.02.2024

Location: 3ZeroHouse

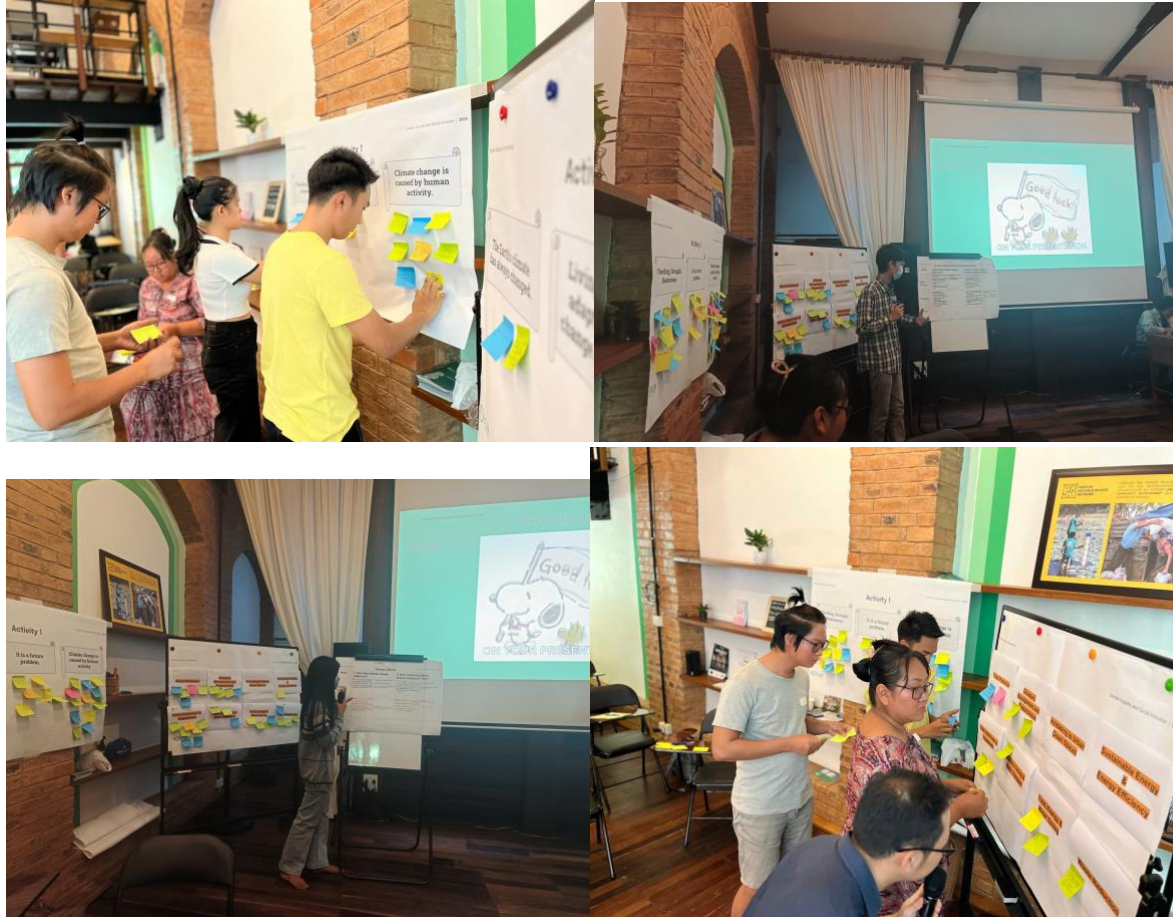
Attendees: Members of 4 Climate Adaptation Champions & Interested members of the Yangon Neighborhood Network (Total 18 Participants)

Session Outlines:

This session encompassed various aspects aimed at assessing the general knowledge of climate change through an action-oriented approach, addressing the challenges posed by climate change. It involved exploring "Why?" to uncover the root causes of climate change, "What?" to identify its effects and impacts, "Where?" to determine opportunities for climate action at the community level, and "How?" to discern the forms and levels of participation associated with climate adaptation implications.

The structure of the session was divided into two parts. The first part involved participants in configuring climate change and defining climate action. This aimed to instill fundamental values regarding the potential for climate action and understanding climate change at both individual and community levels.

The second part of the session comprised a brainstorming session focused on the vulnerabilities and sensitivities associated with flooding and water scarcity for the six characters. This exercise aimed to enhance empathy by encouraging participants to recognize these aspects through discussions.



3.2.2 Component 2 - Toolkits Training

Date: 05.02.2024

Location: 3ZeroHouse

Attendees: Members of 4 Climate Adaptation Champions & Interested members of the Yangon Neighborhood Network (Total 20 Participants)

Session Outlines:

This training session incorporated interactive activities centered around the community-led climate adaptation toolkits previously developed by the climate adaptation champions. The first part of the training involved demonstrating the toolkits to the participants and providing guidance on how to use them individually and collectively. This aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the toolkits and the solutions they contain for two primary issues: flooding and water scarcity. The toolkits encompassed a total of 36 solutions that can be applied at various scales, including individual, neighborhood, and community levels.

Moreover, the training facilitated the active participation of the six characters in the process of developing these solutions in real-life scenarios. This allowed for the identification of the needs, challenges, and capabilities of each character in developing these solutions. By doing so, the training addressed the unique climate adaptation needs and priorities of women, marginalized groups, and other socially excluded communities within informal settlements.



3.2.3 Component 3 - Panel Discussion on Gender and Climate Change

Date: 08.02.2024

Location: 3ZeroHouse

Attendees: Members of 4 Climate Adaptation Champions & Interested members of the Yangon Neighborhood Network (Total 32 Participants)

Session Outlines:

This panel discussion was dedicated to providing intersectional knowledge on the relationship between climate adaptation, gender equality, and social inclusion through facilitated dialogue. The discussion explicitly focused on the practices of community-led

climate adaptation to address two specific issues: Flooding and Water Scarcity. Simultaneously, the session fostered discourse on gender equality in participation and social inclusion, featuring two climate adaptation champions and a gender expert.

By incorporating these perspectives, participants were able to gain insights into the essentialities and challenges associated with extreme weather events. Furthermore, the panel discussion provided climate adaptation champions with opportunities to share their experiences and expertise, thereby enhancing their capacity to address climate-related challenges effectively.



3.2.4 Component 7 - StoryTelling Session

Date: 23.02.2024

Location: Online

Attendees: Members of 4 Climate Adaptation Champions (Total 18 Participants)

Session Outlines:

This session was conducted by two local communication experts for the climate adaptation champions, who were tasked with collecting local stories within the community. The session focused on techniques for story collection through interviews

and crafting compelling narratives for the six characters, which would contribute to the development of a storybook—a key output of the project.

Following the session, four climate adaptation champions visited their respective sites to gather personal information, perceptions of climate change, challenges faced during extreme events, and motivations for engaging in climate adaptation practices. They classified the number of stories based on the six characters as proposed and collected relevant narratives from their neighborhoods (see Table 2).

Equipped with the knowledge imparted by the communication experts, the climate adaptation champions were able to effectively retain and narrate personal information, transforming it into captivating anecdotes for the storybook.



Table – 2 Number of stories collected by climate adaptation champions

Water Scarcity (YCC & YKBWA)		Flooding (SEER & Sharing MM)	
Male	YKBWA	Male	SEER
Female	YCC	Female	Sharing MM
Person with Disabilities	YCC	Person with Disabilities	SEER

Elderly	YKBWA	Elderly	Sharing MM
Pregnant Lady	YKBWA	Pregnant Lady	SEER
Mother with Children under 7	YCC	Mother with Children under 7	Sharing MM

4. Knowledge Dissemination

4.1 Component 4 - We The City Webinar

Date: 26.03.2024

Location: Online

Attendees: General Public (Total 151 Participants)

Session Outlines:

This webinar was designed to disseminate the knowledge and experiences of climate adaptation champions regarding the integration of social inclusion principles into the implementation of climate adaptation practices in their neighborhoods. The session focused on discussing the challenges and needs identified from a gender perspective, highlighting the difficulties in integrating gender considerations into community development mechanisms.

Additionally, the session showcased community-based climate adaptation toolkits to the audience, empowering them to engage and take action in addressing extreme events, particularly flooding and water scarcity. Through this webinar, participants gained insights into the importance of social inclusion in climate adaptation efforts and were equipped with practical tools to support their communities in adapting to climate change challenges.



4.2 Component 5 - Curriculum – Gender Equality and Social Inclusion with Young City Shapers

Date: 19.03.2024

Location: Online

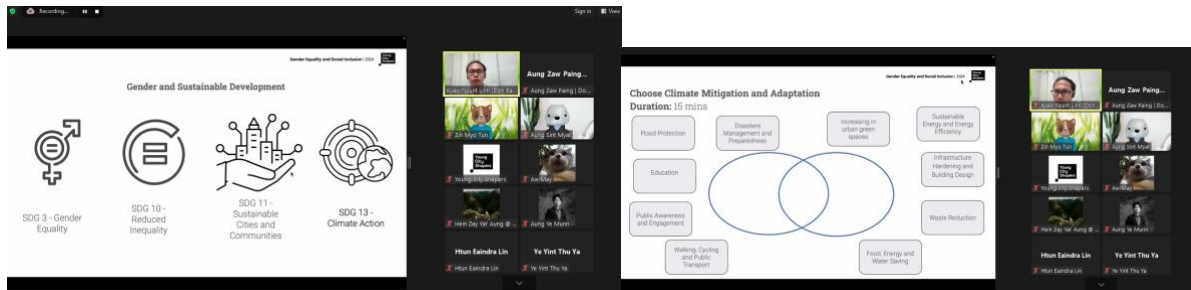
Attendees: Alumni of Young City Shapers (Total 15 Participants)

Session Outlines:

The training session aimed to equip Young City Shapers with an understanding of the intersection between climate adaptation and gender equality and social inclusion. This session was integrated into the components of the Young City Shapers program, focusing on the context of gender equality and local social norms and cultures.

Through an online facilitation toolbox called Miro, Young City Shapers explored the needs and priorities of women, marginalized groups, and other socially excluded communities within informal settlements. This interactive platform allowed participants to delve into the complexities of social inclusion and consider them in the context of sustainable development.

The engagement of young generations in this training demonstrates their commitment to comprehending the challenges faced by vulnerable communities and their dedication to promoting social inclusion for sustainable development.



4.3 Component 6 - Neighborhood Network Webinar

Date: 15.03.2024

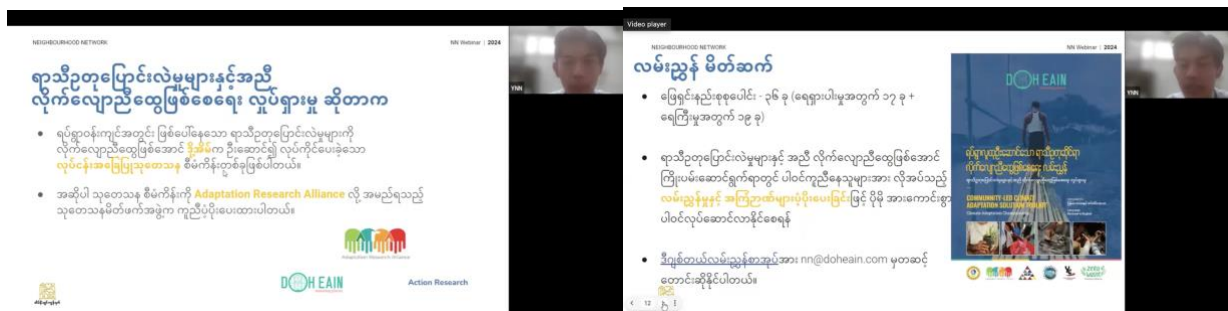
Location: Online

Attendees: Members of 4 Climate Adaptation Champions (Total 18 Participants)

Session Outlines:

This session engaged members of the Neighborhood Network who are actively collaborating with the community at the neighborhood level. In addition to facilitating discussions, the session provided a participation ladder to enable participants to categorize their level of involvement and identify the roles of marginalized communities. This approach aimed to enhance social integration within the community by ensuring that all voices are heard and valued.

The session focused on adopting a testing and learning approach to community-based solutions, tailored to the diverse needs of different audience groups. By actively involving Neighborhood Network members and encouraging their participation, the session aimed to foster a sense of ownership and empowerment within the community, ultimately leading to more effective and inclusive climate adaptation practices.



5. Discussion and Overview Impacts

5.1 Gendered Vulnerabilities in context of Climate Change

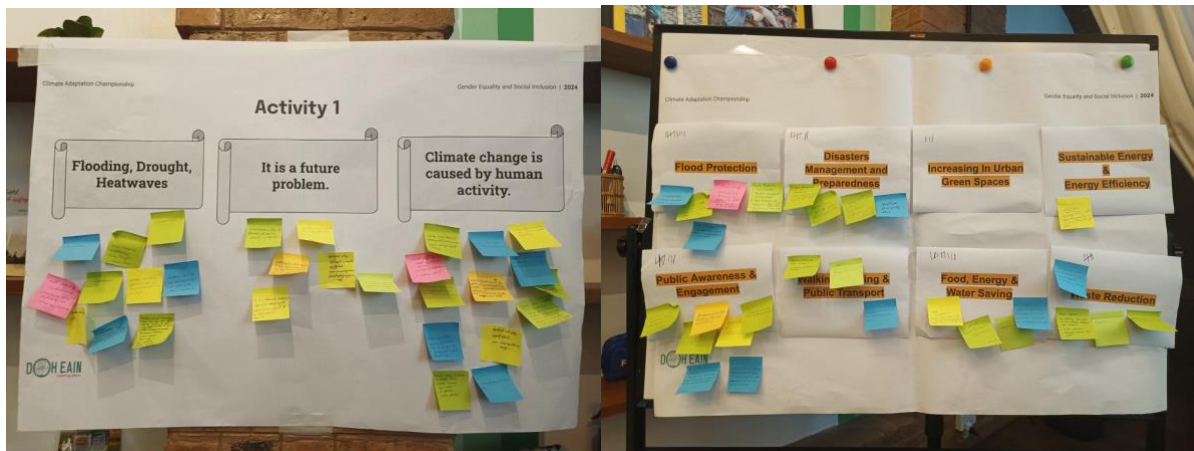
To understand gender-based vulnerabilities, interactive workshops were conducted within informal settlements at four respective locations. These workshops were followed by training sessions delivered by Doh Eain, providing a consistent framework for gathering information and experiences.

The purpose was to collect information and experiences from local vulnerable communities, focusing on the needs and priorities of women, marginalized groups, and other socially excluded communities within informal settlements. The objectives were:

1. To address the social vulnerability of marginalized groups based on gender and people with impairments.
2. To extract insights on how marginalized groups are affected by flooding and water scarcity and how they cope with these extreme situations.

The activities covered fundamental aspects of vulnerabilities related to flooding and water scarcity, including climate change awareness, perceived impacts, level of exposure, and how these factors vary among genders and people with impairments.

Activity 1 – Insights from climate change knowledge assessment



This activity commenced with the question, "How do you describe climate change?" aimed at assessing the general knowledge of climate change among participants

working within informal settlements. Responses were analyzed, mixing genuine climate realities with common myths about climate change to gauge participants' understanding of the topic.

It was observed that most participants were able to accurately identify factual aspects of climate change rather than believing in misconceptions. Reflecting on their experiences of frequent floods, droughts, and heatwaves, participants stated:

"We have been experiencing warmer climates more frequently, especially hotter summers and heavier rainfall during the monsoon season. I believe this is due to climate change."

"The overpopulation has led humans to encroach on land and deforest areas. Climate change is a negative consequence of human civilization."

These responses indicate a general awareness of climate-related issues among the participants, demonstrating their readiness to engage in climate adaptation practices and the urgency of addressing climate change. While some participants mentioned myths about climate change, attributing it to natural processes, the majority seemed to grasp the anthropogenic nature of climate change.

Activity 2 – Vulnerability and Participation

In the second activity, participants were asked questions aimed at pinpointing the effects of water scarcity and flooding on vulnerable communities, considering six distinct characters: male, female, people with disabilities, elderly individuals, pregnant women, postpartum mothers, and children.


During this activity, participants discussed the social, economic, and physical vulnerabilities experienced by marginalized groups, taking into account the unique characteristics and circumstances of each character. Through this dialogue, participants were able to articulate the diverse challenges faced by vulnerable communities in relation to water scarcity and flooding, fostering a deeper understanding of the specific needs and priorities of each group.

Character 1 - Female:

Females face specific challenges related to menstruation, such as difficulties in acquiring menstrual hygiene products, which can adversely affect their physical health and lead to weakness during this period. Additionally, climate conditions can exacerbate mental health concerns. For instance, during floods, females may experience heightened anxiety about their own well-being and that of their family members. Given their traditional roles

as caretakers and homemakers, females may feel increased pressure to manage household tasks and childcare responsibilities, leading to heightened stress levels during extreme weather events. Moreover, flooding may further impede their ability to carry out daily chores and purchase essential groceries.


In the context of water scarcity, females encounter challenges in maintaining hygiene practices, increasing their susceptibility to skin-related diseases such as breast and uterine cancer. The limited availability of water restricts their ability to perform essential household chores like washing dishes and clothes in a timely manner, resulting in additional stress and anxiety.


(NAME) (AGE)
NO. (PHONE NUMBER)
DATE (DAY MONTH YEAR)
I

Climate Adaptation Championship
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion | 2024

Persona: Female

Issue	1. How does climate change affect you?	2. How would you like to prepare/response? Why?	
Water Scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... 	
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... - ... 	



Character 2 - Children:

Children under the age of 7 are particularly vulnerable to health-related diseases, especially in the contexts of flooding and water scarcity. During floods, they are at heightened risk of contracting diseases such as diarrhea due to the consumption of unhygienic food contaminated by floodwaters. Stagnant floodwaters create breeding grounds for insects like flies and mosquitoes, increasing the likelihood of children contracting diseases such as dengue fever and malaria, which pose significant threats to their health. Furthermore, the disruption of education due to flooded schools or the

individuals may face similar challenges in receiving visual information. This lack of accessibility and communication can exacerbate their vulnerability during extreme weather events.

In the context of water scarcity, people with impairments may encounter difficulties meeting their domestic and drinking water needs, particularly if they rely on others for assistance. The physical challenge of fetching water from distant sources can further compound their vulnerability. As a result, they may struggle to maintain proper hygiene practices, leading to adverse physical and mental health outcomes. Moreover, their voices and opinions are often excluded from decision-making processes related to climate adaptation, contributing to their social exclusion and marginalization in disaster preparedness efforts.

Group - III

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Persona: People with Disabilities

Issue	1. How does climate change affect you?	2. How would you like to prepare/response? Why?	
Water Scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ဆိုင်းဝိုင်းအိမ်ထောင်စုများရှိသည့်အခါ အခွင့်အလမ်းနည်းပါး... (အထူးအားနည်း) - အခြားသော အိမ်ထောင်စုများထက် ပိုမိုရှာဖွေရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ - မိမိတို့အား အထောက်အကူပြုပေးရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ရေရရှိရန်အတွက် ရန်ကင်းစေရန် (အိမ်ထဲတွင် ရေဆွတ်စက်...) - အသုံးပြုရန် အထောက်အကူပြုပေးရန် (အိမ်ထဲတွင် ရေဆွတ်စက်...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disasters Shelter စောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအဖွဲ့ဝင်အဖြစ် ပါဝင်ရန် - Public Area အသုံးပြုခွင့်ရရှိရန် - အထောက်အကူပြုပေးရန်
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ရေဒဏ်ကို ခံနိုင်ရည်မရှိ (အထူးအားနည်း) - အခြားသော အိမ်ထောင်စုများထက် ပိုမိုရှာဖွေရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ - အခြားသော အိမ်ထောင်စုများထက် ပိုမိုရှာဖွေရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - အခြားသော အိမ်ထောင်စုများထက် ပိုမိုရှာဖွေရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ - အခြားသော အိမ်ထောင်စုများထက် ပိုမိုရှာဖွေရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - အခြားသော အိမ်ထောင်စုများထက် ပိုမိုရှာဖွေရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ - အခြားသော အိမ်ထောင်စုများထက် ပိုမိုရှာဖွေရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

Character 4 - Male:

In the workshop, the male character emerged as the figure perceived to bear the most responsibilities, both physically and mentally, according to participants' perspectives. This assumption of heightened responsibility contributes to increased vulnerability for the male character in both flooding and water scarcity scenarios. Economically and

socially, family members rely heavily on this character under normal circumstances. Similarly, during extreme weather events such as flooding and water scarcity, the male character is expected to take on a leadership role and undertake preventive measures.

Culturally, there is a prevailing expectation for the male character to venture outside the home and address issues during extreme weather events, irrespective of age or other factors. In the context of water scarcity, the pressure to generate income and provide for the family may exacerbate the male character's anxiety and concerns. Additionally, cultural norms dictate that men must perform physically demanding tasks, such as lifting heavy water containers, regardless of their physical strength or capacity. This expectation places additional strain on the male character, both physically and mentally, further heightening his vulnerability in water scarcity situations. These social and cultural constructs reinforce traditional gender roles and expectations, which can impact the male character's ability to cope with and adapt to climate-related challenges.

Group - 4

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Persona: Male

Issue	1. How does climate change affect you?	2. How would you like to prepare/response? Why?
Water Scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ရာဇဝင်ဆောက်ရခြင်း၊ ရေကန်နှင့် ရေကန်ကြီးကြီးများ ပျက်စီးခြင်း - တစ်ဖက်တစ်ချက် ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - ယခုကြုံနေရသည့် ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - ကျန်းမာရေး ထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ အခြားသောကြောင့် ရွယ်အိုက်ကောင်း၊ ကိုယ်ဝန်ဆောင်ခြင်း - အခြားသောကြောင့် ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - အခြားသောကြောင့် ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - အခြားသောကြောင့် ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း - ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + ကိုယ်ဝန်ဆောင်ခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း + အခြားသောကြောင့် ရေပိုများလာခြင်း + ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း + ရေပိုများလာခြင်း၊ ရေပိုများလာခြင်း

DOHEAIN

Character 5 - Pregnant female and postpartum mother:

Pregnant females and postpartum mothers encounter significant challenges during extreme weather events, particularly floods, which hinder their ability to take necessary precautions and seek healthcare. These individuals may struggle to evacuate to safer areas due to limited mobility and increased risk of injury from hazardous debris hidden beneath floodwaters. Accessing healthcare services during pregnancy and childbirth becomes even more difficult in such circumstances, placing both the mother and unborn child at risk.

Furthermore, postpartum mothers face additional constraints in protecting themselves and their newborns during floods, as they must prioritize caring for their infants and are often physically restricted in their movements. The inability to access clean water exacerbates health risks for both mother and child, as hygiene practices become compromised. Dehydration poses a particular threat to their well-being, highlighting the critical need for external support in ensuring access to clean water and healthcare services. In both scenarios, these individuals are disproportionately burdened and reliant on assistance from their communities for survival and well-being.

Group-5

- May Tharapha Khine (Zero Waste Community Myanmar)
 - Nyan Lin Thu (No Hunger Zone)
 - Cho Mar Lwin (Sharing Myanmar)

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Persona: Pregnant Female and Postpartum Mother

Issue	1. How does climate change affect you?	2. How would you like to prepare/response? Why?	
Water Scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - သောက်ရသည့် ရေ ကိုယ်တိုင်သွားရောက်စုစေတတ်ရန်မရသတိရှိခြင်း။ - သာမန်ရေများထက် ရေပိုမိုသောက်ရန်လိုအပ်သော်လည်း အလွယ်တကူမရရှိနိုင်ခြင်း။ - တစ်ရက်လျှင် ရေကိုစွဲများစွာသောက်ခက်ခဲခြင်း။ - မီးဖွား ဖြိုစေခြင်း မိခင်နှင့်ကလေး ဖွားမြင်သည့်အခါတွင် ရေမလုံအောင် ရောက်ရှိခြင်း။ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ပျက်စီးစွာ သောက်ရန် သန့်ရှင်းသော ရေမရသတိရှိခြင်း။ - ရေတစ်ခဲလုံး ဖြစ်လာခြင်း မိခင်နှင့်ကလေး ကျန်းမာရေး ထိခိုက်နိုင်ခြင်း။ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - မျိုးကွင်းကာလတွင် သုံးစွဲရန်အဆင်မပြေခြင်း။ - အရေး မရှိ ရေကို ခိုလှုံခြင်းနှင့် ရေကုန်များ ဝယ်ယူခြင်း စုဆောင်းကာ ကြိုတင် ခြိုင်းဆက်ထားခြင်း။ - ရေကို ခြိုလှုံခြင်း သဘာဝသုံးခြင်း (ရေသန့်မရရှိပါက) - ရေသန့်စင်ခြင်းသော ကလိုရင်းဆေးဖြား (သို့) ဆေးရည်ကို အသုံးပြုခြင်း စာသင့်ဆောင်ထားခြင်း။ - ရေတိုင်း ရေလျှောက်များ သုံးစွဲခြင်း စားနပ်ရိက္ခာကို အပြန်အလှန် ပြောင်းလဲခြင်း။
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - အေး၊ ဖျော်ရည်များ ရရှိခက်ခဲ - ဆီဆိုင် အစားအရည် (ဗဟို၊ ကွဲ၊ သံ) - ငှက်၊ ခွေး၊ ခုတ်၊ ချောင်း၊ ချောင်း၊ ချောင်း - သန့်ရှင်းသော ရေ ၊ အစားအစာ ရရှိရန်ခက်ခဲ - ဖြစ်ထိန်းသော မြေပြိုမှု၊ မြေစာ၊ ရေခဲ (ကျွန်းစုများ) - မြေအောက်သော အဆင့်ရှိ ကျွန်းစုများ၊ ကျွန်းစုများ - ပစ္စည်းအစားအပိုင်းများ မရရှိခက်ခဲခြင်း - Single Mother များ အထွက်ရှိခြင်းခက်ခဲခြင်း - အား ဝတ်စုံများ ခက်ခဲ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - မီးဖွား ရန် နှစ်ချိန် မှာ အရေးအခင်း ရောက်ရှိပါက ရေသန့်ရန် လိုအပ်သော အချက်အလက်များကို ရေလုံသော အဆင့်ရှိ စာသင့်ဆောင်ထားရန်။ - အားအလှည့်ကိုင်ကြားခြင်း ဖြစ်လာပါက ရေသန့်ရန် အချက်အလက်များကို ဖြား ဖေး ဖြင်း။ - Social Media , TV , Radio တွင် ထုတ်ပြန်သော သတင်းများကို အသုံးပြုခြင်း၊ အချက်အလက်များကို စစ်ဆေးခြင်းဖြင့် အန္တရာယ်ကို ရှောင်ရှားနိုင်ခြင်း။ - အေး၊ ဖျော်ရည်များကို ကြိုတင်စုဆောင်းထားခြင်း။ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - တာရှည်ခံသော အသင့်စား အစားအစာများ ဖြင့် ရေစုစေဆောင်ထားခြင်း။ - First aid kit ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်ထားခြင်း။ - စာတို၊ အိမ်၊ စာတိုစုဆောင်းထားခြင်း။

Character 5 – Elderly:

5.2 The Role of Participation and Values in the Context of Climate Adaptation

Based on the levels of participation outlined in Chapter 2, participants were tasked with identifying the roles and perspectives of each character in the development of community-based climate adaptation strategies, focusing on two scenarios: flooding and water scarcity. This project aims to empower participation and explore the contributions of marginalized and socially excluded groups, beginning with passive participation at Level 1.

Level 1: Passive Participation

Passive participation involves minimal action from every character in the climate adaptation process. Children, for example, participate passively by listening to their parents or elders and following their instructions for preparedness and preventive measures. Individuals with hearing or vision impairments require specific support to receive crucial messages effectively.

Level 2: Functional Participation

Most discussions centered on functional participation, where characters engage in tasks related to organizing, persuading, and implementing climate adaptation measures. Female characters, in particular, play significant roles in communication and leadership, often organizing tasks and mobilizing the community. While traditionally male characters may assume greater responsibility, tasks can be shared based on individual strengths and capabilities. Other characters, such as those with impairments, contribute through consultations and suggestions to improve community infrastructure. Children bring energy and support to their neighbors, while pregnant and postpartum women may participate in stationary tasks such as financial management or task delegation.

Level 3: Self-Mobilization

At this level, participants discussed the potential for leadership roles in climate adaptation. Leadership can emerge from both genders, each bringing unique advantages to mobilizing the community. Elderly individuals, esteemed for their wisdom and experience in many cultures, may assume leadership roles and garner respect and influence within the community. People with impairments can organize like-minded individuals and advocate for their needs, contributing to community mobilization efforts.

In conclusion, climate adaptation efforts are deeply intertwined with cultural expectations and gender dynamics, highlighting the importance of inclusive participation and recognizing the diverse contributions of all community members.

6. Recommendation and Way Forward

The project discussed aims to delve deeply into the multifaceted aspects of climate adaptation, particularly focusing on gender dynamics and social inclusion within marginalized communities. One key aspect it addresses is the often-overlooked subjective and inner dimensions of adaptation, which can vary significantly among different groups. By considering a broader spectrum of gender identities, including those within the LGBTQ+ community, the project seeks to ensure that adaptation strategies are inclusive and representative of diverse perspectives.

Similarly, the project recognizes the diverse needs and challenges faced by people with impairments and advocates for a nuanced approach that takes into account the specific types of assistance they require. This approach ensures that climate adaptation strategies are tailored to the unique circumstances of individuals within marginalized communities, promoting greater inclusivity and effectiveness.

Furthermore, the project emphasizes the importance of aligning institutional efforts with the intrinsic motivations of community members to adopt climate adaptation measures. By understanding the risks, environmental factors, and behavioral patterns relevant to each character or group, the project aims to foster a sense of ownership and empowerment within the community. This approach not only increases the likelihood of successful implementation but also promotes resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change.

Overall, the project serves as a call to action for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to prioritize the voices and needs of marginalized communities in climate adaptation efforts. By fostering a deeper understanding of the complex intersectionality of gender and social inclusion, the project aims to pave the way for more equitable and effective adaptation strategies in Myanmar and beyond.



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