

In the future, I believe the program could benefit from being slightly longer, to give participants even more time to discuss the topics of the training more thoroughly. Additionally, to further benefit those living in vulnerable areas and **making the trainings accessible**, I would suggest to conduct them at village level. In addition, it is necessary to work closely with the leadership of Hpa An, the District Disaster Management Committee, line ministries and the private sector.

... I would advise them to try to share more knowledge at the village level, as they also need capacity building to respond to disasters.”

I believe sharing of knowledge and good practices at the village level is the most effective tool for disaster prevention and preparedness.



Displaced families take refuge in a stadium during floods.



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The interviewee has explicitly given consent to have their responses recorded and the content, including photographs, published digitally or in print for APP communication purposes.

Sharing Knowledge with Rubber Plantation Farmers to Protect Livelihoods in Myanmar

The Myanmar Preparedness Partnership (MPP) implements a strategy to protect livelihood from floods in Kayin State, Myanmar





NAME | **U Saw Tin Maung Sein**

TITLE | **Chairman, Rubber Plantation Association**

YEARS WORKING
IN DISASTER
RESPONSE | **1**

WORKING AREA | **Hpa-An, Kayin State**



Kayin State

CONTEXT

While Kayin State is not prone to cyclones and tsunamis like other parts of Myanmar, other hazards such as **landslides** and **flash floods** can harshly impact our lives. As the Chairman of the Rubber Plantation Association, I am aware that these kinds of hazards can cause severe damage to the rubber trees and businesses in my area. If a **landslide** or **flood** strikes Kayin State, rubber trees could be damaged and the livelihoods of people in the area will be severely affected, since working in rubber plantations is one of the main income sources. Additionally, I have seen that knowledge sharing at the community level is lacking. There is weak coordination between people during disasters, and resources are limited, making effective disaster preparedness and response difficult.

Rubber plantation is our family business and therefore I grew up learning about it and eventually joined. I have been in this industry all of my life and have seen that when a disaster hits our area, it affects our families, businesses, and community.

To save livelihoods in a community of rubber plantations, we must work together ”

UNDERSTANDING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

In October 2018, I had the opportunity to attend a three-day **Multi-hazard Disaster Management Training** in Hpa-An, Kayin State for government departments, civil society organizations and the private sector. The focus of the training was on understanding the basic concepts of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and the link between disasters and development. In particular, we discussed how disasters affect vulnerable groups and how they can participate in community efforts towards disaster preparedness and response.

MOVING FORWARD

The knowledge that I gained at the training was extremely useful and I want this information to reach as many people as possible. ”

The knowledge that I gained at the training was extremely useful and I want this information to reach as many people as possible. My strategy for the future is to meet with youth and rubber plantation farmers of Hpa An and Hlaing Bwe to share the knowledge. My aim is to ensure that what happened in 2018 where floods displaced 13,000 people in our area never happens again. At the moment, I am in the process of writing a book on disaster prevention to boost people’s confidence in disaster preparedness.



Kayin state in Myanmar is prone to landslides and flash floods



U Saw Tin attends a training on disaster risk management