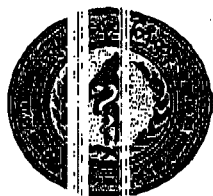


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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MINISTER'S OFFICE

☎ 95-67-411353, 95-67-411355

☎ 95-67-411016

Letter No. Na Hsa Ya/A-2 (2012) / 86
Dated. 3rd February 2012Subject: Special Rapporteur on the Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

With reference to the above and your letter no. GVA-0706-ENG dated 11th November 2011, I am forwarding the following proposal from Department of Health.

- Background Information about Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in Myanmar

I would appreciate if you could kindly take necessary actions regarding this matter.

Thanking you for your usual cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

OHCHR REGISTRY

- 3 FEB. 2012

Recipients : SLO
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.....

Dr. Ko Ko Naing

Director

International Health Division

Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

ESCR SectionSpecial Procedures BranchUN G-OHCHRPalais des NationsCH-211 Geneva 10, SwitzerlandFax: +41 22 917 90 06

cc: Director General, Department of Health

Background information about Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in Myanmar

In Myanmar, many agencies have been carrying out provision of water supply activity for years. Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee are responsible for provision of water supply and sanitation in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw City respectively.

The Department of Development affairs under the Ministry of the Border Areas is also carrying out water supply and sanitation activity both urban and rural areas except above three cities development areas. The Water Resources Utilization Department (WRUD) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was the one of the major agencies for supplying of community water supply up to year 2000. Beyond 2000 WRUD is responsible for agricultural water supply. The Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction fulfills the water supply and sanitation for new settlements areas. The Environmental Sanitation Division under Department of Health is responsible for systematic latrine construction and utilization and provision of water supply activity for Health institutions and water quality development in the whole country of Myanmar.

All these water supply and sanitation activities have been implemented by concerted efforts of concerned government agencies, individual well wishers and local and International Non-Governmental Organizations in collaboration with UN agencies such as WHO and UNICEF. The current strategies are as follows;

- (a) Non- discrimination against gender ,vulnerable and marginalized people.
- (b) Narrowing the gap between rural and urban
- (c) Using low cost and appropriate technology
- (d) Meeting the targets of indicators (30/31) of Million Development Goal (7)
- (e) Health education and health messages on water supply and sanitation delivered by multimedia channels
- (f) Community awareness change into practise
- (g) Community Led Total Sanitation approach is being introduced.

Challenges

- (a) Budget limitation
- (b) Water and Sanitation activity not yet priority
- (c) Adoption of WATSAN as a right is under way
- (d) Less Sustainability due to low cost technology
- (e) Difficulty in transportation sector to several areas especially hard-to-reach areas
- (f) Difficulty in the change of awareness to practice among communities