

**Final Report
on
Building Advocacy, Networking and
Monitoring Skills for National and Local
NGOs/CSOs**



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1. Introduction

The UN-REDD+ has prepared a National REDD+ Strategy for Myanmar and 44 policies and measures (PaMs) have been already identified to reduce emissions from Myanmar's forests. UNDP is now in the process of implementing the National REDD+ Strategy and will require participation from a wide range of stakeholders including, but not limited to, National and Sub-National NGOs/CSOs.

Howe Sustainable, a consultancy and social change agency, has been contracted by UNDP to conduct a REDD+ skill building training on advocacy, networking and monitoring for National and Local NGOs/CSOs. The objective of this contract is "to build advocacy, networking and monitoring skills among national and local NGOs/CSOs so as to facilitate their participation in the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy."

In order to achieve the objective, Howe Sustainable has conducted 5 capacity building events at 1) Yangon, 2) Taunggyi, 3) Mandalay, 4) Monywa & 5) Dawei for participants from national level and sub-national level CSOs /NGOs. The capacity building events covered the technical aspects of REDD+ and proposed PaMs as well as the development of advocacy, networking and monitoring skills. An Individual report for each workshop was prepared and submitted to UNDP.

This is the final report, it summarizes the impact achieved and identifies further capacity building requirements.

2. Date and Venue

The series of training-workshops were conducted in 5 locations across Myanmar:

Workshop	Date	Venue
Yangon	23 rd – 25 th January 2019	Park Royal Hotel
Taunggyi	18 th – 20 th February 2019	Taunggyi City Hotel
Mandalay	3 rd – 5 th April 2019	Mandalay Swan Hotel
Monywa	8 th – 10 th April 2019	Glorious Monywa Hotel
Dawei	13 th – 15 th May 2019	Golden Guest Hotel

3. Training Team

The training team involved the following members from UN-REDD and Howe Sustainable, in particular:

1.	Mr. Timothy Boyle	CTA, UN-REDD
2.	Khin Hnin Myint	Project Coordinator, UN-REDD
3.	Min Soe	Stakeholder Engagement Officer, UN-REDD
4.	Thit Thit Han	Communication Officer, UN-REDD
5.	Zarni Aung	Facilitator & M&E Specialist, Howe Sustainable
6.	Shwe Mar	Projector Coordinator & Facilitator, Howe Sustainable
7.	Khin Myat Mon	Facilitator & Consultant, Howe Sustainable

4. Agenda

The capacity building initiative was delivered over 3-days with the following primary objectives:

- 1) Enhancing awareness on the technical aspects of REDD+ and proposed PaMs;
- 2) Developing skills in advocacy, networking and monitoring;
- 3) Building stronger relationships and networking with CSOs/NGOs in order to promote effective implementation of the REDD+ project.

According to the gaps and challenges from the first event in Yangon, the training curriculum and agenda were revised. The session on Gender Inclusiveness in REDD+ was included as one of the main topics. Both the revised training curriculum and the agenda are attached in **Annex 1**.

5. Key Training Activities

Each training session included the following activities:

- Setting participant expectations of the training session;
- Initiating pre and post assessment tests Advocacy, Networking and Monitoring topics;
- Explaining the objectives of the events ensuring participant acknowledgement and understanding;
- Integrating of ice breaking activities and refresher games to facilitate active participation and boost motivation;
- Promoting group discussions and exercises to encourage interactive learning;
- Encouraging participants to present their work and discuss feedback provided;
- Review key success factors of each session as well as challenges;
- Collecting overall evaluation assessments of each training.

6. Number of Participants

The training program was provided to a total of 98 participants representing 52 organizations. The list of these organizations for each workshop is attached in **Annex 2**.

Workshop	No. of Participants		Invited Region/ State
Yangon	25	12 Females & 13 Males	Yangon, Naypyidaw, Bago, Rakhine & Ayeyarwady
Taunggyi	21	12 Females & 9 Males	Danu, Pa-O which represent Shan state and Kayah region
Mandalay	18	10 Females & 8 Males	Mandalay, Magway and Kachin
Monywa	16	6 Females & 10 males	Sagaing and Chin State
Dawei	18	9 Females & 9 males	Kayin, Mon and Dawei

7. The Training-Workshops: Key highlights, Evaluation Lessons Learnt)

A. Key Highlights

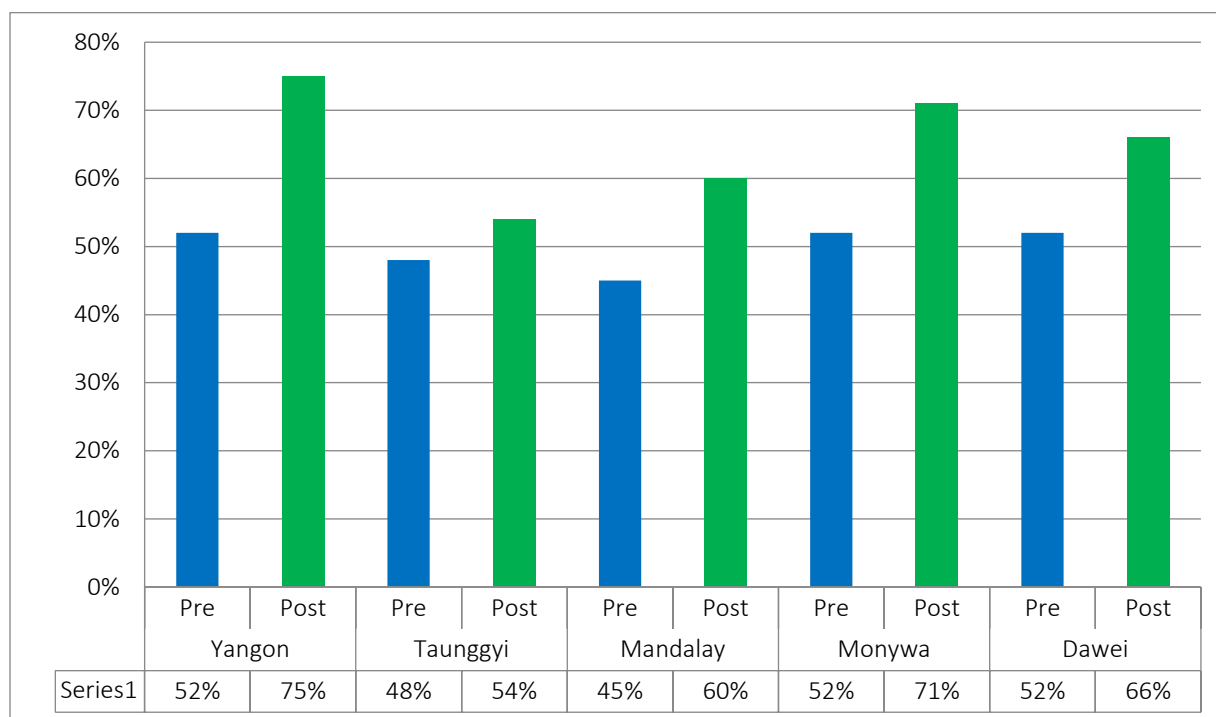
Workshop Location	Key Highlights
Yangon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested to distribute REDD+ pamphlets to facilitate understanding and communication on REDD+• Revised presentation slide of Advocacy and Network to better convey the information following the Yangon workshop• The participants preferred presentations to be conveyed in Myanmar language.
Taunggyi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most of the participants have experiences in Advocacy. The strategical advocacy was considered the most interesting topic• M&E session proved most challenging to participants primarily because of lack of experience with the topic• Facilitator provided more practical examples for better understanding
Mandalay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adding a session on <i>gender inclusiveness in REDD+</i> ignited a debated discussion. A number of CSOs indicated the importance and relevance of the topic in particular how to improve the participation of women.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For many CSOs this was the first time they had discussed the topic.
Monywa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REDD+ presentation slides influenced and improved the participation of participants. Invited CSOs lacked project related experience and therefore experienced difficulties with Advocacy and M&E. Participants from Chin state had a lot of questions on REDD+ implementation.
Dawei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REDD+ considered a fairly new topic for participants Participants had strong knowledge on PaMs related to community forestry and gender inclusiveness Gender inclusiveness extremely important to Dawei CSOs Additional workshop on M&E requested in particular in Ye Township

B. Evaluation/ Comparison on Five Workshops

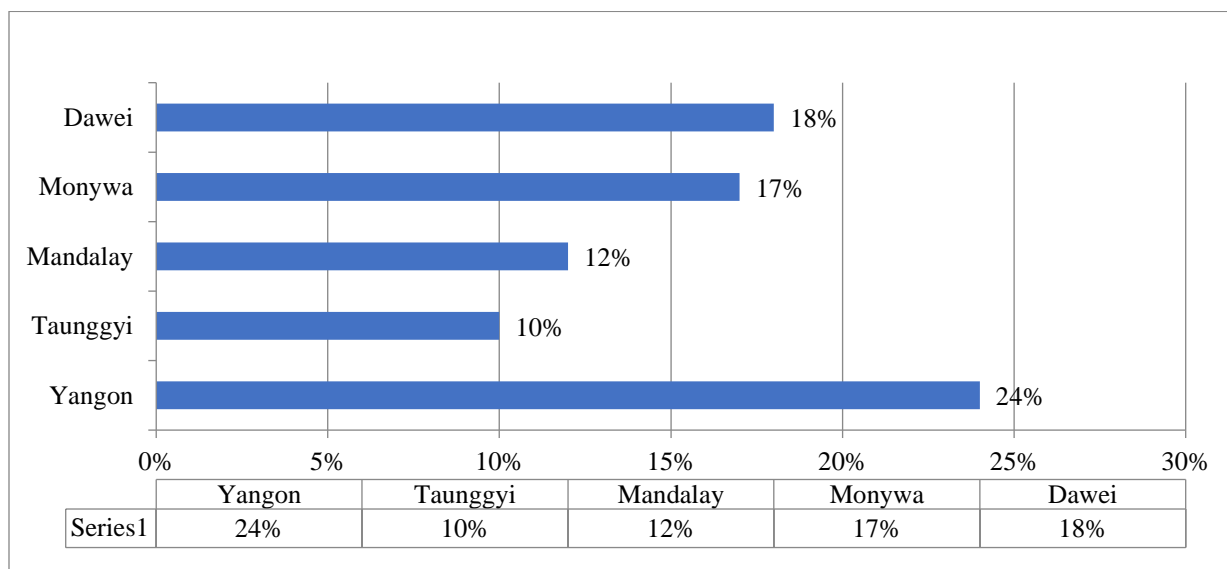
As previously mentioned, pre and post tests were initiated at every workshop to monitor and evaluate participants knowledge and level of understanding before and after the workshop. The following graphs represent the level of understanding on Advocacy, Networking, Monitoring and Evaluation. Comparisons have been made against each workshop to identify significant improvements and or challenges.

- a) The results in graph 1 indicate that on average improvements in knowledge increased by 15%. In comparison to other workshops, significant improvement in knowledge was experienced in the Yangon workshop. Following this Monywa, Mandalway and Dawei experienced a similar improvement in understanding of the topics taught. However, in Taunggyi, participants only experienced a 6% improvement in understanding. A key session that proved difficult to grasp included the topic on Monitoring and Evaluation.



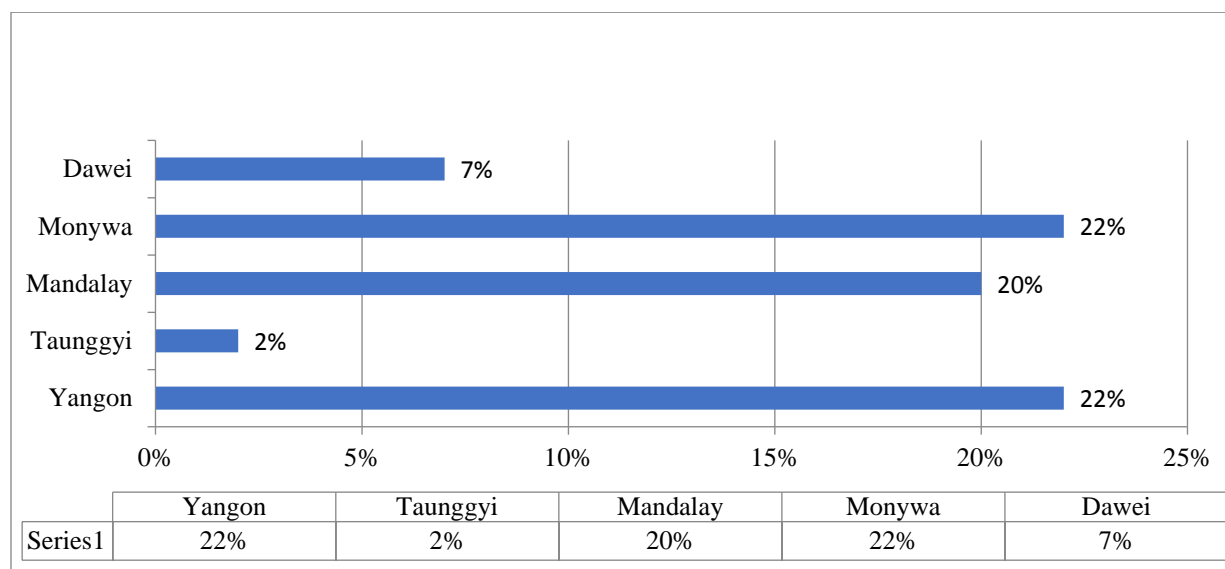
Graph 1: A comparison of pre and post test results from all 5 workshops

- b) Graph 2 below indicates the improvement of knowledge on the Advocacy and Networking session. The graph below confirms the participant's in Yangon experienced significant improvement by 24%. This could be primarily due to the education level of participants. As a majority of participants were directors and officers they were able to better understand the objectives of the training as well as the approaches applied to encourage dialogue.



Graph 2: Level of understanding associated with Advocacy, Networking,

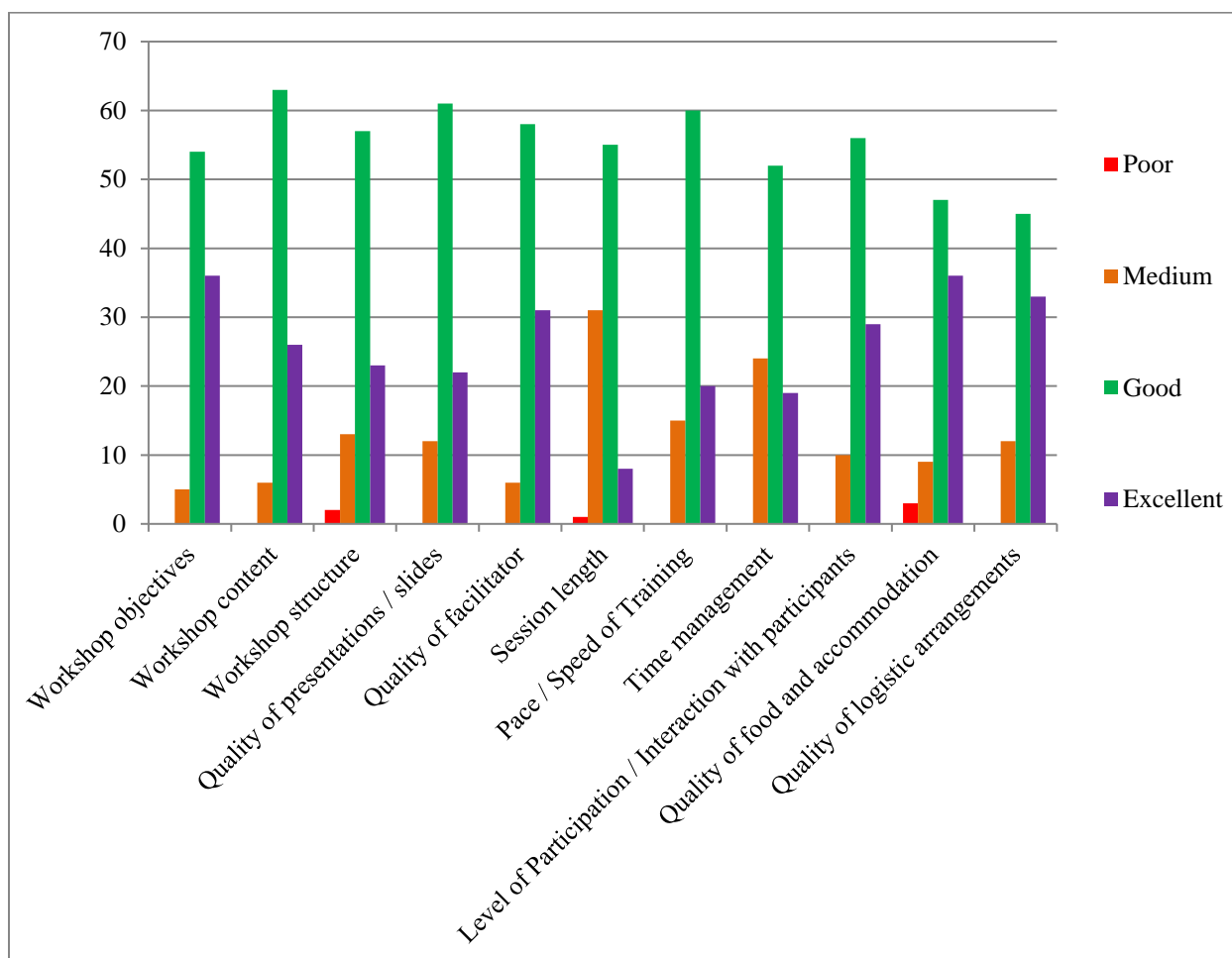
- c) Graph 3 indicates the improvement of knowledge on the Monitoring and Evaluation session. The graph below confirms the participant's in Yangon experienced significant improvement by 22%. Improvements can also be seen among participants in Mandalay and Monywa. However the participants from Dawei and Taunggyi did not convey similar progress. Observations and feedback provided indicate that participants experienced difficulty with understanding Monitoring & Evaluation.



Graph 3: Level of understanding associated with Monitoring & Evaluation

- d) Graph 4 below represents the overall level of satisfaction of participants with the training. The participants were highly satisfied with the workshop objectives, quality of facilitators, level of participation and quality of the logistic arrangements.

The session length and the time management were regarded as the least satisfying aspects by the participants. In terms of session length, the participants stated that three days was not enough for such a dense topic. They would have preferred to increase the number of days of the training in order to develop a better understanding of the topics conveyed. In regards with time management, during the discussions, certain participants took a long time to share their experience, disrupting the overall session's timing. This was particularly evident in the workshop held in Yangon.



Graph 4: Overall Training Evaluation

C. Lessons Learnt

- Some of the workshops did not meet the targeted number of participants, as the workshop schedule appeared to be in conflict with participant agendas. The overall schedule of the trainings should be discussed and set up together with UNDP well in advance to allow more time to inform targeted participants.
- Despite sending invitations via E-mail and/or Viber, the organizer had to make several phone calls to confirm the attendance of some organizations. It is suggested that social media platforms should be leveraged for future workshops to strengthen the communication.
- The invitation letters should be translated in to Myanmar language as some participants experienced difficulty understanding the information conveyed.
- More practical examples should be used for the M&E session to help facilitate discussions with participants and encourage improved understanding of the subject. As this proved to be the most difficult subject, additional time should be allocated.

7. Recommendations

- It is suggested to develop a centralized data spread sheet listing the UN REDD+ project stakeholders and their contact details. This will provide an improved way to contact stakeholders for upcoming projects. Information should include but not limited to State and regional stakeholders, type of REDD+ activities already communicated etc.
- Involve and invite the same organizations for future workshops and implementation of REDD+ activities to ensure knowledge and capacity continues to be strengthened and flow of information remains constant.
- In order to strengthen the capacity of CSOs/NGOs to engage in UNDP REDD+ activities, it is important to encourage participants to share information related to their organizations and conduct Training of Trainor (TOT).
- Even though CSOs have knowledge and expertise within their specialised area they lack the skills or funding to identify and/or appoint an M&E position. As a result, M&E is not prioritised or in some cases very little capacity to conduct M&E is evident. It is suggested to provide additional training to CSOs who collaborate on REDD+ initiatives.
- It is important to ensure training materials are understood by the audience. It is suggested to consider translating the information into local language/dialect.

8. Conclusions

- The gender balance was observed in all sessions and, apart from the Monywa workshop, representatives of Women associations were present in all four-workshops.
- The Howe Sustainable team was constantly working to improve the training sessions by addressing the gaps and challenges observed during the first two workshops.
- CSOs indicated a strong interest in the following sub-PaMs:
 - Incentivize production and distribution of improved/efficient cook stoves;
 - Expand the number and area of community forests and support the development of Community Forest Enterprises;
 - Promote farmers' and forest users' associations, equitably for women and men, as a means to raise rural incomes;
 - Promote sustainability measures in commodity supply chains;
 - Undertake awareness raising and training to support REDD+ PAMs;
 - Support improved income potential from traditional livelihoods.
- Following the training, participants have developed a stronger interest in REDD+ including establishing a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- Training-workshops were able to cover a broad audience of national and regional CSOs/NGOs to build advocacy, networking and monitoring skills so as to facilitate their participation in the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy.

Annex 1 (Training agenda)
Annex 2 (Updated Contact List)
Annex 3 (Training Presentations)