

Setting up a Safer Construction Campaign programme

Period: 1st Semester 2010

Context:

On the 6th May 2008 Cyclone Nargis hit the Ayeryawaddy and Yangon delta areas of Myanmar causing very widespread destruction. 800 000 houses were destroyed and damaged, and 4 000 schools damaged or destroyed. Over the ensuing months huge efforts have been made to rebuild damaged infrastructure, and to support the initiatives of the population in rebuilding their homes. Yet it remains that since Nargis a very substantial proportion of the population has as yet had neither the time nor resources to rebuild their homes in a durable manner, , and equally important, nor in a manner that would enable their homes to resist the impact of future cyclones. Interviews in six townships in the delta carried out by the two NGO Save the Children and Development Workshop in November 2009 indicate that the villagers now hope that after the 2009 rice harvest and once they have generated income from this, people will have the opportunity, really for the first time since Nargis, to turn their attention and scarce resources to the question of making a better and if possible safer home, beginning by acquiring the building materials they will need, and then by starting to build in April and May before the next monsoon period.

In August 2008 SCiM and DWF assessed the challenge of assisting people rebuild. They concluded that one of the best short term ways to develop knowledge about safe storm resistant construction was to demonstrate this through a programme of preventive strengthening of existing schools, buildings that had been quickly repaired after Nargis but that had not included making them safe structures. The Safer Schools Project, designed by DWF, was started in November 2008. By late 2009 it will have strengthened 105 schools and trained hundreds of carpenters and masons in the process. The SSP has been based on the experience of DWF in Viet Nam where for the past ten years it has successfully promoted and demonstrated the preventive strengthening of public building and home to resist typhoons and floods based on the application of ten key principles of cyclone resistant construction. The SSP has been a success and the villages are convinced that their schools are now much safer.

In order to increase the impact and message about safe construction to the inhabitants, in January 2009 the SSP added the construction of small bamboo frame demonstration structure in the playground of each school, that shows how the principles of safe construction used in the schools (mainly timber frame or brick noggin structures) can equally be applied to the construction and strengthening of homes built with bamboo, poles, 'dahni' thatching and bamboo mat walls. People interviewed during the Safer Schools Survey in November 2009 say that the bamboo frame structures serve as model for making homes stronger, and a few families have already done so. The SSP and the DWF ten key points have in turn influenced the development of two SCiM shelter projects being started in Middle Island and Hlaing Bone Township which apply the same techniques.

It remains that at the start of the 2009/10 dry season the population still have insufficient information about the costs and requirements of making a house storm resistant. Moreover they believe, *mistakenly*, that the cost of strengthening is high (in the order of 40% of construction costs) and thus surely beyond their means. When finally families will start to rebuild or repair, it is critical that safe construction techniques are integrated into as many new and existing homes as possible, and for this, correct and pertinent sources of knowledge are needed in the villages. The SSP survey identified from local response *the need for trained safe construction advisers in the villages*.

SCiM and DWF are therefore proposing to launch a "Safer Construction information and support campaign" in the villages where the SSP has already strengthened schools. The aim is to encourage as many people as possible to rebuild safely.

The Safer Construction Campaign

This is The Safer Construction Information Campaign aims at all the villages that have participated already in the Safer Schools Project, with the exception of schools in the townships of Twantay and Kawmhu, as there is not field office in these areas. It will encourage the participation of other villages in awareness raising events. The numbers are as follows.

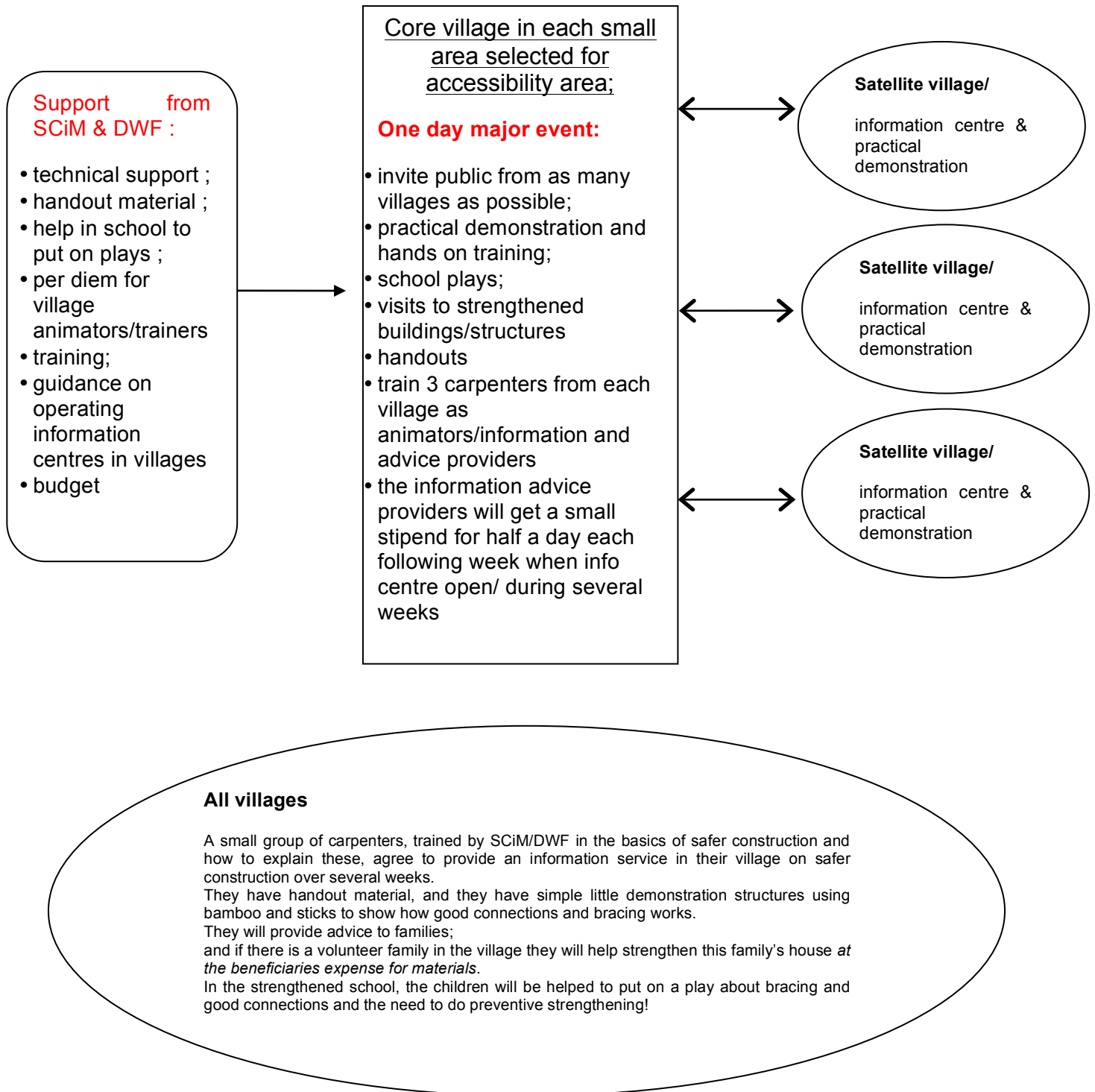
Township	Villages
Mawgyun	13 villages
Kun Chan Gone	12 villages
Pyar Pon	12 villages
Hlaing Bone (in Lapputta & Mawgyun townships)	21 villages
Lapputta	21 villages
Myaungmya	17 villages
Total:	96 villages



Organisation:

For costs and logistic reasons, the Campaign will comprise two levels of activity:

1. Main animation and training event in 48 Core Village (50 % of SSP villages);
2. Subsequent outreach activities in all 96 villages (Core and satellite villages) providing demonstration, technical advice by trained carpenters, handouts, and school children theatre on safer construction.



Activities in the core village:

A one day event that takes place on the school site, providing practical guidance and example, associated with awareness raising and animation actions.

- Guided/explained visits for the public to the school and (where available) the bamboo frame structure (repaired if necessary), by SCiM staff and by previously trained villagers carpenters.
- Training sessions in small groups during the day by the SCiM technical team to ensure that carpenters from each village know the key points of house strengthening and that they learn how to make and use simple models that explain good connections and bracing. **They become village safe construction advisers.**
- Practical explanation sessions to the public: E.g. a bamboo unstable rectangle that can be made rigid using bracing and binding; full scale examples of good joints between bamboo and between; practical explanation about good connections (with pegs) and bracing, providing the opportunity for village participants to sit with a carpenter and see how a good joint is made.
- Provided that there are volunteer families to cover the costs, there can be a *demonstration activity* to strengthen a house/structure in the village, which is representative of typical village house construction: making joints strong; putting in bracing; securing the roof covering.
- **One or two plays on safe construction performed by school children to the public. These are some ideas:**
 - A play miming the **basic** key points of safe construction (there is some SCiM CLDRR experience for this that will be reviewed);
 - A play about a lazy father who cannot be bothered to strengthen his house, the house is destroyed in the next storm; but his neighbour strengthened home has no damage, and he offers shelter to the homeless lazy neighbour.
- Animation (snacks, school dance and music, banners and posters);

In all villages

Establishing Safer Construction information point in each village, manned half a day per week by trained carpenters for which they will receive a small compensation.;

- **New poster** hand out. A poster shows the choice a family has to make: “*don't strengthen your home and lose everything; strengthen and be safe*” with a message “*prevention is cheaper than reconstruction*”, with two drawings (collapsed house + sad family / house that has survived + happy family); use of existing posters.
- The trained carpenters (and school committee) are available to provide information to families on half a day a week
- They offer to have advice from a carpenter about making your house stronger;
- The provision of advice on the quantities of additional material needed to make a structure safe, and thus help a household have an idea of cost
- Some form of children animation going through the village *before the play*, to encourage people to hear about prevention.
- **A short play performed by children that tells the story of the lazy builder who needs to be encouraged to take preventive action to strengthen his home, and that whose the benefits of bracing and connections, which are easily acted out by children**

Timetable and notes

All materials for this programme should be ready and printed by the end of February.

Khin Yuwaddy Myint (architect/designer), who did the shelter poster, is available to draw the next poster, based on sketch design that DW can provide.

Preparations in the villages need to start mid February, to explain to authorities, village leaders and carpenters and to school teachers what is planned.

Materials ideally should be sourced locally when ever possible (in village) so that we did not diverge from what is locally really available. The question

The campaign event days should happen in March – April and then be followed by about 4 to 6 weeks of village level technical information support, depending on the size of the village.

DW has sent an outline for the “lazy builder play” as an example; the CLDRR (?) have done child plays animating the ten key points. We will need to revise both of these.

At least for the secondary villages we can combine these two ideas into a new shorter play.

Staffing

With the exception of Laputta and Hlaing Bone, the number of villages in each township is reasonable and should be achieved using field staff, the PO engineer and maybe DRR staff.

We recommend that the two manager engineers, Thinn Thinn Wei and Kyaw Win Mau each take on working with half the region, and dividing Hlaing Bone (TTW) and Laputta (Kyaw) between them, as these two townships have the largest number of villages to cover (21 each).

Budget : (DWF costs in separate dossier)

Estimated Budget Cost for Safer Costruction Campaign

No	Particular	Quantity	Unit	Cost per unit \$	Amount \$	Amount €
	Item 1					
1	Village safer construction animation day in 48 villages (Day-1)	48	nos	\$150	\$ 7 200	
2	Preparation (materials, local purchase of bamboo, string, metal strap, etc) contribution from SC	96	nos	\$ 300	\$ 28 800	
3	Per diem for village safer construction adviser(3 carpenters per village)2 or 3 days	288	nos	\$ 9,6	\$ 2 765	
4	School plays (1 per village)	96	nos	\$ 50	\$ 4 800	
					\$ 43 565	28 931 €

No	Particular	Quantity	Unit	Cost per unit \$	Amount \$	Amount €
	Item 2(logistic)					
1	Posters and Handout (reprint and new poster)					
	Posters	14400	sheet	0,30 F	\$ 4 320	
	Handouts	1152	sheet	0.75 F	\$ 864	
2	travelling to villages(4 times per village)	384	nos	\$ 20	\$ 7 680	
					\$ 12 864	8 543 €

No	Particular	Quantity	Unit	Cost per unit \$	Amount \$	Amount €
	Item 3(Staffs)					
	Engineers (management)	2	full time			
	PO engineering Edu. Staff(1 per township)	6	part time			
	OW , experienced Edu. Stff (2 per township)	12	part time			