

**Country Profile on
Disability**

UNION OF MYANMAR

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Japan International Cooperation Agency
Planning and Evaluation Department**

Country Profile on Disability
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Abbreviations

AAR	Association for Aid and Relief
ADL	Activities of Daily Living
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
DOH	Department of Health
EENT	Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
HI	Handicap International
ICRC	International Committee for the Red Cross
KBC	Kachin Baptist Convention
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators

Public Sector Expenditure¹

Health (% of GDP)	0.2%	1996-98
Education (% of GNP)	1.2%	1997
Social welfare (% of total expenditure)	15.5%	1998
Defense (% of GNP)	7.6%	1997

Population²

Population (total)	45.0 million	1999
% of women	50.2%	1999
% of urban population	27.3%	1999
Life Expectancy (total)	59.7	1999
Male	58.1	1999
Female	61.5	1999

Medical Care

Medical care personnel		
Population/Doctor ³	3,333	1990-99
Population/Nurse & midwife ⁴	2,326	1992-95

¹ World Bank. World Development Report 2000-2001

² World Bank. World Development Indicators 2001

³ UNDP. Human Development Report 2001

⁴ UNDP. Human Development Report 2000

Education⁵

Education system		
Primary education	5 year	
Compulsory education	5 year	
Adult literacy rate ²		
Male	89.8%	1999
Female	80.1%	1999
Enrollment ratio		
Primary education (Net enrollment ratio)		
Total ⁶	99%	1997
Male	N/A	
Female	N/A	
Primary education (Gross enrollment ratio)		
Total	121%	1996
Male ⁶	122%	1994
Female ⁶	117%	1994
Secondary education (Net enrollment ratio)		
Total	N/A	
Male	N/A	
Female	N/A	
Higher education (Gross enrollment ratio)		
Total	5.4%	1996
Male	4.2%	1996
Female	6.7%	1996

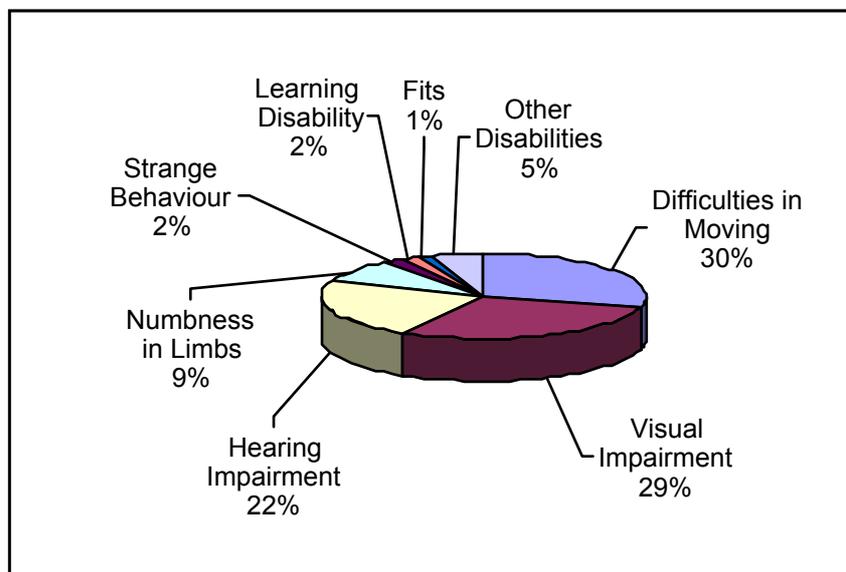
⁵ UNESCO. Statistical Yearbook 1999

⁶ USAID ESDS. GED2000 Retrieved February 21, 2002, from <http://qesdb.cdie.org/ged/index.html>

1-2. Indicators on Disability

Disability-specific Data

Figure 1: Types of Disabilities in Myanmar in 2000



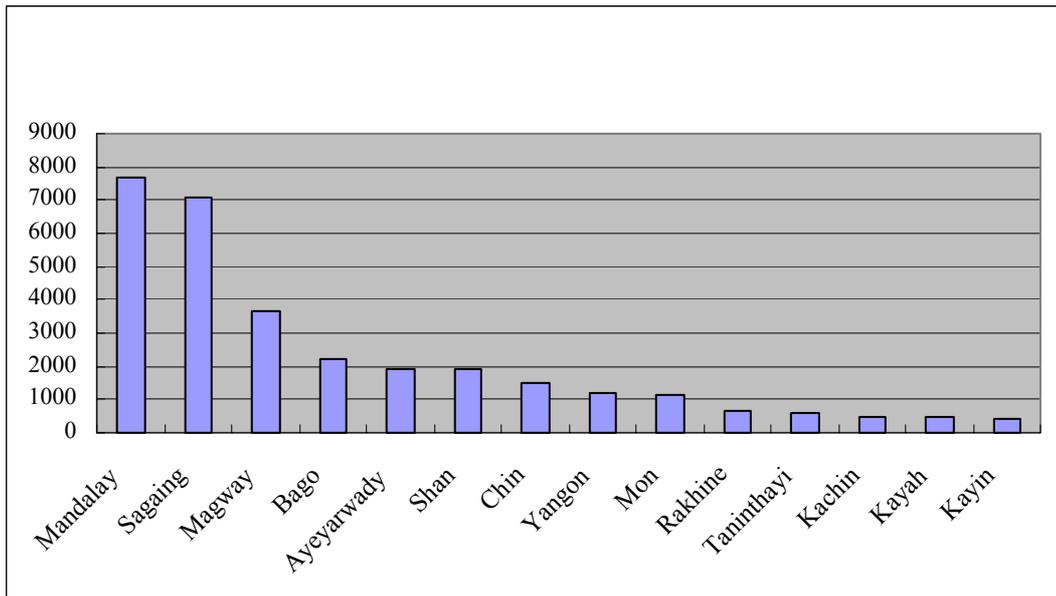
Source: Department of Health (2000)

Age-specific Data

N/A

Area-specific Data

Figure 2: Number of Persons with Disabilities in State/Division



Source: The Department of Social Welfare (undated)

Grade-specific Data

N/A

Cause-specific Data

N/A

Gender-specific Data

N/A

2. Issues on Disability

2-1. Definition of Disability in Myanmar

In Myanmar, the concept of person with disabilities generally refers to a person with physical or intellectual disability. Most citizens in Myanmar are Buddhists and according to their belief, persons with disabilities have done something wrong in their past lives which has resulted in their disability.

There is no specific definition of disability in Myanmar. However, Dr. U Tha Moe, Senior Medical Officer of a hospital for persons with disabilities defines them as follows⁷:

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Health | - | A health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. |
| Impairment | - | An impairment is any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function. |
| Disability | - | A disability is any restriction or loss of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being as a result of impairment. |
| Handicap | - | A handicap is a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from an impairment or disability, which limits or prevents the fulfillment of a role that is normal (depending upon age, sex, and social and cultural factors) for that individual. |

Although these definitions are not widely accepted among citizens, there is generally a positive attitude toward disabilities in Myanmar. There is a saying in Myanmar that persons with disabilities are able persons in another field, in another way. That means, for instance, he/she might have lost his/her physical organ or limb such as a hand, foot, eye etc. or his/her physical organs are somehow deformed, but his/her brain is in good condition and he/she may be able to do something good for his/her community and society.

⁷ Presentation paper on “The role of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Rehabilitation” for the seminar on Basic Principles of Vocational Rehabilitation (BURMA/ILO) 26-27 December 1985, Rangoon.

2-2. Current Situation

Public awareness activities, considered to be the focal point for the successful implementation of disability-related programs, have been planned for the long term. Ministries concerned with disability, especially the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, together with NGOs, have worked towards creating awareness through various activities, special programs, advertisements and the presentation of daily activities of special schools on television. The Ministry of Health held an awareness workshop and advocacy meeting in 1996 for health workers. In Myanmar, most NGOs are involved in public awareness raising in their short training programs.

Meanwhile, in comparison to services provided people with other disabilities, those provided for persons with visual impairments are considered progressive. Public awareness here is quite high and greater support given by the government, NGOs, international NGOs and private individuals.

The National Policy laid down by the government since 1975 includes the following statements:

1. Seeking various ways and means for the rehabilitation of disability.
2. Re-integration of persons with disabilities in the production activities after the rehabilitation period.
3. Implementation of the rehabilitation programs to encourage self-reliance of persons with disabilities and decrease dependency.

Under this policy, the current activities regarding disabilities are as follows:

- a Prevention of disabilities through immunization for polio and other debilitating diseases.
- b Limited special education for persons with disabilities
- c Limited vocational training opportunities.
- d Lack of national data on disabilities
- e Small-scale experiments with community-based (CBR) programs
- f Limited job opportunities for persons with disabilities

2-3. Documentation and Surveys on Disability

National Census

【Title】	National Census
【Last published】	N/A
【Items regarding disabilities】	

Other Surveys

【Type】	Hospital based Statistics, Statistics collected by the project of CBR.
【Last published】	
【Items regarding disabilities】	
The number of patients who came to the hospitals for persons with disabilities.	
The number within project area.	

Statistics on the number of persons with disabilities were collected using various methodologies. For example data was collected through the National Census, legislated registrations of persons with disabilities, voluntary registrations and simply for research (Random Sampling). However, in most cases those results should be identified as the crude disability rate as they are not entirely accurate⁸.

⁸ Local consultant's perception. Thein, M.M. (2000) *Country Profile Study on Persons with Disabilities: Union of Myanmar*, JICA

3. Administration and Policy on Disability

3-1. Administration on Disability

* See Annex 1 for the list of governmental organizations

Central Government

【Organizational chart】

See Annex 1 for the organizational chart of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

【Disability-related Governmental Organizations】

【Name】	【Description】
Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement	Social rehabilitation, education, vocational training, training for care providers for persons with disabilities, establishment of disability-related laws and committees.
Ministry of Health	Medical treatment
National Rehabilitation Hospital	National Hospital under the Ministry of Health responsible for orthopedic and plastic surgery as well as medical rehabilitation.
Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation	Organizing sports for persons with disabilities. Training and selecting athletes for international sports events for persons with disabilities.

【Availability of national coordination committee】 To be established soon (as of March 2000)

【Committee name】 Currently the Social Welfare Department is the focal point for disability-related issues.

【Plan and implemented activities】

Formal education (Primary education), vocational and social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Local Government

【Organizational chart】

N/A

【Disability-related Organizations in Local Government】

【Name】	【Description】
State/Division Social Welfare Officers	N/A

3-2. Laws and Regulations on Disability

【Title】	Child Law Article Number 18
【Legislated year】	1993
【Purpose】	Ensuring education and protection for all children with disabilities
【Description】	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A child with mental or physical disability (a) has the right to acquire basic (primary level) or vocational education at special schools established by the Social Welfare Department or by Voluntary Social Worker or non-governmental organizations, and (b) has the right to obtain special care and assistance from the state. 2. The Social Welfare Department shall lie down and carry out measures deemed necessary so that mentally or physically disabled children may participate with dignity in the community and with a sense of self-reliance.

【Title】	Labor Law
【Legislated year】	N/A
【Purpose】	
【Description】	

【Title】	Social Security Law
【Legislated year】	N/A
【Purpose】	
【Description】	

The law on Rehabilitation and Employment of persons with disabilities was first enacted in 1958. For the time being, the existing law is being reviewed in preparation for the fourth draft law for persons with disabilities, which is being prepared to provide more disability-related services and programs.

Prior to the proclamation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, the Central Law Scrutinizing Committee reviewed the disability laws in Myanmar. It is now in the technical finalization stage and it is hoped that the law will be enacted in the near future. The newly drafted law ensures broader rights of persons with disabilities, including the right to health, education and employment opportunities.

3-3. Policies on Disability

National Development Plan

【Title】	N/A
【Period】	
【Items regarding disabilities】	

3-4. Measures on Disability

Prevention, Identification and Early Intervention

【Current situation】

The Ministry of Health has a program for early detection, intervention and management of disabilities. Immunization, prenatal care, health education and information on the care of newborn babies are part of the program. Immunization has been implemented to prevent polio and other debilitating diseases. An anti-polio campaign, followed by a national immunization campaign, has been carried out throughout the country. Some projects for eliminating leprosy have been implemented by the Department of Health. An accident prevention workshop and education on the prevention of deformities from leprosy have been conducted as a part of the programs. The Myanmar Mother and Child Welfare Association, and the UNICEF are also providing preventive measures.

【Policy/program title】	Progress towards leprosy elimination, leprosy control project
【Implementation year】	1999
【Description】	Elimination of leprosy.

Medical Services and Rehabilitation

【Current situation】

Considerable progress has been made on rehabilitation through hospital-based rehabilitation services, community-based rehabilitation (CBR) and the production of low-cost technical aids. However, the services rendered are available mostly for persons with disabilities in urban areas. Township Hospitals provide rehabilitation services, but the rehabilitation of disability is mainly carried out at the National Rehabilitation Hospital. Also, there is still much to be done for persons with intellectual disabilities when compared to those with physical disabilities.

Medical Rehabilitation

Medical rehabilitation for physical and intellectual disabilities is being carried out in hospitals. For instance, medical treatment and rehabilitation of hearing impairments are being carried out

by the EENT (Eyes, Ears, Nose & Throat) hospital on every Friday. Governmental organizations currently offering medical treatment for persons with disabilities are the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Yangon, and Department of Physiotherapy.

Assistive devices

In carrying out preventive and rehabilitative measures of disability, assistive devices are usually required. Therefore, the production and distribution of assistive devices is being coordinated to provide necessary assistive devices to persons with disabilities through CBR projects. Assistive devices have been provided to persons with disabilities in the community through CBR conducted by the Ministry of Health, as well as in the hospitals. Furthermore, assistive devices for physical disability are produced in the workshop under the Department of Health, with the support of NGOs and United Nations agencies.

1. Assistive devices for mobility impairment

The Ministry of Health is the sole provider of support for material and technology for assistive devices for persons with mobility impairment, while the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is responsible for socio-economic support.

The National Rehabilitation Hospital provides assistive devices to those people with mobility impairment who are being given medical treatment as in-patients and outpatients. The service is available to all people with disabilities who are able to come to these centers. With the assessment of individual cases through early intervention and treatment, the Hospital decides whether the devices are to be provided or not. Assistive devices, including wheelchairs, braces, crutches, walkers and artificial limbs, are produced in hospital workshops through the medical treatment programs. Persons with disabilities in the rural areas are provided with assistive devices produced at the hospitals or within the communities and those persons with disabilities outside the hospitals receive their devices through CBR services.

Table 1: Production of artificial limbs, braces and crutches in National Rehabilitation**Hospital Artificial Limb Workshop**

Years	Artificial Limbs	Braces	Crutches
1992	376	310	940
1993	393	296	1185
1994	392	465	1000

Source: ESCAP (1997) *Production and Distribution of Assistive Devices for People with Disabilities*

Although it is difficult to estimate the number of devices produced per month, production capacity in the country is expected to increase progressively with increased demand in the future.

Prostheses production is based on two types of technology: plastic-resin impregnation technology and polypropylene technology. For orthoses, production is based on metal, thermoplastic and leather technology.

The majority of assistive devices for mobility impairment in Myanmar are made of locally available materials, such as wood, leather and rubber. However, some devices are imported, generally by donating agencies through CBR projects. The custom clearance is made by the donating agency, or if it is destined for the Health Department, the latter will help clear the imported devices.

2. Assistive devices for visual impairment

Through the arrangements of Prevention of Blindness program, efforts are being made to provide assistive devices for visual impairments. The Prevention of Blindness program has also requested low vision aids for visual disabilities from World Vision International, the funding agency for the program. The most common devices imported include low vision aids and teaching aids such as Braille materials. The donating agency makes arrangements for customs clearance and custom duties with the coordination of the Health Department. There are no customs duties on these devices. The Health Department is carrying out the production and distribution of assistive devices for the visually impaired through a community-based pilot-project approach.

The standardization of assistive devices is controlled by the Health Department under the

Prevention of Blindness program. There are six programs and 47 projects including projects for the hearing impaired in Myanmar.

3. Assistive devices for hearing impairment

Assistive devices for hearing impairments are arranged by personnel from hospitals and schools for hearing impaired persons. These devices are imported by two international NGOs. The main types of devices are audiometers and related devices, hearing aids and batteries. Indigenous and imported hearing aids are available, but there is no guarantee for indigenous hearing aids. An import permit is needed for such equipment, but if it comes under a health project, then only a minimum amount of customs duty must be paid by a funding agency.

4. Repair and maintenance of assistive devices

There are two workshops, run by the Health Department, for the repair and maintenance of assistive devices for mobility impairment. One is in Yangon, the other in Mandalay. The Mandalay workshop is mainly responsible for the repair of prostheses, while the Yangon workshop is responsible for all kinds of repairs including leather and rubber vulcanizing facilities. However, there are no workshops for the repair and maintenance of assistive devices for people with visual or hearing impairments.

【Program title】	Prevention of Blindness Project
【Legislated year】	
【Description】	Providing white canes and low-vision devices to people with visual impairments who are currently under treatment.

Education

【Current situation】

National schools have provided educational rehabilitation for children with disabilities, blind persons, and persons with hearing impairments. NGOs are also conducting educational rehabilitation for persons with disabilities in Myanmar.

Children with disabilities are entitled to education, according to the Child Law. There are 3 schools for visually impaired persons, 2 schools for hearing impaired persons, 1 school for persons with intellectual disabilities and 1 school for those with multiple disabilities as of

1999⁹. However, special education for persons with disabilities in Myanmar is limited due to the insufficiency of special education schools and resource persons. Although some residential care is available, almost all special schools are boarding schools.

Special schools under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are open for different disabilities, but there remains a need to open more schools to prepare children for integration into regular schools. Special schools have tried integrating their students in regular schools, yet the process is still new in Myanmar. Currently, the integration of children with disabilities in compulsory education is very difficult because school buildings are not tailored for children with disabilities and there are very few people with proper training to teach children with disabilities.

【Policy/program title】	Child Law
【Implementation year】	1993
【Description】	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A child with mental or physical disability (a) has the right to acquire basic (primary level) or vocational education at special schools established by the Social Welfare Department or by Voluntary Social Worker or non-governmental organizations, and (b) has the right to obtain special care and assistance from the state. 2. The Social Welfare Department shall lie down and carry out measures deemed necessary so that mentally or physically disabled children may participate with dignity in the community and with a sense of self-reliance.

Social Services

【Current situation】

In the area of health care, persons with disabilities in Myanmar are entitled to free general services. Prosthetic and orthotic devices are also provided free, except for people in higher income brackets.

For the war-injured, the Military Hospital provides medical as well as rehabilitation services. It also supplies prosthetics and orthotics and gives training at the Army Convalescent Center.

⁹ Nakanishi, Yukiko *Asiataiheiyo no shougaiisha no kyouiku* (Japanese, “Education of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific”) Retrieved on March 1, 2002 from <http://www.din.or.jp/~yukin/ED.html>

Within the different rehabilitation programs, training of activities of daily living (ADL) and mobility training is given to the trainee as first priority in national schools for persons with disabilities.

Although the disability-related facilities are available in rehabilitation centers, hospitals and special schools, the creation of a “barrier free environment” has yet to be planned and implemented in regular schools and other public facilities. The Department of Social Welfare is the department concerned with environmental conditions for persons with disabilities.

The Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation was formed in 1989 with the aim of promoting sports activities, which can eventually promote self-confidence and self-reliance in persons with disabilities. This Federation, under the Department of Sports Physical Education annually organizes sports for them. It also trains athletes with disabilities in various sports such as track and field, swimming, judo, standing volleyball and wheelchair marathon etc. It also is responsible for training and selecting athletes taking part in various disability-related international games.

In addition, televised coverage of special events such as the celebration of the International Day of Disabled Persons, annual disability-related sporting events, as well as football matches played by visually impaired persons also create awareness. Stage and talent shows have been produced by schools for visually impaired persons, persons with physical disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities. Hearing impaired persons have also performed in a Christmas concert. To commemorate the annual International Day of Disabled Persons on the 3rd of December, skills contests in art, singing, dancing, and cane-weaving are held. People with different disabilities take part enthusiastically in these events. The visually impaired persons’ football matches attract a lot of interest and attention. These awareness-raising activities, focusing on the skills demonstrated by the differently-abled persons, have been very effective.

Vocational Training and Employment Promotion Services

【Current situation】

There is a need for coordination and cooperation between relevant ministries in creating job opportunities for persons with disabilities. Some efforts have been directed at training and employment.

The social and vocational rehabilitation sector is supervised by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) in Myanmar. This department takes responsibility for:

- Giving management and guidance to special schools for persons with disabilities.
- Allocating budget and technical know-how to the schools for persons with disabilities.
- Assisting NGO-operated schools in receiving assistance from the DSW.

Under direct guidance and management of this sector, there are 4 special schools. Adults with disabilities between the ages of 18 to 45 can join the Vocational Training School for Adult Disabled after receiving required medical treatment. The school has a capacity of 100 trainees and provides vocational training in radio and TV repair, tailoring, silk-screen printing and photography. Trainee assessment is done at the hospital considering the individual's preference, and persons with disabilities are placed in appropriate training courses, subject to availability. For children with disabilities, the School for Disabled Children provides vocational and educational training. The school can accommodate up to 100 children. Information from a Health Department report showed that vocational training courses were also conducted by the CBR projects.

Persons with disabilities who have satisfactorily completed vocational training at the Vocational Training School for Adult Disabled return to their home to set up their own businesses. Those who are not able to find suitable employment are placed in Co-operative Sheltered Workshops.

In addition to governmental services, various international organizations and NGOs are now trying to find the means for training and employment. For instance, UNDP, World Vision, and the private sector have implemented income-generation projects for persons with disabilities.

Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR)

【Current situation】

As most disability-related facilities are located in urban areas, CBR has been provided to persons with disabilities who live in rural areas through the Department of Health. The National Rehabilitation Hospital has conducted CBR in 9 townships (15 towns and 90 villages) since 1982. These projects provided rehabilitation for physical and intellectual disabilities, and made progress in the promotion, implementation and evaluation of CBR with good results. For persons with visual impairments, the CBR program included manuals and training

programs for community volunteers to help them better identify needs and to provide simple assistance, white canes and low vision assistive devices. At the same time, in order to promote better education, employment, and the integration of the rural hearing impaired persons, various community-based and institutionally-based programs are being implemented. Recently, awareness has been raised within the community that the rehabilitation of ex-leprosy patients is also an important societal duty.

For wider coverage, the National Rehabilitation Hospital undertakes a WHO project for CBR. Using available community resources, the project undertakes to teach persons with disabilities and their family members, through the use of the WHO handbook, to be independent in their own community.

【Program title】	National Health Plan
【Legislated year】	1996-2001
【Description】	Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, the project teams were carrying out CBR programs relating to disabilities. One of the projects was the Leprosy Control Project.

【Program title】	The Prevention of Blindness Project
【Legislated year】	
【Description】	Medical treatment to people with hearing impairments in a community-based approach. Providing white canes and low-vision devices to people with visual impairments who are under treatment.

Communication tools

【Current situation】

To facilitate communication between people with hearing impairments and hearing people, a course in international sign language was conducted. Efforts have also been made to develop a sign language for Myanmar. This is envisaged to help the whole hearing-impaired population in Myanmar.

3-5. Experts and Workers in the Field of Disability

Department of Health and Department of Social Welfare have been involved in disabilities –related human resource development. According to the information of Department of Health, human resource development is being conducted as a part of CBR Projects. On the other hand, the training for care providers for Persons with Disabilities, which is one of the most important work of Department of Social Welfare, is conducted by the Social Welfare Training School in Yangon. In all courses at the Training Center, prevention of causes of disabilities and the care for children with disabilities are included.

National Rehabilitation Hospital provides training for nurses, physiotherapists and technicians for assistive device etc. Technicians for assistive device are under the direction of Department of Health regarding with production and distribution of necessary devices for persons with disabilities. Those technicians who are registered in the National Rehabilitation Hospital include technicians for assistive devices and braces and orthopedic and remedial device producers, however, exclude technicians for assistive devices for visually and hearing impaired. There are two types of training for technicians, one is training to obtain qualification at school and the other is done on the job training. All technicians are civil servants.

【Job title】	【Role and activity】	【Training and qualification system】
Care provider	Prevention of the cause of disabilities and care for children with disabilities	Social Welfare Training School in Yangon under supervision of the Ministry of Social Welfare provides training.
Nurses		National Rehabilitation Hospital provides training
Physiotherapist		National Rehabilitation Hospital provides training
Assistive device technicians (prosthetists-orthotists, orthopedic and brace makers)	Production and distribution of necessary devices for persons with disabilities	National Rehabilitation Hospital certificate training and on-the-job training (apprenticeship schemes), employed by the Government

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

4-1. Activities of Disability-related Organizations

* See Annex 1-2 and 1-3 for list of organizations

Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

The organizations of persons with disabilities are as follows:

- Blind Association (Yangon)
- Adult Deaf Association (Mandalay)
- Disabled Cooperative Society (Yangon)
- The Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation (organization of/for persons with disabilities)

Other Organizations

National NGOs provide disability-related services and manage schools and hospitals. The main active NGOs are ADRA, Handicap International (HI), Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), and Myanmar Council of Churches.

4-2. Projects on Disability Organized by International and Other Donors

* See Annex 2. for the list of projects

Assistance by Multilateral/Bilateral Organizations and International NGOs

Under the current military regime, there is comparatively less activity among international organizations in Myanmar. In addition, as the mobility of foreigners is restricted, NGO activities are limited to cities such as Yangon and Mandalay. WHO and UNICEF provided US\$5,646 for health-related activities in 1996. There is little multilateral and bilateral assistance focused on disabilities.

In terms of International NGOs, there are some activities focused on disabilities. For example, World Vision International has cooperated in the medical treatment and rehabilitation of the hearing impaired with the Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat (EENT) Hospital. They have visited patients who live in Dawpon, Dagon Myothit (South) and Hlaingthayar townships and provided medical treatment. Various types of activities were implemented according to the needs of

patients. For example, medicines were distributed to those who could be cured through medication. Those who could not be cured by medicine were sent to EENT Hospital for the necessary treatment. Others in need of hearing aids were provided with them. Weekly statistics were collected on weekly field visits. Voluntary Health Workers brought the people to the center, where doctors provided medical treatment. Those activities were carried out in cooperation with voluntary and international organizations, including the WHO and World Vision International, Myanmar. Similarly, the Christian Blind Mission also supported the visually impaired person with financial funding. Other international NGOs, such as the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), provided support for imported components and, at times, for imported technology. However, it is difficult for these foreign organizations to implement their own disability-related support projects, with the majority implementing projects in partnership with the Government.

Assistance by Japan

JICA has provided training opportunities in Japan for persons with disabilities, disability-related personnel or administrators. Since 1999, a few trainees from Myanmar have participated in the

- Leaders of Persons with Disabilities Course (JICA Tokyo International Centre and Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities from October 10, 2000 to November 25, 2000)
- Leadership Training of Asian and Oceanian Deaf Persons Course, (JICA Osaka International Centre and Japanese Federation of the Deaf from October 1, 2000 to November 19, 2000)
- Independent Living for Disabled Persons Course (JICA Okinawa International Centre and Okinawa Colony – a social welfare juridical agent, from August 3, 2000 to October 21, 2000)

At the NGO level, Japan's Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) has been providing vocational training giving priority to women with disabilities. The project has 2 Japanese staff and a local staff organizing vocational training courses for about 30 persons with disabilities in Yangon. AAR has received land outside of Yangon from the Myanmar Government and is building a vocational training school for persons with physical disability.

5. References

This report was prepared based upon a report written by a local consultant.

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