

**AWARENESS AND HOUSEHOLD PRACTICE ON  
FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE  
AMONG PEOPLE LIVING IN MAWLAMYINE  
TOWNSHIP, MON STATE**

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## ABSTRACT

Floods are one the strongest forces in the world. Myanmar ranks one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Floods, cyclones and earthquake frequently hit the country. In Mawlamyine, flood occurs yearly. Flood preparedness means any action taken by the community, health sector and other various sectors inside or outside the country to prepare for and reduce the effects of flood. The purpose of this study is to determine the awareness and household practices regarding flood preparedness and response among people residing in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State. A cross-sectional study was conducted in October 2019 among 162 flood affected people who have been living in Mawlamyine Township for at least 6 months by using a structured questionnaire. Participants were selected by two stage sampling, wards being selected by simple random sampling and household members being selected by systematic sampling. Mean age of the respondents was 42 years (14) and nearly 25% of them were in 30-39 years of age group. About 73% of the participants were female and males usually were the head of the household (73%). Only 5% of them had high knowledge on flood preparedness and response but all of them had positive attitude. About 65% of them had good practice on flood preparedness and response. There were significant associations between occupation ( $p=0.011$ ), being aware of the groups organized for flood preparation and practice ( $p=0.036$ ), getting education ( $p=0.003$ ) and training ( $p=0.012$ ) on flood preparedness and response at least once and the actual practice on flood preparedness and response. Moreover, doing own business (AOR=2.81, 95%CI=1.38, 6.40) and getting training (AOR=4.45, 95%CI=1.02, 19.49) and education (AOR=2.50, 95%CI=1.22, 5.13) on flood preparedness and response were significant predictors of having good practice. In conclusion, despite Mawlamyine being the flood prone area, majority of people living in that area did not have the correct knowledge and satisfactory practice on flood preparedness and response. Therefore, proper education and training on flood preparedness and response are needed.