

Session 6 - Objectives

- Define and discuss the concept of community grievances and complaints and importance of grievance mechanisms
- Explain the key elements of operational grievance mechanisms and what is needed to make them successful
- Use a range of examples to describe the practical implementation of operational grievance mechanisms
- Introduce the concept of international grievance mechanisms
- Describe the Thilawa Phase 1 resettlement program experience of grievance, request, inquiry management

What is a Grievance?

 "Perceived injustice evoking an individual or group's sense of entitlement, based on law, contract, explicit or implicit promises, customary practice or on general notions of fairness."

<u>Source:</u> International Association for Impact Assessment [https://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/SIA_Guidance_Document_IAIA. pdf (pp. 84)]

 "Complaints or grievances refer to a specific incident that has been alleged, as well as to any damage, impact or dissatisfaction that allegedly occurred as a result of company or contractor actions, perceived or actual."

Source: UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

What is the Difference Between 'Grievance', 'Request', 'Inquiry'?

- There is no universal definition that says what is a 'grievance' versus a 'request' versus an 'inquiry'
- It is important that grievances are clearly differentiated from requests or inquiries
- Grievances are generally considered to be an incident or event that causes some form of 'damage' or 'harm' or 'dissatisfaction'
- Whereas requests or inquiries generally relate to local communities seeking a benefit or some other positive outcome from a project, company, or government

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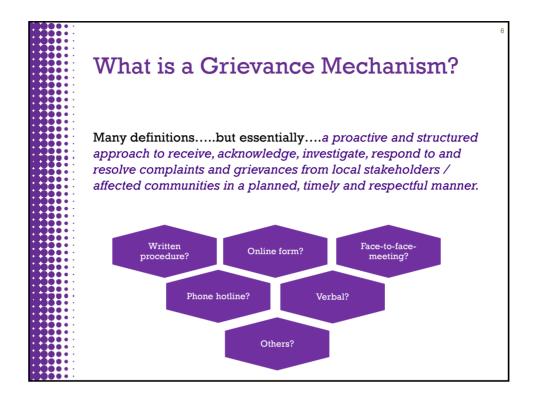
Interactive Discussion

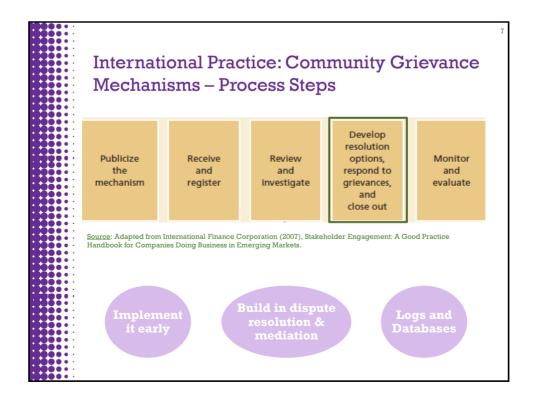
- · Are these grievances?
- Ms A has sent a letter to the General Manager explaining that a lorry knocked down the wall in front of her house. The letter was received three weeks ago.
- Mr Y is the village tract administrator for one of the host communities of the new railway extension. He says no-one knows how to apply for jobs during construction and the village would like more information.
- 3. Mr B works for Yangon Road Design, a contractor company managing the road drainage design for an industrial zone. He says that he is paid less for doing the same job than the staff of Myanma Civil, another contractor. He wants the Company to intervene.
- Mr C is unable to sleep because lorries are passing beside his house at 05h00 in the morning. He wants this to stop.
- 5. Mrs M has a sewing business and makes uniforms for local companies. She has applied to make uniforms for the new factory but has not been successful. She has written a letter and wants to know why she has not been successful and what she needs to do to become a supplier.

Why Are Grievance Mechanisms Important?

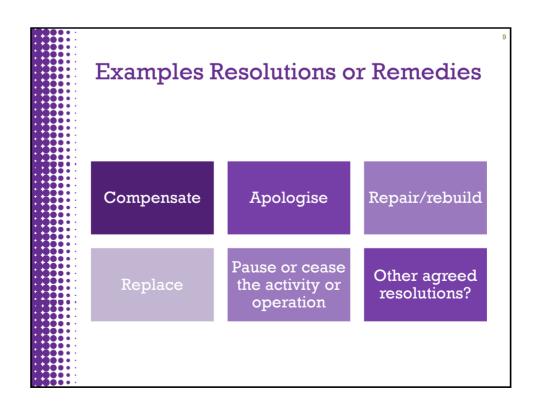
- Allows affected people to have their complaints heard and addressed
- Important component of stakeholder engagement but not a substitute
- Early warning sign for Government /companies – can address issues before they escalate
- Good stakeholder engagement can reduce grievances, grievance management and risk!



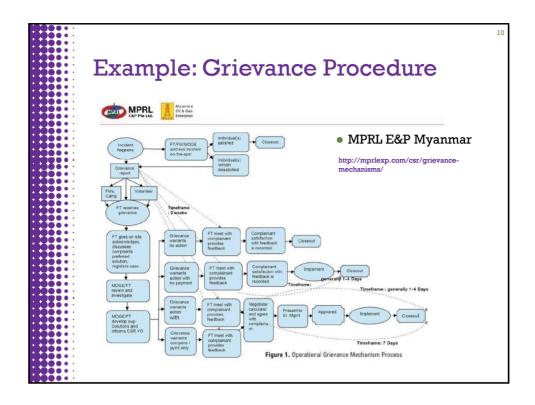


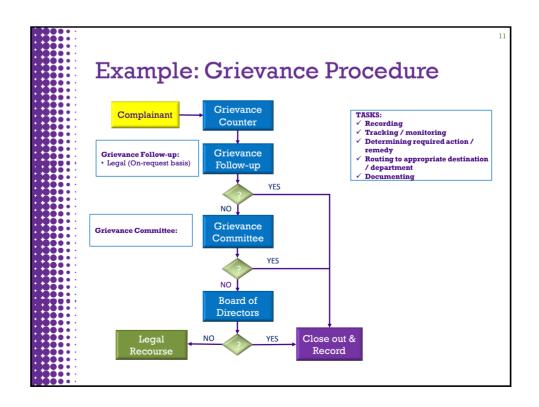


What Makes a Good Grievance Procedure? • Legitimate: Foster trust among stakeholders • Accessible: Be known to all intended stakeholder groups and assist with barriers to access • Predictable: Clear procedure, timeframe and outcomes • Equitable: Ensure parties can engage on fair, informed and respectful terms • Transparent: Keep parties informed of progress • Rights-compatible: Processes and outcomes accord with human rights • Continuous learning: Identify lessons learned to prevent repetition or continuation • Based on engagement: Consult on how to make it most



Source: Adapted from UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights





Different Categories of Grievances Require Different Solutions



"A mediator hasn't worked, so I brought in everyone's moms."

Interactive Exercise: Grievance Resolution

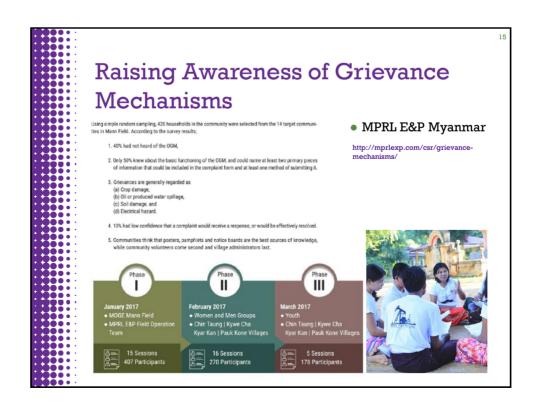
- · Split into small groups
- Take 15 mins to list the steps you would take including the resolution for 2 of the grievances
- Mrs E has a field at the outskirts of the town where she grows vegetables. Last
 weekend on going to the field she found two bulldozers digging up sand and earth
 and delivering it to a contractor working at the new industrial site. This disrupted her
 vegetable growing activities. She is asking for compensation for the crops lost and
 seeds for the next season.
- 2. Mrs D is a lawyer acting for 2 families who say that their gardens have become polluted by an oil company, and they can no longer let their children play in the garden. She is requesting that the families be rehoused by the company and has lodged the claim before a court.
- 8. Mr F was fishing from a small boat in the local river when a barge delivering equipment to the riverside port passed by without warning. His boat capsized, he fell into the water, his fishing nets were damaged. In addition he was unable to recover his portable telephone and other equipment. He is very angry as the barge did not stop but luckily he was wearing a life jacket and was able to swim to the shore where a local person helped him.

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Where Do Different Parties Fit In to the Grievance Process?

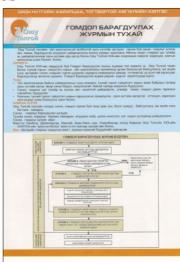
- Local community
- Sub-contractors
- National government
- Lenders/investors
- Local government
- NGOs
- Township/regional government
- Company/developer
- Factories
- Comptens at an area are at an /1
- Suppliers
- Construction contractor/lead contractor
- General public
- Others???

Who is "responsible" for the grievance process?



Example: Community Grievance Procedure Leaflets



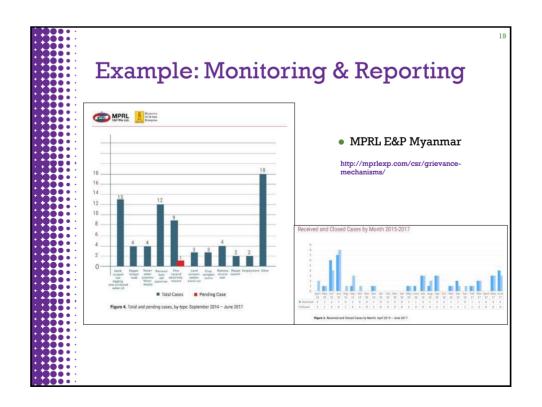


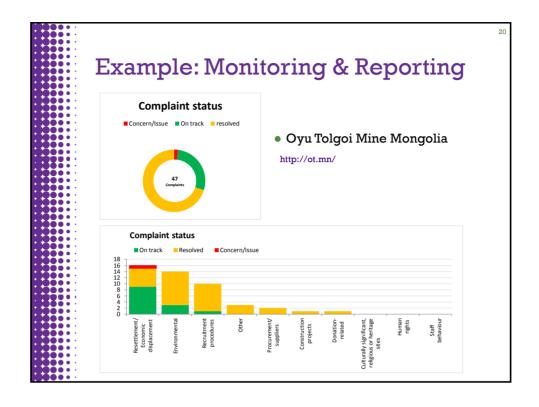
Grievance Monitoring, Reporting & Disclosure

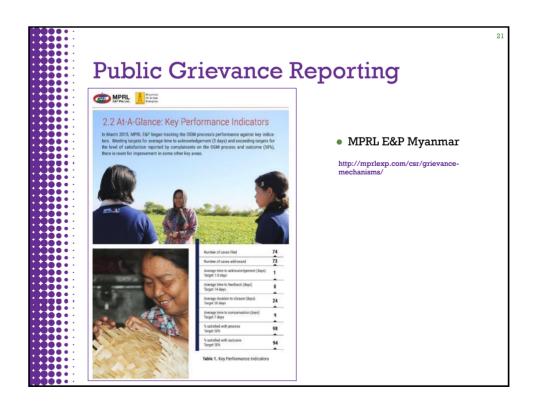
- Periodic internal monitoring & reporting of grievances
 - Sufficient detail to fully track, manage, and reduce grievances
 - To other company or government departments for action/resolution
 - To senior management / other departments
- Number of grievances during reporting period
 - E.g., received, closed, resolved, open, on-track, concern, etc
- Types ("categories") of grievances during reporting period
 - E.g., noise, compensation, safety, traffic, etc
- Regular disclosure on grievance process and outcomes to local communities and the public

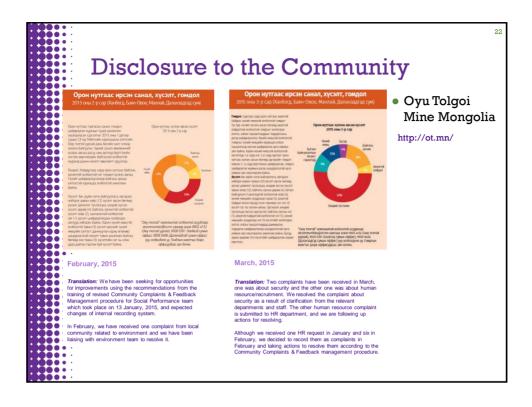
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No Date Category Canplaina nit(s) Description of Grievance Actions Taken / Resolution TD/IICA Expert Team) Sta						
	No	Date	Category	Complaina	Description of Grievance	(TSEZMC/MJ TD/JICA Sta











Who Can Use International
Grievance Mechanisms?

IFC/MIGA - Compliance Advisor Ombudsman	IFC financed projects in Myanmar
ADB - Accountability Mechanism	ADB financed projects in Myanmar
JICA - Objection Procedures	JICA financed projects in Myanmar
OECD Guidelines – National Contact Point	OECD based companies operating in Myanmar
WBG – Grievance Redress Service	World Bank funded projects in Myanmar

Some examples already exist in Myanmar of international grievance mechanisms being used, e.g., JICA/Thilawa SEZ; OECD Guidelines (Korea)/Daewoo

Operational Versus International Grievance Redress

Operational-level mechanisms:

- Should generally be the first step in the remedy process.....
- But, they are not going to be appropriate for all grievances (e.g., criminal activity, fatalities, serious injury, gross human rights violations)
- To be legitimate, must address the power imbalance between companies, government and complainants

International-level mechanisms:

- Some mechanisms are stronger than others (in terms of results)
- Some are more 'tested' with more proven resolutions/remedies
- Using these mechanisms often implies an effective outcome.....
- But, they do not always resolve affected persons' grievances or reduce ongoing risks for companies or governments

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Case Study: Thilawa SEZ Phase 1 Resettlement Program

 Example of grievance mechanism implementation with residents resettled by Thilawa SEZ

Complaints, Requests, Enquiries Status (Mar 2015 - July 2017)								
	Number of Con	nplaints, Requests a	nd Enquiries	Complaint Resolution / Request Closed Status				
	Complaints /Consultation	Requests/ Enquiries	Total	Resolved / Closed	On Track	Under Consideration		
Mar 2015	4	3	7	4+3=7	0	0		
Apr	2	24	26	2+24=26	0	0		
May	1	7	8	1+7=8	0	0		
Jun	0	16	16	16	0	0		
Jul	5	21	26	5+21=26	0	0		
Aug	0	29	29	29	0	0		
Sep	1	13	14	14	0	0		
Oct	2	10	12	2+10=12	0	0		
Nov	2	7	9	2+7=9	0	0		
Dec	1	0	1	1	0	0		
Jan 2016	1	5	6	1+5=6	0	0		
Feb	1	2	3	1+2=3	0	0		
Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Apr	0	2	2	2	0	0		
May	1	9	10	9	1	0		
Jun	1	1	2	1+1=2	0	0		
Jul	1	3	4	1+3=4	0	0		
Aug	1	2	3	1+2=3	0	0		
Sep	1	0	1	1	0	0		
Oct	1	1	2	1+1=2	0	0		
Nov	1	1	2	1+1=2	0	0		
Dec	1	1	2	1+1=2	0	0		
Jan 2017	0	9	9	9	0	0		
Feb	1	15	16	1+14=15	1	0		
Mar	0	11	11	11	0	0		
Apr	1	9	10	1+9=10	0	0		
May	1	8	9	8	1	0		
Jun	0	7	7	7	0	0		
Jul	3	6	9	3+6=9	0	0		
Total	34	222	256	253	3	0		

