

## UNITED NATIONS



### OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

#### Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 30 11 June 2008

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, making landfall in the Ayeyarwady Division and hitting the former capital, Yangon. Of 37 townships affected by the cyclone, 15 are considered to be 'worst-affected'. Current estimates suggest that 2.4 million people were affected and 1.3 million people are estimated to have been reached so far by International NGOs, the Red Cross and the UN. Official figures as of 16 May state that 77,738 people have been killed and 55,917 are missing.
2. A Tripartite Core Group (TCG), consisting of high-level representative of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the UN, was established at the donor conference on 25 May to oversee the coordination of relief assistance. The group's fourth meeting took place on 11 June.
3. A joint relief and early recovery assessment (Post-Nargis Joint Assessment/PONJA) commenced on 5 June with training, an official launch on 9 June and deployment of assessment teams on 10 June. 160 assessment personnel in 32 teams were dispatched to Yangon Division and 15 personnel from three hub coordination teams to Patheingyi, Bogale and Pyawbwe on 10 June. On 11 June 35 personnel in 7 teams departed to villages in Yangon Division, 125 personnel in 25 teams departed for Ayeyarwady Division and 10 personnel from two hub coordination teams left for Labutta and Wundwin. The assessment involves humanitarian needs and damage components: a Village Tract Assessment (VTA) and a Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA), for which field surveys in the 30 affected townships are planned between 10-19 June. Results from the VTA are expected before the end of June and will feed into a PONJA report and the revised Appeal. The assessment involves personnel from the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN member states, the UN, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, I/NGOs, the Myanmar Red Cross, the private sector and individual volunteers.
4. UN agencies report no major issues with obtaining visas, though in some cases delays of up to ten days have been reported. Overall, 195 visas have been issued to UN staff involved in the ongoing operation as of 10 June. Visas are being extended by the authorities without major obstacles. International NGOs are experiencing greater difficulties, with visa requests in some cases pending for up to three weeks. Despite some problems, it should be noted that several NGOs that have not worked in Myanmar before and do not have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Myanmar have still been issued with visas. NGO Merlin has received 16 travel authorisations for presence in the affected areas until the end of August. UN staff have been travelling to the Ayeyarwady delta in increasing numbers with Government approval and more than 90 international UN staff have visited the affected-areas as of 9 June (excluding the visit of the UN Secretary General). Some International NGOs report problems in accessing the affected areas, with reports of organizations being turned away at police checkpoints despite proper authorization and, at times, unexplained withdrawals of authorization.
5. The Government of Myanmar's New Light of Myanmar newspaper reports that 911 foreign aid workers were provided with visas between 5 May and 5 June 2008. 569 people have been authorized to work in the cyclone-affected areas during the same period. 458 visas were reportedly provided to staff from the UN and NGOs, 357 for nationals of ASEAN and

neighbouring countries to provide medical assistance and 96 visas for meeting attendees. The newspaper reports that 342 people provided with visas have left Myanmar during this time.

6. The Government of Myanmar's Minister of Planning briefed UN agencies, Inter-Governmental Organizations and I/NGOS on "Guiding Principles for carrying out aid and assistance activities for the cyclone victims" on 10 June. IASC members have expressed concern that, if followed, it will negatively affect ongoing emergency relief operations. Organizations are to seek approval for their activities from the relevant line Ministry and the Tripartite Core Group (TCG). Visas and importation of relief items are to be authorized by line Ministries and the TCG. Detailed listings of relief supplies and distribution plans are to be shared with line Ministries and Township Coordination Committees. Supplies are to be 'temporarily kept in Yangon'. Domestic travel arrangements are to be shared with line Ministries and Township Coordination Committees are to be informed of travel arrangements.
7. The Myanmar Cyclone Flash Appeal is appealing for US\$201 million for UN agencies and NGOs to meet the most urgent needs. The appeal is 42.6% funded as of 11 June, with firm contributions of US\$85 million and a further US\$51 million in uncommitted pledges. According to the OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) US\$168 million has been committed for all relief operations as of 11 June, with a further US\$108 million in uncommitted pledges. For updated information on financial contributions please visit the OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) website at <http://reliefweb.int/fts/>. Donors are encouraged to verify contributions and inform FTS of corrections and additional information at [fts@reliefweb.int](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int).

## NATIONAL RESPONSE

8. The New Light of Myanmar newspaper reports that Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who is also the Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC), continues with visits to cyclone-affected areas, visiting Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships on 10 June. This follows visits to the Delta by helicopter earlier this week.
9. IFRC reports that the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement has reached more than 250,000 beneficiaries with water, food and other relief items as of 9 June. More than 189,950 of the beneficiaries are located in the Ayeyarwady delta. Approximately 10,000 people per day are being reached. Some 11,000 families in Ayeyarwady division and the four worst-affected townships in the Yangon division have received shelter materials, family kits and hygiene kits in the last week. Distribution of shelter materials is a priority and distribution of more than 7,500 tarpaulins is planned in Kyaiklat, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Nagapudaw and Kungyangon. A total of 915 tonnes of Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement relief supplies have arrived in Yangon by air as of 8 June. There are currently four MRCS warehouses in Yangon and four logistics bases are currently being established at MRCS hubs in Labutta, Bogale, Pathein and Pyapon.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

10. The following information is provided by the clusters, which meet regularly to coordinate the humanitarian response of national and international NGOs, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and UN agencies. For more detailed up-to-date information relating to cluster activities please visit the Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) website: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org>. For the latest maps please visit: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/doc404?OpenForm&emid=TC-2008-000057-MMR&rc=3>

### 11. EARLY RECOVERY

#### Needs Assessment and Analysis

- Early recovery-related questions have been incorporated into the Village Tract Assessment (VTA). The findings from the VTA, coupled with previous assessments and information available with the clusters relevant to early recovery, will be incorporated into the revised appeal.

#### Overall Achievements

- An Early Recovery Network has been established to mainstream early recovery into relevant clusters. Draft guidance on a common approach has been developed and is being discussed with the clusters. It is also available on the HIC website.

- Thematic early recovery issues that would not be covered by other clusters are being identified for incorporation into the revised appeal.

### **Funding**

- The Early Recovery cluster is completely funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **12. EDUCATION**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis:**

- It is critical that children are not prevented from accessing school due to inability to pay school fees.
- Access to school is a crucial ingredient of ensuring the protection of children in emergencies.
- The Education Cluster is currently indentifying qualified personnel for the analysis of the VTA data.

### **Overall Achievements**

- In Yangon (4 townships) 152 primary schools roofs have been repaired using 14,636 roofing sheets. 46 temporary primary schools have been set up benefiting 7,248 children and 280 teachers. Essential learning packages consisting of items such as exercise books, pencils, erasers, a ruler and school bag, have been provided for 31,495 children and 118 Schools-in-a-Box and 74 Recreation Kits have also been distributed.
- In Ayeyarwady (7 townships) 256 primary schools roofs have been repaired using 29,330 roofing sheets and tarpaulin sheets. 98 tents have been provided to Labutta and Bogale townships for primary schooling. Essential learning packages have been provided for 267 children, and 267 Schools-in-a-Box and 267 Recreation Kits have also been distributed, potentially benefiting 21,360 children.

### **Challenges**

- There are concerns regarding the return of teachers to affected areas, many of whom come from northern regions.
- Psychosocial support for teachers and children, crucial for establishing normalcy, presents a continuing challenge.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- 11,264 roofing sheets will be distributed in Yangon townships for the establishment of 512 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) along with 1,250 tarpaulins/plastic sheetings.
- 79,266 roofing sheets will be distributed in Ayeyarwady townships for the establishment of 3,603 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) along with 8,750 tarpaulins/plastic sheetings.
- The education cluster is coordinating with the child protection cluster on psychosocial training and implications of lack of access to schools for child protection issues.

### **Funding**

- The Education cluster has received zero funding in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **13. EMERGENCY SHELTER**

### **Needs Assessments and Analysis**

- Reports from the field suggest that in low-lying areas the average family size is not five as previously presumed, but between two and three. This may in part be attributable to the high death-rate.

### **Overall Achievements**

- Field-based coordination has been strengthened with the establishment of an Emergency Shelter sub-cluster in Bogale, in addition to the sub-cluster already operational in Laputta.

### **Challenges**

- Lack of available assessment data is hampering a needs-based approach to shelter provision.
- Lack of involvement of national NGOs in the cluster remains a concern. The Burnet institute has offered to provide a representative to take notes in Burmese.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- A potential gap in the pipeline for plastic sheeting was identified and quickly addressed with donor support. Cluster partners have been asked to provide planning figures for efficient distribution of plastic sheets per township.

- An Emergency Shelter strategic advisory group has been established, with the participation of DFID, IFRC, IOM, the Mingalar Foundation, Save the Children, UN Habitat, UNHCR and UNICEF. The group is meeting weekly to develop a shelter strategy for the recovery phase, reporting to the main Emergency Shelter cluster.

#### **Funding**

- The Emergency Shelter cluster is 43% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

### **14. EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Overall Achievements**

- The emergency telecommunications cluster continues to provide communications support to the humanitarian community in Yangon, Laputta, Bogale, Pyapon, Mawlamgyun, Pathein and Bangkok.

#### **Challenges**

- Emergency telecommunications equipment has been held at customs for more than three weeks. Release of the equipment has been approved by the Government, but clearance is pending.
- Restrictions on official import of telecommunications equipment remain in place.
- Although the use of telecommunications equipment is prohibited in the Delta, some verbal approvals have been given in Laputta and Bogale.

#### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Strategy for importation of equipment to be finalised.
- Installation of an emergency telecommunications centre in Yangon is expected to begin this week.
- Equipment is required for the humanitarian hubs in the Delta.

#### **Funding**

- The Emergency Telecommunications cluster is 73% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

### **15. FOOD**

#### **Overall Achievements**

- 13,923 MT of WFP food assistance has been delivered to affected areas and 6,667 MT has been distributed since the emergency response began.
- WFP's cash transfer programme in Yangon has reached 16,448 people.
- WFP estimates that it has reached approximately 596,000 beneficiaries with varying rations and cash assistance in total. Detailed reports from NGOs delivering in remote areas have not been received and therefore the beneficiary numbers are not precise.
- To date, WFP helicopters have reached 26 locations that were previously not accessible for assistance, carrying 65 MT of food and 10 MT of non-food humanitarian relief items including shelter materials, as well as assisting medical teams to reach the most remote areas. Four new helicopters arrived 10 June, providing a total of 10 helicopters for delivery of relief assistance.

#### **Challenges**

- WFP has been asked by the Government of Myanmar to halt the cash transfer programme that began earlier this week due to issues relating to currency exchange.

#### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- 35 MT of ready-to-eat food for children arrived in Myanmar from India on June 10. These food supplies will feed 233,000 children under two years of age for one month. There have been continuing concerns regarding lack of food commodities for young children.

#### **Funding**

- The Food cluster is 21% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

### **16. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN (PCW)**

#### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- VTA pilot data from PCW focus group discussions and interviews has been received and will now be analysed. A data analysis working group from PCW Cluster agencies at the local, regional and global levels is being formed.

### Overall Achievements

- 48 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) are currently functioning in Yangon Division, with a further 24 CFSs Ayeyarwady Division. Some CFSs have been closed due to the closure of temporary settlements.
- A revised Code of Conduct to Prevent Any Form of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation has been circulated in Burmese and English and has been posted on the HIC website.
- Key Advocacy Messages for the Protection of Children and Women have been revised and distributed in English. A Burmese version is also being prepared.

### Challenges

- Child Protection agencies continue to advocate for family-based care within the community.

### Gaps and Future Planning

- A revised cluster response plan has been circulated and will be posted on the HIC website.
- The PCW cluster is developing key messages on non-discrimination and participation.

### Funding

- The PCW cluster is 25% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## CONTACTS

OCHA Yangon: Ms. Lianne Kuppens Mob: +95 (0) 9501 9430 Email: <a href="mailto:lianne.kuppens@undp.org">lianne.kuppens@undp.org</a>	OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific: Ms. Markus Werne Tel. +66 81 917 8940 Email: <a href="mailto:werne@un.org">werne@un.org</a>
Press Contact in Yangon: Mr. Aye Win (UN Information Centre) Tel: +95 (0)1 577057 Mob: +95 (0)9 5123 952 Email: <a href="mailto:aye.win@undp.org">aye.win@undp.org</a>	OCHA Press Contact in Bangkok: Ms. Amanda Pitt Tel: +66 (0) 2288 1195 Mob: +66 (0) 81374 1035 Email: <a href="mailto:pitta@un.org">pitta@un.org</a>
OCHA Asia and Pacific Desk New York: Ms. Agnes Asekenye-Oonyu Tel: +1 212 963 1773 Email: <a href="mailto:asekenye-oonyu@un.org">asekenye-oonyu@un.org</a>	OCHA Myanmar Desk New York: Mr. Ivan Lupis Tel. +1 917 367 2056 Email: <a href="mailto:lupis@un.org">lupis@un.org</a>
OCHA Press Contact in NY: Ms. Stephanie Bunker Tel: +1 917 476 6164 Email: <a href="mailto:bunker@un.org">bunker@un.org</a>	OCHA Press Contact in Geneva: Ms. Elizabeth Byrs Tel: +41 22 917 26 53 Email: <a href="mailto:byrs@un.org">byrs@un.org</a>