

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 31 13 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. 37 townships were significantly affected by the cyclone. Current estimates suggest that 2.4 million people were affected. 1.3 million of whom are estimated to have been reached so far by International NGOs, the Red Cross and the UN. The most recent official figures 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 representatives 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 fifth meeting will take place in Yangon on 14 June, hosted by ASEAN.
3. A joint relief and early recovery assessment (Post-Nargis Joint Assessment: 'PONJA') is currently underway. The assessment involves humanitarian needs and damage components: a Village Tract Assessment (VTA) and a Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA). Field surveys in 30 of the worst-affected townships are taking place between 10 and 19 June. As of 13 June 32 VTA teams have covered 31 of 128 'quadrants' in Patheingyi, Wakema, Labutta, Bogale, Pyawbwe and Yangon. Meanwhile, the 6 DaLA teams have covered 17 of 21 targeted townships. Some 250 assessment personnel are involved in the PONJA, including representatives of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN member states, the UN, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, I/NGOs, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the private sector and individual volunteers. Preliminary findings from the assessment are expected to be shared at the ASEAN roundtable meeting on 24 June and the finalized assessment report will be shared in mid-July.
4. The Tripartite Core Group (TCG) conducted a field visit on 13 June to monitor the PONJA. The mission travelled by helicopter to Labutta, Bogale and Pyawbwe townships, visited temporary settlements and met with assessment teams, local authorities and central government officials deployed to the field.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

5. IFRC reports that the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), working with the IFRC and the ICRC, has reached more than 250,000 beneficiaries with water, food and other relief items as of 9 June. More than 189,950 of these beneficiaries are located in the Ayeyarwady delta. Approximately 10,000 people per day are being reached.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

6. 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>

7. EDUCATION

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- Initial assessments indicate that 4,106 schools were damaged, most of which were primary schools. Of these, 1,255 had totally collapsed.

Overall Achievements

- In Yangon (4 townships) 152 primary school roofs (government, monastic and affiliated) have been repaired using 14,636 roofing sheets. 46 temporary 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 school roofs have been repaired using 29,330 roofing sheets and tarpaulin sheets. 98 tents have been provided to Labutta and Bogale townships. 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

- The cluster is making efforts to strengthen the engagement of the Ministry of Education (MoE) with cluster activities.
- UNICEF is the only partner with a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MoE.
- The work of the private sector with the repair and construction of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) is significant, and in this regard coordination between stakeholders at the township level, particularly with Township Education Officers is crucial for a comprehensive response.
- Coordination between stakeholders could be better in some townships, with private contractors carrying out repairs or construction of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) without informing Township Education Offices.
- Poor monitoring of distribution of materials for repairs and construction of TLSs.
- The pressure on private contractors to deliver materials quickly is affecting quality.
- The same pressure is leading to a focus on the most accessible areas, leaving harder-to-reach areas underserved.

Gaps and Future Planning

- UNICEF, with the assistance of implementing partners, plans to cover 2,000 schools targeting 360,000 children with a package consisting of teaching and learning spaces, teaching and learning materials, water and sanitation facilities for 1,000 schools and teacher training for 1,000 schools.
- UNICEF will partner with NGOs to cover 400 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres for repairs and ECD kits targeting 2,000 children under 5. UNICEF will also partner with the Ministry of Education and NGOs to cover 2,000 Non-formal Education (NFE) students aged 10-17 for learning spaces and NFE kits.
- Save The Children plans to reach 70,000 children and 2,080 teachers in the 13 worst-affected townships, focusing on 300 schools for teaching and learning materials and teacher training; 200 of these for rehabilitation or creation of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS); 120 ECCD/NFE Centres; and 100 communities for DRR training and plans.
- UNDP is planning to repair or reconstruct 800 schools.
- If all partners honour their commitments there will still be a shortage of at least 1,000 schools.

Funding

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

8. EMERGENCY SHELTER

Needs Assessments and Analysis

- Plastic sheeting and rope remain priority requirements for shelter cluster agencies.

Overall Achievements

- Distribution activities continue with indications that more than 160,000 households have been issued with some form of emergency shelter, typically plastic sheeting material.

Challenges

- Lack of available assessment data is hampering a needs-based approach to shelter provision.

- The procurement of plastic sheeting to agreed standards remains a challenge for some partners, although specifications have been shared and are also posted on the HIC website.

Gaps and Future Planning

- A gap in the pipeline for plastic sheeting remains. Continued donor support is needed.
- The cluster is requesting for partners to provide planning figures for efficient distribution of plastic sheets at the township level.

Funding

- The Emergency Shelter cluster is 47% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

9. FOOD

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- A summary of the 'Post-Nargis Food Security Survey' conducted by WFP in Yangon has been published and is now available on the HIC website.

Overall Achievements

- 14,367 MT of WFP food assistance has been delivered to affected areas, 6,667 MT of which has been distributed in collaboration with partners.
- WFP and partners have reached 580,000 beneficiaries with varying rations of food and a further 33,000 beneficiaries with cash assistance in lieu of food.

Challenges

- Delivery and monitoring in remote areas continue to pose challenges. 20 boats donated by ECHO for monitoring purposes will be allocated to 12 organizations in the food cluster operating in the Delta.
- Frequent population movements are creating challenges with the targeting of food assistance.

Gaps and Future Planning

- WFP is planning to deliver 113 MT of rice and 6 MT of high energy biscuits by helicopter next week to 8 previously inaccessible locations in Bogale.
- Ready to Use Food for Children (RUFC) is not yet included in the WFP food basket. Distribution is expected to begin shortly following identification of implementing partners and target areas.
- Identification of storage locations closer to distribution sites is underway.

Funding

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

10. HEALTH

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- The health cluster debriefed the outgoing Japanese medical team on 10 June. The team operated in Labutta over a ten day period, treating injuries, acute respiratory infections, malaria, measles, dengue fever and mental disorders. The team consisted of 30 persons including four doctors, nurses, a lab technician, a logistician and seven interpreters. In the debrief session the team emphasized the need for medical teams to prepare for local climate conditions, the necessity for pre-packed food and the need to spend funds locally for medicine and food items. The participation of a government-assigned medical officer, who provided guidance with adapting treatments to local needs, was welcomed.

Overall Achievements

- An action plan for dengue prevention and control in cyclone-affected areas has been developed by the health cluster and the Ministry of Health (MoH). Implementation is expected to begin next week using WHO and UNICEF resources in conjunction with local authorities and national NGO partners. The first priority will be affected areas of Yangon Division, which has the highest rate of cases.
- UNICEF has, in partnership with the Myanmar Health Assistants Association and Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association, deployed 32 health assistants to Laputta, Bogale and Pyapon. An additional 39 health assistants, 16 nurses and 24 midwives are awaiting deployment.

Gaps and Future Planning

- A working plan for psychosocial support to the affected population has been finalized and will be circulated shortly. Burmese translation is in process and is expected to be finished next week.

Funding

- The Health cluster is 77% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

11. LOGISTICS

Overall Achievements

- 2,649 MT of cargo, including 1,899 MT of food, was dispatched by the logistics cluster between 20 May and 12 June 2008.
- 33 remote areas were reached by helicopter between 2 and 13 June. Helicopters facilitated visits by medical teams to 4 remote areas from Labutta and one helicopter was used for the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) PONJA assessment monitoring mission on 13 June. One further helicopter has now been provided to facilitate the DaLA assessment.
- Detailed information on logistics can be found at the Logistics Cluster webpage: <http://www.logcluster.org/mm08a/>

Funding

- The Logistics cluster is 12% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

12. NUTRITION

Needs assessment and Analysis

- Pre-crisis figures for levels of acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition are relatively high at around 9% and 32% respectively (MICS 2003). High numbers of malnourished children have not so far been identified during screenings and rapid nutrition assessments in cyclone-affected areas using MUAC and conducted by ACF, MSF, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- Estimated levels of acute malnutrition using MUAC for children 6-59 months old in worst-affected areas is 6.5% and 3.9% for moderate and severe categories respectively.
- The numbers of children in the 'at risk' category in Ayeyarwady and Yangon (17.4% and 14.7% respectively) are high. MSF reports that up to 27% of under-fives are in the 'at risk' category according to a MUAC survey in Bogale.
- Rapid assessments indicate low food security (ACF May 08 and WFP May 08). WFP identified 36% of households as severely food insecure and 44% as moderately food insecure in the 16 worst-affected townships in Yangon Division. Other assessments have highlighted disrupted/poor infant feeding practices (SCUK May 08).
- Measures to improve food availability, provide sufficiently energy-dense foods for young children, protect appropriate infant feeding, and ensure environmental sanitation and adequate health care services are vital.

Overall achievements

- The cluster has been working with the MoH to develop technical standards for the management of acute malnutrition and actions relating to infant-feeding in emergencies.
- UNICEF is supporting MoH with provision of Vitamin A supplementation and therapeutic feeding facilities at hospitals in affected areas. Two hospitals have been initiated and four are in process.
- More than 200 MT of therapeutic food provided by UNICEF has been distributed to partners and WFP has recently imported 40 MT of special complementary food for children aged 6-23 months.

Gaps and Future Planning

- There is a shortage of trained workers for management of acute malnutrition, including breast-feeding counsellors and nutritionists.
- Standard guidelines, training materials and a listing of trainers/resource persons at MoH and within NGOs are being developed.

Funding

- The Nutrition cluster is 41% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

13. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN (PCW)

Overall Achievements

- Family tracing, registration and reunification are being carried out at temporary settlements, shelters and villages.

- Mobile health clinics are attending to reproductive health needs in Kungyangon, Bogale and Shwepyitha, and temporary outreach clinics to provide maternity facilities to assist with safer deliveries are planned.
- Child-friendly spaces (CFSs) are being established in villages, shelters and temporary settlements on an ongoing basis. In Yangon Division, a total of 48 CFSs are functioning, and in Ayeyarwady Division a total of 24 CFSs have been set up. Some previously established CFSs are now closed due to the evacuation and closure of temporary settlements/shelters
- The PCW cluster is coordinating with the education cluster on issues relating to psychosocial support and training and child protection-related issues related to lack of access to schools.

Challenges

- Child Protection agencies continue to advocate for family-based care within the community.
- There are large numbers of vulnerable children and families in affected villages, including substantial numbers of female, child and elderly-headed households. Many children, who prior to the cyclone provided farm labour in the villages, may now seek work in larger towns or Yangon due to the destruction of farms in their communities.
- School enrolment for a number of children is a challenge due to the destruction of schools and the difficulties families face paying school fees, replacing text books, uniforms, and lost certification. Significant numbers of children unable to access schools present major protection issues.

Funding

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

FUNDING

14. The Myanmar Cyclone Flash Appeal is appealing for US\$201 million for UN agencies and NGOs to address the most urgent humanitarian needs. The appeal is 45.5% funded as of 13 June, with firm contributions of US\$91 million and a further US\$50 million in uncommitted pledges. According to the OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) US\$202 million has been committed for all relief operations as of 13 June, with a further US\$98 million in uncommitted pledges.
15. For updated information on financial contributions visit the OCHA 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.

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