

## UNITED NATIONS



### OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

#### Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 32 16 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 people are estimated to have been reached so far by International NGOs, the Red Cross and the UN. Official figures put the number of dead or missing at more than 130,000.
2. A Tripartite Core Group (TCG), consisting of high-level representatives of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the UN, was established at a donor conference in Yangon on 25 May to oversee the coordination of relief assistance. The group's fifth meeting took place in Yangon on 14 June. The ASEAN Secretary-General, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, visited Yangon on 14 June. The Secretary-General met with TCG partners, PONJA management teams (see below) and Government representatives.
3. A joint relief and early recovery assessment (Post-Nargis Joint Assessment/PONJA) is underway. The assessment involves humanitarian needs (Village Tract Assessment/VTA) and damage components (Damage and Loss Assessment/DaLA). Field surveys involving some 250 assessment personnel are taking place in 30 of the worst-affected townships between 10 and 19 June. As of 16 June 32 VTA teams have covered 84 out of 128 assessment 'quadrants' in Bogale, Labutta, Pathein, Pyapon, Wakema and Yangon.
4. New Government guidelines for international organizations providing assistance in cyclone-affected areas were introduced on 10 June. UN agencies and NGOs report difficulties with requests for visas and travel authorizations carried out in accordance with the new guidelines, with many line ministries not provided with instructions to expedite requests. More than 200 visas have been issued to UN staff as of 15 June. Most of the visas issued have been single entry visas for two weeks. Extensions are currently being approved in approximately 7-10 days. Close to 150 international operational UN staff have been to the affected areas as of 15 June, and at least five international UN staff have now been given permission to be based for up to 3 months in the field.

#### NATIONAL RESPONSE

5. The Xinhua news service reports that the Myanmar Engineers' Society (MES) and the Geological Science Society (GSS) are planning to build cyclone shelters in 500 vulnerable villages. The total cost of the project is estimated to be at least US\$15 million. Designs are reportedly being developed by MES and sample shelters will initially be constructed in Ayeyarwady division.
6. 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

7. 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>.

## **8. 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.
- “Build back better” – safe and child-friendly schools must be a top priority.
- It is critical to address the psychosocial needs of children and teachers to ensure that normalcy can be restored as soon as possible.

### **Overall Achievements**

- In Yangon (4 townships) 152 primary schools 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 have been provided for 37,045 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 to provide Temporary Learning Spaces. Tarpaulins have been provided to 18 schools in Wakema township. 2,200 roofing sheets have been sent to Bogale. Essential learning packages have been provided for 3,000 children in Labutta, 10,000 children in Bogale, 10,000 children in Mawlamyinegyun and 10,000 children in Pyapon. 367 Schools-in-a-Box and 317 Recreation Kits have been distributed, benefiting 29,360 children.
- An informal school in a camp in Labutta has been established by high school students to teach younger students at primary and middle school level.

### **Challenges**

- Some school buildings are in need of extensive repair work.
- Transportation of tents for Temporary Learning Spaces and establishment in extreme weather.
- Training of volunteer teachers in some parts of the delta.
- Support is required for children transitioning from middle to high school and from high school to undergraduate studies.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Initial assessments indicate 4,106 schools damaged, most of which were primary schools. Of these, 1,255 had totally collapsed.
- UNICEF and partners plan to cover 2,000 schools targeting 360,000 children with teaching and learning spaces, teaching and learning materials, water and sanitation facilities for 1,000 schools and teacher training for 1,000 schools. 400 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres will be targeted for repairs and ECD kits will target 2,000 children under 5. Ministry of education (MoE) and NGOs will 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 ECD/NFE Centres; and 100 communities for disaster risk reduction training and plans.
- UNDP is planning to repair or reconstruct 800 schools.
- If all partners honour their commitments this will still leave 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).

## **9. FOOD**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- Post-distribution monitoring and assessment is on-going in Labutta township, where one month's distribution of food rations has now been completed.

### **Overall Achievements**

- 15,224 MT of food assistance has been delivered to affected areas as of 16 June, with 6,667 MT of food distributed.
- Approximately 580,000 beneficiaries have been reached with varying rations of food and another 33,000 with weekly cash assistance. Distribution figures are currently being collected and verified at the field level.

### **Challenges**

- Frequent population movements are creating challenges with the targeting of food assistance.
- There are some delays with the deployment of NGO partner field staff in some areas.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Revision of the caseload and targeted population is currently underway.
- Ready to Use Food for Children (RUFC) is not currently included in the WFP food basket. Distribution will begin when suitable partners and target areas have been finalized. Food cluster partners are also planning local production of rice-based blended food for young children.

### **Funding**

- The Food cluster is 44% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **10. HEALTH**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- Health cluster partners have released the first disease surveillance bulletin in cyclone affected areas based on the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS). Between 1-7 June, 685 cases of acute respiratory infections, 117 cases of bloody diarrhoea, 542 cases of acute diarrhoea, 337 cases of trauma/injuries, 10 cases of measles, 5 cases of malaria and three cases of suspected dengue hemorrhagic fever were reported.
- 781 cases of dengue fever were reported in Yangon as of June 10, with 481 cases reported in the delta through the end of May.

### **Overall Achievements**

- The health cluster and Ministry of Health have developed a plan of action for dengue prevention and control. Dengue is endemic to Myanmar and the number of cases is expected to rise due to a possible increase in mosquito breeding sites after the cyclone. More than 1,700 volunteers will target 22 priority areas in Yangon and Ayeyarwady with larvicide distribution over a ten-day period beginning this week. State-run media and volunteers from the Myanmar Red Cross and other organizations will also be conveying public health messages.

### **Challenges**

- The quality and availability of water remains a major health concern. Health cluster standards and guidelines in water quality management are being applied.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Health cluster partners in collaboration with Ministry of Health are planning field visits during the coming weeks to provide technical assistance on the ground, to help monitor the health response activities, identify gaps and plan further interventions.

### **Funding**

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

## **11. LOGISTICS**

### **Overall Achievements**

- 3,117 MT of cargo, including 2,036 MT of food, was dispatched by the logistics cluster between 20 May and 15 June 2008.
- 46 remote areas have been reached by helicopter between 2 and 15 June. 109 rotations have been made, distributing 124 MT of food and 25 MT of non-food items.
- A child suffering from haemorrhagic dengue fever was medevaced using a cargo helicopter flight from Bogale to Yangon on 14 June.

- The following warehouse space is currently available at five field-based logistics hubs: Pyapon 2,160 sqm; Bogale: 1,680 sqm; Mawlanyaingyun: 2,000 sqm; Labutta: 1,840 sqm; Pathein: 800 sqm.
- Detailed information on logistics can be found at the Logistics Cluster webpage: <http://www.logcluster.org/mm08a/>

#### **Funding**

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

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

#### **Overall Achievements**

- Child-friendly spaces (CFSs) are being established in villages, shelters and temporary settlements on an ongoing basis. In Yangon Division, a total of 58 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) are functioning, and in Ayeyarwady Division a total of 53 CFS have been set up.
- Family tracing, registration and reunification 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.

#### **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).

### **13. WATER AND SANITATION (WASH)**

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

- The WASH Strategic Advisory Group met for the first time on 13 June. The group is tasked with revising the WASH strategy to incorporate early recovery activities.

#### **Overall Achievements**

- 20 water treatment units have been deployed in the delta region. A total of 50 units are now in-country. Training for local staff on the use of the units is ongoing. Treatment plants are supplying potable drinking water to nearly 250,000 people (3 litres per person per day).
- Disinfectant for over 6 million litres of water a day is being distributed daily, covering the needs of approximately 2 million people.
- Technical guidelines for rainwater harvesting, household water treatment, water-testing and pond rehabilitation have been completed and are now being used in the field.

#### **Challenges**

- Scarce information about population movements makes systematic service provision difficult.
- Progress with sanitation is slow at the village-level due to the high water table. A technical working group is being formed to find solutions.

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

- Service provision in the southern delta is still extremely slow due to lack of logistic assets and lack of suitably skilled staff.
- There is an urgent need to send skilled personnel (technicians for the water treatment plants, hydro-geologists, hygiene promoters, sanitation engineers) to the affected area to establish systematic operations.

#### **Funding**

- The WASH cluster is 115% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## FUNDING

14. The Government of Myanmar's New Light of Myanmar newspaper reports that individual cash and in-kind donations amounting to 12,418 million Kyat have been accepted by the Government's financial sub-committee as of 15 June. The Government of Myanmar is welcoming direct donations through the donation centre of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction sub-committee of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC) and through District and Township Peace and Development Councils.
15. The Myanmar Cyclone Flash Appeal is appealing for US\$202 million for UN agencies and NGOs to address the most urgent humanitarian needs. The appeal is 62% funded as of 16 June, with firm contributions of US\$125 million and a further US\$25 million in uncommitted pledges. According to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS) US\$236 million has been committed for all relief operations as of 16 June, with a further US\$70 million in uncommitted pledges.
16. 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](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int).

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