

## UNITED NATIONS



### OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

#### Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 38 7 July 2008

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. An estimated 2.4 million people were severely affected by Cyclone Nargis, equivalent to more than one third of the population of 7.3 million in the affected townships.

#### UPDATE ON VISAS

2. Since 20 June, all applications for visas and visa-extensions have been processed by the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) mechanism, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). During the past five weeks, the TCG, through MOFA, have approved more than 400 visas for internationals from the UN, INGOs, Inter-governmental organizations, and IFRC/ICRC working on the response to Cyclone Nargis.

As of 7 July, 317 visas have been approved for UN staff, with 13 requests pending. Visas are now issued within 2-3 days of the application being sent to the TCG. The majority of visas are given as single-entry visas with an initial duration of 2 weeks. Single-entry visa-extensions are then granted, upon application, when the staff is in-country.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are handling all requests for travel to the areas affected by cyclone Nargis for international staff. The average processing-time for such requests are 4-5 days. More than 270 international UN staff and at least as many international staff from NGOs have travelled to affected areas as of 7 July.

#### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

3. 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. More detailed information on cluster activities is available at: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org>.

#### **4. NUTRITION**

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

- The prevalence of 'at-risk' children (6-59 months) is reported the highest, with 34%, in Pyapon district.
- The nutrition cluster has agreed on five key indicators to monitor response - percentage of estimated children aged 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation in the last six months; estimated percentage of children under five years of age having acute malnutrition; estimated percentage of children under five years of age in 'at-risk' category; number of children under five years of age and pregnant/lactating women receiving therapeutic/supplementary feeding; and number of materials distributed/eligible women educated on infant feeding.

##### **Overall Achievements**

- Micronutrient supplementation and identification/management of acute malnutrition is ongoing, utilizing existing State and NGO structures and mechanisms.
- More than 200 tons of ready-to-use therapeutic food has been distributed by UNICEF to partners.
- Four hospital-based therapeutic units have been established by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in collaboration with UNICEF.

- Standards for management of acute malnutrition, recommendations for Infant Feeding in Emergency and National Guidelines related to micronutrient supplementation have been compiled, finalized and widely circulated.

#### **Challenges**

- Population movement hinders targeted response planning.
- Better coordination and information management at township level are needed for micro-planning.

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

- More outreach services are needed for the most affected areas at village/community level.
- Community-based nutrition centres need to be backed up by hospital nutrition units to treat severely malnourished children with complications.

### **5. FOOD**

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

- The date of completion of the WFP Market Assessment Survey in the Delta has been postponed to 9 July, with analysis expected to be completed by 11 July.

#### **Overall Achievements**

- As of 7 July, a total of 19,733 tons of food assistance was delivered to the affected areas, of which 14,564 tons were distributed.
- Prior to the cessation of cash transfer activities on 30 June, Save the Children distributed an additional US\$ 41,000 amongst 11,679 beneficiaries. The total distribution prior to and between suspensions amounted to US\$ 221,711.
- On 5 July, a total of 580 tons of food commodities (300 tons rice, 200 tons pulses and 80 tons oil) were sent to Labutta.
- On 7 July, 250 tons of rice and 100 tons of pulses were dispatched to Pyapon, alleviating the rice pipeline break experienced at the Sub-Office since 30 June.
- On 5 July, a Distribution and Post-Distribution Monitoring training was conducted for a total of 26 field staff in Pyapon. In total, 77 WFP and partner staff have been trained in Bogale, Labutta and Pyapon. Partners interested in having their staff participate in this, or subsequent rounds of training, should contact [Parvathy.Ramaswami@wfp.org](mailto:Parvathy.Ramaswami@wfp.org) or [Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org](mailto:Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org).

#### **Challenges**

- Prohibition of local rice purchases and lack of new financial contributions remain key challenges.

### **6. AGRICULTURE**

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

- The estimated number of livestock killed in eleven most affected townships in Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions are: 227,268 large ruminants (of which 122,524 were mature draught animals); 66,000 pigs; 1,134,000 poultry; 498,000 ducks; and 7,000 goats. The most seriously affected were Labutta and Bogale, where over 70% and 51% of the large ruminants were killed respectively.
- Feed reserves, such as rice straws, bran and cakes have either been washed away or became unusable due to salt water intrusion. Cattle sheds and livestock pens have also been destroyed.

#### **Overall Achievements**

- 600 buffaloes are being distributed to 300 affected farming households. 900 households will indirectly benefit from the same herd by renting them.
- 50,000 doses of animal vaccines against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Haemorrhage Septicaemia are being distributed in the 11 affected townships. FAO is also distributing 3,000 litres of disinfectants to the affected areas to contain FMD.

#### **Challenges**

- Seasonal vaccination cycle has been hindered due to the breakdown of general infrastructure and damage to veterinary stations.
- Proper disposal of dead animals remains a key concern.
- Surviving 434,581 cattle and buffaloes, 262,000 pigs, over 5.5 million chicken and 0.9 million ducks are weak and susceptible to diseases, need feed and clean water to survive.

## **7. EMERGENCY SHELTER**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- Plastic sheeting remains a priority.
- Household relief kits still show a large shortfall in distributions.

### **Overall Achievements**

- Over 442,000 plastic sheets, 23,000 community toolkits, 186,000 blankets, 620,000 mosquito nets, 273,000 jerry cans and 63,000 kitchen sets have been distributed by the cluster.

### **Challenges**

- Accounting for total distributed relief items by location remains a challenge.

## **8. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

### **Overall Achievements**

- Over 350 ponds have been cleaned.
- Distribution of disinfectants for drinking water is ongoing.
- Rainwater collection is increasing, representing the main source of freshwater in the most affected areas.
- 29 water treatment units are in place. A total of 50 units are already in the country. Training for local staff on the use of the units is ongoing in Yangon and in the field. The treatment plants are now supplying potable drinking water to nearly 250,000 people (3 litres/person /per day)

### **Challenges**

- Progress in terms of sanitation is relatively slow in the villages, both due to technical difficulties (high water table) and behavior (pre-cyclone sanitation coverage as per government figures was 25%). The cluster is discussing suitable technical options. A technical working group has been formed on this issue.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- An exit strategy for water treatment units needs to be planned.

## **9. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN**

### **Overall Achievements**

- A two-day meeting on Alternative Care for separated, unaccompanied and orphaned children is being held on 7 and 8 July. The workshop aims not only to review the post-Nargis situation and assist those organizations working in the field, but also to assess the challenges facing these organizations.
- On July 3, the Department of Social Welfare (DWS) informed that the National Plan of Action had been passed on for approval. UNFPA is also supporting DSW to develop an assessment tool for data collection for the NPA.
- Cluster partners continue to support 58 Child-Friendly Spaces in Yangon Division and 74 in Ayeyarwady Division.

## **10. HEALTH**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- Bogale and Labutta have the highest proportion of diarrhoea, fever, cold and skin rashes.
- Health cluster supports the plan of International Office of Migration for its referral initiative. This initiative aims to help transport sick mothers, children and severely sick people to the level of referred health care.

### **Overall Achievements**

- UNICEF, Merlin and Save the Children are coordinating health interventions in different affected townships.

### **Challenges**

- Coordinated efforts from water, sanitation, agriculture and education sectors are required for effective response.

## **11. EDUCATION**

### **Overall Achievements**

- In Yangon (11 townships) 453 schools have benefited from supplies and 163 schools have been repaired using 16,271 roofing sheets. Essential learning packages have been provided to 56,548 children and 435 Schools-in-a-Box and 484 Recreation Kits have been distributed to schools, potentially benefiting 34,800 children. 148 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Kits have also been distributed.
- In Ayeyarwady (10 townships) 873 schools have benefited from supplies and 267 school roofs have been repaired using 29,654 roofing sheets and tarpaulins. 113 tents have been provided and 72 have been set up to provide Temporary Learning Spaces. School furniture has been provided to 55 schools in Labutta and Bogale. Essential learning packages have been provided for 80,000 children in 7 Delta townships. In addition, 372 Schools-in-a-Box and 353 Recreation Kits have been distributed, potentially benefiting 29,760 children. 105 ECD Kits have also been distributed.

### **Challenges**

- Communication and coordination between the Township Education Officer and the private companies in charge of repair and building of temporary schools continues to present a challenge. Lack of information sharing has led to some duplication of efforts and waste of resources. The private companies are not contracted under the Ministry of Education (MoE), making it more difficult to coordinate with them, and necessitating direct contacts with a number of different companies to obtain lists of the schools they are planning to cover. Unfortunately, sometime the companies themselves are not fully aware of these until the last minute.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- MoE has put construction of new schools on hold until after the monsoon season. This provides a window of opportunity for planning and design during the rainy season, and time to tender for construction contractors (which usually takes around 8 weeks).

## **12. EARLY RECOVERY**

### **Overall Achievements**

- As of 7 July 2008, UNDP continues to implement follow-up activities in the 250 villages identified and covered during Phase I of its early recovery Basic Services Package (BSP), currently reaching a population of 114,102 in 27,673 households.
- Phase II of the BSP will cover an additional 500 villages.
- Follow-up activities encompass regular checks on monsoon paddy planting, ongoing support to Self Reliance Groups (SRGs) and continuation of current community works and planning for future needs. This includes clearing debris in community areas, such as footpaths, school and monastery compounds and ponds, and ensuring the provision of support for shelter and other in-kind livelihoods assistance.
- UNDP continues to simultaneously deliver emergency relief items in partnership with other UN agencies and NGOs, with beneficiaries in excess of 182,000, as well as continued follow-up with those who have previously received assistance.

## **13. LOGISTICS**

### **Overall Achievements**

- As of 6 July, the Logistics cluster has facilitated 128 flights from Bangkok.
- As of 6 July, helicopter operations have been able to reach 100 remote locations with 547.7 MT of food and 107.1 MT of non-food items through 560 rotations.

### **Challenges, gaps and future planning**

- Due to technical difficulties, Ilyushin 76 cannot fly. A replacement is being sought. The Antonov 12 continues to fly two rotations per day, but for the moment the airbridge is functioning at reduced capacity.
- The airbridge from Bangkok to Yangon cannot accommodate any additional cargo requests. Organizations are requested to bring cargo from Bangkok into Myanmar through their own means.
- With reduced number of helicopters and airbridge capacity, the Logistics cluster will provide support in accordance to priorities set forth by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the results of the PONJA assessment.

## **14. EMERGENCY TELE-COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Overall Achievements**

- ETC shipment from Don Muang/ Bangkok has been received in Yangon. Packing and shipment to the Delta region have started.
- The backup satellite system for Yangon PABX has been installed.
- The cluster has been looking at the possibility of building towers locally and looking for suitable companies.
- Locally purchased desktop computers have been received, configured and ready for distribution for Logistics Cluster and EMOP.
- New data satellite system will be installed at WFP offices and will connect through wireless link to Logistics cluster warehouse.

### **Challenges**

- Equipment is still held in customs.
- Restriction on official imports of telecommunications equipment remains.
- Use of telecommunications equipment in Delta region is still prohibited.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Split, pack and ship ETC equipment to Delta region.
- Prepare updated standard Inter-Agency radio code-plugs.
- Follow up finding a space for ETC repeater in Pyapon.
- Continue installation of short distance communications in vehicles.
- Receive incoming shipment from Dubai, make inventory and ship onward to the field offices.
- Follow up Purchase of CDMA telephones for the COMCENS
- Plan installation and prepare construction of base for WFP data satellite communication in Bogale.

## **FUNDING**

The Flash Appeal is currently under revision, to enable the humanitarian community to respond to both relief and early recovery needs. Updated pending figures will be provided in the next sitrep.

**Please send updated information to the following address: [ochamyanmar@undp.org](mailto:ochamyanmar@undp.org)**

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