

## UNITED NATIONS



### OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

#### Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 40 17 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. Nearly 140,000 died or are missing, among which an estimated 55% were female. On 10 July, a Revised Appeal<sup>1</sup> was launched to address the remaining relief and early recovery needs of the severely affected population.
2. On 21 July, the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) report will be simultaneously launched in Singapore and Myanmar<sup>2</sup>.

#### NATIONAL RESPONSE

3. In Labutta township, the Minister for Cooperatives has directed the Township Coordination Committee (TCC) to facilitate the return of internally displaced families (IDPs) and to provide each returning family with food packages and shelter kits. The TCC, however, has indicated that it does not have enough supply of tarpaulins. As of 14 July, there are 7,472 persons remaining in three camps. The government has indicated that shelter and non-food items, food, and educational kits for school children would be a big help to the returning families.
4. According to authorities in Pyapon township, 124 families, originally from two islands (Khatta and Gadonle) off the southern coast of Pyapon, are still displaced in Ka Don Ka Ni village tract. The authorities report that they are building houses for these families and have provided boats, fishing nets and other equipment. 36 houses have reportedly been completed. There are at this stage no other displaced populations in both Pyapon and Kyaiklat townships.

#### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

5. 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>.

#### **6. FOOD**

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

- The Household Food Security Assessment is being planned for August.

##### **Overall Achievements**

- As of 17 July, a total of 22,459 tons of food assistance have been delivered to the affected areas, of which 19,829 tons have been distributed.
- Clearance of 500 tons of rice imported from India is ongoing. The second tranche of 875 tons is expected to arrive during the first week of August.

<sup>1</sup> On 9 May, a US\$ 201 million flash appeal was issued to address urgent relief needs.

<sup>2</sup> This joint assessment was organized to cover humanitarian needs (Village Tract Assessment/VTA) and damage components (Damage and Loss Assessment/DaLA) with support from the Government of Myanmar, Association of South East Asian Nations member states and the United Nations.

- Arrangements continue for the procurement of 5,000 tons of rice from Thailand.
- The dispatch of food commodities from Yangon into the Delta is ongoing, and includes:
  - 380 tons of rice delivered to Bogale on 15 July;
  - 295 tons of rice delivered to Labutta on 17 July; and
  - 370 tons of rice and 179 tons of pulses delivered to Pyapon between 15 and 17 July.
- Distribution and Post-Distribution Monitoring training will continue to be available periodically to staff in the field. Partners interested in having their staff participate should contact [Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org](mailto:Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org).

### **Challenges**

- The prohibition of local rice purchases will continue to pose a challenge. The successful and urgent conduct of regional procurement is a high priority in order to avoid pipeline breaks.
- There still are logistical challenges in transporting sizeable quantities of commodities into the Delta for rapid dispatch to partners.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Following the discontinuation of cash transfer activities, planning is ongoing, in collaboration with applicable Cluster partners, for the provision of short-term relief food distributions for 200,000 targeted beneficiaries in the Yangon Division.

### **Funding**

- The Food cluster is 29% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). However, the cluster has received indications of partial funding from the US and Australian governments.

## **7. EMERGENCY SHELTER**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- Household relief kits (NFIs) continue to have the most significant shortfall.
- Plastic sheeting shortages remain.

### **Overall Achievements**

- The cluster, with the assistance of Myanmar Information Management Unit, has begun producing relief coverage maps indicating shortfalls in distribution and potential for duplication.
- A Technical Working Group, with representation from the Government of the Union of Myanmar, has been created to define parameters for early recovery shelter.

### **Challenges**

- Overlaps in planned coverage have become very high for some townships in Ayeyarwady as more agencies submit their data. Coordination will need to improve at the township/hub level in order to avoid overlapping between agencies in the future.
- Accounting for distributions continues to be challenging with distributions difficult to track in all areas.
- Setting up of hub database and system for consolidation continues.

### **Coordination**

- UN-HABITAT will be the Shelter cluster lead as of 2 August.

### **Funding**

- The Shelter cluster is 53% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

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

### **Overall Achievements**

- 11,388 affected families in 34 villages in Mawlamyngyun township have benefited from treated water, water containers and hygiene kits.
- Pond rehabilitation, open wells and drilling of new tube wells are being carried out in 25 villages in Bogale, Kyaiklat, Pyapon and Dedaye townships.
- Hygiene promotion activities, distribution of treated water and latrine construction are being carried out in two townships of Ngapudaw.

## **Funding**

- The WASH cluster is 36% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **9. HEALTH**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- Cases of Dengue haemorrhagic fever are decreasing.

### **Overall Achievements**

- Medicines and medical equipment are being delivered to peripheral health facilities.
- The cluster has been facilitating coordination between Township Medical Officers, NGOs and other stakeholders to strengthen immunization activities, investigate disease outbreaks, and identify gaps and required response.

### **Challenges and Gaps**

- Some affected areas are still inaccessible.
- Supply of clean delivery kits is still inadequate.
- There is a need for guidelines on health education for peripheral health service providers.

## **Funding**

- The Health cluster is 36% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **10. EDUCATION**

### **Overall Achievements**

In 21 affected townships:

- 455 schools have benefited from repairs (using 49,635 roofing sheets).
- 771 Temporary Safe Learning Spaces have been established to allow children to continue their education.
- 143,489 girls and boys have benefited from student kits containing essential learning materials.

## **Funding**

- The Education cluster is 32% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **11. LOGISTICS**

### **Overall Achievements**

- As of 16 July, the Logistics cluster has facilitated 157 flights from Bangkok.
- As of 16 July, helicopter operations have been able to reach 103 remote locations through 672 rotations.
- As of 16 July, cargo dispatched within Myanmar by road, helicopter and waterways totals to 7,665.7 mt of food and non-food items.

### **Challenges and Future Planning**

- As of 14 July, the Logistics Cluster stopped accepting Cargo Movement Requests (CMR) for cargo movement from Bangkok. Cargo from local suppliers in Bangkok for which a CMR has been filed but which is not yet at the staging area will now be loaded directly into containers for sea shipment at the supplies warehouses. While organisations must now bring cargo into Myanmar by their own means, the Logistics Cluster will continue to facilitate air services including handling, clearance and offloading, up until its end date of 10 August.
- The airbridge to Yangon is at capacity for the remainder of the Logistics Cluster operation. All remaining cargo at the staging area which cannot be transported by air will now be shipped by sea. 157 containers have already been secured on existing liner vessels over the next three weeks on a number of different sailings. Up to 240 containers may be needed in all. The transit time by sea is estimated to be 10 to 14 days, which means containers will start arriving in Yangon at the end of the

month. Some cargo will arrive after common service transport ceases to operate, and organizations will have to move it within country themselves. However, all goods on these ships will be cleared by the Logistics Cluster even if they arrive after 10 August.

- Certain outstanding needs and underserved areas have been identified by the Shelter Cluster. The helicopter operation still has available capacity to transport priority NFI to hard-to-reach locations, and the Logistics Cluster and WFP Aviation remain available to assist organizations in planning for forward distribution.
- With the ongoing rainfall, road conditions are deteriorating. The route from Yangon to Labutta will remain open but only for trucks up to 5 mt. The section of road from Pyapon to Bogale is deteriorating rapidly, and transit damage overland is likely to increase further over the next three months. Cargo transport will become increasingly dependent on waterways, and in areas where the rivers rise too high, helicopter distributions may be the only option.

#### **Funding**

- The Logistics cluster is 58% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). The cluster lead has informed that they have received additional funding indications which will cover them for their operations through August 10.

## **12. EMERGENCY TELE-COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Overall Achievements**

- WFP and UNICEF continue to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Yangon, Laputta, Bogale, Pyapon, Mawlamgyun and Pathein.
- ETC Communications Centre has been installed in Mawlamgyun.
- Communications trainer has arrived to provide training for UN Agencies and NGOs.
- Surge in internet usage in Bogale and Pyapon after the release of data connectivity leaflets.

### **Challenges**

- Equipment is still held in customs. Re-export decision has been postponed due to the ongoing Tripartite Core Group discussions.
- Restriction on official import of telecommunications equipment remains.
- Use of telecommunications equipment in Delta region is still prohibited.

### **Future planning**

- Upgrade to data satellite systems in Pyapon and Mawlamgyun.
- Prepare communications training plan and schedule, and share them with agencies.

### **Funding**

- The Emergency Telecommunications cluster is 67% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **FIELD COORDINATION AND ACCESS ISSUES**

### **Field Coordination**

By the third week of July, OCHA will have two national staff in each of the hubs/townships - Labutta, Pathein, Ngapudaw, Pyapon, Bogale, Mawlamyangyun, Yangon and Dedaye, with an aim to strengthen/assist field coordination activities. They will be supported by international staff, some based at the hubs and some in a rotational capacity.

According to agencies and local authorities, most areas in Pyapon and Kyaiklat townships have been covered with at least some assistance at this stage. Areas previously not covered, such as Kyon Ka Don village tract, are now also being provided with assistance. The areas of Amar and Kyon Ka Don have very recently been added to the administrative area covered by Pyapon township authorities. Both of these areas are difficult in terms of access, but are being covered by agencies either from Pyapon or from Bogale townships. Coordination structures, including that with the local authorities, exist both in Pyapon and Kyaiklat townships. MSF Switzerland has announced their intention to close their office and cease their activities in Pyapon township as of next week.

WFP's Patheingyi office will close down by the end of July. Subsequent food deliveries to Ngapudaw will be made either from Labutta or Yangon townships.

### Access

As of 17 July, 339 visas have been issued to United Nations staff working on emergency response. Visas are issued through the Tripartite Core Group mechanism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the process for visa issuance takes less than 48 hours in most cases.

As of 17 July, 319 travel authorizations from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement had been issued to UN staff. After a brief interruption, travel authorizations for staff to stay in the field and travel back and forth between the field and Yangon for longer periods of time are now being issued again. Obtaining travel authorizations usually takes 4-5 days.

## FUNDING

The Myanmar Appeal, which was revised to US\$ 481.8 million recently, with 37.6% funded as of 17 July according to the OCHA FTS. Some donors have indicated that they will make their pledges to the appeal after the launch of the PONJA report on 21 July.

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).

**This sitrep is issued every Monday and Thursday. Please send updated information at the following address: [ochamyanmar@undp.org](mailto:ochamyanmar@undp.org)**

## CONTACTS

OCHA Yangon: Mr. Thierry Delbreuve Mob: +95 (0) 9504 8657 Email: <a href="mailto:delbreuve@un.org">delbreuve@un.org</a>	OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific: Mr. Markus Werne Tel. +66 81 917 8940 Email: <a href="mailto:werne@un.org">werne@un.org</a>
UNIC Press Contact in Yangon: Mr. Aye Win (UN Information Centre) Tel: +95 1 546 933, +95 1 542 910 - 9 ext 110. Mobile: +95 9 512 3952 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>