

# Protection of Children and Women Cluster Situation Report

Thursday 22 October 2008

## Needs Assessment & Analysis

- The Women's Protection Technical Working Group/Department of Social Welfare Women's Protection Assessment is ongoing. Data collection is currently taking place in sixteen (16) townships and will continue until the 31 October. Various inter-agency support teams are traveling to the field to assist with this process

## Progress against Indicators

Indicator	Count	Details
The number of functioning protection services for children and women in place as of 19 Oct 2008	808	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 328 functional child-friendly spaces established</li> <li>- 280 community support groups for children and women established</li> <li>- 200 child protection awareness raising activities conducted</li> <li>- Child Protection agencies are registering separated and unaccompanied children in 22 townships</li> <li>- Child Protection agencies are reunifying separated and unaccompanied children in 22 townships</li> </ul>
The number of affected children and women who access protection services as of 19 Oct 2008	59,376	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 55,523 children are accessing child-friendly spaces</li> <li>- 1216 separated or unaccompanied children are receiving Individual case management support</li> <li>- 914 (415f/499m) separated children have been registered</li> <li>- 302 (96f/206m) unaccompanied children have been registered</li> <li>- 224 (96f/128m) orphans have been registered</li> <li>- 454 (222f/232m) extremely vulnerable children have been identified</li> <li>- 743 (397f/346m) missing children requests have been received</li> </ul>
The number of people with strengthened skills and knowledge on the protection of children and women as of 19 Oct 2008	10,126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 70 government staff have been trained on child protection issues</li> <li>- 250 local NGO staff have been trained on child protection issues</li> <li>- 155 UN/INGO staff have been trained on child protection issues</li> <li>- 9,069 community members have been trained on child protection issues</li> <li>- 89 people have been trained on psychosocial responses (other than child-friendly spaces)</li> <li>- 493 non-protection staff in child protection agencies have been briefed on family tracing &amp; reunification processes</li> </ul>
The number of mainstreaming initiatives focused on children and women's protection as of 19 Oct 2008	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 17 non-protection agencies briefed on family tracing &amp; reunification</li> <li>- Protection of Children and Women Cluster <i>Code of Conduct to Prevent any Form of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation</i> has been distributed to 18 organizations</li> <li>- Agencies are using standardized forms &amp; sharing information systematically with regard to family tracing &amp; reunification</li> </ul>
Total estimated beneficiaries reached as of 19 Oct 2008	63,904	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children accessing child-friendly spaces, people trained on child protection related issues and beneficiaries of family tracing and reunification efforts</li> </ul>

### **Field Coordination**

- Cluster meetings are being held on either a weekly or fortnightly basis in Pyapon, Bogale, Labutta, and Mawlamyinegyun. In general these meetings are being well attended, and include a cross section of national NGOs, INGO's and UN agencies. At the moment the meetings are predominantly focused on Child Protection issues as the majority of agencies attending, work in this area
- Key issues being raised by field staff include:
  - a high rate of children dropping out of school due to the inability of their parents to be able to support them to remain within the education system, one reason for this is the charging of informal fees, despite this not being allowed by the Myanmar Government
  - a need for reproductive health education for women, including birth spacing as there are an increasing number of nursing mothers who are also pregnant
  - working children, including those at tea shops and in the fishing sector, are a concern
  - family tracing is ongoing, however agencies are challenged by a lack of human resources, mobility and poor communications
- Highlights:
  - An increase in the number of community support groups established
  - An increase in the number of child-friendly spaces and the number of children taking part in activities
  - An increase in the number of child protection awareness activities being carried out
  - An increase in the number of separated and unaccompanied children receiving individual case management support
  - An increase in the number of people with strengthened skills and knowledge on the protection of children

### **Challenges**

- Strengthening links and information flow between the various PCW Cluster agencies at Township and National levels
- To support other sectors in ensuring children and women's protection concerns are integrated into their activity implementation
- Integrating and reflecting Women's Protection (WP) activities, and ensuring representation of less-visible WP partners throughout the Cluster and in the affected areas
- Capturing limited Women's Protection activities (sometimes too sensitive to document) being implemented within the existing Cluster indicator parameters
- Increasing the engagement of Women's Protection implementing partners in the Cluster, most meetings of which are focused on Child Protection (CP) issues, due largely to the number of CP actors at field level

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- As a result of several requests to organize training sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) at field locations, members of the Women's Protection Technical Working Group are meeting with local organizations to conduct some workshops for the Training of Trainers in order to roll out GBV trainings in the Myanmar language. The aim is to start trainings in the field in mid-November
- The six-month Technical Review Meeting on the *Plan of Action: Child Protection in Emergencies* originally scheduled for 4 November, has just been rescheduled to 25 November 2008 as per DSW's request. This one day meeting is being organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the PCW Cluster Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Working Group
- Hannah Thompson and Save the Children will be withdrawing from PCW Cluster Co-Chair responsibilities in early November. Hannah will instead spend her last month in Myanmar providing support to coordination activities at the township level. All members of the PCW Cluster would like to warmly thank Hannah for the wonderful work she has done to promote the protection of children and women affected by Cyclone Nargis. Her pro-active and insightful contributions have been greatly appreciated

## **Key Messages**

- It is important to ensure that all community members' voices are included in decision making processes. In every culture, there are inevitable imbalances in power and status between men and women and between adults and children. Children and women are sometimes given the opportunity to express themselves. Enabling the participation of children and women provides alternative points of view, complementary ideas, and often different solutions which respond more fully to the needs of an entire community, rather than only the needs of those with the loudest voice. The Protection of Children and Women Cluster has produced a practical guide to support implementing agencies to identify ways to better take into account the needs of children and women
- Key priorities include: attention to the wellbeing of children, including their need for stability, supportive relationships, and space for play and socialization activities; and attention to the physical and psychological well-being of vulnerable women, including their need for security, supportive relationships and space for protection and care. Factoring in women's vulnerabilities will also enable the emergency response to ensure the health, security and well-being of families and entire communities.
- Registration of vulnerable children, women and families (including unaccompanied women and female-headed households) is crucial in order to ensure that they have access to life-saving assistance (such as food, shelter, and medical care)
- Promoting and strengthening family unity is an important focus of emergency protection efforts. Families which are vulnerable to breakdown, which can lead to the secondary separation of children and domestic violence, include large families, families which are not accessing support or services, and single-headed households. Family breakdown can lead to serious repercussions for children, who may receive less care by caregivers, be put into a situation where they are trying to find ways to support the family, and result in isolation and lack of supervision
- Women affected by the cyclone have special concerns in all sectors ranging from health, food, shelter, nutrition, livelihoods, water, hygiene, disaster risk reduction to security. It is important to pay special attention to women who are in need of particular assistance, including female-headed households, pregnant and lactating women, women with disabilities, injured women, the elderly, and traumatized, women living with HIV and women who have been widowed