

## UNITED NATIONS



### OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS Myanmar Cyclone Nargis

OCHA Situation Report No. 36  
30 June 2008

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, affecting 37 townships across Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions. Official figures show the number of dead or missing at 130,000. 1.3 million out of the estimated 2.4 million affected people have been reached so far by International NGOs, the Red Cross and the UN.
2. A Tripartite Core Group (TCG), consisting of high-level representatives of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the UN, has been established since 25 May to oversee the coordination of relief assistance. The Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) 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, ASEAN members states and the United Nations. PONJA preliminary findings were presented at the ASEAN Roundtable meeting in Yangon on 24 June, and the final report will be released on 21 July. A 'Sounding Session' is scheduled for 3 July, to consult with government representatives on the draft report. The results of the VTA will also be used to inform the Revised Appeal, which will be launched on 10 July.
3. Since 20 June, requests for visas related to the Nargis response, from UN agencies and NGOs, are handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Requests for domestic travel authorizations related to Nargis are handled by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

#### NATIONAL RESPONSE

4. The Government has announced the creation of a Supervisory Committee for Rehabilitation of Fisheries Industry to assist the industry, in storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

#### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

The following new 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 and comprehensive information relating to cluster activities, please visit the Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) website: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org>.

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

##### **Overall Achievements**

- The Women's Protection Technical Working Group has met and agreed on TOR: the development of a strategy to integrate women's protection across clusters; the development of training, advocacy tools and resources for partners and clusters; the development of a strategy to engage with and build on the experiences of local NGOs; and the provision of technical support to the Department of Social Welfare to develop a National Plan of Action on Women.
- Child-Friendly spaces are being set up in villages and temporary settlements on an ongoing basis to promote protective environments. In Yangon Division, a total of 58 Child-Friendly spaces (CFS) are functioning, and in Ayeyarwady Division a total of 74 CFS have been set up.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- A workshop on Interim/Alternative Care for separated, unaccompanied and orphaned children is planned for 7 and 8 July.

### **Funding**

- The Protection of Children and Women cluster is 25 % funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **6. EDUCATION**

### **Challenges**

- Reports from the field indicate that some children are being denied access to schooling unless they pay “donations.”
- “Building back better” to reduce risks from future disasters, while a noble aim, presents enormous challenges due to the lack of educational resources.

### **Funding**

- The Education cluster is 23% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **7. EARLY RECOVERY**

### **Overall Achievements**

- As of 30 June, UNDP has reached 250 villages which were identified as the most vulnerable during the Phase 1 implementation stage of UNDP early recovery Basic Services Package (BSP). Within the 250 villages, there are a total of 23,973 households, with the estimated population of 113,000. Activities in the villages include clearing of debris at community places including footpaths, school compounds and monastery compounds, as well as pond clearing and providing shelter. A comprehensive follow-up will be applied to all 250 villages from Phase one of the BSP, including crucial checks on monsoon planting, continuing current community works and planning for future needs, as well as the ongoing support of Self Reliance Groups (SRGs).
- The Early Recovery Coordinator attended a meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare with the Humanitarian Coordinator, accompanied by other cluster leads for Shelter, Education and Agriculture, to brief Government officials on Early Recovery.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Early Recovery Thematic Working Groups will be established to lead in the areas not covered by other clusters but considered a priority for the collective early recovery effort, such as non-agricultural livelihoods, community infrastructure, social recovery, environment and disaster risk reduction.

### **Funding**

- The Early Recovery cluster is 117% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **8. EMERGENCY SHELTER**

### **Needs Assessments and Analysis**

- The emergency shelter cluster continues to use a working figure of 2.4 million people affected by Cyclone Nargis, representing 486,000 affected households in 37 townships.
- Plastic sheets are being used on top of roofs repaired with palm fronds, in order to waterproof the dwellings for the monsoon.
- Production of thatch panels has been reported as an income generation activity, especially for women, and will be further investigated by cluster partners.
- Plastic sheeting remains a priority for the shelter cluster agencies, while more attention is being paid in procuring and distributing household relief kits to reduce gaps in that area.
- Preliminary analysis of the VTA results shows thatch, bamboo and timber to be the most needed repair/rebuilding material.

### **Overall Achievements**

- Over 386,000 plastic sheets have been distributed by the cluster.

- The third hub for shelter cluster is in the process of being set up in Patheingyi this week by Save the Children; the fourth one in Mawlamyinegyun headed by IOM is expected to be ready within 2 weeks.
- The cluster has started receiving distribution data from the GoM regarding plastic sheets.
- Through the Local Resource Centre at Burnet Institute, the cluster has established a focal point for local NGOs.
- The Joint Procurement Initiative has been launched in Bangkok

#### **Challenges**

- Consolidation of remaining need figures with the GoM and analysis of the VTA report

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

- Technical design/sharing meeting required with the GoM to ensure consistency with early recovery strategy and plans.

#### **Funding**

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

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

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

- Final VTA data has now been analysed. The data indicates that nearly 75% of population now drinks water from unsafe sources (river, open wells and ponds). Nearly 50% of the ponds in Ayeyarwaddy are salinised. There is increased dependence on household rainwater harvesting, but this may not be adequate after the rainy season.
- Draft technical guidelines on Sanitation will be presented at the cluster meeting on 1 July.

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

- Pond cleaning is an urgent activity now as most ponds will need to be drained and repaired in time to catch enough rainfall for use in the dry season.
- Exit strategy for the water treatment units needs to be planned.

#### **Funding**

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

### **10. FOOD**

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

- In collaboration with Cooperating Partners, WFP commenced a Market Assessment Survey on 27 June, covering 35 markets across 21 Townships in the Delta.
- Further assessments are being scheduled, including a joint WFP / UNICEF Food & Nutrition Survey in July/August.

#### **Overall Achievements**

- As of 30 June, a total of 18,163 tons of food assistance has been delivered to the affected areas, of which 14,564 tons has been distributed.
- The Food Cluster has now reached approximately 729,000 beneficiaries with food and cash assistance: 684,000 in the Ayeyarwady Division (food) and a further 45,000 in the Yangon Division (cash transfer).
- Following approval by the Government, preparations for resuming the Cash Transfer programme across 9 Townships of the Yangon Division started on 28 June. On 30 June, however, notification of a definitive ban on this programme was received. As a result, cash transfer activities have now been totally discontinued.
- A total of approximately 10,000 tons of food (7,000 tons of rice, 2,000 tons of beans and 1,000 tons of vegetable oil) is ready for transport into the Delta.
- A Monitoring and Evaluation training for 30 WFP and cooperating partner staff was conducted in Bogale between 26 and 28 June. A similar exercise will take place in Labutta on 1 July and Pyapon between 4 and 6 July.

#### **Challenges**

- The prohibition of local rice purchases will continue to pose a challenge. Regional procurement is now a priority in order to avoid an imminent pipeline break. A total of 3,125 tons from India is expected to arrive beginning July 17, with efforts to import additional quantities continuing.
- At the same time, resourcing for future deliveries remains a significant concern.

#### Gaps & Future Planning

- Planning for the local production of rice-based blended food for young children is ongoing.

#### Funding

- The Food cluster is 45% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

### FUNDING

12. 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 66% funded as of 30 June, with firm contributions of US\$132 million and a further US\$24 million in uncommitted pledges. According to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS) US\$243.7 million has been committed for all relief operations, with a further US\$66.2 million in uncommitted pledges.
13. 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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