

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 42 24 July 2008

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. Since early May, national, regional and international responders have been providing relief assistance to more than 1.3 million cyclone affected population in Myanmar. Some of the affected areas still remain a logistical challenge, further compounded by deteriorating road conditions due to incessant rainfall. Along with relief, efforts for early recovery have also started. The Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) report¹ released on 21 July provides an objective analysis and agreed framework for the targeted provision of relief and community based recovery. The humanitarian needs assessment reflected in the PONJA report matches with those presented in the United Nations Revised Appeal of 10 July².
2. John Holmes, United Nations Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister H.E. General Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw today. The ERC was accompanied by the UN Resident Coordinator Bishow Parajuli, UN Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. Dan Baker and Head of OCHA Myanmar Thierry Delbreuve. The ERC also met with H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, H.E. Major General Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, H.E. Dr. Kyaw Myint, Minister for Health, and Mr. U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. During his three-day mission that ended today, the ERC also met with Mr. U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), donors and representatives of the humanitarian community in Yangon. The ERC, based on his observations in the Delta, commented on the significant progress that had been made since his last visit, but then also noted that there are many more relief needs to be met in the harder to reach communities in the affected areas.

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 United Nations agencies. More detailed information on cluster coordination, maps, events, meeting schedules, contact lists and press releases are available at: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org>.

4. FOOD

Overall Achievements

- As of 24 July, a total of 24,567 tons of food assistance has been delivered to the affected areas, of which 19,829 tons has been distributed.
- Clearance of the 500 tons of rice imported from India is ongoing.
- 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 most recently included:
 - 532 tons of rice, 200 tons of pulses and 145 tons of oil delivered to Pyapon between 22 and 24 July;
 - 210 tons of pulses and 60 tons of oil delivered to Pathein (for Ngapudaw) on 22 July; and
 - 50 tons of pulses and 33 tons of oil delivered to Laputta on 24 July.

¹ A joint comprehensive assessment initiative of the Government of the Union of Myanmar (GoUM), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations on the damage and impact of cyclone Nargis. The full report can be downloaded at www.asean.org and <http://yangon.unic.org>

² The revised appeal stands at US\$ 481.8 million, which is currently 40% funded.

- 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.

Challenges

- Regional procurement of rice to avoid pipeline breaks, logistical challenges to reach the most affected communities and resources still remain major concerns.

Gaps and Future Planning

- Provision of short-term relief food distributions for 200,000 targeted beneficiaries in the Yangon Division.
- Planning for the local production of rice-based blended food for young children is ongoing.

Funding

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

5. HEALTH

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- A new pocket for dengue haemorrhagic fever has been identified in Pyapon. In general, incidence of malaria in the affected townships is decreasing; however there has been an increase of malaria cases in Laputta.

Overall Achievements

- The 'Assessment of Early Warning and Reporting Systems' (EWARS) bulletin has been established as a joint collaborative product between the Ministry of Health and non-governmental organizations.
- Immunizations, mobile and outdoor health consultations, nutrition services and surveillance activities are being imparted by health cluster partners at the township level.

Challenges, Gaps and Future Planning

- A comprehensive template has been designed to learn the extent, location and kind of support required to reconstruct the health facilities, gathering information for which is going to be a challenge.
- There is a lack of transportation facility in Ngapudaw where the shortage of larvicidal abates is reported.
- Psycho-social support programme for nine affected townships in Yangon and Ayeyarwady divisions is planned to commence from 25 July, 2008.

Funding

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

6. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Overall Achievements

- Registration of unaccompanied and separated children, family tracing, placing children with families and in community-based situations, and training of community members to set up child-friendly spaces and watch groups are ongoing. Activities are being carried out in close collaboration with staff from the Department of Social Welfare, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and other partners.
- 148 child-friendly spaces have been established in villages and temporary settlements; 67 in Yangon Division and 81 in Ayeyarwady Division.

Challenges

- Creating links with cluster agencies/members at the township and national levels, including building on the existing coordination mechanisms at the hub level.
- Improving information flow between the agencies and hubs at township level as well as between townships and Yangon in order to be able to match reports of missing children with separated, unaccompanied and orphaned children.
- Exploring methods to integrate concerns regarding the protection of children and women across other clusters.

Funding

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

7. EDUCATION

Overall Achievements

- 900 schools have benefited from repairs (646 in Ayeyarwady and 254 in Yangon Division), using 95,876 roofing sheets.
- 897 Temporary Safe Learning Spaces have been established, including the use of 125 tents.
- 520 schools in a box and 546 recreation kits have been distributed potentially benefiting 41,600 children.
- Essential learning materials have been provided to 136,104 girls and boys.

Challenges

- There is a limited number of implementing partners as none of the partners seeking Memorandum of Understanding with the government to support the sector have been granted permission to operate yet.
- The PONJA report confirms that 3,600 – 4,500 schools have been destroyed or damaged which is a huge challenge since major actors who could support reconstruction (such as the World Bank) are not present on the ground.

Gaps and Future Planning

- One to one meetings will take place next week between the cluster co-chairs and partners who do not have permission from government to work, to explore possible channels of fast-track approval of their projects by relevant government authorities.

Funding

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

8. EARLY RECOVERY

Overall Achievements

- Phase 1 of UNDP's Basic Services Package (BSP) has reached 250 of the most vulnerable villages, covering 27,673 households and a population of 114,102, with follow-up activities planned.
- As of July 24, a total of 505 power tillers (377 two-wheel and 128 one-wheel power tillers) have been delivered and distributed to villages as required. UNDP plans to deliver a total of 551 power tillers which will help farmers to cultivate up to 20,000 acres, providing food security to over 6,500 households for one year.
- UNDP has also secured 220 water pumps; the first 19 pumps have now been delivered to Ngapudaw township. Remaining water pumps will be distributed in time for the winter cropping season in areas where supplementary irrigation is required.
- While focusing largely on Early Recovery, UNDP continues to support ongoing Emergency Relief activities in coordination with government authorities and in close collaboration with NGOs and UN agencies to deliver food and non-food relief items, with more than 182,000 beneficiaries to date.

Gaps and Future Planning

- A Technical Working Group on the Early Recovery Strategic Framework met on 24 July, and is expected to produce a first working draft for the Early Recovery cluster to review by mid-August.

Funding

- The Early Recovery cluster is 16% funded in the Revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

9. LOGISTICS

Overall Achievements

- As of 23 July, the Logistics cluster has brought in 2,830.8 mt of cargo into Yangon. 31 organizations have availed the airbridge services to date.
- As of 23 July, helicopter operations have been able to reach 138 remote locations through 788 rotations, and have been able to distribute 909.6 mt of food and non-food items.
- As of 23 July, cargo dispatched within Myanmar by road and waterways totals to 7,084.2 mt of food and non-food items.

Gaps and Forward Planning

- Due to the deteriorating road conditions, the Logistics Cluster can no longer meet special requests for road transportation to locations such as Bogale, especially since large vehicles cause further damage to the roads. 95% of cargo transported to the hubs is now carried out by waterway. Villages which are inaccessible by these means continue to be served by helicopter. Cargo Movement Request (CMR) forms are available at www.logscluster.org/mm08a. The last day to file a CMR for movement through the common transport services is 5 August.
- Coordination is underway in order to ensure a smooth transition in the hubs as the Logistics Cluster prepares to end operations on 10 August. Two Logistics Cluster members seconded by RedR will remain in the hubs after 10 August to assist continued operations and to try to establish cost-sharing and coordination between organizations working out of these forward locations.
- As of 14 July, no additional cargo was received in the warehouse in Bangkok. Organizations should now plan for immediate onward movement or ship goods straight into Yangon.

Funding

- The Logistics cluster is 60% funded in the Revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). However, the cluster lead has informed that they have received additional funding indications which will cover them for their operations until 10 August.

10. 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.
- Installation of communications centre in Mawlamgyun and Yangon is completed.

Challenges and Gaps

- Equipment is still held in customs. Re-export decision is postponed due to the ongoing TCG discussions.
- Restriction on official imports of telecommunications equipment remains.
- Use of telecommunications equipment in Delta region is still prohibited.

Future planning

- Finalising the installation of communications centre in Laputta.
- Preparing communications training plan and schedule, and sharing with all concerned agencies.

Funding

The ETC cluster is 67% funded in the Revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

FIELD COORDINATION AND ACCESS ISSUES

Field Coordination

Field reports from various organizations indicate that there is a continuing need to strengthen inter-cluster coordination at the field/hub level and to improve the quality and timeliness of information both to and from the Yangon level. It is also important to note that agencies need to ensure that cluster leads at the hub level are trained on their roles and responsibilities prior to their deployment. OCHA has staff present in seven field locations and in Yangon to support coordination and information management.

According to OCHA field reports, return of 231 internally displaced (IDP) families from the Football Stadium in Laputta township is complete. Return of IDPs from the 3-Mile and 5-Mile Camps are ongoing. As of 24 July, 1,185 families (3,978 persons) remain in the 3-Mile Camp while 307 families (868 persons) remain in the 5-Mile Camp. Also in Laputta, potable water source in the southern villages is raising concerns as majority of the ponds, after three times of draining, are still salty. Coordinated efforts are also needed to look into alternative livelihoods for farmers who have no guarantee of having enough yield and resources to last them until the next planting season.

MSF Switzerland has closed its office in Pyapon, but continues to work in Bogale in the areas of mobile clinics, nutritional assessment, non-food item distribution and water and sanitation activities.

In Maubin township there is only one agency, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, delivering assistance.

In Mawlamyngyun township, 13 international and national organizations are actively engaged in relief and recovery efforts.

Access

As of 24 July, 350 visas have been issued to United Nations staff working on emergency response. Similarly, 375 travel authorizations for UN staff have been approved by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

FUNDING OVERVIEW OF THE MYANMAR REVISED APPEAL

The Myanmar Flash Appeal, which was revised to US\$ 481.8 million recently, currently has a shortfall of US\$ 291 million, with US\$ 18.8 million in uncommitted pledges. Of the 103 projects listed in the revised appeal, only 52 are fully or partially funded. Of the partially funded projects, 30% are those fielded by international non-governmental organizations.

Agriculture and early recovery remain the least funded clusters. The PONJA report estimates that at least US\$ 1 billion is needed to cover recovery needs of the affected areas over the next three years, of which urgent early recovery initiatives are presented in the revised appeal.

On 23 July, Australia has pledged an additional \$ 30 million for cyclone relief and early recovery activities, a detailed breakdown of which, apart from food aid, would be determined after a detailed consideration of the PONJA report. Other donors have also indicated that they will be making substantial pledges after a detailed study of the PONJA report. In addition to private donations, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America are currently the major donors to the Myanmar Revised Appeal.

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.

This sitrep is issued every Monday and Thursday. Please send updated information at the following address: ochamyanmar@undp.org

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