

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 44 7 August 2008

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. Three months after the disaster, delivery of assistance remains a challenge, particularly in hard-to-reach areas of the affected Ayeyarwady delta. Concerted efforts are ongoing to ensure that the basic needs and restoration of livelihoods of some 2.4 million people affected by cyclone Nargis are addressed. The humanitarian organizations have requested additional US\$ 281 million through the UN Revised Appeal to address these urgent priorities until April 2009.
2. The Tripartite Core Group (TCG), consisting of Government of the Union of Myanmar (GoUM), ASEAN and the UN, held a meeting today to discuss Post-Nargis Recovery Planning (PONREP) and Integrated Regional Coordination (IRCO) Hubs.
3. The United Nations Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, completed his four days visit to Myanmar today. He met with TCG and UN agencies to get first-hand information on relief and early recovery efforts in the affected areas. In his visits to Labutta, Kyaukalat, Pyinsalu and Kyet Shar, he took note of the progress made in the aftermath of the disaster.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

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>.

3. EDUCATION

Needs Assessments and Analysis

- A team for school construction design including a UNICEF architect and Ministry of Education engineers concluded the first field assessment in Bogalay and Mawlamyinegyun. Seven schools will be built as models for future construction of building back better, safer and more child-friendly schools. Initial findings show that schools that withstood the cyclone are those built with input from structural engineers, and the structures built facing north withstood strong south west winds better. This week, the team is working in Pyapon, Dedaye and Kyaiklat.

Overall Achievements and Response

- Some 960 damaged schools in ten townships in Ayeyarwady and eleven in Yangon have been repaired by using over 102,000 roofing sheets.
- Supports are provided to 916 Temporary Safe Learning Spaces (TSLS), including 150 tented schools, through partnerships with local Parent Teacher Associations and contractors.
- School furniture (e.g. desks, chairs and blackboards) has been provided to 145 schools in Labutta, Bogale, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships.
- Some 550 Schools-in-a-Box and 570 recreation kits have been distributed, potentially benefiting 44,000 children. 253 kits have also been distributed to support Early Childhood Development activities for 10,000 children under five.
- Packages of essential learning materials (e.g. exercise books, pencils, erasers, a ruler and school bag) have been provided for 150,000 children.

- 60,000 sets of Grade 1 textbooks and 76,000 sets of Life Skills textbooks for Grades 1-5 have been sent for distribution to schools in affected townships, as well as 4,737 teachers' kits and 348 school kits.

Challenges

- Coordination at the township level is still uneven, which caused inconsistent flow of information between the field and the Cluster leads in Yangon. One of the Cluster co-chairs is in the field to help strengthen township level coordination and systematic information sharing within the townships and to Yangon. Where possible, sector focal points will be identified in the townships visited.

Gaps and Future Planning

- Since most schools in the delta opened in late June/early July, enrolment data will be collected to monitor children's access to school.

Funding

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

4. EARLY RECOVERY

Overall Achievement

- Phase I of UNDP's Basic Services Packages (BSP) has reached 27,673 households (or 114,102 people) in 250 most vulnerable villages.
- The total number of power tillers distributed to farmers in five affected townships stood at 592. Delivery of 220 water pumps is ongoing. Paddy seeds are distributed with the aim of two baskets per acre with a maximum of 10 acres per household. As of 6 August, 13,742 acres have been cropped or have begun cropping.
- Fishing gear is also provided to fishermen in 66 villages in Labutta and Kyaiklat,

Challenges

- The disproportionate number of women killed during Cyclone Nargis will present a challenge to social cohesion in the coming months and years. This will provide a challenge for early recovery and longer term development across a number of clusters.
- This was highlighted as a vulnerability issue with the Human Rights Rapporteur during his visit to Myanmar.

Funding

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

5. LOGISTICS

Overall Achievements

- The Logistic Cluster has brought in 3,598.2 MT of cargo into Yangon.
- Helicopter operations have been able to reach 151 remote locations through 910 rotations, and have been able to distribute 1,091.8 MT of food and non-food items.
- Cargo dispatched within Myanmar by road and waterways totals to 10,548.8 MT of food and non-food items.

Gaps and Future Planning

- As the Cluster will complete its operation on 10 August, continuation of current meeting arrangement for a certain period of time will be discussed at the next coordination meeting.
- It is expected that the warehouse in Yangon will be cleared off in the next few weeks.
- At a meeting today, the user groups finalized an agreement on the hubs handover. The agreement is based on understanding that assets will be returned to respective users at the end of Nargis operation. The five hubs will be run on a cost sharing basis. WFP is the leading agency for hubs in Bogale, Pyapon and Labutta.

Funding

- The Logistics cluster is 60% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

6. EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION

Overall Achievements

- The Cluster has conducted assessment on communication centre site in Pyapon.
- Radio training for UN and NGO staff in Yangon is ongoing.
- Programming of short distance communications for WFP & UNDSS staff members is ongoing.

Challenges

- Discussion with Tripartite Core Group on equipment held in customs is ongoing.
- Restriction on official imports of telecommunications equipment remains.

Gaps and Future Planning

- The Cluster is planning to complete the installation of the communication centre in Pyapon.
- Training on radio communications for UN agencies and NGOs is planned in Yangon and Ayeyarwady.

Funding

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

7. AGRICULTURE

Needs Assessments and Analysis

- Landless labourers were among the most severely affected by Cyclone Nargis and are the most vulnerable to any change or shock that reduces the market price of labour. Landless households depend on agriculture-related activities and have lost income opportunities such as on-farm labour, backyard gardening, fishing and aquaculture activities, small livestock production and other off-farm work. Some 45 to 55 percent of rural households fall into the category of very poor landless labourers. In Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions, approximately 32 percent and 51 percent of households are considered landless, respectively. An estimated 100 000 to 120 000 landless farmers lost tree crops and vegetables from their kitchen gardens. In the absence of alternative income opportunities to agriculture, an overall impoverishment can be expected for the poorest landless labourers in the medium to long-term unless changes occur.

Overall Achievements

- Through World Concern, a total of 1,000 households (5,000 people) in Labutta have benefited from the provision of 50 power tillers and related trainings, 2,600 gallons of diesel fuel, 160 tonnes of rice seed and 1,000 small hand tools.
- Since mid June, International Development Enterprises (IDE) has distributed 9,804 tonnes of paddy seed, 740 power tillers and 11,882 gallons of diesel in 11 townships, 225 village tracts in Yangon and Ayeyarwady divisions, to benefit 53,359 households.
- The Myanmar Livestock Federation and the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department distributed 600 buffaloes to 300 beneficiary households through an FAO project in two townships of Yangon and eight townships of Ayeyarwady. FAO's vegetable seed packages have reached implementing partners Welt Hunger Hilfe ([GAA]; 28 000 packages) and Cooperazione e Sviluppo ([CESVI]; 56 000 packages) for distribution to 12,000 small-scale farming households in time for the summer planting season, beginning in November.
- Technical working groups are being formed for the fisheries and forestry/mangroves sub-sectors. The first technical working group meeting for fisheries is scheduled for 8 August.

Challenges

- Transportation of inputs during the rainy season, particularly fertilizers, is a challenge and has been met in cooperation with the Logistics Cluster.
- Unfavourable weather conditions impose risks in distribution areas.
- Difficulty was encountered in delivering commodities to areas in the far south.
- There is a need for increased coordination at the field level. Follow-up field observations are urgent to monitor pest and soil problems and identify necessary actions.

- Finding quality seeds for farmers in time has been a challenge.

Gaps and Future Planning

- The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries noted that COSI-France plans to donate 25 inshore fishing boats in response to fisheries needs in the delta.

Funding

The Agriculture cluster is 13% funded in the Revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

8. HEALTH

Overall Achievements

- The Cluster is working on the design for health and education facilities.
- The Cluster partners are preparing training on malaria control.
- CDs on Guidelines for Public Health and Communicable Diseases in Emergencies have been distributed in affected areas.
- Continued assistance is provided to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for the arrangement of training on mental and psychosocial.

Challenges

- Revitalization of health system, rehabilitation of health facilities in the Delta and improvement of field level coordination remain a challenge.

Gaps and Future Planning

- The Cluster is to work on revitalization of health services.

Funding

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

9. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- Work on the Women's Protection assessment with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) is progressing. The assessment workplan and timeline have been finalised and a local research organisation has been identified to support data collection. It is expected that data collection will commence in mid August.
- UNFPA was approached by the DSW on 29 July to help facilitating a rapid assessment on women and livelihood issues in camps in Labutta that are scheduled for relocation. The Women's Protection Technical Working Group held a meeting on 31 July to further discuss the assessment.

Overall Achievements

- Child Protection agencies met last week to finalise the latest field coordination contacts for Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) and Child Protection (CP) issues. An updated Protection of Children and Women (PCW) Cluster contacts list is being produced.
- Child Protection agencies met in Labutta to finalise a Response Plan to support separated and orphaned children moving from camps scheduled to close in Labutta. Children, families, and their villages of origin and possible return, have been identified for follow-up support and family tracing. All children and families will be provided with identity cards and the contact details for registration agencies and the information hub. Regular Cluster meetings will be held in Labutta every second Thursday of the month.
- The Clusters in Pyapon, which have held joint meetings, have agreed to have separate cluster meetings to better focus on their respective issues and concerns. The Cluster will meet every Tuesday. Coordination meetings between the two clusters, as well as with other clusters, will be held as necessary.
- So far, 254 child-friendly spaces have been established in affected areas, 141 in Ayeyarwady Division and 113 in Yangon Division.

Challenges

- Creating links across the various PCW agencies 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 the township level as well as between townships and Yangon in order to be able to match the reports of missing children with the separated, unaccompanied and orphaned children identified.

Gaps and Future Planning

- At the Cluster meeting on 30 July, the issue of children, women and other vulnerable people having difficulties replacing National Registration Cards (NRC) was raised. Process and cost are the main barriers. The Cluster Co-Chairs are arranging a meeting with Cluster representatives and the DSW to discuss ways to mitigate the situation.

Funding

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

10. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Overall Achievements

- Some 300 ponds in Labutta and 168 in Bogale have been cleaned so far.
- 4,948 latrines pipes and pans have been distributed for the provision of latrines in health centres, schools and other public places in 62 villages in Labutta.

Funding

- The WASH cluster is 39% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

FIELD COORDINATION AND ACCESS ISSUES

Field Coordination

In Bogale, the Township Medical Officer (TMO) reported that there were 48 villages in three village tracts that had not been fully covered. An assessment to these areas will be arranged by TMO with participation of other organizations working in the health sector.

In Dedaye, activities in the areas of health, WASH, agriculture, education, food and non-food items are ongoing. More support is required in the areas of PCW and nutrition. Among others, fertilizer and pond cleaning are urgently needed. Medicines du Monde and MMA will complete their mobile medical team in mid August.

The Chairman of the Township Coordination Committee in Mawlamyinegyun informed that the operation of Government's mobile clinic in 28 village tracts would take place from 5 to 17 August. Some 1,300 permanent houses will be constructed by the Government in 124 villages. International communities continue to provide assistance in the areas of food, health, nutrition, education, shelter, PCW, agriculture and early recovery.

Access

As of 7 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has granted 358 visas and 147 stay extensions to UN staff working on emergency response, while 418 travel authorizations 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, is currently 41% funded with a shortfall of US\$ 285 million and with US\$ 20 million in uncommitted pledges. Agriculture and early recovery remain the *least* funded clusters, with 13% and 16% funded.

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 with fts@reliefweb.int.

This Situation Report is issued every Thursday. Please send updated information to the following address: ochamyanmar@undp.org

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