

## UNITED NATIONS



### OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

#### Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 37 3 July 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. 2.4 million people were severely affected.
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 member states and the United Nations. A 'Sounding Session' took place on 3 July, to consult with government representatives on the draft report. The final report is set to be released on 21 July. 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 also related to Nargis are handled by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. As of 3 July, 303 visas for UN staff have been approved, with nine requests pending. With regard to UN visa extension requests, 79 requests have been approved with 14 pending.

#### 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>.

#### **4. FOOD**

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

- WFP is proceeding with a Market Assessment Survey covering 35 markets across 21 Townships in the Delta. This should be complete by 6 July, after which regular commodity price monitoring will be conducted.
- Cluster meeting discussions, both in Yangon and at the Sub-Offices in Bogale, Labutta and Pyapon, confirm an ongoing need to refine caseloads and targeting criteria.

##### **Overall Achievements**

- As of 3 July, a total of 18,703 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 a total of approximately 733,490 beneficiaries with food and cash assistance: 684,000 in the Ayeyarwady Division (food) and a further 49,490 in the Yangon Division (cash transfer).
- A Distribution and Post-Distribution Monitoring training was conducted for a total of 22 field staff in Labutta on 1 July, with a further exercise planned for Pyapon on 5 July. Partners interested in having their staff participate in this, or subsequent rounds of training, should contact [Parvathy.Ramaswami@wfp.org](mailto:Parvathy.Ramaswami@wfp.org) or [Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org](mailto:Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org).

### **Challenges**

- The prohibition of local rice purchases will continue to pose a challenge.
- Following a very positive response from donors in the initial weeks after the cyclone, new contributions have not been forthcoming rendering resourcing a significant concern, particularly following the EMOP budget increase.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Following the discontinuation of cash transfer activities, planning is underway for 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 45% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **5. AGRICULTURE**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

A recent FAO assessment, carried out in collaboration with the government in the Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions, estimates the following:

- 63% of paddy land in a total of 19 townships is submerged due to the cyclone, and 75-85% of seed stocks destroyed due to flooding.
- More than 52,000 farmers will not be able to plant rice this season due to the loss of draught animals and power tillers, which means loss of crop production in 32% of the most severely cyclone-affected areas. At the present yield rates, this could mean a loss of 550,000 metric tonnes of paddy rice.
- 49,180 small scale farmers and 99,000 landless rural households are severely affected in eleven townships in the two divisions.

### **Overall Achievements**

- 40,900 farming households are being provided with local and high yielding varieties of paddy rice seeds, summer crop seeds, vegetable seeds, tool kits, poultry kits, fertilizers, power tillers and draught animals (buffaloes).

### **Challenges**

- Synchronizing the distribution of all matching inputs to the beneficiaries for the current planting season is a challenge. Urgent actions are being taken to ensure timeliness.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- The needs assessment proposes the following programme for the affected areas: An emergency programme for immediate assistance (0-6 months), and an early recovery programme in support of the most vulnerable farmers and fishing communities in order to help protect and rebuild better livelihoods.

### **Funding**

- The Agriculture cluster is 31% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **6. EMERGENCY SHELTER**

### **Overall Achievements**

- Over 428,000 plastic sheets, 20,000 community toolkits, 175,000 blankets, 597,000 mosquito nets, 259,000 jerry cans and 63,000 kitchen sets have been distributed by the cluster.
- Technical working group formed with participation from the GoM, local NGOs and architects to address issues moving into early recovery shelter design and provision.
- Labutta hub has been able to identify villages as yet un-reached by cluster members. This information has been shared with agencies for their action.

### **Challenges**

- Accounting for distributions continues to be challenging, as they are difficult to track in all areas.

- There is a need to consolidate the design options and expectations for early recovery shelter provision.
- Facilitation of effective coordination at the hub level remains difficult due to limited transportation options and access.

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

- Coordination and information management at the hub level.
- 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).

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

#### **Needs Assessments and Analysis**

- The mortality rate of women between the ages of 18-60 years was twice that of men in the same age range.
- At least 22% of the affected population suffer from post-cyclone psychosocial distress.
- Only 12% of the affected population reported availability of child care services (including day care, schools and orphanages).

#### **Challenges**

- Further separation of children due to relocation remains a challenge.
- School enrolment for a number of children is still a major challenge due to the destruction of school buildings and certificates, inability to pay fees, and to get text books and uniforms.

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

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

#### **Coordination**

- The PCW Co-chair Ms Mari Mörth (Save the Children) has completed her assignment and will be succeeded by Ms Hannah Thompson.

#### **Funding**

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

### **8. EDUCATION**

#### **Overall Achievements**

- The delays in printing of textbooks reported earlier have now been overcome, and books are being distributed to schools and to Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS).

#### **Challenges**

- High numbers of enrolments in Grade 1 are reported (accounting for up to 50% of students in some Temporary Learning Spaces), and it has been necessary to teach classes in two shifts to accommodate all children.
- Reports from the field indicate that some children are being denied access to schooling unless they pay “donations.”
- Concerns remain on the quality of temporary, makeshift repairs being carried out and for the safety of school buildings.

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

- Cluster partners plan to establish a technical working group for close collaboration between the Ministry of Education(MoE), UNICEF, INGOs and NGOs to ensure that standards and guidelines are developed and adopted for the construction of schools in a safe and sustainable way.

- MoE has given organizations the opportunity to submit proposals for any emergency response support to schools in the cyclone-affected areas. The Education Cluster will centralise applications from organizations, to be presented to the MoE through UNICEF country office.
- The Education Cluster plans to establish a DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) working group that will unite representatives from MoE, Save the Children, UNICEF, UNESCO and other interested parties, including at least two local organizations. UNESCO is expected to take the lead, and will call for the first meeting in the coming weeks.

#### **Funding**

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

### **9. HEALTH**

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

- Over half of the people living in the delta need access to health care. About a quarter of the affected population have to travel at least an hour or more in order to reach a health facility.
- Pit latrine use has gone down since the cyclone.
- Commonly reported health complaints are diarrhoea, fever, cold, respiratory problems, skin rashes and trauma/injury.

#### **Overall Achievements**

- Medical supplies are reaching remote areas.
- Health cluster and the Ministry of Health (MoH) are jointly working on Dengue control.

#### **Challenges**

- Coordinated efforts from water, sanitation, agriculture and education sectors are required for effective response.

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

- The level of service is generally better in the areas around Yangon and in the township capitals. Access to southern delta is still low due to lack of logistic assets and scarcity of staff.

#### **Funding**

- The Health cluster is 81% funded in the Flash appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service.

### **10. EARLY RECOVERY**

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

- Earlier figures from the VTA are now being updated for inclusion in reports prepared on Early Recovery.

#### **Coordination**

- Ms. Monique Fienberg, who is replacing Mr. Ola Almgren as Early Recovery Coordinator arrived in Yangon on Monday 30 June.
- Early Recovery Cluster members have been requested to provide early recovery updates to the Early Recovery Unit at UNDP for inclusion in the OCHA sitrep.

#### **Funding**

- The Early Recovery cluster is 141% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

### **11. LOGISTICS**

#### **Overall Achievements**

- The Logistics Cluster will facilitate all cargo entering by sea as well as by air until August 10th. However, many organizations are requesting that the facilitation process continue after this date due to difficulties with clearance for goods arriving commercially.

- Five of the original ten WFP Aviation helicopters were redeployed on Monday (2 Pumas and 3 Mi8 MTV). The operation will now continue with a reduced fleet of five air assets (3 Mi8-T and 2 Mi8 MTV). A system of prioritization has been established and is performed by the Cluster.
- The Logistics cluster has dispatched 7,645.3 mt of cargo, including from Bangkok. 89 remote locations were reached through 466 rotations.

### **Challenges**

- The contracts for two planes are due to expire by 9 July. The Logistics Cluster is trying to secure funding to continue both planes until the Cluster's end date of 10 August. However with the current shortfall this is not yet assured.
- With 1,828.8 mt pending in Bangkok and an additional 800 mt in CMR already filed for movement, no further CMR can be accepted for movement via the Logistics Cluster airbridge from Bangkok to Yangon. Sea transport for all additional cargo is being considered. However, it will take at least two weeks to put this in place. A system of prioritization will be established so the most urgent cargo is moved by air, leaving less urgent cargo to go via sea.
- The website of the Logistics Cluster ([www.logscluster.org/mm08a](http://www.logscluster.org/mm08a)) provides the available maps of the affected areas.

### **Funding**

- The Logistics Cluster is 56% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **12. EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

- WFP and UNICEF continue to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Yangon, Laputta, Bogale, Pyapon, Mawlamgyun and Pathein supported by their respective offices in Bangkok.

### **Overall Achievements**

- Stock tracking, update and entry into AMD continues.
- WFP's (Logs Cluster) additional 3 Satellites site surveys have been finalized.
- Yangon COMCEN electrical upgrade is completed.
- Travel permit for Ozdhan Hadziemin is still pending for approval.
- Remaining confirmed ETC equipment has arrived in Don Muang/ Bangkok and is pending for shipment to Yangon.
- Programming of WFP equipment continues.
- Assessment to Bogale, Pyapon and Mawlamgyun with regards to COMCEN locations, new WFP SO building in Bogale, swap of Laputta office and guesthouse buildings, and tower locations have been finalized.
- Training on use of short distance communications to drivers is conducted in Yangon.
- OOB problem on Labutta satellite system is fixed.
- Country Office introduces WINGS and ICT has started to raise PRs in WINGS.
- IT accessories are sent to Bogale and Labutta offices.
- List of equipment used in Shan State has been submitted to be used for discussion by HC with TCG.
- Interview for Yangon COMCEN radio operators is ongoing.

### **Challenges**

- Equipment is still held in customs. Re-export decision has been postponed due to the ongoing TCG discussions. List of equipment used in Shan State has been submitted to be used for discussion with TCG.
- Restriction on official imports of telecommunications equipment remains.
- Use of telecommunications equipment in Delta region is still prohibited.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Shipment of satellite equipment to Pyapon and Mawlamgyun Gyun.
- Interviews for Yangon COMCEN radio operators.
- Purchase of wireless link for Laputta new office.
- Installation of backup OOB equipment in WFP Yangon.
- Remaining ETC equipment arrival from Don Muang/ Bangkok, packing by site and shipping.
- Installation of short distance communications in vehicles.

- Identify a proper company for installing towers and get quotations for installation in Pyapon and Bogale
- Receive incoming shipment from Dubai, make inventory and ship onward to the field offices

#### Funding

- The ETC cluster is 73% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

### FUNDING

13. The Myanmar Cyclone Flash Appeal has appealed for US\$201 million for UN agencies and NGOs to address the most urgent humanitarian needs. The appeal is 66.6% funded as of 3 June, with firm contributions of US\$134 million and a further US\$24 million in uncommitted pledges.
14. 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).
15. This sitrep is issued every Monday and Thursday. Please send updated information at the following address: [ochamyanmar@undp.org](mailto:ochamyanmar@undp.org)

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