

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 43 31 July 2008

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. After nearly three months since the cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar, continuous support is still required to meet relief and early recovery needs as presented in the Revised Appeal. The Appeal requested US\$ 481.8 million to meet these urgent priorities in the coming months until April 2009. The recently released Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) also confirms these needs.
2. The Government of the Union of Myanmar organized a major field visit to the affected areas in the Ayeyarwady delta on 29 July. About 150 representatives of foreign missions, UN agencies, INGOs and the media joined the trip. The trip aimed at providing first-hand information to encourage the international community to support the relief and early recovery efforts in the affected areas.

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

Overall Achievements

- 904 schools have benefited from repairs, using over 96,000 roofing sheets.
- 999 temporary safe learning spaces are being supported to ensure schooling for at least 50,000 children.
- 138,771 children have been provided with essential learning supplies.

Funding

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

4. EARLY RECOVERY

Needs Assessment and Analysis:

Data from the Cluster Integrated Monitoring Matrix shows that:

- The total number of targeted beneficiary for non-agricultural livelihoods is 2,180 persons.
- 136 community facilities (e.g. schools, health facilities, footpaths, short link roads, etc.) have been restored, which benefit 11,949 households.
- 196 early recovery projects, which cover 2,923 households, have been screened to ensure that environmental consequences are considered.

Overall Achievements

- Phase 1 of UNDP's Basic Services Package (BSP) has reached 250 most vulnerable villages, covering over 27,000 households and a population of more than 114,000.
- UNDP has distributed a total of 592 power tillers (446 two-wheel and 146 one-wheel power tillers) to farmers in Labutta, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Kyaiklat, and Ngapudaw, to help them cultivating up to

20,000 acres, giving food security to over 6,500 households for one year. The delivery of 220 water pumps is also on-going. About 27,500 paddy seed packages have been distributed so far.

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 Cluster has brought in 3,1778 MT of cargo into Yangon.
- Helicopter operations have been able to reach 146 remote locations through 876 rotations, and have distributed 1,051.8 MT of food and non-food items.
- Cargo dispatched within Myanmar by road and waterways totals to 10,285.9 of food and non-food items.

Gap and Future Planning

- To date, the Cluster in the hubs has provided storage and on/off loading utilizing a common pool of labour, as well as common security and overall management for the compound, at no cost to the partner organizations. This will cease alongside all the Cluster operations on 10 August.
- On 28 July, the first workshop was held to address the continuation of the hubs after this date. The goal was to discuss the handover process and establish necessary coordination and cost sharing to ensure that the hubs continue to function smoothly following the departure of the Cluster. Twelve organizations, all users of hub services, attended the meetings. Minutes detailing the results are available at www.logscluster.org/mm08a.
- All MSUs, pallets and other assets will be handed over to their current users via transfer of property agreements, under the agreement that these assets will remain in the hubs. Current operational costs have been communicated to users, and organizations are now in discussion internally to establish their potential commitments. The first meeting took place in Bogale, and a second meeting was planned for 31 July in Yangon.

Funding

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

6. EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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 Labutta is completed.
- Training of Radio Operators in Yangon is continued, while training for UNICEF staff is completed.

Challenges and Gaps

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

Future planning

- Move WFP office to Bogalay.
- Finalize communication centre in Bogalay.
- As UNICEF offices in Bogalay and Mawlamgyun will be moving this week, there will be interruption in data service.
- Plan mission for installation of ETC communications centre in Pyapon.

Funding

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

7. Shelter

Needs Assessments and Analysis

- The coverage of plastic sheeting in most townships is reasonable, though size and quality vary.
- Tool kits, especially bamboo tool kits, remain in high demand.
- Following the closure of camps in Labutta Township, the Cluster is focusing on providing sufficient support upon returnees' departure, and conducting assessment at the villages of origin.

Overall Achievements

- Over 522,000 plastic sheets have been distributed so far, covering 53% of the estimate affected households.
- 37,000 tool kits, 346,000 blankets, 775,000 mosquito nets, 369,000 jerry cans and 121,000 kitchen sets have also been distributed.
- Disaggregated information to itemise NFI distributions reporting is made available.
- Setting up of hub common database has commenced in all 5 hubs.
- The Cluster, with the assistance of MIMU, is now producing weekly update of relief coverage maps indicating shortfalls in distribution and potential for duplication.
- The Cluster is working closely with UN-Habitat to ensure smooth handover.

Challenges

- Overlaps in planned coverage have become very high for some townships in Ayeyarwady as more agencies submit their data. Coordination will need to improve at the township/hub level in order to avoid overlapping between agencies in the future.
- Accounting for distributions continues to be a challenge as distributions are difficult to track in all areas.
- It remains a challenge to increase communication between hubs and Yangon cluster teams.
- Implementation and maintenance of hub database and system for consolidation continues.
- It is difficult to capture information from various agencies' detailed field assessment.

Gaps and Future Planning

- More detailed assessment data is required to confirm affected household estimation.
- Design community buildings with input from the GoUM, and health and education clusters.
- UN-Habitat will be the Cluster Lead as of 2 August.

Funding

The Shelter cluster is 53% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

8. Agriculture

Achievements

- Through its implementing partners (i.e. CESVI, GAA, IDE and UNDP), FAO has distributed 1085 MT of local and high yielding varieties of paddy rice seed to benefit 14,500 small scale farmers for the monsoon season in the townships of Dedaye, bogale, Labuta, Ngapudaw, Mawlanyinegyn, Kyaikiat. In addition, 275 water pumps and 340 power tillers have also been distributed.
- CARE has distributed paddy rice to 2,000 households in Bogale, 2,000 in Dedaye and 200 in Pyapon.

Challenges

Field coordination remains a challenge, and the Cluster is exploring ways to strengthen it. So far, focal points for the agriculture cluster in some townships are CESVI in Dedaye, GAA in Bogale, UNDP in Labuta, and IDE in Khungyangon.

Funding

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

9. Nutrition

Needs Assessment and Analysis:

- A Rapid Nutrition Assessment (MUAC and oedema screening) has been recently conducted in the northern of Bogale township. The preliminary report shows:
 - the global acute malnutrition is 6.2% and the children at risk category is 19.3%.
 - a quarter of the lactating women interviewed are experiencing breastfeeding problem.
- MOH/WFP/UNICEF food and nutrition surveys will start at the beginning of August and cover 26 townships in the Delta region. Based on the test at Kungyango, the questionnaire is to be adjusted.
- It has been reported that the product Plumpy Nut (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food, RUTF), dedicated to treat severe malnourished children, seemed to have been used for the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).
- A nutrition surveillance database has been produced. It represents the data from MUAC and screening assessments in the last two weeks.

Overall Achievements

- Distribution of translated guidelines on IFE is on going at the field level.
- Training for trainers on Infant Feeding practices for implementing partners have been completed.
- Training on IF practices have been conducted by a partner to reinforce the prevention of malnutrition of infant and young children in term of breastfeeding and complementary feeding to improve the weaning.
- Regarding the supplies of distribution, the BP5 from UNICEF warehouses have reached the field level.

Challenges

- Recommendations have been made on the use and availability of products for the treatment of SAM and MAM to help partners obtaining a harmonized methodology within the In and Out Therapeutic Program and Supplementary Programs.
- In terms of underlying causes of malnutrition, the links with Food/WASH/Health clusters have to be reinforced at Yangon and field level, as much as in terms of transversal issues within vulnerable groups.
- The visibility of commodity tracking has to be improved and planned in order to update the frame.

Gaps and Future Planning

- Organize a brainstorming session to find a solution of reporting at the IMM.
- Harmonize the tools for collecting information on 1) type of activities, and 2) geographical level.

Funding

The Nutrition cluster is 31% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

10. HEALTH

Needs Assessment and Analysis:

- During the week 30 (from 20 to 26 July), the number of the cases for acute Jaundice, Dengue and DHF increased.
- Overall measles cases decreased; however, two new cases in Ngapudaw and Maubin have been identified.
- Ten new cases of dengue have been identified in Bogale.
- Two cases of tetanus in the age group older than five years have been identified in Labutta.

Overall Achievements

- An integrated monitoring matrix has been developed to ensure the accountability and maintain quality of the programme. The Cluster continues to further develop this tool.
- Sub-group of health cluster working on Mental Health and Psychosocial support has started training for doctors.
- A manual for medical officers on psychological care of disaster affected population has been developed.
- A manual on psychosocial care of disaster affected population for basic health workers and community level workers has been developed.
- Data collection for assessment of psychological distress in 6 affected townships is completed.
- Larviciding in the Ayeyarwady division is on going and specific guidelines for vector control programme are available.

- UNFPA along with Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) has set up three maternity waiting rooms in Bogale, Labutta and Dedaye.

Challenges

- Further investigation on sources of tetanus in Labutta should be undertaken.
- The locations where more cases are reported from should be equipped with more referral facilities to have detailed information on suspected cases.

Gaps and Future Planning

- There are still gaps of leading coordination by NGOs in Kyaiklat, Maubin, Wakema and Myaungmya townships
- The Cluster is focusing on rehabilitation and reconstruction of health facilities.

Funding

- According to OCHA financial tracking system the Health cluster is 36% funded in the Revised Appeal.

FIELD COORDINATION AND ACCESS ISSUES

Field Coordination

IDP return from Labutta is ongoing; families are returning daily to the villages by boat. There are 165 families remaining in the 5-Mile Camp and 850 families in the 3-Mile Camp. The new deadline for the return of IDPs was 30 July. OCHA and humanitarian partners continue to closely monitor the situation.

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\$ 15.5 million in uncommitted pledges. Agriculture and early recovery remain the *least* funded clusters, with 13% and 16%.

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 Thursday. Please send updated information at the following address:
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