

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Myanmar Cyclone Nargis
OCHA Situation Report No. 45
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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1. The logistics cluster officially ended its function as of 10 August. Coordination related to logistics matters is now taken over by user groups at the hub level in five field locations. The Government has granted permission for two helicopters to operate for three months starting 15 August, which will help continuing facilitation of air movements of humanitarian workers and light cargo to the affected areas. The helicopter operation will be managed by WFP aviation.
2. At the request of the Department of Social Welfare, UNFPA and the Women's Protection Technical Working Group (part of the overall Protection of Children and Women Cluster) carried out a mission during 4-9 August to assess the situation of women and livelihoods in Labutta Township. The methodology adopted included focus group discussions in camps and the villages of return, and surveys with Ministry and municipality representatives.

The focus group discussions all indicate that women separated from their families and widows are the most vulnerable, and that women's livelihood options are viewed as either non-existent or very limited. The importance of the link between livelihood activities employing women and those employing men were highlighted. All focus group discussions identified the need for injections of start-up cash or facilities in order to resume their livelihoods. The main and immediate concerns were the access to food and safe shelter.

3. The emergency food assistance operation is now experiencing a rice pipeline break, causing the distribution of reduced rations throughout August. It is expected that the pipeline will be restored in September, following the arrival of regional purchases.
4. Tripartite Core Group (TCG) issued a press release on 14 August regarding the ways to solve the issue of the loss in values of aid money due to foreign exchange. Humanitarian agencies are now invited to transfer payments to US dollar accounts of vendors for supplies and services.

CLUSTER UPDATE

The following information is provided by the clusters, which 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>.

AGRICULTURE

Needs Assessments & Analysis

- Data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) of 4 August indicates that against a planned sowing area of 931,308 acres in ten cyclone-affected townships in Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions, 720,682 acres have been cultivated for the monsoon planting season. Of the reported townships, Labutta registers the least area cultivated in terms of planned area sown (61%), followed by Ngapudaw (68%).
- MOAI data also indicates that significant progress has been made in terms of monsoon rice seed delivery to affected areas. The townships included in the above MOAI calculations include: Ngapudaw, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Pyapon, Bogale, Kyaiklat and Dedaye of Ayeyarwady Division; and Kungyangon, Kawhmu and Kyauktan of Yangon Division.

Response & Achievements

- Since mid-June, International Development Enterprises (IDE) has distributed 10,376 tonnes of paddy seed, 740 power tillers, 18,570 gallons of diesel, 9 150 bags of Urea and 1,340 bags of super phosphate (50kg per bag) in 11 townships (250 village tracts, 1,197 villages), benefiting 58,520 farming households in Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions.
- In the last two weeks, *Cooperazione e Sviluppo* (CESVI) has distributed 50 power tillers for use by 500 farmers in 50 villages as well as six water pumps to six villages.
- The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) is carrying out serosurveillance for HPAI in breeder farms throughout the Delta area and has completed the surveillance in Myaungmya township. Serosurveillance is currently being conducted in Pyapon Township. The next planned township is Bogale.
- Agriculture Cluster Technical Working Groups (TWGs) continue to be initiated as a platform to exchange information and facilitate coordination specific to sub-sector responses. On 8 August, FAO convened the first meeting of the Fisheries TWG as part of the Agriculture Cluster. The meeting was attended by representatives from NGOs, the Department of Fisheries and the private sector (Myanmar Fisheries Federation) and will meet on a weekly basis. The organization of TWGs for both forestry/mangroves and livestock is underway.
- The NGO Myanmar EGRESS has begun monitoring and evaluation, field activities in cyclone-affected areas on behalf of FAO.

Challenges

- There has been a report of notable damage by crabs to some late-sown rice crop.
- Attention must be drawn to the risk of over-fishing resulting from increased fishing capacity, as compared to pre-cyclone capacity.

Funding

- The Agriculture Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 14% funded (\$7.9 million out of \$58.4 million), according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS). None of the NGO projects is funded in this sector.

EARLY RECOVERY

Response & Achievements

- UNDP continues to implement Phase I of the Basic Services Package (BSP), the first of a number of sectoral areas and approaches included in UNDP's Integrated Community-based Early Recovery Framework (ICERF) for cyclone-affected areas of Myanmar. Phase I of the BSP identified and reached 250 of the most vulnerable villages, servicing 27,673 households and a population of 114,102, with activities and follow-up continuing in all 250 villages.
- Support to farmers and restoring livelihoods remain priority objectives for UNDP across the five worst hit townships of the Delta – Labutta, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Kyaiklat and Ngapudaw.
- UNDP has delivered 592 one and two wheel power tiller packages, all comprising diesel, maintenance and tools, and the facilitation of seed supplied by partner UN Agency FAO, across the five townships and distributed to villages as required. Farmers will be able to crop up to 20,000 acres, giving food security to over 6,500 households for one year.
- UNDP has provided paddy seeds to communities at the rate of two baskets per acre, limiting a maximum of 10 acres per household. Power tillers are provided on the basis of the size of farmer groups in each village. UNDP uses township surveys to estimate benefited acres already cropped and planned to crop as the season progresses.
- UNDP also continues delivery of 220 water pumps across the five townships, in the areas where supplementary irrigation is required; this will be in time for the winter cropping season.

Gaps & Future Planning

- The Early Recovery cluster continues to work on the inputs to the Early Recovery Strategic Framework with the deadline for initial inputs from the cluster focal points extended to 18 August. The first draft for circulation should be ready by 22 August.

Funding

- The Early Recovery Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 16% funded (\$8.5 million out of \$54 million) (FTS data). Concerns have been raised on the funding level for early recovery activities

across the clusters. These activities need to be urgently financed in order to be implemented in a timely fashion especially regarding livelihoods both agricultural and non-agricultural.

EDUCATION

Needs Assessments and Analysis

- The team for school construction design, comprising the engineers from the Ministry of Education and a UNICEF architect, continued field assessments in Pyapon, Dedaye and Kyaiklat. Findings will be shared in Yangon next week, including with the Shelter Cluster. The team will then produce designs for model schools which will take the factors such as soil type, seismic tendency and wind exposure into consideration, and build back better, safer and more child friendly.

Response & Achievements

- 1,007 Temporary Safe Learning Spaces (TSLs) are being established where schools have been destroyed.
- More than 100,000 desks, chairs and blackboards are now in the pipeline for distribution. Other supplies in the pipeline include more than 360,000 textbooks, library boxes, school kits, teachers materials, and toolkits for school repair and rebuilding.
- Packages of essential learning materials have been provided for 164,000 girls and boys.
- Capacity building of education outreach workers is ongoing in Pyapon and Dedaye.

Challenges

- There is a considerable volume of supplies now in the pipeline for distribution, and logistics and transportation to and within affected areas remain a major challenge. There is only very limited storage available in the field. To facilitate distribution, UNICEF has made available certain supplies to cluster partners for schools within their project locations.
- Information sharing at the township level continues to be a challenge, especially on the status of school repairs, as some are being done by private construction companies. To avoid duplication of efforts, information should be shared with Township Education Offices.
- Efforts are ongoing to improve information sharing at the township level. Focal persons have been identified in Pyapon, Mawlamyinegyun, and Bogale. Reporting system is being standardised and formalised, and close cooperation with OCHA field staff is being fostered.
- Field visits have found that some Temporary Safe Learning Spaces are already in need of repair. Provision needs to be made for maintenance of these structures.

Gaps & Future Planning

- A number of cluster partners are planning for rebuilding of destroyed schools after the end of the rainy season. Some partners have been requested by officials to upgrade Temporary Safe Learning Spaces to more transitional structures.
- Advice has been taken from Development Workshop on repairing schools safely and will be developed in future plans.

Funding

- The Education Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 32% funded (\$8.4 million out of \$25.9 million) (FTS data). UNICEF is funded 33% and Save the Children 38%.

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Response & Achievements

- Electrical/generator installation mission is ongoing in Mawlamyangyun.
- COMCEN installation is being finalised in Pyapon.
- Radio communications training is ongoing for UN Agencies and NGOs in Yangon as well as in the Delta.

Challenges

- Importation of telecommunications equipment remains to be restricted.
- NGOs are not allowed to use telecommunications equipment in the Delta.

Future Planning

- Electrical / generator installation in Mawlamgyun offices is to be finalised.
- Radio communications training is planned for UN Agencies and NGOs in Laputta;
- Technical meeting with the Ministry of Telecommunications is planned.

Funding

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 67% funded (\$1 million out of \$1.6 million) (FTS data).

FOOD

Needs Assessment & Analysis

- The WFP Market Assessment Survey report has now been finalised and will be available for interested parties by the end of the week.
- Final planning for the WFP/UNICEF/Ministry of Health Food & Nutrition Survey continues.
- WFP and FAO have additionally commenced tentative planning for a Food & Crop Assessment to be conducted in September.

Response & Achievements

- As of 14 August, a total of 27,863 tons of food assistance has been delivered to the affected areas, of which 23,236 tons has been distributed.
- The Food Cluster has 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).
- Of the 3,125 tons of rice procured from India, WFP has now received a total of 2,625 tons. Dispatch of the same, in addition to required quantities of other commodities, into the Delta is continuing.
- Arrival dates for a further 3,403 tons of rice purchased from Thailand and 5,000 tons from India, are yet to be confirmed.
- 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

- The prohibition of local rice purchases continues to pose a significant challenge. The emergency food assistance operation is currently experiencing a pipeline break, and the successful and urgent conduct of regional procurement will continue to be a high priority in order to avoid future breaks.
- Logistical challenges exist in transporting sizeable quantities of commodities into the Delta for rapid dispatch to partners.

Gaps & Future Planning

- Following the discontinuation of cash transfer activities, final planning is underway for the provision of short-term relief food to targeted beneficiaries in the Yangon Division. The final target caseload has been reduced to 119,815 across 6 Townships, with balances from the Cash Transfer Programme being programmed into the supply of a full food basket for approximately 10 weeks.
- Planning for the local production of rice-based blended food for young children is ongoing.

Funding

- The Food Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 38% funded (\$42.3 million out of \$112.5 million) (FTS data).

HEALTH

Needs Assessments & Analysis

- According to the latest data, seven out of 17 organisations included in 3Ws will continue working in the areas they indicated until the end of 2008. Four of these seven organisations plan to stay until the end of 2009.

Response & Achievements

- Health Cluster partners working on malaria control are organizing training on malaria control and prevention for the next two days.

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) and health cluster partners have completed training for medical officers and nurses in Bogale, Labutta, Myaungmya and Pyapon on management of common mental health problems and psychosocial care.
- In the next MOH and Health Cluster partner collaborative activities, training will be provided to basic health staff from different townships on counselling, stress management and psychological support. Partners are following the community based approach for these trainings.
- CDs containing guidelines of emergency public health, field level communication training and training information on malaria are shared in the health cluster coordination meeting as the second round distribution.

Challenges

- Field level coordination of all health partners to avoid overlapping and addressing gaps remains a challenge.
- Ensuring access to health care services in design and revitalizing health care are challenges ahead.

Gaps & Future Planning

- MoH and Health Cluster partners will have a joint planning meeting on 17 August in Patheingyi for strengthening coordination where all TMOs, RSOs and focal points from all Townships of Ayeyarwady division will meet to discuss to strengthen field level coordination.
- Exit strategies of health partners who have completed their emergency health activities in the Delta are being addressed.
- Technical Working Group for Early Recovery is collaborating with architects and engineers in the Shelter Cluster TWG on design of rural and sub-rural health centres. They will submit the proposals to MoH once the design is finalized.

Funding

- The Health Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 35% funded (\$16.5 million out of \$46.7 million) (FTS data).

NUTRITION

Response & Achievements

- A presentation has been given in Yangon to show the main results of the Nutrition components VTA from PONJA. All the members endorsed the results and recommendations.
- Towards the Integrated Monitoring Matrix (IMM) linked with the Flash Appeal, it has been analyzed that some indicators couldn't be documented. The indicators representing percentages will be documented later as they are related to the impact of nutrition programs. It has been endorsed that all the indicators will be kept and documented as soon as possible. The indicator dealing with vitamin A will be given by the MOH networks quarterly.

Challenges

- In terms of underlying causes of malnutrition, the links with Food/WASH/Health clusters have to be reinforced at Yangon and field levels. A "sub-cluster lead meeting" has been suggested to address this.
- Identification of Nutrition Cluster coordinators at the township level is a challenge due to the workloads of partners.

Gaps & Future Planning

- SPHERE training will be suggested to Nutrition Cluster members either at Yangon level or the field level.

Funding

- The Nutrition Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 31% funded (\$5.5 million out of \$17.9 million) (FTS data).

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Needs Assessments & Analysis

- In the above-mentioned mission by UNFPA and the Women's Protection Technical Working Group to Labutta, other issues raised in the discussions include that those living in the camps are extremely fearful of the wind and/or adverse weather conditions. Many people are reluctant to move at the

moment because the rainy season poses many problems, including accessing their livelihoods during the rainy season. There is tremendous distress in all locations and psychosocial support is being provided. There are also concerns about vulnerable populations living in close proximity to large military and casual labourer populations. Quality of, and/or access to resources for shelters in the villages, is also an issue.

- Work is progressing on the Women's Protection assessment with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW). The assessment work plan and timeline has been finalized, a local research organisation to support data collection has been identified, and the assessment questions are being drafted. It is expected that data collection will commence in mid August.

Response & Achievements

- Cluster representatives from Yangon visited Labutta to discuss inter-agency collaboration and coordination, data collection (with particular reference to the Integrated Monitoring Matrix indicators and the 3W form), and to identify how to strengthen information flow between the field cluster and Yangon.
- A Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Working Group (CPE TWG) has been formalized and will meet on an ad hoc basis to discuss technical and programmatic issues related to Child Protection in Emergencies. The main focus will be community-based networks, family tracing and reunification and case referrals, child-friendly spaces, gaps & duplication, and systems for inter-sectoral referral within and between agencies. The group has met frequently over the past two weeks and has focused on strengthening coordination of family tracing and reunification, mapping agency coverage, facilitating the collection of data and information related to interventions, supplies and financial tracking.
- 254 child-friendly spaces have been established in the affected areas (141 in Ayeyarwady Division and 113 in Yangon Division).

Challenges

- Establishing referral pathways and response mechanisms for the cases of sexual abuse and violence.
- Strengthening links and information flow between the various PCW Cluster agencies at the township and national levels.
- Data and information collection remains a challenge.

Gaps & Future Planning

- On 15 August HelpAge International will launch a research study on "Older people and cyclone Nagis: A study of the situation of older people 100 days on."
- On 26 August, UNAIDS will hold a workshop on Field Testing of Draft IASC Guidelines on HIV in Emergencies.

Funding

- The Protection of Children and Women Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 23% funded (\$3.8 million out of \$16.8 million) (FTS data).

SHELTER

Needs Assessments & Analysis

- UN-HABITAT has taken over the responsibility of leading the Shelter Cluster coordination from IFRC.

Response & Achievements

- Over 572,000 plastic sheets have been distributed by the Cluster, covering 58.6% of the estimate affected households.
- 50,000 kits have also been distributed, along with 367,000 blankets, 794,000 mosquito nets, 369,000 jerry cans and 151,000 kitchen sets.
- TWIG has finalised the design parameter for shelter in recovery and presented it to the Cluster.
- TWIG is now extending its technical advisory to the health cluster for the design parameters of the health centres.
- "Build Back Safer" poster on safer construction techniques to prevent hazardous rebuilding has been developed and will be translated in Myanmar for distribution.

- Through the Joint Procumbent Initiative, 10,000 household kits will be distributed through the cluster members.

Challenges

- Effective and efficient communication between Yangon cluster team and hubs remains a challenge.
- Setting up hub data base and system for consolidation is also a challenge.

Funding

- The Shelter Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 47% funded (\$20 million out of \$42.5 million) (FTS data).

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Response & Achievements

- WASH Cluster is aiming at cleaning at least 1 pond per village until 15 August. About 800 ponds have been cleaned thus far. No clear figures of the population benefited have been obtained yet for Yangon and Ayeryawaddy Divisions.
- Cooperation with local authorities (DDA, Emergency Response Officers) continues improving.
- Prototype latrines have been constructed in townships as per the standard approved designs, to be agreed and replicated.
- Locations for deploying Water Treatment Plants are being identified.

Challenges

- Field staff have limited capacity to collect information, collate it and present it appropriately and in a timely manner. There are varied channels and formats for reporting.
- Providing water to the affected during dry season will be a big challenge.

Gaps & Future Planning

- Plans are in progress to install Water Treatment Plants at the Township (MoH) hospitals. Latrines will also be installed at the clinics.
- School sanitation programme will be taken up in coordination with the Education Cluster. Prefabricated latrines will be installed in schools.
- Hygiene kits distribution work is planned for the next few months.
- WASH Cluster meetings will henceforth be held bi-weekly, in order to allow more time for the Cluster agencies and Cluster Lead / Information manager to undertake field visits and support and monitor the situation at hub level.

Funding

- The WASH Cluster in the revised Flash Appeal is 39% funded (\$19.6 million out of \$50.4 million) (FTS data).

FIELD COORDINATION AND ACCESS ISSUES

Field Coordination

- Various field visits of different agencies have indicated that several villages in Kalayat Village Tract, Kyaiklat Township, situated on the border to Pyapon Township, have not received any assistance to date. This information has been shared with Clusters. A lack of coverage of the Village Tracts situated on the border between Maubin and Kyaiklat townships remains and several agencies are looking at extending their projects to these areas.
- The Area Commander in Bogale invites all NGOs for a coordination meeting at the administration office on Fridays. In the last meeting, the 3W map from OCHA was shared and the gaps in reporting were noted as it did not contain information on private donors. The government will share the data of donors who are directly in contact with them and hopes to discuss overlaps and gaps.

Access

As of 14 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has approved a total of 369 entry visa and 150 extensions and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement 438 travel authorizations.

FUNDING OVERVIEW OF THE MYANMAR REVISED APPEAL

The funding level for the revised Flash Appeal for Myanmar remains at 41% (\$196.3 million out of \$481.8 million in requirements), according to OCHA's FTS data. Agriculture and early recovery remain the *least* funded clusters, with 14% and 16% funding level respectively.

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 situation report is issued every Thursday. Please send updates to ochamyanmar@undp.org

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