

## UNITED NATIONS



### OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

#### Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 33 19 June 2008

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, making landfall in the Ayeyarwady Division and passing into Yangon Division before hitting the former capital, Yangon. With the wind speed of up to 200 km/h the damage was the most severe in the delta region, where the effects of the extreme winds were compounded by a sizable storm surge. Eye-witness accounts suggest that the tidal surge in some areas was more than 10 feet high. Some 2.4 million people are believed to have been affected by the cyclone, of a total 4.7 million people living in the affected Townships. The latest official figures put the number of dead or missing at more than 130,000.
2. UNICEF reports that the camp population in Laputta has declined from over 40,000 to an estimated 10,000. In Bogalay proper, all camps have now been closed. The Government of Myanmar has established four transit sites at villages in Bogalay Township from where people will be encouraged to return to their villages. In Myaung Mya the Government has been assisting people to return to their villages, mostly in Laputta Township. The camp population at the two sites officially recognized by the government is now down from 13,000 to 3,700. There are also around 800 people in three informal camps. In Pathein, which was unaffected by the cyclone, all camps have now been closed. The 3,000 people formerly living in camps have returned to their villages, mostly in Laputta. In Mawlamyinegyun proper, all camps have been closed, with the displaced returning to their villages. In Pyapon proper, where there were around 37 camps hosting around 17,000 people, all camps steadily closed during the course of May.
3. A Tripartite Core Group (TCG), consisting of high-level representatives of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the UN, was established at a donor conference in Yangon on 25 May to oversee the coordination of relief assistance. The TCG is currently coordinating a comprehensive multi-sectoral needs assessment in the cyclone-affected areas. Field surveys for the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) have been taking place from 10-19 June, with some 250 assessment personnel visiting 30 of the worst-affected Townships. Data-entry for the assessment is now well underway. The assessment consists of humanitarian needs (Village Tract Assessment/VTA) and damage components (Damage and Loss Assessment/DaLA).
4. Since new Government guidelines for international organizations providing assistance in cyclone-affected areas were introduced on 10 June, UN agencies and NGOs have been reporting increasing problems with obtaining visas and travel permits for international staff to visit the affected areas. In many cases the line-ministries now responsible for processing requests have not been provided with new instructions, which have caused significant delays.

#### NATIONAL RESPONSE

5. The Government of Myanmar's New Light of Myanmar newspaper reports that Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who is the Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC), visited cyclone-affected areas on 16 and 17 June. The Prime Minister went to the relief camps in Myaungmya and Labutta on 16 June, before visiting the affected villages in Ngapudaw Township on 17 June.
6. The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) reports that the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), working with the IFRC and the ICRC, has reached 302,000 beneficiaries with water, food

and other relief items as of 15 June. More than 80% of these beneficiaries are reportedly located in the Ayeyarwady delta. Approximately 10,000 people per day are being reached. MRCS has 27,000 registered volunteers spread working in Myanmar. As many as 10,000 Red Cross volunteers are estimated to be active in responding to the cyclone at any one time.

## **INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE**

7. 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 UN agencies. For more detailed information on cluster activities please visit the Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) website: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org>.

### **8. EARLY RECOVERY**

- The Early Recovery Network has produced a first draft of an Early Recovery strategy, which is currently being finalized.
- The Network is mainstreaming early recovery activities into strategy documents within each of the clusters.
- The Early Recovery sector is 141% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

### **9. EMERGENCY SHELTER**

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

- Field observations confirm high levels of self-recovery among the affected population, although some building materials are reportedly of poor quality.
- Local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and associations are successfully supporting people returning to rebuild their devastated villages.
- Provision of plastic sheeting remains a priority for shelter cluster partners.

#### **Overall Achievements**

- The cluster has distributed more than 350,000 plastic sheets as of 19 June. More than 450,000 plastic sheets are currently in the pipeline to be delivered.
- The cluster has developed a new tool to capture outstanding needs, with pipeline information now being provided by cluster partners. The tool will provide the cluster with forewarning of supply gaps.

#### **Challenges**

- Obtaining reliable pipeline data and tracking of shelter material distributions.
- Ensuring procurement of plastic sheeting to agreed standards. Specifications have been distributed and posted on the HIC website.

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

- The recent gap in the pipeline for plastic sheeting appears to be lessening, but the cluster will continue to monitor the situation. Cluster partners have been asked to update their planning figures to ensure efficient distribution of plastic sheets at the Township level.
- 125,000 plastic sheets provided by a US donor are expected on 20 June and will be distributed to agencies acting as consignees.
- Local agencies with distribution capacities are being connected with international agencies with plastic sheet supplies.
- A Joint Procurement Initiative (JPI) has been agreed and will be operational in the coming days. Partners for the lead agency (World Concern) are being sought.
- Household relief kits are expected to be the next priority for the emergency shelter cluster.

#### **Funding**

- The Emergency Shelter cluster is 47% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

### **10. EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Overall Achievements**

- The Emergency Telecommunications cluster is providing communications support for the humanitarian community in Yangon, Laputta, Bogale, Pyapon, Mawlamgyun, Pathein and Bangkok.

### **Challenges**

- Restrictions on official importation of telecommunications equipment remain in place.
- Emergency telecommunications equipment procured by the cluster has been held at customs for several weeks.
- Although the use of telecommunications equipment is prohibited in the Delta, some verbal approvals have been given in Laputta and Bogale.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Ongoing training of local Information and Communication Technology (ICT) assistants. Additional ICT assistants are currently being recruited.
- Installation of an emergency telecommunications centre in Yangon has started and will be completed this week.
- Electricity is being installed for a wireless link at the logistics cluster hub in Bogale.

### **Funding**

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

## **11. FOOD**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- Post-distribution monitoring and assessment is on-going in Labutta Township, where one month's food distributions have now been completed.

### **Overall Achievements**

- 15,831 MT of food assistance has been delivered to affected areas as of 19 June, with 6,785 MT of food now distributed in total.
- The food cluster has now reached 676,000 beneficiaries with food assistance.

### **Challenges**

- Limited availability of boats in the delta for distribution of food assistance to remote villages.
- Delays with the deployment of NGO partner field staff in some areas.
- Frequent population movements are creating challenges with the targeting of food assistance.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- Revision of the caseload and targeted population is currently underway.
- Ready to Use Food for Children (RUFC) is not currently included in the WFP food basket. Distribution will begin when suitable partners and target areas have been finalized. Food cluster partners are also planning local production of rice-based blended food for young children.

### **Funding**

- The Food cluster is 45% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **12. HEALTH**

### **Needs Assessment and Analysis**

- Health cluster partners have produced the second disease surveillance bulletin for cyclone-affected areas based on the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS). 92% of health partners are now participating in the system.
- No new cases of measles have been reported since 6 June, with 7,691 children now vaccinated in 10 camps (4,174 children under five, 3,517 children greater than five).
- No new cases of Acute Jaundice (AJ) have been reported.

### **Overall Achievements**

- The health cluster and the Ministry of Health are now implementing a plan of action for dengue prevention and control. More than 1,700 volunteers are targeting 22 priority areas in Yangon and Ayeyarwady with larvicide distribution over a ten-day period. State-run media and volunteers from the Myanmar Red Cross and other organizations are conveying public health messages.
- NGO Samaritan's Purse is training hundreds of personnel in emergency relief procedures to promote health and sanitation. Samaritan's Purse is also providing food distribution advisors and clean water experts.

### **Gaps and Future Planning**

- There is close collaboration with the WASH cluster to ensure routine water quality and quantity indicators from areas reporting waterborne diseases.

### **Funding**

- The Health cluster is 82% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **13. LOGISTICS**

### **Overall Achievements**

- 3,134 MT of cargo, including 2,063 MT of food, was dispatched by the logistics cluster between 20 May and 17 June 2008.
- 60 remote areas in cyclone-affected areas have been reached by helicopter in 197 rotations between 2 and 17 June.
- 72 cargo flights took place using the Thailand (Don Muang airport) to Yangon air-bridge between 24 May and 18 June.
- Detailed information on logistics can be found at the Logistics Cluster webpage: <http://www.logcluster.org/mm08a/>
- The Logistics cluster is 52% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **14. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN (PCW)**

### **Overall Achievements**

- Child-Friendly spaces (CFSs) are being established in villages and temporary settlements on an ongoing basis. In Yangon Division a total of 58 CFSs are functioning, and in Ayeyarwady Division a total of 53 CFSs have been set up.
- The PCW cluster has compiled a contact list for agencies operational in the field at sub-operational centres, information hubs for family tracing and child protection issues, and major town centres.

### **Challenges**

- Child Protection agencies continue to advocate for family-based care for unaccompanied children.
- The further separation of children due to relocation remains a challenge.
- There are large numbers of vulnerable children and families in villages, including substantial numbers of female, child and elderly-headed households, and working children.
- School enrolment is a protection challenge due to the destruction of schools, difficulties with paying fees and lost school equipment.

### **Funding**

- The PCW cluster is 25% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

## **FUNDING**

15. The World Bank provided the ASEAN Secretariat with a US\$850,000 grant on 16 June for disaster assessment and recovery activities. The grant from the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery is intended to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat in coordinating the international response, ensuring senior-level dialogue on recovery planning and training of ASEAN technical staff in damage and loss assessment.
16. The Myanmar Cyclone Flash Appeal is appealing for US\$202 million for UN agencies and NGOs to address the most urgent humanitarian needs. The appeal is 65% funded as of 16 June, with firm contributions of US\$131 million and a further US\$24 million in uncommitted pledges. According to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS) US\$241 million has been committed for all relief operations as of 16 June, with a further US\$66 million in uncommitted pledges. Preparation of a revised appeal is now underway. Cluster meetings are taking place to develop sector response plans, which will be followed with revised projects.
17. 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).

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