

## Myanmar: Cyclone Nargis FOOD CLUSTER MEETING

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07 July 2008  
Yangon

### MINUTES

#### **Participants:**

AAR Japan, ACT, ADRA, AFXB, CARE, DFID, DRADA, GAA, German NGOs, Handicap International, HiBurma.org, Metta, Myanmar Chefs Association, Oxfam, Save the Children, Solidarite, UNDP, UNICEF, USAID/OFDA, WFP, World Vision.

#### **1.) Update on Food Stocks / Movement; Resourcing; Revised Appeal; and VTA/PONJA**

[Please see attached presentation]

#### Additional Notes:

##### **Food Stocks/Movement**

- Import license for 3,125 tons of rice from India tentatively granted by the Ministry of Commerce on 7 July.
- Clearance received for the conduct of an additional 5,000 tons rice purchase from Thailand.
- Potential for pipeline break in August remains, in the event that additional regional procurement of rice is not forthcoming.

##### **Resourcing**

- Update pertains to the original Flash Appeal. Concern raised over widening shortfall margin following the launch of the revised Appeal. Suggestion to engage in contingency planning, in the face of significant shortfalls for the full 12-month EMOP.

##### **Revised Appeal**

- WFP/UNICEF Joint Assessment in July/August will be used to refine planning for decline in target beneficiaries from November 2008 (i.e. post-harvest).
- Concern raised over potential increase in farming household caseload: in the event that they continue to be unable to access sufficient agricultural inputs and, as a result, inadequately engage in the forthcoming harvest.  
***AP: Issue to be raised with Agriculture Cluster***
- NB: Revised Appeal to be launched in New York and Geneva on 10 July, followed by a Donors Meeting in Yangon on 11 July (to be attended by representatives from both the Yangon and Bangkok donor communities)

#### Upcoming Assessments to note:

- WFP/UNICEF Food & Nutrition Survey is being planned for July/August.
- Rapid Household Food Security Assessment will also be conducted in August, with all partners on the ground.

#### Ongoing Challenges / Concerns to note:

- Overlap in partner distribution figures.
- More accurate distribution reporting (need to overcome time delay and account for discrepancy between dispatched and distributed figures).

- Refined beneficiary targeting criteria, and more uniform mechanism.
- Suggestion that partners may look into securing their own buffer stock of certain commodities (pending confirmation of outstanding supply for WFP). Updates to be shared with all Cluster members.

## 2.) WFP M&E Training: Bogale, Labutta and Pyapon

- Distribution and Post-Distribution Monitoring training has now been conducted for a total of 77 field staff in Bogale (27 June), Labutta (1 July) and Pyapon (5 July). Subsequent rounds of training, as well as other capacity-building exercises, will be scheduled at a later date. If partners are interested in having their staff participate, please send an email to [Parvathy.Ramaswami@wfp.org](mailto:Parvathy.Ramaswami@wfp.org) and/or [Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org](mailto:Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org).
- WFP, Merlin and UNDP are continuing a Market Assessment Survey of 35 markets across 21 Townships in the Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions. Data collection is due for completion on 9 July, with a first draft of the report scheduled for 13 July. Regular commodity price monitoring will be undertaken thereafter.  
**AP: Market monitoring activities should be coordinated with the Cash Working Group (so as to avoid duplication and optimize efficiency).**
- **AP: Future training / assessment / monitoring exercises (both in Yangon and the Delta) to be announced in the Cluster meetings.**

## 3.) Alternative programming for Yangon Division, in lieu of Cash Transfer Programme

- With the cessation of cash transfer activities, an enhancement of purchasing power amongst the targeted 200,000 beneficiaries in the Yangon Division will not materialise. Given the current food needs, concerned partners are continuing to explore alternative modes of assistance. One possibility is to utilise these funds to procure equivalent quantities of rice and pulses locally (through partners), with oil and salt complemented by WFP from existing stocks. Duration of assistance would be approximately 10 weeks.  
**AP: Additional suggestions to be shared with the Cluster**

## 4.) AOB

- Clarification requested for the calculation of cash allocation to complement food basket provided by WFP. WFP will not reduce food basket, but will look into modification, depending on provision of cash transfers.
- Call for information: Suggestions for a Food Cluster application for the additional US\$ 4 million to be allocated by UN-CERF in the revised Appeal. These funds must be used over a 3 month period and for critical life-saving purposes.
- Call for information: updated distribution figures, and details on any distribution of non-WFP food resources.
- Call for information: any points for the Food Cluster input to the OCHA Sitrep, please send to [Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org](mailto:Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org) by lunchtime Monday/Thursday

**The next Food Cluster meeting will be held on 14 July 2008, at 11:00 a.m.**