

**UNITED NATIONS**



**OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS**

**Myanmar Cyclone Nargis  
OCHA Situation Report No. 46  
21 August 2008**

**OVERVIEW & KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on 2-3 May 2008, affecting some 2.4 million people living in Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions. Almost 140,000 people were killed or remain missing. Three and half months into the post disaster response, life saving emergency relief and humanitarian assistance continue whilst the focus is shifting towards early recovery efforts in parallel so as to provide urgent livelihoods support to the affected population. Some areas are moving to early recovery at a faster pace than others. For instance, several agencies and NGOs are now shifting their operations from Pyapon to Bogale since the former is increasingly phasing into early recovery while unmet emergency humanitarian remain in Bogale. Villages in remote locations continue to require urgent humanitarian assistance. In Mawlamyungyun, the emergency phase in all sectors is considered as over by the Township Coordination Committee and the focus is now shifting on early recovery activities prioritizing health, education, food and livelihoods.
- The Revised Appeal, launched on 10 July, is requesting a total of US\$ 481.8 million until end-April 2009. To date, the Appeal is 41% funded, according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Services (FTS). The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has provided close to US\$26 million for the Cyclone Nargis response. A second allocation of CERF funding is being approved in the range of US\$4 million, mainly for food, shelter & NFIs, logistics and health. Agriculture and early recovery continue to be the least funded whilst these activities are increasingly critical, notably in view of the planting season.
- The Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PoNJA) was released on 21 July. The PoNJA aimed at providing a comprehensive multisectoral assessment of the situation in areas of Myanmar affected by cyclone Nargis and was conducted jointly by the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations. The PoNJA report estimated that at least US\$1 billion is needed for humanitarian, recovery and reconstruction needs over the next three years. The Tripartite Core Group (TCG), consisting of high-level representatives of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations, is now reviewing modalities and technical aspects for a proposed Periodic Review of the Village Tract Assessment (VTA), a monitoring mechanism developed as a component of PoNJA. The first review is anticipated in November 2008 to further inform humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction planning.
- Coordination between the Government, ASEAN and the UN continues through the TCG, providing an important forum to discuss policy and regulatory issues to facilitate humanitarian activities as well as a framework for cooperation for relief to recovery. The UN Special Advisor on Myanmar, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, met with the TCG and the UNCT on 18 August to be briefed on the work of the Group and the UN. Prof. Gambari expressed satisfaction at the spirit of cooperation and expressed the hope that this could serve as a model for addressing other pressing humanitarian challenges and issues in non-Nargis areas of Myanmar. He visited a cyclone-affected township on 19 August. Prof. Gambari is on a five-day mission to the country since 18 August.

## CLUSTER UPDATE

The Nargis response is implementing the Cluster Approach. Currently, 10 clusters are operational at the Yangon level, involving UN agencies, local and international NGOs (Agriculture, Early Recovery, Education, Emergency Telecommunication, Food, Health, Nutrition, Protection of Children and Women, Shelter, WASH). The clusters are now being rolled out to the field level “hubs,” and are supported by OCHA sub-offices established in six locations. Most clusters have now shifted to biweekly meetings. Following updates are provided by the cluster lead agencies. (For more information, visit: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org>).

### **AGRICULTURE**

#### *Needs Assessments & Analysis*

- An assessment has been carried out by the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, on the socio-economic situation of the fisheries sector in the delta and will be published in the coming week.
- According to the PoNJA report, earnings and jobs lost as a result of Nargis largely fall under the category of the informal sector, which include seasonal jobs in agriculture, short-term jobs in community works, small-scale fishing, rice mills, fish processing, salt production, wood cutting, and other resource-based economic activities. In terms of agriculture [crop], PoNJA estimates that cyclone damage caused a total loss of 76 million working days, equivalent to a loss of earning of Kyatt 415 billion, which includes projections for future yield losses. For the fisheries sector, estimated employment losses amount to 10 million working days, with income losses approximated at Kyatt 26 million.

#### *Response & Achievements*

- Over the past two weeks, the International Development Enterprise (IDE) has provided 1,981 tonnes of fertilizers to 11 townships, out of a total of 7,500 tonnes for distribution. The assistance is benefitting over 58,500 households, who have already received other inputs through IDE.
- On behalf of FAO, Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI) distributed 44 water pumps and 286 tonnes of fertilizers (Urea, TSP, MOP) to Dedaye township, IDE distributed 52.6 tonnes of fertilizers to Kyaiklat township, and the UNDP distributed 83.8 tonnes of fertilizers to Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun and Ngapudaw townships. An additional quantity of 1,170.5 tonnes of fertilizer has been procured for distribution to beneficiaries.
- From 8 August to date, UNDP provided diesel for power tillers and farm tools (Kyatt 15.5 million) to 378 households in 32 villages. UNDP's cash-for-labour programme for paddy planting, amounting to Kyatt 78.04 million, benefitted 1,429 households in 39 villages. Livelihood grants for boats and nets (Kyatt 21.8 million) and for duck raising (Kyatt 0.5 million) are benefitting 310 households and 16 households, respectively.

#### *Challenges*

- Updated information on the needs of the fisheries sector is needed in order to formulate medium and longer-term strategies.
- In some paddy fields, poor growth of germinated rice seed was noted despite indications of satisfactory pH and salinity levels of water in some fields. The cause is being further investigated and soil samples will be tested.

#### *Future Plans*

- In the coming month, Welt Hunger Hilfe (GAA) plans to conduct small training sessions in their target areas on home gardens and small livestock rearing.
- Following the emergency repair work on 38 embankments and polders carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nargis-affected townships, completed on 31 July, plans are underway for a second phase of efforts to render the embankments more disaster resistant by increasing their height to the storm-surge level.

### **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.

#### *Challenges*

- Emerging challenges for Early Recovery include the uneven pace of transition with some areas already moving predominantly to early recovery activities whilst others still retain a major focus on relief.

#### *Future Plans*

- A Technical Working Group is scheduled to review the first draft of the Early Recovery Strategic Framework on 22 August. Following this MIMU has agreed to place it on restricted access on the web to enable further in-house comments before it is sent to the UNCT and is then open for wider consultations and discussions.

### **EDUCATION**

#### *Needs Assessments & Analysis*

- The team assessing the needs for school reconstruction designs presented its findings and developing preliminary designs in consultation with the Ministry of Education, incorporating best features from local building methods. Preliminary designs will be completed this week.

#### *Response & Achievements*

- Education cluster partners active in Ngapudaw township meet fortnightly in Patheingyi, with participation of Division and Township Education Officers. Education cluster meetings are also being held in Labutta, although less regularly as fewer partners are involved in the sector.

#### *Gaps and Future Planning*

- Two meetings with the Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) and the Deputy Minister from Ministry of Education (MoE) and on 14th and 18th August have paved the way for open discussion between the Ministries and aid agencies around the construction of new schools and temporary or transitional school structures. Designs have been shared and discussed, and a further meeting to continue discussion is scheduled for 30 August.
- The MSWRR has indicated a need for reconstruction of 283 schools in seven townships of Ayeyarwady Division. Agencies have been advised to apply for permission to build.

### **EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

#### *Response & Achievements*

- Electrical/generator installation mission has been finalized for Mawlamyath.
- Radio communications training for humanitarian partners has been conducted for Labutta.

#### *Challenges*

- Challenges remain the same as before, the restriction on the importation of telecommunications equipment and on the use of telecommunications equipment by NGOs in the Delta.

#### *Future Planning*

- Training in Bogale is planned for the next week.

### **FOOD**

#### *Needs Assessment & Analysis*

- Final planning for the upcoming Food & Nutrition and Household Food Security Assessments (WFP/UNICEF/Ministry of Health) is continuing. The mode in which these will be conducted is to be presented to concerned Clusters next week.
- WFP and FAO have additionally commenced tentative planning for a possible Food & Crop Assessment to be conducted in September.

#### *Response & Achievements*

- As of 21 August, a total of 28,216 tons of food assistance has been delivered to affected areas, of which 24,324 tons has been distributed.
- The Food Cluster has reached a total of 733,500 beneficiaries with food and cash assistance: 684,000 in the Ayeyarwady Division (food) and a further 49,490 in the Yangon Division (cash transfer).
- Following the discontinuation of cash transfer activities, distribution of food commodities among targeted beneficiaries in the Yangon Division will commence next week. The final target caseload has been reduced to 119,815 across 7 Townships, with balances from the Cash Transfer Programme programmed into the supply of a full food basket for approximately 10 weeks.
- The final tranche of 500 tons of rice from India (of the total 3,125 tons purchase) arrived in Yangon on 20 August and is currently being cleared.
- The dispatch of various commodities into the Delta is continuing, and will include approximately 280 tons of rice to Labutta on 22 August.
- A first tranche of 600 tons of rice from Thailand (of the total 3,403 tons purchase) is scheduled to arrive in Yangon on 27 August. Arrival dates for the remaining quantities, as well as an additional 5,000 tons from India, are yet to be confirmed.
- The emergency food assistance operation is still experiencing a rice pipeline break, necessitating the distribution of reduced rations throughout August. It is expected that the pipeline will be restored in September, following the arrival of regional purchases.

#### *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 remain in transporting sizeable quantities of commodities into the Delta for rapid dispatch to partners.

#### *Gaps & Future Planning*

- Planning for the local production of rice-based blended food for young children is ongoing.
- The food cluster is now planning for the introduction of supplementary feeding and food for work activities, scheduled to commence in October and November respectively.

### **HEALTH**

#### *Response & Achievements*

- The monthly update to the township-level 'Who What Where' (3W) has been completed.
- The health cluster lead has circulated the position paper on outcomes and strategy for early recovery and recovery to the cluster partners.
- A Patheingyi township health coordination meeting was convened on 17 August, involving local authorities and humanitarian partners as well as the high level officials from the Ministry of Health. As an outcome, a monthly strategic health action plan with five objectives was formulated.
- The health cluster facilitated a bilateral donation of portable water purification system from Norway.

#### *Gaps & Future Planning*

- Health cluster partners along with the shelter cluster and line ministries are currently working on developing joint strategic early recovery plan for the revitalisation of health facilities. The technical drawings for health facilities will be finished in the next 10 days.
- Health cluster partners working on sexual and reproductive health will hold a workshop to test the guidelines developed by them. Thirty health cluster partners plan to attend the workshop.
- Health cluster partner is going to organize training on psychosocial and mental health for nine of the most affected townships where it will train 10 persons per township. Of these ten trainees from each township, five trainees will be from community members. This training aims to provide skills to people to protect themselves from stress and engage them in their own recovery.
- The health cluster aims to bring mental health and psychosocial support services to the township level and also proposes that these support be incorporated in other sectors.

### **NUTRITION**

#### *Needs Assessment & Analysis*

- A weight and Height assessment is held by in 20 villages at Pyawon Township in order to detect acute malnutrition as well as underweight and chronic malnutrition.

#### *Response & Achievements*

- More than 12,000 acute malnutrition children received plumpy nut and BP-5 until July 08.
- 12 hospital nutrition units in the Delta and Yangon have been implementing management of therapeutic feeding.
- Management of acute malnutrition children was conducted in 12 disaster affected townships.
- "Interim Guidance on Management of Acute Malnutrition" reference handbook was translated to Myanmar version.
- At Pyapon township, the Health and Nutrition coordination meetings are held alternatively by UNICEF focal point and DMO focal point and present health, and then nutrition updates items.

#### *Gaps & Future Planning*

- Currently, there is no lead agency for nutrition surveillance sub-working group. UNICEF/cluster coordinator (interim) will lead for it tentatively. The cluster lead proposed generic TOR for sub-working group. Specific TOR for three sub-working group will be discussed at the next cluster meeting.

### **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN**

#### *Needs Assessment & Analysis*

- As reported last week, an inter-agency mission with members of the Women's Protection Technical Working Group had visited Labutta from August 4-9th to look at the situation of women and livelihoods. This week members of the mission are returning to Labutta to feed back to communities, organizations, and Government counterparts on the initial results. TCG members have been appraised of the mission's findings.
- The Gender Advisor to the Humanitarian Coordinator's Office is in the process of giving presentations on the mission's initial findings to a number of clusters and organizations, in Yangon, and also in Labutta, as part of the return mission.
- Child Protection agencies are in the process of collating and analyzing assessment data for presentation to the Department of Social Welfare.

#### *Response & Achievements*

- 254 child-friendly spaces have been established in affected areas, 141 in Ayeyarwady Division and 113 in Yangon Division.

#### *Challenges*

- Establishing referral pathways and response mechanisms for cases of sexual abuse and violence.
- Strengthening links and information flow between the various PCW Cluster agencies at Township and National levels.

#### *Gaps & Future Planning*

- On 26 August, the Office of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UNAIDS will hold a workshop on Field Testing of Draft IASC Guidelines on HIV in Emergencies.
- The Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Working Group is planning a training workshop for field-based Child Protection staff on 15-17 September, focusing on community-based care and protection, including family tracing and reunification.
- Referral pathway development and training in response to gender-based violence will be prioritized by the Women's Protection Technical Working Group over the coming weeks. The TWG will ideally develop a generic, and several location-specific, referral pathways, and will work very closely with a similar process being implemented by Child Protection partners.

### **SHELTER**

#### *Needs assessments & Analysis*

- Household relief kits are still in demand and distribution will continue.

#### *Response & Achievements*

- Over 620,000 plastic sheets have been distributed by the cluster partners, covering 64.3% of the estimated needs.
- 54,000 tool kits have been distributed, along with 383,000 blankets, 809,000 mosquito nets, 418,000 jerry cans and 178,000 kitchen sets.

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

## FIELD COORDINATION & ACCESS

### Field Coordination

OCHA continues to strengthen general coordination at the hub level. Six field offices are now almost fully staffed and initiating general coordination as well as support to the field-based clusters and IM activities.

A second General Coordination Meeting was held on 16 August 2008 in Pyapon, co-chaired by OCHA and WFP. Although participation of cluster leads was limited, productive discussions took place on cross-cutting issues (including in particular livelihoods programmes and disaster preparedness activities), 3W information collection, and common planning.

### Access

As of 20 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has approved a total of 373 entry visa and 153 extensions and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement 450 travel authorizations. These figures represent only the requests made on behalf of UN agencies through OCHA. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1,035 entry visas and stay permit extensions have been granted between 9 June and 18 August.

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