

*This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Myanmar Country Office. It covers the period from 28 to 29 March 2011. The next report will be issued on 30 or 31 March 2011, depending on the availability of information.*

### **I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES**

- The Government has welcomed the support provided by humanitarian partners present in Myanmar. The Government identified remaining needs in food, shelter, health, water and sanitation.
- The bridge connecting Tachileik and Tarlay, has been repaired and re-opened for regular traffic. Trucks up to 3 tonnes can cross the bridge.
- World Vision Myanmar reports that access to drinking water is still disrupted due to the damages to a number of pipes, tanks and wells. A risk of water contamination remains.
- UNICEF reports that the number of out-patients being treated in clinics in Tarlay has increased over the last day, primarily due to colds and diarrhoea.
- World Vision Myanmar has reported 96 cases of diarrhoea in 3 villages (Pay Tha La 1 village, Pay Tha La old village and Na Po Sha village) in Nar Yawng Village Tract.
- The RC/HC, together with the heads of several UN agencies, is planning a visit to the earthquake-affected areas in the coming days.

### **II. Situation Overview**

On 24 March 2011, an earthquake of magnitude 6.8 on the Richter Scale and 10 km depth struck the southern parts of Shan State in the East of the Union of Myanmar (population: 3,870,921)—approximately 300 miles southeast of Mandalay seismological observatory. It was recorded at 20:29:30 hrs Myanmar Standard Time (01:55:12 PM UTC). The epicentre is estimated to be located in the southern part of Shan State at the following coordinates: 20.705°N, 99.949°E which is close to the borders between Myanmar, Thailand (South) and Laos (East). Six aftershocks have been reported from affected areas. The risk of landslides remains high.

According to initial information from partners, villages in Tarlay Sub-Township (located in Tachileik Township), including Mong Lin (West), Mong Lin (East) and Naryaung Village Tracts, are among the most affected, with significant infrastructure damage. Tachileik Township is located near the border with Thailand and Laos—47 km from the epicentre, 1,292 km North East of Yangon and 940 km East of the capital city of Naw Pyi Taw.

The latest official number of casualties currently stands at 74 deaths and 125 injuries. According to the Relief and Resettlement Department (as of 29 March), the number of damaged houses is 305, including a number of Government buildings. Thirty-one (31) religious buildings have been damaged as well as eleven (11) schools. One 16-bed rural hospital in Tarlay was damaged.

A donation centre has been set up by the General Administrative Department (GAD), Fire Fighting Unit and MRCS at Tarlay Sub-Township. Local well-wishers are assisting the affected people. A Relief Committee has also been set up by the Government in Tarlay Sub-Township. The Tarlay Sub-Township Relief Committee, established by the Government, has estimated the damage of the earthquake at approximately MMK (Myanmar Kyat) 3 billion (approximately USD 3.6 million).

Geographically, a larger part of Myanmar lies in the southern part of the Himalaya and the eastern margin of the Indian Ocean, hence exposed to bigger earthquakes. Myanmar is earthquake-prone as it lies in one of the two main earthquake belts of the world, known as the Alpide Belt that starts from the northern Mediterranean in the west, and then extends eastwards to Indonesia. According to the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) 2009-2015 (August 2009), at least 18 large earthquakes have happened along the central lowland where the Sagaing fault is passing through. Another large seismogenic fault called 'Kyaukkyan Fault', approximately 500 km long is in the western part of the Shan Plateau. The largest measured earthquake in Myanmar is 8.0 Richter Scale, which occurred on the northern segment of this fault on 23 May 1912.

This is the third earthquake since the beginning of the year in Myanmar. On 4 February 2011, an earthquake of magnitude 6.4 and depth 88.8 km struck Sagaing Division at 2 PM UTC. The second one of magnitude 5.4 and depth 34.9 km, occurred on 10 March 2011 with the epicentre in Yunnan Province, China. No damages or casualties were reported in Myanmar as a result of these two previous earthquakes.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

The Government has welcomed the support provided by humanitarian partners present in Myanmar. The Government identified remaining needs in food, shelter, health, water and sanitation.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has established several relief distribution centres for affected people. People return to their homes after receiving relief items.

The local authorities have deployed four teams to conduct an assessment in seven locations—Ward 1, 2, 3, 4 in Tarlay Sub-Township; Nar Yawng Village Tract; Mong Lin (East) and Mong Lin (West) Village Tracts. Each team consists of eight members. The assessments are expected to be completed within two days.

In cooperation with the local authorities, MRCS is also conducting an assessment in the same areas with its 30 volunteers divided into six teams. MRCS is using the assessment form, which has been developed based on the agreement among the organizations in the field, including World Vision (WV) Myanmar, UNICEF, Noble Compassionate Volunteers (NCV). It has been agreed that this assessment form will also be used by other partners conducting assessments in the field.



#### Education

According to UNICEF, out of 26 schools visited five have reportedly collapsed and six sustained some damage in Tarlay Sub-Township. The Ministry of Education is expected to have rebuilt these schools in time for the new semester, due to start in June.

A total of seven child-friendly spaces are under construction in seven locations by WV Myanmar. These seven locations are Ward 3, Thiri, Lu Taung Mai in Tarlay Sub-Township; and Wan Sar, Tar Chant, Bay Tha La and Yan Kin in Nar Yawng Village Tract. The child-friendly spaces offer education, nutrition, and psychosocial support. Each child-friendly space can support up to 100 children. Training for 22 caregivers and volunteers to staff the child-friendly spaces has been conducted.



#### Emergency Shelter and Non Food items

MRCS will transport by air 300 tents (for temporary shelter) and 600 plastic mats for distribution in 8 locations—Ward 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Tarlay Sub-Township; Nar Yawng Village Tract; Mong Lin (East) Village Tract; Mong Lin (West) Village Tract; and Kya Ku Ni Village in Tachileik Township.

WV Myanmar has so far distributed 1,200 plastic tarpaulins (9 X 12 feet) in Tarlay and Mong Koe. An additional 2,253 heavy duty, plastic tarpaulins have been dispatched in a convoy of four trucks from Yangon.

On 30 March, UNICEF will send 500 sets of pans to the affected areas.



#### Health

As of Monday 28 March, 96 cases of diarrhoea have been reported by WV Myanmar in 3 villages (Pay Tha La 1 village, Pay Tha La old village and Na Po Sha village) in Nar Yawng Village Tract.

WV Myanmar has deployed a mobile medical clinic to Nar Yawng Village Tract.

According to the local medical personnel, a limited number of patients are treated in the temporary clinics set up in Tarlay. However, the number of out-patients has increased over the last day, primarily due to colds and diarrhoea. Oral rehydration solutions (ORS) are available in the two Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) distributed by UNICEF on 26 March should cover the immediate needs of 20,000 people for three months.

Local health authorities are concerned about the regular immunisation activities planned for April as the cold chain equipment in Tarlay was damaged. UNICEF reports the shortages of syringes and other medical supplies necessary for the immunisation activities.

On 29 March, MRCS, in co-operation with UNFPA, has airlifted and distributed 300 clean delivery kits and 600 dignity kits to affected households in 8 locations—Ward 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Tarlay Sub-Township; Nar Yawng Village Tract, Mong Lin (East) Village Tract; Mong Lin (West) Village Tract; and Kya Ku Ni Village in Tachileik Township.



### Logistics

As the rainy season is due to start in several weeks, there is report that some of the affected areas are usually inaccessible due to rains and increased risk of landslides.

The bridge connecting Tachileik and Tarlay that was damaged by the earthquake has been repaired by the Government and re-opened for regular traffic. Trucks up to 3 tonnes can cross the bridge.

Access from Kengtung, by road, remains possible.

Flights are available daily with domestic airlines from Yangon to Tachileik and Kentung. Myanmar Airways operates regular flights to Kengtung on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays leaving at 7:00 hrs. Air Mandalay operates daily flight to Tachileik leaving Yangon at 11:30 in the morning and reaching Tachileik at 14:35 via Mandalay.



### Water Sanitation Hygiene

On 29 March, World Vision Myanmar reports that access to drinking water is still disrupted due to the damages to a number of pipes, tanks and wells. A risk of water contamination remains.

Two water purification units are also distributed. Each unit can pump 400 litres of clean water/hour.

In addition, WV Myanmar is distributing 500 packets of oral rehydration solution and 1,400 drinking water bottles to 1,800 households in 30 of the most affected villages in Tarlay and Mong Koe.

Water purification items are available in the two Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) distributed by UNICEF on 26 March and should cover the immediate needs of 20,000 people for three months.

On 30 March, UNICEF will send an additional 80,000 water purification tablets and 500 sets of pipes (for latrines) to the affected areas.

## IV. Coordination

The RC/HC Mr Bishow Parajuli remains in contact with the Government.

The RC/HC, together with the heads of several UN agencies, is planning a visit to the earthquake-affected areas in the coming days.

In the field, partners are encouraged to coordinate with MRCS and UNICEF.

In Tachileik, OCHA and MIMU staff will provide additional coordination support as of 30 March 2011.

Two Inter-Agency coordination meeting, chaired by a representative from the Department of Social Welfare, were held in Tachileik on 27 and 29 March 2011, respectively.

In Yangon, the RC/HC will chair a meeting with key partners and donors on Thursday 31 March.

The Myanmar NGO Contingency Plan Working Group (CPWG) has decided to activate its WASH and Shelter sector response plans. The Network Activity Group (NAG) has been designated as the coordinating body of CPWG and offered assistance in conducting assessments, together with other partners.

All the relevant documents on this emergency are uploaded on Relief Web at the following address:  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&rc=3&emid=EQ-2011-000031-MMR>

A wide range of names and spellings of geographic locations are in use in this part of Myanmar. In clarifications are needed to ensure a common set of standardized names are used, kindly contact the MIMU.

## V. Funding

Cash assistance amounting to USD 40,000 was presented by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on behalf of the Government.

Thailand has offered an initial cash assistance of THB 3,000,000 (approximately USD 100,000) to the Government of Myanmar.

China has offered a cash assistance of USD 500,000 to the Government of Myanmar.

The Philippines have offered a cash assistance of USD 50,000 to the Government of Myanmar.

UNDP has made available a cash grant of USD 100,000 to support the response.

## VI. Contacts

### MRCS

U Maung Maung Khin, Head, Disaster Management Division: 098553276  
Daw Aye Aye Thant, Deputy Head, Disaster Management Division: 095127012

### MIMU

Tachileik: Daw Ei Ei Thein, Data Coordinator - +95 (0) 9730 55725

### OCHA

Tachileik: U Moe Aung, Field Coordinator - +95 (0) 9860 2829

Yangon: Vincent Hubin, Head of Office a.i.  
hubin@un.org, +95 1 544 500 Ext. 808 or +95 (0) 9861 0846

Yangon: Natthinee Rodraksa, Associate Humanitarian Affairs Officer  
rodraksa@un.org, +95 1 544 500 Ext. 816 or +95 (0) 9860 2848

Yangon: Eva Vognild, Information Management Officer  
vognild@un.org, +95 (0) 9502 2803

New York: Alf Blikberg, Humanitarian Affairs Officer  
blikberg@un.org, +1-917-367-0215 Room 06060-A