

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

**Myanmar Cyclone Nargis
OCHA Situation Report No. 51**

**24 October 2008
(Reporting period 10-23 October 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, according to the official figures. The coming 2-3 November will mark six months since the “worst natural disaster in the recorded history of Myanmar.” The revised Appeal, covering relief and early recovery needs up to April 2009, is now 55% funded as of 23 October, according to OCHA’s Financial Tracking Services (FTS)¹. The early recovery, both agricultural and non-agricultural, continues to experience significant short fall, with funding level 16% and 23% respectively. On 21 October, the UNCT organised an expanded donor meeting in Yangon, with the participation of donor representatives based in Yangon and Bangkok. It was followed by a field trip to visit two villages, well-served and under-served, in Bogale township on the next day, in which over 20 donor representatives participated.
- The Tripartite Core Group (TCG), consisting of high-level representatives of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations, continues regular and constructive engagement to facilitate the cyclone response delivery. The first Periodic Review process was officially launched on 19 October in Yangon and is now about to conclude the training of 80 enumerators, for which cluster agencies are providing technical support. The Periodic Review, under the auspices of the TCG, builds on the Village Tract Assessment (VTA) component of the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PoNJA) and will sustain the momentum created by PoNJA for comprehensive and credible monitoring of progress and outstanding needs, informing planning and delivery. It is planned that the exercise will be undertaken, involving a wide range of stakeholders, at least in November 2008 and March 2009. The results of the first Periodic Review will be shared by mid December.
- To complement Government’s recovery and reconstruction efforts, the humanitarian community is engaged in the “Post Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan” (PONREPP) process. Through PONREPP, the UN and NGO partners will develop medium term sectoral recovery plans, covering 2009-2011 post Revised Appeal, for six areas of cooperation: Disaster Risk Reduction, Education, Health, Livelihood (agriculture / non-agriculture), Shelter, and WASH. Additionally, the protection of vulnerable groups will be presented as a specific theme. Along with the formulation of sectoral plans, PONREPP aims to propose a monitoring mechanism to track measurable outcomes as well as funding mechanisms to ensure resourcing for proposed and agreed recovery activities. Six sectoral working groups have been established and are currently developing concept notes, based on which sectoral plans will be drafted by the end of November. PONREPP will be presented in conjunction with the ASEAN/UN summit, scheduled to take place in mid December.
- The Inter-agency Real Time Evaluation (RTE) team has concluded its mission to Myanmar. The team conducted validation exercise with L/INGO groups and provided debriefing on the preliminary findings to the UNCT, Humanitarian Country Team and cluster leads on its exit.

¹ <http://ocha.unog.ch/fts2/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&appealID=824>

CLUSTER UPDATE

Continued strengthening of cluster coordination capacity at the hub level is being recognised across the board as critical for this transition period. Various training and other capacity building continues, such as for coordination and Sphere standards. Many of the training initiatives increasingly include participation of line ministries and/or local authorities.

The response planning for the likely water shortage in the coming dry season continues to be an overriding concern in hubs.

The following updates are based on inputs by cluster leads.

AGRICULTURE

Needs Assessments & Analysis

- Post Nargis animal health care requires greater attention, including focus on the prevention of infectious diseases, in relation with the distribution of livestock inputs. If not addressed adequately, this may cause adverse effects on the recovery of livelihoods, food security as well as public health. Many agencies (including I/LNGOs) currently have insufficient technical capacity in animal health. To address the problem, FAO is providing technical expertise to the Agriculture Cluster. FAO field technical training for NGO practitioners, in Myanmar language, is scheduled for 27, 28, 30 and 31 Oct in Yangon, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Dedaye and Pyapon townships.

Response & Achievements

- FAO, in conjunction with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, held a workshop on 10-11 October on the distribution of livestock inputs in cyclone affected areas. 65 participants, including 20 from L/INOGs and 45 from LBVD attended the workshop.
- FAO is in the process of procuring and distributing 680 additional buffaloes. Procurement started on 15 October at the Oak Kan buffalo market in Taik Gyi township. The buffaloes will be distributed to small-scale farmers, who lost their draught animals during the cyclone. Animal feed and animal health care will also provided to the beneficiaries.

Gaps and Future Planning

- The funding pipeline in response to the revised Appeal is not sufficient to meet many of the urgent needs in the agriculture sector, covering crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry sub-sectors.

EDUCATION

Needs Assessments & Analysis

- The Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) working group met for the fifth time on 15 October, chaired by UNESCO and with representation from the Ministry of Education. The group has finalized its concept note and work plan for promoting disaster preparedness and response at school level, and representatives briefed the Director General of the Department of Educational Planning and Training this week.

Response & Achievements

- Very good progress has been made towards reaching targets set in the Education Cluster Response Plan (as in the Revised Appeal), and most will be achieved soon. Cluster partners are providing material support to over 2,500 schools in 21 affected townships. Up to 16 October, an estimated 504,000 girls and boys have benefited, compared with the planned target of 423,350.
- Planned distribution of materials is almost complete, in spite of the significant logistics challenges over the last six months. UNICEF expects its emergency distribution of education materials to be completed by the end of October, but plans to provide 60 additional large school tents and teaching and learning materials as further support for crowded post-primary schools. From the end of this month, UNICEF will shift its support away from blanket coverage of emergency supplies to focus on inclusion of all schools in five of the most-affected townships in the Child-

Friendly Schools programme. Save the Children has identified an additional batch of schools for provision of temporary safe learning spaces (TSLs), and is reviewing schools repaired and TSLs completed earlier in the response for safety and needs for further repair. Save the Children is continuing its Phase Two until the end of March 2009, while also moving its focus from emergency response to teacher training and DRR, including disaster resilience and retrofitting of school buildings.

- By 16 October, 1,218 damaged schools had been repaired to be able to re-open with minimal delay (+45 from previous reporting), against the Cluster Response Plan target of 1,390.
- Where schools were completely destroyed, the construction of TSLs is almost fully reaching the target. 1,239 TSLs are being established to allow learning to continue (+7 from previous reporting) out of the planned target of 1,315.
- 1,686 schools have received replacement furniture to date, including around 18,200 desks, 53,100 chairs and 9,000 blackboards. Most furniture has now been provided, with only an order of chairs remaining in the pipeline.
- 2,247 school kits have been provided (+294 from previous reporting), as have 639 schools-in-a-box to benefit up to 51,000 children, 1,166 games kits and 666 library boxes.
- 350,517 children have received packages of basic learning materials, against the planned target of 363,750 children.
- 6,739 teacher's kits have been distributed.
- 373,000 textbooks (including life-skills books) have been reprinted and to date 313,000 (84%) have been delivered to 1,857 basic education schools.
- Younger children are being supported through 357 Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centres, implemented by a number of partners (planned target 520). 869 ECD kits have been distributed to a network of partners, along with 859 sets of children's books. Materials have been designed and produced to help provide psychosocial support to younger children. 286 ECCD centres/pre-schools have provided nutritional feeding to children.
- Four cluster partners have reported receiving approval for school reconstruction during the last week, including for school building designs.
- 140 teachers had been trained by 16 October. Since teacher training forms part of the recovery phase, there is some way to go towards the planned target of 9,300 teachers trained. Nonetheless, training by UNICEF and Save the Children is now in process. UNICEF has been training teachers as part of the Child-Friendly Schools programme in five affected townships during the last two weeks. However, one cluster partner is still awaiting approval for its proposed project to train 4,150 teachers in DRR.

Challenges

- Conditions for teaching and learning in many temporary safe learning spaces are far from ideal. These structures are meant to last up to 1 year, or possibly to 2 years with repairs and maintenance. The MoE recovery plan document states that 3,476 out of 4,597 schools were damaged or destroyed across seven of the most-affected townships in Ayeyarwady Division and one township in Yangon Division (Kungyangon). Of the 3,476 schools that were damaged or destroyed it had been possible to repair and reopen 2,069. However, 1,407 schools need to be rebuilt.

Gaps & Future Planning

- The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation confirmed that 13 humanitarian agencies have committed for the reconstruction of 74 basic education schools, to date. This represents around 5% of the 1,407 needed in the eight highest priority townships alone. The Ministry and the Education Cluster are concerned by this significant gap and stress the need to move forward on reconstruction of permanent schools.
- Partners have reported gaps in financial resources for the response, especially with regards to reconstruction, and planned upgrading of temporary structures to more permanent schools.
- There is still a need for more school furniture to replace that lost, with some gaps in coverage reported, especially in some areas of Yangon Division.
- To date there is less centralized information available on schools outside the formal sector, for example in community (self-help) and monastic schools. The cluster is trying to address this in order to determine gaps in coverage and where more support is needed.

- The theme of the next Education Cluster meeting on 7 November is lessons learned during the 6-months of education emergency response to cyclone Nargis.

FOOD

Needs Assessment & Analysis

- Data collection for the joint Food & Nutrition and Household Food Security Assessment (WFP, UNICEF and the National Nutrition Centre of the Ministry of Health) has been completed. Joint analysis workshop will take place on 24- 25 October.
- Data collection for an FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission is ongoing. Preliminary findings are expected at the end of October.

Response & Achievements

- As of 20 October, 41,600 tons of food assistance have been delivered to affected areas (+1,587 tons from last reporting), of which 39,000 tons have been distributed (+3,824 tons from last reporting).
- WFP, through its cooperating partners, have distributed food commodities to 750,000 beneficiaries in Ayeyarwady Division and 131,400 in Yangon Division.
- The dispatch of various commodities into the Delta is continuing, and recently included the deliveries of 354 tons of rice to Bogale, 231 tons of rice to Mawlamyinegyun, 170 tons of rice to Pyapon, and 100 tons of rice to Labutta during the 3rd week of October.
- WFP has purchased 5,000 tons of rice from India and received 3,500 tons at Yangon port with the remainder scheduled to arrive in early November. In addition, 236 tons of oil has arrived from Malaysia in Yangon.
- In preparation for the introduction of supplementary feeding in the Delta, nutrition training and blended food cooking demonstration took place in Pyapon, Labutta, and Bogale.

Challenges

- While the prohibition of local rice purchases continue to pose a challenge, imports from regional sources are arriving in Yangon ports. Currently procurement for November distributions is ongoing.

Gaps & Future Planning

- Preparations for food for work activities in the Delta are ongoing. Proposals from interested partners have been received and guidelines are finalized. The projects are scheduled to start in December. In total, 125,000 beneficiaries will benefit from community projects that will facilitate improved livelihood in the area. WFP will also start a pilot cash-for-work project with 500 households in the Delta. FFW and CFW schemes are part of WFP's early recovery strategy, aiming to promote a rehabilitation of individual and community assets and a restoration of livelihoods.
- Under Supplementary Feeding Programme, pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 will receive 150g of CSB or WSB per person per day for 6 months. The total number of beneficiaries is currently being revised to provide 6-month ration for all participants in targeted areas.

HEALTH

Needs Assessment & Analysis

- EWAR reporting suggests that Malaria, Dengue, acute Jaundice, Measles and diarrhoea are showing a decrease from May to October, 2008. No data for these diseases from last year is available for the Delta for comparison. EWAR reporting in the last four weeks has been complete and timely.

Response & Achievements

- A mass vaccination campaign for under 15 years is ongoing in Labutta.
- Second township health cluster coordination workshop was held in Pathein on 2 October. The workshop noted that information sharing between the partners and townships has been satisfactory, which is key to reporting suspected cases on communicable diseases for appropriate response by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Gaps & Future Planning

- Training on surveillance will be held from first week of November.
- Township Medical Offices (TMO) have been requested to confirm, through the MoH, data on rehabilitation and reconstruction needs per township.
- All TMOs need to produce monthly strategic health action plan with health partners, to identify priorities.

NUTRITION

Needs Assessment & Analysis

- According to the report of seven implementing partners of UNICEF in September, more than 113,668 of under five children have been screened in 12 affected townships in Ayeyarwady and Yangon Division. Among these children, <0.4% (505) was in severe acute malnutrition, 5% (5,604) moderate acute malnutrition and 9.4% (10,673) were in at risk of having acute malnutrition.

Response & Achievements

- By September, more than 25,000 pregnant and lactating women received vitamin supplementation and 42,000 received multiple micronutrient tablets in cyclone affected areas.
- 12,450 mothers/caretakers have been reached with messages for optimal infant feeding practices through health education sessions.
- 10,000 copies of Joint Statement of Infant Feeding in Emergencies in Myanmar version have been printed.

Challenges

- A number of infants who lost mothers for causes other than the cyclone have been identified in townships where emergency infant feeding activities are taking place. It has been however difficult to identify sufficient number of those who can assist in wet-nursing these infants.
- Delay in receiving monthly report from implementing partners on regular basis could impact on monitoring and analysis of nutrition programme.

Gaps & Future Planning

- Refresher training on Community Management of Acute Malnutrition based on endorsed interim guidance material will be conducted in November and December. This training of trainers will target 10-15 trainees (both basic health staff from MOH and INGOs) per township. Training will be jointly conducted by Nutrition specialists from UNICEF and MOH in seven affected townships. Detail training planning and schedule are still in discussion.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & WOMEN

Needs Assessment & Analysis

- The Women's Protection Technical Working Group/Department of Social Welfare Women's Protection Assessment is ongoing. Data collection is currently taking place in 16 townships and will continue until the 31 October.

Response & Achievements

- Integrated Monitoring Matrix as of 19 October 2008

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Details</i>
The number of functioning protection services for children and women in place	808	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 328 functional child-friendly spaces established- 280 community support groups for children and women established- 200 child protection awareness raising activities conducted- Child Protection agencies are registering separated and unaccompanied children in 22 townships- Child Protection agencies are reunifying separated and unaccompanied children in 22 townships
The number of affected children and women who access protection services	59,376	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 55,523 children are accessing child-friendly spaces- 1216 separated or unaccompanied children are receiving individual case management support- 914 (415f/499m) separated children have been registered

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 302 (96f/206m) unaccompanied children have been registered - 224 (96f/128m) orphans have been registered - 454 (222f/232m) extremely vulnerable children have been identified - 743 (397f/346m) missing children requests have been received
The number of people with strengthened skills and knowledge on the protection of children and women	10,126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70 government staff have been trained on child protection issues - 250 local NGO staff have been trained on child protection issues - 155 UN/INGO staff have been trained on child protection issues - 9,069 community members have been trained on child protection issues - 89 people have been trained on psychosocial responses (other than child-friendly spaces) - 493 non-protection staff in child protection agencies have been briefed on family tracing & reunification processes
The number of mainstreaming initiatives focused on children and women's protection	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17 non-protection agencies briefed on family tracing & reunification - Protection of Children and Women Cluster <i>Code of Conduct to Prevent any Form of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation</i> has been distributed to 18 organizations - Agencies are using standardized forms & sharing information systematically with regard to family tracing & reunification
Total estimated beneficiaries reached	63,904	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children accessing child-friendly spaces, people trained on child protection related issues and beneficiaries of family tracing and reunification efforts

- Hub-level clusters meet weekly or fortnightly in Pyapon, Bogale, Labutta, and Mawlamyinegyun. In general these meetings are well attended, and include a cross section of L/INGOs and UN agencies. At the moment the meetings are predominantly focused on Child Protection issues as the majority of attendees work on CP.

Challenges

- There is a need for increasing the engagement of Women's Protection implementing partners in the cluster.
- Key issues being raised by field staff include:
 - High dropout rate due to the inability of parents to support children within the education system. One of the reasons is the charging of informal fees, a practice not allowed by the Government.
 - Need for reproductive health education for women, including birth, as there are an increasing number of nursing mothers who are also pregnant.
 - Working children, including those at tea shops and in the fishing sector, are of concern.
 - Family tracing is ongoing, but agencies are challenged by a lack of human resources, mobility and poor communications.

Gaps & Future Planning

- As a result of several requests to organize training sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) at field locations, members of the Women's Protection Technical Working Group are meeting with local organizations to conduct some workshops for the Training of Trainers in order to roll out GBV trainings in the Myanmar language in the field in mid-November.
- Key priorities include: attention to the wellbeing of children, including their need for stability, supportive relationships, and space for play and socialization activities; and attention to the physical and psychological well-being of vulnerable women, including their need for security, supportive relationships and space for protection and care. Factoring in women's vulnerabilities will also enable the emergency response to ensure the health, security and well-being of families and entire communities.
- Registration of vulnerable children, women and families (including unaccompanied women and female-headed households) is crucial in order to ensure that they have access to life-saving assistance (such as food, shelter, and medical care).

SHELTER

Needs assessments & Analysis

- With increasing amounts of data from the Delta, it is clear that shelter is an increasing priority. It is estimated that at least 100,000 of the 450,000 destroyed houses belonged to vulnerable families. The cluster has spent the past month collecting information from the Delta in order to raise awareness of the appalling emergency shelter conditions. Most of these vulnerable families are living in shelters that are the most basic of emergency shelters and well below SPHERE standards. Tarps distributed 3 months ago are already deteriorating and more durable solutions are urgently required.
- A weather window (dry season) means that we have until April until make significant impact on shelter construction.
- The Delta is an extremely challenging environment. The logistics challenges due to the difficult access means that all construction of shelter will be more expensive and take time.

Response & Achievements

- Over 700,000 plastic sheets have been distributed by the cluster to date, covering 70% of the estimate affected households. 79,749 tool kits have also been distributed, along with 396,183 blankets, 828,095 mosquito nets, 421,968 jerry cans and 181,799 kitchen sets.
- Shelter organisations continue to provide some NFIs but these activities are winding down.
- New activities currently being set up will mainly focus on the distribution of building materials and some training to owners and artisans.
- Assessments currently underway will help assist prioritisation processes.
- Vulnerable families need more support than shelter kits. Over 50,000 families will need shelters with a minimum life of 24 months.
- The private sector has made significant contributions to shelter.

Challenges

- There are less than 10 shelter agencies with significant capacity to support shelter construction in the Delta. Local NGOs and CBOs are present but their capacity is currently very limited.
- Some shelter agencies are planning to phase out by December due to lack of funding. The cluster is already losing a score of technical staff.

Gaps & Future Planning

- Support for coordination and information management at the various hubs is being strengthened by regular visits from Yangon staff – to ensure two way information flow and follow-up.
- The shelter cluster has re-assessed technical specifications in order to limit poor design and to ensure equity from the responding agencies.

WASH

Response & Achievements

- Translation of Guidelines (Pond Cleaning, Chlorination, Latrine construction) has been nearly finalised.

Gaps & Future Planning

- WASH Cluster Performance Review is planned to be conducted between 15 November and 2 December. The review would aim at learning from the implementation of the cluster approach in Myanmar, particularly the challenges and successes.

HUB UPDATES

Labutta

- Myanmar Bamar Emergency Aid Network (MBEAN), a local NGO, has established an office in Labutta and started livelihood activities. FXB, an international NGO, has arrived in Labutta and launched woman's livelihood programme in 3 villages.
- Although Labutta's administrative boundary has been changed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, line departments are still working under the previous demarcations. Middle Island is now under Labutta township administration, but health, education and other government departments are still under Nga Pu Daw township administration, requiring coordination and consideration with local authorities for cyclone assistance.

Bogale

- In Bogale hub, eight clusters/sectors meet regularly for coordination: Agriculture/livelihoods (chair GAA); Education (UNICEF); Food (WFP); Health & Nutrition (TMO); Logistics (WFP); PWC (World Vision); Shelter (UNHCR); and WASH (GAA). The TPDC Chair holds weekly inter-cluster coordination meetings with health and WASH clusters to coordinate response to the likely water shortage in the dry season. Furthermore, the Tactical Commander continues to hold the internal coordination meeting, to which national staff members from all agencies based in Bogale are invited. OCHA continues to chair monthly General Coordination meetings.
- OCHA held an inter-cluster meeting on 17 October, focusing on Ka Don Ka Ni peninsula, south Bogale, one of the under-served areas.

Mawlamyinegyun

- In Mawlamyinegyun hub, seven clusters/sectors are active: Agriculture/livelihood (chair UNDP); Education (Save the Children); Food (WFP), Logistics (WFP), Health (UNICEF), PWC (Save the Children); Shelter (IOM); and WASH (Save the Children). The participation of local authorities is active in Health and Education clusters with the regular attendance by TMO and TEO. In total, 14 agencies (5 UN agencies, 7 INGOs, 2 NGOs) are present in the hub. UNHCR, based in Bogale, regularly visits Mawlamyinegyun to attend General Coordination Meetings.
- Seven Village Tracts (56 villages) were transferred from Labutta to Mawlamyinegyun township administration in August. There has been no significant coverage to these villages by the agencies based in Mawlamyinegyun township. OCHA plans to convene an inter-cluster meeting next week to discuss the humanitarian coverage in these villages.

Pyapon

- In Pyapon hub, eight clusters/sectors have active coordination mechanisms: Education (chair UNICEF); Food (WFP); Health & Nutrition (alternate chair UNICEF/DoH); Livelihoods & Accountability (OCHA); Logistics (WFP); PCW (World Vision); Shelter (World Vision); and WASH (UNICEF) In total, 28 agencies (5 UN agencies, 10 INGOs, 13 LNGOs) are present in the hub.
- On 20 October, the Minister in charge of cyclone response in the township opened the Training of Trainers for disaster preparedness and management in Pyapon.

Yangon hub (also covers Dedaye)

- The Commander, TCC Chair and the army unit that have been seconded for the cyclone response have returned to their normal duty stations as of mid-October.

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