I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- An earthquake of magnitude 7.0 on the Richter scale and 10 km depth struck the Eastern State of Shan in Myanmar at 20:29:30 hrs Myanmar Standard Time (01:55:12 PM UTC) on 24 March 2011. Since the earthquake and as of Sunday 27 March evening, a total of eight aftershocks have been reported from affected areas. The risk of landslides remains high.

- The latest official number of casualties currently stands at 74 deaths and 125 injuries. According to the Relief and Resettlement Department the number of damaged houses has increased from 224 to 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.

- The damaged Tarlay Bridge, connecting Tachileik and Tarlay, has been temporarily repaired, enabling the re-opening of the road from Tachileik to Tarlay in the evening of 26 March. However, it is observed that the Bridge may not in a condition adequate for traffic by heavy trucks. Only light trucks, motorbikes, bicycles and pedestrians are advised to cross the Bridge. Access from Kengtung remains possible.

- The Government has announced it would share a comprehensive assessment of the situation by Monday 28 March. The coordination with the local authorities is reportedly efficient.

- The Tarlay Sub-Township Relief Committee, established by the Government, has estimated the damage of the earthquake at approximately 3 billion Kyats (approximately USD 3.6 million).

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 earthquake was reportedly felt for at least three minutes. 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 the number of damaged houses has increased from 224 to 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.

There have been reports of sporadic disruption of basic facilities, including electricity, water supply and telecommunications in the affected areas.
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 3 billion Kyats (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 through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, the Himalayas, and Myanmar to finally Indonesia.” (Hazard Profile of Myanmar, July 2009, Jointly prepared by the Union of Myanmar, MES, MGS, MIMU and ADPC). 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

On 26 March 2011, the State media reported the visit to the affected areas by a representative of the Ministry of Defence, the Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (Secretary of NDPCC), the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs (PBANRDA) and the Deputy Health Minister. They provided relief assistance, including medical supplies, food and cash assistance to the affected population.

OCHA has shared the Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) form, both in English and Myanmar languages, which is included in the Myanmar Inter-Agency Contingency Plan and encouraged partners to use it for their rapid assessments to ensure consistency and compatibility of data.

Camp Coordination/Management

MRCS has established temporary camps for affected people, but people are reportedly returning to their homes.

Education

Three child-friendly spaces will be set up on Monday 28 March in Tarlay Wards 3, 4 and Nae Yao by World Vision (WV) Myanmar.

Emergency Shelter and Non Food items

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC) has distributed relief items to affected communities in Tarlay, Mine Thyat and Kyine Latt which included 35 tarpaulins (for temporary tent); 150 tarpaulins (6X8 feet); 800 Longyis (for male and female); 400 blankets; 400 sets of cooking utensils and 400 bath towels. More tents are available in Yangon and may be airlifted to the affected areas if needed.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has a stock of 1,000 packages of family kits that can be mobilised from its field offices in Shan State. It has distributed 125 family kits.

World Vision (WV) Myanmar has provided mosquito nets (250), candles (500 packs of five candles each), mats (250), temporary shelter materials (250 plastic sheets of 9 x 12 feet).

CARE is preparing to dispatch 100 family kits to the affected households.

Food Security

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC) has distributed relief items to affected communities in Tarlay, Mine Thyat and Kyine Latt which included 2,100 cans of fish; 210 vis (1 vis is equivalent to 1.65 Kg) of dried fish; 525 vis of salt.

WFP has announced that stocks of rice, pulses, oil and salt are available in Yangon, Taunggyi and Lashio (nearest areas), and can be mobilised. Additional stocks are on the way to Lashio and Kokang, which could also be diverted. WFP is looking at the possible routes for the dispatch of food, if needed.

World Vision (WV) Myanmar has provided food (1,350 packets of noodle as reported in SitRep #2), cooking oil and salt in a number of affected communities.

The Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN), together with Myanmar Agriculture Service (MAS), will start an assessment on food requirement.
**Health**

The Government has established a temporary hospital in Tarlay Sub-Township. Seriously injured people have been referred to Tachileik and Kentung Township hospitals. In addition, medical clinics are reportedly functioning respectively in Tarlay, Mong Lin and Mong Koe.

UNICEF has provided one Inter agency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) to the emergency clinic setup in Talay. The other IEHK has been provided to the township hospital in Tachiliek, where most patients from the affected areas are being referred to. First aid kits and water purification items supplied by UNICEF are being used and distributed as MRCS continues to reach the affected villages. Reportedly, the supply of drugs and medicines are sufficiently available. Upon the request from the State Health Director, UNICEF will also provide material support in building latrines for the relief camp setup in Talay.

World Vision (WV) Myanmar has provided first aid supplied to Tarlay and Tachileik hospitals.

WHO has deployed a staff member, who is presently working in Shan State, to the affected areas to provide assistance to the local health authorities. The agency has been requested by the Ministry of Health to provide additional supplies, including emergency surgical kits which will be reaching the affected areas in the coming days. WHO is also procuring drugs, antibiotics and IV fluids for the treatment of injured people. WHO has reported that additional medical supplies can be mobilised from its office in Bangkok, Thailand if needed.

As of Sunday 27 March, no outbreak of diseases has been reported.

**Logistics**

Access of national staff of humanitarian partners to the affected areas is reportedly well facilitated by the authorities.

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.

Tarlay Bridge connecting Tachileik and Tarlay has sustained damage and was impassable during the first two days after the quake. According to the latest report from the field team of World Vision Myanmar, the bridge has been temporarily repaired. The cracks on the bridge have been filled up with sandbags. The road to Tarlay from Tachileik has been opened in the evening of 26 March. However, it is observed that the bridge may not in a condition adequate for traffic by heavy trucks. Only light trucks, motorbikes, bicycles and pedestrians are advised to cross the bridge. Access from Kentung remains possible.

Flights are available daily with domestic airlines from Yangon to Tachileik and Kentung. Myanmar Airways operates regular flights to Kentung 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.

WFP have deployed two emergency assessment teams (needs and logistics assessments), who were expected to arrive in the affected areas on Sunday 27 March. They will coordinate with partners already in the field, especially UNICEF, MRCS and WV Myanmar. The teams have the necessary communication equipment to establish an Internet connection. WFP has also established a list of stand-by staff in case additional needs are identified.

**Water Sanitation Hygiene**

According to UNICEF field team, water quality in most affected villages has reportedly become more turbid. Affected people are relying on donated bottled water and some on boiled water.

According to World Vision Myanmar, an immediate challenge is access to drinking water. Some gravity flow pipelines and overhead water tanks are broken. Surface wells have also dried up or water has become viscous, milky in colour and odorous in some areas.

The local authorities have requested five (5) drums of bleaching powder to chlorinate dug wells and water containers in affected villages and twenty (20) sets of latrines.
On 27 March, WV Myanmar has deployed a WASH expert to the affected areas.

World Vision (WV) Myanmar has provided assistance to the affected households, including water (3x1,000 litres water tanks; 4,000 litres of bottled water to Nar Yaung and Yan Kin villages. Supplies of drinking water will continue while six boxes (16,000 tablets each) of water purifications tablets will be sent to Tarchileik by flight on Monday. This amount is enough to purify water for 40,000 people for a week. WV Myanmar will also send five portable water purification machines mobilised from Bogale.

IV. Coordination

The RC/HC a.i. Mr Ramesh Shrestha remains in contact with the Government and the Myanmar Red Cross Society. The RC/HC a.i had a meeting with key partners and donors on 26 March in Yangon.

A relief committee has been set up by the government in Tarlay Sub-Township to support emergency coordination. In the field, partners are encouraged to also coordinate with MRCS and UNICEF.

OCHA and MIMU will be deploying two staff members to the affected areas in the coming days.

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

N/A

VI. Contacts

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