

Key Points

- The Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PoNREPP) Recovery Coordination Centre (RCC) was launched on 10 June 2009, with three international staff from ASEAN and the UN system covering key duties.
- An international RCC Manager a. i. has been appointed and with the RCC Team, is providing overall support to the evolution process from humanitarian to recovery phase.
- The Cluster system is officially transitioning to the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan's (PoNREPP) coordination arrangement as from 01 July 2009.
- Funding for recovery activities currently stands at about US\$100 million, with efforts underway to mobilize additional funds for project activities and coordination services envisaged under PoNREPP.
- Extensive preparations were made for the visit of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on 3-4 July 2009.

I. Situation Overview

- A donor meeting on education was held on 9 June, followed by a field trip to the Delta the following day. The RC/HC has called for continuous donor support in the recovery phase, including information management by MIMU and continuation of the Protection Working Group beyond June 2009.
- Donor representatives reviewed the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) concept note with the TCG Chairman. The latter will present the final LIFT proposal to the Prime Minister for endorsement.
- OCHA is finalising the draft Contingency Plan to be circulated among the IASC members for comments.

II. Coordination Update

- On 30 June, the Cluster system will officially transition to the recovery coordination arrangement under the PoNREPP structure. A short official announcement to IASC partners and Clusters Leads on this change is anticipated in due course.
- The Recovery Coordination Centre (RCC) was activated on 10 June with three international staff from ASEAN and the UN system to ensure continuity in coordination support in the Delta. An RCC acting Manager has been appointed to oversee the structural transition from the humanitarian to the recovery phase.
- The RCC is finalising a Recovery Forum concept note. The Forum members consist of representatives from ASEAN member states, UN agencies, international and local non-governmental organisations.

- Six OCHA hub offices are due to phase out on 30 June 2009 and four Recovery Hub Offices (RHOs) in Bogale, Pyapon, Labutta and Yangon will become operational from 1 July 2009. The RHOs' operational costs and staffing are shared by OCHA and ASEAN.
- As of 30 June 2009, approximately US\$100 million has been secured for PoNREPP project activities and coordination support.
- The RC/HC office and OCHA have jointly conducted a township-based coordination mapping exercise to improve coordination planning.

III. Cluster Updates

Agriculture

FAO completed data collection activities at the township and village tract level during January and May 2009's tracking of the response by Cluster members and other actors in the following townships: Kung-yangon, Dedaye, Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta and Ngapudaw.

Approximately 150 CDs, each containing Technical fact sheets on 45 subjects, 99 maps delineating crop, livestock, fishery and forestry inputs distribution were distributed and are now available at the MIMU Resource Center, Local Resource Center and the FAO Library in Yangon.

Response and Achievements

During the 2009 monsoon planting season, FAO is distributing power tillers, complete with fuel and lubricant, paddy rice seeds, fertilizer, fruit trees, buffaloes, piglets and fishing gear to a total of 32,620 households.

As for the whole Agriculture Cluster, since its establishment immediately post-Nargis, approximately 262,302 households (almost one million persons) benefited from agriculture and non-agriculture livelihood inputs.

Challenges

Despite Myanmar's economy being heavily dependent on agriculture, it has remained one of the least funded sectors throughout the Nargis response. Many key inputs, such as fertilizers, tillers and fishing gears, are still needed in large quantity to sustain the recovery process.

Clear emphasis should be placed on the recovery of small livestock and other income-generating activities as these are crucial for landless household livelihoods. Equitable and innovative credit schemes also need to be developed at the community level.

Delays in key funding envelopes and outstanding support to PoNREPP activities may directly impact on organizations' ability to continue operations in the Delta and could cause some to cease activities completely in the next few months should the situation continue.

Gaps and Future Planning

The Food Security and Agriculture Thematic Working Group is currently finalizing its structure in order to ensure a smooth transition from its composite clusters. The Delta Livelihood Working Group has also recently been established.

FAO plans to conduct a training programme on Livestock Banking System, Animal Health and Husbandry System at the village tract and township level from 6-10 July 2009. FAO/ERCU staff will travel to Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun townships for the training. Similar training programmes will be carried out in Labutta and Ngapudaw townships in due course.

FAO/ERCU will conduct data collection for the Monsoon Inputs Distribution in August 2009 to update maps delineating inputs distribution and livestock distribution coverage.

Education

In early June, the Education Cluster was reactivated after six months of dormancy. There was a significant interest from 14 agencies who attended the Cluster meeting to share updates and look at

ways forward. During the meeting it was very useful to obtain feedback on the Contingency Plan for Education. In order to make this as effective as possible this plan needs to be shared and discussed with the Ministry of Education (MoE), Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Department of Planning and Training and Department of Basic Education.

Response and Achievements

Throughout the Nargis response, the Education Cluster has broadened assistance to Nargis affected areas in 27 townships to support more than 3,000 affected schools, including Government schools (primary, middle, high schools, affiliated schools and monastic schools). A total of 25 agencies have taken part in the emergency response.

Save the Children conducted a workshop to introduce the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction to Education Cluster members. Together with UNICEF, it also provided Education in Emergency Training to the MoE, DSW, international as well as local NGOs.

Teacher training programmes jointly developed by UNICEF, Save the Children, PCF and Amara have benefited more than 5,000 government, affiliated/ community and monastic school teachers. Meanwhile, a total of 2,754 adolescents benefited in Extended and Continuous Learning training programmes.

A total of 1,400 schools were repaired (including government, monastic and affiliated) and 1,369 temporary safe learning spaces were constructed in the aftermath of Nargis. A further 500 additional schools are planned for 2010, as indicated in PoNREPP, which is a challenging target to meet due to limited funding and few actors in participating in the sector.

Child-led Disaster Risk Reduction (CLDRR) activities have taken place in over 50 villages which enabled the development of community-based risk mitigation action plans. The DPRE (Disaster Preparedness and Response in Education) working group, in consultation with the MoE, has prepared a resource pack containing guidelines and materials on psychosocial recovery and support for schools to conduct school-based risk assessments, develop school preparedness plans, conduct appropriate drills, and support teaching and learning activities,

as well as training to township education officials, principals and teachers.

A "Safer School" project, carried out by Save the Children, has been expanded to three more Delta townships. Workshops have been running in over 100 villages about how to integrate DRR techniques into school buildings. Communities have been trained in how to make not only their schools safer, but also their homes. Many people are adding metal strips and other such materials to make their housing stronger with minimum costs.

Challenges

Some agencies are able to use their own designs for school construction but others have been following the MoE's design. A number of agencies who initially signed up to build schools have not been able to obtain sufficient funding to achieve this. This has meant that many villages remain without permanent schools at this stage.

Weather conditions have made it difficult to finish building a number of the schools and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centres. As a result some grants have had to be extended.

Gaps and Future Planning

The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) handbook has been translated into Myanmar. However, currently the INEE Minimum Standards do not cover ECCD programming and this is a large part of the emergency response. This will hopefully be addressed during a review of the current handbook.

An INEE TOT is planned for later this year to build capacity within the education sector.

Stronger links need to be fostered with organisations working on disability as there seems to be very few disabled children who can access schools in cyclone-affected areas.

The Education Cluster will merge into a country-wide Education Thematic Group, and the Basic Services Working Group for the Delta's recovery programme. Field level coordination is still taking place in some townships such as Pyapon, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta and Bogale. It is hoped that guidance can be provided to these forms of coordination through the Basic Services Working Group and more regular field visits.

Emergency Shelter

Heavy rains continued to increase across the Delta throughout June, resulting in the slowing down of shelter reconstruction works.

Response and Achievements

As of June 2009, approximately 31,500 destroyed houses have been reconstructed by national and international agencies so far, as well as refitting of severely damaged shelters through the distribution of materials like bamboo, timber and *nipa* palm leaf thatch.

The MRCS and IFRC continue their "community-based construction procurement project" through which 8,000 households have been able to construct new shelters that will better protect their families. In Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun and Pyapon, IOM continues distributing packages of construction materials to 24,000 households for shelter refitting and for renewing some 2,400 shelters for the most vulnerable ones. The programme will run until the end of 2009.

UN-HABITAT has trained about 320 village carpenters, selected by UNDP from 8 townships, in shelter construction methods that comply with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) requirements. In this regard, UN-HABITAT has also printed a larger quantity of posters and brochures for households planning to reconstruct safe shelters as well as two brochures for village carpenters on technical issues. Similar materials have been produced for village committees on how to mobilize resources in each village to build back safer shelters. The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on DRR methods to "Build Back Safer Shelters" are posted at <https://groups.google.com/group/unhmm>.

Challenges

Prior to transitioning into the Physical and Social Protection Working Group under PoNREPP, UN-HABITAT held the final Shelter Cluster Workshop on 26 June 2009. The workshop was attended by about 70 representatives from 40 organisations and agencies. It discussed Shelter Cluster achievements, different approaches in solving the Shelter-related issues and identified lessons learned.

Gaps and Future Planning

All matters related to the Shelter Cluster will be followed up in an informal manner pending the establishment of the new coordination structure, the

Physical and Social Protection Working Group.

Food

In June, WFP carried out a rapid assessment in 12 villages in a sub township in Bogale. The findings indicated that there has been improvement in overall food security in the Delta. This, in no small part, has been due the efforts of NGOs and international organisations. However, both food availability and access continue to pose constraints to food security of the sampled villages (notwithstanding the improvements in land access in the past 6 months).

It was recommended that emphasis should be given to Food-for-Work and Food-for-Training activities and the re-establishment of the agriculture and fishing sectors. The continuation of food assistance and food-for-work activities until the end of the year, combined with non-food assistance aimed at making agriculture more sustainable and increasing employment opportunities, will be the most effective way in reducing food insecurity in the Delta.

Response and Achievements

Fourteen months after Cyclone Nargis, WFP has provided food assistance to approximately 1.1 million people. Over 89,000 tons of food has been delivered; 1,393 tons of fortified blended food have been provided to 60,000 pregnant and lactating women and children under five years of age.

Since May 2009, WFP has put more focus on recovery activities and 125,000 people have been supported through Food-for-Work activities. With this, 161 kilometers of roads have been renovated and five kilometers of foot paths created. A total of 33 kilometers of dykes have been constructed, three bridges constructed, 96 water ponds constructed and a further 26 renovated. Through Food-For-Training activities, 10 carpentry training sessions and 4 health education sessions have been provided to interested youths.

Challenges

The rainy season hampered the access to some areas.

Gaps and Future Planning

The Food Cluster will join the Delta's Livelihood Working Group with cluster members being part of this wider group. WFP will however continue to hold bilateral meetings with partners across the country on a monthly basis.

Health

The Dry Season has now ended without reports of any significant disease outbreaks, either through location-specific reporting or through the Early Warning and Reporting System (EWARS).

The Health Cluster formally phased out on 12 June, coinciding with the departure from Myanmar of the Health Cluster co-Lead from WHO. Coordination planning is now structured in order to take account of pre-existing national coordination mechanisms.

Health coordination groups will focus, with significant input from the Ministry of Health (MoH), on preparations for implementation of PoNREPP. The MoH has provided a focal person who will link with Health PoNREPP planning processes and ensure synergy with MoH structures, strategies and programmes. Delta-specific working groups on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Care will continue.

The creation of a nationwide Health Thematic Group has been proposed. A new group tasked with detailed planning for implementation of Health PoNREPP has met on a regular basis. Efforts to structure a Health PoNREPP programme will include collaboration with the Periodic Review team in order to generate a baseline for subsequent Monitoring and Evaluation. Fruitful discussions with MoH in order to align the Health PoNREPP within existing national coordination and the identification of technical expertise in order to further elaborate the PoNREPP document into a detailed plan are currently underway.

The number of health partners programming across the Delta has now reduced to approximately 10 organisations, including UN agencies and iNGOs. An unknown number of local NGOs and private sector providers continue to offer health services alongside the public health structures.

Response and Achievements

The first of four planned township health assessments was concluded in May 2009 in Ngapudaw. Funding for three assessments has been secured. The design methodology of the assessment tool was reviewed at a meeting at MoH in Naypyidaw which was attended by representatives of UN agencies and iNGOs. The three assessments will be undertaken through technical support provided by WHO.

The health component of the Periodic Review has been reviewed and revised and now includes indicators which are aligned with both the Health Cluster's June 2008 Action Plan (in order to enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the response) as well as maternal and child health indicators which will ensure that the Periodic Review can be used as the baseline for the Health PoNREPP.

The MoH has continued to play a pivotal and central role in the Cluster and plans are in place to ensure its continuity after the Cluster phase out period.

Challenges

The Health Cluster has been unable to ensure predictable levels of aid delivery, due to shortfalls in donor funding commitments. Whilst coordination of activities has been relatively good over the past month, the reducing numbers of implementing and partnering agencies within the Health Cluster has placed an increasing burden of work on remaining agencies. The need to allocate significant time and human resources upon recovery planning has resulted in weak Cluster performance in the area of ensuring accountability.

Organisational support to iNGOs in the areas of SPHERE standard and HAP competency building are continuing independent of the Cluster. One year after Nargis, considerable challenges persist. These will need to be carefully monitored and consciously addressed in the course of the recovery process.

Gaps and Future Planning

The number of Health implementing agencies within the Nargis area has reduced from a total of 35 in the direct aftermath of Cyclone Nargis to currently only 9 agencies. This reflects firstly the anticipated and predictable exit of agencies with a solely emergency focus, secondly agencies operational in other parts of Myanmar which have chosen to no longer remain in the Delta, and thirdly, the lack of funding beyond the first year of the emergency period.

Funding from non-PoNREPP donor sources for the PoNREPP period of 2009-2011, amongst the INGOs and the ICRC/IFRC, has been determined to be \$9.8 million. Committed funds from international donors for Health PoNREPP are currently limited to a DFID allocation of \$4.5 million. In a comparable non-emergency context, this would represent an inadequate and less than equal allocation of aid compared to neighbouring countries.

In addition to financial gaps in overall provision, gaps in coverage across townships have been widely. In May 2009, the Health Cluster piloted the first of four township-wide assessments of health service delivery. The information gathered from these assessments will be used in coordinated township planning which is at the core of the Health PoNREPP plan and which is designed to ensure a post-relief transition from fragmented project-based planning to coordinated, equitable resource allocation across entire townships.

The Health PoNREPP implementation group continues to strongly advocate with in-country donors regarding the remaining gap (75%) in identified funding needs for health recovery implementation. The group will also continue to advocate with ASEAN member states in order to attempt to cover the shortfall in health facility reconstruction by facilitating the targeting of such activities appropriately.

Nutrition

The preliminary results of the second round of the joint MoH-UNICEF Nutrition Survey in Nargis-affected areas are eagerly awaited. The Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) technical group will obtain expected analysis and results on Sensitivity, Specificity, Positive Predictive Value correlation on MUAC and Weight-for-Height (WfH) data from the second Food and Nutrition Survey by the end of July 2009 in the next MUAC meeting.

Response and Achievements

In 36 Nargis-affected townships, 1,725 lactating mothers were supplemented with vitamin A and 24,017 under-five children with multi-micronutrient sprinkles. 6,741 pregnant/lactating women in 36 townships were supplemented with multi-micronutrient tablets, 4,422 with iron-folate tablets, and 7,473 with vitamin B1. Meanwhile, 3,435 pregnant women underwent de-worming treatment. Throughout June, a total of 31 acutely malnourished children, with complications, have been treated in six hospital nutrition units.

Challenges

The Nutrition cluster is transitioning into the Basic Services Working Group while many iNGOs have phased out from Delta despite the urgent need to build the capacity of Basic Health Staff throughout the Delta.

Gaps and Future Planning

The Myanmar Nutrition Technical Network (MNTN) will be fully activated in August and arrangements are being made for its launching workshop to be held in the first week of August 2009.

Protection

The Protection Cluster is formulating a regional Plan (Delta) and a National Plan of Action on Children, a National Plan of Action on Older Persons, and an Emergency Plan of Action for Persons with Disability with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Response and Achievements

UNICEF, through its implementing partners, is supporting 6,750 children in the Delta with a range of care and protection support in 200 emergency recovery villages of Labutta, Bogale, Pyin Khayaing, Pyapon and Dedaye Townships. UNICEF has registered 300 working children in tea shops and jetties and on 30 June, held an awareness raising workshop on the implementation of the Minimum Standards on the Protection of Working Children. A total of 958 separated and unaccompanied children have been registered, 879 of which were already reunified and another 79 will be placed in long-term care arrangements in the coming months.

As of June 2009, a total of 1,163 Women Self-Reliance Group has been established to provide poor women access to affordable credit and targeted training. A pool of 30 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) trainers from UN agencies and international and local NGOs were created to conduct awareness-raising advocacy and training on women's protection and GBV issues in Yangon and the field. A total of 49,350 women and 22,071 men benefited from sexual and reproductive health services.

The Protection sub working group continues to provide assistance to older persons, including shelter repairs, distribution of food and non-food items and weekly basic health care service to 500-600 people. Training programmes on mainstreaming ageing for national and international stakeholders were conducted in Yangon and in the Delta areas.

Targeted assistance was delivered to 8,000 Persons with Disability through interventions for mobility, housing/shelter, livelihoods, psychosocial support, child development, and referrals for specialist medical and surgical care.

A community awareness-raising activity on forced labour and the ILO complaint mechanism was conducted in 65 villages in Mawlamyinegyun through the ILO labour-based projects.

UNHCR will provide awareness-raising materials and office equipment to Bogale Immigration Department to strengthen their capacity to re-issue National Registration Cards and household registration lists.

The Protection Cluster has completed the relocation of people from 14 Mile resettlement village in Labutta. It is noted that 196 households were accommodated in 171 houses in 8 villages in Labutta. The Protection Working Group in Labutta will continue to work closely with local authorities to provide assistance for the future relocation of 7 Mile resettlement village.

Challenges

The lack of funding for protection interventions in the Delta, nascent organisational capacity to work on sensitive protection issues, combined with limited access to affected areas remain challenges that need to be addressed by the Physical and Social Protection Working Group under PoNREPP.

An advocacy strategy for organizations with a global protection mandate should be planned to effectively address the full range of protection issues. This should also enable the cross-sectoral mainstreaming of Protection programmes.

Gaps and Future Planning

The first meeting of the nationwide Protection Working Group will take place in late September where Government representatives will be invited to participate. The meeting aims at formally establishing the Protection Working Group with the endorsement of the Terms of Reference (ToR) and presentation of the protection working group strategy.

A complementary assessment on Women's Protection in the Delta area will begin in the near future. Upon its completion, an action plan on Women's Protection in Emergency and Development will be drafted, in close collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The Cluster has discontinued the monitoring and

response to the dry season needs in the Nargis-affected areas as rain arrived at the end of May.

Other WASH activities such as pond construction, distribution of ceramic water jars, hygiene promotion, latrine construction, tube well drilling and general WASH programmes continue to progress throughout June.

Response and Achievements

WASH Cluster members are working on summarizing their achievements one year on. Discussion on the Cluster phase-out method at the end of June has dominated in Yangon and the field.

Challenges

The WASH Cluster is undergoing a transition to the nationwide WASH Thematic Group, with a new set of ToRs. It will also be housed under the umbrella of the Basic Services Working Group for the Recovery programme in the Delta. WASH Thematic Group members in Yangon and the field will elect new steering committee members and UNICEF will provide secretariat support for the Thematic Group.

Gaps and duplication of programme activities will continue to be addressed between Thematic Group members as required.

Gaps and Future Planning

The Cluster's transition into the Basic Services Working Group, and the WASH Thematic Group's

wider service coverage, may pose a challenge in the next few months and will top the agenda with all WASH stakeholders.

The WASH Cluster's Emergency Preparedness Planning activities will continue to be the sector's main focus.

IV. Funding

The response to the Revised Flash Appeal as of **30 June 2009** stands at \$477 million, with about \$330 million, or 69.2% of the total, being funded.

For more details, visit: <http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>
All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

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