

## EC Partners

RELIEF  
INTERNATIONAL- UK

Local NGO Mangrove  
Service Network,  
Myanmar

Local NGO Social  
Vision Services,  
Myanmar

## Facts and Figures

- EC Contribution:  
€ 1 230 000 (80% of  
the total)
- Duration: 2009 - 2011
- 10 000 direct  
beneficiaries and  
20 000 indirect  
beneficiaries



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

## Food security

### Sustainable food security for communities affected by cyclone Nargis.

Rebuilding food security among the most vulnerable households affected by cyclone Nargis

*"After cyclone Nargis, I removed my children from school and started to borrow money to survive and pay medical expenses. Every day my debts became bigger. When I received rice seeds, fertilizer and training, I went back to rice cultivation and produced much more than before. This saved my family's life".*

Tin Tun, from Kan Chaung Su village  
in Pyapon Township



## Context

On the 2nd May 2008, cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar and devastated the Ayeyarwaddy Delta region, a major rice and fish producing area in Myanmar. Cyclone Nargis affected 2.4 million people, killing around 100 000 people. With the loss of agricultural and fishing equipment, many villagers had to rely on casual labour as their primary source of income. Approximately 15 percent of households in the Delta region are now female-headed households with children.

## Objectives

- Revive agriculture, fishery and livestock production.
- Diversify income generating activities by increasing capacity and resources for small business development.
- Improved nutritional and environmental sanitation education through increased community awareness and better training for health staff.

## Impact

- 8 800 households received a start-up kit to recover their livelihoods.
- 1 500 landless people and vulnerable households received an alternative livelihood grant.
- 3 600 farmers, breeders, fisherman attended technical training sessions.
- 53 000 patients served by the mobile clinics and 34 000 community members participated in health promotion and education sessions.

# Food security

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### Lae Lae's story

Lae Lae is a 31-year-old widow who lives in Char Su Village in the Pyapon Township. When her husband died 2 years ago, leaving her with an infant and a pile of debts, she was unable to pay for his burial and had to borrow more money. Lae Lae was forced to sell all of her family's property in order to make the repayment.

Lae Lae was struggling to feed her family. Her relatives did not have the financial means to help her. She sold fish in her village and earned about 1500 MMK per day (around USD 2). When her son began to suffer from a regular cough and persistent high fever, the project's mobile health team made frequent visits to treat him and provided the necessary medical examinations and treatment. As a result, her son became healthier and no additional medical expenses were accrued.

Upon further examination of Lae Lae's financial circumstances, the project provided her with two young piglets. Lae Lae fed them vigilantly and within months, the piglets grew to be worth 15 000 MMK. When she decided to sell the young pigs, the project advised her to wait one more year as the commercial value could be raised to up to 300 000 MMK. This news changed Lae Lae's mind. She decided to delay selling the pigs for one year with the goal of establishing a grocery shop at home with the proceeds of the sales. Her dream became reality in November 2010 when she sold her two fattened pigs for 150 000 MMK per head. She opened the grocery shop and paid off all of her debts.



Lae Lae is smiling again...