



**Cyclone Nargis
Myanmar
OCHA Situation Report No. 13
17 May 2008**

This situation report is based on information received by the clusters, whose partners include UN Agencies, national and international NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and IOM.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. **The official figures for dead and missing have almost doubled in the last 24 hours and now stand at 77,738 dead and 55,917 missing.** Unofficial figures are considerably higher. **The number of injured rose steeply to 19,359, up from 1,403.** The latest official figure for dead and missing combined is 133,653. The Cluster Leads in country are working on the results assessments and information received from the delta region to ascertain the number of affected.
2. **An estimated 500,000 individuals have been reached with emergency relief from the international community.** However there are gaps in information of people reached by government-provided services, and relief provided locally by communities and charitable benefactors.
3. Time is of the essence with the fast approaching monsoon season. Extensive **damage to the agriculture production risks the loss of the November harvest** given the planting season ends within five to seven weeks, depending on the areas. If this planting season is lost then assistance would be required for some months to come. In addition this could also potentially disrupt the local economy and livelihood opportunities for the communities in the delta. It is estimated that over **USD 10 million worth of seeds is needed.** The Early Recovery and Agriculture clusters are working closely with national authorities to address this issue.
4. **Restrictions on the importation and use of communications equipment** in Myanmar are impacting communications between relief agencies.
5. Transport and Storage networks of the Logistics Operations Plan are being put in place. Contracts for **boats and trucking fleets to access the delta have been issued** and now work is underway to coordinate the plans of the clusters for aid arriving in Yangon, and distribution beyond. This will facilitate a clear understanding of capacities for the optimum use of transportation and allow for forward planning to address possible gaps.
6. The **establishment of three operational centres in Labutta, Pathein, and Bugale**, in the delta region to support the current multi-sectoral coordination in the most damaged areas is underway. Cluster Leads are working together to develop a common plan and communication mechanism between Yangon and the delta.
7. Food, shelter, medical supplies and water remain critical needs. The Food Cluster still awaits the approval of the Government to import rice, pulses and oil.
8. The Government of Myanmar arranged a helicopter tour of the affected areas and temporary relief settlements for diplomats, Heads of UN Agencies on Sunday 17 May. ASEAN team members and UNDAC were also invited to participate.

I. NATIONAL RESPONSE

9. Media reports of over 100 Myanmar organisations and private companies, as well as private benefactors, have donated over 1,700 million kyats (over 1.5 million USD) to national organisations for aid to the affected population. In addition, substantial amounts of relief items such as food, clothing, medicines and other non-food items have been donated in kind.
10. As reported in OCHA Situation Report 12, a Myanmar Local NGO Resource Centre has been established to meet the needs of Myanmar NGOs for better coordination, planning, and response. Assets include Myanmar-language speaking staff and Myanmar language materials. Over 40 Myanmar NGOs are participating. The Centre's objectives include:
- To provide and capture information on the national civil society response to the crisis;
 - To provide capacity building for proposal writing and response planning;
 - To serve as a clearing-house for funds. Several donors have already distributed over US\$ 2.5 million to civil-society groups.
11. An interagency mission to the most affected townships will be undertaken this week with Myanmar NGO, INGO and UN representation. It will look at how to improve coordination amongst the different stakeholders, including Government, at the township level, which in turn will inform coordination in Yangon. Mechanisms for information capture and sharing between the Myanmar NGOs and international coordination mechanisms are also being formalized this week. This will include feeding into Who, What, Where tools, while respecting the need for confidentiality.
12. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) continues to respond through its extensive volunteer network. By 16 May, MRCS had reached 47,000 beneficiaries in Yangon and Ayeyarwady divisions with distribution of relief supplies. Supplies include drinking water, water purification tablets, jerry cans, food, shelter kits and tarpaulins, clothing, hygiene and kitchen supplies, blankets, towels and other non-food items.

II. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Coordinated In-Country Response

Food Assistance

13. The Food Cluster reviewed the following Response Plan, and shared it with Government counterparts:

Township	Est. Caseload	Cooperating Partner
Ngapudaw	12,500	WV, AZG, UNDP/PACT, SAVE/Metta
Labutta	145,000	ADRA, UNDP/PACT, WFP
Wakema	4,000	CARE/SAVE
Mawlamyinegyun	30,000	WV, UNDP/PACT, SAVE
Maubin	5,000	WFP/MRCS, UNDP/PACT
Pyapon	56,000	WFP/MRCS, ACF, UNDP/PACT, BAJ, MSF-CH
Bogale	130,000	WFP/MRCS, ACF, GAA, UNDP/PACT, MSF-CH
Kyaiklat	21,000	WV/MRCS, UNDP/PACT
Dedaye	35,000	WV/MSF-CH
Myaungmya	12,000	CARE/ADRA
Pathein	1,000	CARE/SAVE
total	451,500	

14. As mentioned in the 'highlights' no response has yet been received to WFP's official request of 8 May to the Government for the importation of relief food commodities, and a follow-up request has been made.
15. WFP dispatched 44 MT of food on 16 May to Ayeyarwady Division. Since the cyclone hit, WFP has dispatched more than 1,240 MT of food to affected areas, and distributed 635 MT of food to approximately 208,450 beneficiaries.

Logistics

16. The process to obtain warehouse space close to the airport in Yangon was completed and the facility has now been set up. The 3,000 square metre facility is being managed for the Logistics Cluster by the DHL Disaster Response Unit, which has hired 10 local staff, and obtained forklift and generators. The warehouse will operate from Saturday 17 May, and provides a service to cluster partners. DHL is supporting with clearing and inventory control.
17. Restrictions on the importation and use of communications equipment in Myanmar are impacting on communications between relief agencies.
18. The Government stated on Friday 16 there would be no expedited process for the importation of vehicles by humanitarian agencies.
19. Heavy rain continues to affect conditions for road transport, and roads are reported to be very slippery.

Health

20. Five out of six station hospitals in Ngaputaw township are reported to have been destroyed. However, the township hospital is functional. Referral cases are being sent to Patheingyi township hospital.
21. Psychosocial support is increasingly being identified as an important issue for the coming weeks, and WHO standard guidelines and protocols are being made available in Myanmar language.

Nutrition

22. The distribution plan for therapeutic feeding supplies is being finalized between UNICEF and NGOs including Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Save the Children, Population Services International (PSI) and Merlin, as well as with the Ministry of Health for the three hospitals which have trained paediatricians in the affected areas.
23. The Food and Nutrition clusters are currently planning a joint food and nutrition survey in affected areas.
24. Concern is arising on the use of infant formula as a substitute for breastmilk. Milk powder has already been distributed in some areas, and its misuse in situations without a safe water supply is known to do more harm than good. A joint statement cautioning of this danger has been circulated to all clusters.

Emergency Telecommunications

25. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which is spearheading the national relief response, has confirmed that no communications equipment could be imported, and as an alternative offered to provide CDMA SIM cards and phones for sale through the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. A maximum of ten units per agency could be provided immediately, at the cost of 1,500 USD each, if requested through the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator. The CDMA system is reported to have good coverage in affected areas.

WASH

26. The WASH Cluster met on 16 May and the participants agreed, in this phase, to adopt the following indicators:
 - Safe drinking water: 3 litres per capita per day
 - "Clear and fresh" water (bathing, general purpose, not necessarily bacteriologically pure): 10 litres per day in temporary settlement settings.
 - Latrines (or safe excreta disposal facility): 1/100 people in 60 days time, 1/50 in 90 days, 1/36 persons per day after 120 days, and thereafter at a rate of 5,000 latrines provided per month until the target of 1 latrine for 20 persons is reached.
 - Hygiene promotion: 1 community per Hygiene Promoter per 2,000 persons in 60 days, and 1 per 500 persons in 90 days.
27. International NGO PSI is producing and distributing free of charge 3,000 litres of WaterGuard per day. As each litre of WaterGuard can disinfect 2,000 litres of water, enough disinfectant to treat 6 million litres a day is being distributed. Although this amount exceeds the total planning figure of 5.5 million litres per day, without including other disinfectants that are being distributed (e.g.

- Aquatabs, bleaching powder), it is recognized that the affected population is not yet being reached evenly by distributions.
28. 25 water treatment plants with a combined capacity of 50 cubic metres per hour are on standby to be deployed, pending visas for personnel.

Education

29. No updates.

Emergency Shelter

30. Shelter cluster has standardised three types of kits among partners. The high number of affected households cannot all be covered with traditional kits that include tools. There is close coordination with the WASH cluster to avoid duplication.
- The first kit is primarily a tool kit. This will contain tools needed for fixing or rebuilding a shelter. This kit is to be distributed to a group of 10 or more households, to be shared among the households.
 - The second kit is a basic building material kit and will consist of tarpaulin, rope etc. This is to be distributed one per household.
 - The third kit will be a Non-Food Items kit. A list of standard IFRC and UNICEF Non-Food Item kits were distributed and cluster members were asked if any additional items should be included.
31. It is estimated that 100,000 units of plastic sheeting have been distributed, and more material is urgently needed. Distribution is also being carried out by CBOs, many of which are new, non-traditional partners for UNHCR. Data is now being gathered towards an improved overview of coverage.
32. The strategy until now has been to get as many supplies out to affected areas as quickly as possible, but henceforth more attention will be paid to planning, and to reach areas that are underserved. An assessment survey to map an overview of the degree of destruction at the township level is being finalised with a view to identifying gap areas for planning purposes.

Child Protection

33. A Child Protection Working Group meeting was held on Friday 16 May. Reports from staff currently in the field indicate that the situation in Labutta is of extreme concern, particularly regarding the numbers of unaccompanied and separated children, their injuries, emerging diseases, and the precarious situation in temporary settlements.
34. All Child Protection partners have been asked to provide an update on the situation and activities in the townships they are working in by Monday 19 May. This information would then be collated for all partners into a 3W matrix to facilitate coordination amongst partners and serve as a planning tool at the next Child Protection Cluster meeting on 21 May. Monitoring indicators have been finalised so that information can be captured at field level and fed into national, regional and global reporting mechanisms.
35. WVI are currently running 36 Child Friendly Spaces (18 in South Dagon, 18 in Hlaingtharyar townships), 150 children are participating in each CFS. Volunteers are teaching hygiene practices through poems.
36. A WVI team is assessing separated and unaccompanied children returned to Yangon from Bogale and findings are currently being analysed.

Early Recovery and Agriculture

37. The Early Recovery cluster has identified the following recommendations and framework based on comparison of post-cyclone reports with available pre-cyclone baseline data (surveys and evaluations connected with existing field projects):
- In preparing for early recovery the most likely scenario guides intervention planning: namely that the situation is currently fragile but holding, and that no major natural disaster occurs other than the seasonal monsoon (which will exacerbate the current infrastructure and capacity issues).

Updates from individual agencies

38. No updates.

Coordination at the regional level

39. No updates.

Update on Security Situation

40. The UN is still in Phase 1, and no change to this is foreseen.

Update on Financial Pledges

41. As of 1 May 2008, USD 94,762,895 has been committed to relief operations, with a further USD 107,515,159 pledged. The UN Flash Appeal for Myanmar currently requests \$201 million. \$41 million has been contributed to the Flash Appeal so far, \$20.4 million of which has been provided by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).
42. The CERF has further earmarked a grant of up to USD 2 million for the financing of emergency aspects of the agriculture cluster.
43. For updated information on financial contributions, please refer to the OCHA Financial Tracking System website: <http://reliefweb.int/fts/>. Donors are encouraged to verify contributions and inform OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) of corrections/additions/values to this table. The direct email address is: fts@reliefweb.int.

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