



**Cyclone Nargis
Myanmar
OCHA Situation Report No. 14
18 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 estimated number of affected persons is 2.4 million, including those severely affected.** These figures are based on the numerous assessment reports received of the numbers of people affected in each township. Whilst limited access has hampered the accuracy of the data, Cluster Leads were today able to gain a picture of gaps that require further assessments, and agree upon a baseline planning figure for programming.
2. **Initial estimates indicate 150,000 people in about 120 settlements in the delta.** This is a mixture of both official and unofficial temporary settlements.
3. Requests with the Government for the **approval of international staff to travel to the affected region are still pending.** Although access to the delta is challenging, some elements of the Logistics Cluster Operations Plan are in place. Maximum efforts are being made by partners to utilise national structures existing prior to Cyclone Nargis to provide assistance to the affected areas. Relief arriving on commercial flights is being transported to the affected areas. However, this is **not of the quantity or frequency required to meet the needs of the affected populations.** Access is also compounded by the weather conditions as heavy rains prevent cargo from moving along some roads to the delta.
4. The Government has announced that **schools will open on 2 June 2008.** There is concern regarding those schools in both the delta and Yangon areas that are currently being used as temporary settlements.
5. Several agencies report that **movement of people towards less affected areas is continuing,** driven by food shortages in the most affected villages. Increases in the numbers of displaced persons in population centres were reported including in temporary settlements Labutta and Pathein.
6. Local authorities in Labutta have told relief workers that they have started sending villagers back to their villages.
7. According to the figures of the Yangon office of the UN Department of Safety and Security there are currently **109 national UN staff present in the cyclone-affected areas,** and 72 international UN staff in Yangon. No international UN staff have been authorised to work in the affected areas.
8. Thailand's Foreign Minister said Sunday that the Thai government has agreed to a UN proposal to use Bangkok's Don Mueang airport a logistical centre for humanitarian aid to cyclone survivors.
9. There has been no change in the official figures for dead and missing since yesterday. **77,738 are reported dead and 55,917 missing.**

I. NATIONAL RESPONSE

10. The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee today stated by news release that 20 billion Myanmar Kyat (MMK) (approximately USD 18.5 million) had been spent on disaster relief to 16 May. Cash amounting to MMK 5.6 billion (approximately USD 5.1 million) had been donated nationally by well-wishers, while foreign donors had donated USD 1.62 million and 2,097 tons of relief supplies. Donations are accepted by the Donation Accepting and Supervision Body and redistributed by the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee. Donations have been distributed as follows: 363.9 tons of food, water, medicines, clothes, tents and construction materials by air (airforce); 872.8 tons by water routes (navy); 1,471.5 by land routes (armed forces vehicles); 2,905.5 tons by the state-owned carrier Inland Water Transport. In addition, 35 construction companies have transported 500 truckloads of construction materials.
11. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) continues to respond through its extensive volunteer network. By 17 May, MRCS had reached 57,000 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.
12. As part of yesterday's tour of the affected areas, UNDAC staff visited Maubin, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta and Hlaingbon as part of the ASEAN team. In Mawlamyinegyun there are 15 Government-organised relief camps sheltering 6,749 persons. The population of Mawlamyinegyun before the cyclone was 346,000 and 4,463 persons were killed, 6,075 are still missing, and 76,277 have been made homeless. 125 tons of rice and 450 tons of other supplies have been distributed to survivors. 10,000 tons of seed are needed for planting, and shelter was identified as the first priority. In Labutta, UNICEF, WFP, Malteser and Merlin were visibly present, and good coordination was evident including with the private sector, and with the support of the local Commander.

II. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

13. **Needs Assessments and Analysis:** Initial assessments were hampered by limited access, including difficult weather conditions. In some areas, estimates are still difficult to obtain. It is clear from analysing the assessments received that further evaluation of temporary settlements where access has been limited, is required. This includes Wakema township where there are also official settlements and Mawlamyinegyun township where flood waters are still high.

Areas were classified by priority in four categories by partners:

- a. Areas most severely affected by the cyclone where the levels of damage exceed 75%.
- b. Areas severely affected but where the cyclone's intensity was less and access to services is slightly better.
- c. Areas less affected but where there are official and unofficial temporary settlements of displaced people
- d. Areas less affected in Yangon Division.

There are varying needs within these categories, with those for example in most severely affected areas lacking access to adequate shelter, clean water and sanitation. This is the case in most of the Ayeyarwady Division. South of Yangon the intensity of the cyclone was less and access to services slightly better, while the temporary settlements are found in the townships north of the Ayeyarwady Division.

| Priority | Townships | Estimated Percent of Population affected** | Number affected |
|--|--|--|------------------|
| 1 | Bogale, Labutta, Ngaputaw, Dedaye, Pyapon, Kyauklata, Mawlamyinegyun | Over 75% | 1,394,000 |
| 2 | Twantay, Dala, Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Seikgykanaungto, Dagon, Kyauktan, Hlaingthayar, Shwepyithar | 50-75% | 679,000 |
| 3 | Pathein, Myaungmya, Wakema and Maubin | 10% | 206,700 |
| 4 | Other townships in Yangon | 5-10% | 153,600 |
| Total number of people affected | | | 2,433,000 |

****Calculations are based on assessment reports of the number of people affected in each township (not the percent of population) thus reducing the risk of using inaccurate population figures and arriving at incorrect numbers. Population data used from UNICEF/Department of Health 2008 extrapolations with the exception of Bogale, which appears inconsistent with reported numbers of affected persons.**

Cluster Leads are now discussing the possibility of developing a single multi-sectoral assessment tool to suit the situation in Myanmar. This would be based on lessons learned from the tsunami, and the tools developed by Global Cluster Leads. Such a tool would inform an operational, scenario-based work plan for each cluster, following ad hoc assessments and inconsistent formats used in the first two weeks of the emergency.

Update on Security Situation

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

Update on Financial Pledges

15. 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.

For more information please contact:

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| For Maps on Cyclone Nargis and Myanmar: http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.nsf/doc404?OpenForm&emid=TC-2008-000057-MMR | |