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**Cyclone Nargis  
Myanmar  
OCHA Situation Report No. 16  
20 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. Of the 2.4 million affected by Cyclone Nargis, it is estimated that 1.4 million are located in the most severely affected townships of the delta region. However, **Yangon was also badly hit with some 680,000 living in severely affected areas.** Various assessment reports confirm these estimated figures, although assessments of all affected areas have not been possible as yet.
2. Additional assessment data reinforce previous assessments informing of an **estimated 239 temporary formal and informal settlements in the worst affected areas of Yangon and the delta region.** It is important to note that the majority of temporary settlements are in Buddhist monasteries, while the minority are in tented camps. Official tented camps are in Labutta, Bogale, Pathein, Maubin, and Myaungmya. The remainder of settlements are in other public buildings, including schools. The formal camps are being serviced by the Government, while non-formal camps are variously receiving services from Government, MRCS, INGO, NGO, local CBOs, faith-based organisations and private citizens.  
  
In the Ayeyarwady delta, it is **estimated that 91,000 people are sheltered in settlements in their townships of origin, while 25,000 have been displaced to settlements in other townships.** In such cases, movements are from Labutta to Myaungmya and Pathein, from Bogale and Pyapon to Maubin, and from Ngaputaw to Pathein.
3. John Holmes today met with the Prime Minister of Myanmar and ministers. The ERC **discussed the modalities of providing international assistance, and raised various issues that needed to be resolved in order to provide an effective international response, especially that of access,** to support the Government of Myanmar. **The Government assured John Holmes that they would give all issues he raised careful consideration.** In addition, the ERC met with the donor community in Yangon and separately with members of the diplomatic corps, at which time he briefed them on findings from his field visits, discussions with the Government, and as well as the forthcoming arrival of the UN Secretary General and upcoming pledging conference.
4. The Early Recovery/Agriculture clusters met today with the line Ministries for livestock, fisheries, crops and forestry and cluster partners to plan a joint comprehensive intervention before the end of the planting season. **Cluster partners are working to complement Government plans for a targeted response.**
5. Public health services had treated around 90,000 out-patients and 10,000 in-patients by 18 May, including 2,887 mild diarrhoea cases and 124 severe diarrhoea cases.
6. There has been no change in the official figures for dead and missing. 77,738 are reported dead and 55,917 missing.

## **I. NATIONAL RESPONSE**

7. A senior official from the MOH today briefed the Health Cluster on the health situation and the national response efforts. As mentioned in the highlights, by 18 May, around 90,000 out-patients and 10,000 in-patients had received medical care, and 2,887 mild diarrhoea cases and 124 severe diarrhoea cases were treated. May and June are the peak months for gastroenteritis and water-borne diseases and the current rate of around 200 diarrhoea cases per day in a population of 1.5 million is no different from previous years. The MOH is fully aware of the risk of epidemics and provided all possible prevention measures. Current efforts are focusing on prevention of waterborne diseases by providing clean water, food and shelter.
8. Immunization for measles and polio is ongoing in the relief shelters. In view of the lack of transport facilities for many health workers, MOH invited partners to assist in transporting midwives to outlying areas for regular childhood vaccination services.
9. Health care services are being provided by MOH staff at hospitals, in 12 relief settlements, and through mobile teams. Three medical boats with 34 doctors are now providing health services in the delta area, and 390 mobile teams are in the field to improve access to and coverage of health care. Teams provide medical care, referral of severely injured patients and provision of WASH emergency supplies.
10. The national professional membership organizations the Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association and Myanmar Health Assistant Association are acting as auxiliaries to the national response and providing primary medical care and public health measures in cyclone-affected areas.
11. The Government is taking the responsibility for rehabilitation of damaged public buildings, including health facilities. However, support could be provided from partners for equipment, instruments and supplies to replace those damaged.
12. A local NGO cluster partner re-established 870 "Caregiver Circles" in Yangon Division after the cyclone. These provide integrated early childhood development including a feeding programme to more than 9,000 children aged 0-3, and provide a support mechanism for the families. They are usually held in people's homes, and the cyclone damaged many of these. After the cyclone, many had to be shifted to non-damaged houses to provide some kind of normality to these young children's lives.
13. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) continues to respond through its extensive volunteer network and by 19 May, MRCS had reached 69,000 beneficiaries in the affected areas, of whom 50,000 are in the Ayeyarwady delta, with distribution of relief supplies.

## **II. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Coordinated In-Country Response** (For more detailed Situation Reports for each cluster please check the HIC website <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org/> )

### **Food Assistance**

14. While the Food Cluster is providing food assistance in six townships of Ayeyarwady Division (Bogale, Labutta, Kyaiklat, Maubin, Ngapudaw, Pyapon), there are still villages the assistance has not be able to reach due to transport and access constraints.
15. 65,615 MT of food commodities are needed to support beneficiaries within the 6-month Emergency Response Operation. Importation of rice is needed to provide for the planned number of beneficiaries while avoiding negative impact on supply and prices for the domestic market.
16. The planting of rice requires significant land preparation within the next few weeks, before the monsoon is advanced. As the affected area is the nation's granary, food security in the country and especially in the cyclone-affected area is of major concern.
17. WFP dispatched 505 MT of food on 19 May to Ayeyarwady Division. Since the cyclone hit, WFP has dispatched more than 1,987 MT of food to affected areas, and distributed 1,040 MT of food to approximately 289,000 beneficiaries. Action Aid, CESVI, MSF-Holland, UNDP, WV and others have also been distributing from sources other than WFP.

### **Logistics**

18. The first flight of the Bangkok - Yangon airbridge was scheduled to depart Bangkok Don Muang airport this afternoon at 1830 local time, carrying UNHCR and Save the Children cargo to Yangon.

19. The first distribution barge rented for inter-agency use left Yangon this morning, headed for Bogale, loaded with ACF and WFP cargo. The second barge today will carry WFP food and NFIs for Merlin to Labutta.
20. The Logistics Cluster is moving ahead with the establishment of logistics hubs inside Myanmar. Whereas Yangon and Labutta are already operational, mobile storage units have also been supplied to Pyapon. This hub is expected to be operational within few days. The hub in Labutta has been strengthened with additional storage capacity.

#### Health

21. International medical teams from Thailand, India, China and Lao PDR are now working with national health professionals in affected areas.
22. The MOH requested health cluster partners to support the surveillance system, which can be further strengthened by community participation. NGOs have proposed to train village-level volunteers in prevention and surveillance of communicable diseases. Partners were requested to share any information on disease occurrence with the Township Medical Office, Public Health Specialist Teams or Regional Surveillance Officers.
23. MOH highlighted the importance of coordination as the cornerstone for relief efforts and for planning at township level. At township level, information sharing and communication could be improved between Township Medical Officer, the Public Health Specialist Team, local NGOs and local partners at field level and INGO partners. A shared information system that compiles information at township level and reports this to the central level is needed, especially for surveillance and longer term planning.
24. Mental health and addressing mental-health needs continue to be a concern for cluster partners. MOH has assigned mental-health professionals to some of the areas, and specialists from Thailand have also been mobilised. IOM will also take an active role. Child Protection cluster partners' Child-Friendly Spaces provide some support to children in affected areas.
25. IOM today received 10,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets as a donation from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.
26. Dedaye Township Hospital was badly damaged but the hospital is still functioning. All eight Rural Health Centres and 20 Sub-Centres were also seriously damaged. CESVI has distributed emergency kits to the Township Hospital and will provide to the Maternal and Child Health Centre, four Rural Health Centres and eight Sub-Centres.

#### Nutrition

27. The National Nutrition Centre of the Ministry of Health now participates in the Nutrition Cluster.
28. A qualitative rapid assessment of infant feeding in temporary shelters in Labutta found high acceptability of wet nursing and low rates of exclusive breastfeeding in infants up to 6 months. Technical resource materials were shared with cluster members and a joint statement signed by many agencies on use of breast milk substitutes was presented to the Ministry.
29. The cluster formed Working groups on infant feeding in Emergency and on Community-based Therapeutic Feeding, including the participation of government counterparts, to standardize the response, avoid duplication and assess the resources required over a 6-month period.

#### Emergency Telecommunications

30. WFP and UNICEF continue to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Yangon, Labutta, Bogale and Bangkok. UNICEF has finalised VSAT installation for use of all humanitarian agencies in Bogale.

#### WASH

31. The Health and WASH clusters are strengthening their collaboration to ensure rapid response to cases of severe diarrhoea. The Health cluster receives rumours and information from different sources, and these are discussed with the WASH cluster lead to agree on suitable action. The WASH cluster is ready to send ORS and chlorination supplies with its teams to the areas where cases have been reported.

#### Child Protection

32. Child Protection Cluster Working Group partners have identified the following priorities:
  - Availability of information on the situation of children and services provided in the affected areas, for coordination and information sharing:
    - Collation and mapping of information on which agencies are working where.
    - Use of a tool to collect information from individual child protection agencies on a more systematic basis.

- Separated and unaccompanied children:
  - MRCS will maintain a database on family tracing with technical assistance from the ICRC.
  - One of the Child Protection cluster lead agencies (UNICEF/SC) will host a database to collect information on separated and unaccompanied children, and other child protection issues, provided by all agencies working on Child Protection. The cluster leads will pass this information on to MRCS.
  - An agreement will be entered into between MRCS and Cluster Leads on data exchange.
  - Child Protection partners will continue to monitor interim care and provide follow up to known cases.
- 33. Cluster partners are now running 64 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS). Save the Children plans to run 180 CFS, World Vision 60, and EMDH 20, across Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions. Core guidelines and principles relating to CFS, including use of CFS tools, will be addressed by the cluster.

#### Early Recovery and Agriculture

34. See highlights section

#### Education

35. Pre-cyclone data on the number of schools, children and teachers in affected townships are now complete, but compilation of data on damaged primary, middle, and high schools is ongoing. Now assessments on the education needs of children in temporary settlements will be done, to guide the cluster's response in setting up education services.

#### Temporary Settlements working group

36. The IOM-led Temporary Settlements working group met for the third time on Tuesday 20 May. Organisations with a presence in the delta provided updates on services that continue to be offered to populations in temporary settlements at select locations. The group agreed to develop terms of reference during this week. A special meeting on temporary settlements will be held among cluster leads later this week, with the aim of exploring ways in which the Displacement Group can provide support on temporary settlements across all clusters.

#### **Update on Security Situation**

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

#### **Update on Financial Pledges**

38. As of 20 May 2008, USD 100,662,299 has been committed to relief operations, with a further USD 110,199,241 pledged. The UN Flash Appeal for Myanmar currently requests \$201 million. \$46.5 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).
39. 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](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int).

**For more information please contact:**

OCHA Yangon: Ms. Eliane Provo Kluit Tel. +95 (0)1 542910, +95 (0)1 542917, Ext. 107 Tel. (cell) +95 (0)95 186161 Email: <a href="mailto:provokluit@un.org">provokluit@un.org</a>	Contact for local media inquiries: United Nations Information Centres Mr. Aye Win Tel. +95 (0)1 577057 Tel. (cell) +95 (0)9 5123 952
OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Mr. Norwin Schafferer Tel. +66 81174 8335 Email: <a href="mailto:schafferer@un.org">schafferer@un.org</a>	OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa Tel. +66 89204 2721 Email: <a href="mailto:rhodesstampa@un.org">rhodesstampa@un.org</a>
Asia and Pacific Desk NY Ms. Agnes Asekenye-Oonyu Mob: +1 917 476 6164 Tel: +1 212-963-1773 Email: <a href="mailto:asekenye-oonyu@un.org">asekenye-oonyu@un.org</a>	Myanmar Desk NY Mr. Ivan Lupis Tel. +1 917 367 2056 Bberry +1 917 640 3819 Email: <a href="mailto:lupis@un.org">lupis@un.org</a>
Press Contact in NY: Ms. Stephanie Bunker Tel: +1 917 476 6164 Email: <a href="mailto:bunker@un.org">bunker@un.org</a>	Press Contact in Geneva: Ms. Elizabeth Byrs Tel: +41 22 917 26 53 Email: <a href="mailto:byrs@un.org">byrs@un.org</a>
For Maps on Cyclone Nargis and Myanmar: <a href="http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.nsf/doc404?OpenForm&amp;emid=TC-2008-000057-MMR">http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.nsf/doc404?OpenForm&amp;emid=TC-2008-000057-MMR</a>	