



**Cyclone Nargis
Myanmar
OCHA Situation Report No. 18
22 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 UN Secretary General today arrived in Myanmar. He was able to witness cyclone-devastated areas and visited temporary relief tented camps. He met with the Prime Minister of Myanmar, the Foreign Minister and the UN Country Team. He also paid his respects at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.
2. An **independent source** estimates that **110,000 persons are living in temporary settlements in 14 townships**. Of these, 70% are sheltering in monasteries, 28% in public buildings and 2% in tented camps. The highest numbers of homeless people in temporary settlements are in Labutta (34,000), Bogale (15,500), Myaungmya (12,000) and Pyapon (9,700) townships in Ayeyarwady, and Kungyangon township (20,000) in Yangon Division.
3. **Five international medical teams are now providing medical care to those in need and support to national health-care staff in the affected areas of Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions**. The Thai team is in Myaungmya, the Indian team in Bogale and Pyapon, the Chinese team in Kungyangon and Dedaye, the Bangladeshi team in Wakema and the Lao team in Kyauktan. The sixth team, from Singapore, is expected to arrive today.
4. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement – which is spearheading the national relief response – **approved the Food Cluster Response Plan** that delineates the geographical coverage and beneficiary numbers for cluster partners.
5. The Director General of the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) invited representatives from UNICEF, Save the Children and World Vision on 21 May to discuss Child Protection issues in response to the impact of Cyclone Nargis. All **partners agreed that the principle of family unity and community-based care and support for all children, should be the foundation for any strategy and action plan for children**. The Department asked UNICEF to lead a national action plan for child protection in emergencies in partnership and with the direct involvement of DSW. A taskforce has been formed with representatives from DSW, UNICEF, Save the Children and World Vision. DSW will liaise with the Minister and higher officials in this regard.
6. The logistics cluster is now operating a 4,000 square metre warehouse in Yangon (managed by DHL), along with a fleet of 30 trucks, four barges (200-800 MT) with four barge pushers, and two boats (300 and 600 MT). In five local hubs, (Pyapon, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta and Pathein) six Mobile Storage Units have been or are being constructed.
7. There has been no update to the official figures for dead and missing. 77,738 are reported dead and 55,917 missing.

I. NATIONAL RESPONSE

8. State media* today reported that arrangements are being made for storm survivors in relief camps who wish to return to their places. Survivors from 54 villages in Mawlamyinegyun township had arrived back to their native villages. A ship carrying relief supplies and medical specialists called at Shaukchaung and Myattha Ywama village-tracts where relief supplies were distributed to over 9,000 storm survivors. Specialists provided treatment on the ship to 200 patients. Three 1000 KW generators were donated to monasteries.
9. State media* reported that up to 20 May, 1,450 tons of foodstuffs, 1,577 tons of non-food items, and 2,089 tons of construction materials had been supplied to 21 locations in Ayeyarwady Division. The bulk of supplies have been to Pyapon, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Labutta and Dedaye townships, which are the locations of official "middle camps".
*Source: New Light of Myanmar, 22 May 2008
10. National NGOs and CBOs continue to play a crucial role in the relief response.
 - The national NGO Metta is providing relief to people affected by the cyclone in four locations in the delta with 42 staff and over 115 volunteers. By 20 May, Metta was assisting about 115,000 people in eight townships of Maubin, Pathein, Myaungmya, and Pyapon Districts. Metta has been present in the area since the aftermath of the tsunami, and this has enabled a quick response, as well as for it to mobilize local communities and people to help. Its medical team has been working in Bogale since Tuesday 7 May. In Pyinhkayaing Island, where it was carrying out mangrove re-plantation, Metta is providing services with six staff members, three of whom had received Disaster Management and Preparedness training. Metta sent out boats into the flooded areas of Myaungmya in the days after the cyclone to search for survivors, and rescued 500 people from the lowest part of delta region. In addition to its one Early Childhood Development (ECD) teacher, Metta was able to mobilize six more ECCD teachers, and train 16 volunteers to run child-friendly activities in temporary relief settlements. Metta has also been providing clothes, footwear, blankets and essential non-food items to survivors, diesel for generators, and has prepared temporary rainwater collection tanks made of plastic sheets.
 - The community organizations Pyi Gyi Khin and AFXB are organizing support for people affected by HIV through self-help groups in the delta. The Myanmar Positive Group in collaboration with local community organizations such as Phoenix group (and with support from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UNDP and AFXB) are following all their members and organizing to ensure that relief supplies, including shelter rehabilitation, are being provided.

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

11. WFP dispatched 117.4 MT of food today to Ayeyarwady Division. Since the cyclone hit, WFP has dispatched 2,110.9 MT of food to affected areas, of which 1,393 MT have been distributed among approximately 348,000 beneficiaries.
12. Update from the Bogale local food cluster.
 - Food cluster partners agreed on field-level geographical coverage and beneficiary caseload for food distribution in both Bogale and Pyapon. Partners in the area include ACF, CARE, GAA, MRCS, WV, and UNDP/PACT. 271 MT of rice arrived to Bogale jetty on 20 May, of which 197 MT was immediately allocated among cluster partners for distribution, to cover 33,000 beneficiaries in 2 towns and 27 villages.
 - Farmers tell of their need for paddy seed before the planting season. The needs for shelter, kitchen equipment and clothing are also still significant.
 - Renting light vehicles and trucks for distribution is a challenge in Bogale as too few are available and handcarts have been used instead. Sufficient space has not been identified yet for erection of 10 wikhalls.
13. In its capacity as Food Cluster Lead, WFP is in the process of consolidating information on the amount of food assistance distributed by all partners since the cyclone.

Health

14. UNICEF currently has 12 public health professionals deployed in seven townships in Ayeyarwady (Labutta, Bogale, Maubin, Myaungmya, Wakema, Pyapon, Mawlamyinegyun) and seven public health professionals to eight townships in Yangon (Hlaingtharya, Dala, Kyauktan, Kungyangon,

- Kawhmu, Kayan, Thongwa, Kyeemyindaing) for ongoing assessment, provision of health and sanitation supplies, responding to emerging needs and monitoring of UNICEF assistance.
15. Many NGOs, through their national staff, are active in the affected areas. Merlin continues to expand its services in Labutta. It currently covers 20 villages and has 11 mobile teams in place as well as four static clinics. In order increase coverage, Merlin has added a boat to serve as a mobile operations base. Prior to the cyclone, Merlin had a large network of 570 community workers some of whom perished and many are still missing. The community workers are trained in basic disease surveillance. Merlin will also focus efforts on reactivating sub-rural health centres in their existing project areas.
 16. In conjunction with distribution of relief supplies to affected areas, WHO is providing survival kits of basic items to health volunteers working in affected areas.
 17. There is regular coordination of health activities in Labutta where the Township Medical Officer is actively engaged with partners.

Emergency Telecommunications

18. The CDMA mobile phones that the Government made available for purchase for use by humanitarian agencies have been delivered to the office of the Resident Coordinator and distributed today.

WASH

19. WHO continues to respond to requests for support for water purification in affected areas of Yangon Division, and has provided bleaching powder and national staff to demonstrate its proper use to local health personnel.

Protection of children and women

20. In response to concerns about the institutionalisation of orphaned, separated and unaccompanied children, the Protection of Children and Women Cluster has produced an advocacy document on "Preventing Family Separation". The key message is that family-like care should be promoted and supported above orphanages and other residential facilities. Families and communities are better able to provide children with social connections, familiarity, affection, and attention. A version of the one-page advocacy document in Myanmar language will soon be ready for distribution.
21. Regarding the task force and plan for protection of children in emergencies mentioned in the highlights above, the agencies will provide update on the response to DSW by Thursday 22 May and will provide an outline of the plan to DSW by Friday 23 May.

Update on Security Situation

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

Update on Financial Pledges

23. As of 21 May 2008, USD 102,274,783 has been committed to relief operations, with a further USD 110,199,241 pledged. The UN Flash Appeal for Myanmar currently requests \$201 million. \$46.8 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).
24. 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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For Maps on Cyclone Nargis and Myanmar: http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.nsf/doc404?OpenForm&emid=TC-2008-000057-MMR	