

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Myanmar Cyclone Nargis OCHA Situation Report No. 41 21 July 2008

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. The Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) report was simultaneously released in Singapore and Myanmar today by the Government of the Union of Myanmar (GoUM), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations.
2. The PONJA report provides the first comprehensive picture and objective analysis of the impact of cyclone Nargis that struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May, leaving over 84,530 people dead, with a further 53,836 still reported missing. Over 450,000 homes were destroyed and an additional 350,000 houses were damaged. Floods inundated over 600,000 hectares of agricultural land, killing up to 50 percent of draught animals. 75 percent of the health facilities and up to 60 percent of public schools in the affected areas were destroyed or severely damaged. The scale of impact of the cyclone in Myanmar is comparable to that of the Indian ocean Tsunami in Indonesia in 2004.
3. The PONJA report estimates that at least US\$ 1 billion is needed to cover recovery needs of the affected areas over the next three years, in the areas of food assistance, agriculture, housing, basic services and support to communities to restore their livelihoods and rebuild assets. The relief and early recovery needs identified by the PONJA report match with those presented in the United Nations revised appeal of 10 July¹. Full version of the PONJA report is available online at: www.asean.org and <http://yangon.unic.org>
4. John Holmes, United Nations Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), attended the launch of the PONJA report in Singapore today. He will then travel to Myanmar for a three-day mission, from 22-24 July. During his mission, the ERC will be making a rapid aerial assessment of the Delta area, and meeting with representatives of the GoUM in Naypitaw as well as with that of the international humanitarian community and donors in Yangon.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

5. According to a news article published by the 'New Light of Myanmar' dated 21 July, the GoUM, from its rice reserve, has provided 18,918.15 tons of rice to the cyclone affected areas, out of which 6,184.3 tons have been distributed. The private sector, individual donations and the international humanitarian community supplement this distribution.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

6. The following information is provided by the clusters, which meet regularly to coordinate the humanitarian response of national and international NGOs, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and United Nations agencies. More detailed information on cluster activities is available at: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org>.

7. FOOD

Needs Assessment and Analysis

Key findings of the PONJA report, related to nutrition and food security, are:

¹ The revised appeal stands at US\$ 481.8 million, which is currently 39.6% funded.

- 42 percent of households lost all food stocks during the cyclone.
- 34 percent of households reported having no food stock on the day of the survey, and a further 45percent reported remaining stock sufficient to last less than one week.
- 38 percent of households reported obtaining required food from humanitarian agencies.
- 89 percent of households reported that food was their highest priority expenditure.

Overall Achievements

- As of 21 July, a total of 23,456 tons of food assistance had been delivered to the affected areas.
- The dispatch of food commodities from Yangon into the Delta is ongoing, and most recently included:
 - 145 tons of oil delivered to Mawlamyngyun on 18 July;
 - 40 tons of rice, 145 tons of pulses and 100 tons of oil delivered to Bogale on 19 July; and
 - 66 tons of oil delivered to Pyapon on 19 July. 200 tons of rice is expected to be delivered on 22 July.
- Distribution and Post-Distribution Monitoring training will continue to be available periodically to staff in the field. Partners interested in having their staff participate should contact Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org.

Challenges

- Regional procurement of rice to avoid pipeline breaks.
- Logistical challenges to reach the most affected parts of the Delta.

Funding

- The Food cluster is 36% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

8. EMERGENCY SHELTER

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- Moving towards early recovery, tool kits – especially bamboo tool kits, are in high demand.
- Needs for plastic sheeting and household relief kits (NFIs) remain.

Overall Achievements

- Over 493,000 plastic sheets have been distributed by the cluster, covering 51% of the estimated affected households.
- 30,000 tool kits have also been distributed, along with 251,000 blankets, 685,000 mosquito nets, 317,000 jerry cans and 81,000 kitchen sets.

Challenges

- Increasing communication between hubs and Yangon cluster teams.
- Setting up hub database and system for consolidation.

Coordination

- UN-HABITAT will be the Shelter cluster lead as of 2 August.

Funding

- The Shelter cluster is 53% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

9. AGRICULTURE

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- 14,000 hectares out of 275,000 hectares of mangroves were lost due to the cyclone. Large numbers of fishermen, landless poor, and marginal farmers - especially women, depend on mangrove forests for their direct and indirect incomes.
- It is a high priority for the agriculture cluster to support the livelihoods of the affected population through nursery raising and mangrove regeneration.

Overall Achievements and Future Planning

In Dedaye township:

- 4,172 baskets of local paddy variety have been distributed to 900 beneficiaries.

- Provision of farm recovery packages for monsoon paddy crop is in process - 30,300 baskets of rice seeds have been distributed to 3,400 beneficiaries in 18 village tracts. 20 power tillers and 350 gallons of diesel have also been distributed.
- Rice seeds are already distributed to 2,800 farmers in 18 village tracts. Rice seeds for another 800 farmers will be distributed before the end of the week. Livestock will be distributed to 2,000 landless families. 50 power tillers and 100 water pumps will also be distributed.

Challenges

- Farmers are still in need of rice seeds, fertilizers and vegetable seeds for house gardening. It is a challenge to find good quality rice seeds.

Funding

- The Agriculture cluster is 13% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

10. HEALTH

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- Surveillance: There has been a sharp increase in the cases of Dengue fever.
- Disease Outbreak: Out of 14 suspected cases of jaundice in one of the religious schools, 3 cases have been admitted to hospitals and 11 cases are under observation. Sewage contamination is suspected as the most likely cause.

Coordination

- Cluster coordination, led by Township Medical Officers, is ongoing in Bogale, Dedaye, Mawlamyngyun, Pathein, Laputta, Ngapudaw and Pyapon townships.

Challenges

- Coordination of health activities still needs to be strengthened in Kyaiklat, Maubin, Myaungmya and Wakema.

Funding

- The Health cluster is 36% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

11. NUTRITION

Overall Achievements

- The cluster members have agreed on a common position to advocate on the major risks of Breast Milk Substitute distribution.
- The Cluster has produced Information, Education and Communication materials to support infant and young feeding practices.
- 12 hospital nutrition units have been set up in the Delta region.

Funding

- The Nutrition cluster is 31% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

12. EDUCATION

Overall Achievements

- 123 school tents have so far been set up in six townships in Ayeyarwady division, with 56 school tents also receiving furniture.
- In mid June, UNICEF began supporting the setting up of temporary safe learning spaces through the provision of cash and tarpaulins.
- In collaboration with the WASH section, latrine pans and water tanks are also being distributed to schools in Laputta and Bogale.

Coordination

- Regular education cluster meetings in some townships have started, focusing mainly on coordination and information sharing on who does what where. In some meetings, the township education authorities have also been participating and contributing to the planning and coordination efforts.

Gaps and Future Planning

- Delays in the delivery of education supplies have created gaps in supply delivery to schools. It is hoped that additional supplies will arrive by the 29th of July to allow the education team to resume its support to affected schools and children.
- Some reports from the field indicate that some schools are charging children fees. This issue will be raised and followed up with the Ministry of Education.

Funding

- The Education cluster is 32% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

13. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Overall Achievements

- “The Plan of Action for Child Protection in Emergencies: Response to Cyclone Nargis” has now been distributed in both Myanmar and English languages. These documents have been prepared by the Department of Social Welfare in close collaboration with Cluster agencies.
- An Information Management Consultation and Workshop was held from the 14 – 16 July 2008 to support the interagency Family Tracing and Reunification programme.

Coordination

- The Women’s Protection Technical Working Group has finalized and distributed a Gender Considerations document, which will be posted on the Humanitarian Information Centre website.

Challenges

- Creating links across the various Cluster agencies at the township and national levels, including building on the existing coordination mechanisms at the hub level.

Gaps and Future Planning

- There will be a series of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) workshops and training facilitated for partners over the coming weeks, the first of which will take place on 22 July.

Funding

- The PCW cluster is 23% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

14. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Overall Achievements

- More than 9,000 latrine sets have been distributed.
- More than 130 ponds and 90 dug-wells have been cleaned.
- More than 425 latrines are being constructed in various camps.
- 28 schools have been supported with fibre tanks.
- Water purification treatment plants have been installed in Pyapon and Bogale townships.
- Issues of overlapping are being addressed through cluster meetings at the township level.

Funding

- The WASH cluster is 36% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

15. EARLY RECOVERY

Overall Achievements

- Drafting of an Early Recovery Strategic Framework is in progress. An Early Recovery Technical Working Group has been set up to take Cluster strategies forward in the coming weeks.

- An Early Recovery who, what, where (3W) matrix is being put together by the Early Recovery Cluster and will be fed into Myanmar Information Management Unit's larger 3W matrix.

Funding

- The Early Recovery cluster is 16% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

16. LOGISTICS

Overall Achievements

- As of 20 July, the Logistics cluster has facilitated 169 flights from Bangkok.
- As of 20 July, helicopter operations have been able to reach 133 remote locations through 741 rotations.
- As of 20 July, cargo dispatched within Myanmar by road, helicopter and waterways totals to 7,770.9 mt of food and non-food items.

Future Planning

- The process is underway to bring all cargo from Bangkok to Yangon by sea as they can no longer be carried by air. Space for a total of 157 containers has already been secured on a number of different sailings. The current schedule has been mailed out and posted on the Logistics Cluster website. It is estimated that 200 to 240 containers will be required in total.
- Some of the cargo will arrive after common service transport ends on August 10th. The Logistics Cluster will provide clearance and destuffing for all of these goods, however organizations will have to plan for their own forward movement.
- The Logistics Cluster has provided a list of names, contacts and rates of the transport companies that is currently used to assist organizations in securing their own transport after the common services are no longer available.
- Transport and labour contracts at hub level will also be shared with partners.

Funding

- The Logistics cluster is 60% funded in the revised Appeal, according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). However, the cluster lead has informed that they have received additional funding indications which will cover them for their operations through August 10th.

FIELD COORDINATION AND ACCESS ISSUES

Field Coordination

It is reported that about 140 internally displaced families have returned to 36 different villages, leaving 1,929 families in the three camps in Laputta township. In order to make relief distribution more systematic as well as to ensure that the villages are ready to receive the returning families, UN agencies have been requesting local authorities for a phased return of the internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In Laputta township, two inter-agency village assessment teams composed of OCHA, UNHCR, MSF, ACTED, UNICEF, and WFP will undertake a rapid assessment of villages where IDPs returned over the weekend to evaluate village readiness to absorb returning IDPs. The rapid assessment will look into livelihood, WASH, Health, Shelter, Education and Food Clusters. Villages least covered by agencies on the ground will be prioritized in the rapid assessment.

According to field sources in Bogale township, relief and humanitarian assistance have been more concentrated in the northern areas than in the south. To assess the issue of gaps and overlaps between clusters, a special coordination meeting is being held at the office of a local NGO - Nobel Compassionate Volunteer Group (NCV).

Access

As of 21 July, 347 visas have been issued to United Nations staff working on emergency response. Similarly, 359 travel authorizations for UN staff have been approved by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

FUNDING

The Myanmar Appeal, which was revised to US\$ 481.8 million recently, is currently 39.6% funded with a shortfall of US\$ 291 million and uncommitted pledges of US\$ 18.8 million. As of 21 July, agriculture and early recovery are the least funded clusters.

For updated information on financial contributions visit the OCHA FTS website at <http://reliefweb.int/fts/>. Donors are encouraged to verify contributions and inform FTS of corrections and additional information at fts@reliefweb.int.

This sitrep is issued every Monday and Thursday. Please send updated information at the following address: ochamyanmar@undp.org

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