

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Ministry of Health and WHO have completed training for medical officers and nurses in Bogale, Labutta, Myaungmya and Pyapon on management of common mental health problems and psychosocial care.**
- **The Health and Shelter Clusters are working with architects and engineers on designs for rebuilding damaged rural and sub-rural health centers.**
- **Larviciding activities are being conducted in many of the delta areas to minimise the risk of vector-borne diseases.**

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND SITUATION UPDATE

- According to official Government media, the UN special rapporteur met the President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Thar Hla Shwe and other executive members of the organization during his brief visit to Myanmar on 3 August 2008.

## HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

### 1. Disease Surveillance

- The Early Warning, Alert and Response system (EWARS) disease surveillance bulletin for week 32 (3-9 August 2008) reported three cases of suspected measles 17 cases of suspected Dengue Haemorrhagic fever (DHF). The number of cases for both the diseases has decreased compared to the previous week.
- Most of the priority diseases under surveillance are under control.
- Measures have been taken for measles vaccination and the age group for measles vaccination has been extended to 15 years.
- Larviciding against DHF is ongoing in the delta areas.
- Routine EPI activities are being implemented.
- Activities are being carried out to promote greater community awareness about precautions against malaria and DHF.

- The Department of Health has assigned public health teams in the townships to verify rumour/outbreaks and respond rapidly to any potential outbreak.

## **2. Health Action .**

- MOH / WHO has completed training for medical officers and nurses in Bogale, Labutta, Myaungmya and Pyapon on management of common mental health problems and psychosocial care.
- The next phase of MOH / WHO collaborative activities will be to train basic health staff from these townships on counseling, stress management and psychological support to the affected population.
- WHO has distributed CDs on guidelines of emergency public health importance.
- UNICEF has conducted field level communication training for health workers.
- Mentor Initiative has proposed future training on malaria for health workers .

## **HEALTH COORDINATION**

- The Technical Working Groups of the health cluster report the following:
  - **Early Recovery**
    - The Technical Working Group for Early Recovery is working closely with architects and engineers in the Shelter cluster TWG on designs for rural and sub-rural health centers. They will submit the proposals to MoH once this has been finalized with group.
    - To avoid overlapping of activities, health partners working in early recovery activities will meet to discuss access to health care services.
  - **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**
    - Most partners are using a community-based approach for the implementation of mental and psychosocial activities.
  - **Malaria and Dengue and other Vector-Borne Diseases**

- Mentor Initiative, an NGO that works on malaria control, will train health partners in this area.

- **Township Level Coordination**

- MoH and Health Cluster partners will have a joint planning meeting on August 17, 2008 in Pathein where TMOs, RSOs and focal points from all Townships of Ayeyarwady division will discuss ways to strengthen field level coordination.
- The exit strategies of health partners who have completed their emergency health activities in the delta are being planned. This is to strengthen field level sustainability of health activities by the health partners.
- **Bogale**
  - No disease outbreak has been reported.
- **Pathein**
  - The NGO AZG is phasing out of Pathein and another NGO, The Leprosy Mission International, will begin work here.
  - The issue of surplus quantities of the larvicide 'Abate' in the Township will be followed up by MOH in Yangon level.
- **Pyapon**
  - Health partners there agreed to have one meeting a week to avoid overlapping of activities.
  - Application of 'Abate' was discussed in the meeting held in Pyapon.
- **Dedaye**
  - The TMO is emphasizing on Watsan activities as a priority as rainy season is coming to an end.
  - The MOH has had a meeting with INGOs regarding pond cleaning and they will bring it up at the next WASH Cluster meeting.
- **Mawlamyaungun**
  - Suspected cases of Dengue fever are being followed by MoH.
  - First round 'abate' campaign was started for last four days

- Cases of edema reported, this will be shared with the Nutrition cluster.

## **GAPS AND NEXT STEPS**

- **Who What When (WWW) Updates**

- Seven organizations will work in the affected region until the end of this year and four out of these seven organizations will potentially stay until the end of 2009.
- Details of their exits including future plans, especially regarding handing over of activities, will be shared at the township health cluster meetings.
- In WWW 17 organizations have submitted information on 15 different health activities in the affected region.
- This information will be available in the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU) office and on the Web at [www.humanitarianinfo.org](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org) A table of overview of all activities carried out by each reporting Organizations in each Township will be available in the update, this will also include maps.