

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Disease surveillance data from the Ministry of Health and NGOs have been integrated into the health cluster's Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS).
- The Myanmar Revised Appeal launched by the UN on 10 July includes US \$65 million for health cluster activities.
- Coordination of health activities is being strengthened at the field level to expand immunization work, identify unreached areas, and fill any gaps in providing medical services.

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND SITUATION UPDATE

- UN OCHA in Myanmar plans to establish six hubs in Yangon and Patheingyi, Bogale, Labutta, Mawlamyineg and Pyapon townships in the delta area to strengthen existing coordination activities. These hubs will support training to the township focal points.
- Government health specialists including psychiatrists, eye specialists and paediatricians continue to provide free healthcare services in the affected areas.

## HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

### 1. Disease Surveillance

- MOH data as well as NGO data for disease surveillance is now integrated into the early warning, alert and response system (EWARS) of the health cluster.
- Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases show a decreasing trend.

### 2. Health Action

- WHO's malaria guidelines have been distributed to health partners.
- WHO has provided additional drugs and medical supplies to six rural health centres and one station hospital in Ka Mar Ka Lu, Bogale.

- WHO teams are assisting government health officials in routine immunization activities, disease surveillance and outbreak investigation, as well as health education on personal hygiene and environmental sanitation.
- UNICEF is providing support in immunization of children, nutrition services including food supplementation, transportation facilities to government health staff and supply of health and hygiene kits for health promotion.
- UNFPA has been providing reproductive health assistance such as supply of oral contraceptive pills, condoms and emergency contraceptive pills for birth spacing.
- Mediciens Sans Frontieres (MSF) is providing supplementary feeding for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. Their mobile clinics are providing care as well as psychosocial support in remote affected areas.

### **3. Funds**

- The Myanmar Revised Appeal launched by the UN on 10 July includes US \$65 million for health cluster activities.
- According to revised flash appeal, 66% of the health sector requirement has not been met.

### **HEALTH COORDINATION**

- Township level coordination:
  - **Labutta**
    - Merlin will lead in data management for various partners.
    - Health partners will undergo training on nutrition based on guidelines recommended by the Government of Myanmar.
    - Standard case definitions prepared by MoH and WHO will be used for any outbreak investigation.
    - Budget estimates are being prepared for hospital repair and renovation.

- A Type C laboratory has been upgraded to a Type B laboratory to improve case diagnosis, response capacity and quality.
- Nurses will be transported from the town hospital to camps by health partners including UNICEF, Merlin and Malteser.
- **Bogale**
  - Unreached areas in the south of the township urgently need primary healthcare and outreach programmes.
  - IOM has provided medical coverage in North Bogale and South Bogale. No serious health problem has been reported in these areas, most cases are of seasonal illnesses.
  - The Leprosy Mission International (TLMI) was set up in Bogale to support disabled patients. They have assisted nearly 200 disabled patients in Amara and Ywar Thit Trip. Their plan is to protect 1200 disabled adults and 1800 children.
  - PACT medical teams reported that 30-40% of patients suffered from hypertension in one field visit.
  - Action Contre le Faim (ACF) has completed Nutrition Assessments in 70 villages.
  - UNFPA has finished the supply system of the Safe Delivery Kits, Napkins, and Dignity Kits.
  - AFXB (Association François-Xavier Bagnoud) is providing home visits for care, particularly for HIV/AIDS patients, in 12 targeted areas. They aim to visit 50 houses per township.
  - The Myanmar Red Cross Society has begun public health activities in seven villages.

#### **OTHER RELATED CLUSTERS**

- WASH Cluster:

- Fifteen water purification plants are now functioning in Bogale, Dedaye, Labutta, Mawlamyinyune, Ngapudaw and Pyapon Township.
- INGOs including CESVI, Merlin and World Vision have constructed 308 new latrines and renovated another 814 latrines in Pyapon Township.
- More than 4800 bags of lime powder have been used for cleaning ponds and for hygiene promotion in affected areas.

#### **GAPS AND NEXT STEPS**

- Health Cluster partners are continuing to organize and work on strengthening the field level coordination through regular meetings to enhance immunization, identify unreached areas and fill gaps in health services.
- WHO will assist the Government of Myanmar to revitalize the healthcare system and monitor and evaluate health programmes. It will also support Government in providing essential health and medical services.
- Many remote areas continue to lack regular access to healthcare as they are difficult to access, the only means being long boat rides.