

HIGHLIGHTS

- **WHO will provide technical and financial support to local NGOs to clean ponds in 10 hard –reach-coastal villages, in order to help ensure safe drinking water supply.**
- **While there have been no increase in malaria and bloody diarrhoea cases in the delta region, dengue haemorrhagic fever has seen a rise in the past week.**
- **The Post-Nargis Joint Assessment Report will be released on 21 July in Yangon.**

HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND SITUATION UPDATE

- The Post-Nargis Joint Assessment Report will be released on 21 July in Yangon.
- UN-OCHA will add four national staff to each of its hubs, hub and 4 international roaming staff to six hubs including Yangon, Labutta, Pathein, Mawlamyinegyun, Pyapon and Bogale.
- A Ministry of Health medical team comprising of a paediatrician, psychiatrist, Eye Specialist and Dental Surgeon provided medical treatment and psychological support to 823 children, 332 patients with eye complaints, 269 patients with dental disease, 270 patients suffering from mental illness and 2555 general patients of 29 storm-hit villages in Mawlamyinegyun Township on board vessel 'Teinkho' from 5 to 19 July.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

1. Disease Surveillance

- There has been no increase in cases of bloody diarrhoea and malaria in the delta area.
- Cases of Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) have both risen in the past week.

- Fourteen suspected cases of fever and jaundice have been reported from Myaungmya. Laboratory tests have confirmed one case as leptospirosis. WHO and the Ministry of Health are investigating other cases further to determine whether it could be due to Hepatitis A or Hepatitis E. Meanwhile case management and other control measures have been put in place by the Ministry of Health.
- WHO is assisting the Ministry of Health and health partners in outbreak investigation, laboratory confirmation of diseases and in coordinating the health response.

2. Health Action

- WHO has strengthened its surveillance activities in the fields. Following reports of suspected jaundice in Myanungmya the WHO Field officer in Pathein and its epidemiologist were dispatched to assist with the investigation. WHO will also provide laboratory kits to identify hepatitis.
- WHO will provide technical and financial support to local NGOs to clean ponds in 10 hard –reach-coastal villages, in order to help ensure safe drinking water supply.
- WHO along with MOH will begin training of general medical officers on management of selected mental illnesses, and training of nurses on psychosocial interventions after disasters.

3. Funds

- The Myanmar Revised Appeal launched by the UN on 10 July includes US \$65 million for health cluster activities.

HEALTH COORDINATION

- The Early Recovery/Health Systems technical working group of the Health cluster is developing a template of damaged and destroyed health facilities. It also had Strategic Advisory Group meeting where it requested MoH to provide the list of such damaged/destroyed health facilities and and the requirements for their repair or rebuilding.
- Township level coordination:

- Cluster coordination at the township level continues to take place under the leadership of the Township Medical Officers (TMOs) in Bogale, Dedaye, Mawlamyinegyun, Pathein, Labutta, Ngaputaw and Pyapon. Township coordination places emphasis on health service provisions including mobile clinics, outreach patient consultation, EPI activities, nutrition activities, water and sanitation activities and surveillance of diseases. Local level planning on training on nutrition, reporting of cases, laboratory upgradation under leadership of TMOs are on going in the health cluster coordination in different townships including Labutta, Bogale and Pyapon.
- NGOs need to be identified to lead coordination in Kyaiklat, Maubin, Myaungmya and Wakema.
- The Health cluster is considering a financial incentive for NGOs to take on coordination lead. It is also considering support in the form of providing manpower and training.

OTHER RELATED CLUSTERS

- The WASH cluster puts priority to clean the contaminated ponds by mid of August.

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.