



## HIGHLIGHTS

- **The first Village Tract assessment (VTA) team leaves for villages in Yangon division today, with another team heading for the Ayeyarwady Delta tomorrow. The assessment, the first part of the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA), will cover nine sectors.**
- **The first report based on the Health Cluster Early Warning, Alert and Response system (EWARS) for disease surveillance reveals 685 cases of acute respiratory infection, 117 cases of bloody diarrhea and three cases of suspected dengue fever.**
- **WHO jointly with the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders, have developed a Plan of Action for dengue prevention and control in cyclone affected areas.**

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND SITUATION UPDATE

- The first Village Tract assessment (VTA) team leaves for villages in Yangon division today, with another team heading for the Ayeyarwady Delta tomorrow. The assessment, the first part of the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA), will cover nine sectors.
- VTA teams have requested support from organizations on the ground such as guiding teams, providing local information and medical support if required. The teams would be collecting GCS coordinates of the villages they visit.
- The VTA method of data collection involves:
  - Daily data entry at field level by the designated data analyst in each cluster
  - This information will then be fed back to a central team collecting sector-wise analyses from each of the cluster teams.
- The Myanmar Red Cross reports that it has reached 228 000 beneficiaries as of 4 June. Of these, 36 605 are located in Yangon Division, 190 000 in Ayeyarwady Division and 1590 in Mon State.
- The Ministry of Health has given written instructions on 7 June to vaccinate all children from 9 months to 10 years for measles in all

affected townships. Surveillance Officers confirmed that mobile teams are conducting vaccination activities (along with other interventions) in these villages.

- Over 1900 MT of cargo, including 1334 MT of food, was dispatched between 20 May and 9 June.
- Environmental Sanitation staff of the Ministry of Health has been assigned to the affected townships to assist Township Medical Officer in Water and Sanitation. The central health education bureau is in the process of assigning hygiene promoters to the townships. CHEB and NGOs in the townships are planning to work together to train local hygiene volunteers for outreach activities.
- Several townships are now served by mobile water treatment plants. Water supply conditions are gradually improving.
- Over 6 million liters of water are being disinfected every day, covering the needs of approximately two million people. Point-of-use water treatment is reported by the WASH Cluster to be good even in the remote communities.
- Rainwater collection is increasingly being introduced, and represents the main source of freshwater in the worst-affected areas south of the Delta.
- Pond rehabilitation activities are ongoing and will be prioritized particularly in the southern delta area.

## **HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE**

### **1. Disease Surveillance**

- More than 60 percent of partners reported for the first Surveillance Bulletin based on the Early Warning, Alert and Response system (EWARS) for disease surveillance.
- The surveillance report has revealed the following :
  - **Bloody diarrhea:** 117 cases, from Bogale and Kungyangon Township in Ayeryarwady and Yangon Divisions respectively.
  - **Acute Respiratory Infection:** 685 cases, in Bogale, Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyum, Ngapudaw, Pyapon in Ayeryarwady Division, Dagon townships, Kungyangon, Thalyin and Twantay in Yangon Division. Thalyin township is the only one showing a real increase in the trend from week 22 to week 23.

- **Dengue Hemorrhagic fever:** Three suspected cases, all more than five years old. One case is from Pyapon Township and two from Kungyangon.
- **Others:** Four cases of acute jaundice, all older than five years are reported from Ayeryarwady division. One case is from Mawlamyinegyun Township and three from Pyapon Township.
- For Acute Respiratory Infections, the case definition needs to be verified; shelters, living conditions improved; standard protocols for case management used; and referral hospitals identified.
- Laboratory confirmation is needed for the reported cases of bloody diarrhoea, dengue haemorrhagic fever and acute jaundice.
- WHO/Ministry of Health sources have reported 10 suspected cases of measles in Labutta. Four of these cases are lab confirmed. All are more than five years old. Measles vaccination campaign is on-going covering children up to 15 years age.

## 2. Health Action

### WHO

- Four additional experts have arrived to provide support to the WHO Country team. They include a water and sanitation expert, a vector control specialist, an epidemiologist and an administration and finance professional.
- WHO jointly with the Department of Health and other key stakeholders, has developed a Plan of Action for dengue prevention and control in cyclone affected areas. While a high number of cases of dengue fever is normal for this region at this time of year, greater numbers are expected this year given the living conditions after the cyclone. The plan has been developed in anticipation of such a situation, and agencies interested in supporting dengue prevention and control have been requested to work within the context of this plan.
- A joint team comprising of WHO and Ministry of Health officials visited Dagon S and Dagon N township hospitals and neighborhoods. The team reported the following:
  - Few suspected cases of dengue fever were reported, which is normal during this season. Investigations are ongoing.

- Both hospitals and their respective township clinics are fully functional (roofs repaired/replaced).
- Fogging machines have been received in both hospitals.
- Household visits indicated very high levels of vector infestation, mostly in water storage containers, spirit house bowls and flower vases as well as in used tyres and abandoned household appliances.
- In Dagon S, field staff was observed applying bleaching powder to water.
- Increased nocturnal mosquito nuisance was reported in Dagon S
- WHO and UNICEF have developed a joint proposal on recommendations for Measles control activities in the cyclone affected townships.

#### **IOM**

- Between May and July, IOM plans to provide emergency medical services through mobile medical teams, medicines, medical equipment and supplies in Boggle, Malamnyine Kyune and Pyapon.

#### **HelpAge International**

- HelpAge International (HAI) is working with local NGO YMCA to provide health services in Kyiaklat Township. Services will be extended to Mawlamyinegyun, Dedaye township from 10 June.

#### **IFRC/Myanmar Red Cross**

- IFRC is recruiting 40 health/hygiene officers to work with the Myanmar Red Cross (MRCS) from mid- June onwards.
- Community-based first aid refresher training for 216 MRCS volunteers from the Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions continues. The main focus of the training is safe water and sanitation, prevention of communicable diseases and psychosocial support.

### **3. Supplies**

- Ten water treatment units have been deployed in the Delta region. A total of 50 units are now in the country. Training of local staff on the use of the units is ongoing in Yangon.

### **4. Funds**

- The Health cluster is 77% funded in the Flash Appeal according to the OCHA Financial Tracking.

## HEALTH COORDINATION

- WHO has recruited three national consultants to be based in three sub-national locations to strengthen health coordination and WHO Myanmar Nargis relief activities. WHO is planning to open sub-national offices in selected locations to strengthen Health Cluster activities.
- WHO provided up-to-date reports on who, what, when and where (WWW). The information has been sourced from cluster partners inputs over the last four weeks, and shows that
  - Most townships have been covered for surveillance.
  - There appear to be gaps in the medical coverage especially in some townships in Yangon.
- WHO suggested that a working group on vector-borne diseases be formed to discuss the action plan on dengue.
- The technical working groups provided the following reports:
  - **Early Recovery and Joint Action Plan:**
    - The ER working group will reconvene after the MoH has confirmed its participation.
    - WHO suggested that the ER working group should be linked with the Joint Plan of Action working group.
    - The JPA working group has received comments on the Joint Plan of Action and is taking these into account as they finalize the draft.
    - UNICEF noted that they have sent an early recovery team to the field and have information on the infrastructure.
    - WHO suggested that UNICEF become part of the JPA and ER working groups to share information and coordinate on the response.
  - **Psychosocial Support**
    - Twenty-two agencies have requested to work on psychosocial support
    - Terms of Reference have been issued and a matrix has been constructed for WWW.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- WHO in collaboration with Ministry of Health is planning more field visits to provide technical assistance on ground, to help monitor the health response activities, identify gaps and plan further interventions.