

SITUATION REPORT CYCLONE NARGIS: MYANMAR 10 May 2008

General Situation Update

- As of 9 May, 640 relief camps have been set up in Yangon and 72 relief camps are operational in Ayeyarwady Division.
- The Assessment team's report indicates a high number of injured being treated in hospitals in the affected area (further details below). Outbreaks are not as yet a great problem. However, preparatory measures for response to possible outbreaks from water and vector borne diseases are being taken by all health actors.

Health Action

Coordination

- Daily health coordination meetings are being held both at Geneva, Bangkok, and Myanmar levels. An operational platform with identified logistics, finance and administrative needs is being established.
- WHO HQ Health Action in Crises has deployed an expert on Emergency Public Health. He is coordinating WHO's health action as well as supporting the health cluster's activities.
- The health cluster will incorporate HIV into their programming. This will ensure that people living with HIV, and who have been affected by the cyclone, are receiving the right medical services, and that service providers are aware of the particular vulnerability of this group.
- The health cluster will also address sexual and reproductive health issues as well as provision of psychosocial support to the survivors.
- A gap analysis is being prepared by WHO, the results of which will be presented to the Health Cluster on Monday, 13 May 2008.
- WHO distributed medical supplies, including ORS, antibiotics, bleaching powder etc. to INGOS, to support their relief activities in the affected areas.

Assessment

- Two WHO assessment teams composed of national epidemiologists visited Bugale and Laputa, 7-9 May 2008. Most patients in the hospitals in these two townships sustained injuries from the cyclone. A few cases of diarrhea were identified.
- In Bugale, the 50 bed hospital is now supported by an additional 12 doctors and 6 nurses.
- In Laputa, the 25 bed hospital was supported with 20-member health team, comprising of doctors, anaesthesiologist, surgeons and nurses.
- In Labuta, Merlin, Maltesser and UNICEF were present to support water chlorination and food distribution. In Bugale, UNICEF, Red Cross, and PSI are the main partners.
- All teams going to the affected area were advised to meet the Township Medical Officer and the Divisional Health Director of the area visited.

Health Care Delivery

- WHO dispatched 30 000 surgical masks and 30 000 gloves to the affected areas in Bugale and Laputa through UNICEF trucks on 10 May 2008. The supplies will be used for handling dead bodies by health workers in the affected area.
- Drugs requested by MOH were air freighted by WHO South East Asia Regional Office and supplied to Central Medical Stores Depot for further distribution to the affected areas.
- WHO Regional surveillance officers delivered ORS and other medicines to the affected townships of Ayeyarwady today.
- Eight International Health kits donated by the Italian government arrived in Yangon on 9 May and have been cleared.

Outbreak Control

- One hundred and four cases of diarrhea and 36 cases of dysentery were reported from Yangon. Diarrhea cases were also reported from affected townships of Ayeyarwady
- Department of Health of the Ministry of Health started Vitamin A administration and Measles vaccination to children in Laputa, Bugale, and Mawlamyan Jun townships of Ayeyarwady
- Measles immunization for children in temporary shelters has begun
- A standardized disease surveillance form developed by WHO was endorsed by the Ministry of Health. The form has been shared with INGOs, and is currently being translated into Myanmar language for use.

Technical Support

- WHO Emergency Public Health specialist is on the ground
- Further efforts to deploy logistics and epidemiology experts are ongoing.

Next Steps

- Purchase additional supplies, locally, from the regional office, or from HQ as applicable, and ensure their delivery into the country
- Strengthen health coordination in the country
- Strengthen the surveillance system in the affected areas
- Alert stakeholders and mobilize the donor community to provide a unified support for responding to this crisis