



HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Approximately 50 per cent of the rural and township health centres in the cyclone-affected areas of Myanmar are reported to be damaged.**
2. **WHO has received funding from the UN CERF Rapid Response Grant to address the priority health needs of the people in the cyclone-affected areas of Myanmar. This will be utilized in joint collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Government of Myanmar to provide equipment, supplies and technical manpower. Supplies such as 100 fogging machines to help prevent vector-borne diseases, 2000 boxes of surgical masks and 500 boxes of examination gloves have already been dispatched to the affected areas on 14 May 2008.**
3. **Health sector support is being provided in the affected areas through organizations working under the umbrella of the health cluster. A range of response activities are being provided including establishing a surveillance and outbreak response system, strengthening the abilities of health facilities to function effectively, and provision of kits for emergency and trauma care.**

HEALTH ASSESSMENT & SITUATION UPDATE

- Two teams of WHO national consultants have successfully handed over medical supplies distributed by the international/national health partners to hospitals/doctors in the townships of Bogale and Laputta.
- Medical care is now being focused on survivors staying in the relief shelters. Local NGOs, through their volunteers, are now in position to access the remote parts of the affected areas.
- Approximately 50 per cent of rural and township health centres in the Irrawaddy area have been damaged. The majority of centres have lost their roofs.
- The hospital in Mau Bin has become the referral hospital for townships in Irrawady.
- The Government of Myanmar has decided to accept technical assistance from the ASEAN countries and a rapid assessment team is likely to arrive shortly.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

1. Supplies

- The Norwegian government has agreed to donate water purification equipment which would facilitate access to clean water for use in 4 hospitals and 20 health centres in the affected areas. They are likely to reach their destination in coming days. The Norwegian government has also agreed to provide 20 Interagency Emergency Health Kits 2006, each of which provides

- for the health needs of 30 000 people for one month, and five Interagency Diarrhoeal Disease kits.
- WHO has supplied 500 boxes of surgical gloves and 2000 boxes of surgical masks to Myanmar on 14 May 2008.
 - To assist in preventing any potential outbreak of vector-borne diseases, 100 fogging machines have been dispatched to Myanmar on 14 May 2008.
 - A World Food Programme plane carrying three WHO Interagency Emergency Health kits and one supplementary malaria module has left Dubai today on its way to Myanmar.
 - Additionally 2000 vials of anti-viper venom have been procured to be sent to Myanmar from Thailand as the affected regions of Myanmar are prone to snake bites.
 - The Ministry of Health has reported that the country has enough supplies of anti-tetanus serum.

2. Funds

- WHO has received funding support from the UN CERF Rapid Response Grant to address the priority health needs of the people in the cyclone-affected areas of Myanmar. The funds will be used for a range of activities including establishing a surveillance and outbreak response system, strengthening the abilities of health facilities to function effectively, and provision of kits for emergency and trauma care.

3. Surveillance

- The surveillance and data reporting system has been streamlined and refined to be used by all the health sector agencies. This will facilitate uniform collection, compilation and analysis of the available information on selected diseases including diarrhoea, malaria, dengue and snake bites.

4. Vaccination

- The Ministry of Health has begun measles vaccination campaigns for children in relief camps between the ages of 9 months to 5 years.
- Those injured are being immunized by tetanus-toxoid (TT) vaccine.

HEALTH COORDINATION

- Participation in the health cluster meetings in Myanmar has increased, with more than 50 representatives of 30 international NGOs and UN agencies.
- The Health Cluster has agreed to adopt a common approach for health sector intervention in the affected areas. The exchange of information, using common matrix, ensures a wide coverage of health assistance without duplication of efforts.
- The meeting discussed the current gaps and ways to concentrate health services in priority areas.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalization of a joint action plan and charting out activities for the health cluster for the next 3-6 months.