

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Reducing the risk of communicable disease outbreaks is a priority as the monsoon season approaches. Health partners need to reach further, and do more for more people, and do it fast before the next planting season.**
- 2. Supplies from international donors continue to arrive in Myanmar. In the last two days, WHO and health partners have procured emergency health kits to cover 70 000 people, medicines to treat 100 000 cases of diarrhoea, and another 13 metric tonnes of essential medicines.**
- 3. The United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon is expected to arrive in Myanmar on 22 May 2008.**

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT & SITUATION UPDATE

- The United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon is expected to arrive in Myanmar on 22 May 2008.
- According to an INGO field assessment in Bogale township
  - There are approximately 23 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Bogale and another 60 000 IDPs in its surrounding areas.
  - The public hospital in Bogale township was damaged but is functioning. Three of 15 private clinics in the township remain functional.
  - The functioning health centres in Bogale have reported treating wounds, burns and trauma.
- Three ships carrying Ministry of Health medical teams left Wadan Jetty for affected villages in Ayeyawady Division on 19 May.
- According to the state media, the international community continues to send relief supplies for the cyclone-affected regions. Five C-130 planes from the USA carrying blankets, nylon ropes, plastic sheets, water buckets, nails, water bottles, plywood and foodstuff weighing over 42 tons arrived at Yangon International Airport on 20 May.
- The Thai medical team, along with Myanmar health staff, provided medical treatment and health care services to the affected people temporary shelters in Labutta today.
- Relief supplies are being dispatched to the affected people in Ayeyawady Division by helicopter, by ship and by road. Vehicles loaded with relief supplies Yangon for Bogale, Labutta, Pyapon, Ngaputaw and Hainggyikyun Townships on 20 May.
- Reducing the risk of communicable disease outbreaks is a priority as the monsoon season approaches. Health partners need to reach further, and do more for more people, and do it fast before the next planting season.

## HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

### 1. Supplies

- WHO has sent seven additional interagency emergency health kits. They are being flown from Dubai to Yangon.
- IOM received 13 tons of essential drugs on 18 May.
- UNICEF distributed 3000 family kits and essential drugs to treat 2500 children with common diseases, in nine cyclone-affected townships in Yangon.
- UNICEF is preparing to distribute additional medicines and ORS, Zinc, lactate Ringer and Doxycycline, sufficient to treat 100 000 diarrhoea cases including 15 000 severe cases.

### 2. Medical Care and Human Resources

- An INGO rapid assessment on food security and water sanitation found that
  - households interviewed did not have food stocks, and their diets have changed in response to the lack of traditional sources of food. Illnesses like malaria and diarrhoea will also negatively impact the nutrition status of the affected population.
  - the water supply in Bogale is mainly from community ponds and open wells containing untreated water. Salt water intrusion has affected community wells, compromising the quality of water.
  - There is a need for water storage containers, basic hygiene material such as soap and cooking sets.

### 3. Mental health

- An INGO reports psychological distress among the affected communities as survivors have not been able to find the bodies of their loved ones and therefore conduct the usual cultural practices for burial and mourning.
- Young children, particularly those who have lost key care-givers, have been traumatized.

### 4. Surveillance

- The Ministry of Health and WHO and health partners encourage community participation to strengthen disease surveillance activities.

## HEALTH COORDINATION

- In Labutta the emergency health cluster met to discuss measures to prevent outbreaks of diarrhea and dysentery.

## NEXT STEPS

- The Health Cluster is advancing with a joint draft plan that encompasses the relief and recovery phase as well as readiness for major health contingencies.
- WHO continues to advocate with the donors to mobilize stronger support for the health sector. Till 18 May 2008, USD 6.2 million has been mobilized. The

Flash Appeal will be revised and readjusted during the coming weeks as assessments bring in more clear information on needs.

- WHO in Myanmar is negotiating with the Danish Embassy for financial support.