

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Five international medical teams are providing care in the affected areas. The Thai team is in Myaungmya, the Indian team in Bogale and Pyapon, the Chinese team in Kungyangon and Dedaye, the Bangladeshi team in Wakema and the Laos team is in Kyauktan. A team from Singapore will arrive on 22 May.**
- 2. International health partners are expanding their activities in the affected areas. Their mobile teams are using boats to access people in remote areas that are difficult to reach by land.**
- 3. Township hospitals are functioning in Bogale, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun and Pyapon, and their services have been strengthened by teams of medical specialists from Yangon General Hospital.**

HEALTH ASSESSMENT & SITUATION UPDATE

- Five international teams are providing care in the affected areas. The Thai team is in Myaungmya, the Indian team in Bogale and Pyapon, the Chinese team in Kungyangon and Dedaye, the Bangladeshi team in Wakema and the Laos team is in Kyauktan. A team from Singapore will arrive on 22 May.
- Supplies from UN agencies and other donors continue to arrive. According to state media, on 21 May, nine aircrafts carrying 157 metric tonnes of medical and other supplies and equipment arrived in Yangon.
- The Myanmar Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by the Deputy Minister and deputy director generals of health, met ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in Yangon on 20 May.
- In Bogale,
 - The township hospital is being run by local hospital staff along with a team from the Yangon General Hospital, consisting of two general surgeons, two orthopedic surgeons, two physicians, two pediatricians, two obstetrics and gynecologists, two anesthetists and six nurses from the Intensive Care Unit and Operation Theatre.
 - One deputy director from the Department of Health is stationed in Bogale to supervise public health and disease control activities.
- In Labutta,
 - All services of the township hospital are working, including the operation theatre. Local staff is being supported by 17 medical specialists and nine nurses from Yangon General Hospital.
 - The three rural health centres in Labutta are also functioning.

- The director (epidemiology) of the Department of Health along with the basic health staff of the township are coordinating the public health activities.
- Mobile teams are operating daily clinics at the shelters.
- In shelters, children under the age of five are being vaccinated for measles, and the injured are being given tetanus-toxoid shots.
- The drinking water sources are being chlorinated.
- Disease surveillance is ongoing.
- In Mawlamyinegyun,
 - The township hospital is functioning, its strength reinforced by specialists and nurses from Yangon General Hospital.
 - From 3rd to 14th May, 802 OPD patients and 403 in-patients were given medical treatments.
 - Mobile health teams were also operating in the temporary shelters.
 - A Director (Disease Control) from Department of Health was stationed in Mawlamyinegyun to supervise the health activities.
- In Pyapon,
 - As of 13th May 2008, the district hospital has been providing services. Its capacity has been strengthened by specialists and nurses mobilized from Yangon General Hospital.
 - From 3rd to 13th May treatment were being provided to 170 new OPD patients and 158 new in-patients.
 - Deputy Director (Basic Health Services) was stationed in Pyanpon to supervise the health activities.
- NGOs continue to work in the affected areas.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

1. Supplies

- In response to the government's request for support in water purification, WHO has sent additional supplies of bleaching powder, with a WHO national consultant to provide demonstration and training to the local health staff.
- WHO also supplied survival kits (basic items) to health volunteers working in affected areas. WHO will continue to distribute these with other supplies for the affected areas.

2. Medical Care and Human Resources

- UNICEF has 12 public health professionals in seven townships in Ayeyarwady and seven public health professionals in eight township in Yangon for ongoing assessments, provision of necessary health and sanitation supplies, responding to emerging needs and monitoring of UNICEF assistance.
- Merlin continues to expand activities in Labutta. It currently covers 20 villages and has 11 mobile teams in place in addition to four static clinics. In order increase coverage Merlin has complemented ongoing efforts with a boat, which serves as an advanced mobile operations base. Prior to the cyclone, Merlin had a large network of 570 community workers, many of whom have died or are missing after the cyclone. The community workers are trained in basic disease surveillance. Merlin will now focus efforts on reactivating sub-rural health centres in places where they have had a longstanding presence.

3. Surveillance

- WHO team has been strengthened with an epidemiologist who will support the disease surveillance early warning and response activities.

HEALTH COORDINATION

- Regular coordination of health activities is taking place in Labutta where the township medical officer is actively engaged with partners.

NEXT STEPS

- The Health Cluster's joint plan of action for six months, which encompass the relief and recovery phase, is being finalized.
- 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 clearer information on needs.