

HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Reportedly 150 000 people are in 120 formal and informal temporary shelters.**
2. **More than 2000 medical experts from the Government and NGOs, plus 39 000 Red Cross and private health workers have been deployed in the affected area since the beginning of the emergency.**
3. **WHO is mobilizing additional experts from its global network to strengthen its office in Myanmar according to the needs of the Country as revealed by new assessments.**
4. **ASEAN is setting in place a coordination structure for their support to Myanmar, which could involve a Task Force comprising of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the UN.**

HEALTH ASSESSMENT

- An NGO reports that at least 150 000 people are in 120 temporary shelters. These include formal government-run camps, as well as informal shelters in monasteries and schools.
- An IOM assessment team of seven doctors and two nurses left Yangon for the delta area on 22 May. They will attempt to reach remote areas by using inflatable boats. They will use the Bogale hub as a base to assess health needs in the worst affected areas.

SITUATION UPDATE

- As roads can become inaccessible due to the monsoon, boats will become an important means of transportation.
- The Bangkok airlift is now open. UNHCR reported that flights are delayed and/or cancelled. Fuel is not yet a bottle neck.
- International aid is arriving into the country. On 22 May, more than 90 metric tonnes of supplies including medicines, water purifiers, mosquito nets, plastic sheets and food, arrived at Yangon airport, according to the state media.
- ASEAN is setting in place a coordination structure for their support to Myanmar, which could involve a Task Force comprising of the government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the UN.
- The International Pledging Conference to be held in Yangon on 25 May will take stock of the needs for the emergency and recovery phase,

from the government, UN and ASEAN perspectives. More than 200 people are expected to participate.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

1. Surveillance

- The working group on disease surveillance in the health cluster is setting in place a system of rumour verification as a first step to improve rapid detection, reporting and analysis of health threats in the affected divisions.

2. Health Action

- The Myanmar government informed in a news release on 22 May that 2029 medical experts from the Government and NGOs, and 39 000 Red Cross Society and private health workers, have been working in the affected area since the start of the crisis.
- IOM reports that their doctors are treating over 100 patients every day from its new operational hub in Bogale, one of the most severely affected townships.
- To help children cope, UNICEF has partnered with NGOs to provide technical assistance for recreational activities, life skills, non-formal education and first aid. More than a third of the affected population is estimated to be children.
- Mental health remains a concern. WHO has been working with the government to develop national capacity for psychosocial support even before the cyclone, and plans to build on that work now to increase local capacity.

3. Supplies

- IOM has distributed 14 metric tonnes of essential drugs.
- The organization has also received 10 000 treated mosquito nets from the Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation.

HEALTH COORDINATION

- A 15-member Singaporean medical team has arrived in Yangon, with 1.27 tonnes of medical equipment and supplies.
- The cluster approach will continue to be the coordination structure for UN agencies and INGOS providing assistance to the cyclone-affected areas.
- The health facility established in Bogale hub by IOM has been approved by the Ministry of Health.
- The health cluster is forming a mental health and psychosocial support group, which is likely to be co-chaired by IOM and Merlin.

NEXT STEPS

- WHO is mobilizing additional experts from its global network to strengthen its office in Myanmar according to the needs of the country as revealed by new assessments.
- The Health Cluster's joint plan of action for six months, which encompass the relief and recovery phase and carries contingency provisions against major outbreaks, 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.