



HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. To date, relief has reached about 40 per cent of the 2.5 million affected people. A large share of them are reportedly in urgent need of basic healthcare.**
- 2. More than US\$50 million has been pledged at the International Conference held on 25 May 2008. However, the UN Flash Appeal remains seriously under-funded.**
- 3. ASEAN has established a mechanism to coordinate assistance into Myanmar. A Tripartite Core Group chaired by the Government will deal with all operational issues regarding international assistance.**

HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND SITUATION UPDATE

- More than 50 countries pledged over US\$50 million at the International Conference held in Yangon on 25 May 2008. However, The UN Secretary General called for greater support to the US\$201 million UN Flash Appeal. So far only 20 per cent of the funds have been disbursed, while another 20 per cent has been pledged.
- ASEAN has established a mechanism to coordinate international assistance to Myanmar. A Tripartite Core Group will be chaired by the Government of Myanmar and have representatives from the Government, ASEAN and the UN. This group will deal with the receipt, movement, delivery and monitoring of international assistance.
- According to OCHA, an estimated 42 per cent of the 2.5 million affected people have been reached by relief to date. However, in the 15 worst-affected townships, only 23 per cent of the two million affected have received assistance.
- An ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT), in collaboration with the UN, has been working on field assessments, analysis, and in consultation with government officials, formulating recommendations on the way forward.
- A multi-sector rapid assessment tool has been agreed on by the clusters, to identify priority emergency needs at the village level, and to provide baseline data.
- A rapid assessment of the food and nutrition needs will be available by the end of the week.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

1. Funding

- The Norwegian Government, the Italian Government and USAID have pledged directly to WHO, US\$ 1.4 million, 750 000 EURO and US\$ 500,000 respectively.
- The Governments of Canada, Sweden, Spain, China, Philippines and the Republic of Korea have not specified their pledges yet.

2. Health Action

- No outbreaks are reported.
- The Thai medical team has treated more than 2500 patients in the past week. Most cases were for diarrhoea, and a third of the patients were children.
- At least seven countries have sent medical teams to work in the affected areas in Myanmar. A 30-member team from the Philippines is expected on 26 May 2008, and Indonesia, Japan and Belgium will send teams in the next few days.
- WHO briefed an advance Japanese team present in Myanmar to assess the placement of the expected medical team. Guidelines on malaria, cholera and diarrhoea were shared with them.
- Mercy Malaysia has sent a four-member team for assessments and training support for doctors.

3. Supplies

- There are 27 water treatment plants that can cater to approximate one million people in the affected regions.
- Over 460 000 people have benefited from 3100 tonnes of food delivered to date.
- WFP helicopters are in place to deliver relief supplies to remote areas.
- Six boats are also plying the waterways to bring supplies into the delta.
- A WFP boat loaded with rice and high energy biscuits has left for Myanmar.
- Twenty six UN relief aircraft will be sent with supplies from various agencies including WHO.

HEALTH COORDINATION

- The Health Cluster is establishing a sub-group focusing on malaria.
- WHO organized a technical update on malaria and dengue fever focused on the cyclone-affected areas. It was attended by UN agencies and twelve NGOs. Participants discussed possible interventions to prevent and contain outbreaks and requested medicines and diagnostic test kits. They were invited to contribute to the development of a joint plan of action for prevention and control of malaria and dengue.

- UNICEF will supply the diagnostic test kits and malaria drugs on request from NGOs.
- WHO shared information on prophylaxis for aid workers traveling to the affected areas.

NEXT STEPS

- The UN Flash Appeal is likely to be revised on 10 June.
- The WASH cluster has proposed a water and sanitation training institute.