

HIGHLIGHTS CYCLONE NARGIS: MYANMAR 8 May 2008

General Situation Update

- Difficulties in access deteriorating situations in Yangon and Delta area
- Military deployed to clean up the streets in Yangon area
- High number of injured identified in Labutta General hospital by WHO surveillance team
- A high number of health facilities destroyed in the affected area, but the extent is yet to be properly assessed
- There is still high scarcity in drinking water, and electricity. Price of petrol has increased three-fold.
- Risk to water and vector borne diseases are being monitored

Health Action



Yangon City after the cyclone Nargis

Coordination

- Cluster approach initiated by the IASC, and WHO leading the health cluster
- Food and nutrition cluster initiated, with UNICEF leading the nutrition cluster
- Partners, including NGOs, IOM and UN agencies working in the affected area identified and discussions ongoing to minimize overlap
- Joint UN Flash Appeal drafted; 3 NGOs, UNICEF and WHO contributed to the health section. WHO requested 5 million from the Flash Appeal
- SEARO is coordinating the response to the media
- Deputy Regional Director for SEARO has given interviews to the media on the current situation

Assessment

- UNDAC team to be deployed to Myanmar from Thailand today
- Health professional will be identified to join the UNDAC team
- Several NGOs have deployed assessment teams

Health Care Delivery

- WHO mobilized 10 Interagency Emergency Health Kits, 100 body bags, 35,000 chlorine tablets and 5 tents
- Discussions are ongoing for the mobilization of further supplies, including diarrhoeal disease kits, water and sanitation kits, bleach powder and long lasting impregnated nets (LLIN) to the area

Outbreak Control

- WHO has mobilized teams of regional surveillance officers to the district to assess the health situation in the area
- So far no outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease kits or other diseases notified
- Drugs, Rapid Diagnostic Tests for Malaria and Dengue, bednets and other supplies available

Technical Support

- Efforts ongoing to deploy logistics expert, epidemiologists and public health officer ongoing

Next Steps

- Support to staff for operations in pipeline
- Purchase additional supplies, locally, from the regional office, or from HQ as applicable
- Strengthen health coordination in the country
- Establish a surveillance system in the affected areas