This situation report is based on information received from the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, Myanmar, UN agencies, UNDAC, regional humanitarian partners and media sources.

I. SITUATION IN MYANMAR

1. Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, making landfall in Ayeyarwady Division and directly hitting the country’s largest city, Yangon. 40 townships in Yangon Division and 7 townships in Ayeyarwady Division remain on the Government’s list of disaster areas.

2. Assessment teams have reported major damage in affected areas, particularly the low-lying delta region, where the Cyclone’s impact was compounded by a storm surge. The delta townships of Labutta, Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun were especially heavily hit. The official death toll now stands at 31,938, with 29,770 missing. Unofficial estimates are considerably higher. Based on the original Government figure of 975,858 persons affected three days after the disaster in the eight most seriously hit townships, it is estimated that at least 1,500,000 people are severely affected.

3. Food, shelter, medical supplies and water are all critical needs. The early rehabilitation of farmers has also been identified as being crucial, as the affected area is an important rice-growing area. People are now reported to have begun migrating outwards from the most affected areas in search of basic necessities while others are stranded in areas of the delta without drinking water, food or shelter. The movement of affected populations is rendering some of the assessment data out-of-date. Damaged infrastructure and communications, as well as flooding, pose serious logistical challenges for relief efforts. Weather reports for affected areas in the coming days continue to be unfavourable, with heavy rainfall predicted.

4. Flights carrying relief items have been getting in to the country, and the Government and humanitarian partners are reaching an increasing number of affected persons. However, the levels of aid getting in to the country remain far below what is required to meet the needs on the ground.

II. NATIONAL RESPONSE

5. State media reported on 12 May that a total of 9,330 cyclone victims have been evacuated from the worst-hit parts of the southwest of Ayeyarwady Division to relief sites in Maubin, Wakema and Myaungmya townships.

6. The Myanmar Minister of National Planning and Economic Development has now stated that aid from any nation will be accepted and that delivery of relief goods can be handled by local organisations and people working in international agencies provided this is carried out in cooperation with the Government. The movement of international relief workers to the disaster-hit areas is still restricted.
III. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Coordinated In-Country Response

Food Assistance

7. Since the last Situation Report (#8), WFP dispatched an additional of 65 MT rice to Yangon and Ayeayarwady Division, and distributed 10 MT of rice to 1700 beneficiaries. Since the cyclone hit, WFP has dispatched 426.1 MT of food to the affected areas and distributed 184.5 MT to 30,000 beneficiaries in cooperation with partners. This beneficiary figure is likely to be less than the actual figure as it is not possible to update all distribution figures from remote locations.

8. The Food Cluster has begun to draft a ‘Cluster Response Plan’, with one part covering the worst-affected delta area, and one covering Yangon Division. The plan will be reviewed by cluster partners on 15 May.

Logistics

- The Cluster Lead is continuing to identify suitable logistics hubs in-country.
- The sea ports of Yangon and Pathein have now been reopened. Inland waterway access is possible from Yangon, for boats carrying a maximum load of 200 MT.
- Negotiations are ongoing with the Thai authorities about the setting up of a staging area for airlifts.
- The first US relief flight arrived on 12 May; two more were due on 13 May.
- Ongoing logistical challenges include a lack of necessary equipment at Yangon International Airport, and communications.
- Nine flights were expected on 13 June (3 MSF, 1 UNHCR, 1 UNICEF (+1 unconfirmed), 2 WFP, 1 USAID).

9. On 12 May, the first US relief flight landed in Yangon International Airport from Utapao, Thailand. The cargo of bottled water, mosquito nets and blankets was handed over to Government officials for distribution. Another two US military flights were due to land on 13 May, carrying food and water. The US has significant military assets on standby in the region, according to a US Government press release issued on 12 May.

10. The sea ports of Yangon and Pathein have reopened. Inland waterway boats are possible from Yangon, up to a maximum load of 200 MT.

11. Discussions are ongoing with transportation firms to secure a fleet that would be available to all operational agencies.

12. Road conditions at the Myawaddy border crossing are very bad. It is understood that the recent UNHCR cross-border delivery by land route was a one-off.

13. Labutta is now established as an in-country transportation hub, with two large mobile storage units operational, and another two to follow in coming days. The Cluster plans to set up further hubs in Pyapon and Bogale, but Kuang Mangay has now been selected instead of Mawlamyineguyun, which is only accessible by river. The relative importance of each centre will be parallel to the needs in the area. A large warehouse unit has been identified in Yangon and negotiations are ongoing.

14. WFP headquarters has directed the WFP country office not to undertake further clearance on behalf of other organisations for the time being, unless those organisations have an operational agreement with a UN agency.

15. The Cluster Lead has stressed that organisations should provide information on the type and amount of cargo they are planning to transport into Myanmar, so that the necessary logistical arrangements can be made. Forms and contacts are available on the Cluster webpage (www.logscluster.org/mm08a/).

16. Bangkok Airways has offered the use of excess cargo space on its commercial flights to Yangon free of charge (flights depart every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday).

Health

- The cluster lead (WHO) reports that the flow of aid supplies into Myanmar is improving.
- The primary pressing health concerns identified in the health sector are trauma, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections.
Epidemic disease monitoring is also a priority for the Cluster.

WHO states that Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits are now providing enough immediate medical supplies for most of the worst-hit townships in Ayeyarwady Division.

A WFP flight carrying WHO goods arrived in Yangon on 12 May

WHO has 16 Regional Surveillance Officers in affected areas supporting the Ministry of Health in assessing needs and carrying out relief activities.

The Cluster is now seeking to purchase additional supplies by the fastest possible means.

A large number of NGOs, including Aide Medicale International, Merlin, MRCS, Malteser and Medecins du Monde and MSF are now working in the affected areas.

17. WHO reported on 12 May that aid supplies are now getting into the country more easily, and that many NGOs including Medicins du Monde have received supplies in the last 48 hours. WHO itself has received and distributed additional Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (EHK) and Diarrhoeal Disease Kits. Four more EHK were due to be sent to Pyapon, Ngaputaw, Myaungmya and Maubin on 12 May. Two are already in Labutta and Bogale. WHO has stated that this will provide enough immediate medical supplies for most of the worst-hit townships in Ayeyarwady Division. The Ministry of Health has given WHO a list of essential supplies and medicines that need to be replenished urgently. WHO will work with the Ministry to establish a revolving stock of drugs to ensure the continuing availability of essential medicines and supplies.

18. IRC will shortly begin distributing medical supplies donated by the Spanish Government.

19. UNFPA has received its first set of Reproductive Health Kits, with a second set due in the next week. Each set provides enough reproductive health drugs and supplies for between 200,000 and 300,000 people. The first Kit will be delivered to Thongwa Township in Yangon Division. UNFPA and its partners are also providing Clean Delivery Kits to pregnant women. WHO will mobilise 2,000 of anti-snake venom kits (enough for about 250 patients). WHO has identified a high likelihood of an increase in snakebites in coming days.

20. 11 Regional Surveillance Officers (RSO) have been deployed to affected townships in Ayeyarwady Division. Another five have been assigned to Yangon Division for the next two weeks to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) in assessing the situation and delivering health relief items. All partners in the health cluster are using the WHO surveillance form on the number and type of diseases in the affected areas. The information is collected and analysed daily by the WHO office in Yangon.

21. WHO has released an additional USD175,000 from its Southeast Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund for Myanmar. It has also received donations from the UK and Italy.

22. Partners in Myanmar and Bangkok are developing a Who does What Where (3W) matrix. As the number of partners active in the Cluster continues to grow, coordination and joint prioritisation have been identified as important issues.

23. There are now a significant number of health teams on standby outside Myanmar, some of whom have been receiving visas.

Nutrition

24. The Nutrition Action Plan developed by UNICEF has been discussed by the cluster. A joint UNICEF and Action Contre la Faim assessment has been completed, and the results are now being analysed. The two organisations also plan to set up nutritional status monitoring and active case-finding.

Emergency Telecommunications

25. The ETC cluster met on 13 May in Yangon, inter alia to verify Callsign/Selcall allocations and to review various plans. Telecommunications equipment is scheduled to arrive on a charter flight from Dubai late on 13 May. WFP and UNICEF continue to provide technical support to ETC team in Yangon.

WASH

26. 27 agencies attended a WASH Cluster meeting in Yangon on 13 May. Around 10 agencies are actively involved in assessment and response. Cluster partners have been actively mapping needs, priorities and challenges:
Needs/Issues:

- Contaminated water sources because of the use of unprotected water points (ponds, rivers), presence of dead bodies and flooding.
- The availability of water is a serious problem in southern villages where ponds have been flooded by salty water.
- People have lost almost all water containers.
- Sanitation (excreta disposal and waste management) is almost non-existent in temporary settlements and this is a priority.
- Waste management is a problem in towns.
- Loss of hygiene items such as soap.

Priorities:

Cluster Group

- Rapid assessments summary and definition of priorities set up.
- Mapping of needs and resources available.
- Establishment of hygiene sub cluster for identifying standard messages and hygiene kits.

Operational

- Distribution of purification items for household and water sources (mainly WaterGuard, purification tablets and bleaching powder).
- Distribution of water containers for transport and storage.
- Distribution of material for domestic rainwater collection (plastic sheeting).
- Water supply and emergency sanitation in temporary settlements (defecation areas, trenches).
- Emergency hygiene promotion (basic hand washing and excreta disposal).

Constraints and challenges:

- Access to affected areas and communications. Problems to get skilled persons for installing water treatment plants in the field.
- Temporary settlements constantly moving and therefore difficult to target.
- No clear information about how temporary settlements are managed.
- High water table in areas is a problem for the construction of sanitation facilities.

27. On 11 and 12 May, partners (UNICEF, PACT, ACF, WVI, CARE, Malteser International) reported that they have been distributing supplies in Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions, including WaterGuard, water containers (tanks and buckets), ORS, diesel for pumps, bleaching powder, and have constructed latrines. IRC is preparing to distribute water purification equipment and supplies which will provide safe water to 50,000 people, donated by Muslim Aid with the support of Global Medic. IRC’s in-country field team is working in partnership with local organisations and volunteers to carry out these distributions.

Agriculture

28. The rice planting season starts in a few weeks’ time in Myanmar. FAO estimates that needs for this season amount to 50,000 tons of rice and 15,000 tons of fertiliser, which would cover 250,000 hectares.

Education

- It is estimated that 2,400 primary schools have been damaged, affecting the education of 360,000 students.
- Significant stocks are already in the country.
- UNICEF supplies are being distributed by the Government and the MRCS, with the support of UNICEF staff.

29. On 12 May, UNICEF met with the Deputy Minister of Education to discuss the joint response to the emergency.

30. MoE has approved the overall cluster strategy in terms of immediate response to schools that can be repaired within 4-6 weeks and provision of temporary learning spaces for schools that need more time to be rebuilt.
31. The need for greater involvement of NGO/INGOs in renovation/construction of schools and support to other areas has been raised with the MoE.

Pre-positioned stocks:
- 108,000 essential learning packages
- 588 school-in-a box kits

Additional stocks being sought/prepared:
- 200,000 roofing sheets have been ordered to help repair schools
- 10,000 tarpaulin
- 2,000 school kits are being purchased locally to help with temporary learning spaces
- UNICEF is supporting printing of additional textbooks and will provide furniture to affected schools as well.
- UNICEF in Bangkok is preparing ‘schools in a backpack’.

Emergency Shelter

32. The shelter cluster last met in Yangon on 12 May. Detailed assessments are ongoing and are expected to be consolidated this week. The cluster’s actual focus is on distribution of shelter materials, and current agency plans aim to reach 200,000 households in a 2-3 week timeframe (out of an estimated 300,000 affected households, and 1.5 million affected individuals). 25,000 tarpaulins have already been distributed in Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions, and a further 50,000 are in the pipeline (2-3 weeks).

33. Cluster partners have identified a bottleneck developing in logistics.

34. It has now been confirmed that a truck carrying 4,600 plastic sheets and 182 tents from UNHCR camps in Thailand arrived in Yangon on 12 May.

35. UNHCR’s second flight (shared with UNICEF) is now scheduled to arrive in Yangon on 14 May.

Child Protection

36. The ‘working group’ of Protection Cluster partners (UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision and EMDH) has now reviewed a draft ‘Cluster Response Plan’ for six months, prepared by UNICEF. This action plan will be shared with the larger Cluster at its next meeting on 14 May.

37. On 12, May, UNICEF shared ethical guidelines related to photographs, interviewing and reporting on children. These will be distributed to all clusters, along with the code of conduct for humanitarian workers to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation.

Early Recovery

38. No updates

Updates from individual agencies

39. As of 13 May, 10 Red Cross Movement flights had landed in Yangon, with regular additional flights scheduled. One 18 MT charter flight per day is due to arrive from Kuala Lumpur, with landing rights confirmed. Space on scheduled flights has also been secured. It is expected that a total of 17 Red Cross/Red Crescent flights will have landed by 16 May.

40. Two MSF cargo flights have reached Yangon, with medical supplies and equipments, therapeutic food, water and sanitation materials as well as relief items. MSF received clearance from the authorities and the goods have been transferred to MSF’s warehouses. An additional two flights are expected shortly. The delivered relief materials will be sent by trucks to the disaster areas as soon as possible. MSF reports that significant additional supplies will be needed.

41. Over 200 MSF staff are working in the delta area, with additional staff arriving daily to provide support. MSF has reported that the movement of staff outside Bogale town has been restricted. In Yangon MSF is distributing supplies and carrying out water sanitation at around 30 IDP sites around the capital, although it is expected that these activities will wind down in the next few days.

42. HelpAge International estimates that it has reached 3,000 people in the districts of Hlaingtharya, Bogale and Labutta, where it has been supporting the efforts of the YMCA including by distributing cooked food providing health check-ups and basic medicines. During the coming weeks, HelpAge and YMCA hope to expand their operations to reach two further districts affected by the cyclone.
Coordination at the regional level

43. A meeting of regional cluster leads will take place in Bangkok on 14 May.
44. The Habitat for Humanity Asia-Pacific office in Bangkok hosted dozens of representatives of local and international non-governmental organizations at a meeting called by Oxfam on Tuesday afternoon. This first NGO/INGO Collaboration and Coordination Meeting was called to ensure that humanitarian responses to the communities affected by Cyclone Nargis are managed efficiently. Chaired by Oxfam GB, the meeting provided an opportunity for the NGO sector to share information about the situation on the ground and opens ongoing communication and cooperation channels for mutual support. Participants, including 49 representatives from 26 different NGOs and a donor [CIDA] discussed issues such as registration, visas, internal and external access, partnerships, working with the UN, working with ASEAN, and their respective areas of strength. Minutes should be available on 14 May. The Host and Chair functions will now rotate to other participant NGOs. The next meeting will take place on Friday, 16 May.

Update on Security Situation

45. The UN is still in Phase 1, and no change to this is foreseen.

UN Travel Restrictions

46. The UN Designated Official has decided to restrict all UN missions to Myanmar to those involved in emergency relief operations. All non-essential travel to the country is to be postponed with immediate effect until further notice.

Update on Financial Pledges

47. For updated information on financial contributions, please refer to the OCHA Financial Tracking System website: http://reliefweb.int/fts/. Donors are encouraged to verify contributions and inform OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) of corrections/additions/values to this table. The direct email address is: fts@reliefweb.int.

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For Maps on Cyclone Nargis and Myanmar: