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 official death toll now stands at 38,491, with 27,838 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, the UN now estimates that between 1.6 and 2.5 million people may be severely affected.

3. Food, shelter, medical supplies and water are all critical needs. There is a growing risk of the outbreak of disease among affected populations. The early rehabilitation of the agricultural sector has also been identified as being crucial, as the affected area is central to Myanmar’s rice industry. People have been migrating outwards from the most affected areas in search of basic necessities. Early estimates suggest that temporary settlements may now be sheltering over 550,000 people in Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions. Agencies on the ground are in the process of mapping the locations of these sites and the numbers of people in each. 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. Relief flights continue to land at Yangon International Airport, 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. There is also concern that a logistical bottleneck may be developing in Yangon.

II. NATIONAL RESPONSE

5. State media reported on 15 May that a total of 327.18 tons of aid supplies have been transported by the authorities to affected areas including Bogale, Kamatalu, Kyeinchaung, Setsan, Kyonda, Amar, Pathein, Labutta and Myaungmya. The same source also reported that 4,312,911,656 Myanmar Kyat (USD 3,750,000 approx.) in cash donations had been made nationwide for relief to storm victims, up until 14 May.

III. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

6. The European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Mr. Louis Michel, arrived in Myanmar on 14 May for a two-day visit during which he hopes to meet with Government officials and representatives of aid organizations.

7. Part of an 8-person ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) is now in place in Myanmar, with the reminder due to arrive by 18 May. The team plans to make a rapid assessment of cyclone-affected areas and to report its findings to a meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Singapore on 19 May.

Coordinated In-Country Response

Food Assistance

8. WFP has dispatched over 700 tons of rice, HEBs and beans to cyclone-affected areas since the cyclone hit. It has now distributed 274.1 tons of food to approximately 71,893 beneficiaries (though the actual figure is likely higher as it is difficult to obtain distribution information from remote areas). On 14 May, 143.74 tons of food items were dispatched to Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions. This included 33 tons of HEBs (enough for a daily ration for 82,500 people) and 110 tons rice (enough to give nearly 16,000 people a two week ration). This was by far the largest daily dispatch to date.

9. However, WFP estimates that it will need to move 390 tons of food every day if it is to reach the 750,000 people it is targeting over the next 30 days.

Logistics

10. The Logistics Cluster continues to negotiate with the Thai Government about the use of the old Bangkok International Airport as a staging point for relief operations. In the meantime, Agility, TNT and UPS have provided temporary warehouse space at the new airport.

11. The Cluster Lead also reports that it is close to securing warehouse space near Yangon International Airport. Negotiations with transport companies are ongoing to make trucking assets available to humanitarian partners in-country.

12. The Cluster Lead continues to call upon partners to provide (even estimated) cargo forecasts. An updated report on cargo flights arrived into Thailand and Myanmar is available on the Cluster webpage (http://www.logcluster.org/mm08a).

13. Road conditions on the cross-border land bridge at Mae Sot/Myawaddy are said to be good for 25 MT trucks, and the Logistics Cluster reports that the road will be passable throughout the rainy season. Further details are available on the Cluster website.

14. Regarding boat transportation onwards from Yangon, the maximum load possible has been revised downwards from 200 to 100-150 MT.

15. The road to Labutta may be closed during the rainy season, due to seasonal flooding. This is an action often taken by authorities and is unrelated to the disaster.

16. Logistics capacity in-country is being boosted by the arrival of additional staff members, who will assist with the establishment of a cargo tracking system.

17. Field officers have confirmed that aid supplies have been distributed in Kyaiklat Township, after the arrival on 13 May of three trucks of relief items provided by Save the Children. In Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale, difficulty in hiring boats and cars was reported. In Labutta, three boats and diesel are needed for waterway transport. Suitable boats are available for purchase at Myaungmya.

Health

18. A range of response activities are ongoing in the health sector, including establishing a surveillance and outbreak response system, strengthening the abilities of health facilities to function effectively, and provision of kits for emergency and trauma care. The Cluster is in the process of finalizing a joint action plan and of charting out planned activities for the next 3-6 months.

19. The surveillance and data reporting system continues to be streamlined and refined to facilitate uniform collection and compilation, and analysis of the available information on selected diseases including diarrhoea, malaria, dengue and snake bites.

20. WHO reports that approximately 50% of rural and township health centres in affected have been damaged. The majority of centres have lost their roofs.
21. Medical care is now being focused on survivors staying in the relief shelters. Local NGOs, through their volunteers, are now in position to access the remote parts of the affected areas.

22. The Government has decided to accept technical assistance from ASEAN countries and it is hoped that a rapid assessment team will arrive shortly.

23. The Norwegian Government has agreed to donate water purification equipment which would facilitate access to clean water for use in 4 hospitals and 20 health centres in affected areas. They are likely to reach their destination in the coming days. The Norwegian Government has also agreed to provide 20 Interagency Emergency Health Kits, each of which provides for the health needs of 30,000 people for one month, as well as five Interagency Diarrhoeal Disease kits.

24. Update on supplies:
   - 500 boxes of surgical gloves and 2000 boxes of surgical masks (to assist in preventing any potential outbreak of vector-borne diseases) were distributed on 14 May.
   - 100 fogging machines were dispatched to Myanmar on 14 May.
   - A WFP plane carrying three WHO Interagency Emergency Health kits and one supplementary malaria module left Dubai on 14 May on its way to Myanmar.
   - 2000 vials of anti-viper venom have been procured to be sent to Myanmar from Thailand as the affected areas are prone to snake bites.

25. The Ministry of Health has begun measles vaccination campaigns for children in relief camps between the ages of 9 months to 5 years. Those injured are being immunized by tetanus-toxoid (TT) vaccine. The Ministry of Health has reported that the country has enough supplies of anti-tetanus serum.

26. Participation in Health Cluster meetings in Myanmar has increased, with more than 50 representatives of 30 international NGOs and UN agencies present at the last meeting. The Cluster has agreed to adopt a common approach for health sector intervention in the affected areas. The exchange of information, using common matrix, ensures a wide coverage of health assistance without duplication of efforts. The Cluster continues to discuss current gaps and ways to concentrate health services in priority areas. A Google sharing site has been setup for better information sharing among partners.

27. A team from the Thai Ministry of Public Health will travel to Yangon on 16 May to meet with Myanmar Government Ministries and to discuss how to best implement aid from Thailand.

**Nutrition**

28. The most recent cluster meeting was attended by 18 partners, including the food and health cluster leads. Many agencies are providing general rations only. ACF and MSF are distributing Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF). New partners, e.g. Malteser, are interested in initiating a therapeutic response. Gaps and difficulties identified include therapeutic feeding and related supplies, logistics and transportations, and access/authorisation. UNICEF is updating partners on supplies in the pipeline. A joint statement on promoting and protecting breastfeeding was also tabled at the meeting.

29. A first draft Cluster Response Plan has been discussed, with a second draft expected on 19 May.

30. UNICEF and ACF have discussed a monitoring plan for nutrition action in cyclone-affected areas, and will develop a protocol by the end of the week. UNICEF and WFP plan to carry out a nutrition and food security survey jointly.

31. MSF-Switzerland has been carrying out nutritional screening of under-five children in Twantay Township using mid-arm circumference measurements. Results received indicate an approximate 3% rate of severe malnutrition.

32. The National Nutrition Centre and Ministry of Health has planned a Vitamin A supplementation campaign for all children aged from 6 to 59 months in cyclone-affected areas, in collaboration with UNICEF.

**Emergency Telecommunications**

33. Telecommunications equipment to support the Cluster arrived and was cleared on 14 May.

34. An additional three ICT staff commenced duties in Yangon on 15 May, where they will support the work of the Cluster. The Cluster lead is due to arrive on the evening of 15 May.

35. WFP and UNICEF continue to provide technical support to humanitarian partners in Yangon, Labutta, Bogale and Bangkok. UNICEF is also working to provide further data-connectivity in Labutta and Bogale.
WASH

36. The WASH Cluster now has a dedicated coordination officer in place.
37. The IFRC Emergency Response Unit is providing two water treatment units, one capable of producing 15 litres of clean water 40,000 people per day, and a second that can provide for 15,000 people per day. On 14 May, THW (Technisches Hilfswerk) received four units capable of producing 10 litres 10,000 persons per day. Two additional units, that can also purify saline water, are also expected in country. Both have a production capacity of 10 litres for 5,000 people per day. Combined, the eight units have the capacity to produce up 1,325,000 litres of potable water per day. A mobile lab is also being provided for water quality testing. Both organisations have been coordinating on where the units should be positioned. As deployment of the expert international team to the affected areas is unlikely to be authorised, it is proposed to train a team of national staff.
38. A dedicated team from ACF are stationed in Yangon International Airport to coordinate ACF relief supplies with two vans capable of handling 38 tons of supplies per day. ACF are distributing relief items including WASH hygiene kits in Bogale through their local staffs. ACF has one cargo plane carrying 40 tons of relief and WASH materials arriving in Yangon today and a C-130 plane will arrive in Yangon on Friday with 2,400 10litre jerrycans, 120 roll tarpaulins and 1,440 WASH hygiene kits.
39. UNDP has now commenced water and sanitation activities in Labutta.

Agriculture

40. FAO estimates that USD 243 million will be required for short and medium term needs in the agriculture sector, with a further USD 20 million needed to restock dead animals, to replace vaccines and feed and to rehabilitate animal shelters. Although estimates for fisheries are not yet available, FAO expects that costs will be significant. Data on damages to forestry are not yet available. An FAO international emergency expert is expected to join the team already in-country on 17 May. An FAO team of three international experts and one local staff member was due to visit Bogale on 15 May, on the invitation of the Ministry of Forestry.

Education

41. The Education Cluster’s draft strategy and response plan (outlined in OCHA Situation Report 9) is currently under review.
42. Since the first Cluster meeting, data on where partners are working in the affected areas have been compiled. Additional assessment information provided by NGOs will be collected and compiled soon. UNICEF’s first round of distributions to 22 schools in Shwepyithar and 17 schools in Hlaingtharya (roofing sheets, school-in-a-box and recreational kits) will start tomorrow.
43. Save the Children has identified a staff member to work as the co-lead of the education cluster in Myanmar
44. A UNESCO Programme Specialist on Assessment for the Education Sector is now working directly with UNICEF on education assessment and on the setting up of a pre- and post-situation analysis database.

Emergency Shelter

45. The Emergency Shelter Cluster’s immediate response plan for the coming two weeks is now being rolled out. The results of initial assessments are expected on 16 May.
46. UNDP plans to deliver UNHCR tarpaulins and other relief items to Ngapudaw in Ayeyarwady Division this week.

Child Protection

47. No updates.

Early Recovery

48. UNDP has assembled a technical team to arrange early recovery assessments, made up of field staff in the delta. Information will be gathered from the 1,700 villages in which UNDP is operational. Baseline information on the pre-cyclone situation for most sectors in the delta has
already been collated and will feed into assessments and the preparation of an early recovery framework.

49. A SURGE Team has been requested by UNDP to support the coordination, assessment and strategic planning for early recovery processes. The four-member team is currently in Bangkok and is expected in Yangon on Sunday 18 May.

Coordination at the regional level

50. Regional cluster leads will meet in Bangkok on 16 May.

Update on Security Situation

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

UN Travel Restrictions

52. 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

53. A CERF grant has been approved for a total amount of USD 20.4 million. The CERF grant supports eleven projects in seven clusters (food, nutrition, health, shelter, wash, emergency telecommunications and logistics). The Letters of Understanding have been sent to relevant agencies.

54. The UN OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS) shows that, as of 15 May 2008, USD 80,254,114 has been committed to relief operations, with a further USD 52,674,290 pledged. For regularly updated information on financial contributions, please refer to the FTS website: http://reliefweb.int/fts/. Donors are encouraged to verify contributions and inform FTS of corrections/additions to this table. The direct email address is: fts@reliefweb.int.

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For Maps on Cyclone Nargis and Myanmar: