

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Medical supplies such as emergency health kits and water and sanitation equipment continue to be the priority public health requirements for the cyclone-affected population. WHO and partner health agencies are bringing these supplies inside the country to supplement the efforts of the Myanmar health authorities.**
- 2. Fogging machines are being used extensively in spraying the temporary shelters in some affected townships in an effort to prevent and control the spread of vector-borne diseases.**
- 3. Disease surveillance efforts have been further strengthened and revitalized to increase the pace of information flow and establish that daily reporting is in place.**

HEALTH ASSESSMENT & SITUATION UPDATE

- According to information available from the Myanmar state media, the death toll from Cyclone Nargis has risen now to 77 738 and 19 359 injured. Another 55 917 people are still reported missing.
- In Ngaputaw township
 - The most common conditions reported after the cyclone are injuries, followed by acute respiratory infections (ARIs), gastroenteritis, dysentery and malaria. Before the cyclone, the most common diseases were malaria, gastroenteritis, acute respiratory infections, dysentery and tuberculosis.
 - Forty six per cent of the population in the township was affected by the cyclone and forty nine per cent of houses suffered some damage.
 - Key health equipment such as X-ray machines and medical stores were lost in the damaged health centers and hospitals, and there is a need for medical supplies.
 - Township health and local authorities in Ngaputaw have also alerted the local population on larvae control to prevent and control dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF).
- Sixteen temporary shelters were opened near affected areas in Ngaputaw township and four in Pathein.
- Fogging machines have been used by government authorities to spray temporary shelters in some affected areas in an effort to prevent and control the spread of vector-borne diseases.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

1. Supplies

- The health authorities have requested the health cluster group to provide medical supplies such as basic antibiotics, Oral Rehydration Salts, normal saline, dextrose saline, bandages, gauze, plaster and syringes.
- MSF reported that they have flown in four cargo planes with emergency items including water and sanitation equipment, medical supplies, therapeutic food and other relief supplies.
- One of the Health Cluster partners has reported the availability of eleven interagency emergency health kits. Each kit has supplies for 10 000 people for three months.
- WHO has kept the following medical supplies in stock to meet the future emergency health needs.
 - Thirty thousand ringer lactate solutions
 - Fifty thousand doxycycline tablets.

2. Medical Care

- More than 250 Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) staff in Myanmar are working in 20 different locations.
- Health cluster partners will also focus on screening for malnutrition.

3. Surveillance

- Disease surveillance has been further intensified, particularly for diarrhoea, cholera, measles, dengue haemorrhagic fever and malaria.
- Disease cases are being reported on a daily basis in response to the Health cluster partners' need for a more rapid flow of information.
- WHO as health cluster lead will verify any rumors of disease outbreaks in collaboration with the agency from which the report originated.

HEALTH COORDINATION

- The health cluster has established three operations centres in the townships of Patheingyi, Labutta and Bogale.
- The Humanitarian Information Centre web site for Myanmar has been established.

NEXT STEPS

- A joint action plan and charting of activities for the Health Cluster for the next 3 to 6 months is being finalized.
- WHO continues to mobilize the donor community to provide stronger support to the health sector emergency response. Australia donated 2.4 million Australian dollars and DFID will increase its contribution US\$ 493 000. The Flash Appeal will be revised and readjusted during the following weeks as assessments bring in more clear information on needs.
- Psychosocial support is likely to be an important issue in the next few weeks, and WHO guidelines and protocols in the local language have been sent to Myanmar.