

SITUATION REPORT n 5 CYCLONE NARGIS: MYANMAR 11 May 2008

General Situation Update

- The government of Myanmar has announced the death toll stands at 23,325, with another 37,019 missing.
- With the government's agreement, international supplies are now entering Yangon. Six WFP flights landed in Yangon on 10 May 2008. The cargo included eight Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits from WHO.
- Humanitarian agencies are relying on their national staff to deliver aid.
- A UN Joint Flash Appeal for US\$ 187 million was launched on 10 May 2008. The Government of Myanmar has assigned geographical areas to different Ministries (twelve townships per Ministry) to monitor funds received under the Appeal.
- No travel at night will be cleared by the UN Department of Security and Safety (UNDSS).
- The Government of Myanmar has begun focusing on reconstruction and resettlement issues.

Health Action

Coordination

- The CERF has allocated US\$4 million for Health Cluster activities in Myanmar. US\$250,000 is earmarked for IOM and another US\$1,875,000 each for WHO and UNICEF. The health cluster is working together to develop a CERF proposal based on the joint action plans.
- The Health Cluster comprises 22 INGOs, UN agencies and IOM. The importance of close collaboration among clusters was highlighted in the recent meeting of Cluster Leads. Regular meetings are already being held between the Shelter, WASH, Nutrition and other clusters
- Cluster leads are concerned about the bad weather forecast for the country, and are preparing contingency plans.
- The cluster approach is being rolled out in Myanmar for the first time. It will be closely documented and lessons learned will serve to improve future operations.

Assessment

- The Ministry of Health is working closely with 7 Regional Surveillance Officers (RSOs) of WHO in the affected areas, where they are assessing the damage and channelling relief efforts. WHO is arranging the deployment of the remaining 10 RSOs who are currently working in the non-affected areas.

Health Care Delivery

- Two of the eight International Emergency Health kits that arrived on 10 May have been forwarded to Labuta and Bogale.
- The supply chain is well underway and supplies are arriving on time. WHO is purchasing additional supplies locally and internationally, including a fogging machine and bed nets, in preparation for possible malaria outbreaks.

Outbreak Control

- Diarrhoeal disease cases reported from the affected regions are under control. A number of diarrhoea and dysentery cases have been reported in Yangon and the Irrawady delta district. No related deaths have been reported.
- A few cases of malaria have been reported. Malaria is predicted to become a major concern in the coming weeks. WHO and other agencies are preparing for potential outbreaks by pre-positioning drugs and rapid test kits, and distributing insecticide-treated bed-nets.
- Health partners on the ground are using the WHO surveillance form and sharing information with the WHO Myanmar office on a daily basis.

Technical Support

- A WHO Emergency Public Health specialist is on the ground.
- WHO is arranging the deployment of logisticians and epidemiologists.

Next Steps

- Purchase and deliver additional supplies by the fastest possible means.
- Strengthen health coordination.
- Continue strengthening the surveillance system in the affected areas.
- Alert stakeholders and appeal to the donor community for strong support for response operations.