



**Cyclone Nargis
Myanmar
OCHA Situation Report 8
Sunday 11 May 2008**

NOTE: Today's situation report is based only on information received from the field and media sources. While the content was not able to be verified with cluster leads, the Sit Rep will go forward in the interest of timely dissemination of critical information. If any errors are noted, please report to Norwin Schafferer (contact details at bottom of report), and the information will be rectified. Finally, please be aware that the headings under which is stated "nothing to report" does not imply inactivity; rather it indicates the lack of inputs received this Sunday.

I. NATIONAL RESPONSE

1. Nothing to report

II. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

1. Nothing to report

Coordinated In-Country Response

2. UN Resident Coordinator ai has been liaising with representatives of the Government: The Director General of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement conveyed the message that his Ministry (which is designated in charge of coordinating the national relief efforts) is facing challenges in the management of the large volume of supplies now coming through Yangon International Airport. They were now open to UN organizations to distribute goods that arrive for their programmes. They requested delivery plans, and may request some presence in the distribution.
3. Numerous aid airlifts landed on Saturday. For charter flights, government staff unloads cargo to the warehouse at the airport, which is now becoming increasingly full. Unofficially, staff of various organizations have been asked to remove cargo directly from the plane and take it into their possession. Yesterday an airlift of non-food items was offloaded using this process. All WFP cargo has now been released to WFP. For other non-UN organisations, goods will normally be unloaded by government staff to the warehouse, where the organisation should be able to access it, depending on their agreement with the Government.
4. UN RC ai will travel to the capital Nay Pyi Taw on Monday to meet with the Deputy Foreign Minister, who is designated officer for all relief assistance. All of the procedures for aid flights were reported in yesterday's (10 May) Situation Report #7.
5. In order to make the cluster approach more effective, support is being organized to provide cluster leads with tools and expertise on the ground. Further support is anticipated from OCHA staff in the near future.
6. Visa status update

INGOS

Number of visas requested since May 4th: **29**
 Number of visas granted since May 4th: **3**
 Number of visas awaiting since May 4th: **26**
 Number of visas pending from 2 or 3 month: **20**

UN Agencies

Number of visas requested since May 4th: **25**
 Number of visas granted since May 4th: **1**
 Number of visas awaiting since May 4th: **24**
 Number of visas pending from 2 or 3 month: **3**

Food

7. There is no more rice at the WFP Yangon warehouse, and small amounts are being relocated from the field sites. Additional 2,000 MT rice has been sourced from outside of the affected areas for Yangon, and 2,000 MT for Ayeyarwady.
8. To feed 750,000 people for 3 months as planned in the Flash Appeal, will require 55,000 MT of rice, of which only 50% could be procured in-country. This will require Government clearance for the importation of rice.
9. WFP is exploring cash options with NGOs as an interim solution in areas where the market is functioning.

Nutrition

10. Before the cyclone, Ayeyarwady was an area that had around 30% chronic and 9% acute malnutrition, thus nutrition screening, surveillance and monitoring is needed.
11. A joint UNICEF and Action Contre la Faim assessment has been completed and is now in the process of being analyzed.
12. Plumpy nut has been redeployed from Northern Rakhine State to Yangon and more will be imported by charter flight.

Logistics

13. The cluster group has produced a concept of operations document. Regional cluster group in Bangkok has been meeting regularly and coordinating with the cluster group in Yangon. The concept has been accepted by all heads of agencies. Dealing with air, cross-border, and coastal routes, and presently with three in-country logistic hubs.
14. Air operations problems at RGN have been solved, and all applications are now directed through MOFA. The template for all procedures is available at <http://www.logcluster.org/mm08a>
15. More warehouse space is urgently needed and being sought to relieve the pressure at the airport.
16. More transportation is needed for distribution outside of Yangon.

WASH

17. Nothing to report

Shelter

18. Plastic sheeting and other shelter items are available and more needed. 9,000 plastic sheets, 16,000 blankets, 1,000 kitchen units and 9,000 locally produced ITNs obtained. 50% of this stock will be sent out today with NGO partners for distribution, depending on their capacity.
19. Two trucks cleared the Thai-Myanmar border yesterday, 10 May.
20. Two databases in development, one for overview of destruction data available to date (from MRCS and UNICEF assessments etc) and the second for the medium term disaster count data from each village tract.
21. UNHCR Specialist on emergency arriving today and 2-3 more staff at beginning of week, visa requests pending.

Health

22. Nothing to report.

Communications

23. Nothing to report.

Education

24. The Ministry of Education has completed its assessment of damage to primary schools. 3,000 schools are destroyed or damaged, affecting 500,000 children

Protection of children and women

25. There are a growing number of reports of families being forcibly displacement to non-affected townships. A decision must be made as to which cluster will take charge of this issue.
26. Two people were arrested for alleged trafficking activities in the delta region, but no details are yet available.

INGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies

27. The IFRC and Myanmar Red Cross aid effort suffered a setback on 11 May when the first aid shipment travelling by river to the disaster area sank. It is reported that the cargo ship carrying relief supplies for over 1,000 persons struck a submerged tree trunk.
28. A cargo aircraft chartered by the ICRC, carrying 35 tons of equipment and materials for medical care, drinking water and sanitation arrived on Sunday in Yangon. The supplies will be delivered to several detention facilities that were impacted by the cyclone. In addition, the ICRC team in Yangon has been working with the Myanmar Red Cross Society in order to help restore contact between people separated from their family during the natural disaster.

Coordination at the regional level

29. The representative of the ASEAN Secretariat in Yangon has requested ASEAN support in clearing the way for importation of food and on visa issues.

Update on security situation

30. UN is still in Phase 1 and no change to this is foreseen.

Update on bilateral assistance

31. On 11 May, Australia announced it will provide \$AD25 million in humanitarian assistance to Myanmar. This sum consists of the initial \$AD3 million announced on 07 May in addition to a further \$AD22 million. A total contribution of \$AD12.5 million will be made to the UN Flash Appeal, matching Japan and the UK. In addition, Australia will provide \$AD12.5 million directly through international agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Meteorological information

34. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) announced that Myanmar's recovery could be hindered by strong winds and rain over the coming week. "Occasional tropical rain showers" are expected through Wednesday May 14, further forecasting "a period of heavy rainfall" settling in around Thursday or Friday. South-westerly winds may then hit the low-lying areas devastated by Cyclone Nargis. The WMO noted that the weather front could "compound the situation in the coastal region by enhancing precipitation and possibly affecting run-off or surge." "While the uncertainty of the exact timing of more significant rainfall is high, ensemble prediction systems also support the threat of a stronger rainfall episode" during the week."

For more information please contact:

YANGON

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood

Tel. +95 (0)1 542910

+95 (0)1 542917

+95 (0)1 544187

Ext. 107

Email: undacmyanmar@gmail.com

Contact for local media inquiries:

United Nations Information Centres

Mr. Aye Win

Tel. +95 (0)1 577057

Tel. (cell) +95 (0)9 5123 952

International relief focal point:

Mr. Winston Chang

Tel. +4179 469 8589

Email: changw@un.org

BANGKOK

OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Norwin Schafferer

Tel. +66 81174 8335

Email: schafferer@un.org

OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa

Tel. +66 89204 2721

Email: rhodesstampa@un.org

NEW YORK HQ

Asia and Pacific Section Chief

Ms. Agnes Asekenye-Oonyu

Mob: +1 917 476 6164

Tel: 212-963-1773

Email: asekenye-oonyu@un.org

Myanmar Desk

Mr. Ivan Lupis

Mob: +1 917 640 3819

Tel: +1 917 367 2056

Email: ilupis@un.org