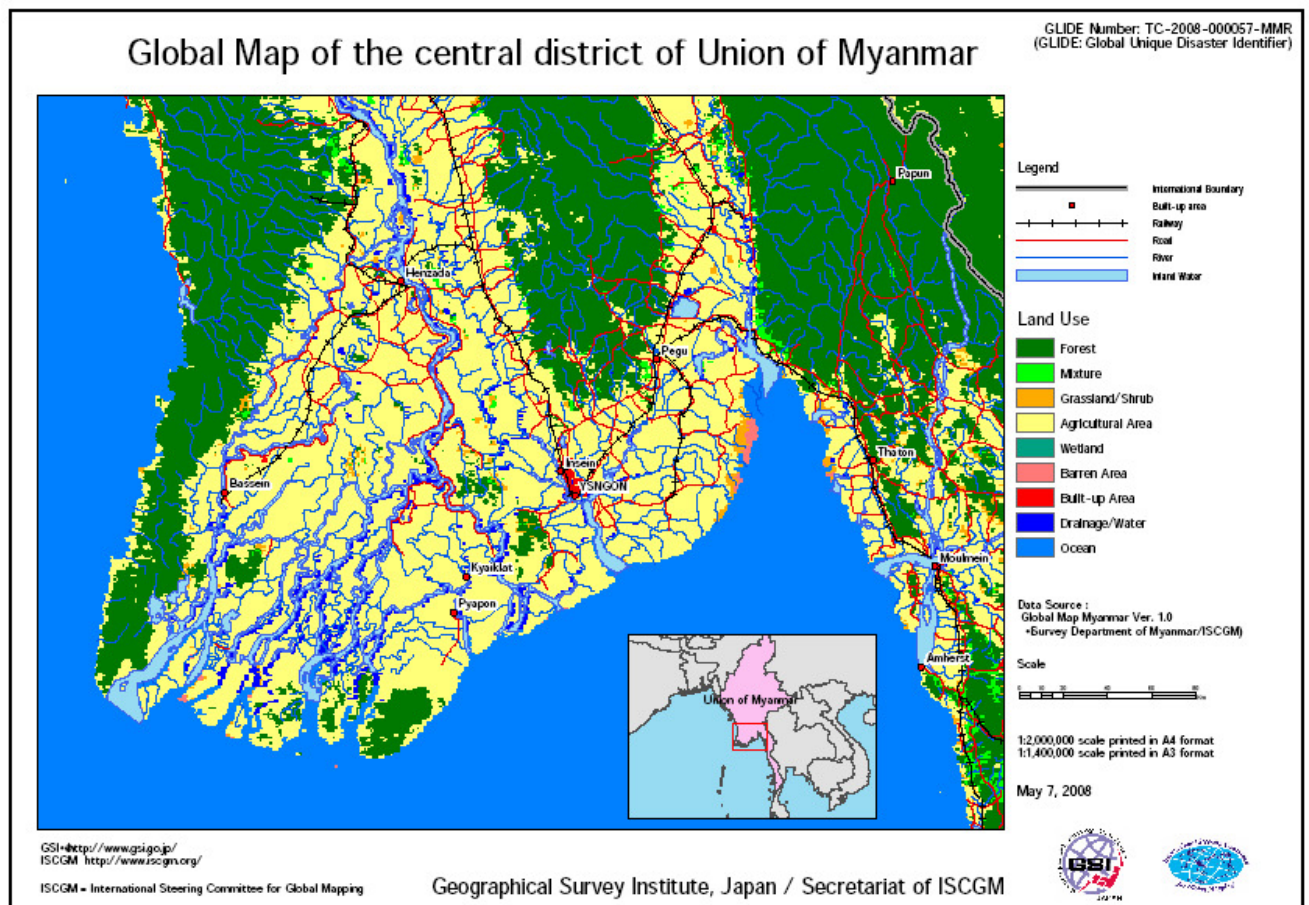


## Relief Activity Report No. 3 Myanmar cyclone

08 May 2008

### Overall Situation



Source: [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org)

The death toll after the cyclone in Myanmar keeps rising: The government of Myanmar now talks of more than 80,000 people killed by the disaster; other sources estimate that there may be more than 100,000 whereas the Government up to now affirms 23,000 deaths. Latest UN figures put the total figure of people affected by the cyclone in need of shelter in Myanmar in 1.5 million with 500,000 in the Yangon area and 1 million in the Irrawaddy delta.

Besides the need for food, the people in the disaster region urgently need safe drinking water, because the contaminated water available endangers the health, especially of the children and makes the outbreak of diseases more and more likely.

The staff of Malteser International present in Yangon reports: “Assessments in Yangon areas revealed that very large numbers of populations has lost their homes and are seeking temporary shelter in community centers, monasteries and schools. Most of those shelters are in immediate needs for relief assistance. The health conditions in these shelters are deteriorating.”

The constitution referendum which is scheduled for coming Saturday will take place in those areas declared as non emergency areas. In all other areas the referendum will be postponed.

### **Malteser International activities**

Malteser International provides 50,000 Euros (about 77,500 US Dollars) for emergency relief activities. Caritas Germany and Caritas Switzerland both provided 50,000 Euros which will be implemented by Malteser International. The Federal Foreign Office of Germany will provide up to 40,000 Euros for these relief activities.

Unfortunately, Malteser International as the other international aid organisations can not work without restrictions. “We are in a position to confirm that, although the Government has accepted international aid, the condition they put is that all incoming relief items will have to be handed over to the government for them to distribute it. All the international aid received in MM so far is part of Government to Government cooperation from Thailand, China, Bangladesh and Japan”, says Roland Hansen, head of the Asia Desk of Malteser International. “That is the reason why local procurement of relief items is going to be the main source for Malteser International to get supplies in the affected areas and to keep a certain control of the implementation.”

As in the current situation, it is very difficult to help the survivors of the cyclone, Malteser International is asking for free access to the complete disaster region. “Presence of international staff in the affected areas is of great importance and free access to affected areas is paramount”, Roland Hansen says. “Additionally, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be able to participate in the planning and distribution of the relief items.” Malteser International will continue to contact the governmental authorities get access to he Irrawaddy Delta.

Malteser International has been working in Myanmar since 2001 and is present in the disaster regions with projects and team members. The organisation is realizing projects to strengthen the health services in the country, to fight diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and assures safe drinking water, functioning sanitation and hygiene for thousands of people in different regions.

## **Appeal for donations**

Malteser International needs your support to help the survivors of this disaster. The estimated more than one million homeless people, the injured and the hungry will need our support not only in the current disaster situation but also for the rehabilitation period.

The cyclone did not only kill more than 22,000 people and let more than one million without home and protection; it also destroyed many rice fields. But the extent and sustainable success of our assistance in this emergency is largely depending on external and internal funding.

Malteser International would therefore highly appreciate your financial contribution to the benefit of the survivors of the cyclone in Myanmar. Your contribution allows giving a reliable assistance based on the victims' needs. We are very thankful, that the British Association of the Order of Malta has instantly provided 10,000 Euros. But as our team in Myanmar states, every Euro more is valuable.

Parallel to this disaster and hardly noticed by the public, another phenomenon endangers millions of lives - what means this is a phenomenon we also have to deal with: famine due to extremely high rice prices. Therefore, we do not only focus our help to the disaster in Myanmar but also want to support the US Associations of the Order of Malta in their effort to help people survive in Haiti.

In order to plan our assistance thoroughly, we shall be most thankful if you would announce your possible contribution by mail, phone or fax. We are always available for your questions and inquiries.

In order to avoid "fundraising confusion" and high bank fees, we suggest that all associations should first use their own internal system for collecting donations and just afterwards transfer donations to the following Malteser International bank account:

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft  
Sort Code 370 205 00  
Account N° 120 120 120  
IBAN: DE 49 3702 0500 0001 0258 01  
BIC BFSWDE33XXX  
Reference: Cyclone Nargis or Haiti

We shall keep you informed about all further developments.

Ingo Radtke  
Secretary General