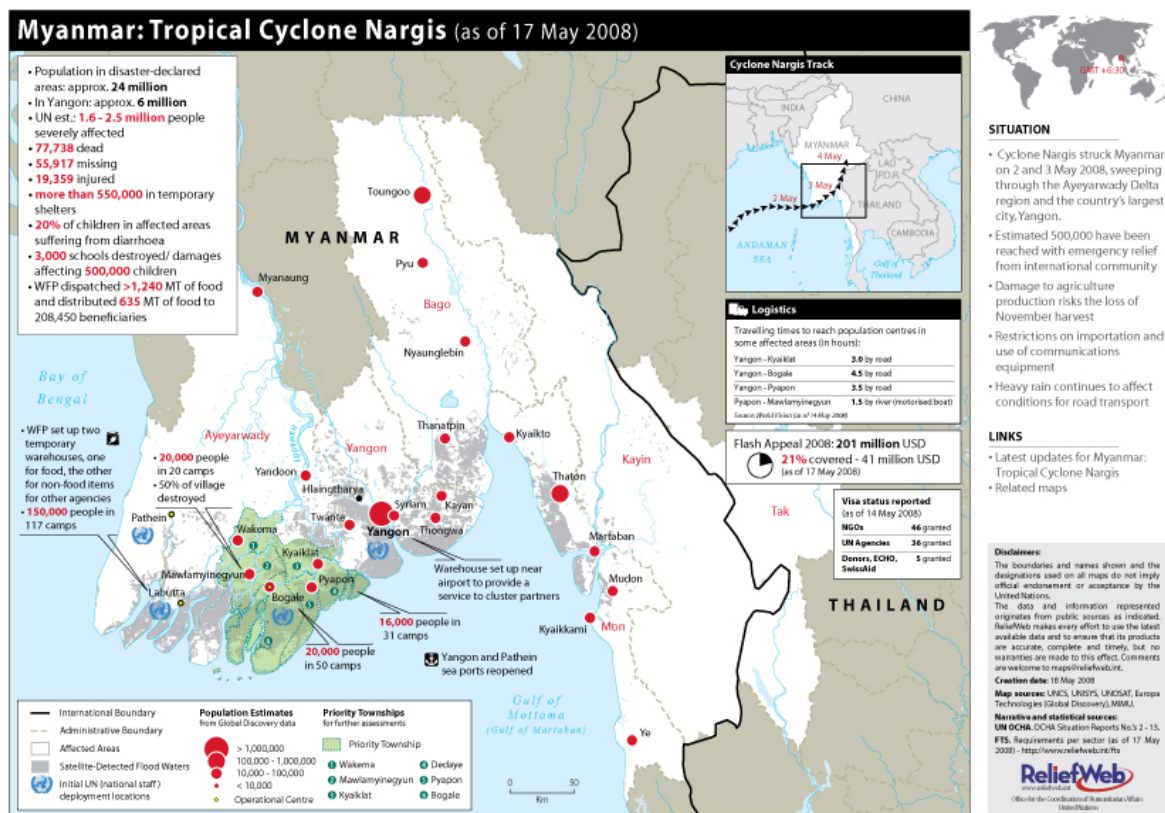


# Relief Activity Report No. 6 Myanmar cyclone

21 May 2008

## Overall Situation



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

The humanitarian community indicates that 500,000 people currently receive some form of international assistance. This is substantially less than the 2.4 million estimated to be affected of whom more than half (1.4 million) in severely affected areas requiring prioritised assistance. This in mind, the humanitarian community agrees that the emergency phase is set to continue for some time. Some people are moving back to their places of origin where they will need humanitarian assistance as well as the necessary support to restart their livelihoods and farming.

The water supply system has been compromised in many areas forcing people to collect water from ponds and rivers which seem to be widely contaminated. Malteser International staff members have reported the first cases of cholera in Labutta last Friday. Besides the appropriate treatment of the patients, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the authorities have been informed without delay and samples have been sent.

Heavy rains are continuing and the conditions for road transportation remain poor in delta areas. Also of concern is the fragile situation of children in the cyclone-affected areas. Pre-cyclone statistics did indicate that about one-third of children under five there suffer from some form of malnutrition. While the food supply to the affected areas has improved over the past few days, clearly huge infusions of food assistance are urgently required. Children are among the most vulnerable in any disaster and with so many children already in a weakened state, lack of nutrition, water, sanitation and shelter, can be a lethal combination.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced that Myanmar had agreed to accept international aid agencies and medical workers from all ASEAN countries to help with the relief effort.

### **Malteser International activities**

On behalf of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Malteser International is currently organizing another cargo flight to Yangon as the Federal Foreign Office highly appreciates the work Malteser International is implementing in Myanmar. The flight is financed by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany; Caritas International supports the logistic preparations for the flight. This flight will not only contain relief items of Malteser International (as e.g. three portable water purification plants, 2,700 family kits, three boats, medical drugs, equipment and consumables), but also relief items of other German and international NGOs.

The three "Emergency Health Kits" sent to Myanmar last week with a plane of the German Federal Technical Agency (Technisches Hilfswerk - THW) could be cleared without any difficulty and have been delivered to Labutta and Yangon. In Labutta, Malteser International meanwhile is running two emergency health stations in two camps hosting 12,000 internally displaced people and is organising an additional mobile medical team to do outreach activities. In addition, we have built more than 30 latrines and are up to build 100 more of them thus securing hygiene and safe drinking water.

In the following days, two water purification units will be installed, one in the hospital of Labutta and one in Labutta town, which will serve 25,000 people/per day with clean drinking water including the internally displaced people in two camps.

### **What we have done up to now:**

- Yangon (Dawbon township, Htantabin Township and Thongwa Township)
  - First aid and medical treatment for the injured and sick
  - Supply of safe drinking water for 40,000 people, 850 plastic sheets for emergency shelter, 750 “family kits” (containing cookware, hygiene articles and water cans)
  - Distribution of about 500 mosquito nets
  
- Labutta (Irrawaddy Delta): overall situation in Labutta:  
20,000 resident population,  
100,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in 53 camps;
  - Opening of two emergency health facilities in two IDP camps, both monasteries:  
Lay Htat Kyaung (LHK) with about 8,000 IDPs and Da Mi Kar Yon Kyaung (DMKYK) with about 4,000 IDPs
  - Provision of the health facilities with medicines, medical equipment and medical consumables
  - support of the station hospital in Labutta with staff especially for Ante-Natal-Care and Mother-and-Child-Health-Care; provision of medicines and medical consumables
  - Set up of one mobile medical team that serves some of the other IDP camps in town
  - Temporary and basic rain water collection tanks which treated with water guard to make it safe
  - Construction of latrines (30 already built, 100 further latrines will follow)
  - Camp monitoring in the sectors of health and water/sanitation for at least eight camps in coordination with other INGOs , UN and local authorities in Labutta
  
- Cargo:
  - 3 emergency health kits (WHO standard) delivered to Yangon with a cargo flight of THW; transport of one of the health kits to Labutta, transitional storage of the other two health kits in
  - Delivery of pharmaceuticals, medical drugs, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and other relief items from other Malteser International project locations in Myanmar to Yangon and Labutta
  - 5,000 litres of diesel donated by TOTAL
  - In preparation: further cargo flight financed by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany with the following relief items:
    - 2,700 family kits
    - medical drugs, equipment and consumables
    - 3 boats
    - 3 portable water purification systems

## Appeal for donations

The disaster relief of Malteser International is being supported by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and by Caritas Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Belgium. Besides Caritas and THW, there are other organisations channelling their aid through Malteser International, e.g. Latet (an Israeli organisation).

We are very grateful that the US Western Association has pledged 25,000 USD and that the British Association of the Order of Malta has instantly provided 10,000 Euros and increased their donations by further 80,000 Euros; the Grand Priory of Austria has sent 10,000 Euros; the Canadian Association has just transferred a contribution of 10,000 Canadian Dollars. The German Association, via Malteser Hilfsdienst, and the French Association, via Ordre de Malte France, and the Grand Priory of Austria have started substantial fundraising campaigns.

In order to be able to continue and to extend its relief measures, Malteser International is **urgently** depending on further donations. As the press reports always point out the inability of help, private funds come in very slowly. However, as Malteser International is among the handful of organisations that can effectively and efficiently work in the affected areas of Myanmar, we urgently need further donations, especially with regard to longer-lasting rehabilitation missions. Therefore, **Malteser International urgently needs the support of all associations.** We would therefore highly appreciate your financial contribution to the benefit of the survivors of the cyclone in Myanmar. **Our team on the ground is the guaranty that your donations really reach the survivors.** Your contribution allows giving a reliable assistance based on the victims' needs. 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**

Thank you very much in advance for all fundraising activities and donation appeals you may be able to launch.

Please find all detailed information – press releases, relief activity reports and photo gallery – for your further information and distribution on our website:

[http://www.malteser.de/61.Malteser\\_International/en/61.02.News\\_Press/61.02.01.Press\\_Releases/presse2000.asp](http://www.malteser.de/61.Malteser_International/en/61.02.News_Press/61.02.01.Press_Releases/presse2000.asp)

[http://www.malteser.de/61.Malteser\\_International/en/61.02.News\\_Press/61.02.06.Reports/reports.htm](http://www.malteser.de/61.Malteser_International/en/61.02.News_Press/61.02.06.Reports/reports.htm)

<http://php.malteser.de/cpg133/thumbnails.php?album=198>

We shall keep you informed about all further developments.

Ingo Radtke  
Secretary General