



## MYANMAR: CYCLONE MALA

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

### In Brief

Period covered by this update: 5 May 2006 to 30 July 2006

#### History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 50,000 allocated from the Federations DREF on 5 May 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation is expected to be implemented for three months, and will be completed by 30 July 2006;
- The procurement exercises for this disaster and for annual relief materials have delayed several planned activities, and the end of operation is now required to be extended to 31 October 2006.
- a DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the proposed extended operation, i.e. by 31 January 2007.

#### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Myanmar Red Cross Society: Dr. Hla Mynt (president); email [mrcshs-ec@redcross.org.mm](mailto:mrcshs-ec@redcross.org.mm); Phone: +95.1.383.681; Fax: +95.1.383.675
- Federation delegation in Myanmar: Bridget Gardner (head of delegation); e-mail: [ifrcmm01@redcross.org.mm](mailto:ifrcmm01@redcross.org.mm); Phone: +95.138.3686; Fax: +95.138.3682
- Federation regional delegation in Bangkok: Bekele Geleta (head of regional delegation); email: [bekele.geleta@ifrc.org](mailto:bekele.geleta@ifrc.org); Phone: +66.2.640.8211; Fax: +66.2.640.8220
- Federation secretariat in Geneva: Gert Venghaus (regional officer, Asia Pacific department); email: [gert.venghaus@ifrc.org](mailto:gert.venghaus@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.739.4958; Fax: +41.22.733.0395

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background, and current situation

Tropical Cyclone Mala made landfall in the early hours of 29 April 2006 affecting coastal and in-land communities and townships along its path before fading away on 30 April. Ayeyarwady division and Rakhine state were the worst hit regions. Earlier in the evening of 28 April, localized storms hit Yangon Hlaingtharya township causing damage to industrial structures and houses in the surrounding suburbs.

The overall number of families affected are outlined in the table below:

Districts	Affected families
Gwa	8800
Pathein	1644
Pyapon	76
Myaungmya	286
Hinthada	495
Hlaingtarya	714
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12015</b>

Coastal townships had received information and warnings well in advance which accounted for the low number of casualties. Despite the early warning, material losses were substantial, and the mainly wooden houses and huts were damaged.

In contrast, Kyangin township at Hinthada district did not receive any specially focused warning. As a result, 22 people drowned in flash floods that hit the township from heavy rainfall in the area.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Volunteers from the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) participated in early warning and evacuation activities along the coastal regions of Ayeyarwady and Rakhine. Immediately after the storm, volunteers assisted affected populations at evacuation centers and temporary accommodation in schools and monasteries. A total of 12,015 families were affected. Family packs containing non-food items were released to the most affected areas from regional warehouses in Pathein (Ayeyarwady) and Sittwe (Rakhine) .

In the worst hit township of Gwa, main needs were roofing materials. These were transported and distributed from Yangon and Sittwe warehouses.

Out of the total families affected, beneficiaries were selected according to standard criteria of vulnerable groups, i.e. the elderly, the disabled, female headed households, large families, pregnant women. The initial estimate for assistance was aimed at 2,000 families.

To-date, the distribution of relief materials from MRCS (HQ and branches) are as follows:

State / Division	Family sets	Plastic sheeting
Rakhine (Gwa)	1200	200 rolls
Ayeyarwady (Pathein, Pyapon, Myaungmya, Hinthada)	1571	
Yangon (Hlaingtarya)	714	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3485</b>	

Family sets consisted of non food items (clothing, cooking utensils, soap, towels, plastic sheets, ropes, mosquito nets, blankets etc.). Contents of family sets varied according to local needs and specific items that were available in regional warehouses.

The cyclone caused an increased need for roofing materials and limited stocks were sold out almost immediately. In the township of Gwa, field teams from the MRCS (HQ) were tasked with providing beneficiaries with roofing materials.

At the height of the disaster, the MRCS had planned to provide plastic sheeting to be used as roofing material. However it soon became apparent that thatching is the most common roofing material, with thatches cut and dried before the monsoon season. Preparations and calculations were then made to provide thatched roofing to the 1,000 most affected families who needed to rebuild the homes.

Due to limited communication in the area, compounded by the inability of Federation personnel to travel easily to undertake regular monitoring, a decision was made at NS level to provide beneficiaries with equal amounts of cash for rebuilding efforts, because of the lack of available roofing materials (thatches).

The MRCS is currently in the process of procuring for the replenishment of relief materials which would include purchases planned for DREF supported replenishment as well as support for national Red Cross preparedness. It is expected that these activities will take place during the month of September.

As such, the programme needs to be extended to end on 31 October 2006 as opposed to 30 July 2006. The final report would therefore be submitted on 31 January 2007.

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