

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Myanmar: Cyclone Nargis

Emergency appeal n° MDRMM002

GLIDE n° [TC-2008-000057-MMR](#)

Operations update n° 20

27 August 2008

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 9 August to 26 August 2008.

**Appeal target:** CHF 73,987,907 million (USD 72.5 million or EUR 45.9 million)

**Appeal coverage:** 75%;

[<click to go directly to the updated donor response report, or to contact details>](#)



Children at the primary school in Naung Taw Gyi village, in Pyapon township, gleefully participate in a hand-washing exercise during a health education session on 14 August.

*Photo: The Philippine National Red Cross – Nenita Briones.*

[<Full story>](#)

**Appeal history:**

- 8 July 2008: A revised Emergency Appeal was launched for CHF 73.9 million (USD 72.5 million or EUR 45.9 million) to assist 100,000 households for 36 months.
- 16 May 2008: An Emergency Appeal was launched for CHF 52,857,809 (USD 50.8 million or EUR 32.7 million) to assist 100,000 households for 36 months.
- 6 May 2008: A preliminary Emergency Appeal was launched for CHF 6,290,909 (USD 5.9 million or EUR 3.86 million) to assist 30,000 households for six months.
- 5 May 2008: CHF 200,000 (USD 190,000 or EUR 123,000) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

**Summary:**

As of 15 August, approximately 111,178 households (555,890 beneficiaries) have been reached with non-food relief items. These consist of 463,855 beneficiaries in the Ayeyarwady division and 92,035 beneficiaries in the Yangon division. Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) volunteers have also provided various types of support to organizations outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement such as the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, and this is not reflected in the figures above.

- Village tract assessments (covering about 200 village tracts) for the recovery phase of the operation, are scheduled to begin in the first week of September.
- The MRCS president and executive committee members met with the United Nation's special envoy to Myanmar, Ibrahim Gambari, during this reporting period for an update on the society's response to Cyclone Nargis.
- The respective head of operations for the MRCS and the International Federation, and the Federation's head of country representation, accompanied the new ECHO representative in Myanmar to the Ayeyarwady delta for an orientation and review visit.
- The monitoring delegate (on secondment from the American Red Cross) ended his mission on 21 August and provided valuable input into the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system at field and headquarters levels.
- The outgoing head of operations ended his mission on 17 August and has handed over duties to the new head.
- Discussions continue between the International Federation/MRCS management and relevant authorities to clarify the ever-changing travel authorization application process.

**Contributions to the Appeal to date**

Partners which have made contributions to the appeal to date include: American Red Cross/American government, Australian Red Cross/Australian government, Austrian Red Cross, Belarusian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross/Belgian government, British Red Cross/British government, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Red Cross Society of China – Hong Kong branch and Macau branch, Cook Islands Red Cross, Cyprus Red Cross/Cyprus government, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Republic of Korea Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Luxembourg Red Cross/Luxembourg government, Malaysian Red Crescent, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross/Norwegian government, Philippine National Red Cross, Portuguese Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross, Slovak Red Cross/Slovak government, Spanish Red Cross/Spanish government, Sri Lanka Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government, Swiss Red Cross, Taiwan Red Cross Organization, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent and Vietnam Red Cross Society. Contributions have also been received from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Directorate General (ECHO), the Italian, Estonian and Slovenian governments, Total Oil Company, Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Tides Foundation.

The International Federation, on behalf of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, would like to thank all partners for their very quick and generous response to this appeal.

## The situation

Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, devastating the Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions. Collective assessment data from the authorities and international communities indicates that 115 townships were

significantly affected by the cyclone. The official figures of 2 July state that 84,500 people have been killed and 53,800 are missing. The UN estimates that 2.4 million people are affected.

## Coordination and partnerships

### International Federation

The establishment and development of the hub structures in the relief operation was further supported by a coordination meeting and workshop on 7 and 8 August for hub managers and township branch leaders was positively received. There was a good exchange of information between headquarters and township branches and hub offices. While there was a huge volume of information to be absorbed, hub and township representatives were keen to learn as much as possible. Sector coordinators at headquarters level observed that the motivation of the hub and branch representatives was particularly evident during the presentations conducted by individual hubs. The presentations, as one coordinator put it, “showed us that there is a lot of activity going on in the field”.

Supplementary workshops were held on 11 August, for certain sectors, such as finance and health. This operating model will be reported on, on a monthly basis to ensure the smooth running of the hubs.

### Partner National Societies

- The Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross and German/Austrian Red Cross continue to provide vital support for water and sanitation (*see water and sanitation sector below for details*).
- Australian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross representatives are scheduled to visit Myanmar in early September, with the objective of supporting the ongoing review of the Nargis operation. This is in line with the coordination modalities tabled at the Myanmar Red Cross Society partnership meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 21 and 22 July.

### International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

#### Restoring Family Links (RFL)

- Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities increased markedly during the month of July, following the recruitment and initial training of MRCS field workers and volunteer teams based in four hubs (Bogale, Pyapon, Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta). Based on statistics updated as of 9 August, the total number of *Safe and Well* messages collected to date within the delta stands at 1,420. Additionally, in the month of July, 10 successful phone calls were made by beneficiaries to their relatives to re-establish family links.

- A coordination meeting was held in Yangon on 8 and 9 August. It was attended by MRCS field workers and volunteers from the field, along with MRCS and ICRC teams in Yangon, totalling 40 participants.

The two days were productive with active participation and included elements of training (e.g. on the use of specific RFL tools, needs assessments, working with other stakeholders and general RCRC dissemination). There was information sharing on the implementation of RFL in each location, planning for the next two months, and practical exercises on RFL procedures.

- A team from Yangon comprising MRCS and ICRC staff has departed for Ngapudaw, in order to assess RFL needs in the township and to commence delivering RFL services as required. Two ICRC field officers have also been redeployed to the field to continue providing support and coaching to the MRCS RFL teams in the coming weeks.

- The MRCS and ICRC attend meetings for the Cluster for the Protection of Children and Women, in order to share information and coordinate activities at the field level with other child protection actors. Field staff also attend sub-cluster meetings at the field level.

### Inter-agency clusters

The sectoral cluster meetings in Yangon continue to take place and the MRCS is also participating more frequently in similar coordination meetings in the delta.

# Red Cross and Red Crescent action

## The operation

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

#### **Objective 1 (immediate needs)**

To ensure that up to 100,000 cyclone-affected households receive food and non-food items immediately, to help preserve their physical and psychological well-being, human dignity and counter further deterioration of the humanitarian situation, while preparing the ground for longer-term recovery activities.

#### **Objective 2 (medium and long-term needs)**

To ensure badly affected households receive further necessary non-food item assistance, while refocusing MRCS programming towards recovery (to include livelihoods and food security), disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities, in order to mitigate the possible effects of future disasters.

### Progress

- As of 15 August, approximately 111,178 households (555,890 beneficiaries) have been reached with non-food relief items through direct support from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. These consist of 463,855 beneficiaries in the Ayeyarwady division and 92,035 beneficiaries in the Yangon division.
- To strengthen relief distributions and coordination, paid officers for relief, reporting and logistics have been recruited by the MRCS in most hub offices. However, staff continue to need inductions into Red Cross Red Crescent approaches and procedures. Hub infrastructure (e-mail access etc) is also under development and the lack of this has been a challenge in communications to date.
- The MRCS has also distributed unsolicited relief items (food stuff such as canned fish/meat, noodles, etc.) to beneficiaries. It has distributed equipment and protective gear such as bicycles, generators, life jackets, Red Cross t-shirts and caps to MRCS volunteers on the ground.
- It has been agreed that as of September, relief distributions shall be based on identified needs and special requests from hub managers with specific justifications for the distribution extension. These will be accompanied by quantities required for the beneficiaries in specific locations.
- The relief and monitoring delegates and an MRCS Executive Committee member, along with MRCS officers, went on a field trip on 6 August to the Twantay and Kawhmu townships. They met with township Red Cross representatives and community leaders, as well as relief teams and managers at hub offices which support the MRCS township branches. The objectives of the visit included monitoring relief distributions, relief stocks and improving reporting from the field.
- Floods in Mon state caused by continuous rains have affected approximately 400 households. The MRCS responded by despatching 400 family kits (containing kitchen sets, blankets, hygiene kits, hygiene kits and jerry cans) to the affected population on 11 August. The kits were part of the relief stock for the Nargis Operation and will be replenished with funds from the 2008-2009 Appeal.

[<Details of total distribution figures up to 23 August>](#)

### Monitoring

- A post-distribution relief monitoring form developed by the monitoring delegate (on secondment from the American Red Cross) is being piloted through regional disaster response team (RDRT) personnel in the field.
- A monitoring framework based on the American Red Cross delegate's input is being developed.

## Recovery

### Progress

- A one-day detailed meeting was held with the hub office managers and township volunteer leaders (2IC – second-in-command). As a result, more specific arrangements have been established regarding the village tract selection process and the subsequent village tract assessment.
- The plan of action for the village tract assessments (approximately 200) has been completed. Each village tract will be visited by five volunteers over a five-day period. Between five and seven interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders and two focal group discussions will also be held. In order to cover between 1,000 and 2,000 villages in total, many of which are in remote locations, individual villages will not be visited during this assessment. Instead, secondary information will be sourced at village tract level. It is envisaged that community leaders will participate in the assessments at village tract level - the triangulation of these participatory discussions should lead to clarity on needs and priorities at tract level.
- The assessment form and supporting documents have been drafted. These include an introduction letter from the MRCS President, general instructions for volunteers, guidelines for interviews, guidelines for focal group discussions and instructions for team leaders.
- A draft budget for all village tract assessments has also been constructed.
- MRCS officers, regional disaster response team members, and International Federation field officers have been fully engaged in the organization of field visits to support the hub managers or township volunteer leaders in preparing the village tract assessments in 13 townships.



The adult community in Naung Taw Gyi village, in Pyapon township, participates in health and sanitation discussions facilitated by an MRCS officer on 14 August.

*Photo: The Philippine National Red Cross – Nenita Briones*

- Preparations are also underway for a two-day training session for about 200 volunteers in the 13 townships. This will equip people with the required information and skills to carry out the assessments.
- The MRCS is taking a strong lead in organizing the village tract assessments.
- Primary data gained through the assessments will be retained within the hubs as a basis from which to further develop programmes.

### Challenges

- The implementation of the relief-to-recovery project planning cycle will depend quite heavily on the capacities of newly-appointed staff - a process which will require careful monitoring and support

### Emergency shelter

#### **Objective 1 (immediate needs)**

- Meet the immediate shelter needs of the most vulnerable and cyclone-affected people through the distribution of shelter materials to individual households as well as communities.
- Procure and distribute household tarpaulin kits (comprising two tarpaulins and 30 metres of rope) to individual households and distribute one community shelter tool kit to every five households.
- Target 80,000 households for tarpaulin kits and 275,000 for community tool kits.

#### **Objective 2 (medium and long-term needs)**

- Procure and supply appropriate shelter materials to support 10,000 cyclone-affected households which have suffered severe damage, and have not achieved a reasonable status of recovery.
- Ensure better understanding and awareness of appropriate building techniques.
- Integrate with other sectors to support community-based shelter activities such as household water harvesting (a water and sanitation activity supported by the shelter sector) and safe haven establishments.
- All activities are to enhance disaster risk reduction.

### Progress

- As of 15 August, 35,866 households (179,330 beneficiaries) have been provided with some or all shelter materials. The shelter items include tarpaulins, ropes, hand saws, roofing nails, shovels, hoes, machetes, tin snips, nails, tie wires, claw hammers and woven sacks.
- A draft plan of action for the recovery phase has been completed.
- A field trip is planned for the week of 25 August to further investigate the shelter situation some four months after Cyclone Nargis.
- On the request of the shelter unit in Geneva, the shelter delegate is making preparations to evaluate the effectiveness of standard International Federation shelter kits.
- The coordination of the shelter cluster that has been carried out by the International Federation has now changed hands to Habitat for Humanity.

### Livelihoods

#### **Objective (medium and long-term)**

To support the early recovery and strengthening of livelihoods through the development of relevant household and community assistance packages as part of 200 well integrated village tract recovery programmes.

### Progress

- The development of programme designs and the operational structure for livelihoods support continues. The recovery team is consolidating information and data on livelihoods sectors such as agriculture, fishery, livestock

and small enterprises. Information gained through livelihoods assessments conducted by other aid agencies is being reviewed to assist in the development of the livelihoods support programme.

- The MRCS and the International Federation have conducted discussions on the livelihoods programme structure, the roles and responsibilities of the livelihoods focal person at MRCS Yangon level and livelihoods officers at hub levels.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) economic security delegate seconded to the International Federation to assist with livelihoods interventions, has completed her mission and conducted a handover to the new livelihoods delegate who arrived on 6 August.

### Challenges

In the delta region, the targeting of the most vulnerable groups may be problematic as some communities believe that the cyclone left people in a similar state of economic destitution, thus justifying the same levels of support for every household.

This will require careful vulnerability targeting and will start with clarifications within the village tract assessments on how the communities assess vulnerability.

<b>I. Community-based health and first aid</b>
<p><b><u>Objective 1 (immediate needs)</u></b> Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from disease and public health emergencies, by providing immediate basic health care, first aid and psychosocial support, health and hygiene promotion, to the cyclone-affected populations through the MRCS volunteers, in collaboration with the ministry of health.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 2 (medium and long-term needs)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure access to basic health care, first aid and psychosocial support by training community-based first aid volunteers and putting a referral system in place, in coordination with the ministry of health, and involving the community in health, hygiene promotion (in support of the hygiene promotion activities carried out by water and sanitation sector) and sanitation activities.</li> <li>• Strengthen the capacity of the MRCS to manage an integrated community-based health and first aid programme which includes water and sanitation, and psychosocial support activities, conducted in emergencies and normal situations, in coordination with the ministry of health.</li> </ul>

### Progress

- To date, basic health assessments and health education training, including hygiene promotions, have been conducted in all 13 townships covered by the revised Emergency Appeal.
- Eight townships have one MRCS health team each. The teams consist of four to five members in total, comprising doctors, nurses and health staff who work closely with volunteers in all 13 townships.
- There is a total of 609 volunteers focused on health, first aid and psychosocial support in eight townships. Of these, 280 are trained in community-based first aid, public health in emergencies, and health promotion including the prevention of communicable diseases. In addition, 25 are trained in psychosocial support.
- Up to 9 August, a total of 102 inter-agency emergency health kits have been distributed to township hospitals, rural and sub-rural health centres and MRCS mobile health teams in eight townships.
- Technical training was organized for branch health teams from 9 to 13 August in Yangon. Participants included 33 hub health officers, seven branch managers, and volunteer leaders from 11 townships (Labutta, Bogale, Pathain, Pyapon, Dedaye, Ngapudaw, Mawlamyinegun, Kungyangon, Maubin, Wakema and Myaungmya). During the session, MRCS executive committee members expressed a strong interest in further implementing community-based first aid (CBFA) activities. The MRCS president's closing speech also made a deep impression on the health officers, with the president encouraging all participants to continue with their efforts for the affected population. The president also expressed his appreciation for the support received from the International Federation.



Children in Naung Taw Gyi village in Pyapon township enthusiastically wave their arms during psychosocial support activities conducted on 14 August.  
 Photo: The Philippine National Red Cross – Nenita Briones.

The main objectives of the training session were to:

- Understand the role of the MRCS health and care sector in emergencies.
- Understand how to develop a six-month plan of action for the health programme, including the budget.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation system for the health programme.
- Understand the implementation of health programmes in an integrated approach within all community-based MRCS programmes.
- Find a way for MRCS volunteers and the community to take primary leadership and at the same time, promote a sense of partnership.

An inter-agency food nutrition survey covering townships in the delta region is scheduled to begin on 30 August.

## II. Psychosocial Support

### **Objective 1 (immediate needs)**

Address the immediate psychosocial needs of the population affected by Cyclone Nargis, by providing psychosocial-related relief and by conducting psychosocial support programme training for MRCS volunteers and local key workers in psychosocial support, in collaboration with the ministry of health, local non-governmental organizations, the United Nations, and international non-governmental organizations.

### **Objective 2 (medium and long-term needs)**

Address the psychosocial recovery needs of the population by ensuring cultural and spiritual support, and initiating drama and creative activities for children in schools, monasteries and the community at large. This will involve working in an integrated way with other sectors to include psychosocial support in MRCS training, and support access to vulnerable people for livelihoods and other community-based programming.

## Progress

- The list of items in 900 psychosocial support community kits and 4,707 family kits has been finalized. The items include toys and colouring books, health and hygiene books, and games suitable for adults. Distribution is planned for September/October among the nine most affected townships.
- The psychosocial support session facilitated during the technical training workshop for hub health teams (9-13 August), was received with much enthusiasm. Health officers in charge of psychosocial support were identified for each township, along with specific tasks and responsibilities.
- The psychosocial support unit is coordinating closely with the International Federation's Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support based in Denmark.
- Regional disaster response team members who have returned from the field, have all confirmed the need to scale up psychosocial support activities in the field.
- Experts in needs assessment methodologies are being sourced, in order to train a number of psychosocial support volunteers in data collection and to develop a questionnaire.

## Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

### Objective 1

To ensure that the *immediate* risks of waterborne and water-related diseases have been reduced through the *most essential* provision of safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene promotion and education to 100,000 households.

### Objective 2

To ensure that the *long-term* risk of waterborne and water-related diseases has been reduced through *sustainable* access to safe water and adequate sanitation, as well as the provision of hygiene education to 75,000 households.<sup>1</sup>

## Progress

### • Pond cleaning and assessments

Pond cleaning assessments and cleaning activities are ongoing in villages in the Labutta, Bogale, Pyapon, Mawlamyinegyun and Ngapudaw townships. To date, ponds in 89 villages have been assessed for cleaning and 25 ponds have been cleaned. Each village has about two to three ponds.

### • Water purification units

A total of eight water purification units are operating in three townships (Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta), producing a total of 60,576 litres of drinking water everyday for 4,038 households (20,192 beneficiaries). This tabulation is based on the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene promotion) cluster's guidelines which provide for three litres of drinking water per person, on a daily basis.

Three other units have since been shut down – they consist of two International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) units in the Dedaye township and one German Red Cross emergency response unit (ERU) purification unit in Bogale. The units were closed because:

- Communities do not like the smell of chlorine in purified water, and as such, prefer rainwater for drinking purposes. As a result of the low demand, the units were producing less than five per cent of their full capacity.
- Logistically, it is a challenge to transport purified water to remote villages.

Communities use river and pond water, as well as rainwater for their sanitation needs. Operational details on the existing water purification units are as follows:

<sup>1</sup> The initial phase of relief focused on reaching 100,000 beneficiaries, irrespective of their level of 'affectedness'. The second phase of relief will focus on the most vulnerable portion of this group of people, and this amounts to 75,000 beneficiaries.

### **French Red Cross ERU**

The unit in Bi Tut village in Labutta, continues to produce 12,000 litres of drinking water every day. A total of 800 households (4,000 beneficiaries) in the village and surrounding areas are provided with drinking water every day. This includes households which receive purified water transported by boat.

The water treatment unit in Labutta continues to operate. However, it is scheduled to be dismantled soon as camps for IDPs (internally displaced persons) will be closed

### **German/Austrian Red Cross ERU**

The German/Austrian Red Cross ERU team visited Bogale to review the operation of all six water purification units. The team returned on 13 August and confirmed that the units have been operating at low capacity because communities do not like the smell of chlorine and as such, prefer rainwater for drinking purposes. Each unit produces only about 2,000 litres of water per day, in comparison to its full capacity of 40,000 litres per day.

One of the units is already decommissioned and packed, and will be brought back to Yangon. The remaining units continue to operate pending the outcome of a proposal to shut them down.

### **Australian Red Cross**

The water treatment unit in the Kyar Chaun village tract in Mawlamyinegyun township continues to produce 5,000 litres of safe drinking water everyday for about 330 households (about 1,600 beneficiaries).

#### **• Training**

Five MRCS staff members and volunteers attended a three-day PHAST (participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation) “training of trainers” session from 19 to 21 August. These participants will train health officers and volunteers at hub offices. More “training of trainers” sessions are planned for the coming months.

#### **Logistics**

- The recruitment of field logistics officers is ongoing.
- Logistics delegates have made field trips to the Kawhmu, Dedaye, Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Maubin, Pathein and Myaungmya townships to conduct warehouse assessments. The Pyapon warehouse and the Pathein warehouse were found in good conditions, operating in accordance with International Federation standards. In Dedaye, bin and stock cards were in place and items were stored in a good condition. In the other locations, initial training in warehouse management was conducted by the delegates. During the next field visits, training in the use of warehouse forms and the preparation of weekly warehouse reports will be conducted for logistics staff.
- More detailed and focused training will be provided in the nearest future.

#### **Finance**

- The finance development delegate from the regional office in Bangkok was in Yangon to follow up with the head of finance division on the development of financial procedures and guidelines for hub offices.
- At the hub coordination meeting and workshop on 7 and 8 August, the MRCS and International Federation finance counterparts presented the unit’s plan of action.
- Training of hub managers in finance procedures for hubs was held during a supplementary workshop on 11 August.
- The Foreign Exchange Currency (FEC) continues to experience devaluation.

#### **Capacity of the MRCS**

- To date, 77 new recruits have been deployed to hub offices in nine townships. The recruits comprise hub managers, administration/finance officers, logistics officers, assessment/relief officers, reporting officers, water and sanitation engineers, water technicians and health officers. The recruitment of livelihoods, shelter and recovery coordinators, continues.
- In July, a total of 518 MRCS registered volunteers were formally involved in relief and recovery efforts in the delta. The actual figure is estimated to be considerably larger as many more unregistered volunteers are active in their villages and townships. It is anticipated that the number of volunteers will increase this month because of the impending launch of the recovery phase and the related activities that will be conducted.
- The MRCS has appointed an organizational development coordinator after a gap of about six months, following the former coordinator’s departure.
- Consideration of further community-level scale-up is needed to implement more targeted programming in recovery.

## Capacity of the International Federation

- The Yangon office is currently staffed by 17 local employees and approximately 21 international delegates including two regional disaster response team personnel from the Malaysian Red Crescent and three emergency response unit personnel from the French and German Red Cross societies.
- The human resources manager from the regional office in Bangkok visited Yangon to provide support to the human resource team.
- The recruitment of additional field officers is underway.

## Communications

Media remain interested in the cyclone operation and developments, although direct requests for interviews have decreased. Recently members of the regional disaster response team, who have worked two months in Myanmar, were interviewed by Reuters/Alertnet.

MRCS has begun work on two small documentaries; one about the relief operation, and the other on volunteers. The International Federation communications delegate will support these productions.

The International Federation and MRCS will, in the coming weeks, try to accommodate a number of requests from national societies to facilitate information staff visiting the operation. Relevant material and footage will be made available throughout the International Federation.

## How we work

**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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.**

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:**

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**[<News story below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

## News from the field



School children at Naung Taw Gyi village in the Pyapon township had a pleasant surprise on the morning of 14 August.

While preparations were underway in the school compound for the distribution of Red Cross relief items which had just arrived, the children, aged 5 to 12, were engaged in a fun-filled and interactive health education session and psychosocial support.

The 30-minute health session conducted by an MRCS relief officer was filled with play-acting including a hand-washing demonstration which the youngsters followed enthusiastically.

This was followed by a dance-oriented psychosocial support activity which got the excited children on their feet, doing step-by-step movements which began with a shake of the hands, then knees and legs, followed by bodies and finally, the buttocks!

Elsewhere in the school building, the community's adults were also actively engaged in discussions on health and sanitation.

The MRCS/International Federation relief team distributed mosquito nets, tarpaulins, blankets and jerry cans to affected households.

**Photo: The Philippine National Red Cross – Nenita Briones.**



### Total Distribution by Red Cross up to 23.08.08

Serial no.	Item Names	Yangon	Ayeyarwady	Bago	Mon	Kayin	Total Distributed Qty.
<b>WATER AND SANITATION</b>							
1	Jerry cans	28,929	137,388	-	-	-	166,317
2	Bucket	-	3,054				3,054
3	Purification tablets	139,400	298,000	-	-	-	437,400
4	Chlorine tablets	75,600	1,122,600				1,198,200
5	Water guard (bottles)	-	993				993
6	Latrines	-	-				-
7	Bottled Water (Litre)	20,660	22,385	-	-	-	43,045
<b>FOOD</b>							
8	Rice (kg)	29,450	34,735	-	-	-	64,185
9	Ovaltine	5,709	19,584	-	-	-	25,293
10	Tinned corn	672	6,500				7,172
11	Cooking oil (Litre)	-	3,080				3,080
12	Flour (kg)	-	1,500				1,500
13	Sugar (kg)	900	8,650				9,550
14	Ready-to-eat (packs)	2,833	14,361				17,194
15	Noodles (packs)	16,715	71,506				88,221
16	Fish/Meat (tins)	28,153	109,624				137,777
<b>HEALTH</b>							
17	First aid kits	47	14	-	-	-	61
18	Hygiene kits1	15,052	66,918	-	-	-	81,970
19	Mosquito Net	34,606	162,222	-	-	-	196,828
20	ORS (sachets)	5,800	108,800				114,600
21	Antibac soaps	32	-				32
22	Surgical spirit (Litre)	8	-				8
23	Alcohol swab	700	-				700
24	Absorbent cotton wool (Kg)	13	-				13
25	Gauze (boxes)	511	-				511
26	Elastic bandage	120	-				120
27	Stretcher	17	66	-	-	-	83
28	Face mask	410	3,050	-	-	-	3,460
29	Surgical gloves	300	1,900	-	-	-	2,200
30	Body bags	-	20	-	-	-	20
31	Gloves	300	3,400	-	-	-	3,700
<b>SHELTER</b>							
32	Shelter Tool Kit	5,843	30,023	-	-	-	35,866
33	Tarpaulins	27,252	176,980	-	-	-	204,232
34	Plastic sheeting	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Tents	20	15				35



### Total Distribution by Red Cross up to 23.08.08

Serial no.	Item Names	Yangon	Ayeyarwady	Bago	Mon	Kayin	Total Distributed Qty.
<b>NON-FOOD ITEMS</b>							
36	Blanket	23,208	167,698	-	-	-	<b>190,906</b>
37	Sleeping bag	730	-				<b>730</b>
38	Sleeping mat	520	2,166				<b>2,686</b>
39	Torch	589	2,333				<b>2,922</b>
40	Batteries	2,208	5,254				<b>7,462</b>
41	Kitchen set3	13,159	75,011				<b>88,170</b>
42	Clothes in bale	46	101				<b>147</b>
43	Clothes in pcs	16,166	80,987	-	-	-	<b>97,153</b>
44	Raincoat	1,200	270				<b>1,470</b>
45	Boots	848	261				<b>1,109</b>
46	Slippers (pairs)	2,240	32,345				<b>34,585</b>
47	Shampoo	582	532				<b>1,114</b>
48	Soap	14,250	65,250	-	-	-	<b>79,500</b>
49	Emergency kit4	2,591	4,826				<b>7,417</b>
50	Family Kit5	1,152	1,291	-	318	-	<b>2,761</b>
51	Cooking Pot	1,400	10,530	-	-	-	<b>11,930</b>
52	Plastic Plate	1,300	4,500	-	-	-	<b>5,800</b>
53	Mug cup/ Feeding bottle	2,850	5,400	-	-	-	<b>8,250</b>
54	Steel spoon	500	3,000	-	-	-	<b>3,500</b>
55	Towel	5,755	12,980	-	-	-	<b>18,735</b>
56	Rope	6,423	33,600	-	-	-	<b>40,023</b>
<b>TOTAL BENEFICIARIES</b>		<b>97,130</b>	<b>480,505</b>	-	-	-	<b>577,635</b>

This information does not capture all items distributed by local Red Cross branches without MRCS HQ involvement or items distributed by other agencies using Red Cross Red Crescent structures.

The total number of beneficiaries is an estimate based on an average family size of 5. The latest detailed distribution figures from the field have not been included. A majority of the beneficiary households should have received most of the following NFIs:

- 1) **Hygiene kit** contains: Washing powder (3 kg), toilet paper (12 rolls), 5 soap, 5 toothpaste (75 ml), 5 tooth brush, shampoo (500 ml), 5 razors, 8 hygienic pads. 1 kit per family
- 2) **Shelter tool kit** contains rope, hand saw, roofing nails, shovel, hoe, machete, tin snips, nails, tie wire, claw hammer, woven sack  
1 shelter tool kit per 5 families
- 3) **Tarpaulin**: 2 pcs. (4X6m) per family
- 4) **Kitchen set** contains: Cooking pot, plates, mugs, spoons etc. 1 set per family
- 5) **Mosquito net**: 2 pcs per family
- 6) **Jerry can**: 2 pcs per family
- 7) **Blanket**: 2 pcs per family