

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° 8
14 May 2008



Team work: Red Cross volunteers stretch a woman in need of further assistance. (International Federation).

Period covered by this Update: eight days since the appeal was launched

Appeal target (current): CHF 6,290,909 (USD 5.9 million or EUR 3.86 million) to be revised Friday 16 May.

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget>](#)

This preliminary appeal target is already well covered. Planning is underway in-country as the International Federation's ability to scale up effectively increases to support Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and to meet the huge needs, taking into account various operational constraints. A revised appeal will be issued by the end of the week. The mobilization table has now been increased. The revised appeal will significantly scale up the plan of action and give a stronger indication of work within priority areas but there is still a significant need to remain flexible in the face of the challenges

around this operation. The national society, has many strengths such as volunteer passion and commitment, but does not have the experience or capacity to deal with a catastrophe of this magnitude. In light of this, partners are again requested to be sensitive to the probably significant constraints during this operation.

[<Click here to link to the donor response list>](#)

[<click here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This preliminary emergency appeal was launched on 6 May 2008 for CHF 6,290,909 (USD 5.9 million or EUR 3.86 million) for six months to assist 30,000 families.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federation's DREF.

Summary:

The International Research Institute for Climate Change and Society, based out of Columbia University in New York – and a partner of the International Federation – has warned that within the next six days, 12cm of rain is forecast on the Ayeyarwady delta. The potential seriousness is obvious with hundreds of thousands of people about to spend their twelfth night in the open or makeshift shelter. If the rain comes, the water has nowhere to go as the ground is already saturated and neither do the people as their homes are in tatters.

Latest assessment figures from Yangon give a more detailed picture of the catastrophic situation on the ground. Pooling and extrapolating information from assessments from 22

organizations (including the MRCS/ International Federation) in 58 townships indicates the number of people killed at between 68,833 and 127,990. It estimates the total affected population at between 1.64 million and 2.51 million. **(Please note these are not Red Cross Red Crescent death toll figures.)** Official government casualty figures remain significantly lower. The vice-president of the International Federation, from Japanese Red Cross, is visiting Myanmar tomorrow (15 May). As part of his visit he will discuss the importance of access to additional Red Cross relief and health specialists in support of the MRCS and on the capacity of the International Federation to resource these, predominantly from ASEAN countries, should this be a preferred solution.

Following discussions with contributing partner national societies, the International Federation is looking at alternative ways to support the deployment of emergency response unit equipment coming



Present where the needs are: the MRCS president and Federation head of delegation tour the delta to see first hand the scale of the task ahead of communities to recover and the responsibility the Red Cross Red Crescent has in supporting them. (International Federation).

into Myanmar, which would normally be accompanied by personnel. The International Federation team in Yangon has identified in-country capacity to manage the equipment. Much of the equipment is also of a modular type, which can be broken down into smaller units, and as such fits into the emerging operation strategy of working through ten relief hubs in the affected delta. A significant part of the operation will be an integrated water and hygiene approach. It is planned that MRCS executive committee members will accompany major Red Cross distributions to strengthen management of the operation.

Many partner national societies have already made contributions to the appeal: American Red Cross/American government, Australian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belarusian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross/Belgian government, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China - Hong Kong branch and Macau branch, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Finnish Red Cross/ Finnish government, French Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross. Japanese Red Cross, Korean Red Cross, Luxemburg Red Cross/Luxemburg government, Netherlands Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross/Norwegian government, Qatar Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross, Slovak Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross/Spanish government, 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 ECHO, the Andorra, Estonian, Italian and Monaco governments and Total Oil Company. The International Federation, on behalf of Myanmar Red Cross Society, would like to thank all partners for their very quick and generous response to this appeal.

The situation

The assessment picture of needs on the ground is improving. Much more is known about the situation in Labutta, Ngapudaw, Maungmya and Yangon. There are still significant gaps in knowledge in terms of Bogale (particularly south Bogale), Mawlamyinegyun, Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Pyapon, camps in Wakema (seven camps with people moved from Bogale). A more comprehensive picture is needed on local group action and the breadth of government support.



Temporary relief: A young girl and her baby brother savour a drink at one of the many shelters dotted around the delta. (International Federation).

The Minister of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement gave a briefing on the disaster and its general response:

- Government activities are ongoing to support affected populations in shelter, food, hygiene, drinking water and emergency health. Goods have been transported by land, sea and air (with the use of six helicopters).
- International assistance in the form of cash or goods would still be accepted; this would be distributed via the authorities (Note: MRCS is managing its own distributions). USD 335,000 in cash has been released to support the operation and more will be available. Various support in rebuilding homes, including iron sheeting and cement, has been given. Rice and emergency medicine has been provided to relief camps.
- Of these camps for homeless people, the main ones have been established in Maubin, Mawlamyinegyun, Wakema and Labutta.
- The government approach has been to provide initial rescue followed by relief and resettlement and then recovery/reconstruction. The authorities consider that the current phase is between relief and resettlement.

- To support recovery the authorities will be providing farmers with rice and fishing families with boats.
- At present, foreigners will not be allowed to travel outside of Yangon. However, applications will be accepted through each organization's line ministry and these will be treated on a case by case basis.

In terms of the air bridge, Yangon airport is proving something of a bottleneck at times. The logistics cluster reports a limitation of handling equipment, fuel availability and worsening weather conditions. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) has offered to deploy aircraft handling equipment to WFP Yangon, including a high loader. In terms of the International Federation, reliable information about arrival of flights is hard to come by. This has a negative domino effect on the logistical effort of getting goods moving as well as binding a lot of manpower and truck capacity awaiting uncertain plane arrivals. The issue has been raised on a higher level with MRCS leadership. Additional trucking capacity has been identified and will be available from today (14 May), with ten five-tonne trucks and 10 to 20 others with 3-tonne capacity.

Inland waterways are reported to be open. Boats of various capacities (average of 300 metric tonnes) are available from Yangon to Labutta.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

Operation overview: strategic planning for appeal revision

The main needs are safe drinking water, emergency shelter, first aid/health prevention, hygiene items and food. There is a threat of health problems and communicable diseases.

The Yangon-based team is prioritizing operation areas based on impact maps and increasingly detailed assessments. This will contribute to the appeal revision, which will be launched 16 May. This is being strongly supported by the field assessment and coordination team (FACT)/ regional disaster response team (RDRT) operations centre in Bangkok; an appropriate and realistic plan of action is emerging in testing circumstances.

The assessment team is identifying priority sectors and respective objectives, activities, indicators and expected results within these during three phases of the operation:

- **Phase 1:** Acute and short term; up to six months: Focus on survival needs, epidemic prevention and control and scale up to meet needs for larger target population while laying groundwork for early recovery.
- **Phase 2:** Medium term; six to 12 months: Focus on enhancing operational efficiency and effectiveness for MRCS public services, volunteer base, and management/branch structures



Proud: A Myanmar Red Cross Society volunteer takes a break between loading supplies. (International Federation).

- **Phase 3:** Longer term; 12 to 36 months: Focus on development/expansion of community-based programmes and activities and ongoing assessment to identify and support affected households not achieving recovery.

The operation will require significant scaling up to reach more families and communities. The MRCS is well positioned to address such growing needs but will require assistance from International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and non-Movement partners. The unique position of MRCS in terms of humanitarian mandate, national volunteer base, and role as auxiliary to government will enable it to provide for the growing short, medium and long term needs in the affected areas. This will, however, require a systematic and measured expansion of activities that does not undermine the MRCS by weakening its volunteer base through over-ambitious programmes that risk failure or exhaust its human resources. It is critical that these activities build on long-term running programmes, the national society's mandate, and realistic capacity.

In addition, preparations for the specific use of local capacity for this operation with support of MRCS headquarters and a skeleton team of international staff in Yangon is advancing. Local engineers have been identified as well as MRCS volunteers appropriate to work on incoming water and sanitation ERUs. From 16 May, ten engineers from a local company are available for training with up to 30 available later.

Operations update

Relief distributions are continuing. Latest field reports indicate the following:

- Soap, water, purification tablets, jerry cans, clothing, blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets and cooking sets have been distributed to 450 families in Kayaik Latt (150), Bogalay (150) and Pyapon (150) in Ayeryawady province.
- Rice (from WFP) was distributed to 550 families (25 kgs each) in the townships of Seikkyi Khanaungto (100), Thaketa (75), Dawbon (50), Dala (50), Twantay (100), Hlaingtharyar (100) and North Dagon (75) in Yangon division.
- On 13 May, no trucks were available for distribution of relief in Ayeyawady province because they were blocked due to the late arrival of the airplane at the airport.
- Soap, water purification tablets, jerry cans, clothing, blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets and cooking sets have been distributed to 500 families in Thaketa (200) and Thanlyin (300) families in Yangon province.
- Relief distributions are seeking to reach 2,000 households a day with a package of standard items.

Warehouses storing old items have been cleared by RDRT members and 40 volunteers; separate family kits (outside of International Federation-standard items) will be packed out of this material and distributed.

New warehouses have been identified for incoming goods. However, Rubb halls are still not erected but two will probably be put up in Labutta, where the WFP has a team capable of this.

MRCS

MRCS continue to mobilize volunteers on a daily basis; around 100 are working within warehouses in Yangon and 20 to 50 volunteers are reported to be supporting assessments, relief distribution and medical



Have table will work: MRCS president talks to volunteers at their temporary street office in Bogale; this scene sums up the inspiration and tremendous fortitude of Red Cross volunteers in such difficult circumstances. (International Federation).

assistance in affected townships.

Two RDRT-trained MRCS staff from Shan State have been selected to reinforce the assessment in locations and sectors (such as health) where little information is currently available. They are due to be assigned to two such areas and stay up to a week and provide feedback on a daily basis to build up a picture of needs.

Partner national societies

- The first part of a French Red Cross consignment for a water ERU has arrived,
- Three staff from Malaysian Red Crescent (two of whom are RDRT trained), who came to Myanmar on request of the Malaysian government, have been integrated into the International Federation's logistics unit and will support the unit for the next ten days or so,
- A Chinese Red Cross delegation has arrived bringing a small quantity of relief items.

The International Federation

The FACT psychosocial team member has shared a seven-point sheet of 'good practices' with MRCS to help the national society provide appropriate psychosocial support to staff and volunteers during these very stressful times. The guidance draws from recent lessons during the tsunami and other operations and emphasizes the importance of emotional and psychological health to staff and volunteers themselves as well as to the overall effectiveness of the operation.

An Australian health delegate with more than two years prior Red Cross experience in Myanmar will reinforce the team in Yangon for a two- to three-week period from 15 May. A second shelter specialist has joined the International Federation team in Bangkok.

The International Federation was represented at a packed press briefing given by cluster leads 14 May in Bangkok and updated on the situation in emergency shelter.

In terms of FACT/RDRT, the total team is 22 members, with seven in Yangon and 15 in Bangkok. In Yangon, FACT is covering all important cluster meetings (health, water and sanitation, shelter, food and nutrition, early recovery and logistics).



Basic port of call: A boat packed with Red Cross Red Crescent relief supplies is unloaded in the Ayeyarwady delta. (International Federation).

International logistics

- Two commercial flights and a charter flight (1 x Antonov 12) stocked with shelter kits, jerry cans and tarpaulins departed the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) for Yangon today (14 May).
- To date, approximately 65 metric tonnes and over 200 cubic metres of relief materials including shelter kits, tarpaulins, jerry cans and kitchen sets, have departed from the Kuala Lumpur regional logistics unit's warehouse for Yangon. These items include those sent in-kind by the Japanese, British, American, Danish, Finnish and Swiss Red Cross Societies. Over the coming days, further relief materials will be shipped from Kuala Lumpur and Dubai with in-kind donations from the Qatar Red Crescent, Canadian Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross Societies. Many other national societies are working on sending in-kind goods either from the regional logistics units' or their own stocks.
- The Dubai regional logistics unit has confirmed that two charter flights from Dubai will arrive in Yangon on Friday, 16 May.
- The French Red Cross water and sanitation emergency response unit (ERU) equipment, including a vehicle, have arrived safely in Yangon and have cleared customs.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- ICRC has sent an assessment team with local staff to start restoring family links (RFL) in the Ayeryawady province.
- Assistance (blankets, medicine) has been given to five detention centres; aid to a further nine will follow.
- Guidance has been given to the MRCS communications department regarding key messages to provide in any cases of misuse of the emblem.
- ICRC has offered help to MRCS in the management of dead bodies; a forensic expert is available to fly to Myanmar if the national society agrees.

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

- Federation regional office in Bangkok: Alan Bradbury, acting head of regional office, phone: +66 2661 8201, fax: +66.2.661.9322; email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
- Federation zone office in Kuala Lumpur:
 - Jagan Chapagain, deputy head of zone office, phone: +6012 2153765, email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org
 - Amy Gaver, acting head of disaster management unit, phone: +6012 220 1174, email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org
 - For pledges of funding: Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator,

- phone: +603 9207 5775, email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org
- For mobilization of relief items: Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator, phone: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573, email: jeremy.francis@ifrc.org
 - For media / communications: John Sparrow, spokesman in Bangkok, phone: +66 847 572 442, email: john.sparrow@ifrc.org
 - Federation secretariat in Geneva: Christine South, operations coordinator Asia Pacific, phone: +41 22 730 4529; mobile: +41 79 308 9824; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)

PRELIMINARY APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Myanmar:Tropical Cyclone

MDRMM002

ORIGINAL

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	1,800,000
Clothing & Textiles	150,000
Utensils & Tools	1,200,000
Other Supplies & Services	1,200,000

Total Relief Needs **4,350,000**

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Vehicles Purchase	280,000
Computers & Telecom Equipment	10,000

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	50,000
Distribution & Monitoring	100,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	500,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	372,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	30,000
National Staff	50,000
National Society Staff	50,000

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	30,000
Office /Admin	30,000
Communication Costs	30,000

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR (6.5% of total)	408,909
---	---------

Total Operational Needs **1,940,909**

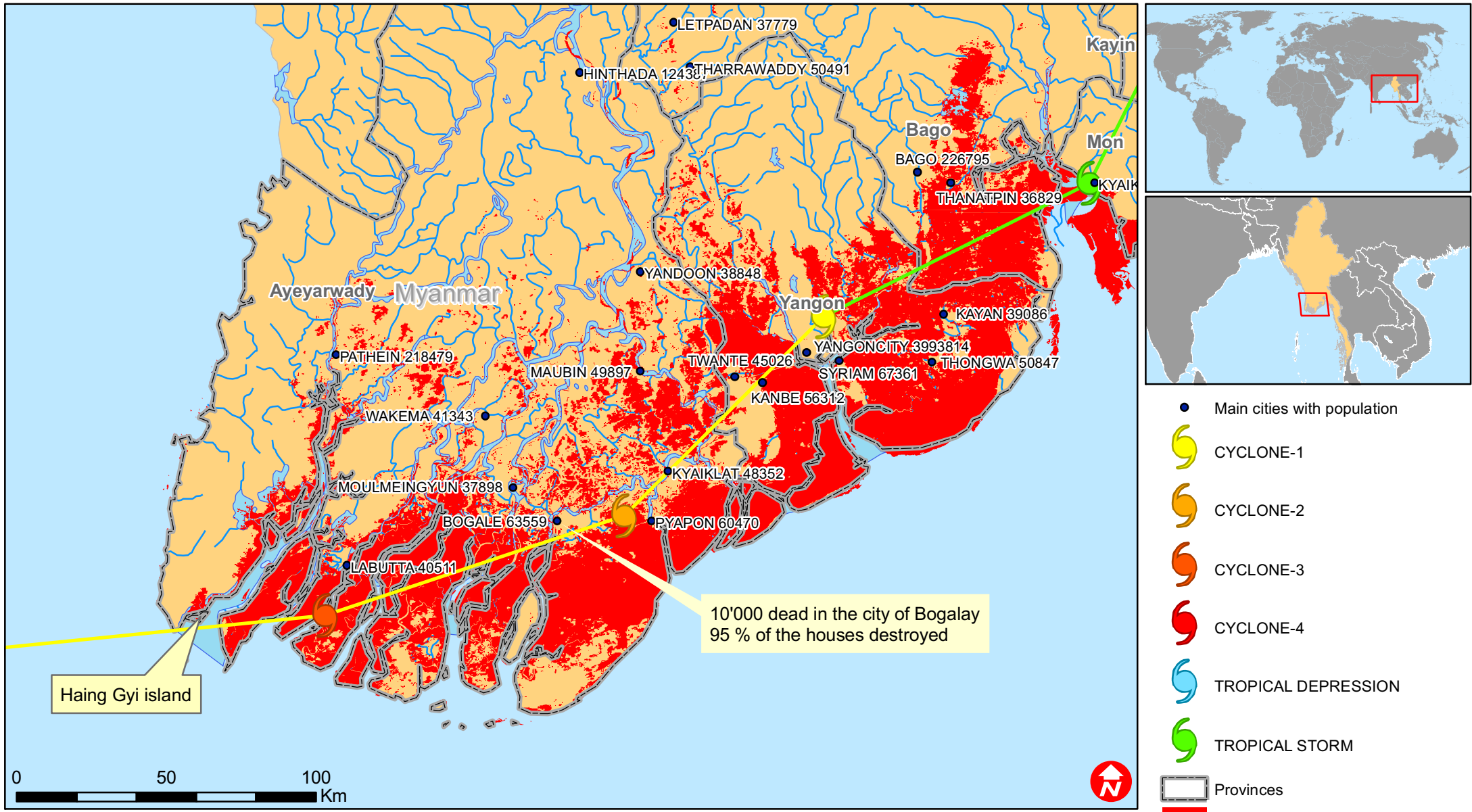
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) **6,290,909**

Less Available Resources

Net Request **6,290,909**



Myanmar: Tropical cyclone



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: ESRI, CIESIN, DEVINFO, UNISYS, International Federation, inundation extend are MODIS-derived processed by Dartmouth Flood Observatory - MDRMM002EA.mxd