

HIGHLIGHTS

A WHO/MOH mobile team has successfully tracked all the leprosy patients missing after the cyclone in Ngapudaw, Labutta and Bogale.

The Vector-Born Disease Control (VBDC) unit will start larviciding this week in selected wards in 11 townships in Yangon Division as the Ministry of Health has approved the dengue plan and the practical guide for implementation.

Over 250 members of the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) team have returned to Yangon after completing data collection in 30 affected townships across Yangon and the Ayeyarwady Delta. Information from PONJA will be incorporated into the UN Revised Appeal.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND SITUATION UPDATE

Over 250 members of the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) team have returned to Yangon after completing data collection in 30 affected townships across Yangon and the Ayeyarwady Delta. The team is proceeding with the next stages of data entry and early analysis. Preliminary findings and a progress report will be presented at the ASEAN roundtable meeting in Yangon on 24 June. The complete PONJA report is planned for release on 18 July.

PONJA consists of two inter-related and complementary assessments: DALA (damage and loss assessment) and VTA (village tract assessment).

- DALA (damage and loss assessment)
 - Six teams of 20-30 people from various sectors and organizations went to the field after a 3-day training session.
 - The teams visited seven townships in five days. Team 1 focused on health, education and housing.
 - The DALA teams were given unrestricted access and resources by the Government

- VTA (Village Tract Assessment)
 - VTA data differs from DALA in being based on grassroots information obtained from contacts with a variety of people in the affected communities, such as farmers, fishermen, nurses or social workers, etc.
 - 128 village tracts were identified (based on geographic quadrant methods) and the teams spent ten days in the field, visiting two villages per VT. Ten households were interviewed in each village.
 - For the purpose of information gathering, the people were divided into groups such as 'Households', 'Key informant' and 'Focus groups'.
 - All village data will be put on maps and summaries will also be available.

The Tripartite Core Group of ASEAN, UN and the Government of Myanmar is holding a workshop to document the feedback of Medical Missions from ASEAN countries in Post-Nargis relief, response and early recovery, in Yangon on 23 June.

The Myanmar Red Cross has distributed water, food and relief items to more than 300 000 beneficiaries and is currently reaching more than 10 000 people per day. Last week, 16 400 families were provided with shelter material and hygiene kits.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

1. Health Action

The assessment teams to trace TB and leprosy patients missing after the Cyclone has reported that out of 162 missing TB patients, 126 were traced of which 46 had died. However 100 per cent of leprosy patients was tracked. Three teams, each team with two sub teams, visited health centers in Ngapudaw, Labutta and Bogale.

The Myanmar Red Cross, supported by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, is intensifying distributions of relief to cyclone-

hit areas, particularly monsoon shelter kits, as the rainy season brings increased risk of disease.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is taking a strategic approach by recruiting people for an intense training programme in Yangon in basic relief management. Once trained and deployed to the affected delta, each team of two will recruit and train two more people and together manage the relief operation in their area. The intention is to improve the ability of the Myanmar Red Cross to respond to disasters in its own right.

The Vector-Born Disease Control (VBDC) unit will start larviciding this week in selected wards in 11 townships in Yangon Division as the Ministry of Health has approved the dengue plan and the practical guide for implementation. However, some key issues need to be addressed:

- Roles of INGOs in the implementation of the plan
- Membership of the working group
- Resource mobilization
- Development and implementation of communications strategy

3. Funding

The launch of the Revised Appeal has been postponed from 3 July to 10 July to be able to take into account the findings from PONJA.

The timeframe for the consolidated appeal plan (CAP) is from May 2008 until April 2009.

WHO will focus on four areas under CAP

- Effective coordination of humanitarian response and recovery efforts
- Early identification of critical health needs and response through disease surveillance and comprehensive assessment
- Support to the provision of comprehensive curative and preventive in the cyclone affected areas
- Revitalization of the Health System including TB/HIV control and HIV-AIDS prevention and care

HEALTH COORDINATION

The technical working groups of the health cluster reported the following:

- Psychosocial/Mental Health:
 - At present there are gaps in the referral system. This needs to be addressed.
 - WHO and the Ministry of Health are working on a survey of psychosocial mental health provision in six townships.
- **HIV/AIDS**
 - Proposals on Sexual and Reproductive Health include formation of a Women's Place Network and village level women's action and protection

Township level coordination:

- **Bogale:**
 - IOM, MSF, UNICEF and other partners are providing outreach health services in hard-to-reach villages in Bogale but there are still gaps, especially in southeast part of Bogale.
- Labutta:
 - Three IDP (internally displaced population) camps are still functioning in Labutta, although many people are returning to their villages
 - Small outbreaks of Measles have been reported in the camps and adjoining villages. Vaccination up to the age of 15 years has been recommended
 - UNICEF is distributing immunization record cards for children under 5 and pregnant women in all the affected townships in Labutta and Bogale together with a checklist of other key interventions.
 - Some areas within Mawlamwinegyun, Pyapon, and Dedaye are all not yet reached.

NEXT STEPS

The final meeting on the new WWW (Who, Where, When & What) Tool is to be held today. Once completed the new WWW tool will be used on a trial basis by Merlin over the coming week.

The analysis of the findings of PONJA will be completed, and plans will incorporate these.