



HIGHLIGHTS

1. According to information from the Myanmar state media, the death toll from Cyclone Nargis is now 34 273 with another 27 836 people missing.
2. To facilitate detection and confirmation of disease cases, 500 dengue test kits and two cholera kits with material for 100 samples each are being dispatched.
3. The various health cluster partners are establishing emergency clinics with medical equipment and drugs, distributing relief items as well as working on hygiene promotion in the affected areas.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT & SITUATION UPDATE

- According to information from the Myanmar state media, the death toll from Cyclone Nargis is now 34 273 with another 27 836 people missing.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

1. Supplies

- To assist in preventing any potential outbreak of vector-borne diseases, 13 000 insecticide-treated bednets have been sent to Myanmar, and another 20 000 will be dispatched shortly.
- Five hundred Dengue test kits have also been sent to the country to help detect dengue cases in the cyclone-affected areas.
- Forty thousand tablets of the insecticide deltamethrin are also being dispatched for use in preventing the spread of diseases due to vectors and pests.
- Two cholera testing kits, sufficient for 100 samples each, are being procured to help detect and confirm potential cholera cases.

2. Medical Care

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is establishing emergency clinics with medical equipment, drugs and supplies in the cyclone affected areas.
- IOM has also expressed an intention of focusing on mental health assessment of the affected population, and capacity building efforts to deal with the situation.

- The Red Cross is distributing relief items such as hygiene kits, water purification and mosquito nets as well as working in settlement areas for hygiene promotion.

3. Surveillance

- The streamlined surveillance and data reporting forms are being distributed to partners as well as hospitals and health centres. This will facilitate uniform collection, compilation and analysis of the available information on selected diseases including diarrhoea, malaria, dengue and snake bites.
- Surveillance officers at the township level are working to enhance information transfer and sharing.

HEALTH COORDINATION

- Participation in the health cluster meetings in Myanmar has increased, with more than 60 representatives of 30 international NGOs and UN agencies.
- The Health Cluster matrix showing who is doing what where (3W) is now ready and is expected to facilitate a more efficient response by the health sector.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalization of a joint action plan and charting out activities for the health cluster for the next 3-6 months.
- WHO continues to mobilize the donor community to provide stronger support to the health sector emergency response.