

HIGHLIGHTS

- **ASEAN will conduct regular reviews of the recovery situation in the cyclone-affected areas, in order to build on information from the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA).**
- **Health cluster partners are taking measures to tackle reported diarrhoea cases.**
- **A recent survey in Bogale reveals that larvicidal activity has been effective.**

GENERAL SITUATION UPDATE

- ASEAN will conduct regular reviews of the recovery situation in the cyclone-affected areas, in order to build on information from the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) which was completed in July 2008. Two such reviews are scheduled to take place in November 2008, and the first half of 2009.

Disease Surveillance

- There is an increase in diarrhoea cases this week, according to reports in the Early Warning, Alert and Response system (EWARS) disease surveillance bulletin for week 35 (24-30 August 2008). Of 477 reported cases of acute diarrhea 352 were in Ayeyarwady division, an increase from 189 in week 34. In Yangon the number of cases almost doubled, from 67 in week 34 to 125 in week 35.
- The increase in Diarrhoea cases are within the limits seen in previous years for this time, and health cluster partners are taking adequate measures to tackle this.
- Dengue hemorrhagic fever has decreased from 25 in week 34 to 21 in week 35.
- Four cases of suspected measles have been reported for this week: 3 cases from Labutta and 1 case from Dedaye township.

- The single reported case of tetanus is from Bogale, in a child younger than 5 years of age.
- In response to reported cases of dengue, the Ministry of Health and health cluster partners have conducted the following:
 - Mass Larvicide for Dengue control.
 - Community Health Education are imparted measures.
 - Daily contact with the Township Medical Officer(TMO)/Public Health Teams in the affected areas.
 - Close monitoring of any alert, and prompt actions.
- EWARS is being streamlined in the following ways so that it is more effective:
 - MoH and health partners are encouraged to perform line listing of cases of diseases reported when the number of cases are low.
 - All agencies providing medical care will provide surveillance information to TMO about diseases that could potentially lead to outbreaks.
 - Confirmation of cases will be done by TMO offices with technical guidance of Public Health Teams.
 - Townships reporting priority diseases should activate the rapid response system.
 - New INGOs participating to EWAR reporting are welcome and those INGOs who are phasing out from field are requested to inform the authorities before their departure.

HEALTH ACTION

- UNFPA will organize their first workshop on Gender-based Violence September 9, 2008.
- WHO /MOH training of medical officers and nurses on psychological care was conducted in Mawlamyinegyun township on 27 August 2008. Medical officers and nurses from township health department, general medical practitioners, local NGO's and INGOs participated.

HEALTH COORDINATION

- Partners have been requested to identify priorities of activities in the clusters.
- The Technical Working Groups of the health cluster report the following:
 - **Early Recovery**
 - Mercy Malaysia has been given approval for construction of rural and subrural health facilities in Dedaye. World Vision will also be constructing four sub rural health centers in Kyaiklat after discussion with the TMO.
 - MOH has encouraged partners who plan to be involved in reconstruction of health facilities to approach the Ministry.
 - **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**
 - A common referral pathway for people who need it was extensively discussed.
 - **Sexual and Reproductive Health/HIV**
 - UNAIDS held a workshop on global guidelines for HIV response in emergency settings.
 - UNFPA conducted three batches of trainings on MISIP (Minimum initial service packages).
- **Township Level Coordination**
 - IOM has reported that medical referrals from townships to Yangon for those patients in need, is now available in Mawlamyinegyun, Pyapon and Bogale.

Labutta

- With the incidence of acute diarrhea rising, health and WASH clusters have cooperated closely in preventive activities such as public health and hygiene education.
- A Merlin laboratory test revealed that water in ponds of three villages have high *E. Coli* (bacteria) content.
- There is reduced levels of residual chlorine in water at 5 miles camp. The NGO AZG will be addressing this matter.

Bogale

- Larvicidal survey conducted in June showed 80% index. A recent survey shows larvicidal index down to 10% after 'Abate'

(larvicide) campaign, indicating that the larvicidal campaign has been effective.

Kyaiklat

- Health cluster partners conducted a mass 'abate' campaign last week.
- UNICEF will conduct a workshop on "communication" for over 40 participants.
- Information sharing amongst the health partners in this township is regarded as good, with the TMO aware of the health situation with a good feedback mechanism.

Mawlamyinegyun

- Monthly strategic health plan for September was being finalized by the TMO with health partners.
- Fifty households received abate larvicidal campaign.
- A hygiene workshop was organized by UNICEF with INGOs participating.

Dedaye

- CESVI will be terminating mobile teams by 3 September, due to lack of funding, and MSI will be taking over some activities from CESVI, along with Relief International.

Pyapon

- An increased number of diarrhoeal cases was reported this week.
- WASH activities include provision of bleaching powder to provide potable water to the community as well as health education activities.

GAPS AND NEXT STEPS

• Who What When (WWW) Updates

- WWW database is already 95% completed. Health cluster will meet OCHA/MIMU on inter-phasing the WWW health cluster database with the existing OCHA one.

