

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



UNDP Myanmar responds to Cyclone Nargis

UNDP moved into action within 24 hours after Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on 2-3 May. The storm carved a path of destruction that left 133,653 dead or missing and 2.4 million severely affected by the crisis.

The cyclone's 120-mile per hour winds and resulting storm surge were particularly devastating in the Ayeyarwady Delta, where entire villages were flattened.

UNDP is the only UN organization with field offices located in the region, which, prior to the cyclone was home to seven million people. UNDP staff and families experienced the natural disaster first-hand, as did those who work for partner non-governmental organization (NGO) PACT, which lost five of its project personnel.

UNDP has 40 functioning field offices in the delta and current field staff strength of more than 500 experienced national staff and project personnel, including those of PACT.



A doctor from a UNDP supported project treats a girl in Bogale, one of the areas worst hit by Cyclone Nargis.

MATTERS OF FACT

- **40** UNDP and its implementing partner NGO PACT offices in the Ayeyarwady Delta
- **23** field teams active in the worst affected areas
- **500** national staff and project personnel working in the delta and being mobilized for Cyclone Nargis response operations
- **5** UNDP offices functioning as 'base camp' for UN organizations and international NGOs delivering to, and working in Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta, Ngapudaw and Kyaiklat
- **2.4 million** people severely affected by Cyclone Nargis across Myanmar
- **1.4 million** people affected in the Ayeyarwady delta, the hardest hit region of Myanmar
- **43,241** estimated total beneficiaries from UNDP coordinated relief efforts as of 21 May

Supporting relief efforts: UNDP sent rotating teams of national staff to work with and relieve its field staff in five of the affected townships – Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta, Ngapudaw and Kyaiklat – where its Microfinance and Integrated Community Development Projects (ICDP) operate. The teams immediately began making assessments of the disaster, delivering small relief items and providing support to the populations UNDP serves.

UNDP continues to work in coordination with government authorities, and in close collaboration with relief agencies such as UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Food Programme to assist with the movement and distribution of urgently needed items. These include water, food, plastic sheets, cooking utensils, medicines and clothing.

Reaching remote areas: Many of the roads and bridges UNDP uses to get to the affected areas were in need of repair prior to the cyclone. Pounding rain

worsened their condition, forcing UNDP drivers to contend with slippery 'off-road' conditions between many of the townships. UNDP has hired additional boats to expand its reach to more communities in remote areas.

UNDP and its implementing partner PACT medical teams have been traveling via road and waterways to villages in the delta, treating some of the nearly 20,000 officially reported as injured. These specialists have been part of mobile medical teams from UN organizations and international NGOs, treating cyclone survivors for minor injuries and illnesses.



As relief efforts continue, a parallel focus on recovery efforts is vital for the people of Myanmar to rebuild their lives.

Rebuilding lives: While focusing on the immediate needs of the affected population, UNDP recognizes the importance of advanced planning beyond the immediate relief period towards early recovery. There are many early recovery efforts that will begin immediately. In affected areas where planting is still feasible, UNDP will quickly provide support to farmers for preparation of the monsoon planting season, which begins in June.

These efforts will focus on priority activities such as land preparations, debris clearance, and water and sanitation initiatives. Activities will help to prepare paddy land and surrounding areas for the planting season. Also included will be the local repair and construction of essential village access infrastructure such as footpaths, culverts and jetties.

Planning and raising resources for these urgent activities has already begun, with an additional push to collect data and analysis for longer-term recovery efforts. UNDP has sent out coordinated teams of

national staff and project personnel to travel to some of the most affected areas for data collection and strategic planning. Each team consists of planning experts, health specialists, data management system specialists, micro-finance experts, and infrastructure planners.

About UNDP Myanmar

UNDP has been implementing the Human Development Initiative (HDI) in Myanmar since 1994 to provide support to poor communities in areas of food security, primary health care, environment, HIV/AIDS, and training and education. UNDP currently works in 60 townships around the country. UNDP's ICDP and Micro Finance initiatives target the most vulnerable communities and work to support their improved opportunities for livelihoods.

About UNDP: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the United Nation's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with governments and people on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners that can bring about results.



New life begins in the Ayeyarwady Delta, four days after the devastation of Cyclone Nargis.

For more information, visit:

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