



FAO'S ROLE IN THE REVISED 2008 CYCLONE NARGIS FLASH APPEAL FOR MYANMAR

10 July 2008

Background

Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May, affecting some 2.4 million people and causing more devastation than any other natural disaster in the country's history. Tidal waves and 200 km/hour winds caused widespread human suffering and damage to all sectors throughout Yangon and the Ayeyarwady delta, Myanmar's rice bowl. Up to 800 000 people were displaced and over 130 000 recorded as dead or missing.

The cyclone struck major crop and fisheries production areas, devastating livelihoods and heightening the risk of food insecurity. Currently, 75 percent of farmers lack sufficient seed. Agricultural and livelihood support is increasingly time-sensitive as the main planting season nears its end in August.

The Myanmar Tropical Cyclone Nargis Flash Appeal was launched on 9 May 2008 to seek funding to support cyclone victims. With increased access by all humanitarian partners to assess cyclone-affected areas, the Appeal was revised on 10 July to reflect a more comprehensive account of needs and required funding. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the lead agency for the Agriculture Cluster in Myanmar.

Challenges facing food security and agriculture

Some 70 percent of Myanmar's population depend on agriculture-related activities for their livelihood and, for many, as a means to provide food to their families. Cyclone Nargis destroyed the productive assets of farmers, fishers and forest-dependent communities, leaving them with little or nothing with which to reconstruct their way of life.

Groups requiring immediate agricultural livelihood assistance include over 50 000 small-scale farming households and 91 000 landless rural households that depend on farm labour, backyard gardening, small livestock production and fisheries activities and aquaculture.

FAO and Government-led needs assessments reveal that over 783 000 hectares of rice paddy fields – more than 60 percent of paddy land in the affected area – were submerged and up to 85 percent of seed stocks destroyed.

The loss of power tillers and much-needed draught animals has stunted farmers' efforts to rapidly prepare their damaged fields in time. Present yield rates point to a reduction in the harvest of paddy rice, Myanmar's staple crop, by 550 000 tonnes. Damage to fisheries and aquaculture has affected the livelihoods of over 100 000 fishers, whose products constitute the most important component of the Myanmar diet second only to rice and thus a main source of essential nutrients.



Livestock purchased for distribution to FAO beneficiaries

With the loss of harvested crops and reduced rice yields, food security will be contingent on providing support to farming households in alternative crop strategies and rapidly restoring livestock-, fisheries- and forestry-based livelihoods.

FAO's response

Within the framework of the Revised Myanmar Tropical Cyclone Nargis Flash Appeal, FAO seeks **USD 33.5 million** to support Government efforts and the people of Myanmar to rapidly restore

livelihoods, food and fisheries production and self-reliance during this critical time. FAO has coordinated the overall requirements for the agriculture sector, which total USD 51 million under the Revised Appeal.



FAO's proposed activities include:

- providing paddy rice seed, summer crop seeds, fertilizer, draught animals, animal feed and equipment to **farmers**;
- distributing vegetable production kits, fruit tree seedlings, cash crop seeds and related tools for backyard garden production to **landless farmers**, with special focus on female-headed households, schoolchildren and orphans;
- providing **fishing communities** with essential fishing gear, boat repair and related tools, aquaculture supplies, and fish preservation and processing equipment;
- supporting **forest-dependent livelihoods** through seedling distribution and mangrove reforestation activities; and
- providing technical assistance and **coordination** support to maximize efforts and avoid operational gaps and duplication.





FAO'S COMPONENT OF THE REVISED MYANMAR TROPICAL CYCLONE NARGIS FLASH APPEAL 2008

Total funding required: USD 33.5 million

Project Title: Annual food crop production for small-scale farmers. (MM-08/A01-A)

Objectives: Restore crop production and food security of the most vulnerable cyclone-affected farmers.

Beneficiaries: 28 500 small-scale farmers, including 17 000 children and 5 700 women.

Implementing Partners: Community-based organizations (CBOs), NGOs, UN agencies, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Funds Requested: USD 14 998 978

FAO's proposed project "**Annual food crop production for small-scale farmers**" seeks to provide 28 500 small-scale farming households with the essential agricultural inputs they need in order to restore food production. Donor funding will enable FAO to equip these households with high-yielding and salt-tolerant varieties of paddy rice, fertilizer, summer crop seeds (maize, pulse seeds, oil crops), power tillers and various planting tools. The rapid distribution of these inputs will ensure that farmers do not miss the monsoon and summer planting seasons, which will also have a resonant impact on food availability within beneficiaries' communities.

Project Title: Vegetable production and fruit trees for landless households, schools/orphanages. (MM-08/A01-B)

Objectives: Restore fruit and vegetable production of landless households, schoolchildren and orphans in areas worst affected by the cyclone.

Beneficiaries: 14 000 landless households, including 8 000 children and 3 000 women.

Implementing Partners: CBOs, NGOs, UN agencies, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Funds Requested: USD 1 999 456

Landless rural households are among the hardest hit by Cyclone Nargis, which destroyed livelihood assets and income opportunities such as on-farm labour, backyard gardening, fishing and aquaculture activities, small livestock production and other off-farm activities. "**Vegetable production and fruit trees for landless households, schools/orphanages**" aims to restore livelihoods by replacing lost assets and providing alternative livelihood options to the most vulnerable and affected groups. With donor funding, FAO will provide fruit tree seedlings, vegetable production kits, pesticides, hand tools as well as training in improved horticultural production, household nutrition, and post-harvest handling and storage. Focus will be dedicated to newly rehabilitated schools and orphanages to enhance the nutritional status of vulnerable children.

Project Title: Emergency assistance to rice farmers through provision of draught animals. (MM-08/A02-A)

Objectives: Enable farmers to resume rice cultivation through the provision of draught animals and supplementary feeding.

Beneficiaries: 5 500 small-scale farmers, including 3 500 children and 1 000 women.

Implementing Partners: CBOs, NGOs, UN agencies, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Funds Requested: USD 1 999 119

Farmers in areas most impacted by Cyclone Nargis lost a total of 122 524 adult draught animals, on which they depend to cultivate their land for paddy rice planting. "**Emergency assistance to rice farmers through provision of draught animals**" aims to provide draught animals in pairs to 5 500 small-scale farmers. Project funds will also provide animal feed, harrows, ploughs, support to build animal shelter and vaccination and treatment of all animals. This emergency assistance will enable more farmers to prepare their fields in time for the upcoming planting season as well as future cultivations.

Project Title: Emergency vaccination, treatment and feeding of surviving animals. (MM-08/A02-B)

Objectives: Control animal diseases and maintain the productivity of surviving livestock.

Beneficiaries: 91 000 livestock farmers, including 54 500 children and 18 200 women.

Implementing Partners: CBOs, NGOs, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Funds Requested: USD 1 599 446

The animals that survived the cyclone endured high levels of stress and are undernourished, rendering them susceptible to disease outbreaks. The risk for diseases to spread is heightened by the lack of clean water, improper disposal of animals and disruption to veterinary services and vaccination campaigns. "**Emergency vaccination, treatment and feeding of surviving animals**" aims to supply animal feed and essential veterinary drugs, vaccines and equipment to livestock farmers in areas severely affected by Cyclone Nargis. The proposed vaccination campaign will decrease animal losses and greatly contribute to reducing the spread of disease. The food security and livelihoods of pastoralist households will be strengthened through the increased productivity of animals, which will lead to a surplus of animal products for sale.





FAO'S COMPONENT OF THE REVISED MYANMAR TROPICAL CYCLONE NARGIS FLASH APPEAL 2008

Total funding required: USD 33.5 million

Project Title: Emergency assistance to poor and landless families through provision of small ruminants, pigs and poultry. (MM-08/A02-C)

Objectives: Restore food security of landless farmers.

Beneficiaries: 12 000 farmers, including 7 200 children and 2 400 women.

Implementing Partners: CBOs, NGOs, UN agencies, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Funds Requested: USD 3 001 164

Many vulnerable households in cyclone-affected areas depend on the productivity of small ruminants, pigs and poultry to provide food for their families and generate income through the sale of surplus production. The destruction of these assets has wiped out vulnerable households' food production capacity and livelihoods, which are predominantly led by women. FAO's proposed project **"Emergency assistance to poor and landless families through provision of small ruminants, pigs and poultry"** seeks to provide pullets, ducks, piglets, small ruminants and feed to 12 000 households. Project activities will immediately boost food production and income generation, providing beneficiaries with eggs, meat and milk within a very short timeframe.

Project Title: Emergency supply of fishing gear, boat repair tools and fish processing implements, and aquaculture supplies to immediately restore food security for vulnerable fishers and fish farmers affected by Cyclone Nargis. (MM-08/A03)

Objectives: Provide basic inputs to restart production and processing activities.

Beneficiaries: 28 000 fishing households.

Implementing Partners: Department of fisheries, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries; CBOs, NGOs, UN Agencies (UNDP through the ICERP in 750 villages).

Funds Requested: USD 8 001 337

Communities in Ayeyarwady and Yangon that depend on fishing and aquaculture activities were severely affected by the cyclone. Some 100 000 households were directly impacted and an estimated 150 000 tonnes of fish production were lost. **"Emergency supply of fishing gear, boat repair tools and fish processing implements, and aquaculture supplies to immediately restore food security for vulnerable fishers and fish farmers affected by Cyclone Nargis"** aims to revive fisheries activities through providing technical support and replacing the lost gear and equipment necessary in order to rehabilitate the sector from catch, to processing to sale. Inputs include basic gear, aquaculture supplies (fingerlings, lime, fertilizers), boat building and repair tools, preservation and processing equipment, among others.

Project Title: Coordination of agricultural emergency and rehabilitation interventions. (MM-08/A04)

Objectives: Achieve coordination through the cluster approach in addressing emergency and rehabilitation needs to ensure lack of duplication, avoiding gaps and optimization of fund use for the benefit of beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries: Government, NGOs, UN agencies and beneficiaries.

Implementing Partners: NGOs, CBOs, UN agencies.

Funds Requested: USD 900 000

Response to Cyclone Nargis requires the support of numerous humanitarian partners. The coordination of efforts is key in order to maximize the impact of relief efforts and to efficiently reach communities most in need. The proposed activities of **"Coordination of agricultural emergency and rehabilitation interventions"** will foster a common approach and objectives among partners implementing agricultural relief actions. As the lead agency for agriculture, FAO's activities include preparation of an action plan, technical guidance and development of common tools for monitoring, assessments, data collection and analysis. These actions will improve knowledge on needs and operational gaps, maximize funding use and increase the impact of assistance on beneficiaries.

Project Title: Mangrove forest assessment rehabilitation through community participation for better livelihoods. (MM-08/A05)

Objectives: Support the participation of forest-dependent communities in the reforestation work to augment their income.

Beneficiaries: 500 000, including 300 000 children and 100 000 women.

Implementing Partners: Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry, Government of Myanmar; Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association; Mangrove Service Network; UNDP; JICA.

Funds Requested: USD 1 000 000

"Mangrove forest assessment rehabilitation through community participation for better livelihoods" seeks to restore the livelihoods of rural communities of the Ayeyarwady delta who depend on coastal forest resources. Mangrove reforestation and nursery raising activities will provide work and income to communities, potentially increase their access to additional products from the ecosystem and protect the area from future wave surges. Donor funding will enable 19 forest base camps to be rebuilt, 20 nurseries established with 50 000 mangrove seedlings and 10 000 hectares of forest enriched with trees. The wood salvaged by project efforts will be used to rehabilitate shelters. The formation of community-based organizations in 20 villages will strengthen community involvement in managing local resources.

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