

Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan



A report prepared by the Tripartite Core Group comprised of representatives of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations with the support of the Humanitarian and Development Community.



December 2008

FOREWORD

On 2 and 3 May 2008, Cyclone Nargis struck the delta coastal area of Myanmar before moving inland across the Ayeyarwady and southern Yangon Divisions. In the Delta, wind speeds reached 240 km/h, and the southern part of the Delta experienced a 3-4 metre high storm surge. Cyclone Nargis caused extensive loss of life and physical damage: an estimated 84,537 people died, another 53,836 went missing, and 33,754 suffered injuries. One-third of the estimated total population of 7.35 million people in the area impacted by the cyclone suffered severe losses.

To respond to the disaster, the Government worked closely with the international community to provide assistance to the affected families and communities. The Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 19 May 2008 established the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force for the Victims of Cyclone Nargis (AHTF). Following a successful ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference organized with the Government on 25 May 2008 in Yangon, the AHTF decided to form the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) consisting of the Myanmar Government, ASEAN, and the United Nations to coordinate relief efforts.

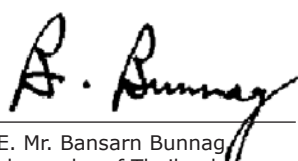
On 31 May 2008, the TCG commissioned a comprehensive assessment of the damage caused by the cyclone. The Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA), released on 21 July 2008, was based on extensive fieldwork carried out by experts from the Government, ASEAN and the United Nations. The assessment identified not only the damage caused by the cyclone, but also immediate needs which then guided the humanitarian and early recovery response in the following months. Later complemented by follow-up reviews and assessments, the PONJA report established an important baseline of information.

Since the cyclone, the Government and people of Myanmar together with the humanitarian community have made sustained efforts to help the communities of the Delta rebuild their lives. This Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP) now outlines a three-year strategy, from 2009 through 2011, for consolidating progress so far and promoting durable recovery in the affected areas.


Identifying overall objectives and specific targets for each of the eight key sectors, this report sets out a framework for assistance from the international community that is complementary to the Government's own reconstruction plans. It is by necessity indicative and the costing tentative, and is likely to be reviewed and updated during its first year. It provides a framework for a smooth transition from emergency relief and early recovery, towards medium and then longer term recovery. The PONREPP proposes a strategy that will be community-based and community-driven, while also strengthening aid coordination, management, and tracking to promote maximum aid effectiveness.

This report has been jointly prepared by the Government of the Union of Myanmar, the United Nations and the ASEAN, with the generous help of the humanitarian community that is working to bring relief and recovery to the victims of cyclone Nargis. The TCG greatly appreciates the contributions from all the partners in this important process.

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The Tripartite Core Group wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all those who made this Plan possible. Staff from international and local assistance organisations, Government ministries, ASEAN and donor agencies, all formed part of the Working Groups which developed the eight sector strategies that constitute the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan.

Special appreciation is extended to the people of the affected communities, whose experience over the last six months has guided the planning process. It is to the survivors of the cyclone, and paying tribute to their resilience and solidarity, that this document is dedicated.

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PREFACE

The damage caused by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008 was unprecedented in Myanmar. Indeed, the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) found the damage to be on a scale equal to that suffered by Aceh in Indonesia, one of the areas worst affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Cyclone Nargis left almost 140,000 people dead and missing in the Delta. An estimated 2.4 million people lost, partially or completely, their homes, livelihoods and community structures. They have courageously begun to rebuild their lives with the help of local communities, the Government, and the support of the international community.

As immediate humanitarian needs are increasingly met and early recovery is underway, the focus now gradually shifts towards the medium-term recovery and the re-establishment of safe and sustainable lives and livelihoods. The Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP) is a response to this progression, outlining an indicative three-year recovery plan which takes a people-centred approach of promoting productive lives, healthy lives, and protected lives. The PONREPP draws on the PONJA, the first Periodic Review of the cyclone-affected communities undertaken in October-November 2008, and the initial findings of the Social Impacts Monitoring study.

The PONREPP proposes a three-year medium-term recovery plan, from January 2009 through December 2011. In so doing, it recognizes the need for a gradual transition from emergency relief and early recovery (the basis of the UN Revised Appeal) toward medium-term recovery. The PONREPP was developed jointly by the international community, the ASEAN, and the Government of the Union of Myanmar, drawing to the greatest extent possible on the views and experiences of affected communities.

The PONREPP is by necessity only indicative. It proposes recovery strategies, and presents outcomes and the outputs that can achieve them across eight sectors, as well as implementation modalities. This gives interested parties an opportunity to consider concrete ways to support the recovery process in the Delta. As support becomes available for identified priority outcomes, many specific activities will need more detailed elaboration and PONREPP suggests processes and structures to this end.

Proposals are made in Chapter VI for an implementation architecture suited for the PONREPP, building on the good experience of the emergency phase but making adjustments so as to better adapt to the emerging recovery phase. The detailed elaboration of several key elements of this architecture will need thorough consultation with the concerned parties in early 2009 before their precise modalities can be formalised.

The close collaboration between the Government and the international community over the past six months has been vital to the relief and early recovery efforts. This document results from that collaboration, having been commissioned by the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) which has guided and facilitated the post-cyclone relief and recovery efforts, as well as promoting complementarity between the Government's reconstruction plan and the PONREPP. The international community has stressed the key role played by TCG and the need for a continued TCG mechanism to promote the successful implementation of PONREPP, which will accompany and support the affected communities of the Delta in the years of recovery that lie ahead.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AHTF	ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force for the Victims of Cyclone Nargis
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CHC	Child Rights Committees
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECD	Early Childhood Education
HH	Household
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
DMH	Department for Meteorology and Hydrology
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
MIMU	Myanmar Information Management Unit
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
NCEA	National Commission for Environmental Affairs
NDPCC	Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PONJA	Post-Nargis Joint Assessment
PONREPP	Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan
RCC	Recovery Coordination Centre
PDC	Peace and Development Committees
PMU	Programme Management Unit
RF	Recovery Forum
RTF	Recovery Trust Fund
SHG	Self Help Groups

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