



World Food
Programme

Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

Programa
Mundial de
Alimentos

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي

The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

WFP Video News Release

20 June 2008

Myanmar

TRT 02:54

Lang. Burmese

0/00:25 Set San village, Bogale area 17 June 2008

WFP Puma helicopter delivers USAID donated water purification unit

Set San village: 3000 houses damaged or destroyed, 1300 people dead, 5,140 households, 26,060 beneficiaries. The water purification unit will be providing treated desalinated water for roughly 1600 people a day.

00:25/00:32 Bo Kone village 13 June 2008

aerials

00:32/01:12 Kaing Thaung village 13 June 2008

GV off loading WFP helicopter

GV of people watching operations

01:12/01:28

Aerial, helicopter taking off

01:28/01:38 Theik Pan Kone village 13 June 2008

Aerials

01:38/01:58

GV of off loading WFP helicopter (household goods/ medical gear)

GV distribution

GV of people

01:58/02:15 SOT: So Gi Ku

" I'm very depressed because two of my sons are dead, I'm very sad. One had finished high school and the other was in grade 10 "

02:15/02:18

WS helicopter on the ground

02:18/02:26 SOT: So Gi Ku

" my house was destroyed and we are trying to to rebuild it using wood that we find "

02:26/02:54

Destruction, damaged church, man picking up a broken bike in the dirt
three women looking into the camera.

END

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WFP News Release

20 June 2008

URGENT FUNDING NEEDED FOR WFP HELICOPTERS TO ASSIST IN MYANMAR

YANGON – A critical shortage of funds for a helicopter operation providing essential logistical support to nearly 50 aid agencies is threatening the relief effort for 2.4 million survivors of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, the United Nations World Food Programme warned today.

“WFP is leading the way in moving life-saving supplies to distressed communities by boat, truck and air – but it will all grind to a halt by the end of this month unless we get additional funding now,” said Chris Kaye, WFP Country Director for Myanmar.

To date, only just over half of the US\$50 million required for the logistical operation has been secured and much of this money has already been spent on barges, boats, rivercraft and basic infrastructure needed to reach cyclone survivors in remote, hard-hit villages across the Irrawaddy Delta. The devastation means that the only way of bringing relief to the survivors is by air and waterborne craft which are expensive to contract and run.

The helicopters – now using additional slings to deliver water purification units and tanks to villages and communities in the Delta – have been able to provide more relief items to people living in the worst affected areas.

“The helicopters have reached several villages which had received no help at all during the six weeks since the Cyclone struck,” said Kaye, adding that WFP relies mainly on boats and rivercraft for delivering most of the food and humanitarian assistance.

WFP’s emergency operation to provide food assistance to 750,000 people in Myanmar is also struggling for funds, after receiving only 45 percent of the US\$69.5 million required. Currently there is only sufficient funding to provide one month’s ration of rice (one of five items in the food basket) to 750,000 people. To date, a total of 676,000 people in the Delta have received food assistance from WFP.

Overall, since the first helicopter began its rotations on 2 June, 60 locations in the Delta have been reached. Yesterday, helicopter flights reached Ngapudaw Island on the west coast of the Delta region, to settlements accessible only by sea-going vessels approaching from the west.

Besides WFP-supplied food, consisting mostly of high-energy biscuits and rice, helicopter flights have delivered aid for UNICEF, CARE and Merlin that have included shelter materials water purification units and hygiene kits. Medical teams supported by Merlin have also been flown to remote village where they have been able to provide emergency clinics.



Additional flights have deployed teams of humanitarian workers currently undertaking the joint UN-ASEAN and Government of Myanmar Assessment of Cyclone Nargis's damage across the Delta.

The helicopters have also carried out two medical evacuations of Delta inhabitants, including airlifting a small child suffering from serious dengue fever from Bogale to Yangon.

"These helicopters show how the UN can bring immediate help to the people of Myanmar," said Erika Joergensen, WFP Deputy Regional Director. "We appeal to donors to maintain their generosity towards WFP's emergency logistics and telecommunications operations, which our fellow humanitarian agencies depend on to save lives."

Following authorization by the Government of Myanmar on 16 May, WFP mobilised a fleet of 10 helicopters to help deliver food and other relief supplies to victims of Cyclone Nargis.

As the lead agency for logistics coordination and the supply of operational logistics capacity for the UN and non-governmental organisations working in Myanmar, WFP has received 59 percent of the US\$50.5 million it requires. Donations have been received from: UK (\$9.9 million); UN CERF, Common Funds and Agencies (\$4.2 million); Australia (\$3.7 million); European Commission (\$3.1 million); United States (\$4 million); Canada (\$2 million); Denmark (\$1.4 million); Norway (\$970,000); Finland (\$620,000).

WFP's emergency operation to provide food assistance to 755,000 people requires US\$69.5 million and has a current shortfall of 55 percent. Donors include: European Commission (\$7.8 million); UN CERF, Common Funds and Agencies (\$5 million); United States (\$3.4 million); Australia (\$2.8 million); Japan (\$2.5 million); Canada (\$2.7 million); Germany (\$1.6 million); Private donors (\$1.1 million); Switzerland (\$960,000); Italy (\$780,000) Spain (\$780,000); Finland (\$620,000); OPEC (\$500,000); Luxembourg (\$200,000); Greece (\$200,000) and Korea (\$100,000) and Lithuania (\$27,000).

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Recent video footage from Myanmar is available by contacting Jonathan Dumont in Rome on +39 06 6513 3152 (jonathan.dumont@wfp.org)

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency: this year, WFP plans to feed more than 90 million people in around 80 countries.

WFP now provides RSS feeds to help journalists keep up with the latest press releases, videos and photos as they are published on WFP.org. For more details see: <http://www.wfp.org/english/?n=999>.

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