

# Save the Children's Cyclone Nargis Relief Efforts for Children in Myanmar

## *Fact Sheet #19*



*Children at a child-friendly space  
created by Save the Children*

Save the Children has reached over 560,224 people following Cyclone Nargis, one of Myanmar's worst natural disasters in memory.

Save the Children has worked in Myanmar since 1995 under an agreement with the government and has approximately 700 staff in the country, almost all of whom are local nationals. These experienced aid workers are at the heart of our response; they are working nonstop to reach those in dire need – distributing food, water purification tablets, plastic sheeting for shelter and protection, oral rehydration salts and kitchen equipment to families whose homes have been destroyed. Their understanding of the country and ability to travel reasonably freely in the affected areas, where we have permission to operate, enables Save the Children to continue to procure and deliver relief supplies locally. We are also receiving materials through incoming flights whose cargo is consigned to Save the Children.

With many children having been separated from their families during the May 3 storm, which killed an estimated 84,500 people, or during families' migration to find assistance, Save the Children also is registering separated children. To date, we have been able to reunite 44 children with their families.

Although hundreds of thousands of survivors are receiving some aid, more international flights are arriving and the Government of Myanmar is allowing more international and UN access to devastated areas, the need for essential relief remains extremely urgent. The UN estimates that aid still has not reached nearly half of those affected.

Save the Children is concentrating its efforts in townships near the city of Yangon and also in the Western and Eastern Irrawaddy Delta regions. We are seeking \$28 million to support both our immediate relief and, as conditions and children's most urgent needs are met, longer-term recovery initiatives in education, child protection, livelihoods, health and nutrition and water and sanitation.

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### **OUR RESPONSES: JUNE 27, 2008**

#### **Food and Non-food Relief**

- Save the Children has provided relief to over 560,224 children and adults in 14 of the 15 most affected townships in Yangon and the Irrawaddy Delta divisions. We are distributing food, water purification tablets, plastic sheeting for shelter and protection, oral rehydration salts and cooking and eating utensils.
- We have established an office and a warehouse in Mawlamyinegyn to help speed relief to families and children there.

- We have distributed 3,800 shelter kits, 4,022 hygiene kits, 37,896 water storage containers and 145,874 mosquito nets.
- In total, 419,597 yards of plastic sheeting material have been provided to families.

### **Water and Sanitation**

- We have distributed 22,986 gallons of drinking water in the Yangon and Western delta areas.
- 180 latrines have been constructed at shelters in Myangmya to help prevent the spread of disease.

### **Health and Nutrition**

- Save the Children is operating two health clinics, which are treating some 300 children and adults daily; to date, we have provided health services for some 3,700 people.
- Recruited, trained and deployed six new medical doctors to work in the existing mobile health clinics.

### **Child Protection**

- Save the Children and UNICEF are leading a child protection effort. To date, we have established 46 child-friendly spaces, reaching 3,000 children across the region, so that displaced girls and boys have access to safe play and structured activities.
- Save the Children has reunited 44 separated children in Myaungmya with their families; we have registered some 621 other girls and boys who are not with their families.

### **Education**

- In Yangon, Save the Children has set up 46 temporary schools benefiting 7,200 children and 280 teachers..
- We have repaired over 400 schools.
- Distributed essential school supplies including student kits and corporative game boxes to over 90,000 children.



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