



## TRIPARTITE CORE GROUP

(ASEAN, Government of the Union of Myanmar, United Nations)

### **20<sup>th</sup> Press Release of the Tripartite Core Group The Tripartite Core Group sends off Assessment Teams for the second Periodic Review Yangon, Myanmar, 7 May 2009**

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Passing one year since Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar, the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) is conducting a second Periodic Review, monitoring humanitarian needs at the household level in Ayeyawardy and Yangon Divisions. Today, the TCG sent Assessment Teams to the affected areas to collect data on the current situation.

The teams, comprising 95 people from 15 organisations including government ministries, ASEAN, UN, and international and local NGOs, were deployed to 102 communities in 30 townships. For the next three weeks, the teams will interview household members, in order to review the degree to which humanitarian relief and recovery efforts have succeeded in meeting the needs of people who got their homes and communities destroyed by the Cyclone.

Further, the data will provide valuable information for all humanitarian actors on the ground, in planning further assistance and coordination of efforts across sectors and between international and domestic actors. The report is expected to be published by the end of July 2009.

Thanking the teams for their dedication, Chairman of the TCG and Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board in Myanmar, U Kyaw Thu said, "The work of the Assessment team is commendable. They will keep us better informed of the situation on the grounds as well as people's needs. The result will be crucial for stakeholders in their decision making to help the affected population."

"While gathering important information which will assist our strategic decision making, the exercise of the Periodic Review also strengthens capacity-building of Myanmar people, particularly via the participation of local enumerators," said senior ASEAN member of the TCG and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Bansarn Bunnag.

The previous Periodic Review highlighted that children in some areas suffered from malnourishment, medicines were not always available at local health clinics, and that livelihoods was severely disrupted in many areas, to mention some of the findings.

"We look forward to getting a new comprehensive snapshot of communities' needs. This information contributes to direct our continuous efforts in supporting the people in the most efficient and effective way," said UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Bishow Parajuli.

2.4 million people were severely affected when Cyclone Nargis struck on 2 and 3 May last year. While the relief and early recovery efforts in the first year have been substantial, much more needs to be done to support all the affected people to resume their livelihoods and increase their socio-economical standards. The TCG has estimated the cost of the recovery needs for the next three years at US\$ 691 million dollars.

*The first Periodic Review can be found at <http://www.aseansec.org/22120.htm> and <http://yangon.unic.org>*

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*Note:*

*The Tripartite Core Group (TCG) was officially established on 31 May 2008. It comprises high-level representatives from the United Nations, Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.*