



TRIPARTITE CORE GROUP

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

Press Release

Pressing Need for Recovery Support in the Delta Yangon, Myanmar, 30 March 2009

People affected by Cyclone Nargis need substantial support to fully restore their lives. The Tripartite Core Group, comprising the Government of the Union of Myanmar, ASEAN and UN, appeals to the international community to continue supporting early- and medium-term recovery efforts. The efforts required are described in the three-year Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP) with an estimated cost of US\$ 691 million.

“Although much work has been done to restore the cyclone affected communities, great needs remain. A rapid provision of funds at this juncture will help strengthen the positive gains made over the last ten months,” said the TCG Chairman and Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board of Myanmar, U Kyaw Thu.

The funding shortfall for urgent needs in the shelter and agriculture sectors since the Revised Appeal launched in July last year needs to be addressed to cover pre-monsoon priority needs, while the planned PONREPP funding and recovery activities await financing for medium-term assistance in these areas.

“With the onset of the monsoon season only four weeks away, the needs for necessary fund are immediate, particularly in the sectors of shelter and agriculture,” said Senior ASEAN member of the TCG and Thailand’s Ambassador to Myanmar, H. E. Mr. Bansarn Bunnag.

Almost 800,000 houses were destroyed or damaged by the cyclone, according to the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA). More than a hundred thousand families remain in vulnerable shelter which provides only minimal protection from the possible severe weather conditions. It remains a great need to restock small animals, poultry and draught animals, essential to the livelihoods of many vulnerable landless households. Further assistance to farmers will help restore full production potential, revitalise the local economy and revive the numerous Delta livelihoods based on or related to agriculture. Improving access to education particularly for girls, as well as improving the quality of health facilities, food security and livelihoods activities are other examples of areas that need support, as suggested in the PONREPP.

“Experience from natural disasters of similar scale of destruction has shown that recovery support will be required for years to come. It is not until now, that the recovery efforts after the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami may begin to phase out,” said the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Bishow Parajuli, adding that the UN is arranging another donor meeting in Yangon next week.

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