

EMERGENCY TASK FORCE TELECONFERENCE
Note for the Record
Myanmar Cyclone Nargis – June 19, 2008, 11:00 Rome

Chair: Erika Joergensen, Deputy Regional Director, OMB

Participants:

Yangon- Chris Kaye, Hakan Tongul, Matthew Hollingworth, Sakhorn Boongullaya, Philippe Martou, Betty Ka.

Bangkok- Erika Joergensen, Tony Tyrrell, Paul Wyatt, Mike Fletcher, Jack Keulemans, Wendy Bigham, Motohiro Ogita, Yasuyuki Misawa, Mike Whiting, Brian Isbell, Paul Risley, Parichat Buranatanit, Leslie Elliott.

Rome- Stephen Anderson, Christine Grignon, Gerald Bourke, Jakob Kern, Caroline Hurford, Natasha Scripture, Anton Bilaver, Alastair Cook, Sune Kent, Nelli Jensen, Alison Aitken, Mario Leefland, Christophe Boutonnier, Mahfoud Bouhembel, Sabrina Izzi.

Next Meeting: Thursday June 26, 2008 at 11:00 Rome/ 15:30 Yangon/ 16:00 Bangkok

Amendment to last NFR (June 16, 2008)

Complete Bangkok participant list: Erika Joergensen, Tony Tyrrell, Paul Wyatt, Mike Fletcher, Bernard Kerblat, Aslam Awan, Jack Keulemans, Fetlework Asseged, Wendy Bigham, Kevin Howley, Eva Kristin Pedersen, Nora Poghosyan, Motohiro Ogita, Paul Risley, Sarah Rooney, Parichat Buranatanit, Leslie Elliott.

Situation Report from Yangon

- There are no new developments on the Guiding Principles, which continue to impede operations in Myanmar. CD underlined the need to make clear the lack of transparency in the way the guidelines were developed and how they negatively impact humanitarian activities on the ground.
- Concern was raised on the funding situations of both the EMOP and SO.

Logistics

- WFP has delivered more than 16,000 tons of food to affected areas.
- Helicopters have reached 60 locations with 197 rotations. Total 184 tons of food and 31 tons NFI delivered.
- Phase out plan for the logistics cluster was discussed at the IASC CT meeting in Yangon where participants /users were reminded that the project was scheduled to end in August. Willingness to assist different organizations in their preparations towards the new appeal was expressed during the meeting. Agencies were encouraged to ensure budgets under the Flash Appeal would be sufficient to cover logistics requirements over the next 6 months. Some of the equipment/assets under the logistics cluster (such as warehouses in the delta) could be loaned for the duration of the appeal to cluster users (including WFP).

- Adjustments are being made on the SO document based on Monday's PRC meeting. While the logistics side of the SO will phase out according to plan in August, the telecommunications component of the operation will be extended.
- CD stressed the importance of keeping the CO informed on decisions taking place in Bangkok, such as the utilization of materials; phase out of helicopters, etc.
- WFP was informed that helicopters could no longer stay at the Yangon airport; air assets will therefore be moved to the football field in Yangon tomorrow.

Procurement/Pipeline

- Country Office is still receiving consignments of oil, beans and salt.
- Pipeline is critical for both the EMOP and PRRO; in Northern Rakhine State (NRS) some 100,000 beneficiaries are not getting any food at present.
- With regard to local procurement, there is food in the local market and suppliers have indicated that they would sell to WFP if they were allowed (overall requirement for rice under the EMOP is 50,000 tons, which is not an unreasonable amount).
- Thai salt supplier made a mistake in the offer price which will be double that originally anticipated; shipment can be bought from Pakistan at a slightly lower price with approximately the same transit time.
- OMB currently looking at rice purchases in Thailand (5,000 tons for the EMOP and 5,000 tons for the PRRO); while reviewing other options and discussing next steps with the CO.

Programme

Cash Project

- Cash programme will be raised at the TCG tomorrow, June 20 by the Singaporean Ambassador. CO wishes to restart the activity as soon as possible.
- UNDP is concerned that their small grant programme will be shut down, which would mean the end of their work in Myanmar as it is all based on micro-financing.

Revised Appeal

- Document will be submitted to OCHA on Monday, June 23. Launch of the new appeal is planned on July 3 in Geneva; CD is planning to attend.

Donor Relations

- USA US\$3 million donation (SO) is in the forecast but not yet confirmed.
- CO advised to liaise with the Japanese Embassy in Yangon regarding possible funding.

- USA Senator John McCain's wife will visit the UN Staging Area and be briefed by WFP staff at Don Muang airport in Bangkok tomorrow.

Public Information

- Press release on the helicopters will be ready today; pending HQ approval release can be issued early tomorrow. Mention of USA donation will be included if confirmed overnight.