



TRIPARTITE CORE GROUP

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

19th Press Release of the Tripartite Core Group One Year after Nargis: The Tripartite Core Group Continues to Support the Affected People

Yangon, Myanmar, 2 May 2009

One year on after Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, causing widespread destruction and taking nearly 140,000 lives, the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) calls for continued support to help all the 2.4 million severely affected people to fully recover.

In a visit to the Ayeyarwardy Delta today, and in observance of the one-year remembrance of Cyclone Nargis, the TCG made a donation of 70 fishing boats to villagers of Tha Htay Gone Village in Bogale Township. The TCG also inaugurated a newly reconstructed bridge which had collapsed in Tha Leik Gyi Village, Pyapone Township. UNICEF, in addition, made cash donations for the renovation of a primary school in Mae-Nyo village which was destroyed as a result of the Cyclone. The donation of boats and reconstruction of the bridge are a part of TCG projects in the townships, implemented by TCG partners and ASEAN volunteers, to recover the affected people's livelihoods. There was also a visit to Kyun Chaung and Kwin Kyar Taw Village, Kungyangon Township, where the TCG made cash donations to provide electricity to Kyun Chaung village and donated school furniture and inaugurated a playground and water tanks at a basic education primary school in Kwin Kyar Taw village.

Leading the visit was the Chairman of TCG and Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Myanmar, U Kyaw Thu, who was accompanied by the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, Dr SOEUNG Rathchavy; the Head of Operations/ASEAN Chief Technical Advisor and Special Envoy of the ASEAN Secretary-General for Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar, Dr William Sabandar; the Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, Mr Bansarn Bunnag; the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Myanmar, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Hamid Bin Pengiran Haji Mohamad Yassin; the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Bishow Parajuli; and senior members of the TCG.

"Although relief and recovery work has been actively carried out, the TCG is sparing no efforts to ensure that relief and recovery assistance continues to be extended to the people in need", said U Kyaw Thu.

The TCG and its partners of both national and international humanitarian organisations are currently implementing the three-year Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP), which aims to restore productive, healthy, and protected lives for the survivors of Cyclone Nargis.

"One year has passed and the TCG has done a remarkable job in facilitating the provision of relief assistance, thanks to the generous support from the whole international community," said Dr Rathchavy. "As we pay tribute to those who lost their lives due to the Cyclone, we must not forget the lives of those who survived. As we enter the recovery phase, ASEAN, the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations will need to strengthen the role of the TCG in helping the Nargis-affected people build back their lives better," she added.

The Revised Appeal launched by the UN on 10 July 2008, reflecting the relief and early recovery needs required for the first year, as of the end of April 2009 had garnered US\$ 315 million, or 66% of the US\$ 477 million requested, according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Services (FTS).

“To strive towards our goal of building back better, resources and contribution must be forthcoming,” said Ambassador Bunnag.

“Much work is still required to support people in their tremendous efforts to get fully back on their feet. There are enormous needs for sustainable shelter, drinking water, livelihoods and agriculture support, and other efforts,” said Bishow Parajuli.

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