



(ASEAN, Government of Myanmar, United Nations)

TRIPARTITE
CORE
GROUP
(TCG)

PRESS RELEASE

Funding is urgently needed in the Delta to ensure safe and clean schools for children 22-24 June 2009

The Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC) and Prime Minister General Thein Sein, visited Nargis-affected areas in the Ayeyarwady Delta to observe the progress and achievements of ongoing NDPCC's recovery activities. He was accompanied by the Chairman of the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) and Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu, other Ministers and relevant department heads.

During his visit, the Prime Minister and Chairman of NDPCC General Thein Sein and his entourage attended the handing over ceremony of 60 newly constructed schools in Nargis affected areas of Laputta and 43 newly constructed schools in Maw-la-myaing Kyun Township.

One year after the Nargis struck, the humanitarian community in Myanmar in cooperation with the Government of Myanmar has renovated and reopened more than 1,400 schools which were damaged during the Cyclone.

However, according to the PONJA report, more than 2,000 schools including primary schools, middle schools and high schools were either totally or partially damaged, and over 2,000 additional schools had their roofs blown off by Cyclone Nargis.

Chairman of the TCG, U Kyaw Thu said that "Although we have witnessed a great deal of progress in the ongoing recovery activities in the education sector; many more schools still need the international communities' support in repair and reconstruction. Some children are still having to learn under temporary shelters in the raining season and assistance from the international community is still urgently required for all children living in the Delta."

As we have entered the recovery phase, positive results in each sector are expected. However, preliminary findings of Periodic Review II indicated no improvement in terms of attendance rate among school children as compared to the result of Periodic Review I. This means that a lot remains to be done in the education sector and funding is crucial for positive changes.

After the recent donor meeting on Education in June, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Bishow Parajuli said that "The international community should increase its efforts, in cooperation with the Government of Myanmar and local organizations, to build back better all the destroyed schools with permanent structures to reduce the risk of possible future disasters." According to the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness plan (PONREPP), US\$ 157 million is needed for the Education sector for the next three years.