



MYANMAR CYCLONE Emergency Alert – Updated MAY 23, 2008

BACKGROUND

On May 2, 2008, Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar (Burma). This Category 3 cyclone carried wind speeds reaching 120 mph. The storm first struck in the Irrawady delta region, near Yangon, around 4 p.m. and brought with it an estimated 12-ft. tidal surge that wiped out most of the homes in the lower-lying regions.

The United Nations is reporting that 2.5 million people are in need of immediate assistance and the official death toll has climbed to almost 80,000 with more than 55,000 people still reported as missing. Government leaders have called for three days of mourning on behalf of the dead in the region.

On May 22, after meetings between the head of the U.N. and Myanmar's top generals, an agreement has been reached to allow aid workers access to the millions struggling to recover in the cyclone's aftermath. Aid efforts will likely be aggressive amid concerns of widespread disease outbreaks, lack of shelter, food, and access to clean water.

LWR AND PARTNERS RESPOND TO THE CRISIS

LWR is providing relief to the region through our international partners in the global aid alliance, Action by Churches Together (ACT) International. LWR has pledged an initial \$50,000 to ACT to aid in their response. Using pre-existing local partnerships LWR and ACT have already provided assistance to over 100,000 people on the ground by providing clean water, emergency food and non-food items. Relief efforts will increase as the region becomes more accessible to relief workers.

You can help by making a contribution to
LWR-Myanmar/Burma Cyclone fund.

LWR accepts gifts by phone at 1-800-LWR-LWR-2, online at lwr.org, or by mailing a check or money order to: **Lutheran World Relief—Myanmar/Burma Cyclone**, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832.

Your gift will be used for the Burma/Myanmar relief efforts until needs there are met. After that, further gifts will be used to help LWR respond where the need is greatest. Please also consider making an unrestricted donation which will enable LWR to respond quickly to the next emergency.

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility. LWR is a member of Action by Churches Together.



Children seek shelter inside a damaged school house in a village affected by Cyclone Nargis located near the Myanmar capital Yangon. REUTERS/ Stringer, courtesy www.alertnet.org



Residents stand beside their partially damaged houses in a storm devastated village near Pyapon, Myanmar. REUTERS/ Stringer, courtesy www.alertnet.org



A boy carries water at a village hit by Cyclone Nargis. REUTERS/ Stringer, courtesy www.alertnet.org

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