

MYANMAR



people without citizenship and advanced the participation of women and girls in community life. As a result, local education facilities added some 5,600 places and more than 26,600 people benefited from community centres.

- In south-eastern Myanmar, community-based water, health and education projects were implemented to alleviate conditions for 198,000 people affected by population movements.
- UNHCR procured and distributed shelter materials (tarpaulins and other roofing materials) to some 70,000 families, domestic items to some 75,000 families and food to about 9,000 families. Some 366 temporary houses were constructed by UNHCR for people affected by cyclone Nargis under the framework of the Tripartite Core Group composed of the Government, ASEAN and the UN.
- UNHCR acted as the lead of the shelter cluster for the initial phase of the Nargis emergency before handing over to the IFRC, and subsequently assumed the lead of the protection cluster.

Operational highlights

- More than 66,000 people without citizenship living in northern Rakhine State received Temporary Registration Certificates (TRCs) from the Government of Myanmar with UNHCR support.
- UNHCR assisted some 362,000 people in northern Rakhine State by strengthening health services, with a particular focus on malaria, tuberculosis and reproductive health.
- Also in northern Rakhine State, education and community projects promoted the integration of

Working environment

The referendum of May 2008 conducted by the Government of Myanmar led to the adoption of a new constitution. Following the referendum, it was announced that general elections would be held in 2010.

Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, severely affecting some 2.4 million people and leaving an estimated 140,000 dead or missing. The magnitude of the disaster led to an extensive national and international response, which was coordinated by a Tripartite Core Group comprising representatives of the Government,

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
IDPs		451,000 ¹	67,300	-	-
Stateless	Without citizenship	723,600	200,000	50	56
Total		1,174,600	267,300		

¹ Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

ASEAN and the UN. The Government facilitated humanitarian work in the Ayeyarwady Delta region by relaxing a number of restrictions. However, the overall working environment in Myanmar remains constrained, with limits imposed on the humanitarian community's scope for action.

Towards the end of 2008, the difficult conditions for people without citizenship in northern Rakhine State, amplified by food shortages, gave rise to more population movements out of the region.

| Achievements and impact |

● *Main objectives*

In 2008, UNHCR's objectives were to promote the rights and well-being of people without citizenship in northern Rakhine State by improving their legal status and treatment, promoting their integration into Myanmar society and improving their livelihoods. While the Office also remained prepared to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh and to assist returnees with their reintegration in northern Rakhine State, no returns occurred.

In northern Rakhine State, UNHCR worked to increase the participation of women and girls in family decisions affecting them and in community life in general. In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR's goals were to mitigate the vulnerability of people and communities affected by displacement and to identify and address humanitarian needs in affected communities.

● *Protection and solutions*

More than 725,000 people in northern Rakhine State, including returnees from Bangladesh, continue to face problems due to a lack of legal status. They experience an unequal application of local rules and procedures in registering births and in obtaining the necessary permits to marry, build a home and move freely. These limitations severely affect their ability to achieve sustainable livelihoods and to integrate fully into Myanmar society. The cumulative effect of these restrictions has increased the overall vulnerability of these people, and late 2008 saw an increase in the number of them moving out of the region. UNHCR was permitted to implement activities for the local authorities and the Office's protection and assistance interventions helped to mitigate more extensive population outflows.

UNHCR continued an effective dialogue with the authorities on issues affecting the population of northern Rakhine State. Sustained follow-up and support to the TRC project at the local level continued. As a result, in 2008 the authorities distributed more than 66,000 TRCs to people without citizenship. The TRC is currently the only individual documentation being issued to this population and it may in future be useful to confirm lawful residence in northern Rakhine State. Furthermore, TRC holders were entitled to vote in the May referendum.

In addition to the general difficulties faced by people without citizenship, women and adolescent girls are confronted by even greater limitations arising from traditional customs which impede their access to education and livelihoods. Community centres run by UNHCR provided a venue outside the home for women and girls to



UNHCR distributes blankets at a temporary shelter in Yangon, Myanmar after the cyclone disaster

learn new skills and develop their potential. The community centres offered courses in vocational training, Myanmar language, leadership and other community development activities.

● *Activities and assistance*

Community services: UNHCR maintained 29 community centres in northern Rakhine State which were used by more than 26,600 people. The centres particularly benefited women and girls who for cultural reasons would otherwise be largely confined to their homes. More than 12,000 women benefited from activities in the centres, including vocational training to promote their access to livelihoods; language, computer and leadership training; and health awareness-raising sessions.

In south-eastern Myanmar, 556 vulnerable families affected by flood and fire were assisted with domestic items. Training in early child care development was conducted in 56 villages, benefiting more than 4,500 people, mostly women.

Domestic needs and household support: While maintaining an emergency stockpile of non-food relief items to serve some 12,000 households, UNHCR distributed various items to some 75,000 households affected by cyclone Nargis. Additional items, like blankets for children suffering from malnutrition and others with special needs to cope with the cold season, were purchased and distributed in northern Rakhine State.

Education: Ten primary schools were constructed or rehabilitated in south-eastern Myanmar and in northern Rakhine State respectively, increasing the absorption capacity of local education facilities for more than 6,000 children. In northern Rakhine State, activities were undertaken to increase girls' and women's access to formal education (primary and post-primary) and to literacy education.

Food: In response to the emergency needs resulting from cyclone Nargis, UNHCR made two-week food rations (rice, bean, oil) available to 8,976 households (42,188 individuals) in accordance with the WFP standard of 2,100 kcal/day. No starvation-based mortality or severe malnutrition was reported among the almost 9,000 targeted households in the days following Nargis.

Health and nutrition: The lack of reliable data concerning health conditions in the areas of UNHCR operations makes it difficult to measure the impact of interventions on morbidity or mortality rates or other quantifiable indicators. However, there has been a clear improvement in the access of populations of concern to health services, especially in the form of increased opportunities for women to benefit from a range of health services and education in reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS.

In northern Rakhine State, UNHCR supported the training of midwives and traditional birth attendants, benefiting nearly 4,000 women who received ante- or post-natal care. Other activities aimed to improve health care services in relation to

malaria and tuberculosis, while a nutrition project screened more than 14,000 children, referring 850 to feeding centres. In south-eastern Myanmar, the construction of 10 health centres improved access to health-care for some 5,000 people affected by population movements.

Legal assistance: UNHCR provided assistance to people without citizenship in northern Rakhine State as well as people affected by population movements in south-eastern Myanmar, through its presence, monitoring, advocacy and assistance in individual cases. UNHCR's support helped to speed up the distribution of TRCs in 2008.

Operational support (to agencies): Operational support to implementing and operational partners enabled them to deliver agreed outputs without major delays.

Sanitation: Hygiene education for some 17,800 villagers in northern Rakhine State addressed the high risk of waterborne diseases.

Shelter and other infrastructure: In the south-east, 78 vulnerable families (widows or female-headed households) were assisted with shelters and 228 families were given materials to build latrines. Some 70,000 families affected by cyclone Nargis were assisted with temporary shelters, 366 houses were constructed for vulnerable households and village carpenters were provided training.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR maintained the logistical capacity to support its operation in northern Rakhine State as well as that of its operational partners. The Office operated twice-weekly trips between Sittwe and northern Rakhine State to facilitate travel in and out of the area. An emergency stockpile was assembled and maintained in Yangon, which provided emergency assistance to the survivors of cyclone Nargis. Transportation of relief materials to points of delivery was also arranged; at the start of the emergency a total of 491 metric tons was delivered by chartered aircraft.

Water: In south-east Myanmar, 25 water points/systems were constructed in health centres and schools and 17 in public places to benefit 18,450 persons of concern. A management and maintenance mechanism was established for each water point. In northern Rakhine State, 65 water points were constructed or rehabilitated to improve access to safe water for some 17,800 people.

● *Constraints*

The overall environment for humanitarian action in Myanmar remains challenging, particularly with regard to access to some areas in south-eastern Myanmar with populations affected by displacement.

| **Financial information** |

UNHCR covered 85 per cent of its operation in northern Rakhine State and south-eastern Myanmar with earmarked contributions.

The Delta emergency operation was also fully funded.



Organization and implementation

In 2008 UNHCR had a total of 76 Staff, including 10 international Staff, 49 national Staff, 16 national UNVs and one international UNV in two offices (Yangon and Maungdaw) and a field unit in Mawlamyine.

In addition UNHCR also had 12 national staff on Temporary Assistance and up to five international staff on emergency deployment for the operation in the Delta.

Working with others

UNHCR is the lead agency in northern Rakhine State coordinating a multi-sectoral assistance programme through which UN agencies and NGOs provide essential services to the population. In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR is developing working relations with the local authorities, gaining the trust of beneficiary communities and

establishing partnerships with NGOs. The Office chairs the population movement working group of the UN Country Team, which is a platform for regular and structured inter-agency cooperation. In the field, UNHCR shares an operational base in Mawlamyine with UNICEF.

Overall assessment

Although the distribution of TRCs to people without citizenship in northern Rakhine State was not completed in 2008, progress was made by the authorities in developing procedures to ensure that the issuance of TRCs is a continuous practice. Cooperation on this issue demonstrated that advances are possible when UNHCR's objectives correspond with those of the Government. Other areas of cooperation included projects on water, health and education to improve the living conditions of residents of northern Rakhine State and to address the particular vulnerabilities of women and adolescent girls. In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR was able to implement projects aimed at reducing the vulnerability of communities affected by population movements through projects in the areas of water, health, school construction and shelter.

Partners	
Implementing partners	
Government agencies:	Immigration and National Registration Department, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Government of Myanmar
NGOs:	<i>Malteser Hilfsdienst International</i> , Bridge Asia Japan, ACTED, <i>Action contre la Faim</i> , <i>Aide Médicale Internationale</i> , International HIV/AIDS Alliance, <i>Médecins sans Frontières</i> - Netherlands, Community and Family Services International, Myanmar Red Cross Society, <i>Welthungerhilfe</i>
Others:	UNV
Operational partners	
Government agencies:	Ministry of Progress of Border Area and National Races and Development Affairs
NGOs:	Care Myanmar, ICRC, <i>Groupe d'Echanges et de Recherches Technologiques</i> , International Organisation for Migration, Marie Stopes International, <i>Médecins sans Frontières</i> - Switzerland, Population Services International, Save the Children UK, World Concern, World Vision
Others:	FAO, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP/CDRT, WFP

Budget, income and expenditure in Myanmar (USD)					
	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	7,081,841	5,854,220	1,146,170	7,000,390	7,011,563
Tropical Cyclone Nargis SB	8,109,869	7,701,359	(15,598)	7,685,761	6,643,741
Avian and human influenza preparedness SB	90,000	0	86,550	86,550	86,550
Supplementary budget subtotal	8,199,869	7,701,359	70,952	7,772,311	6,730,291
Grand total	15,281,710	13,555,580	1,217,122	14,772,701	13,741,854

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Myanmar (USD)				
Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,313,642	493,462	1,807,104	0
Community services	223,226	0	223,226	36,690
Domestic needs and household support	89,993	2,071,625	2,161,618	0
Education	441,732	0	441,732	148,767
Food	0	93,506	93,506	0
Health and nutrition	847,487	0	847,487	388,849
Legal assistance	358,525	0	358,525	500
Operational support (to agencies)	253,184	9,424	262,608	49,872
Sanitation	14,932	59,758	74,690	28,504
Shelter and infrastructure	53,979	1,375,830	1,429,809	0
Transport and logistics	434,162	1,944,826	2,378,988	102,754
Water	382,530	67,509	450,039	115,907
Instalments to implementing partners	1,055,396	614,351	1,669,747	(871,843)
Subtotal operational activities	5,468,788	6,730,291	12,199,079	0
Programme support	1,542,775	0	1,542,775	0
Total expenditure	7,011,563	6,730,291	13,741,854	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(17,141)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	3,146,761	1,032,394	4,179,155	
Reporting received	(2,091,365)	(418,043)	(2,509,408)	
Balance	1,055,396	614,351	1,669,747	
Outstanding 1st January				1,007,685
Reporting received				(871,843)
Refunded to UNHCR				(135,842)
Currency adjustment				0
Outstanding 31st December				0