

Update Metta emergency response Nargis 15 MAY 2008, 2000 hrs

Thank you! Metta would like to thank all the support that it pouring in from our friends abroad. We are much encouraged by it, and it keeps us going in these difficult times. Many of you are asking us for proposals, but we are responding at the moment on the run, so please trust that we have competent people that are doing all they can, and meanwhile accept our updates you on the situation as it evolves, including the support we have provided and are planning to provide.

Metta has been present in the area since the aftermath of the tsunami, and this has enabled us to mount a quick response. In Yangon, the Program Director and Communication Officers are working day and night, supported by many volunteers with useful skills. We have been **able to mobilize local organizations and people from the area who can act there.** They are **supported by our staff and volunteers.** 6 ECCD teachers with ECCD program coordinator are also ready to run the kindergarten in the camps in Pathein. 3 Metta staff and 15 volunteers in Pathein as well. Laputta is now working with a team of 18. In Myaungmya, a team of 42 which includes 17 Metta staff, including an ECCD teacher, and many volunteers from churches, communities etc. A medical team has been working in Bogalay since Tuesday 07 May and two doctors are on their way to join them. In Pyin-hka-yaing Island where Metta was carrying out mangrove replantation, Metta is running a camp managed by 6 staff members. 3 out of 6 have received Disaster Management and Preparedness training from Oxfam Hong Kong. Here is a breakdown of the most current number of staff members and volunteers.

No.	Site	Staff	Volunteer	Total	Remark
1	Pathein	3	15	18	The volunteers are from the Po and Sagaw Karen Baptist Churches and local leaders.
2	Lapputa	3	15	18	Metta is setting up a new office here as of 14 May 2008.
3	Myaumya	17	~25	42	Metta has a coordination office here.
4	Bogalay, Pya Pon and Ma-u-bin	1	17	18	The volunteers include 1 medical doctor, 3 nurses and 3 nurse aids. We plan to send 2 more doctors 16 May 2008.
5	Pyin Kha Yai	6	~10	~16	The number of volunteers increases every day.
6	Kaing Thaung	2	10	12	Staff and volunteers from mangrove project personnel.
	TOTAL	32	~92	~124	

Breaking news

We would like to take this opportunity to bring the spot light to the **true heroes** of Metta's activities: the **community members** themselves! Without their tireless work, we would not have been able to reach as many people nor accomplish as much as we have. It is our privilege to **have worked with these communities since 2004 with the tsunami rehabilitation in the construction and development of 15 ECCD centers, 35 renovated schools, water and sanitation, and over 1,000 mangrove nurseries in the coastal and delta regions of Myanmar.** Because **Metta has had staff working in full cooperation on all levels from the beginning—from local authorities, community leaders and to individual villagers—we are able to help best by facilitating, coordinating and supporting *community initiatives* in their relief activities. The trust and relationships shared between Metta and its partners has enabled everyone to respond as quickly and efficiently as possible.** Each community is the catalyst that changes this overwhelming task into one of success!

There still is **so much to do** however. The delta areas have endured heavy rainfall for several days because of a newly forming cyclone that (luckily) dispersed this afternoon. The rains continue but at least it will not be accompanied by cyclone winds in the next few days. Although the survivors in the camps seem to be doing well, those who remain in the shattered villages still lack proper shelter.

Metta continues to locate more areas to assist. We have added two new locations to our current activities. In Pya Pon, Metta is trying to engage communities by delivering 100 bags of rice. The township has lost many lives, but the rice should be able to assist over 4,000 people living there. **Currently, 1,000 people are staying at a monastery and approximately 3,000 do not have access to proper shelter.** There are no relief camps in Pya Pon. We are planning to **provide plastic tarpaulin for them to construct makeshift tents soon.**

In the second new Metta site, Mau-u-bin which is between Yangon and Pathein, nearly 5,000 people have arrived with great need for mosquito nets. During the wet season, malaria, dengue and various vector-borne diseases are threats. The surviving population is spread out among the various relief camps and our team has already distributed 500 mosquito nets with plans to give 320 more in the coming days.

The rescue boats sent to search for survivors in the lowest part of Delta have arrived to Myaumya with 1,074 more people from the directly hit areas. They have been weakened with no food or water for several days and in great need for medication and food; Metta currently supports them with basic necessities.

As Metta expands its areas of operations and interventions according to the communities' need, we realize the **importance of organizing a global work plan.** The Yangon staff is currently finishing a budget plan that spans the 8-weeks of work (May 3rd to June 30th) for the immediate emergency activities. We will make it available to the public in coming days.

Latest situation and our response

Pathein

The originally 2 camps have surged to 5 camps as more and more survivors are located. Our field staff report that they are now assisting 4, 876 people (1, 774 women, 1, 177 children and 1, 925 men). At the newest camp, supplies are low so Metta in collaboration with the local authorities will provide 3 meals of rice and curry everyday to the 548 people (186 women, 97 children and 265 men) dwelling there for the next week.

The early childhood care and development (ECCD) activities continue, and we drew up a work plan with the help of local churches and experts in this field. The involved members agreed to create a child friendly center and assign two ECCD teachers to each camp. Human resources are low, so Metta staff and volunteers will give on-job training to community members in ECCD as well as provide teaching and learning materials for the centers. This also ensures sustainability as the volunteers can continue the activities independent of Metta. As part of the ECCD training, the 500+ orphans will have an assigned older person to look after them.

The table below indicates the status of survivors moving from remote areas into **Pathein** and being helped by Metta. The number rises day by day. By 16 May Thursday, Metta has helped 4, 876 people (1, 774 women, 1, 177 children and 1, 925 men).

Myaungmya

Pin-kha-yai, the isolated island that Metta extended its aid to a few days ago, has received rice, oil, salt, potatoes, onion, floor mats, blankets, mosquito nets and sarongs enough for the 41, 558 people living in the main Ngaputaw township and 5 smaller villages. We also provided 294,000 yards of tarp to shelter the families and stocked the medicines at the local hospital.

A total of 544 mosquito nets, 680 blankets, 964 underwear for women, 340 footwear for women, 192, footwear for men, 1,000 packages of porridges, 32,000 packages of milk power, 83 sarongs have been distributed to the survivors in Myaungmya and Pyin-hka-yai Island which covers 8115 people in total. In addition, two generators as well as 3 chain saws have been distributed to the Pyin-hka-yai and Pyinsalu respectively.

Laputta

The relief camps have leapt from 27 to 48, a number that prompted Metta to set up an office there to better assist the population. The office so far has three original Metta staff members and 15 dedicated community volunteers. We do not yet have the most recent figure of people in the camps, but have been attending the UN sectoral cluster meetings to collect and share information that can better assess the needs in the coming days. Metta has already provided 900 bags of rice to feed 10,000 of the 26,000 people in the 27 camps.

So far, Metta works on an immediate response basis, bringing supplies at the same time that we assess the communities' needs. Yesterday we distributed 500 rice bags to the lower parts of Laputta including the isolated Kaing Thaug, Ayar Daw, Aung Hlaing, Tit Poda and Thaug Lay villages.

There are several pressing needs that the Laputta beneficiaries face. With the unsanitary conditions of the food and water, many people have diarrhea and request more meds to treat this. They also need antibiotics. Tarpaulin is a sweeping necessity for building makeshift cover in for the monsoon season. Our teams also observed that the people are barefoot, so footwear is still a problem. We plan to mobilize these goods in the coming days.

The Metta team is also sponsoring a group of 6 vets in order to vaccinate and take care of the surviving animals. This is important because after the emergency assistance, the villagers will need to rebuild their livelihoods which depend on livestock. We are sponsoring the doctors with a mobile vet clinic with a boat and fuel to visit the affected Laputta areas.

Bogalay

In Bogalay, the medical team is established and now helping 4 villages. We now have 3 nurses, 3 nurse aids and 2 doctors (to join tomorrow). With the help of the community, we distributed enough water purification tablets for over 400 people and sent 2 patients from the camps to the Pya Pon hospital.

All the building and homes in Bogalay have been destroyed. The past days' heavy rains have provided drinking water, but the need for tarp and food is still extreme. The rain prevents the medical team from being as active, so they have been staying in one place to treat patients. Despite the setbacks, our Bogalay team managed to reach over 1,000 people in medical care and the distribution of tarp and food.

Thank you for remaining concerned about the Myanmar people affected by Cyclone Nargis!!

15 May 2008

Data collected by dedicated field staff
Report compiled by Seng Pan and Tien

Nargis Emergency Relief Fund: Donations Summary

No	Date	Source	Received	Secured	Pipeline	Currency	In-kind		
							Name	Amt	Details
1	6May	U Thaug Dan	10,000			MMK			
2	7May	Oxfam GB		10,000		USD			
3	7May	Glaxo Smithline					Medicine	1,600,000	Equivalent to MMK 1,600,000.00
4	8May	PSI					Water Guard	3 bottles (20 litres)	
5	8May	Acquaintances of Pre Collegiate Program	400			USD			
6	8May	Daw Myo Nwe & U Myo Lwin	50,000			MMK			
8	8May	Dr. Kabir & Family		500		USD			
9	8May	Novib		200,000		USD			
10	8May	Oxfam GB		10,000		USD			
11	8May	John & Nina Cassils for Radcliffe Foundation & CW Asia Fund CANADA		50,000		Canadian Dollars			CANADIAN FRIENDS
12	8May	Caritas Austria			100,000	Euro			
13	9May	PSI					Water Guard	5 bottles (20 litres)	
14	10May	Susanne Neheider		150		Euro			
				400		USD			
15	10May	Niki Mavridis		150		Euro			
16	10May	Xamthippi Zenvor		200		Euro			
17	10May	Regina Schmiegl		150		Euro			
18	11May	Manolis Mavridis		100		Euro			
19	11May	Niki Mavridis		100		Euro			
20	11May	Wolfgang H. Trost and friends		1,150		USD			
21	11May	Oxfam GB		100,000	300,000	USD			
22	12May	Friends from Chiang Mai	11,280,000			MMK			
23	12May	Olivier Vuigner and friends	700			USD			

24	12May	Spirit in Education Movement – Thailand		40,000		USD			
25	12May	Acquaintances of British Embassy	3,000			USD			
26	12May	Direct Relief International		20,000		USD			
27	12May	Daw Khin San Kyi					Shirt for women	235	Equivalent to MMK 164,500.00
28	13May	Friends from Chiang Mai	21,754,000			MMK			
29	13May	U Tint Hlaing Ohn					Clothing	1 bag	
30	13May	U Hla Tun					Clothing	1 bag	
31	13May	U Zaw Tint Wai					Clothing	1 bag	
32	14May	Mon Mon	200			USD			
33	14May	Mennonite Central Committee		35,000		USD			
34	14May	Dietrich W Botstiber Foundation		20,000		USD			
35	14May	Friends from Australia			1,000	USD			
36	14May	Australia Embassy – Yangon (Direct Aid Program)	2,844			USD			
37	14May	Julia Mayerhofer		800		USD			
38	15May	Kenan Institute Asia Staff	60			USD			
39	15May	Prockchol Siriamorn	20			USD			
40	15May	Rene Adrian	20			USD			
41	15May	Mika Itavoava & Family	500			USD			
42	15May	Windmann Family	100			Euro			
43	15May	Thomas Drexler & Family	200			Euro			
44	15May	Carmen Koening	200			Euro			
45	15May	Barbara Glanz-Baumann	200			Euro			
46	15May	Markus Meysner	200			Euro			
47	15May	Dieter Sch	100			Euro			
48	15May	Joachim Schulf	300			Euro			
49	15May	Wolfgang Trost	300			Euro			
50	15May	B Brown	30,000			Baht			
51	15May	Bangkok International Softball League	20,000			Baht			

52	15May	Kenan Institute Asia Staff	6,860			Baht			
53	15May	Individuals of the softball team	14,250			Baht			
54	15May	Ana Fananas Biescas	1,000			Baht			
55	15May	Daw Kai Ja	200,000			MMK			
56	16May	PSI					Water Guard	5 bottles (20 litres)	
57	16May	Christian Aid		100,000	400,000	USD			
58	16May	SwissAid		17,000		USD			
59	16May	Saint Ye Htet & Friends	900,000			MMK			