



Cyclone Nargis - Myanmar (Burma) - Bulletin No. 7

Background to our Cape Negrais Committee Relief Efforts - 22nd May, 2008

Within a matter of days following the devastation of Cyclone Nargis, the SPA/FMI Yoma Strategic Investments group took the decision to commit the group's broad range of resources to assist in the relief efforts of people in the stricken areas of the Delta Region.

We subsequently formed a small group of business organisations who could contribute complimentary expertise our relief efforts, both financial and human resources. These cover the immediate crisis facing the area; the ongoing medium term relief requirements for the rest of this year; and the long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation of the surviving communities. Our key operating strategy was formulated and agreed upon at the outset:

- To take full account of the exceptional environment we have to work in
- To establish immediate priorities for our relief efforts
- To assign key responsibilities of the Committee members.

A fundamental precept which will guide all the members is that in all relief efforts and initiatives we will ensure our absolute independence, and this we will not deviate from under any circumstances. This is a sine qua non for our credibility and the future success of our long-term efforts. We have taken on this immense task with responsibility for relief and reconstruction work some of the worst hit and most isolated parts of the Delta.

With a full appreciation of the long-term commitment of our relief and reconstruction work, each committee member pledged substantial funds to the program. In addition, we are providing volunteers from our group, for a total of 1,000 field team staff, who will be rotated in and out of the Delta on a two-week basis. Senior executives of SPA Myanmar man the Operations' Centre based in a suite of rooms at the group's Grand Meeyahta Executive Residence, and all the Committee members come for a coordination meeting at 2:00 pm every afternoon.

A bulletin goes out regularly updating donors around the world with progress on our relief teams' efforts, and on important events members of the Operations' Centre are involved in.





Cyclone Nargis – Myanmar (Burma) – Bulletin 007

Relief Program by “*Cape Negrais Committee*” 22 May 2008

These include assisting with clearing overseas aid cargo flights at Yangon International Airport these flights after which they are immediately trucked down to Pathein.

From Pathein materials and equipment are loaded onto river-boats at our jetty leased for the duration, and then shipped down to Hainggyi Island and Thingangone on Middle Island. The first materials sent down include shelters to establish four bases of operations, and medicines, food and materials to provide immediate relief to the surrounding Delta Villages in the area.

Our Cape Negrais Committee has been tasked with an independent responsibility for the immediate and ongoing relief efforts for three areas of the Delta where Cyclone Nargis first hit:

- Hainggyi Island off Cape Negrais on the Bay of Bengal
- Ngapudaw Township, an island in the Pathein River north of Middle Island
- Hlaing Bone Township to the east of Middle Island between Laputa and Bogole

These are among the hardest hit areas of the Ayeyarwaddy Division's Delta Region, a low-lying area estimated to be 700 sq. kilometers for from Ngapudaw down to Hainggyi Island, and a further 300 sq. kilometers surrounding Hlaing Bone. The whole 1,000 sq. kilometer area, accessible only by shallow-draft river boats or by helicopter, has an estimated population of 250,000 persons.

Cyclone Nargis made landfall on May 2nd 2008 in the Union of Myanmar in the Ayeyarwady Division at Cape Negrais on the Bay of Bengal at 18:30 hours. It struck Hainggyi Island with a wind speed of 121 m.p.h. Cyclone Nargis continued its path across middle Island through Labutta, Bogale, Kyaiklat, Yangon, and Thanatbin until May 3rd. 2008, when at 13:30 hrs its wind speed had diminished to an estimated speed of 58 mph and it continued eastwards towards Thailand.

Affected areas include the Ayeyawady, Yangon, and Bago East and West Divisions; and the Kayin and Mon States.

The region affected by the resulting floodwaters is believed to cover 9,748 square kilometers, with an affected population in excess of two and a half millions. International agencies report estimates of 150,000 to 200,000 deaths and many missing. Infrastructure damage; agricultural losses; livestock agricultural equipment losses are believed to be severe, especially in the low-lying areas of the Delta. Many of these rich rice-growing areas will miss at least the upcoming planting season.





Cyclone Nargis – Myanmar (Burma) – Bulletin 007

Relief Program by “*Cape Negrais Committee*” 22 May 2008

On the 11th of May our advance team, led Dr. Ye Moe Myint from Pun Hlaing International Hospital, reached Hainggyi Island, travelling by boat from Pathein all the way south via Ngapudaw to Hainggyi Island. Over the next three days the team met with survivors in Hainggyi Island and Middle Island, and surveyed severely damaged homes, hospitals, schools and other infrastructure, ending up in devastated village of Thingangone beside the water on Middle Island.

Based on Dr. Ye Moe Myint's and his team's assessments, four locations were chosen to establish bases of operations for our field relief teams, and from where mobile medical and relief units could reach all the other outlying villages in the area we are assisting:

- Thingangone Village on Middle Island

- Magyipin Village on Middle Island

- Hainggyi Island

- Kyonku Village on the west bank of the Pathein River

Since the Team's return, we have made significant strides in our mobilization and deployment in the field of our advance resources. We have established an effective working relationship with Save the Children, and built up trust and cooperation with other NGO's and organisations, including the Myanmar Red Cross. We have successfully assisted in clearing six international cargo flights through Yangon International Airport, dispatching the imported relief material and equipment down to our warehouses in Pathein, for onward daily shipments into the Delta to Thingangone.

Teams have been given specialized emergency relief training by overseas experts, both the medical teams dispatched, and the logistics teams, all of whom received trauma instruction from specialist doctors. Effective communications have been set up using CDMA telephones and Asus sub-note laptops and walkie-talkies with each team.

The river cruise ship Pandaw II, together with its crew and a medical team of doctors and nurses from Mercy Malaysia contracted by Save the Children is being towed downriver from Pyaw to the Delta to use as a mobile hospital ship.

The most urgent and immediate needs for our relief efforts in the Delta area include clean water; readily consumable food; temporary shelter; floor coverings; medical supplies; protective clothing; blankets and foot ware.

Many of these needed items can be sourced locally, and others will have to be imported





Cyclone Nargis – Myanmar (Burma) – Bulletin 007
Relief Program by “Cape Negrais Committee” 22 May 2008

where necessary. For this long-term commitment we will have to rely heavily on donations by all UN Organizations, International NGOs and the many private friends and concerned donors we will reach out to from around the world.

The Committee urgently needs the following support and assistance for these relief efforts:

- In donations to support our existing resources already deployed
- In specifically needed relief items from equipment to medical supplies
- In human resources, operations and administrative expenses

The Committee is willing to work with all organizations and is flexible to satisfy necessary protocol requirement for NGO's and donors.

For donations please go to our website at www.yomastrategic.com

In key alphabetical order, The Cape Negrais Committee Members are:

- Arr Yone Oo Co., Ltd.,
- First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd.,
- Serge Pun & Associates (Myanmar) Ltd.,
- Shwe Than Lwin Co., Ltd.,
- Tet Lann Co. Ltd.,
- Moe Kyae Sin Co., Ltd.,

