



Nargis Action Group Myanmar

[www.nargisaction.org](http://www.nargisaction.org)

Part of Myanmar Egress



### **Cyclone Nargis**

During the night from 02 to 03 May the Southern regions of Myanmar, one of the poorest countries in Asia, have been hit by a devastating cyclone called Nargis. The lives of approximately 10.4- 11.7 million people\* in Yangon and the Southern Delta regions have been affected by the cyclone. Many lives have been lost and a great number of people have been rendered homeless. In the most severely affected townships of the Ayeyarwady Division, UNDP assessment teams have indicated that urgent relief aid is needed. Food, clean water and temporary shelter need to be provided. Rice supplies are dwindling and the lack of clean drinking water is further compounding the already precarious health situation of many people. Water supplies have become brackish and are not treatable with standard water chlorination or purification technologies anymore. It is estimated that approximately 80 % of houses have collapsed in the severely affected regions, the remaining structures suffered less severe damage. In order to pick up their lives people need to be able to build up their homes and houses again. Financial resources for building materials are scarce and there is a great need to provide financial assistance for families to buy locally produced materials to have safe shelter. Together with your help we seek to provide immediate and long-term relief aid.

\*numbers of affected people according to unosat!

[http://unosat.web.cern.ch/unosat/freeproducts/Myanmar/CycloneNargis/UNOSAT\\_Myanmar\\_CycloneNargis\\_MO\\_DISFloods5May2008\\_Lowres\\_v1.pdf](http://unosat.web.cern.ch/unosat/freeproducts/Myanmar/CycloneNargis/UNOSAT_Myanmar_CycloneNargis_MO_DISFloods5May2008_Lowres_v1.pdf)

### **Background Nargis Action Group – Myanmar**

The Nargis Action Group Myanmar is part of Myanmar Egress, a Yangon-based capacity development center. Myanmar Egress is engaged in philanthropic activities in Myanmar and entertains close links with business communities in the country. Myanmar Egress wants to



facilitate “public-private partnerships”. Due to its close cooperation with the business community and the development sector Myanmar Egress has the capacity to mobilize large numbers of volunteers from within Myanmar and financial resources. Myanmar Egress’ work is recognised and supported by the government. Although the organization is based in Yangon, its big networks allow them to work in any other places in the country at any time.

### **Capacity of the Nargis Action Group - Myanmar**

Myanmar Egress and its partners obtained a permission from the government to participate in the immediate relief activities of the cyclone Nargis. They are authorised to provide assistance in four townships named Laputta, Bogeley, Phya pon, Ngapudaw. In order to be able to provide assistance as fast as possible Myanmar Egress is supported by four big business cooperation’s with their logistic expertise, infrastructural resources and existing networks. Currently the government employs restrictions on the relief works of NGO’s. According to its credo of public-private partnerships Myanmar Egress hopes to be the link between private resources and public needs.

The Nargis Action Group – Myanmar can call upon the help and support of 98 young volunteers and staff members of the business organizations involved. The volunteers are Myanmar Egress alumni and are active in various professional sectors. Myanmar Egress will identify the villages that most urgently need to receive assistance. Through village level leaders and local authorities’ food assistance, shelter materials, water purification tablets and other necessary items will be provided. With the support of Actionaid the volunteer teams will be trained and prepared to provide the best possible assistance.

### **Planned activities**

In the **1<sup>st</sup> phase** the **1<sup>st</sup> step** is to identify 100 target villages that will receive aid through the Nargis Action Group – Myanmar. This will be done through consultation with organisations who provide concurrent relief efforts currently in the same areas. The selected villages will decide through discussion in a **2<sup>nd</sup> step** which families have been hit the hardest. Criteria employed here will be evaluation of the poorest through the community, loss of primary wage earner and female-headed households. Once these steps are completed cyclone management teams will be formed for each village. **In a next step** it is estimated currently that 1500 vulnerable households will be able to receive 50kg bag/10 kg bag of rice, 1kg of beans, one bottle of edible oil and one package of salt.

**Furthermore**, the households will be assisted to establish transitional shelters. Locally available materials such as bamboo, bamboo mats, beetle nut timber and materials for thatch will be provided. 1000 households in 100 villages (20 households per village) will have access to improved shelter.

**At the same time**, in villages where water already is contaminated and people are not able to reside there any longer, Myanmar Egress will rescue those people by providing locally available boats and transporting the villagers to sheltered camps.

These activities have already started and are planned to continue during the next two months. The Nargis Action Group Myanmar is currently working on a long-term action support plan. Support for the affected communities will be necessary in the months to come.

## What did Nargis Action Group do already?



Training for volunteer helpers at Myanmar Egress

During the first 2 days it was difficult to get any data, as e-mails, internet, phonelines etc were mostly out of order. Soon many people came and asked where they could help and several experts were asked how to start and organize the help which is urgently needed. Some local organizations still have no

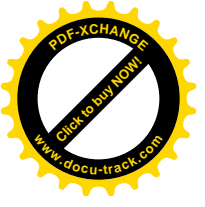
access to the severely damaged areas, but Nargis Action Group was able to collect and already sent goods to some areas. The volunteers got some introduction and training and also vaccinations were given to the helpers. On 11<sup>th</sup> May more experienced volunteers arrived from Kachin State.



The first delivery was successfully made on 7<sup>th</sup> May to Laydaungkan in Yangon Division to deliver drinking water and rice. On 10<sup>th</sup> May food and water was delivered to Pyapon in the Delta and the 3<sup>rd</sup> delivery will be sent to Myaungmya on the 11<sup>th</sup> May and so on... a lot of things are needed! Food, Water, Medicines, shelter for the people etc...







## MYANMAR PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!



### How can you help?

Myanmar Egress has been successful in mobilizing funds from private people and the business community in Myanmar to help the victims of the cyclone. Myanmar Egress plans to continue its relief activities in the future and is relying upon the support of donations to continue its work. We welcome any financial cash contributions and donations in kind (food, drinking water, medicine, temporary shelter materials etc) to support the affected communities in the Delta region. Unfortunately we are not able to accept any volunteer workers from outside Myanmar. We guarantee transparency and provide regular updates about donations received and resources spent.

### Where to transfer?

In the next few days 2 founding members will open bank accounts for this purpose only in Bangkok and Singapore.

As long as this has not happened donations can be made into the following account:

The account belongs to one of the founding members of Nargis Action Group:

Name of Beneficiary:	MM MID LAND PTE.LTD.
Address:	10 ANSON ROAD # 31-10 INTERNATIONAL PLAZA SINGAPORE 079903



Bank: OVERSEA-CHINESE BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED  
GROUP TRANSACTION BANKING  
65 CHULIA STREET  
# 09 - 00 OCBC CENTRE  
POST CODE 049513, PHONE - 1800 538 1111

CURRENT ACCOUNT - USD

ACCOUNT NO. 503005407301

SWIFT CODE OCBCOCBC

message or instruction: For Nargis Action Group!!!

Do not forget to mention this instruction!

And kindly let us know by e-mail the amount you transferred!

Thank you so much!



**The Myanmar Egress** is a non profit Organization founded by Myanmar scholars and social workers who have been actively involved in various civil society and political activities in Burma in the last fifteen years.

Myanmar Egress was set up in 2006 by a group of like-minded Myanmar nationalists committed to nation building through positive change in a progressive yet constructive collaboration and working relationship with the government and all interest groups, both local and foreign.

<http://www.myanmaregress.org>

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