

unhealthy toilets shared by hundreds

no access to clean water



### From the Executive Director

**T**he 20th century will be remembered for unprecedented technological advances, the acceleration of globalization and the increasing rate of urbanization across this planet. The closing years of the last century witnessed a slow but steady decline in the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, and several countries are now back on track to achieve universal primary education. Yet, despite these advances over a billion of the world's people remain without access to safe drinking water and over twice that number are denied access to adequate sanitation.

World leaders meeting at the Millennium Summit resolved to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Unquestionably, the commitment of policy-makers to translate these global goals into country- and city-level goals and targets will be a necessary first step. The goals may be global in character but they must be implemented locally, where people live and where shelter and services are required.

Strong political leadership and support from national governments will be needed to turn things around. A stable policy environment will be essential to attract fresh investment in water and sanitation. It will be equally important to put in place effective monitoring mechanisms that will allow the tracking of progress towards safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Anna Kajumulo Tibajuka  
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations  
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT  
(From *Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities*)

#### UN-HABITAT Myanmar

6th Floor, Traders Hotel, 223 Sule Pagoda Road  
Telephone: +95-1-242-828 (Ext. 7616-7617)  
Fax: c/o +95-1-242-800  
Email: [un.habitat.mya@gmail.com](mailto:un.habitat.mya@gmail.com)  
Yangon, Myanmar

#### UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific

ACROS Bldg. 8F, 1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810-0001 Japan  
Tel: +81-92-724-7121; Fax: +81-92-724-7124  
Email: [habitat.fukuoka@unhabitat.org](mailto:habitat.fukuoka@unhabitat.org)  
<http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org>

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MYANMAR

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## Community Water Supply and Sanitation Recovery Project Supported by the people of Japan

### Providing Access to Water and Sanitation

**C**yclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 May 2008, making landfall in the Ayeyarwady Division and directly hitting the capital city of Yangon. Forty townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyarwady Division are designated as disaster areas. It is also estimated that a total of 2.5 million people are affected. The main source of water for rural communities in the Delta is rainwater. Due to the damage done by Nargis, water shortages will continue in many areas and rain water collection and harvesting will be minimal due to the destruction of harvesting systems during Nargis. Ponds, wells and rainwater harvesting equipment were all destroyed along with the shelters which provided much off the catchment area (roofing). In addition to water shortage, most sanitation facilities were destroyed which have resulted in increasingly unhygienic sanitation practices. Since Nargis a range of humanitarian actors and the government have been attempting to meet emergency needs and repair damaged infrastructure. In the short term there are enormous challenges to be faced simultaneously. There continues to be enormous outstanding needs throughout the Delta in most cases only the most basic humanitarian needs have been met.

The goal of Community Water Supply and Sanitation Recovery Project, funded by the Government of Japan, is to improve the health of families in the Delta by providing access to safe water and sanitation facilities, while raising awareness of hygiene and health related issues. The main geographic focus of the project is Bogalay, Dedaye, Kungyangon, Pyapon (15 village tracts in each) and a secondary focus on Kyailat (15 village tracts). The project will work with 250 communities rebuilding water and sanitation infrastructure at community level including schools, village ponds, Deep Tube Wells, and at household level will provide improved access to water and sanitation. In the event of severe water shortage UN-HABITAT will support water distribution to 10 villages.

Critically, the project focuses on sustainable water cycle management with extensive rainwater harvesting at communal and household level. The design of the project has strong pro-poor components and is modeled on a decentralized approach with full engagement and capacity building of communities and cooperation with local authorities at township and sub-township level.

It takes half to one hour to queue up and use the toilet, so we still defecate in the river, insects climb our legs



### UN-HABITAT's Successful Experience

**U**N-HABITAT has eight years experience successfully implementing WASH programmes in Myanmar. The Community Water Supply and Sanitation (CWSS) Project was implemented 1994 - 2002 by UN-HABITAT engaged as the implementing agency for UNDP. The project focused in eleven townships within three zones namely Shan State, Dry zone and the Delta.

The immediate objectives of CWSS project were to i) enhance capacity and skill of beneficiary community; ii) improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene; iii) support inter-sectoral service and facilities and reduce water related hazards; and iv) augment cost effective and appropriate solution to provide water and sanitation. The project was considerable success and provided a wealth of learning. During the project period, beginning 1994, the project installed 7,591 water supply installations, 6,973 sanitary installations and 1,125 community initiative support facilities (basic village infrastructure). 2,400 training sessions resulting in more than 18,000 trained community members.







Around the world, 2.6 billion people do not have clean and safe places for performing their bodily functions - they lack that basic necessity, a toilet

Tackling Global Crisis, IYS 2008

The Community Water Supply and Sanitation Recovery Project aims to improve the health of families in the Delta by providing access to safe water and sanitation facilities, while raising awareness of hygiene and health related issues

- Objectives**
- To improve water supply and sanitation services to 250 villages
  - To raise awareness of health and hygiene (H&H) practices in order to change existing practices
  - To collaborate with other agencies and donors for maximum impact and positive change in villages
  - To empower communities to take control of reconstruction in their villages
  - To empower women to adopt leadership roles in the community

## Coordination

The project will collaborate closely with other implementing agencies (UNDP and UNICEF) and the WASH cluster. Liaison with the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare, Relief & Reconstruction will also be undertaken. In order to maximize resource impact and minimize overlap and duplication of activities, the project will demonstrate flexibility and coordinate and cooperate with other implementing agencies to determine precise village level locations.

## Beneficiaries

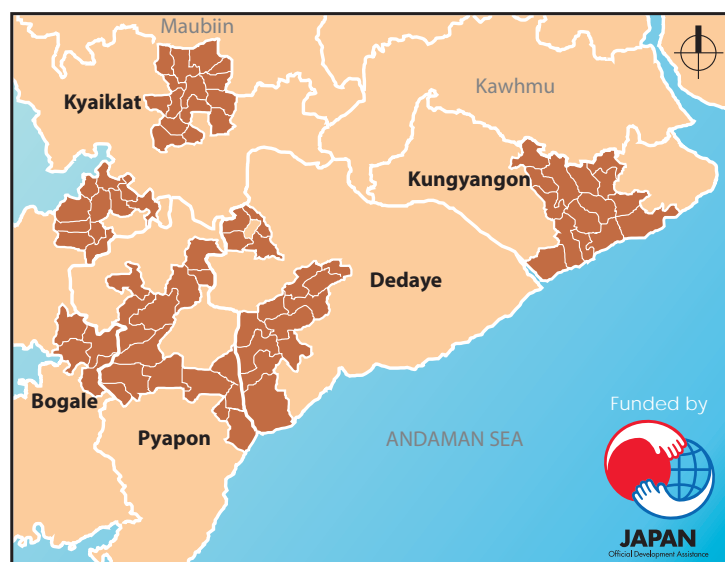
The project will reach 250 villages comprising some 150,000 people including more than 50,000 women and children. Individual inputs at a household level will be determined by a vulnerability assessment survey.

## Main Components of the Project

- 01** Construction of Riverside Jetties: Many villages have damaged jetties making life in general difficult for villages but also making access to water problematic for people travelling to those villages for water.
- 02** Construction of Small Bridges: Many villages are cut off from easy access to water supplies by small rivers and streams. Thirty appropriate locations are being identified for the construction of small bridges to ensure easy access to water.
- 03** Construction of Mini-Dams: Where technically feasible, 10 mini-dams will be constructed to improve water collection and distribution.
- 04** School Water and Sanitation Systems: One hundred schools will be fitted with high quality rain water collection equipment and large tanks up to 5,000 gallons. In addition 40 schools will have modern high quality water and sanitation systems in order to help educate children in the dangers of contamination of water supply through inappropriate sanitation 'systems'. The aim to change traditional behaviour and attitudes and thereby improve health standards.
- 05** Construction and Renovation of Village Ponds with Jetties: Where necessary new ponds are planned be constructed while in other locations renovation is still possible. In addition, jetties will be built to give appropriate access to the ponds and the ponds will be fenced and protected from animal intrusion.
- 06** Deep and Shallow Tube Wells: Depending on the geology of the area, deep or shallow tube wells will be constructed to increase supply. Innovative alternative energy power systems will be used where appropriate with a preference for solar power generation.
- 07** Water Treatment Plants: Four water treatment plants will be installed in the primary townships. This is seen as an essential supplement to water supplies during the dry season.
- 08** Community Rain Water Collection Tanks: One hundred villages will be provided with high quality large community rain water tanks. These will range in size up to 5,000 gallons.
- 09** The project will purchase 5,000 Earthen Jars: This style of jar is preferred by villages and will meet their everyday needs. Many families lost all their jars in Nargis and have been able to replace very few. This will help reduce vulnerability of these families and reduce the need for emergency water provision and the purchasing of water.
- 10** Ceramic Water Filters: The project will purchase 2,000 ceramic water filters for 200 schools and more than 16,000 families. This is a practical intervention as water can become contaminated at any point in the water delivery mechanism. Filtering at the point of consumption is an effective response to ensure clean water provision.

## Project Area

5 Townships — 75 Village Tracts — 250 Villages



## Implementing the People's Process

UN-HABITAT strongly promotes community led implementation programmes. Building on UNHABITAT's extensive experience with this methodology in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia and Myanmar, this project will be implemented through the establishment of Community Development Councils (CDCs) through a Community Contracting modality. UNHABITAT plays a strong advisory and support role to ensure that equity, quality, efficiency and financial transparency and accountability are maintained throughout the term of the project

### Community Development Councils (CDC)

After any major disaster it is of vital importance to revitalize social networks to help communities rebuild lost or diminished social capital. The first step in the implementation process is to mobilize the communities and get them to organize themselves into recognized community institutions in the form of Community Development Councils (CDC). Men, women and the most vulnerable in the community will be represented on the CDC. The CDC will meet regularly to articulate their needs and priorities within the given framework of assistance. The elected/nominated CDC will take responsibility for all WASH activities within the project. UN-HABITAT will support closely with technical assistance and oversight.

### Community Action Plan (CAP) Process

The CAP process begins after the establishment of the CDC in the selected settlements for rehabilitation. The CAP process utilizes a participatory methodology (or working arrangement) for a people-centered rehabilitation and development process, focusing on the following areas i) Identification and analysis of issues; ii) Identify solutions and priorities; iii) Identify strategies; iv) Select suitable strategies; v) Prepare action plans; and vi) Establish monitoring mechanisms.

### Identification and Categorization of Beneficiary Families

The effect of Nargis varies from village to village in terms of lives lost and property destroyed. Also individual's capacity to cope with the effects of Nargis varies due to a wide range of variables, including the economic status of the families. In order to take the most equitable approach to selecting beneficiaries some factors will be used as qualifying criteria where resources are insufficient for whole communities, then the CDC's themselves will discuss and decide on families to be included for assistance. UN-HABITAT will then re-verify the list to ensure fairness.

## Making it happen

advocacy and participatory planning



### training for local artisans and project facilitators



### hygiene awareness campaign



### Gender Issues

Community Development Council formation provides an ideal opportunity for women to engage, not just as participants, but also in community leadership roles. This can be a hugely positive component of post-disaster recovery. With quite simple training women can also acquire the skills necessary to monitor basic construction activities. The Community Action Planning approach, as practiced by UN-HABITAT, has a built-in mechanism to ensure that the needs and priorities of women and vulnerable groups are highlighted.

### Community Contracts

Project funds will be allocated to benefit communities immediately and directly, by providing grants in the form of Community Contracts. Physical works will be carried out by CDCs under the contracts, with technical input from UN-HABITAT. As the communities are responsible for carrying out the work under the contract, they take on ownership of the product which they create, and they take responsibility for the maintenance, the mechanism ensures that work will be carried out in accordance with acceptable standards of the community and principles of vulnerability reduction and Disaster Risk Reductions and the quality of the work is generally of a higher standard than the work of commercial contractors, as communities are undertaking the work for themselves and will not compromise on quality. This encourages local entrepreneurship, thereby regenerating the local economy and promoting skills transfers and family income earners to sustain the rehabilitation and reconstruction process.

### Monitoring and Accountability

The Community Monitoring System that UN-HABITAT is implementing in its programmes has been introduced to the CDCs and the progress of the project will be monitored accordingly. This will ensure full accountability to the community as well as provide feedback to UN-HABITAT, partners, the donor and the WASH cluster. Field monitoring by UN-HABITAT will be carried out on regular basis with technical guidance and recommendations.

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