



PRESS RELEASE

UN LENDS FULL SUPPORT FOR THAILAND FLOOD RESPONSE

Bangkok, 18 November 2011 - As Thailand experiences one of its worst floods in recent memory, the United Nations is lending its full support to assist the country recover from the disaster. The United Nations stands in solidarity with all those who have been affected by the floods.

Following a tour of the flood-affected area on 16 November, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said that he was shocked by the reality of the disaster.

“I have seen many areas of natural disasters but it is beyond any imagination and I would like to take this opportunity to express my most profound sympathy and condolences to all the people who have lost their beloved families, who have lost their properties.”

The United Nations has commended the Royal Thai Government’s quick response to the crisis, and praised the efforts of Thai civil society, local charities and the Thai people themselves in supporting the people affected by the flood.

The United Nations in Thailand is committed to working together with the Government and other organizations to help the country overcome and fully recover from this disaster. The Government has already welcomed contributions of many relief items from different UN agencies.

In the area of shelter and logistics, the UN is providing relief items to evacuation centres such as cooking stoves, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, generators and solar-powered lamps. Child friendly spaces are being set up in shelters for children to enjoy a safe place for recreation and receive psychosocial support. Boats, water pumps, life jackets and waterproof clothing are being provided to response workers.

To support the public health response, UN-supplied relief items include basic and emergency health kits and other medical equipment for use by mobile clinics and other health facilities. Information pamphlets on how people can protect their health during emergencies are also being distributed.

To improve the water, sanitation and hygiene situation and help prevent the spread of communicable diseases, the UN is providing items for water purification, alcohol hand-wash gel and garbage bags.

To support education, ‘school in a box’ kits are being distributed through the Ministry of Education to schools that have been severely damaged by the floods.

The United Nations has also been working to ensure that vulnerable groups such as women, children and migrants are protected and receive necessary assistance during this crisis.

Many of the estimated 700,000 migrant workers who work in the areas affected by the floods face challenges as they try to leave or remain in the country, or are struggling after losing their work permits and documentation.

The flooding has so far claimed 594 lives and affected an estimated 13.38 million people. Homes and livelihoods of many thousands of people have been lost as farmland and factories have been inundated and destroyed.

The United Nations stands in solidarity with all the people affected by the floods and is committed to ensuring that assistance is provided to all those who have been affected, without discrimination.

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