

Summary of UN flood relief operations in Thailand

The United Nations in Thailand is working in close collaboration with local and international partners to support the Royal Thai Government's flood relief efforts. The United Nations Secretary General has met with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and pledged the UN's full support to Thailand's complete rehabilitation and recovery. United Nations agencies have been working with national counterparts to identify gaps and the most urgent needs of the flood victims. Their findings are being used to inform and design emergency relief as well as short and long-term recovery efforts.

The UN system in Thailand is coordinating its relief efforts with the Foreign Assistance Coordination Centre (FACC). UN agencies are supporting the affected communities in areas such as shelter and logistics; public health; water sanitation and hygiene; education; the protection of vulnerable groups such as children and migrants; and long-term recovery. UN agencies are also responding to the government's indicated needs of immediate relief supplies. Some examples of UN support follow:

- **OCHA** has provided US\$100,000 to the Thai Red Cross Society to purchase over 1,500 cooking stoves, and nearly 7,000 gas cans. An additional budget allocation of US\$100,000 will provide immediate support to flood affected and displaced persons, mainly migrant workers, in Samut Sakhon province.
- **UNICEF** has earmarked US\$ 1.27 million for flood relief and post-flood recovery activities. UNICEF support so far includes the provision of more than 350,000 water, sanitation and hygiene items; 20,000 insecticide treated mosquito nets; support to "Child Friendly Spaces" at evacuation centres; 320,000 information pamphlets on how families can protect the health and well-being of children during floods and other emergencies; 2,500 "school in a box" kits for distribution by the Ministry of Education to more than 1,000 schools severely damaged by flooding; and psychosocial counselling support for children in flood-affected provinces.
- **IOM** has received \$1 million from USAID to deliver essential relief equipment including boats, motors, pumps, lifejackets, water purification units and generators. IOM is also assessing the urgent needs of migrant workers to ensure that they are included in the relief response.
- **UNHCR** has donated US\$50,000 to the Prime Minister's Office Disaster Victims' Assistance Fund, and 5,000 eco-friendly solar lamps worth US\$250,000 for people displaced by the floods.
- **WHO** has provided \$350,000 for the purchase of waterproof clothing, boats, life jackets and basic medical kits. WHO has also provided emergency health kits to the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) for use by mobile clinics and outreach health facilities; 100 digital sphygmomanometers for patients with chronic diseases; and 30 fogging machines for vector control. WHO technical advice and support are being provided to the MOPH on public health response management including assessments, vector control, and water quality management in flood situations. In addition, 100 vials of anti-venom for snakes not indigenous to Thailand and 80,000 Long Lasting Impregnated Nets (LLINs) have been provided.
- **UNFPA** is providing \$150,000 for the response efforts including 5,000 female hygiene kits distributed through MOPH and NGOs to affected communities including migrants. To ensure that the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health is included in health services, UNFPA has provided technical support to the Bureau of Reproductive Health, and Bureau of AIDS, TB, and STI of MOPH to conduct a rapid assessment on RH and HIV/GBV in the affected areas. In collaboration with Chulalongkorn University, UNFPA is contributing to a needs assessment of affected older persons in Ayutthaya to better respond to their requirements.
- **WFP** has utilised its procurement and logistics capabilities to immediately supply the Government with 120 outboard engines, through the use of the United Nations Response Depot in Subang, Malaysia. WFP can also provide mobile storage units, prefabricated offices, generators, diesel fuel kits, polypropylene bags, motorcycles, energy biscuits and water purification units.
- **UNDP** is working with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) on early recovery plans, allocating \$100,000 for international technical assistance.

- **ILO** has conducted an analysis on livelihoods and employment damages in flood-affected areas and mobilized resources for protecting migrant workers and ensuring their access to relief supplies. ILO is also providing early recovery assistance.
- **FAO** is launching a project to support livestock farmers in flood affected areas - initially with own funding of about US\$400 000, possibly to be supplemented later with donor funding. FAO will distribute animal feed and provide training for animal health/production and disaster preparedness. The project is based on the outcome of a rapid needs assessment in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.
- **UNESCO** is working with the Government to identify and restore damaged national monuments in the ancient capital of Ayutthaya, and is providing technical expertise in long-term recovery and future disaster prevention.