



Rebuilding Homes - Rebuilding Lives Coastal Settlements Support Programme (CSSP)

Re-asserting Responsibility through Support

The damage and destruction estimate following the impact of Cyclone Nargis was 752,000 households across the Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions; the housing sector, according to the Post Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA), represented 60% of the entire damage caused by the Cyclone. Nargis devastated over 23,206 households in the coastal township of Kungyangon, damage levels for Kungyangon were categorized as severely affected as per the Periodic Review (2008) exercise conducted by the TCG, with over 91% of all households in the area affected. Efforts by the humanitarian community and international agencies have addressed the needs of approximately 10,505 of these households through some kind of support, either by providing material support, cash grants or a small number of rebuilds. This still leaves a gap of 14,772 houses belonging to the most vulnerable families that are yet to be supported with any type of shelter assistance. Most agencies continue to operate in townships in the Delta whereas UN-Habitat and only a few other agencies operate in Kungyangon.

The Rebuilding Homes - Rebuilding Lives Coastal Settlements Support Programme CSSP with financial support from the New Zealand Government's International Aid and Development Programme (NZ Aid programme) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade aims to support the holistic resettlement of IDP communities in Kungyangon, who two years after Nargis had not received any shelter rehabilitation support: Kha Laut Tayar (185 HH), Pyi Taw Thar (164HH) and Taw Ku West (82 HH), representing a total of 431 households that require support. Some of these houses are cramped and have multiple families residing in them so the numbers of shelters requiring rebuilding became greater than the estimated 431. These families currently live in makeshift huts precariously constructed from weak, low quality and temporary materials such as bamboo, thatch from surrounding areas and tarpaulin roofing, further exposing them to risks in the event of future disasters. Many of these makeshift huts have been washed away by previous monsoons. All face acute water and sanitation problems and access to basic services continues to be an issue.

The rehabilitation and voluntary resettlement of these communities will have to be participatory and multidimensional as it has to address multiple issues of land tenure, shelter recovery, livelihoods and future disaster resilience to provide a sustainable and holistic solution for these people. UN-Habitat proposes to do this in two ways. Firstly, through building on her existing Settlements Support Programme in the Delta and Coastal areas (WASH, DRR, community infrastructure and livelihoods) to enable cost sharing, utilization of existing project capacities and providing complementary solutions. Secondly through utilization of the People's Process to enhance ownership of the resettlement process and facilitating more cohesive and empowered communities. UN-Habitat is currently operational in Kungyangon township with a field office and dedicated support staff successfully implementing major Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education (WASH), community infrastructure, DRR and livelihoods programmes. With the shelter project, shelter conditions of vulnerable IDP households will be improved through provision of shelter materials, rapid skills upgrading for safer building techniques, promotion of livelihoods through utilizing local construction skills; injection of cash into local economy through provision of livelihood opportunities for labourers, artisans, carpenters and masons.

The Kyaw Yin family used to live in farmlands quite some distance away from Taw Ku (West) village before the cyclone. Nargis struck and totally destroyed their home. Afraid to stay in the farmland in case it happened again, they moved to the border of Taw Ku (West), Pyi Taw Thar and Kha Laut Tayar villages. The proximity to the villages and roads gave them a sense of security should such a disaster strike again. Kyaw Yin works as a casual labourer and a seasonal fisherman to supplement his income of about 30 dollars a month (on a good month). Myint Myint Than, his young wife of 23 has two children she looks after, Thant Zaw Oo 4 years old and a newborn Pho Tar Yoke, just 1 year old. She wants to grow vegetables and make a home garden but has no skills nor the land to do so.

The family are now very happy at the prospect of relocating to Pyi Taw Thar location, which is land that has been secured by local township authority in partnership with the UN-Habitat land advisor interventions. Funding from New Zealand means that the family will have a new disaster resilient home to withstand the onslaught of monsoon storms, and some land area for a home garden.



UN-Habitat's shelter recovery project is designed to facilitate the communities rebuilding their own homes through a self-help approach: the People's Process. People can proactively participate in recovery while re-establishing community-based social protection measures; thus community capacity to plan and manage the recovery process is enhanced leading to sustained long-term development

Land Tenure for Resettlement Planning

UN-Habitat has been working with local authorities and partners to identify solutions for resettlement of and support to these IDP families. Field assessments were conducted with the UN-Habitat/UNHCR land advisor, representatives of the TCG and the Chairman of the TCG and Kungyangon Township Peace & Development Committee (TPDC); to review and address the issue of safely resettling these communities. The procedures for converting the specified Arable Land to Village Land were followed. To further complement this initiative, UN-Habitat field staff have carried out technical assessments on these areas and held consultations with village elders and existing village committees to facilitate engagement and buy in for the process. During the Community Action Planning (CAP) it was agreed by all stakeholders if UN-Habitat can provide them with the support to construct a new pond and drainage facilities, they will use the income to prepare land plots beside the village in order to relocate their homes. Consequently, the construction can commence immediately and cash will be injected into these communities within a matter of weeks. The WASH programme activities have begun prior to the house rehabilitation so that communities can immediately start generating income through cash for work. Meanwhile Community Action Planning as part of the People's Process will continue.

UN-Habitat in close consultation with the Regional Hub Office (RHO) of the RCC and TPDC has already acquired the legal documents for the transfer of land ownership to the village. The legal procedures required to ensure 'village title' for the land will ensure security of tenure for previously landless vulnerable IDP communities.

Proposed Interventions

A total number of 431 households will be direct beneficiaries of new disaster resilient shelters, secure tenure, with access to safe water, sanitation, cash for work opportunities and skill development.

- All 431 households will be provided with— a safe shelter, compact and strong
- The UN-Habitat DRR Programme DRP-CURB supported by Norway will provide training to over 100 carpenters/artisans/labourers on safe construction practices. Some of the participants selected will come from the IDP communities themselves increasing their capacities for generating livelihoods in future.
- The UN-Habitat WASH Programme CWSSR supported by Japan ODA will provide 431 ceramic jars with water filters for those who do not have safe water for household consumption, as well as 431 individual household latrines for sanitation. Additionally some of these communities will get ponds as a safe water source and rain water harvesting facilities.
- The UN-Habitat livelihoods programme CLAP supported by LIFT will provide drainage lines, bridges and roads where appropriate and needs have been prioritized to increase access to basic services.

Implementation Strategy

The guiding principles for UN-HABITAT's shelter recovery project are to:

- Concentrate resources and support for recovery operations at the level where access is difficult and to target those homeless/landless vulnerable families of IDP's living in deplorable conditions
- Utilize locally-available skills, expertise and institutional capabilities to implement shelter recovery projects, leading to livelihood opportunities
- Emphasize community driven approaches – People's Process in and management of recovery activities that enables direct injection of cash into local economy

People's Process

UN-Habitat Shelter Recovery project is implemented through the People's Process allowing affected people to rebuild their own homes with the financial and technical assistance provided by the project. All recovery projects are directly executed by UN-Habitat in affected areas through the People's Process by establishing Village Recovery Committees where members are beneficiaries themselves



Given that coastal communities are prone to hazards and the fact that the maximum number of deaths resulted due to a lack of safe shelters during Nargis, it is paramount to keep in mind the possible consequences should another cyclone make landfall in the region. The inaccessibility, poor communication and evacuation protocols further exacerbate the risks for coastal communities on the cyclone path



Home is not just a roof over one's head. It is a symbol of warmth, security and identity. No matter where we live, home is part of what we are

Need-driven Expected Outputs

- Local Tenure security and voluntary return and resettlements for landless vulnerable IDP survivors ensured. The process and mechanism of the resettlement demonstrated will be replicated through shelter cluster and TCG for their adoption to support similar villages and settlements
- IDP's supported with new disaster resilient and safer shelters and access to basic water and sanitation facilities for household and community consumption via providing communities with grants, and the organizational and technical guidance necessary to rebuild on their own. Provision of structural materials, labour cost for building basic shelter with DRR principles
- Improved production and use of local building materials and generation of livelihood opportunities through build back techniques transferred to local entrepreneurs, carpenters and craftsmen
- Improved Access Infrastructure facilities for the surrounding communities/villages
- Community empowered through community capacity to plan and managing the recovery process enhanced leading to sustained long-term development

The project will target vulnerable IDP groups, who are not capable of repairing or rebuilding their homes, and who do not have the legal status to inhabit any land nor access to livelihood opportunities. As a criterion for the beneficiary selection process during Community Action Planning of the Peoples Process, first priority will be given to women headed households, the elderly and differently-abled persons particularly those with no family members to support them. In addition, those who are rebuilding will be advised and assisted for voluntary relocation to those resettlement plots identified together with RHO and local authorities.

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