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EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TEAM (Burma)

PO Box 57, Mae Sot, Tak 63110, Thailand
email: eatburma@gmail.com, web: www.maetaoclinic.org

EAT-Burma Weekly Update
July 25, 2008

The EAT-Burma Weekly Update offers a brief report on the current relief and rehabilitation efforts of the EAT-Burma teams, highlighting any changes and developments to the situation inside the cyclone disaster zones and to the assistance being provided by EAT-Burma. The update is based on reports from EAT-Burma team members.

Continued Situation and Efforts

Several EAT-Burma relief areas are reporting that the majority of cyclone victims are still facing food problems, and urgent requests are still coming in for basic food supplies. There is also the continued call for farming, fishing, and salt production equipment as people seek to reestablish a household income, and regular food access.



Still needs food assistance

Although the government has repaired most buildings in the larger city centers, many buildings in the rural areas are still in disrepair, especially schools. And, if the buildings have been repaired it is only in a temporary fashion. The tarpaulin that has been used to repair the schools causes the building to get far too hot in the sunny weather, and is unsafe for the children.

Dead bodies are still piled together in stream areas, continuing to contaminate water supplies, and be a detriment to the mental and emotional health of villagers.

The larger city and towns continue to receive aid from other local and international organizations, but the rural villages are seeing less and less assistance from organizations other than EAT-Burma. Overall there is not a lot of stability in the cyclone affected areas as many victims are still moving from place to place, in an attempt to find aid, housing, and income generation.

Recent Developments

There have been both positive and negative developments in the rehabilitation efforts.



In many areas, farmers have not been able to successfully replant their fields. There have been problems with the seeds and the soil, preventing the seedlings from sprouting properly. The yields from the first replanting will be very low.

Unlike these regions that have been struggling with seeds and soil, in the Laputta township, where 3 EAT-Burma teams are

working to provide assistance to 13 villages, there has been strong developments in replanting crops. By the time of this report, 34 tractors have been supplied to the region, with over 700 acres plowed and reseeded, and seedling growth appearing quite successful. By the end of July it is anticipated that several other tractors will be purchased and the number of acres plowed will be over 1000.

The Laputta area is reporting no major disease outbreaks although there have been some recent deaths with no diagnosis made.

In the Myaung Mya township, one of the villages is suffering from an outbreak of dengue. One children has died, and 20 children have been transported to the nearest hospital. Unfortunately, not all of the affected children and adults have been able to go because transportation costs are too expensive from the village. The villagers fear that more deaths are to come.



The villagers rebuilding their lively-hood

Some teams are reporting fewer military checkpoints, and are finding it easier to pass through the still operating ones.

Team Leader, July 25, 2008

We submitted the tractors to community leader for common ownership and then everyone can use them. There is a committee set up for monitoring the use. There are only two tractors for the two villages. There is a person hired to run the tractor and plow the fields.