

Asia Regional Overview

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Update on Recent Asia Disasters (Pakistan, Philippines, Myanmar and Indonesia)

Pakistan

- Provided relief to 3 million people in August and more than 6 million in September. I believe WFP has met expectation, once again, in terms of quick scaling up in sudden onset emergency.
- Challenge is continuing. We are now entering a more complicated, though no less critical, stage in the emergency. WFP efforts over the coming months will form an integral part of rebuilding livelihoods, stimulating agricultural economies, and improving access to other socio-economic opportunities; through a range of **food and cash based** early recovery initiatives.
- In November, WFP plans to provide 1.3 million beneficiaries with continued relief assistance, 6 million with the 'return package' of assistance, and close to 500,000 with early recovery support; for a total planned caseload of up to 7.7 million.
- As majority of displaced people return to their places of origin, the degree of devastation is becoming clearer: whole villages need to be reconstructed and lands reconditioned and planted.
- The 'return package' of assistance will be extended to all returnee families; with not only food, but also with seeds and fertiliser distributed in collaboration with FAO.
- We should not forget, however, that flood is not the only cause of misery and food insecurity in Pakistan. WFP has been mindful of needs of IDPs and other conflict-affected groups in Pakistan's north-west; and has continued to provide relief assistance to more than 1.3 million individuals in October, on top of assistance to flood victims.

Since the Pakistan flood, Asia region has been repeatedly hit by series of natural disasters.

Philippines

Typhoon Megi

- Super Typhoon Megi (locally known as 'Juan') struck northern Luzon of the Philippines on 18 October.
- Over 2 million people were affected and damage to infra/houses, as well as food/cash crops is substantial.
- WFP's support complemented government's relief response. Over 100 tons of rice from WFP ongoing activities in the Philippines was distributed as relief.
- WFP also provided high energy biscuits, boats and generators for worst-affected and inaccessible areas.

Myanmar

Cyclone Giri

- WFP started providing immediate assistance under its existing PRRO operation and launched an IRA EMOP of US\$4.2 million to provide assistance to initially 100,000 people in the affected very poor Northwestern region of Myanmar. Just completed assessment, however tells us that we will need to increase the assistance to 200,000 people.
- In addition, a 3 month Special Operation (US\$2.3 million) was launched to augment logistics capacity of the humanitarian community and to set up offices and logistic hubs in 3 locations.

Indonesia

Then came, almost simultaneously, the eruption of Mt. Merapi and Tsunami in Mentawai Island of Indonesia.

Mount Merapi Volcano

- As many as 300,000 IDPs are scattered in numerous sites outside of 20 km radius around Mount Merapi. Sanitation, hygiene and health remain the main concerns, but Government's food response has been effective to date.
- WFP is present in the affected region and has been requested to assist in logistics support and possibly special food for children.

Mentawai Islands Earthquake/Tsunami

- A 7.7-magnitude earthquake hit Indonesia's coast on 25 October, triggering a tsunami and killing 431 people and displacing at least 15,000 people.
- After conducting assessments, WFP is providing High Energy Biscuits for children. In addition, the government's Disaster Management and Response Agency has asked WFP to provide logistics cluster support to establish humanitarian hubs for the efficient delivery of food and non-food items.
- WFP is also providing at least 4 mobile storage facilities in the affected areas.

Emergency Preparedness

Given the clear vulnerability of Asia region to major natural disaster our Bureau is keen to invest intensively in emergency preparedness and response capacity, specific to Asia Pacific.

Together with our own Logistics Division in HQ, we are finalizing a preparedness proposal for the Asia Pacific for a project that will establish three capabilities:

1. The deployment of a Regional Logistic Cluster Cell, based in HRD Subang. The objective is to be able to deploy and set up logistic cluster in all emergencies to quickly serve the overall humanitarian community in a common approach to responding to natural disasters in Asia.
2. A Training Capability, to carry out logistics and preparedness trainings, in particular for Government Disaster Management Agencies for national capacity building.
3. A disaster management exercise capacity (called Readiness Initiative) using a simulation technology (DeMist) developed by WFP Asia. We have already tested this in Indonesia and the Philippines, with involvement of the UN Country team as a whole.

Transition from PRRO to CP

Assure disciplined efforts ongoing in Asia, strictly following the new Programme Category guidance in terms of transition from PRRO to Country Programme.

Four countries will be in transition in 2011:

- Cambodia
- Laos
- Indonesia
- Timor-Leste