



Project Factsheet

Reconstruction School / Storm Shelters in the Cyclone Nargis affected Delta of Myanmar

The access to formal education in the Cyclone Nargis affected delta of Myanmar is restored through the provision of permanent Schools/Storm Shelter emphasizing on primary education and a “safe haven” for communities in case of natural disasters. By the end of the project (end of 2013), 42 schools/storm shelters will be constructed in rural areas complying with earthquake, flood and other disaster criteria taken into account.



Background

The tropical Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar in May 2, 2008 and devastated large parts of the low-lying Ayeyarwaddy Delta. It destroyed or damaged more than 2,000 schools and 90'000 lives were lost and 50'000 were missing. Additionally, 2.5 million people needed assistance. The Delta is an area, where most communities face seasonal food shortages. The increasing support provided by the humanitarian community to help rebuild social infrastructures such as schools, health and public service centres has benefitted many in need. However, the need of continued support to restore the formal education remains strong, as is SDC's efforts to improve livelihoods.

Project Objectives

The access to formal education is restored through the provision of permanent Schools/Storm Shelters emphasizing on primary education and as “safe haven” for communities in case of natural disasters.

Approach

The project combines disaster preparedness with the improvement of basic education facilities. The school/storm shelters are built on two floors: the veranda together with the classrooms on the first floor will serve as a safe haven for the communities when disaster strikes. The lower floor of the schools can be used for additional classrooms or community meetings. Each storm shelter is having an average capacity of

accommodating 700 to 1'000 people and is provided with a water supply system, including tanks and drinking water filters. Separate toilets are built for girls and boys with full consideration of privacy and cleanliness. Emphasis was made on active community involvement in order to create ownership. Several meetings with the village and school communities are held before, during and after the reconstruction in order to discuss schoolyard design, tree planting and waste disposal concepts, but also to train the community with respect to the maintenance of the infrastructure, disaster risk reduction, health and environment protection.

These activities ensure the long term sustainability of the project and create ownership.



Results

SDC Humanitarian Aid has built schools/storm shelters in the Cyclone Nargis affected Delta of Myanmar in addition to providing community training in disaster-risk reduction (DRR), environmental awareness and maintenance, as part of a combined response to the devastation left by Cyclone Nargis.



The first 35 school/storm shelters have been completed. Currently the last phase for the remaining 7 schools has started. By the end of the project (end of 2013), 42 schools/storm shelters will be constructed in rural areas with cyclone, flood and earthquake disaster criteria taken into account. These schools will provide a total of 133 classrooms and benefit 6'650 students minimum.

Teachers and school children appreciate the improved and safe learning environment. Surveys show that the school attendance rate remains at 30% to 50% in villages with no or only marginal infrastructure, while it stands at 90% if educational facilities are restored.

Project at a Glance

- Target Group: population of concern and vulnerable communities in affected villages, in particular school children for access to education and women for access to basic health services
- Duration of Project: 05/2009-12/2013
- Budget: total estimated CHF 10'600'000
- Implementing Partner: SDC –Humanitarian Aid direct implemented project
- Other Partners: Ministry of Social Welfare and Resettlement, Ministry of Basic Education, Europeaid, UNICEF