

1. PRE-EVENT

Myanmar (Burma) is a LIC, GDP per capita in 2008 \$1300

IMR 51/1000 LIFE EXPECTANCY 65 HDI 150/189

- Forecasting and monitoring poor but Indian and Thai agencies used satellite data to warn Myanmar
- Myanmar forecasters said little or no risk and cyclone changed course at last minute
- No emergency plans, no evacuation plans
- Limited community awareness or preparedness
- Irrawaddy delta very low lying and densely populated
- 2 million people living below 5 m, few concrete buildings
- defences poor, mangrove natural defence destroyed previously for economic development

3. RESCUE

- Rescue efforts were sluggish due to poor organisation, lack of trained manpower, poor infrastructure, destruction of infrastructure by the cyclone and the remote nature of the area
- The military regime was isolationist and did not allow information to get out of the area or the country
- Initial offers of help and aid were refused
- Aid workers were only let in 3 weeks after the event

5. REHABILITATION

- Much of the recovery has depended on aid from abroad and has been very slow
- UNICEF have helped in the longer term by addressing problems affecting women and children
- The World Vision programme has helped locals by supplying water purification tablets to improve sanitation and hygiene and prevent cholera and typhoid
- Wells have been re-established, schools rebuilt
- It was 2 years before there was a decent harvest but gradually farmland and fisheries are being restored
- Vulnerability is being reduced, early warning systems put in place and community preparedness improved such as first aid programmes

QUALITY OF LIFE

TIME

2. DISASTER EVENT

- Saffir-Simpson category 4 at landfall
- storm surge 7.6 m, winds >217 km/hr, heavy rainfall
- **Social impact** : 140,000 deaths, 450,000 homes lost
- 1700 schools destroyed, 95% of all building in delta destroyed, 2-3 million homeless
- 75% of all health facilities in delta destroyed, disease
- **Economic impact** : Surge reached 40-50 km inland
- 'Rice Bowl' main food production lost
- livelihoods lost, 200,000 farm animals killed
- **Environmental impact** : Coastal habitats and mangrove lost
- Salinity of soils up, fertility and productivity down

4. RELIEF

- An Emergency Committee was set up to coordinate relief, but in the early stages was disorganised
- Some aid from the UN and other countries was blocked
- Aid was later authorised for Italy and the Red Cross and Red Crescent were allowed in
- After 2 weeks however aid had only reached 25% of the survivors, and a significant time later 1/2 million survivors were still in temporary accommodation
- Destruction of the rice harvest and a shortage of rice seeds along with polluted fields meant that food aid was required for a few years

PARK MODEL

CYCLONE NARGIS 2nd MAY 2008