

Families need water, food, shelter

You can provide life-saving assistance to cyclone victims

As the 15-foot sea surge swept toward him, Ko Zaw Oo grabbed his two youngest children and clung with all his might to a coconut tree as his bamboo home was shattered into kindling around him. But the waves were stronger than the Myanmar farmer, and their strength tore one of the children from his grasp and out to sea.



World Vision staff members in Myanmar unload bags of rice at a temporary shelter for storm victims.

His wife and eldest child already had been lost to the deadly cyclone that ripped through the Irrawaddy delta.

The Toll is Devastating

Ko Zaw Oo's wife and two children are among the tens of thousands dead or missing as a result of the cyclone that on May 2 and 3 tore into Myanmar, shredding homes, downing trees, flooding streets and fields, and generally turning life upside down for at least 2 million people. An estimated 1 million homes were destroyed, many of them bamboo and thatch homes like Ko Zaw Oo's.

Relatives are caring for Ko Zaw Oo, but no assistance has yet arrived in his town, and survivors are getting by on scraps. In nearby Pyinsalu, only 400 of 4,000 residents survived. World Vision staff members fear many children have been orphaned because they leave their coastal villages to attend schools at inland communities. Many of those coastal communities have been completely destroyed.

World Vision's Response

World Vision—with your prayers and help—is providing life-saving assistance to people like

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Ko Zaw Oo, who have lost much—if not everything—to Cyclone Nargis. Our initial 30-day response is bringing children and families the things they need most: water, food, and shelter.

We are providing assistance in some of the most heavily damaged areas, bringing life-saving help to 50,000 families, or 250,000 people, with distributions of critically needed emergency supplies. We will be helping families in our community development areas as well as in areas where we currently have no programs.

Two of the three U.S.-supported community development areas in Myanmar suffered extensive damage, but as of May 8, no sponsored children were reported injured or killed in East Hlaing Tharyar or South Dagon Myothit. Many of the World Vision staff members working in these communities also lost their homes.

How You Can Help

World Vision is distributing food, water, tarps for shelter, clothing, blankets, and cooking utensils to children and families in dire need. We also are providing medicines, insecticide-treated bed nets, and latrines to help prevent the spread of disease. These life-saving interventions are intended to help families survive the critical first 30 days after the disaster. Beyond that, World Vision will work alongside the government and other humanitarian organizations to help Myanmar recover and rebuild for the long term.

Here's you can be the hands and feet of Jesus to people in desperate need today:

- \$100 can provide a family survival kit, which includes food, water, clothing, shelter materials, and more.
- \$500 can provide clothing for up to 160 children.

Thank you for partnering with World Vision as together we reflect Christ's love to people in dire need.

For more information, visit www.worldvision.org.



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

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www.worldvision.org

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