

Myanmar - Cyclone Nargis Operation

**Rebuilding the lives and livelihoods of
communities affected by
Cyclone Nargis**



**Livelihoods Programme Report
2010**



Foreword

Cyclone Nargis that struck Ayeyarwady and Yangon division of Myanmar in May 2008 was the biggest disaster in the recent history of the country. The disaster had wide spread devastation to the livelihoods and other resources of the communities. Over a period of two and half years, different national and international humanitarian agencies have supported the disaster-affected communities to recover from the impacts of the disaster through different sectoral interventions.

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) with the support of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has identified the livelihoods recovery of the cyclone hit communities as an important element of overall recovery programme. Intervention in other sectors like health, water and sanitation and shelter are also carried out by the MRCS.

The year 2010, has seen successful implementation of various sectoral activities including livelihoods by MRCS, which reached to ten thousands of vulnerable households affected by the Cyclone Nargis. The livelihoods sector response with emphasis on livelihoods asset recovery in agriculture and allied sectors, cash-for-work, capacity building and initiatives of community level plantation projects were focused during the year to support affected communities in rebuilding their lives and livelihoods in post disaster situation.

The livelihoods support has reached over 15,000 households in the year 2010, with overall reach out of over 25,000 families since the beginning of the Cyclone Nargis operation in 2008. This report captures, all details of programming in livelihoods sector during the year 2010 with reflections on programme processes, coverage of activities, livelihoods packages provided to beneficiaries and impact seen at community level in increasing household economic security.

The Cyclone Nargis operation of MRCS/IFRC is coming to an end in 2011. The International Federation is planning to consolidate the learning with specific reference to lessons learnt in livelihoods sector in coming months, which will help MRCS/IFRC to further built organizational competencies in undertaking livelihoods interventions in future.

This is one of a series of reports published by MRCS/IFRC that record the experiences of the Cyclone Nargis operation for wider sharing.



Bernd Schell

Head of Delegation

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Yangon, Myanmar

Acknowledgement

The year 2010 has been very busy with lots of hard work for the entire team of Cyclone Nargis operation. The operation has been successful in implementing different activities in various sectors including livelihoods.

The MRCS wishes to express its appreciation to the communities in Cyclone Nargis-affected areas for the continued support and active involvement in implementation of recovery activities. The programme would not be as successful as it is, without the Red Cross Volunteers, who are part of the community and had worked hard during entire process of the programme cycle. MRCS is thankful to all Red Cross Volunteers and Red Cross teams in townships for making the livelihoods programme a success and an unique learning experience.

We are grateful to the National Disaster Management Central Committee of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and local authorities at different levels including township authorities for their support and guidance during programme processes. The organization wishes to express its gratitude to all stakeholders for providing necessary support. The support from different stakeholders helped in ensuring that the programme is undertaken in a well coordinated manner.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), working in close partnership with the MRCS, provided the technical support on livelihoods programming and MRCS is thankful for all assistance provided by IFRC Myanmar Delegation. It also had to be acknowledged with gratitude that support from our partners, various Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, made all activities possible.

The whole MRCS team at headquarter and at hubs continued their hard work through out the year and had to be thanked for their efforts to achieve the desired goals of livelihoods programme. The experiences and learning gained through livelihoods programmes, which constitutes one of the sectoral competencies of the organization, will help MRCS in the future.



Prof. Dr. Tha Hla Shwe
President
Myanmar Red Cross Society
Yangon, Myanmar

Table of contents

Foreword	i
Acknowledgement	ii
List of acronyms and abbreviations	iv
Chapter I : Introduction	
1.1 Overview of cyclone nargis operation	1
1.2 Livelihoods programme strategies	2
1.2.1 Key elements of the livelihoods recovery programme	2
1.2.2 Livelihoods programme strategies	3
1.2.3 Focus of livelihoods interventions	4
1.3 Livelihoods review and reflections 2008-2009	4
Chapter II : Livelihoods programme interventions in the year 2010	
2.1 Livelihoods asset recovery programme	6
2.1.1 Agriculture sector response	8
2.1.2 Agriculture recovery initiatives of MRCS	8
2.1.3 Agriculture packages supported to farmers	11
2.2 Livestock support to households affected by cyclone nargis	13
2.2.1 Coverage of beneficiaries under livestock sector	13
2.2.2 Process of distribution of the livestock among beneficiaries	14
2.2.3 Survival rate of animals among beneficiaries in livestock sector	15
2.3 Fishery sector response of MRCS	19
2.3.1 Boat distribution process	19
2.3.2 Nets and other fishing gear distribution	22
2.4 Small business enterprise support	26
2.4.1 Type of activities supported under small business sector	26
2.5 Cash for work programme	29
2.5.1 Strengthening of completed CFW projects	29
2.5.2 Integrated CFW programme approach	30
2.6 Restoring natural resources in cyclone affected areas	32
2.6.1 Learning from community plantation programme in 2009	32
2.6.2 Community plantation programme during 2010	34
2.7 Community capacity building	38
2.7.1 Community capacity building initiatives in agriculture sector	38
2.7.2 Agriculture training methodology and type of inputs	38
2.7.3 Community capacity building initiatives in livestock sector	40
2.8 Overall reach out of beneficiaries through livelihoods intervention 2008-2010	42
2.8.1 Overall livelihoods coverage table	42
2.8.2 Township wise coverage in livelihoods sector	43
2.8.3 Livelihoods coverage map	44
2.8.4 Financial resources used in livelihood sector in 2010	45
Chapter III : Next phase of livelihoods programme and moving forward	
3.1 Possible livelihoods interventions during 2011	46
3.2 Analyzing impact of livelihoods interventions	46
3.3 Consolidating experiences and lessons learnt in livelihoods sector	47
3.4 Livelihoods programming knowledge management for future reference	47
3.5 Conclusion	48

List of acronyms and abbreviations

CFW	Cash For Work
DHF	Swiss Franc
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
IEC	Information, education and communications
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
LBVD	Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
MAS	Myanma Agriculture Services
MMK	Myanmar kyats (local currency)
MRCS	Myanmar Red Cross Society
MSP	Muriate of Potash (fertilizer)
MTR	Mid Term Review
PNS	Partner National Society
RFL	Restoring Family Links
VT A	Village Tract Assessment
VT RC	Village Tract Recovery Committee
TSP	Triple Super Phosphate (fertilizer)



▲ Red Cross team having discussions with beneficiaries supported in fishery sector in Maubin Township

Chapter I: Introduction

Myanmar is the largest country in mainland South-East Asia. It has a long coastline of about 2,000 km on the East of the Bay of Bengal. Being a heavy rainfall country, floods occur regularly during the mid monsoon period (June to August). The country is also prone to cyclones, landslides, earthquakes, fires and drought.

Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, devastating the Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions. Collective assessment data from the authorities and international community indicates that 115 townships were significantly affected by the cyclone. According to official figures, 84,500 people were killed and 53,800 missing. The UN estimates that 2.4 million people were affected.

Cyclone Nargis caused major damage to houses and other public infrastructures like roads, jetties, water and sanitation facilities, communication and electricity systems. One of the long lasting impacts of the cyclone is the huge destruction of the communities' livelihoods resources.

The Delta region, a big producer of rice, faced major damage to agriculture fields due to the influx of sea water. The areas affected are rural, with agriculture as the primary source of income. The agriculture sector, encompassing crops, plantations, livestock and fisheries, faced huge amounts of damage. Other sectors of livelihoods like fishery, livestock and some small enterprises also faced substantial amounts of damage. The overall recovery of livelihoods will require long-term interventions in the agriculture and allied sectors.

The emphasis of this report is on the livelihoods sector, the report captures the progress and achievements made in rebuilding lives and livelihoods of the disaster affected communities. The year 2010 has seen wide range of livelihoods interventions with insightful learning experiences, which will remain with the organization for future.

1.1 Overview of cyclone nargis operation

Considering the urgent needs of the cyclone nargis affected people, Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), responded immediately after the cyclone with distributions of non-food relief items like shelter tool kits, tarpaulins, jerry cans, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, blankets and kitchen sets. Interventions in health and watsan sectors were also conducted in the early phase. Focus was also given to activities of Restoring Family Links (RFL) in the disaster situation. During the relief phase MRCS reached over 260,000 households with relief distributions covering approximately a population of 1 million.



▲ Increased production of chicken among beneficiaries in Bogalay Township

Moving on from relief to recovery to address the long term recovery needs of the people affected by the cyclone, MRCS and IFRC designed a recovery programme with an integrated multi sector approach. The main focus of the recovery programme is to ensure that the most vulnerable households regain a sustainable independent life during the post disaster situation. In order to achieve this, recovery programmes in different sectors including health, psychosocial, water and sanitation, shelter and livelihoods are undertaken. The recovery programme also emphasises building community capacities to prepare for future disasters, and thus a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) component has been identified as an important component of the recovery phase.

The MRCS/IFRC Cyclone Nargis operation targets 100,000 affected households in the 13 townships of Kungyangon, Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Pyapon, Bogale, Maubin, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta, Ngapudaw, Twantay, Kawhmu, Myaungmya and Wakema.

1.2 Livelihoods programme strategies

Recovery of livelihoods among disaster affected communities has been identified as an integral part of overall the recovery framework of MRCS/IFRC. Considering the long term recovery needs of the people affected by the cyclone, MRCS and IFRC designed a recovery programme with an integrated multi sector approach. The main goal of the recovery programme is to ensure that the most vulnerable households regain a sustainable independent life during the post disaster situation and to build community resilience to withstand future disasters.

After the relief phase, Village Tract Assessments (VTA) were done in all selected village tracts to identify the recovery needs of the communities. VTAs had a multi sector approach, with coverage of needs assessment in different sectors. This needs assessment formed the base to sectoral programme designs and strategies.

1.2.1 Key elements of the livelihoods recovery programme

- *Need based programming:* The programme is implemented to address immediate and long term livelihoods needs of people affected by the cyclone to ensure that their livelihoods are restored and strengthened.
- *Targeting of vulnerability:* The livelihoods programme has a targeted approach to focus its interventions on the most vulnerable households in the cyclone affected areas.
- *Community participation:* Community participation was key a element of the overall recovery operation. At community level, village tract recovery committees played an important role in implementing and monitoring the recovery programme including livelihoods interventions.
- *Sustainability of programme:* Sustainable livelihoods approaches and principles, such as people-centered, participation, partnerships and building on strengths of people, are integrated in the livelihoods programmes. The focus will be on enabling long-lasting impact on the living-situations of people.
- *Mainstreaming DRR in livelihoods:* Efforts are made to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction strategies in the livelihoods programmes.
- *Integrated with overall recovery framework:* Livelihoods interventions are implemented as an integral part of the overall recovery framework of MRCS/IFRC.

1.2.2 Livelihoods programme strategies



▲ Red cross team getting ready for boats distribution, Labutta Township

The livelihoods interventions undertaken by MRCS and IFRC are in accordance with the four major livelihoods strategies. These strategic focused directions guided identification of different activities under livelihoods programme. Following are the main livelihoods strategies that were adopted in the Cyclone Nargis Operation.

a) Strengthening of existing livelihoods: All activities under the livelihoods programme are implemented with a strong belief that community is the best resource to provide strong knowledge about their livelihoods pattern and needs. The existing livelihoods system,

which is built by the people over generations, has substantial scope for future and it is essential to implement programmes that would strengthen existing livelihoods of the community, rather than introducing any new options that would take time for people to cope.

b) Recovering livelihoods assets and resources: Communities faced a huge loss of livelihoods assets in different sectors like agriculture, fishery, livestock and small enterprises. Recovering such productive livelihoods assets that promotes household economic security is essential. Along with physical livelihoods assets like fishing nets, boats, livestock, agriculture tools, business enterprises and so on, resources such as agricultural land, community infrastructure and plantations, which were damaged is required to be recovered to protect the livelihoods of communities. MRCS/IFRC focuses on recovery of livelihoods assets and resources of vulnerable households through programmatic interventions.

c) Community capacity building on livelihoods: Cyclone Nargis Operation is an opportunity to 'build back better', and the programmes implementation should lead to enhance the capacity of communities to build resilience to future disaster. Building community capacity on different aspects of livelihoods thus becomes very essential. MRCS/IFRC identified community capacity building initiatives as a significant component of the programme. Different types of community trainings are being initiated to maximize the impact of livelihoods activities.

d) Institutional capacity building of MRCS: This is the first time MRCS has implemented the livelihoods interventions in the context of an emergency. Building the institutional capacity of MRCS in the sector of livelihoods that would help MRCS to develop an organizational competency to respond to future disasters in the country has been considered as one of the important strategies of the livelihoods recovery programme. Programmatic interventions in the livelihoods sector are being implemented with an integrated approach to the capacity building of MRCS.

1.2.3 Focus of livelihoods interventions

Considering the livelihoods recovery needs and findings of VTA, livelihoods strategies and programmes were designed. The livelihoods interventions were started in October 2008, and will continue till end of Nargis operation in July 2011. The activities carried out in the livelihoods sector can be categorized in four main focused areas. The overview of these activities is as follows:

1) *Generating wage employment opportunities among vulnerable households:* Due to the cyclone, people lost wage employment opportunities. The casual labor communities, which were dependent on wage work, faced difficulties in meeting their survival needs in the post disaster situation. MRCS/IFRC implemented a wage employment generation programme through CFW with an emphasis on targeting vulnerable casual laborers.

2) *Livelihoods asset recovery and cash support program:* Communities affected by the cyclone Nargis faced immense loss in the livelihoods assets of communities. Recovering livelihoods in the sectors of agriculture, fishery, livestock and small enterprises among vulnerable households who lost their productive livelihoods assets was emphasized by MRCS. Beneficiaries were provided with in-kind materials and cash support to recovery their livelihoods.

3) *Restoring natural resources in cyclone affected areas:* Cyclone Nargis caused huge damage to the natural resources. Mangroves, community plantations and different varieties of fruit trees were destroyed. There is a need to support communities to help them in restoring natural resources and promote environment protection. These natural resources play important role in the ecological and livelihoods support systems of the community. Considering the need to restore natural resources, MRCS implemented small scale community plantation project, in which different varieties of shade and fruit trees were planted through community based approach.

4) *Community capacity building on livelihoods:* Community capacity building on livelihoods security is essential for maximizing the impact of interventions and to ensure sustainability of the programme. Community level capacity building trainings were organized based on the needs of supported beneficiaries with special emphasis on agriculture and livestock sectors.

1.3 Livelihoods review and reflections 2008-2009

The livelihoods programme was started in the early recovery phase with the CFW interventions in October 2008. The programme got gradually developed along with other major interventions of livelihoods asset recovery and other small scale initiatives, such as community plantation projects. By the end of one and half year of operation (December 2009), the livelihoods programme reached to over 10,000 vulnerable households with CFW and in-kind materials and cash support to farmers.

The programme had an additional target to 15,000 households to be reached in the year 2010, with planned interventions for livelihoods asset recovery in agriculture, fishery, livestock and small business sectors. This was the time when the operation management team decided to review the livelihoods programme so that steps for programme improvisation could be taken. There were two opportunities to have a closer look at the livelihoods programme directions.

The first one was PNS review, which was performed by representatives of the British Red

Society, Japanese Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross Society and a representative from Asia Pacific Zone Office of IFRC, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The team reviewed shelter and livelihoods interventions from the perspective of community participation, accountability and integration of DRR strategies.

The second opportunity was the Mid Term Review (MTR), which was external review by independent consultants. The MTR team comprising six team members, with a 50/50 mix of international Myanmar national expertise, reviewed elements of the overall Cyclone Nargis Operation up to February 2010. This review had different levels of recommendation, including some specific to the livelihoods programme. The important findings and actions taken to improvise the ongoing livelihoods intervention during 2010 are presented below:

SL	Summary of MTR review findings in livelihoods sector	Action taken in 2010
1	The programme has wider coverage of village tracts, and the numbers of beneficiaries covered per village tract are too few to have substantial impact on community in particular. It would be good to cover limited village tracts and cover more beneficiaries in limited area.	Till May 2010, livelihoods programme reached to 122 village tracts with one or more activities. In the second half of the year MRCS selected 35 village tracts from 122 village tracts to maximize impact by implementing more livelihoods interventions in same locations.
2	Livelihoods investments per households are too little to rebuild family economic security and to have positive impacts at household levels. The livelihoods packages per household should be increased.	Necessary considerations were done to increase livelihoods packages per household. The farmer's package of in-kind and cash support for 2010 was increased to 140,000 ks per farmer as compare to 2009 package of 80,000 ks.
3	Livelihoods sector needs special attention on specific economic security needs of women. The programme scope should be widened with gender perspectives.	Ensured 33 % of women participation in CFW programme. Supported 1,182 women beneficiaries with livelihoods asset recovery support in agriculture, livestock, fishery and small business sectors. Covered 25 % women in livelihoods capacity building programme covering agriculture and livestock sectors. Developed pilot community revolving fund project for women to be implemented in 2011.
4	The CFW programme implemented had limited investments on materials cost, the quality of infrastructures done through CFW should be further strengthened to achieve sustainability of completed projects.	Provided additional materials like sand, gravel, bricks, wood, bamboos and so on to communities to undertake repair and strengthening work on all completed CFW projects. This helped in improvising quality of infrastructures completed through CFW.
5	Operation should explore the scope for CFW programme with integrated approach to maximize the impact of overall Nargis Operation, steps can be taken to integrate CFW with other sectors.	Implemented CFW during 2010 with integrated approach with shelter programme. The communities that provided with household shelter by MRCS at new relocation sites after disaster are provided with CFW for village roads to improve the living conditions at relocation sites.

Chapter II: Livelihoods programme interventions in the year 2010

During the year 2010, the livelihoods programme has seen major achievements with a high scale of implementation of different types of livelihoods activities to support vulnerable households affected by cyclone Nargis. Out of 26,797 households supported with livelihoods intervention since the beginning of the project, 15,859 households (60 %) were supported during the year 2010. Interventions like livelihood assets recovery, CFW, community capacity building and community plantation were undertaken during this year. The interventions carried out helped disaster affected communities to recover their livelihoods and promote household level economic security. Different types of livelihoods activities that were undertaken at community level are given below:

2.1 Livelihoods assets recovery programme

Recovering productive livelihoods assets that were lost by households in cyclone nargis has been identified as an important priority by humanitarian agencies working in the affected areas. The agriculture sector – encompassing crops, plantations, livestock and fisheries is the mainstay of the rural economy in the Ayeyarwady. The loss of livelihoods assets like agriculture tools, seed stocks, damage to agriculture land, loss of plantation and other standing crops, livestock, fishing nets, boats, destruction of small business enterprises caused household economic security problems among vulnerable households.

Considering the needs of recovering economic and livelihoods activities, MRCS initiated multi sector livelihoods asset recovery program. Livelihoods support was given to needy households in the sectors of agriculture, livestock, fishery and small business enterprises. Beneficiaries were supported with in-kind materials and cash support to recover their livelihoods and regain household level economic security. A total of 15,359 households were supported with livelihoods asset recovery during the year 2010 covering different sectors of livelihoods. During 2010, MRCS covered 348 villages under 67 village tracts from 10 townships and 1 sub-township with livelihoods assets recovery support. Following table provides the break up of beneficiaries supported in different sectors.

Sl	Sector	No. of beneficiaries supported	% of coverage
1	Agriculture	7,088	46
2	Livestock	2,529	16
3	Fishery	4,528	29
4	Small business	1,214	8
	Total	15,359	100

The nature of support provided under each sector was diverse, which was based on the needs of beneficiaries in particular sector. MRCS developed specific strategies and implementation guidelines for each sector to ensure programme implementation is done with necessary feasibility and sustainability. The details of different sector covered with diverse programming elements are given below:

The nature of support provided under each sector was diverse, which was based on the needs of beneficiaries in particular sector. MRCS developed specific strategies and implementation



◀ Fishing nets distribution in Haigy Sub Township



► Ducks distributed among beneficiaries of Bogalay Township



◀ A livestock beneficiary in Maubin Township

guidelines for each sector to ensure programme implementation is done with necessary feasibility and sustainability. The details of different sector covered with diverse programming elements are given below:

2.1.1 Agriculture sector response

In the Ayeyarwady Delta areas, agriculture is the primary income generation activity of the population. People cultivate different varieties of paddy as the major crop. Other important crops include pulses, sesame, jute, groundnut and plantation crops such as mango, coconut, banana, and betel nut and leaf.

Monsoon paddy cropping starts from the onset of the monsoon in the month of June, and continues till the end of December with the harvest of crops. The summer paddy and other agriculture crops are cultivated during December to April months. The seasonality of cropping pattern of some of the main crops can be understood from the table below:

Main crops	Cropping season (Months)											
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Monsoon paddy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Black gram							x	x	x	x	x	
Green gram							x	x	x	x	x	
Cowpea							x	x	x	x	x	
Maize							x	x	x	x	x	
Sesame							x	x	x	x	x	
Sunflower							x	x	x	x	x	
Soybeans							x	x	x	x	x	
Water melon							x	x	x	x		
Groundnuts							x	x	x	x	x	
Summer paddy							x	x	x	x	x	x

2.1.2 Agriculture recovery initiatives of MRCS

According to the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan,¹ Cyclone Nargis submerged about 63 % (783,000 ha) of paddy land in 19 townships, damaging standing crops equivalent to about 80,000 tonnes of grain, destroying 707,500 tonnes of stored paddy and milled rice as well as 85 % of seed stocks.

The timing of cyclone, just before the start of monsoon paddy cultivation had impact on the monsoon paddy crop and future production due to erosion and damage to paddy land, limited availability of rice seed, loss of draught animals and farm equipment and also inability of farmers to afford fertilizer purchases, and limited capacity to invest to hire agricultural labors.

¹ TCG (December 2008) Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan



◀ Grown up paddy field of farmers in Dedaye Township



▶ Cash payments for agriculture sector beneficiaries in Twanty Township



◀ A farmer supported for banana cultivation in Maubin Township

MRCS performed needs assessments in the cyclone-affected areas for agriculture inputs at village tract levels. It was realized that the efforts made by different players in the agriculture sector in the post-disaster situation were not sufficient to adequately restore the primary production capacity of agriculture in cyclone affected areas. External assistance to vulnerable farmers was required to support them in restoring their production capacity of different varieties of agriculture crops.

During 2009, MRCS supported 3994 farmers with land holding of up to 5 acres of land. Farmers were supported with fertilizers and cash support for cultivating monsoon paddy crop of the rainy season of 2009. This programme was implemented in 244 villages covering 57 village tracts in 6 townships namely Maubin, Dedaye, Kungyangon, Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kyaiklatt. Along with fertilizers and cash support, farmers were provided with agriculture trainings to maximize the impact of intervention.

For the year 2010, MRCS continued agriculture support program with diverse coverage of beneficiaries with different types of agriculture crops. A total of 7,088 beneficiaries were supported during 2010, with varied nature of support based on the needs of farmers. Farmers were support for summer paddy crops, different types of agriculture and vegetable crops, banana plantation, betel leaf plantation and monsoon paddy crops. The numbers of farmers supported with different nature of agriculture activities are given below:

Agricultural activities supported by MRCS in 2010

SI	Type of agricultural activity	No. of beneficiaries
1	Summer paddy	646
2	Betel leaf farming	648
3	Banana plantation	284
4	Vegetable cultivation	61
5	Water melon farming	17
6	Peanut farming	566
7	Corn farming	10
8	Sugarcane cultivation	8
9	Black gram cultivation	15
10	Fruit tree plantation	24
11	Coconut farm	1
12	Monsoon paddy	4,808
	Total	7,088

2.1.3 Agriculture packages supported to farmers

Based on the needs of the selected beneficiaries livelihoods packages with combination of in-kind materials and cash support were developed. Different types of materials based on the agriculture activities undertaken by beneficiaries were supported with additional direct cash inputs. The packages designed for agriculture beneficiaries are as follows:

Packages	Type of in-kind and cash inputs	Materials cost (MMK)	Direct cash (MMK)	Total cost (MMK)
Summer paddy cultivation	Fertilizers (Urea, MSP, TSP) and other inputs and cash	80,000	30,000	110,000
Vegetable and other crops farming	Seeds, bamboos, different crop seedlings, fuel, agriculture tools and other inputs and cash	80,000	30,000	110,000
Monsoon paddy cultivation	Fertilizers (Urea, MSP, TSP) and cash	90,000	50,000	140,000

Seasonality of different type of agriculture activities among beneficiaries was taken in to account, to ensure the inputs are given on right time to help farmers to start cropping activities. During Jan – Mar, major focus was on summer paddy and other agricultural crops like vegetables, peanut farming, betel leaf farming, banana plantation, and other crops. During Jun – Aug, farmers for monsoon paddy cultivation were supported. The cash inputs were given based on the preferences of beneficiaries, some beneficiaries were supported with cash along with materials, whereas, some farmers were provided with cash, after delivery of materials.

Recovering paddy crops

Cyclone Nagis had very bad impact on us, my house was damaged and paddy field of 5 acres was damaged too. Due to financial stress, I was not able to cultivate all 5 acres of land after cyclone Nargis. The family faced difficult situation during last two years due to the impact of cyclone Nargis. MRCS has provided supported during this year monsoon paddy cultivation, I received three types of fertilizers and cash support of 50,000 kyats.

The supported provided by MRCS was very crucial and timely. I received fertilizers during the month of June, which is appropriate as we start land preparation and sowing of paddy during this month and use fertilizers during this stage and also during other stages of paddy growth. The quality and packing of fertilizers was very good too. I used cash support to pay labor cost for paddy cultivation. Due to lack of financial support, we have to borrow money from money lender at high interest, but this year MRCS has provided us support, which is very important for us.

Before Nagis, I use to apply only one type of fertilizer, which is urea. This year, I used other two types called TSP and MSP, these fertilizers were effective for better root growth of paddy and to protect farms from major pest. There was no difficulty in paddy farming this year, the harvest was done in December. Before Nargis, I use to get around 48 baskets of paddy per acer, which came down to around 36 baskets per acer after cyclone and total 5 acres were also not cultivated by me during last rainy season.

This year, I again got around 50 baskets of paddy (total 250 baskets) and I am very happy about it. I sold 60 percent of my harvest, the price is around 600,000 kyats / 100 baskets, I will use the cash that I got from the sale to cultivate summer paddy in 2011, which I have not done during last summer season. I have 5 members in my family with 3 children, it was difficult to manage education of children during last two years, but we will be able to continue education of our children now. The villagers like me, who received similar support are also thankful to MRCS for supporting us during this crucial periods.

U Zaw Myo Htike, Than Hpet village tract, Dedaye Township

Getting back to pre nargis livelihoods

Tha Byu San is a small village with 130 households in Ta Loke Htaw village tract under Kawhmu township. The main livelihoods of the villagers is around agriculture, they grow paddy, betel sprouts, rubber plantation and other crops. Due to cyclone Nargis, the agriculture was severely affected with loss of crops and damage to land.

Daw Than Than Aye, 40 years, has five members in her family. The main livelihoods of the family is betel sprout farming, which they did for several years before cyclone. *My betel farm was totally damaged during cyclone Nargis, all bamboo poles in the farms and land was damaged. We didn't had enough money to restart the farm and it was very difficult for family to manage the daily life, said Daw Than Than Aye.* Due to lack of household livelihoods, her husband has to fully depend on casual labor work in the near by areas.

During 2010, the family was support with livelihoods asset recovery programme in agriculture sector by MRCS. Provision of 1,000 betel sprouts, 50 kgs of urea fertilizers and cash of 30,000 kyats was given to the family as livelihoods support.

The family restarted cultivation of betel sprouts through the support of MRCS and started getting back to the pre Nargis livelihoods option. *Daw Than Than Aye says that the materials provided by MRCS are of good quality, the betel sprouts provided are of local variety, which is easy to grow in my farm, I also got fertilizers that are very essential for developing such farm. I used the cash support provided by MRCS to purchase bamboos to make the farm stronger as it should withstand impact of storms.*

After three months of hard work in the farm, the family started selling betel sprouts in local market, in one month, they can sell betel sprouts two times. The family earns around 80,000 kyats per one sale, so gets around 160,000 kyats per month. Through the income earned, the family has extended the size of betel farm that will help in earning more income. The family is now fully independent on their own source of income, similar to pre nargis and do not have to depend of casual labor. The household economic security of the family is much more better at present stage.



▲ A farmer supported with betel leaf farm in Maubin Township

2.2 Livestock support to households affected by cyclone nargis

Raising livestock is very common in the cyclone hit areas, livestock is an important source of food and are also used as draught animals for agriculture. Households raise different variety animals for different livelihoods activities. Majority of the households that do not have landholdings keep livestock like ducks, pigs, and chicken for family consumption and for sale. Farmers with landholding owns buffaloes for ploughing and other small livestock.

Loss of huge quantities of livestock is another major impacts of the cyclone. People lost their cattle and other livestock like poultry, ducks, pigs and goats which are important source of livelihoods and subsistence economy. Many livestock also died in the post cyclone situation due to lack of drinking water, out break of diseases and poor animal health care. The loss of buffalo and cattle will have long term implication on recovery of the agriculture sector as they were used as draft animals to plough paddy fields.

Approximately 50 percent of the buffaloes and 25 percent of the cattle died in the worst affected townships. The high mortality of small livestock, including pigs, sheep, goats, chickens and ducks is affecting many small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural workers. Total damage and losses to livestock amount to about K 75 billion. ²

MRCS with support of IFRC, identified livestock recovery support to disaster affected households as important intervention under livelihoods programme. The project aimed at supporting most vulnerable households with targeted focus on landless households to support small livestock. Based on the needs assessment and community consultation processes, prioritization of livestock that would be supported to beneficiaries was done. Three types of livestock viz. pigs, ducks and chicken were prioritized to be supported. Most vulnerable beneficiaries who lost their livestock as a result of cyclone nargis were identified for support.

2.2.1 Coverage of beneficiaries under livestock sector

A total of 2,529 households were supported during 2010 with livestock in three categories. MRCS provided beneficiaries with in-kind materials in the form of live animals, animal feed and cash, which helped them to carry out their livelihoods activities at household levels. Following are the total number of beneficiaries supported with different types of livestock.

Sl	Type of livestock support	No. of beneficiaries
1	Pigs	1,874
2	Ducks	603
3	Chickens	52
	Total	2,529

In the livestock sector, beneficiaries were supported with in-kind materials and cash support. The beneficiaries were provided with livestock, animal feed and cash by MRCS/IFRC. Following are details of the livestock packages provided.

² TCG (July 2008) Post-Nargis Joint Assessment Report

Livestock packages

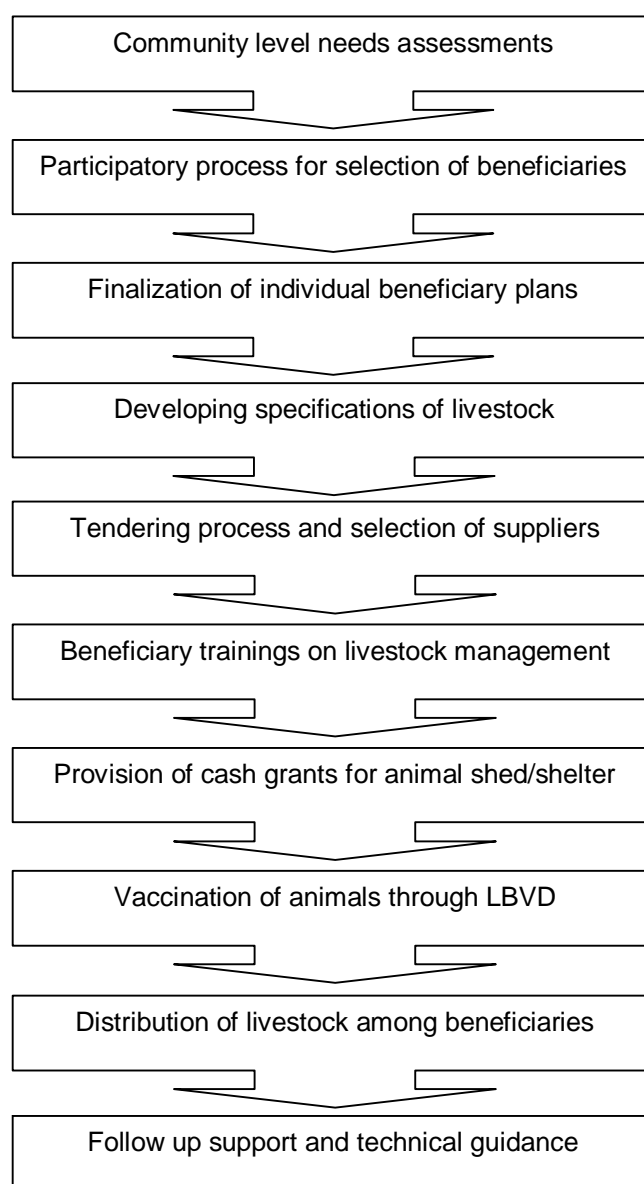
Sl	Type of livestock	Unit per beneficiary	Type of materials provided	Materials cost (MMK)	Direct cash support (MMK)	Total package (MMK)
1	Pigs	2	Pigs, vaccination and animal feed	80,000	30,000	110,000
2	Ducks	18-25	Ducks, vaccination and animal feed	80,000	30,000	110,000
3	Chicken	18-25	Chickens, vaccination and animal feed	80,000	30,000	110,000

The cash component of 30,000 MMK was mainly provided towards construction of animal sheds and other related expenditures. MRCS provided direct cash of 75,870,000.00 kyats (approx 75,870.00 USD) cash among 2,529 beneficiaries under livestock sector. Majority of the beneficiaries used their cash component for construction of animal sheds, some beneficiaries managed to construct their animal shelter through their own resources and used cash supported by MRCS for purchase of animal feeds and also to purchase more livestock to increase the unit size of their livestock.

2.2.2 Process of distribution of the livestock among beneficiaries

The livestock distribution programme had a systematic process with technical inputs. The process started by undertaking community level needs assessments through VTRC to understand the needs of beneficiaries, followed by a beneficiary selection process with a targeted approach. After selection of beneficiaries, a finalization of packages for each beneficiary indicating the type of livestock to be supported was performed. This was followed by finalization of specifications of animal, with considerations of animal breed, size and age of animals, animal health conditions, vaccination needs of animals and animal transportation conditions. It was decided to select locally suitable animal breeds that are tolerant to local conditions. The process of finalizing animal specifications was performed based on the beneficiary needs, in

Step by step process of livestock distribution



coordination with LBVD at township level. After the calculation of total quantities of each category of animal, a tendering process was performed at hub/township level, following standard MRCS/IFRC procurement procedures.

The hub level procurement committee analyzed the bids and offers provided by suppliers for the proper selection of suppliers, and after the required internal approvals of procurement files, supply contracts were issued to selected suppliers with proper terms and conditions, which included adherence to animal specifications, delivery and transportation conditions, animal vaccination clauses and retention period to ensure that any loss of animals within 2 weeks of delivery will be replaced by suppliers.

At community level, regular consultations with selected beneficiaries took place. Beneficiaries were provided with technical trainings in collaboration with township LBVD to give guidance on different aspects of livestock raising. This helped them to enhance their knowledge and adopt best practices to take care for the livestock. MRCS provided small amount of cash support prior to the distribution of livestock, which was aimed to build necessary shed/shelter for animals. After necessary preparations at the beneficiary level, the distribution of livestock was done. Along with the livestock distribution, animal feed was also distributed among beneficiaries to take care of the animals. After completion of distribution, monitoring and technical support continued at beneficiary as follow up support to track the survival rate among livestock distributed, and monitor progress made by beneficiaries. The entire process of delivering livestock provided insightful learning to MRCS that will help the organization in future to deal with a future livestock sector response in an emergency context.

2.2.3 Survival rate of animals among beneficiaries in livestock sector

MRCS performed regular monitoring and evaluation among beneficiaries after the distribution of livestock and cash support. The monitoring process was done on a quarterly basis till December 2010 to track the survival rate of livestock and to assess the levels of income generated by beneficiaries. Following are the key findings of monitoring process.

- The survival rate among pigs was between 80-90 % till June 2010, and remained around 75-80 % till December 2010. Some of the beneficiaries could sell their grown up pigs by the end of the year after 6-8 months of raising.
- The survival rate among ducks was between 75-85 during first two quarters of the year and remained around 70-75 % till end of the year. It was observed that some ducks were dead during hot summer season, mainly Mar-May. Many beneficiaries could increase the unit size of their duck farms by investing the income earned. The monitoring process has not taken count of the new ducks purchased by beneficiaries and was focused on the information on survival of ducks that were provided by the MRCS/IFRC.
- Similar to ducks, the survival rate among chicken was between 75-85 % during first two quarters and was static till end of the year. The beneficiaries have been successful in increasing the size of chicken units that would provide them more benefits in the future.
- Factors like appropriate selection of livestock with proper specifications, local breeds, technical guidance and trainings to beneficiaries, vaccination and health care, proper shelter arrangements for livestock, provision of animal feed for first few months and proper livestock management practices by beneficiaries have contributed to achieve high survival rate of livestock.
- Another significant element that contributed to higher survival rate of livestock is timing of distribution of livestock.

Experience sharing on livestock distribution

Maubin Hub is implementing the livelihoods programme. In 2010, 675 households are supported with different type of materials and cash for agriculture, fishery, livestock and small business. During Jan – Feb 2010, the Hub Office has provided livestock i.e pigs, ducks and chicken to 49 households.

The livelihood team in the Hub initiated a community level process, including orientation and sharing of project objectives with the community, which was followed by beneficiary selection. Through community participation, the beneficiary list was finalized and each beneficiary was consulted to identify their specific needs for livestock. I was involved in the programme right from the beginning, which helped me to understand the needs of beneficiaries. Through this community process, we realized that the livestock programme has to be delivered with priority during Jan – Feb, as these are the best months for distribution of livestock before the start of the hot season.

We made planning for purchase of livestock, which included announcement of a local tender for pigs, and direct local purchase for ducks and chickens, which was based on the total purchase value of each type of livestock.

For the purchase of ducks and chickens, we visited suppliers in the local market and farms in the nearby areas, which helped in understanding different aspects of livestock like size, breed, health condition, animal vaccines, transportation of animals and other information.

Visits were also made to LBVD and officers from LBVD were very supportive. The department provided support in finalizing specifications of animals, vaccination of animals, suppliers information and conducting technical trainings to beneficiaries before the delivery of animals.

In the first round, the procurement committee in the hub finalized the supplier for ducks and chickens. Consideration such as recommended suppliers list of LBVD, transportation facilities available, earlier experience of supplying livestock, price and services offered, condition of duck/chicken yards at the source of animals, hygienic and health condition of animals were made while selecting suppliers.

After issuing the purchase order to supplier of ducks, on the date of delivery of ducks i.e 10/2/2010, we reached the supplier's duck yard early in the morning at 6.00 a.m. Ducks were kept in bamboo baskets, comprising 20 – 30 ducks in one basket. We have to keep a minimal number of ducks per basket for proper ventilation/air flow. We traveled by a trolley (small truck made out of a tractor) for 1 hour to reach the river bank and again travelled by boat for another 2 hours. Transporting animals in the early morning hours was essential as transport under hot sun was risky.

The community was informed in advance, and we reached final delivery point in at 10.30 a.m, where arrangement of some shade area with a fence to keep the ducks as transit halt was made. After arrival, the ducks were taken out from the baskets and were provided with water to drink, and were given a water shower. After some time duck feed (broken rice) was given in small quantities. Out of a total 161 ducks purchased, 6 ducks died during transportation time. The supplier who accompanied us was aware of an agreement to replace lost ducks as part of the retention period, as per the purchase order.

The next day, a total of 7 beneficiaries were provided with ducks and each beneficiary was given 23 ducks as part of the livelihoods support. The beneficiaries are also provided with duck feed (1 bag of broken rice) and cash of 30,000 ks each.

U Wunna Soe, Logistic Officer, Maubin Hub, MRCS



◀ Local breed of pigs supported among beneficiaries



▶ Ducks distribution site in Dedaye Township



◀ Vaccination of pigs carried out through LBVD in Pyapon Township

Restoring cycle of pig raising at household level

Daw Aye Aye Maw (30 years) lives with her mother in Ta Nyi village of Kyon Thut Ta Nyi village tract in Pyapon Township. The family has a tradition of pig breeding, and purchasing of piglets then raising them for few months and selling the grown up pigs at good price is the yearly routine of the family. This traditional cycle of pig raising stopped when the family lost their pigs in cyclone nargis. Due to the poor financial conditions of the household, the family was unable to invest money in purchasing of new piglets.

During early 2010, MRCS supported Daw Aye Aye Maw with two vaccinated piglets, which were of local breed and suitable for local conditions. The family was also provided with animal feed and cash of 30,000 kyats. After around 5-6 months the pigs were well grown and were ready for sale. The beneficiary sold pigs and earned 220,000 kyats. From the earnings, she purchased another two piglets, by investing 75,000 kyats. The profit earned by the family has been used in starting a small family shop that provides additional income source to the family.

The new pigs are in good health, I am expected to sell them in next two months that will give me around 200,000 kyats. I will continue this cycle of pig raising, which is our tradition and part of our culture, said Daw Aye Aye Maw.



▲ Red Cross hub teams supporting beneficiaries with livestock and animal feed

2.3 Fishery sector response of MRCS

Fishing is one of the major economic activities in the Ayeyarwady division. The people of the Delta are traditionally engaged in diverse range of fisheries activities. The river belts and sea shore in the area provides ample economic opportunities in fisheries. Fish is also very common stable food, fish in addition to rice and vegetables is very common intake among households in the entire cyclone affected area.

Many households use different types of small-scale fishing gears with boats and also without boats. Apart from direct involvement in fishing, people are also engaged in fish processing as means of livelihoods. Fish processing industry provides wide range of employment opportunities among women.

Fishery sector faced extensive loss as a result of cyclone nargis. Fishing community was affected by the loss of boats, fishing nets, gears, lines and other equipments. Along with loss of assets, fishing resources like ponds, lakes and aquaculture resources used by the people in the areas were damaged. This resulted in huge reduction in the livelihoods enterprises based on fishery sector.

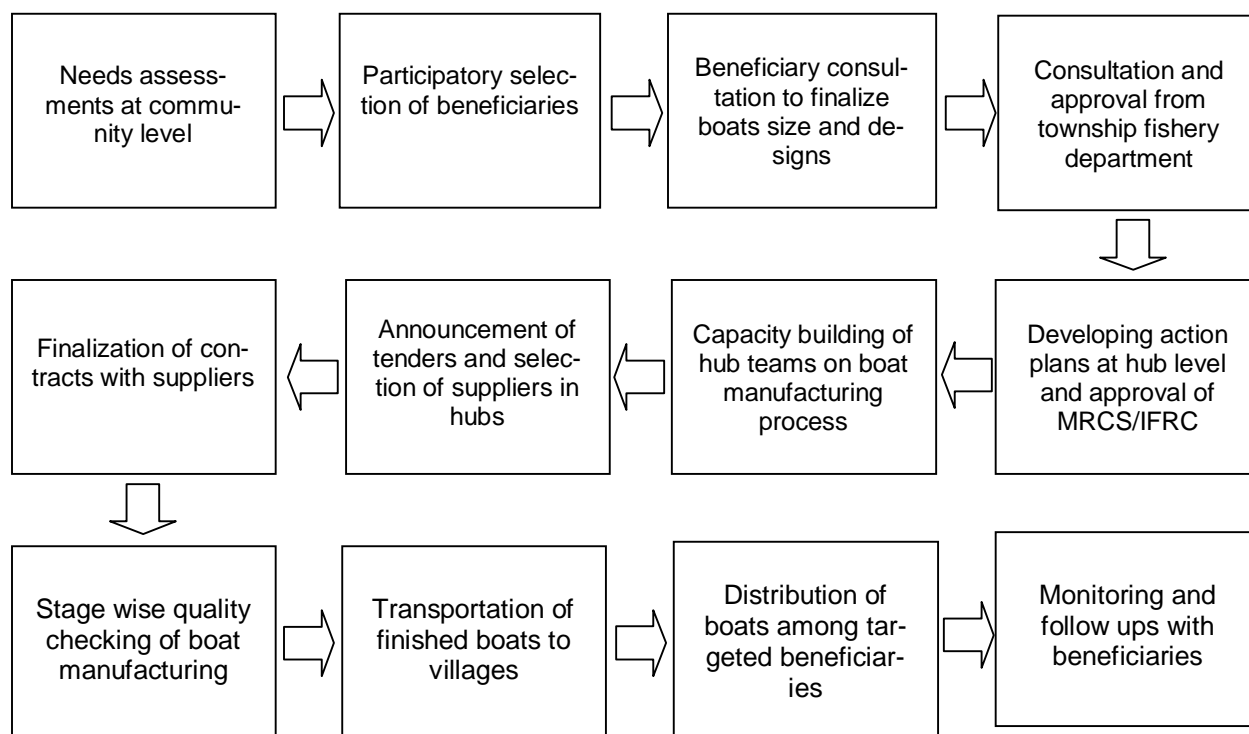
MRCS supported vulnerable households with livelihoods asset recovery program to recovery their assets in fishery sector. In-kind support like boats, fishing nets, lines, traps and other equipments and cash supported was provided to selected beneficiaries. The support was provided based on the needs at household level, which varied from one area to another based on the nature of fishing requirements of the beneficiaries. A total of 4,528 households were supported in this sector. The break up different types of fishery activities supported is as follows:

SL	Type of support	No. of beneficiaries
1	Fishing boats (15 and 18 feet)	1,953
2	Fishing boats (12 feet) with nets/gears	516
3	Fishing nets	1,994
4	Crab and fish traps	9
5	Fishing boat engines	6
6	Fishing lines, hooks and other equipments	50
	Total	4,528

2.3.1 Boat distribution process

During 2010, MRCS/IFRC distributed 2,469 boats as part of livelihoods asset recovery programme. All the boats provided to beneficiaries were wooden and were locally made. There were three categories of boats depending on the size, there were, 12 feet, 15 feet and 18 feet. The design and specifications of the boats were developed in close consultation with beneficiaries and township level fishery department. Overall the boats across all townships had similar characteristics, although there were minor differences on the type of wood and boat designs from one township to another to accommodate to the local conditions and needs of the community.

Key steps and processes in boat distribution



▲ Boats distribution site in Bogalay Township

Fishing boat – an important asset for households

The fishing boat is an important asset for many households in the Ayeyarwady, since these have multi purpose usage, such as fishing for family livelihoods, transportation of family, for children to go to schools, transporting household goods from one place to another and many more functions. U Hla Win, a 47 year old fisherman from The Pyae Tan village tract of Kyaiklatt township, has 9 family members with 7 children. The main livelihoods of the family is fishing and casual labor during off-fishing seasons.

Prior to cyclone narigs, U Hla Win owned a 13 feet wooden boat, which is like the backbone of the family as the family used their boat for fishing in the river and many other purposes, including transportation of children to school. The family was paralyzed when they lost their boat during cyclone Nargis. Due to the pressure of meeting daily survival needs, the family was unable to invest the required money to purchase a new boat. For U Hla Win, it was also a challenge to find casual employment opportunities to meet family needs.

During the summer of 2010, MRCS supported the family by providing an 18 feet wooden boat and cash of 30,000 kyats. The cash component was used by the family to purchase fishing nets in small quantities to start the trade of fishing. *The boat provided by MRCS is bigger than my old boat and the quality of the boat is very good. I am doing regular maintenance of the boat, which will be useful for next 5-6 years. I am able to go for fishing regularly and have invested income to purchase more nets. Says U Hla Win.*

The boat is also used for other purposes, including transportation of children to school. U Hla Win takes his and other village children to school through his new boat and is very happy to recover his important asset and livelihoods activities again.



▲ Beneficiaries with their fish catch in Haigyi sub township

2.3.2 Nets and other fishing gears distribution

As part of livelihoods asset recovery, different types of fishing nets, gears and other equipments were distributed among beneficiaries. A total of 2,575 targeted beneficiaries were supported with fishing nets and other equipments. This includes 516 beneficiaries that received 12 feet boats along with nets. Other beneficiaries, which were provided with 15 and 18 feet boats were not provided with nets, but were given minimal cash support. The net distribution had different processes, which included beneficiary selection, finalization of specifications of nets, procurement process, quality checking and distribution among beneficiaries.

The selected beneficiaries had different types of nets as their preferences, which was based on their fishing requirements and the location specific considerations. In total MRCS/IFRC has delivered over 50 categories of nets and fishing related materials. The main stages of nets distribution are given below:

a) Beneficiary selection process:

Community level processes were undertaken to select vulnerable households who lost their livelihoods asset including assets in fishery sector like fishing boats, nets and other fishing gears. After necessary participatory processes, the finalization of beneficiary list was done in close consultation with VTRCs.

b) Finalization of nets specifications with beneficiaries:

Further consultations and meetings were conducted with selected beneficiaries to finalize the needs in fishery sector and accordingly specifications and quality standards for nets and other fishing gears were developed. There were different types and categories of nets that were preferred by beneficiaries, developing specifications of nets with beneficiaries helped in ensuring proper needs are met among beneficiaries.

c) Consultation with township fishery department:

After knowing specifications and packages of nets to be delivered among beneficiaries, MRCS had consultations with respective township fishery departments and shared the plan of action. The department helped in approval of proposed net distribution for the feasibility and suitability point of view considering the local situation and fishery related laws.

d) Collection of net samples from beneficiaries:

In order to facilitate a systematic process for procurements of nets and fishing gears, township level net samples were collected. Lists of different types of nets and quantities required for each township were prepared with proper internal coding system. This helped in the compilation of quantities for all township and to announce tenders for total quantities at one time.

e) Categorization of nets and fishing equipments:

After gaining knowing of each category of nets and other fishing-related materials, the categorization of materials was done. All requirements were put in three categories. The first one, included nets with labels. This type of nets are branded nets, manufactured in factories and have label tags with specification such as size, no., height, mesh, mentioned on the labels. The second type was nets without labels, this category of nets are mainly produced locally, without standard label tags. Fishing materials like crab traps and other local fishing gears were included under this category. The third category was for other type of fishing related materials like lead pieces, floats, ropes, threads fishing hooks, boat anchors, boat engines and so on with or without labels. The process of such detailed segregation and categorization was useful in the procurement process, and when checking quality of materials delivered.



◀ Catch of the day among fishermen supported by MRCS



► Beneficiary spreading nets supported by MRCS to catch fish



◀ Boats distribution site in Mawlamyaingyun Township

f) Market survey on fishing nets:

Prior to announcement of tenders, market surveys were conducted in local township markets and also in central markets in Yangon. It was realized that the majority of nets, especially the first category of nets with labels, are sent by traders from the Yangon market to the local markets. Such types of nets are imported from Thailand and China. The second category of nets (nets without labels) were easily available in local township markets as they are produced locally to suit to the local conditions. Other materials in the third category were available in both type of market. During market surveys, price comparison of commodities was also done, which helped in procurement planning.

g) Announcement of tenders and selection of suppliers:

After necessary preparations, tenders announcements were done. It was decided to go for a central purchase of all nets and materials under the first and third category in Yangon market, and the nets under second category were purchased through townships markets in respective townships. The suppliers were asked to submit their quotations along with net samples, and the samples submitted by suppliers were checked with the samples collected in townships, along with beneficiary participation to check the quality and specification of the offers from suppliers. Standard procurement procedures were followed to select the best suppliers for supply of nets and other materials required. Based on the offers made by suppliers, many suppliers were selected to supply of different types of nets. The selected suppliers were given proper instruction regarding packing and developing packages required by beneficiaries, which helped in saving time on repacking and so facilitating easier distribution.

h) Distribution of materials among beneficiaries:

The distribution of nets was done at village tract and village level. The community and selected beneficiaries were informed with advance notice. VTRC members were organized to arrange necessary arrangements required for distribution of the materials. Beneficiaries were asked to check the materials as per their requirements and specifications decided. Different set of packages were distributed as per the needs of beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were paid cash of 30,000 kyats along with the materials as the per the livelihoods package developed for beneficiaries.

Life of U Gwa To as fisherman

U Gwa To belongs to coastal village of Kan Thar Yar (1) from Kan Chaing village tract under Haigyi sub-township. His main occupation is fishing during the fishing season and casual labour jobs during off-fishing seasons. The family of four members was living happily in the routine village life.

The village of Kan Thar Yar (1) was worst affected in the cyclone Nargis, destroying everything on its way with high speed winds. People lost their agricultural and fishing assets in huge quantities. U Gwa To lost his fishing lines and fishing nets in the cyclone like many other villagers. The family was dependent on relief items for initial months.

Slowly, as time passed, U Gwa To started getting back to casual labour jobs in the area, but the earning was not sufficient to meet family needs and it was difficult for him to purchase new nets from the income earned through casual labour jobs, which was not regular.

MRCS provided the family with 6 sets of fishing nets and cash of 30,000 kyats. He purchased other items like rope and floats required to make his nets ready for fishing. Within 3 days from receiving the support from MRCS, he was back to sea for fishing and started getting good catch that he sold in local markets.

His earning is around 200,000 kyats per month from the initial months of fishing. He purchased more nets now and earns more income due to increased capacity of nets. The family overcome their financial difficulties and is planning to purchase a small fishing boat in the coming months. U Gwa To remembers one day in the sea that gave him good catch of fish worth of 150,000 kyats recently.

Fishing community of Nget Pyaw Su village

Fishing is main livelihoods of people in Nget Pyaw Su village of Ah Lel Chaung village tract in Twante township. The village comprises 168 households is located close to the river side. The livelihood assets like boats, fishing nets and other equipments were lost or damaged by villagers during cyclone Nargis. MRCS/IFRC has supported 42 vulnerable households with fishery sector support. 28 households were supported by wooden fishing boats (18 feet long) and remaining beneficiaries were provided with fishing nets and other materials to regain their livelihoods in the fishery sector. The support provided has been very successful in helping the community to recover their livelihoods that was affected by cyclone Nargis in 2008.

U Than Myint is 62 years old, he has three members in his family. He has been doing fishing related activities for the last several years and is known as a very good fisherman in the village. *He says, my life is on the river, I have been fishing since I was young and it is difficult to change this occupation now. The cyclone Nargis made us to go through a stressful situation. I lost my boat and due to lack of money, I was unable to purchase a new one.* In the year 2010, MRCS supported him with 18 feet wooden boat and cash of 30,000 kyats. Through the support of MRCS, he is now back to a fishing business that provides him regular income to meet family needs. The boat provided by MRCS is very useful for family transportation too. He is doing maintenance of his boat on a regular basis to ensure longer life of the boat.

U Zaw Aung, 37 years old has a family of 8 members, among them are 6 children. The main livelihoods of the family is fishing, U Zaw Aung remains busy in fishing related activities and sells his catch in local market to earn his income. The family had a fishing boat and nets prior to cyclone Nargis, which got damaged during the cyclone. After around one year after the cyclone, he managed to repair his old boat and started hiring nets from others to restart his fishing business. MRCS supported U Zaw Aung with a set of nets and cash of 30,000 kyats. The family is very happy to receive the support from MRCS that helped in overcoming difficulties faced. The family earns around 175,000 kyats per month through fishing activities.

Like U Than Myint and U Zaw Aung, other beneficiaries supported with fishery sector in Nget Pyaw village are benefited by the support of MRCS/IFRC to regain their strength in the fishing sector and to live a dignified life.



▲ Household supported with fishing nets is back in the river for fishing

2.4 Small business enterprise support

Due to cyclone Nargis, communities lost their livelihoods assets in the sector of small business enterprise. Households undertaking different types of business activities like village level grocery shop, food stalls, vegetable sellers, fire wood selling, tailoring business, and village service providers like carpenter and iron smiths and others faced damage to their livelihoods and lost their assets. They were unable to recover due to lack of capital to investment and restart their respective business endeavors. MRCS supported vulnerable households with in-kind materials and cash support to regain their income generation activities. The households supported are fully dependent on different type of small scale business activities to earn their livelihoods and ensure household economic security.

2.4.1 Type of activities supported under small business sector

In the year 2010, a total of 1,214 households were supported in this sector. The support was provided for a diverse range of business activities based on the needs of the targeted beneficiaries, which helped beneficiaries to regain their pre-disaster livelihoods activities. Following are the list of small business enterprises supported by MRCS.

SI	Types of small business activities	No. of beneficiary
1	Grocery shops	848
2	Food and snacks selling business	133
3	Tailoring business	113
4	Cloth and garments shops	21
5	Push cart and trishaw business	32
6	Bamboo and handicraft selling	28
7	Electronic/mechanical/iron smith business	10
8	Hair cutting shops	3
9	Stationary/books shop	7
10	Carpenter tools distribution	16
11	Fire wood selling business	2
12	Animal feed selling shop	1
	Total	1,214

The intervention in small business sector has been very effective to help the vulnerable households to recovery their livelihoods activities, since the beneficiaries could immediately start their small business activities and could earn regular income. Beneficiaries were able to expand their business initiatives through reinvesting the income earned as capital for business expansions. The small business activities are very significant in the local rural economy that provides different type of services to the people through undertaking different type of economic related activities.

Family's involvement in small business activities

U Nwe Win is 42 years old, residing in Thone Kyaing village of Thone Kyaing village tract in Maubin Township. The family of four members has been running a small grocery and tea shop in village since last several years. The shop also provides cycle repairing services to the people. The whole family is involved in the household business unit, which is their main source of livelihoods. Along with the business activities, the family also engaged in agriculture activities during the summer season on the small land that is taken on lease on yearly basis.

Life was going on smoothly for the family with their daily routine and hard work. Suddenly, the routine life of the family got disrupted due to cyclone Nargis in 2008. The family lost their business unit, and due to lack of financial capacity they were unable to take small piece of land on lease for agriculture. *The life has not been easy for us since cyclone Nargis, I opted to do casual labor jobs to ensure living for my family. Due to lack of financial support, we were unable to restart our family shop. Says U New Win.*

During 2010, MRCS provided in-kind and cash support to the family to regain the family business. In-kind materials for a grocery shop and cash of 30,000 kyats was given. The family used the materials and cash to start business activity and kept on investing their profits to expand the business unit. After few months of hard work, the family resumed their business back to normal levels as before the Nargis situation.

On an daily basis, the family earns an income between 5000 – 7000 kyats, the wife of U New Win remains busy in the shop and he gives time in the cycle repair shop. The family is planning to expand their business further in coming months.



▲ A small shop opened by beneficiary with support of MRCS/IFRC in Maubin township



◀ A beneficiary of small business in Maubin Township



▶ Transportation of small business materials to villages in Pyapon Township



◀ A beneficiary of small business in Kyaiklatt Township

2.5 Cash for work programme

Cash based interventions including CFW are very important elements for the recovery of disaster affected communities, which provide scope and opportunity for the affected population to recovery from the effects of the disaster. MRCS undertook large scale CFW intervention during the first year of cyclone Nargis. Up to end of 2009, 6,944 households were supported through CFW interventions. Beneficiaries, mainly landless casual laborers, were provided with wage employment opportunities that benefited them to take care of their family needs during a crucial period in the post disaster situation.

Different types of works like the repair of village roads, river embankments, jetties (small boat landing places), wooden bridge, irrigation canals and repair of other community infrastructures were undertaken, that helped the community with wage employment opportunities and also with recovery of village infrastructures affected by the cyclone Nargis.

The reviews and evaluations conducted on the cyclone operation provided significant insights on the relevance and need of CFW in the context of a disaster. Along with general observations and reflections on impact of the intervention, the review team recommended two major suggestions with regard to CFW programme. The first one was on the need of further strengthening of completed CFW project by providing additional materials support for sustainability of the intervention. The second recommendation was around the possibility of integrating CFW with other sector programmes to maximize the impact of overall recovery efforts at community level. MRCS/IFRC took these recommendations and extended the CFW programme in the year 2010. A total of 500 beneficiaries got benefited during this year, with the total beneficiary count reaching to 7,444 during the entire period of the operation till end of 2010.

2.5.1 Strengthening of completed CFW projects

Based on the recommendations of review teams, MRCS/IFRC extended further support to communities to undertake necessary repair and strengthening of completed CFW projects. The works undertaken through CFW during 2008-2009 had minor damage during the monsoon season and there was a need to undertake necessary repairs.

Materials were provided to communities to complete repairs of village roads, jetties, and other infrastructure that were completed through CFW projects. Community mobilization was done to complete such renovation and repair works, and the community contributed labour and other essential resources. Materials such as sand, gravel, bamboos, timber and so on were provided by MRCS to complete the strengthening of completed CFW projects.

The additional materials supported provided by MRCS/IFRC helped in strengthening the quality of completed projects, and communities were able to make more efficient use of such infrastructure after necessary repairs. The initiative was useful in sustaining the impact of the work undertaken. Communities are informed about their responsibilities for future repair and maintenance of the projects.



▲ Additional materials provided to strengthen completed village footpath in Maubin Township

2.5.2 Integrated CFW programme approach

Due to cyclone Nargis, some communities in the delta were relocated to live in a different area. Through its shelter programme, MRCS supported beneficiaries with household shelters including relocation sites in Bogalay and Labutta townships. The vulnerable households were provided with shelter materials and cash support to construct their houses at the new relocation sites. A relocation brings new challenges to the families since they have to adapt to new living circumstances, and there is a need of wide range of services, including roads, water and sanitation, health and education and other facilities, to make their living adequate.

CFW projects were implemented with an integrated approach to improve the village situation at relocation sites and to maximize the impact of the household shelter programme. The village road construction activities were undertaken in both relocation villages. The project benefited the community with wage employment to 500 beneficiaries, and helped in developing village infrastructure. The houses that were supported by MRCS are safer, and CFW projects helped in developing better village roads and drainage systems, and minimized the risk of floods and high water levels in the villages during the rainy season. The villagers are able to have better access to their individual houses and other facilities due to the improved village roads provided by CFW.

Integrated approach of CFW in Khaing Thaung village

Kaing Thaung is a small island with two villages in Labutta township. It takes around 7-8 hours by normal motor boat to reach the island from Labutta town. The island is covered with forest and has two small villages called Kaing Thaung and War Taw Kone. The main livelihoods of the people are based around fishery and agriculture.

During cyclone Nargis, there was severe damage to the island. The Kaing Thaung village faced major destruction of infrastructure and huge soil erosion in the village, which increased the vulnerability of the villagers of Kaing Thaung. The authorities decided to relocate the entire village to a new place on the other side of the river on the same island. There are 713 households residing in this newly relocated village.

MRCS/IFRC has supported the villagers in settling down at the relocation site with different sectoral interventions like household shelters, water and sanitation, health and psychosocial support and recovery of livelihoods.

The relocation site had poor public infrastructure and facilities, the access roads were not sufficiently built, the drainage and river embankments were not constructed and the villagers faced difficulties in caring out their livelihoods activities. Considering the need to support the community in developing better access to the new village sites and to the houses constructed by MRCS, a CFW program was carried out in the village.

Through CFW project, the construction of 2 main roads and 11 sub roads to access housing sites were completed. Together with roads, strengthening of drainage and river embankment was also carried out in the village. The CFW provided the wage employment to 300 beneficiaries for 30 days. Each beneficiary was paid with 2,000 kyats per day of work as wage payments.

The integration of CFW with overall recovery efforts had significant impact on improving living conditions of the villagers. The access to the village and housing sites has increased tremendously, the improved drainage system has helped during rainy season to avoid flooding, the river embankment repairs were useful in protection from high tides. The villagers are finding it easier in caring out their livelihoods activities. Overall, the CFW has been very useful to improve the village condition at the village relocation site.



▲ Condition of village relocation site before CFW activities in Khaing Thaung village



▲ Completed village access roads through CFW in Khaing Thaung village

2.6 Restoring natural resources in cyclone affected areas

Cyclone Nargis caused extensive damage to natural resources, destroying some 35,000 ha of natural and replanted mangroves, submerging over 63 % of paddy fields, and damaging 43 % of fresh water ponds in Ayeyarwady. ³

The natural resources play important role in the ecological systems and support livelihoods systems of the community, thus there is a need of interventions for the promotion and protection of natural resources. MRCS/IFRC identified recovery of natural resources as important components of livelihoods programme, efforts to protect paddy fields from the influx of saline water by strengthening river embankments through CFW was done. A special project on community plantation was initiated during 2009-2010.

2.6.1 Learning from community plantation programme in 2009

During the monsoon season of 2009, community plantation activities were undertaken. Different varieties of shade trees were planted on different public sites like village road-sides, schools and monastery compounds and so on. A total of 140,000 plants of different varieties were planted covering 105 villages in 43 village tracts. Shade trees that are very conducive in the local environment were planted, including Auratia, Tamarind, Eucalyptus, Iron wood tree, Mahogany, Rain tree, Gold mohur tree, Teak wood tree, Albizzia precera and Mangroves.



◀ Community watering plants in Maubin Township

After completion of plantation activities, monitoring of the project was initiated to track the survival rate of the plants on a monthly basis. The results observed through this monitoring process were not satisfactory, as the survival rate of the plants was very low. After 3 months, it was realized that the survival rate was around 70 %, which was further reduced to 45 % till beginning of next rainy season of 2010. MRCS teams conducted a necessary review of the programme to understand the reasons for such low survival rate of the plants. The following issues and gaps were identified in the community plantation programme:

- Late planting of trees at the end of rainy season.
- Selection of very small size of plant saplings.
- Selection of plants, which are not suitable to local soil conditions.
- Extreme hot weather immediately after rainy season.
- Inappropriate method of planting, no proper size of pits to support roots of plants.
- Inappropriate site selection for plantation.
- Limited sensitization and socialization on objectives of programme among community.
- Lack of community based plantation maintenance system in community.
- Limited technical support on plantation programme.
- Planting of too many trees, which is difficult to follow up and have maintenance system.
- Coverage of many villages, which makes difficult for hub team to do follow up process.
- Plantation activities are not perceived as high priority among people in disaster situation.

Based on the learning gained through the community plantation initiatives, MRCS/IFRC revised the programme strategy and developed new set of guidelines for community plantation programme for the year 2010.



▲ Community level discussions on maintenance of plantation sites in Mawlamyinegyun Township

2.6.2 Community plantation programme during 2010

After incorporation of learning and insights gained during previous year, a revised plan of action and guidelines were developed. The elements that were given special emphasis during community plantation in 2010 include timely completion of activities during start of the rainy season, proper selection of plants saplings and planting methods, limited coverage of villages with better monitoring process, community participation and focal group formation for maintenance, follow-up support to the community after plantation and technical inputs. It was also decided to plant different types of fruit trees along with shade trees. The shade trees were planted on public places, where as fruit trees were distributed among households to be planted by them on their respective lands, such as house compounds and backyards.

The programme was implemented during Jun – Aug 2010. A total of 15 village tracts were covered, with one village in each village tract. A total of 40,163 trees of which 26,016 shade trees and 14,147 fruit trees were planted. Community mobilization was achieved throughout the implementation of the programme. Socialization and participatory planning was done, and the community decided about the plant varieties, specifications, plantation sites and participated in regular maintenance of the completed plantation. Information about the project was displayed at village levels and monthly progress and survival rate information was updated and displayed in community by the community focal group, which was responsible for overall management of plantation programme.

At the end of December 2010, the overall survival rate of the community plantation was 93 % among shade trees and 92 % among fruit trees. The following table shows the survival rate of plantation activities of 2010 in different townships covered.



◀ Grown up Kokko trees (rain trees) in Mawlamyinegyun Township

Survival rate of shade trees (2010)

SL	Township	No. of villages covered	Total no. of plants planted	Percentage (%) of survival rate of plants in 2010					Remark
				Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	Kungyangon	1	2,000	100	100	100	100	90	Around 3500 plants that were dead or destroyed due to flooding were replaced by community level plantation management committees.
2	Twantaty	1	2,500	100	100	100	81	81	
3	Kawhmu	1	1,000	100	90	89	100	89	
4	Pyapon	1	500	100	90	75	75	74	
5	Kyaiklatt	2	3,200	100	100	100	100	100	
6	Maubin	1	816	100	100	100	100	100	
7	Labutta	1	2,000	100	100	100	100	98	
8	Mawlamyinegyun	2	4,000	100	100	100	100	100	
9	Bogalay	2	4,000	100	100	100	98	97	
10	Dedaye	1	2,000	100	99	100	100	100	
11	Haigy	2	4,000	100	85	96	95	95	
	Overall	15	26,016	100	97	99	95	93	

Shade trees include : Malaysia padauk, U klick, Pyin Ma, Kyun, Ma gyee, Kokko, Let pan, Mar lar lu kar, and Ma haw gani (local names)

Survival rate of fruit trees (2010)

SL	Township	No. of villages covered	Total HHs covered	Total no. of plants distributed	Percentage (%) of survival rate of plants in 2010					Remark
					Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	Kungyangon	1	163	1,000	100	100	85	85	85	Fruit trees plants maintenance and care taking is done by respective beneficiaries by their own.
2	Twantaty	1	100	500	100	100	100	78	78	
3	Kawhmu	1	300	1,000	100	100	93	92	92	
4	Pyapon	1	100	300	100	100	100	100	100	
5	Kyaiklatt	2	96	950	100	100	98	98	96	
6	Maubin	1	120	330	100	100	100	100	100	
7	Labutta	1	250	1,000	100	100	65	65	65	
8	Mawlamyinegyun	2	450	4,000	100	100	100	100	100	
9	Bogalay	2	363	3,267	100	100	100	98	100	
10	Dedaye	1	100	500	100	100	100	100	100	
11	Haigy	2	110	1,300	100	100	100	92	100	
	Overall	15	2152	14,147	100	100	96	92	92	

Fruit trees include: Mango, Guava, Jack fruit, Durian, Banana, Lime, Coconut, Betel nut, Drum stick, and Papaya.

Community based plantation programme in Nyaung Chaung village

Nyaung Chaung village is part of Agar village tract of Maubin township, MRCS/IFRC has been undertaking cyclone Nargis recovery programme in this village tract with interventions in different sector. During 2010, the village of Nyaung Chaung has been supported with community plantation activity. A total of 1200 plants of which 800 shade trees and 400 fruit trees, were planted.

The programme is implemented with active participation of the community, the shade trees are planted in public places like village roads and fruit trees are being distributed among households that are planted in the respective owned compounds, or nearby their houses. The plantation activities were undertaken during the months of June-July of 2010, which are the beginning months of the rainy season. The community was involved in the entire process of plantation, the community selected plantation sites, decided about plant varieties and specifications of the plants to be planted. The village got support from township forestry department for supply of appropriate plant saplings.

The community has taken full ownership of the project and has been involved in regular maintenance of plantation sites. The plants planted in the public places are very well taken care by the community. The village has formed a small plantation management group, which is divided into 3 small groups, each group takes care of each plantation site. There are three sites covered with plantation activities.

The community safeguards plants properly and cleans the sites regularly. They provide water to the plants on a regular basis to ensure that all plants are grown properly. MRCS has supported the community in plantation maintenance activities with minimal cost involved. The interest and motivation among people to make the village plantation activities successful is very high. Till end of December 2010, which is after 6 months of plantation activities, the survival rate of the plants has achieved 100 %.



▲ Community level Red Cross volunteers involved in maintenance of plantation sites in Kungyangon Township

Success in plantation activities of 2009

Kyon Thut Ta Nyi village tract in Pyapon township has 666 household, with a population of around 3000 people. The village tract was severely affected by cyclone Nargis, along with loss and damage to village infrastructure, houses and livelihoods assets of people. There was also substantial damage to natural resources, as huge numbers of trees were lost due to the cyclone. The MRCS/IFRC has been working in the village tract through its cyclone nargis operation, and interventions in the sectors of shelter, health, water and sanitation and livelihoods are conducted.

During 2009, community plantation activities were implemented through active participation of the community. A total of 10,000 different varieties of shade trees were planted, covering 7 villages in the village tract. The planting was done during the month of August 2009. The plant varieties includes eucalyptus, teak wood and others. The plantation was carried out on public places, like village main road side, monasteries and school compounds. The project was coordinated with the township level department of forestry that helped in the supply of good quality plants.

Community participation in regular maintenance of the plantation was very high, which helped in developing community ownership and achieved successful results. After over one year, the overall survival rate of the plants is around 85 %. The plants are well grown, and provide shade on the road side and public places. The plantation also serves as a wind breaker during minor storms and helps in reducing vulnerabilities of the community to natural hazards. In the coming years, the plantation will give more benefits to the community through fire-wood and timber. The VTRC members of the village tract are looking forward to continue the maintenance of the plantation and are planning to plant more trees under their own initiative in coming years.



◀ Transparency board on plantation activities in Dedaye Township



► Teak wood plants planted in Maubin Township

2.7 Community capacity building

Community capacity building on livelihoods security is very much essential to sustain the impact of interventions. MRCS/IFRC developed an integrated strategy on community capacity building within the livelihoods programme. The beneficiaries supported with livelihoods programme are provided with additional inputs through capacity building initiatives to enhance their knowledge and are provided with advance technical inputs to undertake livelihoods activities. During 2009-2010, community capacity building programmes in the sectors of agriculture and livestock were prioritized. Various trainings were conducted at community level among agriculture and livestock supported beneficiaries to provide technical knowledge on the subjects concerned. The initiatives undertaken on building community capacities were successful in enhancing the knowledge base of the farmers in agriculture and livestock sectors, and helped in maximizing the impact of interventions.

2.7.1 Community capacity building initiatives in agriculture sector

During the period of 2009-2010, MRCS supported a total of 7,088 households with livelihoods support in the agriculture sector. Out of the total beneficiaries supported in this sector 4,808 (67 %) of beneficiaries were supported for monsoon and summer paddy cropping. Initiatives in community level agriculture trainings were accordingly prioritized for the farmers supported with paddy farming.

During 2009, a total of 475 farmers were trained from 6 townships, namely Kyaiklatt, Maubin, Kungyangon, Dedaye, Kawhmu and Twantay that were covered with fertilizers and cash support for monsoon paddy. In total 9 training sessions were conducted for 2 days each at village tract level covering the targeted areas. The post training review was conducted to make necessary changes for community level agriculture trainings for the year 2010, and it was decided to extend the training module to 3 days instead of 2 days, by incorporating more relevant sessions.

In 2010, two categories of agricultural trainings were accomplished. The first one was for farmers that were supported for summer paddy in Pyapon Township. In Pyapon 200 farmers were covered with agricultural training session with upgraded training methodology. The coverage of farmers for trainings was 39 % of the total 511 beneficiaries supported with fertilizers and cash support for summer paddy cropping in 2010 in Pyapon Township. Of the total participants who attended, 22 % were women in this township.

The second batch of trainings was during the monsoon paddy cultivation of 2010. MRCS covered 855 farmers, 18 % out of total 4,714 supported with fertilizers and cash support for monsoon paddy cultivation in 2010. The training course of three days each were conducted with a total of 15 training sessions covering all village tracts covered under the programme.

2.7.2 Agriculture training methodology and type of inputs

The trainings on community capacity building followed a participatory approach. Discussions among farmers, experience sharing, field visits to farms, practical demonstrations sessions, technical inputs and knowledge sharing were part of the process. The inputs were given based on the needs and requirements of farmers. Trainings were conducted at community level with a friendly work environment where farmers could contribute and learn through a two way communication process. The trainings were conducted during May – June 2010, so that the farmers can apply the knowledge and new techniques imparted immediately during paddy season.

Different types of inputs such as methods to check the quality of seeds, use of quality seeds to increase crop production, proper use of chemical fertilizers, use of organic manure, compost making, System of Rice Intensification (SRI) methods, disease and pest control, storage of quality seeds, crop management practices, inputs on cultivation of other crop and vegetables were covered through the training sessions. Farmers took good interest and participated with high enthusiasm throughout the trainings process as the subject matters were of much concern to them in their agriculture practices.

The trainings sessions were conducted by expertise trainers in the field of agriculture. MRCS developed a professionally trained team of four experts for such trainings, and there were two teams with a senior and junior trainer, who worked in different locations in the targeted areas. Along with the expertise trainers, coordination was done with township level Myanmar Agriculture Services (MAS) Department. The officials from MAS participated in the training process and provided additional inputs with dissemination of information concerning to the work done by MAS at township levels.

In order to make training programmes more effective, different types of IEC materials were used. These included posters on pest and disease control, handouts/booklets with information on different aspects of agriculture, samples of different fertilizers, samples of quality seeds, pest control aids and other stationeries for participants.

One of the significant elements of the trainings was introducing a farmer's progress card. All farmers that were trained were given with farmers' progress cards, which are to be used by farmers to document the progress made by them in their farms. The progress cards captures different type of information like total land cultivated, type of paddy variety used, application of fertilizers in different intervals, diseases and pest problems faced and actions taken and total yield cultivated at the time of harvest. The farmers were trained on how to record the information through the progress card. The progress card reports of farmers will be collected by MRCS after the harvest of monsoon paddy to analyze the impact of the intervention.



◀ Farmers studying pest control techniques during agriculture trainings

2.7.3 Community capacity building initiatives in livestock sector

In the livestock sector, MRCS supported 2,529 beneficiaries with pigs, ducks and chickens to recovery their livelihoods. Out of the total supported beneficiaries, 1,325 (52 %) were provided with trainings as part of community capacity building initiatives.

Beneficiaries were trained on different aspects of livestock management in collaboration with LBVD at township levels. Inputs on the significance of animal vaccinations, disease control mechanisms and treatments, animal health care, information on animal breeds, need of animal sheds and other technical guidance to livestock supported beneficiaries were given. Training sessions of 1-2 days were conducted, and training facilitations were done by expert officers from LBVD in respective townships.

The capacity building initiatives in the livestock sector helped beneficiaries in getting familiar with different issues around livestock management, they were able to enhance their traditional knowledge with more technical understanding of different aspects. Another important benefit of the trainings was that the community got closely linked with the township LBVD, which will help them in the long run. MRCS did necessary follow up of the trainings for subsequent months, beneficiaries were provided regular guidance after distribution of livestock as part of the follow-up and monitoring system. The problems and difficulties faced by the beneficiaries were reported to the township LBVD and more technical visits of the expertise officials were organized at village level to provided ongoing technical support to beneficiaries.

Collaboration with Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD)

Bogale township is one of the worst affected areas of cyclone Narigs. Along with different types of losses in livelihoods sector, loss to livestock sector was very significant. Many organizations supported the recovery of livestock sector including MRCS/IFRC.

The approach of MRCS/IFRC in livestock sector was very unique and community based. The beneficiaries who lost their livestock were supported with pigs, ducks and chickens. Utmost care has been taken to ensure beneficiary get maximum benefit from the support provided.

The Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department was actively involved in the project right from the beginning, and finalization of livestock packages and development of animal specifications were done jointly. The department was involved in the selection of appropriate suppliers, and quality checking of livestock distributed.

Another important collaboration was on conducting beneficiary trainings on livestock management. MRCS organized capacity building programmes in collaboration with LBVD to built capacity of the targeted beneficiaries on different aspects of animal care, prior to distribution of livestock, which helped in ensuring a high survival rate of animals distributed. MRCS also ensured proper vaccinations to all animals before distribution through LBVD.

The livelihoods package comprised of in-kind materials and cash support. Cash support to beneficiaries was very crucial as it helped them in developing animal sheds and to take care of other related expenditures.

I was involved in conducting trainings to beneficiaries, the community showed very good interest to learn different aspects of animal care and livestock management. We are thankful to MRCS/IFRC for supporting livestock sector needs in the township and look forward to continue working together ahead.

U Kyi Win, Township Officer, LBVD, Bogale Township



◀ Agriculture training session in Kyailkatt Township



► Livestock training session in Bogalay Township

2.8 Overall outreach of beneficiaries through livelihoods intervention 2008-2010

MRCS/IFRC has a target of supporting 30,000 households through livelihoods intervention during the entire period of cyclone nargis operation (2008-2011). During 2008-2010, a total of 26,797 beneficiaries are being reached with different type of livelihoods interventions, accomplishing 90 % of the targets.

Out of the total households supported, 41 % are provided with support in the agriculture sector. This is followed by CFW interventions with 28 % beneficiaries of the total outreach. The fishery sector had 17 % of the total beneficiaries supported. The livestock and small business sectors had 9 and 5 % beneficiaries respectively from the total coverage. Along with direct financial supports to the beneficiaries, MRCS supported around 2,800 beneficiaries with additional training inputs. The detailed break down of the overall reach out of beneficiaries is given below:

2.8.1 Overall livelihoods coverage table

SL	Type of livelihoods interventions	Coverage of beneficiaries			Total beneficiaries		
		2008	2009	2010	Male	Female	Total
Household level coverage							
1	Cash for Work (CFW)	750	6194	500	5048	2396	7444
2	Fertilizers and cash support for monsoon paddy farming	0	3994	4714	7373	1335	8708
3	Asset recovery in agriculture sector	0	0	2374	2009	365	2374
4	Asset recovery in livestock sector	0	0	2529	2170	359	2529
5	Asset recovery in fishery sector	0	0	4528	4327	201	4528
6	Asset recovery in small business sector	0	0	1214	957	257	1214
	Total direct household coverage	750	10188	15859	21884	4913	26797
Community level trainings coverage							
7	Agriculture trainings to farmers	0	475	1055	1341	189	1530
8	Livestock trainings to beneficiaries	0	300	1025	944	381	1325
	Total trainings coverage		775	2080	2285	570	2855
Community plantation coverage							
9	Village level community plantation	0	105	19	124		
10	Distribution of fruit trees among households	0	0	2512	2512		

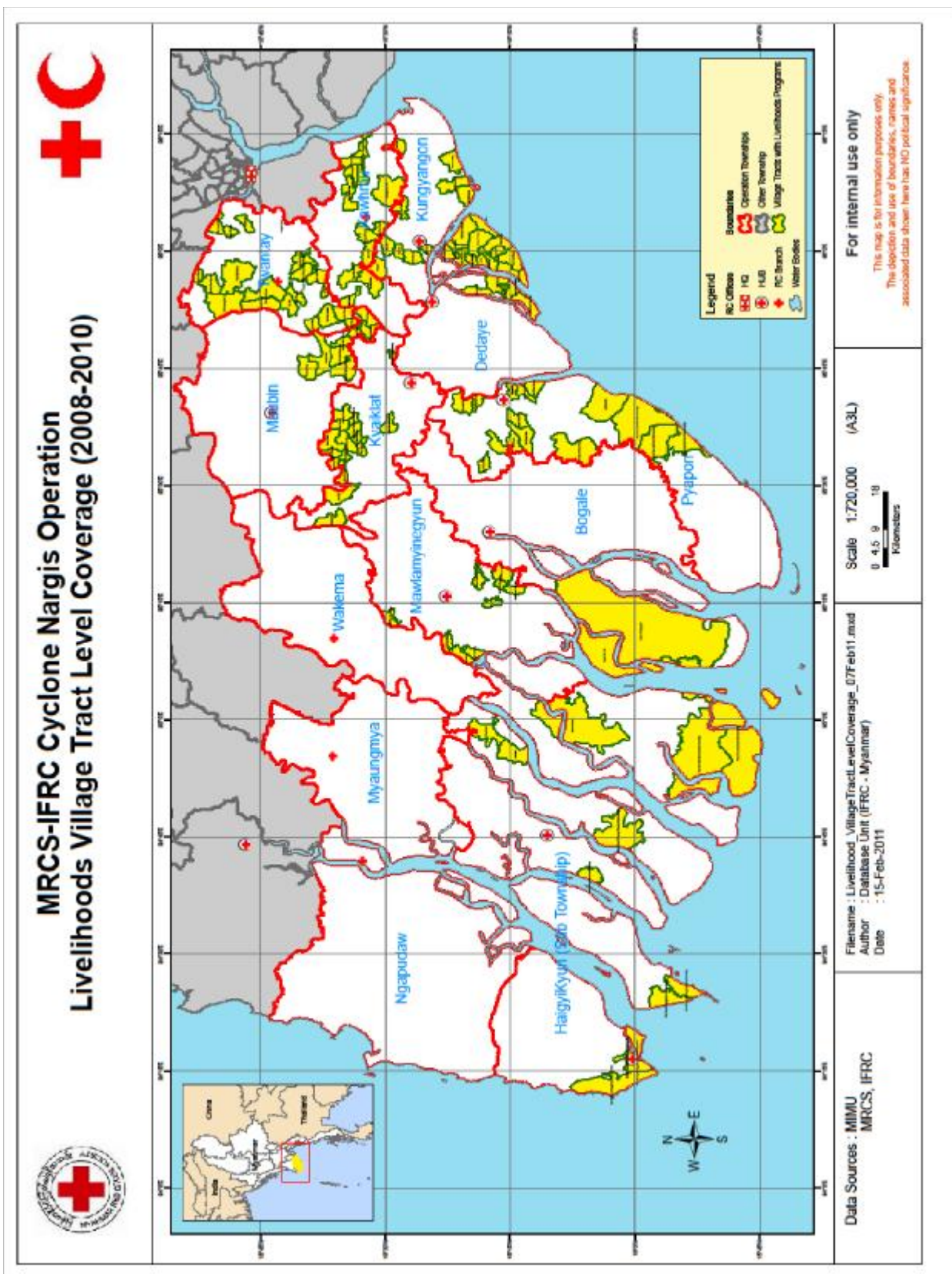
2.8.2 Township wise coverage in livelihoods sector

SL	Townships	Main programmatic interventions (2008-2010)							Total
		CFW	Fertiliz- ers and c a s h 2009	Fertiliz- ers and c a s h 2010	A s s e t recovery in agri- culture	A s s e t recovery in live- stock	A s s e t recovery in fishery	Asset re- covery in small busi- ness	
1	Kungyangon	877	410	330	37	44	256	3	1957
2	Twantaty	800	540	250	447	72	244	47	2400
3	Kawhmu	810	425	250	251	138	46	40	1960
4	Pyapon	320	0	510	511	1085	363	141	2930
5	Kyaiklatt	530	925	360	49	9	183	34	2090
6	Maubin	1230	925	360	185	49	62	29	2840
7	Labutta	1075	0	360	162	70	1236	482	3385
8	Mawlamgyun	369	0	1046	0	74	117	23	1629
9	Bogalay	680	0	522	94	471	1333	333	3433
10	Dedaye	423	769	366	0	479	173	73	2283
11	Haigy	330	0	360	638	38	515	9	1890
	Overall	7444	3994	4714	2374	2529	4528	1214	26797



▲ Banana plants distribution among beneficiaries in Haigy sub township

2.8.3 Livelihoods coverage map



2.8.4 Financial resources used for livelihoods sector in 2010

During the year 2010, MRCS/IFRC has utilized approximately 2,500,000.00 CHF on different types of livelihoods interventions. The majority of the expenditures, around 84 % were in the livelihoods asset recovery support to beneficiaries covering sectors of agriculture, livestock, fishery and small business. Other expenditures were in the initiatives like CFW, capacity building and community plantation and human resources related cost. The break up expenditure pattern in livelihoods sector for the year 2010 is given below:

Sl	Particulars	% of expenditures
1	CFW	2
2	Asset recovery (Agriculture)	40
3	Asset recovery (Livestock)	12
4	Asset recovery (Fishery)	26
5	Asset recovery (Small business)	6
6	Community capacity building	2
7	Community plantation	2
8	Human resource and support cost	10
	Total	100



▲ A traditional hat making shop supported by MRCS/IFRC in Twantay Township

Chapter III: Next phase of livelihoods programme and moving forward

The cyclone Nargis operation will be concluded during mid 2011, and the process of follow up in respective sectors will be carried forward by MRCS through regular programmes with active involvement of township level Red Cross Branches. Considering the fact that the operation has a limited time span, the scope for scale-up of activities and new initiatives will be very limited. The major focus of the programme will be around smooth exit and closure of activities and consolidation of experiences and lessons learnt. Following are the key focus areas of livelihoods programme during 2011.

3.1 Possible livelihoods interventions during 2011

One of the issues around livelihoods security in the project areas is access to credit. The vulnerable groups are going through regular debt cycle on high rate of interest. In order to address this, there is a need to have a long term programming strategy, and interventions related to micro-finance initiatives should be considered. MRCS is looking forward to initiate a pilot project in a few selected villages on establishing a community revolving fund for women.

Necessary preparatory work has been already started. After necessary trainings and capacity building of the groups have been performed, a small amount money will be given to the groups, as revolving fund, which will be circulated amongst the members with minimal interest rate to address their needs of credit at village level.

The Township Red Cross Branches will be actively involved in the whole process of the project to undertake necessary follow-ups at community level and to ensure the processes initiated continue to achieve the desired results of the project.

3.2 Analyzing impact of livelihoods interventions

During 2008-2010, MRCS/IFRC has implemented diverse activities in the livelihoods sector. Interventions like CFW, asset recovery in agriculture, livestock, fishery, and small business, community capacity building and community based plantation programmes were implemented. The interventions have benefited the vulnerable disaster affected households to recover their livelihoods and regain household economic security. It is important to analyze the overall impact of the livelihoods interventions in relation to building community resilience to withstand future disasters.

MRCS/IFRC is looking forward to facilitate community level participatory process to analyze the impact of livelihoods interventions on targeted community. This process will help to understand significance of livelihoods recovery programming in an emergency context, and the lessons learnt will further build the capacities of MRCS in responding to future disasters. In the year 2011, processes will be facilitated to help understanding the impact of a livelihoods sector response.

3.3 Consolidating experiences and lessons learnt in livelihoods sector

During 2011, another important process that will be undertaken within the organization will be to consolidate experiences and lessons learnt in livelihoods sector. The entire process of livelihoods programme implementation has seen insightful learning experience. It is essential to learn from the experiences gained to move forward and to adopt better programming systems in future.

MRCS/IFRC is planning to undertake a lessons learnt workshop and other processes to capture the learning in the livelihoods sector, which will be undertaken during 2011. The process will have involvement and participation of different team members, such as HQ staff, hub level teams, community level teams, red cross volunteers and others concerned. MRCS/IFRC will ensure proper documentation of lessons learnt and challenges faced that can be referred in future.

3.4 Livelihoods programming knowledge management for future reference

Since the beginning of the operation, a significant numbers of programme related materials in the livelihoods sector have been developed. Assorted programming materials like action plans, different set of guidelines, programming formats, monitoring forms, database formats, livelihoods reports and publications, etc. were developed. During 2011, special emphasis will be given to compile all such documents in one place for easy reference of MRCS in future.



▲ A woman broadcasting fertilizers supported by MRCS in paddy fields in Kyaiklatt Township

3.5 Conclusion

The year 2010 was very busy as the majority of activities in livelihoods sector were implemented during this year. The main focus remained on livelihoods asset recovery related intervention that benefited around 15,000 households during this reporting period. The operational efforts and hard work of the entire team during 2008-2009 on designing livelihoods programme and field planning has witnessed its success with effective and quality programming outcomes for the year 2010.

This is the first time in the history of MRCS that the organization has done such diverse programming in different sectors like agriculture, livestock, fishery and small business to support vulnerable households in the cyclone Nargis affected areas to recover their livelihoods. The entire process of programme implementation has provided a learning opportunity to MRCS, and the same will help the organization in the future.

The livelihoods programme has been successful in reaching out to assist the most vulnerable and needy households that were affected by cyclone Nargis and were unable to recover on their own. The support provided to targeted households was very vital in protecting their livelihoods and reducing their vulnerabilities. Livelihoods and economic security of community is very much essential for the overall well being of the households. The cyclone caused immense loss and destruction of livelihoods resources of the communities and thus having livelihoods recovery as an integral part of an overall recovery framework of Cyclone Nargis Operation of MRCS/IFRC was important.

The Nargis operation will come to an end in July 2011, and there are important processes with regard to consolidation and smooth exit of the programme to be undertaken in coming months. The coming year will be put emphasis on the transition process to develop appropriate linkages with regular ongoing programmes of MRCS, in order to take the process forward. MRCS is looking forward to build on the processes initiated through Nargis operation to support vulnerable communities in coming years.



◀ *Peanuts cultivated by beneficiaries in Haigyi Township*



◀ A grocery shop supported by MRCS/IFRC in Maubin Township



▶ Local breed of Burmese Chicken supported by MRCS/IFRC



◀ Monsoon paddy harvest of beneficiary in Dadaye Township



Our contacts



Myanmar Red Cross Society
Red Cross Building
42, Strand Road
Botataung Township
Yangon, Myanmar
Tel : 392028/29/30
www.myanmarredcross.org.mm

International Federation of
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Red Cross Building
42, Strand Road
Botataung Township
Yangon, Myanmar
Tel : 383682/86
www.ifrc.org