

MEDIA RELEASE

Training of community volunteers in hygiene promotion in cyclone affected areas, Myanmar

UNICEF in partnership with the Environment Sanitation Department (ESD) at the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) build capacity in hygiene education for locals in delta.

LAPUTTA, 9 October 2008- Today, training for community volunteers in hygiene promotion begins at UNDP office in Laputta Township, Irrawaddy Division.

The hygiene promotion training, the first of its kind in cyclone affected areas, aims to equip community volunteers from five badly affected townships in delta with skills and knowledge on water and sanitation and communication methods.

A total of 80 participants will learn about 4 Cleans(food, water, hand, latrine), effective communication, sanitary latrines, drawing action plans and monitoring and evaluation from training which will be carried out by three experts in water and sanitation and communication from UNICEF and ESD.

This four day training will be followed by two batches of training which will be held later this month in Bogalay. The areas that trainings will benefit are 70 villages each in Laputta, Mawlamyinegyun and Bogalay, 40 villages each in Kyaitlatt and Ngaputaw in Myanmar's Irrawaddy.

At the end of the training, the participants are expected to facilitate and mobilize the construction of 20,000 sanitary latrines in their respective residence areas.

The trainings are being carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's ESD, UNICEF and UNDP in Myanmar.

According to Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) report, the percentage of households in affected areas practicing unsanitary defecation - open defecation, floating latrines or trenches-almost doubled to 40 per cent.

The training programme is part of the collaboration agreement between UNDP and UNICEF to increase awareness on personal hygiene and to reconstruct the sanitation infrastructure in the cyclone affected areas.

For more information, please contact

Sandar Linn, UNICEF Myanmar, +951 375527-32 ext. 1439 slinn@unicef.org

Anna Stechert, UNICEF Myanmar, +951 375527-32 ext 1443 astechert@unicef.org