

Three months after the hurricane that devastated Myanmar, a field worker describes the current situation in the country.

Thanks to the initial support given by Banca Popolare di Bergamo and Banco di Brescia (UBI Banca Group), Cesvi has already distributed, food and materials for the construction of shelters and water purification units to thousands of people.

Bergamo, 25th July 2008. It is now three months since the devastating passage of the hurricane Nargis, which left a trail of destruction with **more than 100 thousand victims**. Most of the inhabitants of the zone hit have received some initial assistance, but the situation is still serious: **800 thousand people** are still living in overcrowded camps without adequate shelter in the middle of the monsoon season, while it continues to rain uninterruptedly.

"The situation is still serious, but there is a strong spirit of cohesion and solidarity among the population", said **Paolo Felice**, in charge of **Cesvi** projects in Myanmar. "Many young people came to the areas that had been hit immediately after the hurricane to offer help. They are very young – even just 15 and 16 years old – and since they couldn't go to school because the buildings had been destroyed they came to help those who were in greatest difficulty. Many of them are still working with us now as volunteers, with great generosity."

The lack of drinking water is another emergency. "The hygiene situation is still very precarious, Felice added, "but the action already taken has managed to prevent the spread of epidemics. A total of 200 latrines have been built."

Cesvi has been in the country since 2001 and took action in the zone hit by the hurricane immediately. It has been operating for a number of weeks in the Dedaye district - 100 km south west of Yangon – and it is currently coordinating the activities of other international organisations present in the district.

"We have already cleaned 150 basins to collect rainwater", Paolo Felice informed us, "and these provide access to drinking water for 80 thousand people. Now we are also continuing with the distribution of pills to make water drinkable and containers to collect rainwater. We have also distributed 16.000 toilet kits and 5.300 kits of kitchen utensils to allow families to resume life in as normal a manner as possible.

Thanks to numerous individual donations and the substantial grant from **UBI Banca**, **22.000 temporary shelters** have been distributed to help approximately **100.000 people**. Distribution is still continuing at full speed, however.

UBI Banca has supported Cesvi for ten years and it started a new fundraising campaign from its customers with a **donation of 100.000 euro made by Banca Popolare di Bergamo and Banco di Brescia** to launch it. This first donation of funds covers the first rehabilitation action and officially opens the "**Cesvi sUBIto**" account — inaugurated with the collection for the Bangladesh emergency and always **available in all the network banks of the Group** – it was set up as a rapid and effective response to human disasters.

Support Cesvi intervention in Myanmar: CesvisUBIto current account No. 95 at UBI Banca (IBAN CODE IT56M0502611122000000000095) held in the name of Cesvi, reason for payment "Emergenza Myanmar"

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