

Disaster Monitor

The Format:

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Photo: James East

■ **The Series:** Looking at countries in the context of natural catastrophes positions World Vision to better predict, prevent or prepare for the onslaught of disasters. The rationale is simple: disasters can wipe out years of development in mere minutes. Reducing disaster risks is not an optional extra – but an extra obligation. It is at the heart of sustainable development.

Myanmar

World Vision

1. The Facts

Myanmar is bordered by China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. With the Bay of Bengal to the southwest and one-third of Myanmar's total perimeter (1,930 kilometers) forming an uninterrupted coastline, Myanmar is naturally vulnerable to seaward hazards such as rising sea levels and cyclonic storm surges. Cyclone Nargis (2-3 May 2008) was the worst natural disaster in the recorded history of Myanmar. The fast facts follow:

Union of Myanmar	Population: 48 million ⁽¹⁾
Combined gross enrolment ratio (primary, secondary, tertiary education, 2005)	49.5% ⁽²⁾
Forest area change from 1990-2005 [average annual percent change, 1990-2005]	-70,000 square kilometres [-1.2%] ⁽¹¹⁾
Life expectancy at birth, annual estimates (2005)	60.8 years ⁽¹⁾
Adult illiteracy rate (15 and older, 1995-2005)	10.1% ⁽³⁾
Children underweight for age (under age 5, 1996-2005)	32% ⁽⁴⁾
Population undernourished in percent [real figures]	5% [2.4 million] ⁽⁵⁾
Physicians (per 100,000 people, 2000-04)	36 [equals one doctor per 2,778 people] ⁽⁶⁾
Human Development Index (HDI) value [rank]	0.583 [rank: 132 of 177] ^(7,8)
Natural Disaster Index (NDI) value [risk; rank]	7.07 [risk: "medium"; rank: 154 of 204] ^(9,10,12)

2. The Forces

“Climate change doesn’t happen in a vacuum. Rapid urbanisation, haphazard development, sprawling slums, city subsidence, pollution, degraded ecosystems, intensifying wind storms and rising sea levels are converging on coastal communities. Jointly these forces are setting the stage for future disasters, coming together from different directions so as eventually to meet.” (Dr. Brett Parris, World Vision Australia, Chief Economist) ⁽¹³⁾

Disaster Environment: The severity of any disaster depends on two factors: the country context within which the disaster occurs, and the nature and force of the onslaught itself. Given a country context like that of Myanmar with more than 45 million people living without electricity and only one doctor for every 2,778 people, the impact of a catastrophe can be cataclysmic.

With the Bay of Bengal to the southwest and a long and low-lying coastal zone stretching across the Arabian and Indo-Chinese Tectonic Plates, Myanmar has long been vulnerable both to meteorological and geological hazards like cyclones, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis. Since record keeping began in 1900, Myanmar has been struck by 16 cyclones. High rates of deforestation have significantly increased Myanmar's vulnerability to seaward hazards.

Disaster Definition: The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) defines a disaster as a "situation or event, which overwhelms local capacity, necessitating a request to national or international level for external assistance; an unforeseen and often sudden event that causes great damage, destruction and human suffering." For a disaster to be entered into the EM-DAT ⁽¹²⁾ database, at least one of the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- 10 or more people reported killed
- 100 people reported affected
- Declaration of a state of emergency
- Call for international assistance

Past Years: Using this definition, the years 1990-2008 have seen Myanmar impacted by 21 natural disasters. The majority of disasters in Myanmar feature little in international news but amount to significant destruction when added together (figure 1). The pie charts show the prevalence of natural catastrophes by disaster types (figure 2) and the number of people affected by them (figure 3).

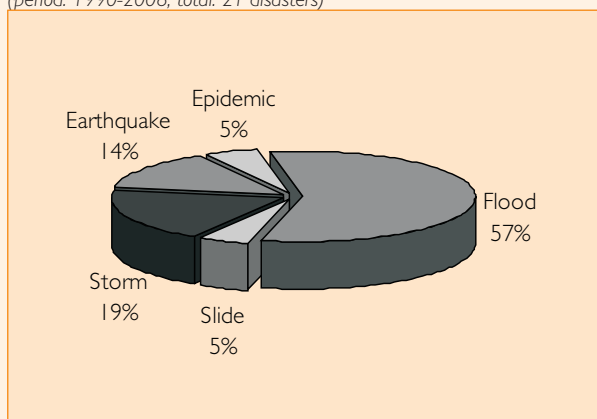
In this period, floods have been the most *prevalent* (57%), wind storms the most *deadly* (133,942 people killed) and *disruptive* (2,550,076 people affected), and seismic activity/tsunamis the most *economically damaging* (US\$500 million in damage caused) disaster activity in Myanmar.

Past Century: Mega-disasters – sometimes called "disasters of the century" – occur less frequently, but their destructive force can overpower a vulnerable nation. Figures 4 and 5 show two perspectives of the top three natural disasters in Myanmar since record-keeping began in 1900. [Figures from EM-DAT database queried 4 Sept. 2008. ⁽¹²⁾]

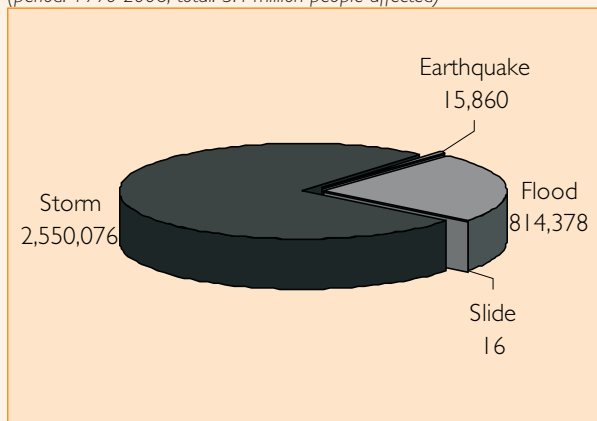
■ Figure 1: Impact from 21 natural disasters (summary for 1990-2008)

Human Impact	Cumulative Total	Annual Average
1. People killed	134,331	7,463
2. People affected	3.4 million	188,000
3. Damage caused	US\$ 645.6 million	US\$ 35.9 million

■ Figure 2: Prevalence of natural disasters by types (period: 1990-2008; total: 21 disasters)



■ Figure 3: Number of people affected by natural disaster types (period: 1990-2008; total: 3.4 million people affected)



■ Figure 4: Worst disasters (by people killed; period: 1900-2008)

Top Three Disasters (Date)	People killed
1. Storm (2-3 May 2008)	133,655
2. Storm (19 May 1926)	2,700
3. Storm (10 May 1968)	1,070

■ Figure 5: Worst disasters (by people affected; period: 1900-2008)

Top Three Disasters (Date)	People affected
1. Storm (2-3 May 2008)	2.4 million
2. Flood (15 July 1974)	1.4 million
3. Storm (23 October 1965)	500,000



HEARTFELT HOSPITALITY

"It is just a small thing that we can offer but we just want to say 'thank you.'"

—U Soe, cyclone survivor, Hinegyi Kyun

Hinegyi Kyun: U Soe and his wife cook "mont-te"

Photos: Ashley Clements

3. The Faces

"It is just a small thing that we can offer in return." With tears of gratitude U Soe and his wife offered 'mont-te' rice noodles and soup to the aid workers and survivors of Hinegyi Kyun, a village in the south-western part of Myanmar. Even though U Soe lost his daughter, son-in-law and grandson three months earlier when Cyclone Nargis obliterated his village, he still wanted to thank those who had helped them. ⁽¹⁴⁾

Cyclone Nargis Survivors: Hinegyi Kyun was among the first villages to be devastated by the storm surge when Cyclone Nargis made landfall in the Irrawaddy Delta. U Soe recounts that his daughter's whole family was swept away by the floods, along with the majority of his fellow villagers. Because the waterway from Patheingyi is full of dangerous rocks it took weeks for food aid and shelter assistance to arrive. Moreover, since strong winds and heavy monsoon rains continued to batter the area in the wake of the cyclone, the fishermen in the village could not go out fishing again to make a living. U Soe says: "Only when there is a break of good weather can we go out and catch fish." He says the bad weather makes it difficult for the villagers to forget the horrifying experience: "Whenever a strong wind comes we immediately look for shelter."

Thank You In Myanmar: Despite the hardships U Soe is grateful for any aid that got through to the villagers. Looking around at the relief agency workers who provided hygiene kits, tarpaulins and bamboo poles to rebuild houses for the villagers, U Soe smiles and says: "We received so much help from people and could not really give anything back. Today we cooked a pot of fish soup and prepared rice noodles to offer to those who helped us through this difficult time. We just want to say 'thank you!'" World Vision Advocacy Advisor Ashley Clements who was invited to dinner with the family says it was an event he will never forget after seeing so much suffering: "The terrifying disaster may have taken away a lot of lives but it certainly didn't diminish the kindness and love of the people of Myanmar. This party I will never forget." ⁽¹⁴⁾ ■



Aid Gets Through: Food aid helps alleviate suffering and is quickly converted into dinner by cyclone survivors.



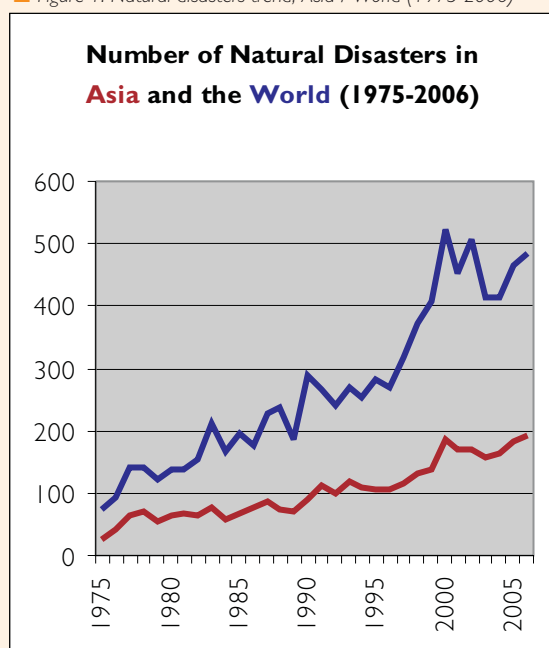
Warm Welcome: Cooking fish soup was U Soe's way of showing gratitude for the aid he received.

4. The Forecasts

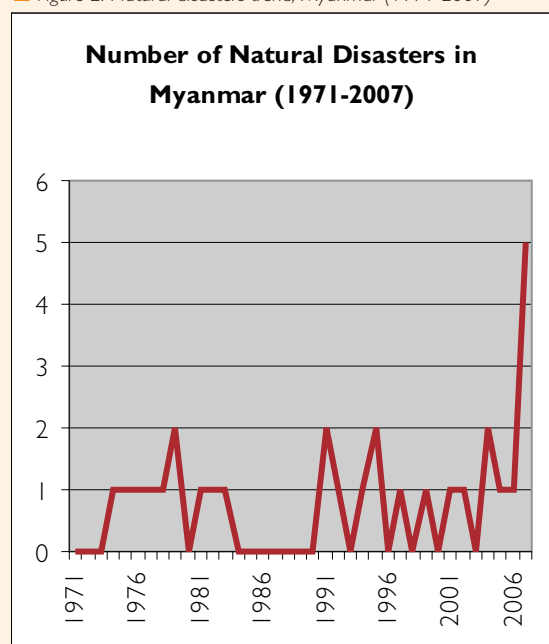
“Theory, observational data and model calculations ... indicate that climate warming leads to stronger hurricanes [cyclones, typhoons]. The effects revealed by measured data are even stronger than theoretically expected. With a warming of the tropical sea-surface temperature of only 0.5°C the hurricane energy has increased globally by 70 percent in recent decades.” (German Advisory Council on Global Change)⁽¹⁵⁾

The Trends: Over recent decades, the number of natural disasters has steadily risen, both globally, regionally (figure 1) and nationally (figure 2). Past progressions (below) and future forecasts (right) speak the same language.

■ Figure 1: Natural disasters trend, Asia / World (1975-2006)⁽¹²⁾



■ Figure 2: Natural disasters trend, Myanmar (1971-2007)⁽¹²⁾



Projections: In 2007 the Fourth Assessment Report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the recognised global authority on climate change honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize 2007, brought a protracted climate change debate to an end: "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level." ⁽¹⁶⁾ Projections include:

- Probable temperature rise by 2100: 1.8-4.0° C
- Possible temperature rise by 2100: 1.1-6.4° C
- Probable sea level rise: 18-59 cm
- Increase in droughts, tropical cyclones and extreme high tides: "likely" (>66%)
- More frequent warm spells, heat waves and heavy rainfall: "very likely" (>90%)

Rising sea levels raise the risks as higher sea levels provide a higher base for wind storm-induced surges. Commenting on the rise in frequency and severity of natural disasters, Sir John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, recently said: "What we are witnessing is not an aberration, but rather a 'curtain raiser' on the future. These events are not abnormal; they're what I call the 'new normal.' The number of recorded disasters has doubled from approximately 200 to over 400 per year over the past two decades. Nine of out every ten disasters are now climate related." ⁽¹⁷⁾

Myanmar: Countries like Myanmar with a long coastline and densely settled low-lying land are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels. Even diminutive rises in sea level vertically can lead to enormous erosion horizontally. Reports by the IPCC state that a rise in sea level of one centimetre can result in beach erosion of one metre horizontally. ⁽¹⁸⁾ This puts extreme strain on densely populated coastal areas. In light of accelerating sea level rises projected by the IPCC for the 21st century, the loss of low-lying land to coastal erosion and submersion will have a particularly grave effect on Myanmar's agriculture. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) explains: The steep "increase of the population" has led to an "encroachment into the mangrove forests which used to serve as buffer between the rising tide, between big waves and storms and the residential area." ⁽¹⁹⁾

Climate change has the potential to undo the last 50 years of development work. The poorest will be hit first and worst. Policy makers and NGOs must help Myanmar prepare itself. ■

“These low-lying areas [of Myanmar’s Irrawaddy Delta], interspersed with many tidal waterways, are naturally exposed to storms and monsoon winds blowing from the southwest. However, their vulnerability to natural hazards has been significantly enhanced by losses of natural forest cover and coastal vegetation that have accompanied transformation of the land for paddy cultivation.”

—Post-Nargis Joint Assessment Report, PONJA (20)

PROTECT COASTLINES



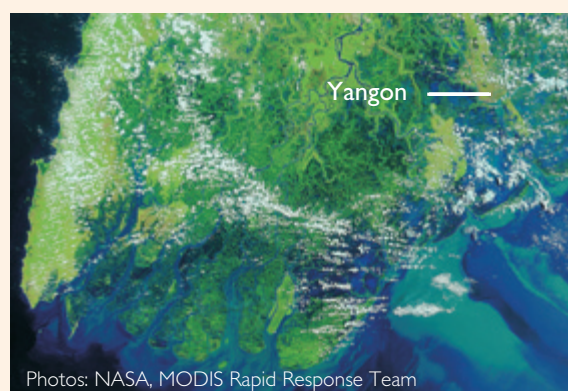
Irrawaddy Delta, Myanmar: Mangroves are salt-tolerant coastal forests. Their partially submerged root systems protect coasts from erosion and flooding. This satellite photo (3 March 2000) shows how the destruction of mangroves has left the low-lying delta exposed to the sea. Mangrove forests appear deep green, traced by blue-green, sediment-laden streams; bare ground appears pinkish tan. The photos (lower right) show the combined devastating effect of tree cover decimation and storm surge flooding. (27)

Photo: NASA, Landsat 7

5. The Focus

“Mangrove forests ... can dissipate the force of storm surges and heavy winds ... Their ability to serve as windbreaks when they occur in dense stands of tall-canopied trees makes them particularly beneficial during cyclones, and their capacity to trap sediments in their prop roots and accelerate the accretion of coastline seaward makes them a first line of defence against sea level rise and adaptation to climate change.” (Post-Nargis Joint Assessment Report) (20)

Protecting Coastlines: Rising sea levels, stronger cyclones and ecosystem degradation mutually reinforce each other, exacerbating the fallout from seaward disasters. The satellite images (lower right) depict the devastating effect of Cyclone Nargis (2-3 May 2008) which killed more than 130,000 people. According to Alan Sharp of the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, 90 percent of deaths were caused as a direct consequence of the storm surge. He says: “The flat nature of the delta region, cleared of mangroves for agriculture, offers no impedance to the force of the storm surge, allowing it to penetrate well inland.” (21) Examining Terra and Aqua satellite observations, researchers have concluded that “Cyclone Nargis flooded about 14,402 square kilometres in the Irrawaddy Delta,” (22) an area equal to one-third of Switzerland. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), about 2,000 square kilometres, or 16 percent of the delta’s agricultural land suffered severe salinity damage from the surge that swept salt water up to 35 kilometres inland and will require “environmental remediation.” (23) Researchers estimate that 83 percent of mangroves in the Irrawaddy Delta were destroyed between 1924 and 1999. (24) There is broad agreement that climate change will exacerbate storm surge risk. A recent World Bank study states: “By far the most certain aspect of climate change that will influence surge characteristics is global-mean-sea-level rise ... The overall conclusion is that the surge hazard will evolve significantly during the 21st century.” (25) Given that the World Bank has ranked Myanmar as the world’s eighth-most vulnerable nation to sea level rise in terms of “agricultural land impacted” (26) underscores large-scale mangrove reforestation initiatives as an important priority focus for coastline protection.



Photos: NASA, MODIS Rapid Response Team

Irrawaddy Delta: These NASA satellite images show the delta *before* (15 April 2008) and *after* (5 May 2008) Cyclone Nargis. Water is blue or nearly black, vegetation is bright green, bare ground is tan, clouds are white or light blue, the Gulf of Martaban is turquoise. Yangon is almost completely surrounded by floods. ■



“Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.”

—Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

PROMOTE
**FUTURE
LEARNING**

Photo: Saw Lay Htoo

6. The Future

“The lesson ... is encapsulated in the theme of this year’s International Day for Disaster Reduction: ‘Invest to prevent disaster.’ We cannot stop natural calamities, but we can and must better equip individuals and communities to withstand them. Those most vulnerable to nature’s wrath are usually the poorest, which means that when we reduce poverty, we also reduce vulnerability.” (Kofi Annan, 2005) ⁽²⁸⁾

Preparedness Investment: Recent years have seen a shift from disaster response to readiness. Increasing resilience means promoting preparedness. This is one of the most critical challenges facing the development community in the 21st century. By positioning to reduce the impact of disasters *before* they occur, unnecessary harm can be averted and decades of development gains protected. Reducing risk is at the heart of sustainable human development practice – predict, prevent, prepare, protect. Reaping the benefits of disaster preparedness requires *upfront* investment. One study found that for every dollar invested in pre-disaster risk reduction activities in developing countries seven dollars in losses can be averted. ⁽²⁹⁾ However, most donor funding comes in response to appeals *after* major disasters, making the shift from post-disaster recovery to pre-disaster preparedness an urgent priority. In the context of Myanmar’s demography, geography and topography, three priorities for action emerge: reforestation, electrification and education.

Reforestation: With the world’s longest-standing space-based land monitoring archive, NASA long identified Myanmar as a “deforestation hotspot.” A study of more than 750 Landsat satellite images of tsunami-impacted countries found that with an annual deforestation rate of ~1 percent Myanmar ranks as number one “deforestation hotspot.” ⁽³⁰⁾ The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), a

global coalition of environmental and conservation NGOs, says losses could be even higher: “Myanmar [is] losing forests at rates exceeding 1.5 percent per year, among the highest rates of loss in the world.” ⁽³¹⁾ According to Jim Enright, Asia coordinator for the nonprofit Mangrove Action Project, poverty is heavily implicated in the destruction of tidal forests: “People ... can’t afford to buy propane or gas, so mangrove is being cut continuously for fuel.” ⁽²⁴⁾ Reducing poverty means reducing vulnerability, a conclusion drawn by Kofi Annan on the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2005 (see quote above). ⁽²⁸⁾

Education: Existing data from the Ministry of Education in Myanmar shows that Cyclone Nargis destroyed or damaged 75 percent of schools in affected areas, ⁽³²⁾ impacting a staggering 1.1 million children. ⁽³³⁾ Given that children represent the joy of today and the hope for tomorrow makes education a strong priority for human development, enhanced disaster preparedness and a friendly and feasible future for Myanmar. This was recently recognised by UN ISDR Director Salvano Briceño: “When you have only a few minutes, it is important to know the actions you must take to reduce your risk, such as running to higher ground ... Many children have learnt to live with natural hazards ... Everybody should have this basic knowledge ... If we educate our children, there is hope that we can build a culture of prevention for future generations.” ■

World Vision Capacity

- **11 National Office** and 10 Area Development Programme workers have received training in Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (3 additional staff are scheduled to receive Tools Development Training in Indonesia)
- **4 Area Development Programmes** are integrating disaster risk reduction measures into community development programming
- **1 Area Development Programme** is integrating Community Owned Vulnerability And Capacity Assessments
- **1 Disaster Risk Reduction Training Manual** has been developed to raise disaster awareness and facilitate capacity building at grassroots community level
- **1 Disaster Management Team** is on stand-by to coordinate disaster management (members comprises personnel from Information Technology, Sponsorship and Communications)
- **1 Child Protection Manager** trains staff in Children In Emergencies and Child Protection issues
- **40,441 World Vision sponsored children** are steered for natural disasters through education and health care, bolstering overall community resilience
- **Coordinating Networks:**
World Vision Myanmar maintains a disaster management networking relationship with anti-poverty agency Action Aid
World Vision Myanmar supports an active membership with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. The IASC is a forum involving UN and non-UN humanitarian partners

7. The Footnotes

- 1 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report 2007/2008. Myanmar. {Source: UN (United Nations). 2007e. World Population Prospects 1950-2050: The 2006 Revision. Database. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. New York. Accessed July 2007.}
- 2 UNDP. Human Development Report 2007/2008. Myanmar. {Source: National or UNESCO Institute for Statistics estimate. 2007c. Gross and net enrolment ratios.}
- 3 UNDP. Human Development Report 2007/2008. Myanmar. {Source: adult literacy rates from UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Institute for Statistics. 2007a. Adult and youth literacy rates. May. Montreal.}
- 4 UNDP. Human Development Report 2007/2008. Myanmar. {Source: UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). 2006. State of the World's Children 2007. New York. Data refers to the most recent year available during the period specified.}
- 5 UNDP. Human Development Report 2007/2008. Myanmar. {Source: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). 2007a. FAOSTAT Database. [http://faostat.fao.org/]. Accessed May 2007. Data refers to average for years specified.}
- 6 UNDP. Human Development Report 2007/2008. Myanmar. {Source: WHO (World Health Organization). 2007a. Core Health Indicators 2007 Database. Geneva. [http://www.who.int/whosis/database/]. Accessed July 2007. Data refers to the most recent year available.}
- 7 UNDP. Human Development Report 2007/2008. Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world. Published 2007. New York. USA
- 8 The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy at birth); knowledge (measured by adult literacy rate and enrollment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools); and a decent standard of living (measured by GDP per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) US dollars). While the concept of human development is much broader than any single composite index can measure, the HDI offers a powerful alternative to income as a summary calculation measure of human well-being and development. It is used to distinguish whether a country is a developed, developing, or under-developed country. The index was developed in 1990 by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and has been used since 1993 by the United Nations Development Programme in its annual Human Development Report.
- 9 The Natural Disaster Index (NDI) is a composite index developed by Maplecroft. The NDI measures the relative risk to human health from natural disasters. The NDI incorporates the following types of natural disasters: hydro-meteorological disasters (droughts, extreme temperatures, floods, slides, wildfires, and wind storms); geological disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcano eruptions); biological disasters (epidemics and insect infestations). To calculate the risk to human health from natural disasters, the NDI analyses the following indicators: number of deaths; number of people injured; number of people made homeless; number of people otherwise affected. By using the indicators above, rather than the number of deaths alone, the NDI renders a holistic perspective of the risks posed by natural disasters.
- 10 Data for the NDI has been obtained from two sources. First, *natural disaster data* has been obtained from the EM-DAT database (2005). Second, *population and economic data* comes from the World Development Indicators (2005), compiled by the World Bank Group. A disaster must fulfill at least one of the following criteria: 10 or more people reported killed (incl. 'persons confirmed dead or presumed dead'); 100 people reported affected (covering those 'requiring immediate assistance'); declaration of a state of emergency; call for international assistance.
- 11 UNDP. Human Development Report 2007/2008. Myanmar. {Source: calculated based on data from FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). 2006. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005. Rome.}
- 12 The EM-DAT International Disaster Database, Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium [www.em-dat.net] is a joint project of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). According to EM-DAT classification, natural disasters comprise droughts, earthquakes, epidemics, extreme temperatures, floods, insect infestations, slides, volcanos, waves / surges, wild fires, and wind storms.
- 13 E-mail interview. Brett Parris, Chief Economist World Vision Australia. 22 Aug. 08.
- 14 Compiled by Ashley Clements and Joy Hla Htoo. August 2008. Hinegyi Kyun.
- 15 The Future Oceans – Warming Up, Rising High, Turning Sour. Special Report. German Advisory Council on Global Change. http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu_sn2006_en.pdf
- 16 IPCC, 2007: Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Pachauri, R.K. and Reisinger, A. (eds.)]. Geneva, Switzerland. {Pp 2-22, 30, 72}
- 17 Sir John Holmes. DIHAD 2008 Conference. 8 April 2008. Opening Remarks. <http://ochaonline.un.org/OchaLinkClick.aspx?link=ocha&docId=1088217>
- 18 Regional Impacts of Climate Change (IPCC). North America. 1998. {Source: Bruun, 1962.} <http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc/regional/221.htm>
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- 22 Hurricane Season 2008: Tropical Storm Nargis (Indian Ocean). 20 May 2008. http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hurricanes/archives/2008/h2008_nargis.html
- 23 Myanmar: Food assistance "likely" for up to a year. IRIN humanitarian news and analysis. 9 June 2008. <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=78631>
- 24 Ravaged coastal buffer left land vulnerable. Jane Spencer. Wall Street J. 9 May 08. P. 28
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- 27 Irrawaddy Delta, Burma. NASA image R. Simmon, Landsat-7 data. Caption: R. Lindsey. http://earth-observatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewsImages/images.php3?img_id=18035
- 28 United Nations. 2005. Message from the Secretary General. 12th October, 2005. http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2005/2005-iddr.htm
- 29 Cited p. 176 in (7) {Source: Jha, S. Kumar. 2007. "GFDRR. Track II. Multi-donor Trust Fund for Mainstreaming Disaster Reduction for Sustainable Poverty Reduction." ISDR and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The World Bank Group.}
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- 33 UNICEF to focus on damaged schools in unreached areas of Myanmar. 28. May 08. <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EGUA-7F3NPB?OpenDocument>

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exploring new horizons:

highlighting
vulnerabilities, risks and
opportunities for improved
pre-disaster preparedness!

"Prevention is not only more humane than cure; it is also much cheaper. Above all let us not forget that disaster prevention is a moral imperative..."

—Kofi Annan

Issues highlighted in this fact sheet are discussed in more depth in the World Vision annual disaster reports.

Leg-rowing fisherman, Inle Lake, Myanmar (Photo: Alan Tobey)

■ **World Vision** is a Christian humanitarian organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Motivated by our Christian faith, World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

■ **Fact Sheets:** The Asia-Pacific fact sheet series is a joint initiative by regional World Vision players. Partnering together, Advocacy, Communications and Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) are aiming to position for heightened disaster preparedness in the Asia-Pacific region.

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