



NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

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The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina



Topics
Disaster Reduction and Climate Change
Myanmar and its recuperation process.

Myanmar and its recuperation process

When the cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar last year, many NGO's started working hard in the affected areas. Almost 40 of these organizations started their activities in May. Much of this is credited to the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) comprising the government, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the UN, which has helped build trust between the various parties working to help those in need. The experience of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), which runs a US\$10 million programme building schools and shelters in Labutta Township, is typical.



Many people have short and long contracts to work in some programs.

The NGOs in there have seen an easing of restrictions in the delta, the result of new arrangements negotiated within the TCG. "The TCG has been critical in improving access." said Andrew Kirkwood, country director for

[Save the Children](#), which runs a recovery programme in the delta as well as health and education programs across Myanmar, where it has operated for 14 years.

It is good to add the fact that some agencies without official permission were given greater freedom to operate under the TCG agreements.

The jobs of the humanitarian area have doubled its number, for example, the staff of Save the Children increased from 500 to 1,600. But the fact of teaching new members is taking time.

The issue for many humanitarians is whether positive aspects of the Nargis response can bring a permanent improvement to the operating environment across Myanmar.

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Rwanda's recovery plan.

Rwanda's recovery plan



Earthquakes are common in the western Great Rift Valley. In here many roads are not in good conditions to be used.

An earthquake occurred in February 2008 killed more than 30 people and destroyed more than 45 schools and many health centers. Due to this more than 27,000 children were put out of school and almost 700 people were severely injured. Now some children have to walk for more than 4 kilometers to get to school because others are destroyed.

An official report says the government wants to rebuild the health centers, schools and other public buildings that also were damaged.

When the disaster results were in front of everyone's eyes, the Rwanda government and some corporations got materials to help rebuilding 300 classrooms and more than 2,000 houses. But local authorities affirm they only saw not more than 25 houses finished by the end of 2008.

The Japanese government and the UNICEF signed an agreement for US\$7.5 million to rebuild 3 health centers and 15 schools in Rusizi and Nyamasheke districts.

The Western Province, Rusizi is prone to be affected by extensive flooding, like the one it suffered in October last year, when more than 500 houses were submerged and 2,000 hectares of crops were lost.

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Disaster in the North part of Salta, Argentina.

Disaster in the north part of Salta, Argentina

In Tartagal, a northern town located in the City of Salta, heavy storms produced a terrible flooding. It has been one of the worst disasters that occurred in this area in years. People lost everything; all their efforts were washed away by the water. There are many people missing and more than a dozen died.

The National Minister for Human Development, Alicia Kirchner, who is the sister of the ex-President, Nestor Kirchner, told the media that food and other supplies reached destiny, which is a military camp in where they would be cataloged and re-distributed to the affected families.

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"This is a disaster, I saw avenues and houses covered by mud, this is more than simple floods", she said. " Now we have to work for these people, then we will have to take time researching about why this happened" she added. To finish her comments she also added that the government will support the project for buying lands and then build almost 600 houses for the affected families.

The National Senator, Sonia Escudero, will present a project to declare "social and economic emergency" for a 180 days period. Also claims to the Cabinet's Chief the urgent amount of \$50 million Arg. Pesos (u\$s14,300,000) to help people in the area and proposed the prohibition of clearing the lands of trees and the exploration to get oil, by now. Also gave permission to the AFIP (The Federal Administration for the Public Income) to reduce some taxes to local employers and some enterprises.

Veterans of the war for the Malvinas Islands started delivering food and water since February 16°. They are working in the north region which is the most affected.

Classes will not start in Tartagal, many teachers lost their goods and also need assistance. Pupils and administrative workers are in a bad situation now so it is a fact that classes is a topic to solve.

Good news came to this region on February 18° when the President of Argentina, Ms Christina Kirchner, announced an investment of \$2,500 million (u\$s 700,280,112) in order to build 6,000 houses, and others 160 buildings.

Now more than 500 people are being assisted in a military camp and others safe buildings.

This is the most hit area. Everything is covered by mud, roads are blocked and houses are just fragments of building.



Water is now decreasing its volume. But there are still goods floating in the river.



The army helped people delivering them supplies, shelters and other stuffs, after they stored and catalogued donations.



(Above) Workers are being helped by local people to organize the land and clean it up.



Comments: It is good to hear that the recuperation process in Myanmar is going well, and that Rwanda put the eyes in that kind of investment. Things will take time, but we just have to work...satisfactory days would have to come soon.

The floods in Tartagal killed my people, my city is so sad about that; we know these people worked hard to conquer that land. I invite you all to give them your best wishes to all the affected people in the world.

I wish things would be better. I wish governors would take actions! I wish these people were strong.

■ **For more information please contact** ■

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