

Case Study Emergencies

MIN MIN'S STORY MYANMAR



Summary

In May 2008, winds of up to 190kmph swept across the south west of Myanmar causing massive destruction. Official government figures say 84,000 people were killed, 53,000 still missing and thousands more were made homeless. Severe flooding, damage to roads, buildings and crops, and contaminated water supplies have left families in desperate need. At least 40% of those who died were children – as are nearly half the survivors. Our focus is on protecting those surviving children.

By June 2008 we reached more than half a million people providing them with shelter and food supplies. Huge numbers of children have been separated from their families or orphaned, left without shelter, clothing, adequate food or clean water. We're supporting families in the long term by setting up Child Friendly spaces, water cleaning stations, running health clinics, treating diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections and helping children return to school, which is one of the best ways to help them recover from the trauma of a disaster.

Min Min, 6, lives in Kamar Kalun, a village surrounded by rice fields and when entering the village you are met by huge trees which have been knocked over by the storm. Min Min and 94 other children study at the new temporary school Save the Children built out of bamboo and plastic sheeting. Right next to where they study, the skeleton of their old school stands in ruin. Eight of the village's schoolchildren were killed during the storm, and all together 40 people out of 600 died in their village.

We Save the Children  Will you?

Min Min's Story

"When the storm hit we ran off to an old barn. I wasn't scared, and I didn't cry. I was with my mother when it happened, and we just ran. We weren't even thinking." The barn is right next to Min Min's house so luckily his family was safe. Their old house completely collapsed the night of the cyclone.



Min Min's mother says "Nargis has put a lot of obstacles in front of us. We lost everything. We have nothing left at all. We lost our house in the storm and also one of two cows, we have had to rebuild our house and my husband earns less with only one cow to work in the paddy fields." Min Min's mother described how the village was flooded with water – up to chest height in some areas. The next day there were dead bodies, not just from their village, but from surrounding villages too. Some were hanging in trees, and the smell was intense.

Two months after Nargid, Min Min is studying happily at the temporary school built by Save the Children. "I like everything about school. I like to read and play with my friends. I like studying mathematics at school. I want to be a doctor when I grow up." One teacher explains "We are very happy with this temporary school. The old school is completely ruined and this is a community that really values education, so it is important for them that their children can go to school." When classes are over the temporary school turns into a Child Friendly Space where Min Min and his friends can play games in a safe environment which helps them overcome their trauma.

Min Min's mother is thankful to Save the Children for providing the community with a temporary school and also with food, clothes and tarpaulins. "These things have helped us to continue with our life and look forward."

What we do in Myanmar

By August 2008:

We provided plastic sheeting for 450,000 people

We distributed 1.9 million kgs of rice

We distributed 96,000 sachets of diarrhoea treatment, 10,500 mosquito nets, 7,000 blankets and 14,000 bars of soap

We built 219 temporary schools allowing 57,586 children to return to class

Cost examples

£15 can buy 7 mosquito nets

£20 can buy 3 tarpaulin sheets (4x6m)

£40 can buy 40 ten litre collapsible water carriers

£4,000 can buy Emergency Start-Up Health Kit (basic medical supplies for 30,000 population for 3 months)

Min Min's story
This is where Min Min's old house used to be



**Min Min attends a temporary school built by
Save the Children**

