

Dear Friends of Real Medicine,

By the time you receive this note, I will be well on my way to work on Real Medicine's projects in Mozambique and Kenya. Just before I left, we received the enclosed desperate plea from our Country Directors in Myanmar/Burma. **Innumerable families have not received any aid since the cyclone hit and children are dying by the thousands. Please help us now.** Every day counts and every contribution will save lives. Please know that every single cent you donate goes directly to Myanmar. Thank you to all of you who have already helped. Please continue to do so and please keep forwarding this plea and keep spreading the word so our network of "Friends helping Friends helping Friends" will reach as many children and families in Myanmar as possible.

Dr. Martina Fuchs and the [Real Medicine Foundation](#) team

Dear Martina,

The skies have turned anthracite grey this afternoon in Yangon - an ominous sign that heavy rains are on their way in a few minutes. These are dark days in Myanmar.

The magnitude of the crisis here is almost unimaginable. The latest realistic estimates are that over 100,000 people have died and about 2 million people are affected. It's hard to get one's head around this. We've had our staff out in the affected areas for over ten days now. They come back and forth with so many tragic stories. Whole families drowned. Sole survivors of an entire village. People with broken hips and major injuries with no one to care for them. Houses obliterated by 120mph winds. Countless swollen dead bodies floating in the small creeks and rivers that crisscross the Delta. Skin sandblasted raw from the wind. Families stripped of all of their possessions by the cyclone. Suicidal survivors. Traumatized children.

Almost two weeks after the cyclone tore through the Delta, thousands of families are now lined up along the high ground of rural roads with nothing to eat and virtually no shelter. Hundreds and hundreds of devastated but accessible villages have still not received one ounce of assistance. A massive public health crisis is emerging as people who are weak, traumatized, malnourished and often injured have no shelter or food. Children and elderly people with diarrhea are wasting away. The amount of aid reaching victims in just a trickle compared to the millions of people in desperate need.

We're focusing on providing emergency clean water - trying to reach 25,000 new people every day. And we've just ramped up our emergency shelter work - to 5,000 roofs each day (another 25,000 people a day). The logistics of this effort is formidable, across a flooded and ravaged landscape. We're procuring everything locally and prices for plastic sheeting are rising everyday. Our 27 teams are also providing a good bit of food and basic necessities - on an opportunistic basis. When we can we do cash transfers of \$5-10 per family in an orderly and transparent manner - usually at a village monastery. Just arranging for the cash to do all this - financial transfers in a country with no banking system and an official exchange rate - is taking a great deal of ingenuity and lots of trust. We are really stretching to gear up rapidly to do all this on a meaningful scale. But when we see the pictures and hear about so many people suffering, it feels like so little. This indeed is a crisis of unimaginable proportions.

Martina, we are grateful for any funds your foundation can provide. Support is badly needed for this relief stage and also for the recovery stage over the next 125 days. We can assure you our assistance is really getting to people in need, right now, every day.

Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Best Regards,

Country Directors Myanmar