



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

12 May 2008

**UNHCR aid for cyclone victims arrives in Myanmar; Australian appeal launched by 'Kath & Kim' star Jane Turner**

The first UN land convoy of emergency aid into Myanmar from neighbouring Thailand arrived safely over the weekend, boosted by further supplies airlifted into Yangon from Dubai.

UNHCR's two-truck convoy, carrying 22 tonnes of shelter supplies (mainly plastic sheets, tarpaulins and tents) rolled across the Friendship Bridge which links Thailand and Myanmar on Saturday.

The UN refugee agency had mobilised existing stockpiles of shelter materials meant for refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, emptying its warehouses in Kanchanaburi and Mae Hong Son in north-western Thailand to kick start an aid effort marked by many challenges and constraints.

The refugee agency is focusing on emergency shelter as part of joint UN efforts to help victims of the cyclone that devastated Myanmar's Irrawaddy delta and parts of the main city Yangon. Among the casualties, more than one million people are estimated to have lost their homes.

Meanwhile, the **first airlift of 100 metric tonnes of shelter supplies** from the agency's Dubai stockpile arrived in Yangon on Saturday. The first of three planned flights carrying 33 tonnes – including 4,500 plastic sheets, 17,000 blankets and over 1,000 kitchen sets – landed safely on a World Food Program flight and will be distributed in partnerships with NGOs.

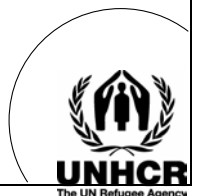
UNHCR's national association *Australia for UNHCR* has launched a local appeal to raise \$250,000 to provide shelter for cyclone victims. Launching the appeal, Special Representative Kath and Kim star Jane Turner called on Australians to 'dig deep' to support emergency relief operations in Myanmar. "I am asking Australians to join me and support UNHCR in delivering aid to cyclone victims who urgently need our help," she said.

The Australian appeal is part of the US\$187 million UN Flash Appeal for Myanmar launched last Friday in New York, UNHCR is asking donors for US\$6 million globally to provide 250,000 cyclone victims with shelter. **To donate to UNHCR's Emergency Appeal call: 1300 361 288 or go to [www.unrefugees.org.au](http://www.unrefugees.org.au)**

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