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Press Release

Emergency in Burma: Médecins du Monde launches relief mission

Following the violent cyclone that hit Burma last Friday and Saturday, Médecins du Monde steps up its activities in Rangoon to deliver emergency first aid alongside medical and logistic support to the victims.

Present in Burma since 1995, Médecins du Monde leads an HIV/Aids prevention and treatment programme for sex workers and drug users in Kachin state and its capital, Rangoon. Mdm expatriate teams work with 60 local doctors, nurses and health trainers.

According to initial reports from Rangoon, the population has no access to drinking water or electricity. The teams are facing huge difficulties gaining access to the victims, particularly those on the outskirts of the capital.

From yesterday, Médecins du Monde has refocused its activities to care for the general population and opened up its doors to offer first aid to the victims.

At the same time the teams are assessing the medical needs of the capital and surrounding area. Once this has been completed a number of mobile clinics will be set up.

Faced with a history of barriers when trying to reach the most vulnerable within Burma, Médecins du Monde asks the authorities to facilitate access to the victims in order to ensure swift delivery of international aid.

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