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Joint Statement on the Widespread Flooding in Myanmar

September 17, 2024

A powerful typhoon that originated in the South China Sea in early 2024 has caused torrential rains, widespread flooding and landslides in the northern part of Thailand and Shan State, Karenni State, Chin State, Karen State, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Magwe regions in Myanmar.

Due to three-day heavy rains and water release from dams and reservoirs led to the hundreds of casualties and missing people in the affected areas. This further resulted in approximately 700,000 people affected; many houses collapsed, properties lost, roads, bridges and critical infrastructure destroyed; agricultural lands inundated; farm animals died and losses of water resources.

Aiming to respond to the impacts of the flooding, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of the National Unity Government, Karen National Union, Karenni National Progressive Party and Chin National Front are striving in their fullest capacity, to carry out emergency relief and response interventions for the flood affected populations.

In addition to the provision of food, clean water, basic commodities and shelter, health care, water, sanitation and hygiene, agricultural support as part of rehabilitation work and reconstruction of houses and basic infrastructure are substantively in need with the tremendous impact of the typhoon-induced flood.

Therefore, we collectively call for the United Nations, European Union, ASEAN, international and local humanitarian organizations to take the followings into consideration.

- (i) To make sure that emergency humanitarian assistance and health care support reach to the flood-impacted people fairly and equally.
- (ii) To deliver direct support to the designated personnels of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, EROs and local CSOs/CBOs at the community level.
- (iii) To ensure the humanitarian aid are not politicized or weaponized.
- (iv) To support both short-term and long-term assistance ranging from emergency relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- (v) Despite the shrinking global funding, to advocate international donors to support Myanmar people who are bearing double burden of natural and manmade disasters simultaneously.
- (vi) To inform the people about the international support to flood-hit populations transparently.
- (vii) To take account of special needs of the most vulnerable groups in the disaster and conform to the fundamental principle of Humanitarian Imperative.
- (viii) To manage the aid effectively and monitor the aid distribution systematically.

As such, we stand steadfastly together with the affected people across the country in this adverse situation and share the losses and pains with deep sympathy. We sincerely appreciate the civil society organizations and the well-wishers who are making tireless efforts in the flood relief operations. We also reaffirm that we are working shoulder to shoulder to respond to and recover from the consequences of the widespread flooding in Myanmar.

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