

## *The Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar*

In early May 2008, Cyclone Nargis passed over Burma (Myanmar) after forming in the Bay of Bengal. At one point, Nargis was a Category 4 cyclone, with sustained winds of 210 kilometers per hour (130 miles per hour).

The typhoon lost strength before coming ashore on May 2, but it still carried very powerful winds and heavy rain. The storm's path took it almost directly over Yangôn, a city with a population of more than 4 million. Extensive flooding along the coastal plains where the storm passed was clearly seen in satellite imagery taken just after the storm passed. News reports on May 5 stated that at least 10,000 people were killed, and thousands more were missing.



The Red Cross used Crisis Commander in anger in Myanmar when Cyclone Nargis hit 2008.

Following the Cyclone – the following statement was made by the Red Cross:

*"The Cyclon Nargis which hit Myanmar in May 2008 had disastrous consequences for the people of Myanmar and neighbouring countries. As a humanitarian organization the Red Cross immediately engaged in assisting the civilian population. Crisis Commander was used during the rapid mobilization phase in order for Swedish Red Cross to secure the availability of key personnel for deployment to the field. Thanks to the emergency communication systems in Crisis Commander and the management functionalities we had the possibility to quickly alert our emergency staff."*

*Richard Tersander, HR Officer, Field Personnel,  
Swedish Red Cross*