

Student task 1:

Use the words in the box below to fill in the gaps to explain the situation in Burma.

The Military Junta in Myanmar/Burma (1962-2011)

Military Junta:

Is a led by a committee of military leaders. In this case it was a
 There was some voting allowed but elections were often

How they rule:

In Burma the Military Junta rules through fear. People who speak out are arrested and possibly It is important for the Junta to look, in control and not ask the rest of the world for They even seemed to pretend that the tropical storm did not happen.

Preparation:

..... and Thailand agencies warned that the storm was coming. The Burmese government said to the people. There were no warnings and no-one was evacuated. State TV did not mention the storm.

After Cyclone :

The Military junta was officially dissolved in 2011 following a general in 2010 and a nominally civilian government was installed, though the military retains enormous

Word box:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| election | India | tortured | dictatorship |
| government | strong | tropical | Nargis |
| rigged | nothing | influence | aid |



Student task 2: impacts of Cyclone Nargis

Look at these different impacts statements and colour-code them into social, economic and environmental impacts. Some statements may impact more than one area.

Remember to complete the key!

Storm surge of 7.6m and heavy rainfall flooded the coastal regions.	There was a lack of food and water for survivors. People starved and died of malnutrition or were forced to drink dirty water.	Floodwaters penetrated an estimated 40 - 50 km inland from the coast. Farmland, livestock, and fisheries were all destroyed.
Majority of the population worked on the flooded rice fields therefore they lost their harvest and income.	75% of factories collapsed but in the coastal areas 95% collapsed.	There was a death toll of at least 140000 people has been quoted. But estimates vary widely.
There was \$10 billion worth of damage.	Diseases spread with many survivors dying.	Many children were orphaned.
1200 temples were destroyed.	Strong winds up to 135mph were accompanied by heavy rainfall.	Rice fields were flooded on the Irrawaddy Delta.
The 2008 and 2009 harvests of rice were destroyed. The UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimated that Nargis impacted 65% of the country's paddies.	It is estimated that at least 2.4 million people were severely affected by this cyclone.	Structural damage throughout Myanmar was extensive, causing over a million to become homeless after the event.

Key:

Social impacts

Economic impacts

Environmental impacts

Student task 3: Response to Cyclone Nargis

Read the information below and highlight information about the responses in different colours:

Key:

Action taken by the government

Action taken by aid agencies

Longer term (months to years)

Information box:

Initially the response of the Military government was terrible. The military Junta did not want people coming into the country and destabilising their political oppression, so they refused aid from other countries despite the scale of the disaster.

A full six days after the storm made landfall and with the government underprepared and unable to cope, the Myanmar government formally asked the United Nations (UN) for help. Even then, the government did not endorse international aid and placed harsh restrictions on even the most basic forms of assistance. This aid was limited to food, medicine and basic supplies, and foreign aid workers remained banned from the country.

On 19th May, the Myanmar government granted members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations admittance into the country to deliver aid. After negotiations between the UN and the Myanmar head of state, Than Shwe, it was declared on 23rd May that other international aid workers would be let into the country - a full three weeks after the cyclone struck.

Responses were largely from international organisations and through international aid. Italian flights were allowed to enter on 7th May to bring food supplies. Bangladesh emergency aid and aid workers were sent as they were used to dealing with cyclones. The Indian navy and air force supplied 140 tonnes of tents, blankets and medicines. On 8th May they also sent 50 medical personnel and set up two mini hospitals. The United Kingdom gave £17 million of aid (approx. US\$33.5 million) and sent an international relief team to help with the co-ordination of the international relief effort. The United States donated US\$41 million to the relief effort, including help from the American Red Cross. The dead were eventually identified and buried.

In the months to years afterwards the focus was on rebuilding homes and workplaces and reclaiming farmland from salt water flooding. Infrastructure such as transport networks needed further investment.

Using the highlighted sections from the information box and your notes from the video complete the following table to show all the different responses to the cyclone.

Action taken by the government
Action taken by aid agencies
Longer term action

Answer the following question:

Describe the different ways humans responded to Cyclone Nargis and give reasons for these responses.

(6 marks)

Teacher notes:

Answers for student task 1:

The Military Junta in Myanmar/Burma (1962-2011)

Military Junta:

Is a **government** led by a committee of military leaders. In this case it was a **dictatorship**. There was some voting allowed but elections were often **rigged**.

How they rule:

In Burma the Military Junta rules through fear. People who speak out are arrested and possibly **tortured**. It is important for the Junta to look **strong**, in control and not ask the rest of the world for **aid**. They even seemed to pretend that the tropical storm did not happen.

Preparation:

India and Thailand agencies warned that the **tropical** storm was coming. The Burmese government said **nothing** to the people. There were no warnings and no-one was evacuated. State TV did not mention the storm.

After Cyclone Nargis:

The Military junta was officially dissolved in 2011 following a general **election** in 2010 and a nominally civilian government was installed, though the military retains enormous **influence**.

Possible extension question:

Explain other measures that could be taken to help limit the damage of future cyclones in Burma.

(4 marks)