

Myanmar cyclone: 15 thousand dead and thousands homeless. Pembrokeshire's Prayers And Support Needed.

1. Pembrokeshire people are being urged to respond to the recent cyclone disaster in Myanmar by UK Relief and Development Agency, Tearfund.

'Recent reports showed up to 30,000 people are now believed to be missing following Saturday's cyclone in Myanmar, with the death toll now reaching 15,000 - and expected to rise further as remote areas are reached,' Tearfund's Media Officer for Pembrokeshire, Sharron Hardwick.

Tearfund, who's partners are situated disaster stricken Myanmar, have made suggestions of how Pembrokeshire people can respond to the horrific devastation. Tearfund's partners in Myanmar include World Concern Myanmar and the Myanmar Baptist Convention.

'We are making an immediate assessment of the areas of need and planning a swift response,' commented Tearfund's Head of Region for Asia, Sudarshan Sathianathan.

'The Baptist Convention will be one of our primary routes for response', he added. 'There are no government permissions needed to work through local church and there is strong local capacity – with 2,400 local churches linked to the Baptist convention.'

In the Delta region of the country – home to an estimated 25 million people – it's believed up to 90 per cent of homes have been destroyed.

'When disaster strikes it's important to act swiftly. I urge the people of Pembrokeshire to pray and give financial support to those affected. Our input is crucial in supporting Tearfund's Partners as they respond appropriately to the devastation.' says Sharron Hardwick

Tearfund's most pressing concerns needing Pembrokeshire's prayers are:

All those affected by the cyclone, the thousands who have been bereaved and the hundreds of thousands left homeless.

The relief effort. Pray that our partners can reach those who need help most and that the necessary resources and supplies would reach them swiftly and easily.

The staff of Tearfund partner World Concern Myanmar whose offices were severely damaged in the cyclone.

The government in Myanmar, that they would be open to receiving help and accept international intervention and that this might be the beginning of improved

relationships with the international community.

Events are rapidly changing in Burma, and Tearfund are making every effort to keep people up to date with the current status by making regular updates on their web site. Please visit www.tearfund.org for the latest information.

To support Tearfund's partners in Myanmar as they mobilise local churches to provide a swift response *please give on line at www.tearfund.org/Giving/Give+Now/Disasters.htm or contact Tearfund Supporter Enquiries team on 0845 355 8355 (callers within the UK, charged at local rates)*

Together we can make a difference.

For more information call Tearfund Enquiries on 0845 355 8355

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