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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Burma – Cyclone

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 7, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 5, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the cyclone killed approximately 22,500 persons, with an additional 41,000 missing, citing GOB state media. There are unconfirmed reports that the death toll may be much higher. The cyclone affected an area of approximately 11,600 square miles along the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Martaban coastlines, according to the U.N.
- A 10-person USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) is being pre-positioned in Bangkok, Thailand. Pending GOB approval, the USAID/DART will conduct humanitarian assessments and coordinate U.S. Government (USG) relief efforts.
- On May 6, an additional \$3 million in USAID/OFDA funds was allocated for emergency assistance in cyclone-affected areas, including \$1 million to the American Red Cross (AmRC), and \$2 million that the USAID/DART will allocate to other partners. These funds are in addition to an initial \$250,000 contribution to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Dead	22,500	GOB – May 7, 2008
Total Missing	41,000	OCHA – May 6, 2008
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	93,000	GOB – May 5, 2008
Houses Destroyed	20,000	GOB – May 5, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma Cyclone\$3,250,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- The GOB has declared disaster zones in Yangon, Ayeyarwady, and Bago divisions, and Mon and Kayin states. The U.N. estimated the total population of the affected areas at 24 million, including 6 million people in Rangoon. UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the Myanmar (Burma) Red Cross (MRC) are conducting assessments in affected areas. According to a May 7 UNICEF report, UNICEF and the GOB Department of Development Affairs have identified basic water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions such as the provision of latrines and water purification tablets as top priorities. Where possible, assessment teams are distributing water purification tablets as well as shelter and cooking supplies, according to OCHA.
- Many relief personnel are in Bangkok, Thailand, awaiting visas to enter Burma. According to U.N. sources, on May 7 several relief agencies reported receiving entry visas from the GOB. During a May 6 press briefing, the GOB Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement stated that humanitarian agencies should negotiate visas with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and senior GOB officials, and that customs restrictions may be relaxed to admit relief commodities more quickly.

Food Security

- OCHA reported that food insecurity could become acute, as Burma already faced severe food insecurity prior to the cyclone. According to IFRC, prices for basic supplies are rapidly increasing. People are purchasing large quantities of food supplies, resulting in shortages of some food items.
- The affected states and divisions account for half of Burma’s irrigated area and 80 percent of Burma’s fish aquaculture ponds, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The states and divisions produce 50 percent of the country’s poultry and 65 percent of Burma’s rice. FAO is particularly concerned about the destruction of rice seed stocks and noted that unharvested rice crops may not have sustained damage.

- On May 6, WFP distributed 30 metric tons (MT) of rice to Médecins Sans Frontières/Holland clinics for 2,000 IDPs. WFP also delivered 1.5 MT of rice to MRC cooking centers. WFP has 3,800 MT of food commodities in Burma available for immediate distributions, including 980 MT in Rangoon. WFP expects 7 MT of high-energy biscuits to arrive on May 7.

Health

- U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) polio surveillance staff in Burma are beginning humanitarian assessments. On May 6, WHO reported that the main health concern is the loss of access to health services, noting that malaria and tuberculosis are major public health hazards in Burma. WHO is dispatching emergency health supplies to serve 240,000 people for one month. Urgent needs identified by WHO include chlorine powder, medicines, cholera kits, malaria medication, mosquito nets, supplies for the management of dead bodies, and water purification units for health facilities.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- According to UNICEF, urgent relief commodity needs include plastic sheeting, cooking sets, and mosquito nets. UNICEF reported the establishment of an agreement with the MRC for the distribution of relief supplies.
- UNHCR reported that the office is providing emergency shelter material from stockpiles in Thailand through the GOB Disaster Management Committee to affected populations. The relief commodities would provide temporary shelter to an estimated 10,000 people. UNHCR also purchased basic relief supplies valued at \$50,000 from local sources.

Logistics

- In a coordination meeting in Bangkok on May 7, OCHA reported that the Rangoon port is closed due to the presence of sunken ships in the harbor. Relief agencies anticipate that the greatest logistical challenge will be transporting supplies from Rangoon to cyclone-affected areas that are inundated with water or inaccessible due to damaged roads and infrastructure.

GOB and U.N. Response

- On May 5, the U.N. Inter-Agency Standing Committee Country Team activated humanitarian clusters in water/sanitation, health, shelter, logistics, telecommunications, early recovery, education, and protection, according to OCHA. UNICEF will lead the water/sanitation, education, and protection clusters. WHO will lead the health cluster. UNHCR, WFP, and the U.N. Development Program will lead the shelter, logistics, and early recovery clusters, respectively.
- On May 6, the GOB announced a \$5 million contribution from GOB sources for emergency relief efforts.
- On May 7, several U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team members received visas to enter Burma. The U.N. is drafting a flash appeal that will be launched during the week of May 12, according to OCHA.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On May 5, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Shari Villarosa declared a disaster in Burma due to the effects of Cyclone Nargis. In response, USAID/OFDA immediately provided \$250,000 to UNICEF, WFP, and UNHCR for emergency food, water and sanitation, and shelter assistance.
- On May 6, an additional \$3 million from USAID/OFDA was allocated for the provision of emergency relief assistance to cyclone-affected populations, including \$1 million to AmRC and \$2 million to be allocated by the USAID/DART to other partners.
- Three U.S. Navy ships currently in the Gulf of Thailand for training exercises could reach Burma within four days, if necessary to support relief efforts. The ships include the U.S.S. Essex, which includes 23 helicopters that could transport relief supplies to remote or inaccessible areas.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
AmRC	Emergency Relief Supplies, Shelter Kits	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
Various (TBD)	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
UNICEF, WFP, and UNHCR	Water and Sanitation, Emergency Food Assistance, Shelter	Affected Areas	\$250,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,250,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008			\$3,250,000

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 7, 2008.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Cyclone Nargis, or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int