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

## **Burma – Cyclone**

Fact Sheet #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 13, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 12, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On May 13, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) and U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) coordinated two airlifts of USAID commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. The flights delivered 4,200 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, 12,680 bottles of drinking water, 4,400 blankets, and 120 rolls of plastic sheeting, valued at \$107,690.
- On May 12 and 13, two USAID/OFDA-contracted planes transported 129 metric tons (MT) of commodities from regional warehouses in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to Utapao for onward delivery to Burma, pending Government of Burma (GOB) approval. The supplies include 1,100 rolls of plastic sheeting to serve an estimated 55,000 people; 19,600 hygiene kits, which can serve 98,000 people for two weeks; and 25,200 ten-liter water containers to serve approximately 50,400 people.
- The USAID/DART remains in Bangkok, Thailand, coordinating U.S. Government (USG) assistance and awaiting GOB approval to enter Burma.

| <b>ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>       | <b>SOURCE</b>      |                                 |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Total Dead</b>                          | 34,200             | GOB – May 13, 2008              |
|  | 63,000-101,000     | OCHA <sup>1</sup> – May 9, 2008 |
| <b>Total Missing</b>                       | 27,800             | GOB – May 13, 2008              |
|  | 220,000            | OCHA – May 9, 2008              |
| <b>Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)</b> | 206,000 (in camps) | OCHA – May 10, 2008             |

### **FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma .....\$5,508,346  
 USAID/FFP Assistance to Burma .....\$12,000,000  
**Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Burma .....\$17,508,346**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- The cyclone severely affected approximately 1.2 million to 1.9 million people, and cyclone-related deaths could range from 63,000 to more than 101,000, with 220,000 people reported missing, according to OCHA. The GOB has confirmed 34,000 deaths and 27,800 missing persons, media sources reported.
- On May 10, OCHA reported that approximately 206,000 people in four townships of Ayeyarwady Division were living in 218 makeshift camps. In Bogale, 20,000 people have settled in 50 temporary camps. In Pyapon, 16,000 people are residing in 31 camps. In Labutta, 150,000 people are living in 117 camps. In Mawlamyinegyun, 20,000 people are living in 20 camps. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 640 camps have been established in Rangoon Division.
- Humanitarian agencies are concerned about the effects of heavy rains and harsh weather on cyclone-affected families, particularly those whose shelters were destroyed. Total rainfall between May 12 and 19 is expected to be more than 150 millimeters, or nearly 6 inches.

#### ***Humanitarian Access***

- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and U.N. agencies continue to receive varying reports on the GOB’s willingness to issue more visas for international staff. On May 12, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes reported that 34 U.N. and other humanitarian staff were expected to receive visas to enter Burma, noting that “many more” staff were still awaiting visas.

#### ***Logistics***

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and logistics cluster members are investigating possibilities of transporting commodities to affected areas by small trucks, boats, and helicopters. Logistics cluster meeting participants reported that the Rangoon port reopened on a limited basis on the morning of May 12.

#### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is re-commissioning an emergency water treatment plant used during the tsunami response to be deployed to Patheingyi township, Ayeyarwady Division, where many IDPs reportedly are gathering. Two NGOs transported eight small portable water treatment plants and 1.4 million water purification tablets to Rangoon on May 12. UNICEF has requested 23 large water bladders from the organization's stocks.

#### **Food Security**

- As of May 12, WFP had dispatched a total of 361 MT of food assistance to affected areas. Of this total, WFP has distributed 175 MT, assisting approximately 28,400 people.

#### **Health and Nutrition**

- Medical staff continue to treat cyclone-related injuries and focus on the prevention of communicable diseases such as diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, measles, and dengue fever, according to WHO. No outbreaks of malaria have been reported to date, according to aid agencies. WHO plans to share initial assessment results in the coming days.
- WHO confirmed the delivery of eight emergency health kits, each of which can serve 10,000 people for three months. As of May 12, WHO had delivered two of the health kits to Bogale and Labutta townships, and planned to dispatch four kits to Pyapon, Ngapudaw, Myaungmya, and Maubin townships in Ayeyarwady Division.
- As of May 13, WHO has dispatched 30,000 surgical masks, 30,000 gloves, and body bags for the collection of dead bodies in Bogale and Labutta townships. In addition, WHO has provided guidelines for the management of cadavers.

#### **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 deployed a USAID/DART and immediately provided \$250,000 to UNICEF, WFP, and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (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 the American Red Cross and \$2 million for NGO partners.
- On May 12, USAID Administrator Fore announced \$13 million in food aid and logistics assistance through WFP.
- On May 12 and 13, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$175,000 of USAID/OFDA commodities to Rangoon on three DOD C-130 flights.
- U.S. Navy ships currently remain in the vicinity of the affected areas of Burma for training exercises and could be redirected, if necessary to support relief efforts. The U.S. Military continues to make plans to support potential relief operations to Burma.

#### **USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA**

| <i>Implementing Partner</i>              | <i>Activity</i>  | <i>Location</i> | <i>Amount</i>       |
|--|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b> |  |                 |                     |
| American Red Cross                       | Emergency Relief Supplies; Shelter Kits  | Affected Areas  | \$1,000,000         |
| Various (TBD)                            | Emergency Relief Activities  | Affected Areas  | \$2,000,000         |
| UNICEF, WFP, and UNHCR                   | Emergency Food Assistance; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Affected Areas  | \$250,000           |
| WFP                                      | Logistics  | Affected Areas  | \$1,000,000         |
| Various                                  | Emergency Relief Supplies  | Affected Areas  | \$1,258,346         |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>                  |  |                 | <b>\$5,508,346</b>  |
| <b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>  |  |                 |                     |
| WFP                                      | P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance  | Affected Areas  | \$12,000,000        |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>                   |  |                 | <b>\$12,000,000</b> |

|  |
|--|
| <b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b> |
|--|

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>\$17,508,346</b> |
|---------------------|

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 13, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

#### **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](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)