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

## **Burma – Cyclone**

Fact Sheet #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 14, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 13, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On May 14, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) flew five C-130 sorties transporting USAID and DOD relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. The relief items, valued at approximately \$153,400, included a total of 200 rolls of plastic sheeting, which will serve 10,000 people; 3,600 hygiene kits, which will serve 18,000 people for two weeks; and 12,000 water containers, which will serve 24,000 people. The flights also included more than 40,000 bottles of water procured by DOD. To date, DOD has flown eight airlifts of USAID relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon.
- Heavy rainfall continues to affect southern Burma, particularly Rangoon and Ayeyarwady divisions. The tropical cyclone formation alert that was issued by the U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center on May 13 has significantly weakened. Potential development of a significant tropical cyclone in the region is currently highly unlikely. However, continued rains in the affected area and upstream river systems are likely to lead to prolonged flooding in the region.
- The USAID/DART remains in Bangkok and Utapao, Thailand, coordinating U.S. Government (USG) assistance and awaiting Government of Burma (GOB) approval to enter Burma.

<b>ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>Total Dead</b>	34,200 63,000-101,000	GOB – May 13, 2008 OCHA <sup>1</sup> – May 9, 2008
<b>Total Missing</b>	27,800 220,000	GOB – May 13, 2008 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**

- On May 13, OCHA reported that critical needs included food, shelter, water, and medical supplies. OCHA also reported that the movement of cyclone-affected populations in search of safe drinking water, food, and shelter has rendered some post-cyclone humanitarian assessment data out of date. The Interagency Standing Committee is planning to establish a displacement working group to gather data on cyclone-affected populations, including spontaneous settlements, camps, and collective centers. The group will track access to health, water and sanitation facilities, food, education, and available shelter.
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced on May 13 that an assessment team will mobilize within the next 48 hours to assess the critical needs of cyclone-affected populations. The team will work in conjunction with U.N. and GOB staff. Following the assessment, representatives of ASEAN member states will deploy to Burma to provide targeted assistance and support the capacity of the GOB to provide assistance.

### **Humanitarian Access**

- On May 14, international media sources reported that the GOB continues to tighten access to Ayeyarwady Division and other regions impacted by the cyclone. However, the USAID/DART reports that the GOB has authorized an increasing number of international humanitarian flights to deliver relief commodities into Burma.

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

**Logistics**

- According to OCHA, damaged infrastructure and communication, as well as flooding, pose ongoing logistical challenges for relief efforts. On May 13, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that the airport is nearing capacity in terms of the supplies that can be handled before a backlog begins.
- The Rangoon and Patheingyi ports reopened as of May 13, and the U.N. Logistics Cluster is discussing the possibility of securing a fleet that would be available to all operational agencies for logistics activities. WFP is also establishing a permanent interagency air bridge, with one cargo plane flying two rotations from Bangkok to Rangoon per day.
- WFP is currently moving supplies by road using trucks, but notes that heavy trucks will render roads impassible. WFP aims to use small trucks and boats, and cited a need to use helicopters to reach inaccessible delta areas.

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

- At the U.N. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Cluster meeting on May 13, aid agencies identified priority concerns, including insufficient access to safe drinking water; a lack of water containers; issues with waste management; and a lack of hygiene items such as soap. Since May 11, U.N. agencies and NGOs have been constructing latrines and distributing supplies, including water containers and oral rehydration salts, in parts of Rangoon and Ayeyarwady divisions.
- The International Rescue Committee, in partnership with local organizations, reported that it is distributing water purification equipment and supplies that will provide safe drinking water to 50,000 cyclone-affected people. Save the Children also received one water purification unit in Burma and will coordinate operation of the system with the cluster.

**Food Security**

- As of May 13, WFP had dispatched 426.1 metric tons (MT) of emergency food aid to the affected areas and distributed 184.5 MT to 30,000 beneficiaries. WFP food assistance is being distributed in eight townships in Rangoon and five townships in the Ayeyarwady Delta through NGO partners.

**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 the U.N. Children's Fund (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.
- From May 12 to 14, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of nearly \$330,000 of USAID/OFDA commodities to Rangoon on eight DOD C-130 flights.
- U.S. Navy ships deployed in the region for training exercises can 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**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
American Red Cross	Emergency Relief Supplies; Shelter Kits	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
NGOs (Various)	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/WFP 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 14, 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)