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

## **Burma – Cyclone**

Fact Sheet #12, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 21, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 20, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On May 21, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), in conjunction with the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), conducted four flights of DOD relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. To date, the USAID/DART and DOD have completed 40 airlifts of emergency relief goods from Utapao to Rangoon.
- On May 21, the Government of Burma (GOB) requested more than \$11 billion in aid for cyclone victims, according to international media reports. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the U.N. are jointly convening a donor conference on May 25. In order to help donors verify needs and gaps in humanitarian assistance, ASEAN representatives continue to urge the GOB to grant greater access to international relief organizations to the cyclone-affected areas.
- The USAID/DART remains in Bangkok and Utapao coordinating U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance and awaiting GOB approval to enter Burma.

<b>ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Dead</b>	77,700	GOB – May 16, 2008
	63,000 to 101,000	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – May 9, 2008
<b>Total Missing</b>	55,900	GOB – May 16, 2008
<b>Estimated Displaced Persons in Settlements</b>	550,000	OCHA – May 14, 2008
<b>Total Number Affected</b>	2.4 million	OCHA – May 18, 2008

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

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma</b> .....	<b>\$5,508,346</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Burma</b> .....	<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>DOD Assistance to Burma</b> .....	<b>\$2,900,000</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma</b> .....	<b>\$20,408,346</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- Of the 2.4 million cyclone-affected people in Burma, assessments indicate that an estimated 1.4 million are located in the most severely affected townships in Ayeyarwady Division, according to OCHA. In addition, OCHA estimates that 680,000 individuals in Rangoon Division live in severely affected areas. As of May 16, the GOB had raised the official death toll from Cyclone Nargis to more than 77,000. According to GOB state media, nearly 56,000 people remain missing. The official number of injured is 19,359.
- On May 20, OCHA reported that the cyclone displaced individuals to a mixture of an estimated 239 official and unofficial temporary settlements in Ayeyarwady and Rangoon divisions. While the majority of temporary settlements are in Buddhist monasteries, some displaced families are residing in tented camps. Official tented camps have been established in Labutta, Bogale, Pathein, Maubin, and Myaungmya townships.

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

- On May 19, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) reported that access to remote villages has improved. UNDP has chartered three boats in Bogale to reach more communities on the waterways.
- On May 21, the GOB announced that 10 U.N. World Food Program (WFP) helicopters could enter the country to deliver aid to remote areas affected by the cyclone, according to U.N. and media reports. WFP expects to have the first helicopter in country on May 22. According to WFP, many of the hardest hit areas in the Ayeyarwady Delta were accessibly only by boat or helicopter even prior to the storm.

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

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

- U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon plans to arrive in Burma on May 22 in order to visit cyclone-affected areas, meet with senior GOB officials, and attend the May 25 donor pledging conference.

### **Logistics**

- The U.N. Logistics Cluster in Rangoon has contracted 3 barges and 30 trucks for an interagency common transport service, thereby increasing the capacity of the humanitarian community to transport emergency goods to the Ayeyarwady Delta. On May 20, the first barge delivered Action Contre la Faim and WFP cargo to Bogale township in Ayeyarwady Division. The second barge is scheduled to depart on May 21, delivering WFP food assistance and Merlin relief commodities to Labutta township in Ayeyarwady Division.
- The first U.N. Logistics Cluster air bridge flight from Bangkok to Rangoon occurred on May 20. The flight was transporting cargo for the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Save the Children.

### **Health**

- With the onset of the rainy season between May and October, the U.N. Health Cluster reports that reducing the risk of communicable disease outbreaks is a priority. The GOB's Ministry of Health, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), and non-governmental organization (NGO) health partners are reportedly encouraging community participation to strengthen disease surveillance activities.
- Since May 14, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has maintained two mobile health teams in Bogale township, Ayeyarwady Division, assisting approximately 200 individuals per day with emergency medical services. IOM is also providing medical aid and essential medicines to displaced populations residing in temporary settlements within the township.
- WHO had provided more than 350 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies, medicines, and equipment to support health interventions in affected regions to date, including 13 emergency health kits to provide health support for 390,000 people for one month, 13,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to help prevent potential vector-borne disease outbreaks, and 500 dengue fever disease kits to detect and confirm cases.

### **Nutrition**

- WHO, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross have issued a joint statement on appropriate nutrition for infants and young children, cautioning about the unnecessary distribution and use of milk powder and formula.
- The GOB's National Nutrition Center of the Ministry of Health has agreed to work with the U.N. Nutrition Cluster to train NGO partners in therapeutic feeding responses and to establish a nutrition surveillance system.

### **Food Aid**

- On May 21, the GOB's Minister of Commerce granted WFP permission to purchase an initial 10,000 MT of rice, which will increase the provision of food to the affected areas. To provide emergency food aid to 750,000 beneficiaries for six months—as stipulated in the U.N. Flash Appeal—the U.N. Food Cluster reports requirements of 55,000 MT of rice, of which only 50 percent may be procured in country. WFP is expediting local procurement and has purchased over 2,000 MT of rice within Burma, as of May 20.
- To date, WFP has distributed 1,143 MT of food to approximately 304,000 beneficiaries. The U.N. Food Cluster is currently providing food assistance in six townships of Ayeyarwady Division; however, relief partners remain unable to reach some villages due to transportation and access constraints.

### **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 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, including \$1 million to the American Red Cross and \$2 million for NGO partners.
- On May 12, USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore announced \$13 million in food aid and logistics assistance through WFP.
- From May 12 to 21, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of nearly \$1.2 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 40 DOD C-130 flights. The relief supplies will provide assistance to more than 113,000 beneficiaries.
- 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.

## USG 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	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>DOD ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
DOD	Logistics	Affected Areas	\$2,900,000
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$2,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$20,408,346</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 21, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of anticipated or obligated food assistance.

<sup>3</sup> Expenditures for DOD-procured commodities and DOD support costs for this response have not yet been quantified.

**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)