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

## *Burma – Cyclone*

Fact Sheet #14, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 23, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 22, 2008.*

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On May 22, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) team leader met with U.S. Embassy staff in Rangoon, attended donor discussions, and visited two relief camps near Rangoon selected by the Government of Burma (GOB). The USAID/DART team leader will accompany U.S. Charge d' Affaires Shari Villarosa for the May 25 donor conference jointly convened by the U.N. and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The other members of the USAID/DART remain in Bangkok, Thailand, coordinating U.S. Government (USG) assistance and awaiting GOB approval to enter Burma.
- On May 23, the USAID/DART coordinated five U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) C-130 sorties transporting relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. Two of the five USG flights carried USAID relief commodities, valued at nearly \$146,160 excluding transport, which delivered a total of 384 rolls of plastic sheeting to serve 19,200 people and 4,800 water containers to serve 9,600 people. The flights of USAID commodities were consigned to non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. To date, the USAID/DART and DOD have completed 50 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon, of which 13 flights transporting USAID commodities have been consigned to NGO partners.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<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>	110,000	OCHA – May 22, 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>\$3,187,000</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma.....</b>	<b>\$20,695,346</b>

### CURRENT SITUATION

- Of the 2.4 million cyclone-affected people in Burma, OCHA reports that an estimated 1.4 million people are located in severely affected areas of Ayeyarwady Division, including Bogale, Labutta, Ngaputaw, Dedaye, Pyapon, Kyaiklat, and Mawlamyinegyun townships. In addition, OCHA estimates that 680,000 individuals reside in severely affected areas of Rangoon Division. 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 nearly 19,400 people.

### *Humanitarian Access*

- Following discussions with GOB Senior General Than Shwe on May 23, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced that the GOB would permit humanitarian aid workers into the country regardless of nationality. However, OCHA reports that the modalities and parameters of humanitarian access into Burma remain unclear. The USAID/DART is monitoring developments in humanitarian access and will provide further information as available.

<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)

### **Health**

- On May 23, OCHA reported that nearly 200 health care workers from six countries are working in the cyclone-affected areas, as well as more than 2,000 health staff from the GOB's Ministries of Health and Defense and NGOs.
- To date, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) has distributed essential medical supplies to assist approximately 600,000 people impacted by the cyclone. In addition, WHO, in collaboration with the GOB's Ministry of Health and U.N. Health Cluster partners, is establishing a disease outbreak surveillance system where health workers and members of affected communities will collect and share information on potential disease outbreaks.
- On May 23, WHO reported that between 30 and 50 percent of affected populations could require psychosocial support due to the effects of the cyclone. In response, WHO is conducting training sessions for NGO and GOB health staff to help communities cope with the psychosocial impact of the disaster.

### **Shelter**

- The U.N. Shelter Cluster reports continued humanitarian needs in the emergency shelter sector. On May 23, OCHA reported that approximately 35 percent of people residing in the 15 severely affected townships in Rangoon and Ayeyarwady divisions have received plastic sheeting sufficient to meeting emergency shelter needs. In Bogale township, an estimated 4.5 percent of the 286,000 cyclone-affected people have received plastic sheeting. In Mawlamyinegyun township, approximately 12 percent of the 230,000 affected people have received plastic sheeting. The U.N. Shelter Cluster is coordinating international relief efforts to address existing gaps in the provision of emergency shelter materials throughout the affected areas.

### **Child Protection**

- The U.N. Child Protection Cluster is coordinating international efforts to provide immediate care and protection to children and women in cyclone-affected areas, as well as to mainstream child protection in all humanitarian interventions. The cluster is supporting alternative care in a family environment, promoting family unity, facilitating family tracing and reunification, establishing child-friendly spaces, supporting community-based psychosocial care and support, and working to prevent abuse, violence and exploitation.

### **Food Security**

- On May 23, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported a deteriorating food security situation in Burma due to the impact of the cyclone and compounded by food shortages and high food prices. As part of the U.N. Flash Appeal, FAO estimated initial needs for agriculture, livestock, and fisheries at \$10 million. However, the GOB estimates that \$243 million is needed for agriculture rehabilitation, \$25 million for livestock, and additional funds for fisheries, although accurate data on losses in the fishery sector are currently unavailable.
- To date, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has dispatched 2,441 metric tons (MT) of food aid to the cyclone-affected areas and distributed 1,752 MT of food to serve 445,480 beneficiaries.

### **GOB Response**

- On May 22, GOB state media reported that the GOB had provided 1,450 MT of food assistance, 1,577 MT of emergency relief commodities, and 2,089 MT of construction materials to 21 locations in Ayeyarwady Division. The GOB noted that the majority of the relief supplies had been distributed to official camps in Pyapon, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Labutta, and Dedaye townships.

### **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, 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.
- To date, USAID humanitarian aid to Burma will assist an estimated 344,000 beneficiaries, of which more than 155,200 people will benefit from relief commodities and more than 188,800 people will benefit from emergency programs in shelter, food, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- From May 12 to 23, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$1.2 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 50 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.

## 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	\$3,187,000
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$3,187,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$20,695,346</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 23, 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)