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

Burma – Cyclone

Fact Sheet #15, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 27, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 23, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On May 25, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Shari Villarosa, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Scott Marciel, and the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) team leader attended the donor pledging conference jointly convened by the U.N. and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that 51 national delegations participated in the donor pledging conference, in which Government of Burma (GOB) representatives reiterated intentions to allow international aid workers to access cyclone-affected townships. However, relief agencies are waiting to see whether the provision of visas to expatriate staff and access to affected areas will increase in the coming days.
- From May 24 to 27, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), in coordination with the USAID/DART, flew 22 C-130 sorties transporting relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. The flights of USAID commodities were consigned to non-governmental organization (NGO) and U.N. partners and delivered 1,080 rolls of plastic sheeting to serve 54,000 people; 28,100 water containers to serve 56,200 people; 2 water bladders to serve the daily water needs of 660 people; 6 water purification units to serve the daily water needs of 60,000 people; 768 hygiene kits to serve 3,840 people; 4 zodiac boats and supplies to facilitate transport to affected areas; and 60,000 mosquito nets to serve 120,000 people. The USAID/DART also facilitated the DOD transport of U.N. relief commodities to Rangoon.
- To date, the USAID/DART and DOD have completed 70 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon, 26 of which were consigned to NGO and U.N. partners. Members of the USAID/DART remain in Thailand, coordinating U.S. Government (USG) assistance and awaiting GOB approval to enter Burma.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Dead	77,700 63,000 to 101,000	GOB – May 16, 2008 OCHA – May 9, 2008
Total Missing	55,900	GOB – May 16, 2008
Estimated Displaced Persons in Settlements	110,000	OCHA – May 22, 2008
Total Number Affected	2.4 million	OCHA – May 24, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma	\$6,287,628
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Burma	\$12,000,000
DOD Assistance to Burma	\$3,479,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma	\$21,766,628

CURRENT SITUATION

- On May 24, OCHA estimated that approximately 1 million of the 2.4 million people affected by Cyclone Nargis, or 42 percent, have received some humanitarian assistance to date. The Myanmar (Burma) Red Cross Society has reached 96,000 beneficiaries, U.N. agencies and international NGOs have reached 793,000 people, and local NGOs and civil society groups have reached an additional 128,000 people, according to OCHA. However, aid agencies have reportedly delivered the majority of the assistance to populations residing in Rangoon Division. In addition, only 470,000 of the 2 million people living in the 15 most affected townships have received aid, according to OCHA.
- On May 27, OCHA reported that the GOB has not updated the official numbers for dead and missing people since May 16. The official figure of deaths remains 77,738, and the official number of missing people remains 55,917.

Humanitarian Access

- On May 27, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported that more expatriate staff are receiving visas to enter some cyclone-affected locations; however, aid agencies have not received clear GOB

¹ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

guidance delineating the parameters for greater humanitarian access for international staff. According to OCHA, GOB officials require some relief organizations to provide 48 hour notice before moving into the Ayeyarwady Delta. In addition, several aid agencies report that the GOB has only granted 24 hour access to the affected areas.

- According to the U.N. Logistics Cluster, the common humanitarian air bridge has initiated flights from Bangkok's Don Muang Airport to Rangoon on a daily basis. The cluster carried out five flights from May 24 to 26, transporting interagency humanitarian cargo. To date, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has six boats and one helicopter to support logistics operations in Burma, with additional helicopters arriving in country in the coming days.
- On May 27, the ASEAN Secretary General reported that an ASEAN emergency rapid assessment team is scheduled to return to Burma on May 30 to conduct a second humanitarian assessment of cyclone-affected areas.

Logistics

- On May 26, a USAID partner successfully transported USAID/OFDA emergency relief supplies to the Ayeyarwady Delta, according to the USAID/DART. The supplies included plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, and 10-liter water containers, which NGO staff distributed to cyclone-affected populations residing in camps in Myangmya and Labutta townships. The NGO is also utilizing zodiac boats procured by USAID/OFDA for relief efforts.

Health

- The U.N. World Health Organization reports that water-borne diseases were endemic in Burma prior to the cyclone. Relief organizations note that the onset of the rainy season in late May 2008 could exacerbate the spread of diseases such as cholera and dysentery; however, Burmese health officials report no disease outbreaks to date.
- As of May 27, the U.N. Health Cluster had established a working group on disease surveillance and deployed 17 officers to establish early warning systems and monitor the health situation in affected areas.

Agriculture and Food Security

- The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in conjunction with the GOB's Ministries of Forestry, Agriculture and Irrigation, and Livestock and Fisheries, conducted an agriculture assessment from May 9 to 18. FAO noted that agriculture accounts for 54 percent of the Burmese gross domestic product and 70 percent of the total labor force. In addition, FAO confirmed that approximately 200,000 draft animals were killed in the cyclone, including cows and buffalo. FAO is also carrying out an impact and needs assessment for the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors in the affected areas to inform further emergency and medium-term responses.
- FAO and partner relief organizations indicate the potential of increased soil salinity in the Ayeyarwady Delta following the storm surge of Cyclone Nargis. FAO reports the need to repair damaged irrigation canals and tidal defenses, particularly before the upcoming rice planting season in June 2008. The functioning canals allow the rains to percolate through the soils and thereby facilitate the removal of excess salinity. If existing irrigation infrastructure is not repaired, FAO reports that high salinity in soils could lead to reduced rice output during the next season's harvest, exacerbating food insecurity in the country.
- WFP and eight NGO partners have reached an estimated 460,000 beneficiaries with 3,150 metric tons of food as of May 26. U.N. Food Cluster partners are operating in 11 townships in Ayeyarwady Division and 8 townships in Rangoon Division.

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 470,200 beneficiaries, of which more than 281,400 people will benefit from relief commodities and more than 188,800 people will benefit from emergency programs in shelter, food aid, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- From May 12 to 27, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$2 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 70 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>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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	\$2,037,628
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$6,287,628
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$12,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$12,000,000
DOD ASSISTANCE³			
DOD	Logistics	Affected Areas	\$3,479,000
TOTAL DOD			\$3,479,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008			\$21,766,628

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 27, 2008.

² Estimated value of anticipated or obligated food assistance.

³ 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 – 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
- In addition to USG contributions, the U.S. private sector has actively responded to the cyclone in Burma. More information can be found at:
 - U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center: www.uschamber.com/bclc/default
 - Business Roundtable Partnership for Disaster Response: www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo/