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

## **Burma – Cyclone**

Fact Sheet #16, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 28, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 27, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) team leader is attending U.N. cluster meetings in Rangoon, Burma, and engaging with relief partners and other donors to address humanitarian needs and gaps in assistance. The other members of the USAID/DART remain in Thailand, coordinating U.S. Government (USG) assistance and awaiting Government of Burma (GOB) approval to enter Burma.
- On May 28, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), in coordination with the USAID/DART, flew five C-130 sorties transporting relief commodities from Utao, Thailand, to Rangoon. One of the five DOD flights carried USAID commodities, valued at \$29,250 excluding transport, and delivered 23,400 water containers to serve 46,800 beneficiaries. The flight of USAID commodities was consigned to a U.N. partner.
- To date, the USAID/DART and DOD have completed 75 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utao to Rangoon, of which 27 flights of USAID supplies were consigned to U.N. and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners.

<b>ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Dead</b>	77,700 63,000 to 101,000	GOB – May 16, 2008 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 27, 2008

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

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma .....	<b>\$6,340,003</b>
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup> Assistance to Burma .....	<b>\$12,000,000</b>
DOD Assistance to Burma .....	<b>\$4,800,000</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma.....</b>	<b>\$23,140,003</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- On May 27, the GOB Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement announced that schools in eight of the most affected townships of Ayeyarwady and Rangoon divisions would resume classes in July, or one month later than previously scheduled. However, the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is working with the GOB’s Ministry of Education to reopen schools in some affected areas by June 2. According to previous U.N. and NGO assessments, many schools have been serving as informal shelters for cyclone-affected populations.
- On May 27, the U.N. had reportedly raised approximately 60 percent of the \$201 million U.N. and NGO flash appeal.
- Although road transport remains poor in the Ayeyarwady Delta due to heavy rains, the NGO Concern reported that 70 percent of the roads were accessible as of May 27.

### **Humanitarian Access**

- On May 28, the GOB approved all 45 remaining visa requests for U.N. agencies, according to OCHA.
- On May 27, several relief agencies reported receiving GOB authorization to travel to cyclone-affected areas. Three Save the Children international staff members traveled to Patheingyi township and are planning to visit additional cyclone-affected townships in the western Ayeyarwady Delta. Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland (MSF/S) also reported that the GOB had given permission for eight MSF/S international staff to travel to the most cyclone-affected areas. In addition, the GOB granted access to six international UNICEF staff to travel to affected regions of Ayeyarwady Division.

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

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

**Logistics**

- On May 27, the U.N. Logistics Cluster reported that one U.N. World Food Program (WFP) helicopter had arrived in Burma and the remaining nine helicopters are scheduled to arrive in the coming days.

**Health**

- On May 27, the U.N. Health Cluster announced the development of a disease surveillance and treatment system to mitigate the risks of water-borne disease outbreaks. The cluster reported that 17 regional surveillance officers have deployed to cyclone-affected areas to establish an early warning system for potential disease outbreaks. In order to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases, the U.N. World Health Organization has distributed health kits and is working with the U.N. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Cluster to provide safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities.

**Food Aid**

- To date, the U.N. Food Cluster has reached approximately 483,000 out of 750,000 targeted beneficiaries, or 64 percent, with food aid. To meet emergency food needs due to the impact of the cyclone, the cluster estimates requirements of 8,933 metric tons of food per month.

**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, 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 517,000 beneficiaries, of which more than 328,200 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 28, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of nearly \$2.1 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 75 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	\$2,090,003
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$6,340,003</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	\$4,800,000
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$4,800,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$23,140,003</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 28, 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)
- 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](http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/default)
  - Business Roundtable Partnership for Disaster Response: [www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo/](http://www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo/)