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

## **Burma – Cyclone**

Fact Sheet #17, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 29, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 28, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On May 29, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), in coordination with the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), flew five C-130 sorties transporting relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. Three of the five DOD flights carried USAID commodities, valued at nearly \$189,000 excluding transport, and delivered 448 rolls of plastic sheeting to serve 22,400 people and 4,224 hygiene kits to serve 21,120 people for two weeks. The flights of USAID commodities were consigned to international organization (IO) and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. The remaining two flights transported NGO and DOD relief commodities.
- To date, the USAID/DART and DOD have completed 80 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon, of which 30 flights of USAID supplies were consigned to U.N. and 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 29, 2008

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

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma .....</b>	<b>\$6,528,867</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Burma .....</b>	<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>DOD Assistance to Burma .....</b>	<b>\$5,448,000</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma.....</b>	<b>\$23,976,867</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- The Government of Burma (GOB) has granted additional visa requests and humanitarian organizations are slowly gaining more access to cyclone-affected areas, according to U.N. and international media sources. However, several relief agencies indicate that GOB officials are prohibiting international aid workers from traveling to the affected areas. As of May 29, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that 30 expatriate staff remained in Rangoon awaiting GOB permission to move into the Ayeyarwady Delta.

#### **Logistics**

- On May 27, the first U.N. World Food Program (WFP) helicopter transported international relief staff to three cyclone-affected areas of the Ayeyarwady Delta. The helicopter also delivered high-energy biscuits and ready-to-eat meals for distribution to the areas.

#### **Health**

- According to the U.N. Health Cluster, cases of vector-borne diseases and acute respiratory infections may increase with the upcoming rainy season between late May and October. In preparation, the U.N. World Health Organization and health partners are implementing a disease surveillance system to collect and report information on potential disease outbreaks to the cluster.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has established a sub-office in Bogale township for all in country activities, including the operation of mobile health clinics. IOM is focusing on emergency health interventions for approximately three to six months. IOM has acquired four zodiac boats and is reportedly reaching previously inaccessible areas with health services and distributions of hygiene kits, shelter materials, and medical supplies.

<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)

**Shelter**

- The U.N. Shelter Cluster has formed a strategic advisory group with members from IFRC, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), IOM, Save the Children, and the U.K. Department for International Development. The advisory group is responsible for the development of shelter intervention strategies to ensure appropriate and equitable shelter assistance across the cyclone-affected regions.
- The U.N. Shelter Cluster in Burma has identified three types of shelter kits to assist cyclone-affected households and help families to transition from the relief to the recovery phase. The most basic kit is a household tarp kit containing two 24 square meter tarpaulins and 30 meters of rope, which cluster members will distribute to each affected household. The cluster will also deliver complementary household relief kits to each affected family, which include two blankets, two insecticide-treated mosquito nets, one cooking set, and one 10-liter water container. In addition, the cluster plans to distribute one community toolkit per five affected households. The community toolkit contains rope, wire, roofing nails, and basic tools including a hammer, shovel, hoe, machete, and saw. To avoid any duplication of relief commodities, the U.N. Shelter Cluster is coordinating efforts with the U.N. Health Cluster.
- From May 25 to 28, IFRC delivered 3,000 household relief kits per day to cyclone-affected areas. In addition, IFRC is distributing community toolkits, household tarp kits, and hygiene kits.

**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.
- To date, USAID humanitarian aid to Burma will assist an estimated 560,000 beneficiaries, of which more than 371,000 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 29, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of nearly \$2.3 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 80 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 (NGOs, IOs, and U.N. Agencies)	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$2,278,867
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$6,528,867</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	Air Transport; Logistics	Affected Areas	\$5,448,000
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$5,448,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$23,976,867</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 29, 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/)