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

Burma – Cyclone

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 8, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 7, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- A 10-person USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) is in Bangkok, Thailand, awaiting Government of Burma (GOB) approval to enter the country. If the USAID/DART is given permission to enter Burma, the team will assess humanitarian needs and coordinate U.S. Government (USG) relief efforts.
- On May 8, the GOB refused entry to two of four previously approved U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team members who arrived in Rangoon on a U.N. flight, according to U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes. The GOB had approved entry for the team of four on May 7. At the coordination meeting in Bangkok on May 7, the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that 35 humanitarian teams from 18 countries were waiting for approval to enter Burma.
- On May 6, an additional \$3 million in USAID/OFDA funds was allocated for emergency assistance in cyclone-affected areas, including \$1 million to the American Red Cross (AmRC), and \$2 million that the USAID/DART will allocate to other partners. These funds are in addition to an initial \$250,000 contribution to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Dead	23,000	GOB – May 8, 2008
Total Missing	42,000	GOB – May 8, 2008
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	93,000	GOB – May 5, 2008
Houses Destroyed	20,000	GOB – May 5, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma Cyclone\$3,250,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- GOB state media reported that Cyclone Nargis killed an estimated 23,000 people, with an additional 42,000 others still missing. Various estimates that the death toll may be much higher remain unconfirmed.
- GOB state media noted that the cyclone affected 47 townships countrywide and destroyed as much as 95 percent of buildings and houses in 7 townships in the Ayeyarwady Delta. The GOB also reported that the cyclone sunk 57 ships in the Ayeyarwady River.
- According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and WFP, more than 1 million people affected by the cyclone need shelter and safe drinking water.

Food Security

- On May 8, WFP delivered 7 metric tons (MT) of high-energy biscuits to Rangoon, including 4 MT that were transported to Labutta, Ayeyarwady Division, one of the worst-affected areas in the Ayeyarwady Delta. On May 8, WFP also dispatched 34.5 MT of rice from existing stocks in Rangoon to affected areas, bringing the total stocks dispatched to 156 MT.
- WFP has established an office in Labutta that is accessible by road and contains two temporary warehouses. The first truck delivery with 20 MT of rice was expected to arrive on May 8.
- WFP plans to launch an emergency operation that will require approximately 55,000 MT of commodities to meet the needs of 630,000 beneficiaries for six months.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- On May 7, UNICEF and 16 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) met in Rangoon to exchange information and assessment data related to water, sanitation, and hygiene needs. UNICEF has distributed locally procured water purification tablets. However, further supplies may not be available in-country, due to damage to factories. UNICEF

estimated that as much as \$15 million is needed to meet immediate needs in the protection, education, and water and sanitation sectors.

- On May 8, the IFRC reported that limited water supplies have returned to some parts of Rangoon; however, a lack of electricity is preventing the extraction of water from ground wells that rely on electric pumps.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- According to UNICEF, urgent relief commodity needs include safe drinking water, shelter materials, water purification tablets, cooking sets, mosquito nets, food, medicine, and sanitation facilities.

Logistics

- On May 8, the logistics cluster met in Bangkok. WFP plans to launch a special operation to cover logistics coordination as well as air, ground, and water transport.
- The weather forecast for Burma calls for heavy rainfall in affected areas and upstream of the Ayeyarwady River in the coming week. Heavy rains may prolong flooding and impede transport of relief commodities to remote areas.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- The U.N. has deployed a Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) team to Bangkok. If allowed entry to Burma, the HIC would facilitate the sharing of information across the humanitarian community.

GOB and U.N. Response

- On May 5, the U.N. Inter-Agency Standing Committee Country Team activated humanitarian clusters in water/sanitation, health, shelter, logistics, telecommunications, early recovery, education, and protection, according to OCHA. UNICEF is leading the water, sanitation, education, and protection clusters. WHO is leading the health cluster. UNHCR, WFP, and the U.N. Development Program are leading the shelter, logistics, and early recovery clusters, respectively.
- On May 6, the GOB announced a \$5 million contribution from GOB sources for emergency relief efforts.
- The U.N. will release more than \$10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to meet immediate humanitarian needs in Burma, according to U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes. OCHA reported that the U.N. will launch a flash appeal for Burma on May 9.

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 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 to cyclone-affected populations, including \$1 million to AmRC and \$2 million to be allocated by the USAID/DART to other humanitarian assistance organizations operating in the affected areas.
- Three U.S. Navy ships currently in the Gulf of Thailand for training exercises could reach Burma within four days, if necessary to support relief efforts. However, the U.S. Military has not received GOB permission to enter Burma.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
AmRC	Emergency Relief Supplies, Shelter Kits	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
Various (TBD)	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
UNICEF, WFP, and UNHCR	Water and Sanitation, Emergency Food Assistance, Shelter	Affected Areas	\$250,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,250,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008			\$3,250,000

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 8, 2008.

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