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

**Burma – Cyclone**

Fact Sheet #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 15, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 14, 2008.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On May 15, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) flew five C-130 sorties transporting USAID and DOD relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. The flights, valued at approximately \$86,180 excluding transport, delivered a total of 160 rolls of plastic sheeting, which will serve 8,000 people; 2,880 hygiene kits, which will serve 14,400 people for 2 weeks; and 8,400 water containers, which will serve 16,800 people. In addition, the flights included USAID-funded blankets and bottles of water procured by DOD. To date, DOD has flown 13 airlifts of USAID and DOD-procured relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon.
- On May 14, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) raised its estimate of the number of people severely affected to between 1.6 million and 2.5 million. Previously the U.N. estimated that the cyclone severely 1.2 million to 1.9 million people. OCHA also reported that initial assessments indicate that 550,000 people may be residing in temporary settlements in Ayeyarwady and Rangoon divisions.
- The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) remains in Bangkok and Utapao, Thailand, coordinating U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance and awaiting Government of Burma (GOB) approval to enter Burma.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>Total Dead</b>	38,500	GOB – May 14, 2008
	63,000 to 101,000	OCHA – May 9, 2008
<b>Total Missing</b>	27,800	GOB – May 13, 2008
	220,000	OCHA – May 9, 2008
<b>Estimated Displaced Persons in Settlements</b>	550,000	OCHA – May 14, 2008
<b>Total Number Severely Affected</b>	1.6 million to 2.5 million	OCHA – May 14, 2008

**FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma .....	<b>\$5,508,346</b>
USAID/FFP <sup>1</sup> Assistance to Burma .....	<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Burma .....</b>	<b>\$17,508,346</b>

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- Twenty-two U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were conducting assessments in 58 cyclone-affected townships as of May 13, according to OCHA. Aid workers have identified gaps in information regarding humanitarian conditions in Dedaye, Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Mawlamyinegyun, Wakema, and Bogale townships, underserved areas of Ayeyarwady Division that remain priorities for further assessment.
- The Ayeyarwady Delta has received approximately four times its average rainfall during the last two weeks, based on historical records. Between May 15 and 22, more than 150 millimeters, or 6 inches, of rainfall are expected. As the ground is already saturated from the cyclone storm surge and rainfall, additional rains are likely to cause further flooding. The above-average rainfall to date is particularly concerning since May marks the beginning of monsoon season, which typically continues until October.

**Humanitarian Access**

- GOB restrictions on flights carrying relief commodities into Rangoon are reportedly easing, and some flights are now being directly consigned to the U.N. and NGOs.
- On May 14, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes reported that the GOB had issued visas for nearly 40 U.N. staff and 46 NGO staff. However, international aid workers are confined to Rangoon city, with no access to cyclone-affected regions.

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

- The GOB has reportedly invited 160 disaster relief technical experts from neighboring Bangladesh, China, India, and Thailand into the country. According to Thai officials, the GOB has granted permission for a team of 30 Thai doctors to travel to Burma on May 16.

### **Logistics**

- The U.N. Logistics Cluster is in the process of establishing a large-scale common logistical service including air, land, sea, and inland water transport, as well as supply tracking and coordination services. On May 14, OCHA reported the opening of a logistics hub in Labutta township, Ayeyarwady Division, which has two operational mobile storage units. The U.N. Logistics Cluster is planning to establish similar hubs in Pyapon and Bogale townships in Ayeyarwady Division and continues to identify additional suitable logistics hubs.
- According to OCHA, the GOB has requested that 24-hour notice be given for clearances of airlifts through Rangoon International Airport, as of May 14.

### **Health**

- On May 14, the U.N. Health Cluster reported that an estimated 50 percent of rural and township health facilities in affected areas sustained damage due to Cyclone Nargis.
- Water purification units to provide water for 4 hospitals and 20 health centers are expected to reach destinations in the affected area in the coming days, cluster participants reported. The Government of Norway is providing 20 emergency health kits, each of which can be used to treat 30,000 people for one month. On May 14, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) provided 500 boxes of examination gloves, 2,000 boxes of surgical masks, and 100 fogging machines to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases.
- The U.N. Health Cluster has identified disease surveillance as a key priority. WHO has positioned 10 regional surveillance officers at the township level to support health officials in strengthening disease surveillance activities.
- WHO reported that the Burmese Ministry of Health is conducting a measles vaccination and vitamin A campaign in camps for children between nine months old and five years old, but it is unclear how many children have been reached.

### **Shelter**

- At the U.N. Shelter Cluster meeting on May 13, participants identified 300,000 households to target in initial shelter assistance efforts, based on preliminary statistics. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is completing a township-level rapid shelter assessment and will share findings in the coming days. The cluster is discussing standards for emergency shelter kits and developing a database for shelter assessment data.

### **Agriculture**

- The first meeting of the U.N. Agriculture Cluster took place on May 13. Representatives from the GOB's ministries and departments of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries attended. Damage and needs assessments are ongoing, and currently available information reveals significant losses of crops, livestock, and fisheries. The cluster identified farming and fishing equipment, logistical support, the restocking of livestock, and the provision of seeds as priorities.
- The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) anticipates a significant shortfall in rice production in the Ayeyarwady Delta unless farmers can plant the main 2008 rice crop in June, the organization reported on May 14. FAO noted that the five most cyclone-affected states and divisions produce 65 percent of Burma's rice.

### **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), the U.N. World Food Program (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.
- From May 12 to 15, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$400,000 of USAID/OFDA commodities to Rangoon on eight 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.

### USAID 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
NGOs (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>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$17,508,346</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 15, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of anticipated or obligated food assistance.

#### 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)