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

Burma – Cyclone

Fact Sheet #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 19, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 16, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- From May 16 to 19, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) conducted seven flights of USAID relief commodities, including plastic sheeting, water containers, and hygiene kits, from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. The USAID commodities, valued at approximately \$414,400 excluding transport, were consigned to non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. To date, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) and DOD have completed 31 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon, providing assistance to more than 106,000 beneficiaries.
- The USAID/DART remains in Bangkok and Utapao coordinating U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance and awaiting Government of Burma (GOB) approval to enter Burma.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Dead	77,700	GOB – May 16, 2008
	63,000 to 101,000	OCHA ¹ – May 9, 2008
Total Missing	55,900	GOB – May 16, 2008
	220,000	OCHA – May 9, 2008
Estimated Displaced Persons in Settlements	550,000	OCHA – May 14, 2008
Total Number Affected	2.4 million	OCHA – May 18, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma	\$5,508,346
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to Burma	\$12,000,000
DOD Assistance to Burma	\$1,645,400
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma.....	\$19,153,746

CURRENT SITUATION

- The cyclone affected approximately 2.4 million people, and cyclone-related deaths could range from approximately 63,000 to more than 101,000, with approximately 220,000 people reported missing, according to OCHA. As of May 16, the GOB had raised the official death toll from Cyclone Nargis to more than 77,000. According to GOB state media, nearly 56,000 people remain missing. The official number of injured people also rose significantly to 19,359, up from 1,403.
- According to OCHA, international aid agencies have reached an estimated 500,000 individuals with emergency relief to date, constituting approximately 20 percent of cyclone-affected populations. Gaps in information remain about the number of people reached by the GOB and by locally provided aid from communities and charitable benefactors.
- On May 18, preliminary estimates indicated that 150,000 people are displaced in a mixture of 120 official and unofficial temporary settlements in the Ayeyarwady Delta, according to OCHA. Several relief agencies have reported that population movement toward less affected areas is ongoing, with food shortages in the most affected villages causing the displacement.

Humanitarian Access

- On May 17, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Shari Villarosa participated in a GOB-sponsored helicopter tour for diplomats and heads of U.N. agencies of the affected areas and temporary relief settlements.
- U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes arrived in Burma on May 18. U.N. Coordinator Holmes is meeting with GOB officials and visiting the Ayeyarwady Delta in order to seek greater access for international relief efforts.

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

- On May 18, the U.N. Department of Safety and Security reported that 109 national U.N. staff are currently working in the cyclone-affected areas, as well as 72 international U.N. staff in Rangoon. However, the GOB has not authorized international U.N. staff to work in the affected areas, according to OCHA.
- On May 19, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced that the GOB had agreed to accept international aid agencies and medical workers from all ASEAN countries to assist with relief efforts. The Foreign Minister of Indonesia reported that each ASEAN country is planning to send a team of 30 medical personnel in the coming days with unrestricted movement in the country, according to OCHA.
- U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon plans to travel to Burma on May 21 to visit the affected areas and meet with senior GOB officials in order to enhance ongoing international relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Health

- According to the U.N. World Health Organization, medical supplies such as emergency health kits and water and sanitation equipment remain the priority public health needs. As of May 18, the U.N. Health Cluster had provided more than 350 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies and equipment, including 3 million water purification tablets, 90,000 water containers, more than 50,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, emergency health kits, and essential medicines, for cyclone-affected areas.

Nutrition

- Prior to Cyclone Nargis, Burma had high levels of chronic malnutrition with 32 percent of children chronically malnourished and 9 percent acutely malnourished, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). In areas where aid organizations have access, UNICEF and Action Contre la Faim are monitoring the nutritional status of children under five and will conduct rapid assessments to measure the deterioration of acute malnutrition rates in the cyclone-affected areas.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Relief agencies remain concerned about the immediate food needs of the affected population, as well as potential food insecurity in the future due to disrupted planting for the main harvest. According to OCHA, the planting season for the main harvest in November ends within five to seven weeks.
- On May 16, the GOB Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reported that the current loss of rice crop due to the cyclone is approximately 2.3 percent of the total production in 2007/2008, or 718,400 MT. However, potential future harvest reductions due to damage of agricultural inputs, salt water intrusion, and loss of labor in rice farming communities could compound food needs and disrupt livelihoods for affected communities. The Ministry of Agriculture reported that the cyclone affected 130,000 farming households in Ayeyarwady Division and 117,000 farming households in Rangoon Division.

GOB Response

- According to the GOB National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, the GOB had spent approximately \$18.5 million on disaster relief as of May 16. As of May 17, more than 100 Burmese organizations and companies, as well as private benefactors, had donated more than \$1.5 million to the relief effort, according to media reports.
- On May 18, GOB Senior General Than Shwe visited displaced person camps on the outskirts of Rangoon.

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.
- From May 12 to 19, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$1.1 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 31 DOD C-130 flights. The relief supplies will provide assistance to more than 106,000 beneficiaries.
- 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	\$1,258,346
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,508,346
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	\$1,645,400
TOTAL DOD			\$1,645,400
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008			\$19,153,746

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 19, 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