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

## **Burma – Cyclone**

Fact Sheet #18, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

June 2, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 29, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- From May 30 to June 2, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), in coordination with the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), flew 20 C-130 sorties transporting relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. Of the 20 DOD flights, 14 carried USAID commodities, valued at nearly \$926,000 excluding transport, and delivered 1,878 rolls of plastic sheeting to serve 93,900 people, 11,136 hygiene kits to serve 55,680 people for two weeks, 9,600 water containers to serve 19,200 people, two water treatment units to provide safe drinking water for 20,000 people, and five water bladders to serve the daily water needs of 1,665 people. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided four zodiac boats to facilitate transportation of relief commodities to affected areas. The flights of USAID commodities were consigned to international agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. The remaining six flights transported NGO and DOD relief commodities.
- To date, the USAID/DART and DOD have completed 100 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon, of which 45 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<br>63,000 to 101,000 | GOB – May 16, 2008<br>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>\$7,474,728</b>  |
| <b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Burma</b> .....  | <b>\$12,000,000</b> |
| <b>DOD Assistance to Burma</b> .....                    | <b>\$6,834,500</b>  |
| <b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma</b> ..... | <b>\$26,289,164</b> |

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- On June 2, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that approximately 1.3 million of the 2.4 million people affected by Cyclone Nargis, or 54 percent have received some humanitarian assistance to date. In the Ayeyarwady Delta, the percentage of affected individuals reached has increased from 23 percent to 49 percent since May 25. However, OCHA noted that most of the individuals reached to date have received limited and inconsistent assistance, due to limited access and supplies.
- In the less affected areas of Ayeyarwady Delta, camps temporarily housing displaced populations continue to decline as people return to home villages after receiving basic relief commodities and food assistance, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). However, on the outskirts of Labutta township, IFRC reports an increase in the number of new camps housing mainly women and children, as men return to villages to protect remaining livelihoods and erect provisional shelter.
- According to unconfirmed international media and human rights reports, the Government of Burma (GOB) began to close some government-run relief camps in affected areas on May 30.
- As of May 28, the Myanmar (Burma) Red Cross Society (MRCS) reported providing aid to more than 153,000 beneficiaries, including nearly 120,000 in Ayeyarwady Delta and 32,000 in Rangoon Division.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), contributions to the \$201 million U.N. Flash Appeal for Burma have reached approximately 40 percent. On May 31, IFRC reported raising

<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)

approximately 82 percent of the \$50.8 million IFRC emergency appeal, which aims to assist 100,000 families for three years.

### ***Humanitarian Access***

- On June 1, IFRC reported that humanitarian access remains static following the May 25 donor conference and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's visit. Six IFRC staff continue to wait for GOB permission to access the Ayeyarwady Delta.
- On June 2, OCHA noted that a detailed needs analysis is a significant priority, as limitations in access are hampering assistance and knowledge of the locations and numbers of individuals requiring assistance.

### ***Logistics***

- The U.N. Logistics Cluster continues to provide transportation to cluster partners for the provision of humanitarian aid to cyclone-affected areas. From May 20 to 29, the U.N. Logistics Cluster dispatched 1,218 metric tons (MT) of emergency relief supplies and support equipment.
- On May 27, IFRC reported distributing nearly 31,000 10-liter water containers, more than 14,000 kitchen sets, nearly 35,000 mosquito nets, approximately 13,500 shelter kits, nearly 200,000 water purification tablets, and more than 39,000 tarpaulins. IFRC also noted the intention to provide fuel from Rangoon to facilitate aid deliveries in areas accessible only by boat.
- As of May 30, one USAID/OFDA partner had delivered 8,500 hygiene kits, transported by four DOD C-130 aircraft, and a second partner had transported 836 MT of relief commodities to Rangoon. On May 21, a third USAID/OFDA partner initiated a two-month project to provide three water filtration units for 120,000 beneficiaries and shelter tool kits for 1,675 others.
- WFP has requested that all humanitarian organizations identify areas and villages where unmet needs exist in order to prioritize areas for WFP helicopter operations, while stressing to the GOB the importance of allowing helicopters to operate with greater freedom throughout affected areas. The WFP helicopter currently in Burma conducted an initial assessment flight on June 2 and transported 0.5 MT of high-energy biscuits. An additional nine WFP helicopters are scheduled to arrive in Burma on June 6.

### ***Health***

- On May 30, The World Health Organization and U.N. Health Cluster partners approved a six-month \$28 million action plan to provide immediate health care to cyclone-affected populations and support long-term efforts to rebuild the Burma's health care system.

### ***Food Security***

- On May 29, the GOB Ministry of Commerce granted permission to the U.N. Food Cluster to procure 10,000 tons of rice and 3,000 tons of pulses in addition to the 10,000 and 1,000 tons previously procured, respectively. As of May 30, the U.N. Food Cluster had delivered 1,200 of the initial 10,000 tons of rice to the Ayeyarwady Delta. In addition, as of June 1, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) had dispatched enough rice to provide a first ration to 575,000 people, but noted that food assistance has yet to reach a number of affected populations. As of May 30, the WFP request for a rice import permit, which is critical to maintaining the food assistance pipeline beyond July, remained unanswered by the GOB.
- On May 30, WFP commenced a project in Rangoon to provide the cash equivalent of a typical WFP food basket to 200,000 people severely affected by the cyclone

### **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 606,000 beneficiaries, of which nearly 418,000 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 June 2, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$3.2 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 100 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  | \$3,204,664         |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>                                      |  |                 | <b>\$7,454,664</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  | \$6,834,500         |
| <b>TOTAL DOD</b>   |  |                 | <b>\$6,834,500</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b> |  |                 | <b>\$26,289,164</b> |

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 2, 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/)