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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 5, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated June 2, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On June 5, USAID announced an additional \$8.1 million in funding for the relief effort in Burma, bringing the total USAID funding for the response to Cyclone Nargis to \$27.6 million. Combined with \$7.8 million in assistance from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the newly announced funding brings the total U.S. Government (USG) assistance to Burma to more than \$35.3 million. With this money, USAID has funded 13 U.N. and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners working in the affected areas to implement programs in 10 sectors, including emergency health, shelter, food aid, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. The USAID-funded programs target more than 1 million beneficiaries in Burma.
- From June 3 to 6, DOD, in coordination with the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), flew 16 C-130 sorties transporting relief commodities for NGOs and U.N. agencies from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. The flights carried mixed relief commodities, including household kits and water treatment units, as well as animal fodder to serve the cyclone-affected livestock industry. One of the 16 flights also carried DOD commodities, in addition to NGO-provided plastic sheeting and clothing items.
- To date, the USAID/DART and DOD have completed 116 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon, of which 45 flights of USAID supplies were consigned to U.N. and NGO partners and 21 of which transported NGO and U.N. commodities.
- On June 5, two teams comprising representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the U.N., and NGOs arrived in Ayeyarwady Delta to conduct pre-assessments in Pyapon and Labutta townships prior to undertaking the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) from June 9 to 21. According to the U.N. Shelter Cluster, each of the two PONJA teams include a GOB representative, U.N. representatives, and staff from U.N. cluster organizations, the private sector, and the Myanmar (Burma) Red Cross Society (MRCS). PONJA plans to provide a preliminary assessment report on June 24, followed by a final report on July 12.

<b>ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Dead</b>	77,700	GOB – May 16, 2008
	63,000 to 101,000	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>\$15,546,458</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Burma</b> .....	<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>DOD Assistance to Burma</b> .....	<b>\$7,821,000</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma</b> .....	<b>\$35,367,458</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- As of June 4, the GOB had issued 143 visas to international U.N. staff, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The U.N. reports no obstacles to visa procurement for U.N. staff, and as a result, the number of U.N. staff arriving in Burma each week has remained static since mid-May. On June 3, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that the GOB granted permits for five international water and sanitation delegates to enter the Ayeyarwady Delta.
- As of June 2, the IFRC and MRCS had reached more than 191,000 affected individuals, an increase of more than 26,000 since May 30. The total beneficiaries include approximately 34,000 in Rangoon Division, more than 155,000

<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)

in Ayeyarwady Division, and an estimated 1,600 in Mon State. On June 4, OCHA noted that estimated beneficiary numbers remain lower than actual figures reached due to unavailability of reports from NGOs operating in remote areas.

### ***Humanitarian Access***

- OCHA has indicated that the visa process for international NGO staff continues to move slowly, with some applications pending for up to three weeks, as the GOB still has not communicated clear visa-approval criteria.
- IFRC notes that the small number of visas granted overall, combined with limitations on the length of visits to affected areas, continues to impose serious constraints on the effectiveness of relief operations.
- In addition, lack of access continues to impede humanitarian reporting on the number of affected individuals reached by assistance and where remaining unmet needs exist.

### ***Logistics***

- At the June 5 U.N. Logistics Cluster Meeting, cluster leader U.N. World Food Program (WFP) highlighted the spare capacity available through the U.N. common humanitarian pipeline. Operating at full capacity, the common pipeline can transport up to 190 metric tons (MT) of food and non-food items each day, while delivering cargo to affected areas in as few as three days after receipt in Rangoon, and stands prepared to move significantly more cargo.
- The U.N. Shelter Cluster reported a possible shortage of shelter items in the coming weeks as the overall distribution capacity of the common pipeline exceeds the supply of incoming goods.
- On June 5, the WFP MI-8 helicopter in Burma completed the fourth day of operations, delivering relief commodities to affected areas. WFP plans to dispatch the additional nine helicopters to Rangoon from Bangkok in the next three to four days pending the proper GOB flight clearances and crew approvals. The U.N. Logistics Cluster anticipates the common humanitarian pipeline to benefit from the addition of the helicopter fleet, as areas previously inaccessible by ground transportation and cargo planes finally receive much-needed assistance.

### ***Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene***

- The U.N. Health Cluster has developed a disease early warning system to detect all relevant diseases of epidemic potential, including cholera, malaria, and dengue fever. Health partners expect that transmission of malaria and other vector-borne diseases will increase after the vector population recovers from the storm, but as of June 4, health partners had not reported significant numbers of malaria cases.
- On June 4, cluster members noted that access to safe drinking water remains an issue affecting disease transmission. The U.N. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Cluster is regularly inspecting water sources where suspected cases of cholera and other water-borne diseases are reported. Relief partners continue to monitor the situation, while noting that cholera is endemic to the region, with June and July as the peak months for cases of the disease.

### ***Food Assistance***

- As of June 4, WFP reported reaching an estimated 501,000 beneficiaries, or 67 percent of the target, with varying levels of food assistance. WFP has delivered 9,938 MT of food to affected areas and distributed 4,465 MT since the cyclone struck Burma. WFP plans to revise its target of 750,000 individuals following further needs assessments, but notes that frequent population movements within the affected areas prevent accurate targeting.

### ***Shelter***

- On June 4, the U.N. Shelter Cluster reported that 21 cluster partners had delivered 204,000 plastic sheets to an estimated 102,000 households, or 21 percent of targeted households, and distributed 13,000 community tool kits to approximately 13 percent of cyclone-affected households to date. U.N. Shelter Cluster partners aim to address the shelter needs of approximately 486,999 households in more than 40 townships in cyclone-affected areas.

## **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.
- On June 5, USAID/OFDA allocated an additional \$8.1 million for relief efforts.
- 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 1 million people will benefit from emergency programs conducted by NGO and U.N. partners.

- From May 12 to June 5, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$3.2 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 116 DOD C-130 flights.

### 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 (NGOs and U.N. Agencies)	Economy and Market Systems; Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Logistics; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Relief Commodities; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$7,330,751
UNICEF, WFP, and UNHCR	Emergency Food Assistance; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$250,000
WFP	Logistics	Affected Areas	\$1,050,000
Various (NGOs, IOs, and U.N. Agencies)	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$3,824,728
USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Burma	\$309,318
USAID	Logistics and Transport	Burma	\$1,781,661
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$15,546,458</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	\$7,821,000
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$7,821,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$35,367,458</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 5, 2008.

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

<sup>3</sup> Includes \$600,000 in USAID/OFDA-purchased DOD commodities.

### 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/)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)