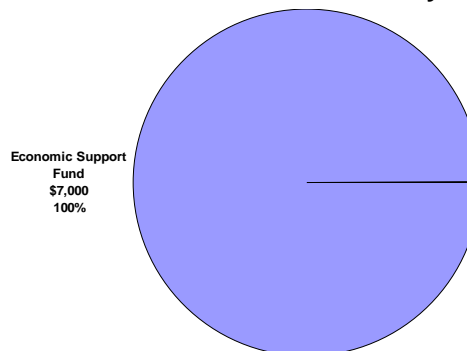


# Burma

**FY 2006 Assistance by Sector**



**FY 2006 Assistance by Account**



## Objectives and Budget

Objective	SO Number	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Promote Democracy and Aid Burmese Refugees	482-002	12,923	7,936	7,000
<b>Total (in thousands of dollars)</b>		<b>12,923</b>	<b>7,936</b>	<b>7,000</b>

**Mission Director:** Timothy Beans

## Burma

**The Development Challenge:** Conditions in Burma have changed little over the past year. The State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) continues to maintain political and military control of the country. U.S. Government policies continue to place pressure on the SPDC to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the democratic opposition that ultimately leads to genuine national reconciliation and the establishment of democracy.

The SPDC has consistently refused to engage with the National League for Democracy (NLD), other members of the democratic opposition, and ethnic minority groups. On May 30, 2003, forces affiliated with the ruling junta brutally attacked Aung San Suu Kyi and her convoy of supporters. Several NLD supporters were killed or injured. Suu Kyi and many party leaders were arrested. Although several were eventually released, Suu Kyi remains under house arrest and unable to communicate with the NLD or others. These events, along with the lack of participation of the democratic opposition at the national convention to prepare a new constitution, reduced the potential for any type of reconciliation or power sharing discussions. Both the national convention and the SPDC's "roadmap" to democracy have been met with much skepticism by the international community.

On October 19, 2004, junta hard-liners further consolidated their hold on power by ousting former Prime Minister and head of Military Intelligence General Khin Nyunt. The junta replaced him with Lt. General Soe Win, who was reportedly directly involved in the decision to carry out the May 30, 2003 attack on Aung San Suu Kyi. It is unclear what impact these moves will have on the informal cease-fire agreements negotiated between Khin Nyunt and various former ethnic insurgent groups and on the ability of social, political, and educational entities to function in the country. Extra-judicial killings, torture, forced labor, portering, forced relocation, rape, and other abuses still commonly occur in most ethnic states.

The SPDC's economic mismanagement of the country's resources has led to a deterioration of social and economic conditions. U.S. sanctions following the May 30 arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi have made it much more difficult for Burma to operate in the international arena due to restrictions placed on financial transactions using U.S. dollars. In 2004, per capita income was estimated at \$225. According to the World Bank, Burma has relatively poor health indicators with an infant mortality rate of 77 per 1,000 live births, an under-five child mortality rate of 109 per 1,000 children and a maximum average life expectancy of 57 years. Health care facilities are eroding and HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are becoming endemic. Universities are sporadically open and the public education system is in very poor condition.

The intensifying economic hardship in Burma over the past decade has resulted in many Burmese relocating to the Thai-Burma border region because of the relative safety, prosperity, and economic opportunities available in Thailand. In the 10 Thai provinces along the thousand mile border with Burma, there are over 144,000 Burmese living in refugee camps, and hundreds of thousands registered and unregistered Burmese migrants.

U.S. interests in Burma include promoting democracy, supporting human rights and religious freedom, fighting HIV/AIDS, furthering effective counter-narcotics efforts, and promoting regional stability.

**The USAID Program:** Programming decisions are made jointly by the State Department and USAID. Programs in FY 2005 will be funded with carryover funds from the ESF earmark in the FY 2004 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill and the current earmark in the FY 2005 Bill. USAID-administered activities are managed by the Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDM/A) in Bangkok, Thailand in consultation with the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon and the State Department in Washington, D.C. State administered activities are managed by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (State/DRL).

Currently, USAID administers the following programs under the Burma earmark:

Humanitarian assistance to provide access to health care, support migrant rights activities, and strengthen control of priority infectious diseases for out-of-camp Burmese in Thailand: This assistance complements assistance from the State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration;

Democracy activities that finance training for Burmese journalists and public information workers to improve the quality and dissemination of news and information on the situation inside Burma;

Scholarships for Burmese refugees to study at colleges and universities in Asia, Europe, Canada, Australia, and the U.S.; and

Program support to the American Center in Rangoon, including publications, library services, English language and other training, and education and democracy-building programs that includes work with the media.

**Other Program Elements:** The regional HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases program works in Burma and along the Thai-Burma border to address these diseases through surveillance, behavioral change, training, research, and provision of care and support. The regional anti-trafficking program provides a strategic regional framework to address trafficking through better data collection, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, and greater cross-border cooperation among non-governmental organizations, policymakers, and law enforcement entities. Both of these programs are managed by the USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDM/A).

The Department of State's Population, Refugees and Migration Bureau funds refugee-assistance activities that complement USAID activities on the Thai-Burma border. State/DRL supports grants to the National Endowment for Democracy, the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, and Prospect Burma under the earmark.

**Other Donors:** The activities being funded under the earmark operate independently of the Burmese regime and are coordinated with more than 30 other donor agencies through either the Burma Donors Forum or the Coordinating Council for Support to Displaced Persons in Thailand. There are regular coordinating meetings among HIV/AIDS donors, led by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to try and optimize the use of funds. Bilateral donor programs that focus on humanitarian assistance to Burma and to Burmese refugees include the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, Germany, the European Union, and the United Kingdom. Multilateral donors with activities in Burma include the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Program, the World Food Program, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

**Burma  
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Current	FY 2006 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	2,000	0	0	0
Economic Support Fund	6,954	12,923	7,936	7,000
<b>Total Program Funds</b>	<b>8,954</b>	<b>12,923</b>	<b>7,936</b>	<b>7,000</b>

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY</b>				
482-002 Promote Democracy and Aid Burmese Refugees				
ESF	6,954	12,923	7,936	7,000
482-XXX ANE Regional HIV/AIDS Program				
CSH	2,000	0	0	0

Regional Mission Director,  
Timothy Beans

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Burma
<b>Program Title:</b>	Promote Democracy and Aid Burmese Refugees
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	482-002
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$7,936,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$9,423,000 ESF
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$7,000,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1996
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2006

**Summary:** Since 1998, USAID and the State Department have collaborated closely on programming decisions and plans to implement democracy and humanitarian assistance programs for the Burmese.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$4,500,000 ESF; \$2,366,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). \$370,000 will be provided to support targeted programs through the U.S. Embassy's American Center. USAID will continue to support training and advocacy for a transition to a democratic government in Burma. There will be an enhanced focus on preparing the Burmese population, both inside and outside Burma, to participate in a free and democratic society in the future. Principal grantees are the National Endowment for Democracy, Internews, and the World Education/World Learning Consortium (WE/WL). The State Department-managed portion of this program component will support information and media activities (radio, newspapers, newsletters, human rights documentation) and institution building programs (independent trade unions, political party development, ethnic coalitions and solidarity building efforts, women's groups, student groups, transition planning) through a grant to the National Endowment for Democracy.

Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$1,500,000 ESF; \$2,757,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID will support the development of a viable and sustainable education system that will be recognized in and transferable to Burma when refugees return to their homeland. Activities include training and capacity building of teachers, principals, and administrators; curriculum development; and special education. A Request for Assistance (RFA) in FY 2005 will determine focus areas to be funded. The principal grantee is the WE/WL.

Improve Child Survival, Health, and Nutrition (\$1,500,000 ESF; \$3,300,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). Humanitarian assistance to refugees along the Thai-Burma border will improve access to primary health care, maintain nutrition and food security for refugees, and provide access to health care for Burmese in Thailand residing outside refugee camps. An RFA in FY 2005 will determine focus areas to be funded. Principal grantees are the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$436,000 ESF; \$1,000,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). The regional HIV/AIDs program, which includes Burma, will continue. The malaria and infectious diseases program launched in FY 2003 along the Thai-Burma border will continue. An RFA in FY 2005 will determine focus areas to be funded. The principal grantee is the American Refugee Committee.

**FY 2006 Program:** Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$3,850,000 ESF). \$750,000 will be provided to targeted programs through the U.S. Embassy's American Center. USAID plans to continue preparing the Burmese population, in and out of Burma, to participate in a free and democratic society in the future. Partners include WE/WL and Internews.

Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue funding in focus

areas resulting from the RFA. Partners to be determined (TBD).

Improve Child Survival, Health, and Nutrition (\$1,150,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue funding in focus areas resulting from the RFA. Partners TBD.

Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$1,000,000 ESF). Pending USAID's Asia Near East Bureau approval for the new RDM/A strategic framework, activities under this program may be funded and managed under a regional HIV/AIDS and Infectious Diseases SO in FY 2006.

**Performance and Results:** USAID's partners in democracy activities are WE/WL and Internews. WE/WL helped broaden access to informational and training resources of the U.S. Embassy's American Center in Rangoon. Internews provided media management courses and monitoring and coaching sessions for 54 media managers (including 12 women) and granted funds to media organizations to support their core costs. Internews-funded media resource centers provided free access to valuable information to help journalism and media professionals improve their production, marketing, fundraising, office systems, and technical skills. In FY 2003/2004, the Open Society Institute (OSI) provided \$5,000 to \$12,000 grants per year to six partner organizations. OSI provides scholarships and ongoing interim education to Burmese refugee students who have fled Burma and wish to continue their studies.

USAID works primarily through the IRC in the camps and the IOM outside of the camps on health related activities along the Thai/Burma border. IOM FY 2004 accomplishments include: (1) health care training for more than 150 medics who work in the camps and as backpack medics inside Burma with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); (2) sustained levels of maternal and child survival (an infant mortality rate of 29 deaths per 1,000 live births) on par with those of surrounding Thai communities; and (3) the Mae Tao clinic in Thailand led by Dr. Cynthia Maung treated more than 30,000 refugees and IDPs living along the border. In addition, an outpost of Mae Tao Clinic inside the Karen State of Burma provided preventive and curative health services for approximately 15,000 IDPs living in 28 villages near the border.

To address the needs of Burmese migrants in Thailand, USAID signed a grant with IOM at the end of FY 2002 to work on health issues and at the end of FY 2004 to work on migrant rights. The Migrant Health Project focuses on Chiang Rai and Tak provinces and aims to increase the level of awareness on primary and secondary preventative and curative measures, communicable disease control, and reproductive health conditions. In FY 2004, IOM held health promotion or training activities for nearly 25,000 migrants, or about 63% of the targeted population. Likewise, IRC helped more than 32,000 migrants to access public health centers. The new Migrant Rights Project aims to build capacity in Thailand to incorporate a human rights approach in labor migration management.

WE/WL is USAID's main partner in education on the border. Key FY 2004 achievements include the organization of bimonthly meetings among the Karen Education Department, ZOA Refugee Care-Netherlands and Consortium to coordinate activities to maximize the efficiency of resources for educational development activities inside the camps and in the migrant communities outside the camps. Management training was held for 78 school head teachers and camp leaders. Forty-five science teachers received training on the science curriculum and activities.

In adult literacy and special education, significant results include the completion of Phase I of the Adult Literacy classes through a sub-grant to the Karen Women Organization (KWO). The KWO in Nupo will likely take responsibility for the continuation of the Adult Literacy School. Sixteen new students were enrolled in special education classes, bringing the total to 50 for the school year. Thirty-five teachers attended a workshop on Karen Sign Language and the Blind and Deaf curricula in all Karen camps.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Burma

482-002 Promote Democracy and Aid Burmese Refugees	CSH	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>			
Obligations	6,460	4,033	22,992
Expenditures	6,460	4,033	19,698
Unliquidated	0	0	3,294
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>			
Obligations	0	0	7,871
Expenditures	0	0	5,963
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>			
Obligations	6,460	4,033	30,863
Expenditures	6,460	4,033	25,661
Unliquidated	0	0	5,202
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	0	0	9,423
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	0	7,936
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>			
Obligations	0	0	17,359
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	0	7,000
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	6,460	4,033	55,222