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

## **Burma – Cyclone**

Fact Sheet #21, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

June 18, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated June 12, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On June 18, USAID/OFDA announced an additional \$3 million in funding to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) for logistics operations in support of the overall cyclone relief effort in Burma.
- On June 13 through 18, a USAID/OFDA disaster specialist and non-governmental organization (NGO) implementing partner conducted an assessment focusing on livelihoods and early recovery programming in affected areas south of Labutta township.
- From June 13 to 18, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), in coordination with USAID/OFDA, flew 25 C-130 sorties transporting DOD, U.N., and NGO relief commodities from Utapao, Thailand, to Rangoon. The relief commodities included household kit items, tents, and tarpaulins. To date, USAID/OFDA and DOD have completed 176 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of June 16, a total of 32 assessment teams had conducted the village tract (humanitarian needs) component of the post-Nargis joint assessment in 84 out of 128 targeted quadrants in Bogale, Labutta, Pathein, Pyapon, Wakema, and Rangoon districts. The preliminary assessment report is expected on June 24. USAID/OFDA disaster specialists in Bangkok and Rangoon coordinating the U.S. Government response to Cyclone Nargis hope the assessment will identify lingering assistance gaps and inform the next steps in the cyclone response.

<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 – 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**

**USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma .....\$19,398,226**  
**USAID/FFP<sup>1</sup> Assistance to Burma .....\$12,000,000**  
**DOD Assistance to Burma .....\$9,475,900**  
**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma.....\$40,874,126**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- According to preliminary reports from the USAID/OFDA-NGO joint assessment conducted between June 13 and 18 in affected areas in the southern delta, food assistance will likely be needed until the November harvest. In addition, despite robust market activity at present, cash infusions might be required to maintain and drive the economy. Livelihood and early recovery programs focused on the fishing industry, agriculture sector, and cash-for-work will constitute critical components of the next phase of the relief effort. The USAID/OFDA disaster specialist also notes that water and health are not major humanitarian concerns, as people collect adequate rainwater during the monsoons and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) disease surveillance system continues to operate effectively, with no confirmed reports of cholera, malaria, or dengue fever received to date.
- An assessment team from the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reported that as of June 11, only three displaced persons camps remained in Labutta township and approximately 30,000 people had returned home or to other villages in the past three weeks. UNICEF noted that the Government of Burma (GOB) has closed all camps in Mawlamyinegyun and Pyapon townships and nearly all camps in Rangoon Division. On June 16, UNICEF reported that the GOB had also closed the official camp in Bogale township, as well as unofficial camps, where approximately 2,000 people had lived as recently as June 11. The team reported that the GOB asked remaining displaced persons to leave by June 12. UNICEF noted that affected populations left the camps voluntarily.

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

### ***Humanitarian Access***

- As of June 15, the GOB had issued more than 200 visas to U.N. staff, approximately 150 of whom have traveled to affected areas and at least five of whom received permission to operate in affected areas for up to three months. OCHA reports that the majority of the remaining visas are for two weeks, although the GOB generally approves extensions within 7 to 10 days.
- According to OCHA, U.N. agencies and NGOs report difficulties implementing the new GOB humanitarian assistance guidelines, noting that relevant line ministries have not received the necessary instructions to carry out or expedite requests for visas and travel authorizations. According to a June 16 OCHA report, the U.N. Food Cluster has reported delays with the deployment of NGO partner field staff in some areas.

### ***Agriculture and Food Security***

- Between May 26 and June 8, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducted an agriculture and food security assessment of affected areas, focusing on crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry in 11 priority township. According to the assessment report, the cyclone submerged 567,000 hectares, or 69 percent, of paddy fields in the 11 priority townships and affected between 75 and 85 percent of the livestock industry. The livestock and vegetable losses primarily affect the rural landless, who represent between 35 and 55 percent of households in the 11 townships.
- The FAO assessment identifies loss of working capital as a major impediment to reestablishing farming and other livelihoods, also a finding of the USAID/OFDA-NGO joint assessment. FAO notes that forestry losses affect both the forestry industry and agriculture sector, as mangrove trees protect against sea water intrusion along the coastline. The USAID/OFDA-NGO and FAO assessments both identify boat building as a priority livelihoods program, as the cyclone destroyed at least 2,000 boats and possibly up to 1,000 boats per township.
- With support from USAID/OFDA, PACT is providing economic recovery and livelihoods assistance to cyclone-affected populations. PACT is implementing follow-up agricultural restoration programs for approximately 3,000 households in three townships in Ayeyarwady Division to stimulate local economies, assist beneficiaries in reestablishing livelihoods, and improve medium-term food security.

### ***Logistics***

- As of June 16, WFP and U.N. Logistics Cluster partners had dispatched 3,134 metric tons (MT) of food and emergency relief supplies from Rangoon to the five hubs located in Ayeyarwady and Rangoon divisions. WFP has flown 161 helicopter rotations, delivering 143 MT of food and 30 MT of emergency relief supplies from the available stocks. Nearly 4,200 MT of food and supplies remain in the U.N. common humanitarian pipeline in Bangkok for delivery to Rangoon.
- The new \$3 million USAID/OFDA contribution to WFP brings total USAID/OFDA funding for WFP logistics operations to more than \$4 million.

### ***Food Assistance***

- As of June 16, WFP reported reaching an estimated 580,000 beneficiaries with varying food rations and 33,000 others with cash assistance. The U.N. Food Cluster is currently revising the targeted beneficiary number of 750,000 individuals to better reflect food assistance needs, but frequent population movements continue to hinder efforts to accurately assess all humanitarian needs.
- WFP has delivered 15,244 MT of food to affected areas and distributed 6,667 MT since the cyclone struck.
- Of the total USAID/FFP emergency food contribution, 1,670 MT of vegetable oil, valued at approximately \$3.5 million, have arrived in Burma and WFP has begun delivery to the delta.

### **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 U.N. agencies for shelter and water and sanitation 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/OFDA-provided emergency relief commodities have reached more than 445,000 beneficiaries. In addition, USAID/OFDA emergency programs, implemented through U.N. and NGO partners in the most affected townships, aim to benefit more than 1 million people.
- On June 18, USAID/OFDA contributed an additional \$3 million in support of WFP logistics operations.
- From May 12 to June 18, the USAID/DART and DOD coordinated the delivery of more than \$4 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities to Rangoon on 176 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>			
Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Shelter and Settlements	Labutta	\$400,000
American Red Cross	Emergency Relief Commodities; Shelter Kits	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Emergency Relief Commodities	Kungyangon, Wakema	\$500,000
Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin)	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Labutta	\$749,874
PACT	Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Shelter and Settlements	Bogale, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun	\$554,135
Save the Children /US (SC/US)	Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Emergency Relief Supplies	Myaungmya, Ngapudaw	\$1,045,872
U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$100,000
UNICEF	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Nutrition; Protection	Countrywide	\$1,900,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$250,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$4,050,000
World Vision	Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Protection; Shelter and Settlements	Bogale	\$892,433
Various NGOs	Health; Emergency Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$899,484
ADRA, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), CARE, IOM, Save the Children (SC), UNICEF	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$4,074,519 <sup>2</sup>
USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Burma	\$328,794
USAID	Logistics and Transport	Burma	\$1,903,115
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$19,398,226</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>3</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</b>			
DOD	Air Transport; Logistics	Affected Areas	\$9,475,900
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$9,475,900</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$40,874,126</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 18, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$600,000 in USAID/OFDA-purchased DOD commodities.

<sup>3</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)
- 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/)