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

Burma – Cyclone

Fact Sheet #23, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

July 2, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated June 25, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On June 24, the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), comprising Government of Burma (GOB), Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and U.N. representatives, presented preliminary findings from the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) at a meeting in Rangoon. The group reported that 45 percent of households have received food through international assistance, while 56 percent have obtained food from the local markets. In addition, 60 percent of village leaders reported insufficient seed stocks for the upcoming planting season, and 78 percent of households reported a lack of access to credit.
- The USAID/OFDA team expressed concern that the lack of available baseline data may lead the PONJA survey to confuse acute emergency and transitional needs with chronic needs better addressed by long-term development programs. In addition, due to the rapid assessment process, the questions asked during the assessment lacked context or nuance, leading to ambiguous information, according to the USAID/OFDA team.
- The preliminary PONJA findings, however, are consistent with USAID/OFDA assessments that recovery efforts are underway in the Ayeyarwady Delta. The TCG plans to publish the final PONJA report on July 21, when USAID/OFDA will review the programming requirements and redirect activities to meet any identified gaps. USAID/OFDA’s current programming priorities remain meeting the urgent requirement for seeds and tools to support the upcoming planting season beginning in mid-July.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Dead	84,537 63,000 to 101,000	GOB – June 24, 2008 OCHA ¹ – May 9, 2008
Total Missing	53,836	GOB – June 24, 2008
Estimated Displaced Persons in Settlements	110,000	OCHA – May 22, 2008
Total Number Affected	2.4 million	OCHA – May 29, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma	\$21,293,869
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Burma	\$12,000,000
DOD³ Assistance to Burma	\$9,475,900
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma.....	\$42,769,769

CURRENT SITUATION

- OCHA reports that international relief agencies have provided some form of humanitarian assistance to approximately 1.3 million, or 54 percent, out of the 2.4 million Burmese affected by Cyclone Nargis.
- Based on U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization assessments and the preliminary PONJA findings, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) estimates that 724,000 people in the Ayeyarwady Delta will likely require food assistance for the next six months. According to the USAID/OFDA team and other donors, the international relief community could best address the protracted need for food aid by assisting cyclone-affected households re-establish livelihoods through the provision of agricultural inputs to support the upcoming planting season.

Shelter and Settlements

- From June 18 to 20, USAID/OFDA’s shelter and settlements advisor, together with an officer from the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon and non-governmental organization (NGO) staff, traveled to four of the most affected villages in Labutta township to assess shelter conditions and visit two internally displaced person (IDP) camps. In the villages visited, cyclone winds and storm surge destroyed or damaged nearly all housing and other structures such as schools, clinics, and monasteries. Cyclone-affected populations have resorted to spontaneous shelter recovery efforts, including

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

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

³ U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

salvaging materials from debris fields, supplemented with locally available building materials such as bamboo and roof thatching.

- According to the USAID/OFDA shelter advisor, a portion of the displaced population is residing with host communities. To date, the GOB and international relief agencies have reportedly overlooked the needs of IDPs sheltering with host families. Although precise figures of IDPs in host communities remain unknown, hosted individuals have not been eligible for relief assistance. The USAID/OFDA team is liaising with U.N. agencies, NGOs, and other donors to address gaps in assistance related to IDPs in host communities.
- The USAID/OFDA shelter advisor recommends shelter-related livelihood projects such as village-level cash-for-work programs that feature the creation of building materials from debris fields, as well as the incorporation of disaster risk reduction activities into subsequent shelter interventions. In order to encourage safe and voluntary returns to home villages, the USAID/OFDA advisor highlights the importance of shelter support particularly for groups not yet engaged in the early recovery process, including IDPs and other displaced individuals residing with host families.

Logistics

- From May 20 to June 30, the U.N. Logistics Cluster delivered more than 5,354 metric tons (MT) of relief commodities and food assistance to the affected areas in Burma by water and road transportation. As of June 30, the cluster aircraft had flown 112 cargo flights to Rangoon, and WFP helicopters had conducted 463 flights reaching 88 affected locations. Five of the WFP helicopters departed Burma on June 30, while the remaining five continue to conduct logistics operations throughout affected areas of Rangoon and Ayeyarwady divisions.
- As of June 27, the U.N. Logistics Cluster in Bangkok reported that the warehouse at Don Muang Airport contained approximately 2,500 MT of humanitarian cargo awaiting transport into Rangoon, representing most of the transport capacity for the two remaining cluster aircraft. The cluster is reportedly no longer accepting cargo movement requests and is planning to phase out by August 10. In addition, the cluster is now encouraging relief organizations to arrange for the transportation of relief commodities into Burma, recommending the direct shipment of cargo into Rangoon by sea as a more cost effective option. Although the ports are open, the USAID/OFDA team reported a lack of available offloading gear in Rangoon.

Early Recovery

- According to the USAID/OFDA team, adequate camp management, the lack of prolonged displacement, early health surveillance, sufficient rainfall for drinking water, and rapid interventions in shelter, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene so far appear to have prevented significant disease outbreaks above seasonal norms. The priorities of international relief agencies remain to continue monitoring the situation, to provide targeted emergency interventions based on identified needs, and to support early recovery programs, such as the provision of inputs to restart agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods.
- As the cyclone response in Burma shifts from the acute emergency phase to early recovery, USAID/OFDA is focusing on livelihoods interventions to provide quick access to income and employment for affected populations. USAID/OFDA is supporting NGO partner ACTED to implement early recovery activities for 65,000 beneficiaries in Bogale, Dedaye, and Labutta townships of the Ayeyarwady Delta. With USAID/OFDA support, ACTED's programs will assist vulnerable communities to resume agricultural activities prior to the upcoming planting season, as well as provide employment opportunities and rehabilitate basic infrastructure in affected communities.

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 Disaster Assistance Response Team 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, funding U.N. and NGO partners working in the affected areas to implement programs in nine sectors, including emergency health, shelter, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. The programs aim to benefit more than 1 million people.
- To date, USAID/OFDA-provided emergency relief commodities have reached more than 445,000 beneficiaries.
- On June 18, USAID/OFDA contributed an additional \$3 million in support of WFP logistics operations.
- On July 2, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.6 million to NGO partner ACTED to implement early recovery and livelihoods programs in cyclone-affected areas.
- From May 12 to June 22, the DOD-operated U.S. Government air bridge completed 185 airlifts and delivered more than \$4 million of USAID/OFDA emergency relief supplies, as well as DOD, U.N., NGO, and Government of Thailand commodities.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ACTED	Economy and Market Systems; Agriculture and Food Security	Bogale, Dedaye, Labutta	\$1,600,000
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
MENTOR	Health	Ayeyarwady Division	\$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
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$100,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Nutrition; Protection	Countrywide	\$1,900,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$250,000
U.N. World Health Organization (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
Implementing NGO	Health; Emergency Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$399,484
ADRA, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), CARE, IOM, Save the Children (SC), UNICEF	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$4,306,539
USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Burma	\$344,171
USAID	Logistics and Transport	Burma	\$1,951,361
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$21,293,869
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$12,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$12,000,000
DOD ASSISTANCE			
DOD	Air Transport; Logistics	Affected Areas	\$9,475,900
TOTAL DOD			\$9,475,900
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008			\$42,769,769

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 2, 2008.

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

³ 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 – 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
- 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
 - Business Roundtable Partnership for Disaster Response: www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo/