

# BURMA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

JUNE 19, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**940,700**

Estimated Number of People in Burma in Need of Humanitarian Assistance  
Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)  
December 2014

**541,000**

Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan States and the Mandalay Region

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
June 2015

**536,400**

People in Burma Targeted by the HCT to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in 2015

OCHA – June 2015

**130,000**

Estimated Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine

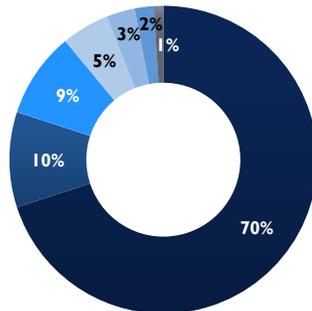
OCHA – June 2015

**100,000**

Estimated Number of IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan

OCHA – June 2015

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (70%)
- Shelter & Settlements (10%)
- Nutrition (9%)
- Health (5%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (2%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (1%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



## HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 230,000 people remain displaced in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan due to conflict and inter-communal violence
- USAID/OFDA provides nearly \$3 million in additional funding to support humanitarian operations in Burma
- USAID/FFP commits an additional \$4.5 million to provide food assistance in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO BURMA IN FY 2015

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| USAID/OFDA                                | \$3,961,472  |
| USAID/FFP                                 | \$10,000,000 |
| State/PRM <sup>3</sup>                    | \$28,973,484 |
| <b>\$42,934,956</b>                       |              |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO BURMA |              |

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Thousands of migrants from Burma and Bangladesh have become stranded in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea since May, increasing media and international attention on displacement and human rights issues in Burma, particularly relating to Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine.
- On May 21 and 22, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met with Government of Burma (GoB) officials and civil society leaders in Burma's capital city of Naypyidaw and Yangon city to discuss the humanitarian situation in Rakhine. At the meeting, Deputy Secretary Blinken urged regional actors to reduce the number of displaced people fleeing the country by improving living conditions in IDP camps.
- Relief agencies expect monsoon rains, which typically start in June and can continue through October, to increase the vulnerability of IDP camp residents in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. An estimated 40,000 IDPs in Rakhine live in camps within 500 meters of the coastline, making them particularly vulnerable to heavy rain and flooding, the UN reports.
- To date in FY 2015, USAID has provided nearly \$14 million in humanitarian assistance to support activities that strengthen IDP camp management, facilitate access to food and safe drinking water, and improve the health, nutrition, and livelihoods of vulnerable populations in Burma. Additionally, State/PRM has provided nearly \$29 million to support Burmese IDPs in Burma and Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in neighboring countries.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## CURRENT EVENTS

- In early May, thousands of migrants fleeing Bangladesh and Burma became stranded on boats in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea after migrant smugglers and human traffickers deserted them and the governments of the intended destination countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, refused to allow them ashore. Although the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia later agreed to temporarily shelter the migrants, the migrants' plight increased media and international attention on displacement and human rights issues in Burma, particularly relating to Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine. Settlement efforts in Indonesia and Malaysia are ongoing.
  - According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an estimated 25,000 people have fled Bangladesh and Burma to neighboring countries during the first quarter of 2015 and more than 1,000 migrants have died in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea since 2014, primarily due to mistreatment and starvation.
  - In late May, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) published a special funding appeal seeking \$26 million to assist migrants from Bangladesh and Burma. State/PRM has contributed \$3 million to the IOM appeal to support temporary shelter, non-food items, health and nutrition, and psychosocial support for these migrants in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. On June 12, UNHCR released a supplementary appeal requesting approximately \$13 million to address the migrant situation in the region.
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## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

### *Kachin and Northern Shan States*

- Ongoing conflict in Kachin and northern Shan displaced more than 20,000 people between January 1 and April 30, according to the UN. An estimated 100,000 people remain displaced in the two states due to fighting and insecurity, many of whom have experienced multiple displacements and face significant livelihoods and protection challenges.
- On June 11, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance, a Kokang rebel group based in northern Shan, unilaterally announced a ceasefire with Burmese forces after four months of clashes along the Burma–China border that resulted in hundreds of deaths and large-scale displacement. GoB forces resumed fighting on June 12, ending the one-day suspension of hostilities. China has pressured the GoB to end fighting in the region, particularly following an incident in which bombs dropped by the Burmese air force in March inadvertently killed several rural Chinese farmers, according to international media.
- Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) represented by the Joint Strategy Team for Humanitarian Response in Kachin and northern Shan (JST) continue to call for increased international funding to address ongoing displacement needs, including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and shelter interventions. As of June 11, donors had provided \$8 million—approximately 45 percent—of the \$19 million requested by local NGOs to support the JST in 2015. According to the UN's 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan, published in December 2014, local and international relief agencies require more than \$71 million to assist populations in need of humanitarian aid in Kachin and northern Shan.
- In March and April, the UN and international NGOs delivered assistance to more than 12,000 IDPs in areas of Kachin outside of the GoB's control, according to OCHA. The UN and NGOs are awaiting GoB authorization to proceed with additional humanitarian convoys to non-government-controlled areas. The UN reports that local NGOs are providing assistance to IDPs throughout Kachin, while international NGOs continue to face humanitarian access constraints in some areas outside of GoB control.

### *Rakhine State*

- The UN reports that approximately 130,000 people, the majority of whom are Rohingya, remained displaced in Rakhine as of June 15. The majority of those displaced in Rakhine reside in IDP camps in Sittwe Township.
- On May 22, senior UN officials—including the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on Burma Vijay Nambiar and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Burma Renata Dessallien—met with Rakhine's Chief Minister Maung Maung Ohn to discuss the humanitarian situation in Rakhine, including the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea migrant situation. The UN commended the state government's efforts to improve the IDP situation, including enabling IDPs to return to their places of origin and facilitating access to livelihoods opportunities, health care services,

and education. The UN also praised the Burmese Navy's search-and-rescue operations to assist stranded migrants and called on Rakhine state and federal officials to work more diligently to address human rights issues and ramp up development initiatives for all communities in Rakhine and across Burma.

- As of June 15, following the ordered return of all white cards—temporary resident identification cards for non-recognized citizens—in Rakhine by March 31, the GoB has begun issuing green cards to the state's displaced and stateless Rohingya Muslim population, according to international media. Green cards are a new form of temporary identification designed to be valid for two years and serve as a precursor to applying for citizenship.

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## **SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS**

- According to the UN's June 2015 Global Humanitarian Overview, 120,000 IDPs—approximately 52 percent of the 230,000 people currently displaced in Burma—have access to temporary shelters that meet minimum humanitarian requirements.
- On May 1, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian camp coordination and management activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—reported that IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan were residing in 165 displacement sites, including with host families and camps.
- The state government and relief organizations are working to repair and maintain shelters for IDPs in Rakhine, as many people are residing in temporary shelters built more than two years ago. As of June 15, approximately 2,000 households had received government assistance to rebuild their homes, according to OCHA.
- USAID/OFDA recently contributed \$400,000 to IOM to support ongoing shelter activities—including IDP camp management, partner capacity building, and technical support to the CCCM Cluster—in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan.

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## **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

- Food security remains a significant humanitarian concern in Burma due to the large number of individuals displaced and living in IDP camps with limited access to livelihoods opportunities. The UN estimates that humanitarian organizations require nearly \$65 million to target those most in need of assistance; as of June 2015, donors had provided approximately \$12 million—18 percent of the requested amount. The UN World Food Program (WFP) reports requiring an additional \$29 million to meet food needs in Burma through December 2015.
- Due to reduced funding, local NGO the Kachin Baptist Convention may cut food rations as early as July at the seven IDP camps it supports in areas controlled by the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO). Approximately 9,000 people reside in the camps, which have limited humanitarian access due to their remote locations.
- In April, WFP participated in a mission to a non-government-controlled area of Kachin and distributed over 42 metric tons (MT) of food to more than 1,200 IDPs in Pang Wa Township. WFP also distributed 33 MT of food to IDPs in Shan. To date in FY 2015, USAID/WFP has contributed \$10 million to WFP to support food assistance activities benefiting IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan.
- USAID/OFDA has provided Solidarités International nearly \$146,000 in FY 2015 to improve food security while also providing livelihoods opportunities—through activities such as small-scale vegetable gardening—for the most vulnerable IDPs in Kachin and Rakhine.

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## **NUTRITION AND WASH**

- Nutrition and WASH conditions in Burma's IDP camps remain fragile. A lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure are putting camp residents at higher risk of developing waterborne diseases, which can contribute to malnutrition, according to relief actors.
- With \$1 million in FY 2015 assistance, USAID/OFDA is supporting Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) to respond to nutrition and WASH needs in IDP camps in Kachin and Rakhine's Pauktaw Township. SC/U.S. is implementing

antenatal, infant and young child feeding, and outpatient nutrition programs; ensuring IDP access to latrines and safe drinking water; and integrating a handwashing education program geared toward disease prevention.

- USAID/OFDA has also provided more than \$2.4 million in FY 2015 to Solidarités International, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and ZOA to improve sanitation and water supply infrastructure and conduct hygiene promotion activities in IDP camps in Kachin and Rakhine.

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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In May, the Government of Japan announced plans to provide \$19.5 million to support humanitarian and development activities, including disaster preparedness and recovery, food assistance, maternal and child health care, and shelter and resettlement coordination of IDPs, in Burma. The Government of Australia also announced an additional \$6 million to address emergency food, shelter, and protection needs, while the Government of Norway announced an additional \$1.3 million to assist with human trafficking prevention activities and help facilitate the return of IDPs to their areas of origin in Rakhine.
- As of June 19, international donors had provided approximately \$35 million—19 percent—of the nearly \$190 million requested by the HCT in the 2015 Burma Strategic Response Plan (SRP) to assist approximately 536,000 people in Burma in need of humanitarian assistance. According to the UN, humanitarian priorities in Burma for the remainder of 2015 include improving humanitarian access, expanding protection programs, and promoting long-term solutions to the country’s displacement and conflict challenges.

### CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the GoB and the KIO broke down when fighting between GoB forces and the Kachin Independence Army erupted in southeastern Kachin. As of June 2015, an estimated 100,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan—more than half of whom resided in areas beyond GoB control, with limited humanitarian access. Local NGOs continue to access displaced populations in KIO-controlled areas, including along the Burma–China border; however, access to some areas remains inconsistent.
- In Rakhine, an outbreak of inter-communal violence in June and October 2012 between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya and non-Rohingya Muslims displaced tens of thousands of people, according to OCHA. As of June 2015, approximately 139,000 people remained displaced in Rakhine, while other conflict-affected populations continued to lack access to basic services and livelihoods opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many of the IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya—a minority group not formally recognized by the GoB and therefore denied rights to citizenship, public education, and freedom of movement within Burma.
- Approximately 400,000 of the 940,700 conflict-affected people identified by the UN as in need of humanitarian assistance reside in southeast Burma, including Kayah, Kayin, Mon, and southern Shan states, as well as the Bago and Taninthayi regions.
- On January 30, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell redeclared a humanitarian disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USAID/OFDA regional advisors based in Bangkok, Thailand, remain in contact with humanitarian partners in Burma and continue to conduct assessments in affected areas of Kachin and Rakhine to assess humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.

## USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2015<sup>1</sup>

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER   | ACTIVITY  | LOCATION                              | AMOUNT              |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>                                |   |                                       |                     |
| IOM  | Shelter and Settlements   | Kachin, Rakhine                       | \$400,000           |
| SC/US  | Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH         | Kachin, Rakhine                       | \$1,000,000         |
| Solidarités International                                    | Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH | Kachin, Rakhine                       | \$1,000,000         |
| UNICEF   | WASH  | Kachin, Rakhine                       | \$1,050,000         |
| ZOA  | WASH  | Rakhine                               | \$511,472           |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>                           |   |                                       | <b>\$3,961,472</b>  |
| <b>USAID/FFP</b>   |   |                                       |                     |
| WFP  | Local and Regional Food Procurement                                       | Kachin, Rakhine, Shan                 | \$10,000,000        |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>                            |   |                                       | <b>\$10,000,000</b> |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>   |   |                                       |                     |
| International Organization (IO)/NGO Implementing Partners    | Humanitarian Assistance   | Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand        | \$16,773,484        |
| UNHCR  | Humanitarian Assistance   | Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Thailand | \$12,200,000        |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>                            |   |                                       | <b>\$28,973,484</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2015</b> |   |                                       | <b>\$42,934,956</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents obligated amounts as of June 19, 2015.

## 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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- 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, and warehouse space); 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:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>