

# BURMA AND BANGLADESH

## REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #5, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

JULY 19, 2019

### NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**941,351**

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma  
UN – December 2018

**106,568**

IDPs in Burma's Kachin and Northern Shan  
UN – May 2019

**127,987**

IDPs in Burma's Central Rakhine IDP Sites  
UN – January 2019

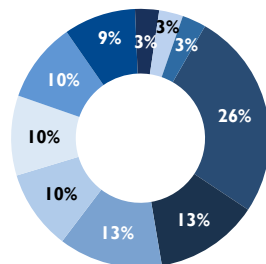
**912,114**

Total Number of Refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar  
UNHCR – July 19, 2019

**742,354**

People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25, 2017  
UNHCR – July 19, 2019

### USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2018–2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (26%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (13%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (13%)
- Health (10%)
- Protection (10%)
- Shelter & Settlements (10%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (9%)
- Agriculture and Food Security (3%)
- Nutrition (3%)
- Other (3%)

### USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2018-2019<sup>2</sup>



- Local and Regional Food Procurement (55%)
- Food Vouchers (28%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (11%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (4%)
- Complementary Services (2%)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Relief actors respond to monsoon conditions in Cox's Bazar camps, where approximately 20,000 refugees are affected by related erosion, flooding, landslides, and wind
- Government of Burma restricts internet connectivity in Rakhine and Chin, hampering humanitarian coordination
- Monsoon flooding displaces more than 11,300 people in Rakhine and Chin and more than 22,100 people in Kachin

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019

USAID/OFDA	\$50,386,643
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$183,264,149
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$309,763,648
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$543,414,440</b>

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- From July 2–15, significant monsoon rains and wind, as well as subsequent flooding and landslides, affected approximately 20,000 refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District, where more than 900,000 Rohingya refugees reside in camps. The monsoon-related weather temporarily displaced more than 6,000 people and destroyed approximately 2,000 shelters. As of July 12, State/PRM and USAID/OFDA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had distributed emergency relief commodities, including shelter materials, to more than 6,000 people, and State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had evacuated more than 2,100 people from affected areas.
- The Government of Burma restricted internet service in conflict-affected areas of Chin and Rakhine states beginning on June 20; the suspension continued as of July 19. Relief actors have expressed concern that the internet suspension is impacting humanitarian communication and coordination in the two states, where fighting between the Arakan Army (AA) and Government of Burma forces since early 2019 had displaced at least 27,000 people as of May 26. The conflict and resulting displacement remain fluid.

<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 Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) funding includes additional regional contributions to UN and international organization partners supporting those most in need in the region, including ongoing programs for Burmese refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), while USAID funding includes new and ongoing activities in Burma's Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, as well as in Bangladesh.

## **BURMA**

### **Conflict, Displacement, and Humanitarian Access**

- On June 20, the Government of Burma suspended internet service in eight conflict-affected townships in Rakhine—Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung—and in Chin’s Paletwa Township, according to humanitarian and human rights organizations. The shutdown is limiting the flow of critical information among relief actors and hindering the coordination of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations in Rakhine and Chin, the UN reports. As of July 19, Burmese authorities had not indicated when the suspension may be lifted. According to the UN, the communications blackout likely coincided with several clashes in central Rakhine between Government of Burma forces and the AA.
- On June 30, the Government of Burma extended a unilateral ceasefire in Kachin and Shan states—previously due to expire at the end of June—to August 31. The ceasefire, which began on December 21, does not apply to Rakhine, where armed conflict persists between Government of Burma forces and the AA. In Shan, Government of Burma forces and the Ta’ang National Liberation Army had engaged in two further clashes as of July 16, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED).
- More than 60 percent of the nearly 107,000 IDPs in Kachin and Shan as of May remained inaccessible to UN agencies providing humanitarian assistance, the UN reports. An estimated 7,600 households require shelter assistance as a result of insufficient maintenance in inaccessible IDP sites. Relief actors continue to advocate for sustained humanitarian access and for all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law.

### **Monsoon Season Effects and Response**

- Monsoon rains in Chin, Kachin, Mon, and Rakhine states and Bago, Magway, Mandalay, and Sagaing regions have caused high river levels and flooding, displacing more than 45,000 people as of July 18. Flood waters had begun to recede as of July 15; however, the Government of Burma’s Department of Meteorology and Hydrology predicts additional normal to above normal rainfall through August during the current monsoon season.
- As of July 18, monsoon-related flooding from the Lay Myo River had displaced more than 9,600 people in Rakhine, including approximately 3,400 IDPs residing in Mrauk-U’s camps, as well as more than 1,700 people in Chin, according to the Government of Burma’s Disaster Management Department (DDM) and ACAPS, a non-governmental organization (NGO) specializing in humanitarian assessments and analysis. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and local civil society organizations are providing immediate humanitarian assistance to affected populations. Response communication is hindered by the Government of Burma-imposed internet restrictions in Rakhine and Chin, according to relief actors.
- Monsoon rains had displaced more than 22,100 people in Kachin as of July 18, according to the UN. The Government of Burma—including the DDM— International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and MRCS are facilitating evacuations, managing temporary shelters, and providing immediate assistance. The Kachin State Government’s Chief Minister requested support from humanitarian organizations operating in Kachin, according to the UN, and the UN participated in a rapid needs assessment on July 13. Humanitarian actors are pre-positioning emergency relief commodities should additional assistance be necessary.

### **Food Security and Nutrition**

- In Burma, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reached more than 260,000 IDPs and other conflict-affected people with emergency assistance in May, including more than 47,000 people in Kachin, nearly 114,000 people in central Rakhine, approximately 91,000 people in northern Rakhine, and 11,000 people in Shan. More than 240,000 people received in-kind food aid, and approximately 50,000 people received nutrition support through WFP.

## **BANGLADESH**

### **Monsoon Season Effects and Response**

- From July 2–11, monsoon-related weather, including heavy rainfall and strong winds, resulted in three deaths and 16 injuries in Cox’s Bazar’s refugee camps, according to the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian coordinating body comprising UN agencies, international NGOs, and other stakeholders. The monsoon rains and subsequent impacts had displaced more than 6,000 Rohingya refugees in the camps as of July 17, Save the Children reports. Relief actors reported weather-related humanitarian impacts in the majority of Cox’s Bazar’s 34 refugee camps, with landslides and erosion affecting approximately 8,000 people; wind damage affecting approximately 11,000 people; and flooding affecting approximately 1,000 people, according to the ISCG. Monsoon-related weather damaged or destroyed approximately 2,000 shelters, more than 600 latrines, approximately 70 water points, and one food distribution site. As of July 12, weather-related incidents had affected more than 45,000 people in all 34 refugee camps since April 21. IOM engineers are monitoring damage to camp infrastructure, including bridges, drainage systems, and pathways.
- As of July 12, State/PRM and USAID/OFDA partner IOM had provided relief commodities, including approximately 5,000 plastic tarpaulins for emergency shelter, to more than 6,000 monsoon-affected people. Additionally, refugee volunteers trained by State/PRM partner UNHCR and local organizations responded to families in urgent need due to the weather, in some cases rescuing people from shelters destroyed by landslides. UNHCR temporarily relocated approximately 2,100 people and mobilized emergency response teams to identify the most vulnerable people impacted by the monsoon’s effects and prioritize them for assistance, including shelter repairs and relief commodities distribution. Humanitarian actors distributed pre-positioned emergency supplies—including shelter tie-down and shelter upgrade kits—to help strengthen, repair, and rebuild emergency shelters.

### **Food Security and Nutrition**

- In May, USAID/FFP partner WFP provided approximately 883,000 refugees with food assistance in Cox’s Bazar. An estimated 480,000 refugees—approximately 54 percent—received in-kind food assistance across nearly 20 food distribution sites, while approximately 403,000 refugees received electronic vouchers, which allow beneficiaries to purchase nutritious foods at more than 20 local markets.
- Roughly 90 percent of the refugee population in Cox’s Bazar as of November 2018—approximately 802,000 people—remained highly or entirely reliant on humanitarian assistance, according to the WFP 2018 Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA), published in May. Between November 2017 and November 2018, the average purchasing power among refugees declined due to the partial or total depletion of household income and savings and consistently high commodity prices. Refugees and host community members in Cox’s Bazar lack sufficient resources to meet basic food and household needs, despite current levels of humanitarian assistance, according to the assessment. Approximately 90 percent of refugee and host community households assessed in 2018 had adopted negative coping strategies, including purchasing food on credit and selling assets or portions of received food rations to purchase more preferred foods, which remains consistent with 2017 trends, WFP reports.
- The prevalence of global acute malnutrition among refugee children younger than five years of age in Cox’s Bazar’s Nayapara refugee camp and informal settlements decreased from approximately 14 and 19 percent in 2017 to 12 and 11 percent in 2018, respectively, according to WFP. Despite the reduction in the prevalence of acute malnutrition, a higher prevalence of wasting—a physical manifestation that can result from severe disease or acute malnutrition—was noted among refugee children.

### **Education and Health**

- As of May, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had provided access to early education for approximately 185,000 Rohingya refugee children in Bangladesh since January and had constructed nearly 2,200 learning centers since August 2017 with State/PRM and other donor support. In May, UNICEF-supported health facilities in Cox’s Bazar refugee camps provided health care services to nearly 16,000 people, including more than 7,000 children ages five years and younger. Additionally, the UN agency provided health care services to more than 3,000 people in host communities through Government of Bangladesh-managed health facilities and clinics in Teknaf and Ukhiya sub-districts of Cox’s

Bazar. An additional 1,400 pregnant women received HIV counseling through the UNICEF-supported facilities in camps and host communities in May.

- As of late June, State/PRM partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO) had registered more than 150 health care facilities serving Cox's Bazar—78 percent of area's health care facilities—as active Early Warning, Alert, and Response System (EWARS) reporting sites; the EWARS system enables humanitarian actors to detect and track disease outbreaks in emergency situations. From May 5–June 15, the EWARS facilities conducted approximately 355,000 patient consultations and reported acute infection, acute watery diarrhea, and fever of unknown origins as the most prevalent conditions. In mid-June, WHO conducted a two-day training on management of diarrheal diseases for nearly 70 nurses from Sadar District Hospital, the only referral hospital in Cox's Bazar equipped to treat patients with serious conditions. Additionally, from June 2–15, WHO completed four assessments in response to suspected cholera cases in the refugee camps and host communities; while a single household experienced cholera, no further cholera cases have been reported in the camps.

## Host Communities and Livelihoods

- Following protests in February and March regarding a perceived lack of NGO employment opportunities available to host community members, Cox's Bazar District administration officials and NGOs assisting in the Rohingya refugee response held an employment and skills development fair in Ukhiya on July 6. Relief actors extended employment offers to more than 300 applicants during the fair. According to a February survey of approximately 100 NGOs, more than 17,000 people were employed to support the Rohingya refugee response—more than 60 percent of whom were from Cox's Bazar.

## CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the Government of Burma and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) broke down when fighting between Government of Burma security forces and the KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin, resulting in population displacement. Conflict in Kachin and northern Shan among armed groups and Government of Burma forces continues to generate additional displacement and humanitarian needs. As of May 2019, nearly 107,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many IDPs residing in areas outside of Government of Burma control with limited humanitarian access. The Government of Burma announced a unilateral ceasefire with the KIA in December 2018, which remains in effect.
- Since November 2018, escalated clashes between Government of Burma forces and the AA have displaced at least 33,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, in Rakhine and Chin in recent months. Government of Burma-imposed access restrictions beginning in January 2019 in affected townships are hindering efforts to provide assistance to newly displaced populations and interrupting ongoing programs that aim to continue delivering services to approximately 95,000 people in need.
- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of January 2019, approximately 128,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes remained displaced. These displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, a minority group not formally recognized by the Government of Burma and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services. As of December 2018, nearly 600,000 ethnic Rohingya remained in Rakhine.
- Following attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017, Government of Burma forces launched military operations in northern Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships. Since August 25, 2017, insecurity and violence have prompted more than 742,000 people to flee from Burma to Bangladesh. UNHCR estimates that the total number of Burmese refugees in Cox's Bazar is approximately 912,100 people as of July 2019.
- On December 27, 2018, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires George Sibley re-declared a disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2019<sup>1</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,342,810
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,200,000
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$2,200,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$2,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Burma	\$400,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,503,114
	Program Support		\$73,210
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA RESPONSE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$12,719,134</b>
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Bangladesh	\$3,700,000
CARE	Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bangladesh	\$2,600,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Bangladesh	\$1,200,000
IOM	ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$4,300,000
WFP	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$74,630
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$12,874,630</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Burma	\$1,105,507
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Burma	\$9,199,614
	Cash Transfers for Food	Burma	\$5,023,124
	Complementary Services	Burma	\$520,258
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$15,848,503</b>
WFP	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$22,000,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$23,002,742
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$45,502,742</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$14,000,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$31,000,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$15,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$60,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING IN FY 2019<sup>4</sup></b>			<b>\$146,945,009</b>

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA-BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2018**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
ARC	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$817,486
DRC	ERMS, Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,000,000
IOM	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements	Rakhine	\$1,800,000
IRC	Health, Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$600,000
Metta Foundation	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin, Shan	\$1,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Rakhine	\$580,267
SC/US	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,434,292
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,500,000
OCHA	HCIM	Burma	\$4,250,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,503,916
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Protection, WASH	Rakhine	\$747,112
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA RESPONSE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$18,233,073</b>
CARE	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bangladesh	\$1,700,000
IOM	ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$1,260,000
Relief International	Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Bangladesh	\$1,750,000
WFP	Shelter and Settlements	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Bangladesh	\$823,167
	Program Support		\$26,639
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$6,559,806</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Burma	\$8,260,275
	Cash Transfers for Food	Burma	\$5,239,725
	Complementary Services	Burma	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$14,000,000</b>
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$6,323,904
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$189,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$9,654,542
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$29,447,883
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$60,622,720



Complementary Services		Bangladesh	\$1,674,855
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$107,912,904</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,800,000
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$14,500,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$5,000,000
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia, Thailand	\$20,648,548
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$86,165,100
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Thailand	\$350,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$61,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$19,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$37,300,000
WHO	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$249,763,648</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$396,469,431</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/FFP and State/PRM funding includes funding for both Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma.

<sup>2</sup> USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of June 13, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change once purchased.

<sup>4</sup> Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals nearly \$542 million since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes more than \$303 million in State/PRM funding, more than \$189 million in USAID/FFP funding, and more than \$49 million in USAID/OFDA funding for populations affected by the violence in Rakhine State and other vulnerable populations. The fact sheet total includes funding from October 1, 2017, through June 13, 2019.

## 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:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
  - 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>