



BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

JANUARY 12, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

51.5 million

Total Population of Burma
HCT – December 2016

6.4 million

People Residing in
Conflict-Affected Areas
HCT – December 2016

525,448

People Targeted in
the 2017 Burma HRP
HCT – December 2016

120,000

IDPs in Rakhine State
HCT – December 2016

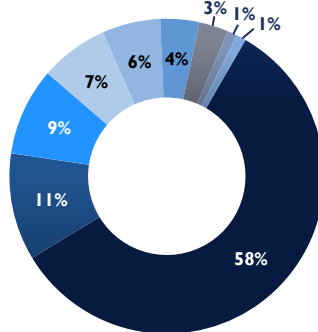
87,000

IDPs in Kachin State
HCT – December 2016

11,000

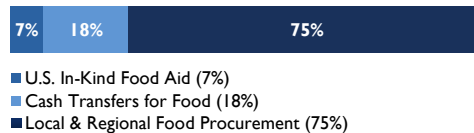
IDPs in Shan State
HCT – December 2016

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2016



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (58%)
- Shelter & Settlements (11%)
- Protection (9%)
- Nutrition (7%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (6%)
- Health (4%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (3%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (1%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2016–2017



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (7%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (18%)
- Local & Regional Food Procurement (75%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN highlights renewed violence and restricted humanitarian access in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states
- Airstrikes near IDP settlements in Kachin temporarily displace residents
- 2017 Burma HRP requests \$150 million to meet needs of 525,000 people

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016–2017

USAID/OFDA	\$7,291,095
USAID/FFP	\$13,406,774
STATE/PRM ³	\$41,436,754
Total	\$62,134,623

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The UN reports that renewed violence in Rakhine since early October has displaced an estimated 65,000 people, the vast majority of whom identify as Rohingya Muslim, to neighboring Bangladesh. Conflict resulted in the temporary suspension of humanitarian activities in affected areas and has further limited already restricted access to populations requiring ongoing assistance.
- Intense conflict between Government of Burma (GoB) forces and armed actors, including attacks near internally displaced person (IDP) settlements, has continued in Kachin and northern Shan since late November and displaced more than 20,000 people in northern Shan, according to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in the area.
- The Burma Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)—comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other humanitarian stakeholders—recently released the 2017 Burma Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), appealing for \$150 million to address the humanitarian needs of approximately 525,000 people between January and December 2017. The total includes 402,000 people in Rakhine, 104,000 people in Kachin, and 19,000 people in Shan.

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

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

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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

Kachin and Shan States

- The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) reports that conflict in Kachin has intensified in recent months, with increased use of heavy weapons systems and airstrikes, in addition to the ongoing threat from use of anti-personnel landmines by all parties to the conflict. From August to December, UNDSS recorded 57 significant incidents of armed conflict in Kachin, compared to 11 incidents during the same period in 2015.
- Relief agencies report that fighting has occurred in close proximity to IDP camps in Kachin in recent weeks, prompting some IDPs to flee the camps and the remaining residents to prepare to evacuate if the situation deteriorates. Some IDPs who fled have returned to the camps; overall displacement figures remain unavailable due to frequent population movements and a protracted lack of humanitarian access in the affected areas.
- The UN and other humanitarian organizations report that the GoB continues to block the transport of relief supplies from government-held areas in Kachin to non-government held areas; however, local authorities are permitting individuals, including humanitarian staff, to cross internal borders. USAID/OFDA partners have reported increasingly limited access to IDPs in Kachin and Shan since September.
- Since late November, conflict has escalated in northern Shan between GoB military forces and an alliance of armed groups, including the Arakan Army, the Kachin Independence Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army. A local NGO network estimated that, as of December 29, approximately 21,000 people had fled their homes due to fighting in northern Shan since November 20, including as many as 15,000 people who crossed into China and approximately 2,500 IDPs residing in border areas of Burma outside of GoB control with little access to humanitarian assistance.
- The UN has noted that many people are experiencing secondary or tertiary displacement due to the volatile security situation in Shan, and relief agencies report that food security, protection, and safety remain priority needs of IDPs. Humanitarian organizations are advocating for the protection of civilians in conflict-affected areas in addition to emphasizing the need for improved humanitarian access. On December 1, international and local NGOs took unprecedented action and signed a joint statement calling for improved humanitarian access in both Kachin and northern Shan; the NGOs signed a second statement on December 20 calling for armed actors to halt the conflict and reiterating the need to protect civilians.
- Local community-based organizations are providing assistance, including food and relief items, to displaced populations in hard-to-access areas of northern Shan, particularly in areas outside of GoB control, while international aid organizations are primarily assisting IDPs in GoB-controlled areas. The UN reports that Chinese authorities are addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of people who crossed into China, most of whom are residing in two official refugee camps along the Burma–China border. As of December 19, GoB authorities reported that approximately 1,200 people displaced to China had returned to northern Shan, and local NGOs report that Chinese authorities are encouraging the return of the remaining refugees.

Rakhine State

- Attacks on border guard police outposts in Rakhine on October 9 resulted in escalated violence between the GoB and armed actors throughout northern Rakhine, most severely affecting Maungdaw Township. The conflict—the worst in the state since 2012—had displaced 65,000 people, the majority of whom identify as Rohingya Muslims, to neighboring Bangladesh as of January 5, according to the UN. Following the October violence in Rakhine, the GoB immediately suspended humanitarian operations in affected areas. While some relief agencies resumed services in parts of northern Rakhine in late November, most humanitarian activity remained suspended.
- On December 15, the International Crisis Group (ICG) released a report on the violence in Rakhine, stating that the attacks on the border guards in October and on a senior GoB army official on November 12, as well as the violence following the incidents and related security operations, signify the emergence of a new insurgency in Burma. The perpetrators of the attacks identify as Rohingya Muslims and refer to themselves as Harakah al-Yaqin, according to ICG.
- On December 16, the UN World Food Program (WFP) shared its most recent Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping report with the GoB, highlighting a significant deterioration of food security in Rakhine's Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships as a result of recent violence, according to the UN. On December 18, Rakhine State officials approved access to

approximately 100 villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw, encouraging relief agencies to resume operations and prioritize food and health assistance. In response, several health facilities restarted activities, and WFP delivered food to nearly 800 people in four villages in Buthidaung and one village in southern Maungdaw on December 19. However, the GoB is restricting UN and NGO humanitarian activities to national staff. In addition, NGOs operating in Rakhine have reported safety concerns, particularly among Muslim staff, and have reduced activities in response.

- Between December 19 and 29, WFP reached approximately 28,000 people in Buthidaung and Maungdaw with cash, food, and nutrition support, while other organizations provided relief supplies and health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. However, local authorities suspended WFP and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) access to most locations in northern Maungdaw on December 28 for security reasons.
- The humanitarian community remains concerned about the lack of access to northern parts of Maungdaw, where WFP completed a remote emergency assessment in late December and found severe food insecurity due to non-functioning markets and food shortages. The UN continues to advocate to the GoB for expanded humanitarian access to reach conflict-affect populations.
- The European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) announced plans on December 28 to allocate €300,000—approximately \$312,300—to provide emergency assistance, including cash support, emergency relief items, food and nutrition supplies, hygiene kits, psychosocial support, and winter clothing, for 7,500 Rohingya newly displaced to Bangladesh from Rakhine.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- The Burma HRP estimates that 383,500 people—including more than 217,500 IDPs—in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan will require food and livelihoods assistance in 2017. Food security organizations have requested \$50 million through the HRP to target approximately 356,000 people, including 192,000 IDPs, across the three states with emergency food and/or cash assistance and nearly 126,000 people in Kachin and Rakhine with livelihoods support.
- In November, WFP provided cash assistance to approximately 20,000 vulnerable people who regularly receive monthly assistance from the UN agency. WFP also provided food baskets to 7,000 newly displaced people in four villages of Maungdaw in October and November. WFP continues to advocate for increased access to vulnerable populations in Rakhine and has reported the capacity to assist 132,000 food-insecure people when authorities ease access restrictions.
- To date in FY 2017, USAID/FFP has provided WFP with \$5 million to address the immediate food needs of IDPs affected by the recent conflicts in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. With USAID/FFP support, WFP plans to deliver locally and regionally procured food and provide cash-based vouchers to conflict-affected households for two months.
- In FY 2016, USAID/FFP provided 140 metric tons of ready-to-use therapeutic food to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to treat children with severe acute malnutrition. In addition, USAID/FFP contributed \$7.5 million to WFP to assist approximately 192,000 IDPs and other vulnerable individuals in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. USAID/FFP has partnered with WFP to purchase fortified blended foods, rice, pulses, salt, and vegetable oil for conflict-affected populations in Burma since 2011.
- With ongoing FY 2016 funding, USAID/OFDA supports activities to improve food security and promote livelihood opportunities for approximately 8,500 people, including more than 5,000 IDPs, in Kachin and Rakhine through partner Solidarités International. In addition, USAID/OFDA partner Metta Foundation continues to facilitate access to livelihoods and strengthened food security through the provision of seeds and other agricultural inputs among vulnerable populations in Kachin and Shan.

HEALTH AND WASH

- The HRP reports that more than 474,000 people require health assistance in Burma, particularly primary and reproductive health care for children and women. The HRP also identified the need to expand available mental health care and psychosocial support services. Health actors plan to prioritize increased access to health care services in underserved areas of Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan in 2017.

- More than 356,000 people, including more than 217,500 IDPs, require WASH support in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan, according to the HRP. Inadequate infrastructure and a lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities exacerbate WASH needs for conflict-affected populations.
- With ongoing FY 2016 USAID/OFDA funding, Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) is increasing access to sanitation facilities, promoting safe hygiene practices among IDP and host community members, and providing health supplies for pregnant women and newborns in Rakhine. Additionally, USAID/OFDA is supporting Metta Foundation, Solidarités International, UNICEF, and ZOA to conduct hygiene promotion activities and improve sanitation and water supply infrastructure for IDPs and vulnerable populations in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$4.5 million for humanitarian health and WASH interventions in Burma.

CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the GoB and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) broke down when fighting between GoB forces and the KIO erupted in southeastern Kachin and resulted in population displacement. As of December 2016, an estimated 98,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many of the displaced residing in areas outside of 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 the UN. As of December 2016, approximately 120,000 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.
- In southeastern Burma, hundreds of thousands of people in the Burma–Thailand border region, stretching from central and southern Shan to Tanintharyi Region, remain displaced and in need of humanitarian assistance. However, the Burma HCT notes that the needs of people in these areas are covered through a separate durable solutions framework that is beyond the scope of the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview and HRP.
- On November 15, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Scot A. Marciel reissued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USAID/OFDA staff 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 evaluate humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/FFP²			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$1,000,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$5,000,000
STATE/PRM			
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia, Thailand	\$7,074,032
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$7,074,032
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$12,074,032

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA³			
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements	Kachin, Rakhine	\$700,000
Metta Foundation	Agriculture and Food Security, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin, Shan	\$700,000
SC/US	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,215,780
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,400,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$2,500,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$775,315
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$7,291,095
USAID/FFP			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$1,465,972
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$6,034,028
UNICEF	In-Kind Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$906,774
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$8,406,774
STATE/PRM⁴			
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia, Thailand	\$17,412,722
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Thailand	\$6,350,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Southeast Asia	\$10,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$34,362,722
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$50,060,591
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016–2017			\$62,134,623

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change once purchased.

³ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of January 12, 2017.

⁴ State/PRM funding includes funding for both Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma.

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.
- 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 or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>