

# BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

DECEMBER 29, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

### 1 million

People in Burma in Need of Humanitarian Assistance\*

HCT – November 2015

### 1 million

People in Burma Targeted to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan

HCT – November 2015

### 620,093

People in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan States in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

HCT – November 2015

### 143,900

IDPs in Rakhine State

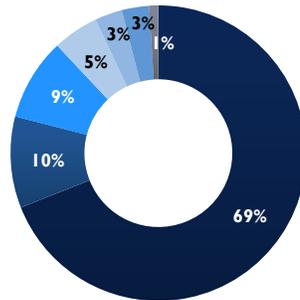
OCHA – December 2015

### 96,400

IDPs in Kachin and Shan States

OCHA – December 2015

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



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (69%)
- Shelter & Settlements (10%)
- Nutrition (9%)
- Health (5%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (3%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (1%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015–FY 2016



## HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 1 million people in Burma require humanitarian assistance
- HCT requests \$190 million through newly launched 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan
- USG contributes additional \$5 million for food assistance to IDPs and conflict-affected people

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2015–2016

USAID/OFDA	\$3,961,472
USAID/FFP	\$15,000,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$36,512,002

### \$55,473,474

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- While a recent historic parliamentary election and nationwide ceasefire agreement mark a period of positive developments in Burma, humanitarian needs in the country persist, primarily due to ongoing localized conflicts, prolonged population displacement, and continued vulnerability to natural disasters, such as floods and landslides.
- In mid-December, the Burma Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)—comprising representatives from the UN, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—launched its 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, requesting nearly \$190 million to provide humanitarian assistance to an estimated 1 million people in need, including 620,000 people in conflict-affected Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states.
- To date in FY 2016, USAID/FFP has provided \$5 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to distribute food assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable populations in Burma. In addition, ongoing U.S. Government (USG) funding from FY 2015 continues to support the humanitarian response to the complex emergency, including assistance to both IDPs in Burma and Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in neighboring countries. Separately from its assistance to conflict-affected populations, USAID contributed more than \$5 million in FY 2015 for humanitarian flood-relief activities in Burma.

<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)

\* Figure includes nearly 460,000 people affected by floods and landslides in July–August 2015 who require food and livelihoods assistance for approximately six months in 2016.

## CURRENT EVENTS

- The historic national parliamentary elections organized by the Government of Burma (GoB) on November 8 proceeded peacefully, marking an important step in Burma's democratic transition, according to international media. Official election results announced in late November indicated that the National League for Democracy—led by Aung San Suu Kyi—secured approximately 77 percent of the 1,150 available seats, gaining an absolute majority in both houses of the national parliament.
- On December 8, the Burmese parliament ratified the nationwide ceasefire agreement signed in mid-October by GoB President Thein Sein and eight armed groups, including the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army and the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army-South, national media report. At least seven other armed groups recognized by the GoB did not sign the agreement in October, citing as a reason the GoB's exclusion of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Ta-ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and the Arakan Army from the ceasefire discussions, according to media.
- More than 20 countries convened in Bangkok, Thailand, on December 4 for a second Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. State/DRL Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Busby led the U.S. delegation. UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Volker Türk noted that the migrant movements seen in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea are manageable with regional cooperation. At the meeting, UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime shared with governments in the region a guidance paper that outlines the need for coordinated and enhanced search-and-rescue efforts, as well as predictable, harmonized disembarkation and reception activities.
- In response to the maritime migrant crisis in May and June 2015, State/PRM provided \$3 million to IOM and \$3.25 million to UNHCR to assist vulnerable Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants disembarked in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Burma, and Bangladesh. The emergency contribution has supported the provision of temporary shelter, emergency relief items, and health, nutrition, and psychosocial assistance, as well as efforts to address protection issues and root causes of migration and to develop durable solutions for migrants arriving in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Burma.

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## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

### *Kachin and Shan States*

- Intermittent fighting between GoB military forces and opposition fighters continues in Kachin and Shan, and more than 96,000 people remained displaced in the two states as of December, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The prolonged displacement in Kachin and Shan—more than four years for some IDPs—presents a challenge, with temporary shelters and other facilities needing regular renovation or replacement and IDPs requiring access to sustainable livelihoods and vocational opportunities, OCHA reports.
- In October and November, intensified clashes between GoB armed forces and the Shan State Army-North in central Shan State, particularly Loilem District's Mong Hsu and Kyethi townships, resulted in new or secondary displacement for up to 10,000 people, humanitarian agencies estimate. As of early December, approximately 4,000 people remained displaced, OCHA reports. Humanitarian assessments have identified IDP needs for food assistance, health care, shelter support, emergency relief items, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions. In response, relief organizations have provided initial support, including hygiene and shelter kits, according to OCHA.
- On November 17, the GoB declared an end to the state of emergency and period of martial law imposed in northern Shan's Kokang self-administered zone, national and international media report. Burmese President Sein initially declared a 90-day state of emergency on February 18 following clashes between GoB and MNDAA forces in Kokang. The GoB parliament subsequently approved two 90-day extensions, the latter of which expired in November. According to the GoB and UN, the situation in Kokang has returned to normal, and the majority of people displaced by fighting earlier in 2015 have returned. However, media reports indicate that clashes between GoB and MNDAA forces in the self-administered zone have occurred sporadically since late November.
- In late September, renewed fighting between GoB forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin's Mansi Township resulted in three civilian deaths and displaced more than 2,500 people to three existing IDP camps, according

to the Joint Strategy Team, which comprises nine local relief organizations involved in the humanitarian response in Kachin and northern Shan. The violence in Kachin has continued, with clashes erupting between the KIA and GoB forces in mid-November in remote areas of Mohnyin Township, national media report. While the fighting subsided in late November, the situation in Mohnyin remained precarious, and some IDPs reportedly feared returning home due to potential harassment by GoB or KIA forces.

### ***Rakhine State***

- Approximately 144,000 people, the majority of whom are Rohingya, remained displaced in Rakhine as of December, humanitarian agencies estimate. Nearly 70 percent of those displaced in Rakhine—approximately 99,000 people—reside in IDP camps in Sittwe Township.
- In late July, the passage of Tropical Cyclone Komen near western Burma severely affected Rakhine, bringing strong winds and heavy rains that exacerbated flooding triggered by rains in June and July. The GoB reports that the floods destroyed more than 13,700 houses and damaged approximately 270,000 acres of farmland across the state. However, most farmers in flood-affected areas of Rakhine had already re-planted crops on more than 215,000 damaged acres as of early October, according to the GoB. Nonetheless, relief organizations estimate that more than 56,000 flood-affected people in Rakhine will require food and livelihoods assistance for approximately six months in 2016.
- According to OCHA, the mid-2015 flooding had damaged or destroyed more than 800 long houses in IDP camps in Sittwe Township and approximately 40 long houses in Pauktaw Township's IDP camps as of October. In response, Rakhine State authorities and humanitarian organizations have worked to repair flood-damaged shelters and public infrastructure in affected IDP camps, particularly those in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships, OCHA reports. In addition, in support of the GoB-led humanitarian response to the floods, UN agencies and NGOs have provided food assistance, shelter materials, agricultural and livelihoods support, and emergency relief items, such as blankets and kitchen sets, to flood-affected communities across the state.

### ***Chin State***

- In late July, heavy rains triggered multiple landslides across Chin State, displacing thousands of people. As of November, more than 5,000 people remained at temporary camps in Hakha, Tedim, and Tonazang townships, according to OCHA. Humanitarian organizations responding to the flooding and landslides in Chin have faced challenges posed by the remoteness of affected areas, difficult road access within the state, and limited local disaster response capacity, OCHA reports.
- Following the landslides, national media reported in August that state officials were considering the relocation of five of the six wards in Hakha, the capital city of Chin, due to the likelihood of future landslides in those areas. In November, a survey conducted by a team of German geologists placed nearly all of Hakha city into the highest level on a four-tier scale of landslide risk, according to national media. The visiting geologists also inspected four possible relocation sites—Mighty Prayer, 4 Miles, 7 Miles, and the former airport—situated along the highway between Hakha and Falam, a town to the north.
- As of late November, the GoB had completed construction of approximately 30 of a planned 730 homes at the four relocation sites along the Hakha–Falam highway and had delineated plots for another 100 houses, national media report. Of the more than 700 residences, Chin State anticipates directly building approximately 420; for the remaining houses, the state is distributing funds to local residents opting to build their own houses, provided the residents adhere to designs and costs approved by the Chin State government. A Chin official cited in the media indicates that the state intends to complete construction of the houses by the end of December but notes that the Chin government has no budget to ensure that electricity and water supplies reach the new sites. According to national media, the Chin State government has allocated 3.2 billion Burmese kyat (Ks), or approximately \$2.5 million, for the new construction.
- While construction is underway, many of the displaced in Chin continue to live in communal living quarters, some with limited facilities, such as latrines and bathing areas, according to OCHA. In October, UNHCR began distributing 820 improved-quality tents to camp residents, and other organizations, such as IOM, planned to provide blankets to help the displaced cope with harsh conditions during the winter season, when temperatures regularly drop to freezing in high-altitude areas of Chin.

## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- In November, the GoB released the official findings of an assessment—conducted in collaboration with the UN, World Bank, European Union, and Japan International Cooperation Agency—to determine the impact of the severe flooding and landslides that affected much of the country in July and August. According to the report, the disasters caused a combined \$1.5 billion, or 1.9 trillion Ks, in physical damages and economic losses, particularly affecting the country’s agricultural, livestock, and fisheries sectors.
- Since early August, USAID/FFP partner WFP has provided emergency food assistance to more than 455,000 people in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Mon, and Rakhine states, as well as Bago, Magway, and Sagaing regions. WFP plans to continue distributing food assistance to flood-affected populations until mid-2016. In December, WFP introduced recovery activities for 100,000 people in Chin, Magway, Rakhine, and Sagaing, the areas hardest-hit by the 2015 floods.
- In the first week of December, WFP, OCHA, and other relief agencies conducted a rapid assessment in central Shan and found nutrition and other needs among populations newly displaced by the recent intensified conflict. While IDPs have access to staple food items provided through private donations, the diets of most IDPs consist primarily of instant food items, such as dried noodles and canned fish. During the assessment mission, WFP provided fortified blended foods to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women and young children.
- In FY 2016, as part of the USG’s response to the Burma complex emergency, USAID/FFP is contributing \$5 million to WFP to locally and regionally procure food for approximately 192,000 IDPs and other vulnerable persons in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. Since 2011, USAID/FFP has partnered with WFP to purchase locally produced rice, pulses, salt, and fortified blended foods, as well as vegetable oil produced in the region. In addition to the complex emergency funding, USAID/FFP provided \$3 million to WFP in FY 2015 to respond to the effects of the July–August floods.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- According to the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview released by the Burma HCT in November, an estimated 537,800 conflict-affected people in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan lack adequate access to quality health care due to a combination of factors, such as insufficient staff and medical supplies at health points, logistical and security constraints for health care workers, and limited freedom of movement for those who want to seek care. The main health-related humanitarian needs among conflict-affected populations include access to improved primary health care services; access to reproductive, maternal, and child health care; and routine vaccinations.
- The 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview also highlighted WASH needs among approximately 538,000 people in Burma, including more than 141,400 conflict-affected people in Kachin and Shan, an estimated 385,700 conflict-affected people in Rakhine, and approximately 11,000 flood-affected people in Chin State and Sagaing Region. Humanitarian actors have identified access to sustainable sources of safe drinking water and access to improved sanitation infrastructure as the priority WASH-related humanitarian needs.
- With ongoing funding from FY 2015, USAID/OFDA partner Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) continues to respond to health, nutrition, and WASH needs among IDPs and host community members in Kachin and Rakhine. SC/US is implementing infant and young child feeding programs, increasing availability of maternal health services, and ensuring IDP access to latrines and safe drinking water. USAID/OFDA support is also enabling Solidarités International, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and ZOA to conduct hygiene promotion activities and improve sanitation and water supply infrastructure for IDPs and vulnerable populations in Kachin and Rakhine.

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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As of December 29, international donors had provided more than \$130 million, or 49 percent, of the \$265 million requested by the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan for Burma, which aims to reach an estimated 536,400 people in Burma in need of humanitarian assistance. International donors had also contributed an additional \$81.2 million to support humanitarian response activities in Burma outside of the Humanitarian Response Plan.

## 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. As of December 2015, an estimated 100,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan; much of the displaced reside 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 December 2015, approximately 144,000 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 State to Taninthayi 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 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan.
- On November 25, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell re-issued a disaster declaration 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 evaluate humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.

### USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2016<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
WFP	Emergency Food Assistance	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA IN FY 2016</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>

### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES 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 State	\$511,472
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$3,961,472</b>

USAID/FFP			
WFP	Emergency Food Assistance	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
International Organization and NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand	\$24,312,002
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Thailand	\$12,200,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$36,512,002</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$50,473,474</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2015 AND FY 2016</b>			<b>\$55,473,474</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 December 29, 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:
  - USAID 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>