

BURMA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

JULY 18, 2013

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

140,000

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – June 2013

100,000

IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan States

OCHA – June 2013

6,800

IDPs in Mandalay Region

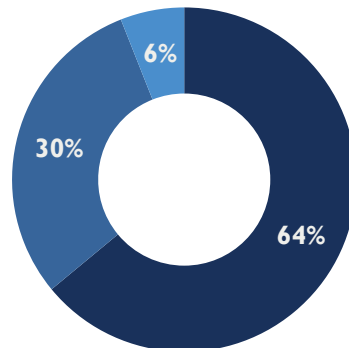
OCHA – June 2013

120,000

People Evacuated in Advance of Tropical Cyclone Mahasen

Government of Burma (GoB) – May 2013

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2013



- Logistics & Relief Commodities
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH)
- Nutrition

HIGHLIGHTS

- The GoB and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) agree to a preliminary ceasefire
- The GoB and humanitarian partners evacuate 120,000 people in advance of Tropical Cyclone Mahasen
- USAID/OFDA provides an additional \$400,000 for WASH activities in Rakhine State

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO BURMA IN FY 2013

USAID/OFDA	\$2,050,000
USAID/FFP ²	\$3,000,000
STATE/PRM ³	\$14,553,206

\$19,603,206

TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURMA

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In late May, the GoB and the KIO agreed to a preliminary ceasefire, according to international media. Through a seven-point plan, the two groups agreed to establish political dialogue and begin discussions regarding the resettlement of the approximately 100,000 people displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states since fighting began in June 2011. The peace talks were held in Myitkyina, Kachin State's capital city, marking the first time the GoB and KIO have met in a GoB-controlled area, indicating improving relations between the two parties.
- In mid-May, Tropical Cyclone Mahasen developed in the Indian Ocean, with forecasts indicating a potential for storm impacts in Burma's Rakhine State, where an estimated 68,000 IDPs reside in makeshift or inadequate shelters along coastal areas. In advance of the storm, the GoB evacuated approximately 120,000 people from 14 at-risk townships to safer locations. The storm made landfall northwest of Chittagong city, Bangladesh, with minimal impact in Burma. In preparation for the cyclone, USAID/OFDA deployed two regional advisors to Rakhine to monitor evacuations, conduct assessments, and coordinate with humanitarian organizations.

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

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

³ The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). State/PRM's funding of more than \$14.5 million assists vulnerable Burmese refugees and asylum seekers residing in the region.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Kachin State

- In June, the GoB permitted a U.N.-led convoy to cross into KIO-controlled areas of Kachin State to deliver humanitarian assistance to populations displaced by conflict. Between June 12 and 16, the 10-truck relief convoy delivered food, nutritional supplements, health supplies, mosquito nets, blankets, and hygiene materials to more than 4,800 people residing in six displacement camps between the GoB-controlled town of Bhamo and Maija Yang town, located within KIO territory along the Burma–China border. In addition, U.N. representatives provided training to the local non-governmental organization (NGO) staff and community representatives managing the camps. Over the past two years, the GoB has restricted U.N. and international NGO access to areas of Kachin outside of GoB control, hampering the delivery of international humanitarian assistance to the approximately 60,000 IDPs living in KIO-controlled areas.
- Since December 2011, a total of 11 relief convoys conducted by U.N. agencies and international NGOs have crossed into areas of Kachin State beyond GoB control, reaching approximately 10,000 IDPs, a small percent of the total conflict-affected population in KIO-controlled areas, according to OCHA. Local organizations have maintained access to displacement sites and provided some assistance to conflict-affected populations residing in KIO-controlled areas during this time.
- Despite the recent agreement to a preliminary ceasefire, humanitarian agencies in Kachin State report that IDPs are not preparing to return to home areas at this time. The main obstacles preventing returns include landmines, insecurity, damaged or destroyed homes and infrastructure, and limited livelihoods opportunities, health care, education, and other services in their home communities.

Mandalay Region

- In June, approximately 6,800 people remained displaced in Meiktila city, Mandalay Region, down from the more than 12,000 people displaced when violence broke out in March, according to OCHA. While the GoB continues to identify housing options for the remaining IDPs, humanitarian organizations remain concerned about the lack of clarity on resettlement options and restriction of movement in existing camps, which is hampering access to livelihoods activities.

Rakhine State

- The relocation of or improved housing for more than 69,000 IDPs residing in flood-prone areas, paddy fields, or shelters that cannot withstand heavy rains remains a priority for the GoB and humanitarian organizations operating in Rakhine State.
- While the majority of people who evacuated ahead of Tropical Cyclone Mahasen returned to villages and displacement camps immediately after the storm passed, some IDPs remained in evacuation sites in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships at the end of May due to deteriorated conditions at their original camps. Through the duration of storm preparations, evacuations, and post-storm returns, the GoB expressed its commitment to not force returns.
- Following Tropical Cyclone Mahasen, OCHA led an after action review of storm preparations, identifying a need for clear triggers for each stage of evacuation, clearly designated and prepared evacuation sites, more cyclone-resistant shelters in areas where the risk of boat evacuation accidents is high, increased cooperation with the GoB on a common contingency plan, and improved consultation with populations residing in storm-prone areas.

Shan State

- In late May, violence between Buddhists and Muslims broke out in the city of Lashio in eastern Burma's Shan State, killing one person, injuring five others, and damaging or destroying several houses, shops, religious buildings, and other structures, according to international media. Following the clashes, local authorities established a temporary camp at a local monastery to house the approximately 1,400 people displaced by the violence, according to the U.N. Local authorities, military, and police immediately restored calm to prevent additional violence, and most IDPs in Lashio have since returned home.

WASH

- As of May, an estimated 45 percent of IDPs in Rakhine State lacked sufficient access to safe drinking water, according to the U.N. In Sittwe Township, where the majority of Rakhine IDPs reside, approximately 10 percent of displaced people living in camps, as well as many unregistered IDPs, required improved access to safe drinking water. In addition, OCHA reports that some IDP camps have a shortage of land available for constructing new latrines, while other camps, including those located in Rathedaung Township, lack latrines altogether.
 - Since January 2012, humanitarian organizations have constructed approximately 3,700 latrines and distributed more than 20,500 hygiene kits, benefiting conflict-affected populations throughout Rakhine, OCHA reports.
 - USAID/OFDA recently provided \$400,000 to NGO Solidarités to assist more than 37,000 IDPs and host community members residing in Sittwe. Through Solidarités, USAID/OFDA is improving drainage networks to ease the removal of rain and waste water, rehabilitating existing latrines, and building new latrines in order to mitigate the risk of floods and reduce the spread of waterborne diseases during the ongoing rainy season.
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EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- In May, the U.N. reported that more than 90 percent of IDPs in Rakhine State were relying on food assistance and that most displaced populations lacked access to markets to purchase food commodities.
 - To support the ongoing food needs in Rakhine, humanitarian organizations continue to distribute food commodities to populations in need on a monthly basis, with nearly 2,200 metric tons (MT) provided to approximately 127,000 IDPs throughout Rakhine State in June, OCHA reports.
 - In response to the outbreak of violence in Lashio in late May, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) provided food commodities for more than 730 people displaced to a local monastery. During May, WFP, with support from USAID/WFP and other donors, distributed nearly 660 MT of food assistance to more than 40,000 IDPs residing throughout GoB-controlled areas of Kachin and northern Shan.
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SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

- Of the total 140,000 people displaced by conflict in Rakhine State since June 2012, approximately 71,000 people are residing in longhouses that serve as temporary shelter and an estimated 62,000 others are waiting for completion of their temporary shelters, while no temporary shelter solution has been identified for the remaining 7,000 people.
 - As of mid-June, humanitarian organizations, local NGOs, and the GoB had constructed more than 1,400 shelters. The GoB has built approximately 44 percent of shelters and U.N. agencies and international NGOs have completed 43 percent of shelters, with local NGOs building the remaining shelters.
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OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On April 24, the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated an additional \$5 million to support the work of four U.N. agencies assisting IDPs in Rakhine State. In accordance with activities outlined in the Interagency Preparedness Plan for Rakhine, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), and their partners used the funding to conduct emergency health, shelter, and WASH activities to help IDP settlements prepare for potential flooding ahead of the rainy season. Since June 2012, the CERF has provided more than \$15 million to address humanitarian needs in Rakhine State.
- To date in 2013, donors have provided nearly \$85 million to address humanitarian needs in conflict-affected areas of Burma. As of June, the Kachin Response Plan was funded at nearly 26 percent, while the Rakhine Response Plan and Rakhine Contingency/Preparedness Plan were funded at approximately 83 percent.

CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the GoB and the KIO broke down when fighting erupted in southeastern Kachin State between GoB forces and the Kachin Independence Army—the military arm of the KIO. An estimated 100,000 people remain displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states as a result of fighting. More than half of those 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 late May, the GoB and KIO agreed to a preliminary ceasefire.
- An estimated 140,000 people remain displaced in Rakhine State as a result of violence in June and October 2012 between ethnic Rakhine Buddhist and Rohingya Muslim communities, as well as non-Rohingya Muslims.
- On November 1, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell re-declared a humanitarian disaster for FY 2013 due to the ongoing complex emergency in Burma. USAID/OFDA regional advisors based in Bangkok, Thailand, continue to conduct assessments in affected areas of Rakhine and Kachin states to assess humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.
- In mid-March, fighting erupted between Buddhist and Muslim residents in Meiktila city, located in central Burma’s Mandalay Region, and spread to several neighboring townships. Fighting, looting, and burning of homes and buildings resulted in significant displacement and property damage in Meiktila city and surrounding areas.
- On March 25, 2013, Ambassador Mitchell declared a disaster due to humanitarian needs resulting from the communal conflict in Meiktila.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Mandalay Region	\$100,000
SC/US	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Rakhine State	\$1,000,000
Solidarités	WASH	Rakhine State	\$400,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Kachin and Rakhine States	\$350,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Rakhine State	\$200,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$2,050,000
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$3,000,000
STATE/PRM			
NGOs	Humanitarian Assistance	Neighboring Countries	\$14,553,206
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$14,553,206
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2013			\$19,603,206

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of July 18, 2013.

³ Estimated value of 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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in Burma 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:
 - The 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>