

BURMA AND BANGLADESH

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #6, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

941,351

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

106,513

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

128,488

IDPs in Burma's Central Rakhine IDP Sites⁴
UN – June 2019

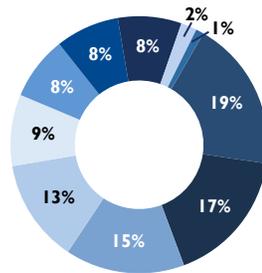
913,981

Total Number of Refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar
UNHCR – September 15, 2019

743,792

People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25, 2017
UNHCR – September 15, 2019

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (19%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (17%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (15%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (13%)
- Protection (9%)
- Health (8%)
- Shelter & Settlements (8%)
- Agriculture and Food Security (8%)
- Nutrition (2%)
- Other (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



- Local, Regional, and International Procurement (38%)
- Food Vouchers (32%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (20%)
- Complementary Services (9%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (1%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Burma partially restores communication services in Rakhine; communication restrictions remain in four townships
- Monsoon-related weather affects more than 28,100 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar in September
- Tensions increase between host community and refugees following late August killing of local community leader in Cox's Bazar

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$38,508,664
USAID/FFP ²	\$149,512,742
State/PRM ³	\$171,493,932
\$359,515,338	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- From September 6 to 12, monsoon-related rain, wind, and flooding affected more than 28,100 refugees—including secondarily displacing 10,500 refugees—in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District, where more than 900,000 Rohingya refugees reside in camps. Relief actors had provided emergency assistance, including shelter support, to approximately 60 percent of affected households by September 12.
- Communications restrictions continue to impact civilians and relief activities in Burma and Bangladesh. The Government of Burma suspended mobile phone and internet services in nine townships in Chin and Rakhine states on June 20; services were restored in five of the townships on September 1. In Cox's Bazar, the Government of Bangladesh has restricted mobile phone services in refugee camps. Relief actors have noted that the communication restrictions impede humanitarian response activities and endanger humanitarian actors and refugees; the restrictions have also affected local government authorities and host community members.

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 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, asylum seekers, and IDPs, while USAID funding includes new and ongoing activities in Burma's Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, as well as in Bangladesh.

⁴ This number reflects the number of IDPs in sites created after the outbreak of violence in Rakhine State in 2012. It does not include the sites and settlements in Rakhine where people displaced by the recent clashes in the state are currently hosted.

BURMA

Conflict, Displacement, and Humanitarian Access

- Ongoing clashes between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Government of Burma in central and northern Rakhine have displaced at least 30,000 people as of September 30, according to the UN. The UN reports that in northern Rakhine, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased by 87 percent in August—from approximately 4,800 IDPs in July to approximately 9,000 IDPs. Population movements remain fluid, with frequent reports of both new arrivals and returns in various areas within Rakhine.
- As of September 1, the Government of Burma had partially restored mobile phone and internet services in Chin's Paletwa Township and Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Myebon, and Rathedaung townships following the June 20 suspension of communication services in nine townships, reportedly due to an emergency situation. However, services remained suspended in Rakhine's Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, and Ponnagyun townships, according to international media. Relief actors had raised concerns that the suspension would limit critical information flow and further restrict access to conflict-affected people in Chin and Rakhine.
- On August 21, in recognition of the second anniversary of the mass displacement of Rohingya from Rakhine beginning in August 2017, 61 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) released a joint public statement outlining the current state of humanitarian needs for Rohingya in Rakhine and Bangladesh and calling for additional action. The statement highlights the need for ensuring Rohingya participation in decision making; respect for Rohingya's human rights in Burma; the identification of medium and long-term solutions to Rohingya displacement; and support for inclusive access to education, livelihoods, and protection services in both Bangladesh and Burma—including a need for further funding to support the 2019 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis and the 2019 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan.
- The Government of Burma failed to extend its unilateral ceasefire—which began on December 21, 2018, and was previously extended to September 21, 2019—in Kachin and Shan states, according to local media. However, the Northern Alliance—a coalition of four ethnic armed groups—has reportedly unilaterally extended its previous ceasefire with Government of Burma forces until December 2019, under the condition that the Government of Burma does not target their territories, according to local media. The Government of Burma's National Reconciliation and Peace Center and the Northern Alliance agreed to a seven-point plan outlining actions to resolve conflict between the Government of Burma and the Northern Alliance on September 17, including plans to negotiate a bilateral ceasefire agreement, according to the Government of Burma.
- In northern Shan, the security situation continued to deteriorate following an August 15 attack by the Northern Alliance on several locations near Pyin Oo Lwin town in Mandalay Region that resulted in the deaths of 14 people, including two civilians, according to the UN. Subsequent fighting in the region between the Government of Burma and the Northern Alliance resulted in the displacement of approximately 8,000 people, of whom 2,000 remained displaced as of September 13, the UN reports.
- In Kachin, nearly 6,400 IDPs have returned to their areas of origin since 2014, and the Government of Burma plans to facilitate an additional 5,400 IDP returns to Mansi Township, the UN reports. However, government-imposed limits on access to services in areas of return, renewed fighting, and unexploded ordnance contamination pose challenges to returns and access to livelihoods in rural areas, according to relief actors.
- The UN reports that floods across Kachin displaced approximately 22,800 people within the state in July. All displaced individuals returned home by mid-August as flood waters receded, according to the UN.

Food Security, Health, Nutrition, and WASH

- In July and August, U.S. Government (USG) partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) participated in 14 missions to displacement sites in Buthidaung and Rathedaung and received Government of Burma approval to distribute hygiene kits to host community members and IDPs; however, humanitarian access to new displacement sites remains limited and inconsistent. In response to ongoing access challenges, the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—is expanding outreach to national partners with more reliable access in hard-to-reach areas to strengthen coordination and information sharing.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA), vaccinated approximately 760 children ages 9–18 months against measles in Rakhine in September—including more than 420 children in northern

Rakhine, as well as approximately 940 children ages 9–18 months in Rakhine in August—including nearly 480 children in northern Rakhine. The August immunization total exceeded UNICEF’s monthly target of 833 children and represented a nearly 70 percent increase from July, according to the UN agency. In August and September, UNICEF and the MHAA also provided primary health care services, nutrition counseling, and nutrition screenings in most of the organizations’ targeted villages in central Rakhine, according to UNICEF. However, UNICEF reported difficulty accessing Maungdaw and villages within Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U to provide health and nutrition services due to government restrictions and insecurity.

- In August, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) assisted more than 565,000 people with 3,600 metric tons of food distributions and nearly \$985,000 in cash transfers. Additionally, as part of the Government of Burma-sponsored nutrition promotion month, WFP and its implementing partners held nutrition sessions with communities in Chin and Kachin, as well as Naga Region, to demonstrate how to cook nutritious meals with locally available meats and vegetables and promote healthy feeding and hygiene practices.

BANGLADESH

Monsoon Season Effects and Response

- The ongoing monsoon season and other weather-related incidents have affected approximately 81,000 people and temporarily displaced 17,000 individuals from April to September. From September 6 to 12, monsoon-related rain, wind, lightning, and flooding affected more than 28,100 refugees in Cox’s Bazar camps—including nearly 10,500 refugees secondarily displaced from camp shelters—representing the highest number of refugees affected by monsoon-related events in a single week since the monsoon season began on June 17, according to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian coordinating body in Bangladesh comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Approximately 1,800 refugee households reported shelter damage; relief actors had provided emergency shelter assistance to approximately 60 percent of the affected households by September 12. In Cox’s Bazar’s Teknaf sub-district, where more than 25 inches of rain fell in 72 hours, humanitarian actors distributed relief commodities and shelter materials to approximately 320 host community households by mid-September. The ISCG also noted that the Government of Bangladesh’s recent mobile communications restrictions disrupted response activities in the refugee camps, including monsoon-related activities, and limited communication among protection teams.
- WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 15,300 refugees affected by the early September monsoon events, according to the UN agency. Following monsoon-related damage to infrastructure in Teknaf and Ukhiya sub-districts, WFP repaired 14 nutrition sites, 12 electronic food voucher (e-voucher) outlets, and six in-kind food distribution points. Additionally, food security sector organizations provided high-energy biscuits (HEBs) and hot meals to more than 2,400 refugee households and HEBs to 200 host community households from September 6 to 12.
- Relief organizations—including USAID/OFDA partner CARE and State/PRM partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—had provided shelter tie-down kits and preparedness messaging to more than 202,000 refugee households in Cox’s Bazar as of September 12, reaching more than 90 percent of households in 25 refugee camps in 2019 to date, according to IOM. Additionally, through a transitional shelter program, shelter organizations have completed 25,000 shelter upgrades since the Rohingya crisis response began in August 2017. The transitional shelter program provides refugees with shelter fortification materials and training to withstand adverse weather conditions.
- USG partners IOM and WFP completed the first phase of a disaster risk reduction (DRR) program in Cox’s Bazar host communities on September 30 with the handover of 60 newly repaired cyclone shelter buildings. During the first phase, the UN agencies—in coordination with the Government of Bangladesh and local NGOs—rehabilitated cyclone shelters, reduced the impact of disaster-related shocks to livelihoods, and strengthened disaster preparedness capacity among host communities, while striving to reduce community tensions.

Host Communities and Protection

- The August 22 killing of a local Bangladeshi youth leader in Cox’s Bazar prompted host community protests and attacks against Rohingya refugees in the district. From August 23 to September 14, Bangladesh police forces killed six Rohingya

refugees who were allegedly involved in the death of the local leader, according to Human Rights Watch. Human rights organizations are calling on the Government of Bangladesh to carry out independent and impartial investigations into all deaths.

- As part of an agreement with the Government of Bangladesh, the Government of Burma cleared nearly 3,500 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar for repatriation to Burma on August 22. However, none of the Rohingya refugees verified for repatriation elected to return to Burma, citing the need for security assurances in areas of return, a clear pathway to citizenship, and a method to recover lost assets, according to the Government of Bangladesh and relief actors.
- An estimated 200,000 Rohingya refugees gathered in Cox's Bazar's Kutupalong camp on August 25 to observe the second anniversary of the August 2017 military operations that prompted more than 740,000 Rohingya to flee from Burma to Bangladesh, according to international media. During the peaceful demonstration, refugees called for dialogue with the Government of Burma as well as continued international pressure on the government to meet Rohingya demands for voluntary repatriation, including citizenship and security.
- The UN has raised concerns regarding new restrictions and an increased military presence at Rohingya refugee camps following the repatriation attempt and August 25 refugee demonstration in Cox's Bazar. Since late August, a number of the demonstration organizers have been questioned and subject to intimidation, according to the UN. In addition, the Government of Bangladesh has suspended a number of NGOs working in Cox's Bazar for allegedly helping to organize the demonstration and promoting anti-repatriation sentiment among refugees, the UN reports.
- On September 2, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) banned the sale of new SIM cards in Teknaf and Ukhiya, and required mobile phone carriers to verify that mobile phone subscribers in and around the sub-districts' refugee camps have national identity cards and other biometric data. The BTRC also required mobile phone carriers to suspend 3G and 4G data services in the two sub-districts and ensure that signals from Bangladeshi carriers cannot be received by mobile phones with Burmese SIM cards. Human rights organizations have called on the Government of Bangladesh to rescind the restrictions on Rohingya communities, noting that refugees rely on mobile networks for health and security information, as well as correspondence with family members.

Food Security, Health, and Nutrition

- In September, WFP provided more than 842,000 refugees with food assistance in Cox's Bazar. An estimated 423,000 individuals received in-kind food assistance, including pulses, rice, and vegetable oil, while more than 419,000 refugees received e-vouchers, which allow beneficiaries to purchase nutritious foods from local e-voucher shops.
- USAID/FFP contributed \$18 million to NGO partner World Vision in FY 2019 to support both vulnerable refugees and Bangladeshi host communities with food security activities in Cox's Bazar. From September 8 to 21, World Vision enrolled nearly 25,000 households in its fresh food vouchers activity in refugee camps. During the week of September 15, World Vision began construction of fresh food shops and has completed three shops in camp 15. The NGO also conducted community sensitization meetings with more than 700 female beneficiaries and 100 of their male relatives to raise awareness about sexual exploitation, as well as to promote good hygiene practices, nutrition, and positive parenting in 42 community cooking and learning centers (CCLCs) in camps during the same period. World Vision is rehabilitating 12 CCLCs and preparing to build eight new CCLCs in refugee camps. Additionally, government officials in the host communities have approved World Vision-managed programming that will provide cash transfers through cash-for-work activities to food-insecure Bangladeshi households. Support for host communities will include training on income generating activities (IGAs), formation of savings groups, and nutrition education.
- USAID/FFP contributed \$7 million to NGO partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in FY 2019 to support vulnerable host communities with food security activities in Cox's Bazar Sadar, Teknaf, and Ukhiya sub-districts of Cox's Bazar. With USAID/FFP support, ACF plans to reach 6,500 Bangladeshi host community households through unconditional cash transfers and cash-for-work activities that focus on the construction and repair of community infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of future shocks, such as cyclones and monsoons. ACF will also provide cash grants to 750 households to help rebuild their livelihoods—lost due to cyclones or other rapid onset crises—through IGAs, which include household asset analysis and protection, IGA business plan development, and training and technical assistance to restore households' productive assets. Additionally, ACF intends to improve the overall health and nutrition of children and pregnant and lactating women through infant and young child feeding activities, which provide training on improved nutrition and WASH practices.

- As of September 7, relief actors reported 40 cases of dengue in Rohingya refugee camps and nearly 240 confirmed cases of dengue among Bangladeshis in Cox’s Bazar, with the number of reported cases expected to increase through the post-monsoon period, the ISCG reports. The number of suspected and confirmed cases of dengue in camps reported from July to September represents more than 85 percent of cases reported in all of 2019, according to ISCG. Relief actors identified the need for referral facilities in refugee camps for confirmed dengue cases and solid waste management disposal sites to minimize mosquito breeding and to mitigate exposure to mosquito bites.

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 August 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 expired in September 2019.
- Since November 2018, escalating clashes between Government of Burma forces and the Arakan Army have displaced at least 30,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, in Chin and Rakhine in recent months. Government of Burma-imposed access restrictions beginning in January 2019 in affected townships are hindering efforts to provide assistance to displaced populations and interrupting ongoing programs that aim to continue delivering services to approximately 200,000 people in need.
- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of June 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 recognized by the Government of Burma and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services. As of December 2018, an estimated 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. Since August 25, 2017, insecurity and violence have prompted nearly 744,000 people to flee from Burma to Bangladesh. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that the total number of Burmese refugees in Cox’s Bazar is approximately 914,000 people as of September 2019.
- On December 27, 2018, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires George Sibley re-declared a disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and State/PRM staff are coordinating with humanitarian partners in Burma and Bangladesh to assess humanitarian conditions, identify response gaps, and recommend response priorities.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
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
IOM	ERMS, Health, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,300,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,200,000

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,350,000
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
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,503,114
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Burma	\$400,000
	Country-Based Pooled Fund ³	Burma	\$4,500,000
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,358,385
	Program Support		\$133,224
TOTAL USAID/OFDA RESPONSE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY			\$21,287,533
ACF	ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Bangladesh	\$3,700,000
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$617,905
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
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$3,692,000
WFP	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$111,226
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$17,221,131
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH			\$38,508,664
USAID/FFP⁴			
SC/US	Cash Transfers for Food	Burma	\$2,535,334
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Burma	\$1,105,507
WFP	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Burma	\$13,901,255
	Cash Transfers for Food	Burma	\$7,947,646
	Complementary Services	Burma	\$520,258
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY			\$26,010,000
ACF	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$5,567,850
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$1,432,150
WFP	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$42,373,964
	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Bangladesh	\$43,516,768
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$6,750,000
	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$5,862,010
World Vision	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$7,450,081
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$6,114,150
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$4,435,769
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE ROHINGYA RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH			\$123,502,742
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH			\$149,512,742

STATE/PRM			
A Call To Serve	Health	Malaysia	\$396,627
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation	Health	Malaysia	\$498,026
Health Equity Initiatives	Health, Psychosocial Support	Malaysia	\$600,000
Humanity and Inclusion	Humanitarian Assistance for Persons with Disabilities, including Cross-Border Mine Risk Education	Thailand	\$593,327
International Catholic Migration Commission	Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response	Malaysia	\$592,846
International Committee of the Red Cross	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$5,100,000
	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$10,700,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$24,720,526
	Humanitarian Assistance	Thailand	\$350,000
International Rescue Committee	Agriculture and Food Security, Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response, Health, Livelihoods, Nutrition, Psychosocial Support, WASH	Thailand	\$18,842,580
	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$70,425,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$8,950,000
	Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$3,225,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$26,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$171,493,932
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN FY 2019⁵			\$359,515,338

¹ 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.

² USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2019.

³ Country-based pooled funds are country-based multi-donor humanitarian financing instruments managed by OCHA under the guidance of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

⁴ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change once purchased.

⁵ Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals more than \$669 million—including more than \$553 million in Bangladesh and more than \$116 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes more than \$390 million in State/PRM funding, more than \$217 million in USAID/FFP funding, and more than \$62 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, 2018, through September 30, 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.
- 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.
 - 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>