



BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

MARCH 22, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

53.8 million

Total Population of Burma
UN – November 2017

8.3 million

People Residing in Conflict-Affected Areas in Burma
UN – November 2017

862,900

Estimated People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma
UN – November 2017

671,000

Estimated People Newly Displaced to Bangladesh
UN – March 2018

128,900

Estimated IDPs in Rakhine State Prior to August
UN – November 2017

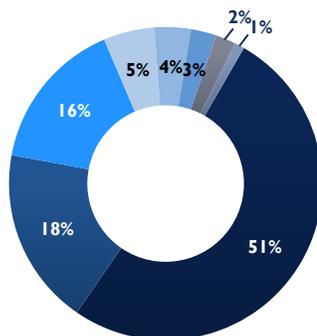
90,000

Estimated IDPs in Kachin State
UN – January 2018

9,600

Estimated IDPs in Northern Shan State
UN – January 2018

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2017–2018



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (51%)
- Protection (18%)
- Health (16%)
- Nutrition (5%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)
- Shelter & Settlements (2%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017-2018



- Local & Regional Food Procurement (48%)
- Complementary Services (21%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (13%)
- Food Vouchers (11%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (7%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Access constraints continue to impede humanitarian assistance in Burma’s Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states
- Preparations for Bangladesh and Burma cyclone, monsoon seasons continue
- USAID/OFDA provides \$3.5 million to UNICEF to support health, protection, and WASH interventions for conflict-affected communities in Burma

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018

USAID/OFDA	\$11,229,577
USAID/FFP	\$46,248,844
STATE/PRM ³	\$123,102,484

\$180,580,905

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Government of Burma-imposed access constraints continue to impede humanitarian efforts in northern Rakhine, where an unknown number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable populations—including remaining ethnic Rohingya Muslims—are sheltering. In addition, nearly 100,000 people remain displaced in Kachin and Shan, where ongoing conflict and access impediments continue to hinder the assessment of humanitarian needs and delivery of aid.
- Nearly 884,000 Burmese refugees were sheltering in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar District as of February 25, the UN reports. The March–December 2018 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis estimates that nearly \$951 million is required to address the needs of 1.3 million people in Bangladesh, including refugees and host communities.
- With nearly \$77 million in FY 2018 funding, the U.S. Government (USG) continues to support lifesaving food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to conflict-affected populations in Burma and Bangladesh.

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)

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, RETURNS, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Rakhine State

- Access to vulnerable populations in Rakhine remains restricted following Government of Burma military operations in northern Rakhine in response to Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacks on checkpoints and police posts in late August. Government of Burma-imposed bureaucratic impediments—including limited travel authorization (TA) approvals, inconsistent TA application procedures, and short validity of authorizations—continue to hinder the assessment of humanitarian needs and provision of emergency assistance, particularly in northern Rakhine’s Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships, according to the UN. In addition, remaining Rohingya populations in Rakhine are largely unable to access markets and agricultural fields due to government-mandated movement restrictions, insecurity, and intercommunal tensions, the UN reports.
- On March 14, the Government of Burma announced its willingness to accept the return of approximately 375 verified refugees from Bangladesh and requested that Government of Bangladesh authorities ascertain whether the refugees would return voluntarily, international media report. On March 19, the Government of Burma announced that the prior residency of an additional 193 refugees had been verified, making them eligible for repatriation. The verified refugees are part of a list of more than 8,000 refugees identified by the Government of Bangladesh for repatriation. Government of Burma Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Myint Thu confirmed on March 14 that the Burmese government is discussing possible involvement of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Development Program in the Rohingya refugee repatriation process, international media report. Despite repatriation plans, conditions in Rakhine are not yet conducive for safe and voluntary refugee returns, according to UN agencies and other humanitarian actors.

Kachin and Shan States

- Armed clashes between Burmese security forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) continue to prompt displacement in Kachin’s Sumprabum and Tanai townships, the UN reports. Fighting from January 25–February 2 resulted in the evacuation of approximately 1,800 people from affected areas in Tanai, according to the UN. In Sumprabum, fighting displaced approximately 700 people—including 500 people from an IDP camp—between January 22 and February 2. Access constraints, including Government of Burma-imposed restrictions and damaged infrastructure, have hindered verification of the number of IDPs in the state; however, the UN estimated that more than 90,000 IDPs remained displaced throughout Kachin as of January 31.
- Population displacement in northern Shan also continued in early 2018. Armed clashes between the Restoration Council of Shan State and the Ta’ang National Liberation Army in northern Shan’s Kyaukme, Namhsan, and Namtu townships displaced an estimated 1,700 people from March 10–18, according to the Government of Burma. Displaced populations are sheltering in religious buildings in the state’s Kyaukme, Lashio, and Namtu townships, where they are receiving humanitarian assistance from government authorities and relief actors, the UN reports. As of January, the UN estimated that ongoing conflict had displaced more than 9,600 people in Shan.
- UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) continue to face limited access to displaced populations in Kachin and Shan and therefore rely on local NGO partners, which are also experiencing increased movement restrictions, to conduct relief activities, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports.

Bangladesh

- Approximately 671,000 people, primarily Rohingya Muslims from Rakhine, are sheltering in Cox’s Bazar after fleeing from Burma to Bangladesh between August 25 and February 25, according to the Bangladesh-based UN Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian response coordinating body comprising UN agencies, international NGOs, and other stakeholders. The figure represents a decrease of approximately 17,000 people since January 27, which ISCG attributes to improved counting methodology rather than population returns. An additional 212,500 Burmese refugees remain in Cox’s Bazar after fleeing outbreaks of violence prior to August.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Rakhine State

- In early March, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Andrew Gilmour reported that limited humanitarian access and Government of Burma policies restricting Rohingya movement are the primary factors contributing to food insecurity among Rohingya populations remaining in Rakhine. Similarly, Amnesty International recently reported that Burmese security forces have increased restrictions on Rohingya travel between villages, hindering access to rice fields and local markets, and limited humanitarian assistance.
- With support from USAID/FFP, the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations in Rakhine. In central Rakhine, WFP had reached 100 percent of the 114,000 people targeted for distributions in February as of March 5. In northern Rakhine, WFP completed the February distribution cycle on March 8, reaching approximately 48,900 people, nearly 98 percent of the 50,000 people targeted, in 30 village tracts—fourth-level administrative subdivisions in rural Burma—with monthly emergency food rations.

Bangladesh

- WFP continues to coordinate with the ISCG Food Security Sector (FSS) to provide emergency in-kind food assistance—including lentils, rice, and vegetable oil—to newly arrived refugees in Cox's Bazar. The eleventh round of food distributions, which concluded on March 16, targeted more than 156,500 households throughout displacement sites with emergency food assistance, ISCG reports. In addition, the FSS provides all new arrivals to Cox's Bazar with a ration of fortified biscuits upon arrival.
- WFP and the FSS are expanding an existing electronic voucher (e-voucher) program to include an additional 90,000 refugees who have arrived in Cox's Bazar since August 2017. The e-voucher program provides refugees with monthly transfers to a pre-paid debit card that can be used to purchase a variety of foods in pre-approved shops, allowing for dietary diversity among vulnerable refugee populations. Approximately 165,300 people were receiving food assistance through e-vouchers in March, and the FSS plans to construct 11 new shops where refugees can redeem e-vouchers, WFP reports.
- FSS continues to improve information management capacity to increase the efficiency of food security interventions. As of March 6, relief actors had enrolled approximately 384,000 people—more than 40 percent of the 195,000 household receiving FSS assistance—in SCOPE, a web-based beneficiary and transfer management platform used for distribution planning, implementation, and reporting.
- From February 23–March 8, nutrition actors screened more than 108,900 children in Cox's Bazar, identifying approximately 1,100 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 1,200 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Humanitarian organizations referred the children to inpatient and outpatient treatment centers and enrolled patients in blanket supplementary feeding programs (BSFP), according to the ISCG. During the week of February 5, WFP established four additional BSFP sites in Cox's Bazar, increasing the total number of operational BSFP and targeted supplementary feeding program sites to 21. In addition, there were approximately 50 outpatient therapeutic program sites and seven stabilization centers functioning in displacement sites as of March 12.
- In early March, a technical committee established by the Government of Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to review the use of specialized nutrition commodities for the Rohingya response approved the use of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) to treat MAM cases among the refugee population, the Nutrition Sector reports. Both ready-to-use therapeutic food—used to treat SAM—and RUSF are considered sensitive imported commodities and are not normally authorized for use by the Government of Bangladesh. Accordingly, WFP is preparing to transition from specialized cereal grains to RUSF for MAM treatment in the coming weeks.
- FSS and Nutrition Sector partners are collaborating with other relief actors to prepare for seasonal hazards associated with the upcoming April-to-October cyclone and monsoon seasons. FSS preparedness plans include mobilizing porters to carry food assistance to vulnerable and weather-affected populations in hard-to-reach areas and prepositioning food stocks and cooking materials in affected areas. Similarly, Nutrition Sector preparedness activities include mapping nutrition facilities for patient transfer, pre-positioning supplies for mobile teams in affected areas, training mothers to

conduct self-screening for malnutrition, and stockpiling High Energy Biscuits for distribution to children and pregnant and lactating women.

HEALTH AND WASH

Rakhine State

- With more than \$3.5 million in FY 2018 funding, USAID/OFDA is supporting UNICEF to respond to critical health, protection, and WASH needs in conflict-affected communities throughout Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. In Rakhine, WASH activities, including latrine desludging and management, strengthening of community-based water point management, and hygiene and sanitation promotion activities, are targeting more than 20,000 households.

Kachin and Shan States

- Restrictions on humanitarian access to non-government controlled areas in Kachin and Shan continue, limiting the availability of basic information on WASH conditions in communities targeted for assistance by the 2018 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), UNICEF reports. In addition, ongoing conflict in many areas of Kachin and Shan is limiting vulnerable populations' access to health care services for vulnerable populations. With USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF is working to build the capacity of local health care staff, promote improved health and hygiene practices, and conduct outreach services to improve maternal and child health among IDPs and conflict-affected populations.

Bangladesh

- Health actors report that the upcoming April-to-October cyclone and monsoon seasons will increase the risk of acute watery diarrhea and other waterborne diseases in Cox's Bazar, including in displacement sites which are particularly vulnerable to disease outbreaks due to subpar public health conditions and limited WASH facilities.
 - The UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports that nearly 70 of the 215 clinics and health posts in Cox's Bazar's Kutupalong-Balukhali site—where nearly 589,000 refugees reside—are located in flood-prone areas. In addition, more than 45 percent of the site's washrooms and 25 percent of its latrines are at risk of flooding, international media report. Furthermore, approximately 4,500 water points and 3,700 latrines are in need of decommissioning, rehabilitation, or relocation in Cox's Bazar due to flood, landslide, and public health risks, ISCG reports. In response, health and WASH sector partners are mapping at-risk facilities—including health sites and latrines—in order to decommission, reinforce, or relocate infrastructure as appropriate. As of March 11, relief organizations had desludged more than 2,700 latrines situated in high-risk areas.
 - An outbreak of diphtheria—a highly contagious infectious airborne disease—in Cox's Bazar displacement sites continues, with health actors reporting more than 6,100 suspected diphtheria cases from November 8–March 10, including nearly 170 suspected cases recorded from March 6–10, according to WHO. Health actors continue to conduct large-scale vaccination campaigns targeting refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar, including the vaccination of children ages 6 weeks–15 years at refugee entry points into Bangladesh. The third round of diphtheria vaccinations, scheduled for March 10–23, is targeting more than 415,000 children for immunization.
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PROTECTION AND SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

Rakhine State

- USAID/OFDA partners continue to respond to protection concerns in Rakhine, including reports of child labor, early and forced marriage, family separation, sexual exploitation, and abuse, and trafficking. As of March 5, UNICEF reported reaching approximately 5,000 children per week in Maungdaw with psychosocial support activities.

Kachin and Shan States

- Protracted armed conflict in Kachin and Shan have exposed children to forced recruitment into armed groups and sexual violence. In response, USAID/OFDA supports UN agencies and NGOs to provide emergency protection activities,

including through the establishment of community-based child protection groups linked with mobile psychosocial support and the development of case management teams.

Bangladesh

- Overcrowding and congestion in Cox’s Bazar displacement sites—particularly the Kutupalong-Balukhali site—continues to restrict service delivery and increase health and protection risks, ISCG reports. Lack of space in displacement sites is preventing the relocation of refugees residing in flood- and landslide-prone areas to areas of relative safety. Approximately 200,000 refugees in Cox’s Bazar reside in displacement sites at risk of flooding and landslides during Bangladesh’s upcoming cyclone and monsoon seasons, relief actors report. Humanitarian organizations warn that heavy rainfall could hinder access to essential service delivery locations, including food distribution sites and health care access points.
 - As of March 6, State/PRM partner UNHCR and sub-partners had relocated more than 620 families living in flood-prone areas of the Kutupalong-Balukhali displacement site to safer sites. Given the limited land available in the settlements, UNHCR and partners are coordinating with Government of Bangladesh authorities to identify additional safe areas for relocation of at-risk households. UNHCR protection teams are also facilitating community engagement in preparedness efforts, including analyzing community coping mechanisms and preparedness plans and supporting appropriate community messaging.
 - ISCG Shelter Sector partners are prioritizing shelter upgrades in advance of the cyclone and monsoon seasons. As of March 8, shelter organizations had provided nearly 46,000 households with shelter upgrade kits; distributed approximately 2,900 neighborhood tool kits for larger-scale site improvements; and supported nearly 67,000 households with tool kits for localized improvements, in addition to providing relief commodities including alternative cooking fuel, blankets, clothing, floor mats, kitchen sets, solar lamps, and stoves to vulnerable households.
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INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The 2018 Interim HRP for Burma requests approximately \$183 million to assist 832,000 vulnerable people in Kachin, Kayin, Shan, and Rakhine states. To date, international donors have provided \$13.1 million in funding—or approximately 7 percent of the request, according to the UN.
- On March 16, UN agencies launched the JRP for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, which estimates that nearly \$951 million is required to address critical humanitarian needs of 1.3 million people—including Rohingya refugees and affected host communities—in Bangladesh from March–December 2018. According to the JRP, refugees and vulnerable host communities in Cox’s Bazar require more than 16 million liters of safe drinking water per day; 12,200 metric tons of food per month; and 100 nutrition treatment centers, in addition to health, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance. The JRP prioritizes providing timely, lifesaving assistance and protection activities; improving refugee and host community living conditions; supporting environmentally sustainable solutions; and ensuring the well-being and dignity of affected populations.

CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the Government of Burma and the KIA broke down when fighting between Burmese security forces and the KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin, resulting in population displacement. As of December 2017, an estimated 107,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many of the displaced residing in areas outside of Government of Burma control with limited humanitarian access. Local NGOs continue to access displaced populations in KIA-controlled areas, including along the Burma–China border; however, access to some areas remains inconsistent.
- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of August 2017, approximately 120,000 people remained displaced in central Rakhine, while other vulnerable populations lacked 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, therefore, effectively stateless and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services. Following attacks by ARSA on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017, Burmese security forces launched military operations in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung. Since August 25, insecurity has prompted approximately 671,000 people to flee Burma to Bangladesh, bringing the total number of Burmese refugees in Bangladesh to nearly 884,000.
- On October 18, 2017, U.S. Ambassador Scot A. Marciel reissued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USAID/OFDA staff and State/PRM Regional Refugee Coordinators based in Bangkok, Thailand, remain in contact with humanitarian partners in Burma and Bangladesh and continue to conduct assessments in affected areas of Rakhine to evaluate humanitarian conditions, identify relief gaps, and recommend response options.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Danish Refugee Council	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$500,000
Metta Foundation	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin, Shan	\$1,000,000
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,431,842
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,600,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,000,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$193,819
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$7,725,661
USAID/FFP³			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Ayeyarwady, Chin, Kayin, Magway, Rakhine, Shan	\$550,586
	Complementary Services	Ayeyarwady, Chin, Kayin, Magway, Rakhine, Shan	\$616,338
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$4,604,924
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$7,395,076
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$1,500,000
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000

	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$3,500,000
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$20,166,924
STATE/PRM⁴			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand	\$30,170,793
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,280,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Thailand	\$23,791,691
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,250,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$12,500,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Southeast Asia	\$4,810,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$75,802,484
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$103,695,069

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,503,916
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$3,503,916
USAID/FFP			
CARE	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$119,046
	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$2,636,334
UNICEF	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$189,000
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$4,737,540
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$11,112,710
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$3,067,290
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$4,000,000
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$220,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$26,081,920
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$23,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$17,300,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$6,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$47,300,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$76,885,836
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018			\$180,580,905

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of March 22, 2018.

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

⁴ USAID/FFP and 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 +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.