

BURMA AND BANGLADESH

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

JANUARY 15, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

985,658

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma
UN – December 2019

106,365

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

131,000

IDPs in Burma's Rakhine IDP Sites⁴
UN – December 2019

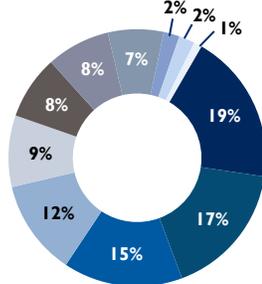
914,998

Total Number of Refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar
UNHCR – September 30, 2019

744,400

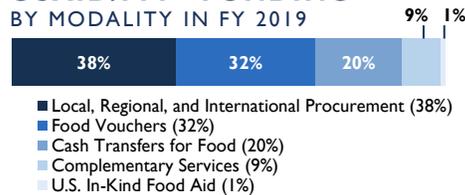
People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25, 2017
UNHCR – September 30, 2019

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) (19%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (17%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (15%)
- Country-Based Pooled Fund (12%)
- Protection (9%)
- Shelter & Settlements (8%)
- Agriculture and Food Security (8%)
- Health (7%)
- Nutrition (2%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (2%)
- Other (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The UN released the 2020 Burma Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in December 2019, requesting more than \$216 million to provide humanitarian assistance to approximately 848,000 people during 2020. The UN plans to provide multi-sector assistance, including protection services for more than 833,000 people; outpatient health services for nearly 524,000 people; and emergency shelter support for nearly 130,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in central Rakhine State in Burma.
- Relief actors identified lessons learned in preparation for the 2020 monsoon season following an analysis of humanitarian monsoon preparedness and response measures in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District during the 2019 June-to-October monsoon season, which adversely affected more than 83,500 refugees and displaced more than 17,000 people in the district. Lessons included the importance of maintaining drainage systems to reduce flooding and landslides, incorporating the potential flooding of the nearby Naf River into preparatory measures, and improving communication among first responders and Government of Bangladesh response personnel.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2020 HRP for Burma requests more than \$216 million for multi-sector humanitarian assistance
- Conflict has displaced 48,000 people in Burma's Rakhine State as of December 2019
- Relief actors in Cox's Bazar build on lessons learned to improve preparations for the 2020 monsoon season

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
Total	\$359,515,338

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 in central Rakhine State created after the outbreak of violence in Rakhine 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

- Intensified Arakan Army (AA)–Government of Burma conflict during November newly displaced approximately 9,000 people in Rakhine State’s Buthidaung, Mrauk-U, Myebon, and Rathedaung townships, representing a 25 percent increase compared to the total number of people displaced in October, according to the UN. From December 8 to 15, AA–Government of Burma clashes displaced an additional 5,800 people in Rakhine to temporary sites in Minbya and Myebon townships. As of mid-December, the armed clashes in Rakhine had displaced a total of 48,000 people since the initial escalation of fighting in December 2018, the Rakhine State Government reports. Conflict-related displacement remains fluid in Rakhine, with some IDPs reportedly returning to areas of origin in recent weeks; humanitarian access to IDPs displaced by the recent AA–Government of Burma conflict remains highly constrained.
- From January to August 2019, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Myanmar Red Cross Society jointly provided emergency services—including food, health, shelter, and WASH assistance—and relief commodities to approximately 37,500 IDPs and 12,500 host community members in more than 60 locations across Rakhine, the UN reports. However, humanitarian actors report that access to new displacement sites in Rakhine has remained sporadic and unpredictable due to government restrictions and conflict, negatively affecting their ability to assess needs, monitor activities, and provide assistance beyond short-term relief commodity distributions.
- As of November, nearly 9,000 people remained displaced in camps or informal settlements in northern Shan State due to ongoing insecurity, according to the UN. Between January 2018 and November 2019, nearly 47,000 people were temporarily displaced by clashes between various armed groups and Government of Burma forces in 14 Shan townships, with most IDPs subsequently returning to areas of origin within a few weeks or months. Government-imposed access restrictions due to the conflict continue to impede humanitarian assistance and protection services for IDPs in the area.

Food Security and Nutrition

- The 2020 Burma HRP requests more than \$61 million to address the emergency food needs of more than 562,000 individuals in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, with more than 80 percent of the individuals targeted for food assistance located in Rakhine. Due to the impacts of bureaucratic impediments and persistent conflict on agricultural productivity, food availability, food market access, and livelihood opportunities, humanitarian actors plan to provide agriculture and livelihood support to more than 141,000 crisis-affected individuals in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan.
- Furthermore, the Nutrition Sector—comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders focused on nutrition programming—requested nearly \$16 million to support crisis-affected individuals, including children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women, through enhanced access to life-saving treatment for acute malnutrition and the promotion of optimal nutrition practices. In 2020, humanitarian actors plan to reach approximately 68,000 children younger than five years of age with acute malnutrition prevention services in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, and Shan states.
- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided 4,000 metric tons of in-kind food assistance and \$1.3 million in cash transfers to 296,000 individuals in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan in November. Additionally, WFP’s FFP-supported nutrition interventions benefited 46,750 children younger than five years of age and 10,320 pregnant and lactating women across Burma’s Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan States in November.
- With U.S. Government (USG) support, UNICEF and implementing partners continued nutrition activities, including the distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic food, to communities in Rakhine’s Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, and Sittwe townships in November. In addition, UNICEF’s partners supported nutrition treatment at outpatient therapeutic programs in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Sittwe townships. As of November, UNICEF and its partners had treated more than 3,900 children younger than five years of age for severe acute malnutrition in Rakhine since January 2019.

BANGLADESH

Monsoon Season Effects and Response

- Bangladesh's 2019 June-to-October monsoon season—characterized by heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in low-lying areas of the country—affected more than 83,500 refugees in Cox's Bazar, including displacing more than 17,000 people and injuring at least 40 people, according to the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), a humanitarian coordinating body in Bangladesh comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Throughout the monsoon season, relief actors—including USG partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—assisted nearly 13,000 households with shelter support, including conducting house repairs, distributing emergency shelter materials, and relocating vulnerable households. Humanitarian agencies also trained nearly 400 community outreach volunteers to reach nearly 178,000 refugees with monsoon preparedness and emergency response messaging, the ISCG reports.
- Following an analysis of humanitarian monsoon preparedness and response measures in Cox's Bazar, relief actors identified several lessons learned in preparation for the 2020 monsoon season. Humanitarian actors noted the need to properly maintain drainage systems to minimize the risks of flooding and landslides and include potential flooding of the Naf River—the major river that serves as the boundary between western Burma and eastern Bangladesh—into monsoon and cyclone season contingency plans, as well as establish points of contact among first responders to coordinate with Government of Bangladesh emergency response personnel.

Protection

- In November, protection actors identified increased negative coping mechanisms among refugees in Cox's Bazar, including child labor, forced marriage, and substance abuse. In response, relief actors provided psychosocial support services for nearly 50,000 refugee children in the district. USG partner IOM also held 25 community-based mental health and psychosocial support activities focused on coping with community conflict and isolation. The activities aim to help youth develop conflict mediation skills and access child-friendly spaces for recreation. IOM and its partners also reached 480 students with trainings on gender and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention at schools across Cox's Bazar and provided legal awareness sessions for 480 people.

Food Security, Health, and Protection

- In November, WFP provided food assistance to approximately 841,000 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. The assistance reached approximately 396,000 people with in-kind food distributions and an estimated 445,000 people with e-vouchers, which allow beneficiaries to purchase nutritious foods from participating local shops.
- In late 2019, health actors continued to record cases of acute watery diarrhea, including more than 230 cases confirmed by cholera rapid diagnostic tests since September 5. In response, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) and other health actors conducted a cholera vaccination campaign in December, aiming to vaccinate more than 635,000 people in Cox's Bazar, including nearly 140,000 Rohingya refugee children ages 1–5 years and more than 495,000 host community members ages one year and older.
- Humanitarian actors continue to record new measles cases in Cox's Bazar, including nearly 2,450 suspected measles cases in the district during 2019. In response, the Government of Bangladesh and implementing partners are coordinating a measles immunization campaign for January 12 to February 12, aiming to reach 315,000 children ages 6 months–10 years in the camps.
- In November, IOM established a safe delivery service facility in Cox's Bazar, which provided more than 250 facility-based deliveries, prenatal care to nearly 3,700 expectant mothers, and postnatal care to nearly 840 women during the month. Additionally, IOM continued community engagement activities on health and GBV at safe spaces and trained approximately 100 traditional birth attendants on timely referrals of pregnant mothers for delivery.

Host Community Support

- With support from State/PRM and other donors, IOM is collaborating with the Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) to create a sustainable bamboo supply for emergency shelter materials in response to an increased demand from

the Rohingya refugee population. The IOM-supported bamboo treatment facility, which was completed in 2019, forms part of a new initiative to further develop bamboo cultivation and increase economic opportunities in eastern Bangladesh. IOM is also partnering with BFRI to provide training for bamboo merchants and farmers on bamboo varieties, harvest techniques, and sustainable cultivation. IOM's shelter team reported 100 percent host community employment at the facility, which functions under a cash-for-work program.

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 November 2019, more than 106,000 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 the AA and Government of Burma have displaced at least 48,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, in central Rakhine. 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 100,000 people in need.
- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of September 2019, nearly 131,000 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 2019, 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 Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung. Since August 25, 2017, insecurity and violence have prompted more than 744,000 people to flee from Burma to Bangladesh. UNHCR estimates that the total number of Burmese refugees in Cox's Bazar is approximately 915,000 people as of September 2019.
- On December 20, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Scot Marciel redeclared 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, Humanitarian Policy Studies or Analysis, 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 Federation (SCF)	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
Action Contre la Faim (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			
SCF	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	GBV Prevention and Response	Malaysia	\$592,846
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$5,100,000
	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$10,700,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$24,720,526
	Humanitarian Assistance	Thailand	\$350,000
IRC	Agriculture and Food Security, GBV Prevention and Response, Health, Livelihoods, Nutrition, Psychosocial Support, WASH	Thailand	\$18,842,580
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$70,425,000
	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 \$729 million—including more than \$613 million in Bangladesh and more than \$116 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes nearly \$390 million in State/PRM funding, more than \$277 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>