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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## *Burma – Cyclone*

Fact Sheet #22, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

June 25, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated June 18, 2008.*

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- From June 19 to 22, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), in coordination with USAID/OFDA, flew nine C-130 sorties from Bangkok, Thailand, to Rangoon, transporting 14,100 tarpaulins provided by DOD. DOD consigned the tarpaulins to World Vision and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). DOD will provide a total of 150,000 tarpaulins, in accordance with U.N. Shelter Cluster specifications.
- The DOD-operated U.S. Government airbridge ceased operations on June 22 after completing 185 airlifts and delivering more than \$4 million of USAID/OFDA relief commodities, as well as DOD, U.N., non-governmental organization (NGO), and Government of Thailand commodities. The remaining DOD-procured tarpaulins will enter the U.N. common humanitarian pipeline in the coming days for delivery to Rangoon and subsequent distribution in affected areas by U.N. and NGO partners.
- On June 24, a USAID/OFDA disaster specialist and the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires attended a presentation of the initial findings from the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA), including the Village Tract Assessment (VTA) completed on June 20. Assessment representatives indicated that complete raw data will be available on June 27. The U.N., therefore, has postponed the release of the revised U.N. flash appeal by one week from the previous date of July 3 in order for the U.N. clusters to incorporate data from the VTA into projects developed for the appeal. The revised appeal will cover 12 months, from May 2008 to the end of April 2009. The final PONJA report is scheduled for release on July 21.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>Total Dead</b>	84,537	GOB – June 24, 2008
	63,000 to 101,000	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – May 9, 2008
<b>Total Missing</b>	53,836	GOB – June 24, 2008
<b>Estimated Displaced Persons in Settlements</b>	110,000	OCHA – May 22, 2008
<b>Total Number Affected</b>	2.4 million	OCHA – May 29, 2008

### FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

**USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burma .....\$19,693,869**  
**USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Burma .....\$12,000,000**  
**DOD Assistance to Burma .....\$9,475,900**  
**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma.....\$41,169,769**

### CURRENT SITUATION

- On June 24, the Government of Burma (GOB) raised the official death toll for the first time since May 16 from 77,700 to 84,537 individuals. The GOB now estimates that nearly 54,000 people are missing, down from the previously reported number of 56,000.
- According to the USAID/OFDA disaster specialist in Rangoon, PONJA teams identified only five villages that had not received any humanitarian assistance. In response, the U.N. Logistics Cluster deployed U.N. World Food Program (WFP) helicopters to deliver emergency relief supplies and food assistance. The VTA preliminary report, based on 50 percent of total collected data, also indicates that 45 percent of households receive humanitarian food assistance, while 56 percent obtain food from markets. An estimated 46 percent of families in Ayeyarwady Division have food to last only two days or less, according to the initial report. Additional sector-specific VTA preliminary results follow.

### *Humanitarian Access*

- On June 20, the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), the humanitarian assistance coordination body comprising U.N., Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and GOB representatives, made the decision to revert back to the

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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

humanitarian assistance guidelines in place before the GOB announced new procedures on June 10. Therefore, the TCG and the GOB Ministry of Foreign Affairs will now handle all visa requests from U.N. agencies and NGOs and the GOB Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will process travel authorizations.

- According to OCHA, the relevant ministries processed and granted all backlogged visa requests and travel authorizations between June 21 and 22. As of June 19, the GOB had issued more than 230 visas to U.N. international staff, 200 of whom had traveled to affected areas.

### ***Shelter and Settlements***

- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that the Myanmar (Burma) Red Cross Society (MRCS) continues to distribute community tool kits and tarpaulins to affected households through the MRCS volunteer network. MRCS teams returning from affected areas reported that in many villages, shelter repairs and reconstruction primarily involved the use of plastic sheeting and locally available materials. IFRC and MRCS teams observed that within hours of a recent distribution of shelter materials, the beneficiaries had used the sheeting provided to cover roofs throughout the village.
- The VTA preliminary report, however, cautioned that houses rebuilt with bamboo using traditional design may only last for a maximum of two years. VTA members emphasized “build back better” as an important long-term recovery activity.
- According to OCHA, humanitarian organizations had distributed more than 350,000 plastic sheets in affected areas as of June 22, with an additional 450,000 sheets in the pipeline.
- In response to shelter needs, USAID/OFDA continues to support UNHCR, which is leading two township-level emergency shelter clusters in Ayeyarwady Division. In addition, with support from USAID/OFDA, World Vision is providing emergency shelter materials for approximately 20,000 individuals in Bogale township. USAID/OFDA also funds PACT to increase access to locally available shelter materials for approximately 4,000 of the most affected households in Bogale, Labutta, and Mawlamyinegyun townships. With USAID/OFDA support, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is providing shelter assistance to approximately 8,000 people in Labutta township.

### ***Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene***

- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the GOB Ministry of Health (MOH), and U.N. Health Cluster partners are launching a joint initiative for dengue fever control and prevention. The program will target 900,000 households in 26 townships in cyclone-affected areas. WHO is working with the GOB MOH to train health workers and doctors in dengue control and case management. MRCS volunteers are conducting community education campaigns, informing local communities of simple precautions to prevent dengue fever, such as waste disposal and covering water storage containers. The program also includes a mosquito larvae control program, reportedly the largest such program undertaken in Burma to date. USAID/OFDA is funding MENTOR to address the potential spread of malaria and dengue fever through the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and the provision of rapid diagnostic testing and treatment programs.
- According to the preliminary VTA report, based on 50 percent of collected data, 60 percent of households cited access to adequate safe drinking water as a primary humanitarian concern, as pond water salinity increases and villages shift to rainwater harvesting methods.
- USAID/OFDA field staff in Bangkok report that the U.N. Health Cluster has completed technical guidelines for rainwater harvesting, household water treatment, water testing, and pond rehabilitation, which humanitarian organizations have begun to implement in the field.
- USAID/OFDA has provided a total of 10 water treatment units to date, including one transported on June 18 by a WFP helicopter to the cyclone-affected village of Set San to support the NGO CARE in providing safe drinking water. Each unit meets the daily water needs of 10,000 people. According to the U.N. Shelter Cluster, the humanitarian community has provided 50 water treatment units, 25 of which have been deployed to serve 250,000 people.

### ***Logistics***

- As of June 24, the U.N. Logistics Cluster had dispatched nearly 5,290 metric tons of emergency relief supplies and food assistance from Rangoon to the five logistics hubs in affected areas. To date, WFP helicopters have reached 81 remote locations after 313 flights. According to USAID/OFDA disaster specialists in Bangkok, the U.N. Logistics Cluster selected many of the locations for helicopter flights based on data provided by PONJA teams in the field.
- On June 25, the U.N. Logistics Cluster announced a plan to release five of the 10 WFP helicopters on June 30. WFP has extended the contract for the remaining five helicopters and two cargo planes until July 7. The remaining helicopters will continue to prioritize the movement of cargo, followed by transport of humanitarian personnel. WFP also reported that the U.N. Logistics Cluster will cease all operations associated with the U.N. common humanitarian pipeline on August 10. To date, no humanitarian organization has requested that the cluster extend operations. U.N. Logistics Cluster staff will work with humanitarian organizations to identify or develop alternate logistics systems before August 10.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On May 5, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Shari Villarosa declared a disaster in Burma due to the effects of Cyclone Nargis. In response, USAID/OFDA deployed a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team and immediately provided \$250,000 to U.N. agencies for shelter and water and sanitation assistance.
- On May 6, an additional \$3 million from USAID/OFDA was allocated for the provision of emergency relief assistance, including \$1 million to the American Red Cross and \$2 million for NGO partners.
- On May 12, USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore announced \$13 million in food aid and logistics assistance through WFP.
- On June 5, USAID/OFDA allocated an additional \$8.1 million for relief efforts, funding U.N. and NGO partners working in the affected areas to implement programs in nine sectors, including emergency health and shelter, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. The programs aim to benefit more than 1 million people
- To date, USAID/OFDA-provided emergency relief commodities have reached more than 445,000 beneficiaries.
- On June 18, USAID/OFDA contributed an additional \$3 million in support of WFP logistics operations.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ADRA	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Shelter and Settlements	Labutta	\$400,000
American Red Cross	Emergency Relief Commodities; Shelter Kits	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Emergency Relief Commodities	Kungyangon, Wakema	\$500,000
MENTOR	Health	Ayeyarwady Division	\$500,000
Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN)	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Labutta	\$749,874
PACT	Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Shelter and Settlements	Bogale, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun,	\$554,135
Save the Children /US (SC/US)	Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Emergency Relief Supplies	Myaungmya, Ngapudaw	\$1,045,872
UNHCR	Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$100,000
U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Nutrition; Protection	Countrywide	\$1,900,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$250,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$4,050,000
World Vision	Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Protection; Shelter and Settlements	Bogale	\$892,433
Implementing NGO	Health; Emergency Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$399,484
ADRA, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), CARE, IOM, Save the Children (SC), UNICEF	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$4,306,539 <sup>2</sup>
USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Burma	\$344,171
USAID	Logistics and Transport	Burma	\$1,951,361
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$19,693,869</b>

<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$12,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE</b>			
DOD	Air Transport and Logistics	Affected Areas	\$9,475,900
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$9,475,900</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$41,169,769</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 25, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$600,000 in USAID/OFDA-purchased DOD commodities.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of anticipated or obligated 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. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Cyclone Nargis, or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- 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, warehouse space, etc); 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: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)
- In addition to USG contributions, the U.S. private sector has actively responded to the cyclone in Burma. More information can be found at:
  - U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center: [www.uschamber.com/bclc/default](http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/default)
  - Business Roundtable Partnership for Disaster Response: [www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo/](http://www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo/)