

BURMA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

APRIL 1, 2013

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

120,000

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State
Government of Burma (GoB) – February 2013

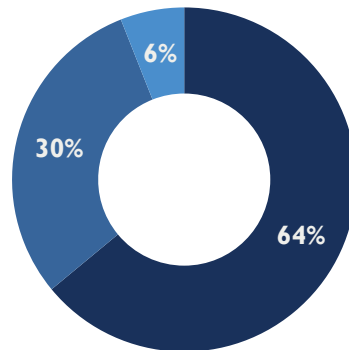
83,000

IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan States
U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – February 2013

13,000

IDPs in Mandalay Region
GoB – March 27, 2013

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2013



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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Communal conflict in Meiktila city and surrounding areas of Mandalay Region displaces an estimated 13,000 people
- U.N. and international humanitarian organizations gain temporary improved access within Kachin State
- Humanitarian organizations in Rakhine State prepare for upcoming rainy season, which begins in May or June

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO BURMA IN FY 2013

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| USAID/OFDA | \$1,650,000 |
| USAID/FFP ² | \$3,000,000 |

\$4,650,000
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURMA

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 20, fighting erupted between Buddhist and Muslim residents in Meiktila city, located in central Burma's Mandalay Region, and spread to several neighboring townships. As of March 27, clashes had resulted in at least 40 deaths, displaced nearly 13,000 people, and damaged homes, mosques, and other buildings, according to the GoB. Approximately 9,600 displaced people were residing in five temporary sites, including schools and a football stadium, and an additional 3,300 people were residing in local monasteries.
- In response to the recent unrest in Meiktila city, USAID/OFDA is providing \$100,000 through USAID/Burma to Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief items to assist affected populations.
- On February 4, the GoB and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) agreed to cease hostilities and pursue peace talks at a meeting held in China's Yunnan Province. The GoB subsequently announced plans to allow U.N. agencies and international humanitarian organizations access—previously restricted in KIO-controlled areas since July 2012—to all displaced populations within Kachin State.

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

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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Kachin State

- Following resumed peace negotiations in February and March, the level of violence in Kachin State has significantly decreased, according to the U.N. While the GoB and KIO have agreed to allow the U.N. and its partners to provide humanitarian assistance in KIO-controlled areas, the GoB has only permitted two convoys to date: a U.N.-led convoy to Hpakant Township and an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)-led convoy to KIO-controlled areas along the Burma–China border, both in February. In March, no additional convoys have taken place, and regular access has not been granted, although local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) continue to gain access to displaced populations in KIO-controlled areas.
- Between December 2012 and January 2013, increased fighting between GoB forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA)—the military wing of the KIO—resulted in new displacement, primarily in KIO-controlled areas along the Burma–China border. OCHA estimates that the fighting displaced at least 2,000 people.
- As of late February, the number of registered IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan states had reached more than 83,000 people, the highest number reported to date in the conflict, according to OCHA. This figure includes approximately 47,000 people—or 56 percent of the total displaced population—residing in areas outside GoB control. The most significant increases in IDP registration have occurred in camps near Laiza and Hpakant towns due to intensified fighting in those areas in December and January. OCHA notes that the number of people affected by the conflict is significantly higher as this figure does not include all IDPs in northern Shan State or displaced populations residing with host communities.

Mandalay Region

- On March 22, the GoB declared a state of emergency in Meiktila city and three nearby townships: Mahliang, Thazi, and Wundwin. The violence in Meiktila city and surrounding towns has generally subsided since the GoB deployed hundreds of troops to the area to restore order on March 23; however, tensions remain high and isolated clashes have been reported in several areas of the country, according to the U.N.
- Since the unrest began, the GoB Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement has been providing food supplies and safe drinking water to displaced populations in Meiktila city, OCHA reports. In addition, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and GoB Ministry of Health are providing health assistance at displacement sites. MRCS has also distributed family kits to affected populations, while ICRC has provided shelter materials.
- An interagency rapid assessment team—comprising representatives from OCHA, the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), ActionAid, MRCS, and SC—arrived in Meiktila city on March 24 to evaluate humanitarian conditions in coordination with the GoB. The assessment team observed that populations residing in displacement sites require food assistance, improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, and temporary shelters.

Rakhine State

- Humanitarian organizations in Rakhine State are increasing preparedness and response activities in advance of the rainy season, which begins in May or June, according to OCHA. Many IDPs are residing in camps—some of which are located in paddy fields—that may become inundated when the rains begin, particularly in Sittwe, Pauktaw, and Myebon townships. The GoB and humanitarian partners are developing a contingency plan covering all sectors to address preparedness and response activities in the event of a natural hazard event or deterioration in the humanitarian situation during the rainy season.

WASH

- In December, UNICEF conducted an analysis of WASH facilities in and around Sittwe Township, Rakhine State, finding that approximately 35 percent of IDPs lacked access to safe drinking water, while 40 percent had insufficient access to latrines.

- In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA has provided \$245,000 to address the WASH needs of conflict-affected populations in Rakhine State. Through SC/US, USAID/OFDA is supporting activities that aim to improve sanitation facilities, increase access to hand-washing facilities and bathing space for women and children, re-establish a safe drinking water supply through the provision of water treatment chemicals, and promote improved hygiene practices through peer education and the distribution of hygiene kits.
 - In March, USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to UNICEF to construct and repair latrines and wells in Kachin State displacement camps, improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for approximately 6,200 IDPs. In addition, USAID/OFDA-supported hygiene promotion activities will reach an estimated 10,000 Kachin IDPs.
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LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

- During a December rapid assessment of non-displaced populations in Sittwe Township, Rakhine State, WFP observed that recent fighting has significantly disrupted agricultural, fishing, and other income-generating activities, impacting the livelihoods of both ethnic Rakhine and Muslim populations. A recent assessment conducted by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization identified similar concerns, finding that conflict-related disruptions and tensions between Rakhine and Muslim populations have restricted access to land, fishing, and markets, negatively affecting livelihoods, agricultural productivity, and food security.
 - In February, WFP and its partners provided approximately 2,140 metric tons (MT) of food commodities to more than 125,000 IDPs in 10 conflict-affected townships in Rakhine State. WFP and its partners have distributed more than 13,300 MT of food to Rakhine IDPs since June 2012.
 - In GoB-controlled areas of Kachin and northern Shan states, WFP and partners provided nearly 630 MT of food commodities to more than 38,600 IDPs in February. Despite recent improvements to humanitarian access in KIO-controlled areas of Kachin State, WFP remains unable to reach some displaced populations and address priority food needs.
 - To date in FY 2013, USAID/WFP has provided \$3 million to WFP for emergency food assistance for conflict-displaced persons in Rakhine State. The contribution enabled WFP to procure food within Burma and distribute approximately 2,600 MT of rice and 700 MT of pulses as part of a full ration of 2,100 calories per person per day. Rations include vegetable oil and salt, as well as a fortified, blended food supplement for pregnant and lactating women, children under five years of age, and the elderly.
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OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The U.N. is revising the Kachin Response Plan—effective from March 2012 to February 2013—to cover humanitarian requirements in 2013. The U.N. anticipates releasing the revised plan for 2013–2014 by the end of March.

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 KIA. An estimated 83,000 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.
- An estimated 120,000 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. Compared to the earlier clashes in June, the October violence, which generated new casualties, property damage, and internal displacement, affected a broader geographic area and demographic, possibly indicating a wider campaign targeting Muslims in Rakhine State.
- 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, U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell declared a disaster due to humanitarian needs resulting from the communal conflict.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|--|--|---------------------------|--------------------|
| USAID/OFDA² | | | |
| SC/US | Logistics and Relief Commodities | Mandalay Region | \$100,000 |
| SC/US | Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH | Rakhine State | \$1,000,000 |
| UNICEF | Nutrition, WASH | Kachin and Rakhine States | \$350,000 |
| WFP | Logistics and Relief Commodities | Rakhine State | \$200,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE | | | \$1,650,000 |
| USAID/FFP³ | | | |
| WFP | Local and Regional Food Procurement | Rakhine State | \$3,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE | | | \$3,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2013 | | | \$4,650,000 |

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 April 1, 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>