

# BURMA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

APRIL 23, 2014

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**906,000**

People in Burma in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – November 2013

**649,000**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Burma

OCHA – November 2013

**138,000**

IDPs Targeted with Humanitarian Assistance in Rakhine State

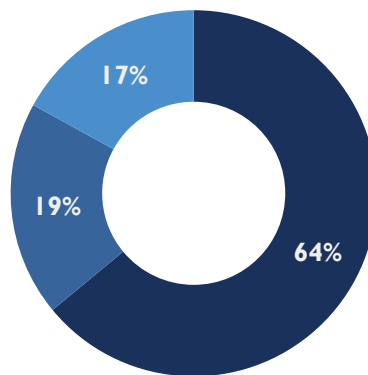
OCHA – March 2014

**93,000**

IDPs Targeted with Humanitarian Assistance in Kachin State

OCHA – March 2014

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2014



- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (64%)
- Nutrition (19%)
- Shelter & Settlements (17%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- U.N. and non-governmental organization (NGO) staff evacuated from Sittwe after attacks on relief agency offices and warehouses
- New fighting displaces between 3,000 and 5,000 people in southern Kachin
- USAID/OFDA provides more than \$1.5 million to support humanitarian activities in Kachin and Rakhine

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO BURMA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN FY 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$1,536,856
STATE/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$2,578,386

**\$4,115,242**

TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO BURMA

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 26 and 27, large crowds attacked, vandalized, and looted the offices and warehouses of several U.N. agencies and NGOs in Sittwe, Rakhine State's capital. As a result, most relief organizations evacuated foreign staff to Rangoon and suspended humanitarian operations in Rakhine State. In recent months, humanitarian organizations operating in Rakhine have reported increasing tensions with ethnic Rakhines, who perceive a humanitarian bias toward Rohingya Muslims.
- The attacks came just before the Government of Burma (GoB) conducted its first nationwide census in three decades between March 29 and April 10, reaching at least 10 million households, according to international media. The GoB has received criticism for its last-minute decision to prohibit Muslims from registering as Rohingya in the census. Some ethnic Rakhines opposed the census due to concerns that it would allow Muslims to claim political rights, further elevating tensions in Rakhine State.
- On April 10, fighting between GoB forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA)—the military arm of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)—broke out in southern Kachin State near Man Win Gyi, an area of Mansi Township located between northern Shan State and China, the U.N. reports. Local NGOs estimated that fighting has displaced between 3,000 and 5,000 people in the area.

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

<sup>2</sup> The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Mitigation (State/PRM). State/PRM's FY 2014 funding assists vulnerable Burmese IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers in Burma and the region.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

### *Kachin State*

- Local NGOs, with support from international humanitarian organizations, are assisting displaced populations residing in four camps in and around Man Win Gyi, according to OCHA. Many people displaced by the most recent violence have been displaced repeatedly since fighting between the GoB and KIA resumed in 2011, most recently in November 2013. At least 2,000 people have reportedly fled across the border to China to seek safety, media report.
- International NGOs are coordinating to provide support to the local NGOs leading response efforts in southern Kachin, OCHA reports. However, the GoB has closed some roads in the area, preventing humanitarian organizations from transporting relief supplies to affected areas, according to media sources.
- The fighting follows the signing of a preliminary peace agreement in October 2013 to improve coordination between the GoB and the KIO, including plans to address the resettlement of IDPs. In addition, the GoB has held talks on a nationwide ceasefire deal with a multi-ethnic umbrella group, the National Ceasefire Coordination Team, which includes KIO representatives, in recent months.
- In late February, the U.N. dispatched 11 trucks to transport U.N.-provided food commodities, nutritional supplements, and cooking stoves for IDPs between Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State, and Laiza town, which is currently under KIO control. In January, six joint U.N.–NGO teams reached IDPs in KIO-controlled areas with food commodities, medicine, and relief items, including shelter materials, hygiene kits, and cooking stoves. OCHA reports that a total of 21 cross-line missions have received permission to access KIO-controlled areas since September 2013, signifying an improvement in access to the approximately 50,000 IDPs residing in areas beyond GoB control. Support from the U.N. and international NGOs supplements assistance provided by local NGOs, which have more regular access to IDPs within KIO-controlled areas.
- In Kachin, the U.N. is targeting 81,000 IDPs in camps, an additional 10,000 IDPs residing with host families, and 2,000 IDPs newly displaced in late 2013 with humanitarian assistance.

### *Rakhine State*

- The violence in Sittwe in late March resulted in the death of a young girl and damage to the offices, warehouses, and living accommodations of several relief organizations, according to international media. In response to the attacks, humanitarian organizations relocated up to 300 aid workers, while a total of 1,000 humanitarian workers were forced to cease operations following the violence, OCHA reports. Some relief organizations have resumed humanitarian activities in the Sittwe area in recent weeks.
- OCHA reported increasing tensions between ethnic Rakhine populations and humanitarian workers in the months leading up to the attacks due to perceived humanitarian bias toward Rohingya populations. In February, international staff of an NGO operating in Myebon Township resigned following multiple incidents of threats and intimidation, and the NGO eventually suspended most of its activities in the area as a result. In Myebon, as well as Mrauk-U and Pauktaw townships, civil society organizations have issued public letters demanding that international NGOs leave the areas. In addition, protests against international organizations providing assistance to Muslims took place in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun, and Sittwe townships in February.
- In late February, the Rakhine State Government instructed Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to cease humanitarian operations in Rakhine State due to the expiration of the memorandum of understanding authorizing MSF to operate in the state, according to OCHA. While the GoB has since announced that the suspension is temporary, MSF clinics in Rakhine remain closed while negotiations between MSF and the GoB continue. MSF has provided lifesaving health services to the most vulnerable populations in Rakhine since 1994.
- Following the attacks, the GoB Ministry of Health dispatched several teams to Rakhine to provide health services in the absence of humanitarian organizations. Of the 47 humanitarian organizations active in Rakhine in 2014, 16 were working in the health sector, the U.N. reports. The U.N. World Health Organization reports that the interruption in humanitarian services in Rakhine has led to an acute gap in both primary and secondary health care.
- The U.N. is currently targeting 110,000 IDPs in camps and an additional 28,000 IDPs residing with host families with humanitarian assistance in Rakhine.

## **FOOD SECURITY**

- During the violence in Sittwe in late March, mobs attacked the compound of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), leading the organization to cease operations within the area until the GoB could ensure the safety of staff and property. Prior to the attacks, WFP had completed all of its March food distributions and nearly half of its April food distributions in anticipation of the nationwide census and the April 13–16 water festival. On April 7, WFP resumed operations, with the Rakhine State Government providing transport and police assistance to distribute the remaining 512 metric tons (MT) of April food commodities to eight IDP camps in Sittwe and Minbya prior to the start of the water festival.
  - In September 2013, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) partnered with WFP in Burma to provide food assistance purchased regionally to approximately 168,000 food-insecure IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states. During the first quarter of FY 2014, WFP distributed a total of 1,764 MT of locally and regionally purchased foods to IDPs in Kachin and an additional 394 MT to IDPs in northern Shan State.
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## **SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS**

- The Shelter Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities, comprising U.N. agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—estimates that between 20,000 and 25,000 IDPs in Kachin State lack shelter, live in substandard shelters, or share spaces with other displaced families in collective centers. An additional 2,500 shelters will likely need repairing or upgrading in Kachin in 2014, according to the U.N.
  - USAID/OFDA recently provided approximately \$260,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to conduct shelter and settlements activities aimed at improving living conditions within IDP camps in Kachin and Rakhine states. USAID/OFDA funding will support and build the capacity of national and international NGOs to provide camp management services within Kachin and Rakhine IDP camps, while assisting the GoB and local communities to ensure the effective delivery of assistance and equitable access to humanitarian services.
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## **NUTRITION AND WASH**

- USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$1 million to two partners to conduct water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities in IDP camps in Rakhine State. This includes \$700,000 to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to support water system construction and repair, conduct hygiene promotion activities, distribute hygiene kits, and improve sanitation conditions, particularly in IDP camps in Kyauktaw, Myebon, and Pauktaw townships. USAID/OFDA has supported UNICEF to conduct WASH activities in Burma since FY 2012. USAID/OFDA also recently provided nearly \$280,000 to relief agency ZOA, working through the Consortium of Dutch NGOs in Burma, to improve access to safe drinking water, maintain latrines and hand-washing facilities, increase household-level water storage capacity, and conduct solid waste management, drainage, and vector control activities, benefiting populations residing in three Sittwe IDP camps.
  - In April, USAID/OFDA provided \$300,000 in FY 2014 funding to UNICEF to continue nutrition interventions benefiting populations residing in Rakhine displacement camps. USAID/OFDA-supported activities include community-based management of acute malnutrition, facility-based management of severe acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation for children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women, and infant and young child feeding support. UNICEF will also conduct nutrition assessments in the IDP camps.
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## **OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- A USAID/OFDA-funded consultant is working closely with GoB disaster management officials to assist and guide the process of establishing a national Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Nay Pyi Taw, Burma’s capital. Developing a

national EOC is a GoB disaster risk reduction priority, and USAID/OFDA is providing technical assistance through a U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency consultant, contracted through the U.S. Forest Service.

## CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the GoB and the KIO broke down when fighting between GoB forces and the KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin State. An estimated 93,000 people remain displaced in Kachin—more than half of whom 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 138,000 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.
- On October 29, 2013, U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell redeclared a humanitarian disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USAID/OFDA regional advisors based in Bangkok, Thailand, remain in contact with humanitarian partners in Burma and continue to conduct assessments in affected areas of Kachin and Rakhine states to assess humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.

## USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2014<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Kachin and Rakhine States	\$260,352
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine State	\$1,000,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine State	\$276,504
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$1,536,856</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia	\$278,386
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Humanitarian Assistance	Kachin State, Rakhine State, and Southeastern Burma	\$2,300,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$2,578,386</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2014</b>			<b>\$4,115,242</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of April 23, 2014.

## 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>