

# BURMA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

JULY 2, 2014

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**828,000**

People in Burma in Need of Humanitarian Assistance  
U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – December 2013

**421,000**

People in Burma Targeted with Humanitarian Assistance in 2014  
OCHA – December 2013

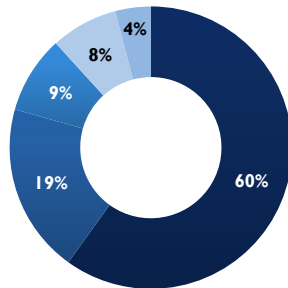
**137,000**

IDPs Targeted with Humanitarian Assistance in Rakhine State  
OCHA – May 2014

**98,000**

IDPs Targeted with Humanitarian Assistance in Kachin and Northern Shan States  
OCHA – May 2014

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



- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (60%)
- Nutrition (19%)
- Shelter & Settlements (9%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (8%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (4%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2014



## HIGHLIGHTS

- U.N. agencies and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) resume relief operations in Rakhine State.
- Fighting between Government of Burma (GoB) forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) generates new displacement in Kachin and northern Shan states.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO BURMA TO DATE IN FY 2014

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| USAID/OFDA                                | \$3,561,664  |
| USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>                    | \$5,000,000  |
| State/PRM <sup>3</sup>                    | \$29,580,839 |
| <b>\$38,142,503</b>                       |              |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO BURMA |              |

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Humanitarian organizations report that between 60 and 100 percent of their staff had returned to Rakhine State and resumed providing assistance to IDPs as of mid-June, following the disruption of relief operations after attacks on U.N. and NGO offices in Rakhine's capital, Sittwe, in late March. Organizations whose full staff have not returned report that programs are operating at or near the same level as prior to the attacks, with the exception of health care services.
- Clashes between GoB forces and KIA—the military arm of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)—and other armed groups since early April have displaced at least 3,000 people in northern Shan and southern Kachin states. In Muse Township, northern Shan, fighting in late April and early May affected at least 10 villages and displaced more than 700 people to Muse town, according to OCHA. Early June clashes in northern Shan displaced another 500 people primarily to Kawngkha, Kutkai Township, local NGOs report. The recent movements are in addition to the April and May displacement of approximately 2,700 people in northern Shan and southern Kachin due to fighting. Relief organizations note that this is the second or third displacement for many of the people affected.
- On a June 10–14 trip to Burma, including Kachin and Rakhine, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Kyung-wha Kang highlighted the need for improved humanitarian access, as well as respect for the safety of relief workers in Rakhine, in order to reach the 421,000 people targeted with humanitarian assistance in Burma.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

### *Kachin State*

- Local NGOs—with the support of international organizations—are providing assistance to people affected by the recent fighting between GoB forces and KIA in Kachin, according to the U.N. Humanitarian needs include food, safe drinking water, sanitation services, and shelter, reports OCHA. In late April, humanitarian assessments conducted by local and international NGOs, U.N. agencies, and other organizations found that 300–400 IDP households in Kachin required temporary shelter due to overcrowding in IDP camps in Man Win Gyi and Nam Khan. Humanitarian actors noted that securing additional land for temporary shelters could pose a significant challenge.
- USAID/OFDA staff visited Kachin in April and May to monitor humanitarian assistance programs and conduct assessments. The delegation found no major unmet humanitarian needs in Kachin IDP camps in either GoB-controlled or KIO-controlled areas, based on their observations and reports from NGOs and U.N. agencies operating throughout Kachin and northern Shan. However, some IDPs staying in remote camps in non-government-controlled areas experience gaps in provisions and services.

### *Rakhine State*

- Throughout May and June, humanitarian organizations continued to resume activities in Sittwe, as well as in villages and IDP camps in central Rakhine, reported OCHA. In late March, large crowds attacked NGO and U.N. offices and warehouses in Sittwe, resulting in the relocation of up to 300 aid workers and the cessation of humanitarian operations by 1,000 relief personnel.
- Due to security concerns, the GoB has designated a specific area of Sittwe—the Southern Quarter—for relief organizations to establish offices and accommodations. NGOs and U.N. agencies have identified the limited availability of space in the Southern Quarter as a key constraint to operating at full capacity.
- The Rakhine State Government has not permitted Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)—previously the largest international NGO provider of health care to IDPs in Rakhine—to resume activities following the February expiration of the memorandum of understanding authorizing the NGO to operate in the state, according to the U.N. The suspension of MSF has resulted in significant gaps in health care services, particularly in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, northern Rakhine, where MSF had served a population of approximately 500,000 vulnerable people with primary and secondary health care, reports the U.N. The GoB Ministry of Health (MoH) has dispatched 15 mobile medical teams, as well as other health care personnel, throughout Rakhine to help address needs, while humanitarian agencies are coordinating with the MoH and, in some cases, scaling up activities to fill in gaps. In addition, the U.N. World Health Organization is providing support to the MoH to maintain medical Rapid Response Teams in Rakhine for a period of three months until September 2014. Despite efforts, many isolated and vulnerable communities remained without access to medical care as of late May, according to the U.N.

### *Mandalay Region*

- As of May 30, nearly 4,200 IDPs from Meiktila town's Thiri Mingalar and Chan Aye neighborhoods remained in five camps in Meiktila after being displaced by inter-communal violence between Buddhists and Muslims in March 2013, according to the U.N. The violence in Meiktila originally displaced approximately 12,000 people. An additional 1,000 IDPs reportedly remained in Yin Daw town, staying either in a camp or with host families.
- The GoB has begun implementing a resettlement plan developed in June 2013, following delays due to a lack of funding, challenges determining house and land ownership, and discussions with communities regarding available housing and resettlement options, reports OCHA. IDPs from Thiri Mingalar holding land ownership titles have begun to return to the neighborhood, with 18 families returning as of May 30. IDPs from Thiri Mingalar without titles to houses or land, along with IDPs from Chan Aye, will be resettled in nearly 700 newly constructed houses in Chan Aye provided by the GoB and private donors.
- A May 29–30 OCHA mission to Meiktila identified increased access to safe drinking water, tarpaulins for use during the monsoon season, and food as key humanitarian needs among IDPs until resettlement efforts progress.

## FOOD SECURITY

- Burma's food security situation had improved overall as of May, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), although conflict and localized flooding continues to negatively impact the food security of disaster-affected populations. According to FAO estimates, Burma's 2014 maize crop, harvested by mid-April, reached approximately 1.8 million tons—a record yield three percent higher than in 2013. The increase follows an expansion of planted areas, higher demand from the domestic feed industry and from China, and improved growing conditions following favorable rainfall and input supply during the growing season.
  - The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide food assistance to 172,000 IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan. Although WFP has regular access to GoB-controlled areas, the estimated 50,000 IDPs in the KIO-administered areas remain hard to reach. WFP maintains contact with local and international partners working in KIO-administered areas to determine gaps in food assistance delivery and ensure adequate food assistance reaches at-risk IDPs.
  - In May, USAID/FFP provided \$5 million to support WFP in the local and regional procurement of more than 5,500 metric tons (MT) of food. The funding will assist WFP to pre-position emergency food commodities in advance of the upcoming monsoon season to help feed approximately 132,000 IDPs in Rakhine; 32,000 IDPs in Kachin; and 8,000 IDPs in northern Shan.
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## WASH AND NUTRITION

- U.N. agencies and NGOs, including those working in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector, are continuing preparations for the onset of monsoon season in Burma. In Rakhine, relief agencies note that the temporary suspension of humanitarian activities following the late-March violence in Sittwe negatively affected the maintenance of WASH infrastructure, compounding the risk for waterborne diseases for the 23,000 people in Rakhine who lack access to safe drinking water and hygiene items. Humanitarian organizations are working to rehabilitate water storage ponds and improve drainage, as well as repair and de-sludge latrines in camps, reports OCHA.
  - In May, USAID/OFDA provided Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) more than \$1 million in FY 2014 funding to meet the humanitarian needs of households affected by violence in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. With USAID/OFDA assistance, SC/US plans to provide safe drinking water, construct sanitation infrastructure, and conduct hygiene promotion activities, in addition to distributing hygiene kits and other relief supplies. SC/US will also improve infant and young child feeding through malnutrition screenings and trainings for breastfeeding counselors.
  - Additionally, USAID/OFDA recently provided Solidarités with \$1 million in FY 2014 funding to provide emergency WASH assistance to conflict-affected populations in Kachin and Rakhine. Solidarités plans to provide comprehensive WASH programming in high-need areas. USAID/OFDA funding will also support livelihood interventions.
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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 Burma's capital, Nay Pyi Taw. Developing a national EOC is a GoB priority for increasing disaster response capacity, and USAID/OFDA is providing technical assistance through a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency consultant, contracted through the U.S. Forest Service. Support includes helping stakeholders understand and develop emergency management systems, EOC design and staffing, and relevant information management systems. In May and June, the consultant guided EOC staff through the development of a concept of operations for the new EOC and worked with counterparts during three small-scale disasters—two earthquakes and a tropical storm—to assess the EOC's functionality.
- With support from USAID/OFDA, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is working with the GoB Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) to upgrade Burma's seismic monitoring network, as the country is extremely vulnerable to earthquakes. In late June and early July, two USGS seismologists joined DMH staff in Burma to conduct assessments of potential sites for the installation of seismic monitoring equipment.

## 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 98,000 people remain displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states—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 137,000 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.
- As of December 2013, nearly 7,000 people remained displaced due to inter-communal violence in the Meikhtila area of Mandalay Region. Approximately 400,000 of the 828,000 conflict-affected people identified by the U.N. as in need of humanitarian assistance reside in southeast Burma, including Kayah, Kayin, Mon, and southern Shan states, as well as the Bago and Taninthayi regions.
- 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>                                |  |   |                     |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM)               | Shelter and Settlements  | Kachin and Rakhine States                           | \$260,352           |
| SC/US  | Logistics Support and Relief Commodities; Nutrition; Shelter and Settlements; WASH | Kachin and Rakhine States                           | \$1,024,808         |
| Solidarités  | Economic Recovery and Market Systems; WASH   | Kachin and Rakhine States                           | \$1,000,000         |
| U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)                                | Nutrition, WASH  | Rakhine State                                       | \$1,000,000         |
| ZOA  | WASH   | Rakhine State                                       | \$276,504           |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>                           |  |   | <b>\$3,561,664</b>  |
| <b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>                                 |  |   |                     |
| WFP  | Local and Regional Food Procurement  | Kachin, Rakhine, and Northern Shan States           | \$5,000,000         |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>                            |  |   | <b>\$5,000,000</b>  |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>   |  |   |                     |
| NGO Implementing Partners                                    | Humanitarian Assistance  | Malaysia, Thailand                                  | \$17,280,839        |
| Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)    | Humanitarian Assistance  | Kachin State, Rakhine State, and Southeastern Burma | \$12,300,000        |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>                            |  |   | <b>\$29,580,839</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2014</b> |  |   | <b>\$38,142,503</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 anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 2, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> 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 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>