

# BURMA – FLOODS

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**1.6 million**

Approximate Number of People Displaced by Floods  
GoB – September 2015

**582,000**

Approximate Number of People Targeted for Assistance in the Revised Floods Response Plan  
HCT – September 2015

**500,000**

Approximate Number of Houses Damaged or Destroyed by Floods  
GoB – September 2015

**1.1 million**

Approximate Acres of Farmland Damaged or Destroyed by Floods  
GoB – September 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Floods displace 1.6 million people, damage approximately 500,000 houses
- GoB contributes \$21 million for the floods response; UN issues \$62 million revised floods response plan
- USG provides more than \$5 million to address flood-related humanitarian needs

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR BURMA FLOODS IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$1,699,999
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$3,000,000
USAID/Burma	\$400,000

**\$5,099,999**

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA FLOODS

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Heavy seasonal rainfall that began in June and Tropical Cyclone Komen, which brought strong winds and additional rain to western Burma in late July, caused significant flooding and landslides throughout the country, resulting in 132 deaths and displacing more than 1.6 million people by the end of August. The floods damaged or destroyed approximately 500,000 houses countrywide, including the houses of more than 6,600 families internally displaced by conflict, according to the Government of Burma (GoB).
- In August, humanitarian actors—in collaboration with the GoB—conducted multi-sectoral initial rapid assessments (MIRA) in 34 townships in six heavily affected regions and states: Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Magway, Rakhine, and Sagaing. Preliminary findings released in early September indicated food, safe drinking water, and agricultural support, specifically replenishment of seed stocks for cultivation, as priority humanitarian needs. As of September 30, the GoB had provided approximately 27 billion Myanmar kyat—or \$21 million—to fund flood-response activities in 12 affected areas.
- The Burma Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)—comprising UN, international organization, and non-governmental organization representatives—recently released a revised floods response plan in support of the GoB-led response, requesting nearly \$62 million to assist more than 582,000 people through December.
- Based on a July–September Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), the World Bank estimates that flood-related damages and losses throughout Burma exceeded \$2 billion. The floods most significantly impacted productive sectors, such as agriculture and industry. With approximately \$600 million of damages and losses, the Sagaing Region experienced the most severe effects of the floods, followed closely by Ayeyarwady Region.
- In FY 2015, USAID contributed nearly \$5.1 million for humanitarian flood-relief activities in Burma, primarily to support agricultural and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions in flood-affected areas. In addition, USAID and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) continued to respond to the ongoing complex emergency in Burma, providing more than \$50 million in FY 2015 to assist displaced and other vulnerable populations in Burma and the region.

<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)

## **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

- The recent floods damaged or destroyed more than 1.1 million acres of farmland throughout Burma, according to the GoB. As of late September, farmers had begun re-cultivating nearly 500,000 damaged acres; however, some areas were affected by landslides and debris, hampering farmers' efforts to quickly replant, the GoB reported.
- In coordination with the GoB, the Food Security Sector—co-led by the UN World Food Program (WFP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)—is conducting a joint assessment to determine the impact of flooding on agricultural livelihoods and food security in the most-affected areas. The assessment aims to identify major damage and losses in the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors; evaluate the food security situation and the vulnerability level of affected populations; and estimate the floods' impact on local market functionality.
- In response to the recent floods in Burma, USAID/FFP provided a \$3 million contribution to WFP, enabling the UN agency to assist approximately 150,000 flood-affected individuals with locally and regionally purchased food. In August and September, WFP distributed more than 3,200 metric tons of food commodities to approximately 455,000 flood-affected people across Burma. Beneficiaries received a one-month ration of rice, pulses, cooking oil, and salt; in some cases, households also received a week's supply of High Energy Biscuits.
- In addition, through partner Save the Children (SC/US), USAID/OFDA is supporting agriculture and livelihoods interventions for flood-affected individuals in heavily affected Chin State and Magway Region. USAID/OFDA also provided approximately \$100,000 to Relief International (RI) to assist vulnerable flood-affected populations in Rakhine's Mrauk-U Township by offering technical advice, including how to farm post-flood cropland, and distributing cash grants for the purchase of farming inputs, such as seeds and tools.

---

---

## **WASH AND RELIEF COMMODITIES**

- According to MIRA results, flooding significantly affected Burma's WASH infrastructure, particularly in Ayeyarwady, decreasing populations' access to safe drinking water in the short and medium terms. The assessments indicated a need for water treatment supplies in flood-affected areas, especially Ayeyarwady, Chin, and Rakhine.
- As of early September, the GoB reported that its Ministry of Health had chlorinated nearly 130,000 water sources in the 12 flood-affected regions and states. In coordination with the GoB and through the revised Burma floods response plan, humanitarian partners have requested \$14 million to assist 300,000 flood-affected people by providing emergency water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as water treatment supplies; distributing hygiene kits; promoting sanitary practices; and rehabilitating or reinforcing damaged WASH facilities, such as those at schools and health centers.
- Between mid-June and the end of September, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided access to safe drinking water for more than 204,000 people through direct water provision or rehabilitation of contaminated water sources. UNICEF also reached more than 131,000 people with sanitation interventions through the construction of emergency latrines or cleaning and repair of damaged sanitation facilities.
- With USAID/Burma support, RI distributed approximately 800 gallons of safe drinking water, as well as water containers, water purification supplies, and mosquito nets, to flood-affected households in Mrauk-U in August. In addition, with \$50,000 in USAID/OFDA funding, RI is reducing the risk of waterborne diseases through the provision of clean water and promotion of good hygiene practices for 20,000 people in Rakhine's Ann Township.
- With \$650,000 of USAID/OFDA support, World Vision has provided WASH assistance to benefit 5,000 flood-affected households in Ayeyarwady, Chin, and Sagaing. USAID/OFDA-supported activities include the distribution of hygiene kits and water containers, the promotion of good hygiene practices, and the repair or reconstruction of both household and institutional latrines.
- USAID/OFDA is supporting SC/US to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities and improve hygiene practices for flood-affected populations in Chin and Magway. For example, in Chin's Hakha Township, SC/US is leading efforts to construct WASH facilities in temporary displacement camps. With USAID/OFDA support, SC/US also provided emergency relief items, including household and hygiene kits, to displaced populations in Chin and Magway and continues to help vulnerable households in Chin prepare for the upcoming winter season. SC/US is using a combination of direct distributions and cash transfers to meet the needs of affected populations.

## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As part of an existing disaster risk reduction project, USAID/OFDA continues to fund a technical advisor to support the efforts of the GoB's national Emergency Operations Center to improve disaster response coordination and management capabilities before and during disaster events. USAID/OFDA also maintains funding support for World Vision International and IOM-led efforts to improve disaster preparedness in Kachin and Rakhine.
- On August 7, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the UN to enable timely humanitarian assistance, especially in the early days of an emergency—released \$9 million to enable relief organizations to assist an estimated 160,000 people in the four most-flood-affected areas of Burma, comprising Chin, Magway, Rakhine and Sagaing.
- As of September 30, international donors had provided approximately \$35 million, or 56 percent, of the nearly \$62 million requested by the revised floods response plan for Burma, according to the UN.

### CONTEXT

- Heavy seasonal rainfall that began in June and Tropical Cyclone Komen, which brought strong winds and additional rains to western Burma in late July, caused significant flooding and landslides throughout the country.
- On July 31, President of Burma Thein Sein declared a national disaster in Chin and Rakhine states and Magway and Sagaing regions, the four most-affected areas.
- On August 4, U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell declared a disaster in Burma due to the effects of the floods. In response, USAID provided humanitarian funding to address flood-related needs. In addition, USG-funded humanitarian projects already present in Burma when flooding occurred are working to meet the flood-relief needs of conflict-affected communities.

### USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA FLOODS PROVIDED IN FY 2015<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
RI	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Rakhine State	\$149,999
SC/US	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Chin State, Magway Region	\$900,000
World Vision	WASH	Ayeyarwady Region, Chin State, Sagaing Region	\$650,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$1,699,999</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$3,000,000</b>
<b>USAID/BURMA<sup>3</sup></b>			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$400,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BURMA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA FLOODS IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$5,099,999</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding includes actual, obligated, and planned amounts as of September 30, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> USAID/Burma funding includes funding repurposed from existing awards.

## **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:
  - USAID 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>