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# FACT SHEET

## Highlights of US Assistance to Burma

In support of the Partnership for Democracy, Peace, and Prosperity between the United States and Burma, the United States Agency for International Development is working with counterparts in Burma, as well as American private sector, universities, and non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian, democracy, human rights, governance, and economic development assistance. Below are some of the activities and initiatives under this Partnership. For more information, please visit [www.usaid.gov/burma](http://www.usaid.gov/burma)

### Democracy, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law

USAID aims to support and accelerate the political and economic reform process through targeted assistance to promote the rule of law, respect for human rights, a robust civil society reflective of the country's diversity, a vibrant parliamentary system, independent media, effective measures to counter trafficking in persons, and preparations for a free and credible national election in 2015. USAID's initiatives include:

- *Parliament and Elections Support:* USAID and the Government of Burma will initiate new activities that strengthen parliamentary systems, engage civil society in the reform process, provide technical expertise to the Union Election Commission, and develop inclusive and accountable political parties.
- *Counter Trafficking in Persons:* With the announcement of the US-Burma Joint Agreement on Counter Trafficking in Persons (TIP), the Governments of Burma and the United States are affirming their commitment to the global effort to combat human trafficking and establishing a regular anti-TIP dialogue throughout the year.
- *"MTV-Exit Live in Myanmar" Concert with Jason Mraz:* USAID is partnering with MTV-Exit for this December 2012 event to increase awareness of trafficking in persons, as part of greater efforts to encourage the Government of Burma and local and international non-government organizations (NGOs) to prevent trafficking. USAID will also increase the capacity of local and international NGOs to partner with the Government of Burma on trafficking-in-persons victim identification and protection efforts, and will increase overall awareness of human trafficking.

### Transparent Governance

USAID will support civil society, the Government of Burma, and other stakeholders to strengthen mechanisms that promote transparent and accountable governance.

- *Open Government Partnership:* This partnership will focus on supporting advocacy for freedom of access to information; asset disclosure among government officials; the passage of laws supporting freedom of speech and assembly; and the repeal of media and Internet censorship laws. Through relationships with technology companies such as Microsoft, Cisco, and Intel, USAID will help the Government of Burma in its effort to become more transparent and accountable to its people.

### Peace and Reconciliation

USAID supports equitable, inclusive, and transparent peace processes that increase access to populations in need and lay the foundation for political resolution to long-standing conflicts and a durable peace. USAID also is committed to enabling recovery from disaster and reducing vulnerability to future hazards.

- *Peace Processes:* USAID will strengthen the capacity of key leaders within ethnic and religious groups and between communities and newly formed government structures, and will work specifically to increase women's access and ability to engage with and lead peace-building processes in Burma.
- *Vulnerable Populations:* USAID will enable greater inclusion of people with disabilities in development efforts and disabled people's organizations (DPO) in policy making and policy review, and strengthen capacity of DPOs. It will also lead efforts to assist landmine and unexploded ordnance survivors gain access to care and rehabilitation and opportunities for social and economic integration within a coordinated, interagency mine action program.



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- *Humanitarian Assistance:* In 2012, USAID provided \$6.2 million in humanitarian assistance to Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan states. USAID will continue to help the Government of Burma bolster the coordination of emergency assistance to reach all parties in need during a conflict or natural disaster, and assist with the provision of nutrition, food, water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance for displaced and vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas.
- *Disaster Risk Reduction:* USAID will help improve civil society groups' understanding of disaster management and humanitarian best practices, build community awareness and resilience to disasters, and build the capacity of the Government of Burma to assess hazard risks and prioritize needs. The 6.8 earthquake that struck Burma November 11 is a reminder of the country's vulnerability to seismic risks. USAID has been supporting earthquake experts from the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) to work with Government of Burma counterparts to assess earthquake risks and identify and prioritize local needs.

## Prosperity

USAID will work with counterparts to improve health, food security, economic opportunity, and livelihoods in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

### Food Security

USAID will partner with the Government of Burma, other donors, civil society, the private sector, and other key stakeholders to sustainably reduce hunger and poverty through targeted investments in agriculture and nutrition.

- *LIFT:* The United States joined eight other donors in the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), a multi-donor trust fund managed by the United Nations Office for Projects and Services (UNOPS). LIFT works toward achieving Millennium Development Goal 1 – the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. This cooperative effort aims to sustainably increase food availability and incomes for 2 million men and women smallholder farmers and their families through agricultural production, improved post-harvest technologies, better access to inputs and markets, livelihoods support, sustainable natural resource management, capacity building, and robust monitoring and evaluation.
- *Food Security/Agriculture Diagnostic:* USAID will work to strengthen partnerships, build the capacity of public and private institutions, and expand the knowledge base of food security-related issues to better equip the country over the long term. USAID is partnering with a team from Michigan State University and the Myanmar Development Resource Institute, a local organization, to assess the challenges and opportunities for reducing hunger and poverty in Burma.

### Health

USAID is helping to build technical capacity for improving the quality and access to essential health services as well as helping build monitoring and evaluation capacity to assist with overall health systems strengthening. USAID is also supporting improved cross-border surveillance, prevention, and treatment for HIV/AIDS, TB, emerging pandemic threats, avian influenza, and malaria:

- *Survive and Thrive, and Helping Babies Breathe:* Building upon the Child Survival Call to Action, USAID will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and its partners to scale up proven maternal, newborn, and child health interventions throughout Burma. USAID is introducing two public private partnerships: *Survive and Thrive* and *Helping Babies Breathe*. These partnerships will provide training and high quality affordable resuscitation devices to birth attendants at the community level, and link pediatricians, midwives, and obstetricians from American professional associations to peer associations in Burma to build capacity in service delivery. USAID will engage [Johnson and Johnson, Laerdal](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), the [American College of Nurse Midwives](#), and the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#).
- *Demographic Health Survey:* In 2013, USAID will begin working with in-country partners to lay the groundwork for Burma's first ever Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). This household survey will provide much needed data for a wide range of indicators in the areas of population, health, and nutrition. The DHS is the gold standard for data which will identify the critical needs in health for the country.
- *3MDGs Fund:* USAID anticipates joining other donors in supporting the Three Millennium Development Goals Fund aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality rates and fighting three diseases – HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria – in the next five years.