

BURMA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

JANUARY 28, 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

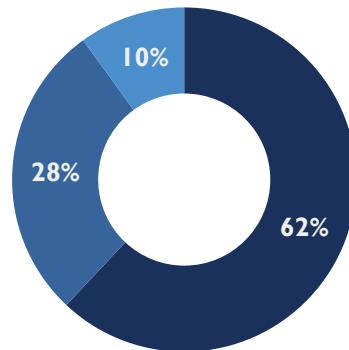
143,000

IDPs in Rakhine State
OCHA – November 2013

100,000

IDPs in Kachin State
OCHA – November 2013

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2013 & FY 2014



- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (62%)
- Logistics & Relief Commodities (28%)
- Nutrition (10%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The U.N. calls for a full investigation amid reports that communal violence in Rakhine State resulted in more than 40 deaths in mid-January
- Violence displaces approximately 3,500 people in Mansi Township, Kachin State
- Fires in Burmese refugee camps in Thailand result in one death, increase pressure on refugees to return

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO BURMA IN FY 2013 & FY 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$6,050,000
USAID/FFP ²	\$8,000,000
STATE/PRM ³	\$37,618,964

\$51,668,964

TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO BURMA

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Violence between Muslims and Buddhists in Du Chee Yar Tan village, Rakhine State, between January 9 and 13 killed at least 40 Rohingya Muslims, according to media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Some reports indicate the involvement of local police forces. The U.S. and U.K. embassies in Burma issued a joint statement on January 17 calling for all sides to cease violence and pursue durable solutions. On January 23, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay separately issued statements requesting that the Government of Burma (GoB) launch a full, impartial investigation into the recent events. The U.S. Department of State issued a statement on January 24 reiterating the call for a credible investigation and encouraging the GoB to work toward a durable solution in Rakhine.
- A fire broke out in the Mae La border refugee camp in Thailand's Tak Province on December 27, followed by a separate fire in Ban Mai Nai Soi camp in Mae Hong Son Province, Thailand. The two fires resulted in one death, affected approximately 900 refugees, and damaged or destroyed an estimated 180 houses, media report. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), NGOs, and Thai community members provided humanitarian support to fire-affected refugees.

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

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

³ The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). State/PRM's FY 2013 funding of more than \$37 million assists vulnerable Burmese refugees and asylum seekers residing in the region.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Kachin State

- Fighting between the GoB and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA)—the military arm of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)—in Mansi Township, Kachin State, displaced approximately 1,500 people in October. In the Nam Lim Pa IDP camp, also in Kachin State, insecurity and logistical constraints impeded humanitarian access to more than 1,000 IDPs—including both newly displaced and existing IDPs—according to OCHA. Continued fighting in November resulted in the displacement of an additional 2,000 people from Mansi. The U.N. continues to urge regular and unrestricted humanitarian access to all IDPs in Kachin.

Mandalay Region

- Approximately 5,400 IDPs remained in five camps in Meiktila and Yin Daw towns in Mandalay as of November 30, according to the U.N. Though the GoB did not implement an official curfew, IDPs continued to face movement restrictions outside of camps between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. In October, an OCHA mission to Meiktila reported a need for medicine, increased access to safe drinking water, and hygiene interventions in IDP camps.
- OCHA reports that the GoB has approved a resettlement plan for IDPs in Mandalay. Scheduled to begin in early 2014 and conclude in April, the resettlement plan stipulates that the 93 displaced families with land ownership documents will return to rebuild houses in Chan Aye Thar Yar ward. The GoB and private donors will support the resettlement of families without land ownership documents in newly constructed, two-story buildings.

Rakhine State

- The U.N. reports increasing anti-U.N. and NGO sentiment in Rakhine, which is impeding humanitarian access and response activities. Following violent incidents that resulted in four deaths on November 2 in Pauktaw Township, false reports that NGOs only assisted Muslims affected by the violence led to local protests that blocked humanitarian access to Pauktaw's IDP camps for a two-week period.
- Additional reported incidents in the Rakhine townships of Kyauktaw, Myebon, and Sittwe include threats against aid workers, staff harassment, blocked access to IDP camps, and refusal to rent accommodations to aid workers, according to the U.N. Humanitarian agencies are developing a communications strategy to improve outreach, messaging, and relationships with ethnic communities in Rakhine.
- OCHA reported an increase in the number of Muslim people from Rakhine attempting to travel to Thailand, Malaysia, and other countries via boat, with many reporting that they were motivated by protection concerns related to violence, instability, and discrimination. On November 3, a vessel carrying more than 70 people to Bangladesh sank, killing most people aboard.

Floods

- Flash floods in Bago Region from October 28–November 2 resulted in two deaths and displaced nearly 14,000 households—or approximately 50,000 people—across four townships, according to OCHA. Floods also affected more than 57,000 acres of paddy fields, of which 15,000 acres were severely damaged. Floodwaters began to recede on November 5, and the U.N. anticipated that people displaced by floods would return to home areas.
- The GoB distributed food and emergency relief commodities to flood-affected populations, while the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) provided two-week food rations to approximately 30,000 people. OCHA reports that humanitarian organizations also planned to provide agricultural loans and seeds to support flood-affected farmers.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- WFP reports that humanitarian actors plan to target approximately 94,000 people in Kachin and 218,000 people in Rakhine with emergency food assistance in 2014. WFP and partner organizations plan to continue providing food, as well as humanitarian interventions to restore access to basic services and livelihoods, to conflict-affected populations.

- Since the beginning of FY 2013, USAID/FFP has supported WFP’s ongoing emergency food operation in Burma. With funding provided by USAID/FFP, WFP has purchased nearly 84,000 metric tons of rice and legumes regionally to provide food for 168,000 food-insecure IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In November, U.N. agencies and international NGOs conducted four joint missions to areas of Kachin State outside of GoB control with high numbers of IDPs, including Laiza, Lwegel, Maija Yang, and Sadung. The joint missions delivered humanitarian assistance—including food, mosquito nets, blankets, cooking utensils, and medical supplies—to more than 26,000 people in October and November. Renewed insecurity resulted in the U.N. postponing its planned fifth mission to Mansi Township. OCHA reports that the more than 52,000 IDPs living in KIO-controlled areas in Kachin State continue to require food, health, and shelter assistance.
- In January, the U.N. allocated \$5.5 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund to support continued humanitarian operations in Kachin and Rakhine states.

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 100,000 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 143,000 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.
- In mid-March 2013, 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 houses and buildings resulted in significant displacement and property damage in Meiktila city and surrounding areas.
- 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 Rakhine and Kachin states to assess humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Mandalay Region	\$100,000
SC/US	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Rakhine State	\$2,000,000
Solidarités	WASH	Rakhine State	\$1,400,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition, WASH	Kachin and Rakhine States	\$2,350,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Rakhine State	\$200,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$6,050,000

USAID/FFP			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$8,000,000
STATE/PRM			
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Neighboring Countries	\$20,718,964
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Kachin State, Rakhine State, and Southeastern Burma	\$13,800,000
Other Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$3,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$37,618,964
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2013			\$51,668,964

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 January 28, 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 response around the world 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>