

# BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

MARCH 25, 2016

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**1 million**

People in Burma in Need of Humanitarian Assistance\*

OCHA – March 2016

**1 million**

People in Burma Targeted to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan

HCT – December 2015

**563,472**

People in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan States in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

HCT – December 2015

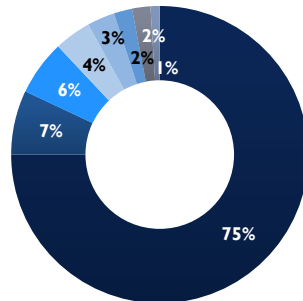
**120,000**

IDPs in Rakhine State  
UNHCR – March 2016

**100,000**

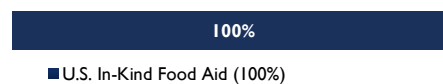
IDPs in Kachin and Shan States  
OCHA – March 2016

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015–2016



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (75%)
- Shelter & Settlements (7%)
- Nutrition (6%)
- Health (4%)
- Protection (3%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (2%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (2%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (1%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015–FY 2016



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Clashes in Shan displace more than 6,700 people in February and March
- GoB closes 25 IDP camps in Rakhine following the resettlement of 25,000 IDPs
- USG provides nearly \$20 million to date in FY 2016

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2015–2016

USAID/OFDA	\$4,211,495
USAID/FFP	\$15,000,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$50,036,308
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$69,247,803</b>

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Humanitarian needs in Burma persist due to ongoing localized conflicts, prolonged population displacement, and continued vulnerability to natural disasters, such as drought.
- Clashes during February and March among the Government of Burma (GoB) military and armed groups in Shan State had displaced more than 6,700 people as of late March, according to the UN.
- Below-average rainfall and higher-than-average temperatures, exacerbated by the El Niño climatic event, have resulted in drought conditions across Burma. Combined with the effects of the 2015 floods, which damaged thousands of dams, irrigation systems, water retention ponds, wells, and other water management systems, Burma is facing water shortages that are adversely impacting health and livelihoods.
- To date in FY 2016, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$20 million to assist both internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Burma and Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in neighboring countries, supplementing ongoing USG funding from FY 2015 to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from conflict and natural disasters, including the 2015 floods.

<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)

\* Figure includes nearly 460,000 people affected by floods and landslides in July–August 2015 who required food and livelihoods assistance for approximately six months in 2016.

## CURRENT EVENTS

- Following the historic national elections organized by the GoB in November, the National League for Democracy (NLD)—led by Aung San Suu Kyi—assumed control of both houses of parliament on February 1. International media heralded the development as a watershed moment in the country’s transition to democracy. In mid-March, the GoB parliament elected NLD candidate Htin Kyaw as Burma’s new president—the country’s first democratically elected leader following more than a half century of military rule.

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## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

### *Kachin and Shan States*

- Intermittent fighting among opposition groups continues in Kachin and Shan states despite a ceasefire agreement signed in October. As of March 1, more than 100,000 people remained displaced in the two states, according to the UN. Prolonged displacement in Kachin and Shan—lasting more than four years for some IDPs—is straining relief efforts, as temporary shelters and other facilities require regular renovation or maintenance and IDPs require access to sustainable livelihoods and vocational opportunities. On March 2, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Renata Lok-Dessallien issued a statement expressing concern about the impact of rising tensions and armed clashes on civilian populations in Shan.
- In early February, intensified clashes between Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army South (RCSS/SSAS) and Ta-ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) militants in Shan’s Kyaukme Township displaced more than 4,200 people to nearly 20 temporary IDP sites within Kyaukme, according to humanitarian agencies. The UN estimated that more than 800 people remained displaced in Kyaukme as of March 16. Burmese media reported that the clashes resulted in seven civilian deaths and an unknown number of civilian injuries. Humanitarian agencies and local authorities are providing emergency relief items, food, and medical and psychosocial support services to affected populations in Shan, and the UN notes that displaced households may also require livelihoods assistance upon returning to their areas of origin.
- Additional clashes between RCSS/SSAS and TNLA militants erupted in mid-February, displacing more than 1,200 people from three villages in Shan’s Namhkan Township, according to a late-February needs assessment by the UN World Food Program (WFP). As of mid-March, approximately 1,100 people remain displaced, the UN reports. Local relief agencies are providing emergency food assistance, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is distributing emergency relief commodities, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is supporting local authorities to provide medical services to affected populations.
- Armed clashes between GoB forces and TNLA militants during the week of March 14 displaced more than 1,300 people in Shan’s Kutkai Township, according to the UN. The Ta-ang Women’s Association reported that at least 500 IDPs were residing in a religious building and that IDPs were continuing to arrive as of March 10. The UN estimates as of March 16 that approximately 800 additional IDPs are sheltering with host communities in surrounding villages.
- In January, the UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) and WFP assessed the feasibility of delivering humanitarian assistance by land to IDPs in Kachin’s Sumprahum Township, which hosts an estimated 1,200 IDPs and has been inaccessible to humanitarians due to damaged transportation infrastructure and security concerns. The joint UNDSS–WFP assessment confirmed that roads leading to Sumprahum remain impassable and may be contaminated with landmines. In response, WFP called on the GoB to authorize the use of a water route for the delivery of needed humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Sumprahum.

### *Rakhine State*

- Approximately 120,000 people, the majority of whom are Rohingya, remained displaced in Rakhine as of March, according to UNHCR. An estimated 79 percent—approximately 94,600 people—of those displaced in Rakhine reside in IDP camps in Sittwe Township. On March 1, the UN issued a statement summarizing the needs of displaced populations in Rakhine, highlighting that camps lack sufficient shelter and sanitation infrastructure. In addition, the UN reports that camp authorities deny IDPs freedom of movement, including preventing IDPs from accessing local hospitals.

- In February, the UN reported that the GoB had constructed more than 3,000 houses and facilitated the resettlement of approximately 25,000 IDPs in Rakhine. The majority of IDPs returned to their areas of origin, although some IDPs voluntarily relocated to other locations in the state. As a result, the GoB closed 25 of Rakhine's 67 IDP camps; some closures reflected consolidations into larger camps.
- USAID/OFDA is providing nearly \$270,000 in FY 2016 funding to ZOA for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions in Sittwe. ZOA is supporting access to WASH services and reducing the risk of waterborne diseases for more than 6,000 conflict-affected people. ZOA's USAID/OFDA-funded activities in Sittwe include conducting hygiene promotion campaigns, establishing hand-washing facilities, managing waste, monitoring water quality, rehabilitating water access points, and repairing latrines.

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## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- USAID/FFP partner WFP reached more than 500,000 people affected by floods in July and August 2015 with cash transfers, community asset rehabilitation activities, and emergency food assistance in nine states and regions in Burma. In addition, from September–December 2015, WFP provided monthly food or cash assistance to more than 60,000 people in Burma's most flood-affected areas, including in Chin and Rakhine states and Magway and Sagaing regions.
- Following a two-month suspension due to insecurity, WFP resumed its monthly food distributions in Shan and in Kokang and Wa territories in January, reaching approximately 6,000 IDPs in their areas of origin as of late February. In the coming weeks, WFP plans to conduct in-depth assessments of conflict-affected populations in the region to evaluate food security conditions.
- To date in FY 2016, USAID/FFP has contributed \$5 million to WFP to locally and regionally procure food for approximately 192,000 IDPs and other vulnerable individuals in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. Since 2011, USAID/FFP has partnered with WFP to purchase fortified blended foods, rice, pulses, salt, and vegetable oil for conflict-affected populations in Burma.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- On March 10, the GoB Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) hosted a meeting of UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss drought early warning mechanisms and contingency plans for Burma's Emergency Operations Center. The GoB Department of Rural Development (DRD), which has initiated water trucking and emergency WASH activities, requested \$2.6 million from humanitarian agencies in March to address critical water shortages in Shan and Rakhine, as well as in Ayeyarwady and Bago regions. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has forecast particularly low rainfall in the coming months for Ayeyarwady, where DRD reports that humanitarian needs are already severe. NOAA has also forecast low rainfall in Bago, Kayin, Mon, and Tanintharyi regions, which may result in additional humanitarian needs.
- The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) expects 16,000 IDPs in three townships in Rakhine to require emergency WASH assistance as a result of the drought. With ongoing funding from FY 2015, USAID/OFDA partner Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) is responding to health, nutrition, and WASH needs among IDPs and host community members in Kachin and Rakhine, including supporting IDP access to latrines and safe drinking water. USAID/OFDA support is also enabling Solidarités International, UNICEF, and ZOA to conduct hygiene promotion activities and improve sanitation and water supply infrastructure for IDPs and vulnerable populations in Kachin and Rakhine.

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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In late February, the Burma Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)—comprising representatives from the UN, international organizations, and NGOs—released the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) Monitoring Report. The report found that international donors provided more than \$143 million, or 56 percent, of the \$257 million requested by the 2015 HRP for Burma. International donors contributed an additional \$49.6 million to support humanitarian response activities in Burma outside of the HRP.

- The 2016 HRP, which the Burma HCT released in December, requests nearly \$190 million to provide humanitarian assistance to an estimated 1 million people in need of assistance, including approximately 620,000 conflict-affected people in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. As of early March, international donors had provided 0.9 percent of the requested 2016 funding, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- In response to the May–July 2015 maritime migrant crisis in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, State/PRM provided \$3 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and \$3.25 million to UNHCR to assist vulnerable Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants disembarked in Bangladesh, Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The contribution supports the provision of emergency relief items, temporary shelter assistance, and health, nutrition, and psychosocial support services. State/PRM is also supporting efforts to mitigate protection risks and to develop durable solutions for the root causes of migration.

## CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the GoB and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) broke down when fighting between GoB forces and the KIO erupted in southeastern Kachin and caused displacement. As of March 2016, an estimated 100,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many of the displaced residing in areas outside of 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.
- In Rakhine, an outbreak of inter-communal violence in June and October 2012 between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya and non-Rohingya Muslims displaced tens of thousands of people, according to the UN. As of March 2016, approximately 140,000 people remained displaced in Rakhine, while other conflict-affected populations continued to lack access to basic services and livelihoods opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many of the IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya—a minority group not formally recognized by the GoB and therefore denied rights to citizenship, public education, and freedom of movement within Burma.
- In southeastern Burma, hundreds of thousands of people in the Burma–Thailand border region, stretching from central and southern Shan to Tanintharyi, remain displaced and in need of humanitarian assistance. However, the Burma HCT notes that the needs of people in these areas are covered through a separate durable solutions framework that is beyond the scope of the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview and HRP.
- On November 25, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell reissued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USAID/OFDA staff based in Bangkok, Thailand, remain in contact with humanitarian partners in Burma and continue to conduct assessments in affected areas of Kachin and Rakhine to evaluate humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE PROVIDED IN FY 2016<sup>1</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$250,023
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$250,023</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
WFP	In-Kind Food Aid	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia, Thailand	\$13,524,306
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$13,524,306</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016</b>			<b>\$18,774,329</b>

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE PROVIDED IN FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Kachin, Rakhine	\$400,000
SC/US	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,000,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,050,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$511,472
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$3,961,472</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
WFP	In-Kind Food Aid	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Organization and NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand	\$24,312,002
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Thailand	\$12,200,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$36,512,002</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$50,473,474</b>

**TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2015–2016** **\$69,247,803**

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

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents obligated amounts as of March 25, 2016.

## **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>