

BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

APRIL 27, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

51.5 million

Total Population of Burma
HCT – December 2016

6.4 million

People Residing in
Conflict-Affected Areas
HCT – December 2016

525,448

People Targeted in
2017 Burma HRP
HCT – December 2016

120,600

IDPs in Rakhine State
UN – April 2017

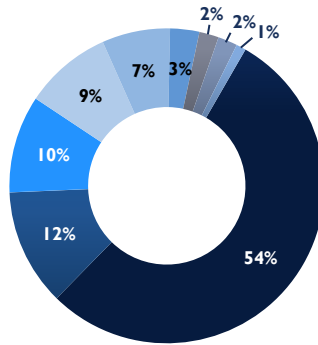
85,600

IDPs in Kachin State
UN – January 2017

11,100

IDPs in Shan State
UN – January 2017

USAID/OFDA¹ Funding By Sector in FY 2016–2017



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (54%)
- Protection (12%)
- Health (10%)
- Nutrition (9%)
- Shelter & Settlements (7%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (3%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (2%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (2%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2016–2017



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (7%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (18%)
- Local & Regional Food Procurement (75%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Insecurity, access limitations remain concerns in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan
- UN cites humanitarian and human rights concerns among Rohingya Muslims in northern Rakhine
- Tropical Cyclone Maarutha makes landfall, damaging some infrastructure

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016–2017

USAID/OFDA	\$11,722,937
USAID/FFP	\$13,406,774
STATE/PRM ³	\$56,695,364
Total	\$81,825,075

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The UN reports that fighting and subsequent security operations in Rakhine State since October 2016 have displaced an estimated 94,000 people to neighboring Bangladesh and other areas of the state. Ongoing conflict in areas of Kachin and Shan states has also generated population displacement. Relief agencies underscore that humanitarian access remains constrained in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan, hindering relief operations and the delivery of aid to people in need.
- From January 30 to February 11, USAID/OFDA staff assessed humanitarian conditions among vulnerable communities in Kachin and Rakhine and met with UN agencies and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners implementing relief activities in Burma.
- The U.S. Government (USG) has provided approximately \$31.8 million for the Burma response to date in FY 2017, including approximately \$19.7 million since January to relief agencies addressing the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan, as well as in Malaysia, Thailand, and other areas of South East Asia.

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

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

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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

Kachin and Shan States

- Relief agencies report that conflict between Government of Burma (GoB) military forces and armed groups, such as the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, in northern Shan continues to result in civilian casualties, population displacement, and significant humanitarian needs, including protection and other life-saving assistance. Early March clashes in Shan's Kutkai Township damaged homes and generated injury-related trauma care needs among civilian populations. Violence in other areas of northern Shan also resulted in displacement during the same period. Between late November 2016 and early March 2017, more than 20,000 people from Shan fled to neighboring areas of China due to armed clashes, according to international media. Government of the People's Republic of China authorities have provided some emergency assistance to people who recently crossed into China from Shan.
- In Kachin, fighting between GoB forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) intensified between late December 2016 and early January 2017—including in the state's Nagyang area, where 6,000 individuals were displaced by the violence. Some displaced families sought refuge in areas along the Burma–China border, including in internally displaced person (IDP) camps, where relief workers have provided new arrivals with clothing, food, hygiene supplies, shelter materials, and other emergency support. Relief organizations noted that the situation in Kachin remained unstable as of late January, citing frequent population movements, as well as substantial humanitarian needs and safety concerns, particularly among vulnerable populations, within affected areas.
- With support from pooled donor funding, local NGOs are providing food, shelter support, and other relief assistance to displaced populations in hard-to-access areas of northern Shan. International relief organizations, which have more restricted access, are primarily assisting IDPs in GoB-held areas.

Rakhine State

- As of early March, an estimated 94,000 people were displaced in northern Rakhine and in neighboring Bangladesh as a result of October 2016 conflict in the state and the subsequent escalation of violence and due to GoB security operations, the UN reports. More than 74,000 displaced individuals—the majority of whom identify as Rohingya Muslims—have sought refuge in the Cox's Bazaar area of Bangladesh since October 2016, according to response agencies in the country. An additional 20,000 newly displaced IDPs were sheltering within northern Rakhine as of early March, although at least 16,000 IDPs in northern areas of the state were reported to have returned to their villages of origin by April 3.
- Following the outbreak of conflict in October 2016, the GoB suspended humanitarian operations in affected areas of northern Rakhine. The UN reports that, although the GoB announced the end of security operations in northern Rakhine in mid-February, humanitarian access to affected areas remained inconsistent as of early March, adversely affecting the delivery of critical relief assistance to populations in need. Additionally, international staff have been largely confined to Rakhine's Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships and are unable to effectively support relief operations in other areas of the state.
- Humanitarian actors who conducted a multi-sector initial rapid assessment in southern parts of Maungdaw in January noted that recent violence had exacerbated malnutrition and protection needs among vulnerable people and constrained livelihood opportunities, freedom of movement, and access to relief services. However, the UN reports that movement restrictions and the interference of local authorities hampered the assessment and limited the participation of people in need. While the GoB has allowed a partial resumption of humanitarian activities, including the distribution of food, hygiene kits, water purification tablets, and other emergency relief supplies since mid-February, requests to conduct a more comprehensive needs assessment in conflict-affected areas of northern Rakhine remained unapproved as of early April.
- On March 16, the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State—commissioned by the GoB and chaired by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan—released an interim report and recommendations, including a call for immediate, unimpeded humanitarian access and highlighting the need for intercommunal dialogue and independent investigations of atrocities committed since early October. UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma Yanghee Lee has also urged for an official inquiry on potential human rights violations against Rohingya populations. The GoB subsequently released a statement welcoming the report's recommendations and indicating plans for their implementation.
- Tropical Cyclone Maarutha made landfall over coastal areas of Rakhine on April 16, bringing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and flash floods, particularly in western Burma, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs (OCHA). As of April 17, the GoB had not reported any casualties or substantial damage to infrastructure in Rakhine, although local reports indicated some damage to roads in neighboring Magway State. Officials in Ayeyarwady Region, southeast of Rakhine, noted at least three cyclone-related deaths in the region as of April 18, and approximately 60 destroyed homes in Ayeyarwady and Mon State. The GoB is providing some relief assistance to cyclone-affected families. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$4.4 million to support disaster risk reduction activities in Burma, including building the capacity of national authorities to conduct early warning efforts and respond to disaster-related needs and bolstering preparedness and resilience among vulnerable communities.

- USAID/OFDA recently provided Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) more than \$1.4 million in FY 2017 funding to support humanitarian activities in Rakhine, including the distribution of hygiene and other relief supplies; rehabilitation of sanitation facilities; promotion of hygiene-related awareness; and maintenance and treatment of water sources. Targeting displaced and other vulnerable populations, USAID/OFDA and SC/US are also supporting peer-to-peer trainings on infant and young child feeding and health care practices for local communities, as well as outpatient therapeutic programs for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and young children.

FOOD SECURITY

- In January, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) regained sustained access to nearly 160 villages in northern Rakhine following several months during which humanitarian operations, including the delivery of food assistance, school feeding programs, and outpatient therapeutic feeding centers for malnourished populations, were suspended or curtailed. WFP reached approximately 45,000 vulnerable people with food distributions in Maungdaw during January. A second round of food and nutrition supply distributions had concluded as of early March, benefiting approximately 55,000 people in northern areas of the township.
- WFP recently launched a pilot program for mobile cash transfers, allowing individuals to receive emergency assistance in the form of electronic credit that can be used to purchase food in local markets. WFP notes that using mobile technology increases the safety and reliability of cash assistance. Between February 27 and March 1, WFP provided mobile cash transfers to 100 displaced families in Kachin, with plans to expand the program to additional households.
- With \$5 million in FY 2017 funding, USAID/FFP supports vulnerable populations in Burma with both cash transfers for food and emergency food distribution.

HEALTH AND WASH

- USAID/OFDA technical specialists and regional advisors assessed humanitarian conditions, including health, protection, and WASH needs, among IDPs and other vulnerable communities in Kachin and Rakhine from January 30 to February 11. In Rakhine, the team noted the impact of staffing gaps on local health care systems and limited access to primary health and psychosocial support services, due in part to movement restrictions faced by local populations. Populations in both states were in need of increased access to safe drinking water, sanitary latrines, and waste management services, as well as hygiene promotion. For example, some IDP camps in Rakhine are located in areas prone to flooding, which can limit supplies of clean water and obstruct sanitation systems.
- With \$3 million in new FY 2017 funding for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), USAID/OFDA aims to address critical health, protection, and WASH needs among IDPs, host community members, and other conflict-affected people, particularly children, in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states. UNICEF is bolstering child protection services, including psychosocial support, case management, and other assistance, to benefit up to 70,000 individuals; improving access to health care; strengthening local health services; providing vaccinations for nearly 255,000 people; and ensuring access to sanitation resources and water treatment solutions for up to 27,500 people, particularly in displacement settings.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In early March, the Government of Japan (GoJ) contributed \$5 million to support WFP activities in Rakhine, particularly in central and northern areas of the state. With GoJ funding, WFP plans to reach approximately 291,000 food-insecure

people—including IDPs, other vulnerable populations, and individuals whose livelihoods were adversely affected by recent fighting—with critical food assistance and nutrition support to treat malnourished women and young children.

- As of April 19, the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Burma had received approximately \$23.6 million, or nearly 16 percent, of the \$150.3 million requested by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to support emergency relief activities in the country.

CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the GoB and the KIA broke down when fighting between GoB forces and the KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin and resulted in population displacement. As of December 2016, an estimated 98,000 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 KIA-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 December 2016, approximately 120,000 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, are stateless and 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 Region, 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 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview and HRP.
- On November 15, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Scot A. Marciel 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 FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
SC/US	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,431,842
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$4,431,842
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$1,000,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$5,000,000
STATE/PRM⁴			
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia, Thailand	\$17,522,642

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Humanitarian Assistance	South East Asia	\$4,810,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$22,332,642
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$31,764,484

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements	Kachin, Rakhine	\$700,000
Metta Foundation	Agriculture and Food Security, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin, Shan	\$700,000
SC/US	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,215,780
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,400,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$2,500,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$775,315
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$7,291,095

USAID/FFP			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$6,034,028
	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$1,465,972
UNICEF	Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF)	Rakhine	\$906,774
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$8,406,774

STATE/PRM			
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia, Thailand	\$17,412,722
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Thailand	\$6,350,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	South East Asia	\$10,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$34,362,722
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$50,060,591

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2016–2017			\$81,825,075
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¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of April 27, 2017.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change once purchased.

⁴ State/PRM funding includes funding for both Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma.

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.
- 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 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>