

# BURMA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

FEBRUARY 6, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**940,700**

Estimated Number of People in Burma in Need of Humanitarian Assistance  
Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) – December 2014

**540,700**

Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan States and the Mandalay Region  
HCT – December 2014

**536,400**

People in Burma Targeted by the HCT to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in 2015  
HCT – December 2014

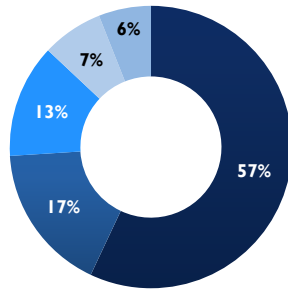
**139,000**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State  
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – December 2014

**98,000**

IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan States  
OCHA – December 2014

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> Funding BY SECTOR IN FY 2014 & FY 2015



- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (57%)
- Nutrition (17%)
- Shelter & Settlements (13%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (7%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (6%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2014 & FY 2015



## HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID/OFDA supports the Government of Burma (GoB) to develop the design for a national Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Burma's capital, Nay Pyi Taw.
- An estimated 237,000 people remain displaced and in need of humanitarian assistance in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan states.
- USAID/FFP commits \$5.5 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to support food assistance activities in Burma.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO BURMA IN FY 2014 & FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$4,060,609
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$15,000,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$36,302,374
<b>\$55,362,983</b>	
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO BURMA	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S. President Barack H. Obama visited Burma on November 13 and 14, 2014, to participate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations annual summit and hold bilateral meetings with Burmese President Thein Sein and Chairperson and General Secretary of the National League for Democracy Aung San Suu Kyi.
- The HCT—comprising UN, international organization, and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives—released the 2015 Burma Strategic Response Plan (SRP) in December, requesting \$190 million to respond to the multi-sectoral humanitarian needs of approximately 536,400 people in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan throughout 2015. The plan seeks to bridge the divide between humanitarian relief, early recovery, and long-term development by ensuring that early recovery initiatives are incorporated in all areas of the 2015 SRP.
- In December, the GoB hosted a five-day EOC design and management workshop in Nay Pyi Taw, facilitated by representatives from the U.S. Government, Government of Japan, and OCHA. At the workshop, participants—including more than 23 GoB ministries and departments, as well as representatives from UN agencies, NGOs, and private sector partners—discussed the EOC's design, staffing, and operations.

<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)

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

### *Kachin and Northern Shan States*

- Intermittent fighting among the Burmese Army, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, and the Ta-ang National Liberation Army in October and November 2014 heightened insecurity and disrupted humanitarian access to IDPs in border areas of Kachin and northern Shan states. Local media reported that fighting and ongoing insecurity recently displaced more than 1,000 people.
- More than 98,000 people remain displaced in Kachin and northern Shan as of late-December 2014, with half of those residing in areas outside of GoB control, according to the UN.
- Clashes between GoB and KIA forces erupted on January 14 in Kachin's Hpakant township, displacing more than 1,000 people from Aung Bar Lay and surrounding villages to Kan See village, the UN reports. According to local media, many of those displaced sought shelter in churches and monasteries. In response, local NGOs and Kachin authorities—in coordination with international humanitarian partners—provided food and emergency relief commodities to displaced populations. On February 2, the UN reported that humanitarian access in Kan See remained restricted due to fighting near the village. The UN also expressed concerns regarding the safety and security of IDPs in the area.
- Although local NGOs continue to operate in areas outside of GoB control, humanitarian access for international organizations is limited to authorized cross-line missions. Between January and September 2014, the GoB authorized 28 cross-line convoys to deliver humanitarian assistance to displaced populations in non-government-controlled areas of Kachin, the UN reported. As a result of sporadic fighting and increased insecurity in Kachin, no cross-line humanitarian assistance has occurred since September.
- On December 29, a fire broke out in Shing Jai IDP camp located in Kachin's Waingmaw township that destroyed nearly 90 homes, a public health clinic, and several water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, according to local media sources. The fire—reportedly sparked by an electrical fault—affected approximately 450 people who were forced to seek shelter with other families or in common areas of the camp. In coordination with humanitarian partners, the Kachin State Government provided emergency relief commodities, including blankets, sleeping mats, tents, winter clothing, and WASH kits, to affected families. The Border Guard Force—a military battalion under the command of the Burmese Army, comprising troops formally affiliated with opposition groups—also contributed emergency food assistance to support fire-affected families.
- Through the 2015 SRP, the HCT is targeting nearly 120,000 of the most vulnerable people in Kachin and northern Shan, including IDP and host community populations.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support humanitarian response efforts—including agriculture and food security, shelter and settlements, and WASH interventions—for conflict-affected populations in Kachin and Shan states. With approximately \$499,000 in ongoing FY 2014 funding, the NGO Metta Foundation continues to target more than 24,000 beneficiaries in Kachin through agricultural skills training, hygiene promotion campaigns, IDP camp shelter support, and water system improvements. USAID/OFDA is also supporting Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) to provide emergency relief commodities, as well as nutrition, shelter and settlements, and WASH interventions to benefit more than 8,000 people in Kachin and northern Shan.

### *Rakhine State*

- A pilot citizenship verification process—launched in June 2014 in Myebon township by the GoB Immigration, Naturalization and Registration Department—was suspended in October following widespread criticism over the program's requirement that Muslim Rohingya register as Bengali. In October, OCHA reported that 1,200 people had applied for citizenship under the pilot program, of which 209 people were granted full or naturalized citizenship status. According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), approximately 800,000 people in Rakhine are stateless.
- UNHCR reported a 37 percent increase in the number of Rohingya and other Muslims departing by boat from Rakhine and the Bangladesh border area to Malaysia, Thailand, and other countries in Southeast Asia between October and November compared to the previous year. The agency estimates that 120,000 people have fled by boat since 2012.

- More than 139,000 people, the majority of whom are Rohingya, remained displaced in Rakhine as of December 31, according to the UN.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Persistent funding shortfalls caused WFP to suspend monthly take-home rice rations—a component of WFP’s school feeding program—in food-insecure areas of Magway, Rakhine, Shan, and Wa states in November 2014, affecting approximately 174,000 students and their families. In January, the program’s in-school feeding component was also suspended due to a lack of funding.
- The Food Security Sector intends to provide food or cash assistance to 306,000 people in 2015, including 97,000 IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan and 209,000 conflict-affected people in Rakhine.
- To date in FY 2015, USAID/FFP has contributed \$5.5 million to WFP to support food assistance activities benefiting IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan. In FY 2014, USAID/FFP provided \$9.5 million to support the local and regional procurement of more than 10,000 metric tons (MT) of food through WFP’s Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support partners, including SC/US and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), with approximately \$692,000 in ongoing FY 2014 assistance to address nutritional needs of vulnerable populations. SC/US is facilitating access to nutrition services for mothers and children and promoting best practices for infant and young child feeding, while UNICEF is supporting therapeutic feeding and nutrition supplement programs for children.

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## HEALTH

- The GoB launched a national measles and rubella vaccination campaign on January 19, aiming to immunize more than 17 million children younger than 15 years of age in 65,000 villages and 45,000 schools by late February. More than 1.5 million children in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan are expected to benefit from the immunization campaign.
- On December 17, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) resumed basic health care activities in Rakhine after being expelled by the GoB in February 2014. Within one month of reopening its primary health care clinics, MSF conducted nearly 3,500 outpatient consultations and more than 500 reproductive care consultations.

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## PROTECTION

- A recent assessment conducted by the Danish Refugee Council, the Kachin Women’s Association, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in IDP camps across northern Shan found that displaced women and girls face heightened risks of gender-based violence, including threats of domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and trafficking. The study highlighted that, although local NGOs are actively working to respond to and prevent gender-based violence in the region, no such humanitarian services are available for women and girls in IDP camps.
- UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Yanghee Lee conducted her second official visit to Burma in mid-January, meeting with GoB officials, the National Human Rights Commission, and members of civil society. The special rapporteur will present her findings and recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council in March.
- The 2015 SRP features the protection of conflict-affected populations as a key component, with more than \$37 million requested to provide protective services to approximately 117,000 people in Kachin, northern Shan, and Rakhine.

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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Donors contributed \$113 million, or 59 percent of the \$192 million appeal, to the 2014 SRP, according to the UN. An additional \$55.5 million was donated to support humanitarian programs outside the SRP, bringing total 2014 funding for Burma to nearly \$169 million.

## 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 KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin State. As of December 2014, an estimated 98,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan—more than half of whom resided 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.
- 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 OCHA. As of December 2014, approximately 139,000 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.
- As of December 2014, an estimated 4,300 people remained displaced due to inter-communal violence in the Meikhtila area of Mandalay Region.
- Approximately 400,000 of the 940,700 conflict-affected people identified by the UN as in need of humanitarian assistance reside in southeast Burma, including Kayah, Kayin, Mon, and southern Shan states, as well as the Bago and Taninthayi regions.
- On January 30, 2015, 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 Kachin and Rakhine states to assess humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.

### USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2015<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan States	\$5,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$5,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$5,500,000</b>

### USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2014<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>3</sup></b>			
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Shelter and Settlements	Kachin and Rakhine States	\$260,352
Metta Foundation	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin State	\$498,945
SC/US	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin and Rakhine States	\$1,024,808
Solidarites	ERMS, WASH	Kachin and Rakhine States	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine State	\$1,000,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine State	\$276,504
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$4,060,609</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$9,500,000

<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$9,500,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Organization (IO)/NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Thailand	\$24,002,374
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Kachin State, Rakhine State, Southeastern Burma, and other vulnerable Burmese people in the region	\$12,300,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$36,302,374</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2014</b>			<b>\$49,862,983</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

<sup>3</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents obligated amounts as of February 6, 2015.

## 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:
  - The 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>