

BURMA AND BANGLADESH

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

APRIL 12, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

941,351

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma
UN – December 2018

106,311

IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan
UN – January 2019

127,987

IDPs in Central Rakhine IDP Sites
UN – January 2019

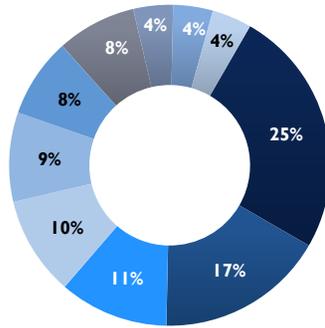
909,868

Total Number of Refugees in Cox's Bazar
UNHCR – March 2019

745,768

People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25, 2017
UNHCR – March 2019

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2018



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (25%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Info Management (17%)
- Shelter & Settlements (11%)
- Health (10%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (9%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (8%)
- Protection (8%)
- Logistics Support and Relief Commodities (4%)
- Nutrition (4%)
- Other (4%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict between the AA and Government of Burma forces causes further displacement in northern Rakhine and parts of Chin
- USAID/OFDA partners enhance cyclone preparedness in Cox's Bazar through rehabilitation of 60 cyclone shelters
- USG announces nearly \$46 million in USAID/FFP assistance for refugees in Bangladesh; USAID partner WFP provides food assistance to nearly 1.2 million people in Bangladesh and Burma in February

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019

USAID/OFDA	\$24,792,879
USAID/FFP ²	\$167,415,646
STATE/PRM ³	\$309,763,648
\$501,972,173	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Clashes between Government of Burma forces and the Arakan Army (AA)—a non-state ethnic Rakhine armed group—have escalated in 2019 after mostly smaller skirmishes between May and December 2018. The conflict had displaced more than 26,000 civilians in Rakhine and Chin states as of April 4, according to the UN.
- The Government of Bangladesh has postponed plans to relocate up to 100,000 Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District to Bhashan Char Island at least until after the May-to-September cyclone and monsoon seasons, according to international media.
- On March 3, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R. Miller announced nearly \$46 million in USAID/FFP funding to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to support ongoing food assistance programs in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh.

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 Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) funding includes additional regional contributions to UN and international organization partners supporting those most in need in the region, including ongoing programs for Burmese refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), while USAID funding includes new and ongoing activities in Burma's Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, as well as Bangladesh.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Burma

- Clashes between Government of Burma forces and the AA have increased in frequency and geographic scope in 2019, after sporadic clashes began in May 2018. Clashes have occurred in Rakhine's Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung townships and in Chin's Paletwa Township, displacing more than 26,000 civilians—the vast majority of whom are ethnically Rakhine—as of April 4, according to the UN.
- The Government of Burma has maintained humanitarian access restrictions in rural areas of Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung since January 10, and newly imposed restrictions are hindering humanitarian access to rural areas in Mrauk-U, according to an April 1 statement from international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The statement indicates that access restrictions in Rakhine have prevented at least 95,000 people from accessing basic services, including health care, education, and safe drinking water. However, the Government of Burma continues to authorize WFP and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide some emergency assistance in parts of the restricted areas; in February, WFP provided emergency food assistance to more than 225,000 people in Rakhine, including more than 98,000 people in restricted areas.
- The Government of Burma declared a unilateral ceasefire in Kachin and Shan states on December 21, effective through April 30. Clashes involving the Kachin Independence Army (KIA)—a non-state ethnic Kachin armed group—have not been reported since the ceasefire took effect. However, clashes between other non-state armed groups and Government of Burma forces have occurred in 2019 through early April. More than 106,000 people are currently displaced in Kachin and Shan, with 55 percent of displaced people in areas with Government of Burma-imposed humanitarian access restrictions, according to the UN. The Government of Burma has not permitted UN humanitarian agencies to access areas beyond government control since June 2016; the UN estimates that 36 percent of current IDPs remain in these areas.

Bangladesh

- More than 745,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Cox's Bazar from Rakhine since the outbreak of violence on August 25, 2017, most of whom arrived by late 2017 and remain displaced to date, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- The Government of Bangladesh announced on March 17 that it will delay its plan to relocate some Rohingya refugees from Cox's Bazar to Bhashan Char—a previously uninhabited island in the Bay of Bengal—until after the 2019 monsoon and cyclone seasons. The government had intended to relocate as many as 100,000 Rohingya refugees to the island prior to the onset of the cyclone and monsoon seasons in May; however, the UN and other international actors had advocated against the relocation timeframe. Humanitarian agencies continue to assert that any relocations must be voluntary, safe, sustainable, dignified, and allow for freedom of movement to Cox's Bazar, and that a comprehensive UN technical and protection assessment must precede any relocation.
- The Government of Bangladesh and State/PRM partner UNHCR continue to verify the registration of refugees in Cox's Bazar, including providing identification documents to facilitate access to humanitarian assistance. The documents include area of origin in Burma, which could facilitate voluntary repatriation based on the refugees' informed consent if conditions in Burma are safe and conducive to returns, according to UNHCR. The Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR verified the registrations of nearly 53,800 refugees in Cox's Bazar in January and February 2019, bringing the total number of verified registrations to more than 89,200. UNHCR and the government aim to complete the majority of registrations in Kutupalong settlement—the largest refugee settlement in Cox's Bazar—by the end of June and all refugee registrations in Cox's Bazar by the end of 2019.

HEALTH, WASH, AND CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS

Burma

- More than 940,000 people in Burma require humanitarian assistance in 2019, including an estimated 715,000 people in Rakhine, approximately 168,000 people in Kachin, an estimated 48,000 people in Shan, and approximately 10,000 IDPs in Kayin State, according to the UN. Nearly 600,000 ethnic Rohingya remain in Rakhine, with most experiencing

substantial movement restrictions that limit access to livelihoods opportunities, food, and basic services, including health care. Ongoing insecurity and government-imposed access restrictions continue to limit the ability of humanitarian actors to provide assistance.

- Due to ongoing fighting and government-imposed movement restrictions, humanitarian access for the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and its partners in Buthidaung, Kyawktaw, Maungdaw, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung remained limited to mainly urban areas as of early March. Despite these restrictions, UNICEF—with support from USAID/OFDA—is coordinating with the Myanmar Health Assistant Association to provide basic maternal and child health care through mobile health services in nine of Rakhine’s townships, including the northern townships of Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung. UNICEF is also coordinating with WFP to distribute soap to approximately 100,000 people per month in northern Rakhine.

Bangladesh

- USAID/OFDA partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and WFP are rehabilitating 60 cyclone shelters in Cox’s Bazar to support local communities and refugees ahead of the May–to–September cyclone and monsoon seasons. Since 1960, 11 cyclones have directly impacted Cox’s Bazar, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, including most recently in 2004, 2015, and 2017. The shelter rehabilitation efforts include improvements to access roads, upgrades to water and sanitation facilities, and repairs to building structures, including walls, windows, and doors. USAID/OFDA partners have also distributed emergency equipment and are providing training on early warning systems, first aid, and search-and-rescue techniques for local authorities and disaster response volunteers. USAID/OFDA-supported shelters typically range in capacity from 600 to 1,500 people. The rehabilitation efforts have also provided cash-for-work opportunities to 3,000 people from Teknaf and Ukhiya sub-districts.
- Through a joint effort, Bangladeshi NGO BRAC, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam, and UNHCR have completed eight solar-powered water system networks in the Kutupalong refugee settlement in the past six months, providing 40,000 people with access to safe drinking water. The organizations plan to install 10 additional water system networks in the coming year, supporting an additional 80,000 refugees.
- In January, State/PRM partner UNHCR and Relief International (RI) launched a 24-hour health clinic in Camp 3 in Kutupalong’s large settlement, to provide comprehensive health services seven days a week. The UNHCR/RI facility offers emergency health care, out-patient care, medical referral services, in-ward health care, child health care, and maternity and laboratory services, as well as mental health and psychosocial support. The health clinic will support at least 12,000 refugees living in the immediate surrounding areas. During 2018, UNHCR and its partners operated a network of 22 health facilities, providing approximately 440,000 medical consultations for refugee children, women, and men. Some 6,369 patients with serious illnesses were referred for secondary and tertiary health care.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Burma

- Conflict and intercommunal tensions, among other factors, continue to drive acute food insecurity in Burma. In February, with support from USAID/FFP, WFP provided emergency food assistance to more than 98,000 conflict-affected people in Buthidaung and Maungdaw and nearly 130,000 conflict-affected people in central Rakhine. Additionally, the UN agency provided emergency nutrition assistance to nearly 20,000 children younger than five years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in northern Rakhine, as well as approximately 30,000 children and PLW in central Rakhine during the same period. In Kachin, WFP provided cash transfers for food to more than 44,000 IDPs across 12 townships. The UN agency also provided emergency food assistance to approximately 15,000 people across northern Shan and conflict-affected villages of Shan’s Kokang Self-Administered Zone, as well as nutrition assistance to more than 1,900 PLW and children younger than two years of age across Shan.

Bangladesh

- On March 3, Ambassador Miller announced nearly \$46 million in USAID/FFP funding to WFP to support the Rohingya refugee crisis response in Bangladesh. With the funding, WFP will provide food assistance to refugees and augment

existing humanitarian interventions, including food vouchers, monsoon and cyclone preparedness, and nutrition support for vulnerable children and PLW.

- In February, with support from USAID/FFP, WFP provided emergency food assistance to more than 890,000 refugees in Cox's Bazar, including general food distributions to 566,000 people and electronic vouchers (e-vouchers) for food to 324,000 people. As of March 15, more than 60 percent of the refugee population in Cox's Bazar had received a WFP assistance card, which will facilitate the transition from in-kind food assistance to e-voucher activities, according to the UN agency. WFP plans to continue increasing the number of refugees assisted through e-voucher activities, which expand refugees' food options and dietary diversity.
- WFP also provided malnutrition prevention and treatment activities to more than 216,000 children younger than five years of age and PLW through 36 nutrition centers in Cox's Bazar refugee camps and nearly 90 health clinics in host communities in February. Food Security Sector partners, including WFP, also engaged more than 31,000 refugees in disaster risk reduction and infrastructure development cash-for-work activities—including drainage support, road rehabilitation, and slope stabilization activities to prevent landslides—during the same period.
- U.S. Government (USG) partner UNICEF and other nutrition organizations screened more than 127,000 refugee children ages five years and younger for acute malnutrition in February, subsequently referring more than 1,100 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) for treatment. UNICEF outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) sites also admitted nearly 1,300 children for SAM treatment in February, bringing the total number of children admitted to UNICEF OTP sites to more than 2,900 since January. Additionally, the UN agency—through 24-hour stabilization centers—provided treatment to approximately 30 severely malnourished children experiencing medical complications in February.

CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the Government of Burma and the KIA broke down when fighting between Government of Burma security forces and the KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin, resulting in population displacement. Conflict in Kachin and northern Shan among armed groups and Government of Burma security forces continues to generate additional displacement and humanitarian needs. As of December 2018, an estimated 106,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many IDPs residing in areas outside of Government of Burma control with limited humanitarian access. The Government of Burma announced a unilateral ceasefire with the KIA in December 2018, which remains in effect.
- Since December 2018, escalated clashes between Government of Burma forces and the AA have displaced more than 26,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, in Rakhine and Chin. Government of Burma-imposed access restrictions beginning in January 2019 in affected townships are hindering efforts to provide assistance to displaced populations and interrupting ongoing programs that aim to continue delivering services to over 100,000 people in need.
- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of January 2019, more than 128,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes remained displaced. These displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, a minority group not formally recognized by the Government of Burma and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services. As of December 2018, nearly 600,000 ethnic Rohingya remained in Rakhine.

- Following attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017, Government of Burma security forces launched military operations in northern Rakhine’s Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships. Since August 25, 2017, insecurity and violence have prompted more than 745,000 people to flee from Burma to Bangladesh. The Inter Sector Coordination Group—a humanitarian coordinating body comprising UN agencies, international NGOs, and other stakeholders—estimates that the total number of Burmese refugees in Cox’s Bazar is approximately 909,900 people.
- On December 27, 2018, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires George Sibley re-declared a disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and State/PRM staff are coordinating with humanitarian partners in Burma and Bangladesh to assess humanitarian conditions, identify response gaps, and recommend response priorities.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$817,486
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,000,000
IOM	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements	Rakhine	\$1,800,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$600,000
Metta Foundation	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin, Shan	\$1,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Rakhine	\$580,267
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,434,292
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Burma	\$4,250,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,503,916
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Protection, WASH	Rakhine	\$747,112
TOTAL USAID/OFDA RESPONSE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY			\$18,233,073
CARE	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bangladesh	\$1,700,000
IOM	ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$1,260,000
Relief International	Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Bangladesh	\$1,750,000
WFP	Shelter and Settlements	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
	Logistics Support: Provision of Rolls of Plastic Sheeting	Bangladesh	\$823,167
	Program Support		\$26,639
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$6,559,806

USAID/FFP ³			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Bangladesh	\$2,090,886
	Local and Regional Procurement	Bangladesh	\$189,000
	Complementary Services: Nutrition	Bangladesh	\$4,233,018
WFP	Local and Regional Procurement	Burma	\$8,260,275
	Cash Transfers for Food	Burma	\$5,239,725
	Complementary Services: Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Burma	\$500,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers; Local and Regional Procurement; Complementary Services: Logistics Support and Relief Commodities; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Bangladesh	\$146,902,742
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$167,415,646
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,800,000
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$14,500,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$5,000,000
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Malaysia, Thailand	\$20,648,548
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$100,165,100
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Thailand	\$350,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$92,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$19,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$52,300,000
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$309,763,648
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019⁴			\$501,972,173

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/FFP and State/PRM funding includes funding for both Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma.

² USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of March 3, 2019.

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

⁴ Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals more than \$494 million since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes more than \$303 million in State/PRM funding, more than \$173 million in USAID/FFP funding, and nearly \$18 million in USAID/OFDA funding. The factsheet total includes funding from October 1, 2017 through March 3, 2019.

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 +1.202.661.7710.
 - 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>