

# BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**51.5 million**

Total Population of Burma  
UN – December 2016

**6.4 million**

People Residing in  
Conflict-Affected Areas  
UN – December 2016

**501,800**

Number of People Newly  
Displaced to Bangladesh  
UN – September 2017

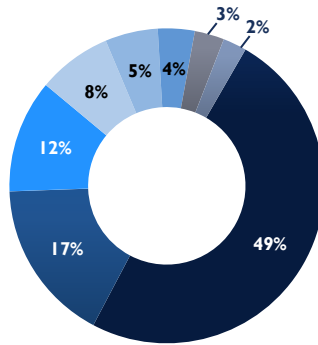
**120,000**

IDPs in Rakhine State Prior  
to August 25  
UN – September 2017

**98,000**

IDPs in Kachin and Shan  
States  
UN – September 2017

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> Funding By Sector in FY 2017



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (49%)
- Protection (17%)
- Health (12%)
- Nutrition (8%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (5%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (4%)
- Shelter & Settlements (3%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (2%)

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



- Local & Regional Food Procurement (54%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (35%)
- RUTF (6%)
- Logistics Support (5%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Widespread violence and insecurity in Rakhine State since August 25 displaces at least 501,800 people to Bangladesh
- Humanitarian access constraints impede delivery of relief assistance to affected populations
- USG provides additional \$40 million in assistance for affected populations in Burma and Bangladesh

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA	\$7,725,661
USAID/FFP	\$20,166,924
STATE/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$75,802,484
<b>\$103,695,069</b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Insecurity in Burma's Rakhine State since August 25, sparked by attacks on checkpoints and police posts in northern Rakhine and intensified by subsequent military operations, has prompted approximately 501,800 people to flee to neighboring Bangladesh, according to the Rakhine State Government (RSG) and the UN.
- Access constraints have hindered relief actors from conducting needs assessments and providing humanitarian assistance, the UN reports. Relief activities remained severely limited in northern Rakhine and significantly disrupted across central Rakhine as of late September. Travel restrictions in Burma's Kachin and Shan states also hinder access to conflict-affected populations in areas outside of the Government of Burma (GoB) control.
- In September, the U.S. Government (USG) provided an additional \$40 million—including \$34 million from State/PRM and \$6 million from USAID/FFP—to respond to the crisis in Rakhine and urgent humanitarian needs in Burma and Bangladesh. The new funding brings total USG assistance for the Burma response in FY 2017 to nearly \$104 million.

<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 AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

### *Rakhine State*

- On August 25, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked 25–30 GoB checkpoints and police posts in northern Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships, resulting in the deaths of 11 policemen, two soldiers, two civilian government staff, and 14 civilians, according to the GoB. In response, Burmese security forces began conducting military operations in the three townships, resulting in an additional 400 deaths, the GoB reports.
- Given ongoing population movements and the lack of official estimates of internally displaced Rohingya, the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Rakhine remains unknown. Although the RSG reported that violence had internally displaced 200,000 people in early September, relief actors estimate that the RSG's assessment included approximately 170,000 people who were gathered near the Bangladesh border and have since crossed into Bangladesh.
- According to the RSG, conflict initially displaced approximately 26,700 ethnic Rakhine and other minorities in Rakhine State, including nearly 13,000 people who had returned to areas of origin as of September 29. The approximately 13,700 people who remain displaced are seeking shelter in monasteries, schools, and other sites, or with host communities.
- Military operations and intercommunal violence have emptied nearly 180 Muslim villages, according to the GoB. In Maungdaw and Rathedaung townships, approximately 45 and 75 percent of the Rohingya population, respectively, has fled. Approximately 28,000 people have left Rathedaung, including all 3,500 IDPs from the three camps in the township. In addition, satellite imagery from Human Rights Watch, taken on September 19, identified more than 210 burned Muslim villages—the majority of which were in Maungdaw and Rathedaung. Military operations also occurred in Buthidaung following the ARSA attacks; however, the Buthidaung operations were mainly limited to areas near checkpoints and police posts, according to international media. The GoB stated that military operations ceased on September 5; however, relief actors report continued burnings and displacement.
- Humanitarian access constraints, including the lack of GoB travel authorizations and threats from local ethnic Rakhine groups, continue to hinder the delivery of humanitarian assistance across Rakhine. As of September 28, humanitarian activities remained suspended in northern Rakhine—with the exception of limited GoB and Red Cross distributions—and severely disrupted in central Rakhine. The UN reports that unidentified actors burned or looted several clinics and facilities previously used for humanitarian activities. In addition, on September 20, a group of civilians threw stones and Molotov cocktails at an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) boat in Sittwe Township carrying relief supplies for affected communities in northern Rakhine. The police intervened and no injuries or major damage occurred, the UN reports.
- Population movements across the border to Bangladesh decreased in late September, with 7,000 new arrivals from September 20–24 compared to the 149,000 new arrivals recorded from September 6–10. According to the UN, recently arrived, displaced populations in Bangladesh are in immediate need of emergency food, health, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.
- The current humanitarian emergency is compounded by previous crises, including in October 2016, when 87,000 people fled from Burma to Bangladesh, and in 2012, when intercommunal violence internally displaced 120,000 people to IDP camps in Rakhine.

### *Kachin and Shan States*

- Clashes between GoB forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) continued to occur in close proximity to IDP camps and civilian areas in recent months. In Kachin's Tanai Township, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) report serious protection issues in IDP camps, including alleged killings, disappearances, injuries from shelling, intimidation, and harassment. In addition, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is highly prevalent in IDP camps in Kachin State, according to the UN.
- Violence in northern Shan, particularly in Manton, Namhsan, and Namtu towns, has resulted in livelihood and protection concerns for IDPs and civilians. Fighting between GoB armed forces and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army from August 10–15 resulted in civilian casualties and temporarily displaced more than 1,000 people from Mogaung Township to Namtu town, the UN reports. In total, conflict has internally displaced nearly 100,000 people—80 percent of whom are women and children—in Kachin and Shan states since armed conflict erupted in 2011.

- The UN reports that humanitarian access constraints, including limitations on international non-governmental organization (INGO) and UN travel, have hindered the provision of relief assistance in Kachin and Shan states. In addition, restrictions on humanitarian access to areas beyond the GoB's control since May 2016 have hindered the delivery of critical assistance to vulnerable populations, including an estimated 40,000 IDPs in camps outside GoB-controlled areas.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- The suspension of humanitarian activities in Rakhine following the August 25 attacks has resulted in increased food insecurity, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. For example, approximately 40 percent of IDP camps did not receive monthly food rations in August due to GoB travel restrictions. According to WFP, approximately 250,000 intended beneficiaries did not receive food distributions between August 25 and September 12, including approximately 170,000 people who had not received food assistance since July due to security concerns. In coordination with the RSG, WFP resumed food distributions to IDP camps on September 12, reaching 25 camps with approximately 62,000 IDPs in central Rakhine as of September 30.
- With USAID/FFP support, WFP procures local and regional food for in-kind food distributions and provides cash transfers for the purchase of food in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. In addition, USAID/FFP supports the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to dispatch 200 metric tons of ready-to-use therapeutically foods (RUTFs) to people in Rakhine. UNICEF is also establishing integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) programs in Ayeyarwady, Chin, Kayin, Magway, Rakhine, and Shan states, with the aim to reach approximately 16,000 children ages 6–59 months with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Through the IMAM approach, UNICEF aims to improve acute malnutrition screening of children and build the capacity of communities and local health authorities to address malnutrition.
- In Bangladesh, WFP provides food vouchers, high-energy biscuits, rice, and supplementary feeding to displaced Burmese populations with USAID/FFP funding. Between August 27 and September 19, WFP provided high-energy biscuits to 200,600 people in Cox's Bazar District. In addition, WFP distributed food rations to 173,000 people from September 9–17.
- In September, USAID/FFP provided an additional \$6 million to WFP to provide emergency food distributions to displaced populations in Cox's Bazar. The funding included \$1 million to support WFP's logistical operations in Bangladesh, including the facilitation of storage services and relief commodity transport.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- Most INGOs and UN agencies initially suspended services following the August 25 attacks in Rakhine, leading to a deterioration of health conditions, the UN reports. Relief actors have resumed some health services in central Rakhine; however, safety concerns and travel authorizations prevent most international and national health workers from fully resuming activities. The disruption of WASH services in central Rakhine IDP camps has also raised health concerns among humanitarian actors, as inadequate sanitation facilities may negatively affect approximately 100,000 IDPs in Sittwe's IDP camps, according to the UN.
- Nearly 40 IDP camps in Burma lacked WASH programming and nearly 140 IDP camps lacked sufficient WASH activities, according to a June assessment by the WASH Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. In Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan, IDPs in camps are in urgent need of WASH assistance, including additional latrines, safe drinking water, sanitation materials, and education on hygiene practices.
- With USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF is improving health care access for IDPs and conflict-affected populations in Kachin and Shan. By providing vaccinations and building the capacity of local staff to manage common childhood diseases, UNICEF is reducing immunization gaps and strengthening health systems. UNICEF is also training traditional birth attendants and auxiliary midwives in newborn and maternal health care and conducting health and hygiene promotion activities.
- Through \$1.4 million in FY 2017 funding, USAID/OFDA supported an INGO to provide health, nutrition, and WASH assistance to IDPs and conflict-affected communities in Rakhine's Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. The USAID/OFDA

partner's programs included desludging of latrines, improving management of water points, and conducting hygiene promotion campaigns in IDP camps.

- Relief actors raised concerns regarding health and WASH conditions in Bangladesh, as the influx of new arrivals to Bangladesh has stretched the capacity of refugee camps established following Burma's October 2016 crisis. Health facilities in Cox's Bazar reported a 150–200 percent increase in patients in mid-September, straining existing resources. More than one-half of displacement sites lack health facilities on site or accessible within 30 minutes, according to a September assessment from the Bangladesh-based UN Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), which serves as the coordinating body of humanitarian sector activities in Cox's Bazar.
- New arrivals in Cox's Bazar lack adequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Relief actors treated nearly 500 patients with acute watery diarrhea from September 6–17. The absence of sanitation facilities also raises concerns about increased risks for infectious disease outbreaks. According to ISCG, 18,000 additional latrines are required to provide adequate access to sanitation.
- State/PRM supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF to provide WASH assistance to displaced populations in Cox's Bazar, including the construction of nearly 370 emergency latrines in three displacement sites between August 25 and September 30.
- With support from UNICEF and the UN World Health Organization, the Government of Bangladesh is leading a vaccination campaign against measles, polio, and rubella, aiming to vaccinate 150,000 Rohingya children ages 15 years and younger in Bangladesh, UNICEF reports. As of September 21, relief actors had provided measles and rubella vaccinations to nearly 64,000 children ages 15 years and younger and polio vaccinations to more than 33,700 children, according to ISCG.

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## PROTECTION AND SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

- Of the 501,800 people who fled from Burma to Bangladesh, more than 200,000 people are sheltering in new displacement sites; nearly 200,000 people are sheltering in established camps or informal settlements; and more than 90,000 people are sheltering in host communities, according to the UN. An early September ISCG assessment indicated that the majority of new arrivals were women and children, with children ages 18 years and younger representing 57 percent of new arrivals and pregnant and lactating women representing 27 percent. In addition, UNICEF and the Government of Bangladesh had identified approximately 1,800 separated children and approximately 6,000 unaccompanied children as September 25.
- State/PRM partners report an increasing number of SGBV survivors among new arrivals, who are in need of health and psychological support. In addition to SGBV survivors, many arrivals have experienced severely traumatic events and are in need of critical mental health and psychosocial support. Since the influx began, IOM and other State/PRM partners have responded to 180 SGBV cases, nearly 1,260 people in need of psychological first aid, and more than 4,900 extremely vulnerable individuals—including SGBV survivors and individuals vulnerable to exploitation, SGBV, or trafficking.
- In September, UNICEF and its implementing partners provided more than 14,400 newly arrived children with psychosocial support and more than 24,900 children with access to approximately 40 Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) in displacement sites and host communities in Cox's Bazar. State/PRM partners are establishing nearly 80 new CFSs and 10 adolescents clubs to provide displaced children and adolescents with psychosocial support and recreational opportunities.
- With the rapid influx of displaced persons from Burma, displacement sites in Bangladesh have become increasingly crowded, leaving many people without sufficient shelter. Six new informal displacement sites have emerged since the August 25 attacks and are rapidly expanding, ISCG reports.
- In response to increasingly overcrowded camps, the Government of Bangladesh has allocated 2,000 acres of land north of Cox's Bazar's Kutupalong camp to establish a site for 400,000 new arrivals. The Government of Bangladesh Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission is managing the new Kutupalong expansion site, with support from IOM, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and other implementing organizations. However, as of September 25, road access to the site remained limited, preventing the development of critical infrastructure, such as sanitation facilities and water collection points.

- In September, State/PRM announced nearly \$34 million in additional funding to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of affected populations in Burma and Bangladesh. Through IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and other partners, State/PRM aims to provide protection and shelter services, as well as health, nutrition, and WASH assistance, to more than 400,000 displaced persons in Burma and Bangladesh.

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## **NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

- Burma is prone to natural hazards, including cyclones, earthquakes, fires, floods, and tsunamis. In late May, Tropical Cyclone Mora affected approximately 150,000 people, resulted in at least one death, and caused significant infrastructure damage in Burma, according to the GoB. The cyclone damaged more than 21,500 houses in northern Rakhine State, including many shelters and facilities in IDP camps, the UN reports. Recent insecurity in Rakhine has delayed shelter repair efforts in affected areas.
- Seasonal monsoon rains and flooding in July and August affected 13 of Burma's 14 regions and states, with the most severe damage reported in Ayeyarwady, Bago, Mandalay, and Sagaing regions, according to the GoB. Flooding resulted in at least eight deaths and temporary displaced more than 320,000 people between July and September. In response, the GoB established 500 temporary evacuation centers in flood-affected areas—10 of which remained opened with nearly 1,100 IDPs in Bago and Magway as of September 12. The GoB Relief and Resettlement Department, local authorities, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and NGOs responded to the humanitarian needs of flood-affected populations, including the distribution of food and provision of shelter and WASH assistance, according to the UN.
- To mitigate the impact of natural disasters, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3.1 million in FY 2017 to fund disaster risk reduction programs in Burma that aim to build community resilience and strengthen national and sub-national disaster management capacity.

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## **INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On September 15, ICRC released an appeal for approximately \$17.1 million to provide emergency assistance in Burma, as well as an additional \$7.1 million to reach displaced Rohingya in Bangladesh. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) also issued an appeal for \$13 million to respond to humanitarian needs in Bangladesh. The GoB reports that between August 26 and September 25, Red Cross agencies provided assistance to approximately 19,000 people across central and northern Rakhine.
- The 2017 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requested \$150 million to address the needs of 525,000 conflict and disaster-affected people between January and December 2017. As of September, donors had provided 50 percent of the funding.

## 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, resulting in population displacement. As of September 2017, 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, increased intercommunal violence in 2012 between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya and non-Rohingya Muslims displaced tens of thousands of people, according to the UN. As of September 2017, approximately 120,000 people remained displaced in Rakhine, while other conflict-affected populations lacked 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 GoB and, therefore, effectively stateless and denied rights to citizenship, public education, and freedom of movement within Burma. An additional 80,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh in October 2016 following an attack on police posts by armed groups and subsequent military operations. Following a period of relative stability, the conflict intensified again after the August 25 attacks on checkpoints and police posts in northern Rakhine.
- 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 Humanitarian Country Team 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 relief gaps, and recommend response options.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
Danish Refugee Council	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$500,000
Metta Foundation	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kachin, Shan	\$1,000,000
Save the Children/U.S.	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,431,842
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,600,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,000,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$193,819
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$7,725,661</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNICEF	RUTFs	Rakhine	\$1,166,924
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kachin	\$4,604,924

	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$7,395,076
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$2,500,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Bangladesh	\$3,500,000
	Logistics Support	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$20,166,924</b>

STATE/PRM <sup>4</sup>			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand	\$30,170,793
IFRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,280,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Thailand	\$23,791,691
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$2,250,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$12,500,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Southeast Asia	\$4,810,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$75,802,484</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA RESPONSE IN FY 2017</b>			<b>\$103,695,069</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2017.

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

<sup>4</sup> USAID/FFP and 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](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 +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).