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# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR BURMA

Cyclone Nargis made land fall in Burma on May 2, 2008 affecting approximately 2.4 million people, and killing anywhere from 63,000 to more than 101,000 Burmese, with approximately 220,000 still reported missing, according to the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The U.S. Government response to Cyclone Nargis has been and will continue to be a multipronged humanitarian response focusing on **access, pre-positioning of assets for rapid intervention, transport support, direct partner funding, and coordination.**

## **Access**

The U.S. Government will continue to work with the international community to increase access to affected populations following the devastating effects of Cyclone Nargis. USAID is working with the Burmese Government and key stakeholders such as ASEAN, the British, the French, the Europeans, UN agencies, and partner NGOs to assist in increasing access for international relief workers to provide assistance in cyclone affected areas. USAID will continue to assist partners with equipment, access to trucks, and relief commodities to increase the affected populations access to humanitarian assistance.

## **Pre-Positioning**

The U.S. Government is providing immediate life saving assistance through pre-positioning assets. These human and material assets include:

**DART Team:** On May 5, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), pre-positioned in Bangkok ready

for onward deployment to provide critical technical and humanitarian assistance.

**Military Assets:** U.S. Navy ships already deployed in the region for training exercises can be redirected, if necessary to support relief efforts. Meanwhile, the U.S. military is providing significant airlift capacities to move relief supplies from Thailand to Burma.

**Stockpiles:** USAID has increased the non-food items stockpile in Thailand. The stockpile includes plastic sheeting, water bladders, boats, hygiene kits, water containers, water purification kits. The stockpile is intended to supplement relief supplies already being airlifted into Burma.

## **Transport Support**

The U.S. Government will continue to support transport of emergency relief commodities. As needed, USAID will continue to facilitate the transport of relief commodities through U.S. military air transport consigned to NGO and UN partners as well as assist NGOs and UN partners with

transport through direct funding. As of May 21, USAID and the U.S. military have completed 41 airlifts of emergency relief commodities from Utapao to Rangoon.

## **Partner Funding**

The U.S. Government will continue to fund NGOs and UN partners in response to the current disaster. The funding will support distribution of non-food items such as plastic sheeting, water containers, hygiene kits, etc; implementation of water, sanitation and hygiene, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, logistical support, coordination, food, and livelihood programs.

## **Coordination**

The U.S. Government will support agreed upon international coordination mechanisms. This can be accomplished through technical and funding assistance to the UN clusters including the logistics, water and sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, and shelter clusters. In addition to assisting the ASEAN team by providing technical support to the ASEAN disaster assistance teams.