USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma

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Session Agenda

• Introduction to USAID
• Introduction to OFDA
• OFDA Disaster Response
• USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burma
• Questions/Answers
USAID supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting:

– economic growth, agriculture and trade;
– global health; and,
– democracy, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance.

We provide assistance in four regions of the world:

– Sub-Saharan Africa
– Asia and the Near East
– Latin America and the Caribbean and
– Europe and Eurasia
Save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the economic and social impacts of humanitarian emergencies.

OFDA’s Responsibility and Authority

Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-195), as amended, sections 491-493

Notwithstanding of any other provision of this or any other Act
What does OFDA do?

- Responds to all types of natural disasters
- Provides assistance when lives are threatened by accidental or human-caused catastrophes
- Coordinates and facilitates U.S. Government response to international disasters
- Promotes preparedness and mitigation activities
Disaster response

Disaster occurs

- US Government (through OFDA) may respond if:
  - Beyond the ability of the affected country to respond
  - Affected country requests (or will accept) outside assistance
  - In the interest of the US Government
Disaster Declared

- By Ambassador or Chief of Mission
- Assistant Secretary of State for the affected area or region (Somalia, Iran)

How does OFDA respond to disasters?

- Provide funds to US Embassy or USAID Missions to purchase relief supplies
- Deploy
  - OFDA regional advisors to assess conditions and identify needs
  - Assessment team to evaluate disaster situation
  - Disaster Assistance Response Team to coordinate response
- Fund grants by PIOs, NGOs, PVOs
- Provide disaster relief commodities
- Deploy technical and sectoral experts
USG Humanitarian Assistance To Burma

- Total fatalities:
  - 77,000 (GOB)
  - 63,000-101,000 (OCHA)
- Total missing:
  - 55,900 (GOB)
- Estimated displaced:
  - 110,000 (OCHA)
- Total number affected:
  - 2.4 million
USG Humanitarian Assistance Timeline

- May 5: Disaster declaration
  - U.S. Charge de Affairs Shari Villarosa
  - Deployed DART (Bangkok)
  - Provided $250,000 to UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR

- May 6: $3 million for relief assistance (ARC and NGOs)

- May 12: $13 million for WFP (food aid and logistics)

- May 12-June 2: $3.2 million OFDA relief commodities (DART and DOD)
  - Plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, water containers, water treatment units, and water bladders

USG Humanitarian Funding

- USAID/OFDA: $7,474,728
- USAID/FFP: $12,000,000
- DOD: $6,834,500
- Total: $26,289,164
Challenges

- 54% received limited humanitarian assistance
- UN Flash Appeal 40% funded
- Internally displaced
- Humanitarian access limited