

Burma

The Development Challenge: United States interests in Burma include: promoting democracy, supporting human rights and religious freedom, fighting HIV/AIDS, furthering effective counter-narcotics efforts, World War II remains recovery, and promoting regional stability. The U.S. also pursues a global strategic goal of preventing or minimizing the human costs of conflict and natural disasters.

Conditions in Burma continue to reflect the State Peace and Development Council's (SPDC, formerly called SLORC) struggle for political and military control of the country. Despite multiparty elections in 1990 that resulted in the main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), winning a decisive victory, SPDC refused to hand over power. U.S. Government policies maintain pressure on the SPDC to engage in meaningful dialogue with the democratic opposition leading toward a peaceful transition to civilian rule. In 2002, the regime released Aung San Suu Kyi from her most recent period of house arrest and freed hundreds of political prisoners. However, no apparent progress has been made toward a substantive dialogue between the regime and Aung San Suu Kyi.

The military believes that it is the only institution capable of keeping Burma united as a single country, and that pluralism is destructive to national unity. It views economic progress, reform and liberalization as secondary to the maintenance of political control. The military is now more powerful than it has ever been, due to an aggressive recruitment program, improved weaponry, and cease-fire agreements with several ethnic armies that have allowed troops to be concentrated in fewer areas. The SPDC has signed cease-fire agreements with all but three armed insurgent groups representing the Shan, Karenni and Karen ethnic groups. Extrajudiciary killings, torture, forced labor, portering, forced relocation, rape and other abuses still commonly occur in most of the ethnic states of Burma.

Economic policies pursued by the Burmese Government have resulted in a deteriorating social and economic situation. Approximately 13 million of Burma's 48 million people, more than 25% of the population, live below the subsistence level of \$1.00 per day. Ten percent of Burmese children are severely malnourished, and 20% suffer moderate wasting, according to a recent World Bank report.

As a result of ethnic fighting and deteriorating economic conditions in Burma, more than 1.6 million people have fled Burma and an estimated 1.5 million more remain inside Burma as internally displaced people. Of the population that fled Burma, approximately 155,000 reside in refugee camps in Thailand and Bangladesh, while the remainder live as illegal migrant workers in Thailand, Bangladesh, India, China and Malaysia.

The USAID Program: USAID suspended assistance to Burma following the 1988 suppression of the pro-democracy movement. A FY 1993 earmark of \$1 million reinstated USG assistance, initially through the Department of State's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (State/DRL). Since 1998, USAID has co-managed the Burma earmark with State/DRL. Since FY 1999, \$6.5 million has been earmarked to support democracy in Burma and pro-democracy groups outside Burma, and meet the humanitarian needs of Burmese who reside in Thailand.

Currently, with its share of the earmarked funds, USAID administers: (1) humanitarian assistance activities that provide primary healthcare and basic education support to refugees living in refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border; and (2) democracy activities that finance training for Burmese journalists and public information workers to improve the quality and dissemination of news and information on the situation inside Burma, and fund scholarships for Burmese refugees to study at colleges and universities in Asia, Europe, Canada, Australia, and the U.S.

Other Program Elements: With funding from the Regional Stabilize Population Growth and Protect Human Health strategic objective (498-022), USAID began HIV/AIDS prevention activities inside Burma in FY 2002. USAID anticipates programming another \$2.5 million (CSH) under this program in FY 2003 to expand and deepen on-going HIV/AIDS prevention activities inside Burma. The Department of State's Population, Refugees and Migration Program funds refugee assistance activities that complement USAID

activities on the Thai-Burma border. State/DRL also supports a grant to the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) under the earmark.

Other Donors: The activities being funded under the earmark operate independently of the Burmese regime, and are coordinated with more than 30 other donor agencies through either the Burma Donors Forum, or the Coordinating Council for Support to Displaced Persons in Thailand. Bilateral donor programs that focus on humanitarian assistance to Burma and to Burmese refugees include the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Multilateral donors with activities in Burma include the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Program, the World Food Program, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Burma€
PROGRAM SUMMARY€

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Prior Request	FY 2004 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	2,000	0	0	2,500
Development Assistance	993	0	0	0
Economic Support Fund	3,492	6,500	6,500	6,500
Total Program Funds	6,485	6,500	6,500	9,000

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

482-002 Promote Democracy and Aid Burmese Refugees				
CSH	2,000	0	0	0
DA	993	0	0	0
ESF	3,492	6,500	6,500	6,500
1/ 482-XXX ANE Regional HIV/AIDS Program				
CSH	0	0	0	2,500

1/ USAID plans to obligate \$2,500,000 in FY 2004 under the regional Stabilize Population Growth and Protect Human Health (498-022) for HIV/AIDS activities in Burma.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Burma
Program Title:	Promote Democracy and Aid Burmese Refugees
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	482-002
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$6,500,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$5,469,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,500,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1996
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: Since 1998, USAID and the Department of State have co-managed the Burma earmark. The FY 2002 Burma earmark required that at least \$6.5 million be provided for democracy activities in Burma, democracy and humanitarian activities along the Burma-Thailand border, and for Burmese student groups and other organizations located outside Burma. In FY 2002, USAID and the Department of State programmed \$4.0 million for democracy programs and \$2.5 million for the humanitarian assistance.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Humanitarian Assistance (\$3,000,000 ESF): New initiatives were begun in FY 2002 to assist Burmese who fled Burma and now live in Thailand, but not in the recognized refugee camps. This activity will work with the Thai Public Service and local NGOs to provide basic health services to the mobile Burmese refugees in Thailand and help prevent the spread of contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS. USAID and the Department of State will continue to provide support for Burmese refugees living in camps, but at a lower level than FY 2002, in order to begin addressing the primary health care needs of these Burmese refugees that live outside the camps.

Democracy (\$3,500,000 ESF): Democracy activities will support English language training and scholarships to allow disadvantaged Burmese students access to higher education opportunities in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. A new generation of Burmese journalists will be trained in investigative journalism, critical thinking, and basic journalism techniques.

FY 2004 Program:

In FY 2004 (\$6,500,000 ESF), the program will continue activities that assist Burmese refugees, internally displaced people, and pro-democracy groups. To date, these activities have supported training and advocacy for a transition to a democratic government in Burma as well as humanitarian assistance to refugees living along the Thai-Burma border. Humanitarian activities have improved access to primary health care, helped maintain the nutrition and food security of the refugee population, and improved the quality of education being provided to refugee children.

Possible Adjustments to Plans: USAID and the Department of State are exploring opportunities to expand support for pro-democracy activities inside Burma. USAID will continue to refocus its humanitarian activities to benefit more disadvantaged Burmese living outside of official refugee camps.

Performance and Results: This program supports democracy, while helping to provide critical assistance to the growing number of refugees and displaced people living inside Burma and along Burma's borders. In 2002, performance highlights of USAID funded health, community development, and education programs working under this these objective goals were as follows:

By the end of 2002, USAID-supported training resulted in a more than 400 percent increase in medics in the camps over 1998 levels (15 in 1998, 67 in 2002). This training has sustained levels of maternal and

child survival (an infant mortality rate of 29 deaths/1,000 live births) on par with those of surrounding Thai communities.

USAID-funded education activities are contributing significantly to the goal of increasing educational capacity in the refugee camps. By the end of 2002, over 70 participants had received school director training, increasing the ability of school directors to evaluate their own school programs to come up with suggestions for improvement. Over 100 people participated in teacher preparation and training activities. In addition, adult literacy classes trained over 150 students in seven languages. These classes are helping to change attitudes about the value of education among parents.

Principal Contractors, Grantees, or Agencies: Principal grantees include the National Endowment for Democracy; the International Relief Committee; World Education/World Learning Consortium; the American Center for International Labor Solidarity; International Organization for Migration; Open Society Institute; Internews; and Prospect Burma.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Burma

482-002 Promote Democracy and Aid Burmese Refugees	CSH	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001			
Obligations	4,460	4,033	11,170
Expenditures	3,596	3,049	10,540
Unliquidated	864	984	630
Fiscal Year 2002			
Obligations	2,000	0	3,623
Expenditures	770	827	928
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	6,460	4,033	14,793
Expenditures	4,366	3,876	11,468
Unliquidated	2,094	157	3,325
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	5,469
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA			
Obligations	0	0	6,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	0	0	11,969
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	0	0	6,500
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	6,460	4,033	33,262

Data Sheet

482-XXX: No Summary and/or Pillar information entered for this SO.