



ECHOFACTSHEET

Burma/Myanmar

Facts & Figures

**Humanitarian aid
since 1994:
€139 million**

- In response to natural disasters: €47.65 million
- In response to conflict: €85 million

**Humanitarian aid
in 2012:
€18.5million**

- €5 million to assist over 75,000 IDPs in Kachin State
- €8 million to assist 350,000 people [including 110,000 IDPs] in Rakhine State
- € 1.65 million in disaster prevention and management



ECHO Assistance brings relief to various communities in Burma/Myanmar

Key messages

- The European Commission has been providing humanitarian assistance to the victims of natural disasters and conflict since 1994.
- Although Burma/Myanmar is one of the least developed countries in the region, it receives much less international assistance than others in the region.
- The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is deeply concerned about the inter-communal conflict in Rakhine State and urges for unfettered humanitarian access to the victims of the conflict.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Burma/Myanmar has been experiencing low-level internal conflict in several border regions for more than four decades, with several ethnic armed groups fighting the army. In addition, the country was hit by a devastating cyclone in 2008, killing some 140,000 people and destroying thousands of homes in the Irrawaddy delta. It therefore remains among the poorest nations in Asia. However it receives much less international assistance than other developing countries in the region. The European Commission, through its Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), has been funding relief programs in Burma/Myanmar since 1994. ECHO has an office in Yangon since 2005, to facilitate the delivery of European humanitarian aid.

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The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

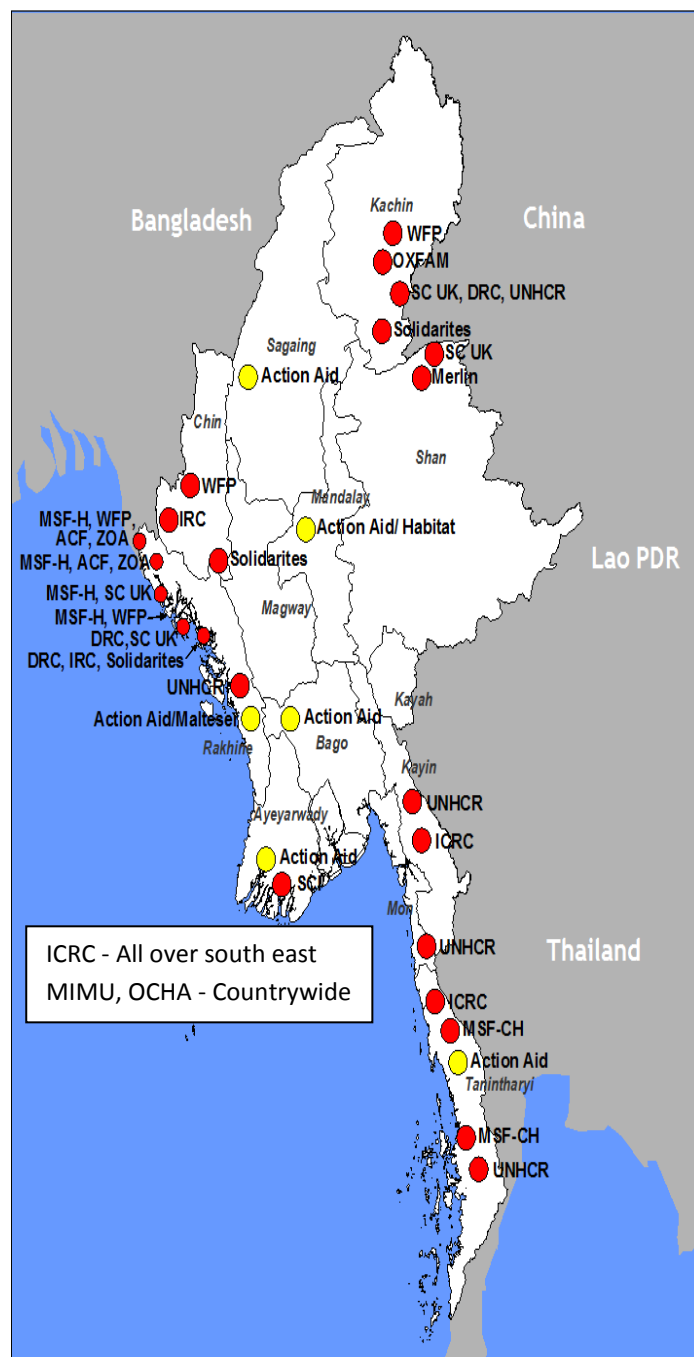
In 2012 the European Commission has allocated some €18.5 million to address the basic humanitarian needs of over one million vulnerable people in Burma/Myanmar. The Commission's humanitarian priority in the country is to assist the civilian victims of the protracted conflict between the central government and ethnic minority armed groups. Of this 2012 funding, €8 million have been allocated to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of the renewed conflict in Kachin State. The EC also supports the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in running an orthopedic centre in Kayin state, providing care to victims of anti-personnel mines.

In the western border region of Rakhine State, ECHO is funding continued assistance to discriminated Muslim communities and IDPs having fled the communal violence. These populations have little or no access to social services and health facilities and where malnutrition is wide-spread, particularly among children. Since 2007, ECHO has committed €36 million of humanitarian assistance to all communities in Rakhine, of which €8 million was allocated in 2012. Sectors of intervention include food and livelihood support, basic health care, nutrition and protection.

In September 2012, ECHO provided €150,000 to fund humanitarian assistance to over 2,000 households in 20 villages in the Tharbaung township which were badly affected by floods caused by strong monsoon rainfall. The European Commission has previously also allocated €8 million, targeted specifically at the humanitarian needs of communities affected by Cyclone Giri in October 2010.

Reducing the impact of natural disasters

DIPECHO (which stands for Disaster Preparedness ECHO) is a programme set up by ECHO in 1996 to improve the capacities of communities at risk to better prepare and protect themselves in response to disasters. In 2012 €1.65 million was allocated under DIPECHO to support a consortium of specialised partners along the coastal areas and the main quake fault line of the country ..(see yellow dots on map).



ECHO funded projects in Burma/Myanmar



In **Northern Shan State** the inhabitants of 26 villages now benefit from greater access to safe and reliable water sources through the rehabilitation or construction of water storage tanks and wells. Local sanitation in the villages was also improved through the construction of fly-proof latrines for 600 households. The implementing partner was "German Agro Action".

In **Rakhine State** communal violence between Rohingya and Arakan communities in Rakhine state that flared up in late May 2012, is still very tense. It has resulted in thousands of homes being burned, over 110,000 people displaced and more than 200 people killed. The UN and a number of international NGOs are using € 8 million of ECHO funds to provide humanitarian assistance to the different communities in Rakhine State.



The **central region of Burma/Myanmar**, also known as the "dry zone" was badly affected by flash floods in October 2011. With ECHO funds, Oxfam, launched a project in 15 villages to rehabilitate livelihoods by providing cash grants to 1.200 households. To improve water and sanitation, 2.000 ceramic water filters were also distributed and hygiene kits were provided to over 2.500 households.

Cyclone Nargis struck the Irrawaddy delta in April 2008, destroying hundreds of villages and killing tens of thousands. ECHO was able to respond rapidly to the emergency, providing €39 million over 24 months (May 2008 – May 2010). The financial response enabled 26 ECHO partners to implement 37 programmes to provide for the immediate needs of the affected population through the distribution of basic household items, food aid, basic health care, water and sanitation, and shelter material. It supported assistance in almost all townships affected by the cyclone in the delta, as well as in the Yangon area where over 1,35 million people benefited from this assistance.



