

Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) BURMA

OCTOBER 2017

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

473

USAID/OTI activities to date

146

Local partners USAID/OTI has worked with to date

2,189

Trainings, events or other interventions to build support for peace and reconciliation

43,962

Number of participants in consultative meetings designed to support peace and reconciliation

FAST FACTS

Start Date September 2012

Partners Development Alternatives, Inc.
U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

\$61.9 MILLION

BUDGET TO DATE

\$29M TI
\$22.1M ESF
\$7M CCF
\$3.8M DV

\$9.3M

FY 17 TO DATE

WHY USAID/OTI IS IN BURMA

On April 1, 2016, the National League of Democracy (NLD) formed the first democratically elected Government of Burma in decades. Yet Burma continues to face complex, simultaneous and multi-dimensional challenges as it transitions from authoritarian rule to democracy, intercommunal and armed conflict to peace, and a centrally controlled, planned economy to market-led economic policies. USAID/OTI provides a fast, targeted tool to promote Burma's peace process and address intercommunal conflict, both essential for long-term stability, further democratization and advancing U.S. strategic interests in the region.

USAID/OTI'S MISSION

In support of U.S. foreign policy, OTI seizes emerging windows of opportunity in the political landscape to promote stability, peace and democracy by catalyzing local initiatives through adaptive and agile programming.

USAID/OTI'S ROLE IN BURMA

USAID/OTI entered Burma in 2012 during a window of opportunity created by initial reforms under the military-led government. USAID/OTI works to deepen and sustain reform and foster legitimate, inclusive peacebuilding by focusing on:

- Enhancing the ability of key stakeholders to engage in the peace process;
- Strengthening engagement on areas affecting fundamental freedoms; and
- Reducing the influence of the drivers of intercommunal conflict and strengthening capacity to promote intercommunal harmony.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID/OTI brings together political parties, civil society and ethnic armed groups to engage in the peace process. These efforts, which contributed to the signing of a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in October 2015 by eight ethnic armed groups, helps maintain momentum toward a sustainable peace between all groups after decades of armed conflict.
- USAID/OTI works with community leaders, civil society and local government in Rakhine to build their capacity to prevent violent conflict and counter hate speech and rumor. USAID/OTI also aims to reduce the risk of intercommunal violence spreading to other areas in central Burma. The Bago Peace Network has actively combated misinformation on the Rakhine conflict, successfully intervening when mentally ill person was accused, through rumor, of being a Muslim terrorist. Both efforts are complemented by our partners working on Facebook, developing online platforms that counter fake news by fact-checking local reporting and online rumors.
- USAID/OTI strengthens civil society engagement with the Government of Burma in drafting legislation, creating opportunities for dialogue and providing civil society with access to technical and subject matter expertise. Critical laws such as the Disability Rights Law, Anti-Violence Against Women Law and Association Registration Law better reflect democratic principles and more effectively protect the rights of Burma's citizens because of civil society's involvement in the legislative drafting process.