

**Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**  
Senate Budget Estimates, June 2011  
Questions on Notice: AusAID

**Question No. 8**

**Senator Ludlam** asked on notice

Aid distribution to Burma:

- a) What is the distribution of aid within Burma by state/province?
- b) What aid is sent to the border areas from the Thai and/or Indian side?
- c) What aid (in dollar figures and as a rough breakdown) is given to the area around Mae Sot and the refugee camps in the area?

**Answer:**

- a) The following table provides estimates of the distribution of Australian aid to Burma by state/region.

**Table 1: Indicative Geographic Breakdown of Australian aid to Burma**

States / Regions	Proportion of Australian aid to Burma* (2010-2011)	Population^ (millions)	Proportion of total population*
Ayeyarwady Division	35.6%	7.1	14.2%
Bago (East)	1.7%	2.5	5.0%
Bago (West)	1.8%	2.5	5.0%
Chin	4.5%	0.5	1.0%
Kachin	3.6%	1.3	2.5%
Kayah	1.1%	0.3	0.6%
Kayin	1.2%	1.3	2.7%
Magway	2.6%	1.3	2.7%
Mandalay	4.2%	2.5	5.1%
Mon	6.8%	4.8	9.6%
Rakhine	5.9%	6.9	14.0%
Sagaing	11.4%	2.6	5.3%
Shan (East)	1.9%	5.4	11.0%
Shan (North)	6.3%	1.6	3.1%
Shan (South)	3.2%	1.6	3.1%
Tanintharyi	2.3%	1.6	3.1%
Yangon	5.9%	5.9	11.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Notes:**

\*The above figures represent estimates of Australia's aid which is channelled through UN organisations and international NGOs as well as multi-donor funds which operate across the states and regions of Burma. In the latter case, Australia's contribution to pooled funds has been apportioned as per the distribution of the total volume of funds.

^Population data by State and Division is indicative and based on internal Burma State tourism information

- b) The Australian Government does not currently support assistance delivered into Burma from neighbouring countries (including Thailand and India).

Australia does, however, provide considerable support to people from south-east Burma, including refugees and displaced people. Australia has provided over \$15 million since 1999 to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium, Australian NGOs and Australian volunteers to assist refugees on the Thai-Burma border. Recognising that displaced people within south-east Burma face significant humanitarian challenges, Australia supports conflict-affected communities by strengthening rural health centres and schools, and providing water points and shelter through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (\$3 million in 2010-11).

- c) In 2010-11, Australia tripled its support to refugees from south-east Burma living in Thailand (to around \$3 million). Assistance continues to support basic needs, but also promotes self-reliance by building the capacity of refugees to develop and utilise their own resources. For example, our assistance:
- supports health care through the Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot including skills training for healthcare workers through a partnership with Australian NGO, Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA (\$1.5m over 3 years);
  - provides livelihoods opportunities through vocational training in three refugee camps in partnership with ADRA Australia (\$1.5m over 3 years); and
  - supports food and shelter for refugees (\$1.5 million through Act for Peace/Thailand Burma Border Consortium).