



***New Zealand – Earthquake***

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 9, 2011

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 4, 2011.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) component concluded two weeks of operations in Christchurch on March 8. The USAID/DART commenced demobilization of the USAR component on March 9, with the final USAID/DART member scheduled to depart New Zealand on March 12.
- On March 6, the Government of New Zealand (GoNZ) began a phased reduction of the protective cordon around the Christchurch central business district to allow area home and business owners to access their properties and reclaim assets and vehicles, according to the GoNZ Ministry of Civil Defense and Emergency Management (MCDEM). The GoNZ plans to open additional areas in the central business district in the coming days.
- On March 7, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced plans to hold a national memorial service on March 18, in remembrance of people killed during the earthquake.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>Confirmed Deaths</b>	166	GoNZ – March 9, 2011
<b>Estimated Missing Persons<sup>1</sup></b>	118	GoNZ – March 9, 2011

**FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to New Zealand.....</b>	<b>\$1,022,440</b>
<b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to New Zealand.....</b>	<b>\$1,022,440</b>

**CONTEXT**

- On February 22 at 1251 hours local time, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck 6.2 miles southeast of Christchurch—New Zealand’s second largest urban area with a population of approximately 390,000—at a depth of 3.1 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The earthquake caused extensive damage to Christchurch’s central business district, trapping people under collapsed buildings and resulting in an unconfirmed number of deaths and injuries.
- On February 22, U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand David Huebner declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response to the GoNZ’s request for U.S. USAR support, USAID deployed a USAID/DART, including a 74-person USAR team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, to support search and rescue efforts. USAID also activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to support the USAID/DART and coordinate the U.S. Government humanitarian response to the earthquake.

***Urban Search and Rescue***

- From February 25 to March 9, the U.S. USAR team searched a total of 16 city blocks and 23 additional buildings in the Christchurch central business district to ensure that no survivors or human remains were trapped beneath collapsed buildings. Conducting 24-hour operations, the team contributed to efforts at the high priority Christchurch Cathedral and Pyne Gould Guinness and Forsyth Barr building sites.
- During the final eight days of the response, the U.S. USAR team employed sophisticated equipment to search a collapsed stairwell in the 18-story Forsyth Barr building. Although search and rescue dogs initially detected human remains at the site, USAR teams did not locate human remains buried beneath the rubble.
- On March 9, USAID transferred USAR equipment, valued at approximately \$405,000, from the Los Angeles County USAR team to the New Zealand Fire Service. The transfer—which includes sophisticated logistical, detection, and rescue equipment—will allow New Zealand’s USAR teams to replace equipment lost during the earthquake, as well as increase the teams’ domestic, regional, and international search and rescue capacities. Throughout the response, the U.S. USAR team collaborated with New Zealand and other international USAR teams, training counterparts on advanced detection techniques and equipment.

<sup>1</sup>The number of missing individuals likely includes the majority of confirmed deaths.

**Reconstruction and Recovery**

- On March 7, New Zealand Civil Defense Minister John Carter extended the state of national emergency for an additional seven days to allow international assistance in response to the earthquake.
- GoNZ assessment teams continue to evaluate residential and commercial properties, marking properties that are safe to enter with green stickers, properties that require further assessment with yellow stickers, and properties that are unsafe to enter with red stickers, according to the MCDEM. As of March 9, assessment teams had evaluated 70,520 commercial and residential buildings, classifying 1,359 commercial buildings and 1,368 residential buildings as unsafe to enter, representing approximately 4 percent of assessed structures to date, according to the MCDEM.
- As of March 9, the GoNZ had opened ten recovery assistance centers to provide medium- to long-term services to individuals affected by the earthquake, according to MCDEM. The recovery assistance centers are gradually replacing emergency-oriented welfare centers. As of March 9, only one of three initial welfare centers remained open, accommodating 53 people, according to the MCDEM.
- The New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) 2011 Earthquake Commission continues to offer grants valued at approximately \$370 for individuals and \$740 for families residing in houses without basic services, as well as to individuals and families displaced due to lack of services. The NZRC is also providing bereavement grants valued at approximately \$7,400 to the confirmed next of kin of individuals who died in the earthquake. As of March 8, the NZRC had raised more than \$14.1 million through its 2011 earthquake appeal.

**Infrastructure and Public Services**

- The USAID/DART completed damage assessments in 11 of Christchurch's most affected eastern suburbs between February 25 and March 6, visiting an Australian-run field hospital, the local chapter of the NZRC, and GoNZ-established welfare centers offering social service advice, hot meals, and temporary accommodations. The USAID/DART observed a comprehensive range of services available to individuals seeking assistance, with door-to-door outreach efforts ongoing to ensure that assistance reached housebound and indigent individuals.
- As of March 9, approximately 98 percent of properties had power, while approximately 84 percent of houses had running water and 60 percent of houses were reconnected to public sewer lines, according to the MCDEM. The GoNZ continues to install portable toilets and distribute chemical toilets in areas where repair crews have yet to restore water and sanitation services.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEW ZEALAND**

<b>FY 2011</b>			
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
New Zealand Red Cross	Emergency Shelter Support	Christchurch	\$100,000
	Logistics Costs		\$848,500
	USAID/DART Support Costs		\$73,940
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,022,440</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEW ZEALAND IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$1,022,440</b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 9, 2011.

**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in New Zealand may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)