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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Bangladesh – Cyclone

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

July 23, 2009

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On May 25, Cyclone Aila struck the coastal areas of Bangladesh with wind speeds of up to 56 miles per hour. Heavy rains, combined with high tides, resulted in storm surges which breached embankments, flooded villages, and affected nearly 5 million individuals. According to the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), the cyclone killed 190 people, injured more than 7,000, and damaged or destroyed more than 500,000 houses. Cyclone Aila also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including more than 1,400 km of embankments, an estimated 8,800 km of roads, and approximately 350,000 acres of crop land. The cyclone caused damage in 11 districts in southern Bangladesh, including the most-affected districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur and Patuakhali.
- On May 28, U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty declared a disaster due to the damage from Cyclone Aila. In response, USAID/OFDA immediately provided \$100,000 through USAID/Bangladesh to CARE and World Vision for distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations. CARE and World Vision provided more than 22,000 families with emergency food and non-food relief supplies such as soap, candles, plastic sheeting, utensils, matches, and buckets. In addition to the emergency relief supplies, pre-positioned USAID/OFDA water purification units, zodiac boats, and water ambulances were quickly mobilized through USAID partners CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Save the Children, and World Vision. USAID/Bangladesh reprogrammed existing program funds to provide emergency survival packs that included plastic sheeting, utensils, candles, rope, soap, matches, and mosquito netting for distribution to cyclone-affected populations.
- Following the initial response, USAID/OFDA deployed a regional advisor and a shelter specialist from June 9 to 16 to assess the impact of the cyclone and determine if additional emergency assistance was needed. Based on the assessment and resulting recommendations, USAID/OFDA is providing additional funds for emergency relief supplies, shelter materials and provision of transitional shelter, livelihood assistance through cash-for-work activities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions through CARE, CRS and World Vision.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	190 dead, 7,103 injured, 4.8 million affected	GoB – June 11, 2009
Houses Damaged or Destroyed	More than 500,000	GoB – July 19, 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh.....\$3,620,188
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance.....\$3,620,188

CURRENT SITUATION

- According to the USAID/OFDA assessment, and as well as reports by GoB and relief agencies working in Bangladesh, Cyclone Aila contaminated natural water reservoirs, destroyed crops, shrimp farms, and other livelihoods, damaged more than 1,400 km of coastal embankments, and flooded houses and villages, displacing more than 500,000 families.
- Priority relief needs include provision of emergency relief supplies, shelter materials, water and sanitation, livelihood recovery, and construction of transitional shelter for displaced populations. The GoB estimated that repairs to embankments damaged by the cyclone may take at least six months, and may be delayed due to the onset of the monsoon season.
- On July 19, the GoB met with donor countries and the international aid community to request \$1.15 billion for a five-year rehabilitation program, primarily for the 11 districts most affected by Cyclone Aila. Of the total requested, \$435 million is designated for cluster villages for landless people, \$381 million for reconstruction of houses, \$62 million for reconstruction of embankments, \$56 million for restoration of livelihood, \$200 million for construction of cyclone shelters, \$12 million for displaced people, and \$3 million for restoration of water supply systems.

Shelter

- According to a July 2009 U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) report, approximately 350,000 people remained displaced and unable to return to affected villages. During the June 9 to 16 visit,

USAID/OFDA staff observed that many displaced families were still living on roadsides and embankments, or with host families and friends.

- In response, USAID/OFDA is providing World Vision with \$270,000 and CRS with more than \$250,000 for the purchase and distribution of emergency shelter materials such as plastic sheeting, bamboo poles, and basic tools, to affected families. World Vision and CRS are also distributing emergency relief supplies and implementing cash-for-work activities, such as the repair of feeder roads and clearing debris from schools and other community buildings.
- USAID/OFDA is also providing \$2.5 million to CRS to construct or repair 2,600 transitional shelters for families whose houses were destroyed or damaged by Cyclone Aila in the most-affected areas of Khulna and Satkhira districts, Khulna Division. USAID/OFDA is providing CARE with \$500,000 to construct 300 transitional shelters in the affected area of Hatia in Noakhali District, Chittagong Division. The activities also include the installation of water and sanitation facilities for the houses, and cash-for-work activities based on the repair or construction of transitional shelters.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In response to the U.S. Ambassador's May 28 disaster declaration, USAID/OFDA is providing a total of approximately \$3.6 million to assist cyclone-affected communities through livelihoods, shelter and settlements, and WASH interventions, and the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies. In addition, USAID/Bangladesh reprogrammed existing program funds for distribution of emergency survival packs to cyclone-affected populations.
- Through regional preparedness programs, USAID/OFDA has contributed to strengthened emergency response capacity in Bangladesh. The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) has developed national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors. The Asia Flood Network (AFN) has strengthened the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions in climate, weather, and hydrological forecasting while directly involving communities at risk in reducing vulnerability to hydrometeorological hazards. The Program for Hydrometeorological Risk Mitigation in Asian Cities (PROMISE) has carried out hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments, and established community-based early warning mechanisms in Chittagong. In close coordination with the GoB, USAID/OFDA-supported programs have helped minimize the loss of life and damage inflicted by recent cyclones and other disasters in Bangladesh.

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH FOR CYCLONE AILA IN FY 2009

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
CARE	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics, Shelter and Settlements	Noakhali District, Chittagong Division	\$50,000
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics	Sathkira District, Khulna Division	\$50,000
Catholic Relief Services	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics	Khulna and Sathkira districts, Khulna Division	\$250,166
World Vision	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements	Khulna and Sathkira districts, Khulna Division	\$270,000
CARE	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Noakhali District, Chittagong Division	\$499,996

Catholic Relief Services	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Khulna and Sathkira districts, Khulna Division	\$2,500,026
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,620,188
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2009			\$3,620,188

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 23, 2009.

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 identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Bangladesh, or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- 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 and 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 – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int