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

Sri Lanka – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #18, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

September 30, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 11, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- From September 19 to 25, the USAID/DCHA Assistant Administrator visited Sri Lanka to meet with Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) officials and representatives from U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and to observe conditions at Manik Farms internally displaced person (IDP) camp in Vavuniya District.
- On September 18, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe concluded a visit to Sri Lanka. During a September 18 press conference, the under-secretary-general stated that Sri Lankan IDPs lack the basic right of freedom of movement and urged the GoSL to allow IDPs who have completed the screening process to depart camps at will. A September 23 to 26 visit from the U.N. Secretary-General’s envoy for IDP rights, Walter Kaelin, followed.
- As of September 28, the GoSL conducted 6,813 IDP returns to areas of origin in Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The figure includes recent conflict-affected IDPs, as well as long-term IDPs.
- In September, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched a pilot project in the eastern district of Batticaloa to help reintegrate demobilized former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) combatants into civilian life. The GoSL also announced plans to finalize an action plan for implementing the National Framework Proposal on Reintegrating Ex-Combatants by the end of September. The GoSL framework is intended to minimize the risk of socio-economic marginalization and increase the employability of former combatants, according to the Sri Lankan disaster management and human rights minister.
- On September 25, the GoSL sought U.N. assistance to establish temporary camps in Jaffna and Mannar districts for the relocation of IDPs currently residing in Manik Farms prior to the onset of the October to January rains.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*	SOURCE
IDPs in camps in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts	253,567 OCHA – September 2009

* Estimates based on improved IDP registration as of September 28, 2009.

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$7,935,926
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$28,329,000
State/PRM Assistance to Sri Lanka²	\$13,330,000
State/PM/WRA³ Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$6,600,000
DoD⁴ Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$1,600,000
Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$57,794,926

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 28, nearly 254,000 IDPs remained in camps in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts, according to OCHA. Of the total, nearly 213,000 IDPs remained in temporary camps in Vavuniya as of September 23.
- U.N. agencies and NGOs estimate that Manik Farms can accommodate no more than 160,000 IDPs and remain within Sphere standards. The upcoming October to January rainy season will likely decrease the population that Manik Farms can sustain while meeting Sphere standards due to the potential for flooding and associated negative humanitarian impacts.

¹ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

² In addition, State/PRM has provided support to the South Asia regional activities of the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which includes programs to support IDPs, refugees, and conflict victims throughout South Asia, including Sri Lanka.

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Political and Military Affairs/Weapons Removal and Abatement (State/PMWRA)

⁴ U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

- UNHCR reported that many returnees, particularly Vanni IDPs in Jaffna, currently reside in temporary accommodations with host families because of damage or proximity of mines to previous residences.

Displaced Populations

- As of September 28, OCHA reported that the GoSL had authorized the departure of 7,835 IDPs, including elderly persons, people with learning disabilities, and individuals from other vulnerable groups, from IDP camps to host families and welfare centers for the elderly.
- According to OCHA, 1,706 IDPs the GoSL transferred from Vavuniya camps to Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna and Trincomalee districts on September 11 are residing in transit sites with restricted freedom of movement and have not yet returned to houses.

Emergency Food Assistance

- In September, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) announced plans to distribute dry food rations and begin facilitating individual cooking in zones 2 and 3 of Manik Farms, stating that NGOs lack funding to continue communal cooking.

Health

- On September 22, the U.N. Population Fund opened five family health clinics in five zones of Manik Farms to provide pre- and post-natal exams, voluntary family planning, emergency deliveries, psychosocial counseling, and other services. UNFPA opened the clinics in collaboration with the Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition and the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka's Family Health Bureau to serve the camp's estimated 5,000 pregnant women, among others.
- The U.N. World Health Organization reported a June 1 to September 11 cumulative total of 3,934 chicken pox cases, 3,681 hepatitis A cases, 2,347 dysentery cases, and 17,126 diarrhea cases in transit sites and temporary IDP camps in Vavuniya. The figures indicate a rise in the incidence of chicken pox during the past two months and a decline in rates of the other three diseases.

Shelter and Settlements

- A U.N. report stated that U.N. Shelter Cluster members continue to repair damaged emergency shelters and drain roads inundated during the August 14 to 17 flash floods.
- The U.N. further reported that U.N. Shelter and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster agencies continue to identify areas vulnerable to high groundwater and other potential hazards that may require the relocation of IDPs in Manik Farms to other areas during the monsoon season. Road access within Manik Farms and other camps remains a concern, and U.N. Shelter Cluster members predict deterioration of emergency drainage to further erode road surfaces and limit the maximum weight of vehicle loads.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA regional staff based in Bangkok, Thailand, continue to coordinate with USAID/Sri Lanka, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, and implementing partners to monitor evolving conditions.
- On October 21, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake redeclared a disaster in Sri Lanka due to increased conflict and resulting displacement, requesting USAID/OFDA support for FY 2009.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$8 million to assist IDPs and returnees, including support for health, logistics, protection, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, shelter and settlements, humanitarian coordination and information management, and WASH programs.
- In FY 2009, USAID/FFP provided 38,550 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$30 million, to WFP. In FY 2009, State/PRM provided more than \$13.3 million to ICRC and UNHCR to support conflict-affected Sri Lankans. In addition, State/PRM provided support to UNHCR and ICRC regional programs, which include activities to support IDPs, refugees, and conflict victims throughout South Asia, including Sri Lanka. Funding for UNHCR's programs in Sri Lanka includes support for returnee assistance in northern districts. State/PM/WRA also contributed \$6.6 million for humanitarian demining in key areas of northern Sri Lanka, including Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, and Vavuniya districts. In July, DoD contributed medical supplies and equipment, valued at an estimated \$1.6 million, to primary health care centers and hospitals serving IDPs.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO SRI LANKA
FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2009**

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Internews	Humanitarian Coordination and Management	Vavuniya District	\$768,532
IOM	Health	Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya districts	\$1,080,866
UMCOR	Umbrella Award for Small Grants in Health, Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts	\$4,300,060
UNICEF	Nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts	\$1,700,000
Administrative Costs			\$86,468
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$7,935,926
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	38,550 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$28,329,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$28,329,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	IDP Assistance and Protection	Northern, North-Central, and Eastern provinces	\$5,060,000
UNHCR	IDP Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$8,270,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$13,330,000
STATE/PM/WRA			
Danish Demining Group (DDG), HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)	Humanitarian Demining	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, and Vavuniya districts	\$6,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PM/WRA			\$6,600,000
DOD			
DoD	Medical Equipment and Supplies	Vavuniya District	\$1,600,000
TOTAL DOD			\$1,600,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2009			\$57,794,926

FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE		
USAID/OFDA		\$7,935,926
USAID/FFP		\$28,329,000
STATE/PRM		\$13,330,000
STATE/PM/WRA		\$6,600,000
DOD		\$1,600,000
TOTAL FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA		\$57,794,926

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance

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 Sri Lanka can be found at 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, and warehouse space); 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