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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 #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

June 4, 2009

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 29, 2009.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- During the week of June 1, a USAID/OFDA implementing partner reported that the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) is establishing 20 additional internally displaced person (IDP) camps separate from the Manik Farms site in Vavuniya District. The new, smaller-scale sites are expected to accommodate 2,000 persons each for a total of 40,000 IDPs.
- On May 29, international media reported that the GoSL had not yet permitted the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to access the former conflict zone in northeastern Sri Lanka. The media also noted that ICRC, U.N. agencies, and other humanitarian organizations continued to face obstacles in accessing IDP camps, including Manik Farms.
- On May 29, the U.N. held a press briefing in Sri Lanka on needs, achievements, gaps, and challenges in responding to recent population displacement in Sri Lanka. While the humanitarian community has met some needs, gaps remain in the provision of shelter, protection services, nutrition programs, education, agriculture programs, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>IDPs who escaped the conflict zone from October 27 to May 28</b>	276,785	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – May 30, 2009
<b>IDPs in camps in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts</b>	274,468	OCHA – May 30, 2009

*\* Note: The situation remains fluid and IDP figures cited represent estimates.*

### **FY 2008 AND FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$11,009,708</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$42,900,000</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>3</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka<sup>4</sup> .....</b>	<b>\$6,820,000</b>
<b>State/PMWRA<sup>5</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$2,079,322</b>
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$62,809,030</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- Between late October 2008 and May 28, 2009, OCHA reported that more than 276,000 IDPs moved from the former conflict zone into GoSL-controlled territory. The majority of the nearly 275,000 IDPs in camps reside in Vavuniya District, with additional IDPs at sites in Jaffna, Mannar, and Trincomalee districts.
- According to USAID/OFDA staff at the U.S. Mission to the U.N., the U.N. continues to advocate for improved conditions in IDP camps, increased humanitarian access, and efforts to promote IDP returns and resettlement.
- According to local media reports issued on May 30, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that Manik Farms IDP camp remained 30,000 to 40,000 people beyond capacity. Humanitarian agencies noted that overcrowding significantly increases security risks, emotional trauma, and family separations. USAID/OFDA staff anticipate that the creation of a new zone in Manik Farms camp and 20 new IDP camps elsewhere in Vavuniya District will help to alleviate overcrowding.

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political and Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (State/PMWRA)

### ***Humanitarian Access***

- Local media reported on May 29 that according to UNHCR, the GoSL continued to make progress regarding the transfer of IDP camp management to civilian authorities. The GoSL military will maintain security around the perimeter of the camps, according to local media. USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor reports from implementing partners that the transition from military to civilian control of the IDP camps is underway.

### ***Emergency Relief Supplies***

- To date in 2009, UNHCR has distributed more than 66,000 bed sheets, 31,000 kitchen sets, 40,000 mosquito nets, 73,000 plastic mats, 72,000 water containers, 28,000 nylon ropes, and 16,000 plastic sheets to IDPs. UNHCR has also distributed buckets, plastic basins, water cans, and clothing for approximately 138,000 IDPs in camps.

### ***Emergency Food Assistance***

- According to a May 30 OCHA report, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) distributed approximately 1,785 metric tons (MT) of food aid in IDP sites in Vavuniya District between May 1 and 23.

### ***Protection***

- On May 28, UNHCR reported that a lack of access has hampered protection monitoring in all zones of Manik Farms IDP camp. However, as of June 1 protection teams were able to visit transit sites in Vavuniya District.

### ***Shelter and Settlements***

- After announcing plans to build additional camps, the GoSL approached UNHCR to assess two of the 20 sites, and UNHCR arranged for multi-sectoral assessments on June 1. Agencies conducting the assessments found that site preparation was nearing completion at one site but expressed concern about a number of issues, including water drainage and the location of the camps. The GoSL has requested that the humanitarian community provide assistance with site design, shelter, and WASH facilities. USAID/OFDA staff is following up on additional information about these sites.
- The GoSL is creating a new zone—Zone 5—in Manik Farms IDP camp. According to a USAID/OFDA implementing partner, Zone 5 will occupy part of the 1,250 acres currently labeled “Zone 4” and will not further expand the geographic boundaries of Manik Farms camp. Creation of the new zone is an administrative division to assist authorities with managing the camp more efficiently.
- USAID/OFDA staff are confirming reports from an implementing partner that GoSL authorities are transferring approximately 6,350 IDPs from transit sites to Manik Farms IDP camp. At least 18 schools in Vavuniya District are serving as transit sites for IDPs.

### ***WASH***

- Gaps in WASH services in camps remain a significant concern to USAID/OFDA. The WASH cluster in Vavuniya District reported that challenges included access to camps, overcrowding, lack of morbidity and mortality data, and limited coordination with GoSL agencies. In addition, environmental sanitation services are minimal to non-existent, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- The Vavuniya District WASH cluster reported that as of May 28, humanitarian agencies and GoSL authorities had provided more than 3,000 hygiene facilities and approximately 2,000 waste receptacles for IDP populations. However, the WASH cluster observed that significant gaps remain in hygiene facilities and hygiene promotion activities.

### **USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- A USAID humanitarian assistance team composed of two USAID/OFDA staff members remains in Sri Lanka working closely with USAID/Sri Lanka and partners to assess needs and coordinate U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance.
- 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.
- To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$6 million to assist IDPs and returnees, including support for health, logistics, protection, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, shelter and settlements, humanitarian coordination and information management, and WASH programs.
- In FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 19,490 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$14.3 million, to WFP. To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided \$4.8 million to ICRC and UNHCR to support conflict-affected Sri Lankans. In addition, State/PRM has provided support to UNHCR and ICRC regional programs, which include activities to support IDPs, refugees, and conflict victims throughout South Asia, including Sri Lanka. State/PMWRA has also contributed \$600,000 for humanitarian demining in Mannar District.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO SRI LANKA  
FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008 AND FY 2009**

<b>FY 2009</b>			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)	Umbrella Award for Small Grants in Health, Protection, Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$3,500,060
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$1,700,000
IOM	Health	Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya Districts	\$880,866
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$6,080,926</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	19,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,300,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$14,300,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
ICRC	IDP Assistance and Protection	Northern, North-Central, and Eastern Provinces	\$1,760,000
UNHCR	IDP Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$3,070,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$4,830,000</b>
<b>STATE/PMWRA</b>			
Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)	Humanitarian Demining	Mannar District	\$600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PMWRA</b>			<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$25,810,926</b>

<b>FY 2008</b>			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa District	\$599,999
IOM	Economy and Market Systems	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$605,000

Internews	Humanitarian Coordination and Management	North, North-Central, and Eastern Provinces	\$826,851
Norwegian Refugee Council	Protection	Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$614,991
UMCOR	Umbrella Award for Small Grants in Health, Protection, Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics, Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
USAID/Sri Lanka	Administration and Logistics	Countrywide	\$31,941
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$4,928,782</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	36,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$28,600,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$28,600,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,990,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$1,990,000</b>
<b>STATE/PMWRA</b>			
Mines Advisory Group, Danish Demining Group, FSD	Humanitarian Demining	Countrywide	\$1,479,322
<b>TOTAL STATE/PMWRA</b>			<b>\$1,479,322</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$36,998,104</b>

<b>FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE</b>	
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>	<b>\$11,009,708</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>	<b>\$42,900,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>	<b>\$6,820,000</b>
<b>STATE/PMWRA</b>	<b>\$2,079,322</b>
<b>TOTAL FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA</b>	<b>\$62,809,030</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 4, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> 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](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, 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](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/)