



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

***Sri Lanka – Complex Emergency***

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

March 11, 2009

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated February 23, 2009.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- As of March 9, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 37,512 internally displaced persons (IDPs) had crossed into GOSL-controlled territory since January and now reside in IDP camps in Vavuniya, Mannar, and Jaffna districts.
- As of March 6, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimated that approximately 150,000 civilians remained trapped between Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) forces in Northern Sri Lanka.
- International media reported on March 6 that the GOSL, with assistance from ICRC, planned to open two safe routes for civilians. However, GOSL authorities have not announced plans to negotiate with the LTTE for release of civilians in the disputed area. The GOSL Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights stated on March 6 that the GOSL will declare a ceasefire if the LTTE ends its campaign.
- On February 27, U.N. Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes briefed the U.N. Security Council on his visit to Sri Lanka. Under Secretary General Holmes called for unhindered humanitarian access to IDPs, respect for international humanitarian standards and principles by both the GOSL and LTTE, and safe return of IDPs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>IDPs in camps in Vavuniya, Mannar, and Jaffna</b>	37,512	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – March 9, 2009
<b>IDPs trapped in Mullaitivu due to GOSL-LTTE fighting</b>	Approximately 150,000	ICRC – March 6, 2009
<b>Total number of IDPs in Sri Lanka including the Eastern Region</b>	281,698	UNHCR – February 12, 2009

**HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008 AND FY 2009**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$6,929,323
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$28,600,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka <sup>4</sup> .....	\$1,990,000
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$37,519,323</b>

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- Since January, an 37,512 IDPs from the conflict-affected northern districts of Sri Lanka (the Vanni) have arrived in Vavuniya, Mannar, and Jaffna districts as of March 9, according to OCHA.
- According to international media on March 3, GOSL forces seized the last LTTE-held road juncture in the town of Puthukudiyiruppu and reduced LTTE territory to approximately 30 square miles.
- On February 25, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor and the USAID/Sri Lanka Mission Director visited four IDP camps in Vavuniya District and confirmed through interviews with beneficiaries that IDPs had appropriate access to food, water, and shelter. The GOSL travel authorization limited the regional advisor’s visit to a 24 hour period.

<sup>1</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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

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

<sup>4</sup> This figure does not include State/PRM regional South Asia support for UNHCR and ICRC, valued at more than \$4.5 million and \$23.6 million, respectively.

### ***Humanitarian Access and Protection***

- According to OCHA, GOSL authorities started IDP registration procedures in camps on March 4 and announced plans to issue identity cards that will allow IDPs to enter and exit camps. U.N. agencies and international NGOs had earlier identified the movement restrictions on IDPs as a significant protection issue.
- On March 3, the USAID/OFDA regional advisor reported that U.N. agencies and NGOs had increased access to the transit camps in Vavuniya District. However, other international humanitarian actors stated that access remained inconsistent.
- ICRC reported that since February 10, more than 3,000 patients and relatives departed by sea from Mullaitivu District to Trincomalee Hospital in ICRC-organized evacuations.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA contributed more than \$2.1 million to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to implement protection programming for IDPs and returnees in Batticaloa, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts.

### ***Health***

- On March 6, the GOSL Ministry of Health announced that medical evacuees will be sent to the town of Pulmoddai in northern Trincomalee District rather than the original destination of Trincomalee Hospital. The Pulmoddai facility is located farther from the conflict-affected areas and is expected to be renovated with assistance from the Government of India. The GOSL stated that the new location was selected to facilitate transportation of treated IDPs to camps as Pulomoddai is on a direct road to Vavuniya District.

### ***Shelter***

- As of February 27, the GOSL had constructed 1,346 temporary shelters in Vavuniya, Mannar, and Jaffna districts. According to OCHA, the lack of available space for additional shelters remained a critical issue.

### ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene***

- OCHA indicated on February 26 that insufficient access to clean drinking water and lack of hygiene promotion activities due to limited access to IDP camps Vavuniya District remain concerns.

### ***IDP Assistance***

- A USAID/OFDA regional advisor reported that UNHCR and other agencies had stockpiled sufficient resources to meet the nutrition, education, and water, sanitation, and hygiene needs of an anticipated 150,000 IDPs in Vavuniya and Mannar districts as of March 2.
- On March 2, UNHCR began the construction of water, health, and shelter infrastructure in a new transit camp on 300 acres allocated by the GOSL to support approximately 60,000 IDPs.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4 million in assistance to IDPs and other conflict-affected persons, including programs in health, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, and water, sanitation, and hygiene to support IDPs.

### ***Food Assistance***

- On March 9, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) dispatched 261 metric tons (MT) of food from Colombo to Vavuniya and Jaffna districts on a GOSL convoy. On March 6, WFP shipped 500 MT of food from Trincomalee to Mullaitivu. However, on March 9 the ship returned to Mullaitivu due to bad weather with only 144 MT unloaded. WFP dispatched 130 MT of food by sea to Mullaitivu District between January 30 and February 27.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided 31,360 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$28.6 million, to WFP to support IDPs and vulnerable individuals, particularly populations located in conflict-affected areas.

### ***Emergency Relief Commodities***

- OCHA confirmed that as of February 27, implementing partners had distributed 8,508 family kits of emergency relief supplies to IDPs in Vavuniya camps.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.2 million to WFP for logistics support and relief commodities, benefiting approximately 200,000 vulnerable people throughout northern Sri Lanka.

### **USAID AND STATE 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 \$1,500,000 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 water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

- On February 16, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo and USAID/Sri Lanka established a Humanitarian Assistance Team, led by a USAID/OFDA regional advisor deployed to Sri Lanka, to monitor humanitarian conditions, facilitate USG assistance, and coordinate with other humanitarian actors.
- In mid-February, the U.S. Department of Defense U.S. Pacific Command deployed a Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team to Colombo to coordinate with the HAT and the GOSL on potential humanitarian response activities. The HAST completed assessment on February 23.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$5.9 million for IDP and returnee assistance. USAID/FFP provided 31,360 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$28.6 million, to WFP.
- In FY 2008, State/PRM contributed more than \$1.9 million to the 2008 Common Humanitarian Action Plan, providing for IDP assistance activities organized by UNHCR. State/PRM also provided more than \$4.5 million to UNHCR to support regional programs that protect and assist refugees and IDPs in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. In addition, State/PRM contributed more than \$23.6 million to ICRC for activities in South Asia, including assistance to conflict victims in Sri Lanka.

**USAID AND STATE 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>			
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	\$1,500,541
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA TO SRI LANKA TO DATE IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$1,500,541</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
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Economy and Market Systems	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$605,000
Internews	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	North, North-Central, and Eastern Provinces	\$826,851
NRC	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/Colombo	Administration and Logistics	Countrywide	\$31,941
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$5,428,782</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 TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$28,600,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,990,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$1,990,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$36,519,323</b>
<b>FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE</b>			
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$6,929,323</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$28,600,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$1,990,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$37,519,323</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 11, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

<sup>3</sup> This figure does not include State/PRM regional support for UNHCR and ICRC, valued at more than \$4.5 million and \$23.6 million, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Government (USG)

#### **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)