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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

February 23, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated February 2, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As of February 23, the U.N. indicated that at least 130,000 civilians remain trapped in the northern districts of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu who may require humanitarian assistance.
- As of February 23, the U.N. and other international humanitarian agencies reported improved access to internally displaced persons (IDPs) arriving in Vavuniya District. However, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) has continued to limit humanitarian assistance to Mullaitivu District, where the majority of trapped civilians are located.
- On February 23, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor departed for the northern region to assess humanitarian conditions, and observed that the GOSL is gradually allowing increased access to restricted areas. The advisor visited the Trincomalee hospital on the Eastern coast, which appeared to have sufficient supplies to support the current hospital population. Implementing partner World Concern reported that 467 arrivals of the 1,611 total required some level of surgical assistance.
- A USAID/OFDA regional advisor planned to continue to Vavuniya District to visit reception centers on February 24.
- On February 20, the GOSL and international media reported that two Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) aircraft attacked the capital city of Colombo, killing at least two people and wounding 47.
- On February 20, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that civilians remain in two designated areas on the coast without protection, safe drinking water, or functional food stores.
- Since mid-February ICRC has evacuated approximately 1,611 civilians needing medical care from Mullaitivu District by sea to camps in Vavuniya District. ICRC plans to continue sea evacuations due to lack of overland access to affected populations.
- On February 16, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo and USAID/Sri Lanka established a Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT), led by a USAID/OFDA regional advisor deployed to Sri Lanka, to monitor humanitarian conditions, facilitate USG assistance, and coordinate with other humanitarian actors.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs displaced from the Vanni to GOSL-controlled territory	32,490	UNHCR ¹ – February 16, 2009
IDPs trapped in Mullaitivu due to GOSL-LTTE fighting	70,000–85,000	USAID/OFDA regional advisor’s estimates based on multiple sources – February 23, 2009
Total number of IDPs in Sri Lanka	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	\$5,929,323
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$28,600,000
State/PRM³ Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$1,990,000⁴
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$36,519,323

CURRENT SITUATION

- Fighting between the GOSL military and the LTTE has intensified since the GOSL formally withdrew from the 2002 ceasefire agreement with the LTTE in January 2008. Since late 2008, the GOSL has made significant territorial gains against the LTTE in northern Sri Lanka.

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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

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

⁴ 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.

- ICRC reported that, as of February 18, conflict between GOSL forces and LTTE has killed or injured hundreds of civilians since fighting intensified in mid-January. Exact figures are not available due to lack of access to the conflict-affected areas.
- On February 12, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Country Team launched the 2009 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for nearly \$156 million to meet the needs of 450,000 IDPs. According to a USAID/OFDA regional advisor, the population estimate may be inaccurate as the last GOSL census was undertaken in 2004.

Humanitarian Access

- As of February 18, the U.N. indicated that access to the civilian population trapped in the Vanni, particularly Mullaitivu District, remains restricted. According to a USAID/OFDA regional advisor, response efforts concentrate on meeting the needs of 32,490 IDPs at 17 sites in Vavuniya District. The U.N. reported an increasing number of new arrivals in Vavuniya District each day.
- On February 17, the GOSL committed to formulating an operational framework for U.N. agencies and NGOs to work in conflict-affected areas.
- In February, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) observed that the GOSL has allowed improved access to IDPs in Vavuniya camps. As a result, NGOs have provided emergency relief supplies and improved water and sanitation services.

Protection

- On February 23, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor reported that assistance for family reunification in the transit camps remained a high priority.
- On February 16, UNHCR observed that physical safety remains a key protection issue for civilians, citing reports that hospitals and other civilian institutions continue to be shelled.
- On February 5, U.N. agencies reported that a number of camp sites are overcrowded. The GOSL has committed to identify and prepare additional sites to accommodate new IDP arrivals.
- On February 5, UNHCR expressed concern that the neutrality of transit sites, IDP registration systems, and identification of persons with special needs remain problematic due to the influx of new arrivals.
- 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.

Food Assistance and Emergency Relief Commodities

- On February 18, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor reported that the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has prepositioned a two-month supply of food for 200,000 individuals in Vavuniya District. In addition, WFP has discussed the possibility of transporting food to the Vanni region by sea.
- On February 17, a GOSL-organized food convoy departed for Mullaitivu with an ICRC escort.
- As of February 18, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that it has prepositioned sufficient emergency relief supplies in Vavuniya District for 150,000 IDPs in transit sites.
- An USAID/OFDA regional advisor observed on February 23 that sufficient food and non-food relief commodities are available for the next two months for approximately 150,000 IDPs.
- As of February 23, USAID/OFDA has started discussions with implementing partners on the provision of health supplies, latrines, and additional temporary shelter.
- 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.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided 31,360 metric tons 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.

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.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.9 million for IDP and returnee assistance, 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.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided 31,360 metric tons 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.

- In FY 2008, State/PRM has contributed more than \$1.9 million to the 2008 CHAP, 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.
- On February 16, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo and USAID/Sri Lanka established a HAT, 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.

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

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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	\$500,541
TOTAL USAID/OFDA TO SRI LANKA TO DATE IN FY 2009			\$500,541
FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008			\$5,428,782
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	36,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$28,600,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008			\$28,600,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE³			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,990,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008			\$1,990,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008			\$36,519,323

FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE	
USAID/OFDA	\$5,929,323
USAID/FFP	\$28,600,000
STATE/PRM	\$1,990,000
TOTAL FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY	\$36,519,323

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

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.
- 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