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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 #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

May 14, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 8, 2009

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Relying on recent satellite images, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that between 50,000 and 75,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) remained in the conflict zone as of May 13.
- On May 13, U.S. President Barack Obama called for Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam forces to lay down their arms and release civilians who remain trapped. The U.S. President also urged the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) to cease indiscriminate shelling attacks and permit humanitarian access to the conflict zone. On May 12, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.K. Foreign Secretary David Miliband issued a joint statement expressing concern regarding the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka and calling for an immediate end to hostilities.
- On May 13, the U.N. Security Council issued a press statement highlighting deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the conflict zone, following a May 11 U.N. Security Council meeting on Sri Lanka.
- According to a May 13 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report, ongoing shelling resulted in the death of one national staff member in the conflict zone. On May 8, a shell attack caused the death of a humanitarian worker from the non-governmental organization (NGO) Caritas Australia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
IDPs who escaped the conflict zone from October 27 to May 7	197,751	OCHA ¹ – May 12, 2009
IDPs in camps in Vavuniya, Mannar, Jaffna, and Trincomalee districts	195,833	OCHA – May 12, 2009
IDPs in camps before April 20	61,000	OCHA – April 8, 2009
IDPs currently trapped in conflict zone	50,000 – 75,000	UNHCR – May 14, 2009

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

FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$11,009,708
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$42,900,000
State/PRM³ Assistance to Sri Lanka⁴	\$1,990,000
State/PMWRA⁵ Assistance to Sri Lanka.....	\$2,079,322
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$57,979,030

CURRENT SITUATION

- From late October through May 12, approximately 198,000 IDPs moved from the conflict zone into GoSL-controlled territory, according to OCHA. Of the total, nearly 196,000 IDPs currently reside in 43 temporary shelters in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts. OCHA observed that to date the GoSL has allowed more than 1,500 IDPs to leave temporary shelter sites to reside with host families and in elder welfare centers. In recent days, approximately 1,200 civilians arrived at the Omantai screening point and continued on to Manik Farms Zone 2 in Vavuniya District.
- International media reported on May 12 the shelling of a primary school serving as a field hospital in the conflict zone, resulting in at least 47 deaths and an unspecified number of wounded civilians.

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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, which includes activities to support IDPs and conflict victims in Sri Lanka. To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided \$1.8 million to UNHCR and \$4 million to ICRC. In FY 2008, State/PRM provided more than \$4.5 million to UNHCR and nearly \$24 million to ICRC.

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

Protection

- At a May 13 meeting, a UNHCR protection officer reported that the GoSL is allowing pregnant women living in IDP camps in Jaffna District to move in with host families after 36 weeks of pregnancy. The protection officer noted that GoSL authorities have not yet implemented the decision for Vavuniya District IDP camps.
- According to a U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) field assessment in Manik Farms IDP camp in Vavuniya District, protection remains a significant concern. UNHCR and protection partners continue to advocate for the release of vulnerable groups, the separation of ex-combatants from civilians, and an increase in family reunification and visits.

IDP Returns and Resettlement

- The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) reported that the GoSL authorized four humanitarian demining organizations to conduct mine assessments in Mannar District, beginning the week of May 11, in preparation for planned IDP returns in the area.

Food Aid

- On May 11, ongoing fighting prevented an ICRC-chartered ferry from unloading 25 metric tons (MT) of food and evacuating sick and injured civilians from the conflict zone, according to ICRC. On May 9, ICRC delivered 25 MT of food and evacuated 516 patients and caregivers to Pulmoddai town, Trincomalee District.
- The recently built communal kitchen at the Omantai screening point has the capacity to provide food to an estimated 5,000 IDPs per day, according to OCHA.

Shelter and Settlements

- On May 14, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported setting up 600 tents in Zone 4 of Manik Farms IDP camp to accommodate the increasing IDP population.
- On May 14, USAID/FFP staff reported that the GoSL continues to relocate more than 8,000 IDPs from three schools in Pulmoddai town to temporary shelter sites nearby. On May 12, the GoSL relocated 1,743 IDPs from one of the schools to a temporary site in Sahana Gama village. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and NGOs are providing meals to IDPs in those locations.
- Through the USAID/OFDA-funded United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) umbrella grant, ASB (Solidar) is providing emergency shelter for 4,000 IDPs in Vavuniya District, while IOM is providing 700 emergency wood-frame shelters and hygiene facilities to 5,600 IDPs in Manik Farms camp. In addition, the NGO CARE is constructing 800 emergency shelters for 3,200 IDPs in Manik Farms.

Health

- As of May 13, IOM had constructed four of the 10 planned USAID/OFDA-funded mobile health care centers in Manik Farms IDP camp.
- As of May 11, OCHA reported the registration of nearly 10,000 cases of chicken pox in Vavuniya District. OCHA noted that the increase in the number of cases is due to the recent influx of IDPs, and that the chicken pox is non-threatening to infected patients.
- Through the UMCOR umbrella grant, Medical Teams International provided five U.N. World Health Organization-standard health emergency response kits containing bandages, medicines, and basic supplies to treat approximately 50,000 patients for a three-month period.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- USAID/OFDA is supporting UNICEF to provide access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities for IDPs in seven districts. Through the UMCOR umbrella grant, USAID/OFDA is also supporting the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) to supply 1,500 personal hygiene kits, 1,300 baby kits, and 2 mobile water units; and ASB (Solidar) to supply hygiene facilities and cleaning supplies for 16,000 IDPs.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- A USAID/OFDA regional advisor and an information officer are currently in Sri Lanka working closely with USAID/Sri Lanka and partners to assess needs and coordinate U.S. Government 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. State/PRM has provided \$1.8 million to UNHCR and \$4 million to ICRC for activities to protect and assist 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**

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, and WASH	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$3,500,060
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
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$6,080,926
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	19,490 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,300,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$14,300,000
STATE/PMWRA			
FSD	Humanitarian Demining	Mannar District	\$600,000
TOTAL STATE/PMWRA			\$600,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2009			\$20,980,926

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 14, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$4,928,782
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	36,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$28,600,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$28,600,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,990,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$1,990,000
STATE/PMWRA			
Mines Advisory Group, Danish Demining Group, FSD	Humanitarian Demining	Countrywide	\$1,479,322
TOTAL STATE/PMWRA			\$1,479,322
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008			\$36,998,104

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 14, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE	
USAID/OFDA	\$11,009,708
USAID/FFP	\$42,900,000
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STATE/PMWRA	\$2,079,322
TOTAL FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA	\$57,979,030

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

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/