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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 #17, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

September 11, 2009

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 10, 2009.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- From August 18 to September 4, USAID/OFDA health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) advisors visited Sri Lanka to meet with Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) officials and donor, U.N. agency, and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives, as well as to conduct assessments at Manik Farms internally displaced person (IDP) camp in Vavuniya District, Northern Province.
- During the month of August, the GoSL returned 7,865 IDPs to areas of origin in Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts. The figure includes IDPs affected by the recent conflict as well as long-term IDPs displaced in earlier population movements.
- Between August 14 and 17, heavy rainfall in Northern Province resulted in flash floods in Vavuniya District, including several zones of Manik Farms IDP camp, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The floods affected nearly 20,000 IDPs and damaged or destroyed 1,925 shelters. The GoSL relocated flood-affected IDPs to temporary learning spaces in the affected zones. As of August 21, flood waters had receded in affected zones of Manik Farms.
- The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided an additional \$8.5 million for IDP assistance. To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided more than \$13.3 million to support conflict-affected populations in Sri Lanka.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>IDPs in camps in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts</b>	<b>263,526</b>	<b>OCHA – September 2009</b>

\* Estimates based on improved IDP registration as of September 6, 2009.

### **FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$7,933,926
USAID/FFP <sup>1</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$28,329,000
State/PRM Assistance to Sri Lanka <sup>2</sup> .....	\$13,330,000
State/PMWRA <sup>3</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$6,600,000
DOD <sup>4</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$1,600,000
<b>Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$57,792,926</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- From April 1, 2008 through September 6, 2009, nearly 264,000 IDPs remained in camps in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts, according to OCHA. Of the total, nearly 248,000 IDPs remained in temporary camps in Vavuniya.
- The USAID/OFDA health advisor reported that the health sector has reached a minimum level of adequate capacity. The advisor noted, however, the need to address a medical staff shortage in Manik Farms IDP camp; enhance laboratory capacity to confirm suspected communicable diseases; formulate contingency plans prior to the onset of the rainy season in October; and improve the coordination with community health workers to enhance IDP camp coverage and systematize health information.
- Based on assessment findings, the USAID/OFDA WASH advisor recommended increased bacteriological testing and chlorination of tube well drinking water sources to help reduce the likelihood of contamination and spread of waterborne diseases.

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Office of Food For Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>2</sup> In addition, State/PRM has provided support to the South Asia regional activities of the U.N. Office of the 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>3</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Political and Military Affairs/Weapons Removal and Abatement (State/PMWRA)

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

- U.N. agencies and NGOs estimate that Manik Farms can accommodate no more than 160,000 IDPs and remain within Sphere guidelines. Problems related to the upcoming rainy season in October will likely decrease the population that can be sustained at Manik Farms and meet Sphere guidelines.

### ***Displaced Populations***

- As of September 11, OCHA reported that the GoSL had authorized the departure of 6,490 IDPs, including elderly persons, people with learning disabilities, and individuals from other vulnerable groups, from IDP camps to host families and elders' welfare centers.
- The Office of the President National Data Center continues to register IDPs in Manik Farms, according to International Organization for Migration (IOM) staff in Vavuniya. To date, the office has registered an estimated 160,000 IDPs and has issued 80,000 IDP identity cards. The registration process represents ongoing GoSL efforts to record the number of IDPs in a national database.

### ***Health***

- The USAID/OFDA health advisor visited primary health care centers established in Manik Farms IDP camp. The advisor reported a shortage of GoSL medical staff despite government efforts to ensure adequate staffing in all Manik Farms health facilities.
- The GoSL Ministry of Health (MOH) has recently appointed public health inspectors (PHIs) to strengthen the communicable disease reporting system, according to the USAID/OFDA health advisor. The PHIs will collect case counts, supervise home follow-up visits to monitor patients treated for suspected cases of communicable diseases, identify environmental health risks such as WASH conditions, and improve reporting for disease outbreaks.
- As of August 28, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported a cumulative total of 15,371 chicken pox cases and 3,482 hepatitis A cases in transit sites and temporary IDP camps in Vavuniya since January and May, respectively. From August 1 to 28, WHO also reported 80 dysentery cases and 940 diarrhea cases in transit sites and temporary IDP camps in Vavuniya. The USAID/OFDA health advisor noted increasing number of reported chicken pox cases since mid-July and decreasing numbers of reported cases for hepatitis A, dysentery, and diarrhea cases over the past four weeks.
- WHO reported that initial assessments of the August 3 to 5 child health vaccination campaign conducted by the MOH in collaboration with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO indicated that the campaign had reached 99 percent of the more than 36,000 targeted children under the age of five in Vavuniya District IDP camps and transit sites.
- On August 27, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation announced a donation of medical supplies, valued at more than \$60,000, through the MOH for distribution to health facilities treating IDPs.

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

- An assessment conducted by U.N. Shelter Cluster members immediately following the August 14 to 17 flash floods indicated that the majority of the tents and shelters did not sustain serious damage. The U.N. Shelter and WASH Cluster members are identifying flood-prone areas in Manik Farms to determine the possible relocation of IDPs to other areas in the event that additional floods occur during the October to December rains.
- U.N. Shelter Cluster agencies are repairing damaged emergency shelters and have approved a proposal to provide training on shelter maintenance to IDPs in Manik Farms.

### ***WASH***

- The USAID/OFDA WASH advisor reported varied access to WASH services due to continued overcrowding in several zones of Manik Farms, poor WASH facility maintenance, road access, and proximity to water points. In addition, the WASH advisor noted that the upcoming seasonal rains in October and associated flooding could further limit access to WASH services and facilities in zones located in low-lying areas.
- According to the USAID/OFDA WASH advisor, some IDPs collect water using open-top water containers and prefer non-chlorinated drinking water due to taste, significantly increasing the risk of contamination of stored drinking water and spread of waterborne diseases.
- UNHCR reported that the August 14 flash floods damaged shelters in zones 1 to 4 of Manik Farms IDP camp. OCHA and UNHCR reported that Zone 4 was particularly affected due to a lack of a drainage system.
- According to the USAID/OFDA WASH advisor, U.N., humanitarian, and government agencies have intensified efforts to complete the drainage system in Manik Farms IDP camp prior to the onset of the October to December rains.
- The USAID/OFDA WASH advisor reported that the U.N. WASH Cluster in Vavuniya is preparing a rainy season contingency plan which focuses upon preparing all parties to respond to WASH problems quickly and effectively. The plan attempts to better coordinate NGO efforts with GoSL efforts and identifies potential problems and solutions.

The plan includes contingency plans to provide shelter for IDPs currently in temporary shelters in Manik Farms, should portions of the camp become uninhabitable due to WASH issues.

- OCHA reported that U.N. Shelter and WASH Cluster members are conducting a study of the impact that groundwater levels may have on shelter and WASH facilities to identify appropriate response interventions prior to the onset of the rainy season.

#### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA regional staff based in Bangkok, Thailand, continues to coordinate with USAID/Sri Lanka, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, and implementing partners to monitor evolving conditions. USAID/OFDA health and WASH advisors visited Sri Lanka from August 18 to September 4.
- 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 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 has provided 38,550 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$30 million, to the U.N. World Food program (WFP). To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided more than \$13.3 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. Funding for UNHCR's programs in Sri Lanka includes support for returnee assistance in the North. State/PMWRA has 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>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Internews	Humanitarian Coordination and Management	Vavuniya District	\$768,532
IOM	Health	Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya districts	\$880,866
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)	Umbrella Award for Small Grants in Health, Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts	\$4,500,060
UNICEF	Nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts	\$1,700,000
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$84,468
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$7,933,926</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	38,550 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$28,329,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$28,329,000</b>

<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
ICRC	IDP Assistance and Protection	Northern, North-Central, and Eastern provinces	\$5,060,000
UNHCR	IDP Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$8,270,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$13,330,000</b>
<b>STATE/PMWRA</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PMWRA</b>			<b>\$6,600,000</b>
<b>DOD</b>			
DOD	Emergency Relief Commodities	Vavuniya District	\$1,600,000
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$1,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$57,792,926</b>
<b>FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE</b>			
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$7,933,926</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$28,329,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$13,330,000</b>
<b>STATE/PMWRA</b>			<b>\$6,600,000</b>
<b>DOD</b>			<b>\$1,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA</b>			<b>\$57,792,926</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 11, 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)