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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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) 2007

March 21, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated March 13, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As of March 16, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had registered more than 152,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Batticaloa District. The large influx of IDPs has strained the capacity of already overcrowded displacement camps and led to shortages of food, water, and sanitation facilities, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- International monitoring organizations and reports received by UNHCR indicate that on March 12, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) began returning people from 10 IDP sites in eastern Batticaloa District to districts of origin. UNHCR expressed concern to the GOSL regarding reports that IDPs were forcibly returned to Trincomalee District and the Vaharai area of Batticaloa District, despite continued insecurity and incomplete demining.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs in Batticaloa District	155,465	UNHCR – March 14, 2007
IDPs displaced by conflict since April 2006	292,685	UNHCR – March 20, 2007

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE (FY 2006 AND FY 2007)

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$4,029,922
State/PRM¹ Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$2,840,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$6,869,922

CURRENT SITUATION

- According to UNHCR, renewed fighting between the GOSL and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist group has displaced more than 290,000 people, primarily in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, since April 2006. The conflict resulted in 215 civilian deaths and 285 injuries in January and February 2007, according to the GOSL. UNHCR reports that 17,755 people have fled Sri Lanka to Tamil Nadu state in southern India since January 2006.
- The USAID/OFDA South Asia regional office continues to closely monitor humanitarian conditions in conjunction with USAID/Sri Lanka, through regular assessment and monitoring trips by a USAID/OFDA regional advisor.

Humanitarian Access and Protection

- According to OCHA, insecurity resulting from escalating hostilities between the GOSL and the LTTE continues to hinder humanitarian access and the delivery of relief supplies to displaced persons in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. On March 15, the U.N. Inter-Agency Standing Committee country team reported that restricted humanitarian access and deteriorating security for 10,000 IDPs in or near Madu Church in the LTTE-controlled area of Mannar District was a critical concern.
- The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) continues to monitor the recruitment of child soldiers by both the LTTE and the Karuna group, a breakaway faction of the LTTE. International monitoring groups reported the recent abduction of at least four children from IDP sites in Batticaloa District, as well as the ongoing harassment and intimidation of IDPs by the Karuna group.
- USAID/OFDA has approved funding to assist UNICEF’s protection programming for 100,000 children in IDP or other conflict-affected settings. In addition, USAID/OFDA partners Save the Children/UK (SC/UK) and World Vision are implementing protection activities for conflict-affected women and children.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- The influx of IDPs to Batticaloa District sites has created a shortage of basic humanitarian goods and services, with the most pressing needs being water and sanitation, according to the U.N. Resident Representative.
- In response, USAID/OFDA has approved funding to assist UNICEF in implementing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities for 30,000 IDP families, including the provision of emergency water supply systems, family hygiene kits, and temporary latrines.

¹ U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

Food Assistance

- On March 20, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported an upcoming delivery of 590 metric tons (MT) of rice and wheat flour to Batticaloa District. WFP anticipates a break in the pipeline in late April due to the depletion of in-country food stocks. USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is monitoring the situation in collaboration with USAID/Sri Lanka and WFP. USAID/FFP anticipates making a contribution in April.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On August 11, 2006, U.S. Chargé d' Affaires James R. Moore declared a disaster due to the increasing conflict and resulting IDPs in Sri Lanka, and requested assistance from USAID/OFDA. On October 6, 2006, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake renewed the disaster declaration and requested additional USAID/OFDA support.
- To date in FY 2007, USAID/OFDA has allocated more than \$2.9 million to support nutrition, protection, logistics, WASH, and coordination and information management activities.
- State/PRM has contributed more than \$1.6 million in FY 2007 to the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC) to fund emergency programs to facilitate the movements of conflict-affected individuals, restore family links, support WASH activities, and provide medical aid, shelter, and household items.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2007 AND FY 2006

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2007			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
World Vision	Protection	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, and Mullaitivu Districts	\$399,955
SC/UK	Protection	Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, and Trincomalee Districts	\$349,967
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	Affected Areas	\$1,180,000
OCHA	Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$700,000
WFP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$300,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,929,922
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Health, Shelter, Protection, Emergency Relief Supplies, and WASH	Countrywide	\$1,640,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM²			\$1,640,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2007			\$4,569,922
FY 2006			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
Mercy Corps	Emergency Relief Supplies, and WASH	Trincomalee District	\$200,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	Affected Areas	\$900,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,100,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Health, Shelter, Protection, Emergency Relief Supplies, and WASH	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM³			\$1,200,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2006			\$2,300,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 21, 2007.

² State/PRM also provided nearly \$2.7 million to UNHCR to support regional programs that protect and assist refugees and IDPs in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in FY 2007.

³ State/PRM contributed \$12.6 million to ICRC for activities in South Asia, including Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and \$4.5 million to UNHCR for programs in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in FY 2006.

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, warehouse space, etc.); 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