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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

January 25, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 30, 2009.

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- More than two decades of conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist movement and resulting population displacement have caused a complex emergency in Sri Lanka. In the months leading up to the May 19, 2009, GoSL declaration of victory over the LTTE, insecurity displaced more than 280,000 people, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Nearly 156,000 people had returned to areas of origin and approximately 29,000 others had transferred from internally displaced person (IDP) camps to host families and community care as of December 31, according to OCHA.
- Population returns increased significantly in late October 2009; however conflict-affected families returning to areas of origin continue to face challenges resulting from minimal livelihood or recovery opportunities after years of conflict.
- A USAID/OFDA principal regional advisor (PRA) visited northern Sri Lanka between December 12 and 15 to meet with returnees and assess humanitarian conditions. The PRA observed resilience among returning populations and reported shelter and livelihoods support as the most urgent needs, while cautioning that recovery efforts must build upon the existing capacity of returnees without damaging re-emerging markets and livelihoods with inflows of resources.
- To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$3 million in humanitarian assistance through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support health, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, as well as the provision of logistics support and emergency relief supplies.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
IDPs in camps in Jaffna, Mannar, and Vavuniya districts	108,106 OCHA – December 2009

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$3,000,000
USAID/FFP ¹ Assistance to Sri Lanka.....	\$9,996,400
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$12,996,400

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of December 31, more than 108,000 IDPs remained in camps in Jaffna, Mannar, and Vavuniya districts in Northern Province, as reported by OCHA. Of the total, more than 102,000 people remained in temporary camps in Vavuniya District, including more than 101,000 in Manik Farms camp—Sri Lanka’s largest displacement center.
- On December 30, the GoSL Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights stated that the GoSL could not commit to a specific date for completion of IDP returns. Earlier GoSL announcements had indicated that all IDPs would be returned by the end of January 2010. However, humanitarian agencies remain optimistic regarding the increased rate of IDP returns.
- The GoSL lifted a night curfew in Jaffna District on December 30, improving humanitarian conditions in areas of return, according to OCHA. However, humanitarian agencies continue to report protection issues arising from the presence of military forces and landmines in many return areas.
- Humanitarian agencies have expressed concern regarding access to Sri Lanka’s northern Vanni region, a Tamil-majority area where the majority of camps and return sites are located. Through December, the GoSL granted exclusive permission to organizations engaged in demining permission to work in the Vanni region, although authorities have indicated plans to grant access to other international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the near future.

¹ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

Economic Recovery and Market Systems

- The influx of returnees is reviving markets in return areas, where co-operative shops sell inventory acquired at GoSL-supported concessionary prices to help avert inflation, according to the USAID/OFDA PRA report.
- In addition, the recovery process may assist in creating income opportunities for returnees. In December 2009 the World Bank approved a \$65 million Sri Lanka Emergency Northern Recovery Project, which will provide varied assistance to IDPs, including achieving economic security through the rehabilitation of livelihood assets, as well as restoring and improving public infrastructure.
- On January 1, the GoSL lifted security restrictions on waters off the eastern coast, excluding parts of the Trincomalee Harbor, to allow for 24-hour fishing access, according to OCHA. GoSL authorities announced plans to reduce security checks of fishing vessels and abolish a fishing permit system to increase livelihood access, although officials advised fishermen to keep permits already issued as proof of identity, if required.

Health

- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that an outbreak of dengue fever in Vavuniya District that began in September remained ongoing as of late December. The Vavuniya Ministry of Health reported 547 new dengue fever cases in December out of a total of 876 cases in 2009. A mosquito-borne illness, dengue fever causes flu-like symptoms and has no specific course of treatment.
- The governor of Northern Province has appointed a taskforce to implement and supervise dengue fever control measures, according to OCHA. The task force arranged a December 30 meeting with humanitarian agencies to discuss support for strengthening disease surveillance systems, improving sanitation facilities and garbage removal, designing health awareness programs, and building patient care management capacity at Vavuniya General Hospital.
- On December 25, WHO reported a decline in the total incidence of diseases under surveillance at Manik Farms camp since June 2009, including hepatitis, chickenpox, dysentery, and diarrhea.
- With USAID/OFDA support, IOM plans to establish temporary, mobile health clinics for returnee care and to assist local ministries of health in developing early warning disease surveillance systems for Northern Province. IOM also plans to construct and rehabilitate WASH facilities for use by approximately 6,250 families and provide hygiene promotion workshops for nearly 2,500 families.

Shelter and Settlements

- The GoSL and UNHCR have established a shelter grant of approximately \$220 per returnee family to assist shelter construction. However, returnees interviewed by the USAID/OFDA PRA reported that many families used the grant to meet immediate needs, including the purchase of clothing and vegetables to supplement food rations, rather than to acquire shelter materials.
- In addition, the GoSL and humanitarian partners are providing a number of returnee families with basic shelter kits, including corrugated iron roofing, plastic sheeting, framing material, and hand tools, according to the USAID/OFDA report. Additionally, IOM and the U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS) currently provide transitional shelter to vulnerable populations within the returnee community.
- With USAID/OFDA support, IOM plans to provide transitional shelters to 1,500 returnee families and to train returnees, local authorities, and host communities in shelter reconstruction skills during the next six months.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On December 4, 2009, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Valerie Fowler redeclared a disaster for FY 2010 due to the complex emergency in Sri Lanka and needs arising from IDP returns. To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has committed \$3 million in humanitarian assistance through IOM to support health, shelter and settlements, and WASH interventions, as well as the provision of logistics support and emergency relief supplies.
- In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided 11,890 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$10 million.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2010

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Health, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Northern Province	\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,000,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	11,890 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$9,996,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$9,996,400
FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE			
USAID/OFDA			\$3,000,000
USAID/FFP			\$9,996,400
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA			\$12,996,400

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of January 25, 2010.

² 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 may be available 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