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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) 2011

December 16, 2010

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 30, 2010.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Between August 2009 and December 2010, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that more than 325,000 individuals, or 94 percent of conflict-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka, have returned to their areas of origin in Northern Province.
- Torrential rains on November 10 and 11 caused heavy flooding in Colombo, Kalutara, Gampaha, and Matara districts in southwest Sri Lanka, displacing nearly 20,600 people and damaging or destroying more than 300 houses, according to OCHA. Additional heavy rains from late-November to mid-December affected nearly 164,000 people in at least 22 districts nationwide, including nearly 114,000 individuals in conflict-affected Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya districts in the north, according to the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) Disaster Management Center (DMC) on December 10. To date, the cumulative effects of flooding have not exceeded the capacity of the GoSL and other humanitarian agencies already on the ground to respond; however, USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor the situation in coordination with USAID/Sri Lanka, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, and partner organizations.
- On October 14, U.S. Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis re-declared a disaster due to the effects of the complex emergency in Sri Lanka. To date in FY 2011, USAID has provided more than \$11 million for conflict-affected populations in Sri Lanka, including \$5 million in early recovery assistance from USAID/Sri Lanka and nearly \$6 million from USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP). In FY 2010, USAID provided more than \$30 million in humanitarian assistance in Sri Lanka, including nearly \$10 million in returnee-focused assistance from USAID/OFDA for programs designed to lay the groundwork for longer-term recovery initiatives.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Conflict-Affected Population</b>	431,098	UNHCR <sup>1</sup> – August 27, 2010
<b>Registered IDPs</b>	19,134	UNHCR – December 14, 2010
<b>Returnees (May 2009–May 2010)</b>	207,000	UNHCR – April 27, 2010
<b>Returnees (May 2010–present)</b>	118,820	UNHCR – December 2, 2010
<b>UNHCR Facilitated Voluntary Repatriation</b>	2,000	UNHCR – December 16, 2010

### **FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/FFP Assistance to Sri Lanka.....</b>	<b>\$5,904,400</b>
<b>USAID/Sri Lanka Assistance to Sri Lanka.....</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>Total USG<sup>2</sup> Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka.....</b>	<b>\$10,904,400</b>

### **CONTEXT**

- Large numbers of IDPs and refugees who had departed conflict-affected areas in northern Sri Lanka began returning to areas of origin following the end of the civil war between the GoSL and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in May 2009. The subsequent population influx significantly increased the need for livelihoods opportunities, sanitation facilities, shelter assistance, and improved water supply in the Northern Province. The GoSL established a presidential task force in May 2009 to supervise the return of displaced populations, as well as oversee early recovery activities, landmine removal, shelter development, and infrastructure repairs.
- Heavy rains associated with the Northeast monsoon season, occurring from November to March, may continue to impact the health and safety of resettled populations residing in temporary housing structures. Single-headed households and elderly and disabled individuals compose up to 40 percent of the returning population in Northern Province and are particularly vulnerable to severe weather, according to OCHA.

<sup>1</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Government (USG)

### ***Agriculture and Economic Recovery and Market Systems***

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that monsoon rains had not increased food insecurity or the need for emergency food assistance as of mid-November; however, IDPs and returnees in the Northern Province continued to rely on food rations. To date in FY 2011, USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$6 million to WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation in northern Sri Lanka to support relief activities, including vulnerable group feeding for IDPs living with host families, as well as six-month return packages and food-for-work activities for returnees.
- As of early December, the GoSL Vocational Training Authority and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners continued to support job skill development in the Northern Province through vocational training activities. As of October 31, a total of 7,671 returnees participated in livelihood and income-generation activities in five districts in northern Sri Lanka—an increase of more than 1,000 people since the end of September, according to OCHA.
- Nearly \$300,000 of USAID/OFDA FY 2010 funding to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) continues to support ongoing livelihood assistance programs, including cash-for-work and voucher-for-work activities, for up to 3,800 returnees in the Northern Province.
- In mid-November, USAID/Sri Lanka provided \$5 million to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to distribute seeds and tools, train farmers, rehabilitate irrigation canals, and renovate farming equipment to benefit 17,000 conflict-affected families returning to the north.

### ***Health***

- Following a sharp increase in reported dengue cases in 2010, the GoSL created another task force in May to implement dengue control measures. The GoSL Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition Epidemiology Unit reported 6,027 dengue cases and 33 resulting deaths between August and September 2010, compared to 1,808 cases and 2 related deaths reported from October to November, reflecting a significant decrease in new reported cases.
- In November, U.N. World Health Organization-supported public health inspectors reported that no major outbreaks of disease had occurred to date in the Menik Farm displacement camp. The majority of Menik Farm's IDPs depend upon health clinics within the camp, which currently receive an average of 250 to 300 patients per day, according to OCHA.
- To accommodate increased numbers of returnees, the Ministry of Health (MoH) assigned additional doctors to hospitals in northern Sri Lanka; however, returnee communities in remote parts of Northern Province continue to face an acute shortage of health professionals.
- In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA provided funding to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the training of 353 health professionals and 270 health promoters, who continue to work in affected areas. Since May 2009, IOM and the MoH have provided primary healthcare services to more than 206,000 IDPs in northern Sri Lanka.

### ***Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)***

- Incomplete mine action, as well as lack of documentation, jungle overgrowth, and military presence in parts of Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya districts continue to contribute to secondary displacement, according to UNHCR. As of December 2, a total of 26 mine-related incidents and 46 casualties occurred between January and November 2010, the majority resulting from UXO.
- In early December, more than 400 families returning to Northern Province remained stranded in transit, living with extended family and friends or seeking shelter in nearby schools. According to OCHA, the majority of remaining IDPs still in camps originate from mine-contaminated areas in Mullaitivu District, where demining operations are ongoing.
- OCHA reported that between January 2009 and November 2010, the Sri Lankan Army Engineering Corps and relief agencies had cleared nearly 432 square km of landmines and UXO in Northern Province. In addition, in FY 2010, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement under the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs provided nearly \$4 million to NGOs for the clearance of high priority areas to facilitate returns.

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

- As of November 20, the U.N. Human Settlements Program (UN HABITAT) reported that the U.N. and relief agencies had constructed 5,714 permanent houses in the Northern Province—40 percent of the 14,253 houses planned for construction. An additional 1,889 damaged houses received repairs, comprising 63 percent of the 3,010 houses slated to receive repairs.
- During October, NGOs completed construction of 649 semi-permanent shelters for returnees in Kilinochchi District and other affected areas, bringing the total number of shelters constructed to 25,748 to benefit as many as 6,400 individuals.
- The Government of India (GoI) recently commissioned a housing assessment in preparation for a three-year construction plan for 1,500 houses in Jaffna District, according to OCHA. In addition, in early October, IOM delivered more than 75,000 corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets provided by the GoI to northern Sri Lanka.

CGI sheeting will be distributed by local authorities and will provide roofing for 6,200 displaced families returning to areas of origin.

- More than \$1.4 million of USAID/OFDA FY 2010 funding continues to support ongoing transitional housing programs in the north, including a grant to the U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS). With USAID/OFDA funding, UNOPS supports a temporary shelter program in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts that benefits up to 7,000 individuals.

#### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**

- According to the U.N Children’s Fund (UNICEF), approximately one-third of conflict-affected households in Sri Lanka have no access to sanitation facilities and one-quarter have no access to safe drinking water.
- Returnee communities in the north, particularly in Kilinochchi and Mannar districts, face insufficient water supplies due to the end of water tankering activities in recent months. With the help of local authorities, UNICEF continues to assess village-level water and sanitation activities and has subsequently identified the need for well cleaning and toilet construction in northern Sri Lanka.
- During November, relief agencies repaired or constructed 400 toilets in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mullaitivu districts, bringing the total number of toilets constructed to 6,800 as of November 30, according to UNICEF. In addition, UNICEF reported that relief agencies cleaned, rehabilitated, or constructed 892 wells during November, increasing the number of newly functional wells to more than 7,800 in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya districts.
- In August, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$433,000 in FY 2010 funds to World Vision to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions for 3,800 individuals in North-Eastern Province. Programs target individuals with immediate water and sanitation needs.

#### **FY 2011 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
WFP	6,740 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya Districts	\$5,904,400
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$5,904,400</b>
<b>USAID/SRI LANKA ASSISTANCE</b>			
FAO	Agriculture and Livelihood Recovery Activities	Northern Sri Lanka	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/SRI LANKA</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$10,904,400</b>

<sup>1</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 may be available 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, 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](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)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)