



SRI LANKA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

THIS IS THE FINAL SRI LANKA FACT SHEET FOR FY 2012.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has closed the Manik Farm internally displaced person (IDP) camp, previously one of the world’s largest IDP camps, accommodating up to 300,000 people who fled their homes in the final months of the country’s civil war. The GoSL announced that the last remaining group of IDPs—1,186 people or 361 families—departed the camp for their home areas on September 24.
- While Manik Farm has closed, the U.N. reports that Sri Lankans throughout conflict-affected areas continue to require support to resettle and rebuild their lives. Some IDPs residing with host families or in other welfare centers remain unable to return to their areas of origin. This includes 346 people—or 110 families—who recently departed Manik Farm. The GoSL has relocated these individuals to other land while they await resettlement to their home area in Mullaittivu District or while the GoSL develops plans for compensation if they cannot return, according to the U.N.
- In FY 2012, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) contributed nearly \$4 million to help Sri Lankans rebuild their lives through agriculture and food security, livelihoods, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities, as well as support for humanitarian coordination and information management. USAID/OFDA’s programs in Sri Lanka facilitate the transition from relief to development by filling strategic gaps—such as community infrastructure repair and market revitalization in key returnee areas—that complement strategies of the GoSL and development actors.
- In total, the U.S. Government (USG) provided approximately \$11 million to meet the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations in Sri Lanka in FY 2012. This includes a contribution of \$2.5 million from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) to help facilitate the return and reintegration of Sri Lankan IDPs and refugees. State/PRM also provided support to regional programs that benefited Sri Lankans. State’s Bureau of Political and Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (State/PM/WRA) also helped with recovery activities by providing nearly \$5 million for demining and mine-risk education activities.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
Total Resettled IDPs and Refugees	447,269	OCHA ¹ – August 31, 2012
Total Conflict-Affected IDPs Residing in Welfare Centers and Camps	10,387	OCHA – August 2012

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ²	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$3,729,649
State/PRM ³ Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$2,500,000
State/PM/WRA Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$4,802,348
Total USG Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$11,031,997

Context

- More than two-and-a-half decades of conflict between the GoSL and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist movement and resulting population displacement caused the complex emergency in Sri Lanka. Following

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

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

³ In FY 2012, State/PRM also provided more than \$3.7 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support activities throughout South Asia, including Sri Lanka, and approximately \$5.7 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross to support conflict-affected Sri Lankans through its regional South Asia appeal. In addition, State/PRM provided nearly \$1.6 million to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing support to Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu State, India, bringing State/PRM’s total contribution to regional programs benefiting Sri Lankans to approximately \$11 million.

the end of Sri Lanka's civil war in May 2009, the GoSL established a Presidential Task Force to supervise the return of displaced populations to northern areas of Sri Lanka.

- Recognizing that the ultimate success of the humanitarian response in Sri Lanka—as well as prospects for long-term peace and reconciliation—partially depends on the sustainable reintegration of conflict-displaced individuals into their communities, USAID/OFDA is working closely with USAID/Sri Lanka to ensure that short-term, early recovery programs support the GoSL's plan for long-term, equitable growth in Sri Lanka. By filling in strategic gaps that lie outside the large-scale rehabilitation efforts of GoSL and development actors, USAID/OFDA assists the transition from relief to recovery, ensuring more economic security and stability for returnees.
- On October 7, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis reissued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the complex emergency in Sri Lanka.

Displacement and Returns

- In late August, the GoSL announced the beginning of the final stage of the process to resettle IDP families in Northern Province. As of August 31, more than 447,000 people—or approximately 133,500 families—had returned to Northern Province with support from the GoSL and the humanitarian community, according to OCHA. This includes more than 213,000 people displaced before April 2008 and approximately 234,000 people displaced after April 2008.
- At the end of August, nearly 10,400 people remained displaced in welfare centers in Jaffna and Vavuniya districts in Northern Province, according to OCHA. In addition, many IDPs residing with family and friends, particularly in Jaffna and Vavuniya districts, continue to require a permanent resettlement solution, the U.N. reports.

Agriculture and Food Security and Livelihoods

- Prior to the conflict, communities in northern Sri Lanka traditionally relied on agriculture as their primary source of income. However, the nearly three-decade-long conflict interrupted agricultural activity and destroyed key agricultural infrastructure. The lack of irrigation and other infrastructure limits returnees' ability to resume their livelihoods, while increasing the impacts of droughts and floods.
- Rain shortfalls and subsequent drought conditions in several areas of Jaffna District have reduced water availability and increased the price of drinking water, according to a U.N. World Food Program assessment. As of July, drought conditions throughout North Western and North Central provinces had decreased the *Yala*—or secondary crop season—harvest of paddy by approximately 28 percent, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports. Drought conditions are expected to cut the total *Yala* rice output by an estimated 33 percent; however, a larger *Maha*—or main crop season—harvest this year will likely compensate for the lost crops.
- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1 million to Practical Action for agriculture and food security and livelihoods activities in Mullaittivu and Kilinochchi districts. USAID/OFDA, through Practical Action, provided cash-for-work activities to rehabilitate critical livelihoods infrastructure, such as irrigation systems, salt water prevention bunds for paddy lands, and small-scale fishing landing sites in lagoons. This helped create a sustainable base for recently resettled Sri Lankans to resume and develop their livelihoods, while also providing them with cash to meet their daily needs. In addition, Practical Action provided planting materials for the cultivation of non-conventional, high-value fruits and vegetables, as well as fencing material to protect crops from animals.
- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.2 million to Practical Action, ZOA, and the Sewalanka Foundation, a Sri Lankan NGO, to support agriculture and food security activities in Sri Lanka, benefiting more than 12,400 IDPs. In addition, USAID/OFDA contributed approximately \$500,000 to the same three partners to support livelihoods interventions for approximately 32,400 beneficiaries.

Shelter and Settlements

- OCHA reports that conflict-affected populations resettling throughout Northern Province continue to require more than 100,000 homes. As of August, the GoSL and donors had committed to supporting the construction or repair of approximately 75,000 homes. A lack of skilled masons and carpenters is contributing to delays in the construction and repair of homes, and the U.N. notes a need for additional training opportunities to meet reconstruction and rehabilitation needs in northern areas of the country.
- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$887,000 to Sewalanka and ZOA to provide shelter support to more than 3,000 people in Mullaittivu District, where a majority of houses were destroyed during the conflict. This includes approximately \$600,000 to ZOA to repair and construct transitional shelters using already distributed materials, such as cement bags and tin sheets, when possible.

WASH

- Throughout northern areas of Sri Lanka, wells—the main source of water for populations—remain damaged, contaminated, or overgrown by brush as a result of disuse during the decades-long conflict. As a result, resettled populations continue to require assistance gaining access to safe drinking water.
- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$557,000 for WASH interventions benefiting approximately 2,700 people in Mullaitivu District, one of the areas most affected by the conflict. This assistance includes nearly \$226,000 to Sewalanka to rehabilitate, clean, and treat wells to ensure access to safe drinking water for returnees. Sewalanka is also renovating latrines and conducting awareness sessions on hygiene practices, disease prevention, and water management.

Landmines and UXO

- As a result of the conflict, mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination remains an issue in 10 districts in Northern, Eastern, and North Central provinces, according to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP). The contamination of residential and agricultural land, as well as other areas used for livelihoods activities, continues to constrain reconstruction and recovery activities in Sri Lanka.
- Between January and August, mine action teams cleared and released more than 10 km² of land, with approximately 113 km² of confirmed hazardous areas remaining throughout the country, UNDP reports. Areas designated by the GoSL for residence and livelihoods remain the highest priority for clearing.
- In FY 2012, State/PM/WRA provided more than \$4.1 million to support demining operations in northern areas of Sri Lanka. State/PM/WRA also provided nearly \$400,000 to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to conduct mine-risk education activities in Northern and Eastern provinces.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA supported OCHA to track and report on humanitarian needs and coordinate international humanitarian assistance provided in support of the GoSL-led resettlement and early recovery process. As Sri Lanka remains vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters, USAID/OFDA support also aims to empower OCHA to improve the ability of humanitarian clusters—coordinating bodies for international emergency response—in Sri Lanka to respond to emergency needs as they arise. In total, USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to OCHA in FY 2012.
- To support ongoing efforts to facilitate the return and reintegration of Sri Lankan IDPs and refugees, State/PRM contributed \$2.5 million to UNHCR in FY 2012.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
Practical Action	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi Districts	\$996,649
Sewalanka	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mullaitivu District	\$680,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$250,000
ZOA	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Mullaitivu District	\$1,500,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Protection	Northern Province	\$300,000
	Program Support		\$3,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,729,649
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Refugees	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$2,500,000

STATE/PM/WRA ASSISTANCE			
Danish Demining Group (DDG)	Demining	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Vavuniya Districts	\$895,528
The HALO Trust	Demining	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mullaittivu Districts	\$1,308,564
Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI)	Mentoring and Support to the Sri Lankan Army Humanitarian Demining Unit's Mine Detection Dog Teams	Northern Province	\$315,000
Mines Advisory Group (MAG)	Demining	Mannar, Mullaittivu, and Vavuniya Districts	\$1,064,791
Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)	Demining	Mannar, Mullaittivu, and Vavuniya Districts	\$827,291
UNICEF	Mine-Risk Education	Northern and Eastern Provinces	\$391,174
TOTAL STATE/PM/WRA			\$4,802,348
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2012			\$11,031,997

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2012.

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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in Sri Lanka can be found at www.interaction.org.
- 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:
The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/crises-and-conflict-countries>