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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

March 13, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated February 2, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- More than 40,000 civilians fled escalating fighting between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist group in the eastern coastal district of Batticaloa in the week of March 5 to 12, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On March 13, UNHCR estimated that 127,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently in Batticaloa District, straining the capacity of already overcrowded displacement camps.
- On February 27, a joint humanitarian mission organized by the GOSL and composed of the heads of U.N. agencies and foreign envoys, including the U.S. Ambassador, was shelled upon landing by helicopter in Batticaloa. Several members of the delegation sustained minor injuries.
- USAID/OFDA has approved \$1.2 million in funding for the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to implement nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities for women and children in conflict-affected areas.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs displaced by conflict since April 2006	223,977	UNHCR – March 2007
Total IDPs displaced by conflict	465,000	U.N. – March 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

- Conflict resumed in northern and eastern Sri Lanka following the collapse of peace talks in October 2006 between the GOSL and the LTTE. According to UNHCR, renewed fighting has displaced more than 220,000 people, primarily in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, since April 2006. UNHCR indicates that 17,755 people have fled Sri Lanka to Tamil Nadu state in southern India since the beginning of 2006. According to the GOSL, the conflict resulted in 215 civilian deaths and 285 injuries in January and February.
- Through regular assessment and monitoring trips, the USAID/OFDA South Asia regional office continues to closely monitor humanitarian conditions in conjunction with USAID/Sri Lanka.

Humanitarian Access and Protection

- 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, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). On March 12, the U.N. Inter-Agency Standing Committee country team expressed concern over the safety and protection of all civilians due to the ongoing conflict.
- USAID/OFDA has funded Save the Children/UK (SC/UK) to undertake protection activities to support an estimated 4,000 women and 12,000 children. USAID/OFDA has also provided funding to World Vision for protection activities for an estimated 5,500 conflict-affected children.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- Through the provision of enhanced in-country coordination, information management, and other support services, OCHA is attempting greater engagement with national and international non-governmental organizations and the GOSL.
- In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is providing \$700,000 to support OCHA’s expanded coordination and information management efforts in conflict-affected areas of Sri Lanka.

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

Logistics

- Conflict between the LTTE and the GOSL is constricting the delivery of essential relief supplies, particularly in the Jaffna peninsula, and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is working to alleviate transportation difficulties. USAID/OFDA is supporting WFP humanitarian logistics capabilities and response capacity throughout Sri Lanka.

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 13, 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