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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)

South Asia – Regional Floods

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

August 8, 2007

BACKGROUND

- Extensive flooding is currently affecting Bangladesh, India, and Nepal due to exceptionally heavy monsoon rains. In addition, in late June, a cyclone and heavy rain affected Pakistan, resulting in severe flooding in two southern provinces.
- As of August 6, flooding in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan has killed more than 1,800 people and affected nearly 28 million others during the monsoon season, according to the U.N. Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and national governments.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Bangladesh	290 dead, 6.2 million affected	Government of Bangladesh – August 6, 2007
India	1,103 dead, 18.7 million affected	Government of India – August 6, 2007
Nepal	94 dead, 333,500 affected	OCHA – August 6, 2007
Pakistan	329 dead, 2.5 million affected	OCHA – August 3, 2007

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to South Asia for flooding \$2,042,604
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to South Asia for flooding \$2,042,604

CURRENT SITUATION

Bangladesh

- The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) reported that monsoon flooding is currently affecting 15 percent of the country. Flooding typically affects up to 20 percent of Bangladesh each year during monsoon season. According to the GOB, approximately 6.2 million people are flood-affected, including 1.2 million individuals in Kurigram and Sylhet districts. GOB officials indicated that flood waters have breached an estimated 75 earthen embankments, exacerbating the impact of the floods.
- Ongoing USAID/OFDA-funded disaster preparedness projects have contributed to the response, including flood preparedness programs and water purification units pre-positioned with USAID partners CARE and Save the Children/US (SC/US).

India

- Since early June, exceptionally heavy monsoon rains have led to widespread flooding, particularly impacting 12 states in India. Floods have killed at least 1,103 people and affected approximately 18.7 million others, according to the Government of India (GOI). Beginning in late July, the most recent flooding has impacted Assam, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh states, affecting more than 6 million people in Bihar State alone, with some populations not yet reached by relief efforts. To date, the GOI and state governments have addressed the needs of much of the affected populations, with some support from local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The GOI is sending an assessment team to Assam and Bihar states to determine additional needs.
- A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor, in conjunction with USAID/India and implementing partners, will conduct assessments in flood-affected areas.

Nepal

- Heavy monsoon rains since July 17 have led to extensive flooding and landslides, affecting 33 of Nepal's 75 districts, according to the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS). Floods and landslides have killed at least 94 people and affected approximately 333,500 others. Initial NRCS surveys indicated severe flooding in eight southern plains districts including Banke, Bardiya, and Kailali in the west, as well as Dhanusa, Mahottari, Saptari, Siraha, and Rauthaut districts in the east.
- SC/US and NRCS distributed flood relief supplies pre-positioned through an existing USAID/OFDA-funded preparedness program.
- A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor, in conjunction with USAID/Nepal and implementing partners, is monitoring conditions and providing updates on flood-affected areas.

Pakistan

- On June 23, 2007, Tropical Cyclone Yemyin struck coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan provinces in southern Pakistan, with high winds and heavy rains. OCHA reports that the cyclone and associated flooding killed 329 people, and 224 others are still missing as of August 3. The flooding caused widespread damage to local infrastructure, including houses, wells, and sanitation facilities.
- In the aftermath of the cyclone, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$390,000 to Mercy Corps to procure and distribute emergency relief commodities to 90,000 people in affected areas.
- In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$750,000 to the American Refugee Committee (ARC) to address the emergency shelter needs of 20,000 individuals and the water, sanitation, and hygiene needs of 100,000 people in Balochistan Province. USAID/OFDA has also contributed more than \$800,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to provide shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene support to 18,900 individuals in Balochistan Provinces.
- A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor has conducted two assessment visits to Pakistan since Tropical Cyclone Yemyin struck.

Regional USAID/OFDA-funded Disaster Preparedness

- USAID/OFDA supports the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) to strengthen community involvement and improve understanding of flash floods, forecasts, and warnings. The project aims to reduce vulnerability to flash floods in the Himalayan region. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$170,000 to support the project.
- The Asia Flood Network (AFN) strengthens the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions in climate, weather, and hydrological forecasting while directly involving communities at risk in reducing vulnerability to hydrometeorological hazards. In collaboration with partners in Asia, the AFN is jointly implemented by USAID/OFDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2.3 million for AFN since FY 2003.
- The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a USAID/OFDA-funded program to develop national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors in six Asian countries, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. PEER assists national disaster management agencies in organizing and conducting training in medical first response, collapsed structure search and rescue, and hospital preparedness for mass casualties after a disaster. To date in FY 2007, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$1.6 million for PEER.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Bangladesh

- USAID/OFDA assistance has not been requested at this time, but USAID/OFDA-funded disaster preparedness programs are ongoing.

India

- On August 7, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Steven J. White declared a disaster due to the cumulative effects of the flooding in India. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed \$50,000 through USAID/India to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to help meet the emergency needs of flood-affected populations. A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor will conduct assessments in flood-affected areas.

Nepal

- On July 31, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Robert L. Hugins declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding and landslides in Nepal. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Nepal to SC/US, in partnership with NRCS, for the local purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies.

Pakistan

- On July 1, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Anne W. Patterson requested that USAID/OFDA provide humanitarian assistance on behalf of the U.S. Government to those affected by the cyclone in Pakistan. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed more than \$1.9 million to provide emergency shelter and water and sanitation support to affected populations.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA FOR FLOODING

FY 2007			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Prime Minister's National Relief Fund	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$50,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA FOR FLOODING IN FY 2007			\$50,000

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 8, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FOR FLOODING

FY 2007			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
SC/US	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$50,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FOR FLOODING IN FY 2007			\$50,000

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 8, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN FOR FLOODING

FY 2007			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ARC	Shelter; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Balochistan Province	\$750,550
CRS	Shelter; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Balochistan Province	\$802,031
Mercy Corps	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$390,023
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,942,604
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN FOR FLOODING IN FY 2007			\$1,942,604

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 8, 2007.

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH ASIA FOR FLOODING IN FY 2007	\$2,042,604
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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 South Asia 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

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance