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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

China – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 27, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 20, 2008

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On May 25, a magnitude 6.0 aftershock struck Sichuan Province, killing at least eight people, injuring 1,000 others, and damaging an additional 300,000 homes. Hundreds of aftershocks continue to trigger severe landslides and flooding, leading to the formation of 35 “quake lakes” and concerns that as many as 28 of the lakes could flood nearby areas, according to the Government of China (GOC) Ministry of Water Resources.
- On May 22, a USAID/OFDA-donated cache of specialized search equipment and a nine-person training team arrived in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. On May 23 and 24, the training team familiarized approximately 40 Chinese search and rescue personnel with the U.S. equipment. The training team departed Chengdu on May 25 after handing over the equipment to Chinese counterparts.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Dead (Estimated)	67,183	GOC – May 27, 2008
Total Injured (Estimated)	292,481	GOC – May 23, 2008
Total Missing (Estimated)	20,790	GOC – May 27, 2008
Total Displaced (Estimated)	5,470,000	GOC – May 23, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR CHINA EARTHQUAKE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to China	\$1,491,789
DOD¹ Assistance to China	\$1,593,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to China	\$3,084,789

CURRENT SITUATION

- Chinese authorities remain concerned that the banks of Tangjiashan Lake in Beichuan County could burst and deluge the surrounding area. Approximately 150,000 people are evacuating the area as Chinese soldiers work to ease pressure on the lake’s banks.
- By May 20, Chinese troops had reached 1,044 of the most affected villages, where severe infrastructure damage and landslides, coupled with challenging mountainous terrain, had prevented humanitarian access, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- According to the China Seismological Bureau, the magnitude 7.9 earthquake collapsed nearly 5.4 million buildings and damaged 21 million others throughout Sichuan Province. The GOC anticipates reconstruction will take a minimum of three years. Widespread shelter needs in rural areas have led most residents to seek shelter and assistance in urban centers.

Internally Displaced Persons

- Meeting the humanitarian needs associated with this large-scale displacement, as well as the emergency medical needs of nearly 300,000 people injured by the quake remain the primary objectives of the GOC and international community. The earthquake displaced approximately 5.4 million people, according to Sichuan provincial authorities. To date, the GOC has provided 403,340 tents, 2.3 million blankets, approximately 3 million clothing articles, and 384,000 tons of food to affected areas.
- Lack of sufficient shelter for the millions of displaced persons remains a serious obstacle to GOC humanitarian assistance efforts in the wake of the earthquake. Displaced families and local authorities continue to construct makeshift shelters in urban centers, town squares, and along roadways. On May 22, the GOC Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested 3.3 million tents from the international community. To date, the GOC has received an estimated 400,000 tents of the total requested.

¹ U.S. Department of Defense

- In addition to shelter assistance, the GOC has indicated that priority humanitarian needs include the following: emergency medical assistance, including medicines and equipment, treatments to ensure drinking water and food safety, protective items to prevent disease outbreaks, food, safe drinking water, and psychosocial assistance.

International Assistance

- On May 24, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited Chengdu and the epicenter of the earthquake, where he commended the GOC's earthquake response efforts and pledged to consult with OCHA and U.N. member states about further assistance.
- On May 22, OCHA announced an \$8 million contribution from the Central Emergency Response Fund to meet humanitarian needs. In addition, the U.N.'s specialized agencies continue to provide emergency relief commodities, medical assistance, and food.
- On May 14, the GOC formally requested international assistance. To date, a number of countries and private sector entities have committed cash and in-kind donations, valued at \$2 billion, according to Chinese state media.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On May 13, U.S. Ambassador Clark T. Randt, Jr., declared a disaster due to the impact of the earthquake on surrounding populations. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$500,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Beijing to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The IFRC channeled the contribution to RCSC for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies to meet the immediate needs of affected individuals.
- In response to the GOC's request for international assistance, USAID/OFDA donated specialized search, rescue, and recovery equipment, valued at \$815,504, including transportation costs. The donation includes 40 crates of saws, hand tools, hydraulic gear, concrete cutters, generators, and personal safety equipment. In addition, USAID/OFDA deployed a nine-person team of experts from Los Angeles (LA) County Fire Department and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and USAID/OFDA support staff.
- On May 23 and 24, the USAID/OFDA-funded training team conducted a series of hands-on search and rescue workshops for approximately 40 members of the Public Security and Fire Brigade of Chengdu and the Seismic Disaster Emergency Rescue team of Sichuan Province. The sessions familiarized participants with various breaching, breaking, and cutting tools used by U.S. earthquake responders. The workshops focused on petroleum-oxygen metal cutting and vehicle extrication tools, hydraulic equipment for breaching concrete, and electric and compressed air tools for breaking metals and elevating heavy concrete slabs.
- The equipment donation and training are intended to increase the capacity of GOC earthquake responders, as well as to facilitate technical cooperation between the two countries during future emergencies.
- The USAID/OFDA team returned to the U.S. on May 25 after completing the equipment handover. USAID/OFDA stands prepared to provide additional assistance at the request of the GOC and continues to consult with the GOC to determine appropriate assistance options for meeting the urgent needs identified by the GOC.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR CHINA EARTHQUAKE

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
IFRC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$500,000
LA County and Fairfax County Fire Departments	Disaster Support, including Transport	Affected Areas	\$815,504
	Administrative Support		\$176,285
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,491,789
DOD ASSISTANCE			
GOC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$1,593,000
TOTAL DOD			\$1,593,000
TOTAL FY 2008 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR CHINA EARTHQUAKE			\$3,084,789

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 identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov – Keyword: China Earthquake, or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- 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:
 - o USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - o The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276- 1914
 - o Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int
- In addition to USG contributions, the U.S. private sector has actively responded to the earthquake in China. More information can be found at:
 - o U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center: www.uschamber.com/bclc/default
 - o Business Roundtable Partnership for Disaster Response: www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo/