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

Bangladesh – Cyclone

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 19, 2007

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 15, Tropical Cyclone Sidr made landfall in southern Bangladesh with winds of 155 miles per hour. The cyclone has resulted in approximately 3,500 deaths, according to media reports. The Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) Disaster Management Information Center reported 2,625 officially confirmed deaths as of 1800 hours local time on November 19. The GOB evacuated approximately 3.2 million people from along the coastlines of 15 districts before the cyclone made landfall.
- On November 16, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Geeta Pasi declared a disaster in response to the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Sidr. In response, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$2.3 million in assistance. The assistance includes \$2.1 million to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), CARE, Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US), and other humanitarian organizations for emergency relief activities, as well as emergency relief supplies valued at \$252,215, including transport.
- USAID/OFDA is airlifting the emergency relief supplies from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Dubai, including 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, 5,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, and 2,500 water containers. The emergency relief supplies, which are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on November 20, will serve 15,000 beneficiaries.
- On November 17 and 18, a five-person USAID/OFDA assessment team arrived in Bangladesh. The assessment team is working closely with USAID/Bangladesh, the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), non-governmental organizations, and the GOB to assess the extent of the damage, identify additional assistance requirements, and coordinate USG assistance efforts.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*	SOURCE	
Total Affected Population	2,625 dead, 2,062 missing, 4,083,568 affected	GOB – November 19, 2007
Houses Damaged or Destroyed	926,599 houses damaged or destroyed	GOB – November 19, 2007

*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2008

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh..... \$2,352,215
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh..... \$2,352,215

CURRENT SITUATION

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the cyclone affected 25 districts. The most affected districts include Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Barisal, Jhalkhati, Bhola, Khulna, and Satkhira, according to the IFRC. OCHA reported that the cyclone caused extensive damage to crops and damaged many roads. The cyclone caused a severe reduction in power production, resulting in a near countrywide blackout for more than 36 hours, and disrupting telecommunications and water supplies. OCHA noted that reports indicate that the cyclone affected as many as 27 million people.
- The GOB's Ministry of Food and Disaster Management has allocated 4,000 metric tons (MT) of rice, 5,000 tents, and 17,000 blankets and provided approximately \$440,000 in relief grants to affected areas. On November 19, the GOB's Air Force conducted 17 helicopter missions, each of which delivered 2.4 MT of emergency relief supplies to affected areas. As of November 19, the GOB's Air Force has also delivered 5 MT of U.N. World Food Program fortified biscuits to affected populations. Six GOB Navy ships are continuing to conduct rescue, evacuation, relief, and reconnaissance operations.
- According to the USAID/OFDA assessment team, immediate needs include shelter, livelihoods, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene support.
- IFRC has launched a preliminary emergency appeal for \$3.5 million to assist 235,000 beneficiaries for a period of nine months, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The appeal includes food assistance, emergency shelter, basic health care, safe drinking water, and the provision of basic relief items.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE***Cyclone Relief Programs***

- In response to the November 16 disaster declaration by U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Geeta Pasi, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Bangladesh to NGOs for emergency relief activities.
- USAID has also allocated an additional \$2 million in emergency funds to assist relief efforts to date. The assistance includes \$1 million through American Red Cross in response to the IFRC appeal, and \$1 million to be awarded to humanitarian organizations currently working in affected areas.
- A five-person USAID/OFDA assessment team is working in Bangladesh. The assessment team includes the team leader, a shelter and livelihoods specialist, a military liaison officer, an information officer, and a water, sanitation, and hygiene specialist.
- USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) partners SC/US and CARE have warehoused non-emergency Title II food resources in Bangladesh, including wheat, vegetable oil, and pulses.
- DOD is also assisting with relief efforts in Bangladesh. An 18-person DOD medical team from U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) was in Bangladesh prior to the cyclone, and is now assisting with relief efforts. PACOM also deployed a 23-member Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team that will identify key areas, scope, and duration of support. The U.S. Navy ships U.S.S. Kearsarge and U.S.S. Essex are en route to Bangladesh to assist as well.

Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

- USAID has a longstanding commitment of investing in preparedness and mitigation programs in Bangladesh. In close coordination with the GOB, these programs have minimized the loss of life and damage inflicted by the recent cyclone and countless other disasters in this densely populated, flood-prone country. USAID programs include the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose flood and cyclone shelters as well as wave protection walls and earthen embankments to reduce flood damage. In addition to building nearly 4,000 physical mitigation structures since 2005, USAID worked to train local disaster management committees to oversee emergency response activities and provided cyclone preparedness training programs for coastal areas.
- Over the past decade, two USAID/OFDA programs have worked to reduce the effects of flooding in Bangladesh. The Emergency Working Group of Cooperative Sponsors has promoted coordination between communities and local authorities and supported the operation of mobile water purification plants and a mobile health unit. In addition, USAID/OFDA has supported community flood monitoring and forecasting to mitigate damage for communities living in flood plains.
- USAID-funded disaster preparedness mechanisms already in-country before the storm include 16 zodiac boats, 6 water treatment systems, and 10 water ambulances used for emergency operations. USAID partners CARE and SC/US pre-positioned 30,000 emergency survival packages, as well as food stockpiles, to facilitate distribution after the storm passed.
- Through regional preparedness programs, USAID/OFDA has contributed to strengthened emergency response capacity in Bangladesh. The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) has developed national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors. The Asia Flood Network (AFN) has strengthened 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. The Program for Hydrometeorological Risk Mitigation in Asian Cities (PROMISE) has carried out hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments and established community-based early warning mechanisms in highly vulnerable urban centers, including Chittagong, Bangladesh.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Bangladesh	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
SC/US	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$30,000
CARE	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$70,000
IFRC	Shelter, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
USAID/Bangladesh	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$252,215
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,352,215
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008			\$2,352,215

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 19, 2007.

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 Bangladesh 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