



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

Bangladesh - Cyclone

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 21, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated November 19, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 20, USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore visited affected areas with U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Geeta Pasi, USAID Bangladesh Mission Director Denise Rollins, Government of Bangladesh (GOB) officials, and a non-governmental organization (NGO) representative. Administrator Fore also met with donors and U.N. representatives to review relief efforts.
- On November 20, Administrator Fore presented commodities from a U.S. airlift to GOB officials. The supplies were consigned to NGOs for distribution to 15,000 beneficiaries. The airlift included 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, 5,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, and 2,500 water containers.
- In support of GOB efforts, in the coming days the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) plans to establish sectoral clusters to identify needs and coordinate assistance. The clusters include food, health, emergency shelter, early recovery, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	2,837 dead, 2,176 missing, 5,488,216 affected	GOB – November 20, 2007
Houses Damaged or Destroyed	1,123,553 houses damaged or destroyed	GOB – November 20, 2007

*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2008

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh.....	\$2,900,175
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Bangladesh	\$740,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh.....	\$3,640,175

CURRENT SITUATION

- Numerous humanitarian assessments are underway in affected areas, with results expected to be shared in the coming days. Approximately 30 percent of cyclone-affected areas remain inaccessible to aid agencies, according to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART).
- According to OCHA, the cyclone affected 28 districts. The most-affected districts include Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Barisal, and Jhalkhati, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- On November 21, the USAID/DART Acting Team Leader participated in a helicopter assessment of cyclone-affected areas. The group observed the distribution of relief supplies in Patharghata upazila in Barguna District and Sharankhula upazila in Bagerhat District. The group also assessed Kalapara, Kuakata, and Sundarbans. In Patharghata, approximately 985,000 people have lost homes, livestock, and personal property. Immediate humanitarian needs include food, safe drinking water, shelter, and clothing, the USAID/DART reported.
- On November 21, the USAID/DART Shelter and Livelihoods Advisor traveled to Barisal District in southern Bangladesh. In the coming days, the advisor will meet with humanitarian agencies in Barisal and Patuakhali districts and identify key areas for USAID/OFDA support.

Food Aid

- The GOB’s Ministry of Food and Disaster Management has allocated 7,070 metric tons (MT) of rice to cyclone-affected families, as of November 20. According to OCHA, the U.N. is distributing 208 MT of high-energy biscuits to approximately 850,000 cyclone-affected people.

¹ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

Health

- On November 20, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the agency sent two emergency teams to Chittagong and Khulna divisions. Four additional WHO teams are expected to arrive in other affected areas between November 23 and 25. WHO polio surveillance teams in Bangladesh are also coordinating with GOB health officials.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- The GOB is providing 5,000 tents, 17,000 blankets, and approximately \$440,000 in relief grants to affected areas. On November 19 and 20, the GOB's Air Force conducted 27 helicopter missions, which delivered 63.8 MT of emergency relief supplies to affected areas.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Cyclone Relief Programs

- On November 15, Tropical Cyclone Sidr made landfall in southern Bangladesh with winds of 155 miles per hour. On November 16, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Geeta Pasi declared a disaster due to the effects of the cyclone. A USAID/DART arrived in Bangladesh on November 17 and 18.
- USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Bangladesh to NGOs for emergency relief activities. USAID has also allocated an additional \$3.5 million in emergency funds to assist relief efforts to date. The assistance includes \$1 million through the American Red Cross in response to the IFRC appeal, and \$1 million to be awarded to humanitarian organizations currently working in affected areas.
- USAID/FFP partner CARE is distributing \$740,000 of P.L. 480 Title II Food Aid commodities in Bangladesh, including wheat, vegetable oil, and pulses.
- The U.S. Department of Defense (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 traveled to affected areas to determine 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.

Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

- According to OCHA, the GOB's early warning and preparedness systems greatly reduced the humanitarian impact of Cyclone Sidr. Approximately 3.2 million people were evacuated and supplies were stockpiled, OCHA reported.
- 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 from the recent cyclone and countless other disasters. 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 trained local disaster management committees to oversee emergency response 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 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 Save the Children/US (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 strengthen emergency response capacity in Bangladesh. The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response has developed national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors. The Asia Flood Network has strengthened the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions in forecasting while directly involving communities at risk in reducing vulnerability to hydrometeorological hazards. The Program for Hydrometeorological Risk Mitigation in Asian Cities has carried out hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments and established community-based early warning mechanisms in highly vulnerable urban centers, including Chittagong.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
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	\$252,175
USAID/Bangladesh	Administrative Support	Affected Areas	\$48,000
U.S. Department of Defense	Transportation of Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,900,175
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
CARE	P.L. 480 Title II Food Aid	Affected Areas	\$740,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008			\$3,640,175

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 21, 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