



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

Bangladesh - Cyclone

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 28, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated November 26, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 28, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), USAID/Bangladesh Mission Director Denise Rollins, and U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Geeta Pasi presented emergency relief supplies from a second U.S. airlift to Government of Bangladesh (GOB) officials. The commodities were consigned to Save the Children/US (SC/US) and World Vision for distribution in Barguna, Patuakhali and Pirojpur districts.
- Between November 28 and December 3, four USAID/DART members will continue to conduct in-depth assessments, evaluate humanitarian needs, and identify gaps in services to determine where USAID/OFDA may provide additional assistance. The USAID/DART will visit Bagerhat, Barisal, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur, the four most affected districts identified by the GOB. In addition, the USAID/DART will assess the five most water-insecure areas, where the GOB has requested U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) assistance.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE* | | SOURCE |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Total Affected Population | 3,256 dead, 880 missing, 8,469,849 affected | GOB – November 28, 2007 |
| Houses Damaged or Destroyed | 1,425,024 houses damaged or destroyed | GOB – November 28, 2007 |

*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2008

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh..... | \$4,526,587 |
| USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Bangladesh | \$10,000,000 |
| Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh..... | \$14,526,587 |

CURRENT SITUATION

- On November 28, USAID/DART members conducted a humanitarian assessment of Doblar Char island, Sundarban District. The USAID/DART reported that the GOB appears to have met humanitarian needs through the provision of food and relief supplies. The majority of the population, mostly fishermen, is recovering from the impact of Tropical Cyclone Sidr.
- As of November 27, the GOB’s Disaster Management Bureau reported that the cyclone affected nearly 8.5 million people, resulted in more than 3,000 deaths, and led to the disappearance of more than 800 people.
- As of November 27, DOD has airlifted 18 medical personnel to cyclone-affected areas and conducted 21 relief operations, which delivered 8,233 gallons of water and 18,008 pounds of medical supplies.
- On November 26, the USAID/DART, USAID/Bangladesh, and U.S. Marine logisticians attended the first interagency Logistics Response Team meeting, chaired by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). Although participants reported no apparent logistical constraints, organizations noted a lack of sufficient warehouse space in the capital city of Dhaka and cyclone-affected areas in southern Bangladesh, according to the USAID/DART.
- Between November 21 and 25, the USAID/DART conducted preliminary damage and needs assessments of affected areas, in conjunction with USAID/Bangladesh, the U.S. Marine Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST), and other DOD officials. The team reported that destroyed houses and the loss of crops, household assets, and livestock are among the challenges facing Bagerhat, Barisal, Patharghata, and Patuakhali districts and areas south and southeast of Barguna District. The USAID/DART identified emergency food aid, relief supplies, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions as the most pressing priorities.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- As of November 27, USAID/OFDA has provided 15,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, and 4,900 water containers, serving nearly 45,000 beneficiaries.

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

Food Security

- According to the USAID/DART, the cyclone resulted in extensive damage in the agricultural and fisheries sectors. The USAID/DART reported that livelihoods and livestock losses may constrain income-generating activities.
- USAID/FFP is allocating \$10 million of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to implementing partners for distribution to cyclone-affected communities.
- WFP is providing food assistance to 2.2 million beneficiaries in Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Pirojpur, and Satkhira districts.
- To address food needs, the GOB will expand the existing Vulnerable Group Feeding program to target an estimated 2.6 million households in 30 districts.
- On December 3, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization will commence a comprehensive food and livelihoods assessment to determine the impact of the cyclone on agricultural, fisheries, and forestry sectors.

Shelter and Settlements

- The USAID/DART reported that the cyclone destroyed 30 percent of the houses in Barisal and Khulna divisions. According to the USAID/DART, cyclone-affected populations in Barisal and Khulna remained at their place of origin and are using salvaged materials to build shelters on the site of their previous homes. Houses close to the water suffered the most damage due to the tidal surge.
- The U.N. shelter cluster, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the USAID/DART, is developing a low-cost shelter design to standardize shelter interventions in all affected areas.
- On November 20, USAID/OFDA provided 300 rolls of plastic sheeting to CARE and SC/US, serving 18,000 people.
- USAID/OFDA funded World Vision to provide emergency shelter repair materials to nearly 9,000 people in Bagerhat and Khulna districts.
- USAID/OFDA provided funds through the American Red Cross (ARC) in response to the IFRC appeal. The IFRC and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) will provide emergency shelter support to benefit approximately 25,000 people. The distribution will be accompanied by training in storm-resistant construction techniques.

WASH

- At the November 25 U.N. WASH cluster meeting, non-governmental organizations and donors discussed various measures to meet immediate and long-term WASH needs of affected populations.
- The GOB's Department of Public Health Engineering is coordinating the GOB's response to WASH needs.
- USAID/OFDA provided four water purification units and four 10,000-liter water bladders to SC/US and World Vision for distribution in Barguna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur districts, serving nearly 144,000 beneficiaries.
- Through the IFRC and BDRCS, ARC will support WASH activities to include water purification units, water containers, and sanitation services for nearly 50,000 people in affected areas, with USAID/OFDA funds. In addition, ARC plans to deploy a WASH specialist to support the ongoing IFRC and BDRCS WASH response in Bangladesh.
- USAID/OFDA funded World Vision to rehabilitate protected water access points, distribute water storage containers, construct latrines, and promote correct water use practices for 25,100 people in Bagerhat and Khulna districts.
- USAID/OFDA provided funds to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to re-establish access to safe drinking water supplies and sanitation facilities in cyclone-affected communities.
- The DOD field team is treating 15,200 gallons of water per day through a water purification system aboard the U.S. Navy ship U.S.S. Kearsarge.

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. The USAID/DART began arriving in Bangladesh on November 17.
- USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Bangladesh to CARE and SC/US for emergency relief activities in Bagerhat, Barguna, and Patuakhali districts. USAID has allocated an additional \$14.4 million in emergency funds, including USAID/FFP's allocation of \$10 million of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to implementing partners for distribution to cyclone-affected communities.
- DOD's U.S. Pacific Command deployed 23 HAST members to affected areas to determine the scope and duration of DOD support. An 18-person DOD medical team in Bangladesh prior to the cyclone has assisted with relief efforts.

Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

- According to OCHA, GOB's early warning and preparedness systems greatly reduced the impact of Tropical 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. 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.
- Additionally, over the past decade, two USAID/OFDA programs have promoted coordination between communities and local authorities and supported the operation of mobile water purification plants and a mobile health unit. USAID/OFDA also has supported community flood monitoring and forecasting to mitigate damage in flood plains.
- USAID/OFDA programs have developed cadres of professional emergency response instructors; strengthened the forecasting capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions; carried out hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments; and established community-based early warning mechanisms in urban centers.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008

| FY 2008 | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------|
| Implementing Partner | Activity | Location | Amount |
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |
| CARE | Emergency Relief Activities | Bagerhat District | \$30,000 |
| SC/US | Emergency Relief Activities | Barguna and Patuakhali districts | \$70,000 |
| IFRC | Shelter, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira districts | \$1,000,000 |
| CARE and SC/US | Emergency Relief Supplies | Affected Areas | \$252,175 |
| SC/US World Vision | Emergency Relief Supplies | Barguna District Patuakhali and Pirojpur districts | \$382,760 |
| DOD | Transportation of Emergency Relief Supplies | Affected Areas | \$500,000 |
| SC/US | Shelter, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Barguna and Patuakhali districts | \$604,952 |
| UNICEF | Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Affected Areas | \$700,000 |
| World Vision | Shelter, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Bagerhat and Khulna districts | \$800,000 |
| | Administrative Support | Affected Areas | \$186,700 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$4,526,587 |
| USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE | | | |
| Multiple Private Voluntary Organizations | P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance | Affected Areas | \$10,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP | | | \$10,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008 | | | \$14,526,587 |

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 27, 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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for the cyclone response efforts in Bangladesh can be found at www.interaction.org.

- 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