



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

***Bangladesh - Cyclone***

Fact Sheet #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 30, 2007

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated November 28, 2007.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On November 28, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) assessed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in Doblal Island in Sundarban District, in conjunction with the Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) Department of Public Health Engineering. The field visit is part of a six-day humanitarian assessment to evaluate the five areas identified by the GOB as most in need of safe drinking water, including Barguna, Doblal Char, Galachipa, Kalapara, and Shoron Khola. The USAID/DART will also conduct assessments in Bagerhat, Barguna, Khulna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur districts.
- On November 29, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) announced a \$52 million emergency operation plan to provide food assistance to cyclone-affected populations over the next six months.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	3,274 dead, 872 missing, 8,545,470 affected	GOB – November 30, 2007
<b>Houses Damaged or Destroyed</b>	1,449,157 houses damaged or destroyed	GOB – November 30, 2007

\*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

**FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh.....</b>	<b>\$4,526,587</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>1</sup> Assistance to Bangladesh .....</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>
<b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh.....</b>	<b>\$19,526,587</b>

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- As of November 30, the GOB's Disaster Management Bureau reported that Tropical Cyclone Sidr affected nearly 8.5 million people, resulted in more than 3,000 deaths, and led to the disappearance of more than 800 people.
- The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) is conducting additional relief operations to deliver emergency supplies to the 23 most affected areas in southern Bangladesh, as identified by the GOB. The USAID/DART will accompany the relief flights.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided 15,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, and 4,900 water containers, serving nearly 45,000 beneficiaries. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided eight water purification units and four 10,000-liter water bladders for the cyclone response, improving the hygiene and sanitation conditions of nearly 80,000 people. USAID/OFDA has also delivered 300 rolls of plastic sheeting to implementing partners CARE and Save the Children/US (SC/US) to benefit approximately 18,000 people.

***Food Security***

- In response to the food security situation, USAID/FFP is providing \$5 million of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food aid to WFP to provide assistance to more than 2.2 million people and help restore livelihoods and rural community infrastructure in Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira districts.
- To date, USAID/FFP has provided a total of \$15 million of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to support cyclone relief efforts.

***Shelter and Settlements***

- In response to the damage resulting from the cyclone, USAID/OFDA funded World Vision to provide emergency shelter repair materials to nearly 9,000 people in Bagerhat and Khulna districts.
- USAID/OFDA also provided funds to the American Red Cross (ARC) in support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) appeal. Under this grant, ARC will support the IFRC and the

<sup>1</sup>USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to provide emergency shelter support for approximately 25,000 people. While distributing shelter supplies, the BDRCS will train recipients in storm-resistance construction techniques.

### **WASH**

- The USAID/DART reported that the GOB appears to have met immediate water needs in Doblal Char Island. The USAID/DART recommends medium- to long-term interventions to improve the WASH sector in Doblal Char.
- Through the IFRC and BDRCS, ARC is distributing water purification tablets to cyclone-affected families. In addition, ARC will support other WASH activities for nearly 50,000 people in affected areas, with USAID/OFDA funds. In early December, an ARC WASH specialist is deploying to Bangladesh to support the ongoing IFRC and BDRCS WASH response.
- USAID/OFDA funded World Vision to support WASH activities, serving 25,100 beneficiaries 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.

### **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. On November 17, the USAID/DART began arriving in Bangladesh and programming funds in response to the cyclone.
- USAID has provided more than \$19 million in emergency funds, including USAID/FFP’s allocation of \$15 million of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance for affected communities.
- DOD’s U.S. Pacific Command deployed 23 U.S. Marine Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team members to affected areas to determine the scope and duration of DOD support. An 18-person DOD medical team that was in Bangladesh prior to the cyclone has assisted with relief efforts.

#### ***Preparedness and Mitigation Programs***

- 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 has 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 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-funded disaster preparedness mechanisms already in country before the storm included zodiac boats, water treatment systems, and water ambulances used for emergency operations. USAID partners pre-positioned 30,000 emergency survival packages, as well as food stockpiles, to facilitate distribution after the storm passed.
- 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**

<b>FY 2008</b>			
<b><i>Implementing Partner</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Amount</i></b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ARC	Shelter, WASH	Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira Districts	\$1,000,000
CARE	Emergency Relief Activities	Bagerhat District	\$30,000
SC/US	Emergency Relief Activities	Barguna and Patuakhali Districts	\$70,000

CARE SC/US	Emergency Relief Supplies	Bagerhat and Barguna Districts Barguna and Patuakhali Districts	\$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, WASH	Barguna and Patuakhali Districts	\$604,952
UNICEF	WASH	Affected Areas	\$700,000
World Vision	Shelter, WASH	Bagerhat and Khulna Districts	\$800,000
	Administrative Support	Affected Areas	\$186,700
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$4,526,587</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
Multiple Private Voluntary Organizations	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$10,000,000
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira Districts	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$15,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$19,526,587</b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 30, 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](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)