



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

Bangladesh - Cyclone

Fact Sheet #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

December 3, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated November 30, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On December 3, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) commenced a comprehensive livelihoods assessment to determine the impact of Tropical Cyclone Sidr on agricultural, fisheries, and forestry sectors.
- On December 3, the George Harrison Fund for the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) announced a contribution of \$450,000 to support cyclone relief efforts.
- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) is deploying medical staff to support Government of Bangladesh (GOB) health activities.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	3,292 dead, 871 missing, 8.6 million affected	GOB – December 3, 2007
Houses Damaged or Destroyed	1.5 million houses damaged or destroyed	GOB – December 3, 2007

*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh.....	\$4,537,587
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Bangladesh	\$15,000,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh.....	\$19,537,587

CURRENT SITUATION

- Between November 28 and December 3, the USAID/DART assessed shelter, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in cyclone-affected areas of Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Khulna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur districts. The USAID/DART is identifying potential gaps in relief assistance and opportunities to transition from relief efforts to recovery and rehabilitation.
- According to the USAID/DART, relief assistance is reaching cyclone-affected areas due to the effective humanitarian coordination between the GOB and the U.N. cluster system.

Food Security

- The USAID/DART reported that the GOB is effectively distributing food in cyclone-affected areas. Complementing the GOB food distribution of 3 to 5 kilograms of rice per family, non-governmental organizations are providing oil, salt, sugar, and yellow peas. The GOB plans to distribute rice until March 2008.
- The GOB has also pledged nearly 2.8 million cards through the Vulnerable Group Feeding program for food ration distribution to cyclone-affected families.

Livelihoods

- As of December 3, the GOB reported that the cyclone damaged or destroyed nearly 2 million acres of croplands and resulted in a large loss of livestock. According to the USAID/DART, agricultural and livestock losses have severely impacted and constrained income-generating activities, particularly to farmers, fishermen, and small traders.
- U.N. World Food Program and FAO assessments will determine the extent of the agricultural crop loss. Currently, crop loss estimates range from 30 percent to 85 percent.

¹ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace

Shelter and Settlements

- The USAID/DART field assessment indicated that families in affected areas have built makeshift shelters with salvaged materials. According to the USAID/DART, many families lack housing construction technical know-how and cannot afford skilled labor to rebuild their homes. In response, the GOB has developed a compensation plan to provide cash to affected families to repair and build their homes.
- In collaboration with USAID/OFDA and other donors, the U.N. shelter cluster is finalizing a low-cost shelter design to standardized shelter interventions in affected areas, based on ongoing field assessments.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- According to the USAID/DART, Tropical Cyclone Sidr damaged wells and polluted open ponds previously used for water consumption in remote affected areas. In response, the GOB has provided water purification tablets in cyclone-affected areas.
- WHO will analyze available data to assess whether the number of reported cases of water-borne diseases is significantly different from the number of cases reported prior to the cyclone.

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 to support emergency and early recovery activities, including shelter and WASH programs. The funds also include USAID/FFP’s allocation of \$15 million of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance.
- In collaboration with implementing partners, 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, benefiting approximately 18,000 people.
- The U.S. Department of Defense continues to conduct relief operations to deliver emergency relief supplies to cyclone-affected areas. The U.S.S. Tarawa has arrived in Bangladesh to provide assistance, as needed. The U.S.S. Kearsarge, which arrived in Bangladesh on November 23, will depart on December 4.

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

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
American Red Cross	Shelter, WASH	Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira Districts	\$1,000,000
CARE	Emergency Relief Activities	Bagerhat District	\$30,000
Save the Children/US	Emergency Relief Activities	Barguna and Patuakhali Districts	\$70,000
CARE Save the Children/US	Emergency Relief Supplies	Bagerhat and Barguna Districts Barguna and Patuakhali Districts	\$252,175
Save the Children/US World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies	Barguna District Patuakhali and Pirojpur Districts	\$382,760
U.S. Department of Defense	Transportation of Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$500,000
Save the Children/US	Shelter, WASH	Barguna and Patuakhali Districts	\$604,952
U.N. Children's Fund	WASH	Affected Areas	\$700,000
World Vision	Shelter, WASH	Bagerhat and Khulna Districts	\$800,000
	Administrative Support	Affected Areas	\$197,700
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$4,537,587
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
Multiple Private Voluntary Organizations	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$10,000,000
U.N. World Food Program	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira Districts	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$15,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008			\$19,537,587

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 3, 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