



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

Bangladesh - Cyclone

Fact Sheet #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

December 5, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated December 3, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On December 4, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) Leader and the Military Liaison Officer visited the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) Civil Military Operations Center (CMOC) in Barisal District. According to the USAID/DART Team Leader, CMOC’s effective humanitarian coordination and the GOB’s existing transportation infrastructure, including commercial trucks and ferry networks, have facilitated the prompt mobilization of emergency relief commodities to affected areas.
- On December 5, the Government of Denmark pledged nearly \$2 million to the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction to support recovery efforts in response to Tropical Cyclone Sidr.
- On December 3, the U.K. Department for International Development delivered light weight boats in Dhaka to support the distribution of emergency relief supplies to remote affected areas.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE* | | SOURCE |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Total Affected Population | 3,301 dead, 871 missing, 8.7 million affected | GOB – December 5, 2007 |
| Houses Damaged or Destroyed | 1.5 million houses damaged or destroyed | GOB – December 5, 2007 |

*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh..... | \$4,540,287 |
| USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Bangladesh | \$15,000,000 |
| Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh..... | \$19,540,287 |

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of December 5, the GOB has allocated nearly \$12 million for the cyclone emergency response and 16,890 metric tons of rice for distribution to affected families. Strong coordination at the national and local levels among the GOB, international agencies, grassroots organizations, and non-governmental organizations has facilitated the delivery of humanitarian assistance to isolated affected communities.
- The U.S. navy ship U.S.S. Tarawa, which arrived on December 3, is airlifting emergency relief supplies and food to remote areas that have not been previously reached.

Food Security

- Between December 4 and 5, USAID/FFP staff based in Bangladesh conducted an assessment in several cyclone-affected areas. The USAID/FFP field team observed no acute malnutrition in areas visited.
- The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is providing cards for food ration distribution, benefiting approximately 72,000 children and 109,000 families in cyclone-affected areas.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- As of December 2, the GOB’s Department of Public Health Engineering has provided 10 water purification units to affected areas of Bagerhat, Barguna, and Pirojpur districts, according to UNICEF. GOB district and sub-district authorities have also distributed 30 water purification units in affected areas.
- The USAID/DART Health and WASH Advisor reported that the GOB and UNICEF have provided more than 4.5 million water purification tablets in areas where water supply was not readily accessible, reducing risks of water-borne diseases.
- The USAID/DART, USAID/Bangladesh, and the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka are monitoring the location and functionality of USAID/OFDA water treatment units provided to implementing partners before and after the cyclone.

¹ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace

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 relief 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.
- To date, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has conducted 89 relief operations, transporting more than 54,000 gallons of water and emergency relief supplies to needed areas. DOD medical teams are providing assistance in remote affected communities. As of December 2, DOD has provided \$3.4 million in Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid funds for cyclone 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

| 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 | \$200,400 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$4,540,287 |
| 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 | | | \$19,540,287 |

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 5, 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