



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

***Bangladesh - Cyclone***

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 23, 2007

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated November 21, 2007.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Between November 22 and 25, additional USAID/OFDA staff will arrive in Dhaka to support the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) and USAID/Bangladesh, including the USAID/DART Team Leader and administrative, communications, food, and program officers.
- On November 22, the USAID/DART Military Liaison Officer and the USAID/Bangladesh Mission Director met with the incoming U.S. military relief task force commander and the U.S. Marine Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST) to discuss potential U.S. military support and coordination mechanisms for the cyclone relief operation.
- Between November 21 and 22, the Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) Air Force conducted 33 relief missions, which delivered 121 Metric Tons (MT) of emergency relief supplies to cyclone-affected populations. As of November 22, the GOB has allocated 7,640 MT of rice and provided 27,000 bags of emergency food commodities, 18,000 blankets, 14,979 tents, 3,348 utensils, and 13,000 bundles of corrugated iron sheets to affected populations.
- On November 22, the United Nations (U.N.) released a preliminary rapid assessment report of nine of the 30 most affected districts in Bangladesh, including Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira districts. According to the report, cash, food, and shelter are the most pressing needs for assistance. Safe drinking water and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are also a priority in cyclone-affected areas.
- In support of GOB efforts, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) activated the logistics cluster.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	2,997 dead, 1,724 missing, 6,770,456 affected	GOB – November 22, 2007
<b>Houses Damaged or Destroyed</b>	1,178,974 houses damaged or destroyed	GOB – November 22, 2007

\*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

**HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2008**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh.....</b>	<b>\$3,302,635</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>1</sup> Assistance to Bangladesh .....</b>	<b>\$740,000</b>
<b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh.....</b>	<b>\$4,042,635</b>

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- As of November 22, the GOB's Disaster Management Bureau reported that Tropical Cyclone Sidr affected nearly 6.8 million persons, resulted in 2,997 deaths, and led to the disappearance of 1,724 persons. Relief organizations on the ground indicated that actual figures of deaths and missing persons may be higher than GOB figures.
- Relief agencies reported that immediate needs vary in affected areas. While food and safe drinking water are some of the most pressing humanitarian needs for cyclone-affected families along the coastal districts and sandbar islands, communities further inland need agricultural recovery and livelihoods assistance, particularly in agricultural production and the fishing industry.
- Tropical Cyclone Sidr and accompanying heavy rainfall and flooding has limited the access to relief agencies conducting assessments and distributing emergency relief supplies to affected communities, according to the USAID/DART team.

***Food Security***

- According to the U.N., the cyclone affected more than 1.6 million acres of agricultural lands. The U.N. also reported that the cyclone disrupted the access to food markets, affecting local food security. In addition, the USAID/DART

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

team indicated that the cyclone, coupled with the high prices of fuel on the international market, is impacting the livelihoods of affected populations.

- In response, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has committed 171 MT of high energy biscuits to Save the Children (SC/US) for distribution to cyclone-affected areas. In addition, WFP is gathering information on emergency food needs, which will become available in the coming days.
- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is providing high energy biscuits for women and children under two years of age.

#### ***Shelter and Settlements***

- According to the GOB's Disaster Management Bureau, Tropical Cyclone Sidr damaged or destroyed approximately 1.2 million houses.
- On November 20, USAID/OFDA provided CARE and Save the Children (SC/US) emergency relief supplies, including 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, 5,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, and 2,500 water containers for affected communities.

#### ***WASH***

- According to the U.N., debris and salinity have polluted safe drinking water sources.
- On November 22, the USAID/DART Health and WASH Advisor traveled with the HAST team to cyclone-affected areas of Barguna, Barisal, Galachipa, Kalapara, and Patharghata districts. The team is assessing WASH conditions, meeting with implementing partners, and identifying gaps in relief activities to determine geographic areas of greatest need. Information about the assessment will become available in the coming days.
- USAID/OFDA is airlifting four additional water purification units and four water containers from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Dubai. The emergency relief supplies are scheduled to arrive on November 25.
- The U.N. Development Program has also allocated 1,000 water purifying filters to affected communities in Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur districts.

### **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 Geeta Pasi declared a disaster due to the effects of the cyclone. A USAID/DART arrived in Bangladesh on November 17 and 18. Additional USAID/DART staff will arrive between November 22 and 25.
- USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Bangladesh to CARE and SC/US for emergency relief activities. USAID has also allocated an additional \$3.9 million in emergency funds to assist relief efforts to date. The assistance includes \$1 million through the American Red Cross in response to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) appeal and \$1 million to be awarded to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 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 HAST team that traveled to affected areas to determine scope and duration of support. The U.S. Navy ship U.S.S. Kearsarge has arrived in Bangladesh.

#### ***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 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

<b>FY 2008</b>			
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
CARE	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$30,000
CARE and SC/US	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$252,175
IFRC	Shelter, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
Multiple NGO Partners	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
Multiple NGO Partners	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$303,160
SC/US	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$70,000
	Administrative Support	Affected Areas	\$147,300
DOD	Transportation of Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$3,302,635</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
CARE	P.L. 480 Title II Food Aid	Affected Areas	\$740,000
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$4,042,635</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 23, 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)