



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

Bangladesh - Cyclone

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 26, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated November 23, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) is allocating \$10 million of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to implementing partners for distribution to cyclone-affected communities.
- USAID/OFDA is airlifting additional emergency relief supplies from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Dubai, including 10,000 blankets, four 10,000-liter water bladders, 2,400 water containers, and four water treatment units. The supplies are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on November 27 and will be consigned to CARE and World Vision for distribution in Barguna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur districts.
- On November 25, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) attended the first U.N. health cluster meeting, chaired by the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), to discuss public health issues resulting from Tropical Cyclone Sidr.
- On November 24, the USAID/DART met with U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and Government of Bangladesh (GOB) military officials aboard the U.S. Navy ship U.S.S. Kearsarge to discuss U.S. Government (USG) assistance with ongoing cyclone response efforts.
- On November 24, the USAID/DART reported that a bridge collapsed during a food and emergency relief supply distribution in Kalapara town in Patuakhali District, resulting in three deaths, 100 injuries, and 20 missing people.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	3,061 dead, 1,180 missing, 6,851,147 affected	GOB – November 25, 2007
Houses Damaged or Destroyed	1,208,327 houses damaged or destroyed	GOB – November 25, 2007

*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2008

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh.....	\$4,507,987
USAID/FFP Assistance to Bangladesh.....	\$10,000,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh.....	\$14,507,987

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of November 25, the GOB’s Disaster Management Bureau reported that Tropical Cyclone Sidr affected nearly 6.9 million people, resulted in approximately 3,000 deaths, and led to the disappearance of more than 1,000 people. Information on affected populations and a more detailed analysis of humanitarian needs are forthcoming, as GOB, U.N., non-governmental organizations, and donor assessment missions are still ongoing.
- According to a U.N. preliminary rapid assessment, Tropical Cyclone Sidr affected nearly 5 million people in Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira, the most affected districts. An additional 2.6 million people in other areas require immediate humanitarian assistance, according to the U.N.
- As of November 25, the GOB has allocated nearly \$3.9 million and 9,640 metric tons (MT) of rice for cyclone-affected populations. The GOB’s Air Force has provided 27,000 bags of emergency food commodities, 26,700 blankets, 13,000 bundles of corrugated iron sheets, 16,454 tents, and 3,348 utensils to affected populations.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- The USAID/DART reported that the cyclone swept away most household assets, particularly houses south of Barguna District and along waterways.
- On November 20, USAID/OFDA provided an initial 5,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, and 2,500 water containers, serving 15,000 beneficiaries. USAID/OFDA is airlifting additional emergency relief supplies, including 10,000 blankets serving 30,000 beneficiaries and 2,400 water containers, serving nearly 14,000 beneficiaries. USAID/OFDA is providing the relief items to World Vision for distribution in Patuakhali and Pirojpur districts.

Food Security

- According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), strong winds and tidal surge resulting from the cyclone destroyed more than 1.6 million acres of crops, particularly rice fields.
- According to the U.N. preliminary rapid assessment, 2.2 million people will require food assistance. The U.N. reported that the cyclone destroyed 25 percent of ready-to-harvest crops in affected areas, while other agencies estimate total crop losses between 30 percent and 90 percent, the USAID/DART reported. WFP and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization are gathering information to determine how many people require emergency food aid.
- On November 24, a USAID/FFP advisor joined the USAID/DART to assess food aid needs and provide comprehensive recommendations for USG assistance. The USAID/DART reported that household food reserves have been depleted or destroyed in affected areas.
- USAID/FFP is allocating \$10 million of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to implementing partners for distribution to cyclone-affected communities.
- Between November 19 and 22, WFP distributed 300 MT of pre-positioned high energy biscuits and 750 MT of rice to approximately 651,000 people in affected districts, including Barguna, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur.

Health

- At the November 25 U.N. health cluster meeting, the GOB's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) reported that acute respiratory infections and increased incidence of water- and vector-borne diseases are among the public health issues facing Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira districts as a result of the cyclone.
- In response, the MOHFW deployed nearly 600 doctors, 23 supervisory physicians, and 691 medical teams to cyclone-affected areas. The GOB military also deployed medical teams to assist affected populations.
- In collaboration with the GOB, WHO deployed two emergency health advisors to monitor the spread of disease.
- An 18-person DOD medical team was in Bangladesh prior to the cyclone and has assisted with relief efforts.

Shelter and Settlements

- According to the GOB, Tropical Cyclone Sidr damaged or destroyed approximately 1.2 million houses.
- On November 20, USAID/OFDA provided 300 rolls of plastic sheeting to CARE and SC/US, serving 18,000 people.
- USAID/OFDA is funding World Vision to provide emergency shelter repair materials to nearly 9,000 people in Bagerhat and Khulna districts, two of the most-affected districts identified by the U.N.
- USAID/OFDA provided funds through the American Red Cross (ARC) in response to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) appeal. The IFRC and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) will provide emergency shelter support, including the distribution of tools, construction materials, and other emergency shelter supplies, to benefit approximately 25,000 people. The distribution will be accompanied by training in storm-resistant construction techniques.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- GOB and WHO health officials reported that the provision of safe drinking water is one of the most urgent interventions needed to mitigate the impact of the cyclone. According to the U.N., nearly 1.2 million persons are in need of immediate safe drinking water and approximately 1.3 million others require sanitation assistance.
- To reduce the likelihood of water- and vector-borne diseases, USAID/OFDA is providing four water purification units and four 10,000-liter water bladders to CARE 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 from ARC's Tsunami program in Indonesia to support the ongoing IFRC and BDRCS WASH response efforts in Bangladesh.
- USAID/OFDA is funding 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 is providing 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.
- USAID/OFDA is supporting SC/US to promote WASH activities, including access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, serving approximately 200,000 beneficiaries in Barguna and Patuakhali 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, a.i. 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 arrived between November 22 and 25.
- 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 to assist with relief efforts to date.
- USAID/FFP is allocating \$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 a 23-member U.S. Marine Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team that traveled to affected areas to determine scope and duration of DOD support. The U.S. Navy ship U.S.S. Kearsarge has arrived in Bangladesh.

Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

- According to OCHA, GOB’s early warning and preparedness systems greatly reduced the humanitarian 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. 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.
- Additionally, over the past decade, two USAID/OFDA programs have reduced the effects of flooding in Bangladesh by promoting coordination between communities and local authorities and supporting 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 include 16 zodiac boats, 6 water treatment systems, and 10 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.
- Through regional preparedness programs, USAID/OFDA helped strengthen emergency response capacity in Bangladesh. USAID/OFDA programs have developed national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors; strengthened the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions in forecasting; carried out hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments; and established community-based early warning mechanisms in vulnerable urban centers.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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

CARE 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	\$168,100
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$4,507,987
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			\$14,507,987

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 26, 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