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

South Asia – Regional Floods

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 (Revised)

September 7, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated August 8, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Flood waters have receded in many parts of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, allowing displaced persons to return to their homes. Light to moderate rainfall in late August continued to exacerbate flooding in Bihar State, India, where flooding has killed 520 people and displaced more than 20 million others as of August 28.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$1 million to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to support the implementation of nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene programming for eight flood-affected districts in Bihar State. UNICEF’s nutrition program will support 12,000 children under 5 years of age and 3,000 pregnant and lactating mothers, while the water, sanitation, and hygiene program will provide essential services in approximately 500 displaced person camps and 500 affected villages.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Bangladesh	563 dead, 10.7 million affected	IFRC ¹ – September 4, 2007
India	2,253 dead, 43 million affected	Government of India – August 28, 2007
Nepal	146 dead, 460,000 affected	OCHA ² – August 21, 2007
Pakistan	420 dead, 2.5 million affected	OCHA – August 27, 2007

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to South Asia for flooding \$3,042,604
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to South Asia for flooding \$3,042,604

CURRENT SITUATION

Bangladesh

- According to IFRC, flood waters continue to recede across affected districts, and water levels at major rivers such as Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma are falling or are below danger levels. As of September 4, nearly 11,000 people remain in 53 relief camps. Floods caused approximately \$294 million in damages to the agricultural sector, according to the Government of Bangladesh’s Department of Agricultural Extension.
- Ongoing USAID/OFDA-funded disaster preparedness projects, including flood preparedness programs and water purification units pre-positioned with USAID partners CARE and Save the Children/US (SC/US), have contributed to the response. As of August 27, three of the units had provided more than 260,000 liters of purified drinking water in flood-affected areas.

India

- Since early June, exceptionally heavy monsoon rains have led to widespread flooding, impacting 17 states in India. As of August 28, floods have killed at least 2,253 people and affected approximately 43 million others, according to the Government of India (GOI). The floods have caused more than \$2 billion in damages, and the GOI continues to operate 1,325 relief camps sheltering nearly 1 million people.
- A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor, in conjunction with USAID/India and implementing partners, has conducted assessments in flood-affected areas and will return in September to review the situation and determine whether additional support is necessary.

Nepal

- Humanitarian assessments conducted through August 21 indicate that flooding affected 47 districts in Nepal, killing 146 people, impacting more than 78,000 families, and destroying nearly 25,000 houses, according to OCHA.
- OCHA reported that strikes and blockades by political groups and flood-affected individuals prevented assistance from reaching some affected communities. On August 31, the U.N. World Food Program issued a statement urging all parties to allow the unhindered movement of humanitarian food assistance for flood-affected populations.

¹ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

- SC/US and the Nepal Red Cross Society have distributed flood relief supplies pre-positioned through an existing USAID/OFDA-funded preparedness program. The USAID/OFDA regional office in Nepal, in conjunction with USAID/Nepal and implementing partners, continues to monitor conditions.

Pakistan

- On June 23, 2007, Tropical Cyclone Yemyin struck coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan provinces in southern Pakistan, causing widespread damage and flooding. As of August 27, OCHA reports that an estimated 250,000 people remain displaced in the most affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan provinces.
- In the aftermath of the cyclone, USAID/OFDA supported Mercy Corps to procure and distribute emergency relief commodities in affected areas. In addition, USAID/OFDA supported the American Refugee Committee (ARC) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to provide emergency shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene support in Balochistan Province. A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor has conducted three assessment visits to Pakistan since Tropical Cyclone Yemyin struck.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Bangladesh

- USAID/OFDA assistance has not been requested at this time, but USAID/OFDA-funded disaster preparedness programs are ongoing.

India

- On August 7, U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford declared a disaster due to the cumulative effects of the flooding in India. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed \$50,000 through USAID/India to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to help meet the emergency needs of flood-affected populations. USAID/OFDA has provided an additional \$1 million to support UNICEF's nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene programming in eight flood-affected districts in Bihar State. A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor traveled to India from August 10 to August 20, and conducted assessments in flood-affected areas in conjunction with USAID/India, GOI authorities, and humanitarian organizations.

Nepal

- On July 31, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Robert L. Hugins declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding and landslides in Nepal. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Nepal to SC/US, in partnership with NRCS, for the local purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies.

Pakistan

- On July 1, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Anne W. Patterson requested that USAID/OFDA provide humanitarian assistance on behalf of the U.S. Government to those affected by the cyclone in Pakistan. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed more than \$1.9 million to provide emergency shelter and water and sanitation support to affected populations.

Regional USAID/OFDA-funded Disaster Preparedness

- In an effort to reduce vulnerability to flash floods in the Himalayan region, USAID/OFDA supports the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) to strengthen community involvement and improve understanding of flash floods, forecasts, and warnings. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$125,000 to support the project.
- The Asia Flood Network (AFN) strengthens the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions in climate, weather, and hydrological forecasting while directly involving communities at risk in reducing vulnerability to hydrometeorological hazards. In collaboration with partners in Asia, AFN is jointly implemented by USAID/OFDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey. USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2.3 million to AFN since FY 2003.
- The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a USAID/OFDA-funded program to develop national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors in six Asian countries, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. PEER assists national disaster management agencies in organizing and conducting training in medical first response, collapsed structure search and rescue, and hospital preparedness for mass casualties after a disaster. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$1.6 million for PEER.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA FOR FLOODING

FY 2007			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
UNICEF	Nutrition, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bihar State	\$1,000,000
Prime Minister's National Relief Fund	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,050,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA FOR FLOODING IN FY 2007			\$1,050,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 7, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FOR FLOODING

FY 2007			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
SC/US	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$50,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FOR FLOODING IN FY 2007			\$50,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 7, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN FOR FLOODING

FY 2007			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ARC	Shelter; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Balochistan Province	\$750,550
CRS	Shelter; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Balochistan Province	\$802,031
Mercy Corps	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$390,023
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,942,604
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN FOR FLOODING IN FY 2007			\$1,942,604

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 7, 2007.

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH ASIA FOR FLOODING IN FY 2007	\$3,042,604
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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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in South Asia can be found at www.reliefweb.int
- 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