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

China – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 15, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 13, 2008

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On May 12, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck Wenchuan County in China’s densely populated Sichuan Province, killing nearly 20,000 people, injuring more than 64,000 others, and leaving an estimated 26,000 buried under collapsed buildings, according to official Government of China (GOC) estimates. The earthquake affected more than 10 million people, causing massive displacement and raising concerns about significant unmet humanitarian needs.
- The humanitarian community expects the number of confirmed deaths to increase significantly as rescue teams and soldiers continue to reach the most affected areas near the epicenter in Wenchuan County, where the earthquake leveled approximately 80 percent of buildings. Chinese state media estimate that the death toll is 50,000 people. Many roads remain blocked by boulders and landslides, hampering access by land, while inclement weather continues to limit airdrops and helicopter rescues.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided \$500,000 for the provision of emergency relief commodities and continues to evaluate additional assistance options with officials from the GOC and U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Dead (Estimated)	19,500	GOC – May 15, 2008
Total Injured (Estimated)	64,746	GOC – May 15, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE IN RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to China.....\$500,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- Storms, inaccessible highways, and severed communications prevented immediate access to mountainous Wenchuan County until May 15, when a total of 50,000 army troops had arrived in the most affected areas of Sichuan Province. Media reports indicate that the GOC will augment relief operations with an additional 30,000 troops.
- Despite ongoing efforts to clear roadways and facilitate additional access to the most affected areas, damage to infrastructure continues to impede the provision of assistance to affected populations. Troops and rescue workers beginning to reach some of the most affected areas report that the earthquake razed entire villages. According to local authorities, an estimated 60,000 people across Wenchuan County are missing. Other affected areas include Beichuan County, Deyang city, Mianyang city, and Dujiangyan city, where an estimated 900 students remain buried under a collapsed school. According to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the earthquake overwhelmingly affected children, with more than 2 million of Sichuan’s 12 million children living in the most damaged prefectures.
- According to media reports, helicopters have been able to fly into the affected areas to deliver food, water, and medicine to Wenchuan County’s Yingziu township, where officials can account for only 2,300 out of 10,000 residents. The Sichuan provincial government indicated that additional airdrops of emergency relief supplies to the most affected areas will occur as soon as possible.
- In addition to GOC relief and assessment efforts, an International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) assessment team arrived in Sichuan on the morning of May 13. Volunteers from the Red Cross Society of China began assisting relief efforts immediately following the earthquake.

Internally Displaced Persons

- As aftershocks continued through May 15, residents who remained unable to return to unsafe or destroyed houses set up tent cities or sought refuge in nearby urban areas. In Mianyang city, as many as 10,000 displaced individuals from Beichuan County, one of the most affected areas, have gathered at a sports arena to seek shelter and assistance.
- As a result of the displacement, emergency humanitarian needs include emergency medical assistance and relief supplies including temporary shelter materials, blankets, coats, and water.

International Assistance

- On May 14, the GOC formally requested support from the international community and provided a list of urgently needed relief supplies, after which a number of countries committed or offered cash and in-kind donations. In addition to financial and material support, the GOC has allowed Japanese Search and Rescue (SAR) teams to travel to the earthquake site to assist in rescue efforts, as People’s Liberation Army troops continue to clear roadways of rubble and debris.
- Two Russian transport planes carrying a total of 90 tons of emergency relief supplies arrived in Sichuan’s provincial capital Chengdu on May 14 and May 15. On May 15, Chinese state media reported that the Russian Ministry of Emergencies would send a Russian SAR team to China on May 16.
- In response to the GOC’s request for aid, UNICEF began to prepare relief supplies, with an initial emphasis on health kits, tents and shelter materials, and water and sanitation supplies.
- On May 15, the IFRC issued an emergency appeal for \$19.3 million to support the Red Cross Society of China to assist approximately 100,000 people affected by the earthquake for 12 months.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team stood down on May 14, as the GOC did not request UNDAC support.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On May 13, U.S. Ambassador Clark T. Randt, Jr., declared a disaster due to the impact of the earthquake on surrounding populations. In response to the humanitarian needs of affected populations, USAID/OFDA is providing \$500,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Beijing to IFRC for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- As a result of the GOC’s formal request for assistance, staff from USAID/OFDA and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing initiated communication with the GOC to discuss options for additional USAID/OFDA assistance that best meets current humanitarian and technical assistance needs.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHINA FOR EARTHQUAKE

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IFRC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$500,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHINA IN FY 2008			\$500,000

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 earthquake response efforts in China 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