



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

Sri Lanka – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 30, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 7, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On January 16, 2008, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) formally withdrew from the 2002 ceasefire agreement with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), leading to the departure of the international Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission. Following military gains by the GOSL in the east, hostilities have shifted to the five northern districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya.
- In September 2008, intensified fighting between the GOSL and the LTTE displaced more than 185,000 people in the northern districts of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu (also known as the Vanni), constituting more than 83 percent of the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the districts since September 2007, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Humanitarian access in northern Sri Lanka decreased significantly following a directive by the GOSL on September 5, 2008. U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) pulled all international staff members out of the Vanni and relocated operations to Vavuniya.
- IDPs in the Vanni lack access to humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA. As monsoon season approached in late September 2008, humanitarian agencies voiced concerns about IDPs' shelter needs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs displaced from Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu in September 2008	185,810	OCHA — September 26, 2008
Total IDPs displaced from northern districts since September 2007	221,660	OCHA — September 26, 2008
IDPs in Trincomalee and Batticaloa as of August 2008	20,259	UNHCR ¹ — August 31, 2008
IDPs displaced nationwide between April 2006 and August 2008²	247,862	UNHCR — August 31, 2008

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$5,428,782
USAID/FFP ³ Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$32,741,300
State/PRM ⁴ Assistance to Sri Lanka.....	\$1,990,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka	\$40,160,082

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION

- USAID/OFDA is continuing a funding mechanism through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to provide sub-grants to humanitarian aid organizations responding to the complex emergency.
- In February 2008, OCHA released the 2008 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for Sri Lanka, developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Country Team in consultation with the GOSL, donors, and other stakeholders. As of July 16, 2008, the CHAP appeal requested a total of \$195.7 million for emergency relief, protection, and recovery activities.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA regional, Colombo-based, and Washington-based staff traveled to northern and eastern districts to assess the conditions of conflict-affected populations and monitor USAID/OFDA-funded humanitarian relief activities.

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

² This number does not include the more than 300,000 people displaced nationwide by conflict prior to the 2002 ceasefire, the more than 26,000 people remaining displaced nationwide by the December 2004 tsunami, or the more than 20,000 refugees in Tamil Nadu, India. This number is the total current number of IDPs displaced in Sri Lanka between April 2006 and August 2008, excluding populations that have been displaced since April 2006 but have returned to areas of origin.

³ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁴ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Humanitarian Access and Protection

- Since October 2007, humanitarian access has improved in the east, according to OCHA. However, as the fighting intensified in the north in August and September 2008, U.N. agencies and NGOs withdrew staff and assets from northern areas controlled by the LTTE, as ordered by directive of the GOSL, leaving local populations without access to international assistance, OCHA reported on September 10, 2008. The GOSL stated that it could not guarantee the safety of humanitarian aid workers north of the Omanthai checkpoint in Vavuniya, OCHA further reported.
- OCHA reported in July 2008 that movement restrictions and material, security, human rights, and legal vulnerabilities are contributing to the difficult protection environment faced by IDPs in conflict zones. In addition, looting, harassment, and extortion attributed to all military and paramilitary groups have undermined the rule of law and made a return to normalcy more difficult for returnees in eastern areas of the country. Forced recruitment of child soldiers reportedly continues. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has recorded more than 6,259 abductions attributed to the LTTE and another 496 attributed to the Karuna faction between January 2002 and April 2008.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA funded the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UMCOR to implement protection programming for IDPs and returnees in Batticaloa, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts.

IDP and Returnee Assistance

- As the conflict has moved to the north, IDPs have returned to places of origin in the eastern districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided funding to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and UMCOR to assist IDPs and returnees through health, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA supported Internews, an international NGO, to develop multimedia resources, including radio programming, newspaper inserts, posters, and pamphlets. The resources provide information on aid delivery and services available to the estimated 330,000 IDPs benefiting from the program.

Food Security

- According to OCHA, rising food prices and inflation in FY 2008 made food security more difficult to assure for vulnerable populations. The GOSL reported that a shortfall in the domestic rice supply, including the destruction of rice crops by localized flooding in Ampara, Batticaloa, and Mannar districts, had exacerbated the food price increase. In July 2008, OCHA reported that rice prices had risen 57 percent in one year. In addition, displacement and the disruption of livelihoods in conflict-affected areas have affected household earning power and food availability.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided 36,260 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance, valued at more than \$32.7 million, to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to support IDPs and vulnerable populations, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

Logistics

- The humanitarian community is increasingly reliant upon WFP and other international organizations providing logistics support to transport food and other relief items due to deteriorating humanitarian access and greater restrictions on the movement of commercial goods into conflict zones.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.2 million to WFP for logistics support and relief commodities to benefit approximately 200,000 vulnerable people in Sri Lanka.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On October 10, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake redeclared a disaster in Sri Lanka due to increased conflict and resulting IDPs and requested USAID/OFDA support for FY 2008.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$5.4 million for IDP and returnee assistance, supporting health, logistics, protection, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, shelter and settlements, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance valued at more than \$32.7 million to WFP to support IDPs and vulnerable populations.
- In FY 2008, State/PRM contributed more than \$1.9 million to the CHAP for IDP assistance activities organized by UNHCR. State/PRM also provided more than \$4.5 million to UNHCR to support regional programs that protect and assist refugees and IDPs in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. In addition, State/PRM contributed more than \$23.6 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for activities in South Asia, including assistance to conflict victims in Sri Lanka.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO SRI LANKA
FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008**

FY2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ACTED	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa District	\$599,999
IOM	Economy and Market Systems	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$605,000
Internews	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	North, North-Central, and Eastern Provinces	\$826,851
NRC	Protection	Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$614,991
UMCOR	Umbrella Award for Small Grants in Health, Protection, Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$1,500,000
WFP	Logistics, Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
USAID	Administration and Logistics	Countrywide	\$31,941
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,428,782
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	36,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$32,741,300
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$32,741,300
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE³			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,990,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$1,990,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008			\$40,160,082

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ This figure does not include State/PRM regional support for UNHCR, valued at more than \$4.5 million, and ICRC, valued at more than \$23.6 million.

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 Sri Lanka 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, and warehouse space); 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

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/