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

## **Sri Lanka – Complex Emergency**

Fact Sheet #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

May 29, 2009

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 21, 2009.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On May 23, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes visited Manik Farms internally displaced person (IDP) camp in Vavuniya District and also participated in an overflight assessment of the former conflict zone. During the visit, the U.N. Secretary-General met with the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as other GoSL, U.N., and local and international relief organization officials. The U.N. Secretary-General called on the GoSL to facilitate immediate and full humanitarian access to IDP camps, particularly Manik Farms; early IDP return to areas of origin; rapid IDP screening and registration; family reunification; and freedom of movement.
- On May 27, the U.N. reported that the GoSL agreed to an interim measure to allow aid agency vehicles to travel in and out of all zones of Manik Farms IDP camp. However, USAID/OFDA staff have received reports that the GoSL continues to limit the number of vehicles and personnel with access to Manik Farms and requires humanitarian agency staff to obtain passes prior to entering the camp. While access to Manik Farms has improved, obstacles to full IDP camp access remain.
- According to a May 27 U.N. report, the GoSL military plans to depart IDP camps in northern Sri Lanka and transfer camp management activities to civilian authorities in the coming days.
- A USAID/OFDA regional advisor and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) Regional Deputy Refugee Coordinator visited IDP camps in Vavuniya District from May 18 to 22. The regional advisor and the refugee coordinator observed U.S. Government (USG)-funded assistance in the camps and met with representatives of the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Commission’s Humanitarian Office (ECHO). The needs for health services, safe drinking water, and hygiene facilities in IDP camps remain acute.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>IDPs who escaped the conflict zone from October 27 to May 26</b>	289,915	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – May 27, 2009
<b>IDPs in camps in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts</b>	287,598	OCHA – May 27, 2009

*\*Note: The situation remains fluid and IDP figures cited represent estimates.*

### **FY 2008 AND FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$11,009,708</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$42,900,000</b>
<b>State/PRM Assistance to Sri Lanka<sup>3</sup> .....</b>	<b>\$3,750,000</b>
<b>State/PMWRA<sup>4</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$2,079,322</b>
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$59,739,030</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- From late October 2008 through May 27, 2009, nearly 290,000 IDPs moved from the former conflict zone into GoSL-controlled territory, according to OCHA. Of the total IDP population, more than 287,000 IDPs currently reside in temporary camps in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicated that nearly 224,000 IDPs were residing at the Manik Farms IDP camp as of May 26.

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> In addition, State/PRM has provided support to the South Asia regional activities of the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which includes programs to support IDPs, refugees, and conflict victims throughout South Asia, including Sri Lanka.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Political and Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (State/PMWRA)

- The U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution passed on May 27 urged the GoSL to protect minority ethnic groups. However, human rights organizations reported that the failure of the adopted resolution to include calls by European nations to investigate war crimes during the 26-year civil war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ignores claims of abuse by both the GoSL military and LTTE rebels. USAID/OFDA staff are monitoring potential effects the resolution may have on access to IDPs currently residing in temporary camps, including Manik Farms.
- On May 27, OCHA noted that humanitarian activities remained limited to shelter and sanitation projects and food distributions within Zone 4 of the Manik Farms site.

#### ***Emergency Food Assistance***

- According to the U.N., humanitarian organizations continued to provide approximately 900,000 meals per day to IDPs in northern Sri Lanka as of May 27.

#### ***Health***

- On May 26, OCHA reported a shortage of staff at the GoSL hospital in Mannar District to treat new admissions, including more than 1,500 injured IDPs arriving from the former conflict zone. In addition, USAID/OFDA staff noted that medical staff shortages exist throughout IDP camps in northern Sri Lanka.
- In an effort to help the GoSL Ministry of Health expand ward capacities at Mannar and Vavuniya hospitals, ICRC has provided approximately 500 beds.

#### ***Humanitarian Demining***

- In late May, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) plans to begin initial demining surveys in Mannar District to facilitate IDP returns and resettlement. In addition, the Mine Action Group (MAG) began demining operations in Mannar District in May and estimates that demining each village area will require up to three months. FSD and MAG noted challenges with the demining assessment process, including a lack of first-hand knowledge of GoSL Army and LTTE minefields. The agencies plan to interview IDPs who previously lived in the area to facilitate initial assessments.

#### ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)***

- On May 27, OCHA reported that the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Industrial Services Bureau planned to install water treatment units for the surgical and pediatric wards at two hospitals serving IDPs in Vavuniya District.
- As of May 21, humanitarian agencies had constructed 147 hygiene facilities and positioned 103 water tanks with a capacity of storing 1,000 liters each in Zone 4 of Manik Farms IDP camp, according to OCHA. OCHA also noted that Oxfam plans to provide 300 additional hygiene facilities in Zone 4.
- According to OCHA, humanitarian agencies selected 260 IDP hygiene education volunteers to facilitate hygiene promotion sessions in Zones 1 and 2 of Manik Farms in the coming days.

#### **USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- A USAID humanitarian assistance team composed of three USAID/OFDA staff and one USAID/FFP officer remain in Sri Lanka working closely with USAID/Sri Lanka and partners to assess needs and coordinate USG humanitarian assistance.
- On October 21, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake redeclared a disaster in Sri Lanka due to increased conflict and resulting displacement, requesting USAID/OFDA support for FY 2009.
- To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$6 million to assist IDPs and returnees, including support for health, logistics, protection, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, shelter and settlements, humanitarian coordination and information management, and WASH programs.
- In FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 19,490 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$14.3 million, to WFP. To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided \$1.76 million to ICRC to support conflict-affected Sri Lankans. In addition, State/PRM has provided support to UNHCR and ICRC regional programs, which include activities to support IDPs, refugees, and conflict victims throughout South Asia, including Sri Lanka. State/PMWRA has also contributed \$600,000 for humanitarian demining in Mannar District.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008 AND FY 2009**

<b>FY 2009</b>			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
United Methodist Committee on Relief (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	\$3,500,060
UNICEF	Nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts	\$1,700,000
International Office for Migration (IOM)	Health	Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya districts	\$880,866
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$6,080,926</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	19,490 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,300,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$14,300,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
ICRC	IDP Assistance and Protection	Northern, North-Central, and Eastern provinces	\$1,760,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$1,760,000</b>
<b>STATE/PMWRA</b>			
FSD	Humanitarian Demining	Mannar District	\$600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PMWRA</b>			<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$22,740,926</b>

<b>FY 2008</b>			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (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 Management	North, North-Central, and Eastern provinces	\$826,851
Norwegian Refugee Council	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	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics, Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
USAID/Sri Lanka	Administration and Logistics	Countrywide	\$31,941
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$4,928,782</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	36,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$28,600,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$28,600,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,990,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$1,990,000</b>
<b>STATE/PMWRA</b>			
MAG, Danish Demining Group, FSD	Humanitarian Demining	Countrywide	\$1,479,322
<b>TOTAL STATE/PMWRA</b>			<b>\$1,479,322</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$36,998,104</b>

<b>FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE</b>	
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>	<b>\$11,009,708</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>	<b>\$42,900,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>	<b>\$3,750,000</b>
<b>STATE/PMWRA</b>	<b>\$2,079,322</b>
<b>TOTAL FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA</b>	<b>\$59,739,030</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 29, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance

#### **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](http://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](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)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)