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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

May 5, 2010

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated January 25, 2010.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL)-led returns process to former conflict zones recommenced on April 18, following a two-week suspension due to parliamentary elections and local holidays. Since late March, the majority of returns have occurred to Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mullaitivu districts in northern Sri Lanka.
- According to the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sri Lankan displacement camps decreased to 80,246 people during April, due to the returns of nearly 2,300 people to areas of origin.
- From March 15 to 19, USAID Chief Operating Officer Alonzo L. Fulgham, visited Kilinochchi, Jaffna, and Vavuniya districts in northern Sri Lanka, accompanied by the USAID/Sri Lanka mission director, USAID/Sri Lanka humanitarian assistance and transition initiatives director, and the USAID/OFDA principal regional advisor for South Asia. Fulgham interviewed conflict-affected returnees and met with GoSL officials, civil society leaders, and members of the humanitarian community to discuss the returns process.
- Since mid-February, USAID/OFDA has provided \$3.5 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and local non-governmental organization (NGO) Sarvodaya to meet the needs of IDPs returning to areas of origin. USAID/OFDA-funded assistance includes support for transitional shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, programs to assist communities in the replacement of household and productive assets, and cash-for-work activities to restore markets and repair damaged infrastructure. Recent contributions bring total USAID/OFDA assistance to date to more than \$6.7 million.
- In March, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided 10,340 metric tons (MT) in additional emergency food assistance to Sri Lanka, valued at \$8 million—bringing the total USAID/FFP contribution to date in FY 2010 to 22,230 MT, valued at nearly \$18 million.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
Individuals in IDPs camps in Jaffna, Mannar, and Vavuniya districts	80,246	UNHCR – April 27, 2010
Individuals Returned to Areas of Origin <sup>1</sup>	207,027	UNHCR – April 27, 2010

### **FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka</b> .....	<b>\$6,741,105</b>
<b>USAID/FFP Assistance to Sri Lanka</b> .....	<b>\$17,996,400</b>
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka</b> .....	<b>\$6,400,000</b>
<b>Total USAID and STATE Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka</b> .....	<b>\$31,137,505</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- The Sri Lankan Presidential Task Force (PTF), established in May 2009, continues to oversee resettlement, development, and security in northern Sri Lanka. As of March 2010, the GoSL PTF was focusing on early recovery, shelter and settlements, and infrastructure repairs in affected regions.
- Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines in former conflict areas continue to pose challenges for returning populations and humanitarian organizations, highlighted by several UXO-related casualties in recent months.
- On April 1, the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated nearly \$14 million to multiple U.N. agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support ongoing humanitarian programs in northern Sri Lanka.

<sup>1</sup> Figure includes returnees to Vavuniya, Mannar, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Polonnaruwa, and Kandy districts.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

### ***Displacement Camps***

- During March, more than 8,800 IDPs in Manik Farms camp—Sri Lanka’s largest displacement center—returned to areas of origin, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- On March 26, OCHA also reported that Sirukkundal and Illupaikulam camps in Mannar District had closed. IDP families from the two camps were relocated to Kalimodai camp, the only remaining camp in Mannar District.

### ***Landmines and UXO***

- The humanitarian community has identified landmines as one of the primary factors preventing the safe return of families to areas of origin in northern Sri Lanka. The GoSL reports that the Sri Lankan Army Engineering Corps, responsible for mine clearing efforts, had cleared approximately 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> as of early April. As of April 4, an additional 690 km<sup>2</sup> remained to be cleared.
- According to the GoSL, since demining efforts began in May 2009, teams have recovered more than 15,689 anti-personnel mines, 37 tank mines, and an estimated 4,500 unexploded ordnances. In addition, the Mine Advisory Group, a mine-clearing organization also working in northern Sri Lanka, reported uncovering nearly 440 anti-personnel mines and 11 UXO in Mannar and Vavuniya districts during the first two months of 2010.

### ***Agriculture and Economic Recovery and Market Systems***

- As of April 15, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan had provided a \$50 million loan to assist the GoSL with public finance reforms. The reforms are designed to increase investment in underdeveloped areas of Sri Lanka, including areas affected by the complex emergency.
- In December 2009, the World Bank provided a \$65 million credit to the GoSL for the Emergency Northern Recovery Project (ENREP). ENREP plans to provide assistance to IDPs returning to Northern Province through livelihoods interventions and the restoration and improvement of public infrastructure. The World Bank estimates that ENREP will assist 100,000 IDPs.
- More than \$2.1 million of USAID/OFDA assistance in FY 2010 to date supports agriculture and livelihood recovery programs in areas of return through cash-for-work activities focused on repair and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure.
- USAID/OFDA funding also supports a partnership of local NGOs—led by Sarvodaya—to provide community-based livelihood recovery activities, support for home gardening and dairy production, and provision of agricultural assets, such as seeds and farming tools, benefitting nearly 18,000 individuals in northern Sri Lanka.

### ***Health***

- On March 22, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported a malaria outbreak in Mulankavil, Kilinochchi District. The GoSL Ministry of Health successfully identified the source and treated infected individuals.
- As of March 26, eight public health inspectors were conducting disease surveillance at Manik Farms camp in Vavuniya District, according to OCHA. The inspectors’ work includes monitoring sanitation facilities and providing health education at the camp.
- According to WHO, a lack of doctors and public health inspectors continues to hinder disease surveillance in resettled areas. WHO plans to strengthen disease surveillance by conducting capacity building activities and providing public health inspectors with motorcycles to facilitate travel to areas of resettlement.
- OCHA reported that an emergency ambulance system, staffed by GoSL health personnel, commenced serving returnee communities in Mannar District at the end of March. The service is free for patients requiring emergency medical assistance; however, patients with non-emergency problems are required to pay a small fee.

### ***Shelter and Settlements***

- In April, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported that at least 75 percent of houses in resettlement areas require repairs, while the GoSL estimated the number of damaged houses in conflict-affected areas to be approximately 260,000.
- OCHA reported that UNHCR suspended a shelter grant program in Vavuniya District on March 8 due to funding shortages. UNHCR subsequently received additional funding through CERF and planned to resume the program in late April—focusing on providing shelter grants to the program’s backlog of more than 10,000 returnee families. UNHCR plans to prioritize shelter assistance to highly vulnerable families.
- Nearly \$1.9 million of USAID/OFDA funding in FY 2010 to date supports transitional shelter assistance in northern Sri Lanka through the provision of shelter materials and technical support to IDP families returning to areas of origin. IOM and the U.N. Human Settlements Program (UN HABITAT) also report distribution of shelter kits to returnees in affected areas.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- USAID/OFDA regional staff based in Bangkok, Thailand, continue to coordinate with USAID/Sri Lanka, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, and implementing partners to monitor evolving humanitarian conditions.
- On December 4, 2009, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Valerie Fowler redeclared a disaster for FY 2010 due to the complex emergency in Sri Lanka and needs arising from IDP returns.
- To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$6.7 million in humanitarian assistance to IDPs and returnees, including support for agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, shelter and settlements, and WASH programs.
- In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided approximately 22,230 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$18 million, to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). In FY 2010 to date, State/PRM has provided approximately \$6.4 million to UNHCR to support conflict-affected Sri Lankans.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2010**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
IOM	Health, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Affected Areas	\$3,000,000
Sarvodaya	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Jaffna, Mannar, and Vavuniya districts	\$1,516,743
UMCOR	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya districts	\$1,000,000
UNOPS	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Killinochchi and Mullaitivu districts	\$1,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$224,362
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$6,741,105</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	22,230 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya districts	\$17,996,400
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$17,996,400</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance and Protection	Affected Areas	\$6,400,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$6,400,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2010</b>			<b>\$31,137,505</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 5, 2010.

<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 may be available 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, 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](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/)