

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

China – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 May 20, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 15, 2008

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- By May 19, Chinese troops had reached all 58 cities and towns affected by the magnitude 7.9 earthquake, although some of the most remote villages in Sichuan Province remained cut off from rescue teams and humanitarian assistance. As of May 19, hundreds of aftershocks, prolonged periods of rain, and resulting landslides continued to hinder rescue efforts and relief operations, while causing additional displacement of local populations. Government of China (GOC) officials and relief workers remain concerned about unmet humanitarian needs, as survivors flee damaged communities—often by unsafe means—to seek assistance in other areas with limited resources.
- On May 18, two U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft arrived in Chengdu with emergency relief supplies, including blankets, plastic sheeting, tents, water containers, and food, valued at \$1,593,000, including transportation costs.
- On May 19, USAID/OFDA donated specialized search, rescue, and recovery equipment, worth approximately \$815,000, including transportation costs, to the GOC. The equipment cache, accompanied by a 9-person team of USAID specialists who will train Chinese counterparts and local rescue workers on the use of the U.S.-procured equipment, departed for China on May 19.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE SOURCE		
Total Dead (Estimated)	40,075	GOC – May 20, 2008
Total Injured (Estimated)	247,645	GOC – May 20, 2008
Total Missing or Buried (Estimated)	38,927	GOC – May 20, 2008
Total Displaced (Estimated)	5,000,000	GOC – May 20, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE IN RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to China.....\$1,491,789
DOD (According to DOD) Assistance to China.....\$1,593,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to China.....\$3,084,789

CURRENT SITUATION

- According to the GOC Ministry of Transport, landslides have buried approximately 200 rescue workers since May 16. Local officials reported fatalities, but the numbers of dead and injured remain unconfirmed.

- Current official estimates place the death toll at more than 40,000, a number expected to surpass 50,000, according to the GOC. In addition, the GOC reports that the earthquake injured approximately 245,000 people and left nearly 39,000 buried or missing.
- The GOC has launched a robust and wide-reaching rescue, recovery, and relief effort, involving approximately 130,000 army troops, 34,000 medical staff, and scores of civilians. On May 19, Premier Wen Jiabao ordered troops to expand coverage, even if on foot only, in order to reach all affected villages within 24 hours.
- According to the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, electricity to earthquake-affected areas has been partially restored, except in Beichuan, Maoxian, and Wolong Counties.

Internally Displaced Persons

- According to the GOC, the earthquake caused nearly 600,000 homes to collapse and damaged an additional 4 million structures, leading to the displacement of more than 5 million people. In addition, continuing aftershocks have prevented many residents from returning to intact houses, thus adding to the numbers of displaced. At present, internally displaced individuals continue to seek protection in tent cities, urban buildings, sports arenas, and makeshift shelters along roadways and in town squares.
- In addition to shelter assistance, the displaced population requires emergency medical assistance and relief supplies, such as, blankets, coats, and water. As of May 18, the GOC Ministry of Civil Affairs had provided more than 720,000 quilts, nearly 2 million clothing articles, food and water worth approximately \$5 million, and 250,000 tents to affected populations. Responding to the most pressing humanitarian need, the GOC Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued an urgent appeal for one million additional tents.
- On May 20, the GOC Ministry of Environmental Protection disseminated guidance to local authorities on how to ensure drinking water safety, citing concerns about contamination in the earthquake zones, according to Chinese state media. Since the earthquake, the GOC Ministry of Health has not reported any serious epidemic or public health incidents.

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.
- At the request of the GOC, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) procured relief supplies worth approximately \$430,000 and plans to deliver tents, blankets, and school kits immediately, followed by a second shipment of health equipment, medicine, and water, sanitation, and hygiene items.
- The International Organization for Migration, U.N. World Health Organization, U.N. World Food Program, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and other U.N. agencies are providing additional in-kind contributions of emergency relief and health supplies. The Office of the U.N. Resident Coordinator also announced a minimum contribution of \$5 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund.

- In addition to financial and material support, Japanese, Taiwanese, South Korean, and Singapore Search and Rescue (SAR) teams continue to assist in rescue efforts, as Chinese troops focus on clearing roadways. The GOC indicated to the international community that additional SAR teams would not be requested.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, which previously stood down on May 14, stood up on May 17 to prepare to assist the GOC upon request.

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 provided an initial \$500,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Beijing to IFRC for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- In response to the GOC’s request for international assistance, USAID/OFDA is donating and transporting specialized search, rescue, and recovery equipment, valued at \$815,504. The donation includes 40 crates of saws, hand tools, hydraulic gear, concrete cutters, generators, and personal safety equipment. In addition, USAID/OFDA has deployed a 9-person training team, comprising search and rescue personnel from Los Angeles (LA) County and Fairfax County, Virginia fire departments, and supported by USAID/OFDA staff. Upon arrival in Chengdu on May 22, the team will train Chinese counterparts and local rescuers to use the U.S.-procured equipment. The training team will return to the U.S. in approximately 5 days, after completing training and equipment handover.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHINA FOR EARTHQUAKE

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
IFRC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$500,000
LA County and Fairfax County Fire Departments	Disaster Support, including Transport	Affected Areas	\$815,504
Administrative Support			\$176,285
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,491,789
DOD ASSISTANCE			
GOC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$1,593,000
TOTAL DOD			\$1,593,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHINA IN FY 2008			\$3,084,789

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:
 - o USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - o The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - o 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

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