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PRESS RELEASE

ADDITIONAL U.S. RELIEF SUPPLIES ARRIVE FOR CYCLONE VICTIMS

DHAKA, NOVEMBER 28, 2007 – A fresh shipment of much-needed U.S. humanitarian relief supplies arrived in Dhaka and is being distributed to areas in the south that were affected by Cyclone Sidr.

U.S. Embassy Charge d’Affaires, a.i. Geeta Pasi, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Denise Rollins, and Secretary Dr. Mohammad Ayub Miah of Bangladesh’s Ministry for Food and Disaster Management visited Zia International Airport in Dhaka today while the goods were being prepared for transport by U.S. military C-130 aircraft to Barisal.

From Barisal, the commodities will be transferred to USAID’s non-government organization (NGO) partners, Save the Children/US and World Vision. The goods will be distributed in Barguna, Patuakhali and Pirojpur districts, three of the worst-affected areas in the south of the country.

The relief goods being loaded today, valued at approximately \$290,000, include: four water purification treatment units (able to fulfill the daily water requirements of 10,000 people each); four 10,000-liter water storage units; 2,400 jerry cans; and 10,000 blankets.

The United States has provided more than \$14.4 million in emergency funds, commodities and transportation to assist relief efforts in Bangladesh to date. In addition, the U.S. government has mobilized significant civilian and military resources. In coordination with the government of Bangladesh, the USS Kearsarge and the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit are providing humanitarian assistance and supporting the Bangladesh government in its assistance activities.

In addition, USAID has deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Bangladesh to help manage the U.S. response in coordination with the government of Bangladesh. The DART – composed of sectoral specialists in such areas as food security, water and sanitation, health, shelter, and livelihoods – is working alongside local authorities to conduct field assessments that will identify additional needs and areas where the U.S. might be of assistance.

For further information, please see the U.S. Embassy Dhaka website’s Cyclone Sidr Relief page, www.dhaka.usembassy.gov/cyclone_sidr.html, or contact the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka.

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