



**Tuesday, March 27, 2007**

**The United States Provides Emergency Assistance to Cyclone and Flood Victims**

In response to damage caused by Cyclone Indlala on March 15, and the severe flooding throughout Madagascar, on March 23 U.S. Ambassador James D. McGee issued a disaster declaration; and the U.S. Government (USG) will immediately provide \$100,000 in emergency assistance for the victims of these calamities. In the weeks ahead, the United States is preparing to increase this assistance to approximately \$3,000,000 in food aid.

Representatives from the USAID Food for Peace Office and the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance collaborated with implementing partners to assess the situation throughout the country and found that flooding has caused widespread damage requiring humanitarian and recovery assistance in the entire eastern corridor, the northwest, and the Antananarivo areas of Madagascar. In addition, coping mechanisms and resources are insufficient to meet the growing needs of these regions.

In the immediate term, the U.S. government will provide \$100,000. The USG plans to provide \$50,000 to the World Food Program to support the rapid delivery of food aid assistance to victims of the critical floods and cyclone. Another \$50,000 will be provided to immediately reestablish ground access to communities affected by Cyclone Indlala in order to facilitate the delivery of urgent relief supplies. The USG also plans to provide approximate \$3 million dollars of food aid for communities in food insecure areas.

Beyond the immediate response, the USG will assess the situation when the flood waters recede; and, as needs are identified, consider support to agricultural rehabilitation and recovery. The USG will work with the Government of Madagascar to develop a long-term plan to mitigate flood damage and landslides due to the environmental degradation that exacerbates the impact of chronic cyclones.