

# **USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance**

## **Annual Report**

**FY 2004**

June 15, 2004

## **Please Note:**

The attached RESULTS INFORMATION is from the FY 2004 Annual Report and was assembled and analyzed by the country or USAID operating unit identified on the cover page.

The Annual Report is a "pre-decisional" USAID document and does not reflect results stemming from formal USAID review(s) of this document.

Related document information can be obtained from:  
USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse  
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 210  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Telephone: (301) 562-0641  
Fax: (301) 588-7787  
Email: [docorder@dec.cdie.org](mailto:docorder@dec.cdie.org)  
Internet: <http://www.dec.org>

Portions released on or after July 1, 2004

## Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

### Performance:

Background: The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is located within the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/DCHA). As legislated by Congress, OFDA's mandate is to save lives, alleviate human suffering and reduce the economic impact of natural and man-made disasters worldwide. In fulfilling its mandate, OFDA targets the most vulnerable with its emergency assistance, including the malnourished, nursing and pregnant women, child- and women-headed households, the elderly and the handicapped. In addition to providing monetary and material assistance in response to humanitarian crises, OFDA assists vulnerable communities in preventing, preparing for and mitigating the effects of disasters.

OFDA's humanitarian assistance program is implemented through a variety of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations (IOs) such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and UN agencies like the World Food Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. OFDA also collaborates with USAID Bureaus and Missions and other U.S. Government (USG) entities, including the Departments of Defense and Agriculture and the U.S. Public Health Service. OFDA works with a number of universities and institutional contractors, and it has agreements with the Fairfax County and Los Angeles County Urban Search and Rescue Units to deploy internationally as needed.

In FY 2003, OFDA funded more than \$351 million worth of emergency response, mitigation and preparedness projects around the world. Fifty-three percent of these funds were provided to NGOs, more than 13% passed through UN agencies and nearly 8% went to institutional contractors. Table 1 shows the major implementing partners by type and percentage of obligated funds.

Table 1 - Obligation by Type of Implementing Partner

NGO - 53.0%
UN - 13.0%
Institutional Contractors - 7.9%
USAID/Operating Units/Bureaus - 5.1%
Department of Defense - 5.0%
IOs - 1.8%
Universities - 0.9%
USG (other) - 5.7%
Non-USG (other) - 7.0%

OFDA responded to 63 declared disasters in FY 2003. Over \$238 million was provided by OFDA in response to complex emergencies. About \$53 million was spent on natural disasters (see tables, below), and preparedness and mitigation activities received approximately \$22 million. The remaining \$38 million was used for program and operational support.

Response to Complex Emergencies and Natural Disasters: While natural disasters are more numerous and affect more people, complex emergencies are far more deadly and costly; they are increasingly more common, and their effects last longer. Many victims suffer repeated cycles of violence and depletion of assets as these emergencies drag on year after year. This is perhaps best illustrated by the situation in Sudan, where two million people have died and more than four million people have been displaced since hostilities began in 1983.

As noted, OFDA provided \$238 million in response to 15 complex emergencies in FY 2003. Iraq was by far the largest recipient of emergency funds, receiving \$81,397,040. Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo received \$40,886,437 and \$31,888,555, respectively. Table 2 shows the complex emergencies and their funding levels.

Table 2 - FY 2003 Complex Emergencies

Iraq - \$81,397,040
Sudan - \$40,886,437
Democratic Republic of Congo - \$31,888,855
Afghanistan - \$24,536,631
Angola - \$19,516,211
Burundi - \$11,942,656
Sierra Leone - \$7,680,844
Liberia - \$5,696,543
Indonesia - \$4,050,000
Uganda - \$3,990,215
Somalia - \$3,283,528
Cote d'Ivoire - \$2,437,100
Nepal - \$653,413
Nigeria - \$50,000
Central African Republic - \$50,000

Total Obligation - \$238,059,473

By comparison, \$53 million was spent on the other 48 declared, mostly natural, disasters. The most frequent natural disasters were floods (19), drought (8), earthquakes (3) and typhoons (3). OFDA's response to the drought disasters required the largest amount of funding. Famine and food shortage, an ongoing crisis in several African countries, required over \$10 million. Table 3 shows FY 2003 funding for natural disasters.

Table 3 - FY 2003 Response to Natural Disasters

Drought - \$36,268,367
Famine/Food Shortage - \$10,428,433
Flood - \$3,621,123
Earthquakes - \$1,073,047
Epidemic/Health Emergency - \$550,000
Storm (non-tropical) - \$508,650
Hurricane/Cyclone/Typhoon - \$150,000
Landslide - \$127,914
Fire - \$125,000
Volcano - \$50,000

Total Obligation - \$52,902,534

Preparedness Activities: OFDA preparedness and mitigation programs are designed to help enhance the ability of countries, communities and governments to prepare for, prevent, and respond to disasters. Programs are designed using local capacities and experience as much as possible, recognizing that each member of society has a role to play in this effort. In some parts of the world - notably Latin America and the Caribbean - support provided by OFDA has enabled national authorities to respond to disasters without outside assistance, reflecting a level of self-sufficiency that is ultimately desirable for all countries.

Population pressures and urbanization, environmental degradation and industrialization, and weak or nonexistent government controls and regulations are risk factors that indicate a more disaster prone future for many parts of the world. All or some of these factors can exacerbate an emergency situation,

and in some regions of the world millions of people can be affected each time a disaster occurs. In addition to large-scale displacement and the loss of life, disasters can result in the loss of property and agricultural crops worth millions of dollars annually. The long-term aim of OFDA programming is to help foreign national governments and local populations prepare for and respond to all types of disasters with minimum outside assistance, and to prevent the loss of hard-won development gains. In FY 2003, nearly \$22 million was committed to OFDA preparedness activities.

OFDA supports disaster prevention and rehabilitation activities that reduce vulnerability to recurring emergency events. OFDA works around the world to improve early warning systems, and it collaborates with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other partners to improve regional climate forecasting. OFDA-supported activities like flood-plain delineation in Vietnam reduce the impact of floods. In drought-prone areas OFDA supports borehole and water-well rehabilitation and maintenance activities in order to enhance the availability of potable water. To improve food security for drought-affected populations, OFDA supports the development and distribution of disease- and drought-resistant seed varieties. OFDA promotes earthquake-resistant construction in seismically active areas, and partners with the U.S. Geological Survey to provide communities with advance warning of impending volcanic eruptions.

Recognizing that OFDA's effectiveness is largely dependent on the success of the NGO community, OFDA provides funding for a disaster response committee at InterAction. With over 160 member agencies, InterAction is a Washington-based consortium committed to enhancing the effectiveness and professional capacity of NGOs engaged in international humanitarian efforts. Within InterAction, the function of the disaster response committee is to promote communication and adherence to best practices among its member organizations. OFDA promotes coordination through monthly information sharing meetings with NGOs and the Department of State. OFDA has funded activities to enhance organizational capacity in the fields of security, emergency health management, evaluation and learning, and Sphere standards. OFDA also promotes the coordination and leadership function of the UN through grants and cooperative agreements with several UN agencies.

Over the last two decades, OFDA has supported disaster preparedness and mitigation training at regional, national and community levels to enhance disaster response capabilities in targeted, at-risk countries. OFDA's Latin America and Caribbean regional team designed and developed a successful disaster management program following a series of major disasters in the region. The program's objective is to enhance regional, national, and local capacity to plan for, prepare, respond to and mitigate disaster events, and to strengthen host country and local capacities to reduce vulnerability to future disasters. The program has been expanded and is now active in the South Pacific and Asia, and is getting started in Africa.

**Key Achievements:** Recognizing that the needs of victims in all disasters are of the utmost importance, there were a few humanitarian interventions in FY 2003 that were unique in their magnitude, urgency or strategic importance. Several are cited here as examples of how OFDA not only strives to fulfill its mandate, but how it can play an important role in the strategic interests of the United States.

The Iraq intervention was the largest and most complex humanitarian response in OFDA's history, requiring more staff, time and funding than any other disaster response. An inter-agency Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), numbering more than 60 persons was assembled and deployed to Iraq and surrounding countries. A large round-the-clock Response Management Team supported the DART from Washington.

Working with the Department of State, other USAID bureaus, the Department of Defense's Office for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, its NGO partners and others, OFDA pre-positioned stockpiles, emergency supplies and commodities to meet the potential humanitarian disaster. Once in Iraq, the DART collaborated with its partners to address needs in the areas of health, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter and rehabilitation. In total, OFDA provided over \$81 million in assistance. The distribution of WHO emergency health kits to hospitals and health centers through NGO and other partners made a considerable contribution to sustaining adequate health care for Iraqis immediately after

the war.

Afghanistan, where the war on terrorism began, occupied a significant amount of time and resources in FY 2003. OFDA remained committed to providing much needed assistance to Afghanistan's citizens, with nearly \$25 million going to programs in nutrition and food security, primary health care, water and sanitation, shelter and rehabilitation. OFDA and its partners have been particularly successful in the shelter sector. One NGO partner has been nominated for a design award for earthquake-resistant housing that was developed with input from OFDA's Technical Assistance Group. Other partners have been very successful in providing winter shelter to vulnerable households in urban and rural settings throughout the country. Another major contribution to the recovery effort in Afghanistan has been the timely removal of snow from the Salang Tunnel, a critical conduit for north-south traffic in the country. An OFDA partner was responsible for this work, which allowed for the uninterrupted movement of humanitarian aid and private commerce during the winter months.

There have been insufficient rains in Ethiopia for nearly two decades. This phenomenon has had adverse effects on crop production and natural resources, and it has severely strained the coping mechanisms of the people of Ethiopia. Widespread drought has affected several regions of the country, and more than 13 million people have faced ongoing food insecurity. The food security situation has caused widespread malnutrition and has been compounded by outbreaks of malaria and measles. In FY 2003 OFDA responded to this ongoing crisis by funding more than \$32 million in emergency water/sanitation, health and nutrition and agricultural rehabilitation activities. OFDA's efforts were supported by \$21 million in Development Assistance funds from USAID/Ethiopia, which were used for emergency health, nutrition and agriculture activities. In addition, USAID's Office of Food for Peace programmed \$457 million worth of food commodities to UN agencies, IOs and NGOs, and the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) provided \$6.8 million for refugee assistance, protection, feeding and literacy programs.

Liberia has suffered from intermittent civil war since 1989, and the years of conflict have had a devastating effect on the humanitarian situation. There has been massive displacement, both inside and outside the country. The already grave situation deteriorated further in the summer of 2003 as Government of Liberia and opposition forces clashed. Hundreds of people were killed during this period. OFDA responded to this disaster by dispatching a DART that quickly partnered with relief agencies already on the ground. More than \$5.6 million was provided to meet humanitarian needs throughout the country, including emergency nutrition, vaccination and water and sanitation programs. A major contribution to the relief effort was OFDA's support for UN OCHA to coordinate the large humanitarian response and manage a much needed and appreciated humanitarian information center. USAID's Office of Food for Peace supported the intervention with \$14.9 million in food commodities, and State/PRM committed \$10 million to support UN and IO efforts.

After nearly 20 years of war, Sudan appears to be moving toward peace. Major involvement by the United States in trying to end this intractable conflict is now starting to see results. The Sudan Task Force, largely funded by OFDA, was created in 2001 to assist USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios in his efforts to end the conflict. The Task Force has been intimately involved in efforts to bring representatives of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement together to create a framework for the cessation of hostilities. An end to fighting could permit millions of internally-displaced persons to return to their homes. The Task Force also played an important role in getting the warring factions to allow for major improvements in humanitarian access to parts of Sudan. More than \$40 million was committed to programs in Sudan in FY 2003.

**Country Close and Graduation:**

N/A

## **Results Framework**

### **961-001 Critical needs met of targeted vulnerable groups in emergency situations**

#### **SO Level Indicator(s):**

Number of declared disasters

Number of targeted beneficiaries

**IR1.1** Improved targeting of emergency assistance to the most vulnerable groups

**IR1.2** Emergency assistance, meeting recognized standards, received by disaster victims in a timely manner

**IR1.3** Capacities for livelihoods protected/restored

**IR1.4** Increased adoption of mitigation measures in countries in countries at greatest risk to natural and man-made disasters

### **961-002 Reduce vulnerability of at risk populations to disaster**