USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Commonly Used Acronyms

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

ACF	Action Contre la Faim
AAH	Action Against Hunger
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AmRC	American Red Cross
ARC	American Refugee Committee
AVSI	Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale
CCF	Christian Children's Fund
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale (International Cooperation)
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FHI	Food for the Hungry International
GAA	German Agro Action
IMC	International Medical Corps
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRD	International Relief and Development
Merlin	Medical Emergency Relief International
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
SC	Save the Children
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
VSF	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

International Organizations (IOs) and United Nations (U.N.) Agencies

FAO	U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IOM	International Organization for Migration
OCHA	U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
UNDP	U.N. Development Program
UNHCR	Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	U.N. Children's Fund
UNJLC	U.N. Joint Logistics Center
WFP	U.N. World Food Program
WHO	U.N. World Health Organization

U.S. Government (USG) Acronyms

CDC	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DART	Disaster Assistance Response Team
DCHA	Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
FFP	Office of Food for Peace
GDA	Global Development Alliance
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PRM	Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
RMT	Response Management Team
State	U.S. Department of State
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

Country of Origin

/B	Belgium
/UK	United Kingdom
/US(A)	United States of America

Miscellaneous

cm	centimeter
FY	fiscal year
IDP	internally displaced person
km	kilometer
lbs	pounds
MOH	Ministry of Health
mph	miles per hour
MT	metric ton
P.L.	Public Law

Measurement Conversion

1 hectare = 2.471 acres

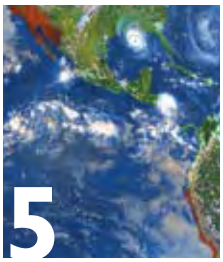
1 meter = 39.37 inches

1 millimeter = 0.039 inch

1 kilometer = 0.62 miles

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

OFDA at a Glance

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Africa

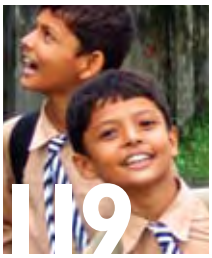
25

Asia and the Pacific

57

77
Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia

95
Latin America and the Caribbean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OUR MANDATE…

SAVE LIVES

Courtesy of IOM

Photo by Julie March, USAID

ALLEVIATE SUFFERING

Courtesy of IOM

REDUCE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DISASTERS

MESSAGE FROM OFDA DIRECTOR

> OFDA is keenly aware of its multiple responsibilities as an international leader in disaster relief.

– Ky Luu, Director of USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

OFDA Director Ky Luu

No matter how adept OFDA and its implementing partners have become at delivering emergency humanitarian assistance to disaster victims, there is always room for improvement.

In recent years, OFDA has made a concerted effort to advocate for improved humanitarian performance on two fronts: 1) narrowing the often detrimental disconnect between relief and development programs and 2) playing a leading role to support U.N. humanitarian agencies in the implementation of effective reforms to strengthen coordination and delivery of emergency assistance in disasters worldwide.

After OFDA has helped meet urgent needs for shelter, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, and other assistance in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, we often note that the same disaster victims whom we worked so hard to assist lack the recovery and rehabilitation programs that they desperately need to permanently rebuild their lives. This is the so-called "relief-to-development gap" that is both unfair and dangerous to populations affected by natural disasters and conflicts.

During the past two years, OFDA has made a point of working with USAID's development bureaus and other agencies to plan further in advance for a smoother transition from OFDA's emergency response and early recovery programs to longer-term reconstruction programs undertaken by development experts. See Bridging the Gap: OFDA's Approach to Transition on page 18 for examples of OFDA's ongoing efforts to improve these transitions for the good of the people we serve.

OFDA has been a vocal advocate and supporter of strengthening the U.N. humanitarian coordination system. Around the globe, the scale and depth of humanitarian needs are greater than ever before. Strong U.N. leadership in the field on coordinating, communicating, and advocating for vulnerable populations and humanitarian operations is critical. Global efforts on strengthening humanitarian response in 2009 must reflect strong progress. See page 21 for a fuller discussion of OFDA's role in these ongoing U.N. humanitarian reform efforts.

Whether it is working for better transitions, higher standards of performance, or stronger coordination, the common thread running through all these initiatives is OFDA's role as an international leader, implementing improvements and urging its partners to do likewise. OFDA is keenly aware of its multiple responsibilities as an international leader in disaster relief. OFDA is, in my view, equal to the challenge.

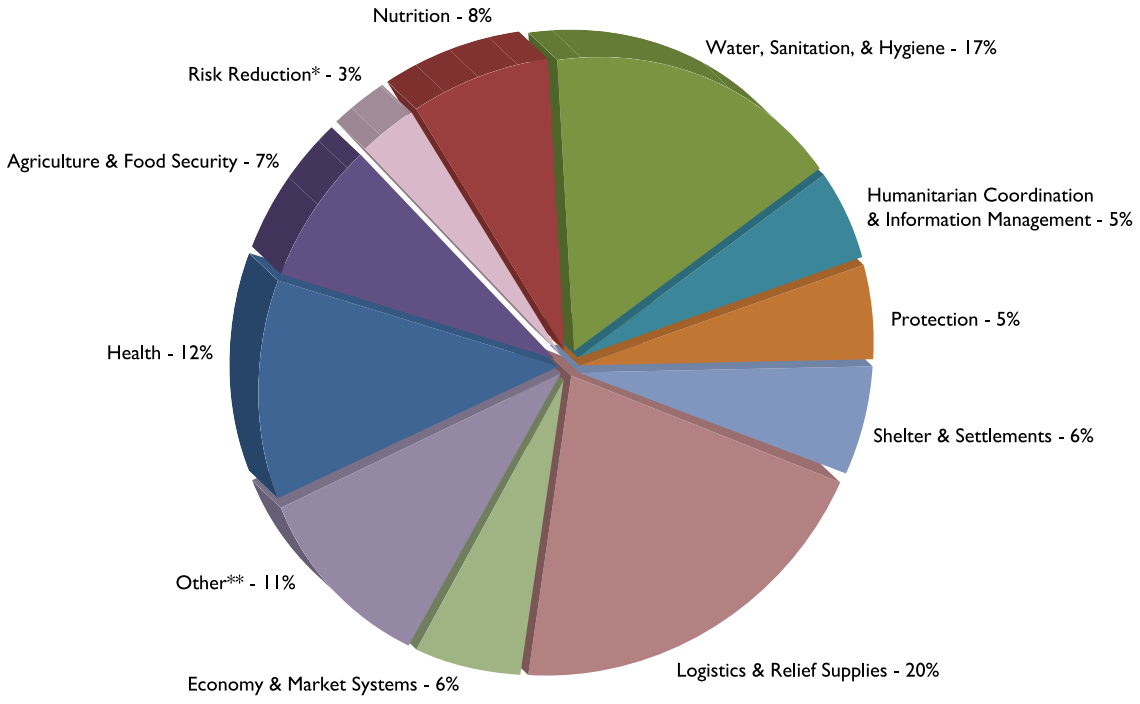
YEAR IN REVIEW

FAST FACTS FOR FY 2008	
Number of OFDA disaster responses	80
Number of countries that received OFDA disaster support	62
OFDA's total budget	$739.5 million
OFDA percentage of USAID budget	4.8%
Most frequent disaster	Floods
Most funded sector	Logistics and Relief Supplies

In FY 2008, OFDA responded to 80 disasters affecting at least 202 million people in 62 countries. Conflict, flooding, drought, food insecurity, and a cyclone, as well as cholera, Ebola, and meningitis outbreaks, confronted populations in countries throughout Africa. Asia and the Pacific region experienced natural disasters, including a typhoon, cyclone, earthquake, floods, a winter emergency, and food insecurity, as well as complex emergencies. Countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA) required assistance to meet humanitarian needs resulting from floods, wildfires, earthquakes, food insecurity, an industrial accident, a munitions explosion, and complex political and security challenges. Hurricanes, tropical storms, and flooding accounted for the majority of disaster declarations in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, with additional OFDA responses to drought, food insecurity, and a yellow fever outbreak.

Populations affected by both natural disasters and complex emergencies required humanitarian assistance, including safe drinking water, emergency shelter, health care services, food security interventions, and emergency relief supplies such as soap, kitchen sets, water containers, and blankets. Countries facing insecurity or emerging from periods of political or economic volatility also needed support for local capacity building, protection of vulnerable populations, and coordination of response efforts.

OFDA FUNDING BY SECTOR



* Risk reduction includes geological and meteorological hazard mitigation activities and some disaster risk reduction activities. The sector does not include all disaster risk reduction activities, many of which are included in other sector totals.

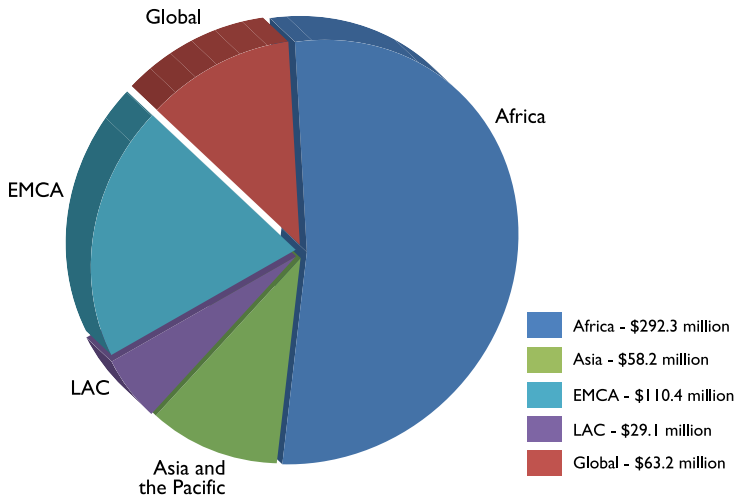
** Other includes chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness activities; urban search and rescue activities; and administrative support.

In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $553 million for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies and to support humanitarian interventions in the following sectors: health; nutrition; protection; local/regional food purchase; agriculture and food security; shelter and settlements; economy and market systems; humanitarian coordination and information management; search and rescue; logistics and relief commodities; risk reduction; and water, sanitation, and hygiene. OFDA deployed Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) or emergency teams to Bangladesh, Burma, the Dominican Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Haiti, the Horn of Africa, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, and Sri Lanka.

LARGEST RESPONSES IN FY 2008

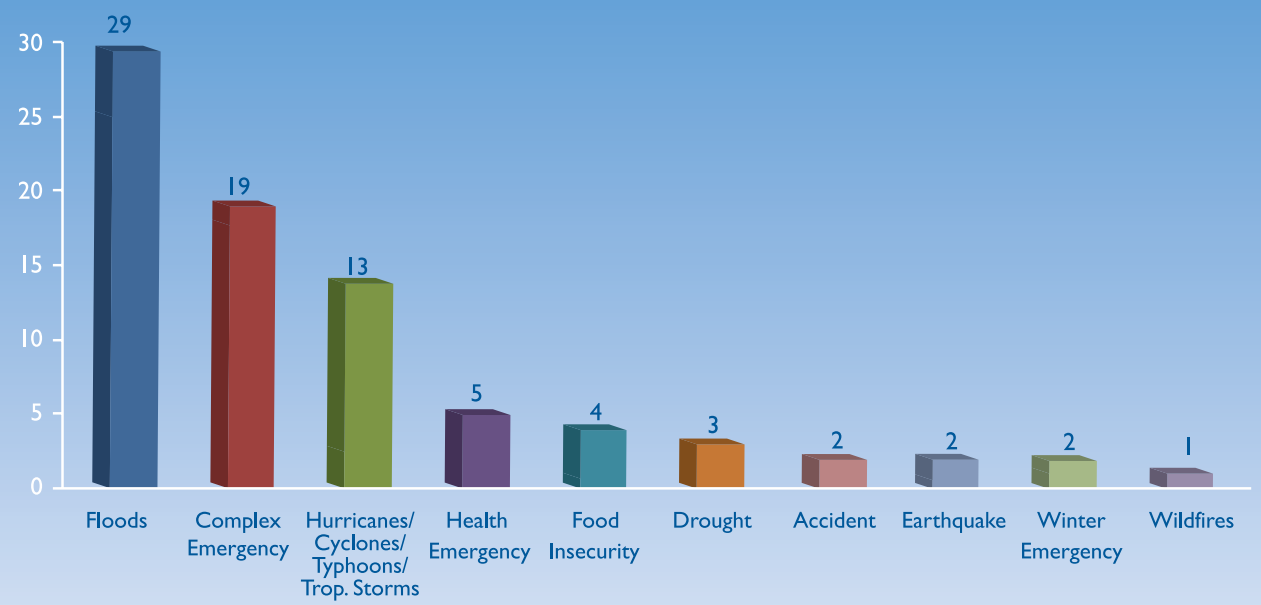
COUNTRY	DISASTER TYPE	FY 2008 FUNDING
Sudan	Complex Emergency	$137.3 million
Iraq	Complex Emergency	$75.3 million
Somalia	Complex Emergency	$51.2 million
Ethiopia	Complex Emergency	$35.2 million
Burma	Cyclone	$26.4 million

OFDA FUNDING BY REGION

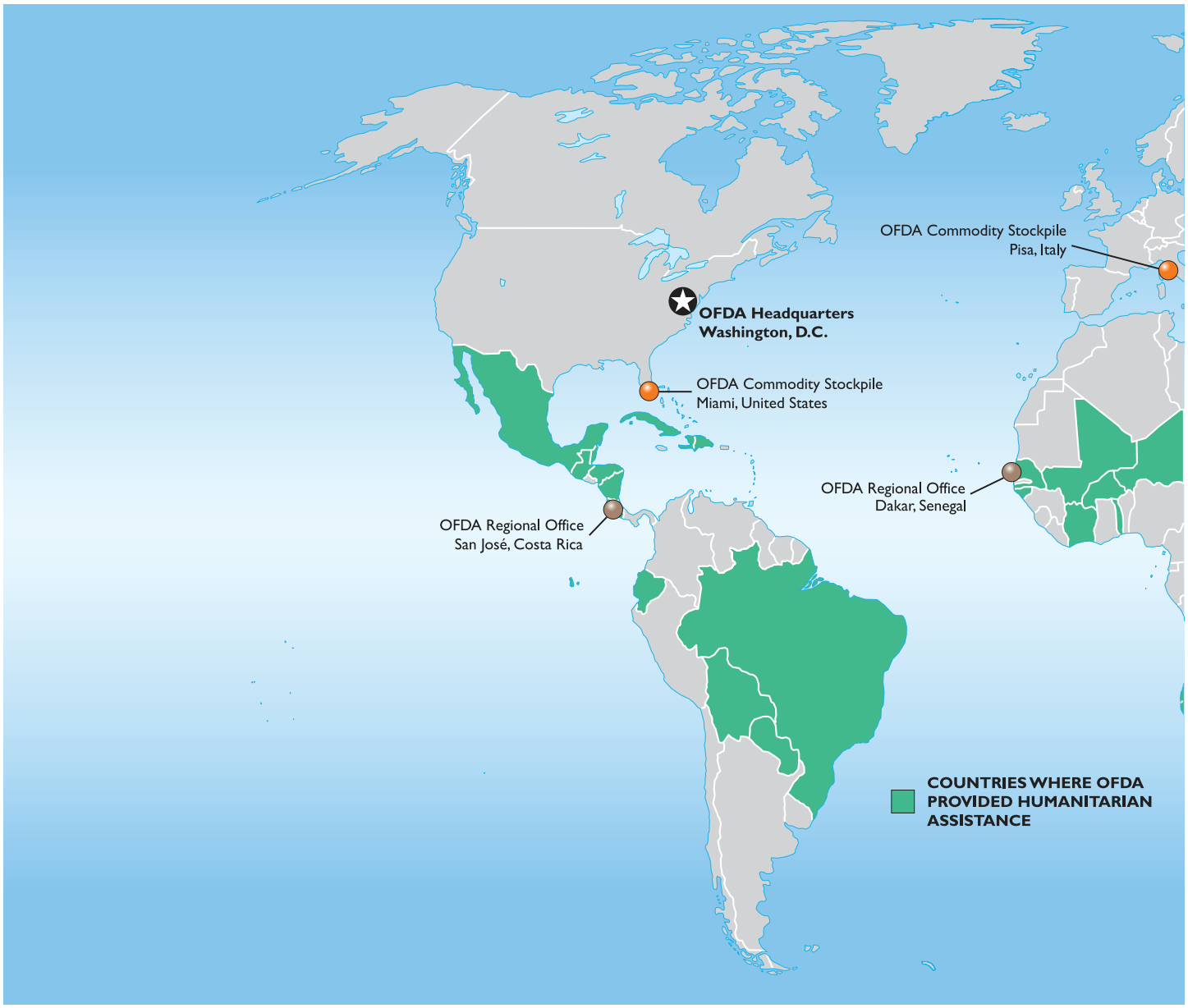


In addition to responding to ongoing disasters, OFDA directed more than $41 million to prepare for and mitigate potential disasters. OFDA tailored disaster risk reduction activities to address specific risks confronted by different communities and designed programs to build and improve local disaster management capabilities. In FY 2008, these efforts included support for the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and volcano monitoring programs, health sector capacity building, and global flood hazard mapping.

TYPES OF DISASTERS REQUIRING OFDA ASSISTANCE



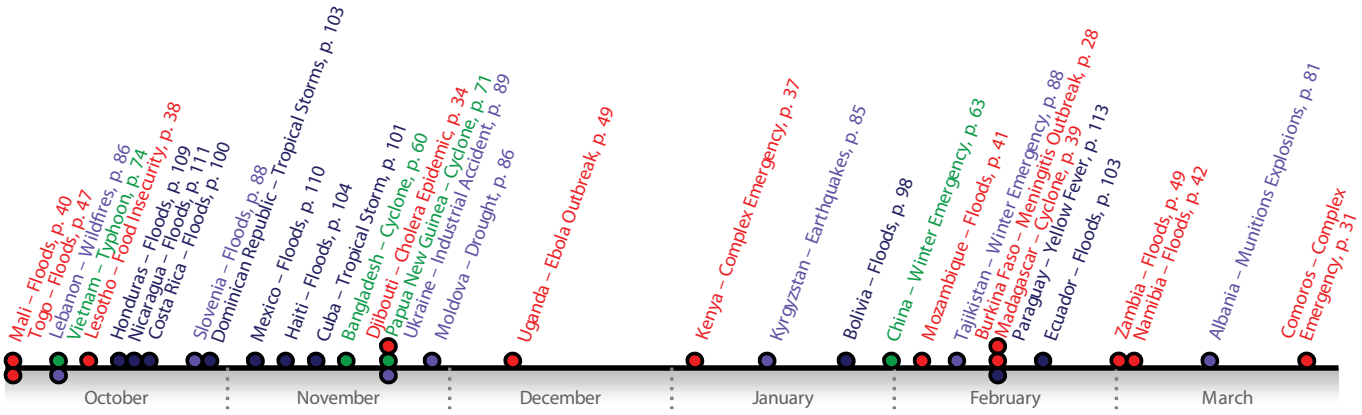
OFDA DISASTER RE



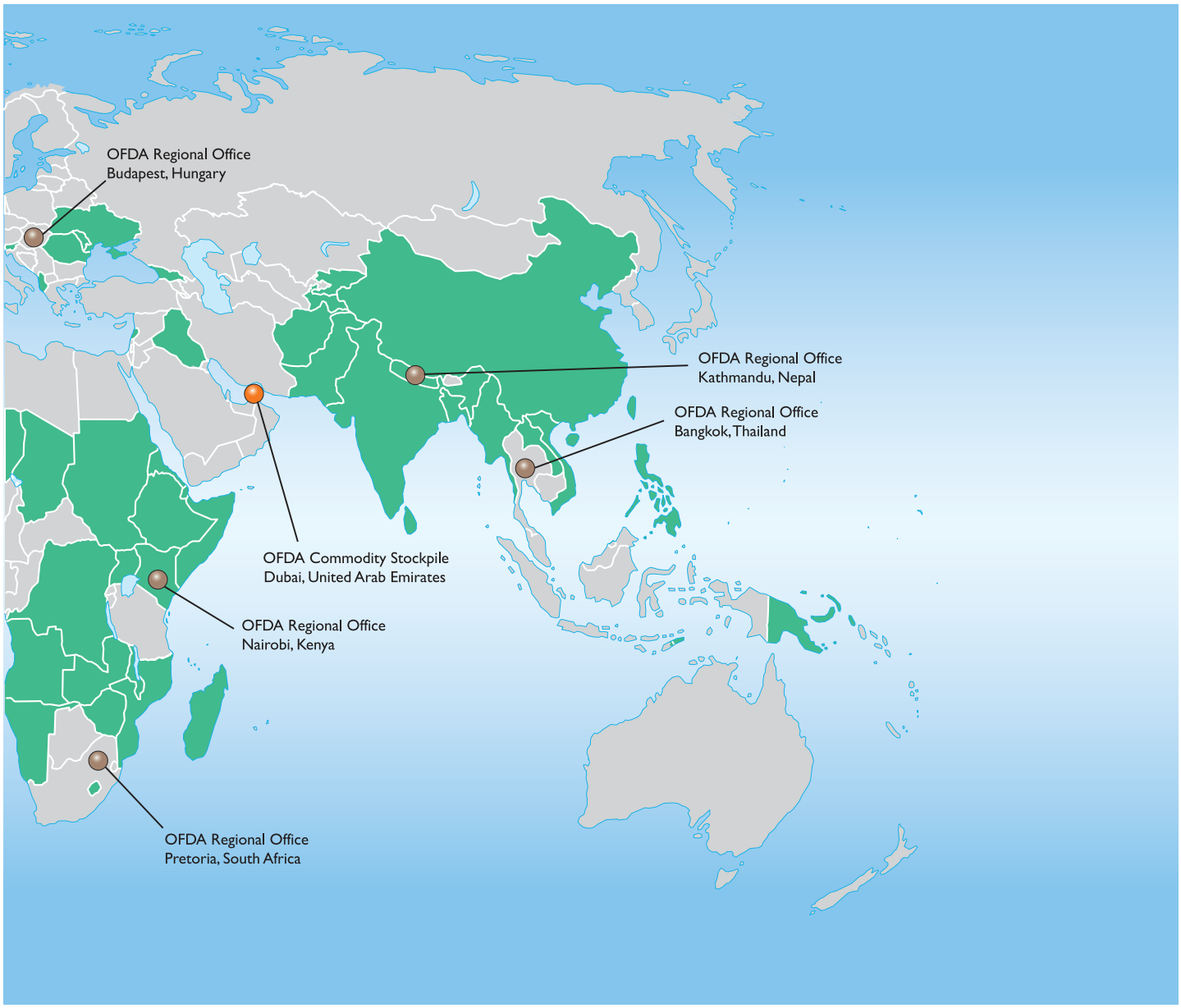
Disaster Timeline* – FY 2008

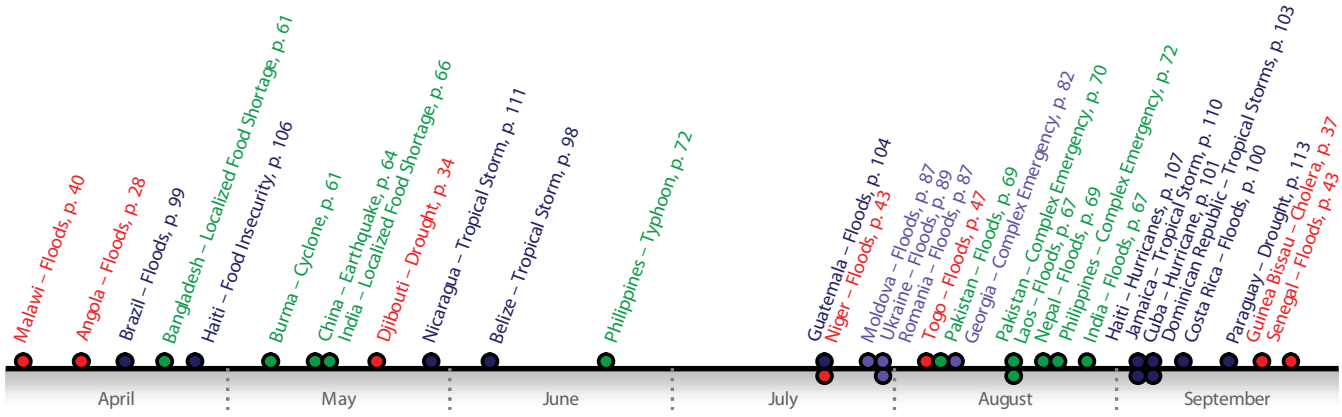
Africa | Asia | EMCA | LAC

* Does not include disaster redeclarations.



SPONSES IN FY 2008





How the U.S. Government Provides International Humanitarian Assistance

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

The USAID Administrator is designated as the President's Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance. Housed within USAID, OFDA is the lead USG office charged with providing and coordinating USG humanitarian assistance in response to international emergencies and disasters. With a mandate to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of disasters, OFDA's approximately 250 staff members and consultants work around the clock to monitor global hazards and potential areas of need. In cooperation with other USG offices and international humanitarian experts, OFDA is ready to respond whenever disaster strikes.

Declaring an International Disaster

1. The U.S. Ambassador or Chief of Mission to the affected country—or the appropriate U.S. Assistant Secretary of State in the event that a U.S. Mission is not present—declares a disaster if the event meets the following criteria:

- The magnitude of the disaster is beyond the capacity of the host country to respond;
- The host country requests, or is willing to accept, assistance; and
- A response is in the interest of the USG.

2. OFDA can immediately provide up to $50,000—the Disaster Assistance Authority—to the U.S. Embassy or the USAID Mission in the affected country for the local purchase of relief supplies or as a contribution to a relief organization.

3. OFDA may deploy staff to the region to conduct assessments, determine additional needs, deliver relief supplies, and/or recommend proposals for funding.

Each year, OFDA responds to dozens of international disasters, including rapid-onset events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes; slow-onset emergencies such as prolonged drought leading to food insecurity; and complex emergencies resulting in humanitarian crises. In addition to disaster response activities, OFDA also supports a range of disaster risk reduction projects designed to reduce the impact of natural hazards in disaster-prone countries and enhance the resilience of affected communities.

An official disaster declaration (see sidebar) allows OFDA to begin providing humanitarian assistance to affected populations. OFDA closely coordinates all activities with the U.S. Embassy or USAID Mission in the affected country to determine if and when USG humanitarian assistance may be appropriate. OFDA's response depends on the scale of the event and the needs of affected communities and may encompass a range of activities, including one or more of the following:

- Deployment of a DART or an emergency team to disaster-affected areas;
- Activation of an on-call Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington, D.C.;
- Procurement, transportation, and distribution of emergency relief supplies, such as plastic sheeting for shelter, water containers, water purification units, blankets, and health supplies, from one of OFDA's three regional warehouses;
- Provision of funding for flash appeals and proposals from implementing partners,[1] including international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.N. agencies, or international organizations;
- Pre-positioning of personnel and relief supplies in the event of an impending disaster, such as a hurricane or volcanic eruption;
- Support for various relief and rehabilitation activities through grants to implementing organizations. Examples of OFDA-funded activities include purchasing local relief supplies for populations in remote locations, managing primary health care

[1]Section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, provides flexible authority that permits OFDA to respond to the needs of disaster victims in a timely manner. By registering with USAID prior to a disaster, implementing partners are able to receive funds in less than 24 hours.

Beneficiaries use camels and donkeys to transport humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia (Photo by Richard Quinby, USAID).

programs, implementing cash-for-work activities, providing seeds and tools to displaced farmers, repairing roads and bridges damaged by an earthquake, or restoring water systems in drought-stricken countries.

- Provision of sector-specific technical assistance to assist in determining needs.

Although rarely used, OFDA possesses the authority to request exemptions from government regulations

Anatomy of a DART and an RMT

If the scope of a disaster merits, a DART deploys to the affected area, and an on-call Washington, D.C.-based RMT is activated. DARTs often include specialists in water and sanitation, health, nutrition, shelter, agriculture, livestock, and/or protection. These experts conduct rapid assessments and coordinate with sector specialists from U.N. agencies and other relief organizations.

Administrative, communications, and information officers on the DART work to support assessment teams by relaying information on urgent needs and recommendations on appropriate USG assistance to the RMT. When necessary, members of U.S.-based urban search and rescue (USAR) teams or other technical specialists deploy as part of the DART. In the event of U.S. Military involvement in a disaster response, OFDA may deploy a military liaison officer to the field or the relevant Combatant Command (COCOM) to coordinate activities between OFDA and military responders.

The RMT provides support to field teams and coordinates USG strategy and activities in Washington, D.C., in support of disaster responses. Organized into three major functional areas—management, planning, and operations—the RMT serves as the primary liaison between the DART and all other USAID entities, other federal agencies and offices, and Congress. The RMT takes the lead role in the operational aspects of the disaster response, determining the best method to activate and coordinate resources, including funding, staff, and relief supplies.

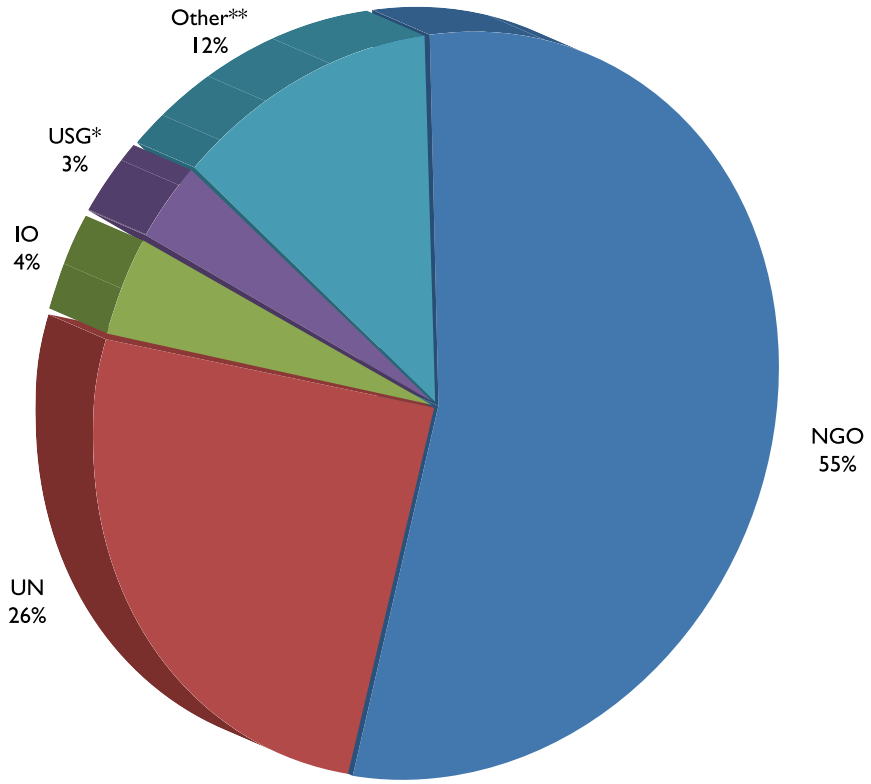
The Technical Assistance Group

The Washington, D.C.-based Technical Assistance Group (TAG) applies scientific, technical, and analytical knowledge and skills to OFDA's activities and decision-making processes in order to achieve OFDA's mission more effectively and efficiently. TAG members possess expertise in a variety of areas, including:

- Agriculture and food security
- Economic recovery and livelihoods
- Geological hazards, including volcanoes and earthquakes
- Hydrometeorological hazards, such as hurricanes and floods
- IDPs and other vulnerable populations
- Nutrition
- Agricultural pests, such as locusts
- Public health
- Shelter and settlements
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene

OFDA-provided food assistance is off-loaded from a truck for distribution in Tajikistan (Courtesy of CARE).

OFDA FUNDING BY RECIPIENT AGENCY TYPE



* "USG" denotes the portion of assistance provided through agreements with other USG agencies.
** "Other" denotes the portion of assistance managed through other USAID offices as well as program support costs.

when doing so will expedite emergency assistance, and to borrow money from other USAID accounts when OFDA requires additional funding.

Global Staff

OFDA regional advisors, based in offices in Costa Rica, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, and Nepal, are strategically located to facilitate rapid access to disaster sites in order to assess needs and begin programming assistance. OFDA also maintains field-based staff in countries where humanitarian needs require vigilant monitoring, such as Sudan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. For larger responses, OFDA program officers and/or an emergency disaster response coordinator (EDRC) can remain in disaster-affected countries following a disaster to monitor and support ongoing projects and ensure that OFDA-funded activities continue to meet the needs of affected communities.

Flexible Programming

In addition to conducting assessments of affected areas, OFDA staff carefully monitor implementing partners' programs to ensure that resources are used wisely and to determine whether projects need to be adapted to changing conditions.

Disaster Risk Reduction Activities

OFDA is increasingly investing in programs designed to prepare for and mitigate both natural disasters and complex emergencies. Disaster risk reduction activities enhance a country's capacity to manage hazards and disasters by promoting technology and services sharing between the United States and the affected country, as well as strengthening communities' resilience to and recovery from shocks. In addition to building partnerships with national emergency response agencies, OFDA frequently implements activities in conjunction with regional or technical organizations, such as the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and other offices within USAID.

From Relief to Development

As an emergency response transitions from addressing immediate needs to preparing for longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction, OFDA works with other offices within USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and USAID's regional bureaus and overseas missions, as well as other partners, to facilitate a smooth transition of emergency programs to medium- and longer-term development activities. See the feature article on page 18 for additional information on OFDA's transition strategies.

Other USG Offices that Provide Humanitarian Assistance

Although OFDA is the lead USG office charged with providing and coordinating humanitarian assistance in response to international disasters and humanitarian emergencies, many other offices within the USG provide technical and material assistance to ensure that populations in need of humanitarian aid receive assistance rapidly and efficiently.

Other USAID/DCHA Offices that Provide International Humanitarian Assistance

Office of Food for Peace (FFP): Provides food commodities to implementing partners to address both emergency food needs and food security development activities.

Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI): Facilitates the transition from crisis and conflict to peace and stability by aiding in the demobilization of combatants or developing democratic governance and media structures within the affected country.

Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM): Supports early responses to address the causes and consequences of instability and conflict and seeks to integrate conflict mitigation and management into USAID's programs.

Office of Military Affairs (OMA): Builds effective working relationships with the U.S. Department of Defense, including maintaining emergency response readiness, coordinating planning, and developing joint training, education, and exercises.

International Humanitarian Assistance Provided by Other USG Entities

The **U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)** provides multilateral grants to international relief organizations in response to refugee emergency appeals and contributes to the regular program budgets of organizations such as the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

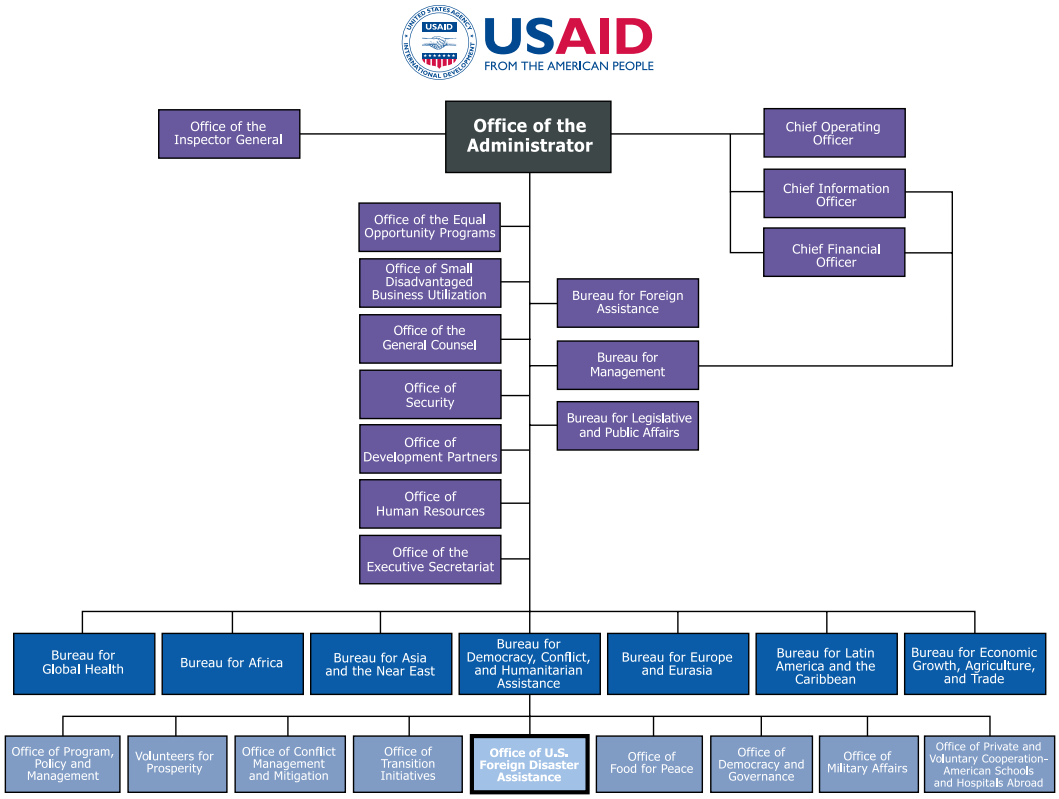
The **U.S. Department of State's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS)** leads, coordinates, and institutionalizes USG civilian capacity to prevent or prepare for post-conflict situations and to help stabilize and reconstruct societies in transition from conflict or civil strife.

The **U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)** frequently collaborates with OFDA to coordinate and direct the utilization of military assets, including personnel, supplies, and equipment, for humanitarian assistance overseas.

The **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** provides food assistance to support emergency feeding programs in countries experiencing food shortages due to drought and civil conflict.

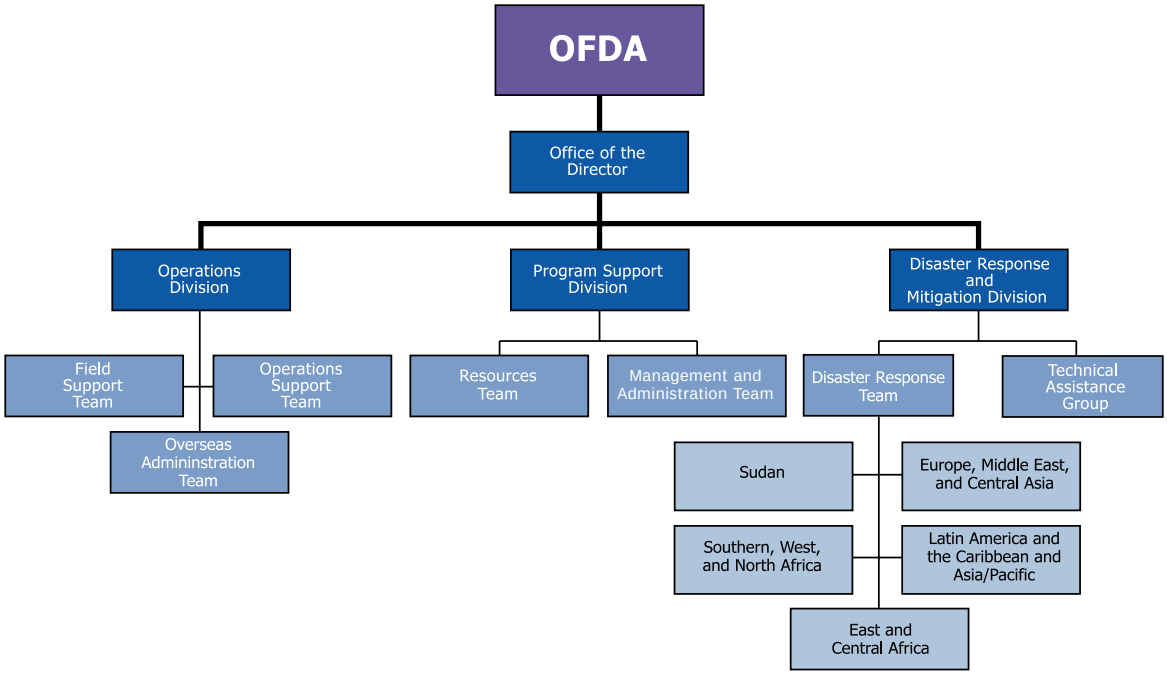
Depending on the type of disaster, the **USGS, USFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, and **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, including **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** may also provide technical assistance in coordination with OFDA to assess needs and determine the extent of the USG response.

OFDA relief commodities are transported for delivery to beneficiaries in Georgia (Photo by Rebecca Gustafson, USAID).



Organization

OFDA is organized into three divisions under the management of the Office of the Director. The Disaster Response and Mitigation Division is responsible for coordinating the provision of humanitarian assistance and relief supplies. The Operations Division develops and manages logistical, operational, and technical support for field offices and disaster responses, including USAR teams, DARTs, and RMTs. The Program Support Division provides programmatic and administrative support, including budget and financial services, procurement planning, contracts and grants administration, training support, information technology, communications support, and information services.



Bridging the Gap: OFDA's Approach to Transition

Paul Perrin

Humanitarian interventions target immediate life-saving needs in emergency settings. In contrast, development agencies focus on helping societies to provide sustainable solutions to long-term development goals. The transition or early recovery phase of an emergency is situated between the two distinct sets of mandates and actors. In the absence of dedicated transition resources and systems, disaster-affected populations can face a sudden interruption of needed assistance and services as relief funding is drawn down, potentially leaving some individuals vulnerable to future disasters. OFDA is leading efforts within USAID to address the gap between relief and development programs.

To maximize the effectiveness of aid and ensure the continuity of service provision to disaster-affected populations, OFDA is taking steps to deliberately plan for and coordinate transition efforts. Successful transitions help fulfill OFDA's mandate to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of disasters. OFDA seeks to integrate transition into emergency response from the onset of disasters by determining and articulating manageable, long-term goals for the transition to recovery.

The OFDA Approach

Recognizing the need to address transition efforts systematically, OFDA developed an office-wide template for the design of disaster-specific transition strategies in FY 2008. The OFDA transition template provides guidelines to facilitate the transition of OFDA-initiated programs to USAID missions and other development partners.

Each disaster-specific OFDA strategy identifies important partners and actions for transition. The purpose of an OFDA transition strategy is to facilitate a well-coordinated and comprehensive transition, maximize the use of local capacities, and improve sustainability to build on emergency programs and reduce the need for future OFDA engagement on the same issues in the same locations. In FY 2008, OFDA staff developed transition strategies in a number of countries, including Bangladesh, Uganda, Kenya, Georgia, and Ethiopia.

Considerations in Creating an OFDA Transition Strategy

1. *Examine key questions early in the emergency*
2. *Set indicators and benchmarks*
3. *Monitor or revise indicators and benchmarks*
4. *Be knowledgeable of other transition plans*
5. *Evaluate and identify potential transition partners*
6. *Coordinate with other donors*
7. *Disseminate indicators and benchmarks*
8. *Lay groundwork with USAID mission in-country*
9. *Adjust OFDA programming*
10. *Estimate resources needed*

Disaster Phase	Relief	Transition	Recovery and Reconstruction
Primary Actors	Humanitarian	Humanitarian and Development	Development
Activities	**Immediate life-saving assistance** • Search and rescue • Evacuation • Distribution of food and water • Temporary sanitation • Emergency health care • Emergency shelter • Restoration of the access to transport	**Early recovery of basic facilities and services** • Psychosocial assistance • Education • Livelihoods restoration • Construction of housing or water systems • Establishment of primary health care centers or schools staffed by local people	**Restoring or improving pre-disaster living conditions** • Livelihoods and income generation • Heavy infrastructure restoration • Business and market rehabilitation

Residents of Bangladesh improve their shelter with funding and technical assistance from OFDA (Courtesy of IFRC).

OFDA Transition in Action: Cyclone Sidr, Bangladesh

In FY 2008, OFDA implemented a transition strategy during the response to Tropical Cyclone Sidr, which made landfall in southern Bangladesh on November 15, 2007. The storm left more than 4,200 people dead or missing and presumed dead and affected a total of 8.9 million individuals. During the first week of the response, a DART deployed to the country held transition discussions with USAID/Bangladesh and international agencies. Less than one month after the cyclone, needs assessments indicated that the acute emergency phase had largely concluded. In response, the DART transferred responsibilities to an early recovery team comprising OFDA technical experts, who worked closely with USAID/Bangladesh to coordinate the handover and integration of relief interventions to early recovery programming.

The OFDA early recovery team provided funding and technical assistance to USAID/Bangladesh's multi-year recovery and rehabilitation program and worked with key USAID/Bangladesh staff to develop shelter and livelihoods transition strategies. The shelter strategy included the repair of damaged housing, as well as transitional shelter construction in the near-term and the construction of improved, more structurally sound shelters for the long-term. OFDA-funded livelihoods rehabilitation activities restored productive assets, increased purchasing power, and supported market activity to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen beneficiary resistance to future shocks.

OFDA Transition in Action: Northern Uganda

For more than a decade, OFDA- and FFP-funded programs have assisted conflict-affected populations in northern Uganda. At the height of the conflict, violence had displaced an estimated 1.8 million people in the region. Recent stabilization due to decreased Lord's Resistance Army activity in the area has led to improved humanitarian conditions and signs of recovery, as returning and conflict-affected populations begin to rebuild and re-establish livelihoods.

While continuing to address emergency needs, in FY 2008, OFDA facilitated the transition from emergency relief activities towards longer-term development programming by prioritizing support for the IDP return process and assistance for conflict-affected populations

in re-establishing livelihoods in their areas of origin. OFDA-supported initiatives included seed distribution programs to improve food security, water point rehabilitation in areas of return, and road repair to provide access to markets and support local economies. In addition, OFDA worked closely with USAID bureaus and offices devoted to conflict mitigation, transition initiatives, and long-term development assistance to create an integrated early recovery strategy for Uganda. In FY 2009, OFDA is planning to support the transition and handover of humanitarian assistance programs in northern Uganda, working in partnership with USAID/ Uganda and other implementing partners.

In FY 2008, OFDA promoted a comprehensive approach to response management for the disaster cycle, including close coordination with development partners. Well-planned transition strategies have enabled OFDA to draw down personnel and funding resources without jeopardizing support to vulnerable populations. Successful transitions during recent disaster responses highlight OFDA's commitment to working with USAID missions in-country to bridge the gap between relief and development.

A Ugandan woman and her child stand in front of seeds grown through an OFDA-funded seed multiplication project (Photo by Julie March, USAID).

More Than Just Disaster Response: OFDA's Engagement in the International Humanitarian System

Dating to its inception in 1964, OFDA has responded rapidly to disasters worldwide. Hours after Cyclone Sidr made landfall in Bangladesh in November 2007, OFDA was arranging the first of two airlifts of relief commodities to Bangladesh. While rains associated with the cyclone continued to fall, the OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) arrived in Bangladesh. This response was only one of 80 disasters in 62 countries around the world to which OFDA responded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. In response to conflict, natural disasters, rising food prices, water and resource scarcity, and other emergencies, OFDA deployed seven large disaster teams on four continents, activated six Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams, and provided a total of $553 million for humanitarian programming throughout the world.

FY 2008 represented the second busiest year in OFDA's history. As a key donor with extensive field presence, OFDA responded robustly to Cyclone Sidr and other disasters around the world while at the same time supporting integrated disaster risk reduction programs, all aimed at saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the social and economic impact of disasters. In addition, OFDA undertook broad policy initiatives within the U.S. Government (USG) and the international humanitarian community. While seldom publicized, OFDA staff worked to facilitate dialogue and enhance coordination, practice good humanitarian donorship, strengthen leadership, and promote best practices among humanitarian practitioners.

Facilitating Dialogue and Enhancing Coordination

The humanitarian landscape and international relief systems have grown increasingly complex. This trend requires that the humanitarian community—including OFDA—work harder than ever to formulate consensus on the meaning and scope of humanitarian action. Throughout FY 2008, OFDA engaged with programmatic and policy issues in humanitarian assistance while serving on advisory boards and participating in various fora, including the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Donor Support Group, the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP), U.N. General Assembly, U.N. Executive Board meetings, the Montreux retreat on humanitarian issues, International Council of Voluntary Agencies conferences, and the annual OFDA consultation with current and potential implementing partners.

In FY 2008, OFDA also supported improvements in humanitarian coordination, data sharing, and standards in service delivery of humanitarian aid. Through InterAction, a consortium through which U.S.-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) exchange and disseminate information, OFDA coordinated security standards, supported country-specific and sectoral coordination, and facilitated trainings for InterAction members. OFDA also supported initiatives to improve information management, facilitating enhanced information collection, sharing, mapping, and analysis among humanitarian organizations.

Practicing Good Humanitarian Donorship

In addition to facilitating dialogue and enhancing coordination, OFDA worked with other donors to practice good humanitarian donorship by defining good practices and working to promote accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in implementing humanitarian action. A platform of 35 donor members, the GHD initiative seeks to define the principles that should inform humanitarian donors' practice. By defining principles and standards, the GHD initiative provides both a framework to guide official humanitarian aid and a mechanism for encouraging greater donor accountability. In recent years, OFDA has been heavily engaged in the GHD initiative. From July 2007 to July 2008, the USG—represented by OFDA—and the Government of Sweden co-chaired the GHD initiative.

In FY 2008, OFDA chaired GHD working groups on evidence-based decision making, humanitarian financing, and IDPs. Moreover, OFDA funded GHD studies on humanitarian financing and GHD coordination meetings, as well as two field evaluation missions on GHD approaches in Sri Lanka and Sudan. Beyond formal GHD coordination meetings, OFDA engaged in annual bilateral donor consultations to compare and

coordinate programming and policy initiatives and jointly advocate for humanitarian issues. In conjunction with other donors, OFDA built consensus and cohesiveness among donors and increased GHD membership.

Strengthening Humanitarian Leadership

In FY 2008, OFDA worked alongside other bilateral and multilateral donors to strengthen leadership within the international humanitarian community. OFDA humanitarian advisors played a critical role at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. (USUN) in New York, Geneva, and Rome, strategizing with other donors and multilateral organizations on policy issues and conveying the USG position on humanitarian concerns. At the USUN, OFDA participated in negotiations with other donors on a range of issues, including U.N. General Assembly and U.N. Economic and Social Council resolutions pertaining to key humanitarian and security challenges.

Together with other donors to the U.N., OFDA strengthened leadership by engaging in formal and informal policy dialogue on U.N. humanitarian reform. OFDA also provided funding and technical support to strengthen the U.N. cluster system. Beyond field participation at the operational level, OFDA technical staff participated in five of the global clusters, helping shape humanitarian standards and priorities. The U.N. also benefited from OFDA support for U.N. response capabilities and contributions to multi-donor emergency funding mechanisms. In addition, OFDA provided significant funding to strengthen the capacity of U.N. Humanitarian Coordinators in the field. In FY 2008, OFDA continued to fund emergency response capacity-building activities for several U.N. agencies. A member of the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Advisory Board, OFDA supported the deployment of UNDAC teams through financial, material, and in-kind support.

Promoting Best Practices

Dedicated to improving humanitarian performance, OFDA took steps to promote best practices in FY 2008. OFDA contributed to and participated in humanitarian networks such as the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP), a unique international, interagency forum run by the Overseas Development Institute that works to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian action. In order to promote increased learning and accountability by humanitarian practitioners, ALNAP produces an annual review of humanitarian action, books, and pamphlets on humanitarian assistance, as well as evaluations of large-scale disaster responses.

In six of the past nine fiscal years, OFDA has contributed funding for revision of the Sphere Project handbook, Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards for Disaster Response. Scheduled for completion in June 2010, the third edition of the Sphere Project handbook will include revised standards both for sectors and for cross-cutting issues. In partnership with InterAction and other groups, OFDA conducted and funded a series of technical workshops focusing on health in emergencies, shelter and settlements, and seed system security. These workshops helped inform partners of new interventions and methodologies.

Humanitarian aid workers are finding themselves in increasingly difficult situations. Volatile security conditions, political instability, perpetual exposure to danger, and harsh living and working conditions all pose challenges for the humanitarian community. In response, in partnership with InterAction, OFDA focused on addressing humanitarian workers' psychological and emotional needs in order to better equip aid workers with the skills necessary to serve vulnerable populations. OFDA funded initiatives to support uniform staff wellness standards within the humanitarian community and supported NGOs in the development of minimum standards and guidance for the care of NGO staff.

During FY 2008, OFDA advanced policy initiatives within the humanitarian community by promoting best practices, strengthening humanitarian leadership, practicing good humanitarian donorship, facilitating dialogue, and enhancing coordination. By coupling robust disaster response and risk reduction programs with multi-donor initiatives to improve the humanitarian community, OFDA worked to better serve disaster-affected populations throughout the world.

OUR BENEFICIARIES

Photo by Julie March, USAID

Courtesy of ADRA

Courtesy of InFocus Asia

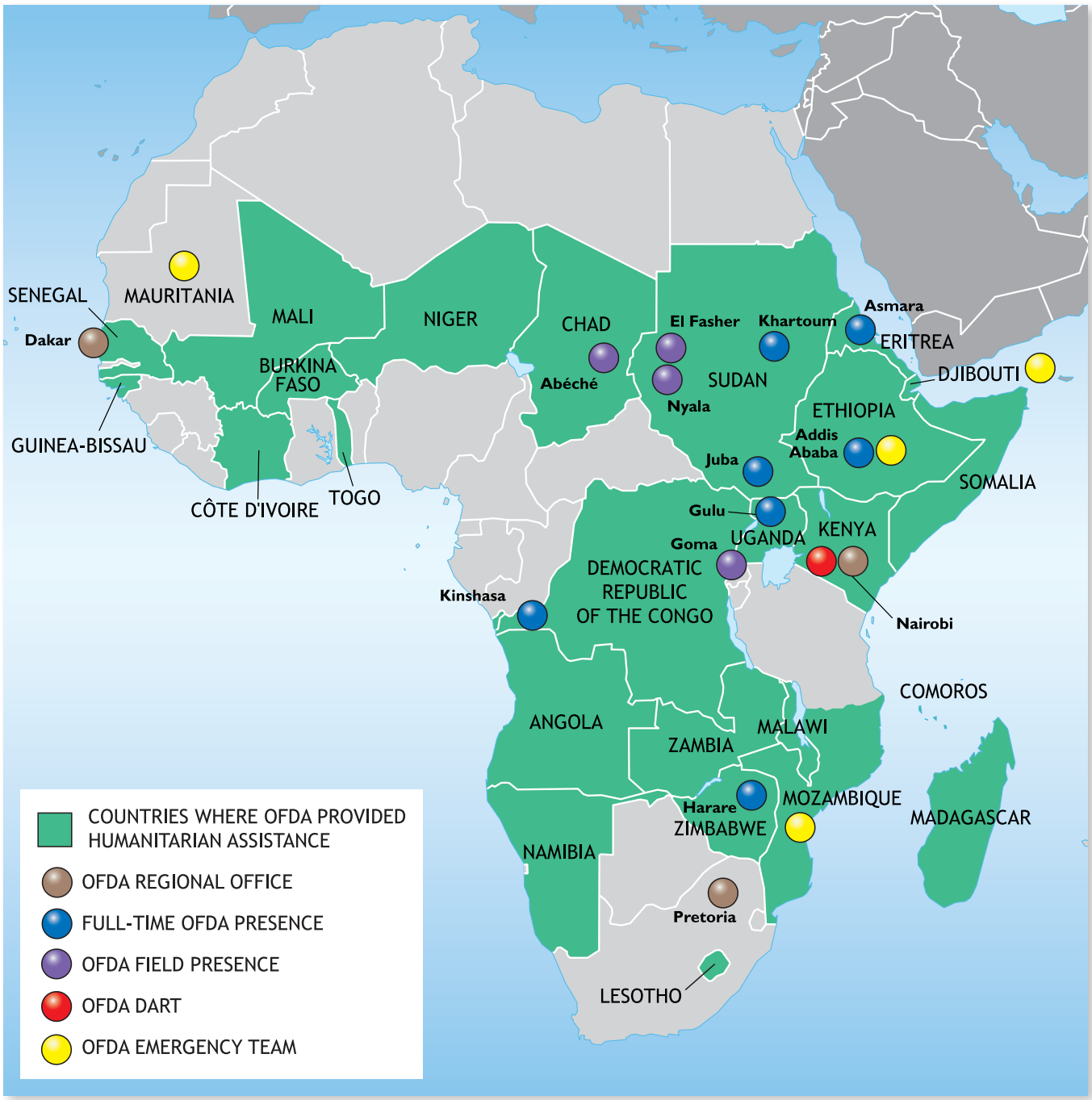
Photo by Alexandra Riboul, USAID

Photo by Alexandra Riboul, USAID

Courtesy of World Vision

AFRICA

OFDA REGIONAL RESPONSES AND PRESENCE IN FY 2008



OFDA responded to 28 disasters in 25 countries in Africa in FY 2008. Complex humanitarian emergencies continued in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. OFDA responded to flooding in Angola, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Togo, and Zambia.

In total, OFDA provided more than $285 million in funding for humanitarian programs in Africa. OFDA deployed DARTs in response to election violence in Kenya and the Horn of Africa food crisis, as well as emergency teams to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mauritania, and Mozambique. In addition, OFDA maintained a field presence in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, and regional offices in Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa.

ANGOLA – Floods

From late January to March 2008, heavy rains in southern Angola led to flooding, particularly affecting Cunene and Kuando Kubango provinces. The floods killed 14 people and displaced 81,400 others in the two provinces, according to USAID/Angola staff and OCHA reports. In addition, the floods killed livestock and damaged or destroyed crops, roads, houses, and schools. The Government of Angola Civil Protection Unit also indicated that the dispersed nature of the disaster limited accessibility and hindered response efforts in Kuando Kubango Province.

On April 11, U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided nearly $75,000 through USAID/Angola for emergency relief supplies, logistics, and shelter materials to support flood-affected populations in the Cuito Cuanavale municipality of Kuando Kubango Province.

Implementing Partner in Angola
CARE

OFDA Assistance $74,945

Individuals examine maize harvested in Angola with the support of an OFDA-funded seed and tool distribution program (Photo by Sidney Velado, USAID).

BURKINA FASO – Meningitis Outbreak

In January 2008, Government of Burkina Faso (GOBF) health authorities began reporting seasonal meningitis cases, which appeared earlier than in 2007, when the country experienced the most severe meningitis outbreak in a decade. The most affected areas were in southwestern Burkina Faso along the Côte d'Ivoire border. According to WHO, between January and July 2008, health workers reported 9,701 suspected meningitis cases, including 955 deaths..

A child in Burkina Faso receives a vaccination through an OFDA-funded vaccination campaign (Photo by Alexandra Riboul, USAID).

Based on lessons learned from the 2007 response, the GOBF Ministry of Health (MOH), WHO, and UNICEF worked together to purchase and pre-position vaccines and medical supplies and to identify resources for personnel, laboratory work, and public education to better prepare for the 2008 outbreak. While the MOH provided funding from the national budget to

purchase 500,000 vaccine doses, donor funding was crucial to meeting additional requirements for the emergency.

On February 19, U.S. Ambassador Jeanine E. Jackson declared a disaster due to the magnitude and spread of the meningitis outbreak. In response, OFDA contributed nearly $500,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou for the purchase of vaccines and meningitis surveillance, education, and laboratory detection. Nearly 440,000 people benefited from the purchase of vaccinations. In conjunction with the vaccine stockpile provided by the MOH, OFDA-funded vaccines were the first to be used in the meningitis immunization program. OFDA's contribution during the early stages of the 2008 meningitis season played a critical role, mitigating the impact of the outbreak and saving lives.

Implementing Partners in Burkina Faso
UNICEF and WHO

OFDA Assistance $498,557

CHAD – Complex Emergency

Since 2003, inter-ethnic conflict, fighting between Government of Chad (GOC) forces and armed opposition groups, and cross-border raids from Sudanese militias based in neighboring Darfur have intensified, resulting in an amplified need for humanitarian assistance. Insecurity in Chad and the region has led to the continued internal displacement of more than 180,000 Chadians, according to UNHCR. Due to cross-border raids and regional conflict, increasing numbers of refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) have sought shelter in eastern Chad. According to UNHCR, Chad hosted more than 56,000 refugees from CAR and 250,000 Sudanese refugees in 2008. In addition to impacting IDP and refugee populations, the conflict continues to affect an estimated 700,000 people in host communities, according to OCHA. The influx of displaced populations into host communities in Chad strains limited resources and causes tensions between the populations.

In FY 2008, fighting and attacks targeting aid workers restricted the mobility of humanitarian workers and slowed the return of IDPs to crop-growing areas. In addition, intensified fighting along the Chad–Sudan border led to decreased operating space for NGOs and U.N. agencies, resulting in frequent suspensions of humanitarian assistance. Despite these challenges, U.N. agencies and NGOs continued to provide critical humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations.

On October 10, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Lucy Tamlyn redeclared a disaster in Chad due to ongoing insecurity and humanitarian needs. In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $7 million to support emergency programs in eastern Chad. Funding priorities included the transport of emergency relief supplies as well as health, agriculture and food security, nutrition, humanitarian coordination and information management, humanitarian air transportation, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

FACTOID

Semi-arid Sahelian countries in the region known as Africa's meningitis belt are hit each year by meningitis outbreaks during the dry season from December to June. Every 10 to 12 years, the meningitis bacterium reaches peak outbreak levels in the belt, which extends from Mauritania in West Africa to Ethiopia in East Africa.

Recognizing the importance of preparing for and mitigating the impact of a meningitis outbreak, OFDA and the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou worked together to provide early support to the response in FY 2008. The early response and OFDA's contribution prevented the outbreak from reaching the magnitude of the 2007 outbreak and saved lives. The number of cases was significantly lower than in 2007 as vaccines and resources were available sooner. In 2007, approximately 26,047 suspected cases were reported from January to July, compared to 9,701 for the same time period in 2008. The number of deaths for the same time period was nearly halved: 955 in 2008 compared to 1,776 in 2007.

To improve food security, build livelihoods, and diffuse resource-related competition between various groups, OFDA provided agricultural inputs to displaced populations and host communities. In FY 2008, OFDA-funded programs supported seed and tool fairs, animal care, seed distributions, and training. OFDA-supported health programs included malaria control and prevention and the establishment of mobile health clinics to increase access to basic services and help reduce the risk of waterborne illnesses and endemic diseases in areas where displaced populations gathered. OFDA-funded malaria prevention activities benefited more than 196,000 people through the distribution of more than 38,300 insecticide-treated nets.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in eastern Chad through FFP. In FY 2008, FFP provided 46,960 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including sorghum, lentils, vegetable oil, wheat, cornmeal, corn-soya blend, and yellow split peas.

In FY 2008, State/PRM continued to assist IDPs and refugees in eastern Chad through programs focused on protection, refugee repatriation and integration, conflict prevention, income generation, education, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Implementing Partners in Chad
ACF, ACTED, Air Serv International, CRS, FAO, IMC, MENTOR, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, and World Concern Development Organization

OFDA Assistance $7,061,507

FACTOID

Chad and Sudan are closely linked by history, ethnicity, and political ties. Many ethnic groups in Darfur and eastern Chad move freely across the Chad–Sudan border, allowing groups to remain close through family ties, common resources, and culture. The Zaghawa ethnic group, which lives primarily in Chad and western Sudan, plays a role in both countries, holding political power in the GOC and taking part in Darfuri armed opposition groups. The complex ties between Chad and Sudan have posed difficulties for both governments, as the Sudanese government accuses Chad of supporting Darfuri armed opposition groups and the GOC accuses Sudan of allowing Chadian armed opposition groups to operate from Darfur.

IDPs and host community members watch a malaria education program in Dar Sila Region, eastern Chad (Courtesy of United Methodist News Service).

COMOROS – Complex Emergency

On March 25, 2008, a joint attack on the island of Anjouan by the Union of the Comoros Government and African Union forces to remove separatist President Mohamed Bacar led to the collapse of civilian administration and the disruption of basic services and needed imports. According to the U.N., the attack resulted in limited displacement from Ouani and Barracani towns to the surrounding mountains. In anticipation of the fighting, population movement had previously occurred in December 2007 and February 2008 from Mutsamudu and Ouani towns to villages along the coast, as well as to the neighboring islands of Grande Comoros and Moheli. According to the U.N., as of March 26, an estimated 294 Anjouan IDPs had taken shelter in Moheli. Months of difficult conditions under Bacar and insecurity exacerbated high commodity and fuel prices, increasing food security concerns. WHO reported low implementation capacity, weak logistics and transport systems, and staff safety as the primary challenges to the relief effort.

On March 31, U.S. Ambassador R. Niels Marquardt declared a disaster due to the complex emergency in the Comoros. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Madagascar for transportation and logistical support to facilitate the provision of emergency relief supplies for affected populations.

Implementing Partner in the Comoros
UNDP

OFDA Assistance $50,000

FACTOID

The Comoros, comprising three small volcanic islands in the Mozambique Channel, are located 190 miles northwest of Madagascar. Since gaining independence from France in 1975, the Comoros have experienced more than 20 coups or attempted coups, the most recent of which occurred in 2008.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE – Complex Emergency

Since the signing of the Ouagadougou peace agreement in March 2007, Côte d'Ivoire has made significant strides towards peace and stability after an attempted coup d'état in September 2002 divided the country into an opposition-held north and a government-controlled south. According to UNICEF, the resulting insecurity displaced 709,000 people. Of the approximately 80,000 people displaced in western Côte d'Ivoire at the height of the crisis, more than 61,000 have returned to their villages of origin, according to OCHA.

While the security situation in most parts of Côte d'Ivoire continues to improve, the country continues to experience challenges. Intermittent conflict, land disputes, protection-related issues, and a fragile social and economic infrastructure continue to hinder the return of IDPs. In addition, erratic rainfall and increasing food prices negatively affected food security conditions for recent returnees, small-scale farmers, and rural households that purchase food from markets.

On December 4, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Wanda L. Nesbitt redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in Côte d'Ivoire. In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $1.6 million for programs focused on facilitating IDP returns and promoting social cohesion and stability in areas of return in western Côte d'Ivoire through protection, economy and market systems, agriculture, food security, and humanitarian coordination and information management activities.

OFDA partners managed multi-sectoral programs to support the continued safe, voluntary return and reintegration of IDPs to former areas of residence and to assist vulnerable populations in those areas. To promote social cohesion and reconciliation, ensure the protection of civilians, and prevent future violence, OFDA-funded programs monitored IDP returns and supported the expansion of peace committees and youth associations. More than 43,000 people in western Côte d'Ivoire benefited from OFDA-funded protection and peace building programs, and an estimated 2,500 youth participated in income-generating activities, including skills training and apprenticeships. OFDA also funded a project to rebuild 63 rural bridges to further facilitate IDP returns, promote social cohesion, and improve protection. To improve food security for

Children benefiting from an OFDA-funded program perform a traditional welcome dance for visiting USAID staff in western Côte d'Ivoire (Photo by Alexandra Riboul, USAID).

recent returnees and vulnerable households, OFDA partners provided seeds and agricultural tools to assist approximately 1,200 families to resume farming activities.

State/PRM supported the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees and provided ongoing assistance to refugees in Côte d'Ivoire, including health, education, water and sanitation, and gender-based violence prevention and response activities, as well as community services.

Implementing Partners in Côte d'Ivoire
FAO, IRC, OCHA, UNHCR, and WFP

OFDA Assistance $1,683,298

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – Complex Emergency

Since 1998, regional armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) resulted in an estimated 5.4 million deaths due to fighting, disease, and malnutrition, and led to the displacement of more than 3 million people.

In FY 2008, sporadic violence and a resurgence of fighting between armed opposition groups resulted in continued insecurity in the DRC. Despite an initial calm following the Goma Engagement Act in January 2008, clashes between Congolese forces and armed opposition groups in North Kivu Province intensified in August. According to OCHA, renewed fighting in North Kivu displaced approximately 100,000 people throughout surrounding provinces and increased the total number of IDPs in North Kivu to 800,000, the highest level since 2003. Attacks on NGO staff resulted in the evacuation of all but emergency personnel in many areas of North Kivu, significantly hindering response efforts. In addition, the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) reported that 3,000 children remained in armed opposition groups as of July, and incidents of forced child recruitment continued

to increase throughout northern DRC. According to OCHA, nearly 1.3 million IDPs required emergency assistance in 2008.

On October 9, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC. In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $18.3 million in emergency assistance targeting conflict-affected populations, prioritizing agriculture and food security, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

OFDA's response included more than $11 million to support vulnerable populations in North Kivu Province. Furthermore, OFDA partners improved access to health care for more than 1.2 million beneficiaries in eastern DRC through the provision of primary health services, staff training, and health structure rehabilitation for vulnerable populations and host communities. In addition, OFDA supported water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions for more than 1.1 million people to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

OFDA funded agriculture and food security programs to increase productivity and self-sufficiency of more than 1 million small farmer returnees. In addition, OFDA supported economic recovery activities, including cash-for-work and road rehabilitation, to increase market access for nearly 1 million targeted beneficiaries.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in the DRC through FFP, which contributed 42,960 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to meet the needs of conflict-affected populations throughout eastern DRC.

FACTOID

In 1999, armed opposition groups signed the Lusaka Peace Accord to end the violence in the DRC. The U.N. Security Council established MONUC to monitor the ceasefire and oversee implementation of the agreement. MONUC continues to exist a decade later and remains the largest U.N. peacekeeping body. Troops from 18 countries participate in ongoing monitoring and disarmament activities.

Photo Caption: Congolese women farmers display the cassava harvest (Photo by Michelle Shirley, USAID).

State/PRM supported victims of conflict in eastern DRC and Congolese refugees returning primarily from Tanzania and Zambia. Through implementing partners, State/PRM facilitated population movement to areas of origin and provided repatriation and reintegration assistance to returnees.

Implementing Partners in the DRC
ASI, Concern, GAA, Handicap International, IMC, IRC, Mercy Corps, Merlin, Première Urgence, UNHCR, and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance $18,294,707

DJIBOUTI – Cholera Epidemic

From January to November 2007, limited access to safe drinking water and poor sanitation and hygiene conditions led to a surge in diarrhea and cholera cases in Djibouti, primarily affecting Djibouti City and nearby Dikhil and Tadjourah districts, according to the Government of Djibouti (GODJ). WHO reported approximately 562 confirmed cases, including 6 deaths, related to the epidemic. On November 16, the GODJ Minister of Health declared a cholera epidemic in parts of Djibouti City and surrounding areas and requested international assistance with the epidemic response.

On November 20, U.S. Ambassador W. Stuart Symington declared a disaster due to the growing incidence of diarrhea and cholera in Djibouti. In response, OFDA provided $100,000 for the purchase of treatment supplies and the facilitation of an intensive health, sanitation, and hygiene education campaign, targeted at 200,000 individuals, to prevent further spread of diarrheal diseases.

DOD also provided medical supplies and the use of a nearby laboratory in Egypt for testing of diarrhea cases.

Implementing Partner in Djibouti
UNICEF

OFDA Assistance $100,000

DJIBOUTI – Drought

Insufficient rainfall from September 2007 to May 2008 led to drought conditions throughout Djibouti, primarily affecting pastoralists in rural areas. According to the GODJ, more than 50 percent of livestock perished countrywide due to a lack of water and pasture, negatively affecting pastoralist livelihoods and exacerbating deteriorating food security for an estimated 100,000 people. On April 17, the GODJ declared a humanitarian emergency in most areas of Djibouti.

In September 2008, FEWS NET estimated that at least 340,000 people required emergency assistance as a result of the ongoing drought and deteriorating food security.

FACTOID

The Port of Djibouti has been a major trading center for the past 3,500 years, serving as a meeting point for Egyptians, Romans, Greeks, Byzantines, and Europeans looking for the Spice Route. Now the port is the second largest and third deepest port in the world, serving up to ten ships from three continents and discharging more than 6,000 tons of cargo per day. During the 2008 USG response to food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, the Port of Djibouti served as the transport hub for USG food aid deliveries to affected areas in the region.

On May 21, 2008, U.S. Ambassador W. Stuart Symington declared a disaster due to the drought. In response, OFDA provided nearly $500,000 to support an emergency response program and provide therapeutic feeding for approximately 25,000 acutely malnourished children. In addition, OFDA deployed a DART to Kenya and activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT in response to growing food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, including Djibouti.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Djibouti through FFP, which contributed 150 MT of P.L. 480 Title

II emergency food assistance to support food security. Food commodities included wheat flour, vegetable oil, lentils, and corn soy blend.

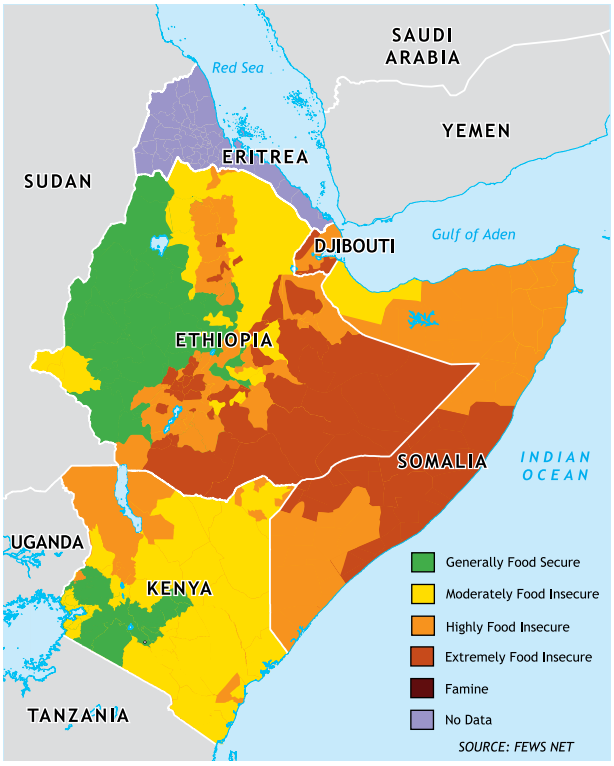
Implementing Partner in Djibouti
UNICEF

OFDA Assistance $497,550

ERITREA – Complex Emergency

Chronic drought conditions in Eritrea have negatively impacted food security, health, nutrition, and water availability for urban and rural populations since 2000. In FY 2008, FAO estimated that 1.7 million people likely continued to face difficult food security conditions as a result of consecutive failed rains and rising food prices associated with the regional food security crisis in the Horn of Africa. The most affected regions included Northern Red Sea, Southern Red Sea, Anseba, and Debub. Economic and political challenges, including a lack of human resources due to high levels of military conscription and shortages of agricultural inputs, also contributed to the disruption of agricultural production and economic development, exacerbating existing poverty levels and causing humanitarian conditions to further deteriorate. Political constraints continued to impede comprehensive assessments and monitoring efforts. However, in August, WHO reported global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates above the emergency threshold of 15 percent countrywide. GAM rates ranged from 11 to 21 percent, due to drought-related household food insecurity.

Food Security in the Horn of Africa in FY 2008



On October 12, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Jennifer A. McIntyre redeclared a disaster in Eritrea due to ongoing food and water insecurity. In response to increased humanitarian needs associated with the regional food security crisis, OFDA deployed a DART to Kenya to conduct field assessments, liaise with partners on the ground, and identify unmet humanitarian needs during the month of September. OFDA also activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to support the DART, monitor humanitarian conditions, and coordinate with relief agencies operating in Eritrea and other countries in the region from June to September.

In FY 2008, OFDA contributed more than $3 million in humanitarian assistance for drought-affected areas in Eritrea. OFDA-funded programs supported health, humanitarian coordination and information management, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities. To promote improved health among affected populations, OFDA funded vitamin A supplementation that benefited approximately 400,000 people. With OFDA assistance, partners also reached approximately 34,000 beneficiaries through ongoing hygiene education initiatives, improved food storage systems, and increased access to potable water.

Implementing Partners in Eritrea
OCHA and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance $3,006,404

ETHIOPIA – Complex Emergency

In FY 2008, populations in Ethiopia experienced food insecurity and water shortages due to cyclical droughts exacerbated by a rapidly increasing population, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity. The delayed onset and poor performance of the March to April belg rains, combined with the failure of the previous two consecutive rainy seasons, resulted in below-normal

harvests and diminished pasture throughout Somali, Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions.

Flooding, conflict, malnutrition, acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks, delayed food aid delivery, and locust infestations affected populations in many areas of Ethiopia. In Somali Region, insurgent activity and security operations disrupted trade networks. Restrictions on the movement of people and livestock, combined with the onset of drought conditions, exacerbated food insecurity for vulnerable populations. In September, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development identified 5.6 million participants in the GFDRE-run Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and an additional 6.4 million people outside the PSNP as requiring emergency food assistance.

On October 15, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Deborah R. Malac redeclared a disaster in Ethiopia due to ongoing humanitarian needs. On December 18, 2007, USAID deployed a Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) to Ethiopia to assess conditions and determine humanitarian needs of affected populations in Somali Region. In coordination with USAID/Ethiopia and the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, the HAT conducted multiple humanitarian assessments to examine health, nutrition, food security, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in Somali Region, as well as other drought-affected regions countrywide in response to increased food insecurity and malnutrition.

In response to the regional food security crisis in the Horn of Africa and upsurge in humanitarian needs between June and September 2008, including in Ethiopia, OFDA deployed a DART to Kenya to conduct field assessments, liaise with partners on the ground, and identify unmet humanitarian needs during the month of September. OFDA also activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to monitor humanitarian conditions and coordinate with relief agencies operating in Ethiopia and other countries in the region from June to September.

In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $35 million for humanitarian interventions in Ethiopia, including $3.9 million for the local purchase of food. In addition, OFDA-supported relief activities included agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs.

OFDA-funded programs benefited more than 5.6 million people throughout Ethiopia in FY 2008, including more than 1.5 million beneficiaries of health and nutrition programs in Oromiya, Somali, Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP regions through support for community-based therapeutic care, basic health care, and measles vaccination campaigns. In addition, OFDA food security and agriculture programs strengthened animal health services to mitigate the impact of livestock diseases and improve pastoralist resilience to shocks, such as drought.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Ethiopia through FFP, which contributed 351,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, benefiting approximately 6.5 million food-insecure individuals throughout Ethiopia.

An Ethiopian mother and child wait to meet with medical staff at a local health clinic (Photo by Liza Mantilla, USAID).

State/PRM continued to assist refugees through the provision of protection activities and emergency food assistance countrywide.

Implementing Partners in Ethiopia
ADRA, CARE, CHF International, CISP, Concern, CRS, FAO, FEWS NET, GOAL, IMC, IRC, Mercy Corps, Merlin, OCHA, Samaritan's Purse, SC/UK, SC/US, UNDP, UNICEF, Tufts University, and WFP

OFDA Assistance $35,151,414

GUINEA-BISSAU – Cholera Outbreak

Beginning in mid-May 2008, cholera spread from the Tombali Region to all of Guinea-Bissau's 11 regions, particularly affecting the capital city Bissau. On September 3, an in-country team of epidemiologists from the CDC reported approximately 900 new cases per week, with a case fatality rate of nearly 20 percent. As of October 28, the outbreak had resulted in at least 12,900 cases and 216 reported deaths, according to UNICEF. The CDC indicated that a lack of commercially available options to treat water systems had hampered the effectiveness of measures to contain the outbreak.

Cholera patients receive treatment at Bissau's Simao Mendes Hospital in Guinea-Bissau (Photo by Ronald Mortensen, USAID).

On September 17, U.S. Ambassador Marcia S. Bernicat declared a disaster due to the cholera outbreak. In response, OFDA provided $100,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Dakar for school-based interventions to lower the risk of contamination, including improvements to school sanitation, provision of disinfected water, and training in sanitation awareness. The activities benefited an estimated 2,500 children.

Implementing Partner in Guinea-Bissau
UNICEF

OFDA Assistance $100,000

KENYA – Complex Emergency

Following disputed presidential election results in Kenya in late December 2007, violence erupted across the country, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 1,200 people, the displacement of more than 500,000 others, and damage to homes, agricultural land, and small businesses, according to the Government of Kenya National Disaster Operations Center. The most affected areas included Nyanza, Rift Valley, Coast, Central, and Western provinces. Insecurity and roadblocks also temporarily disrupted transport networks, impeding commercial traffic, cross-border trade, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance within Kenya and to neighboring countries.

In addition, the collective impact of drought, rising commodity prices, livestock disease, election-related violence, and chronic under-development in Kenya resulted in a food security crisis affecting approximately 1.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the U.N., government, and NGO consortium of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group. The total included approximately 300,000 people affected by post-election violence in early 2008 and approximately 1.1 million people in arid and semi-arid areas of Rift Valley, Eastern, and North Eastern provinces.

Erratic rainfall and an outbreak of the livestock disease peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in northern pastoral areas diminished livestock production and killed an estimated 1.2 million goats and sheep, negatively affecting nutrition and food security among pastoralist populations dependent on livestock for their livelihoods.

In addition, interrupted domestic crop production and trade related to the post-election crisis in early 2008 and an increase in staple food prices by more than 100 percent in many areas further exacerbated food insecurity.

On January 3, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Michael E. Ranneberger declared a disaster due to the effects of election-related violence in Kenya. In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $11 million for humanitarian interventions in response to post-election violence and food insecurity, including health, nutrition, economy and market systems, logistics and relief commodities, humanitarian coordination and information management, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene sector programs. In addition, OFDA deployed a DART to Kenya in January in response to post-election violence, followed by the activation of a Washington, D.C.-based RMT in June and the deployment of a second DART in September as part of a regional response to the growing food security crisis in the Horn of Africa.

Two Kenyan women and their babies sit together outside a local health center (Photo by Yoni Bock, USAID).

Immediately following the onset of post-election violence in Kenya, OFDA airlifted 650 rolls of plastic sheeting, valued at nearly $565,000, including transport. The relief commodities benefited 120,000 displaced people in Rift Valley Province. OFDA also supported health programs, including mobile clinics, to prevent disease outbreaks and reduce morbidity from communicable diseases. In addition, OFDA-funded implementing partners assisted violence-affected populations through the enhancement of local organizations' capacity to provide access to protection activities, support child tracing programs, and offer immediate psychosocial support.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Kenya through FFP, which contributed nearly 90,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance countrywide.

In FY 2008, State/PRM continued to assist refugees and IDPs through programs addressing health, shelter, camp management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Implementing Partners in Kenya
African Medical and Research Foundation, CRS, GAA, IMC, Kenya Red Cross Society, UNHCR, and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance $11,323,946

LESOTHO – Food Insecurity

Persistent drought and failed crops since December 2006 and subsequent commodity price increases contributed to food insecurity in Lesotho during FY 2008, affecting approximately 553,000 individuals, or nearly 30 percent of the population. According to a USAID assessment, the combined effects of six consecutive poor harvests and the more than doubling of maize prices compared to FY 2007 resulted in an elevated risk of acute malnutrition countrywide in FY 2008. In addition, increased food prices undermined the ability of vulnerable households to compensate for harvest failures with market purchases, further exacerbating food insecurity concerns.

Women in Lesotho access safe drinking water through an OFDA-funded water point (Photo by Sezin Tokar, USAID).

On October 11, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Robert B. Nolan redeclared a disaster due to ongoing food insecurity in Lesotho. In response, OFDA provided $24,000 to support nutrition interventions, including a countrywide nutrition survey.

Implementing Partner in Lesotho
ACF

OFDA Assistance $24,000

MADAGASCAR – Cyclone

On February 17, 2008, Tropical Cyclone Ivan hit Madagascar's densely populated eastern coast, affecting areas in Toamasina Province and the offshore island of Île Sainte Marie. Tropical Cyclone Ivan brought heavy rains and winds of more than 125 mph to the affected regions upon landfall. The cyclone resulted in the deaths of 93 people, displaced an estimated 190,000 others, and affected more than 330,000 people in total, according to the U.N. In addition, the cyclone flooded more than 50,000 hectares of rice fields, destroyed bridges and other infrastructure, and rendered many roads impassable.

On February 19, U.S. Ambassador R. Niels Marquardt declared a disaster due to the impact of Cyclone Ivan. In response, OFDA provided an initial $100,000 through USAID/Madagascar to immediately re-establish ground access to affected communities and deliver emergency relief supplies and food aid. OFDA also airlifted 320 rolls of plastic sheeting, valued at $211,275, which provided shelter assistance to more than 3,000 affected families. Between March 6 and 7, an OFDA regional advisor traveled to cyclone-affected areas in eastern Madagascar with implementing partners to assess the storm-related damage. Based on the assessment, OFDA provided more than $915,000 in additional

FACTOID

The Southern Africa tropical cyclone season occurs from November to April and peaks in January and February. An average of 10.4 tropical storms occur each year in the southwest Indian Ocean basin, including 4.4 tropical cyclones. According to Météo France, a total of six tropical cyclones occurred in the region during the 2007-2008 Tropical Cyclone season, three of which affected Madagascar.

Following Cyclone Ivan, residents of Madagascar construct a new roof with plastic sheeting from OFDA (Courtesy of CARE).

funding to support flood-affected populations. To meet food security needs of vulnerable families, OFDA supported a post-cyclone agriculture and economic recovery program, benefiting more than 62,000 people. In addition, OFDA supported the provision of seeds for replanting flood-damaged rice fields.

Implementing Partners in Madagascar
CARE and WFP

OFDA Assistance $1,226,449

MALAWI – Floods

Between mid-November 2007 and April 2008, heavy rains in central and southern Malawi led to flooding in 15 of the country's 28 districts, affecting more than 180,000 people, according to OCHA. The Government of Malawi estimated that floods resulted in the displacement of 5,756 households. A total of 22,707 households lost crops. In the most affected districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje, flooding affected more than 19,600 households. In addition, floods submerged property and damaged infrastructure, cutting off access to several areas and restricting access to basic services, such as health clinics and schools, according to USAID/Malawi.

A local beneficiary stands amidst crops, grown with the support of the OFDA-funded RIPE program, in Malawi (Photo by Alexandra Riboul, USAID).

On April 1, U.S. Ambassador Alan W. Eastham declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided nearly $460,000 for agriculture and food security activities in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts, including seeds and agricultural input programming that benefited an estimated 69,000 people.

Implementing Partner in Malawi
CRS

OFDA Assistance $455,943

A woman begins rebuilding her flood-damaged home in Mali (Photo by Jonathan Richter, USAID).

MALI – Floods

Beginning in July 2007, heavy rainfall caused flooding across Mali, particularly affecting Kayes, Koulikoro, Segou, Mopti, Sikasso, and Gao regions. According to the U.N., the floods resulted in the deaths of 9 people, displaced 4,575 others, and affected nearly 43,000 individuals. The Government of Mali (GOM) reported that floods also destroyed crops and nearly 5,000 houses, damaged infrastructure, and contaminated wells. In addition, GOM officials postponed the start

of the academic school year for several weeks due to the presence of displaced families in school facilities.

On October 1, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Terrence P. McCulley declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Mali to decontaminate 396 wells and provide support to families hosting displaced persons.

Implementing Partner in Mali
CRS

OFDA Assistance $50,000

MOZAMBIQUE – Floods

Unusually heavy rainfall from December 2007 to March 2008, compounded by severe rainfall in the neighboring countries of Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, resulted in flooding in northern Mozambique and along the Zambezi River Basin in central Mozambique. The floods affected Sofala, Manica, Inhambane, Zambezia, Nampula, and Cabo Delgado provinces. According to the U.N., flooding resulted in the deaths of 20 people and affected more than 173,000 others, including more than 110,000 people displaced to resettlement centers for several months. According to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique (GRM) Ministry of Agriculture, flooding destroyed more than 150,000 hectares of agricultural land in the affected regions, negatively impacting food security. In addition, WHO reported an increased incidence of cholera and other waterborne diseases in flood-affected areas due to damage to sanitation facilities and inadequate access to safe drinking water.

On February 6, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Todd Chapman declared a disaster in Mozambique due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided an initial $50,000 through USAID/Mozambique for water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Chinde and Morrumbala districts in Zambezia Province. In mid-February, a USAID assessment team traveled to flood-affected areas in Manica and Sofala provinces to assess damage and identify priority needs. Based on the team's assessments, OFDA provided an additional $1.3 million to meet the emergency needs of approximately 52,500 flood-affected individuals in Mozambique. In response to concerns regarding the spread of waterborne diseases, OFDA supported water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, including the provision of hygiene kits and implementation of sanitation programs in resettlement centers. In addition, OFDA funded agriculture and food security programs in the flood-affected Zambezi River Valley

A road damaged by flooding impedes travel in Mopeia, Mozambique (Photo by Tresja Denysenko, USAID).

and in Nampula District, benefiting approximately 32,500 individuals.

USAID also responded to emergency needs through USAID/Mozambique. USAID/Mozambique supported food security programs in affected areas through seed fairs and provided emergency relief supplies, including insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

Implementing Partners in Mozambique
IRD, SC/UK, and WFP

OFDA Assistance $1,377,023

NAMIBIA – Floods

Starting in January 2008, heavy rains in northern and northeastern Namibia, compounded by severe rainfall in the neighboring countries of Angola and Zambia, led to flooding in Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana, and Caprivi regions. The floods killed 42 people and affected an estimated 65,000 others, according to OCHA and the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) Emergency and Disaster Management Directorate. In addition, the floods damaged infrastructure, crops, and roads and hampered patients' access to health clinics. On March 4, the GRN requested international assistance to alleviate the impact of the floods.

On March 5, U.S. Ambassador Gail D. Mathieu declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Namibia to support emergency relief efforts for flood-affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Namibia
Namibian Red Cross Society

OFDA Assistance $50,000

Only roofs are visible above high flood waters in northern Namibia (Photo by Janice Wessel, USAID).

NIGER – Floods

Heavy rainfall in mid-July 2008 caused flooding in several villages of Niger's central region of Zinder. According to OCHA, floods affected more than 32,000 individuals and caused 7 deaths. Floods also destroyed a bridge, three mosques, and several businesses and submerged a number of agricultural fields. According to the U.S. Embassy in Niamey, the Government of Niger provided temporary shelter in local schools and distributed food to flood-affected families.

On July 28, U.S. Ambassador Bernadette M. Allen declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Niamey for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including blankets, mosquito nets, mats, and water containers.

Implementing Partner in Niger
Red Cross Society of Niger

OFDA Assistance $50,000

SENEGAL – Floods

Beginning in mid-August 2008, heavy rains flooded several communities throughout Senegal, particularly affecting neighborhoods in the capital city, Dakar. According to the Senegalese Red Cross (SRC) and IFRC, 2,882 families, or approximately 23,600 people, remained in their homes and required urgent assistance. A joint assessment team comprising representatives from USAID, SRC, and IFRC observed that some residents could access homes only through polluted standing water and were utilizing contaminated tap water for hygiene purposes. Since many residents were in direct contact with stagnant pools of water, domestic waste, garbage, latrine run-off, and leeches, communities became increasingly vulnerable to malaria, as well as cholera and other waterborne diseases.

Individuals venture through a street of algae-filled water following flooding in Senegal (Photo by Ronald Mortensen, USAID).

On September 25, U.S. Ambassador Marcia S. Bernicat declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. Based on the results of a September 29 assessment, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Dakar to train and support volunteers in carrying out a rapid hygiene awareness campaign in affected communities.

Implementing Partner in Senegal
IFRC

OFDA Assistance $50,000

SOMALIA – Complex Emergency

Since 1991, widespread violence, political instability, endemic poverty, and recurring cycles of flooding and drought have generated an ongoing complex emergency in Somalia. High inflation, massive population movements, and outbreaks of cholera throughout the country have complicated the situation. In addition, piracy and fighting between the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the Ethiopian military, and armed militias opposed to the TFG have led to a further deterioration in humanitarian conditions and hampered the response efforts.

In FY 2008, failed or poor rainfall, including the insufficient performance of the April to June gu rains, resulted in the worst cereal harvest in southern Somalia in more than a decade and heightened concerns regarding food security. According to FAO, food and non-food costs increased between 55 and 130 percent in urban areas from early 2007 levels, further exacerbating food insecurity. Nutritional surveys conducted by FAO indicated sustained critical levels of acute malnutrition in most areas and global acute malnutrition rates above 20 percent in Gedo and Bakool regions and among IDP populations. In addition, USAID partners reported a significant

A Somali woman participates in a health education session for mothers with young children (Courtesy of UNICEF).

increase in the number of admissions to therapeutic feeding centers.

As of September 2008, an estimated 3.2 million Somalis required humanitarian assistance, representing nearly 43 percent of the total population and a 77 percent increase since January 2008, according to the Food Security Analysis Unit. The affected population included more than 700,000 urban poor, nearly 1.4 million rural Somalis, 870,000 IDPs displaced since February 2007, and nearly 280,000 long-term IDPs. In FY 2008, increased attacks against civilians, humanitarian staff, and civil society groups significantly impeded relief efforts, and in some cases halted critical humanitarian assistance, according to the U.N. Armed assailants killed 29 aid workers, hijacked or attempted to hijack at least 25 vehicles, and looted more than 80 food aid distribution sites, warehouses, and convoys.

On October 3, 2007, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster in Somalia due to the ongoing complex emergency for the 19th consecutive year. In response, OFDA deployed a DART to Kenya as part of a regional response to the growing food security crisis in the Horn of Africa and activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to support the DART.

In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $51 million to support humanitarian assistance programs in Somalia, benefiting nearly 3 million people, including more than $20 million for the regional purchase of food aid to support WFP operations. OFDA-funded programs targeted the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations through activities in agriculture and food security, humanitarian coordination and information management, economy and market systems, health, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, shelter, risk reduction, transportation, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Approximately 1 million Somalis benefited from OFDA-supported emergency health activities, including nutrition care for IDPs and host communities and the

provision of emergency health services to children and pregnant and lactating women. More than 800,000 Somalis benefited from water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, including activities designed to improve access to adequate, safe, and affordable water for humans and livestock through the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities and the promotion of good hygiene practices to reduce the risk of spreading waterborne diseases.

OFDA supported agriculture and food security interventions, including seed distribution to support local seed systems, provision of fishing gear to improve food availability and generate income, and support for food security monitoring and projection analysis. In addition, OFDA-funded economy and market systems activities included market infrastructure rehabilitation to stimulate agricultural productivity and short-term employment to improve asset bases.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Somalia through FFP, which contributed 211,320 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, more than quadrupling FY 2007 food contributions. FFP emergency food assistance included cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and corn-soya blend to feed malnourished children and lactating mothers countrywide.

State/PRM continued to assist refugees and IDPs through the provision of relief commodities, protection, shelter, logistics, health programs, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

Implementing Partners in Somalia
ADRA, CARE, FAO, FEWS NET, ICRC, IMC, Medair, Mercy Corps, Mercy USA, Merlin, OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, World Concern, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance $51,202,443

SUDAN – Complex Emergency

In FY 2008, populations in Sudan continued to cope with the effects of conflict, displacement, and insecurity countrywide. In Darfur, fighting among armed opposition factions, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), militias, and ethnic groups continued, causing additional displacement. According to OCHA, clashes and insecurity displaced more than 315,000 people within Darfur and to eastern Chad in 2008, bringing the total IDP population to nearly 2.7 million individuals. Increased insecurity, bureaucratic obstacles, and attacks on relief workers limited humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations and led to the suspension of several NGO programs. By October 2008, U.N. agencies could only reach 65 percent of the conflict-affected population in Darfur, representing the lowest access levels for aid workers since the conflict began. Insecurity and violence in Darfur IDP camps further constrained the humanitarian response and led to a deteriorating humanitarian situation as the conflict displaced some individuals for the second or third time. Despite these challenges, relief agencies continued to provide essential humanitarian assistance to populations in need.

In Southern Sudan and the Three Areas of Southern Kordofan State, Blue Nile State, and the Abyei area, displaced populations continued to return to places

FACTOID

The Three Areas, which consist of Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, are among the most contested areas in Sudan. During the north–south conflict, fighting and violence caused significant damage and displacement in the Three Areas due to the area's location along the north–south border and history as a Sudan People's Liberation Movement stronghold. Since the signing of the CPA in 2005, the Three Areas have faced a large influx of returnees, poverty, insecurity, and a lack of basic infrastructure, in addition to stalled political progress. In north–south border zones, resource-related conflict over water and grazing areas poses additional challenges to post-conflict recovery and peaceful resettlement efforts. Due to the strategic location of the Three Areas and significant natural resources in the area, many observers view progress on the Three Areas as crucial to upholding the CPA and continuing the ceasefire between the north and the south.

of origin and rebuild livelihoods, despite ongoing tension and strained resources in areas of return. The U.N. estimates that approximately 2.1 million people displaced during the more than two decades of north-south conflict have returned to Southern Sudan and the Three Areas since 2005, taxing scarce resources and weak infrastructure. In mid-May 2008, fighting between the SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Abyei caused significant damage and threatened to disrupt the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in 2005. According to OCHA, the renewed violence displaced approximately 50,000 people and affected an additional 40,000 individuals in surrounding communities. On June 8, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party signed the Abyei Roadmap Agreement, creating arrangements for a new Abyei administration and encouraging IDP returns.

In eastern Sudan, the Government of National Unity and the Eastern Front opposition coalition continued to implement the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA). However, implementation of the agreement has been slow, and several key aspects of the ESPA remain unfulfilled. In 2008, poor access continued to hamper implementation of humanitarian programs in eastern Sudan, and the area remains underdeveloped and slow to recover from decades of conflict.

On October 11, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Alberto M. Fernandez redeclared a disaster due to the complex emergency in Sudan. On November 23, USAID Administrator and Director of Foreign Assistance Henrietta H. Fore, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Fernandez, the USAID Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa, and the USAID/Sudan Mission Director traveled to El Fasher, North Darfur, and Juba, Central Equatoria State, to monitor USAID-funded programs and the humanitarian situation. Throughout the year, the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan, Richard S. Williamson, traveled to Darfur, the Three Areas, and Southern Sudan to address the ongoing conflict in Darfur, the implementation of the CPA, and the new Abyei Roadmap Agreement.

In response to the complex emergency, OFDA provided more than $137 million in FY 2008 to support humanitarian operations in Darfur, as well as relief programs in Southern Sudan, the Three Areas, and northern and eastern Sudan. OFDA-funded projects provided for basic needs of displaced persons, host communities, and conflict-affected populations. In Darfur, OFDA funding priorities included health, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, risk reduction, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics and relief commodities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. In FY 2008, OFDA implementing partners aimed to assist more than 4.2 million people in more than 100 locations in Darfur, including more than 2.4 million IDPs, with critical health programs.

A beneficiary, with her local women's group, weaves a basket in western Sudan (Photo by Allyson Stroschein, USAID).

In Southern Sudan and the Three Areas, OFDA-funded programs focused on community-based relief projects targeting areas with high numbers of returnees. In FY 2008, OFDA supported programs addressing needs in agriculture and food security,

health, economy and market systems, protection, logistics and relief commodities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. To support successful reintegration of returnees and reduce the impact of returns on host communities, OFDA maintained agriculture and food security programs that provided agricultural inputs, including seed and tool distributions and seed fairs, to more than 60,000 households.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Sudan through FFP. In FY 2008, FFP contributed 408,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance for Darfur, Southern Sudan, eastern Sudan, and the Three Areas, including sorghum, lentils, corn-soya blend, wheat, vegetable oil, and yellow split peas.

In FY 2008, State/PRM continued to provide assistance for IDPs and refugees in Darfur, as well as support for refugee repatriation and reintegration, health, education, protection, conflict prevention, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in other areas of Sudan.

Implementing Partners in Sudan
ACF, ACTED, ADRA, ARC, CARE, CHF International, Christian Mission Aid, Concern, CRS, FAO, FHI, GOAL, Humedica International, IMC, IOM, IRC, Medair, Mercy Corps, Merlin, Norwegian People's Aid, OCHA, PACT, Refugees International, Samaritan's Purse, SC/US, Solidarités, Tearfund, Terre Des Hommes, UMCOR, UNHCR, UNICEF, VSF/Belgium, WFP, WHO, World Relief International, World Vision, and ZOA Refugee Care

OFDA Assistance $137,305,984

TOGO – Floods

Heavy rainfall in August and September 2007 resulted in severe flooding in northern Togo's Savannah Region. According to Government of Togo (GOT) and U.N. assessments, flooding resulted in the deaths of 41 people and affected an estimated 127,800 others, including more than 13,700 individuals displaced from their homes. Floods also damaged bridges, dams, schools, health centers, crops, and grain stored from the 2006 harvest. The late start of the 2007 rainy season and subsequent floods exacerbated existing high levels of acute malnutrition in Savannah Region, according to the U.S. Embassy in Lomé. In addition, infrastructure damage restricted access in several areas, hindering the provision of relief assistance and the transport of basic commodities.

On October 1, OFDA received a disaster declaration from U.S. Ambassador David B. Dunn due to the effects of flooding. In response, OFDA provided nearly $410,000 for programs supporting agricultural recovery and food security, as well as the purchase and distribution of water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies, including buckets, soap, and water containers. To support agricultural recovery, OFDA funded seed recovery activities, benefiting an estimated 20,000 people in Savannah Region.

Implementing Partners in Togo
CARE, Togolese Red Cross Society, and WFP

OFDA Assistance $407,696

TOGO – Floods

Beginning in mid-July 2008, heavy rains led to flooding in central and southeastern Togo, including the cities of Lomé, Atakpame, and Vogan. UNDP estimated that the floods resulted in the deaths of 6 people and affected between 30,000 and 40,000 others, including 4,000 displaced families. According to OCHA, flood waters on the Haho and Zio rivers destroyed infrastructure, including a strategic bridge on the main north–south road linking Lomé to the rest of Togo, as well as nine other bridges, disrupting trade links with neighboring countries. OCHA also reported crop damage. The GOT evacuated flood-affected families to shelter in school buildings and camps established by the Togolese military.

On August 4, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Charles H. Twining declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Lomé for the provision of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Togo
Togolese Red Cross

OFDA Assistance $50,000

UGANDA – Complex Emergency

In FY 2008, decreased Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) activity led to general stability in northern Uganda following more than two decades of conflict. As a result of improved security, IDPs increasingly left camps for transit sites and areas of origin. To support returnees and a sustainable return process, humanitarian organizations continued to transition from relief to long-term development programming.

At the height of the conflict, violence had displaced approximately 1.8 million people in northern Uganda. According to OCHA, more than two thirds of IDPs had returned to villages of origin as of September 2008, including nearly 150,000 since May. In FY 2008, the Government of Uganda (GOU) appointed District Camp Phase Out Committees (DCPC) to oversee the close-out of remaining IDP camps throughout northern Uganda. UNHCR worked closely with the GOU to identify camps for future DCPC-led closure. However, poor sanitation in areas of origin and continued food insecurity challenged relief agencies supporting returns in FY 2008.

Members of the water committee in the Acholi Bur camp in Uganda sit next to the concrete water tank they manage (Photo by Alan Dwyer, USAID).

On October 18, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Andrew G. Chritton redeclared a disaster in Uganda due to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda. In FY 2008, multiple USAID assessment teams traveled to affected areas to identify returnee needs. In addition, OFDA provided more than $6.8 million to support emergency activities in the nutrition, protection, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors. OFDA concentrated assistance in areas of high return to facilitate a sustainable return process.

Through the support of water, sanitation, and hygiene programs in Kitgum and Pader districts, OFDA improved access to clean water and sanitation practices for more than 400,000 beneficiaries. Interventions helped contain and reduce an outbreak of Hepatitis E (HEV) in northern Uganda primarily affecting returnees. Response efforts by OFDA, the GOU, and other OFDA partners resulted in a steady decline in the number of reported HEV cases throughout September. In addition, OFDA-supported seed and tool distribution programs increased food production and improved livelihoods for returnees. OFDA-funded programs also increased market access through improved road infrastructure, and continued to support nutrition surveillance for vulnerable populations.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Uganda through FFP, which contributed 47,580 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance.

In addition, OTI provided humanitarian assistance through water, sanitation, and hygiene programs to educate returnees on the prevention of HEV. OTI also strengthened the capacity of key radio stations to provide information to IDPs about conditions in areas of origin, allowing affected populations to make informed decisions on voluntary return.

State/PRM continued to assist refugees and victims of conflict in Uganda through programs addressing protection, food security, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Implementing Partners in Uganda
AVSI, Cooperazione e Sviluppo Onlu, IRC, Medair, Mercy Corps, OCHA, and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance $6,812,840

UGANDA – Ebola Outbreak

On November 26, 2007, the CDC confirmed an outbreak of Ebola virus in Bundibugyo District, western Uganda. Between late November and February 2008, nearly 150 confirmed cases of Ebola left 37 people dead, according to the GOU. Although the Ebola outbreak did not spread outside of Bundibugyo District, the outbreak drained the resources of the GOU to adequately respond.

On December 6, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Andrew G. Chritton declared a disaster due to the Ebola outbreak. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 for the transport of samples from Bundibugyo District to a national laboratory for testing.

In addition, USAID/Global Health provided personal protective equipment for health care staff working in affected areas, and the CDC set up a national laboratory for the testing of samples.

Implementing Partner in Uganda
CDC

OFDA Assistance $50,000

ZAMBIA – Floods

Beginning in December 2007, heavy rains in southern Zambia led to flooding in Lusaka, Eastern, Western, and Southern provinces. The floods killed at least 10 people and displaced more than 34,000 others, according to the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) Vulnerability Assessment Committee. In addition, the floods destroyed roads, bridges, and crops. On February 1, 2008, the GRZ requested international assistance to alleviate the impact of the floods.

On March 4, U.S. Ambassador Carmen M. Martinez declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided nearly $980,000 for agriculture and food security activities and the distribution of emergency relief supplies, helping to reduce food insecurity through seed systems and agricultural inputs programming.

Implementing Partners in Zambia
Africare and Sterling Export Corporation

OFDA Assistance $975,579

The Vice President of Zambia greets U.S. Ambassador Carmen M. Martinez (Courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka).

ZIMBABWE – Complex Emergency

Conditions for most Zimbabweans continued to deteriorate in FY 2008 due to the country's collapsing economy, declining access to basic social services and staple food items, the effects of HIV/AIDS, the ban on humanitarian aid, and increasing political violence. Detrimental Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) policies, corruption, and declining agricultural production exacerbated the humanitarian situation. Following eight consecutive years of economic decline characterized by hyperinflation and high unemployment rates, Zimbabwe has been unable to maintain the infrastructure necessary for agricultural production, water and sanitation services, health services, power facilities, and steady fuel supply. In addition, commercial land redistribution policies resulted in a dramatic decline in domestic food production.

The March 29, 2008, presidential and legislative elections in Zimbabwe heightened political tension, leading to general insecurity and significant violence by forces loyal to the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front against perceived supporters and members of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change. According to OCHA, the instability and attacks displaced more than 30,000 people, creating new humanitarian needs and compounding the complex emergency in the country. The GOZ suspension of relief activities in Zimbabwe from June 4 to August 29 severely limited humanitarian access to affected populations. Poor governance, high global food prices, and low crop production—the latter due to flood damage, extremely dry weather, agricultural input shortages, and post-election violence targeting farm workers—resulted in widespread food insecurity. According to FAO and WFP, an estimated 2.1 million people in Zimbabwe required food assistance as of June 2008, with the figure predicted to increase to 5 million people in early FY 2009.

A local health worker participates in water, sanitation, and hygiene education programs in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (Photo by Mark Adams, USAID).

On October 15, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Katherine S. Dhanani redeclared a disaster in Zimbabwe due to the complex emergency and drought. In FY 2008, OFDA provided nearly $7.4 million for agriculture and food security, humanitarian coordination and information management, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions to support vulnerable and displaced populations in the urban centers of Bulawayo, Harare, and Mutare, and in Manicaland, Masvingo, and Midlands provinces. OFDA also supported the provision of basic household commodities and emergency relief supplies to families displaced in urban and rural areas. In addition, OFDA contributed to a livelihoods support and humanitarian protection program to improve economic capacity and reduce food insecurity for urban and peri-urban households in six districts, benefiting more than 37,000 individuals.

To reduce vulnerability to water and sanitation-related diseases, OFDA supported water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in urban and drought-affected areas, benefiting nearly 338,000 people. Programs included the distribution of basic hygiene items, such as soap and water containers, hygiene promotion activities, and the installation of rainwater harvesting systems to improve water access for households, schools, and other institutions. In addition, OFDA-funded programs targeted small holder farmers to increase productivity through the provision of agricultural inputs and the promotion of improved crop management practices. OFDA also supported urban and peri-urban household vegetable garden activities to enhance food security for vulnerable families.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Zimbabwe through FFP, which contributed 151,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil.

In FY 2008, State/PRM supported programs in Zimbabwe and in neighboring countries assisting Zimbabwean refugees and asylum seekers.

OFDA Assistance.....$7,315,373

Strengthening Food Security and Agriculture in Africa

Erin Magee and Alexandra Riboul

In many African countries, agriculture and livestock production form the basis of food security, livelihoods, and income generation. However, adverse climatic conditions such as drought, rising food and fuel prices, chronic poverty, rapid population growth, disease, conflict, and land degradation threaten production and can lead to food insecurity for millions of individuals. Food insecurity in Africa affects populations across the continent, including IDPs, subsistence farmers, pastoralists, rural communities, and returnees.

Frequent droughts pose a challenge for farmers and pastoralists in many regions of Africa, reducing agricultural productivity and endangering livestock health, thus increasing food insecurity. Although communities have developed means to survive isolated emergencies, in many cases, protracted conflict and consecutive environmental shocks often overwhelm coping mechanisms, further increasing vulnerability to food insecurity. In countries experiencing ongoing conflict, fighting displaces individuals from land and livestock, impedes access to farming areas, and destroys agricultural infrastructure. In areas emerging from conflict, returnees often encounter difficulties reintegrating into communities with scarce resources and weak infrastructure.

OFDA's Approach to Food Security

Food security is built on three pillars:

- ***Availability:*** Sufficient quantities of food are available on a consistent basis.
- ***Access:*** Local populations have sufficient resources to obtain appropriate food for a nutritious meal.
- **Utilization:** Local populations use food appropriately based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as access to adequate water and sanitation.

Responding to the Challenge

OFDA employs a wide range of assistance programs designed to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable populations, while addressing underlying causes of food insecurity and laying the foundation for future development initiatives. OFDA is working to equip vulnerable communities coping with drought, ongoing displacement, and post-conflict recovery with the necessary resources to promote food security and sustainable agricultural production.

In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $28.2 million to support country-specific agriculture and food security programs throughout Africa. Since crop production and long-term food security are strongly linked, OFDA-supported agricultural programs often form the basis of food security interventions. OFDA-funded agricultural programs not only provide seeds, tools, and other inputs to populations in need but also support the development of sustainable community-based agriculture programs and improvement of farming practices. Food security is not only a matter of availability and access to sufficient amounts of food; therefore, OFDA food security programs also include health, nutrition, economy and market systems, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

OFDA's responses in Madagascar, Sudan, and the Horn of Africa demonstrate the office's commitment to addressing food insecurity throughout Africa, targeting diverse populations and confronting unique challenges. In each situation, OFDA-supported programs addressed the immediate needs of affected populations and strengthened local capacity and resilience to future shocks.

Supporting Agricultural Recovery and Diversifying Crop Production in Southern Madagascar

The majority of rural populations in southern Madagascar are subsistence farmers who depend on seasonal rains for crop production. Sandy and semi-arid soil, high wind gusts, and erratic rains cause poor crop growing conditions in the region. Frequent droughts have disrupted farmers' traditional practice of saving seed and have rendered many reserved seed stocks unproductive. Combined with planting of crops inappropriate for local soil, these conditions have contributed to low production and crop failure.

OFDA partner CARE organizes farming tools for distribution in Madagascar (Courtesy of CARE).

Until the 1990s, the population of southern Madagascar widely cultivated and consumed sorghum because the plant was more adaptable than other cereals to the region's soil conditions and more resistant to high temperature and prolonged drought-related stress. Following severe droughts in 1991 and 1992, the quantity of sorghum seed available diminished. Faced with lack of sorghum seed, the region's population increasingly adopted maize as the staple food. However, maize is not drought-resistant and is highly susceptible to insufficient or poorly timed rains. Successive years of drought and widespread planting of maize in southern Madagascar have reduced crop productivity and undermined livelihoods, leaving households increasingly food insecure and impairing recovery.

Using a traditional method, a young man prepares to transport his OFDA-provided wheat seeds to the farm (Photo by Jack Myer, USAID).

Back to the Past: Sorghum Reintroduction Improves Food Security

Recognizing the need to increase agricultural production in southern Madagascar by cultivating a variety of crops, OFDA, USAID/Madagascar, the Government of the Anosy Region, and the Ministry of Agriculture partnered in 2004 to reintroduce sorghum in the region. With support from USAID/Madagascar and OFDA, a sorghum specialist from the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics traveled to Madagascar to identify new, improved varieties of sorghum seed and provide technical assistance to the Government of Madagascar (GOM) agricultural research institute.

Through the OFDA-funded sorghum reintroduction program, implementing partners distributed 40 MT of a Zambian seed variety to GOM-identified drought-affected and food insecure communities in FY 2007 and 2008. In addition, the program provided training and technical assistance on improved agricultural practices to beneficiary communities. To complement the OFDA-supported reintroduction program, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) distributed sorghum provided by USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) as part of the food aid ration in southern Madagascar, introducing sorghum in households' diet prior to the harvest.

One of the program's beneficiary communities was Analapatsy in Anosy Region, which experienced significant crop losses and food insecurity due to drought in 2006. After receiving the new sorghum seed variety, households in the community experienced an ample harvest, which they used to complement their diet of maize, cassava, and sweet potatoes. During a USAID visit, individuals expressed appreciation for the sorghum program, noting that the community enjoys the taste of sorghum and values it more than maize or sweet potato. Most importantly, farmers in Analapatsy appreciated that the new and improved variety is short and fast-maturing, requiring three to four months to grow and harvest rather than six months for the traditional variety of sorghum. Farmers can also plant the new variety during the winter as it is drought-tolerant and requires fewer hours of sunlight, thus creating an additional harvest during the year.

Seed Multiplication Centers Ensure Availability and Sustainability

In addition to distributing sorghum seed, OFDA's reintroduction program funded seed multiplication centers. With technical expertise and agricultural

inputs from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), an OFDA implementing partner, two local NGOs multiplied the new and improved seed varieties identified as most adapted to southern Madagascar's soil and climate. The seed multiplication centers ensure the continued availability of a pure and certified stock of sorghum seed in southern Madagascar. Prior to the November 2008 to April 2009 main agricultural season, FAO and implementing partners distributed 20 MT of the sorghum seed multiplied at the OFDA-supported centers to food insecure communities. This seed distribution complemented the GOM's distribution of 20 MT of imported new and improved seed. In addition, OFDA's support helped increase the capacity of local NGOs to develop and research new and improved seed varieties in the coming years. OFDA is sharing these experiences and successes with development partners and encouraging them to integrate these types of disaster risk reduction activities into their long-term programs.

Conflict Response and Post-Conflict Recovery in Sudan

Devastated by years of conflict, communities throughout Sudan are tackling a diverse array of food security and agriculture issues, stemming from ongoing conflict and post-conflict recovery. In Darfur, aid workers struggle to support livelihoods and provide humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected individuals and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In Southern Sudan and the Three Areas, more than two decades of north–south conflict destroyed local means of agriculture and livestock production and left families without basic services, possessions, or livelihoods. To address these needs, OFDA supported a range of food security and agriculture projects across Sudan.

Meeting Immediate Needs with an Eye to the Future

Since the Darfur conflict began in 2003, OFDA has responded to emergency conditions by meeting immediate humanitarian needs. While continuing to provide this crucial emergency assistance, as the conflict persisted, OFDA began to address recovery challenges and implement sustainable emergency programs. As demonstrated by OFDA-funded initiatives in South Darfur, OFDA programs provide physical assets, such as agricultural implements, for livelihood creation and also enhance farmers' capabilities to recover livelihoods through agricultural and livestock management training.

In eastern Jebel Marra, South Darfur, attacks targeting individuals in lowland grazing areas from 2003 to 2006 displaced thousands of people and disrupted pre-conflict livelihoods centered on agricultural production and livestock rearing. Although major hostilities in the area ceased in 2006, intermittent violence in 2008 kept IDPs from returning home. During this time, insecurity, limited availability of inputs, and lack of access to agricultural and grazing land inhibited livelihoods opportunities for IDPs and host communities.

To build livelihoods capacities and improve long-term food security in Jebel Marra and other vulnerable communities in South Darfur, OFDA supported numerous partners such as Samaritan's Purse to implement a variety of activities. Approximately 200,000 individuals benefited from Samaritan's Purse programs, including the provision and delivery of seeds and tools; training and capacity building for seeds and tools recipients; support for agro-forestry, soil, and water management; creation of agricultural physical infrastructure and water services; training in livestock health management; restocking of goats and donkeys; and the provision of veterinary services.

In South Darfur, community animal health workers (CAHWs) trained by Samaritan's Purse are the main source of animal health information. The health workers—including nomads, IDPs, and members of host populations—attend trainings to learn how to detect signs of animal health and disease, identify areas and seasons of common diseases and epidemics, and utilize tool kits and various types of vaccines and medications. Following the training, CAHWs serve as a bridge between the Ministry of Animal Resources livestock veterinary department and the community. In addition to supporting livestock and agricultural production, the trainings have built local capacity, creating a longer-term impact in Darfur.

Bridging the Gap in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas

For 21 years, Sudan experienced Africa's longest running civil war, during which displacement, loss of assets and livelihoods, and limited access to external markets were endemic. Since the signing of the Comprehensive

Peace Agreement in 2005, approximately 2.1 million displaced individuals have returned to areas of origin in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas. The cost of return easily exhausts the resources of a typical family, and returnees often arrive in communities that are also vulnerable and lack basic infrastructure. In these cases, competition over scarce resources can fuel tensions between returnees and local community members. To mitigate these tensions and to ensure successful return and resettlement, OFDA supports food security and agriculture programs that build household resiliency and promote self-sufficiency in areas of high return, as well as in communities with high potential for renewed conflict.

Since the end of the north–south conflict, OFDA agriculture and food security programs in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas have evolved as needs have transitioned. During the conflict, OFDA programs progressed from emergency seeds and tools distributions to more innovative and sustainable approaches, such as farmer training, farmer outreach group mobilization, and local seed sourcing. Working closely with the Government of Southern Sudan and USAID/Sudan, OFDA programs are providing a vital link between relief and longer-term development initiatives, while minimizing potential assistance gaps. In north–south border areas, OFDA partners such as Mercy Corps support agricultural, livelihoods, and economic recovery activities to augment incomes; improve food security; and generate employment for vulnerable households, while at the same time improving community assets.

In the Abyei area and Twic and Aweil East counties, Mercy Corps distributed water pumps to approximately 200 farmer-laborer cooperatives—each comprising a local farmer and two vulnerable returnee or host community families—for crop irrigation. With this new technology and training, farmer-laborer cooperatives cultivated nearly 630 percent more land, resulting in an expansion of almost all farmers' plots. Farmers were able to expand home gardens, shifting from producing vegetables only for family consumption to producing vegetables for family consumption and sales at the local market. Programs like these have been essential to successful return and resettlement efforts and have helped communities begin to realize the benefits of peace.

Reducing Vulnerabilities among Pastoralist Communities in the Horn of Africa

In the Horn of Africa, pastoralism provides a critical means of survival for an estimated 15 to 20 million people. Pastoralism refers to a range of livelihoods, including pure nomadism and mixed agro-pastoral practices. Pastoral communities often face extreme challenges in meeting food and income needs even under normal circumstances due to reductions in land and water availability as a result of desertification, bush encroachment, soil erosion, population growth, and political and economic marginalization. Livestock production is highly dependent on water and pasture availability, and crises such as drought, food shortages, disease, severe cold, looting, and conflict can further exacerbate challenges in meeting needs.

For pastoralists, animals are productive assets and a primary source of food and income. Distress sale of livestock, or selling animals at low prices to purchase grain and other basic necessities, is generally a coping strategy of last resort. Even after crises have passed, the effects of depleted livestock herds leave pastoralists food insecure and vulnerable to the next crisis, as communities have fewer products for trade or consumption. In 2008, the convergence of multiple shocks, including increasing food and fuel prices, drought, floods, conflict, and disease, affected livestock herds and resulted in increased vulnerability and destitution through loss of livelihoods.

Using all Means Available

In response to these complex challenges, in FY 2008, OFDA employed a livelihoods-based, multi-sectoral approach in the Horn of Africa that focused on reducing food insecurity and increasing the resiliency of vulnerable pastoral households and communities. OFDA-supported agricultural, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene practices included rehabilitation and improvement of existing water infrastructure, animal health care, integration of acute malnutrition prevention and treatment into primary health care systems, crop diversification, and improved rangeland management.

In Ethiopia, OFDA has adopted a comprehensive approach to saving lives and alleviating human suffering, using a livelihoods-based framework to implement emergency interventions that promote economic

resilience and diverse strategies to break the cycle of famine and poverty. Cyclical droughts, exacerbated by a rapidly growing population and limited government capacity, have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in many areas of the country. In 2008, the delayed onset and poor performance of the March to May belg rains, combined with previous rain failure, resulted in diminished pasture throughout Somali Region, as well as in large areas of Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples regions. As conditions deteriorated in pastoral lands, livestock were often unable to find sufficient fodder and began to weaken and die from malnutrition and disease, endangering pastoralists' medium- and long-term food security.

To support vulnerable pastoralist communities, OFDA collaborated with USAID/Ethiopia to support the Pastoralist Livelihood Initiative through implementing partners Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US), the International Rescue Committee, and CARE. This initiative strengthened community-led, livestock-based drought responses by building local skills and capabilities and safe-guarding livestock assets in pastoral areas of southern Ethiopia, areas particularly vulnerable to drought and famine. With OFDA and USAID/Ethiopia support, SC/US implemented community-led commercial destocking, slaughter destocking, emergency animal health, emergency water tankering, community-managed cereal banks, and early warning interventions, and CARE rehabilitated emergency water sources, supported animal health, and improved community preparedness and response to warnings and drought.

In 2008, SC/US trained more than 200 CAHWs to treat approximately 30,000 animals in Somali Region and 65,000 animals in Oromiya Region. This training is vital to preventing significant animal losses at the onset of rains. While herd sizes may dramatically decrease during drought, significant livestock losses can also follow the first rains after drought, when animals already weakened by malnutrition succumb to parasites, dysentery, and disease. Community-led programs are essential in enhancing coping mechanisms at the household level and improving food security.

Responding to Needs

From conflict- to drought-affected individuals, millions of people in Africa benefit from OFDA's range of innovative food security and agriculture initiatives, aimed to reduce suffering while at the same time build resilience and local capacity. OFDA's comprehensive yet tailored approach addresses the different challenges and unique attributes of each community. This approach ensures that OFDA programs meet the needs of vulnerable populations and addresses challenges to long-term food security.

Spiraling Food Prices Threaten Food Security for Millions

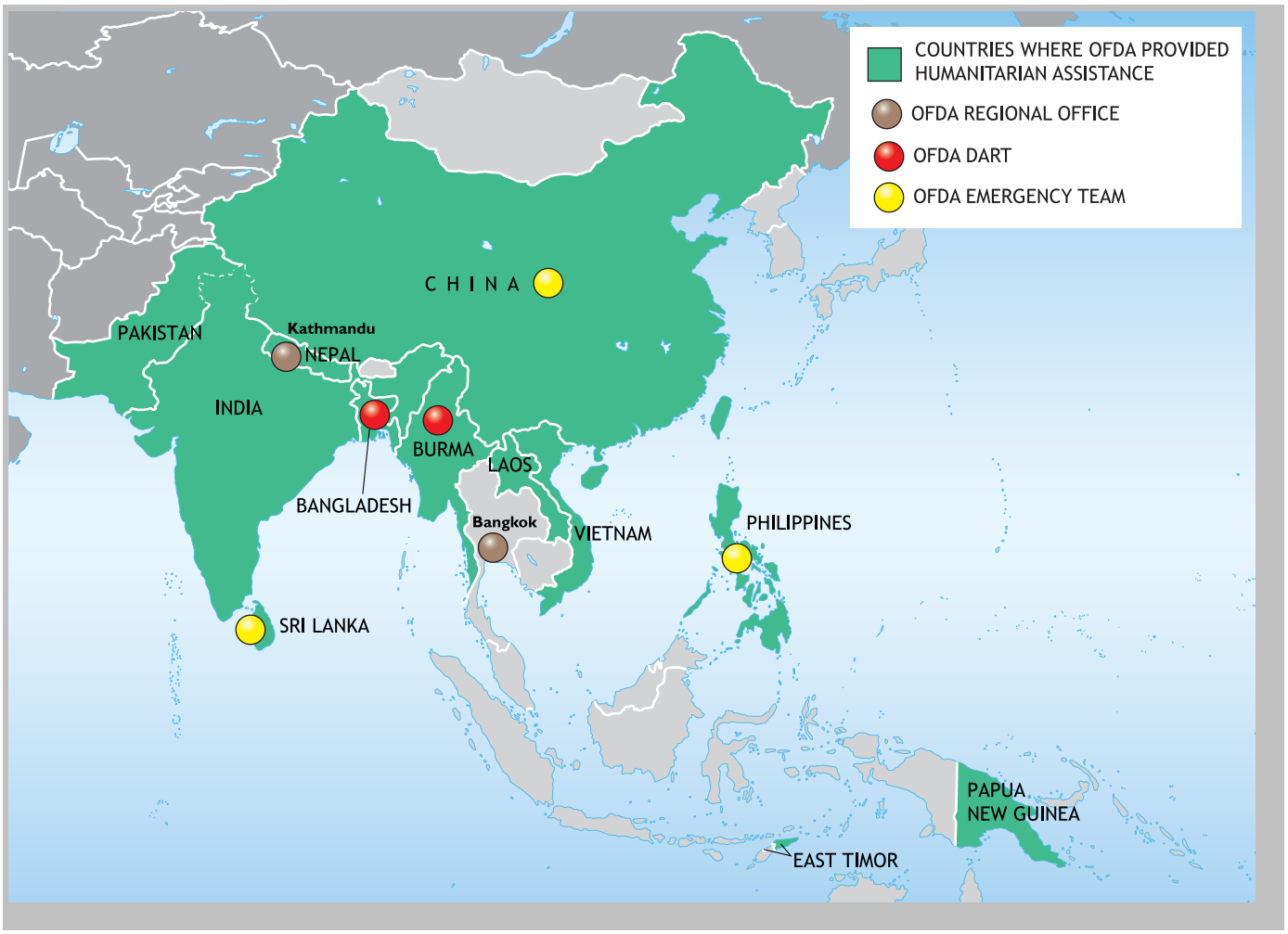
In 2008, increased global food prices threatened food security for approximately 40 million people, bringing the total number of undernourished people to nearly 1 billion globally. According to FAO, high food prices drove millions of formerly food-secure individuals into food insecurity and worsened conditions for people who were already vulnerable.

In Africa, the effects of increasing food prices were particularly detrimental to food security. Africa is home to 16 of the 17 countries where more than 35 percent of the population experiences food insecurity, making these countries highly vulnerable to increased food prices. In the Horn of Africa in 2008, food prices rose as much as 152 percent in Ethiopia and 365 percent in Somalia compared to 2007, placing an estimated 10.3 and 3 million people at risk for food insecurity, respectively.

Photo by Sue McIntyre, USAID

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

OFDA REGIONAL RESPONSES AND PRESENCE IN FY 2008



OFDA responded to 18 disasters in 12 countries in Asia and the Pacific in FY 2008. Flooding affected India, Laos, Nepal, and Pakistan. OFDA also responded to ongoing complex humanitarian emergencies in East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

In total, OFDA provided more than $50 million in funding for humanitarian programs in Asia and the Pacific. OFDA deployed DARTs in response to cyclones in Bangladesh and Burma. In addition, OFDA deployed emergency teams to China, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka and maintained regional offices in Thailand and Nepal.

BANGLADESH – Cyclone

On November 15, 2007, Tropical Cyclone Sidr made landfall in southern Bangladesh. With winds of 155 mph, the cyclone affected a total of 8.9 million people and left more than 4,200 people dead or missing and presumed dead, according to the Government of Bangladesh (GOB). The cyclone led to widespread humanitarian needs throughout much of Bangladesh. According to IFRC, the storm destroyed more than 560,000 houses and damaged an additional 960,000 houses. Tropical Cyclone Sidr destroyed 743,000 acres of crops and caused damage to more than 1.7 million additional acres of cropland. The storm killed nearly 1.8 million heads of livestock. The cyclone also damaged fish farms, obstructed roadways, damaged and destroyed infrastructure, contaminated drinking water sources, and negatively affected communication services and other utilities.

On November 16, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Geeta Pasi declared a disaster in response to the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Sidr. In response, OFDA provided an initial $100,000 through USAID/Bangladesh for emergency relief activities. On November 17, USAID deployed a DART to Bangladesh. The DART remained in country through December 11, working in collaboration with USAID/Bangladesh, the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, DOD, the GOB, and implementing partners to assess needs and program additional funding for humanitarian activities.

In response to the cyclone, OFDA provided assistance worth more than $5.9 million to affected populations. Through two airlifts, OFDA provided 15,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, 4,900 water containers, 8 water purification units, and four 10,000-liter water bladders. Valued at nearly $636,000, including transportation costs, the relief supplies benefited thousands of cyclone-affected individuals. Additionally, OFDA funded partners to implement programs in logistics, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Residents of a village in Bangladesh survey the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Sidr (Photo by Sue McIntyre, USAID).

USAID-funded disaster preparedness mechanisms already in country prior to the storm included 16 zodiac boats, 6 water treatment systems, and 10 water ambulances used for emergency operations. USAID partners prepositioned 30,000 emergency survival packages, as well as food stockpiles, to facilitate distribution after the storm passed.

FFP provided 38,980 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including wheat, rice, peas, and vegetable oil, to affected populations.

DOD provided critical air support for relief operations. DOD airlifted more than 327 MT of relief commodities from Dhaka to Barisal. DOD also delivered a total of 115 MT of emergency relief supplies and other materials and more than 54,000 liters of safe drinking water via 118 relief flights from Barisal to various affected sites. In addition, DOD medical teams worked closely with Bangladeshi military and civilian counterparts to provide direct patient care in affected areas.

Implementing Partners in Bangladesh
AmRC, CARE, CRS, SC/US, UNICEF, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance $5,961,804

BANGLADESH – Localized Food Shortage

In 2008, a rodent infestation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeastern Bangladesh resulted in a localized food crisis affecting approximately 128,000 people in 572 villages, according to UNDP. The flowering of an indigenous bamboo species, which occurs approximately every 40 to 50 years, precipitated the infestation. Rodents consumed the bamboo flowers and fruits, leading the rat population to multiply at many times the normal rate. The increased rat population consumed the bamboo in affected areas, then destroyed crops and food stockpiles. According to UNDP, the rodent infestation destroyed between 80 and 100 percent of crops in affected areas. On April 12, 2008, the GOB requested international donor assistance to address the crisis.

On April 24, U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty declared a disaster due to food insecurity resulting from the rodent infestation. In response, OFDA provided $100,000 through USAID/Bangladesh for the local purchase and distribution of seeds to affected populations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Implementing Partner in Bangladesh
CARE

OFDA Assistance $100,000

FACTOID

Seasons characterized by abundant bamboo blossoms in Bangladesh lead to a boom in the local rat population. While eating bamboo blossoms—an excellent food source—rats can breed up to eight times a year, or four times more often than normal. According to local folklore, the flowering of the bamboo and subsequent surge in the rat population occur every 50 years.

BURMA – Cyclone

On May 2, 2008, Cyclone Nargis made landfall near the mouth of the Ayeyarwady River in the Ayeyarwady Division of Burma. The storm entered the delta with a maximum sustained wind speed of approximately 132 mph and a storm surge of 12 feet, according to the U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center. The cyclone then moved towards the northeast, affecting the main port of Rangoon and the population of Rangoon Division.

According to official Government of Burma (GOB) figures, Cyclone Nargis left more than 130,000 people dead or missing and presumed dead. The U.N. estimated that Cyclone Nargis severely affected an estimated 2.4 million people in Ayeyarwady and Rangoon divisions, equivalent to more than one third of the total 7.3 million people living in the two divisions. The cyclone caused widespread damage to houses, public buildings, schools, and infrastructure including roads and bridges in affected areas. In addition, the cyclone decimated livestock populations in affected areas of Ayeyarwady Division, particularly plough oxen needed for planting, and inundated agricultural land and water sources in the lower Ayeyarwady Delta and

outlying islands. As a result, the GOB declared a state of emergency in cyclone-affected areas.

On May 5, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Shari Villarosa declared a disaster due to the effects of Cyclone Nargis. In response, OFDA deployed a DART to Bangkok, Thailand. Despite initial restricted humanitarian access, OFDA provided a total of more than $28 million for emergency relief commodities and programs in agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, humanitarian coordination, logistics, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

OFDA integrated livelihoods and early recovery activities into emergency programming wherever possible. Following the immediate humanitarian response, OFDA focused on livelihoods interventions to provide rapid access to income and employment for affected populations.

To meet food needs, USAID/FFP provided 23,640 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance through WFP. The assistance included rice, chickpeas, vegetable oil, and corn-soya blend.

DART staff observe the loading of emergency relief supplies onto a C-130 aircraft destined for Burma (Photo by Rebecca Gustafson, USAID).

From May 12 to June 22, a DOD-operated USG air bridge completed 185 airlifts and delivered more than $4 million in OFDA emergency relief supplies, as well as DOD, U.N., NGO, and Government of Thailand commodities. OFDA commodities benefited at least 445,000 individuals and included 38,800 hygiene kits, 6,500 rolls of plastic sheeting, 15,000 mosquito nets, 95,300 ten-liter water containers, 10 water treatment units, 12 zodiac boats, and fourteen 10,000-liter

Local Burmese residents deliver shelter repair materials to cyclone-affected communities by boat (Photo by John MacArthur, USAID).

water storage bladders. OFDA funded 12 flights from regional warehouses in Dubai and Pisa to deliver OFDA commodities to Utapao, Thailand, for transportation to Burma on the USG air bridge.

Implementing Partners in Burma
ACF, ACTED, ADRA, AmRC, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, CARE, Church World Service/ International Development Enterprises, IOM, IRC, MENTOR, Merlin, OCHA, PACT, SC/US, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, World Concern Development Organization, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance ..... $26,449,434[1]

[1] OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at $1,540,115, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Burma to $27,989,549.

CHINA – Winter Emergency

From January 10 to early February 2008, unusually heavy snow and freezing rain affected 21 provinces in southern and central China. According to the Government of China (GOC), the severe winter weather killed 129 people, displaced approximately 1.6 million others to temporary shelters, and affected more than 77 million individuals as a result of disruptions to utilities and transportation networks. The severe weather destroyed approximately 485,000 houses and damaged public infrastructure such as water pipes and power lines, according to the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC).

On February 1, U.S. Ambassador Clark T. Randt, Jr., declared a disaster due to the effects of the severe weather. In response, OFDA provided $150,000 for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations in Guizhou Province, one of the most affected provinces.

Implementing Partner in China
RCSC

OFDA Assistance $150,000

Staff at the Chengdu airport unload search and rescue equipment airlifted by OFDA to China (Photo by Yoni Bock, USAID).

CHINA – Earthquake

On May 12, 2008, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck Wenchuan County in China's densely populated Sichuan Province, leaving 69,222 people dead and 18,176 people missing and injuring nearly 375,000 others, according to official GOC estimates. The earthquake displaced approximately 15 million people, according to Sichuan provincial authorities and IFRC. In total, the U.N. estimated that the earthquake affected 46 million people.

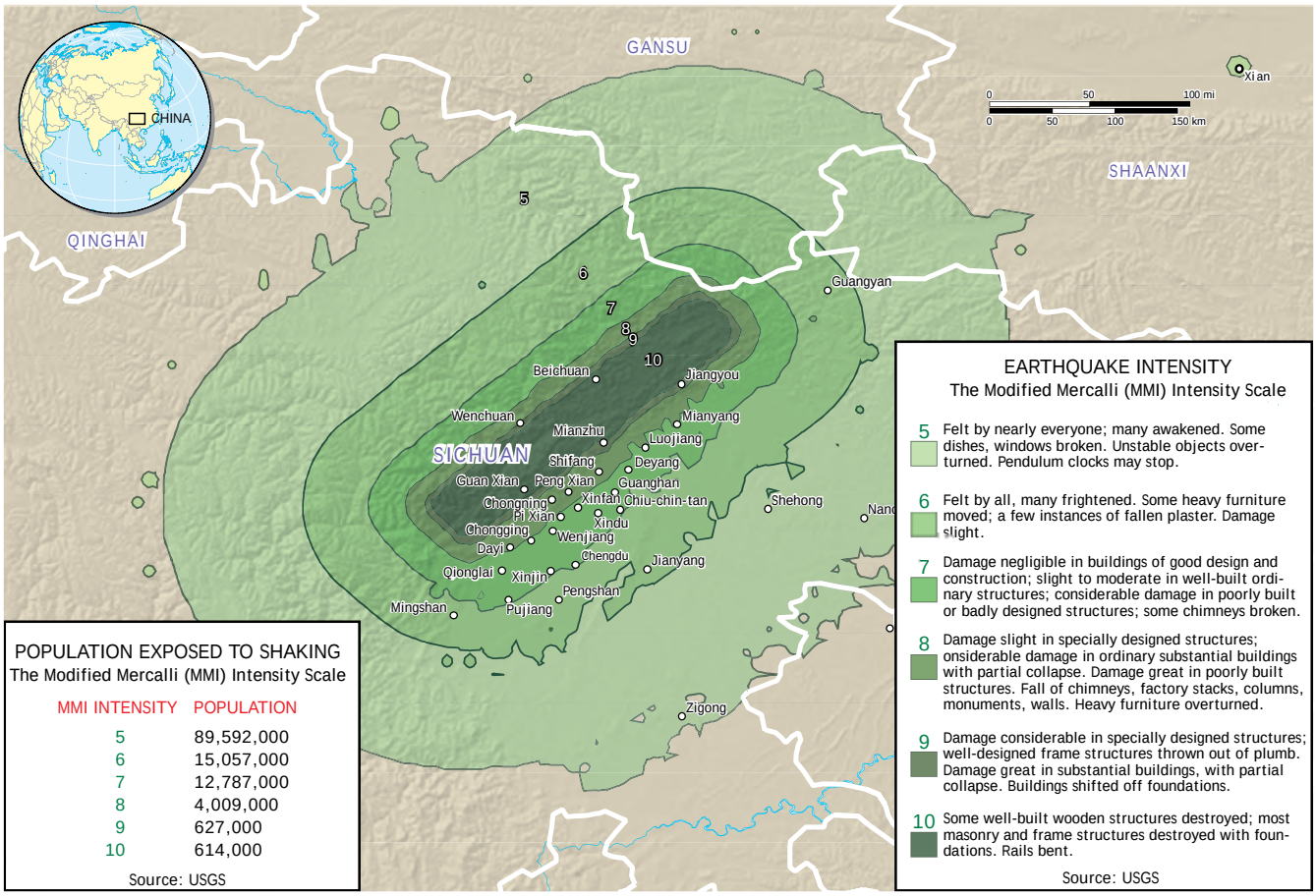
Storms and damaged transportation and communications infrastructure hindered the initial humanitarian response. In addition to Wenchuan County, the most affected areas included Beichuan County and Deyang, Mianyang, and Dujiangyan cities. The earthquake damaged more than 53,000 km of roads and nearly 140,000 businesses.

On May 13, U.S. Ambassador Clark T. Randt, Jr., declared a disaster due to the impact of the earthquake.

In response to the GOC's request for international assistance, OFDA donated specialized search, rescue, and recovery equipment, including 40 crates of saws, hand tools, hydraulic gear, concrete cutters, generators, and personal safety equipment[2] , and provided funding for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies. In addition, OFDA deployed a nine-person emergency team, including experts from Los Angeles (L.A.) County Fire Department and Fairfax County, VA, Fire and Rescue Department, as well as OFDA support staff. The team conducted a series of hands-on search and rescue workshops for approximately 40 members of the Public Security and Fire Brigade of Chengdu Province and the Seismic Disaster Emergency Rescue team of Sichuan Province.

In FY 2008, OFDA also provided $450,000 to support the second phase of TAF's Public Private Partnerships for Disaster Management in China program, which will expand preparedness activities to additional communities, including Chengdu city in Sichuan Province.

Intensity of Earthquake in China (May 12, 2008)



In response to the Chinese request for shelter assistance, OFDA deployed a shelter expert and a disaster specialist to Beijing and Chengdu in early June in order to provide technical assistance and liaise with relevant GOC departments and international relief organizations. Based on recommendations from the shelter expert, OFDA provided funding for preparedness and mitigation programs to facilitate earthquake recovery and rehabilitate rural housing in Sichuan Province. In addition, USGS led a U.S. interagency team in Beijing from June 11 to 13 to assist the China Earthquake Administration with various seismic-related issues, including earthquake monitoring and preparedness activities.

Two U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft delivered emergency relief supplies, including blankets, plastic sheeting, tents, water containers, and food, to Chengdu. DOD also airlifted 153 medium tents to Chengdu in response to the GOC's subsequent request for shelter assistance.

Implementing Partners in China
Fairfax County Fire Department, IFRC, and L.A. County Fire Department

OFDA Assistance .....$1,027,194[3]

[2]Equipment donated by OFDA, worth $445,504, will be funded in OFDA's FY 2009 budget.

[3]The figure does not include the $1.2 million provided to The Asia Foundation (TAF) to promote safe rehabilitation of rural shelters and to improve disaster preparedness and mitigation in schools and communities in earthquake-affected areas of Sichuan Province.

FACTOID

A contributing factor to the complex emergency in East Timor is the large number of gangs composed primarily of young men. Young men are motivated to join gangs because of a lack of jobs, education, and other opportunities. Rivalries between gangs are thought to be based on different ethnic groups competing over limited resources such as land and markets. Members also include former combatants who fought in East Timor's long war of independence, but are now unable to find employment in the military or police.

EAST TIMOR – Complex Emergency

In April and May 2006, riots, confrontations between the police and military forces, and subsequent clashes involving youth gangs led to the displacement of approximately 150,000 people in East Timor. In late 2007, the Government of East Timor (GOET) launched a new program to assist IDPs to return to areas of origin. In April 2008, the GOET began to distribute recovery packages to IDPs willing to return in order to assist IDPs and also decommission IDP camps. As of November 2008, approximately 10,400 families had received a recovery package and returned, and a total of 30,000 people remained displaced, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center.

In FY 2008, the majority of IDPs returning to areas of origin were able to return to their houses and reclaim property. However, populations in areas of return continued to have limited access to food, safe drinking water, basic services, and income-generating activities. U.N. agencies reported deteriorating food security in East Timor during FY 2008, identifying ongoing displacement, limited access to arable land, and continued vulnerability to natural hazards as contributing factors.

On November 30, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Hans G. Klemm redeclared a disaster due to the violence and resulting displacement in East Timor. In response, OFDA provided more than $1.2 million to support programs in humanitarian coordination and information management, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

USAID also responded to emergency needs through FFP and CMM. FFP provided 1,040 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including rice and vegetable oil, to WFP. CMM funded peacebuilding activities and supported the provision of psychosocial services to affected populations in Dili District and Suai. In addition, State/PRM contributed funding to regional programs that protect and assist refugees and IDPs in East Asia, including East Timor.

Implementing Partners in East Timor
CRS, NRC, and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance $1,220,203

INDIA – Localized Food Shortage

In FY 2008, a rodent infestation in India's northeastern Mizoram State resulted in a localized food crisis affecting more than 710,000 individuals of the total population of 890,000, according to SC/UK. In the area, a species of bamboo flowers simultaneously every 40 to 50 years, leading to a sharp increase in the rat population, which then eats and destroys crops. Due to the bamboo flowering that began in 2007 and the subsequent destruction of crops by rats, Mizoram State residents began to face critical food shortages. According to the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, the rat infestation destroyed 95 percent of the rice crop and 75 percent of other crops in Mizoram State and particularly affected the remote Lunglei, Mamit, Lawngtlai, and Saiha districts. The destruction of crops caused localized food price increases, with the price of rice rising more than 30 percent on local markets. The increasing food prices prevented rural households from purchasing needed food and led many affected families to migrate from remote villages to temporary shelters. According to SC/UK, the food crisis caused severe food shortages for approximately 30,000 families.

On May 14, 2008, U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford declared a disaster due to the food shortage in Mizoram State. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi for a cash-transfer program targeting poor, food-insecure families in the remote villages of Saiha District, enabling families to purchase food from local markets.

Implementing Partner in India
SC/UK

OFDA Assistance $50,000

[4]In FY 2008, OFDA also provided more than $1 million to ACTED, CRS, and Project Concern International for early recovery and livelihoods programming in response to the August 2007 floods in Bihar State.

In Bihar, India, a woman receives high-energy biscuits from an OFDA implementing partner following flooding in her community (Photo by Robyn Kerr, USAID).

INDIA – Floods

On August 18, 2008, following heavy monsoon rains, the Saptakoshi River broke through an embankment in Nepal, causing flooding in southeastern Nepal and neighboring Bihar State in northeastern India. As of August 28, flooding in 13 districts of Bihar had affected approximately 2.1 million people in more than 1,000 villages. According to Bihar State officials, at least 47 people died as a result of the flooding, and hundreds of others were reported missing. On August 28, the Bihar Disaster Management minister reported that flood waters stranded more than 1 million people in Supual, Madhepura, and Araria districts, leaving residents without clean drinking water and food. Flooding also damaged infrastructure and inundated an estimated 90,000 acres of agricultural land, destroying crops. According to the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, due to the sudden onset of floods, evacuation activities were slow to start and rescue equipment and boats were in short supply.

On August 29, U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford declared a disaster due to the impact of flooding in India. In response, OFDA provided $100,000 through USAID/India to support rescue efforts and to procure and deliver emergency relief supplies to affected populations.

Implementing Partners in India
CRS and the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund

OFDA Assistance ..... $100,000[4]

FACTOID

Flowing from the Tibetan highlands, the Mekong River winds through six distinct geographic regions in China, Burma, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. With a total area of almost 500,000 square miles, the Mekong River Basin is roughly the same size as France and Germany combined. At almost 3,000 miles in length, the Mekong River and the surrounding land are important geographic, cultural, and economic factors in Southeast Asia.

LAOS – Floods

Between August 12 and 18, 2008, heavy rainfall across northern Laos and neighboring parts of Thailand led to flooding along the Mekong River. The flooding and resulting landslides killed 11 people and affected more than 204,000 others, based on an August 19 to 29 assessment conducted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The NDMO reported that floods affected 866 villages in 53 districts and Vientiane Municipality. Flood waters inundated 74,989 hectares of agricultural land, destroyed crops, and damaged homes and infrastructure.

On August 19, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Mary Grace McGeehan declared a disaster due to the impact of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including shelter materials, water, and water purification tablets, to populations affected by the flooding.

Implementing Partner in Laos
Lao Red Cross Society

OFDA Assistance $50,000

NEPAL – Complex Emergency

From 1996 to 2006, conflict between the Government of Nepal (GON) and the Communist Party of Nepal–Maoist (CPN–M) caused an estimated 13,000 deaths and displaced approximately 200,000 people. As of June 2008, OCHA reported that 50,000 to 70,000 people remained displaced. In addition, 130,000 refugees, including 107,000 long-term refugees from Bhutan, remained in Nepal as of January 2008.

On April 10, 2008, Nepal held the first post-conflict elections for the constituent assembly. In August and September 2008, the constituent assembly was formed of a coalition government of six parties, including CPN–M, and met for the first time.

Inter-communal and inter-party tensions in the southern lowland Terai Region were particularly acute, with the September 2007 riots causing displacement, according to OCHA. While political developments during 2008 greatly reduced violence, occasional violence between

IDPs and conflict-affected women who benefit from OFDA-funded livelihoods activities gather in Nepal (Photo by Robyn Kerr, USAID).

CPN–M supporters and supporters of other parties continued to occur in outlying areas.

According to OCHA, security incidents, including killings, abductions, extortion, and explosions, continued to threaten IDPs' ability to return home. Unresolved land and property issues, as well as a lack of necessary assistance, prevented many IDPs from returning to areas of origin. Displaced persons who returned home since 2006 found houses destroyed and fields overgrown and encountered challenges in reestablishing former livelihoods.

On October 2, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Nancy Powell redeclared a disaster as a result of continuing humanitarian needs due to the complex emergency in Nepal. In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $2.6 million for IDPs, returnees, and other conflict-affected

OFDA partner Save the Children prepares for a distribution of emergency relief supplies to communities affected by flooding in Nepal (Courtesy of Save the Children).

populations. With OFDA funding, partners provided emergency relief supplies and implemented programs in economy and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, protection, risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

USAID also provided assistance through FFP and OTI. FFP provided 15,830 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including peas, lentils, rice, and vegetable oil, for populations in Eastern, Mid-Western, and Far Western regions. OTI supported programs to bolster the current peace process and strengthen governance mechanisms.

In addition, State/PRM provided funding to support the Tibetan Refugee Center in Kathmandu and food assistance for Bhutanese and Tibetan refugees. Additional funding from State/PRM assisted various organizations to implement activities throughout South Asia, including in Nepal.

Implementing Partners in Nepal
IRC, IRD, NRC, OCHA, and SC/US

OFDA Assistance $2,654,142

NEPAL – Floods

On August 18, 2008, the Saptakoshi River broke through a retaining wall following heavy monsoon rains, resulting in floods in Sunsari District in southeastern Nepal. Flooding affected eight village development committees and displaced between 35,000 and 50,000 people, according to OCHA. The displaced populations took shelter in public buildings, unable to return to flooded areas until the embankment was repaired. Flood waters blocked Nepal's East-West Highway and disrupted communications systems. On August 18, the Government of Nepal began search and rescue efforts. Sunsari District officials reported difficulties providing shelter and distributing relief materials. The Nepal Red Cross Society responded with food, shelter, and emergency relief commodities, including pre-positioned supplies from an OFDA-funded preparedness program implemented by SC/US.

On August 21, U.S. Ambassador Nancy Powell declared a disaster due to the impact of flooding in Nepal. In response, OFDA provided an initial $50,000 through USAID/Nepal for the local purchase and transport of emergency relief commodities, including blankets and shelter supplies, to populations affected by the flooding. OFDA provided further funding for additional relief items, emergency shelter kits, and technical support for the Government of Nepal.

Implementing Partners in Nepal
IFRC, IOM, and SC/US

OFDA Assistance $850,000

PAKISTAN – Floods

From July through early August 2008, monsoon rains led to flooding that negatively affected populations throughout Pakistan. In total, floods killed 40 people, according to the Government of Pakistan (GOP). In Rajanpur District of Punjab Province, flooding affected 11,000 families, displaced a large part of the district's population to other areas of the district, and damaged rice and cotton crops. In North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), rising floodwaters displaced approximately 175,000 people, damaged or destroyed 12,000 houses, damaged infrastructure, and negatively affected populations' livelihoods. In the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, floods affected two villages.

FACTOID

The word "monsoon" originally came from the Arabic word for "season." "Monsoon" now refers to the rainy period in South Asia that results from the difference in temperature between the land and sea. The South Asia monsoon season usually takes place between June and September. While monsoons are welcome relief from high temperatures and bring much-needed precipitation, heavy rains often lead to severe floods, resulting in damage and loss of life.

Pakistani women carry home relief supplies, including blankets distributed by an OFDA partner.

In early August 2008, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad reported that the GOP and Pakistani military initiated rescue and relief operations. According to the U.N. Resident Coordinator, the provincial government in NWFP requested urgent national and international humanitarian assistance to meet needs of flood-affected populations.

On August 7, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Peter W. Bodde declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided an initial $50,000 through USAID/Pakistan for emergency relief supplies for flood-affected populations in NWFP. OFDA also provided additional assistance to implementing partners for economy and market systems, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

OFDA Assistance $967,809

PAKISTAN – Complex Emergency

In August and September 2008, renewed fighting between the GOP and militant groups in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Bajur and Mohmand displaced more than 200,000 local residents into NWFP, according to ICRC. The NWFP relief commissioner's office reported that IDPs were sheltering with host families or staying in camps for displaced persons. Due to the provincial government's response to previous flooding, available resources were insufficient to address the humanitarian needs of IDPs. On August 18, the GOP National Disaster Management Authority requested international assistance in response to the growing humanitarian emergency.

On August 19, U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson declared a disaster due to increased conflict and resulting displacement in Pakistan. In response, OFDA provided an initial $50,000 through USAID/Pakistan for the provision of emergency relief supplies for affected populations in NWFP. An OFDA regional advisor assessed the situation in Pakistan from August 16 to 19. Based on assessment results, OFDA provided a total of nearly $3.3 million to humanitarian partner organizations to deliver essential emergency relief commodities and implement programs in health, humanitarian coordination and information management, nutrition, protection, risk reduction, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

OFDA Assistance $3,295,680

PAPUA NEW GUINEA – Cyclone

From November 12 to 16, 2007, high winds and heavy rain from Tropical Cyclone Guba affected Oro and Milne Bay provinces in eastern Papua New Guinea. The cyclone and flooding killed 71 people, left 101 people missing and presumed dead, and affected nearly all of the 162,000 residents of Oro Province, according to IFRC. Flooding also resulted in extensive damage to houses, roads, bridges, and crops. The floods severely damaged the water system, electrical infrastructure, and access roads in the Oro provincial capital of Popondetta. On November 19, the Government of Papua New Guinea declared a state of emergency in Oro Province.

On November 20, U.S. Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe declared a disaster due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Guba. In response, OFDA provided $150,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies, shelter and settlements assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

Implementing Partner in Papua New Guinea
IFRC

OFDA Assistance $150,000

Local populations affected by Typhoon Fengshen eagerly await the distribution of emergency relief supplies airlifted to the Philippines by OFDA (Photo by Jennifer Kimball, U.S. Marine Corps).

PHILIPPINES – Typhoon

On June 20, 2008, Typhoon Fengshen (Frank) made landfall in the Eastern Visayas Region of the Philippines, with heavy rains and sustained winds of up to 99 mph, according to the Philippines Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration. The typhoon killed 781 people and injured 792 others, with 673 people reported missing. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC) reported that the storm affected nearly 4.1 million people across 49 provinces, damaged or destroyed nearly 340,000 houses, and flooded 225,000 hectares of land.

High waves and heavy surf resulting from the typhoon capsized the Princess of the Stars ferry, which sank near Sibuyan Island with 866 passengers onboard. The NDCC reported that 56 survivors were found, 173 people were confirmed dead, and 637 remained missing.

On June 23, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Thomas B. Gibbons declared a disaster due to the effects of Typhoon Fengshen. In response, OFDA provided an initial $100,000 through USAID/Philippines to support the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including blankets, plastic mats, mosquito nets, and water containers, to families affected by the storm. On June 26, a two-person OFDA emergency team arrived in Iloilo in the Eastern Visayas Region to assess needs and work with DOD and Philippine counterparts to coordinate USG assistance.

On June 29, OFDA airlifted relief commodities to Iloilo Airport, which were then distributed to affected communities via DOD aircraft. The airlift included 3,360 hygiene kits, 334 rolls of plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, and 6,660 water containers and was valued at nearly $570,000, including transport costs.

In addition, the USS Ronald Reagan carrier group arrived west of Panay Island in late June. Between June 25 and July 2, helicopters and fixed wing aircraft from the carrier group delivered more than 500,000 lbs of relief commodities and transported USG and Philippines Armed Forces personnel to otherwise inaccessible areas on Panay and Sicogon islands. On June 24, the U.S. Navy Ship Stockham deployed with small boats, two search and rescue helicopters, and an underwater scuba team to conduct rescue and body recovery operations for passengers from the stricken ferry.

Implementing Partner in the Philippines
Philippines National Red Cross

OFDA Assistance $678,846

PHILIPPINES – Complex Emergency

In August and September 2008, attacks by factions of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the response from the GOP military killed 83 people and displaced approximately 290,000 individuals on the island of Mindanao, according to the GOP NDCC. The NDCC reported that the renewed conflict led to the establishment of 104 evacuation centers accommodating approximately 65,000 IDPs, while more than 225,000 people resided with host families. As of September 2008, continued conflict prevented IDPs from returning to areas of origin.

On August 22, U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney declared a disaster due to the conflict and resulting displacement in Mindanao. In response, OFDA provided $100,000 through USAID/Philippines for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including water containers, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils and hygiene kits for conflict-affected populations. OFDA also provided preparedness and mitigation funding through a conflict preparedness program initiated in 2003. The program supports an emergency response network of local NGOs and community-based groups to implement preparedness and relief activities, provide small grants to local NGOs, and create small stockpiles of locally procured relief items for emergencies.

Implementing Partner in the Philippines
SC/US

OFDA Assistance $100,000

SRI LANKA – Complex Emergency

More than two decades of conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist group have

Vegetable oil donated by FFP to WFP in Sri Lanka is stored prior to distribution to conflict-affected individuals (Photo by Robyn Kerr, USAID).

led to an ongoing complex emergency in Sri Lanka. Since 2006, renewed violence between the GOSL and the LTTE has displaced more than 300,000 people. In addition, more than 300,000 people were displaced by fighting prior to the 2002 ceasefire, 100,000 others were displaced by the 2004 tsunami, and more than 20,000 refugees have left Sri Lanka for Tamil Nadu, India, according to OCHA.

In FY 2008, following military gains by the GOSL in the east of Sri Lanka, hostilities shifted to the north. On January 16, 2008, the GOSL formally withdrew from the 2002 ceasefire agreement with the LTTE, leading to the departure of the international Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission. Looting, harassment, intimidation, extortion, movement restrictions, extrajudicial killings, and abductions, including the forced recruitment of child soldiers, undermined the rule of law and made a return to normalcy more difficult for returnees. From April to July 2008, conflict led to the displacement of more than 160,000 Sri Lankans from LTTE-controlled areas. In September 2008, intensified fighting between the GOSL and LTTE displaced more than 185,000 people in the northern districts of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu.

According to OCHA, the prices of staple foods in Sri Lanka increased by more than 50 percent from May 2007 to May 2008. Humanitarian access deteriorated in the north while improving in the east, as fighting increasingly focused on the northern line of control between GOSL and LTTE forces. GOSL-imposed restrictions on the transport of essential relief commodities, especially in LTTE-controlled areas, limited the ability of aid agencies to adequately respond to IDPs' needs. The continued closure of the main

highway leading to the Jaffna peninsula in northern Sri Lanka, which the GOSL closed in 2006, negatively affected humanitarian access to an estimated 600,000 people.

On October 1, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake redeclared a disaster due to the humanitarian needs among IDPs and returning populations. During FY 2008, USAID emergency staff made numerous trips to affected areas to assess humanitarian conditions, determine priority needs, monitor ongoing programs, and conduct protection workshops for U.N. and NGO participants.

In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $5.4 million to support activities targeting conflict-affected populations in Sri Lanka. Program priorities included the provision of emergency relief supplies and programs in agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, protection, risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. OFDA-funded protection programs included three teams to monitor and document security for 40,000 IDPs and returnees in northern and eastern provinces. OFDA also funded interventions in other sectors to assist vulnerable populations, including the provision of emergency relief supplies and logistics support, benefiting 2 million individuals throughout Sri Lanka.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Sri Lanka through FFP, which contributed 31,360 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including wheat, vegetable oil, and lentils, for IDPs and other vulnerable populations throughout the country.

State/PRM provided funding for emergency programs to support improved reception services, shelters, and water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities for Sri Lankan refugees in India. State/PRM also supported programs to protect and assist refugees, IDPs, and other conflict-affected persons in Sri Lanka and neighboring countries.

Implementing Partners in Sri Lanka
ACTED, Internews, IOM, NRC, UMCOR, and WFP

OFDA Assistance $5,428,782

VIETNAM – Typhoon

On October 3, 2007, Typhoon Lekima struck Vietnam, causing severe flooding that affected the central coastal provinces of Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Ninh Binh, Quang Binh, and Thanh Hoa. The typhoon and associated flooding killed 82 people, led to the disappearance of 9 others, and severely affected more than 600,000 others, according to IFRC. Heavy rains continued until October 6, and some of the estimated 400,000 people who had been displaced and then returned were forced to evacuate again due to rising flood waters. The typhoon also destroyed more than 9,500 houses, damaged more than 127,000 others, and caused substantial damage to public buildings, dams, and other infrastructure, according to IFRC. In addition, the Government of Vietnam reported that Typhoon Lekima destroyed nearly 95,000 hectares of seasonal crops and damaged more than 25,000 hectares of rice crops.

On October 9, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Jonathan M. Aloisi declared a disaster due to the typhoon and associated flooding. In response, OFDA provided $100,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi for the distribution of emergency relief supplies, including water containers and mosquito nets. In response to identified needs, OFDA provided additional assistance to implementing partners for agriculture and food security, shelter and settlements, protection, risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities benefiting more than 90,000 people affected by the typhoon.

Implementing Partners in Vietnam
CARE, Center for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), IFRC, and SC/US

OFDA Assistance $996,918

A Vietnamese woman affected by Typhoon Lekima receives a household kit (Courtesy of IFRC).

From Relief to Recovery in the Ayeyarwady Delta

Michael Keegan

On May 2, 2008, Cyclone Nargis struck the Ayeyarwady Delta of Burma with a maximum sustained windspeed of more than 130 miles per hour. In addition to the high winds and heavy rainfall, the cyclone carried with it a storm surge of more than 12 feet, devastating the low-lying agricultural region. According to official Government of Burma figures, Nargis left more than 130,000 people dead or missing. The U.N. estimated that the cyclone affected approximately 2.4 million people, the majority of whom lived in the Ayeyarwady Delta.

OFDA on the Ground

OFDA, along with other humanitarian agencies, immediately began to respond to the devastating cyclone. OFDA deployed a Thailand-based Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to facilitate the U.S. Government's humanitarian response to the cyclone. After initial limitations in humanitarian access, OFDA funded non-governmental organization (NGO) partners already working in Burma to provide assistance in vital sectors such as shelter, health, logistics, food, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. OFDA also transported emergency relief supplies via U.S. Department of Defense aircraft through a much-needed air bridge in the early days of the response. OFDA's implementing partners distributed incoming emergency relief supplies to cyclone-affected populations.

In June 2008, assessment missions, including those conducted by OFDA disaster specialists, found that affected people were increasingly returning home, and that local populations identified restoration of their livelihoods as their greatest need. Such assistance would allow these populations to help themselves and restore their sense of dignity and self-reliance. People repeatedly told the OFDA disaster specialists that they needed a relatively small investment to resume productive activities.

For the majority of the affected population, agricultural inputs represented a particularly urgent need. In some areas of the Ayeyarwady Delta, the only planting

Plastic sheeting provides temporary shelter for cyclone-affected residents in Burma (Photo by John MacArthur, USAID).

season of the year began in July, and farmers required seeds and agricultural tools to replace those lost in the cyclone. As a result of humanitarian assessments conducted in the months following the cyclone, OFDA began to shift programming from meeting immediate humanitarian needs to providing support for the early recovery of affected populations.

Early Recovery Initiatives

From the very beginning, livelihoods and early recovery activities were integrated into OFDA emergency programming wherever possible. For example, a grant to an NGO partner for emergency shelter and water and sanitation included rapid agricultural rehabilitation support for seeds and tools. In the early recovery stage, OFDA focused on providing quick access to the means to restart livelihoods.

The first priority for the early recovery of affected populations was to rapidly provide the needed agricultural inputs to farmers who were willing and able to plant a crop. The inputs given to farmers included seeds, tools, power tillers or draught animals, and cash to hire agricultural laborers.

An OFDA-funded agricultural recovery program helped one farmer support his wife, parents, and four children after the cyclone swept away his seeds and tools. Supplied with an improved variety of rice seeds, as well as access to a power tiller, the farmer was able to successfully harvest a larger-than-average rice crop for his family.

Another farmer in the delta recounted how the cyclone destroyed most of the houses in his village, while the floodwaters carried away the village's food and seed stocks. The village had given up hope of planting for the season until an OFDA-funded partner arrived with the seeds and tools needed to sow the rice paddies. Rather than repaying money borrowed at high interest rates to buy poor quality rice, the farmer planned to sell some of his rice crop and use the savings to gradually rebuild the family home.

OFDA-funded programs also supported landless laborers both directly and by providing the means by which farmers with land could hire workers. After losing his wife in the cyclone, a landless laborer who lived near Bogale town received relief supplies and found work at a local farm thanks to an OFDA-funded recovery program, helping him to support his two children.

Early recovery programming also focused on support for non-agricultural livelihoods, which included fishing, salt-panning, forestry, and small trade and manufacturing. Such activities were designed to restore livelihoods activities that existed prior to the cyclone, and to avoid significant movement of labor into new activities.

Another means of supporting early recovery in the areas hardest hit by the cyclone was the re-capitalization of previously existing and effective microcredit programs. In the aftermath of the cyclone, OFDA supported established microcredit programs that returned the savings or forgave the loans of participants affected by the cyclone who needed additional capital to restart their participation in the programs.

Conclusion

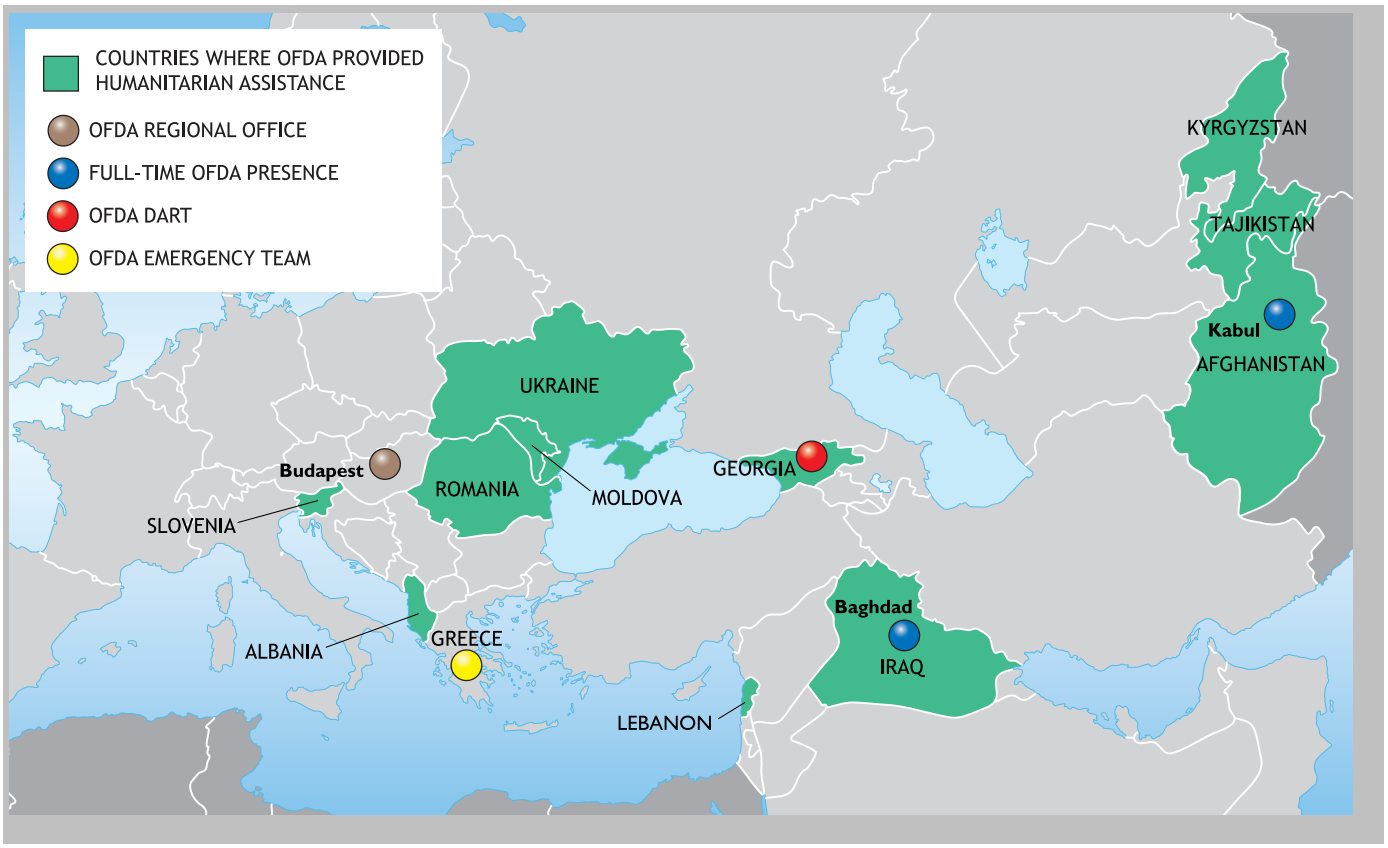
Through the transition from emergency relief to support for early recovery and livelihoods, OFDA provided timely and appropriate assistance to residents of the Ayeyarwady Delta. By assisting people to resume their livelihoods, OFDA-funded programs also helped to mitigate the need for future humanitarian assistance.

Water containers provided by OFDA are ready for transport to cyclone-affected individuals in Burma
(Photo by Michael Keegan, USAID).

Courtesy of IMC

EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CENTRAL ASIA

OFDA REGIONAL RESPONSES AND PRESENCE IN FY 2008



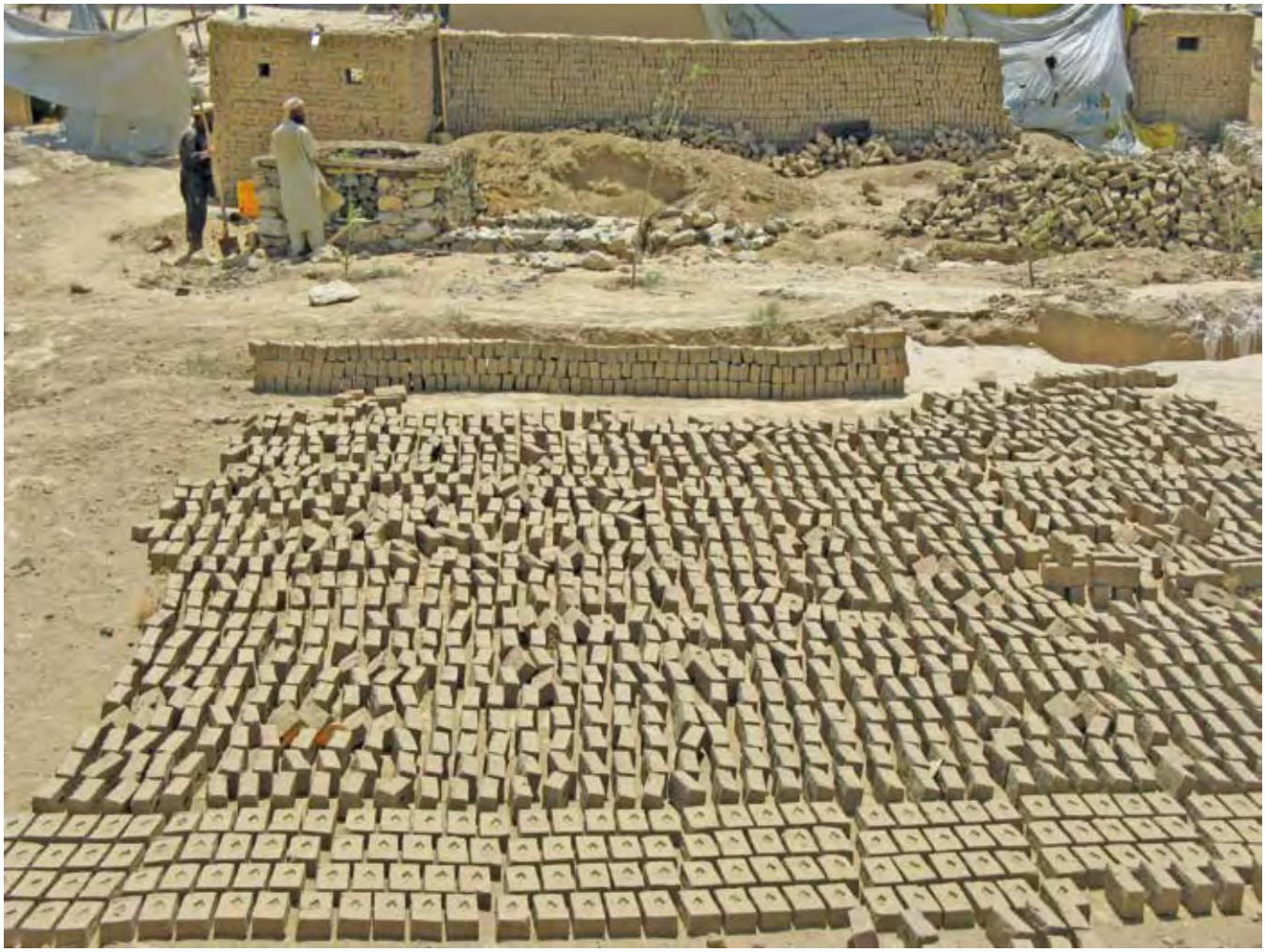
OFDA responded to 13 disasters in 11 countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia in FY 2008. Flooding in Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, and Ukraine required OFDA assistance. OFDA also responded to complex humanitarian emergencies in Afghanistan, Georgia, and Iraq; munitions explosions in Albania; earthquakes in Kyrgyzstan; forest fires in Lebanon; food insecurity in Tajikistan; drought in Moldova; and an industrial accident in Ukraine.

In total, OFDA provided more than $109 million in funding for humanitarian programs in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. OFDA deployed a DART in response to the complex emergency in Georgia and maintained full-time humanitarian advisors in Iraq and Afghanistan. In early FY 2008, OFDA and USFS deployed the second of two technical assistance teams to Greece following late FY 2007 wildfires in the country. In addition, OFDA established a regional office in Budapest, Hungary, to monitor ongoing humanitarian programs in the region.

AFGHANISTAN – Complex Emergency

In 2008, extreme winter weather, drought, conflict, and the global economic crisis converged to severely compound Afghanistan's decades-old humanitarian crisis. UNHCR estimates that at the height of the crisis, violence had caused 8 million Afghans to flee Afghanistan. In 2008, Iran and Pakistan repatriated nearly 250,000 Afghans for political and resource-related reasons. As of September 2008, an estimated 28,000 returnees resided in five spontaneous border settlements, prevented from returning home by ongoing insecurity or resource depletion, and facing inadequate camp services and assistance, according to UNHCR. The majority returned to places of origin, only to encounter a growing food crisis manifested in food shortages, unproductive agricultural lands, and limited livelihoods opportunities. The food crisis exacerbated humanitarian needs across Afghanistan, particularly impacting communities where returning Afghan refugees and IDPs strained already scarce resources.

Humanitarian conditions also continued to deteriorate during 2008 in Afghanistan's urban centers, particularly the capital city Kabul, as thousands of returning Afghans and IDPs relocated to the city. Since 2001, the population of Kabul has tripled in size from 1.5 million to an estimated 4.5 million people. The rapid increase in population has strained shelter resources and overwhelmed an already limited water, sanitation, and health infrastructure. The massive influx has also created acute emergency needs among the poorest residents.



Mud bricks, constructed through a program similar to OFDA-funded livelihoods programs, dry in the sun in Afghanistan (Photo by Yoni Bock, USAID).

On January 8, 2008, U.S. Ambassador William B. Wood declared a disaster as a result of the ongoing complex emergency and the probability of new shocks in 2008.

In FY 2008, OFDA provided $1 million to support rapid response efforts in Afghanistan to address emerging humanitarian crises caused by sudden population movements and recurring natural disasters. In addition, an OFDA program officer in Afghanistan continued to work with staff in USAID/Afghanistan to facilitate immediate responses to sudden-onset crises. A rapid response mechanism allowed an OFDA implementing partner to address humanitarian needs arising from the severe winter emergency in Afghanistan's western provinces that killed nearly 900 people and 135,000 livestock and reduced access to basic services and roads. To mitigate the impact of the severe winter weather, which peaked in January 2008, OFDA provided $500,000 for the distribution of winterization kits and other emergency relief commodities to vulnerable populations.

Throughout FY 2008, OFDA also continued to address the pressing need for transitional shelter, infrastructure repair, and livelihoods opportunities in and around Kabul by implementing the second phase of the Kabul Area Shelter and Settlements (KASS-2) Project. The first phase, which commenced in FY 2006 and was completed in FY 2007, provided shelter assistance to 3,774 households, or more than 26,000 people, as well as latrines, potable water, drainage and graveled roads, livelihoods, and training programs in health, sanitation, protection, and seismic hazard mitigation.

KASS-2, implemented in selected districts of Kabul Municipality, aims to provide shelter assistance to 9,000 households, or 62,000 people, and improve associated services, build community government capacity to reduce seismic hazard risks, and generate employment opportunities to benefit up to 100,000 people. KASS-2 also includes an initiative to develop the urban recovery management capacity of Kabul Municipality—a new feature of the program[1].

To promote agricultural recovery from the 2008 drought and bolster food security in Afghanistan, OFDA provided $3 million for the implementation of a certified wheat seed program. The OFDA-funded program, which continues through June 2009, minimizes the effects of soaring grain prices on seed enterprises to ultimately increase demand among farmers for certified seed, and thereby increase Afghanistan's overall domestic production[2].

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Afghanistan through FFP, which provided 157,520 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including pulses, vegetable oil, and wheat, in FY 2008.

In FY 2008, State/PRM funded programs to help Afghan returnees secure shelter and gain access to education, health, and water and sanitation services, as well as to improve literacy.

Implementing Partners in Afghanistan
ACTED, CARE, CHF International, FAO, and IOM

OFDA Assistance $17,018,394

ALBANIA – Munitions Explosions

On March 15 and 16, 2008, a series of explosions at an Albanian military ammunition storage facility in Gerdec, located 10 miles southeast of the capital city of Tirana, killed 26 people and injured 300 others, according to the Government of Albania. The accidental explosions also damaged or destroyed more than 4,000 houses, numerous public buildings, schools, and water and power infrastructure. OCHA estimated that the explosions affected 10,000 people, including the 4,000 residents of the three nearby villages who fled following the blasts. U.S. military personnel, who were in Albania as part of a joint training assignment, helped to secure the area and establish an on-site operations center.

On March 21, U.S. Ambassador John L. Withers II declared a disaster due to the impact of the explosions. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/

[1]See page 132 for more information on the KASS-2 program.

[2]See Supply and Demand: A Microeconomic Response to Food Insecurity in Afghanistan on page 91 for more information on this and other agricultural programs in Afghanistan.

FACTOID

According to the Small Arms Survey, a research project at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, approximately 150 explosions occurred at munitions depots worldwide between 1995 and 2007, killing nearly 2,600 people. In 2008, North Atlantic Treaty Organization officials noted that Albania's 100,000 tons of Stalinist-era munitions constituted a threat and required destruction of the stock in exchange for the country's membership in the alliance. The March 2008 explosions occurred as workers were dismantling munitions in an organized effort to address the issue.

Albania for the provision of emergency relief supplies to families displaced by the blasts.

Implementing Partner in Albania
IFRC

OFDA Assistance $50,000

GEORGIA – Complex Emergency

In early August 2008, heightened tensions led to armed conflict involving Georgian and Russian armed forces and South Ossetian separatist forces, affecting populations in South Ossetia, Abkhazia, and additional areas within Georgia and along the Georgia–Russia border. The Government of Russia, NGOs, and the Government of Georgia (GOG) estimated that the conflict resulted in the deaths of between 300 and 1,800 people. In addition, conflict displaced an estimated 30,000 persons within South Ossetia, more than 135,000 individuals within other parts of Georgia, and an additional 35,000 South Ossetians who crossed the Russian border into North Ossetia, according to U.N. reports. By the end of FY 2008, UNHCR reported that most refugees who fled to North Ossetia during the conflict, as well as 68,000 IDPs within Georgia, had returned to areas of origin. Remaining IDPs in Georgia resided in collective centers or with host families, predominantly in the capital Tbilisi and Shida Kartli Region.

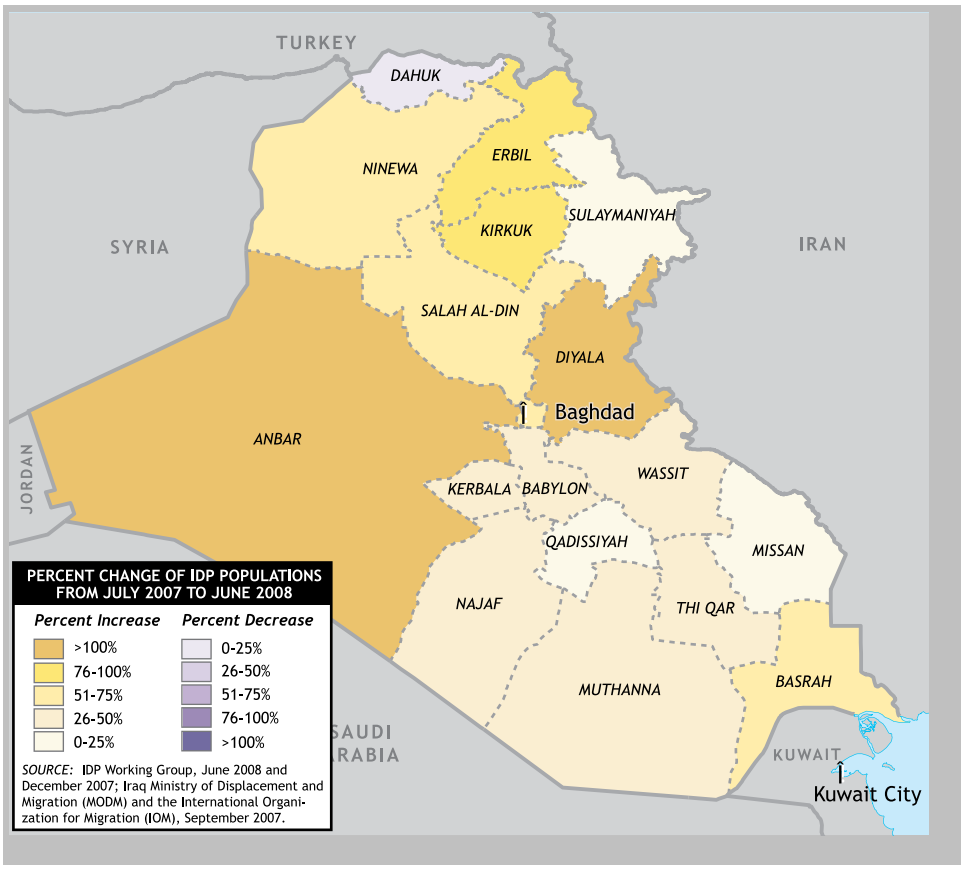
On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of the armed conflict. In response, OFDA provided an initial $250,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi for the provision of emergency relief supplies for approximately 10,000 people. In addition, OFDA deployed a DART to Georgia to conduct humanitarian needs assessments, coordinate with the GOG and relief agencies, and inform further USAID assistance priorities. OFDA also activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to support the DART and coordinate USG response efforts.

In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $12.1 million in humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected Georgians, including the procurement and distribution of emergency relief commodities. By the end of FY 2008, the DART had coordinated the distribution of more than 1 million units of OFDA- and other USG-provided commodities through U.N. agencies and NGO partners. OFDA provided 9,900 regionally-procured mattresses, 26,422 hygiene kits, and 6,050 blankets, valued at more than $579,000, including transport. Total OFDA relief commodities and logistics assistance, including local transportation and distribution of USG humanitarian assistance to IDP families, was valued at nearly $3.5 million.

In addition to distributing emergency relief commodities, OFDA supported partners to implement programs in the agriculture and food security, shelter and settlements, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation,

An individual distributes OFDA relief commodities to conflict-affected people in Georgia (Photo by Rebecca Gustafson, USAID).

Changing IDP Populations in Iraq



and hygiene sectors. OFDA-funded emergency shelter activities emphasizing support for hosting arrangements benefited approximately 7,000 IDP households, representing approximately 50 percent of identified needs. OFDA agriculture and food security programs facilitated needs assessments in conflict-affected areas and the purchase of complementary foods. OFDA partners also provided increased access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in IDP collective centers and supported livelihoods interventions for affected populations.

The USG also responded to the humanitarian situation in Georgia through State's Office of the Coordinator of U.N. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, which provided emergency relief commodities to NGOs for distribution to affected populations, and State/PRM, which funded U.N. agencies to further support persons displaced by the conflict.

[3]OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at $579,032, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Georgia to $12,716,151.

Between August 13 and September 4, DOD's U.S. European Command conducted 59 humanitarian missions to deliver DOD relief supplies, as well as State and USAID commodities, including ready-to-eat meals, hygiene kits, blankets, and medical supplies.

Implementing Partners in Georgia

ADRA, CARE, CHF International, Counterpart International, FAO, International Orthodox Christian Charities, IRD, Mercy Corps, Première Urgence, SC, UMCOR, UNICEF, WFP, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance ..... $12,137,119[3]

IRAQ – Complex Emergency

As of September 2008, more than 2.8 million Iraqis were internally displaced, and an additional 2.2 million resided in neighboring countries as refugees, according to IOM. Displacement rates slowed and stabilized in FY 2008, due in part to the variety of legal and socioeconomic measures instituted by the Government of Iraq (GOI) to support returns and

An OFDA partner distributes safe drinking water to conflict-affected populations in Iraq (Courtesy of IMC).

improve security in parts of the country, as well as the sectarian homogenization of communities. However, movement restrictions in many governorates, bans on accepting new IDPs in several areas, and depletion of family resources prevented a significant number of Iraqis from leaving insecure or deteriorating areas.

During FY 2008, violence continued in urban centers, including Baghdad and Basra, fueling displacement and causing localized humanitarian crises. In April and early May, fighting in Baghdad's Sadr City between GOI forces and militia members loyal to Moqtada al Sadr displaced more than 4,600 families, damaged health clinics, restricted residents' movements, and essentially halted all economic activity. Security improved following a ceasefire on May 11, and most individuals displaced by the fighting returned home as a result.

Since 2003, OFDA has assessed humanitarian needs and implemented humanitarian assistance programs in Iraq. In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $75.3 million in humanitarian assistance to vulnerable and displaced populations in the country. In response to the February 2008 U.N. Consolidated Appeal for Iraq, OFDA provided nearly $18 million for humanitarian coordination and information management, health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

Working through seven implementing partners, OFDA supported programs to benefit more than 1 million IDPs and other vulnerable individuals in all of Iraq's 18 governorates. OFDA partners provided direct relief support, distributing emergency relief supplies to displaced and vulnerable populations. OFDA partners also undertook projects to rebuild infrastructure, improve access to health services and water and sanitation facilities, provide shelter, and expand educational facilities for IDP families. Specific health projects included health-provider training, construction and rehabilitation of health facilities, support for mobile medical clinics, and the supply of essential medical equipment. Many OFDA-funded projects were designed not only to address broad

School children in Kyrgyzstan benefit from the reconstruction of a heating system, funded by OFDA in response to earthquake-related damage (Photo by Mahabat Alymkulova, USAID).

humanitarian needs, but also to increase household assets through income-generating activities, such as vocational training to improve the employment prospects of IDPs.

In addition, OFDA-funded programs included provisions to allow partners to respond rapidly and adapt to emerging needs. During the height of the conflict in Sadr City, one of OFDA's implementing partners quickly shifted resources to distribute medical supplies, food, safe drinking water, and other emergency relief supplies to violence-affected populations.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Iraq through FFP, which provided 29,020 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including pulses, vegetable oil, and wheat, for food-insecure Iraqi refugees in Syria and IDPs in Iraq who have crossed governorate boundaries.

In FY 2008, State/PRM contributed funds for a variety of activities for displaced persons both inside and outside Iraq, including the provision of educational support, health care services, and emergency relief commodities.

In FY 2008, total USG humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees, conflict victims, and internally displaced persons more than doubled from FY 2007 and targeted more than 4 million Iraqis.

OFDA Assistance $75,346,090

KYRGYZSTAN – Earthquakes

On December 26, 2007, a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck a remote area of southern Kyrgyzstan, approximately 30 km from the city of Osh. Three smaller earthquakes followed on January 1, 2008. According to the Government of Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Emergency Situations, the earthquakes displaced 1,248 families, or an estimated 7,000 people. The U.S. Embassy in Bishkek reported that the temblors caused widespread damage to housing and infrastructure, including schools and other child-friendly spaces. Kyrgyz

FACTOID

In 2008, forests covered approximately 13 percent of Lebanon's territory, compared to 35 percent in 1965. Wildfires destroy an average of 1,200 hectares of woodland per year in Lebanon and are the primary cause of forest cover reduction. In 2007, fires destroyed over 4,000 hectares of forest, more than in any other year in Lebanon's modern history. The 2007 wildfires destroyed forests containing the famous Cedar of Lebanon, which serves as the country's national emblem and appears on the Lebanese flag.

emergency response agencies, international NGOs, and U.N. agencies provided emergency relief supplies to affected families. However, unseasonably cold weather, with prolonged sub-freezing temperatures and snowstorms, hampered relief efforts.

On January 10, U.S. Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch declared a disaster due to the impact of the earthquakes. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Kyrgyzstan to support child protection activities, including psychosocial services and the rehabilitation of a multi-functional community structure.

Implementing Partner in Kyrgyzstan
Mercy Corps

OFDA Assistance $50,000

LEBANON – Wildfires

From October 1 to 4, 2007, approximately 240 separate forest fires caused extensive damage in multiple regions of northern and central Lebanon, including areas of the Chouf Mountains. The fires killed 1 person, injured 15 others, burned more than 5,000 acres of forest, and destroyed homes and personal property, according to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The blazes also consumed thousands of acres of agricultural land.

On October 9, U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey D. Feltman declared a disaster due to the fires' extensive physical damage and corresponding human impact. In response, OFDA provided $100,000 through USAID/Lebanon to assist affected individuals resume livelihoods disrupted by the fires. OFDA funds also supported efforts to restore fire-damaged lands.

Implementing Partner in Lebanon
Catholic Near East Welfare Association

OFDA Assistance $100,000

MOLDOVA – Drought

During the summer of 2007, high temperatures and a lack of rainfall resulted in widespread drought conditions throughout Moldova, including in Transnistria Region. According to a joint FAO–WFP assessment, the drought impacted 84 percent of Moldova's arable land and resulted in losses of approximately $406 million due to failed crops and livestock deaths.

On November 26, U.S. Ambassador Michael D. Kirby declared a disaster due to the impact of the drought on crops and livelihoods in Transnistria Region of Moldova. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Moldova for the purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs, including maize seed, to farmers in Transnistria Region.

Implementing Partner in Moldova
Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs

OFDA Assistance $50,000

FACTOID

Moldova has a long tradition of winemaking, and winemaking and viticulture continue to be a main industry for Moldova, with 360,000 acres of vineyards for commercial production for export. The floods in 2008 damaged or destroyed an estimated 30 percent of the vineyards in Moldova, causing significant economic damage in the country.

MOLDOVA – Floods

Beginning on July 25, 2008, heavy rains across northern Moldova and nearby areas in Ukraine led to flooding along the northern sections of the Prut and Nistru rivers. According to the Moldovan Civilian Protection and Emergencies Service, the flooding damaged 500 houses and impacted more than 20 settlements near the rivers. The U.S. Embassy in Chisinau reported that the flooding displaced up to 10,000 people and destroyed several hundred hectares of crops. Rising waters also threatened infrastructure, including a water pumping station that supplies drinking water to Chisinau and several dams on the Prut and Nistru rivers.

On July 29, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Rudolf Perina declared a disaster due to the impact of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Moldova
Soarta

OFDA Assistance $50,000

FACTOID

The 2007 Slovenian floods destroyed 11 of 13 buildings of the Franja Partisan Hospital, a major World War II-era monument recently short-listed for U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage status. The hospital, located in the remote Pasica Gorge and only reachable via bridge, was secretly run by Yugoslav Partisans from December 1943 to the end of the war as part of a resistance movement against the occupation of Yugoslavia by Fascist and Nazi forces. Despite active searches, occupying troops never discovered the facility due to an inaccessible location, effective camouflaging, and the blindfolding of patients during transport to the facility.

ROMANIA – Floods

Beginning on July 26, 2008, heavy rains and storms led to severe flooding along Romania's Prut, Siret, Suceava, and Tisa rivers. As reported by OCHA, the flooding damaged or destroyed more than 9,000

Individuals help offload OFDA-funded mattresses to benefit flood-affected families in Romania (Courtesy of World Vision).

houses, leading to the displacement of nearly 11,000 people in Maramures, Botosani, Bacau, Neamt, Iasi, and Vaslui counties. According to the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, the flooding also killed at least five people. The IFRC reported that the flooding inundated more than 26,000 hectares of agricultural land and damaged more than 1,000 km of roads in affected areas.

On July 31, U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Frank Taubman declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest for the provision of emergency relief supplies to affected families and support to child-friendly spaces.

Implementing Partner in Romania
World Vision

OFDA Assistance $50,000

SLOVENIA – Floods

Heavy rains in mid-September 2007 led to widespread flooding across Slovenia, affecting 250,000 people in 43 municipalities, or an estimated one-third of the country, according to the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana. According to the Government of Slovenia (GOS), the floods caused more than $285 million in damage in affected areas, including more than $100 million in damage in Zelezniki municipality alone. On September 17, flash floods killed seven people, swept away hundreds of vehicles, and damaged homes, a medical clinic, and a local water treatment plant. On September 18, the GOS declared the floods a national disaster.

On October 26, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Maryruth Coleman declared a disaster due to the extent of the flood damage. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana to a fund established by the GOS for flood relief efforts in Zelezniki. OFDA funds supported the construction of a water pump station to provide safe drinking water to affected residents of Zelezniki Municipality.

Implementing Partner in Slovenia
Municipality of Zelezniki

OFDA Assistance $50,000

TAJIKISTAN – Winter Emergency

In January 2008, extreme winter weather, combined with negative health and economic factors, resulted in food insecurity, power shortages, and damage to agricultural assets and water systems in Tajikistan, according to OCHA. The Government of Tajikistan (GOT) reported that the 2007/2008 winter was Tajikistan's coldest in 25 years, causing an estimated $850 million in economic losses. During the crisis, the capital city of Dushanbe received a maximum of 10 hours of electricity daily, while many other regions remained without power. Humanitarian NGOs observed many rural households resorting to various coping mechanisms, including migration and the sale of household assets and livestock, due to depleted food and fuel stocks. By February 2008, food insecurity had severely impacted more than 550,000 people, including at least 260,000 individuals who required urgent food assistance, according to WFP.

A man in Tajikistan carries home food distributed by an OFDA partner during Tajikistan's winter emergency and food insecurity (Courtesy of CARE).

On February 13, U.S. Ambassador Tracey A. Jacobson declared a disaster due to the winter weather. In response, OFDA provided nearly $1 million to address the emergency needs of the most vulnerable people. Between February and May 2008, an OFDA implementing partner provided emergency relief supplies and cash transfers to approximately 54,000 people to restore livelihoods and stimulate local economies. The partner also provided nearly 2,000 MT of coal to vulnerable households, non-electric heaters to 144 social institutions, and school winterization items to 48 educational institutions, benefiting more than 12,000 children.

In addition, OFDA provided more than $3.3 million for the regional procurement and distribution of 2,793 MT of food commodities in response to the food security crisis. The project is expected to meet 70 percent of winter food requirements for 10,500 vulnerable households in the most-affected regions of Khatlon and Sughd. In coordination with targeted communities, village development committees, and local government authorities, OFDA-supported implementing partners plan to conduct food distributions in December 2008 and February 2009.

Implementing Partner in Tajikistan
SC/US

OFDA Assistance $4,342,618

FACTOID

The Zasyadko Mine is Ukraine's largest and best-equipped mine, employing 10,000 people and producing up to 10,000 tons of coal per day. The Zasyadko Mine is also considered one of the most dangerous coal mines in the world due to naturally high levels of methane gas, coal dust explosion hazards, and the size and depth of the mine. Six other major mining accidents since 1999, including two explosions less than two weeks following the November 2007 blast, killed more than 140 workers and injured more than 220 others.

UKRAINE – Industrial Accident

On November 18, 2007, a methane explosion occurred in the Zasyadko coal mine, located in the Donetsk Oblast approximately 450 miles southeast of the capital city of Kyiv. According to IFRC, the explosion trapped more than 450 miners underground, and a subsequent fire killed 89 of these miners. Emergency responders rescued 357 miners and hospitalized approximately 30 individuals for methane inhalation.

On November 23, U.S. Ambassador William B. Taylor declared a disaster due to the effects of the mine accident. In response, OFDA provided more than $190,000 through USAID/Ukraine to procure specialized medical equipment for treating methane poisoning as well as lung and heart problems caused by the explosion.

Implementing Partner in Ukraine
IRD

OFDA Assistance $191,902

UKRAINE – Floods

Beginning July 25, 2008, heavy rainfall in the southwestern Carpathian Mountains led to severe flooding in six regions of western Ukraine along the Dnistr and Prut rivers. According to OCHA, the flooding resulted in the deaths of 30 people, including 6 children, and the evacuation of up to 28,000 people in the most affected oblasts of Lviv, Ivano-Frankyivsk, Zakarpattya, Ternopil, Vinnytsia, and Chernivtsi. The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv reported that the flooding also damaged an estimated 40,703 homes and 921 automobile and pedestrian bridges, and destroyed nearly 34,000 hectares of farmland.

On July 30, U.S. Ambassador William B. Taylor declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Ukraine for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies.

Implementing Partner in Ukraine
IRD

OFDA Assistance $50,000

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission James D. Pettit visits damaged villages following flooding in western Ukraine (Courtesy of USAID/Ukraine).

Supply and Demand: A Microeconomic Response to Food Insecurity in Afghanistan

Caroline Luther and Yoni Bock

While 2007 and 2008 saw rapidly increasing prices for basic food commodities around the world, the impact of the global food crisis was particularly acute in Afghanistan, a nation already struggling to recover from 30 years of conflict and insecurity. The global food crisis, combined with the effects of Afghanistan's worst drought in 10 years and deteriorating security, further entrenched vulnerabilities among impoverished Afghans, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, and resulted in wide-spread humanitarian needs among the general population.

In response to conditions in Afghanistan, OFDA, with a history of emergency and preparedness programming in the country, contributed its unique technical expertise to the overall USAID effort to develop a program that addressed multiple aspects of food insecurity simultaneously. Collaboration amongst OFDA, FFP, and USAID/Afghanistan resulted in a three-part program that applied basic economic theory to meet immediate demands for food, provide quick access to and strengthen the inputs necessary to yield better results at the next harvest, and develop domestic food production capacity to balance supply with demand over the longer term. All stakeholders, including the recipient government and communities, actively participated in the program development and implementation, and USAID leveraged the strengths of various offices and incorporated critical input from other international donors. These characteristics constitute a model for successfully addressing complex humanitarian issues.

Background

According to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA), the country produced only two-thirds of the annual food requirement in the 2007/2008 agricultural year—an estimated 23 percent drop from the 2006/2007 year when Afghanistan produced 90 percent of required food and demonstrated the potential of the agricultural sector. The substantial remaining food requirement in 2007/2008 compelled the country to import from neighboring countries or rely heavily on relief agencies. However, numerous factors led to severe food shortages and further exacerbated price increases in Afghanistan. These included new export restrictions and bans on cereals from countries in the region; escalating costs to transport both limited regional food stocks and the domestic supply to local markets; generalized price increases; and limited access for suppliers and relief agencies to remote and insecure areas. Wheat prices alone increased 123 percent over the previous year. Consequently, food insecurity increased for an estimated 4.5 million Afghans across all of the country's 34 provinces, bringing the total number of food-insecure individuals in Afghanistan to 8.5 million, or 35 percent of the population, according to the U.N. and the GIRoA.

Strengthening Private Sector Seed Enterprises to Maximize Harvests

In the short term, the poor 2008 harvest, coupled with reduced imports and price increases, led to new and deepening emergency needs for direct food aid in areas with almost no food available and cash assistance in areas with exorbitant market prices. At the same time, the underperforming wheat crop raised concerns about both the longer-term ability of the country to consistently boost agricultural production to and above the levels observed in 2007, and the more pressing issue of the 2008/2009 agricultural year, beginning with the availability of wheat seed for farmers to plant. In the absence of sufficient grains and other staple foods, many families had consumed their wheat seed to meet household needs, thereby reducing the amount available for the 2008/2009 planting season. Compounding the problem, the

A young Afghan sits proudly on the fertilizer and seed he received through the AVIPA program, knowing the inputs will help his family meet their food needs (Courtesy of IRD).

three-fold increase since 2007 of raw wheat seed prices, a result of the decreased supply and generalized price increases, sharply dampened demand for the seeds still available. As a result, seed enterprises—constituting a once burgeoning and promising industry focused on maximizing harvests—failed to purchase enough raw seeds to certify and sell back to wheat farmers to produce a successful yield in 2008. The shortage of certified seed, the product of a process that reduces contamination and increases viability and drought tolerance, contributed to Afghanistan's meager agricultural output in 2008.

In the first component of the USAID strategy, by strengthening seed enterprises, OFDA sought to address the emergency need for cash among vulnerable farming households who had consumed valuable seed inventories and help Afghan farmers to produce sufficient food for the nation at the next harvest and beyond. To ensure that farmers would not consume seed stocks and that seed enterprises could purchase sufficient quantities of raw seeds, OFDA provided $3 million to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to implement a program that cushioned the impacts of rising prices and poor harvests and facilitated the relationship between seed buyers and growers.

Working through the Afghanistan National Seed Association (ANSA), Afghan seed-producing enterprises received loans to purchase raw wheat seed directly from growers, eliminating the supply chain and the growing costs associated therewith. The cash received from seed enterprises helped growers meet immediate food needs. In addition, with adequate wheat seed inventory, the seed enterprises could then sell wheat farmers certified seed at lower prices due to the previously eliminated middle-man costs—all in time for the October/November 2008 planting season. With money from the seed sales, the enterprises would be able to repay the initial loans, with the funds from repayment then deposited into a special revolving fund in ANSA. Addressing the impacts of both global and local events on food security, the FAO program represents an innovative way to ensure an adequate and quality supply of wheat seed in Afghanistan in both the near term and, through the revolving fund, over the longer term, by reinforcing and strengthening private enterprise seed markets.

Increasing Access to Agricultural Inputs to Boost Production Capacity for the Next Planting Season

The ability of farmers to plant for the 2008/2009 season largely depended on the purchasing power of Afghan farmers, many of whom failed to meet household food and income needs due to the poor 2007/2008 cereals harvest. The second component of USAID's strategy to mitigate the impact of the food crisis directly targeted vulnerable farming households with the purpose of improving 2009 harvests. The Afghanistan Vouchers for Increased Productive Agriculture (AVIPA) program, designed by USAID/Afghanistan in close cooperation with the GIRoA Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, and with critical input from OFDA and DFID, increased and expanded access to the wheat seed and fertilizer required to plant during the 2008/2009 season.

On June 11, 2008, USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore announced the joint project at the International Support Conference for Afghanistan, describing the project's overall goal as helping to increase production of critical food crops and ensure sufficient grain harvests in 2009. AVIPA met the objective by enabling vulnerable farmers to enter pre-approved private sector agricultural supply stores and, with the appropriate program vouchers, purchase an inputs package containing improved wheat seed varieties and fertilizer at significantly reduced prices. The farmers could select packages for either rain-fed or irrigated

Why "Certified" Seed?

Seed sold by official seed suppliers is considered "certified" when it includes specific information on seed origin, sampling, and testing. Certified seed packages identify the seed lot number, kind and variety, percent of weed seeds, percent of inert matter, germination rates, and month/year of testing, as well as indicate whether or not the seeds were treated to control seedborne diseases. Certified seed must be no older than one year from the germination test. Certified seed is often of higher quality than non-certified (farmer-grown) seed and more drought resistant.

cropland depending on individual farming practices. AVIPA targeted 247,000 farming households, or an estimated 1.4 million individuals, in 14 out of 19 provinces affected by the devastating 2008 drought. AVIPA will help these households meet their 2009 food needs, while also making affordable food available to the rest of the country in spring 2009 with the winter wheat harvest. The up to $60 million program, funded primarily by USAID/Afghanistan with contributions from DFID and other donors, is implemented by NGO partner IRD.

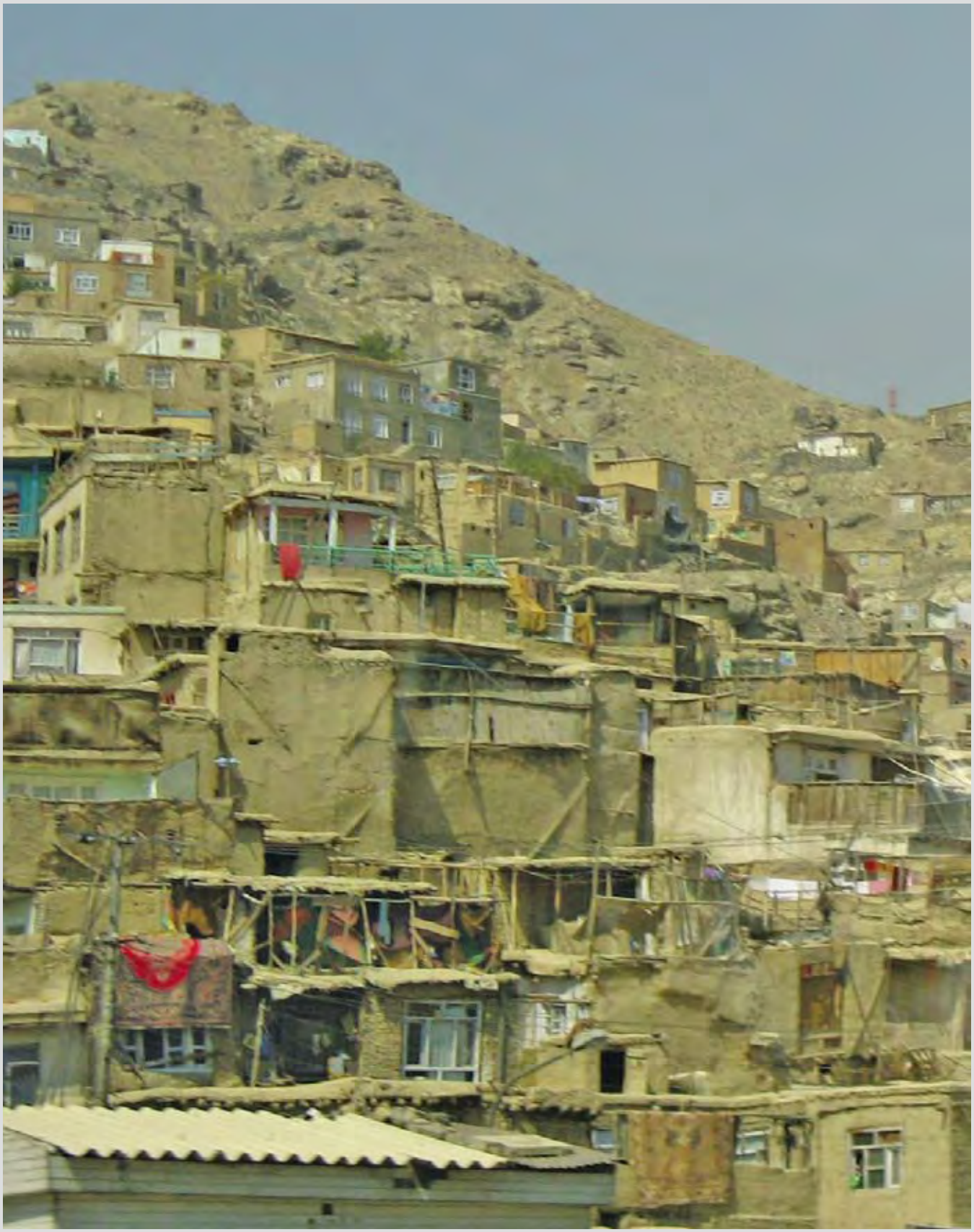
Direct Food Assistance to Meet Emergency Needs and Reverse the Poverty Cycle

Rounding out the three-part USAID program, FFP tackled critical food needs, contributing 157,520 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to support a larger operation that targeted 8.8 million Afghans. In addition, FFP began a multiyear project, providing an initial $9.9 million in FY 2008, to address the chronic food insecurity of an estimated 130,000 individuals in the central highlands of Afghanistan.

An AVIPA staff member examines seed quality before seed is distributed to Afghan farmers (Courtesy of IRD).

Conclusion

In response to Afghanistan's food crisis, a result of localized natural disasters, conflict, and the global rise in food prices, OFDA and other USAID offices crafted a unique, multi-faceted, and proactive approach to bolster food security, drawing upon the strengths of the various stakeholders to tackle different aspects of a complex issue. OFDA strengthened seed enterprises not only to meet short- and medium-term needs by increasing access to cash and ensuring the availability of sufficient quantities of certified seed for the 2008/2009 planting season, but also to promote long-term domestic agricultural production. USAID/Afghanistan, drawing on its technical expertise and OFDA's experience with humanitarian voucher programs, also worked to ensure that many additional Afghan farmers were able to purchase the agricultural inputs necessary to plant during the 2008/2009 season. Finally, FFP met emergency needs for direct food aid, while continuing to address long-term food insecurity. While the full impact of the intervention will remain unknown until the 2009 harvest, OFDA has confidence that the early intervention has reduced the impact of high food prices and crop failures on food security and prevented many households from succumbing to the cycle of poverty endemic to Afghanistan.



USAID programs improve the food security of urban populations in Afghanistan, including the residents of this hillside settlement in Kabul (Photo by Yoni Bock, USAID).

Photo by Christopher Gomes, USAID

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

OFDA REGIONAL RESPONSES AND PRESENCE IN FY 2008

OFDA responded to 21 disasters in 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in FY 2008. Hurricanes caused extensive damage in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica. OFDA responded to flooding in Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua. In addition, OFDA continued building local capacity for disaster management through a regional program that has trained approximately 50,000 individuals in emergency response, including more than 5,000 instructors.

In total, OFDA provided more than $17 million for humanitarian programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. OFDA deployed a DART to Haiti and emergency teams to Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, and Nicaragua. OFDA maintained a regional office in Costa Rica, which coordinates disaster assistance efforts throughout the region.

BELIZE – Tropical Storm

On May 31, 2008, Tropical Storm Arthur made landfall on the Yucatan Peninsula, affecting all the districts of Belize. The storm caused rivers in the Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, and Stann Creek districts to overflow. According to IFRC, flooding affected approximately 10,000 people, killed seven others, damaged houses, and destroyed several major bridges, including Kendall Bridge, the main commercial artery for the transport of commercial goods throughout Belize. The Government of Belize (GOB) declared all of Stann Creek District and parts of Belize District disaster areas.

On June 5, U.S. Ambassador Robert J. Dieter declared a disaster due to the effects of Tropical Storm Arthur. In response, OFDA provided nearly $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including kitchen utensils, brooms, and shovels. An OFDA disaster management expert traveled to Belize to work with the GOB to assess conditions and coordinate relief efforts in affected areas.

In addition, OFDA airlifted 1,500 blankets, 2,016 hygiene kits, 600 water containers, and 100 rolls of plastic sheeting valued at nearly $110,000, including transportation costs, to Belize for distribution to affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Belize
Belize Red Cross

OFDA Assistance $134,371

A humanitarian aid worker distributes OFDA relief supplies to a flood-affected family in Belize (Photo by Beryl Armbrister, USAID).

BOLIVIA – Floods

Beginning in November 2007, heavy rains caused severe flooding in the Bolivian departments of Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, La Paz, and Santa Cruz. According to the Government of Bolivia (GOB), the floods and rains caused 63 deaths and affected 79,000 families from November 2007 to early March 2008. Flooding also affected nearly 24,000 hectares of cropland, damaged 108 houses, destroyed 469 houses, obstructed roads, and led to evacuations in affected communities. On January 21, the GOB declared a national state of emergency and issued emergency alerts in affected departments.

On January 24, 2008, OFDA began to deploy a seven-person emergency team to Bolivia. Team members evaluated humanitarian conditions and needs, provided regular updates on affected areas, and coordinated assistance with the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, USAID/Bolivia, and GOB officials. A member of the team remained in Bolivia through March 1.

On January 27, U.S. Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided funding through USAID/Bolivia for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies and safe drinking water, shelter assistance, and health interventions. Via two airlifts from the OFDA warehouses in Miami and Dubai, OFDA provided relief commodities, including 310 rolls of plastic sheeting, 1,000 ten-liter water containers, 1,536 hygiene kits, 3 WHO-standard medical kits, and 7,700 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, to affected populations in Bolivia. The total value of the OFDA supplies, including transportation costs, was $405,882.

The OFDA airlift from Miami included 48 small water purification units and 148 water testing kits donated by HHS. HHS also provided 3,500 cots and pads, 70 field health and safety kits, 10,000 alcohol cleaning pads, 100,000 vinyl gloves, and 200 small bottles of insect repellant.

DOD also provided humanitarian assistance in response to the flooding. On February 1, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performed water site inspections at the Hampaturi and Incachaca water reservoirs in La Paz Department, in collaboration with

A Bolivian boy stands next to his family's OFDA-funded temporary shelter (Photo by Liza Mantilla, USAID).

OFDA staff and representatives from the GOB water services company. DOD provided funding for the local purchase and distribution of relief commodities to affected households in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz departments. DOD also deployed three military liaison officers to provide assistance at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz.

Implementing Partners in Bolivia
ADRA and Centro de Investigación, Estudios y Servicios en Salud

OFDA Assistance $618,146

BRAZIL – Floods

From late March to mid-April 2008, heavy rains caused flooding and mudslides in normally semi-arid areas of northeastern Brazil. The flooding killed 33 people, led the Government of Brazil (GOB) to evacuate more than 69,000 people, and affected a total of 450,000 individuals in 266 municipalities in Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, and Rio Grande do Norte states, according to the GOB. Floodwaters damaged infrastructure, including roads and dams, and led to the loss of crops, seed banks, pasture, livestock, and water management resources.

On April 17, U.S. Ambassador Clifford M. Sobel declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided more than $60,000 for the purchase and distribution of plastic sheeting, blankets, water containers, and hygiene kits, which benefited approximately 3,000 individuals in the most affected areas of Ceará, Piauí, and Paraíba states.

Implementing Partner in Brazil
CRS

OFDA Assistance $60,250

FACTOID

One of the primary tourist attractions of Manaus, located in Brazil, is the "meeting of the waters," or the crossroads between the dark Rio Negro and the sandy-colored Amazon. The waters of the Rio Negro flow at 2 km per hour and at a temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit. The quicker, warmer waters of the Amazon flow up to three times as fast and are 10 degrees Fahrenheit warmer. As a result of different flow speeds and temperatures, upon meeting, the two rivers run side by side for 6 km without converging.

COSTA RICA – Floods

Beginning on October 10, 2007, heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in communities in all seven provinces of Costa Rica. According to the Government of Costa Rica (GOCR), floods resulted in 18 deaths and affected approximately 12,000 people, including 3,000 people temporarily displaced to shelters. Flooding damaged 1,900 houses, negatively impacted the agricultural sector, and caused serious damage to infrastructure, including 124 roads, 29 bridges, 5 community water systems, and 15 power lines.

On October 17, President Óscar Arias Sánchez declared a state of emergency. On October 20, the GOCR National Emergency Commission requested assistance from OFDA.

On October 22, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires David E. Henifin declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in San José for the local purchase of emergency relief supplies, including bedding, blankets, fuel, and hygiene kits.

Implementing Partner in Costa Rica
GOCR National Emergency Commission

OFDA Assistance $50,000

COSTA RICA – Floods

Between September 2 and 5, 2008, the passage of Tropical Storm Hanna caused heavy rains and significant flooding in western Costa Rica. The floods particularly affected Guanacaste Province, including the communities of Carrillo, Santa Cruz, Islona, Corralillo, Bolsón, and La Guinea, as well as the cantons of Montes de Oro and Puntarenas. According to the GOCR National Emergency Commission, the floods affected an estimated 9,500 people, including approximately 2,360 individuals displaced to emergency shelters[1].

FACTOID

In 2007, heavy rains caused flooding in all seven departments of Costa Rica. However, these rains also contributed to the regeneration of rain forests and other ecosystems. Due in large part to the country's climate and geography, Costa Rica is visited by more tourists than any other country in Central America. Of particular appeal to many tourists is ecotourism, which draws a significant number of the approximately 2 million tourists who visit Costa Rica each year.

On September 5, U.S. Ambassador Peter Cianchette declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided $40,000 through the U.S. Embassy in San José for air support to transport medical personnel and equipment to affected communities.

Implementing Partner in Costa Rica
National Commission of Risk Prevention and Emergency Attention

OFDA Assistance $40,000

[1]Flooding in Costa Rica continued into FY 2009. As of mid-October, the ongoing floods had killed 7 people, displaced at least 3,096 others, and affected a total of 92,000 people in 470 communities, according to OCHA. In addition, flooding and mudslides rendered 171 roads impassible and damaged approximately 1,400 houses.

CUBA – Tropical Storm

Beginning in late October 2007, Tropical Storm Noel caused heavy rains and flooding in Granma, Holguín, and Santiago de Cuba provinces in eastern Cuba. According to the Government of Cuba (GOC), the storm and associated flooding displaced at least 68,000 people in Granma, Holguín, and Guantánamo provinces, particularly affecting Río Cauto municipality. The storm also caused extensive damage to buildings, infrastructure, and crops in eastern Cuba, damaging or destroying nearly 22,000 houses and 123,000 acres of sugar cane, according to international media. GOC officials estimated that the storm and subsequent flooding caused nearly $500 million in total damage in southeastern Cuba.

On November 9, the U.S. Interests Section in Havana declared a disaster due to the effects of the tropical storm. In response, OFDA provided $100,000 for the provision of emergency relief supplies, including shelter kits, to affected populations in Cuba.

OFDA Assistance $100,000

FACTOID

Cuba consists of an archipelago of more than 4,000 islands, islets, and cays in the northern Caribbean, at the confluence of the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean. Stretching more than 750 miles long, the island of Cuba is the 17th largest island in the world by land area.

CUBA – Hurricane

On August 30, 2008, Hurricane Gustav made landfall in western Cuba as a category four storm on the Saffir-Simpson scale. The hurricane produced heavy rains and particularly affected Pinar del Río Province and Isla de la Juventud. According to OCHA, the hurricane injured 19 individuals, displaced approximately 6,000 others, and affected an estimated 400,000 people. The GOC reported that the hurricane damaged an estimated 120,105 homes, 150 electric towers, and 4,500 electric posts in Pinar del Río Province alone. In addition, banana, citrus, coffee, rice, sugar cane, and tobacco crops sustained significant damage, according to OCHA.

On September 3, the U.S. Interests Section in Havana declared a disaster due to the effects of the hurricane. In response, OFDA provided $1.5 million in emergency relief funds to help meet the immediate needs of affected populations in Cuba, including through the provision of emergency relief supplies, as well as shelter and agricultural interventions.

OFDA Assistance $1,500,000

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – Floods

On October 28, 2007, Tropical Storm Noel began to pass over the Dominican Republic. As the storm lingered over Hispaniola, large quantities of rain fell in a relatively short period of time, leading to extensive flooding and causing significant damage in 26 of the country's 33 provinces. Flooding particularly affected Barahona Province and Bajo Yuna town in Duarte Province.

The storm and resulting flooding killed 87 people, left 42 others missing, and displaced approximately 79,730 people, according to the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR). Rising floodwaters destroyed 1,879 houses and damaged more than 18,000 other houses. OCHA reported that the flooding damaged approximately 40 percent of the country's water distribution systems and 60 percent of the country's 122 aqueducts. According to IFRC, the tropical storm and associated flooding damaged approximately 95 percent of banana, plantain, and tomato plantations in the southern provinces of Ázua and Peravia.

On October 31, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Roland W. Bullen declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods resulting from Tropical Storm Noel. In response, OFDA provided an initial $100,000 through USAID/Dominican Republic for the local purchase and transport of potable water, shelter materials, other relief supplies, and emergency food assistance. From October 31 to November 16, an eight-person OFDA

Floodwaters inundate banana, plantain, and tomato plantations in the Dominican Republic as a result of Tropical Storm Noel (Photo by Julie Leonard, USAID).

emergency team deployed to the Dominican Republic to conduct assessments, monitor humanitarian needs, and coordinate relief efforts with the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, USAID/Dominican Republic, the GODR Emergency Operations Center, and the GODR Ministry of Health (MOH). OFDA provided additional funding to support the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including shelter materials, as well as the implementation of emergency health and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. In addition, OFDA worked with the GODR MOH to procure point-of-use water purification products and provided training on product use in order to supply safe drinking water to populations in affected areas.

In addition, through three airlifts, OFDA transported relief commodities to Santo Domingo, including 11,136 hygiene kits, 11,400 ten-liter water containers, 6,000 blankets, ten 10,000-liter collapsible water bladders, 5,000 mosquito nets, and 150 rolls of plastic sheeting. Peace Corps volunteers assisted in offloading commodities at the Santo Domingo airport. Valued at nearly $390,000, including transportation costs, the relief supplies benefited thousands of flood-affected individuals.

DOD and the U.S. Coast Guard provided transportation support by airlifting relief items donated by OFDA and the U.N. to affected areas. DOD flew a total of 137 sorties, transporting 243,881 lbs of humanitarian relief supplies. DOD conducted 4 medical evacuations, rescued 66 people on search-and-rescue missions, and transported 240 passengers. A DOD medical team also treated 1,543 patients and provided preventative medical education to 1,870 people. In addition, DOD donated 28,700 Typhoid and 7,380 Pediatrix vaccines, as well as humanitarian relief supplies including shelter material, vehicles, chainsaws, water purification tablets, personal hygiene supplies, and other items.

Implementing Partners in the Dominican Republic
Asociación para el Desarrollo de San José de Ocoa, CRS, Dominican Red Cross, El Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, FHI/CONECTA, Food for the Poor/New York Yankees, FUNDASEP, FUNDASUR, GODR, GODR Ministry of Health, MUDE, MUDHA, Oxfam, PAHO, Plan International, TU MUJER, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance $1,538,498

Floodwaters inundate houses and prompt residents of the Dominican Republic to seek assistance (Photo by William Brands, USAID).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – Tropical Storms

During August and September 2008, tropical storms Fay, Gustav, and Hanna affected populations throughout the Dominican Republic. Between August 15 and 16, Tropical Storm Fay made landfall in eastern Dominican Republic, moving westward across the island of Hispaniola and resulting in three continuous days of heavy rainfall and flooding. The approach of Tropical Storm Gustav on August 25 led to additional rainfall and increased flooding, prompting the evacuation of affected populations. On August 26, rising water levels of the Ozama River caused a mudslide, which killed eight people and injured two others in the area of Guadalupe, according to IFRC. By September 2, a third storm, Tropical Storm Hanna, had passed north of the island, bringing additional rainfall and high winds to areas previously affected by tropical storms Fay and Gustav. According to OCHA, the storms displaced a total of 16,715 individuals, destroyed 46 houses, and damaged 3,343 houses, 9 roads, and 12 bridges.

On September 3, U.S. Ambassador P. Robert Fannin declared a disaster due to the effects of the tropical storms. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Dominican Republic for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including water containers, hygiene kits, and bedding.

Implementing Partner in the Dominican Republic
CRS

OFDA Assistance $50,000

ECUADOR – Floods

From mid-January to early March 2008, heavy rains led to severe flooding in 13 provinces in Ecuador, particularly impacting the coastal provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, El Oro, and Loja as well as the inland provinces of Los Ríos, Cañar, and Azuay. The floods resulted in 56 deaths and affected more than 250,000 people, including 13,000 individuals displaced from affected areas. Floodwaters also caused significant damage to the agriculture and fishery sectors, according to the U.N. On February 20, the Government of Ecuador (GOE) declared a disaster, pledged $25 million for relief operations, and appealed for international assistance.

On February 21, U.S. Ambassador Linda J. Jewell declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided an initial $50,000 through USAID/Ecuador for the local procurement and distribution of relief commodities. A five-person OFDA emergency team traveled to Ecuador to conduct assessments, determine humanitarian needs, and coordinate with the GOE and relief agencies. Based on the team's assessments, OFDA supported emergency health services; water, sanitation, and hygiene activities; and the procurement, transport, and distribution of emergency relief supplies benefiting more than 20,000 flood-affected individuals.

In addition, OFDA airlifted emergency relief supplies valued at more than $284,000, including 8,160 hygiene kits, one 10,000-liter water bladder, 3,000 ten-liter water containers, and 200 rolls of plastic sheeting,

from the OFDA Miami warehouse to Ecuador. OFDA emergency relief supplies benefited approximately 40,800 people in need of asistance.

DOD also provided additional relief commodities, deployed a three-person Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team, and airlifted relief supplies donated by CDC.

Implementing Partners in Ecuador
AmRC, CARE, Ecuadorian Red Cross, GOE, PAHO, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance $929,104

Children watch as boats provided by DOD are prepared for an assessment of flood-affected areas in Ecuador (Courtesy of DOD).

GUATEMALA – Floods

In July 2008, heavy rainfall caused severe flooding and landslides in Chimaltenango, Chiquimula, and Zacapa departments in eastern and central Guatemala, particularly affecting La Unión municipality in Zacapa Department. The floods and landslides killed 27 individuals, affected an estimated 17,300 others, and damaged roads, bridges, and more than 2,260 houses, according to UNICEF. The floods displaced approximately 7,400 individuals, including more than 5,000 individuals whom the Government of Guatemala (GOG) evacuated to shelters in Gualán municipality, Zacapa Department, and Camotán municipality, Chiquimula Department. On July 24, the GOG declared a state of emergency for La Unión municipality, followed by a state of emergency declaration for 25 municipalities in eight departments on July 30.

On July 25, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires David E. Lindwall declared a disaster due to the flooding. In response, OFDA provided nearly $50,000 through USAID/Guatemala for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including hygiene items, to flood-affected residents. In addition, a Guatemala-based OFDA disaster management expert traveled to affected areas to conduct assessments and coordinate with government agencies.

Implementing Partner in Guatemala
Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres

OFDA Assistance $49,906

Guatemalan disaster personnel measure a crack in the floor of a house affected by landslides (Photo by Ricardo Berganza, USAID).

HAITI – Floods

Continuous rains from late September through early November 2007, exacerbated by the passage of Tropical Storm Noel, resulted in severe flooding in Gonaïves, Port au Prince, Jacmel, and Cayes urban districts. According to the Government of Haiti (GOH), as of November 3, flooding had affected 25,397 families, caused 103 deaths, and left 20 people

Flood-affected individuals in Haiti transport OFDA-funded relief commodities following Tropical Storm Noel (Courtesy of IOM).

missing. Floods also destroyed approximately 3,132 houses and damaged an additional 14,015 others.

On November 7, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Thomas C. Tighe declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods and tropical storm. From November 8 to 14, a four-person OFDA emergency team deployed to Haiti and coordinated with the U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince, USAID/Haiti, and GOH officials to survey the impacts of the flooding and determine humanitarian priorities. In response to identified needs, OFDA supported emergency activities and livelihoods recovery, including procurement of relief commodities and protection activities, as well as agriculture and food security interventions. OFDA and implementing partners provided seeds, tree seedlings, livestock, tools, and training to affected populations, benefiting 2,350 people. OFDA provided clean water to affected populations, rehabilitated water points, and distributed hygiene and kitchen kits, benefiting a total of 12,000 people. In addition, OFDA supported the establishment of safe spaces for approximately 800 individuals displaced by floods.

Implementing Partners in Haiti
CRS, IOM, SC/US, World Concern Development Organization, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance $648,723

HAITI – Food Insecurity

In November 2007, heavy rains and flooding damaged infrastructure and reduced harvests in critical production areas. Poor harvests, compounded by increased food commodity prices, resulted in heightened food insecurity in Haiti, affecting approximately 2.5 million people by early 2008. According to the U.N., the food crisis—further exacerbated by poverty—particularly affected peri-urban centers, isolated rural communities, and landless farmers.

According to FEWS NET, between February 2007 and February 2008, the price of basic food commodities, including Haiti's staple food rice, increased by approximately 20 percent. The food price increase peaked in April, leading to widespread civil unrest throughout the capital city of Port au Prince, as well as Gonaïves, Jacmel, Les Cayes, Petit Goave, and Saint-Marc districts. According to the U.N., violence during the demonstrations killed six people and injured nine others.

On April 28, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson declared a disaster due to food insecurity in Haiti. In response to emergency needs, OFDA provided nearly $150,000 through USAID/Haiti for the purchase and distribution of seeds and fertilizer for more than 30,000 farmers in urban and peri-urban production areas to prepare for the subsequent growing season. On May 16, USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore deployed the director of the USAID Haiti task force to Port au Prince to assess humanitarian conditions and monitor food security.

In FY 2008, USAID also responded to humanitarian needs in Haiti through FFP and USAID/Haiti. In response to food insecurity, FFP provided 36,660 MT

Staff from OFDA partner IOM offload relief supplies for flood-affected communities in Haiti (Photo by Cara Christie, USAID).

of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, benefiting more than 1.2 million people. FFP assistance included beans, rice, corn-soya blend, vegetable oil, lentils, soy-fortified bulgur, peas, and cornmeal. USAID/Haiti provided support for the GOH's plan to subsidize imported rice to reduce the price from $51 to $43 per 110 lbs. USAID/Haiti also supported job creation programs targeting 15,000 people.

Implementing Partner in Haiti
CRS

OFDA Assistance $149,998

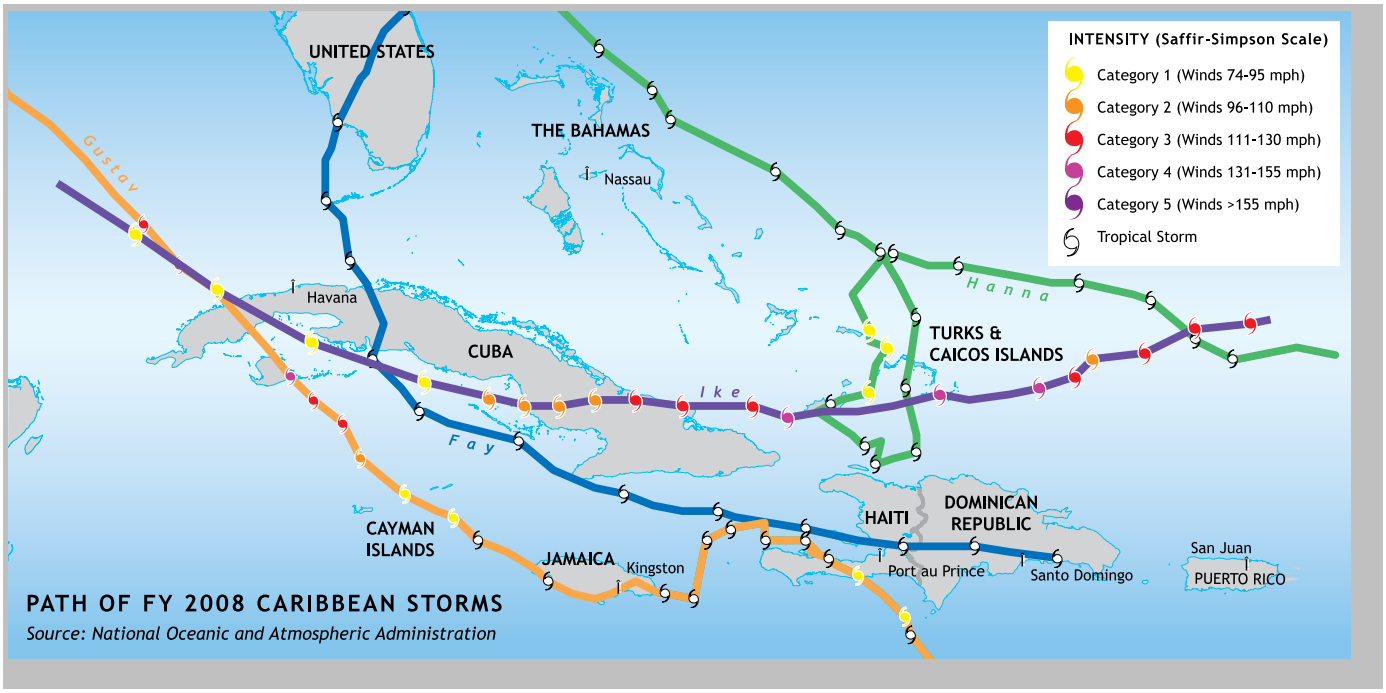
FACTOID

In 1923, more than 60 percent of the land in Haiti was forested, according to the Library of Congress Federal Research Division. By 2006, however, only 2 percent of the country's land remained forested. Severe deforestation has led to soil erosion, which in turn compounds the effects of heavy rains. As a result of this deforestation, the same storm may produce minor to no flooding in the Dominican Republic, which borders Haiti, and severe flooding in Haiti.

HAITI – Hurricanes

Between August 15 and 26, 2008, Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricane Gustav moved across Haiti, resulting in heavy rainfall and severe flooding, particularly affecting Haiti's southern peninsula, as well as Artibonite and Center departments. On September 1 and 2, the approach of Tropical Storm Hanna caused additional rainfall throughout Haiti and left Gonaïves municipality, Artibonite Department, with floodwaters up to 3 meters deep. Following nearly three weeks of storm-related flooding, Hurricane Ike passed north of Haiti on September 7 and resulted in further flooding in previously affected areas.

In early October, the GOH Office of Civil Protection (DPC) reported that the storms and hurricanes in August and September resulted in the deaths of 793 people and affected more than 826,685 individuals in 9 of Haiti's 10 departments. At the height of the emergency, floodwaters displaced at least 151,072 people, including 111,391 individuals relocated to temporary shelters countrywide. Storms and associated flooding also damaged or destroyed more than 107,327 houses and severely impacted infrastructure countrywide, including key bridges and roads, significantly restricting ground transport and limiting humanitarian access.



PATH OF FY 2008 CARIBBEAN STORMS
Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

On August 28, members of a DART began to arrive in Haiti to conduct assessments of humanitarian conditions in affected areas. On September 2, U.S. Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson declared a disaster due to the effects of storms and related flooding. In response, OFDA provided an initial $100,000 through USAID/Haiti for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations. On September 11, OFDA activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to support the DART. The seven-member DART worked closely with USAID/Haiti to coordinate USG humanitarian response with the GOH, U.N. agencies, and NGO implementing partners to identify priority needs and facilitate international relief activities.

Between September 4 and 26, three OFDA-chartered aircrafts arrived in Port au Prince, delivering emergency relief supplies, including 15,264 hygiene kits, 25,350 ten-liter water containers, 1,200 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 5 water bladders. Valued at $841,000, including transportation costs, the relief commodities benefited thousands of affected Haitians.

OFDA also provided funding to increase logistical capacity for the delivery of relief commodities and food and to support infrastructure rehabilitation, livelihoods, health, humanitarian coordination, protection, and shelter and settlement activities. In support of humanitarian coordination activities, OFDA authorized and funded the deployment of a three-person Americas Support Team, staffed by the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team.

USAID also responded through USAID/Haiti and FFP. USAID/Haiti worked to re-direct existing funds toward food and other assistance to meet critical needs related to the humanitarian emergency in Haiti. FFP allocated additional funds to the U.N. Flash Appeal and diverted approximately 400 MT of P.L. 480 Title II food assistance from the FY 2008 Multi-Year Assistance Program, including soy-fortified bulgur, corn-soya blend, vegetable oil, lentils, and cornmeal.

In September 2008, the USG transported 1,608 MT of emergency relief commodities provided by OFDA,

Individuals in Haiti wade through waist-deep flood waters (Courtesy of Development Alternatives, Inc.).

U.N. agencies, and multiple relief organizations on 130 missions to and within Haiti using a combination of DOD and DHS air and sea assets, as well as three OFDA-chartered aircrafts. In addition, from September 8 to September 26, the USS Kearsarge relocated to Haiti, carrying six helicopters to conduct overflights and infrastructure assessments, as well as to transport critical relief commodities and personnel to areas and populations inaccessible by land.

Implementing Partners in Haiti
AmRC, CHF, GOH, IOM, OCHA, PADF, PAHO, SC/US, WFP, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance .....$8,455,930[2]

[2]OFDA also provided relief commodities valued at $646,576, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Haiti to $9,102,506.

HONDURAS – Floods

In mid-October 2007, heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in southern Honduras. On October 16, the Government of Honduras indicated that the floods had killed 5 people, displaced 8,249 people, affected populations in 46 communities, damaged 15 roads, and damaged or destroyed 1,088 houses. Additional rainfall and flooding continued through the end of October, exacerbating the previous flood damage and further affecting vulnerable communities throughout Honduras. On November 3, OCHA reported that October floods negatively impacted a total of 47,000 people.

On October 17, U.S. Ambassador Charles A. Ford declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Honduras for the purchase of emergency relief supplies, including blankets, hygiene kits, and kitchen items, for flood-affected populations. In addition, OFDA deployed a disaster management expert to coordinate

Flood waters run through a house destroyed during Hurricane Gustav in Jamaica (Photo by Sidney Velado, USAID).

the emergency response with personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa and USAID/Honduras.

Implementing Partners in Honduras
World Vision International and World Vision/USA

OFDA Assistance $50,000

JAMAICA – Tropical Storm

On August 28, 2008, Tropical Storm Gustav made landfall in eastern Jamaica and moved slowly along the southern parishes, primarily affecting St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Portland, and St. Mary. The storm resulted in the deaths of 12 individuals and affected an estimated 4,000 others, according to IFRC and the U.S. Embassy in Kingston. In addition, high winds and heavy rains caused damage to infrastructure and flooding in 72 communities, rendering 120 roads impassible and affecting 65 percent of Jamaica's water supply. The storm resulted in significant agricultural losses, including substantial damage to the banana crop, a primary export commodity.

On September 2, U.S. Ambassador Brenda LaGrange Johnson declared a disaster due to the effects of the tropical storm. In response, OFDA provided an initial $100,000 through USAID/Jamaica to support overflight assessments and an air bridge to reach communities isolated due to road damage, as well as the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies. OFDA also deployed an OFDA regional advisor and an OFDA disaster management expert to conduct surveys of affected areas.

On September 4, OFDA airlifted 1,536 hygiene kits, 270 rolls of plastic sheeting, 7,800 ten-liter water containers, and 3,425 blankets to Kingston, Jamaica, to meet the needs of storm-affected populations. Including transport, the value of the relief commodities totaled more than $208,000.

Implementing Partner in Jamaica
Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management

OFDA Assistance ..... $157,000[3]

[3]OFDA also provided relief commodities valued at $151,435, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Jamaica to $308,435.

MEXICO – Floods

Beginning in October 2007, heavy rains caused rivers and dams in southern Mexico to overflow, leading to widespread flooding and landslides in Tabasco and Chiapas states. According to the Government of Mexico (GOM), by November 9, the flooding and landslides had resulted in the deaths of 13 people. As of November 14, flooding had affected more than 2.3 million individuals in Tabasco and Chiapas, according to OCHA. At the height of the emergency, floods displaced approximately 205,000 people to temporary shelters and inundated agricultural lands, causing an estimated $5 billion in damage to crops and livestock. In addition, according to the Directorate of Civil Protection in Tabasco and Chiapas states, nearly 480,000 homes in Tabasco and 4,700 homes in Chiapas suffered significant flood-related damage. On October 29, the governor of Tabasco State declared a state of emergency due to the rising floodwaters, and officials from Chiapas State requested federal assistance from the GOM.

On November 1, a five-person OFDA emergency team deployed to Mexico. Team members worked with USAID/Mexico and GOM counterparts in Tabasco, Chiapas, and Mexico City to identify immediate needs and appropriate humanitarian response options.

Flooding causes significant damage to houses and agricultural fields in Tabasco State, Mexico (Photo by Pedro Soto, USAID).

On November 4, U.S. Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr., declared a disaster due to the impact of heavy rains in Chiapas and Tabasco states. In response to humanitarian needs, OFDA provided nearly $2.4 million to support emergency activities in Mexico. OFDA funding supported the local procurement of

emergency relief supplies, including water pumps, cots, mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, tents, and water containers. Through implementing partners, OFDA provided relief commodities as well as seeds, livestock, and fisheries equipment to assist nearly 20,000 people to resume livelihoods after floodwaters receded. OFDA also supported debris cleanup and hygiene promotion activities benefiting 150,000 people. In addition, implementing partners carried out emergency shelter interventions that benefited 2,070 individuals and established new water points, along with capacity building and training exercises, to provide safe drinking water for 12,000 beneficiaries.

Implementing Partners in Mexico
AmRC, Diconsa, GOM, Project Concern International, National Water Commission, Samaritan's Purse, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance $2,387,269

NICARAGUA – Floods

Beginning on October 9, 2007, ongoing heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in Estelí, Madriz, Chinandega, León, Managua, Masaya, Granada, Carazo, Rivas, Jinotega, and Matagalpa departments in northern and western Nicaragua. As of November 3, authorities from the Nicaraguan Civil Defense and UNICEF reported that the floods added to the damage caused by Hurricane Felix, killing 10 people, affecting approximately 32,000 individuals in 177 communities, and displacing at least 11,000 others. Floods damaged or destroyed more than 1,900 houses and 7 public buildings, as well as infrastructure, including 59 sewage systems, more than 1,700 latrines, 22 bridges, and more than 800 miles of paths and roads. Floodwaters also contaminated approximately 413 wells and adversely affected up to 14 percent of the total corn and bean crops throughout the country. On October 14, President Daniel Ortega declared a red alert for the Chinandega Department, where floods resulted in more than 160 cases of leptospirosis, a bacterial disease normally transmitted to humans through contaminated water. On October 19, the first lady of Nicaragua, Rosario Ortega, declared a disaster on behalf of the Government of Nicaragua (GON) and requested international assistance.

On October 19, U.S. Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided an initial $50,000 through USAID/Nicaragua for emergency food assistance and relief commodities, including kitchen kits and mattresses. An OFDA disaster management expert deployed to Nicaragua to coordinate the emergency response with USAID/Nicaragua and GON counterparts. In addition, OFDA supported the procurement and distribution of bean seeds to 1,540 farmers in northern Nicaragua, benefiting a total of 7,700 people. OFDA also funded water, sanitation, and hygiene activities benefiting approximately 24,750 people in Chinandega Department.

Implementing Partners in Nicaragua
ADRA, CRS, and SC/US

OFDA Assistance $576,872

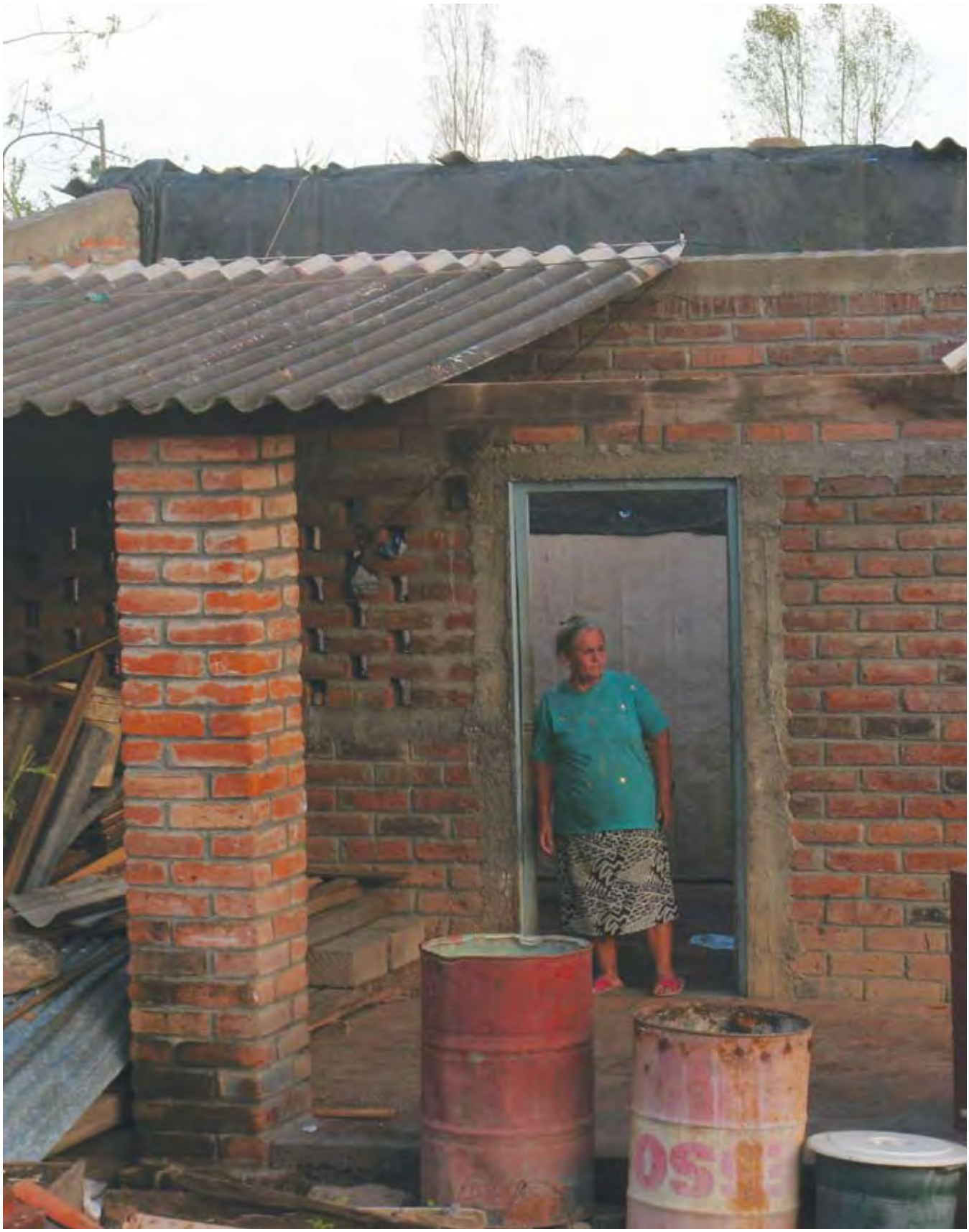
NICARAGUA – Tropical Storm

On May 29, 2008, Tropical Storm Alma made landfall over Nicaragua's southern Pacific coast, causing heavy rainfall and wind speeds reaching 100 mph in Rivas, Carazo, Managua, León, and Chinandega departments. The GON national disaster management agency reported that the storm killed 3 people, temporarily displaced approximately 25,000 others from coastal areas, and damaged 1,140 homes. In addition, the storm caused damage to public buildings, infrastructure, and water sources in affected areas.

On May 29, U.S. Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli declared a disaster due to the effects of Tropical Storm Alma. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 for emergency shelter repairs for flood-affected populations. A three-person OFDA emergency team traveled to Nicaragua to evaluate storm damage and corresponding humanitarian needs in affected areas. Based on the team's assessments, OFDA supported shelter repairs in the two most affected departments, León and Chinandega.

Implementing Partner in Nicaragua
SC

OFDA Assistance $50,000



A Nicaraguan woman surveys damage to her house following Tropical Storm Alma (Photo by Ricardo Herrera, USAID).

FACTOID

Yellow fever is a viral disease transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. Vaccination is critical to preventing an outbreak of yellow fever. At least 80 percent of the people in any given community must have immunity to yellow fever to prevent outbreaks within the community. In areas where vaccination coverage is low, continuous surveillance is important for early detection and rapid control of outbreaks. Mosquito control measures can also prevent transmission of the virus until vaccination has taken effect.

PARAGUAY – Yellow Fever Outbreak

Between January and March 2008, the Government of Paraguay (GOP) Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPBS) reported 26 confirmed cases of yellow fever in San Pedro, Central, and Caaguazú departments, including 8 deaths, and an additional 10 suspected cases. Public concern over the outbreak and a shortage of vaccinations resulted in demonstrations, highway blockades, and long queues outside hospitals. On February 15, the GOP issued a national emergency declaration and appealed for international assistance to provide additional doses of the vaccine.

On February 15, U.S. Ambassador James C. Cason declared a disaster due to the yellow fever outbreak and vaccine shortage. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Paraguay to support yellow fever vaccination activities, laboratory testing, and clinical case management.

In addition, DOD and the U.S. Embassy in Asunción provided syringes, equipment to analyze blood samples, coolers to store vaccines, office equipment for the MSPBS, and health consulting services.

Implementing Partner in Paraguay
PAHO

OFDA Assistance.....$50,000

PARAGUAY – Drought

A prolonged dry spell and high temperatures beginning in March 2008 led to drought conditions in rural areas of Presidente Hayes, Alto Paraguay, and Boquerón departments in western Paraguay. The drought severely damaged crops, destroyed pasture, and limited the availability of safe drinking water. The drought conditions created extreme vulnerability among approximately 18,000 individuals and led to the deaths of four children due to malnutrition, according to the Government of Paraguay National Emergency Secretary. In addition, IFRC reported increased cases of diarrhea and fever due to the drought.

On September 10, U.S. Ambassador Liliana Ayalde declared a disaster due to the effects of the drought. In response, OFDA provided $50,000 through USAID/Paraguay for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies. In addition, an OFDA disaster management expert conducted assessments in affected areas to determine needs in conjunction with USAID/Paraguay.

Implementing Partner in Paraguay
Paraguayan Red Cross

OFDA Assistance $50,000

A drought-affected Paraguayan family receives OFDA-funded emergency relief supplies (Courtesy of Paraguayan Red Cross).

Enhancing Response Operations Through OFDA's Surge Capacity Program

Auriana Koutnik

When disasters strike multiple countries in a region, efforts to ensure swift and effective simultaneous responses can face challenges. Through a recently developed surge capacity program in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), OFDA is able to quickly enlarge its human resource base to respond to sudden-onset disasters faster, better, and in more countries at once. The program is part of the Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP), through which the OFDA/LAC regional office in San José, Costa Rica, responds to disasters and provides guidance to populations on disaster risk reduction and preparedness through its network of 20 disaster risk management specialists located throughout the region. In addition to the network of disaster risk management specialists, the OFDA/LAC regional office boasts a cadre of 124 RDAP on-call disaster management consultants located in 30 countries throughout the LAC region and available to work as needed during times of disaster.

This surge capacity program rapidly augments the on-the-ground presence, reach, and capability of the OFDA team. OFDA can usually activate an emergency team, including one or more disaster management consultants, in less than a day. Following a recommendation from an OFDA disaster risk management specialist conducting initial assessments on the ground, the senior regional advisor at the OFDA/LAC regional office requests the deployment of one or more consultants. The consultants arrive on site within hours to assist in providing a timely and cost-effective response. Once operations end, the surge mechanism is shut off.

OFDA-funded plastic sheeting provides shelter for residents affected by flooding in Bolivia (Photo by Liza Mantilla, USAID).

The surge capacity program is based on a proactive approach to dealing with disasters that combines local capacity building with quick and efficient response operations. Because the surge consultants have previously participated in OFDA risk management training events, they are familiar with the office's mandate, planning processes, decision-making criteria, and problem-solving techniques. In addition, consultants typically are local emergency response professionals who are familiar with the local language and customs and can provide the OFDA team with insight into a country's political and geographic landscapes.

At the same time, working with OFDA staff on a disaster response allows the surge consultants to build upon their knowledge gained in risk management training courses. They return to their jobs empowered by the skills and experience gained through participation in a U. S. Government (USG) disaster response, further enhancing local capacity building efforts and strengthening relationships with OFDA.

In a sense, the surge capacity program expands the OFDA family at little or no cost to the USG. Consultants build and maintain close ties with the OFDA/LAC regional office staff, often informing them about significant events in their respective countries at an early stage, which helps OFDA with early warning, rapid response, and strategic planning.

The surge capacity program was born out of a need to respond to disasters faster and better in a manner consistent with the strategy of the LAC regional team to build local capacities to respond to disasters. The idea for creating a surge capacity mechanism for the LAC region dates back to 2005, a particularly active year in terms of disasters and one which prompted the OFDA/LAC regional team to seek ways to improve its ability to respond to simultaneous events in different countries. Implementing the program through the RDAP's risk management framework strengthens the overall success of the surge capacity program.

The OFDA/LAC team plans to continue strengthening the surge capacity program. The next step is to add to the roster more technically specialized consultants, including doctors, engineers, public works specialists, and others whom OFDA can place on a disaster assessment team in accordance with the type and scope of the emergency at hand.

The team initiated the surge capacity program in FY 2006, and refined it in FY 2007. By FY 2008, the OFDA/LAC team routinely employed surge consultants during disaster response operations. The humanitarian responses to Tropical Storm Noel in Haiti and the Dominican Republic in late 2007, the massive flooding events in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Guatemala in the first half of 2008, and a string of storms in the Caribbean later in the year all relied on surge capacity personnel.

The Caribbean

In Haiti in late 2007, three French-speaking surge consultants who had previously led training activities in the country assisted an OFDA/LAC staff member conduct damage evaluations and assess needs following Tropical Storm Noel. In response to the effects of Noel in the Dominican Republic, three surge consultants, including a retired 37-year veteran of USAID and two local consultants, joined the OFDA emergency team.

In the same region in August and September 2008, four storms created a humanitarian emergency in Haiti and caused damages in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. The OFDA/LAC office hired a total of five surge consultants over a period of several weeks to augment the DART deployed to Haiti and to coordinate the more than $30 million USG humanitarian response to the widespread flooding in the Caribbean nation. Two other surge consultants helped coordinate the USG relief response in Jamaica around the same time.

Central America

In Guatemala in late July 2008, a local surge consultant was hired to conduct assessments in the field following floods and landslides in the department of Zacapa. Because the consultant knew the area well, the OFDA team could quickly verify disaster reports and respond to the situation. Meanwhile, the disaster risk management specialist remained in the capital to help coordinate the USG response with Government of Guatemala emergency management officials.

A member of Red Cross Paraguay prepares to distribute relief supplies provided by OFDA to drought-affected residents (Courtesy of Paraguayan Red Cross).

South America

In Bolivia in late January 2008, a local surge consultant joined an initial seven-person OFDA team deployed to the country's most flood-affected departments—Beni, Cochambamba, La Paz, and Santa Cruz—to assess damages, identify needs, and deliver emergency assistance in coordination with other USG agencies, donors, and Government of Bolivia officials. The Bolivian consultant helped facilitate local access and ensure close coordination with Bolivian government, regional governments, and municipalities to meet the needs of families in flooded areas.

In February 2008, four surge consultants deployed to Ecuador as part of a seven-person OFDA emergency team that included the OFDA/LAC senior regional advisor, a communications officer, and the regional consultant for Ecuador. While the OFDA/LAC staff deployed to Guayaquil to meet with Government of Ecuador officials and oversee the arrival of USG relief commodities airlifted from the OFDA warehouse in Miami, the four surge consultants traveled to outlying areas to meet with provincial officials and provide technical assistance to regional emergency operations centers. The surge staff also oversaw the Ecuador Red Cross delivery of USG emergency supplies to affected communities.

Conclusion

Today, those in charge of coordinating USG responses to disasters throughout the LAC region consider surge capacity to be an integral piece of the response puzzle, a wise use of resources that results in faster and more efficient responses with the added benefit of increasing local capacities to successfully manage emergencies. Incorporating local consultants who are familiar with the local language, customs, and political system into OFDA response teams strengthens the ability of the USG to provide the most effective and appropriate response.

Photo by Robyn Kerr, USAID

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Reducing Vulnerability and Saving Lives: OFDA's Disaster Risk Reduction Programs

Natural, technological, and human-induced disasters adversely affect millions of people each year. In an effort to minimize the impact of disasters on vulnerable populations, OFDA supports a number of disaster risk reduction programs to save lives; protect livelihoods, assets, and infrastructure; and increase communities' resilience to natural hazards. In FY 2008, OFDA devoted more than $41.6 million to disaster risk reduction programs, making a strategic investment in OFDA's mandate to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce the economic and social impact of disasters.

Since its establishment in 1964, OFDA has become a leader among international donors in disaster risk reduction. OFDA emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive disaster response management strategy, in which disaster risk reduction is an essential counterpart to response programs. In FY 2008, OFDA began a formalized process to develop disaster risk reduction strategies for each region of the world, recognizing that effective disaster risk reduction programs must address the needs in each region and be tailored to multiple hazards that communities face. By enhancing the ability of communities and local and national governments to identify, prevent, mitigate, and respond to potential crises, OFDA continues to work toward advancing self-sufficiency in disaster management.

Global Programs

OFDA supports a variety of global disaster risk reduction programs to enhance preparedness for and mitigate effects of transboundary hazards. In FY 2008, OFDA provided more than $20.6 million for global disaster risk reduction programs, including avian and pandemic influenza preparedness, protection of IDPs and vulnerable populations, hydrometeorological early warning systems, emergency health and nutrition preparedness, transboundary pest and livestock disease mitigation, earthquake information systems, and volcano monitoring and surveillance programs.

Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response (PAGER)

According to USGS, an average of 30,000 earthquakes are detected each year, most of which are not felt by humans, but 25 of which cause significant damage, injuries, or fatalities. Given the time-sensitive nature of humanitarian response during a large earthquake disaster, OFDA and USGS have collaborated to develop a system to rapidly alert humanitarian organizations and governments of key information following significant seismic events. The Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response (PAGER) system estimates the intensity of earthquakes, as well as the potential number of earthquake-affected individuals. USGS then automatically disseminates this information to emergency responders, media outlets, and government offices such as OFDA via pagers, cell phones, and the Internet. The timely transmission of PAGER alerts—typically within 30 minutes of a magnitude 6.0 earthquake or greater—allows humanitarian agencies to quickly target assistance.

For all seismic events above 5.5 in magnitude, PAGER generates information about the magnitude, location, and depth of earthquakes, and, when available, provides a description of infrastructure vulnerability in the region, potential for earthquake-induced landslides, and damage and fatality reports from previous nearby earthquakes. A table summarizes the predicted shaking intensity at nearby population centers, and maps provide visual overviews of shaking levels and population densities. Following the initial automatic PAGER alert, seismologists at USGS typically disseminate additional PAGER alerts as further seismic data become available. In FY 2008, OFDA provided nearly $116,000 to support the PAGER program.

Preparing the Humanitarian Community for a Pandemic Event

A pandemic is defined as any global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges to which people have little or no immunity, transmits easily from person to person, and quickly spreads worldwide. Health experts and scientists expect a potential pandemic to cause significant disruptions in basic services, leading to a multi-sectoral disaster, possibly accompanied by population movements and large-scale security threats. As the lead USG office for humanitarian response to a potential pandemic disaster, OFDA is working with USAID's Bureau of Global Health and humanitarian partners to prepare a multi-sector humanitarian

USGS
science for a changing world

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

M 7.5, EASTERN SICHUAN, CHINA

Origin Time: Mon 2008-05-12 06:28:00 UTC
Location: 31.08°N 103.27°E Depth: 10 km

PAGER Version 1
Created: 30 mins, 54 secs after earthquake

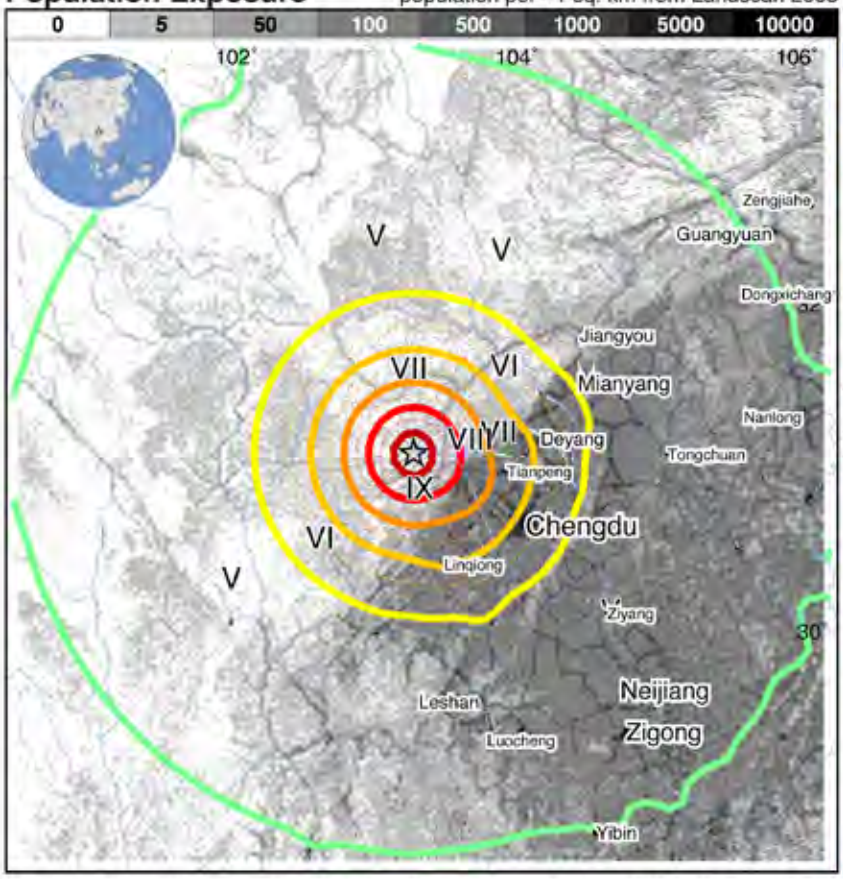
Estimated Population Exposed to Earthquake Shaking

ESTIMATED POPULATION EXPOSURE (k = x1000)		- -*	- -*	8,827k*	42,892k	10,123k	3,567k	1,072k	86k	21k
ESTIMATED MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY		I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PERCEIVED SHAKING		Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	Resistant Structures	none	none	none	V. Light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	V. Heavy
	Vulnerable Structures	none	none	none	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	V. Heavy	V. Heavy

*Estimated exposure only includes population within the map area.

Population Exposure

population per ~1 sq. km from Landscan 2005



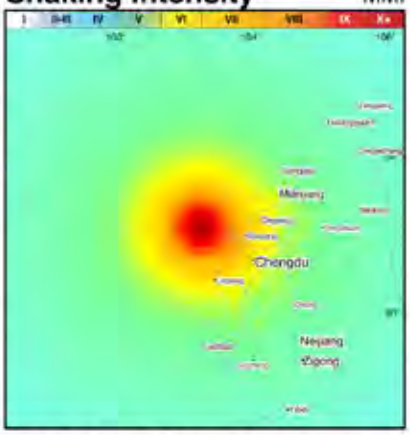
Selected City Exposure

MMI	City	Population
VII	**Tianpeng**	**60k**
VII	**Linqiong**	**55k**
VI	**Chengdu**	**3,950k**
VI	**Deyang**	**152k**
V	**Jiangyou**	**127k**
V	**Mianyang**	**264k**
V	**Ziyang**	**87k**
V	**Neijiang**	**546k**
V	**Zigong**	**689k**
V	Nanchong	7,150k
IV	**Yibin**	**242k**

bold cities appear on map (k = x1000)

Shaking Intensity

MMI



Users should consider the preliminary nature of this information and check for updates as additional data becomes available. Population exposure estimates are NOT a direct estimate of earthquake damage; comparable shaking will result in significantly lower losses in regions with well built structures than in regions with vulnerable structures.

This information was automatically generated and has not been reviewed by a seismologist.

http://earthquake.usgs.gov/pager

Event ID: us2008ryan

An example of the PAGER system's automatically generated output, this alert details earthquake intensity and population exposure figures immediately following the May 12, 2008, earthquake in China (Courtesy of USGS).

response plan. OFDA is providing technical assistance to support community-based emergency health interventions in the event of a pandemic, including the development of WHO guidelines and training modules for community health workers.

OFDA provided more than $20.6 million for global disaster risk reduction activities in FY 2008, including in the following areas:

- Avian and pandemic influenza preparedness
- Protection of IDPs and vulnerable populations
- Hydrometeorological early warning systems
- Emergency health and nutrition preparedness
- Earthquake alert systems

Latin America and the Caribbean

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are highly vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, landslides, volcanoes, and drought. In addition, several countries in the region face civil conflict and complex emergencies. Since the establishment of the Regional Disaster Assistance Program[1] in 1989, OFDA's disaster risk reduction programs in LAC have evolved to provide greater technical assistance and enhance local and national capabilities to effectively respond to, manage, and reduce the impact of natural disasters. Long-term engagement with national disaster management authorities provides the basis for OFDA's disaster risk reduction activities in the LAC region, while also promoting effective collaboration in the event of a disaster.

Enhancing Collaboration and Reducing Vulnerability

In FY 2008, OFDA and the Florida International University (FIU) in Miami began a five-year, $4.5 million project to stimulate new disaster risk reduction activities and strengthen existing programs in the LAC region. FIU designed the project to expand upon the underlying concepts of the Paul C. Bell, Jr., Risk Management Initiative, a joint OFDA and FIU endeavor that began in 2003 to consolidate and improve risk management programs in the region's higher education institutions. Through the new project, FIU is creating and managing a detailed record of disaster risk reduction initiatives in the LAC region and is working to identify, promote, and strengthen 12 existing disaster risk reduction communities of practice, which comprise multiple stakeholders, including universities, international organizations, governments, NGOs, private voluntary organizations, and civil society groups. In close coordination with OFDA's regional office in San José, Costa Rica, FIU is providing communities of practice with strategic scientific, technical, and methodological assistance.

Saving Lives through Volcano Monitoring

Since 1986, OFDA has supported the USGS Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP), which provides technical assistance to volcano-monitoring organizations throughout the world. VDAP assistance includes crisis response, training for risk assessment, development of early warning plans, and transfer of volcano-monitoring equipment and technology. During FY 2008, when eruptions at Chaitén volcano in Chile threatened up to 10,000 people, a VDAP team deployed to Chile to provide technical assistance to the Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería (SERNAGEOMIN). VDAP donated equipment and helped install a seismic network that will assist SERNAGEOMIN in monitoring the volcano.

> "The success of the early warning system is a team effort between the Instituto Geofísico's monitoring efforts and the actions of responsible local civil defense volunteers and town mayors…The Instituto Geofísico feels proud of our monitoring efforts and the overall positive payoffs…our capacity to respond rapidly has really been boosted by our close association with VDAP scientists over the last 20 years…On behalf of all members of the Instituto Geofísico, I want to sincerely thank VDAP members for their unselfish assistance to the Instituto Geofísico."
>
> - Letter from the Director of the Instituto Geofísico to VDAP

[1] See "Enhancing Response Operations Through OFDA's Surge Capacity Program" on page 115.

In Guatemala, VDAP staff supported capacity-building projects through continued assistance with volcano-monitoring equipment and training to Instituto Nacional de Sismología, Vulcanología, Meteorología e Hidrología (INSIVUMEH) and the Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres (CONRED). In Ecuador, VDAP assisted the Instituto Geofísico with training and the installation of equipment near the Cotopaxi volcano. With OFDA funding, VDAP also provided technical consultation in response to unrest at volcanoes in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

A VDAP volcanologist and crisis response specialist arrives via helicopter following the Chaitén volcanic eruption in Chile (Courtesy of Andy Lockhart, USGS VDAP).

An ash plume rises during the Chaitén volcanic eruption in Chile on May 26, 2008 (Courtesy of Jeff Marso, USGS VDAP).

ONGOING OFDA DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Health Preparedness and Surveillance

Since 1998, OFDA has supported PAHO's efforts in the LAC region to promote improved disaster preparedness and response in the health sector. In 2003, OFDA and PAHO began a program to increase the capacity of health professionals to respond to disasters. PAHO is working to improve advocacy, technical information services, and human resources training in health, environment, and all related sectors. Specific PAHO activities include production and dissemination of training materials and health guidelines, support for developing building codes for health and water facilities, and health surveillance for local communities in the immediate post-disaster period.

OFDA provided more than $8.7 million for disaster risk reduction programs in Latin America and the Caribbean in FY 2008, including in the following areas:

- Disaster management and first responder training
- Establishment of early warning systems
- Support for earthquake and volcano monitoring and surveillance programs
- Emergency health preparedness programs
- Hazard mapping

Asia and the Pacific

A range of natural and human-induced disasters, including earthquakes, cyclones, floods, landslides, volcanoes, tsunamis, drought, and conflict, negatively affect Asia and the Pacific region. This region's vulnerability to natural disasters has increased dramatically during the last two decades due to population pressures, increased habitation of marginal lands, rapid urbanization, unplanned industrialization, and environmental and natural resource degradation. OFDA has promoted disaster risk reduction programs in Asia since 1995, including flood and storm early warning systems, disaster management training, urban disaster mitigation initiatives, volcano-monitoring equipment and training, earthquake safety initiatives, and community-based conflict preparedness programs.

Program for Hydrometeorological Risk Mitigation in Asian Cities

Due to poor infrastructure and inadequate early warning systems, rapidly growing urban areas in Asia are particularly vulnerable to hydrometeorological disasters, such as storm-related flooding and other meteorological extremes. Since 2005, OFDA has provided more than $1.8 million to the Asia Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) for the three-year Program for Hydrometeorological Risk Mitigation in Asian Cities (PROMISE) to implement disaster preparedness projects in targeted cities. PROMISE promotes disaster preparedness for climate- or weather-induced hazards through demonstration projects in six highly vulnerable secondary urban centers in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. With support from OFDA, ADPC has facilitated disaster risk reduction action planning workshops, conducted hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments, and established community-based early warning mechanisms in the target cities. Additional programming included capacity building for risk-based urban land use planning, piloting community-based forecasting and early warning systems, developing city-level disaster management information systems and advocacy campaigns, and assisting micro-credit enterprises in the promotion of proper house construction to improve disaster resistance.

Earthquake Recovery and Rural Housing Rehabilitation in Sichuan, China

Following the magnitude 7.9 earthquake that struck China's Sichuan Province in May 2008, OFDA immediately provided funding for relief commodity distribution to affected communities, and deployed a team of disaster experts and search-and-rescue personnel to train local first responders on an OFDA-donated cache of specialized search equipment. Not long after, OFDA deployed a disaster risk reduction advisor to Sichuan Province to help determine how to reduce the impact of future earthquakes in the region. As a result of the assessment, OFDA initiated

A staff member of the OFDA-supported ADPC is ready to respond to disasters in Vietnam (Courtesy of ADPC).

a $1.2 million program to promote safe rehabilitation of rural shelters and improve disaster risk reduction in schools and communities in earthquake-affected areas of Sichuan Province. OFDA partner The Asia Foundation is implementing the program, which benefits approximately 1.1 million individuals, in collaboration with the Government of China Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Drought Preparedness in India and Pakistan

Since 2006, OFDA has supported a three-year project to ensure that communities in Rajasthan, India, and Sindh, Pakistan, are resilient to drought. The project targets 7,200 people in Sindh and 60,000 individuals in Rajasthan, enabling communities to harvest and store rainwater for increased domestic and agricultural use throughout the year, adopt water-efficient agricultural practices, utilize improved land-use techniques for agriculture and livestock, and engage with local government officials and other actors to improve drought resilience.

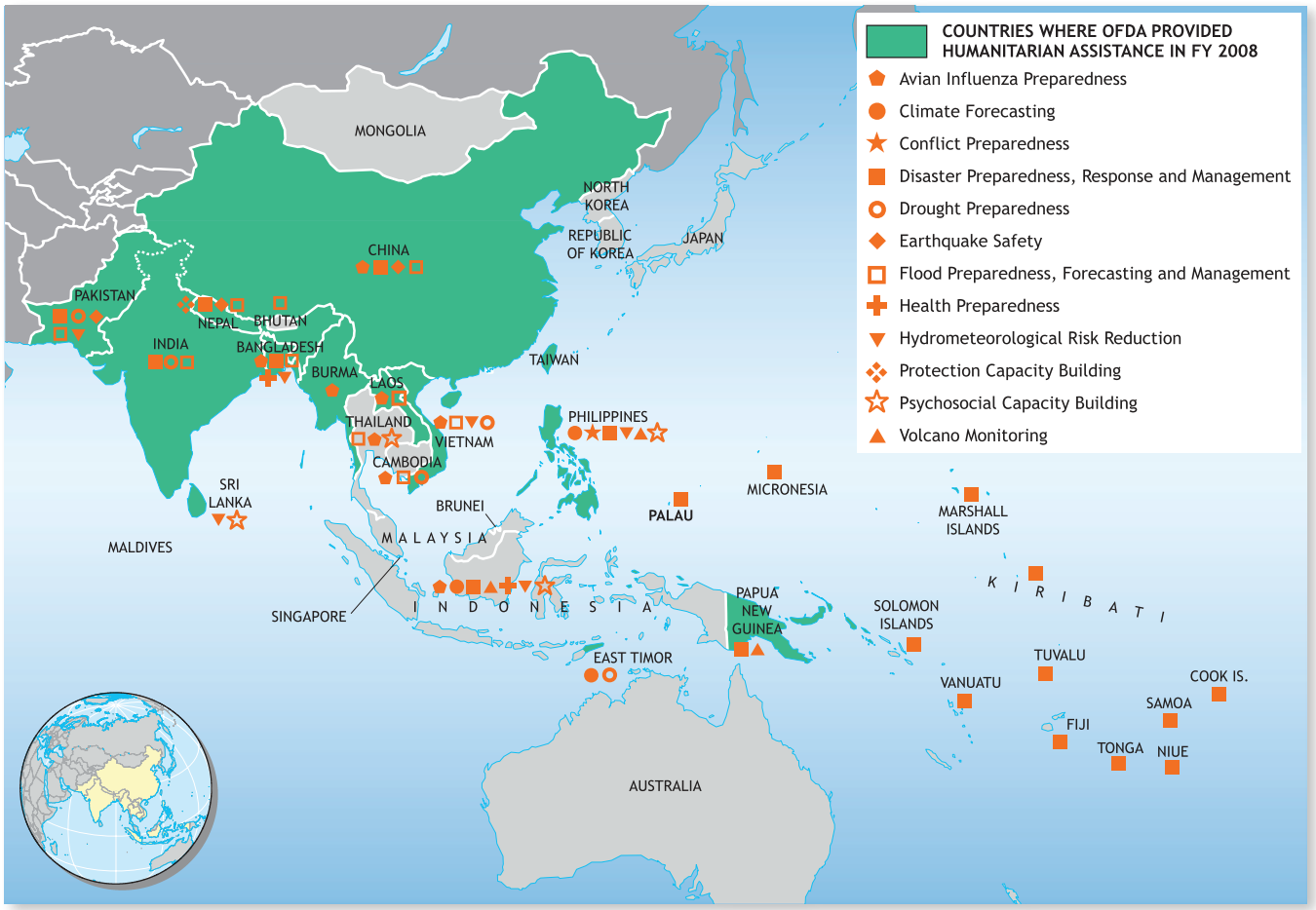
OFDA provided nearly $5.7 million for disaster risk reduction programs in Asia and the Pacific in FY 2008, including in the following areas:

- Disaster management and first responder training
- Local and regional risk mitigation programming for volcanoes, earthquakes, cyclones, climate variability, and floods
- Support for the development of national and regional emergency response experts
- Promotion of drought preparedness programs
- Support for conflict preparedness initiatives

Africa

OFDA supports disaster risk reduction initiatives to target many hazards across Africa. As in Asia and LAC, African countries are vulnerable to a host of natural disasters, while also affected by ongoing crises, including drought, food insecurity, and protracted civil unrest. OFDA disaster risk reduction efforts in Africa use a community- and household-based approach, emphasizing local capacity building and improving communication, transportation, and information networks to more effectively respond to disasters. OFDA also incorporates disaster risk reduction principles into response efforts to ongoing disasters, such as the complex emergencies in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia.

ONGOING OFDA DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Reducing Food Insecurity through Drought Mitigation in Southern Africa

Consistent dry conditions and recurrent drought events across Southern Africa increase community and household vulnerability to food insecurity, morbidity, displacement, and disease. OFDA supports disaster risk reduction activities in Southern Africa to reduce households' vulnerability to drought and increase resiliency against poor harvests. In Malawi, an NGO consortium has implemented the OFDA-funded Rehabilitation through Irrigation and Production Extension (RIPE) initiative since 2006 to promote small-scale irrigation in six drought-prone and food insecure districts, increasing and promoting consistent agricultural production for families and strengthening their resilience to withstand droughts. The RIPE program is closely integrated with the Improving Livelihoods through Increased Food Security initiative, a development assistance program funded through FFP since 2004.

The RIPE program's first phase, which lasted until September 2007, directly benefited more than 3,800 vulnerable subsistence farmers and their families, and indirectly benefited more than 12,700 individuals. The program established 55 irrigation sites and resulted in a total of 270.6 hectares of newly irrigated land. During FY 2008, a second phase of the RIPE program began, directly benefiting 1,000 farming households and their families through the establishment or expansion of 37 irrigation sites. Through the promotion of irrigation and better agricultural practices, the RIPE program has improved food security for vulnerable smallholder farmers, while benefiting communities in the longer-term through increased productive capacity and a strengthened resilience to future droughts and other climatic shocks.

Nutrition Capacity Building in the Sahel

Following the 2005 nutrition crisis in the Sahel, acute malnutrition rates in Sahelian countries remained critically high due to inadequate national surveillance and early warning systems, lack of national malnutrition response protocols, and poor community health practices. Recognizing the need for improved capacity building, since 2006, OFDA has funded Helen Keller International to integrate malnutrition treatment and prevention programs into existing local health systems in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, as well as establish a routine nutrition surveillance system in Guinea. Implemented in coordination with national ministries of health, the project uses community-based therapeutic care and preventative health messaging to both prevent and treat malnutrition. The project is intended to serve as a sustainable means for host governments to treat acute malnutrition and better manage future crises. Since 2006, OFDA support for the nutrition capacity building program has totaled more than $3.7 million.

Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response in East and Central Africa

The complexities of hazards in east and central Africa require a multi-sectoral approach, incorporating disaster risk reduction activities into response efforts. In order to mitigate the effects of future climate- and human-induced shocks, OFDA supports integration of livelihoods approaches into critical sector programs and promotes sustainable response activities. In Somalia, OFDA partners have implemented community gardens to capture well water runoff that have successfully diversified diets and provided a source of income for vegetable sellers. In addition, OFDA targets mothers of malnourished infants for income-generating projects and integrates health and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs into nutrition interventions.

In Sudan, OFDA has led efforts to conserve natural resources and mitigate the environmental impact of humanitarian activities in one of the largest aid operations in the world. Since 2007, OFDA has provided $1.8 million to the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP) to promote sustainable use of natural resources in Darfur and alternative, woodless shelter construction. OFDA partners are establishing community forests, including fruit and other trees, in areas of displacement in Darfur to reduce strain on existing fuel wood sources and prevent further land degradation.

OFDA provided nearly $6.6 million for disaster risk reduction programs in Africa in FY 2008, including in the following areas:

- Nutrition capacity building in West Africa
- Drought mitigation through community management in Southern Africa
- Improvement of community access to early warning information
- Support for humanitarian protection during food distributions

Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia

Natural disasters such as avalanches, cyclones, drought, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires frequently affect countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA). In addition to natural disasters, rapid urban growth and environmental degradation can lead to overcrowding and forced settlement in risk-prone, marginal lands in rural and urban areas throughout the region. Recognizing these vulnerabilities, OFDA supports several disaster risk reduction projects in EMCA, including technical assistance for hazard mitigation and seismic-resistant shelter construction and training.

Greece Wildfire Mitigation

In mid-August 2007, as many as 170 wildfires burned throughout Greece, leading to 76 deaths and resulting in an estimated $2.2 billion in damage to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. In September and October 2007, OFDA funded two interagency trips to Greece comprising OFDA and USFS representatives in order to liaise with Greek wildfire response and prevention counterparts and offer technical assistance for addressing wildfire hazards. In coordination with USFS, OFDA funded workshops, trainings, and equipment to support the development of an incident command system among local fire responders in Greece.

Constructed with OFDA support, a canal channels water to nearby crops in Malawi (Photo by Alexandra Riboul, USAID).

ONGOING OFDA DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS IN AFRICA, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CENTRAL ASIA

A seismic-resistant shelter reduces the impact of earthquakes on residents in Afghanistan (Photo by Charles Setchell, USAID).

Seismic-Resistant Shelter and Community-Based Training in Afghanistan

Since 2002, OFDA has worked in consultation with USAID/Afghanistan, Government of Afghanistan ministries, and the international community to support the incorporation of seismic resistant construction measures in all shelter programming in Afghanistan. Given the high level of seismic risk in the capital city of Kabul, OFDA has actively promoted seismic hazard mitigation activities in the city. For example, the Kabul Area Shelter and Settlements (KASS) Project, a multi-faceted project completed in August 2007, featured the provision of seismic-resistant shelters to nearly 4,000 vulnerable households, as well as community-based training efforts in seismic-resistant construction.

To build upon the successes of the KASS program, in FY 2008, OFDA supported the KASS-2 program to provide transitional shelter assistance for approximately 9,000 new households in Kabul, including families headed by children or widows and elderly or disabled residents lacking family support. The primary goal of KASS-2 is to address emergency needs arising from Kabul's rapid population growth; however, KASS-2 also targets as many as 100,000 additional residents with improvements in basic water, sanitation, and drainage infrastructure; construction of neighborhood paths and roads; strengthening of local community governance to reduce risks from future natural disasters and hazards; and creation of numerous jobs. The KASS-2 program also features a two-year capacity building project for Kabul municipality officials and residents, including training on seismic-resistant shelter construction and a Kabul-wide seismic hazard awareness and mitigation program.

The Periperi U Program: Expanding Africa's Capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction

Alexandra Riboul

Many countries in Africa are beset by a range of disasters, from complex emergencies to drought, floods, and earthquakes. Climate variability, rapid population growth, environmental and natural resource degradation, lack of economic development, and rapid urbanization further compound these risks by increasing populations' vulnerability to disasters. During the last two decades, cities across Africa have rapidly expanded, increasingly in areas prone to floods, landslides, earthquakes, and other hazards. These rapidly growing cities are outpacing the capacity of poorly resourced local authorities to provide and maintain essential services. In addition, protracted complex emergencies have resulted in large-scale displacement and increased populations' vulnerability to natural hazards.

Building Capacity through African Higher Education Institutions

To meet the increasing demands for skilled professionals to reduce and manage disaster risks in Africa, OFDA has supported the **P**artners **E**nhancing **R**es**i**lience to **P**eople **E**xposed to **R**isks – **U**niversities (Periperi U) program since FY 2006. Periperi U is an innovative program that aims to strengthen the capacity of 10 African universities in disaster-related scholarship and practice. The multi-year program is the first of its kind in Africa and provides a continent-wide platform for higher education, training, and research in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action in English, French, Swahili, Portuguese, and Arabic-speaking universities.

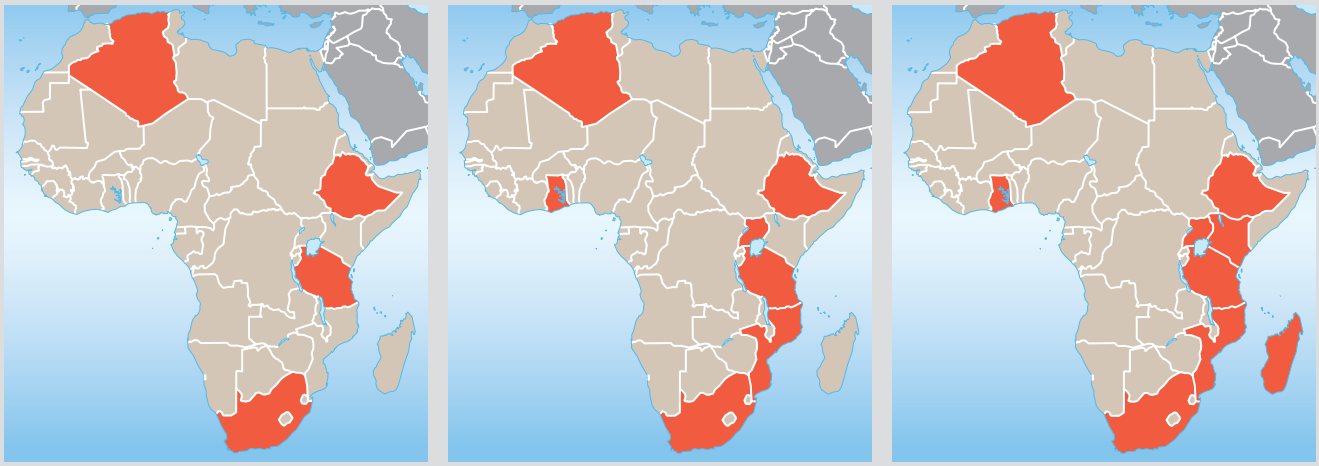
Periperi U supports institutional development through a multi-pronged approach that comprises short course training, formal education, local research, and policy advocacy. Each participating university provides short professional courses for local and national practitioners and government authorities in vulnerability reduction, disaster risk management, food and livelihoods security, and other subjects relevant to the risk and vulnerability profile of individual countries. With support from the program, each university selectively integrates disaster and vulnerability reduction priorities into core teaching and research programs and develops multi-disciplinary undergraduate and graduate curricula. To increase local understanding, improve risk management, and inform development planning by government authorities, international agencies, and donors, Periperi U partners are also developing applied research of disaster risks and vulnerabilities in their respective countries. By building teaching and research capacity, universities are increasingly playing a key role as advocates within national governments for vulnerability reduction and disaster management policy.

What is periperi?

Periperi is a type of chili pepper used in many countries in Africa. Given periperi's recognition throughout the continent, the University of Cape Town's Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Program, OFDA's main implementing partner in the Periperi U program, has used the word to name a number of risk reduction initiatives in Southern Africa. Periperi Publications has produced learning and advocacy materials on livelihoods and urban vulnerability.

From North to South, East to West: Periperi U's Expanding Network

From Algeria to South Africa, from Ghana to Mozambique, Periperi U supports local disaster risk reduction and management efforts in a manner adapted to each country's unique variety of natural disasters and varying response capabilities. The network brings together universities that are committed to disaster risk reduction and positioned at the forefront of research, training, and advocacy in their respective countries. During its first year, the Periperi U initiative supported the development of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction programs in five participating institutions: Ardhi University in Tanzania, Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia, University of Cape Town in South Africa, University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene in Algeria, and University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. In total, the institutions conducted nine short professional courses that reached approximately 200 practitioners



Established in 2007/2008
Algeria, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania

Established in 2008/2009
Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda

Planned for 2009/2010
Kenya, Madagascar*

*Periperi U program plans for 2009/2010 include expansion to an additional francophone university in West Africa.

and students in Algeria, South Africa, and Tanzania and covered a broad range of locally relevant risk reduction topics, from seismic vulnerability to community risk assessment.

The program also provided an opportunity for increased collaboration among partner African universities on disaster risk concerns and visits between participating institutions to exchange information about risk-related disciplines, share research and ideas, and build capacity within the Periperi U network. The participation of four staff members from Ardhi University in Tanzania in short courses offered by the University of Cape Town in South Africa illustrated the productive nature of exchanges. Following the visit, Ardhi University

Periperi U Network

The Periperi U network works with centers and programs within each participating university that have a demonstrated core competency in applied sciences, such as environmental science, livelihoods and food security, public health, agriculture, and earthquake risk reduction. This provides the network with a wide range of complementary disaster risk reduction capabilities. The following are the network's current participating institutions:

- Bahir Dar University in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia
- Built Environment Research Laboratory, University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene in Algiers, Algeria
- Disaster Management Training Centre, Ardhi University in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme, University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa
- School of Public Health, Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda
- University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana
- Universidade Técnica de Moçambique in Maputo, Mozambique

offered two short courses in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, that were attended by more than 30 practitioners and professionals. In addition, the program facilitated the creation of a peer support network to advance the implementation of disaster risk reduction programs in universities across the continent.

Based on the success of the first year, OFDA initiated a second, three-year phase of the Periperi U program to expand the network to include 10 institutions throughout the continent. The Periperi U network currently includes universities in Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. The program also includes plans for collaboration with universities in francophone regions, as well as in southern Africa and Kenya. Periperi U aims to train up to 600 students and practitioners in 10 countries through 2011.

Sustainable Capacity-Building in Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa

Meeting the complex challenges inherent in developing and strengthening disaster risk reduction and management in Africa demands interdisciplinary approaches, sustainable efforts over a significant time period, and context-specific solutions and innovations. By supporting African universities across the continent, the multi-year Periperi U initiative is building sustainable national and local capabilities in a range of disaster risk- and vulnerability-related disciplines. In so doing, the program is helping to develop and strengthen durable solutions that are appropriate to local conditions and are better able to reduce disaster risks and meet development challenges. Enhanced human capacity in the field of disaster risk reduction and management in each country will help integrate risk reduction into critical development planning and programs. In the long term, Periperi U aims to reduce the impact of disasters on communities across Africa, strengthen governments' capacity to prepare for potential disasters, improve collaboration between national authorities and teaching and learning institutions, and expand the pool of qualified and capable disaster risk managers in the government, private, and non-governmental sectors.

Funding Summary - FY 2008 Disasters

Obligations from October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2008

Country	Disaster	Declaration Date	Affected	Dead[1]	Obligation	Disaster Assistance Provided by OFDA
Africa						
Angola	Floods	04/11/08	81,400	14	$74,945	Local procurement of emergency relief supplies; logistics and shelter and settlements activities
Burkina Faso	Meningitis Outbreak	02/19/08	9,701	955	$498,557	Vaccine procurement and meningitis surveillance, education, and laboratory detection
Chad	Complex Emergency	10/10/07	880,000	-	$7,061,507	Transportation and distribution of emergency relief supplies; support for humanitarian air service; agriculture and food security, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Comoros	Complex Emergency	03/31/08	-	-	$50,000	Transportation and logistical support for the provision of emergency relief commodities
Côte d'Ivoire	Complex Emergency	12/04/07	709,000	-	$1,683,298	Agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, and protection activities
DRC	Complex Emergency	10/09/07	3 million	5.4 million*	$18,294,707	Agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Djibouti	Cholera Epidemic	11/20/07	562	6	$100,000	Purchase of treatment supplies and health initiatives to support social mobilization through mass media
Djibouti	Drought	05/21/08	340,000	-	$497,550	Deployment of regional Horn of Africa DART to Kenya and OFDA team to Djibouti to assess food security conditions; community-based nutrition activities, including malnutrition treatment, coordination, technical assistance, and strengthening of national capacity and protocols
Eritrea	Complex Emergency	10/12/07	1.7 million	-	$3,006,404	Deployment of regional Horn of Africa DART to Kenya to assess food security conditions; health, humanitarian coordination and information management, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Ethiopia	Complex Emergency	10/15/07	12 million	-	$35,151,414	Deployment of regional Horn of Africa DART to Kenya to assess food security conditions; deployment of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies; local food procurement; agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, nutrition, risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Guinea-Bissau	Cholera Outbreak	09/17/08	12,900	216	$100,000	Water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, including improvements to school sanitation and provision of disinfected water
Kenya	Complex Emergency	01/03/08	1.9 million	1,200	$11,323,946	Deployment of DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; airlift and distribution of emergency relief commodities; economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Lesotho	Food Insecurity	10/11/07	553,000	-	$24,000	Nutrition interventions, including a countrywide nutrition survey
Madagascar	Cyclone	02/19/08	332,391	93	$1,226,449	Airlift and local procurement of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, risk reduction, economy and market systems, and logistics activities

Country	Disaster	Declaration Date	Affected	Dead[1]	Obligation	Disaster Assistance Provided by OFDA
Malawi	Floods	04/01/08	180,246	-	$455,943	Agriculture and food security activities, including seed systems and provision of agricultural inputs
Mali	Floods	10/01/07	42,662	9	$50,000	Agriculture and food security and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Mozambique	Floods	02/06/08	173,535	20	$1,377,023	Deployment of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; agriculture and food security, logistics, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Namibia	Floods	03/05/08	65,000	42	$50,000	Support for emergency relief efforts
Niger	Floods	07/28/08	32,535	7	$50,000	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including blankets, mosquito nets, mats, and water containers
Senegal	Floods	09/25/08	23,593	0	$50,000	Water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, including rapid hygiene awareness campaign
Somalia	Complex Emergency	10/03/07	3.2 million	-	$51,202,443	Deployment of regional Horn of Africa DART to Kenya to assess food security conditions; regional food procurement; agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, risk reduction, transportation, and water, sanitation, and hygiene
Sudan	Complex Emergency	10/11/07	8 million	2.3 million*	$137,305,984	Agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, risk reduction, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Togo	Floods	10/01/07	127,800	41	$407,696	Agriculture and food security and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Togo	Floods	08/04/08	30,000-40,000	6	$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Uganda	Complex Emergency	10/18/07	1.8 million	-	$6,812,840	Agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Uganda	Ebola Outbreak	12/06/07	149	37	$50,000	Transportation of specimens to support USG response to Ebola outbreak
Zambia	Floods	03/04/08	34,776	10	$975,579	Distribution of emergency relief supplies and agriculture and food security activities
Zimbabwe	Complex Emergency	10/15/07	2.1 million	-	$7,315,373	Provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, protection, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Subtotal Africa						$285,245,658
Asia and the Pacific						
Bangladesh	Cyclone	11/16/07	8.9 million	4,234	$5,961,804	Deployment of DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; airlift of emergency relief commodities; logistics, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Bangladesh	Localized Food Shortage	04/24/08	128,000	-	$100,000	Agriculture and food security activities
Burma[2]	Cyclone	05/05/08	2.4 million	130,000	$26,449,434	Deployment of DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; airlift and distribution of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities

Country	Disaster	Declaration Date	Affected	Dead[1]	Obligation	Disaster Assistance Provided by OFDA
China	Winter Emergency	02/01/08	77 million	129	$150,000	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies
China	Earthquake	05/13/08	46 million	69,222	$1,027,194	Deployment of OFDA team to provide technical assistance to local first responders; airlifts of emergency relief supplies and search, rescue, and recovery equipment; purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies; shelter and settlements and risk reduction activities
East Timor	Complex Emergency	11/30/07	-	-	$1,220,203	Humanitarian coordination and information management, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
India	Localized Food Shortage	05/14/08	710,000	-	$50,000	Economy and market systems activities
India	Floods	08/29/08	2.1 million	47	$100,000	Procurement and delivery of emergency relief supplies; support for rescue efforts
Laos	Floods	08/19/08	204,189	11	$50,000	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including shelter materials, water, and water purification tablets
Nepal	Complex Emergency	10/02/07	200,000	13,000*	$2,654,142	Provision of emergency relief and shelter supplies; economy and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, protection, risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Nepal	Floods	08/21/08	35,000–50,000	-	$850,000	Local purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies, including blankets and shelter materials; shelter and settlements activities; technical support for the Government of Nepal
Pakistan	Floods	08/07/08	241,000	40	$967,809	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies; economy and market systems, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Pakistan	Complex Emergency	08/19/08	200,000	-	$3,295,680	Provision of emergency relief supplies, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, nutrition, protection, risk reduction, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene
Papua New Guinea	Cyclone	11/20/07	162,000	172	$150,000	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies; shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Philippines	Complex Emergency	08/22/08	290,000	83	$100,000	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies
Philippines	Typhoon	06/23/08	4.1 million	954	$678,846	Airlift and local procurement of emergency relief supplies, including hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, and water containers
Sri Lanka	Complex Emergency	10/01/07	-	-	$5,428,782	Deployment of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, protection, risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Vietnam	Typhoon	10/09/07	600,000	82	$996,918	Distribution of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, protection, risk reduction, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Subtotal Asia and the Pacific						$50,230,812
Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia						
Afghanistan	Complex Emergency	01/08/08	8 million	-	$17,018,394	Distribution of emergency relief supplies; shelter and settlements interventions, including urban shelter and planning assistance; economy and market systems, agriculture and food security, logistics, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities

Country	Disaster	Declaration Date	Affected	Dead[1]	Obligation	Disaster Assistance Provided by OFDA
Albania	Munitions Explosions	03/21/08	10,000	26	$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Georgia[3]	Complex Emergency	08/09/08	200,000	300–1,800	$12,137,119	Deployment of DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; airlift and procurement of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Iraq	Complex Emergency	-	5 million	-	$75,346,090	Distribution of emergency relief supplies; economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Kyrgyzstan	Earthquakes	01/10/08	7,000	-	$50,000	Child protection activities, including psychosocial services and creation of child-friendly spaces
Lebanon	Wildfires	10/09/07	15	1	$100,000	Economy and market systems activities, including livelihoods support and restoration of fire-damaged lands
Moldova	Drought	11/26/07	-	-	$50,000	Purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs, including maize seed
Moldova	Floods	07/29/08	10,000	0	$50,000	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies
Romania	Floods	07/31/08	10,520	5	$50,000	Distribution of emergency relief supplies; protection activities, including support for child-friendly spaces
Slovenia	Floods	10/26/07	250,000	7	$50,000	Support for construction of a water pump station to provide safe drinking water for affected populations
Tajikistan	Winter Emergency	02/13/08	550,000	-	$4,342,618	Regional food procurement; purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies; economy and market systems activities
Ukraine	Industrial Accident	11/23/07	357	89	$191,902	Provision of health equipment to treat methane poisoning and related health conditions
Ukraine	Floods	07/30/08	40,703 households	30	$50,000	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies
Subtotal Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia						$109,486123
Latin America and the Caribbean						
Belize	Tropical Storm	06/05/08	10,000	7	$134,371	Airlift and local procurement of emergency relief supplies
Bolivia	Floods	01/27/08	79,000 families	63	$618,146	Airlift and local procurement of emergency relief supplies; health, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Brazil	Floods	04/17/08	450,000	33	$60,250	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies
Costa Rica	Floods	10/22/07	12,000	18	$50,000	Local procurement of emergency relief supplies, including bedding, blankets, fuel, and hygiene kits
Costa Rica[4]	Floods	09/05/08	9,500	0	$40,000	Provision of air support for transport of medical personnel and equipment to flood-affected communities
Cuba	Tropical Storm	11/09/07	68,000	-	$100,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies, including shelter kits
Cuba	Hurricane	09/03/08	400,000	0	$1,500,000	Local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security and shelter and settlements activities

Country	Disaster	Declaration Date	Affected	Dead[1]	Obligation	Disaster Assistance Provided by OFDA
Dominican Republic	Floods	10/31/07	79,730	87	$1,538,498	Deployment of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; airlifts and local procurement of emergency relief supplies; emergency food assistance, including transport; health and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Dominican Republic	Tropical Storms	09/03/08	16,715	8	$50,000	Local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies
Ecuador	Floods	02/21/08	250,000	56	$929,104	Deployment of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; airlift and local procurement of emergency relief supplies; health and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Guatemala	Floods	07/25/08	17,300	27	$49,906	Local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies
Haiti	Floods	11/07/07	25,397 families	103	$648,723	Deployment of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Haiti	Food Insecurity	04/28/08	2.5 million	-	$149,998	Agriculture and food security activities, including the purchase and distribution of seeds and fertilizer
Haiti[5]	Hurricanes	09/02/08	826,685	793	$8,455,930	Deployment of DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; airlifts and distribution of emergency relief supplies; economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Honduras	Floods	10/17/07	47,000	5	$50,000	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including blankets, hygiene kits, and kitchen items
Jamaica[6]	Tropical Storm	09/02/08	4,000	12	$157,000	Support for overflight assessments; airlift and procurement of emergency relief supplies
Mexico	Floods	11/04/07	2.3 million	13	$2,387,269	Deployment of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; local procurement of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, logistics, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Nicaragua	Floods	10/19/07	43,000	10	$576,872	Purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including kitchen kits and mattresses; emergency food assistance; agriculture and food security and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Nicaragua	Tropical Storm	05/29/08	25,000	3	$50,000	Deployment of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; emergency shelter repairs
Paraguay	Yellow Fever Outbreak	02/15/08	36	8	$50,000	Health activities, including vaccination activities, laboratory testing, and support for clinical case management
Paraguay	Drought	09/10/08	18,000	4	$50,000	Local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies
Subtotal Latin America and the Carribbean						$17,646,067
TOTAL FY 2008 DISASTER RESPONSE						$462,608,660

Notes:
* This figure represents the cumulative total of deaths since the onset of the complex emergency.
1) A hyphen (-) in the dead and/or affected columns indicates that reliable information was not available.
2) OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at $1,540,115, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Burma to $27,989,549.
3) OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at $579,032, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Georgia to $12,716,151.
4) Flooding in Costa Rica continued into FY 2009. As of mid-October, the ongoing floods had killed 7 people, displaced at least 3,096 others, and affected a total of 92,000 people in 470 communities, according to OCHA. In addition, flooding and mudslides rendered 171 roads impassible and damaged approximately 1,400 houses.
5) OFDA also provided relief commodities valued at $646,576, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Haiti to $9,102,506.
6) OFDA also provided relief commodities valued at $151,435, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Jamaica to $308,435.

OFDA Assistance for Previous FY Disasters*

Country or Category	Activity	Obligation	Assistance Provided by OFDA
Africa			
Burkina Faso	Floods	$300,000	Support for CRS to implement agriculture and food security activities, including seed vouchers and fairs
Central African Republic	Complex Emergency	$850,328	Support for IMC to implement health activities; replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007
Ghana	Floods	$300,000	Support for CRS to implement agriculture and food security activities, including seed vouchers and fairs
Liberia	Complex Emergency	$145,462	Support for ARC to promote legal protection for survivors of gender-based violence
Mozambique	Cyclone	$459,900	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007
Asia and the Pacific			
India	Floods	$1,075,591	Support for ACTED, CRS, and Project Concern International to implement agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, protection, risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Pakistan	Cyclone	$1,582,503	Support for CONCERN, Mercy Corps, and SC/US to implement agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia			
Greece	Wildfires	$877,447	Deployment of OFDA team to provide technical assistance for Greece wildfire response and prevention efforts; provision of trainings, workshops, and equipment for local first responders; replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007
Latin America and the Caribbean			
Belize	Hurricane	$49,654	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007
Guatemala	Floods	$8,100	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007
Jamaica	Hurricane	$217,915	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007
Nicaragua	Hurricane	$1,275,874	Support for ADRA, CRS, and World Vision to implement agriculture and food security, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities
Panama	Floods	$12,680	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007
Paraguay	Wildfires	$181,000	Replenishment of commodities provided by USFS during FY 2007
Peru	Earthquake	$879,832	Capacity building and training for new home construction in earthquake-affected areas; replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007; logistics costs
St. Lucia	Hurricane	$18,250	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2007
TOTAL FUNDING FOR PREVIOUS FY DISASTERS			$8,234,536

* Please refer to OFDA Annual Report FY 2007 for more information on these disasters.

FY 2008 Disaster Risk Reduction Activities

Country or Category	Activity	Obligation	Assistance Provided by OFDA
Africa			
East and Central Africa	Drought Mitigation	$325,000	Regional FEWS NET office
Southern Africa	Disaster Preparedness, Management, and Response; Technical Assistance; Capacity Building; Staff Support	$1,347,964	Assessment of flooding situation in Angola; early warning system and support to community radio stations for information dissemination in Mozambique; regional disaster risk and vulnerability reduction (Periperi-U); monitoring and evaluation to ensure that preparedness programs are technically sound; support for OFDA programs in Southern Africa
Southern Africa	Drought Mitigation	$200,000	Regional FEWS NET office
West Africa	Disaster Preparedness, Management, and Response; Nutrition Capacity Building; Protection Capacity Building	$3,650,158	Regional disaster response planning; capacity building to prevent and treat malnutrition; emergency nutrition preparedness in Niger; rapid response fund; water, sanitation, and hygiene emergency preparedness; protection capacity building in the context of food assistance; support for regional nutrition advisor
Liberia	Vulnerable Populations and IDP Protection	$400,000	Prevention of and response to gender-based violence
Côte d'Ivoire	Vulnerable Populations and IDP Protection	$400,000	Prevention of and response to gender-based violence
Madagascar	Disaster Preparedness, Management, and Response	$250,000	Rapid response fund for emergency activities in response to Rift Valley Fever outbreak
Asia and the Pacific			
Regional	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$220,000	Disaster management training, development of ASEAN manual for needs and damage assessments
Regional	Staff Support	$229,425	Support for OFDA programs in Asia and the Pacific
Bangladesh	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$21,550	Support for maintenance and operation of mobile water purification units
China	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management; Earthquake Safety	$1,728,217	Promotion of private-sector participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, capacity building, and response; integration of risk reduction into rehabilitation of earthquake-affected rural shelters and improvement of disaster risk reduction in schools and communities in earthquake-affected areas
India	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$300,000	Promotion of private-sector participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, capacity building, and response
Indonesia	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$304,500	Promotion of private-sector participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, capacity building, and response; support for maintenance and operation of mobile water purification units
Nepal	Capacity Building; Earthquake Risk Management	$429,516	Support for UNICEF and a local NGO to oversee an earthquake risk management program, including raising awareness of and preparedness for seismic hazards and monitoring the long-term earthquake risk reduction plan for the Kathmandu Valley
Nepal	Protection Capacity Building	$350,000	Prevention of and response to gender-based violence
Pacific Islands	Transition Programming	$1,408,206	Preparing for the transition of Marshall Islands and Micronesia from the U.S. Federal Emergency Agency to OFDA
Pacific Islands	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$94,943	Capacity building and disaster management training to improve the performance of local and national disaster management agencies and individuals
Philippines	Conflict Preparedness; Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$563,280	Conflict preparedness activities, including responding to internal displacement in western Mindanao; support for improved school-based and community awareness of disaster preparedness
Vietnam	Flood Preparedness, Forecasting, and Management	$25,000	Regional workshop to facilitate flood preparedness programs, including flood proofing of homes in flood-prone villages in the Mekong Delta

Country or Category	Activity	Obligation	Assistance Provided by OFDA
Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia			
Regional	Staff Support	$4,942	Support for attendance of a global workshop on gender and disasters
Turkey	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$5,000	Support for technical assistance meetings
Latin America and the Caribbean			
Regional	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management; Emergency Health Preparedness; Information Management	$7,761,970	Maintenance of regional disaster management experts to respond to disasters and oversee a disaster management training program; regional disaster response planning; promotion of private-sector participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, capacity building, and response; development of new disaster risk reduction initiatives and support for existing programs; health sector capacity building; information management activities in Latin America and the Caribbean
Regional	Technical Assistance; Staff Support	$20,928	Support for training session for OFDA partners; after-action workshop on disaster management following earthquakes in Peru; support for OFDA programs in Latin America and the Caribbean
Caribbean	Capacity Building; Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$444,148	Capacity building and disaster management training for national Red Cross societies and other local responders; provision of urban search and rescue equipment
Central America	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$12,500	Support for a disaster preparedness workshop
Costa Rica	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$12,000	Support for a volcano preparedness workshop through a local observatory
Ecuador	Volcano Monitoring	$25,000	Assessment and volcano risk management activities in 23 communities in Ecuador
Honduras	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$397,394	Capacity building and training in disaster risk reduction for indigenous communities; support for a disaster simulation exercise; strengthening disaster management
Mexico	Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management	$91,080	Disaster management training for national and state disaster officials
Country or Category	**Activity**	**Obligation**	**Assistance Provided by OFDA**
Global			
Agriculture and Food Security	Global Seed Security; Cassava Mosaic Disease Mitigation; Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest Mitigation; Staff Support	$1,901,040	Support for research to ensure the quality of seed interventions; cassava mosaic disease (CMD) mitigation, including multiplication and dissemination of disease-resistant plants, training, and information dissemination on CMD and its management; emergency pest mitigation activities, including support for the Desert Locust Control Organization to mitigate and control damage from infestations of migratory pests in East Africa; support for OFDA agriculture and food security programs
Geological Hazards	Volcano Monitoring	$1,253,000	Support for Volcano Disaster Assistance Program to provide technical assistance to national volcano monitoring organizations; geological hazard mitigation
Information Management and Coordination	Coordination; Staff Support	$4,347,625	Support for Sphere Project and InterAction to disseminate best practices and develop standards and guidelines for humanitarian assistance; funding to strengthen humanitarian accountability and performance; support for assessment of effectiveness of donor assistance for IDPs; funding for OCHA to provide information support and coordination for the international humanitarian community; support for OFDA information management and coordination activities
Information Management and Coordination	Coordination; Staff Support	$400,623	Support for Good Humanitarian Donorship financial study; support for OFDA information management and coordination activities
Information Management and Coordination	Information Management	$757,755	Maintenance of an Emergency Events Database (EM-DATA) and a geographic data repository; support for WFP emergency mapping capacity
Logistics and Relief Commodities	Coordination	$600,000	Funding for WFP and UNJLC to strengthen interagency collaboration on logistics and to support logistics cluster activations in the field

Country or Category	Activity	Obligation	Assistance Provided by OFDA
Meteorological Hazards	Climate Forecasting; Flood Preparedness, Forecasting, and Management	$2,050,678	Provision of access to weather, climate, hydrological, and oceanic expertise and information; capacity building of national, international, and regional entities, including training on the application of satellite-based rainfall estimates to floods and droughts, flash flood guidance, and dissemination of information to vulnerable populations in remote areas; global flood hazard mapping, including identification of high-risk areas and safe havens, as well as technological training for scientists
Public Health and Nutrition	Nutrition Capacity Building; Information Management	$2,187,454	Support for nutrition capacity building and information management, including identification and dissemination of best practices through research and evaluation; technical support to develop policy guidance and capacity building for infant and young child feeding in emergencies; trainings to promote best practices in supplementary feeding, community management of acute malnutrition, and alternative nutrition assessment methods; local procurement and production of ready-to-use therapeutic food
Public Health and Nutrition	Emergency Health Preparedness; Capacity Building; Staff Support	$1,191,984	Communicable disease control in emergencies, including technical and operational support; training and capacity building for emergency health providers; support for OFDA health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs
Public Health and Nutrition	Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness	$615,144	Procurement, stockpiling, and distribution of personal protective equipment; support for the development of WHO pandemic influenza guidelines; pandemic preparedness training for health workers
Shelter and Settlements	Capacity Building	$100,000	Funding for a revision of the Sphere Project handbook
Vulnerable Populations and IDP Protection	Capacity Building; Economy and Market Systems; Information Management; Protection	$1,194,630	Capacity building program to promote the incorporation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into domestic laws and policies through translation into local languages and dissemination of the Principles and related materials; support for addressing fuel needs in conflict-affected settings; development of a rapid market assessment toolkit to enable field officers to determine the appropriateness of cash-based interventions in lieu of commodity distributions; support for database to track global IDP movements; technical evaluation and dissemination of findings from study of the efficiency of stoves distributed to reduce fuel consumption and protect women and girls from attacks
Vulnerable Populations and IDP Protection	Protection	$1,020,326	Support for trainings of NGO staff conducting investigations into reported incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse and promotion of common standards to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse; funding for the protection standby capacity (PROCAP) project to maintain and develop a cadre of qualified protection officers to support the strategic and operational response of U.N. agencies for IDPs and other vulnerable populations
Staff Support	Technical Assistance	$3,000,000	Monitoring and evaluation to ensure disaster risk reduction programs are technically sound
Subtotal Disaster Risk Reduction[1]			$41,642,980

1) This figure does not include disaster risk reduction activities incorporated into ongoing response activities.

OFDA Funding and Budget for FY 2008

Obligated Funding for FY 2008 Disasters	$462,608,660
Obligated Funding for Previous FY Disasters	$8,234,536
SUBTOTAL - FY 2008 Obligated Funding for Disaster Response	**$470,843,196**
Disaster Risk Reduction Activities	$41,642,980
Program Support and Operations	$40,610,526
TOTAL - FY 2007 Obligated Funding	**$553,096,702**
Budget Carryover to FY 2009	$186,370,190
TOTAL OFDA Budget for FY 2008	**$739,466,892**

Disaster Summaries in this Annual Report

The disaster descriptions on the preceding pages cover USG FY 2008. From October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008, OFDA responded to 80 declared disasters. In addition, OFDA responded to an emergency in one country for which no disaster declaration was issued.

Explanation of Assistance Covered

As the financial record of how OFDA dispensed emergency assistance funds in FY 2008, this report details only the assistance provided through OFDA's budget. In almost all of the disasters detailed in the preceding pages, other USG offices provided a level of humanitarian assistance in addition to the OFDA funds indicated. Every effort was made to note when other offices participated in a disaster response in the case reports.

Detailed Situation Reports and Fact Sheets on Major Disasters Available Separately

Documents are available that provide more detailed information about declared disasters than is given in the case reports found in this annual report. Situation reports are four- to five-page documents that provide periodic updates on long-term, complex emergencies. Fact sheets are one- or two-page documents that focus on rapid-onset natural disasters or rapidly changing complex emergencies. For information on where to find current situation reports, fact sheets, and other related information, please see page 146.

Situation Reports, Fact Sheets, or Program Summaries Produced for Major Disasters and Preparedness Programs in FY 2008

Asia – Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

Bangladesh – Cyclone

Bolivia – Floods

Burma – Cyclone

Chad – Complex Emergency

China – Earthquake

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

Dominican Republic – Tropical Storm

Dominican Republic and Haiti – Floods and Tropical Storm

East Timor – Complex Emergency

Ecuador – Floods

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Georgia – Complex Emergency

Haiti – Storms

Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

Kenya – Complex Emergency

Latin America and the Caribbean – Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

Latin America and the Caribbean – Hurricane Season 2008

Mexico – Floods

Nepal – Complex Emergency

Pakistan – Floods and Civil Conflict

Philippines – Typhoon

Somalia – Complex Emergency

Southern Africa – Flooding and Cyclones

Sri Lanka – Complex Emergency

Sudan – Complex Emergency

Uganda – Complex Emergency

Zimbabwe – Complex Emergency

Global Food Insecurity and Price Increase

Disaster Risk Reduction Programs

Natural and Technological Risks – Volcano Disaster Assistance Program Summary

Global Sector Updates – Agriculture and Food Security; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Publication Credits

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The maps included in this report are for illustrative purposes only and are not authoritative representations. The boundaries and names used on the maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the U.S. Government.

OFDA Publications

In addition to the annual report, OFDA produces several other publications that are available on the Internet and by request:

• One of the most useful publications is the Field Operations Guide (FOG), a pocket-sized manual that contains methodology for conducting disaster assessments, as well as information on OFDA response procedures.

• In order to fulfill its mandate, OFDA has developed Guidelines for Unsolicited Proposals and Reporting to assist in the preparation of proposals for new grants and grant modifications for submission to OFDA. This guidelines publication provides information relevant to the grant proposal review and award process, outlines the main components of a grant proposal, and presents reporting guidelines.

• OFDA also produces current situation reports and fact sheets on selected international disasters and crises, which describe the humanitarian situation and the corresponding USG response.

Current situation reports, fact sheets, the FOG, and the Guidelines for Unsolicited Proposals and Reporting are available on the Internet at OFDA's home page at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/. Fact sheets and situation reports are also available on OCHA's ReliefWeb home page at http://www.reliefweb.int.

Cover Photo Credits

Front: Women participate in an OFDA-funded malaria education program implemented by MENTOR Initiative in Dar Sila Region of eastern Chad (Courtesy of Mike DuBose, United Methodist News Service).

Back: Local fishermen in Burma assist to transport emergency relief supplies provided by OFDA through implementing partner IOM (Courtesy of IOM).

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