



# USAID

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Sri Lanka - Tsunami

**Office of U.S. Foreign  
Disaster Assistance**



Grenada - Hurricane

## **Our Mission**

OFDA is the office within USAID responsible for facilitating and coordinating USG emergency assistance overseas. We provide humanitarian assistance to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of humanitarian emergencies worldwide.



Indonesia - Tsunami



Darfur - Complex Emergency

## **What We Do**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), responds to all types of natural disasters, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, floods, droughts, fires, pest infestations, and disease outbreaks. We also provide assistance when lives or livelihoods are threatened by catastrophes such as civil conflict, acts of terrorism, or industrial accidents. In addition to emergency assistance, we fund mitigation activities to reduce the impact of recurrent natural disasters and also provide training to build a country's capacity for local disaster management and response.



Iraq - Complex Emergency

## How We Respond

When a disaster occurs, the U.S. Ambassador or Chief of Mission can declare a disaster when the affected country's government requests or is willing to receive international assistance and if the disaster exceeds the ability of the host country to respond. OFDA responds to declared disasters with one or more of the following actions:

- Provision of funds to the U.S. Embassy or USAID Mission to purchase relief supplies and support the relief effort;
- Deployment of one or more regional advisors from the Africa, Asia, or Latin America and the Caribbean regional offices to the disaster site to assess conditions and identify needs;
- Deployment of technical experts, including specialists in health and nutrition; water and sanitation; food security; geological and hydrometeorological hazards; search and rescue; shelter; protection; and nuclear, biological, and chemical accidents;
- Deployment of an assessment team or a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to evaluate the situation and coordinate the U.S. Government disaster response;
- Provision of disaster relief commodities (such as blankets, plastic sheeting, water containers, and personal hygiene kits) from worldwide stockpiles; and
- Funding of grant proposals submitted by international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

## U.S. Government Partners

Within the Agency, OFDA coordinates closely with the Office of Food for Peace, the Office of Transition Initiatives, and USAID's regional and functional bureaus and overseas missions.

We also work with other U.S. Government (USG) agencies and local organizations in the areas of preparedness, prevention, emergency, and recovery assistance, including the following:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of State
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
- Los Angeles County Fire Department



Eritrea - Food Insecurity

## **Our Authority**

“The Congress, recognizing that prompt United States assistance to save lives and alleviate the human suffering caused by natural and man-made disasters is an important expression of the humanitarian concern and tradition of the people of the United States, affirms the willingness of the United States to provide assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of people and countries affected by such disasters.”

**Foreign Assistance Act - 1961\***

\* As Amended



Mali - Locust Emergency

## **Contact Information**

**U.S. Agency for International Development  
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20523  
Tel: (202) 712-0000  
Fax: (202) 216-3524  
[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)**