

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

HEALTH SECTOR UPDATE – JUNE 2010

SECTOR OVERVIEW

USAID/OFDA provides technical and financial assistance to U.N. and non-governmental organization (NGO) implementing partners, as well as USAID mission partners, to enhance emergency public health programming worldwide. At the forefront of humanitarian health interventions, USAID/OFDA public health initiatives target the most common causes of death and illness in complex humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. USAID/OFDA programs promote the use of international guidelines based on best practices in the field of public health, as well as help build local government capacity to prevent and mitigate the public health impacts of disasters. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$70 million to support emergency health activities in 16 countries. In addition, between October 2009 and May 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$90 million to support emergency public health programming in 17 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

SUPPORTING EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

Immediately after the devastating earthquake struck southern Haiti on January 12, 2010, USAID/OFDA deployed public health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) experts to work with the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); the Government of Haiti (GoH) Ministry of Health; and NGO partners to implement emergency health interventions in earthquake-affected areas. USAID/OFDA experts also helped coordinate U.S. Government public health activities in Haiti, which were instrumental in treating tens of thousands of earthquake-affected people. As of May 2010, USAID/OFDA had provided more than \$54 million to support health programs in Haiti. USAID/OFDA and USAID's Office of Health, Infectious Disease, and Nutrition (USAID/HIDN) are currently developing an action plan to help ensure a successful relief to development transition of health activities in Haiti.

QUALITY ASSURANCE OF PHARMACEUTICALS

In many areas of the developing world, populations receive sub-standard medicines that are ineffective and sometimes dangerous. USAID/OFDA is committed to ensuring that beneficiaries have access to safe, effective, and quality medicines. USAID/OFDA is working to ensure that all essential human and veterinary medicines and vaccines purchased with USAID/OFDA funds meet internationally accepted quality standards. To this end, USAID/OFDA has begun a project to pre-certify pharmaceutical wholesalers, who must be able to trace each medicine back to the manufacturer. In turn, the manufacturer must assure that the medicines are produced under Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). By tracing the pedigree of each medicine, counterfeit drugs and sub-standard medicines are less likely to enter the drug supply chain and endanger beneficiaries.

ADDRESSING INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS IN EMERGENCIES

USAID/OFDA has provided technical assistance to USAID's pandemic influenza team to create field guidance, select appropriate commodities, and develop contingency plans for humanitarian assistance in response to a pandemic influenza. USAID/OFDA also supports WHO's Disease Control in Emergencies group, which provides both technical and operational epidemiological services for the surveillance, monitoring, prevention, and control of communicable diseases in humanitarian emergencies. Additionally, USAID/OFDA health programs focus on major public health needs in emergencies, such as country and field level coordination of health services, disease surveillance, vector-borne disease control, and maternal and child health. USAID/OFDA also prioritizes health programs that are coordinated with others sectors, including WASH, nutrition, shelter, and protection.

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