

USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

Annual Report

FY 2005

June 16, 2005

Please Note:

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Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

Performance:

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

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

In FY 2004, OFDA funded more than \$316 million worth of emergency response, mitigation and preparedness projects around the world, responding to 70 disasters. Over 56% of these funds were provided to NGOs and more than 20% passed through UN agencies. Table 1 shows the major implementing partners by type and percentage of obligated funds.

Table 1 - Obligation by Type of Implementing Partner

NGO - 56.3%
UN - 20.4%
Department of Defense - 5.7%
Contract - 5.5%
USAID/Operating Units/Bureaus - 5.4%
IO - 1.8%
Other USG - 1.6%
Personal Services Contractors - 1.5%
University/Institution - 0.6%
Foundation - 0.2%
Department of State - 0.2%
Other - 0.2%

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

OFDA provided \$242 million in response to 17 complex emergencies in FY 2004. Darfur, Sudan was by

far the largest recipient of emergency funds, followed by southern Sudan and Iraq. Table 2 shows the complex emergencies and their funding levels.

Table 2 - FY 2004 Complex Emergencies

Sudan (Darfur) - \$71,661,007
Sudan (South) - \$35,000,000
Iraq - \$31,768,009
Liberia - \$23,407,527
Democratic Republic of Congo - \$22,395,336
Burundi - \$11,340,199
Afghanistan - \$9,896,870
Uganda - \$8,960,762
Angola - \$6,805,825
Zimbabwe - \$6,674,351
Haiti - \$4,294,762
Somalia - \$4,274,262
Sierra Leone - \$2,110,802
Indonesia - \$1,500,000
Nepal - \$763,997
Ivory Coast - \$652,548
Bolivia - \$50,000

Total Obligation - \$241,556,257

By comparison, \$46 million was spent on the other 53 declared, mostly natural, disasters. The most frequent natural disasters were floods (16), hurricanes/cyclones/typhoons (9), drought (8), locust infestation (6), and earthquakes (4). OFDA's response to the drought disasters required the largest amount of funding, with \$21 million targeting food security issues in Ethiopia. Table 3 shows FY 2004 funding for natural disasters.

Table 3 - FY 2004 Response to Natural Disasters

Drought - \$26,119,807
Earthquake - \$9,348,440
Flood - \$3,716,578
Locust Infestation - \$3,678,590
Hurricane/Cyclone/Typhoon - \$2,530,575
Landslide - \$190,000
Fire - \$164,000
Storm - \$50,000
Winter Emergency - \$50,000
Cholera - \$38,000

Total Obligation - \$45,885,990

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

Population pressures and urbanization, environmental degradation and industrialization, and weak or nonexistent government controls and regulations are risk factors that indicate a more disaster prone

future for many parts of the world. All or some of these factors can exacerbate an emergency situation, and in some regions of the world millions of people can be affected each time a disaster occurs. In addition to large-scale displacement and the loss of life, disasters can result in the loss of property and agricultural crops worth millions of dollars annually. The long-term aim of OFDA programming is to help foreign national governments and local populations plan for and respond to all types of disasters with minimum outside assistance, and to prevent the loss of hard-won development gains. In FY 2004, OFDA spent nearly \$28 million on preparedness activities.

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

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

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

Program and operational support for OFDA's worldwide operations accounted for \$29 million. This includes salaries of staff; surge capacity maintenance; transport and warehousing of relief commodities; establishment and maintenance of field offices; computer networking and communications support; staff training; nuclear, biological, chemical, radiological, and explosive preparedness activities; and more.

Key Achievements: Recognizing that the needs of victims in all disasters are of the utmost importance, there were a few humanitarian interventions in FY 2004 that were unique in their magnitude, urgency or strategic importance. Several are cited here as examples of how OFDA not only strives to fulfill its mandate, but how it can play an important role in the strategic interests of the United States.

Although recent progress on the North-South Sudan peace process brings hope for an end to Africa's longest civil war, the emergence of the crisis in Darfur is deeply troubling. In FY 2004, OFDA sought to address humanitarian needs in Sudan while simultaneously providing an effective bridge to development activities in the south. Within the framework of USAID's Interim Strategic Plan for Sudan, OFDA had the following program priorities: provision of basic humanitarian services in war-affected areas of Sudan, focus on areas of likely IDP returns, and response to the Darfur crisis. In FY 2004, OFDA provided nearly

\$107 million in humanitarian assistance countrywide in Sudan.

Working in close coordination with the Department of State and other U.S. agencies, OFDA planned for a possible humanitarian emergency in Iraq by assembling and training the largest-ever U.S. humanitarian rapid response team and pre-positioning stockpiles of emergency supplies and commodities in Iraq. The intervention in Iraq remains one of the largest humanitarian responses in OFDA's history, and in FY 2004, OFDA provided nearly \$32 million to Iraq for coordination, health, nutrition, logistics, shelter, emergency relief supplies, support to internally displaced persons, water and sanitation, and capacity-building activities countrywide. OFDA currently has a staff of three officers in Baghdad and Arbil monitoring programs in Iraq. IDP support continues to be a priority sector, and OFDA continues to work closely with NGO partners to identify and respond to emergency needs.

In 2004, the cumulative effect of consecutive seasons of failed rains in Ethiopia led to drought conditions and widespread food insecurity for more than 7.8 million people. The humanitarian situation for affected Ethiopians was further exacerbated by a livelihoods crisis due to a decline in world coffee prices, decreasing labor wages, insufficient livestock production, environmental degradation, and market instability. In FY 2004 OFDA responded to the ongoing crisis by funding more than \$21.1 million in emergency water and sanitation, health and nutrition, and agricultural rehabilitation activities.

OFDA made progress over the past year in its efforts to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic during emergencies. An interagency working group developed a set of guidelines outlining appropriate ways to address HIV/AIDS in a variety of emergency sectors. OFDA has begun implementing these new strategies, and will continue to do so in the coming years.

Results Framework

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

SO Level Indicator(s):

Number of declared disasters

Number of targeted beneficiaries

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

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

IR1.3 Capacities for livelihoods protected/restored

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

961-002 Reduce vulnerability of at risk populations to disaster