



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009



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
AFP	Agence France-Presse
AmRC	American Red Cross
ARC	American Refugee Committee
AVSI	Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FHI	Food for the Hungry International
IMC	International Medical Corps
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRD	International Relief and Development
Merlin	Medical Emergency Relief International
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PSI	Population Services International
SC	Save the Children
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
WHH	Welthungerhilfe (formerly known as German Agro Action)

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
UNDSS	U.N. Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	U.N. Population Fund
UNHAS	U.N. Humanitarian Air Service
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
GH	Bureau of Global Health
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

OFDA Acronyms

DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Country of Origin

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

Miscellaneous

cm	centimeter
FY	fiscal year
IDP	internally displaced person
kg	kilogram
km	kilometer
lbs	pounds
MoH	Ministry of Health
mph	miles per hour
MT	metric ton
PL	Public Law

Measurement Conversion

1 hectare	= 2.471 acres
1 meter	= 39.37 inches
1 millimeter	= 0.039 inch
1 kilometer	= 0.62 miles

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



2009

Table of Contents

5 OFDA at a Glance

- 7 Our Mandate
- 8 Message from the Deputy Director
- 9 Year in Review
- 11 OFDA Disaster Responses in FY 2009 Map and Timeline
- 13 How the U.S. Government Provides International Humanitarian Assistance
- 19 Setting the Record Straight: Debunking Disaster Myths
- 24 OFDA's Approach to Shelter and Settlement Activities
- 27 OFDA's Safety and Security Unit
- 29 OFDA Support for Local and Regional Food Procurement
- 32 OFDA in the News
- 33 Global Influenza A/H1N1

35 Africa

- 59 Helping Kenya Prepare to Respond

63 Asia and the Pacific

77 Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia

87 Latin America and the Caribbean

- 99 OFDA/LAC School Safety Initiative

101 Disaster Risk Reduction

- 103 OFDA's Approach to DRR
- 105 PROMISE Helps Urban Asian Communities Manage Disasters
- 107 The Asia Foundation Mitigates Disasters in the Pacific
- 109 Supporting Earthquake Risk Reduction Capacity in Nepal
- 112 Lending Hope to Afghanistan's Crisis-Affected Ghor Province
- 114 Mitigating Cholera in Zimbabwe
- 116 Defending Against Drought in Kenya
- 118 Zambezi River Basin DRR Programs
- 121 OFDA Urban Search and Rescue Capacity Building
- 123 Volcano Crisis Response Team Improves Eruption Preparedness

138 Funding Summary





Residents of Pakistan construct transitional shelter with emergency relief supplies provided by an OFDA partner.



OFDA AT A GLANCE

Our Mandate	7
Message from the Deputy Director	8
Year in Review	9
OFDA Disaster Responses in FY 2009 Map and Timeline	11
How the U.S. Government Provides International Humanitarian Assistance.....	13
Setting the Record Straight: Debunking Disaster Myths.....	19
OFDA's Approach to Shelter and Settlement Activities	24
OFDA's Safety and Security Unit	27
OFDA Support for Local and Regional Food Procurement	29
OFDA in the News	32
Global Influenza A/H1N1	33



SAVE LIVES



ALLEVIATE SUFFERING



REDUCE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DISASTERS

Message from the Deputy Director

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 was an exciting year for OFDA. In the face of challenges, OFDA staff worked tirelessly and responded vigorously to sudden-onset natural disasters and continuing complex emergencies.

Working around the clock, members of OFDA obligated a record-breaking \$753 million in funding, responding to 63 disasters in FY 2009. Forty-five additional staff members joined the office, filling vacancies for both previous and new positions. Hiring continues as filling vacancies is a priority. OFDA trained 1,435 U.S. Department of Defense personnel in humanitarian response and continued to provide permanent support to U.S. Military combatant commands throughout the globe. Sixty-six members of USAID stationed throughout the world increased their disaster response and coordination skills through OFDA's mission preparedness outreach courses. In FY 2009, OFDA assumed responsibility for disaster response in Micronesia and the Marshall Islands from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

OFDA continued to engage in U.N. humanitarian reform by supporting the cluster system and global humanitarian partnerships, contributing to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and strengthening the Humanitarian Coordinator system. Considerable progress—and tangible deliverables—occurred in each pillar of U.N. humanitarian reform in FY 2009. OFDA engaged in global humanitarian initiatives, including support for best practice development through the Sphere Project and the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP), as well as studies through the Humanitarian Futures Program and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). In addition, OFDA continued its partnership with InterAction in FY 2009 through coordination and staff care initiatives. OFDA facilitated headquarters-level donor coordination, such as the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative, and met with non-traditional donors to share best practices and policy positions. Significantly, in FY 2009, the U.S. Government was ranked first among donors for funding to consolidated appeals and flash appeals.

The above are some of the tangible results of all the hard work coming from OFDA staff members. What is not measured is the creativity, passion, and commitment to the mandate of this office to save lives and reduce human suffering. OFDA staff continue to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in extremely stressful situations. They distinguish themselves in headquarters and the field by their expertise, humanity, and grace under pressure.



Carol Chan

OFDA Deputy Director



Year in Review

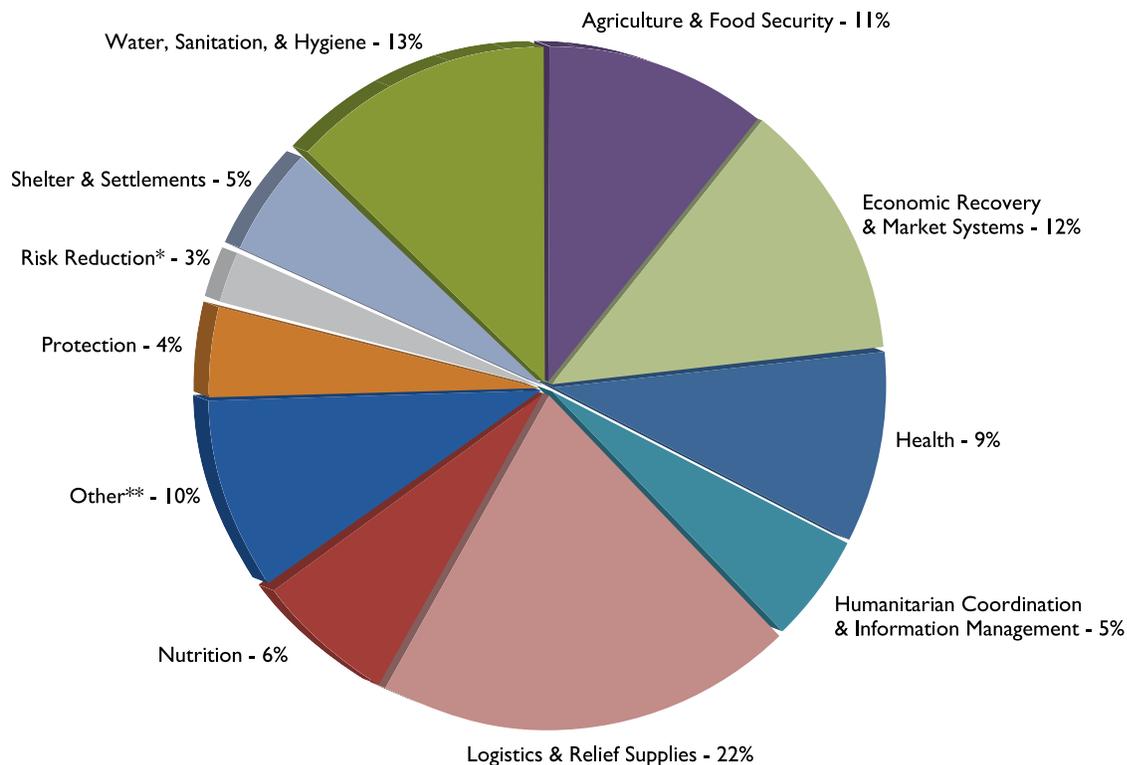
In FY 2009, OFDA responded to 63 disasters in 49 countries to assist nearly 55 million disaster-affected people. In Africa, OFDA disaster responses included assistance to populations affected by complex emergencies, food insecurity, floods, a caterpillar infestation, a munitions explosion, a cyclone, and cholera and measles outbreaks. Countries in the Asia and Pacific region experienced flooding, cyclone, and earthquake damage, as well as the effects of ongoing conflict and the food price crisis. In Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA), OFDA assisted populations affected by floods, mudslides, earthquakes, the food price crisis, and complex emergencies. Flooding affected populations across the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, where OFDA also responded to an earthquake and a school collapse.

FAST FACTS FOR FY 2009	
Number of OFDA disaster responses	63
Number of countries that received OFDA disaster support	49
OFDA's total budget	\$1.03 billion
OFDA percentage of USAID budget	5.4%
Most frequent disaster	Floods
Most funded sector	Logistics and Relief Supplies

Following the onset of each of these disasters, affected populations required immediate humanitarian assistance, including safe drinking water, health care, sanitation services, emergency shelter, and food security interventions. In many disaster situations, populations required emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, soap, kitchen sets, water containers, and blankets. In countries experiencing complex emergencies, OFDA partners worked to protect vulnerable civilians, increase the sustainability of longer-term humanitarian response, and facilitate the transition to development assistance in relevant countries.

In FY 2009, OFDA provided nearly \$622 million to support economic recovery and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions; humanitarian coordination

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.

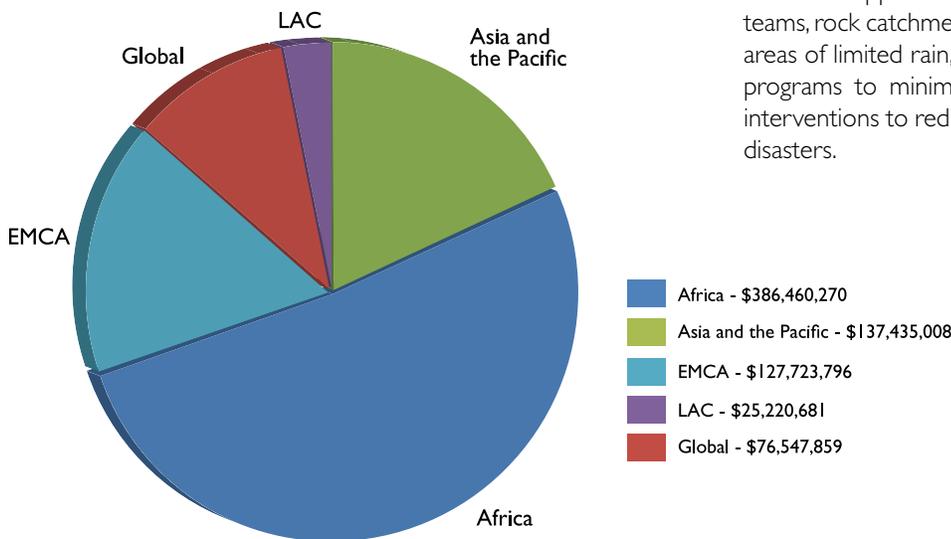
** Other includes chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness activities; urban search and rescue activities; and administrative support.

LARGEST RESPONSES IN FY 2009		
COUNTRY	DISASTER TYPE	FY 2009 FUNDING
Sudan	Complex Emergency	\$139.9 million
Pakistan	Complex Emergency	\$102.5 million
Iraq	Complex Emergency	\$83.4 million
Ethiopia	Complex Emergency	\$61.2 million
DRC	Complex Emergency	\$33.9 million

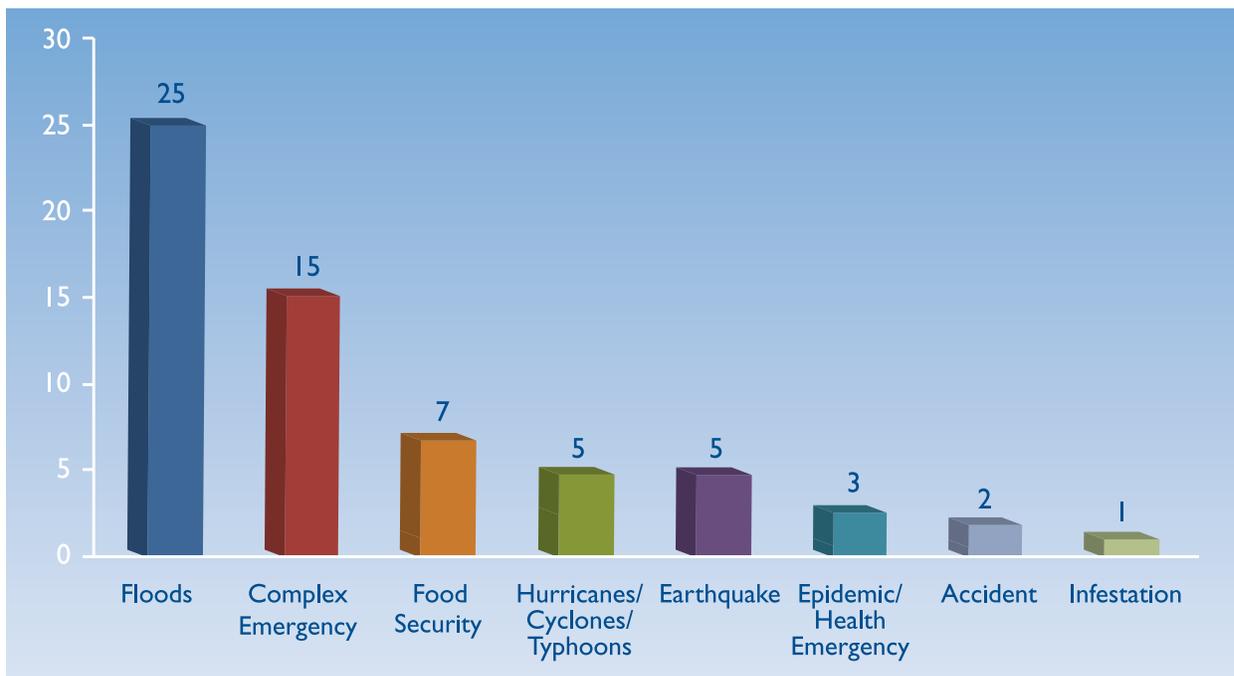
and information management programs; search and rescue efforts; and logistical support and emergency relief commodities. Of the total funding programmed in FY 2009, OFDA directed more than \$67 million toward local and regional food procurement to support food production systems and economic development overseas. OFDA deployed Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) and other emergency teams to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Pakistan, and Zimbabwe.

In addition to providing immediate disaster response, OFDA allocated nearly \$132 million to prepare for and mitigate the impact of potential disasters; support program evaluation, monitoring, and planning; and provide additional program and operational support. OFDA disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities addressed various risks and built and improved local disaster management capabilities. In FY 2009, DRR efforts included support for volcano monitoring and assessment teams, rock catchment programs to store additional water in areas of limited rain, multi-country watershed early warning programs to minimize flood damage, and other targeted interventions to reduce vulnerability to recurring and severe disasters.

OFDA Funding By Region



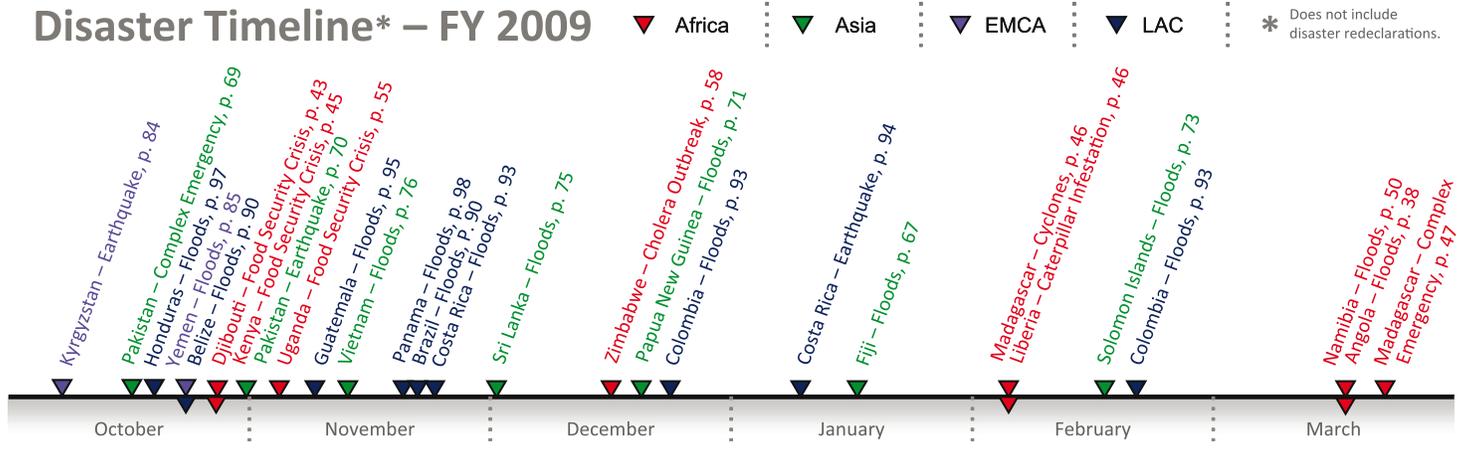
Types of Disasters Requiring OFDA Assistance



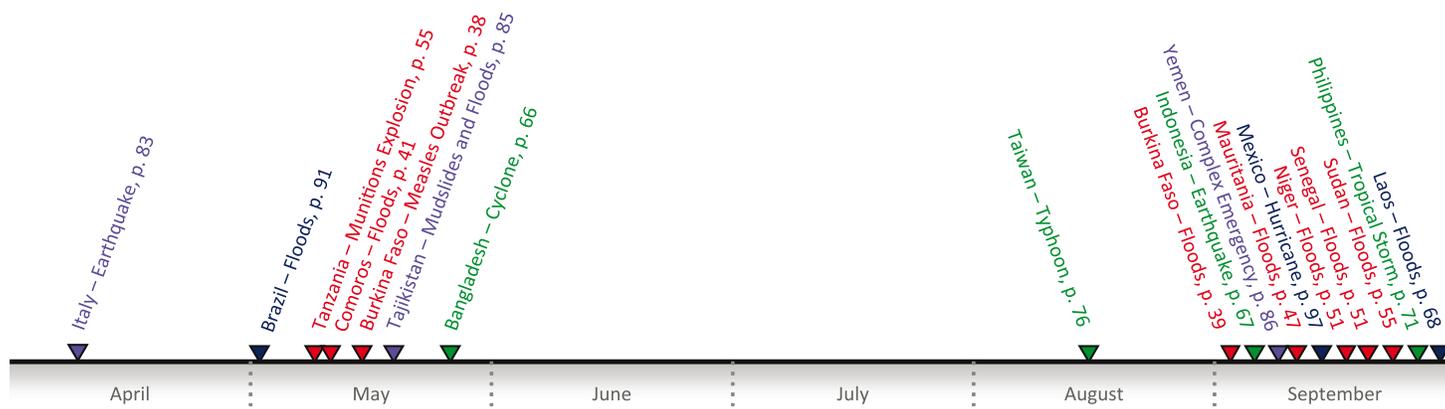
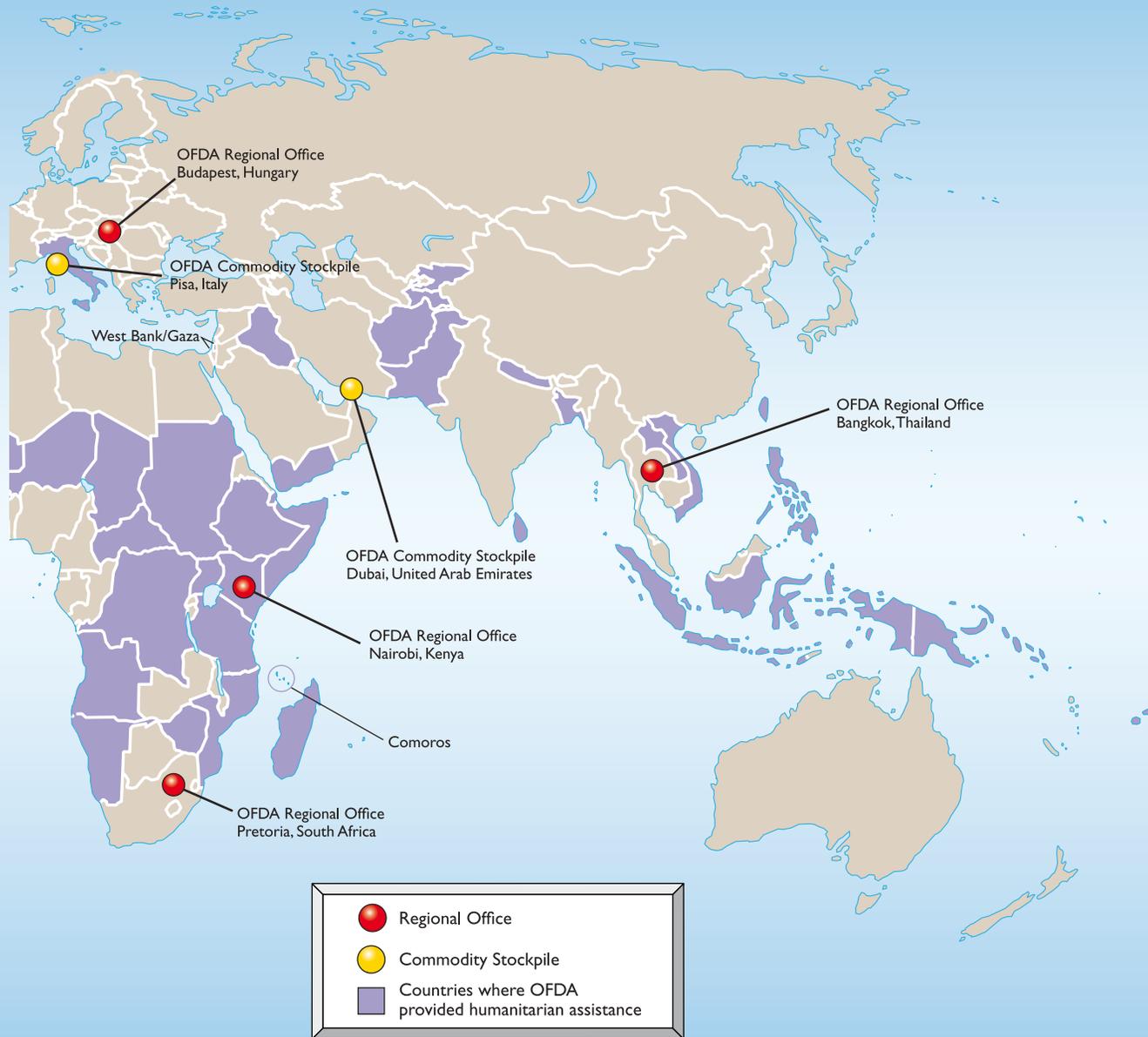
OFDA DISASTER



Disaster Timeline* – FY 2009



RESPONSES IN FY 2009



How the U.S. Government (USG) 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 designated as the lead USG office to provide and coordinate USG humanitarian assistance in response to international emergencies and disasters. In cooperation with other USG offices and international humanitarian experts, OFDA continuously monitors global hazards, identifies potential areas of need, and is ready to respond whenever disaster strikes.

OFDA's Mandate

1. Save lives;
2. Alleviate suffering; and
3. Reduce the social and economic impact of disasters.

Disaster Response

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 political crises, social unrest, or conflict resulting in complex emergencies.

Declaring an International Disaster

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 an 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.

An official disaster declaration from a U.S. Embassy allows OFDA to provide 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:

- Immediate provision of 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;
- Deployment of a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) or an emergency team to disaster-affected areas to conduct assessments, determine additional needs, deliver relief supplies, and/or recommend proposals for funding;
- 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, water containers, water purification units, blankets, and health supplies, from one of OFDA's three regional warehouses; and/or
- Support for relief and rehabilitation activities through grants to implementing organizations¹, including international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.N. agencies, or international organizations.

Examples of OFDA-funded activities include purchasing local relief supplies for populations in remote locations, managing and/or supporting primary health care 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. In addition, OFDA often pre-positions personnel and relief supplies to prepare for an impending disaster, such as a hurricane or volcanic eruption.

Although rarely used, OFDA possesses the authority to request exemptions from USG regulations when doing so will expedite the provision of emergency assistance, as well as to borrow money from other USAID accounts when OFDA requires additional funding in any fiscal year.

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.

¹Section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 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.



Anatomy of a DART and an RMT

If the scope of a disaster merits, OFDA deploys a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to the affected area, and activates an on-call Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT). This system is based on the incident command system and tailored to international response.

DARTs may include technical specialists in health, nutrition, shelter, agriculture, protection, livestock, and/or water, sanitation, and hygiene who conduct rapid assessments and coordinate with sector specialists from U.N. agencies and other relief organizations.

Administrative, communications, and information officers on the DART support assessment teams, including by relaying priority needs and recommendations regarding 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 to coordinate activities between OFDA and military responders.

The RMT coordinates U.S. Government (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 and USG entities, including the U.S. Congress. The RMT takes the lead role in the operational aspects of the disaster response, determining the best method to activate and coordinate resources.

Disaster Risk Reduction

In addition to disaster response activities, OFDA also supports a range of disaster risk reduction projects designed to minimize the impact of natural hazards and conflict in emergency-prone countries and enhance the resilience of affected communities. Disaster risk reduction activities enhance a country's capacity to prepare for and manage hazards and disasters by promoting the sharing of technology and expertise 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.

Transition from Relief to Development

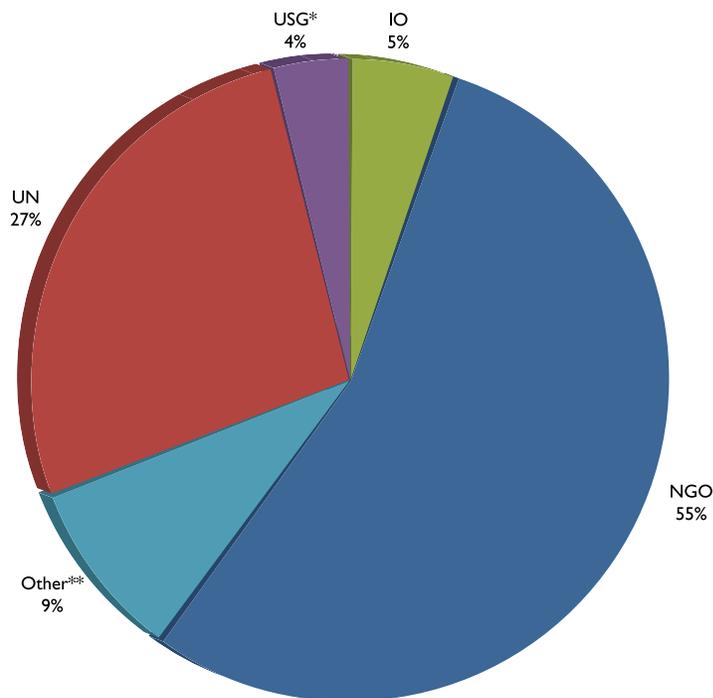
As an emergency response transitions from addressing immediate needs to preparing for longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction, OFDA works with other offices within USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and USAID's regional bureaus and overseas missions, as well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



UNICEF workers offload a commodity shipment in Goma, DR (Photo by Arielle Giegerich, USAID).



OFDA Funding by 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.

OFDA’s Organizational Structure

OFDA’s more than 250 staff members and consultants are 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 as well as providing sectoral technical assistance to both Washington, D.C.- and field-based staff. 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.

Headquarters Staff

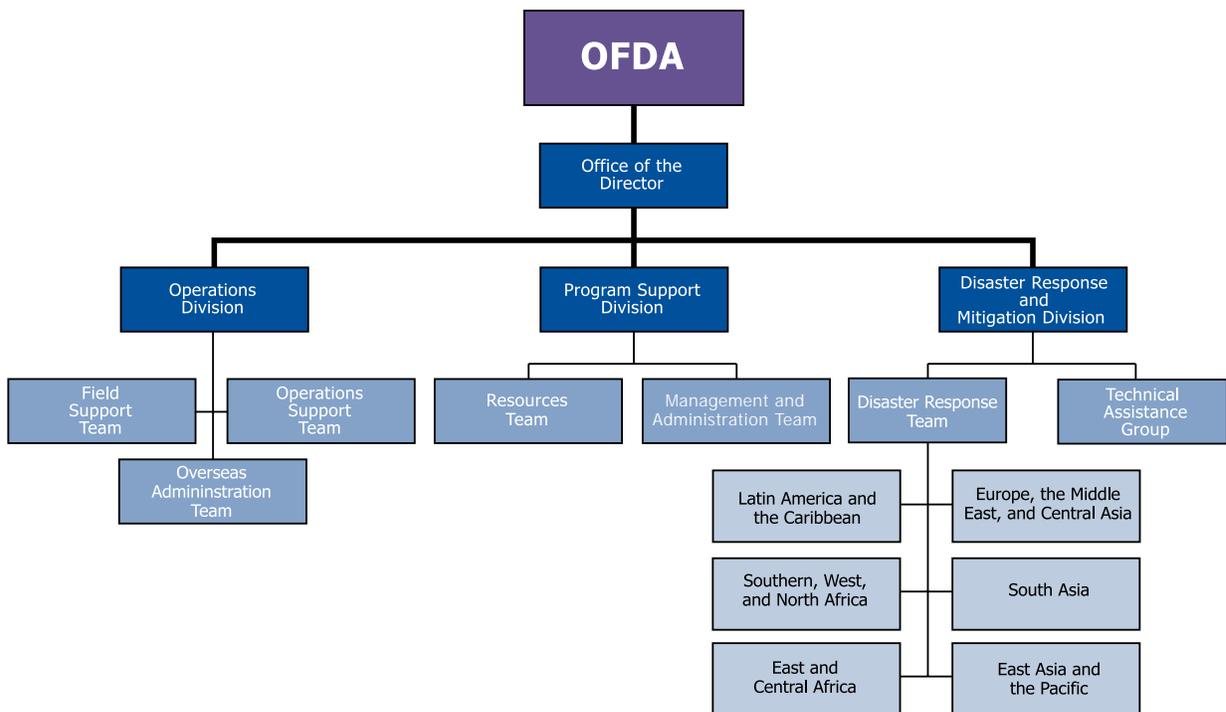
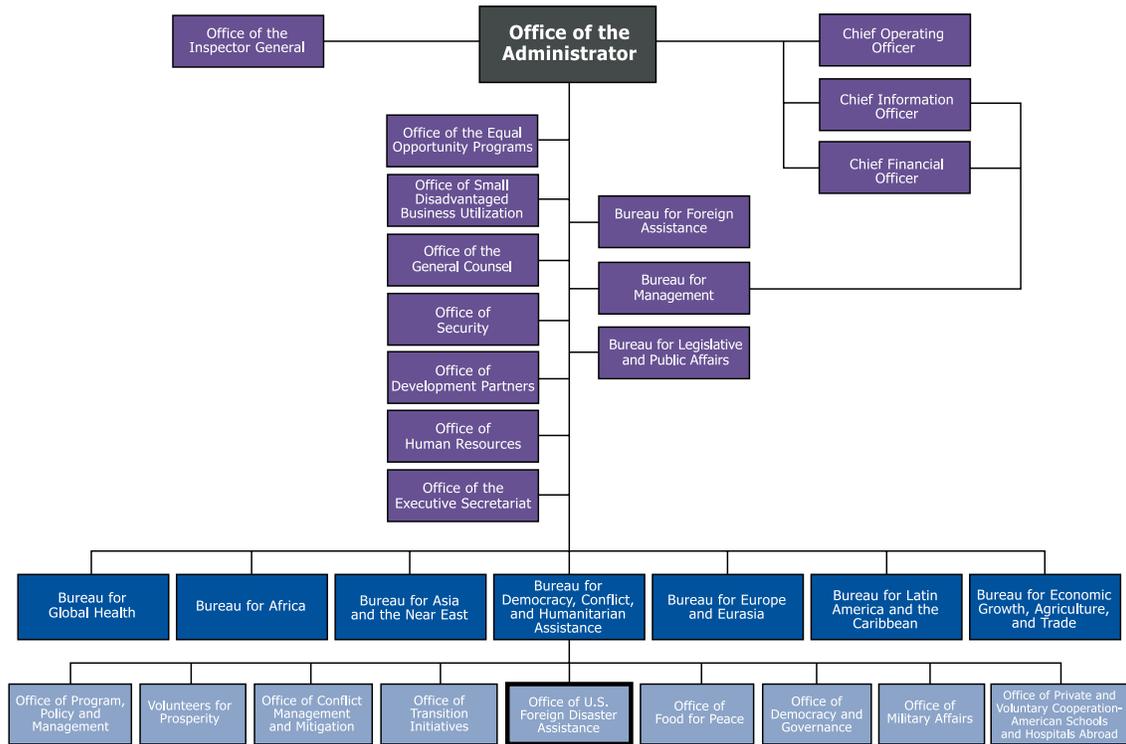
Based at OFDA’s headquarters in Washington, D.C., a professional team of senior managers, experienced disaster responders, disaster operations specialists, technical experts, program support staff, grants managers, and trainers work to

implement OFDA’s mission. Many of OFDA’s headquarters staff are assigned to a regional team, through which OFDA monitors emergency situations and ensures timely response to declared disasters.

Global Staff

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





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 assistance to address emergency and non-emergency food needs.

Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI): Assists local partners in fragile and conflict-affected states to advance peace and democracy, promote reconciliation, jumpstart local economies, support nascent independent media, foster peace and democracy through innovative programming, and provide fast, flexible, short-term assistance targeted at key political transition and stabilization needs.

Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM): Leads USAID's efforts to identify and analyze sources of conflict, supports early responses to address the causes and consequences of instability and violent conflict, and seeks to integrate conflict mitigation and management into USAID's analyses, strategies, and programs.

Office of Military Affairs (OMA): Builds effective working relationships with the U.S. Department of Defense and foreign militaries through maintaining emergency response readiness, coordinating planning, and developing joint training, education, and exercises. OMA helps USAID coordinate USAID humanitarian and development assistance with Department of Defense-provided humanitarian and civic assistance.

International Humanitarian Assistance Provided by Other USG Offices

The **U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)** formulates USG humanitarian policy and works through the multilateral humanitarian system—notably UNHCR, UNRWA, ICRC, and IOM—to provide protection, life-sustaining relief, and durable solutions for refugees and conflict victims.

The **U.S. Department of State's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS)** leads, coordinates, and institutionalizes whole-of-government 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 U.S. agricultural commodities to assist countries in need through direct donations and concessional programs, such as the Food for Progress Program, Section 416(b), and Food For Peace Act (FPA), formerly referred to as Public Law 480 Title I.

Depending on the type of disaster, the **USGS, USFS, CDC, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** may also provide technical assistance in coordination with OFDA to assess needs and help determine the extent of the USG response.



Setting the Record Straight: Debunking Disaster Myths

By Erin Magee

More than 20 years ago, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) set out to dispel common myths associated with disaster assistance and response through the production of a video titled “Myths and Realities of Natural Disasters.” However, relief agencies note that many myths surrounding the field of disaster assistance persist today. Common misconceptions that disasters kill people at random and dead bodies spread disease are among the numerous disaster myths that continue to appear in news stories following disasters, as well as in public discourse regarding the best way to respond to emergencies. These myths not only provide a misguided view of disaster assistance, but can also lead to actions that add to the suffering of survivors and overburden response efforts. At the close of another fiscal year, OFDA reflects on eight enduring disaster myths that continue to afflict relief efforts.

Myth 1: Dead Bodies Cause Health Epidemics

REALITY: Despite ongoing efforts, the notion that dead bodies cause disease outbreaks has remained one of the most enduring and consequential myths over the past 20 years. While PAHO and others have worked to dispel this notion, as countries face increasing death tolls following a natural disaster, news agencies often begin to warn of an impending health disaster caused by decaying bodies. Under public pressure to mitigate the perceived threat of a disease outbreak, local officials often resort to quickly disposing of bodies in mass burials, causing psychological, material, and legal problems for survivors and hampering response efforts (see inset).

Following the September 2009 earthquake in West Sumatra Province, Indonesia, local media reported that “health officials...were racing against time to prevent outbreaks of disease caused by decomposing bodies.” Local media also cited officials following the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan Province, China, warning that “high temperatures would quicken the rotting of bodies, and [a] plague would break out.” However, dead bodies pose no more risk of a disease outbreak in the aftermath of a natural disaster than do survivors. In fact, survivors are much more likely to be a source of disease outbreaks than dead bodies, as most viruses and bacteria that cause disease cannot survive more than a few hours in a dead body. Contrary to popular assumption, the most significant risk for infectious disease outbreaks typically arises weeks after the onset of the disaster due to inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Myth 2: Food, Clothing, Medicines, and Other Material Goods Are Always Needed by Victims of a Disaster and

What’s the Harm?

According to Donna Eberwine, editor of the magazine *Perspectives in Health*, the notion that dead bodies cause disease outbreaks not only constitutes one of the most prevalent disaster myths, but can also lead local officials to conduct hasty mass burials and cremations, hampering identification of remains and preventing survivors from burying loved ones according to local custom or belief. Even following a major disaster, the following considerations, as noted by Eberwine, have important legal, social, and psychological implications for survivors:

Mental Health – Survivors have a strong psychological need to identify lost ones and to grieve in customary ways. Denying survivors the right to carry out these rituals can add to mental health problems that occur after a disaster. Indeed, the ambiguity of not knowing whether a missing family member is dead often makes the loss more difficult to bear.

Financial Support for Victims – Failure to find and identify a victim can have material consequences for survivors, often leaving family members without clear legal rights to property ownership, inheritance, or family benefits. Often, these problems can add to the economic hardship caused by the disaster.

Use of Limited Supplies – The rush to bury bodies can divert valuable resources, such as vehicles and fuel, and attention from victims who are still alive and may require treatment.

Should be Provided as Quickly as Possible

REALITY: Following a disaster, most people’s first inclination is to rush to provide as many household goods as possible to support affected individuals. However, to be most effective, humanitarian assistance should be based on needs assessments and discussions with affected individuals to determine requirements and appropriate responses, even in dire situations. Responses not based on adequate needs assessments can contribute to the chaos of the post-disaster situation and fail to provide affected individuals with what they need most.

Together with the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI), OFDA consistently underscores the message that donating cash is often the best way for individuals to help those who have been affected by a disaster. Donations of material goods, including medicine, may be inappropriate for the situation, and shipping expenses may be significant. In addition, the time required to sort, pack,



An elderly woman rests in the shade at Manik Farms IDP camp, Sri Lanka (Courtesy of Arbeiter-Samariter Bund).

and transport household goods often makes these items more of a burden on the relief effort than a useful tool. Following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, a mountain of clothing was sent to survivors in southern India. Much of the clothing was in disrepair or inappropriate for the culture and climate. Moreover, for the many people who were injured, lost their homes and family members, and needed food, obtaining clothing was not a priority. Unwanted clothes subsequently dumped by the roadside hampered the response, as municipal workers were diverted from the relief effort to gather the unused clothes.

Financial contributions allow relief organizations to purchase exactly what disaster victims urgently need and pay for the transportation necessary to distribute supplies. More often than not, essential items can be purchased at locations close to the disaster site. Local procurement of relief supplies not only helps stimulate local economies by providing employment and generating cash flow, but also ensures that supplies arrive quickly and can significantly reduce the cost of purchase, transport, and storage.

Myth 3: Disasters Are Random Killers

REALITY: While natural or manmade disasters affect areas all over the world, disasters disproportionately impact less-developed countries, as well as vulnerable populations in society, including women, children, the poor, and the elderly. Donna Eberwine, editor of PAHO's *Perspectives in Health* magazine, notes that disasters cause more damage to vulnerable or at-risk geographic areas, which in many cases are more likely to be inhabited by poor people. In some countries, OFDA staff report that the location of poor households in low-lying or flood-prone areas or along slopes or rivers has increased the impact of floods and landslides on the poor. In many cases, low-income households lack sufficient resources or coping mechanisms to support themselves prior to, during, or following a disaster; further increasing these households' vulnerability to disasters. Combined with lack of adequate management, support, and preparation for disasters from the local government, these vulnerabilities create conditions in which disasters take the greatest toll on those who can least afford it.



Local workers of a community in SNNP Region, Ethiopia, improve a water supply with OFDA support (Photo by Erin Magee, USAID).

Myth 4: Foreign Volunteers, Particularly People with Any Type of Medical Background, Are Urgently Needed Following a Disaster

REALITY: Rather than depending on foreign volunteers or medical staff, affected populations look to local aid groups, police, firefighters, and volunteers to perform most relief and recovery efforts following a disaster. Agencies already active in the affected country are better positioned to respond to emergency situations due to their location and knowledge of local culture and languages. Local agencies also may be well equipped to meet immediate, life-saving needs hours or days before international teams arrive on the ground. OFDA staff report that medical personnel who can cover basic medical needs are often already present in the affected country, and typically only outside medical staff with skills not available in the affected country are required. For example, immediately following the 2004 tsunami, surgeons from all over the world poured into Banda Aceh in Indonesia to offer their skills, according to international media; however, finding that few

survivors had been injured, the surgeons consequently had little work to perform.

To respond more effectively to disasters, OFDA has worked to build capacity of local governments, many of which have established or begun to establish disaster preparedness plans for the immediate mobilization of local resources and personnel following a disaster. For instance, OFDA has supported PAHO's efforts to promote improved disaster preparedness and response in Latin America and the Caribbean since 1998. With OFDA support, PAHO has worked to increase and improve advocacy, technical information services, and human resources training in health, environment, and related sectors. Currently, OFDA-funded PAHO programs focus on increasing preparedness capacity in the health sector through updated or improved health policy and legislation, in addition to continuous training of partner organization staff and Ministry of Health personnel.

Myth 5: Relocating Disaster Victims in Temporary Shelters is the Best Alternative

REALITY: Following a disaster, tents and camps are often the most visible signs of ongoing humanitarian needs. However, relocating disaster victims to temporary shelters should be avoided if possible, as camps are often crowded, pose health and social risks, and remove people from important social support structures. Rather than relocating affected individuals to camps, funds can often be better spent on building materials, tools, or other construction-related support in the affected country that assist displaced individuals to rebuild houses.

Following disasters that damage or destroy shelter, OFDA promotes programs to “build back better” in an effort to mitigate the impact of future natural disasters. For instance, OFDA supported a transitional shelter project in Bangladesh, which incorporated flood- and wind-resistant construction measures into a traditional shelter design. Assessments following a subsequent cyclone confirmed the utility and cost-effectiveness of the OFDA-supported shelter and settlements projects; in several locations, only the OFDA-supported shelters remained after the storm.

Myth 6: Life Returns to Normal within a Few Weeks

REALITY: While media attention may wane following the initial phases of a disaster, the effects of a disaster may pose long-term economic, social, and environmental challenges to affected communities that can linger for months or years. If agencies do not fully address immediate water, sanitation, and hygiene issues, for instance, people can face disease or malnutrition weeks or months after a disaster occurs. People displaced due to the disaster also may require relocation and resettlement assistance.

In the face of ongoing and sometimes increasing needs, households often deplete most financial and material resources in the immediate post-disaster phase, leaving themselves more vulnerable to future crises. For example, lack of rain in mid-2009, combined with previous rain failure, resulted in poor harvest yields and increased livestock deaths in several countries in the Horn of Africa, straining limited coping mechanisms and resulting in increased food insecurity. Despite the onset of rains in late 2009 and associated end of drought in many areas, the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network noted that coping strategies adopted in response to multiple seasons of failed rains, such as consuming seeds or selling livestock, had negatively impacted future crop and livestock production prospects, hampering immediate improvements in food security. In situations like this, OFDA supports programs to strengthen livelihood opportunities to prevent a spiraling decline in household assets and build resilience to disasters.

Myth 7: People Are Helpless in the Face of Natural Disasters

REALITY: Disasters often appear unpredictable and unavoidable. However, successful disaster risk reduction (DRR) programming serves to mitigate the impact of serious crises and save lives by minimizing the adverse impacts of hazards and enhancing vulnerable groups' resilience. Through DRR programs, humanitarian organizations and local governments work to prevent extreme weather or other events from converging with vulnerabilities, overwhelming local capacity, and becoming disasters.

Since OFDA's establishment in 1964, the office has become a leader among international donors in supporting DRR initiatives aimed at saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the social and economic impact of disasters. Globally, OFDA works closely with vulnerable communities, local and national governments, international and regional organizations, universities, and other organizations to increase resilience to climate-induced disasters. OFDA's programs build upon and strengthen the capacity of established national and regional disaster management institutions, many of which already have the ability to meet most emergency needs after an event.¹

Myth 8: The Affected Population is too Shocked or Helpless to Assume Responsibility for Its Survival

REALITY: While news agencies often portray survivors of disasters as helpless victims, OFDA staff have repeatedly observed the resiliency of affected populations. In many cases, disaster-affected individuals—not the international community—are the first responders. Contrary to commonly-held assumptions, humanitarian agencies have observed that disasters often unite communities, with affected individuals and surrounding communities donating money, volunteering, or providing shelter and other assistance to help each other. For instance, families in Pakistan hosted nearly 90 percent of people displaced due to fighting in North-West Frontier Province in May 2009, with little more than 10 percent of displaced persons initially residing in camps. Recognizing that affected populations are often at the forefront of disaster response, OFDA works to strengthen community resiliency and national capacity to mitigate the impact of and respond to disasters through DRR and other programs.

¹ For additional information on OFDA DRR initiatives, please see pages 101 to 137.



Children in the community of Murindó, Colombia, cope with the effects of stagnant water due to flooding along the Atrato river (Photo by Jorge Enrique Quintero Bautista, USAID).

Continuing to Set the Record Straight

Despite ongoing efforts to dispel myths surrounding the field of disaster assistance, humanitarian agencies note that several myths continue to endure, often providing a misguided view of disaster assistance and at times leading to actions that add to the suffering of survivors and strain response efforts. Popular assumptions that countries depend on foreign volunteers for response efforts and that the affected population is too shocked or helpless to take

responsibility for its own survival obscure the significant efforts undertaken by local communities and medical staff, often days or weeks before international teams arrive. Recognizing the perils of these and other myths, OFDA is working to continue to highlight the realities of disaster assistance and to engage in effective, timely, and appropriate responses to humanitarian crises.

Creating Appropriate and Sustainable Living Space: OFDA's Approach to Shelter and Settlement Activities

By Liza Mantilla

Every year, natural disasters such as hurricanes, typhoons, floods, and earthquakes impact tens of thousands of families, kill scores of people, damage or destroy houses, displace surviving populations, and disrupt community economic activities. Following a disaster, uprooted families face extreme challenges when attempting to move on with their lives and resume livelihood activities. Recognizing these challenges, OFDA supports programs that provide timely and life-saving assistance while enhancing overall community resilience to recurrent natural disasters, thereby reducing suffering and securing long-term development improvements.

When displacement occurs, OFDA immediately begins planning to help disaster-affected populations meet their shelter and settlement needs. OFDA's shelter interventions reflect local context, emphasizing the use of local community capacity and familiar, available, and cost-effective resources. In an effort to protect populations from future disasters, OFDA prioritizes the construction of transitional and hazard-resistant shelters, which support disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs and livelihood activities by "building back better."

Over the past five years, OFDA has provided more than \$143 million for shelter and settlement interventions, including nearly \$40 million in FY 2009 alone. OFDA's immediate assistance to Bangladesh, Peru, and Indonesia following significant natural disasters demonstrates the office's efforts to link emergency interventions to early recovery activities.

Building Back Better in Peru

On August 15, 2007, a magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck southern Peru. The massive quake caused nearly 600 deaths, injured more than 1,200 people, and damaged or destroyed nearly 76,000 houses. In the days following the disaster, OFDA responded swiftly, working through implementing partners to assist with temporary shelter construction, rubble removal, emergency relief supply procurement and distribution, and water, sanitation, and hygiene system rehabilitation. Securing appropriate and safe shelter, however, would remain the most pressing need for tens of thousands of newly homeless and displaced individuals in the months ahead.

When the violent tremors struck, thousands of houses sustained significant structural damage or collapsed. Most of the houses were built using adobe, a low-cost construction material widely utilized throughout Peru. Although popular in local communities, experience has shown that traditional

adobe-based structures are unlikely to withstand powerful earthquakes.

Recognizing both the short- and long-term shelter needs of affected populations, OFDA provided \$400,000 to its non-governmental organization (NGO) partner CARE to support capacity building for house reconstruction in El Carmen, Chinchabaja, and Sunampe districts, Ica Region, in southern Peru, through information, training, and technical assistance. In agreement with the Government of Peru (GoP) Bank of Materials (BANMAT) and working in close collaboration with the South Reconstruction Fund and the GoP Ministry of Housing, CARE and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru developed construction strategies appropriate for rural areas utilizing reinforced adobe or improved quincha, an alternative traditional construction material proven to better withstand tremors. In addition, coordination and advocacy activities through the healthy and safe housing working group—led by international relief organizations, including CARE—resulted in the promulgation of a supreme decree by the GoP Council of Ministers giving priority to rural housing and approving the application of a GoP family housing voucher program for the construction of houses in rural areas.

The program, which began in January 2008 and concluded in June 2009, also strengthened capacity at the municipal level by providing technical assistance and training to local communities in earthquake-resistant techniques using improved adobe construction. With the initial OFDA grant, an estimated 156 households received seismic-resistant shelters. In July 2009, OFDA provided a second grant to CARE for more than \$1 million for an 18-month housing reconstruction project to build on this initiative by promoting the institutionalization of the housing decree. Thus, the

"[The houses] didn't have columns. The adobe used is not like their ancestors' adobe buildings. There was not a lot of hay or vegetation in it. It was just bricks made from mud. When it started to shake, the houses just crumbled."

— Phil Gelman, OFDA Regional Advisor, Latin America and the Caribbean

October 2007



An OFDA-supported shelter, constructed after Cyclone Sidr by implementing partner CRS, is inhabited (Courtesy of CRS).

project is designed not only to support the reconstruction of affected homes, but also to effectively institutionalize a policy of risk prevention in housing construction in rural areas. With OFDA funding, CARE is also providing training and technical assistance refined under the initial OFDA grant to promote seismic resistant construction. By emphasizing seismic-resistant technologies that utilize local capacities and resources, OFDA's shelter initiative in southern Peru not only addressed immediate shelter needs, but also strengthened community resilience to the adverse impact and damage of future earthquakes.

Providing Transitional Shelter in Indonesia

Indonesia is one of the most seismically active countries in the world. Since FY 2004, OFDA has provided more than \$8 million in response to eight significant earthquakes in Indonesia that have disrupted the lives of thousands of individuals. During each response, OFDA has prioritized seismic hazard preparedness and mitigation programs aimed at reducing the impact of future earthquakes on the local population.

In Indonesia, where self-recovery from disasters is exceedingly high, OFDA has found a means of supporting self-recovery through the design and funding of transitional shelter interventions that also serve to facilitate longer-term reconstruction activities. As in Peru, OFDA promotes the use of salvaged and locally available materials to allow earthquake survivors to create seismic-resistant houses with materials on hand or readily available. OFDA also provides funding for the purchase of shelter repair kits and technical assistance on construction methods in order to meet immediate needs as families build more permanent houses. This strategy enhances cost-effectiveness, hazard mitigation, and overall sustainability, while supporting income-generating activities including cash-for-work programs. Usually consisting of a mix of both temporary and permanent building materials, transitional shelters meet immediate needs and provide a foundation upon which affected families can build permanent shelters as resources allow.

On September 30, 2009, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake¹ struck off the coast of West Sumatra Province, affecting more than

1.2 million people and leaving an estimated 745,000 people in need of housing assistance. The quake disrupted livelihoods by damaging and destroying irrigation systems, rice paddies, markets, and household assets. To help meet immediate emergency shelter needs while simultaneously restoring income-generating activities, OFDA provided more than \$3 million to a consortium of NGOs led by Mercy Corps, nearly \$2 million to CHF International, and more than \$336,000 to Handicap International. With funding from OFDA, Mercy Corps and other NGOs distributed shelter repair kits to respond to immediate shelter needs. CHF International provided shelter kit materials and technical assistance to help 46,000 people build seismic-resistant houses and other infrastructure, and also created cash-for-work activities to help jumpstart the local economy. Also, Handicap International provided safe and accessible transitional shelter to 200 earthquake survivors. These programs helped to meet immediate needs of affected populations while paving the way for long-term recovery and reconstruction.

Building Back Better ... and Better ... in Bangladesh

Cyclone Sidr struck southern division of Bangladesh on November 15, 2007, killing more than 3,300 people, affecting nearly 9 million people, and damaging or destroying an estimated 1.5 million houses. Following the devastation left by the cyclone, OFDA contributed \$2 million to implementing partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas to support a 10-month transitional shelter program in the affected area. Completed in early 2009, the project incorporated flood- and wind-resistant construction elements into a traditional shelter design, assisting 12,500 cyclone-affected individuals in Bagerhat, Khulna, and Satkhira, the hardest-hit districts. CRS and Caritas also provided training in DRR activities, helping affected communities better cope with and prepare for future natural disasters.

In May 2009, Cyclone Aila hit Bangladesh, damaging or destroying an estimated 450,000 houses and affecting a number of individuals who had received assistance from OFDA in the wake of Cyclone Sidr. OFDA assessments conducted following Cyclone Aila confirmed the durability and cost-effectiveness of OFDA's previous shelter and settlements projects; in several locations, the post-Cyclone Sidr shelters funded by OFDA were the only remaining structures. Incorporating the successful elements of

OFDA's Cyclone Sidr response, OFDA contributed approximately \$2.8 million to CRS and CARE to implement a 2,800-household assistance project to further improve flood- and wind-resistant structures throughout vulnerable areas of Bangladesh. Lessons learned from this experience, which will be applied by CRS and CARE as part of their post-Cyclone Aila efforts, include strengthened and elevated plinths—raised earthen foundations—and improved roof designs to better withstand high winds.

Meeting the Goal

From the first moments of a disaster response, OFDA recognizes the importance of incorporating long-term strategic elements into humanitarian interventions and strives to link emergency programs to early recovery and risk reduction activities. By uniting short- and long-term priorities, OFDA reduces populations' vulnerabilities to future disasters, thereby maximizing the long-term impact of short-term community improvement activities.

Living Atop the Ring of Fire

Indonesia is located at the junction of the colliding Australian and Eurasian tectonic plates. The country is part of the so-called Ring of Fire—a zone of increased seismic and volcanic activity surrounding the Pacific Ocean—where an estimated 90 percent of the world's earthquakes occur every year, according to USGS.

¹ Information on the humanitarian response to the September 30, 2009, earthquake in Indonesia will be included in OFDA's FY 2010 Annual Report.

OFDA's Safety and Security Unit: Adapting to Humanitarian Security Challenges through Innovation and Dialogue

By Johs Pierce

The year 2008¹ marked the deadliest year on record for relief agency staff, with 155 reported attacks against 260 humanitarian workers, resulting in 122 deaths, according to the Center on International Cooperation and the Overseas Development Institute. In light of such statistics and OFDA's increased activities in insecure areas, OFDA's safety and security unit works to enhance the safety and security of both OFDA and partner staff through outreach and dialogue at the operational level and within the wider humanitarian community. OFDA's safety and security unit complements the work of USAID's Office of Security by focusing specifically on the dangers facing humanitarian workers. In addition, OFDA is investing in ongoing research on innovative solutions to pervasive and long-standing challenges in security coordination and information exchange between relief agencies. In FY 2009, OFDA provided more than \$258,000 in support for programs to improve operational security, facilitate coordination and information management, promote best practices, and build a better understanding of the humanitarian security landscape. In total since FY 2007, OFDA has provided nearly \$2.5 million in support for such programs.

Working Directly with Implementing Partners

One of OFDA's primary concerns when awarding funding is to prevent the exposure of humanitarian workers to undue risks in the field. OFDA therefore requires that every funding proposal submitted to the office include an organization-specific safety and security plan—complete with budget line items—to address staff safety and security concerns in proposed operational areas, including particular threats or vulnerabilities staff might face, although OFDA does not evaluate safety and security plans and assumes no liability for the safety and security of partner staff. OFDA urges implementing partners to pay particular attention to the safety and security of local staff, as attacks against these staff members constitute a significant majority of incidents reported every year. In addition, the office's safety and security unit continually strives to raise awareness that OFDA can provide safety and security funding as part of support for partners' programs. OFDA safety and security staff also meet frequently with implementing partners directly to discuss their security management challenges.

Engaging in Dialogue with the Humanitarian Community

OFDA engages in regular dialogue with the non-

governmental organization (NGO) community in order to better understand NGO security needs and provides funding to support formal security discussions. Since FY 2007, OFDA has provided more than \$900,000 to support the Security Unit at InterAction, the largest coalition of U.S.-based international NGOs. Once a year, OFDA conducts an NGO security consultation through the InterAction Security Unit; the discussion at the consultation plays a large role in helping OFDA identify safety and security priorities for the coming year. OFDA is also exploring options with the European Interagency Security Forum to conduct a similar consultation with international NGOs based in Europe. In addition, OFDA participates in conferences, seminars, and other events regarding technical security issues in the humanitarian assistance field. In FY 2009, OFDA provided more than \$65,000 to support the revision of the Good Practice Review #8: Operational Security Management in Violent Environments, published by the Humanitarian Practice Network, on which OFDA has an advisory board seat.

OFDA liaises regularly with international organizations, including U.N. agencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), to discuss humanitarian security issues and concerns. For instance, OFDA participates in the technical review of General U.N. resolutions pertaining to safety and security, including the annual U.N. General Assembly resolution on the safety and security of humanitarian staff. Since FY 2007, OFDA has provided \$450,000 to fund the NGO liaison position at UNDSS in New York. Through the U.S. Mission to the U.N., OFDA has spent significant time advocating for the Saving Lives Together Initiative, recently recognized in U.N. General Assembly resolution 63/138. The Saving Lives Together Initiative provides a rubric under which NGOs and U.N. agencies can identify common security concerns and areas for cooperation, given limited resources. In the spirit of this initiative, OFDA has supported extra-budgetary U.N. Field Security Coordination Officers in Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Darfur.

Supporting Innovative Research

To solicit innovative proposals regarding security management and coordination, OFDA issued an Annual Program Statement (APS) for NGO Security Management Initiatives in both FY 2007 and FY 2008. In response to the FY 2007 APS, OFDA provided more than \$470,000 to the Information Management and Mine Action Program (IMMAP) in support of its Operational Activity Security Information Service (OASIS) and to facilitate the sharing and analysis of security-related information. Developed through IMMAP field experience, OASIS integrates security information into NGOs' standard operational procedures. The OASIS system collects information on security incidents, as voluntarily reported by relief agencies, into a database

referenced by location and time. Through improved information-sharing, the OASIS system is designed to help individual organizations analyze security concerns relevant to their own operations. The system also aims to allow the humanitarian community as a whole to better identify security incident patterns and to improve relief workers' situational awareness in the field. By improving the safety and security of relief agency staff in a particular region or country through better reporting and information-sharing, the OASIS system is designed to help humanitarian workers better access and provide assistance to beneficiaries in need.

In response to the FY 2008 APS, OFDA provided nearly \$600,000 to InterAction to establish the International NGO Safety and Security Association (INSSA). Prior to the association's creation, few formal standards for measuring humanitarian security professionals' skills or competence existed. INSSA seeks to establish a core set of skills, develop minimum core competencies for all humanitarian security staff to evince, and enhance the profession as a whole. The association's activities include training, professional education, sharing of resources and curricula, and establishment and promotion of best practices. Through such endeavors, INSSA aims to improve professional development, build professional networks, and improve the capacity of NGO safety and security staff.

Fulfilling OFDA's Mandate by Improving Partners' Safety and Security

Through each of the initiatives and practices outlined above—from meeting with NGOs one-on-one to funding innovative research in security coordination and information-sharing—OFDA works to improve the safety and security of relief workers. Without sufficient safety and security, OFDA's implementing partners cannot maintain access to populations in need of assistance, and thus cannot perform the critical work called for in conflict situations and complex emergencies. In the years to come, OFDA plans to continue focusing on safety and security so that OFDA's implementing partners and other members of the humanitarian community can continue to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce the social and economic impacts of disasters.

¹ As of May 2010, when this annual report went to press, the year 2008 was the most recent year for which full statistics regarding attacks on humanitarian staff were available.

Meeting Critical Needs: OFDA Support for Local and Regional Food Procurement

By Patricia Erin Hampton

In recent years, escalating global food prices have fueled an increase in world hunger, resulting in nearly 1 billion malnourished people in need of food assistance worldwide. In 2008, an improved crop yield in some countries increased the global cereal supply, resulting in lower international food prices compared to the previous year. However, food prices remained high in most developing countries throughout FY 2009, significantly increasing food insecurity worldwide, particularly among poorer families, who spend a larger proportional share of income on basic food commodities—up to 50 to 60 percent or more, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). In FY 2009, increased food prices contributed to protracted food emergencies in 31 countries worldwide, including 20 African nations, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Stepping Outside the Box

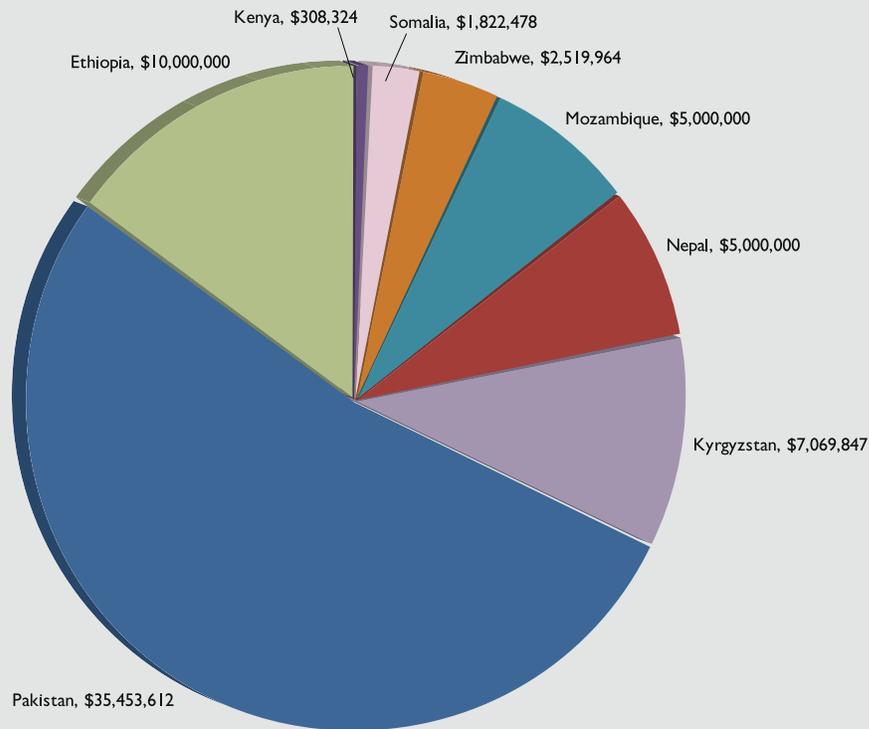
In response to increasing food insecurity resulting from elevated prices, OFDA continued to support a wide range of activities in FY 2009 designed to address identified humanitarian needs through traditional funding mechanisms. However, the continuing food security crisis resulted in unprecedented food needs worldwide, imposing additional constraints on the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations and requiring a rapid and augmented response. Building on an initiative introduced in FY 2008, OFDA provided more than \$67 million for local and regional food procurement in FY 2009 to complement USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance and other OFDA disaster response capacities.

In-kind Title II food assistance, representing contributions from food produced in the U.S., remains one of the most valuable and visible humanitarian resources in the world. Adding to the in-kind Title II program, the local and regional food procurement program serves as a versatile tool that allows OFDA to provide vulnerable families with timely access to live-saving emergency food assistance. The local



A man displaced by Pakistan's complex emergency carries food donated by USAID (Photo by A. Majeed, AFP).

OFDA FY 2009 Local and Regional Food Procurement



and regional procurement program differs from traditional emergency food assistance programs by facilitating the timely procurement of food produced outside the U.S. in an effort to deliver emergency assistance to vulnerable families. In addition to expediting the delivery of food assistance, local and regional food procurement benefits farmers and stimulates local economies.

In the context of the food security crisis, smallholder and low-income farmers are often unable to access markets or sell crops at a competitive price. The local and regional purchase of food assistance creates a market for farmers to sell their surplus crops, which boosts farmers' incomes and encourages investment in technologies and practices that increase and improve crop production. Local and regional food procurement also improves local and regional trade and strengthens linkages among food producers, traders, processors, and consumers. Collectively, these benefits reduce the need for and reliance upon food aid, thereby helping to address the root causes of food insecurity. By purchasing food from farmers to feed hungry people in the same country or region, the local and regional food procurement program provides much-needed food to those in need and benefits local communities.

Recipient Countries of FY 2009 OFDA Local and Regional Food Procurement Support



OFDA's Response

Distributed through the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), OFDA FY 2009 local and regional food procurement assistance targeted unanticipated and unmet food aid needs in Ethiopia¹, Kenya², Kyrgyzstan³, Mozambique⁴, Nepal⁵, Pakistan⁶, Somalia⁷, and Zimbabwe⁸.

In the Horn of Africa, more than 17 million people—including 6.2 million people in Ethiopia, 3.8 million individuals in Kenya, and nearly 3.8 million people in Somalia—confronted serious food insecurity in FY 2009 due to the combined effects of below-average harvests, high food prices, conflict, and insecurity, according to U.N. reports. In Southern Africa, political instability, drought conditions, and high food prices also fueled widespread food insecurity. As a result, as many as 7 million people in Zimbabwe—more than half of the country's total population—in addition to as many as 200,000 individuals in Mozambique required food assistance during FY 2009. Similarly, high food prices, reduced crop yields, conflict, and displacement resulted in increased food insecurity and associated food assistance needs in Asia, including Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Pakistan. In Pakistan, OFDA use of local and regional food procurement provided urgently needed food for more than 1 million displaced individuals.

Conclusion

A divergence from standard OFDA emergency programs, OFDA's engagement in the direct purchase of food commodities reflected the unique conditions associated with the global food price crisis and the need for a rapid, augmented response. Through the local and regional food procurement program, WFP and NGOs were able to deliver life-saving emergency food effectively and cost-efficiently. In such a manner, OFDA's FY 2009 local and regional food procurement program helped food-insecure households meet their immediate needs and sustain themselves and their communities.

President's Food Security Response Initiative

In response to the global food price crisis, in June 2008, the U.S. Congress provided \$770 million to USAID as part of the President's Food Security Response Initiative (PFSRI) for international disaster and development assistance to address the needs of food insecure populations worldwide. OFDA received \$195 million in PFSRI emergency humanitarian funding, of which \$95 million targeted local and regional food procurement interventions, including more than \$67 million programmed in FY 2009, in addition to more than \$27 million programmed in FY 2008. The remaining \$100 million in OFDA PFSRI funds—\$94 million of which OFDA programmed in FY 2009—supported a range of agriculture, economic recovery, and market systems interventions to improve the food security of vulnerable populations most severely affected by the food price crisis and to increase household and community resiliency to shocks that impact household food security.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

¹ See additional details on OFDA's disaster response in Ethiopia on p. 44.

² See additional details on OFDA's disaster response in Kenya on p. 45.

³ See additional details on OFDA's disaster response in Kyrgyzstan on p. 84.

⁴ See additional details on OFDA's activities in Mozambique on p. 49 and 135.

⁵ See additional details on OFDA's disaster response in Nepal on p. 68.

⁶ See additional details on OFDA's disaster response in Pakistan on p. 69.

⁷ See additional details on OFDA's disaster response in Somalia on p. 52.

⁸ See additional details on OFDA's disaster response in Zimbabwe on p. 58.

OFDA in the News

Haitian Red Cross volunteers worked around the clock before and after these storms hit in rapid succession. They carried out evacuations, search and rescue, assisted in government-run shelters, provided first aid, assessed damages and distributed much-needed relief supplies...The generosity of USAID/OFDA helps us maintain the flow of aid to the Red Cross workers already on the ground.

Guillermo Garcia, Director of Latin America and the Caribbean for the American Red Cross, quoted in an American Red Cross press release dated October 8, 2008

[Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Hussain] Haqqani commended the USAID administration and [OFDA's] Response Management Team for their services to humanity and efforts for coordinating relief assistance for the displaced families.

The Daily Times on June 19, 2009

I work with some of the bravest, most fearless people I've ever seen. The people who do this are running into conflict as other people are fleeing from it. It's a great job because you respond to people facing terrible problems. Saving lives and alleviating human suffering--what better job can there be?

Ron Mortensen, OFDA contractor, quoted in Davis County Clipper on March 26, 2009

Supplies from the US are already flowing to Pakistan. USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance has delivered 30,000 family relief kits, 5,000 tents, FM radios, and generators to provide both light and water.

Secretary of State Hilary R. Clinton, quoted in The Times of India on May 19, 2009

Thanks to an umbrella grant from the US Agency of International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), UMCOR is reaching the most vulnerable to provide 60,000 emergency kits that include water, glucose, and biscuits as well as help build 4,400 emergency shelters and 800 duplex-toilets for displaced people fleeing to Vavuniya, [Sri Lanka].

— Excerpt from a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) press release dated April 29, 2009



Riders on the Mexico city subway wear masks as a result of the influenza A virus outbreak. (Photo by Ronaldo Schemidt, AFP)

GLOBAL

Influenza A/H1N1

In late March 2009, health workers began to detect cases of an influenza-like illness in three separate regions of Mexico. On April 25, health officials confirmed that the illness was due to the emergence of a novel influenza A virus of the H1N1 subtype. The virus quickly spread throughout the world, and by the end of FY 2009, WHO reported more than 340,000 laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1 influenza infection, or "swine flu," leading to more than 4,100 deaths.

On June 11, 2009, WHO raised the pandemic influenza alert to Phase Six on a six-phase scale, indicating human-to-human spread of the virus in at least two countries in one WHO region and at least one other country in a different WHO region. The WHO phase designation is based upon geographic scope and transmission, and not the severity of the virus. Designation of this phase indicated that a global influenza pandemic was underway.

On May 1, USAID activated an RMT to coordinate the USG response to international pandemic influenza, facilitate information sharing, and provide assistance through international and domestic agencies to contain the outbreak. Comprising OFDA and USAID Global Health Bureau (USAID/GH) staff, the RMT worked with interagency partners to coordinate the USG response to international pandemic influenza. On May 15, the RMT demobilized as a result of the continued demonstrated

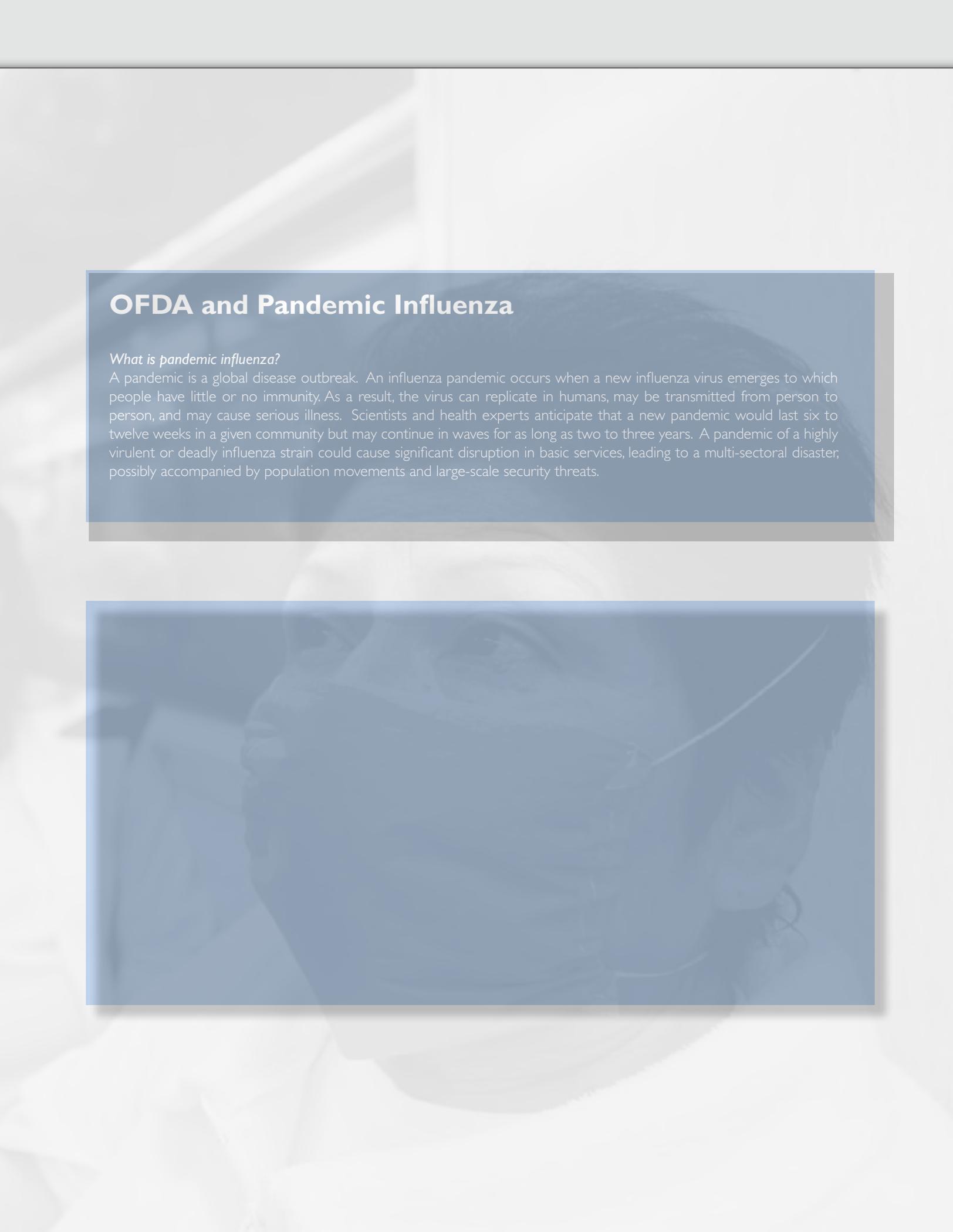
capacities of national, regional, and global health authorities to respond effectively to the outbreak. In addition, as of the end of FY 2009, the majority of H1N1 influenza cases appeared mild, with preexisting medical conditions exacerbating the effects of the virus in a limited number of severe cases.

To contain the spread of influenza A/H1N1, OFDA and USAID/GH coordinated the shipment of 100,000 personal protection equipment (PPE) kits, valued at \$973,000 including transport, to Mexico from stockpiles in Savannah, Georgia. On April 29, the Mexico-based OFDA disaster risk management specialist began coordinating response activities with PAHO, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, and USAID/Mexico.

DoD transported 30,600 PPE kits, including disposable respirators, goggles, gloves, and protective clothing, from DoD stockpiles in Charleston, South Carolina, to Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

HHS provided 400,000 treatment courses of the antiviral Tamiflu (oseltamivir) from the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile to the Government of Mexico to help mitigate the effects and spread of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.

OFDA Assistance\$46,223



OFDA and Pandemic Influenza

What is pandemic influenza?

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges to which people have little or no immunity. As a result, the virus can replicate in humans, may be transmitted from person to person, and may cause serious illness. Scientists and health experts anticipate that a new pandemic would last six to twelve weeks in a given community but may continue in waves for as long as two to three years. A pandemic of a highly virulent or deadly influenza strain could cause significant disruption in basic services, leading to a multi-sectoral disaster, possibly accompanied by population movements and large-scale security threats.



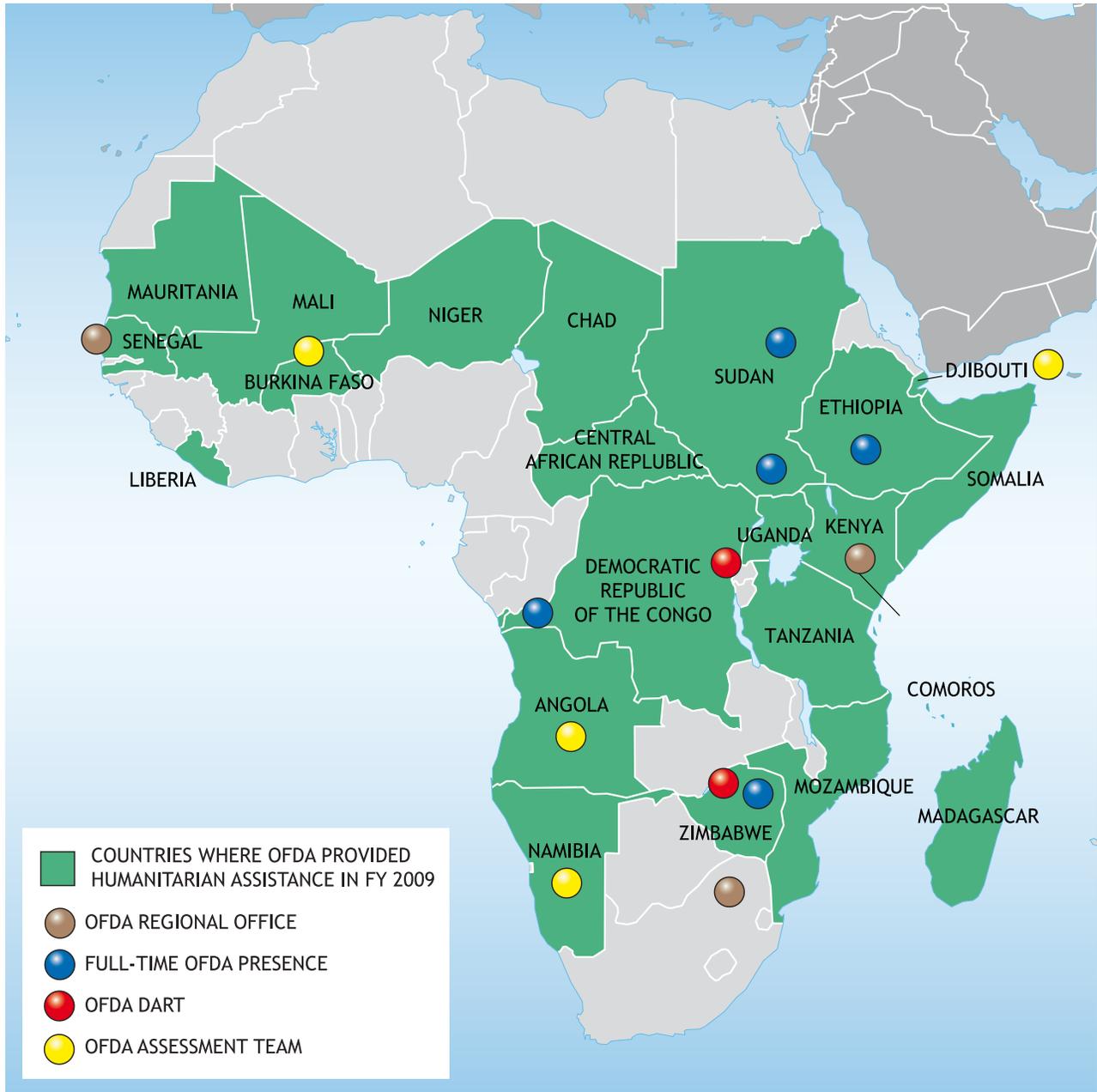
Local community members in Sudan take advantage of an improved water source (Photo by Abdelgadir Hamid, USAID).



AFRICA

ANGOLA	
Floods.....	38
BURKINA FASO	
Measles Outbreak.....	38
Floods.....	39
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	
Complex Emergency.....	39
CHAD	
Complex Emergency.....	40
COMOROS	
Floods.....	41
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	
Complex Emergency.....	41
DJIBOUTI	
Food Security Crisis.....	43
ETHIOPIA	
Complex Emergency.....	44
KENYA	
Food Security Crisis.....	45
LIBERIA	
Caterpillar Infestation.....	46
MADAGASCAR	
Cyclones.....	46
Complex Emergency.....	47
MAURITANIA	
Floods.....	47
MOZAMBIQUE	
Food Price Crisis.....	49
NAMIBIA	
Floods.....	50
NIGER	
Floods.....	51
SENEGAL	
Floods.....	51
SOMALIA	
Complex Emergency.....	52
SUDAN	
Complex Emergency.....	53
Floods.....	55
TANZANIA	
Munitions Explosion.....	55
UGANDA	
Food Security Crisis.....	55
WEST AFRICA	
Food Price Crisis.....	56
ZIMBABWE	
Complex Emergency.....	57
Cholera Outbreak.....	58

AFRICA REGIONAL SUMMARY



OFDA responded to 26 disasters in 21 countries in Africa in FY 2009. Complex humanitarian emergencies continued in the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. OFDA also responded to flooding in Angola, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, and Sudan; food security crises in Djibouti, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, and regionally in West Africa; a caterpillar infestation in Liberia; disease outbreaks in Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe; a cyclone in Madagascar; and a munitions explosion in Tanzania.

In total, OFDA provided more than \$355 million in funding for disaster response programs, as well as more than \$31 million for disaster risk reduction activities, in Africa. OFDA deployed DARTs in response to complex emergencies in the DRC and Zimbabwe and assessment teams to Angola, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, and Namibia. In addition, OFDA maintained regional offices in Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa, and field offices in the DRC, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.



ANGOLA
Floods

Beginning in early February 2009, heavy rains in southern and eastern Angola led to extensive flooding, particularly in Cunene Province. OCHA reported that floods killed 60 people and affected 220,000 others. According to UNICEF, the floods destroyed nearly 10,000 houses and inundated more than 130,000 hectares of agricultural land, causing extensive livestock and crop losses. Flooding also destroyed the main road from Angola to Namibia and other roads in the region, reducing access to affected populations.



Floods inundate parts of Ondjiva town, Cunene Province, southern Angola (Courtesy of CRS).

On March 17, U.S. Ambassador Dan W. Mozena declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA staff, in conjunction with USAID/Angola and FFP staff, conducted assessments of the affected areas. Through USAID/Angola, OFDA contributed more than \$500,000 to provide emergency relief supplies and shelter materials to flood-affected populations in Angola, benefiting approximately 8,000 people.

Implementing Partners in Angola

CRS and IOM

OFDA Assistance \$501,475

BURKINA FASO
Measles Outbreak

Beginning in late December 2008, a measles outbreak caused approximately 300 deaths, with approximately 51,000 reported cases as of June 30, 2009, according to OCHA and the Government of Burkina Faso (GoBF) MoH. The outbreak surpassed the approximately 32,400 cases reported in 1996—the most recent comparable outbreak. Nearly half of reported cases occurred in children between one and four years old or in youth between 15 and 24 years of age. The GoBF appealed for international assistance to purchase sufficient vaccines and supplies for a mass vaccination campaign conducted in June 2009. In coordination with WHO and UNICEF, the MoH vaccinated all individuals from the ages of 6 months to 24 years in the 19 most affected districts, with selective vaccination of children between 6 months and 5 years old in 18 additional districts.



A child receives a measles vaccination in Gorom-Gorom District, Oudalan Province, Burkina Faso (Courtesy of UNICEF).

On May 11, 2009, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Samuel C. Laeuchli declared a disaster due to the effects of the measles outbreak. In response, OFDA provided \$250,000 for the procurement of measles vaccines and vaccination supplies.

Implementing Partner in Burkina Faso

UNICEF

OFDA Assistance \$250,000



 **BURKINA FASO**
Floods

On September 1, 2009, flooding in the capital of Ouagadougou killed eight people, affected approximately 150,000 others, and caused a partial closure of the central hospital in Ouagadougou, according to OCHA. The floods occurred after approximately 10.5 inches of rain fell in 12 hours, the highest recorded one-day rainfall since 1919, according to the GoBF. OCHA reported that flood-related damage displaced more than 63,000 individuals who took shelter in temporary accommodations such as schools, churches, and mosques. Flooding also subsequently disrupted the electrical power supply and the city water system.



A woman looks at destroyed houses following flooding within and around Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (Photo by Ahmed Ouoba, AFP).

On September 2, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Samuel C. Laeuchli declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou for the purchase of 30 water storage units for distribution to affected populations at temporary shelters. In addition, OFDA contributed \$1 million for economic recovery and market systems initiatives, including a food voucher program benefitting 125,000 people, to mitigate the floods’ impact on livelihoods, as well as \$400,000 for emergency agriculture and food security programs benefitting nearly 1,400 farming families in and around the capital.

In addition to providing financial support, OFDA deployed a senior program officer on September 4 to assess humanitarian needs and monitor relief efforts, including OFDA projects under the U.S. Global Food Security Response framework.



Children rest at a water tank delivery site near Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (Courtesy of CRS)

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Burkina Faso through FFP, which provided 87 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to meet the rapid-onset food needs of flood-affected populations.

Implementing Partners in Burkina Faso

CRS, FAO, and WFP

OFDA Assistance \$1,450,000

 **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**
Complex Emergency

Ethnic clashes, widespread banditry, and violence against civilians have compounded recurrent armed conflict between the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) and opposition forces in CAR’s northern Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Grébizi, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga prefectures. From 2003 to 2006, violence affected more than 1 million people, including 212,000 IDPs and more than 100,000 refugees who fled to neighboring Chad and Cameroon. By the end of 2008, up to 40 percent of displaced populations had returned to areas of origin following improved security and increased international assistance.

In FY 2009, CAR government and opposition forces resumed fighting, displacing up to 32,000 people in Bamingui-Bangoran



Prefecture, according to USAID implementing partners. In addition, travel restrictions imposed by the Government of CAR limited humanitarian access to displaced populations.

On March 2, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Frederick B. Cook declared a disaster due to humanitarian conditions in CAR. In response, OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 through USAID/East Africa for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies to displaced populations. OFDA provided additional funding for primary health care in four communities in northern CAR.

In addition, FFP deployed a regional officer to CAR to assess the living conditions of IDPs and evaluate the progress of FFP-supported humanitarian programs in the north of the country. The U.S. Embassy in Bangui also deployed a team to assess humanitarian conditions.

Implementing Partners in CAR

IMC and Merlin

OFDA Assistance \$292,410



CHAD

Complex Emergency

Widespread conflict, displacement, and limited resources have contributed to a complex emergency in eastern Chad. Since the end of 2005, inter-ethnic conflict, fighting between Government of Chad (GoC) forces and armed opposition groups, and cross-border raids from Sudanese militias



Babies at a therapeutic feeding center, Farchana refugee camp in Eastern Chad (Courtesy of UNICEF).

based in neighboring Darfur have intensified. As a result, more than 171,000 Chadians were internally displaced as of June 2009, leading to an increased need for humanitarian services. Continuing insecurity, carjackings, robbery, and attacks on aid workers hindered humanitarian assistance efforts throughout 2009.

Displacement within Chad has occurred in the context of the existing humanitarian emergency involving approximately 268,000 Sudanese who fled Darfur into Chad starting in 2003. As of June 2009, a separate humanitarian situation in southern Chad resulted in the arrival of approximately 74,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, most of whom were residing in five camps in southern Chad and taxing limited local resources. In addition to affecting internally displaced and refugee populations, the conflict continues to impact communities that host IDPs and refugees, negatively affecting local agriculture, livestock rearing, and other livelihood activities. In eastern Chad, displaced Chadians and refugees from Sudan required assistance, including shelter, emergency food aid, and health and protection services. USG humanitarian assistance to eastern Chad has helped meet the needs of both IDPs and refugees. As of June 2009, humanitarian agencies were serving 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad, and WFP was providing food assistance to the 268,000 Sudanese refugees, 171,000 Chadian IDPs, and a host population of 700,000 in Chad.

On October 1, 2008, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Robert E. Gribbin redeclared a disaster in Chad due to ongoing insecurity and humanitarian needs. In FY 2009, OFDA provided nearly \$10 million to support emergency programs in Chad. Funding priorities included emergency relief supplies, health and WASH interventions. OFDA supported programs to encourage sustainable water use and water point management for host communities in returnee areas, as well as to promote good hygiene practices. Since FY 2004, OFDA has provided more than \$33 million in humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the complex emergency in eastern Chad.

In FY 2009, FFP supported the provision of nearly 101,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including sorghum, yellow split peas, vegetable oil, and corn-soya blend, to conflict-affected individuals in Chad through WFP.

In FY 2009, State/PRM assisted internally displaced Chadians, Sudanese and Central African refugees, and other conflict-affected populations in Chad. The FY 2009 State/PRM budget reached nearly \$48 million for Chad. Funding priorities included protection, health, education, water and sanitation,



logistics support, and security. Since FY 2004, State/PRM has provided more than \$270 million in humanitarian assistance to refugees, IDPs, and other local Chadians affected by the complex emergency in eastern Chad.

In FY 2009, the USG provided more than \$194 million for programming in IDP and refugee protection and assistance, psychosocial services, agriculture and food security, emergency food assistance, health, nutrition, and WASH. USG assistance benefitted approximately 342,000 refugees and 171,000 IDPs in eastern Chad in 2009.

Implementing Partners in Chad

ACF, ACTED, Air Serv International, CRS, FAO, IMC, Mentor, OCHA, UNHAS, UNICEF, and World Concern Development Organization

OFDA Assistance\$9,784,344



Beginning in late March 2009, weeks of heavy rain caused widespread flooding in 41 villages on the islands of Grand Comoros, Anjouan, and Moheli. According to the U.S. Embassy in Antananarivo, Madagascar, and OCHA assessment data indicated that the floods affected more than 100,000 people, resulted in two deaths, and damaged infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and water and sanitation systems. On April 29, OCHA noted concern regarding the potential spread of cholera and other waterborne diseases as a result of contaminated water supplies and overflowing latrines. In late April, the Government of the Union of the Comoros declared a disaster and requested international assistance.

On May 7, U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros R. Niels Marquardt declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Madagascar for WASH activities, including assessment of water sources, provision of safe drinking water, and provision of hygiene supplies to benefit approximately 3,000 displaced and flood-affected people.

Implementing Partner in Comoros

UNICEF

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



Between 1998 and 2008, regional armed conflict across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) resulted in an estimated 5.4 million deaths and displaced more than 3 million Congolese across eastern and southern DRC, according to NGOs. Most deaths were due to indirect consequences of fighting, such as disease, malnutrition, and neonatal- and pregnancy-related complications. In FY 2009, restricted humanitarian access, poor infrastructure, higher food prices, forced child recruitment into armed groups, ongoing violence, and hindered access to agricultural land and traditional markets contributed to a deterioration of humanitarian conditions in the DRC.

Renewed clashes between armed opposition groups and government forces in FY 2009 resulted in additional displacement in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces, as well as increased Lord's Resistance Army activity in Orientale Province. In September 2009, OCHA reported approximately 1.1 million IDPs in North Kivu Province, more than 700,000 IDPs in South Kivu Province, and nearly 265,000 IDPs in Orientale Province, the highest levels of displacement since 2003. Moreover, attacks on NGO staff members and infrastructure significantly hindered response efforts.

On October 14, 2008, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC. In response, OFDA provided nearly \$33 million for agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH programs primarily targeting IDPs and other conflict-affected populations in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces.

OFDA assistance included nearly \$5.7 million for the provision and transport of emergency relief commodities to address the needs of approximately 360,000 conflict-affected individuals in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Oriental provinces. OFDA-funded commodities included blankets, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, water containers, sleeping mats, soap, and water bladders.

From October 2008 to March 2009, OFDA also deployed a DART to the DRC to monitor and assess humanitarian conditions, identify priority needs for additional programming, and facilitate humanitarian coordination and information





A DART WASH specialist tests water samples in the Bulengu IDP camp in the DRC (Photo by Arielle Giegerich, USAID).

sharing. Following DART demobilization, OFDA's two program officers based permanently in the DRC continued to coordinate information sharing among partners, provide support for emergency relief activities, and monitor ongoing humanitarian needs.

USAID also responded to emergency needs through FFP, which contributed 72,080 MT of PL. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to conflict-affected populations.

State/PRM provided funding for refugee repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting receiving communities, as well as conflict victims, in the DRC.

Implementing Partners in the DRC

AAH/USA, Concern, CRS, Handicap International, IMC, IRC, Mercy Corps, Merlin, OCHA, Première Urgence, Samaritan's Purse, Solidarités, Tearfund, UNHAS, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHH, and World Relief International.

OFDA Assistance \$32,977,698¹

¹OFDA also provided relief commodities valued at \$949,250, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to the DRC to \$33,926,948.





Dockers unload USAID food assistance in Djibouti harbour, one of the largest and busiest ports in the world (Photo by Eric Cabanis, AFP).

DJIBOUTI
Food Security Crisis

In FY 2009, rising food commodity prices and ongoing drought conditions resulted in widespread food insecurity in Djibouti, primarily affecting pastoralists and poor urban households. Consecutive seasons of failed rain led to the loss of an estimated 50 to 70 percent of the total livestock population in FY 2008 due to inadequate water and pasture availability, forcing pastoralists to migrate to more populated areas within Djibouti to access casual labor opportunities and services, according to USAID-supported FEWS NET.

In October 2008, UNICEF estimated that 25,000 children below the age of five required nutritional assistance. In addition, FEWS NET identified an estimated 441,000 people at risk of extreme food insecurity, representing more than half the population of Djibouti.

On October 30, 2008, U.S. Ambassador James C. Swan redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing food security crisis. In response, OFDA provided nearly \$1.3 million to support

an emergency response program providing treatment for up to 130,000 acutely malnourished children. OFDA support also provided training, equipment, and supplies for malnutrition treatment to MoH hospitals and clinics.

In addition, USAID deployed an OFDA principal regional advisor and an FFP regional advisor in December 2008 to assess the food security situation and the ongoing humanitarian response.

FFP also sent a regional officer to Djibouti in August 2009 to conduct a food security assessment to inform FFP's FY 2010 contribution.

Implementing Partner in Djibouti

UNICEF

OFDA Assistance\$1,298,980





ETHIOPIA

Complex Emergency

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, combined with a rapidly growing population, increased inflation, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity, have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in large areas of Ethiopia. The delayed onset and poor performance of the March to May 2008 *belg* rains, combined with the widespread failure of the previous two rains, resulted in a below-normal October 2008 to January 2009 *meher* harvest in eastern crop-producing areas of Ethiopia. FEWS NET reported that subsequent poor March to May 2009 *belg* rains further exacerbated the situation.

Significant humanitarian challenges, including flooding, conflict, malnutrition, and delayed food assistance deliveries, confronted populations in many areas of the country in FY 2009. Increasing levels of food insecurity and high malnutrition rates continued to affect populations throughout Ethiopia, particularly in Oromiya and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples regions. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) identified 6.2 million people requiring emergency food assistance in FY 2009. The GFDRE possesses limited capacity to address the root causes and humanitarian impact of the cyclical shocks contributing to food insecurity.



Representatives of a local Ethiopian women's organization use a newly installed OFDA-funded water pump (Photo by Erin Magee, USAID).

On October 6, 2008, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Deborah R. Malac reissued a disaster declaration in response to humanitarian conditions in Ethiopia. In response to increased food security and malnutrition concerns throughout Ethiopia, OFDA provided more than \$61 million for nutrition, health,

economic recovery and market systems, agriculture and food security, and WASH programs, as well as for logistics, relief commodities, and humanitarian coordination and information management. Of the total, OFDA provided more than \$25.3 million to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems initiatives targeting more than 1 million individuals, including activities designed to increase resiliency to shocks that negatively impact food security through the OFDA Horn Food Price Crisis Response Strategy. OFDA's contribution also included \$10 million for the local procurement of emergency food commodities to support up to 5 million individuals for one month and supplement ongoing food assistance programs.

2009 World Food Prize

On June 11, 2009, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced that Dr. Gebisa Ejeta had been chosen to receive the 2009 World Food Prize for his global food security research, funded in part by OFDA. The World Food Prize recognizes individuals who have advanced nutrition and a sustainable food supply in the world by improving food quality, quantity, or availability.

Dr. Ejeta, an agronomist at Purdue University, developed high-yield sorghum varieties that are resistant to drought and the parasitic Striga weed, enabling increased sorghum production. Dr. Ejeta's scientific breakthroughs with sorghum—one of the world's five principal grains—have improved food security and nutrition for populations in his native country of Ethiopia, as well as throughout Africa. Since 2000, OFDA has provided intermittent support for Dr. Ejeta's sorghum research, as well as for multiplication and distribution of the improved sorghum varieties to farmers in Ethiopia and other east African nations. According to the U.N., the Striga weed affects approximately 40 percent of arable savannah land and an estimated 1 million individuals in sub-Saharan Africa. Striga-resistant sorghum varieties developed by Dr. Ejeta produce crop yields up to four times greater than local varieties vulnerable to the weed, even in drought-affected areas, significantly improving food security and reducing vulnerability to environmental shocks. Through a combination of technology and international cooperation, Dr. Ejeta has improved the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people.



In FY 2009, OFDA continued to incorporate risk management priorities into response activities. By improving local capacity to address malnutrition, maintain dependable water sources, and generate income, OFDA worked to support the needs of local populations and enhance existing coping mechanisms to respond to recurrent shocks and challenges. OFDA staff based in Ethiopia continued to monitor and conduct assessments of affected areas to examine health, nutrition, and food security conditions and identify priority interventions.

USAID also responded to emergency needs through FFP, which contributed 418,200 MT of PL 480 Title II emergency food assistance to Ethiopia. FFP provided wheat, sorghum, peas, beans, vegetable oil, and corn-soy blend in response to urgent relief needs. In addition, ongoing FY 2008 FFP funding supported FY 2009 GFDRE food distributions, and certain commodities provided in FY 2009 will address FY 2010 requirements.

State/PRM provided support to refugees and conflict-affected populations in Ethiopia.

Implementing Partners in Ethiopia

ADRA, CHF International, CRS, FAO, FHI, GOAL, International Committee for the Development of Peoples, IMC, IRC, Mercy Corps, Merlin, OCHA, Samaritan's Purse, SC/US, UNDSS, UNHAS, UNICEF, WFP, and WHH

OFDA Assistance\$61,276,990



The collective impact of drought, sustained high food prices, environmental degradation, outbreaks of disease, and flooding led to deteriorating food security conditions throughout Kenya, straining coping mechanisms, exacerbating existing chronic poverty, and contributing to increased inter-ethnic conflict over access to limited land and water resources. In August 2009, joint Government of Kenya, U.N agency, and NGO assessment results identified 3.8 million people in need of emergency food assistance. At the height of the food insecurity crisis, UNICEF reported GAM rates of up to 22 percent in northwest pastoral areas and SAM rates of 3.2 percent in Turkana District, northern Rift Valley Province, significantly above the 15 and 1 percent emergency thresholds for GAM and SAM rates, respectively.



The scarcity of water due to drought has severely affected the livelihoods of residents of Turkana District, Kenya (Photo by George Ombis, USAID).

Erratic rainfall also diminished livestock production, negatively affecting food security among Kenyan pastoralist populations dependent on livestock to sustain livelihoods. In addition, an increase in staple food prices in many areas by more than 100 percent over FY 2009 further exacerbated food insecurity, which was largely concentrated in Kenya's arid and semi-arid areas of Rift Valley, Eastern, and North Eastern provinces.

On October 29, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster due to food insecurity in Kenya. In response, OFDA provided more than \$24 million to support a wide range of relief programming including agriculture and food security, health, nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, and WASH interventions, as well as local food procurement and distribution. OFDA staff based in Kenya monitored humanitarian conditions and coordinated response efforts.

OFDA's FY 2009 humanitarian programming in Kenya included a focus on strengthening livelihood opportunities, protecting and diversifying household assets, and increasing agricultural productivity among more than 663,000 pastoralists and subsistence farmers throughout the northern and eastern regions of Kenya.

USAID also responded to emergency needs through FFP, which contributed more than 125,600 MT of PL 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including cornmeal, corn-soy blend, split peas, and SAM cooking oil for drought-affected agro-pastoral communities and approximately 297,000 refugees, primarily from Somalia.



State/PRM supported shelter, protection, health care, psychosocial services, and WASH interventions, as well as youth activities and education programs, for refugee populations in Kenya.

Implementing Partners in Kenya

AAH/USA, ACTED, Concern, CRS, FHI, IMC, Mercy USA, Solidarités, UNICEF, Wajir South Development Association, WFP, and WHH

OFDA Assistance\$24,253,180



Beginning in early January 2009, a caterpillar infestation destroyed cash crops, damaged food stocks, contaminated water supplies, and temporarily forced residents from homes and farms in three counties in northern and central Liberia, particularly Bong County. According to international media reports, the infestation affected more than 500,000 people residing in approximately 100 villages. The Government of Liberia (GoL) described the infestation as the country's worst in three decades and dispatched pest-control experts and insecticide-spraying teams to affected areas. On January 26, the GoL declared a nationwide state of emergency and requested international assistance. On February 4, FAO reported that the infestation had not damaged staple crops, such as maize, rice, sorghum, and millet.



Local residents observe OFDA-funded pest-control activities in Liberia (Courtesy of CRS).

On February 3, U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield declared a disaster due to the effects of the caterpillar infestation. In response, OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Liberia for pest-control activities and water and sanitation programs in areas contaminated by caterpillar excrement.

Implementing Partners in Liberia

Concern and CRS

OFDA Assistance \$100,000



On January 20, 2009, Tropical Cyclone Fanele struck the west coast of Madagascar with winds of more than 90 mph. Heavy rains and flooding damaged homes, infrastructure, and agriculture in the western, southwestern, and central regions of the country, particularly in Menabe Region. The cyclone affected approximately 40,400 people, displaced 4,000 individuals, and killed 10 others, according to the U.N. and the Government of Madagascar (GoM) National Office for Natural Disasters Preparedness (BNGRC). In addition, U.S. Embassy staff reported that the cyclone damaged 3,000 hectares of agricultural land and disrupted the ground transportation network in many communities throughout the affected areas.



Community members prepare OFDA-provided plastic sheeting for use in building shelter in cyclone-affected areas of Madagascar (Courtesy of CARE).



On April 6, Tropical Storm Jade made landfall in northeastern Madagascar with winds of more than 70 mph and moved along the east coast before returning to sea on April 7. Heavy rains and flooding damaged houses, infrastructure, roads, and crops along Madagascar's east coast, particularly in Sava, Vavatenina, and Atsinanana regions. According to OCHA, the storm affected approximately 60,800 people, displaced more than 4,000 individuals, and killed 15 others. In addition, OCHA reported that the storm damaged more than 41,000 hectares of agricultural land, particularly rice fields, resulting in acute food shortages. The BNGRC indicated that political unrest had reduced GoM response capacity, as evidenced by the suspension of national radio broadcasts and the looting of emergency supplies and food in some affected areas.

On February 3, 2009, U.S. Ambassador R. Niels Marquardt declared a disaster due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Fanele and in anticipation of additional seasonal cyclones and storms. In response to Tropical Cyclone Fanele, OFDA provided \$30,000 through USAID/Madagascar for the distribution of 167 rolls of OFDA-supplied plastic sheeting, benefiting more than 8,200 cyclone-affected people. In response to Tropical Storm Jade, OFDA provided more than \$860,000 for emergency food assistance through food-for-work programs, agricultural inputs and instruction, reparation of damaged irrigation systems and rice paddies, and restoration of damaged roads.

Implementing Partner in Madagascar

CARE

OFDA Assistance \$891,255



Beginning in January 2009, violence resulting from a power struggle between the President of Madagascar and the opposition leader and former Antananarivo mayor killed more than 150 people and injured approximately 1,000 others. The political crisis also affected vulnerable urban populations through increased unemployment, rising food prices due to shortages brought on by looting and hoarding, and limited government support for public sanitation and social services. According to an assessment conducted by U.N. agencies and NGOs, more than 50,000 people in Antananarivo, the capital, lost employment due to the deteriorating socio-economic situation. In addition, the

GoM BNGRC reported that unseasonably poor rainfall had resulted in severe food insecurity in 31 communes in the Androy and Anosy regions of southern Madagascar. Implementing partners noted that households in affected areas had begun employing coping strategies, including selling livestock or other assets, to purchase food.

On March 25, U.S. Ambassador R. Niels Marquardt declared a disaster due to the impact of the complex emergency. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Madagascar for an assessment of urban and rural food insecurity and additional funding for emergency agriculture and food security activities to benefit drought-affected populations in Androy, Anosy, and Atsemo Andrefana regions.

Implementing Partners in Madagascar

CARE, FAO, and Mission Aviation Fellowship

OFDA Assistance \$227,502



Starting in late August 2009, heavy rains caused significant flooding in southern Mauritania, particularly affecting Rosso city and surrounding towns and villages. The floods killed at least one person, according to international media reports. Following a joint assessment of affected areas in and around Rosso, U.S. Embassy and U.N. agency personnel reported that the floods had displaced approximately 10,000 people, representing more than 2,000 families. In response to the flooding, the Government of Mauritania deployed teams to relocate affected individuals to temporary camps, provide medical assistance, and drain floodwaters. U.S. Embassy and U.N. staff reported a lack of sufficient sanitation facilities in the temporary camps.

On September 9, U.S. Ambassador Mark Boulware declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided more than \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott for the provision of hygiene supplies and the purchase and installation of 25 latrines in temporary camps.

Implementing Partner in Mauritania

UNICEF

OFDA Assistance \$25,100





Members of the OFDA-supported Mabiahal agricultural association in Massinga District, Inhambane Province, Mozambique, demonstrate produce for sale (Photo by Johs Pierce, USAID).

MOZAMBIQUE
Food Price Crisis

In FY 2009, the cumulative impact of high levels of domestic food prices and low crop production, resulting from three consecutive seasons of poor rainfall performance in Mozambique, contributed to increased food insecurity and the identification of an estimated 247,000 individuals requiring emergency food assistance, according to FEWS NET. The most affected areas included 13 districts in southern Tete, northern Gaza, and parts of Zambezia, Sofala, and Nampula provinces. Prices of some basic food commodities increased between 50 and 150 percent from March 2008 to March 2009, according to the Government of Mozambique Vulnerability Assessment Committee. At the height of the

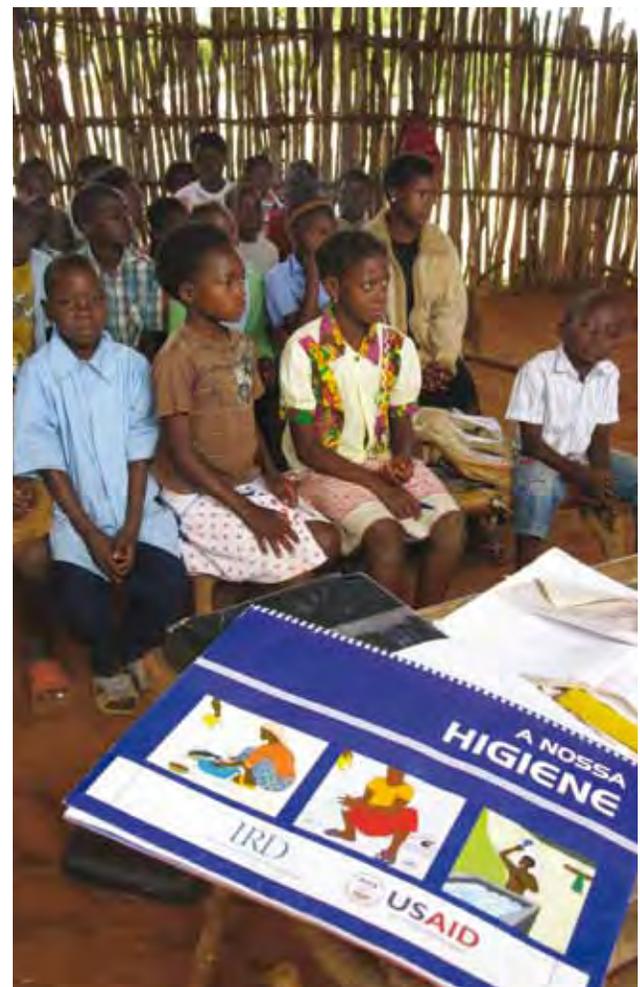
crisis in 2009 maize and cassava prices exceeded 2008 price levels by 230 and 50 percent, respectively.

In response, OFDA provided \$5 million to WFP for local and regional procurement of approximately 7,500 MT of maize and pulses, targeting 175,000 food-insecure individuals in Gaza, Sofala, and Tete provinces.

Implementing Partner in Mozambique

WFP

OFDA Assistance \$5,000,000



Students at Macarringue school in Massinga District, Inhambane Province, Mozambique, learn about hygiene with the help of OFDA-funded materials (Photo by Johs Pierce, USAID).





Namibia Red Cross Society coordinators take supplies to people stranded by flooding in a boat purchased with OFDA funds (Photo by Dalene van der Westhuizen, USAID).



NAMIBIA
Floods

Beginning in January 2009, heavy rains in northern and northeastern Namibia, exacerbated by rainfall in southern Angola and Zambia, led to flooding in the Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana, Ohshikto, Kavango, and Caprivi regions. The Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) Emergency and Disaster Management Directorate reported that the flooding killed 92 people, and OCHA estimated that the flooding affected 350,000 individuals in Namibia. However, damage to roads and bridges hindered needs assessments of many affected areas. The GRN also reported extensive damage to houses, schools, and health clinics. In addition, for the second consecutive year, the floods affected standing crops and food reserves. On March 17, the GRN declared an emergency in the affected areas and requested international assistance.

On March 18, U.S. Ambassador Gail D. Mathieu declared a disaster due to the flooding. In response, OFDA deployed a regional advisor to conduct an assessment with USAID/ Namibia staff to identify humanitarian needs and affected populations. OFDA provided \$700,000 to support emergency relief efforts benefiting more than 33,000 people. OFDA assistance included the provision of shelter materials and relief commodities, such as mosquito nets, blankets, and plastic sheeting, as well as programs addressing WASH issues, including hygiene promotion activities and provision of water bladders, water purification tablets, and sanitation facilities.

Implementing Partners in Namibia

IFRC, Namibia Red Cross Society, and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance \$700,000





On September 1, 2009, flooding resulting from unusually heavy rain and a dam breach on the Telwa River affected more than 100,000 people, according to WHO. Floods killed 3 people, displaced 850 families, and destroyed approximately 3,000 houses in the city of Agadez and 3 nearby villages in northern Niger; according to the Government of Niger (GoN). Flooding also killed at least 4,000 head of livestock and damaged or destroyed roads, schools, and water and power infrastructure. GoN and U.N. assessment teams identified humanitarian needs including emergency shelter, food, medicine, safe drinking water, emergency relief supplies, and mosquito nets. The GoN established a National Coordination Committee, which developed an action plan and requested international donor support to help meet identified needs.



Local disaster response personnel assemble temporary shelter for people displaced by floods in Agadez city, Niger (Courtesy of ECHO).

On September 16, 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 WASH activities, including the distribution of emergency hygiene supplies, in affected areas.

Implementing Partner in Niger

Mercy Corps

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



Heavy seasonal rains from mid-August to mid-September 2009 resulted in floods throughout Senegal, particularly affecting the Pikine suburb of the capital, Dakar. Local authorities reported flooding in 17 of 21 neighborhoods in the low-lying eastern section of the suburb, which lacks a functional sewer system. According to WHO, floods killed 4 individuals and affected more than 350,000 people, including approximately 24,000 people in Pikine who required immediate assistance. The Government of Senegal (GoS) activated a disaster relief plan and appealed for international assistance. The GoS provided assistance such as pumps to drain floodwaters in affected areas, including Pikine. However, a combination of continued rainfall, a shallow water table, and poor drainage rendered water removal difficult. On September 14, a USAID assessment team observed large amounts of standing water affecting houses and public infrastructure in Pikine.



Floods damaged homes in Pikine Est neighborhood, part of the greater Dakar urban area, Senegal (Photo by Christophe Tocco, USAID).

On September 17, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Kevin Mullally declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Senegal for WASH activities, including a hygiene awareness campaign and sanitation interventions, and the provision of equipment and supplies, such as water pumps, mosquito nets, and protective clothing, for community volunteers responding to flooding.

Implementing Partner in Senegal

CRS

OFDA Assistance\$50,000





A child takes a bite of Plumpy'doz, an emergency food supplement made from vegetable fat, peanut butter, sugar, milk, and other nutrients, and designed to ensure proper growth and boost the immune system of children (Courtesy of Mercy USA).



SOMALIA

Complex Emergency

Since 1991, Somalis have suffered the effects of widespread violence, endemic poverty, recurrent droughts, and floods. From December 2006 to January 2009, ongoing violence between the Somalia Transitional Federal Government, backed by Ethiopian forces, and armed opposition groups led to further deterioration in humanitarian conditions.

Following January 2009 Ethiopian troop withdrawals, conflict between armed militia groups in Somalia continued to displace populations, disrupt trade and market activities, and limit access to affected areas. As of November 2009, an estimated 530,000 Somali refugees were living outside the country and more than 1.5 million IDPs remained uprooted within Somalia as a result of ongoing violence.

In August 2009, FAO reported that nearly 3.8 million Somalis required humanitarian assistance and livelihood support, representing a 17 percent increase since January 2009 and between 38 and 50 percent of the total estimated population of between 7.5 and 9.8 million people. In agropastoralist areas of Somalia, FAO reported GAM and SAM rates exceeding 27 percent and 8 percent, respectively, significantly above the GAM and SAM emergency thresholds of 15 and 1 percent.

On October 31, 2008, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster in Somalia due to the complex emergency. In response, OFDA provided nearly \$9.2 million to support agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH interventions, as well as logistics, provision of relief commodities, and regional food procurement and distribution.



In FY 2009, OFDA continued to support U.N. efforts to build the emergency response capacity of local NGOs. OFDA also supported community-based livelihood initiatives to rebuild and diversify household assets that improve food security. In addition, OFDA implementing partners provided human and animal vaccination services, expanded child health initiatives using a multi-sector approach, and supported local capacity-building programs to manage and maintain community water and sanitation programs.

OFDA supported community-based programs in Somalia to prepare for and mitigate the effects of seasonal floods through cash-for-work schemes to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure, including river embankments, irrigation canals, and water points.

USAID also responded to emergency needs through FFP. In FY 2009, FFP contributed more than 157,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to the WFP Emergency Operation for Somalia, which aimed to feed approximately 3.2 million conflict-affected and other vulnerable individuals in 2009.

In FY 2009, State/PRM supported refugee assistance programs for Somali refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen, as well as health, refugee assistance, and WASH operations within Somalia.

Implementing Partners in Somalia

FAO, Horn Relief, IRC, Medair Swiss, Mercy Corps, Mercy USA, and WFP

OFDA Assistance\$9,170,450



In 2009, Sudan continued to cope with the effects of conflict, displacement, and insecurity countrywide. Since 2003, a complex emergency in Sudan's western region of Darfur has affected more than 4.7 million people, including nearly 2.7 million IDPs. In Darfur, conflict among armed opposition factions, the Sudanese Armed Forces, militias, and ethnic groups remained ongoing throughout 2009. According to the U.N., between January and mid-May 2009, violence newly displaced approximately 137,000 individuals in Darfur. During 2009, Southern Sudan experienced increasing inter-ethnic fighting in Jonglei and Lakes states, resulting in the displacement of approximately 350,000 people between

January and October 2009, according to OCHA. In addition, UNHCR and OCHA reported that continued Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacks had displaced approximately 85,000 people throughout Southern Sudan, including an estimated 18,000 refugees who fled from the DRC and CAR. In total, the complex emergency has affected nearly 8 million people, including approximately 4.7 million affected people in Darfur, an estimated 2.7 million people displaced in Southern Sudan, nearly 170,000 displaced in Eastern Sudan, and more than 400,000 Sudanese refugees.

In 2009, the National Congress Party and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Movement continued to implement the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) through the joint Government of National Unity (GNU). The formation of the GNU officially ended more



Workers at a sorghum seed multiplication farm pose with their crops in Kadugli, Sudan (Photo by Tiare Cross, USAID).

than two decades of north-south conflict. During the conflict, famine, fighting, and disease killed more than 2 million people, forced an estimated 500,000 Sudanese to seek refuge in neighboring countries, and displaced an additional 4 million individuals within Sudan. The U.N. estimated that from 2005 to 2009, approximately 2.8 million people returned to Southern Sudan and the Three Areas of Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei, taxing scarce resources and weak infrastructure. In eastern Sudan, the GNU and the Eastern Front opposition coalition signed the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement in 2006. However, humanitarian needs persist in the area, which has experienced slow recovery following decades of conflict.

In March 2009, the GNU expelled 13 international organizations from Sudan and closed three national





Children play at a transit site in Kosti, White Nile State, where OFDA and implementing partner ADRA provide support to populations returning to Southern Sudan via river-barge transport (Photo by Arielle Giegerich).

humanitarian agencies. Remaining and new humanitarian organizations, in coordination with the Sudanese government, initiated numerous short-term measures and expanded existing programs and areas of operation to prevent a rapid deterioration of humanitarian conditions in northern Sudan. Since 2006, humanitarian agencies have experienced reduced access to affected populations due to increased insecurity, attacks on aid workers, and bureaucratic impediments to program implementation.

On October 16, 2008, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Alberto M. Fernandez renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Sudan. USAID/Sudan has declared disasters due to the complex emergency on an annual basis since 1987.

In FY 2009, OFDA provided nearly \$140 million to support emergency programs in Sudan, including more than \$93 million to support humanitarian activities in Darfur. Funding priorities included health, logistics and relief commodities,

and WASH, which together accounted for more than 71 percent of OFDA support. OFDA assistance targeted areas of return in the Three Areas and Southern Sudan to support implementation of the CPA and minimize tensions between communities. In addition, OFDA supported health and WASH interventions, as well as the provision of emergency relief supplies for IDPs affected by LRA-related violence. In Darfur, OFDA partners provided lifesaving assistance despite resource limitations and staffing challenges due to the March humanitarian organization expulsions.

In FY 2009, FFP supported the provision of more than 484,350 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including sorghum, lentils, yellow split peas, vegetable oil, and corn-soya blend, to vulnerable individuals in Sudan through NGO partners and WFP.

State/PRM assisted refugees in Sudan, Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad, and IDPs in Darfur through protection, WASH, health, education, logistics, mine-risk education, and



literacy programs, as well as programs to combat gender-based violence.

Implementing Partners in Sudan

ACTED, ADRA, ARC, CARE, CHF International, Christian Mission Aid, Concern Worldwide, CRS, FAO, GOAL, Humedica International, IMC, IOM, IRC, Medair, Merlin, Millennium Relief and Development, Norwegian People's Aid, OCHA, Pact, Relief International, Samaritan's Purse, SC/US, Tearfund, Terre Des Hommes, UMCOR, UNDSS, UNHAS, UNICEF, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium, WFP, WHH, WHO, World Relief International, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance \$139,949,736



Between August 23 and 29, 2009, heavy rains resulted in widespread flooding in Khartoum State in northern Sudan, particularly affecting populations in Soba Aradi, Mayo, and Jebel Aulia displaced person settlements. According to a joint GNU-humanitarian organization assessment, flooding affected more than 22,000 households—approximately 111,500 individuals based on a family size of five people—and damaged or destroyed approximately 6,700 latrines. In addition, GNU authorities indicated that the rainstorms and associated flooding killed 20 people, and local media reported the collapse of approximately 68 schools. In response, GNU and Khartoum State ministries and humanitarian organizations provided shelter assistance and safe drinking water to flood-displaced populations. On September 6, the Khartoum State MoH requested additional assistance to respond to public health concerns due to damaged and flooded latrines.

On September 23, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Robert E. Whitehead declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Sudan to support WASH activities in affected areas of Khartoum State.

Implementing Partner in Sudan

CRS

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



On April 29, 2009, an accidental detonation in an ammunition storage facility at the Mbagala military base in the Temeke District of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, resulted in a series of explosions throughout the heavily populated capital and surrounding areas. According to IFRC, the explosions killed 26 people, injured more than 500 others, destroyed or damaged more than 2,300 houses, and affected an estimated 18,800 people.

On May 6, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Larry André declared a disaster due to the effects of the munitions explosion. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Tanzania for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, blankets, cooking utensils, and construction materials to facilitate the rebuilding of damaged houses.

Implementing Partner in Tanzania

Tanzania Red Cross Society

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



Since 2003, frequent drought, conflict, livestock theft, below-normal crop harvests, diminished purchasing power, lack of coping mechanisms, and animal disease outbreaks have resulted in significant food insecurity in northeastern Uganda's Karamoja Region. In FY 2009, food security continued to deteriorate for agricultural and pastoral households in the region, according to assessments by WFP. USAID-supported FEWS NET estimated that more than 1.1 million people in Karamoja Region required food assistance in FY 2009.

On November 3, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Steven A. Browning declared a disaster due to the effects of food insecurity. In response to the crisis in Uganda, OFDA provided \$5 million to improve and diversify household assets for more than 310,000 food-insecure Ugandans in Karamoja Region. OFDA's contribution complemented a general food distribution program implemented by WFP.

The OFDA-funded program in Uganda focused on improved agriculture, food security, and economic productivity through





WEST AFRICA
Food Price Crisis



Ugandan villagers dance during a burial ceremony for a woman who was a victim of attacks of rebels from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) against the local population. The ongoing conflict in northern Uganda has contributed significantly to food insecurity of local populations (Photo by Ben Simon, AFP).

the distribution of fast-maturing and drought-resistant seeds, work programs to increase market access, and animal health services.

USAID also responded to food insecurity in Uganda through FFP and OTI. In FY 2009, FFP provided 19,520 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including yellow peas, yellow split peas, cornmeal, corn-soy blend, sorghum, and vegetable oil, to drought-affected communities in Northern Uganda and in Karamoja Region.

OTI supported small-scale renovations of schools, health centers, government office buildings, and other infrastructure to assist local governments in providing basic services to the population and support economic growth and recovery. OTI also supported community-level reconciliation interventions, often with involvement and guidance from traditional, cultural, and religious leaders.

In addition, USAID/Uganda staff continued to monitor the food security situation and coordinate with other USG and international agencies to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Uganda

Mercy Corps

OFDA Assistance\$5,000,000

Elevated food prices contributed to a significant increase in food insecurity in West Africa in FY 2009, particularly among low-income populations. In the Sahel region, an estimated 45 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 per day. At the household level, increased food prices have the greatest effect on poor and food-insecure populations, who spend a larger proportional share of income on basic food commodities—up to 50 to 60 percent or more, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Despite a marked decline from peak prices reported in August and September 2008, wholesale millet prices in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso remained between 16 and 20 percent higher than 2008 price levels during much of 2009, as reported by FAO. In Senegal, imported rice prices increased 48 percent between February 2008 and February 2009. Throughout the region, high food prices diminished consumers' purchasing power and ability to access food, contributing to an increase in already elevated malnutrition rates.

In response, OFDA provided nearly \$31 million to support regional livelihoods coordination and agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, and nutrition programming.¹ OFDA programs targeted Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal, in addition to providing regional support.



Residents harvest cowpeas from an OFDA-funded garden in Namentenga Province, Burkina Faso (Photo by Kathleen Walsh).

¹ OFDA provided support as part of the U.S. President's Food Security Response Initiative (PFSRI) for international disaster and development assistance to address the needs of food-insecure populations worldwide. Please see page 31 for additional information on PFSRI. All of the \$30.7 million allocated to West Africa in response to the food price crisis represented funding from PFSRI.



OFDA's support for agriculture and food security interventions included the provision of seeds and agricultural inputs to increase staple cereal crop production and strengthen livelihoods of vulnerable rural households. OFDA programs aimed to increase government capacity to monitor food security conditions, both locally and nationally.

To address rising malnutrition resulting from the food price crisis, OFDA nutrition programs supported the establishment of nutrition surveillance systems and the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. OFDA-funded programs assisted vulnerable families by distributing ready-to-use therapeutic food for children between the ages of 6 and 24 months and providing vouchers to supplement household purchasing power. OFDA also supported community-based therapeutic feeding and supplementary feeding programs, as well as local capacity building and training.

Implementing Partners in West Africa

Cooperative League of the USA, CRS, FAO, Helen Keller International, Mercy Corps, SC/UK, UNICEF, WFP, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance\$30,710,231



ZIMBABWE

Complex Emergency

Humanitarian conditions for most Zimbabweans remained difficult in FY 2009 due to the country's economic crisis, limited access to basic services, the effects of HIV and AIDS, poorly maintained infrastructure, political instability, violence, and a widespread cholera outbreak. Previous Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) policies and corruption, as well as a decade of economic decline characterized by hyperinflation and high unemployment, resulted in poor infrastructure for agricultural production, water and sanitation, and power generation. In late 2008 and early 2009, poor governance, fluctuating global food prices, and low crop production due to lack of access to seeds and fertilizer resulted in wide-ranging food insecurity. Relief agencies provided emergency food assistance to as many as 7 million people per month between December 2008 and March 2009. Although food security improved in 2009 due in part to an improved harvest in April, reduced tariffs on food imports, and increased access to foreign currency, the situation remained precarious.



Local hygiene promoters educate community members about cholera prevention in Zimbabwe (Photo by Michael Keegan, USAID).

On February 11, 2009, the Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF) and Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) implemented the September 2008 Global Political Agreement, forming a transitional government. However, tensions remained throughout FY 2009 regarding ongoing police detentions of political activists, appointments to government posts, negotiations to draft a new constitution, and ongoing farm seizures, which disrupted agricultural production and contributed to ongoing internal displacement.

On October 6, 2008, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Katherine S. Dhanani reissued a disaster declaration in Zimbabwe due to the complex emergency. In response, OFDA provided more than \$23.6 million in assistance, including emergency relief supplies and programs in health, protection, agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, natural and technological risks, local and regional food procurement and distribution, and WASH.

In FY 2009, OFDA contributed nearly \$9 million for agriculture and food security programming, including the construction and rehabilitation of water catchment structures, training in conservation farming, and improvement of livestock health. In addition, to complement agriculture and food security programming, OFDA committed more than \$2.5 million for regional food procurement and distribution in Zimbabwe. OFDA also committed nearly \$8 million for WASH preparedness programming to improve community



resilience to cholera and other waterborne diseases and to help mitigate a potential recurrence of cholera later in 2009.

USAID also responded to the complex emergency through FFP, which provided 188,710 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance through WFP and the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Emergency. Through FFP, the USG was the leading donor to the WFP protracted relief and recovery operation in Zimbabwe in FY 2009. In addition, State/PRM provided support for protection and relief programs to assist Zimbabwean refugees and migrants in neighboring countries.

Implementing Partners in Zimbabwe

Africare, FAO, GOAL, Holistic Management, IOM, IRD, OCHA, Oxfam/GB, PSI, World Vision, and other NGOs

OFDA Assistance\$23,623,876



Starting in August 2008, a cholera outbreak—the largest in Africa in 15 years—spread to all of Zimbabwe’s 10 provinces. The collapse of the country’s economy, health system, and WASH infrastructure due to lack of maintenance exacerbated the outbreak. On January 21, 2009, WHO reported a peak overall case fatality rate (CFR) of 5.7 percent, significantly above relief agencies’ emergency threshold of



OFDA-funded hygiene supplies await distribution to cholera-affected communities from the UNICEF warehouse in Harare, Zimbabwe (Photo by Michael Keegan, USAID).

1 percent. By the time the outbreak ended in early July, nearly 98,600 reported cases of cholera had resulted in nearly 4,300 deaths, as reported by WHO. According to OFDA staff, contamination of the main water supplies in high-density urban areas likely contributed to the cholera outbreak. The outbreak spread via population movement and traditional funeral practices, and was characterized by widespread geographic occurrence, with cases reported in high-density urban and peri-urban areas as well as rural districts. In addition, the inability of Zimbabwe’s health system to adequately treat patients resulted in increased case and death figures until ongoing relief efforts brought the outbreak under control in June 2009.

On December 15, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Katherine S. Dhanani declared a disaster due to the effects of the cholera outbreak. In response, OFDA provided more than \$7.3 million in assistance, including more than \$6.1 million for such WASH interventions as hygiene promotion, home-based water treatment, cholera risk and transmission awareness-raising activities, and social mobilization programs emphasizing the need to seek care. OFDA contributed more than \$360,000 for the procurement and transport of 400 MT of soap for use in hygiene promotion programs and the procurement of 30 million water purification tablets, 30,000 water containers, and 30,000 buckets. OFDA funded improved data collection, information dissemination, and epidemiological analysis, enabling humanitarian organizations to respond rapidly to new alerts and direct expertise and resources where needed most.

As part of ongoing response efforts, OFDA activated a DART, which served in Zimbabwe from mid-December 2008 to early April 2009. Supported by staff in Washington, D.C., the DART identified humanitarian needs resulting from the cholera outbreak, targeted OFDA funding to meet those needs, evaluated response effectiveness, conducted field assessments, coordinated with the U.N. and relief agencies to identify response priorities, and participated in U.N. health and WASH cluster meetings.

Implementing Partners in Zimbabwe

Concern, CRS, GOAL, IOM, Oxfam/GB, PSI, UNICEF, WHO, and other NGOs

OFDA Assistance\$7,311,374



Helping Kenya Prepare To Respond To Emergencies: A 10-Year Retrospective

By Lauren Reagan

In the early morning hours of August 7, 1998, terrorists coordinated nearly simultaneous vehicle bomb attacks on the U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, killing a total of 247 people. In Kenya, the explosions killed 213 people, including 12 U.S. citizens and 32 Foreign Service Nationals. Nearly 5,000 people, mostly non-Americans, were injured. The U.S. Embassy and an estimated 105 buildings nearby suffered damages of more than \$40 million.

In response to the bombing, OFDA rapidly provided funds through the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi for medical supplies and trauma counseling. In addition, OFDA arranged for the immediate deployment of a 63-member urban search and rescue (USAR) team from the Fairfax County, Virginia, Fire and Rescue Department, which arrived in Kenya on August 9. Over the course of eight days, the USAR team, local volunteers, and additional rescue teams from France and Israel assisted in the recovery of 50 bodies. Although teams eventually rescued many people, international teams did not arrive until up to 48 hours after the bombing.

During the initial 48 hours, local first responders, civil authorities, staff members from the Kenya Red Cross, and volunteers worked at the site. Despite laudable efforts, a dearth of basic first aid supplies, specialty equipment, and training handicapped local responders. Even responders affiliated with emergency service transport units lacked the technical expertise necessary to treat simple soft-tissue injuries and more complex and multi-injury casualties.

It was total chaos; we did the best that we could...

Itote "Tosh" Waruhiu, First Responder to the U.S. Embassy bombing and subsequent graduate of the OFDA-funded International Medical Corps (IMC) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course

In the aftermath of the bombing, U.S. and Kenyan government authorities, non-governmental organization staff, and members of Nairobi's private health sector reviewed the state of Kenya's emergency service infrastructure. The bombing exposed significant weaknesses in local emergency response and national disaster preparedness. While Kenyan first responders, civil authorities, and the Kenyan public acted quickly and commendably, the disaster exceeded the response capacity of Nairobi's emergency response

network. Deficiencies included a lack of prepositioned disaster supplies, an inadequate emergency communication network, an insufficiently coordinated response by civil authorities and emergency services, and a general paucity of technical expertise among first responders in managing, triaging, stabilizing, and transporting multi-injury casualties. Furthermore, the bombing of the U.S. Embassy did not constitute the only emergency or disaster incident Kenyans experienced. At the time of the bombing, technological emergencies, including road traffic, rail, and industrial accidents, were commonplace in the country, which had one of the worst injury-induced premature mortality rates in the world.



KCEMT instructors train EMT students in life-saving techniques (Courtesy of KCEMT).

Training

In 1998 and 1999, OFDA provided nearly \$294,000 to support an 18-month IMC program to enhance emergency medical services (EMS) in Kenya. A formal branch of emergency services dedicated to providing out-of-hospital acute medical care and transport, EMS consist of first responders, including police, firefighters, and EMTs, who are trained to perform a wide range of emergency care and transport procedures.

The OFDA-supported program provided training to 40 pre-hospital medical providers, firefighters, and police from many of the organizations and agencies that responded to the U.S. Embassy bombing. Many of the students had been first responders at the 1998 bomb site and, inspired by the

training and professionalism displayed by international rescue teams, desired to create the same capacity for emergency response in Kenya. IMC utilized the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons Emergency Medical Technician-Basic curriculum, comprising 180 classroom theory hours and 80 classroom and workplace practical hours. All 40 students graduated, becoming the first formally trained EMTs in east and central Africa. Following successful completion of the course, most students went on to work for ambulance companies, at local hospitals, or in other public services in Kenya.

“I was used to facing many challenges but had no confidence in handling emergencies.”

Alice Ngure, former emergency unit nurse at Gertrude’s Children’s hospital and graduate of the OFDA-funded IMC EMT course.

In 2000, USAID/Kenya funded a 22-month IMC program focused on further enhancing emergency response capacity in Kenya through the continued training of EMTs and the training of trainers. In November 2000, IMC conducted an EMT refresher course that included advanced life support components. Of the 40 EMTs trained in the 1998/1999 OFDA-funded program, 24 returned to complete and pass the EMT refresher course. A select number of refresher course graduates attended additional trainings as EMT instructors, community emergency response team instructors, and first aid instructors.

Achieving Sustainability

When USAID/Kenya concluded funding for the IMC program in 2002, the Government of Kenya (GoK) had not formally recognized EMTs or enacted legislation to regulate EMS in Kenya. Recognizing the need to continue to support and improve emergency response in Kenya, a group of highly motivated graduates of the 1998/1999 OFDA-funded EMT course capitalized on the momentum created during the refresher training to develop the Kenya Council for Emergency Medical Technicians (KCEMT). Organized in 2004 and formally established in 2008, KCEMT acts as an independent body to promote standards of practice, ensure the availability of high-quality pre-hospital care, and represent the interests of EMTs outside the workplace. KCEMT comprises volunteer members from ambulance, fire, and rescue services; hospitals; and other health and emergency management organizations. Recognizing that EMTs require formal training and certification, KCEMT has also become the sole professional body to set standards, regulate EMS training, and lobby for formal recognition of EMTs in Kenya.



EMT students receive diplomas after successfully completing the KCEMT course (Courtesy of KCEMT).

Between 2004 and 2008, KCEMT provided informal EMS quality improvement and refresher training and conducted workshops to improve standards of practice. By October 2006, KCEMT had trained more than 300 EMS professionals in resuscitation procedures in accordance with updated American Heart Association guidelines. KCEMT also provided refresher training and instructor training to nearly 100 previously trained EMTs. In addition, KCEMT adapted existing EMT, EMS instructor, and Incident Command System (ICS) curricula for use in the Kenyan context. Due to the long transport times typical of Kenyan ambulance deployments, KCEMT recommended that all ambulances in Kenya carry equipment to support intravenous therapy and advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), and the organization included ACLS and intravenous therapy training in all EMT curricula.

KCEMT also formed a legal committee to draft a guidance document on the establishment of an Ambulance Act to regulate and standardize ambulance services in Kenya. Prior to 1998, ambulance services lacked regulation, and in many cases the purchase of a van was sufficient to provide ambulance services. The KCEMT legal committee continues to lobby the government for approval of the Ambulance Act to ensure that ambulance services are a reliable tool with reasonable response times and that all workers on an ambulance are adequately trained to save lives.

Since the organization’s official inception, KCEMT has provided training on ICS, a standardized, on-scene, all-hazard incident management protocol. ICS provides a flexible common framework for multiple actors to work together effectively and has been adopted by countries around the world to respond to emergencies. Since June 2008, KCEMT has trained and certified approximately 1,800 managers of first responders, including ambulance, military, police, and fire services, as well as district and provincial administrative and government officials.

[The training] opened up my thinking and I realized that we had a lot to do to bring Kenyan disaster response up to speed.

Itote "Tosh" Waruhiu, graduate of the 1998/1999 OFDA-funded IMC EMT course and KCEMT

Following official GoK registration and GoK Ministry of Health accreditation of KCEMT curricula in 2008, KCEMT trained the organization's first class of 38 EMTs. KCEMT volunteers, including many graduates of the 1998/1999 OFDA-funded EMT course, conducted the nine-month training ending in July 2009.

While supported primarily through member contributions, KCEMT has also sought and obtained local and international donations to fund the organization's activities and to purchase EMT training materials, including medical equipment. KCEMT trainers volunteer personal time to teach, and students participating in EMT training are self-funded.



EMT students train in ambulances similar to the ambulance pictured above (Courtesy of IMC).

During the past five years, KCEMT has significantly advanced and improved emergency response not only in Kenya, but also throughout the region. As a result of KCEMT advocacy and sensitization training, police carry emergency contact cards and are more likely to call for an ambulance during an emergency. In addition, through joint training, KCEMT has improved working relationships and integration between private ambulance companies and the Kenya Red Cross, thus improving emergency response and coordination. KCEMT has become well known regionally for the organization's local approach to regulation and professionalization of pre-hospital emergency care and disaster response. In March and April 2009, at the request of local authorities, KCEMT trainers

traveled to Uganda and trained 74 local administrators and disaster response officers in ICS procedures. At the invitation of local organizations, KCEMT representatives have also visited Rwanda and Tanzania to explore the possibility of expanding EMS training into both countries.

Ten years later

Since 1999, when OFDA concluded funding for EMS training in Kenya, approximately 25 OFDA-trained EMTs have assumed leadership roles in national disaster management organizations, including KCEMT, and are currently conducting training in Kenya and throughout East Africa using local resources. In total, KCEMT volunteers have trained approximately 184 people as EMTs and more than 1,800 local administrators and disaster response professionals in ICS procedures. Hundreds more have participated in quality improvement and refresher training since the original OFDA initiative began in 1998. Emergency responders continue to provide life-saving services for people in Kenya including during the 2008 post-election violence, recent oil tanker fires, and road accidents. At each disaster site, well-trained first responders and EMTs work toward reducing response times, improving coordination, and providing higher quality patient care, thus improving Kenya's capacity to handle emergencies effectively, efficiently, and independently.



Three students in the first class of emergency responders in 1999 gather medical equipment for class (Courtesy of IMC).



KCEMT volunteers provide ICS training to district and provincial authorities in Kenya who role-play in a daylong disaster simulation (Photo by Lauren Reagan, USAID).

It is my hope that in the near future Kenya and Africa at large will be able to handle emergencies effectively, efficiently, and independently.

Alice Ngure, graduate of the 1998/1999 OFDA-funded EMT course and KCEMT volunteer trainer

Caroline Miring'u, the first woman to work in one of the few public ambulance companies in Kenya, felt and heard the bomb explode on August 7. She and her colleagues were among the first responders to the disaster site. Following six grueling days working in the rubble to rescue and recover victims of the bomb blast, Caroline reflected that although local responders had the desire, they lacked the capacity in terms of equipment and training to handle a mass casualty incident. When Caroline heard of the OFDA-funded EMT training, she eagerly applied, attended, and graduated, becoming one of the first formally trained EMTs in Kenya.



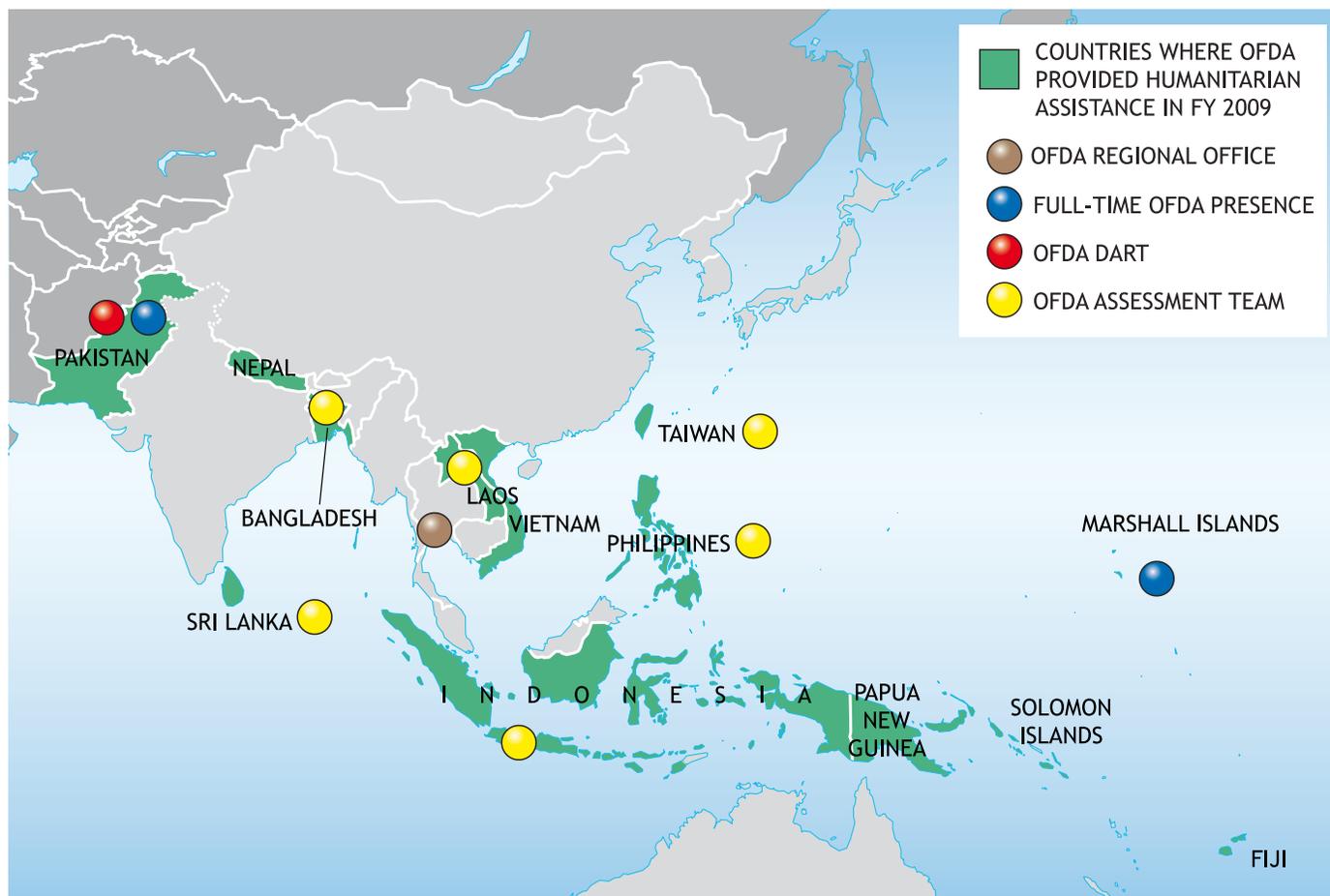
Bangladeshis wait in line to receive clean water from a mobile water purification unit (Photo by Mariza Rogers, USAID).



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

BANGLADESH	
Cyclone	66
FIJI	
Floods	67
INDONESIA	
Earthquake	67
LAOS	
Floods	68
NEPAL	
Food Price Crisis	68
PAKISTAN	
Complex Emergency	69
Earthquake	70
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	
Floods	71
PHILIPPINES	
Complex Emergency	71
Tropical Storm	71
SOLOMON ISLANDS	
Floods	73
SRI LANKA	
Complex Emergency	73
Floods	75
TAIWAN	
Typhoon	76
VIETNAM	
Floods	76

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL SUMMARY



OFDA responded to 15 disasters in 12 countries in Asia and the Pacific in FY 2009. Flooding affected Fiji, Laos, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. OFDA also responded to ongoing complex humanitarian emergencies in Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka; tropical storms in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Taiwan; a food price crisis in Nepal; and earthquakes in Indonesia and Pakistan.

In total, OFDA provided more than \$132 million in funding for disaster response programs, as well as more than \$5.3 million for disaster risk reduction activities, in Asia and the Pacific. OFDA deployed two DARTs to Pakistan in response to conflict and an earthquake, and deployed emergency teams to Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan. In addition, OFDA maintained a regional office in Bangkok, Thailand, and a field office in Islamabad, Pakistan.



BANGLADESH
Cyclone

On May 25, 2009, Tropical Cyclone Aila made landfall in southern Bangladesh with wind speeds of more than 60 mph. Associated tidal surges breached embankments, flooded villages, and caused extensive infrastructure damage. According to the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), Tropical Cyclone Aila killed 190 people, injured 7,100 more, and affected approximately 4.8 million individuals in 11 southern districts. In addition, the cyclone damaged or destroyed more than 500,000 houses, an estimated 8,000 km of roads, and approximately 350,000 acres of agricultural land. Prior to the cyclone's landfall, GoB authorities evacuated more than 500,000 people to temporary shelters.

On May 28, U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty declared a disaster due to damage from Tropical Cyclone Aila. In response, OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Bangladesh for the provision of emergency relief supplies to approximately 22,000 affected families. In addition, OFDA mobilized pre-positioned water purification units, which supplied water to 260,000 beneficiaries, as well as inflatable boats and water ambulances.

From June 9 to 16, OFDA deployed a regional advisor and a shelter specialist to assess cyclone impacts and determine additional emergency assistance needs. Based on the resulting recommendations, OFDA provided an additional \$3.5 million to support initiatives including livelihood assistance through cash-for-work activities and transitional shelter and latrine construction, as well as the provision of emergency relief supplies and shelter materials. In total, OFDA's response provided support to approximately 70,000 beneficiaries.

USAID/Bangladesh also responded to the disaster by reprogramming existing funds to provide emergency survival packs that included plastic sheeting, utensils, candles, rope, soap, matches, and mosquito netting for distribution to cyclone-affected populations. In addition, USAID/Bangladesh reprogrammed funds to distribute locally procured food to people affected by the cyclone.

Implementing Partners in Bangladesh

CARE, CRS, World Vision/International, and World Vision/US

OFDA Assistance\$3,620,188



Cyclone-affected populations in Bangladesh prepare to receive OFDA-funded emergency relief supplies (Courtesy of World Vision).





From January 8 to 13, 2009, heavy rains and tidal surges led to flooding on Fiji's main island, Viti Levu, particularly affecting the towns of Ba, Nadi, Sigatoka, and Rakiraki. The floods affected approximately 9,000 residents and resulted in 11 deaths, according to the Government of Fiji (GoF) National Disaster Management Office. All major roads and airports closed due to water levels of more than 10 feet, while floodwaters also caused significant damage to infrastructure, agricultural lands, and water supplies. On January 11, the GoF declared a state of emergency, deployed assessment teams to affected areas, and mobilized rescue teams to evacuate stranded individuals.



A bridge damaged by flooding impedes travel in a flood-affected area in Fiji (Courtesy of TAF).

On January 14, U.S. Ambassador C. Steven McGann issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Suva for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief commodities, including hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets, water containers, and tarpaulins.

Implementing Partner in Fiji

Fiji Red Cross Society

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



On September 2, 2009, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck off the coast of the Indonesian island of Java near Tasikmalaya city. According to OCHA, the earthquake and subsequent landslides killed 81 people, injured more than 1,200 others, and displaced nearly 180,000 Indonesians from 13 districts in West Java Province and 1 district in Central Java Province. In addition, tremors damaged or destroyed nearly 66,000 houses, more than 2,100 mosques, and approximately 230 government buildings in affected provinces.



The Indonesian Red Cross prepares for a distribution of medical supplies to communities affected by the earthquake in Indonesia (Photo by Al Dwyer, USAID).

On September 4, U.S. Ambassador Cameron R. Hume declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Indonesia for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, blankets, and personal hygiene items, to earthquake-affected populations. The OFDA principal regional advisor for East Asia and the Pacific deployed to Indonesia on September 4 and worked closely with the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, USAID/Indonesia, and partner organizations to assess the humanitarian situation.

Implementing Partner in Indonesia

World Vision/US

OFDA Assistance\$100,000





Beginning September 29, 2009, Typhoon Ketsana caused heavy rainfall in southern Laos, leading to severe flooding, particularly in Attapeu, Saravan, and Xekong provinces. Floods affected approximately 178,000 individuals, killing 17 people and displacing more than 9,600 households, according to the Government of Laos (GoL) National Disaster Management Office. Flooding damaged 28,500 hectares of cropland, 32 schools, 14 irrigation systems, 3 hospitals, and 1,848 houses—of which 1,023 were damaged beyond repair—in five southern provinces, according to the U.N. On October 9, the GoL officially requested international assistance to support flood-affected families.

On October 1, U.S. Ambassador Ravic R. Huso issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of floods caused by Typhoon Ketsana. In anticipation of that declaration and to expedite the issuance of aid, on September 30, OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane for the provision of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected populations. In addition, an OFDA regional advisor visited affected areas to assess humanitarian conditions and determine assistance needs.

Implementing Partner in Laos

Lao Red Cross Society

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



Nepal experienced nationwide food riots in November 2008, when rising regional food prices and rationing by neighboring food-supplying countries increased the cost of many staple foods. A subsequent drought during the winter of 2008-2009 and resulting decrease in crop production by as much as 70 percent in some areas further exacerbated food insecurity, according to FAO. In addition, fuel prices remained inflated in 2009, according to the World Bank, increasing the cost of crops grown or transported using petrol-based fertilizers, pesticides, and equipment.

Nepali food intake fell in 2009 as a result of increasing food prices, especially among poor, rural households, according to a joint WFP and Nepal Development Research Institute report. Chronic malnutrition rates had reached 49 percent nationally and nearly 70 percent in rural areas, WFP reported in mid-2008, and inflated food prices left approximately 2.5 million people in rural Nepal in need of immediate food assistance.

In response, in consultation with FFP, OFDA provided \$5 million in funding for the local and regional procurement of food aid, including 4,330 MT of rice and 620 MT of pulses, to more than 303,000 food-insecure beneficiaries in rural Nepal.

Implementing Partner in Nepal

WFP

OFDA Assistance\$5,000,000



Nepalese farmers return from planting rice in a paddy field near Kathmandu after the late arrival of rains. The delayed monsoon resulted in crop failures and food shortages (Photo by Prakash Mathema, AFP).





PAKISTAN

Complex Emergency

Beginning in August 2008, conflict between the Government of Pakistan (GoP) and militant groups in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), as well as Buner, Lower Dir, and Swat districts in North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), resulted in widespread population displacement and insecurity. As of September 2009, the GoP National Database and Registration Authority had verified approximately 2.7 million registered displaced persons in Pakistan.

According to OCHA, more than 80 percent of displaced persons in Pakistan fled to host families in NWFP, with a minority moving to organized camps. In mid-July 2009,

humanitarian agencies began to record large-scale population returns to areas of origin in NWFP, particularly to Swat and Buner districts. As of September 2009, internally displaced persons had also returned to areas of origin in FATA, but on a more limited scale due to insecurity and property damage.

On October 20, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson redeclared a disaster due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from civil conflict and displacement in Pakistan. During FY 2009, U.S. Special Envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard C. Holbrooke traveled frequently to Pakistan to discuss the humanitarian response with GoP, USG, NGO, and U.N. officials, as well as with beneficiaries in camps and host communities.

In response to the complex emergency, OFDA deployed a DART to Pakistan and activated a Washington, D.C.-



A girl displaced to the Yar Hussain Mera IDP camp in Pakistan takes a hygiene kit from IMC to her tent.



based RMT to support the DART from May to July. In the following months, OFDA maintained a field office in Pakistan to continue monitoring the situation and respond to evolving humanitarian needs.

During FY 2009, OFDA provided nearly \$103 million to support health, nutrition, humanitarian coordination and information management, economic recovery and market systems, protection, risk reduction, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities, as well as the provision of relief supplies and logistical support for displaced populations and host families during the acute phase of the emergency. Following the commencement of spontaneous and GoP-assisted returns in July 2009, OFDA provided more than \$25 million in funding for early recovery and livelihoods activities in areas of return, including Buner, Lower Dir, and Swat districts. More than \$11 million of the early recovery funding supported cash-for-work and cash voucher programs, which provided beneficiaries with immediate purchasing power, promoted market access, and created employment opportunities. OFDA-supported early recovery programs also included provision of agricultural inputs and WASH activities.

USAID/Pakistan provided more than \$8.9 million in assistance to conflict-affected populations, including support for the provision of relief commodities, as well as livelihoods, infrastructure rehabilitation, education, health, agriculture, shelter and settlements, economic recovery and market systems, and WASH activities.

In response to emergency food needs of conflict-affected populations, FFP provided 62,730 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance.

USDA assistance included a contribution through the Food for Progress program of 50,000 MT of wheat, 6,800 MT of cooking oil, and funding for associated costs.

State/PRM supported humanitarian needs through the provision of relief commodities, as well as camp coordination and management, health, protection, humanitarian coordination, shelter, and WASH activities.

DoD also provided humanitarian assistance, including water trailers, halal meals, air-conditioned tents, and generators.

Implementing Partners in Pakistan

OCHA, U.N. Human Settlements Program, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and others

OFDA Assistance \$102,552,961



On October 29, 2008, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck 80 miles northeast of Quetta in Balochistan Province of southwestern Pakistan. According to USGS, 47 aftershocks registering magnitude 3.5 or greater followed the initial earthquake. According to the GoP National Disaster Management Agency, the tremors resulted in 166 deaths and 357 injuries, damaged or destroyed nearly 10,000 houses, and affected approximately 68,200 people, primarily in Pishin and Ziarat districts, Balochistan Province.

On October 31, U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, OFDA provided more than \$2.3 million in assistance for earthquake-affected populations. In addition, from November 1 to 10, OFDA deployed a four-person DART to Pakistan to assess humanitarian needs and facilitate USG assistance.

OFDA funding supported shelter and WASH interventions in Balochistan Province, in addition to provision of safe drinking water, relief supplies, and emergency medical services for earthquake-affected populations. OFDA-supported shelter programs contributed to economic recovery by procuring building materials locally when possible, employing skilled workers, and training unskilled workers to construct seismic- and weather-resistant structures. In addition, OFDA shelter assistance provided transitional shelter materials that households could re-use to construct permanent shelters in the spring and summer months. OFDA also airlifted 530 rolls of plastic sheeting from the Dubai commodity stockpile to Quetta to help meet the immediate shelter needs of approximately 2,650 earthquake-affected households. Through a network of local organizations, OFDA implementing partners distributed the plastic sheeting to villages in Pishin and Ziarat districts, benefitting displaced families by wind- and water-proofing non-winterized tents.

OFDA Assistance \$2,333,367





PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Floods

Between December 5 and 8, 2008, large sea swells formed by two tropical depressions caused extensive flooding on the east coast of New Ireland Province and across the outer islands of Bougainville, Manus, Morobe, East Sepik, and West Sepik provinces in Papua New Guinea. According to the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS), floods displaced 75,300 people and damaged or destroyed approximately 2,000 houses. Floods also damaged the sea port in East Sepik Province, hindering relief efforts in the region. On December 11, the Government of Papua New Guinea declared a national disaster and requested assistance from the USG and other international donors.

On December 18, U.S. Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$150,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby for the distribution of emergency relief supplies, including water purification tablets, water containers, and blankets, to affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Papua New Guinea

PNGRCS

OFDA Assistance \$150,000



PHILIPPINES

Complex Emergency

Since the collapse of the peace process between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GoRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2008, periodic outbreaks of violence have caused widespread displacement in the southern province of Mindanao. Continued poverty, natural disasters, and increased aggression from armed factions have exacerbated already difficult conditions stemming from the ongoing conflict.

In August 2008, increased fighting between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and MILF separatists resulted in large-scale displacement. According to the GoRP National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), the conflict affected approximately 511,090 people, including nearly 376,000 individuals who fled areas of origin. As reported by the GoRP, approximately 97,000 IDPs took shelter in 169

evacuation centers, and nearly 279,000 others resided with host families. During a late September 2008 assessment conducted in central Mindanao, an OFDA regional advisor and USAID/Philippines staff identified access to safe drinking and WASH facilities in the evacuation centers as critical needs.

On October 31, U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney reissued a disaster declaration due to the humanitarian effects of the complex emergency in Mindanao. In response, OFDA provided more than \$246,000 through USAID/Philippines for health promotion activities to assist displaced individuals and to increase access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Implementing Partner in the Philippines

SC/US

OFDA Assistance \$246,041



PHILIPPINES

Tropical Storm



Filipino men benefit from a distribution of emergency relief supplies, including water containers delivered by the Philippine National Red Cross (Photo by Lynn Marie Thomas, USAID).

On September 26, 2009, Tropical Storm Ketsana, known locally as Ondoy, made landfall in the northern Philippines with wind speeds of approximately 53 miles per hour. In two days, Luzon Island received the equivalent of a typical monsoon month's rainfall, causing the most extensive flooding the capital had experienced in more than 40





An elderly Muslim woman rests with her grandson at a government evacuation center in Datu Piang town, southern Philippines (Photo by Mark Navales, AFP)

years. According to the GoRP NDCC, resulting floods and landslides killed 464 people and affected 4,929,382 individuals, including 152,411 evacuees who were residing in shelters or with host families by September 28. In addition, the NDCC estimated that floodwaters had destroyed or damaged 158,545 houses, as well as roads, bridges, schools, and agricultural land.

On September 28, U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of Tropical Storm Ketsana. In response, OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Philippines for the local purchase and delivery of emergency relief supplies. Funding also supported cleanup efforts focused in the Manila metropolitan area. To meet the immediate needs of 20,000 flood-affected individuals, an OFDA charter flight delivered relief items including 340 rolls of plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, 3,360 hygiene kits, and 3,334 ten-liter collapsible water

containers. OFDA also deployed a regional advisor and field officer to Manila to assess flood impacts and facilitate USG assistance, in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Manila and USAID/Philippines.

DoD also provided humanitarian assistance to storm-affected individuals, including a helicopter and inflatable boats to aid search-and-rescue efforts.

Implementing Partner in the Philippines

Philippine National Red Cross

OFDA Assistance \$246,222



SOLOMON ISLANDS
Floods

SRI LANKA
Complex Emergency

Starting January 29, 2009, a week of heavy rains caused severe flooding and mudslides, affecting at least 20,000 people, primarily in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Central, and Makira provinces of the Solomon Islands. According to the Government of Solomon Islands (GoSI) National Disaster Council, floods killed 10 people and damaged or destroyed homes, gardens, and other property. The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) reported that floods destroyed food supplies in 50 percent of surveyed communities and damaged subsistence gardens in 75 percent of communities. According to a joint UNICEF, SC/Australia, and GoSI assessment, the floods and resulting landslides limited access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. On February 5, the GoSI declared a national disaster and formally requested USG assistance.

More than two decades of conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist movement caused the ongoing complex emergency in Sri Lanka. Since 2006, renewed violence between the GoSL and the LTTE has displaced approximately 300,000 people within Sri Lanka, though returns to areas of origin have begun. Fighting prior to the 2002 ceasefire and the 2004 tsunami had displaced others, putting the total number of IDPs in Sri Lanka at more than 253,000 at the close of FY 2009, according to OCHA.

In late 2008, the GoSL military response to the LTTE movement intensified, leading to increased displacement in northern Sri Lanka. Following the GoSL incursion into the last LTTE stronghold and the death of the LTTE leader, the President of Sri Lanka officially announced the end of the 25-year civil conflict on May 19, 2009.

From October 2008 to May 2009, nearly 280,000 IDPs fled the former conflict zone and sought shelter in temporary camps in northern Sri Lanka, according to OCHA. Overcrowded conditions, lack of IDP freedom of movement, limited humanitarian and other resources, and GoSL restrictions on humanitarian access were among the challenges to the humanitarian response.

On October 21, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake redeclared a disaster in Sri Lanka due to conflict-related displacement and resulting humanitarian needs. During FY 2009, OFDA staff members made numerous visits to assess humanitarian conditions in IDP camps, coordinate with U.N. agencies and NGOs, and determine programming priorities for IDP assistance.

In FY 2009, OFDA provided nearly \$8 million to support activities targeting conflict-affected populations in Sri Lanka. Program priorities included logistics, the provision of emergency relief supplies, and initiatives in agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, protection, risk reduction, and WASH. OFDA assistance supported the dissemination of a temporary camp newspaper containing essential information for IDPs and helped establish health centers in Manik Farms, Sri Lanka's most populous IDP camp.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Sri Lanka through FFP, which contributed 38,550 MT of P.L. 480 Title



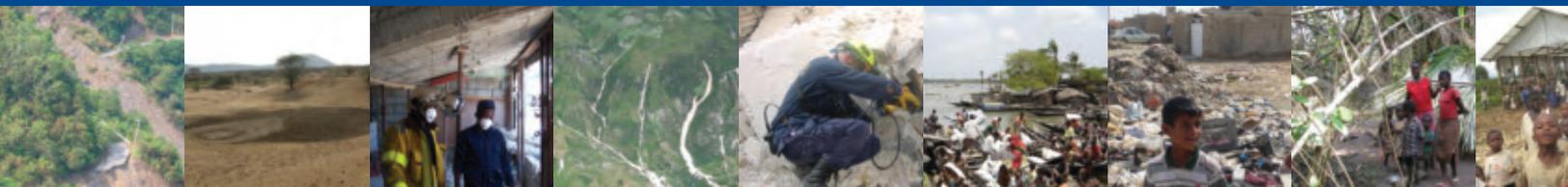
Floodwaters inundate a house in the Solomon Islands following heavy rainfall in late January 2009 (Courtesy of TAF).

On February 13, U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu Leslie V. Rowe issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, for the distribution of emergency relief commodities, including clothing, bedding, plastic sheeting, and hygiene kits, to affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Solomon Islands

SIRCS

OFDA Assistance\$50,000





IDPs in the Manik Farms camp in Sri Lanka enjoy an IOM health presentation (Photo by Liza Mantilla, USAID).

II emergency food assistance, including wheat, vegetable oil, and lentils, for IDPs and other vulnerable populations throughout the country.

In FY 2009, State/PRM supported activities to assist conflict-affected Sri Lankans. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement also supported humanitarian demining to clear high priority land for access, resettlement, and agriculture.

DoD sent a Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team to conduct assessments in Sri Lanka and contributed medical

supplies and equipment to primary health care centers and hospitals serving IDPs.

Implementing Partners in Sri Lanka

Internews, IOM, UMCOR, and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance\$7,935,926



SRI LANKA
Floods

Between November 22 and 30, 2008, heavy rains associated with Cyclone Nisha led to severe flooding in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, particularly impacting conflict-affected populations and IDPs in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Vavuniya, and Trincomalee districts. According to the GoSL Disaster Management Center (DMC), flooding affected an estimated 360,000 people, displaced more than 100,000 others, and resulted in 15 deaths. In Jaffna District alone, flooding damaged or destroyed more than 40,000 houses and affected approximately 330,000 people, including an estimated 62,000 individuals displaced to camps and temporary shelters. Flooding also interrupted the electrical

supply and caused extensive damage to shelters, schools, roads, and other infrastructure, further complicating efforts to deliver emergency relief supplies, according to the DMC.

On December 1, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA contributed \$100,000 through USAID/Sri Lanka for the provision of emergency WASH supplies to affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Sri Lanka

UNICEF

OFDA Assistance \$100,000



OFDA-supported emergency activities benefit cyclone-affected populations in Taiwan (Photo by Ron Libby, USAID).





From August 8 to 9, 2009, Typhoon Morakot passed over Taiwan with heavy rains and wind speeds of more than 100 mph, resulting in extensive flooding and mudslides. The storm caused widespread damage throughout central and southern Taiwan, particularly in Kaohsiung, Pingtung, Taitung, Nantou, Chiayi, and Tainan provinces. Typhoon Morakot displaced approximately 6,000 people and resulted in the deaths of at least 376 people, with 46 others injured and 254 people reported missing, according to the Taiwan authorities. Taiwan authorities reported that the storm damaged more than 358 roads and 57 bridges and dikes, cut off safe drinking water to an estimated 850,000 households, and temporarily left 130,000 households without power.

On August 11, American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Acting Director Robert S. Wang issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the typhoon. In response, OFDA provided \$250,000 through the AIT to support relief efforts, including the purchase and distribution of emergency relief commodities for affected populations.

Between August 14 and 24, OFDA deployed two regional advisors to Taiwan to conduct assessments and coordinate USG emergency relief efforts, in close coordination with the AIT, the Taiwan Red Cross Organization (TRCO), local government officials, the Taiwan military, and DoD personnel.

In August 2009, DoD supported relief efforts in Taiwan in response to the devastation caused by Typhoon Marokot, including support for logistics, transportation, and relief supplies. DoD provided airlift support to deliver relief supplies, such as water purification tablets and plastic sheeting, to typhoon-affected populations. DoD provided additional air assets, including two heavy-lift helicopters and two medium-lift helicopters from the U.S. Denver to transport excavation equipment. In total, DoD air assets conducted 55 missions, delivering 20 pieces of excavation equipment and supplies, to affected areas and donated emergency relief supplies, including blankets and plastic sheeting.

Implementing Partner in Taiwan

TRCO

OFDA Assistance \$250,000

Floods caused by heavy rainfall in late October and early November 2008 affected 600,000 people and resulted in 89 deaths in 20 central and northern provinces and the capital city of Hanoi. The floods damaged 180,000 houses and nearly 300,000 hectares of agricultural land, according to the Government of Vietnam (GoV). Submerged streets in Hanoi led to market and school closures and prompted the GoV to issue disease outbreak alerts. The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi reported total economic losses of more than \$440 million.



A woman walks behind an improvised raft made of a bathtub carrying her goods on a flooded street in Hanoi (Photo by Hoang Dinh Nam, AFP).

On November 13, U.S. Ambassador Michael W. Michalak declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Vietnam for the distribution of emergency relief commodities to affected households in Hanoi, Vinh Phuc, Ninh Binh, and Ha Nam provinces.

Implementing Partner in Vietnam

IFRC

OFDA Assistance \$50,000





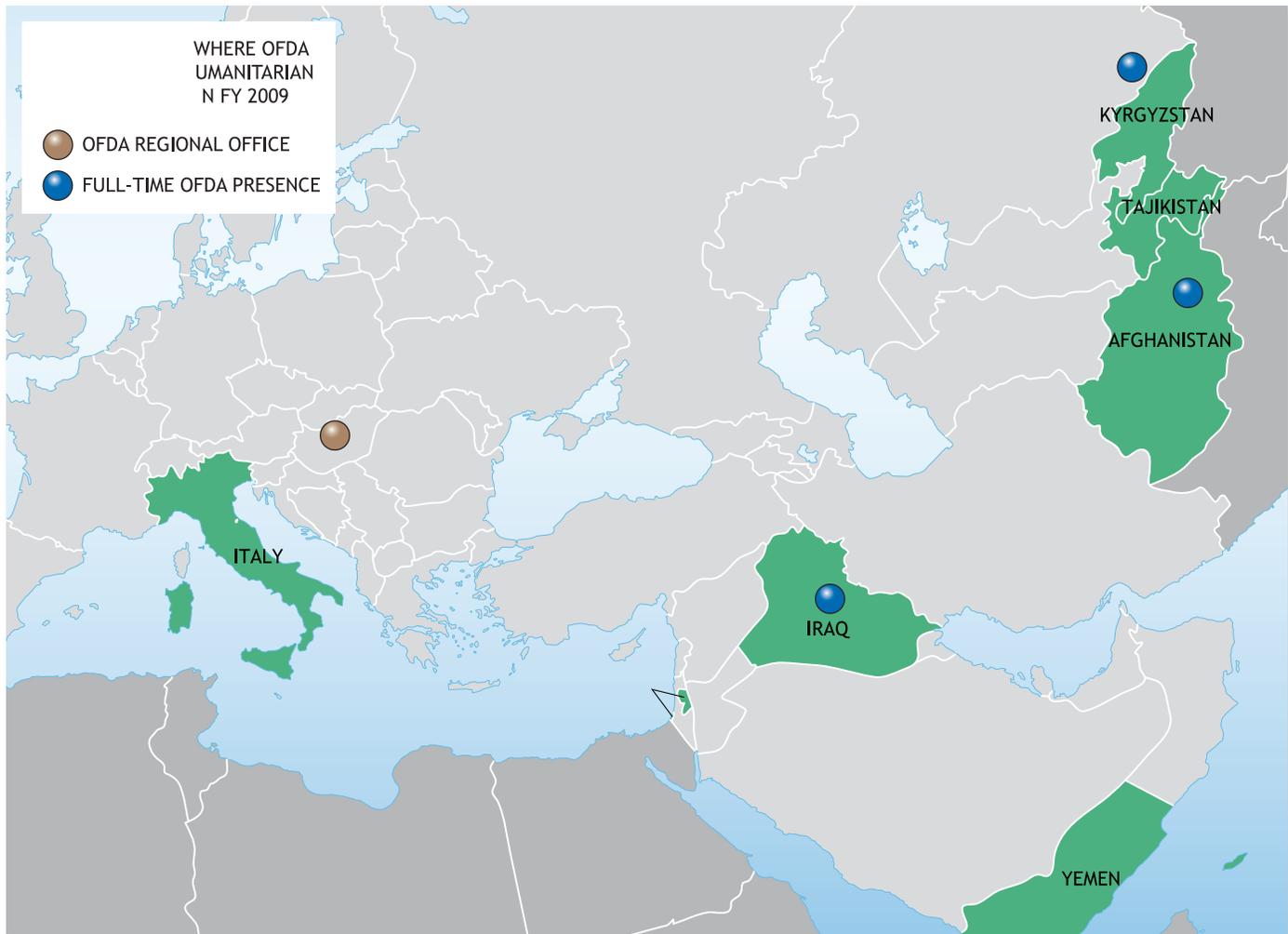
Photo by Daniel Wilkinson, U.S. Embassy in Kabul



EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CENTRAL ASIA

AFGHANISTAN	
Complex Emergency	80
GAZA	
Complex Emergency	81
IRAQ	
Complex Emergency	82
ITALY	
Earthquake	83
KYRGYZSTAN	
Earthquake	84
Food Price Crisis	84
TAJIKISTAN	
Mudslides and Floods	85
YEMEN	
Floods	85
Complex Emergency	86

EMCA REGIONAL SUMMARY



OFDA responded to nine disasters in seven countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia in FY 2009. Complex emergencies affected Afghanistan, Gaza, Iraq, and Yemen. OFDA also responded to mudslides and floods in Tajikistan and Yemen and earthquakes in Italy and Kyrgyzstan.

In total, OFDA provided more than \$127 million in funding for disaster response programs, as well as more than \$321,000 for disaster risk reduction activities, in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. OFDA maintained full-time humanitarian advisors in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, OFDA maintained a regional office in Budapest, Hungary, and established a sub-office in Almaty, Kazakhstan, to monitor ongoing humanitarian programs.





Adverse weather conditions and seismic activity contribute to frequent natural disasters in Afghanistan, which affect an estimated 400,000 Afghans each year, according to OCHA. The limited capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) to manage disaster risks and displacement has contributed to the country's dependency on the international community for emergency assistance. Moreover, since 2007, security has deteriorated significantly throughout Afghanistan, particularly in the southern and eastern regions, leading UNDSS to consider 23 percent of Afghanistan's districts extreme or very high risk for humanitarian actors in FY 2009. The gradual withdrawal of humanitarian organizations from Afghanistan due to heightened insecurity has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of IDPs and strained host community resources.

In FY 2009, ongoing conflict resulted in new population displacement and humanitarian needs. Significant flooding in April and May 2009 compounded the effects of insecurity

and depleted food stocks in the northern, northeastern, and western regions of Afghanistan. While noting the inability to accurately determine the total number of IDPs due to limited access and sudden and repeated displacements, UNHCR estimated that approximately 260,000 IDPs resided in Afghanistan as of mid-2009.

On October 20, 2008, U.S. Ambassador William B. Wood re-declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict and natural disasters in Afghanistan. In FY 2009, OFDA provided nearly \$27.3 million in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Ongoing OFDA-funded programs provided emergency relief commodities, livelihoods support, natural hazard risk reduction training, humanitarian coordination, and improvements in shelter and WASH infrastructure for conflict- or disaster-affected individuals in 10 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

In addition, OFDA-funded programs included provisions to allow partners to respond rapidly and adapt to emerging needs. In response to floods in early 2009, OFDA implementing partners distributed 3,900 flood kits containing essential emergency relief commodities



Afghanis build a road in a remote area of Ghor Province through an OFDA-supported cash-for-work program (Courtesy of CRS).





for affected households, as well as 3,200 plastic sheets to help meet the emergency shelter needs of approximately 5,600 people. OFDA programs also responded to a winter emergency through the provision of warm blankets to 23,400 individuals and winter kits to 4,000 households to help prevent displacement.

OFDA provided support to NGO partners to pre-position emergency relief supplies in remote areas in preparation for the 2009–2010 winter and potential avalanches, complementing existing community-based disaster risk reduction activities in Badakhshan and Baghlan provinces.

OFDA staff based in Kabul liaised with implementing partners, facilitated coordination and information sharing among humanitarian agencies, and worked with USG staff and the Kabul municipality to monitor implementing partner programs and identify evolving humanitarian needs.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Afghanistan through FFP and OTI. FFP provided 62,190 MT of PL 480 Title II emergency food assistance, including 1,500 MT of emergency food assistance to approximately 74,000 people in nine flood-affected provinces. OTI supported programming to improve the economic and social environment in Afghanistan through small community-enhancement projects and efforts to support GIRoA social, economic, and political activities and policies.

Through implementing partners, State/PRM provided repatriation and basic services to Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan and Iran, as well as reintegration services and livelihoods support to Afghan returnees in Afghanistan. In addition, State/PRM funded NGO projects focused on shelter, WASH, protection, health, education, income generation, and prevention of gender-based violence for Afghan refugees and returnees. State/PRM also supported humanitarian needs for victims of conflict through distribution of emergency supplies and provision of family reunification, WASH, protection, and medical services in Afghanistan.

Implementing Partners in Afghanistan

ACTED, CHF International, CRS, FOCUS, IOM, NRC, OCHA, Shelter for Life, UMCOR, and other NGOs

OFDA Assistance\$27,298,157

Between December 27, 2008, and January 17, 2009, conflict between the Israel Defense Forces and Hamas contributed to deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip. At the height of the conflict, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) operated 50 emergency shelters, serving approximately 50,800 displaced persons and providing food distributions for approximately 900,000 people.

In response to the complex emergency in Gaza, OFDA provided more than \$334,000 for the procurement and transportation of blankets. OFDA’s implementing partner distributed 15,000 blankets to conflict-affected persons, as well as to hospitals with limited supplies.

In FY 2009, USAID also responded to humanitarian needs in Gaza through USAID/West Bank and Gaza (WBG). During the crisis, USAID/WBG maintained a Gaza response center to gather and disseminate humanitarian information, coordinate logistics, and monitor assistance. Implementing partners distributed critical food assistance, including four-month food rations to 150,000 vulnerable Palestinians. Rations comprised wheat flour, vegetable oil, chickpeas, sugar, and salt. USAID/WBG also provided medical equipment to health facilities, school supplies and infrastructure to educational institutions, and relief commodities to vulnerable families. Commodities included blankets, hygiene supplies, and approximately 265,000 lbs of plastic sheeting to reinforce and protect beneficiary houses during the winter months. USAID/WBG-funded programs also included sewage system rehabilitation, youth activities, and a rubble removal effort aimed at providing temporary employment to Gazans.¹

State/PRM, relying on a longstanding partnership with UNRWA, supported the provision of food assistance, temporary shelter, shelter repair materials, and non-food items, as well as improved medical assistance to hospitals and improved water and sanitation conditions for refugees and conflict-affected Gazans.

Implementing Partner in Gaza

CARE

OFDA Assistance\$334,442

¹ For funding and additional programmatic information on USAID/WBG support to Gaza during the conflict and in the course of FY 2009, please see the USAID/WBG country page at http://www.usaid.gov/locations/middle_east/countries/wbgaza/.





A Palestinian woman leaves her hometown of Rafah near the Gaza Strip–Egypt border after the Israeli army warned residents to leave the area (Photo by Said Khatib, AFP).



The February 2006 bombing of the Al-Askari mosque in Samarra and ensuing sectarian violence led to the most significant wave of displacement in Iraq's recent history, bringing the total internally displaced population in Iraq to nearly 2.8 million people. By mid-2009, the IDP population remained at approximately 2.5 million people, while host governments estimated the Iraqi refugee population, a majority of which resides in Syria and Jordan, at a relatively static 1.7 million individuals—a number unverified by the humanitarian community.

Although the displacement rate slowed considerably from early 2008 to mid-2009 due to improved security, displacement continued to occur; and NGO partners reported a deterioration of the humanitarian situation of IDPs and refugees in some areas. In FY 2008 and FY 2009, improved security conditions led approximately 325,000

IDPs and refugees to return to areas of origin, although many returnees' property had been severely damaged or destroyed.

Improved security in FY 2009 contributed to increased humanitarian access to remaining IDPs and other vulnerable populations in many areas. U.N. agencies and OFDA implementing partners reported expanded programs, more precise beneficiary targeting, and improved understanding of the conditions required to accelerate and sustain IDP and refugee returns to home communities.

In FY 2009, OFDA provided more than \$83.4 million in humanitarian assistance to vulnerable and displaced populations throughout the country. In response to the 2009 U.N. Consolidated Appeal for Iraq, OFDA provided more than \$17.3 million for emergency relief commodities and humanitarian coordination and information management, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities.

Working through 10 implementing partners, OFDA programs prioritized assistance to vulnerable IDPs, host



communities, and returnees. OFDA implementing partners provided primary health care, emergency relief commodities, temporary shelter, and livelihoods support. Partners also responded to protection concerns, particularly for crisis-affected women and children, through programs designed to increase community awareness of protection issues and through the provision of safe spaces. Many OFDA-funded projects were designed not only to address broad humanitarian needs but also to increase the assets of vulnerable households through livelihood activities, such as vocational training to improve the employment prospects of IDPs.

In addition, OFDA partners in Iraq responded rapidly to emerging needs. Following significant security incidents in areas of Iraq, including Mosul, Kirkuk, and Sadr City, OFDA's implementing partners quickly shifted resources to distribute emergency relief supplies to populations affected by violence.

In FY 2009, State/PRM supported protection, education, health, shelter, and psychosocial activities, as well as the distribution of emergency relief supplies and food assistance, for Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries, IDPs, returnees, and other populations affected by conflict.

Implementing Partners in Iraq

ACTED, CHF International, IMC, IOM, IRC, IRD, Mercy Corps, SC/US, UNICEF, and WFP

OFDA Assistance\$83,420,750



On April 6, 2009, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck near the city of L'Aquila in the Abruzzo region of central Italy, approximately 60 miles northeast of Rome. According to Government of Italy (GoI) estimates, the earthquake killed more than 290 people, injured approximately 1,000 others, displaced nearly 48,000 individuals, and damaged an estimated 15,000 buildings across 26 cities and towns. In response to the earthquake, the GoI declared an emergency and mobilized to lead the substantial national response, deploying more than 100 search and rescue teams and overseeing relief efforts by the Italian Red Cross to meet the humanitarian needs of affected populations.

On April 6, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Elizabeth L. Dibble declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake on surrounding populations. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Rome for the procurement and provision of emergency relief supplies, including generators and food preparation equipment.

Implementing Partner in Italy

Italian Red Cross

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



Italian Red Cross volunteers prepare one of the hundreds of thousands of meals provided to people displaced into nine camps by the Abruzzo earthquake (Courtesy of Italian Red Cross).





On October 5, 2008, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake struck southeastern Kyrgyzstan near the borders with Tajikistan and China, killing 75 people, injuring 142 others, and displacing 860 individuals, according to the Government of Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Emergencies. According to the U.N. Population Fund, the earthquake destroyed approximately 70 percent of infrastructure and half of the houses in Nura, the most affected village. The earthquake severely damaged the main access road to the districts of Chon-Alai and Alai from the city of Osh, located approximately 140 miles northeast of the affected areas.

In 2009, populations in Kyrgyzstan experienced increased poverty stemming from 2008 crop failures due to drought, food price inflation of 32 percent, an energy shortage, and one of the coldest winters on record. A combination of those factors reduced the ability of 40 percent of the population—the proportion of the country's population living below the poverty line—to purchase food or inputs for the 2009 growing season, according to Mercy Corps. Additionally, decreased trade, donor aid, and remittances resulting from the global recession diminished financial assets among the Kyrgyz population, as reported by the International Monetary Fund. Low food availability and limited food access due to high poverty rates and food prices left approximately 2 million people severely or moderately food-insecure, according to Mercy Corps.



A resident of Nura village in southeast Kyrgyzstan uses one of the two 40-foot shipping containers converted into mobile bath houses (Courtesy of Mercy Corps).

On October 8, U.S. Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Kyrgyzstan to install a coal-based heating system for the Nura village school and to construct sanitation facilities for affected populations. Village residents and local and regional authorities contributed to the design and implementation of the project, which benefited approximately 860 individuals in Nura village.

In addition, USAID/Kyrgyzstan shifted funds from existing programs to support winter preparedness for affected individuals.

Implementing Partner in Kyrgyzstan

Mercy Corps

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



A mounted Kyrgyz man carries hay in preparation for the winter period in the mountains near Tash-Bashat village (Photo by Vyacheslav Oseledko, AFP).



In response, OFDA provided more than \$7 million in assistance for the local and regional procurement of food aid for distribution to approximately 220,000 vulnerable beneficiaries. Using a community-based approach, partners established village-level selection committees to identify vulnerable households and targeted families with small children or with a per capita income of less than \$5 per month for receipt of food aid.

Implementing Partner in Kyrgyzstan

Mercy Corps

OFDA Assistance\$7,069,847



Beginning on April 21, 2009, heavy rains led to floods and mudslides in 40 of Tajikistan's 58 districts. The largest mudslide affected approximately 6,000 people in Khuroson District, Khatlon Province. According to OCHA, floods and mudslides killed more than 28 people and affected approximately 15,000 individuals, including 3,600 people displaced due to damaged housing. In addition, floods severely damaged more than 40,000 hectares of farmland, according to the Government of Tajikistan (GoT). The GoT reported that emergency response efforts depleted relief commodity stocks, particularly tents, food, water and sanitation supplies, and other early recovery materials.

On May 22, U.S. Ambassador Tracey A. Jacobson declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA



Women at a hygiene kit distribution site in Tajikistan review the beneficiary list. (Photo by Marcella Michaud, USAID)

provided \$50,000 through USAID/Tajikistan for construction of sanitation facilities and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including hygiene kits and kitchen sets.

Implementing Partner in Tajikistan

SC/US

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



From October 23 to 25, 2008, heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Three resulted in severe flooding in the Hadhramout and al-Mahra governorates in eastern Yemen. According to OCHA, the floods killed 98 people, displaced an estimated 25,000 others, and destroyed nearly 3,300 houses. Traditional mud construction methods in affected areas rendered most buildings particularly vulnerable to flood damage. UNICEF reported that the flooding directly or indirectly affected between 200,000 and 300,000 individuals by damaging or destroying roads, communication facilities, crops, and power and water distribution networks.

On October 27, U.S. Ambassador Stephen A. Seche declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Yemen for the transport and distribution of WFP-provided emergency relief supplies and food commodities, including high-calorie biscuits and dates. OFDA provided additional funding



A WFP truck transports emergency relief supplies to isolated flood-affected populations in Yemen. (Courtesy of WFP)



for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief commodities, including tents, mattresses, blankets, soap, and kitchen sets, to more than 1,200 families in the affected area.

The USG also responded by deploying a team from the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a to the affected city of Seyyoun to assess damage and monitor assistance.

Implementing Partners in Yemen

UNHCR and WFP

OFDA Assistance \$349,000



Since 2004, conflict between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) forces and the Shia al-Houthi opposition group has killed hundreds of Yemenis and displaced thousands of individuals. In August and September 2009, renewed fighting displaced approximately 55,000 people in northwestern Yemen, bringing the total IDP population in the country to approximately 150,000 individuals, according to U.N. agencies. Prior to August 2009, humanitarian organizations and the RoYG were assisting 95,000 individuals displaced during previous stages of the five-year conflict. However, humanitarian access diminished during the August escalation in hostilities, resulting in new and unmet humanitarian needs among the displaced population, particularly in Sa'ada and Amran governorates. An early September U.N. flash appeal prioritized food, health, nutrition, and WASH interventions, as well as shelter assistance and emergency relief supplies for IDPs and other conflict-affected persons.



A displaced Yemeni boy from the northern Sa'ada region carries belongings in a metal trunk at a camp set up by UNHCR in Mazraq, Yemen. (Photo by Khaled Fazaa, AFP)



A displaced Yemeni woman from the northern Sa'ada region carries food for her family on September 15, 2009 at an IDP camp in Mazraq, Yemen. (Photo by Khaled Fazaa, AFP)

On September 8, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Stephen A. Seche declared a disaster due to the conflict-related displacement and resulting humanitarian needs. In response, OFDA provided \$250,000 to support health, nutrition, and WASH activities.

USAID also responded to emergency needs in Yemen through FFP, which provided 3,900 MT of PL 480 Title II emergency food assistance, primarily wheat and pulses, to affected populations.

In addition, State/PRM supported conflict-affected populations through implementing partners that provided blankets, tents, and other emergency relief commodities, as well as health programs and protection assistance.

Implementing Partner in Yemen

UNICEF

OFDA Assistance \$250,000





Colombian Red Cross staff prepare to distribute OFDA-funded relief commodities in flood-affected areas (Photo by Jorge Enrique Quintero Bautista, USAID).



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

BELIZE	
Floods.....	90
BRAZIL	
Floods.....	90
Floods.....	91
COLOMBIA	
Floods.....	92
Floods.....	93
COSTA RICA	
Floods.....	93
Earthquake	94
GUATEMALA	
Floods.....	95
HAITI	
Accident.....	96
HONDURAS	
Floods.....	97
MEXICO	
Hurricane	97
PANAMA	
Floods.....	98

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SUMMARY



OFDA responded to 12 disasters in 9 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in FY 2009. Flooding caused extensive damage in Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. OFDA responded to an earthquake in Costa Rica, an accident in Haiti, and a hurricane in Mexico. In addition, OFDA continued to build local capacity for disaster management through a regional program that has trained tens of thousands of individuals in emergency response.

In total, OFDA provided more than \$7 million for disaster response programs, as well as nearly \$18 million for disaster risk reduction activities, in Latin America and the Caribbean. OFDA deployed emergency teams to Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama, and augmented a DART deployed to Haiti in FY 2008. At the end of FY 2009, 5 regional advisors, 21 disaster risk management specialists, and 211 on-call surge capacity response consultants were working in the San Jose, Costa Rica, regional office and other locations throughout the region.





Beginning October 14, 2008, Tropical Depression Sixteen passed over Central America, resulting in heavy rainfall and life-threatening floods in at least 24 communities along the Mopán, Macal, and Belize rivers in central and western Belize. According to the Government of Belize National Emergency Management Organization, the floods affected approximately 38,000 people, damaged more than 800 houses, disrupted agricultural activities, and caused extensive damage to bridges and roads.



Floodwaters inundate houses and isolate communities in Belize (Photo by Beryl Armbrister; USAID).

On October 27, U.S. Ambassador Robert J. Dieter issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies. OFDA also deployed a disaster risk management specialist and a surge capacity response consultant to assess the situation and coordinate with other emergency response organizations.

Implementing Partner in Belize

Belize Red Cross

OFDA Assistance\$50,000



Floodwaters inundate streets in Brazil following weeks of heavy rainfall in April and May 2009 (Photo by Aderbal Vicente Lapolli, USAID).

Floods and mudslides caused by heavy rainfall in late November and early December 2008 destroyed infrastructure throughout the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil, isolating at least eight cities and particularly affecting Ilhota town and Blumenau city. According to an OFDA assessment team, floods displaced more than 69,000 people, resulted in the deaths of nearly 120 individuals, and left 31 others missing. The Government of Brazil (GoB) reported that floods also temporarily left residents of eight cities without access to safe drinking water or electricity.

On November 25, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Lisa J. Kubiske declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Brazil for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief commodities, including tents, blankets, hygiene kits, and water purification supplies. OFDA also deployed a three-person assessment team, including two disaster risk management specialists and one surge capacity response consultant, to Santa Catarina State in late November to conduct assessments of affected areas and accompany GoB officials on relief operations.

Implementing Partner in Brazil

CRS

OFDA Assistance \$100,000



BRAZIL
Floods

Weeks of heavy rain beginning in early April 2009 led to flooding and mudslides in 485 municipalities in northeastern Brazil, primarily affecting Bahia and Maranhão states. According to PAHO, floods affected approximately 1.2 million Brazilians in 12 states. The floods also resulted in 56 deaths and displaced at least 426,000 people.

On May 1, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Clifford M. Sobel issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Brazil for the purchase of emergency relief commodities, including

water purification supplies, tents, blankets, and hygiene kits. OFDA provided an additional \$100,000 for emergency relief commodities when flooding spread to Piauí State. In addition, an OFDA regional advisor, disaster risk management specialist, and surge capacity response consultant deployed to affected areas to monitor conditions and coordinate humanitarian assistance with the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia and USAID/Brazil.

Implementing Partner in Brazil

CRS

OFDA Assistance \$200,000



A girl sits outside a school used as a temporary shelter for families displaced by floods in Anamá, Amazonas State (Photo by Phil Gelman, USAID).





COLOMBIA

Floods

Heavy seasonal rains beginning in mid-September 2008 caused extensive flooding across northern and western Colombia, particularly affecting Bolívar, Chocó, Magdalena, Sucre, and Córdoba departments. According to OCHA, flooding killed 76 people and affected more than 1.2 million others in 390 municipalities. In addition, flooding damaged or destroyed approximately 97,000 houses.

On December 22, 2008, U.S. Ambassador William R. Brownfield declared a disaster due to the effects of the

flooding. In response, OFDA provided \$150,000 through USAID/Colombia for the purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies to support shelter and WASH needs, including hygiene kits, blankets, mosquito nets, and plastic sheeting.

Implementing Partner in Colombia

Colombian Red Cross

OFDA Assistance \$150,000



Colombian Red Cross workers provide safe drinking water in Tumaco Municipality in Colombia (Courtesy of Colombian Red Cross).





COLOMBIA

Floods

Following heavy rainfall on February 15 and 16, 2009, the Mira River in southwestern Colombia overflowed and caused extensive flooding in Tumaco municipality, Nariño Department. According to the Government of Colombia's disaster response agency, Dirección para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres (DPAD), flooding caused at least 1 death and affected an estimated 31,320 people, including approximately 14,000 individuals displaced to shelters established by DPAD and the Colombian Red Cross. Floodwaters also damaged or destroyed more than 2,500 houses and approximately 20,000 hectares of agricultural land.

On February 24, U.S. Ambassador William R. Brownfield declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Colombia for the purchase and transport of emergency relief commodities and the provision of safe drinking water. OFDA also provided funds to purchase vehicle fuel for disaster response teams.

In addition, the U.S. Embassy in Bogota provided support for the purchase and transportation of relief supplies, as well as evacuation assistance for affected populations in Nariño Department.

DoD also provided emergency relief commodities, medicines, and medical supplies.

Implementing Partner in Colombia

Colombian Red Cross

OFDA Assistance \$125,000



COSTA RICA

Floods

In late November 2008, continued heavy rains on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica resulted in floods in Limón, Heredia, and San José provinces. According to the Government of Costa Rica (GoCR), floods affected approximately 46,000 people, including more than 5,400 individuals relocated to 67 shelters. The GoCR National Emergency Commission (CNE) reported that floods

particularly impacted communities in Talamanca, Matina, Siquirres, and Pococí districts in Limón Province and Sarapiquí District in Heredia Province. The CNE also reported that the floods damaged or destroyed approximately 4,600 houses, as well as bridges, dikes, wells, and multiple sections of highway.



Members of the Costa Rican Red Cross and National Emergency Commission distribute OFDA relief supplies to flood-affected residents in a shelter in southern Limón. (Photo by Luisa Alfaro, USAID).

On November 26, U.S. Ambassador Peter E. Cianchette declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided an initial \$85,000 through the U.S. Embassy in San José for the local procurement and transport of emergency relief supplies to affected populations. OFDA also deployed a five-member team to coordinate relief efforts with CNE.

In addition, OFDA chartered a flight to deliver emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, water containers, hygiene kits, blankets, and chainsaws, which the CNE distributed to affected populations in collaboration with the Costa Rican Red Cross.

The USG also responded to the flooding in Panama through DoD. Disaster relief teams from the DoD Joint Task Force-Bravo conducted 49 missions and delivered over 90,000 pounds of relief supplies to affected areas.

Implementing Partners in Costa Rica

CNE and Costa Rican Red Cross

OFDA Assistance \$143,448¹

¹This does not include \$129,036 in stockpiled commodities that remain to be replenished.





Rescue workers wait to board a U.S. Military helicopter assisting with the response to the earthquake in Costa Rica (Courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in San José).



COSTA RICA
Earthquake

On January 8, 2009, a magnitude 6.1 earthquake occurred approximately 20 miles northwest of San José, Costa Rica. The GoCR reported that the earthquake led to the deaths of 23 people, displaced 2,442 others, and affected a total of 2,943 people. According to the GoCR CNE, the earthquake caused significant infrastructure damage surrounding the cities of Heredia and Alajuela. Aftershocks and subsequent landslides occurred in Vara Blanca and along the Sarapiquí River, impeding humanitarian access to affected areas. Following the earthquake, CNE established an air bridge

to evacuate populations in the Vara Blanca–Sarapiquí River corridor:

On January 9, U.S. Ambassador Peter E. Cianchette declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in San José for local air support to evacuate affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Costa Rica

International Resources Group

OFDA Assistance\$50,000





GUATEMALA

Floods

Between October 13 and 29, 2008, heavy rainfall and subsequent floods resulting from Tropical Depression Sixteen caused extensive damage in northern Guatemala, particularly affecting Izabal, Petén, Quiché, and Alta Verapaz departments. The Government of Guatemala National Emergency Response Committee (CONRED) reported that heavy rainfall and associated floods caused three deaths and displaced more than 48,000 individuals, including nearly 11,000 people relocated to temporary shelters. The tropical depression also damaged approximately 8,600 homes, more than 70 bridges, and nearly 1,480 miles of road.

On November 6, U.S. Ambassador Stephen G. McFarland declared a disaster due to Tropical Depression Sixteen and resulting floods in Guatemala. In response, OFDA provided nearly \$75,000 through USAID/Guatemala for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including hygiene kits, to affected areas. OFDA also deployed a disaster risk management specialist to Guatemala to assess the flood damage and work with partners during the emergency response.

Implementing Partner in Guatemala

CONRED

OFDA Assistance\$74,997



Floodwaters inundate Sayaxche, Guatemala (Photo by Luis Echeverria, AFP).





On November 7, 2008, the College la Promesse school building in Petionville, Haiti, collapsed, killing up to 100 individuals and injuring 147 others, according to local media sources. The majority of the deceased were children. On November 12, a second school in the Canapé Vert neighborhood of Port-au-Prince also collapsed.

In response to the initial school collapse, OFDA activated the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team and deployed four support staff to Haiti, joining a DART already in-country for hurricane response.² With OFDA funding, the resulting 46-person DART conducted search and rescue efforts and coordinated with local officials, the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, and other search and rescue teams. The search for survivors in College la Promesse officially ended following more than three days of visual, auditory, and canine searches of the collapsed building.

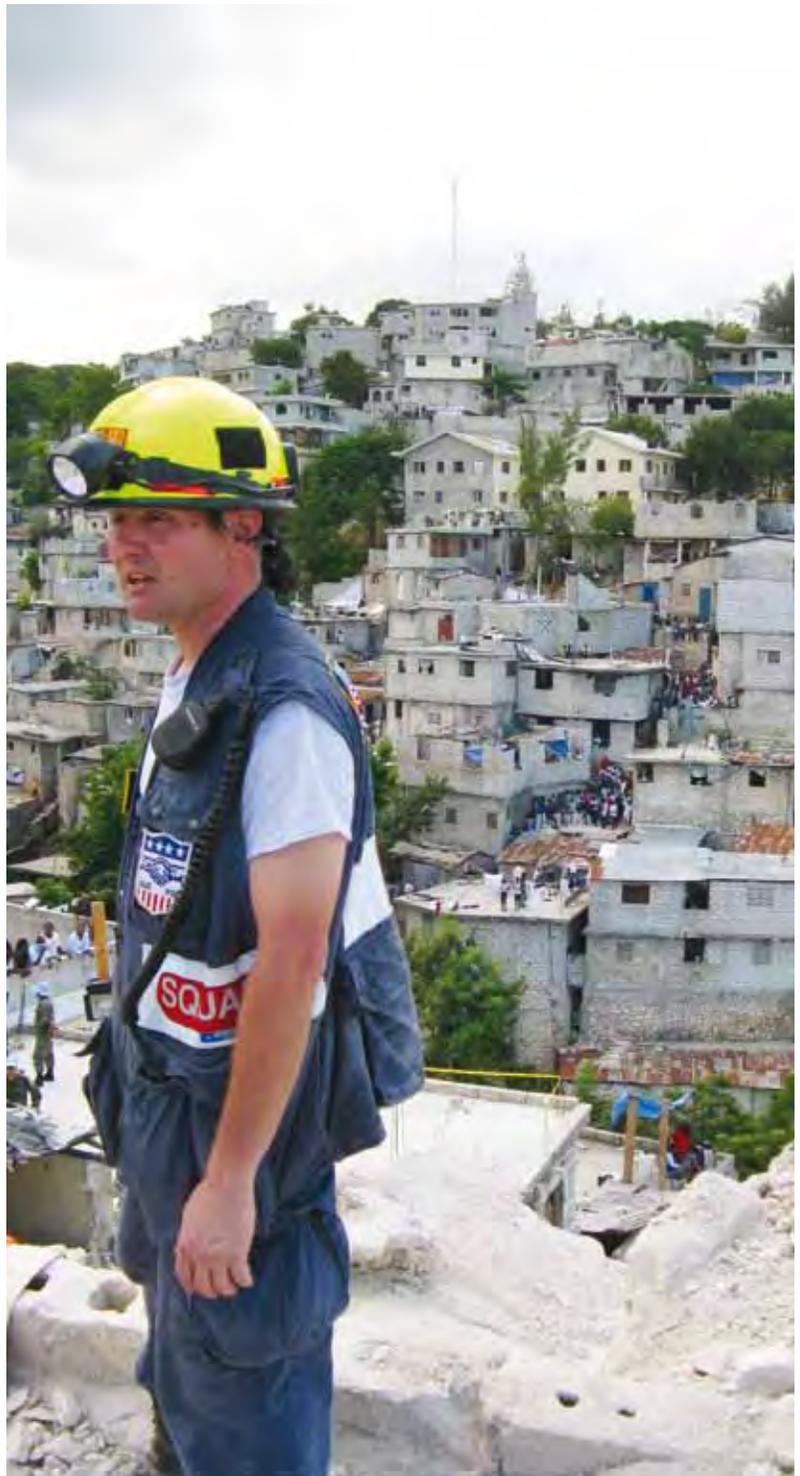
At the request of the Government of Haiti (GoH), three technical specialists from the Fairfax County USAR team remained in Haiti to advise recovery and demolition crews and to continue coordination with the GoH. The technical specialists conducted ongoing assessments of the collapsed building during demolition, identified equipment needs, recommended recovery and demolition strategies, and proposed perimeters of safety for the evacuation of the civilian population and for the staging of demolition equipment and workers. Following the second school collapse, the technical specialists also traveled to the new emergency site to conduct damage assessments and provide guidance to local demolition crews.

Implementing Partner in Haiti

Fairfax County USAR

OFDA Assistance.....\$1,111,954

² On August 28, 2008, members of a DART began to arrive in Haiti to conduct assessments of humanitarian conditions in affected areas in response to severe flooding caused by Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricane Gustav. For additional information, please see the OFDA Annual Report for FY 2008.



The OFDA-deployed USAR team from Fairfax County, Virginia, searches through the rubble after a school collapse in Haiti. (Photo by Darlene Hilburn, USAID)





HONDURAS

Floods

Between October 14 and 18, 2008, Tropical Depression Sixteen slowly crossed over northwestern Honduras, causing heavy rains and serious flooding. According to OCHA, the flooding killed approximately 70 people, displaced over 50,000 residents, and affected a total of 320,000 people. The tropical depression also damaged infrastructure and damaged or destroyed thousands of homes, particularly in Cortés, Atlántida, and Yoro departments.



USAID/Honduras Director William Brands (right) helps distribute OFDA-funded emergency supplies to families affected by floods caused by Tropical Depression Number Sixteen (Courtesy of USAID).

On October 21, U.S. Ambassador Hugo Llorens issued a disaster declaration due to Tropical Depression Sixteen and resulting flooding in Honduras. In response, OFDA provided an initial \$250,000 through USAID/Honduras

for the purchase and delivery of emergency relief supplies to affected families. In addition, OFDA deployed a five-member disaster assessment team to further assess the effects of floods and organize air transport of relief supplies to affected areas, in collaboration with DoD.

OFDA airlifted emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, water containers, blankets, and hygiene kits, from the OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida, to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. OFDA also provided resources to the Government of Honduras (GoH) for the local transportation of relief supplies to displaced populations. The GoH Commission for Emergencies (COPECO) distributed previously stockpiled relief supplies provided by OFDA and USAID/Honduras to affected communities.

Implementing Partners in Honduras

Aldea Global, CARE, CRS, GoH, and SC/US

OFDA Assistance \$436,072



MEXICO

Hurricane

On September 2, 2009, Hurricane Jimena made landfall on the south-central coast of the Baja California Peninsula as a Category Two hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale and remained in the area for more than 80 hours, causing up to 20 inches of rainfall in affected areas. Hurricane Jimena weakened to a Category One hurricane as the storm moved inland, affecting areas in the southern and central Baja California Peninsula, as well as the northwestern coast of mainland Mexico, primarily Sonora State. IFRC reported that Hurricane Jimena and associated flooding killed 4 individuals and affected approximately 72,000 people, including more than 3,000 individuals who were evacuated to temporary shelters. Hurricane-force winds also blocked roadways and disrupted electricity, communication, and water services in Baja California and northwestern Mexico.

On September 14, U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the hurricane and associated flooding. In response, OFDA provided support through the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City for the purchase and distribution of rehabilitation supplies to affected populations, including kitchen sets and shelter construction and repair kits. In addition, an OFDA disaster risk management specialist and two OFDA surge capacity response consultants deployed to



Mexico to conduct assessments and monitor humanitarian conditions in affected areas.

Implementing Partner in Mexico

AmRC

OFDA Assistance \$299,135



Heavy rains beginning in mid-November 2008 resulted in floods and landslides in northwestern Panama, particularly affecting Boca del Toro, Colón, and Chiriquí departments. The Government of Panama National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC) reported that the flooding resulted in 5 deaths, left at least 2 people missing, and caused more than 7,400 people to relocate to emergency shelters. SINAPROC also reported significant damage to at least four bridges and several major roads.

On November 24, U.S. Ambassador Barbara J. Stephenson declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided \$125,000 through USAID/Panama for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including blankets, hygiene kits, and water containers. In addition, OFDA airlifted emergency relief supplies from the OFDA Miami emergency commodities warehouse. At the height of the emergency, OFDA also deployed a regional advisor, a disaster risk management specialist, and two surge capacity response consultants to Panama to assess flood damage and to determine the need for additional assistance.

The USG also responded to the flooding in Panama through DoD. Disaster relief teams from the DoD Joint Task Force—Bravo conducted 43 missions and delivered approximately 200,000 lbs of emergency relief supplies to affected areas.

Implementing Partner in Panama

SINAPROC

OFDA Assistance \$164,798³

³This does not include \$85,536 of stockpiled commodities that remain to be replenished.



OFDA/LAC School Safety Initiative

By Auriana Koutnik

Since the early 1990s, OFDA has helped students and staff at schools throughout Latin America become better prepared to respond to disaster impacts through the School Safety Course—an OFDA-developed curriculum that provides educators and administrators with the concepts and tools necessary to reduce disaster risks and produce emergency preparedness and response plans for their schools.

The course has attained wide reach, as thousands of elementary schools in 15 Latin American countries have received emergency preparedness training through the School Safety Course. Last year, OFDA adapted the curriculum for use in the English-speaking nations of the Caribbean.

Additionally, a number of first response institutions in the region, including the Colombian National Firefighters Corps and the Colombian Civil Defense, have officially integrated the course into training programs to ensure efficient responses to emergencies in schools.

The success and popularity of the OFDA School Safety Course led to its becoming the foundation of the OFDA Regional Disaster Assistance Program's (RDAP) education component. Through the RDAP, OFDA works with schools and universities in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to promote disaster preparedness and risk reduction concepts.

"The School Safety Course has served as an entry point for OFDA to work with public education ministries and universities throughout the region to promote not only emergency preparedness but also disaster risk reduction (DRR) in general. As a result of the course, governments and university leaders have seen the need to incorporate DRR into planning processes and policies and university thinking and curricula," explained disaster risk management specialist Manuel Ramírez, who coordinates the RDAP education component.

Efforts to promote the school safety initiative at the national level have resulted in the signing of several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between OFDA and national government education officials and universities, calling for mutual assistance in the development of programs and activities related to DRR education and technical assistance for the community. OFDA signed MOUs with the Universidad Especializada de las Américas (UDELAS) in Panama on May 29, 2009, and with Paraguay's Ministry of Education and Culture and National Emergency Secretariat on September 2, 2009. OFDA has signed at least nine other MOUs with universities in the region in recent years.

In other countries, the School Safety Course has sparked significant, lasting change at the community level. In the impoverished, high-risk Comuna Uno in Santiago de Cali, Colombia, for example, a teacher who completed the School Safety Course became so inspired by its message that she rallied the entire community to action to address vulnerabilities and transform the neighborhood into a safer and healthier place to live.

"OFDA is contributing to the creation of a culture of disaster risk awareness in schools and universities," said LAC regional advisor Sidney Velado, "not only by incorporating risk reduction measures, but also by facilitating simulation exercises so that students, teachers, and school administrators know what to do when disaster strikes."



Student safety brigades in Colombia participate in training activities (Photo by Manuel Ramirez, USAID).



AVDAP seismologist consults with the Director of Earthquakes and Volcanoes Center, Saudi Geological Survey, at the site of ground fissuring following geological activity (Courtesy of USGS).



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

OFDA's Approach to DRR.....	103
PROMISE Helps Urban Asian Communities Manage Disasters.....	105
The Asia Foundation Mitigates Disasters in the Pacific.....	107
Supporting Earthquake Risk Reduction Capacity in Nepal.....	109
Lending Hope to Afghanistan's Crisis-Affected Ghor Province.....	112
Mitigating Cholera in Zimbabwe.....	114
Defending Against Drought in Kenya.....	116
Zambezi River Basin DRR Programs.....	118
OFDA Urban Search and Rescue Capacity Building.....	121
Volcano Crisis Response Team Improves Eruption Preparedness.....	123
Asia Preparedness.....	125
Caribbean Preparedness.....	125
Central America Preparedness.....	127
China Preparedness.....	127
Global Agriculture and Food Security.....	127
Global Avian Influenza Stockpile.....	128
Global Disaster Risk Reduction.....	128
Global Geohazards.....	129
Global Hydrometeorological Hazards.....	129
Global Information Management and Coordination.....	130
Global Protection of IDPs and Other Vulnerable Persons.....	131
Global Public Health and Nutrition.....	131
Global Shelter and Settlements.....	132
Indonesia Preparedness.....	133
Latin America and the Caribbean Preparedness.....	133
Nepal Preparedness.....	134
Pacific Islands Preparedness.....	134
South America Preparedness.....	135
Southern Africa Preparedness.....	135
West Africa Preparedness.....	137

OFDA's Approach to DRR:

Multiply the Benefits of Assistance by Seizing Opportunities Before and After Disasters

Natural, technological, and human-induced disasters adversely affect millions of people each year. In an effort to minimize the impacts of disasters on vulnerable populations, OFDA supports a variety of disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs, including global and regional initiatives to strengthen disaster preparedness and response entities, as well as country- and community-level programs to reduce vulnerability to disasters and enhance resiliency in the wake of unexpected shocks. In FY 2009, OFDA devoted \$86.1 million to programs initiated in anticipation of disasters and incorporated into emergency programs in the aftermath of events. Either way, DRR activities achieve OFDA's mandate to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce the economic and social impacts of disasters.

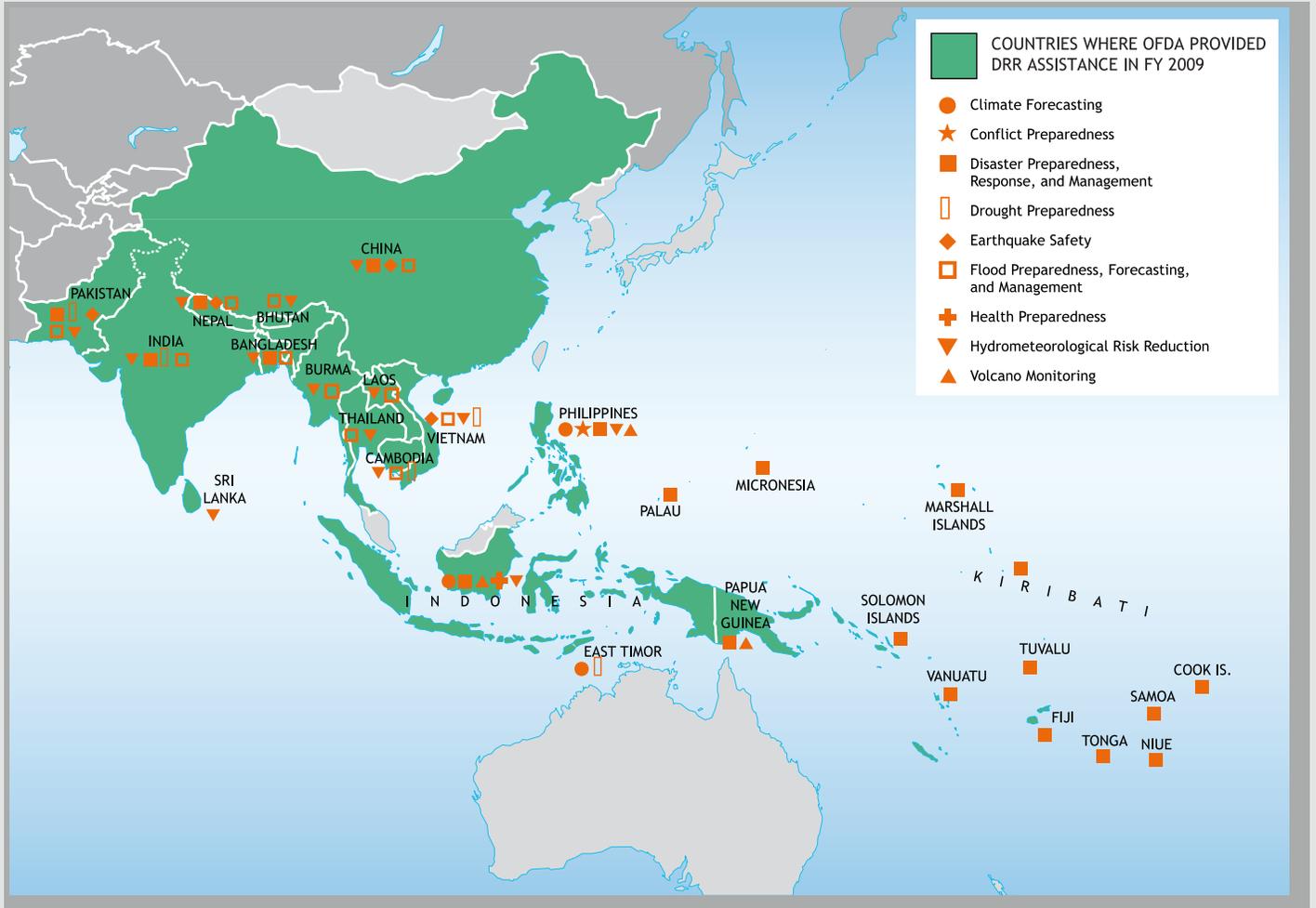
To further institutionalize and promote DRR in OFDA's work and within the larger humanitarian community, OFDA recently developed DRR strategies for each region of the world. The strategies reflect the principle that effective DRR programs must account for the causes, nature, and frequency of disasters and must consider the unique economic and social systems of each community. Programs implemented in accordance with regional strategies mainstream or incorporate risk reduction techniques into the broad range of traditional sectoral interventions in order to protect

more people during subsequent disasters. In addition, where possible, OFDA programs address the underlying causes of some recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, displacement, rapid urban growth, and climate variability. In this manner, DRR programs reduce vulnerability to disasters and, in some cases, prevent disasters by accounting for physical location and targeting assistance to people living in harm's way. Mainstreamed and community-based DRR efforts also build resilience to inevitable natural disasters by increasing household productivity and assets before a crisis strikes and protecting assets during crises.

By enhancing the resiliency of vulnerable groups, reducing community vulnerability to disasters, and strengthening disaster preparedness and response mechanisms, DRR investments ultimately help people build and sustain better lives, thereby serving to bridge the oft-lamented gap between relief and development programming. OFDA remains committed to providing life-saving humanitarian assistance in emergencies in ways that mitigate hazards, reduce losses, and protect and save more people during the next disaster. OFDA also plans to continue supporting stand-alone programs implemented in disaster-prone areas in order to halt and reverse the cycle of devastation.

The following stories demonstrate the successes of both stand-alone, anticipatory programs in disaster-prone regions, and mainstreamed programs in vulnerable countries where humanitarian needs frequently arise.

ONGOING OFDA DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



ASIA and the PACIFIC

Multiplying Resiliency: PROMISE Program Helps Urban Asian Communities Manage Disasters

By Darlene Hilburn

In South and Southeast Asia, hydro-meteorological events such as flooding, cyclones, and drought cause economic and social losses each year. Due to poor infrastructure and inadequate early warning systems, populations in rapidly growing urban areas are particularly vulnerable to these disasters. Given the recurrence of extreme hydro-meteorological events in these areas, in 2005, OFDA initiated funding for the Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE), implemented by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and local partner organizations in six urban communities in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Since 2005, OFDA has provided more than \$2.2 million for the PROMISE program, including \$367,000 in FY 2009. By building these communities' capacity to mitigate and prepare for the hazards they face, OFDA has made a strategic investment in a safer, more disaster-resilient future for these and other urban areas in the region.

Cities in Asia: Growing Opportunities, Increasing Risks

The PROMISE city demonstration projects are the centerpiece of the PROMISE program. Through local partners, ADPC initiated projects in Chittagong, Bangladesh; Jakarta, Indonesia; Hyderabad, Pakistan; Dagupan City, Philippines; Kalutara, Sri Lanka; and Da Nang, Vietnam—six urban centers identified as highly vulnerable to hydro-meteorological disasters and receptive to improvements in disaster management at the community and city level. Each of these cities has experienced significant population growth in recent years and serves as a hub of livelihoods opportunities, attracting migration into ad-hoc settlements, typically in hazard-prone areas. The hazards that each community faces, whether the effects of flooding, cyclones, landslides, or drought, have only grown with the rapidly expanding population, placing an increasing strain on existing infrastructure and disaster response resources. In some cases, ad-hoc urban settlements have created the conditions for hydro-meteorological events to become disasters—for example, when normal seasonal flooding becomes hazardous due to over-full septic systems, increased siltation of rivers, or habitation of unfit land.

Identifying and Tackling Hydro-Meteorological Hazards

In order to address these underlying vulnerabilities, PROMISE partners have engaged stakeholders at a variety of levels, from the household member to the city official, in each of the six demonstration cities to build capacity in

disaster management and preparedness. PROMISE began with participatory risk assessments in selected communities, moving from household to household to identify the locations and character of the hazards they face. Building upon these risk assessments, PROMISE partners have assisted communities and corresponding city officials to develop specific action plans to prepare for or mitigate the identified hazards. PROMISE has emphasized cost-effective, simple, and locally adaptable mechanisms rather than high-tech approaches in order to ensure sustainability of interventions. While each project had different specific aims and outcomes, each community received training in community-based search-and-rescue, medical first response, and community-based disaster risk management. In addition, each PROMISE demonstration city developed a locally appropriate and community-based early warning system. At the city level, PROMISE conducted workshops to integrate the participatory risk assessments developed by communities into city disaster mitigation plans and emergency response systems. In order to address identified needs and promote sustainability of DRR interventions, each city received seed money for small-scale disaster mitigation projects implemented at the community level.

Dagupan City: A Model City For Disaster Management

Dagupan City is a bustling urban center in Ilocos Region on the Luzon island of the Philippines, located along a sea coast and a river delta. Recurrent floods in the city's low-lying coastal delta areas cause regular damage to public infrastructure, private property, agricultural crops, fishponds, and other urban economic activities. Increased siltation of the delta area due to upstream erosion and a growing population along riverbanks has increased Dagupan City's vulnerability to these risks. Prior to the introduction of PROMISE, Dagupan City had already begun taking steps to organize disaster response systems through a City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC); however, this body was primarily reactive in nature and did not have a comprehensive risk reduction plan in place. In addition, the corresponding disaster management organizations at the barangay, or district, level had become largely inactive, and communities continued to be dependent upon city and national authorities to provide assistance during flooding and other disaster events. As one resident of Barangay Mangin stated, "People would only take action when the flooding was already here—there was no real system in place."

PROMISE assisted the CDCC, as well as the Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils (BDCCs) in eight highly vulnerable barangays, to develop detailed risk assessments and action plans for disaster response, while also facilitating the communities' development of end-to-end early warning systems. Each community's early warning system incorporated the results of the participatory risk assessments, complete with different alert levels and corresponding warning signals and actions to be taken by residents and BDCC members. Based on needs identified during the risk assessments, BDCC



Families in Chittagong, Bangladesh, develop a participatory risk assessment of the hazards in their community (Courtesy of ADPC).

members and other residents participated in medical first responder and community-based disaster risk management trainings, ensuring that local communities are prepared to provide immediate, life-saving assistance well before the CDCC can gain access to disaster-affected areas. In addition, PROMISE facilitated the city's development of a dedicated DRR working group, a disaster management information center, and an emergency operations center (EOC). The EOC was established by local ordinance and funded through the annual budget, ensuring the long-term sustainability of disaster preparedness in Dagupan.

The active engagement of city- and barangay-level officials in developing and coordinating early warning systems and risk management procedures through PROMISE has resulted in numerous awards for Dagupan City and one of its coastal barangays, as well as for APDC's local implementing partner, the Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP). Since 2007, Barangay Mangin has received two regional awards for excellence in disaster risk management, CDP has received a regional award for its superior performance, and Dagupan City has received regional and national commendation for its disaster management systems. Most recently, in August 2009, the Republic of the Philippines National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) awarded the Dagupan CDCC a National Gawad Kalasag Award for the best component CDCC in the Philippines for disaster preparedness. Dagupan has become a model city for disaster management in the country and the region, with the Philippine government facilitating replication courses and regular exchanges of city officials to determine how to apply the successes of the Dagupan City model to other locations.

The recent flooding events in the Philippines in fall 2009 underscored the importance of the PROMISE initiatives. On October 3, Typhoon Parma, known locally as Pepeng, made landfall in the Cagayan Province of Luzon island in the northern Philippines, with maximum sustained winds of

approximately 92 miles per hour. Tropical Storm Parma's second landfall on Luzon island on October 6 caused additional heavy rainfall, resulting in widespread flooding in northern provinces and inundating 100 percent of the Dagupan City jurisdiction, the worst flooding on the island on record, according to ADPC. Utilizing the early warning systems and disaster management systems developed by PROMISE, the city implemented a pre-emptive evacuation of residents, with the EOC managing 18 evacuation centers for 155,000 displaced individuals, as well as several high-rise buildings where 30,000 individuals took shelter. The CDCC and BDCCs had prepared the evacuation centers with supplies, and the EOC utilized standard operating procedures developed during disaster management planning to monitor needs at the facilities and distribute additional relief items accordingly. As a result, while the storm and subsequent flooding resulted in more than 500 deaths and extensive damage in surrounding localities, Dagupan City experienced no casualties. The mayor of Dagupan City expressed gratitude for the PROMISE program, as the high-risk barangays involved in PROMISE were the first to participate in the evacuation. The disaster preparedness system developed and institutionalized during PROMISE passed the test of record rainfall and flooding with flying colors, saving lives and reducing suffering among Dagupan City residents.

Looking Ahead

Through the OFDA-funded projects, ADPC demonstrated that integrating DRR into plans and practices at the community, city, and regional levels can serve not only to enhance communities' capacity to respond to disasters but also to lessen the effects of disasters when they occur, resulting in a long-term, sustainable benefit for these locations. In addition, OFDA's investment in DRR through the ADPC-implemented PROMISE program provided a key tool for replicating appropriate disaster management techniques throughout the region, providing a model for other communities in the region to follow.

ASIA and the PACIFIC

The Asia Foundation Mitigates Disasters in the Pacific

By Amy Shatsoff

The clear blue waters, lush greenery, and sunny skies provide a tranquil setting for daily life on the Pacific Islands. However, the calm can also prove deceiving—the Pacific Islands are prone to numerous natural disasters, including cyclones, tsunamis, droughts, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Exacerbating the effects of natural disasters in the region, local communities have gradually abandoned traditional coping mechanisms, which has taxed government, community, and environmental resources.

To improve government capacity for disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response, OFDA has supported The Asia Foundation disaster management trainings in the Pacific since 1995. By incorporating the knowledge and skills acquired during the Foundation's trainings into national disaster response planning, island nations have significantly improved disaster management throughout the region.

The Asia Foundation: Training New Leaders in the Pacific

The Asia Foundation operates the longest-running disaster management trainings in the Pacific. The trainings have continued to expand—from 60 persons trained in 1995



The director of the Vanuatu NDMO advises a participant during an EOC training exercise in September 2009 (Photo by Amy Shatsoff, USAID).

to 273 individuals trained in 2009. Through the trainings, The Asia Foundation has strengthened national response capacity, facilitated the creation of a regional network among responders, and improved coordination among local, national, and regional stakeholders. In the process, the Foundation has identified skilled participants to become trainers, developing a base of trainers who are also stakeholders in disaster response. Trainers include directors of national disaster management offices (NDMOs)—the lead government agencies in disaster preparedness and response—who also act as valuable resources by incorporating local practices and knowledge into the trainings.

The Asia Foundation trainings, supported by OFDA, include Introduction to Disaster Management (IDM), Initial Damage Assessment (IDA), Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), Exercise Management (ExMan), and Training for Instructors (TFI).

Cook Islands: Emergency Operations Centers Training in Action

In 2005, a total of five cyclones battered the Cook Islands. According to Cook Islands Emergency Management (EMCI), the NDMO in the Cook Islands, poor communication and lack of coordination by local agencies significantly hampered response efforts. To improve local capacity to respond to future disasters, The Asia Foundation conducted several trainings, including EOC and ExMan, with more than 170 Government of Cook Islands authorities and disaster management stakeholders in the years following the intense cyclone season. In 2007, The Asia Foundation also conducted a national exercise, which involved national stakeholders and more than 250 people in response and support agencies.

In January 2008, strong wind gusts and sea surges caused by a tropical depression in the vicinity of the Cook Islands forced government authorities to close roads and government buildings. Although the tropical depression caused minor damage in comparison to the events of 2005, the EMCI reported that government agencies mobilized immediately and prepared to implement newly developed standard operating procedures based on the EOC management training, while the EMCI simultaneously prepared to activate the national EOC. The mobilization of response efforts and newly developed procedures demonstrated a transformation from a less-efficient model to a systemized response effort.

The Fiji Red Cross Society: Transforming Standard Practice in the Pacific

The 1998 Fiji National Disaster Management Act mandates that the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) provide non-food items during a disaster to complement Government of Fiji distribution of food commodities, placing FRCS at the forefront during a national response. FRCS relies on a large volunteer base dispersed throughout the country to act as the first responders and distribute life-saving relief supplies. Poor response capacity during the 2003 cyclone season



Improved assessments by FRCS help flood-affected children of Ba District, Fiji (Courtesy of The Asia Foundation).

highlighted the need for improved training of volunteer staff by FRCS personnel. Based on The Asia Foundation's trainings, FRCS developed Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) forms and disaster response trainings, which approximately 350 volunteers have completed to date. Red Cross societies throughout the region have since adopted the FRCS IDA format for use; in addition to Fiji, FRCS is utilizing the form in Samoa, the Cook Islands, and the Solomon Islands.

In January 2009, flooding in Fiji claimed 11 lives, damaged homes, and destroyed agricultural land. With OFDA and additional donor support, FRCS acted as the first responder to the disaster, assisting more than 41,000 individuals in more than 400 flood-affected villages. FRCS volunteers utilized the IDA forms during damage assessments, improving the response capacity of field staff throughout affected areas. OFDA provided support to FRCS for response activities and benefitted from the results of improved capacity of an implementing partner.

Disaster Management: Changing Operations in the Pacific

The Asia Foundation continues to train additional individuals, particularly targeting the younger generations, or future responders. The Foundation receives ongoing requests from countries throughout the Pacific for additional trainings, indicating the ongoing need for capacity building as well as the acknowledged quality of the trainings. The trainings change the way participants conduct daily operations by introducing new ways of approaching routine situations. The Asia Foundation trainings have provided participants with a new and broader set of tools with which to respond, a more systemized way of conducting operations, and the ability to evaluate and respond rapidly and effectively to save lives.

ASIA and the PACIFIC

Supporting Earthquake Risk Reduction Capacity in Nepal

By Michael Keegan

Working to increase DRR capacity on the local, national, and regional levels, OFDA has supported organizations that grew from local initiatives to become regional leaders in DRR. One example is OFDA's support for the National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET), an organization that has helped to raise awareness of earthquake risk and has mitigated vulnerabilities in communities throughout Nepal and the region.

Earthquakes are one of the principal hazards in the mountainous nation of Nepal, which straddles the Himalayan mountain range between India and China. Within Nepal, the capital city of Kathmandu and the surrounding valley are particularly vulnerable to earthquakes. The Kathmandu valley is sited on the bed of a prehistoric lake, and the soft sediments that compose the valley's soil amplify seismic waves. Strong earthquakes can cause the water-saturated soil to liquefy, leading structures to settle unevenly and toppling retaining walls.

The historical record suggests that since the mid-13th century, Nepal has experienced an earthquake with a magnitude of greater than 8.0 roughly every 80 years, according to NSET. According to the Government of Nepal's Earthquake Division at the Department of Mines and Geology, the last major earthquake in the country was magnitude 8.3 and occurred in 1934, causing thousands of deaths in Kathmandu—then much less densely populated—and leveling a quarter of the city's houses. Recognizing the risks associated with frequent and strong earthquakes, particularly in increasingly urbanized areas, a group of six Nepali professionals founded NSET in the summer of 1993.

Partnering in Mitigation: OFDA's Involvement

OFDA's working relationship with NSET began in 1997, when the office selected NSET as a partner through OFDA's Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (AUDMP). The Bangkok-based Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), another organization that has expanded and grown with OFDA support and now implements regional DRR programming and training for disaster professionals, managed AUDMP. Along with GeoHazards International, a non-profit organization that addresses earthquake risk, AUDMP helped NSET to expand its Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project, which is still active today. Through the Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project, NSET has educated public officials, staff members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community group members, and



A student from Shree Janaudaya Lower Secondary School demonstrates the appropriate reaction in the event of an earthquake. The school was part of an NSET program to provide structural reinforcement and earthquake preparedness education (Photo by Gari Mayberry, USAID).

citizens on what to do in the event of an earthquake and on the value of earthquake resistant construction techniques. NSET has helped organizations and individuals to plan for the expected outcomes of earthquakes of varying magnitudes. In addition, NSET has promoted earthquake safety in schools throughout Kathmandu valley, developing an earthquake preparedness curriculum, assessing school buildings to determine structural vulnerabilities, and working with local construction companies and communities to make necessary renovations.

Program Growth: Expansion to New Partnerships

NSET also participated in the initial phase of the Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), an OFDA-funded initiative that began in 1998 in four Asian countries, including Nepal. The first phase of the program, implemented by ADPC, supported the development of national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors and was particularly geared towards earthquake response. By 2003, NSET's capacity had grown, and the organization was able to assume management of the second phase of PEER, coordinating the program's expansion to Pakistan and Bangladesh, establishing an increased corps

of trainers, and creating a network of disaster responders in each country. In 2009, ADPC and NSET began the joint implementation of Phase III of the PEER Program, with activities focusing on enhancing first responder capacity and improving capacity of hospitals and medical facilities.

In June 2009, OFDA's geoscience advisor visited the new NSET office in the organization's newly constructed Community Earthquake Learning Center (CELC). Built with private donations rather than donor funding, the CELC serves as a model for earthquake-resistant and environmentally-friendly construction. The CELC houses

offices and a children's learning center; and plans are in place to open a library and media center; an emergency information and coordination center; an earthquake museum, and a workshop for masons. By the time of the visit, the organization had grown from an initial staff of six individuals to a force of nearly 60 professionals managing multiple DRR programs and providing technical assistance and training. While continuing to pursue its founders' initial vision of mitigating the risk of earthquakes in communities throughout Nepal by 2020, NSET has become a leader in seismic risk management in Nepal and throughout the region.

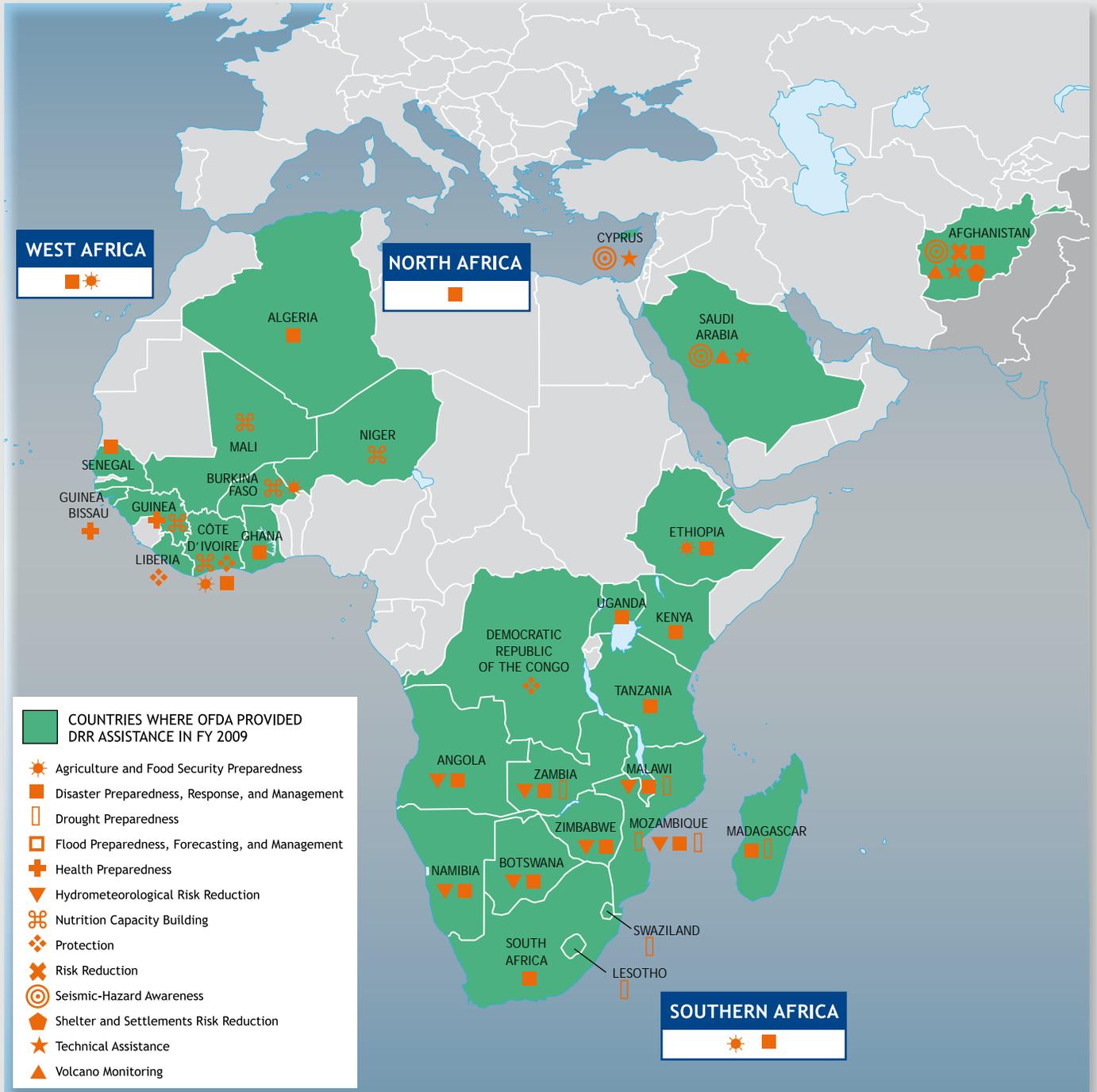


NSET's Community Earthquake Learning Center facilitates practical disaster research and provides a facility for earthquake disaster awareness and education (Courtesy of NSET).



According to NSET, the organization's logo references Nepali mythology, in which the earth is balanced on the snouts of four elephants which are riding on the back of a turtle. When the balance is temporarily disturbed, the earth trembles. The logo represents the Nepalese identity of the organization as well as NSET's focus on local solutions to earthquake risk reduction, in the broader context of global cooperation.

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



EUROPE, the MIDDLE EAST, and CENTRAL ASIA

Lending Hope to Afghanistan's Crisis-Affected Ghor Province

By Caroline Luther

Ravaged by recurring natural disasters and years of conflict, Ghor Province in western Afghanistan faces an uncertain future and its people the daunting task of picking up enough pieces to stem the tide of perpetual hardship and repeated reversions into crisis. Providing one needed catalyst to the process, OFDA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) initiated cash-for-work (CFW) programs in the rural, mountainous, and impoverished province in early 2009. During the first year, the project in Ghor increased the purchasing power and food security of more than 6,700 families across 88 villages in 3 districts, who collectively earned approximately \$1 million. Sustained access to cash and livelihood inputs, combined with the infrastructure outputs produced under the CFW program, helps entire villages build resilience to disasters and achieve a semblance of stability. CFW beneficiaries now also include female-headed households, marking a significant step forward in mitigating disaster risks and preventing repeated humanitarian crises, as households headed by women constitute a growing and highly vulnerable segment of rural Afghan communities.

Origins of a Crisis

The lingering effects of five droughts, record cold and snowfall during the 2007/2008 winter, and sudden global food price increases precipitated a humanitarian crisis in western Afghanistan in early 2008. The sixth consecutive drought—the worst in 10 years—soon followed, deepening the food insecurity crisis and resulting in significant livestock, seed stock, and household asset losses for many Ghor families. Furthermore, lack of employment prompted many male family members to find sustenance by migrating to urban centers, participating in illicit activities, or joining the insurgency. The proliferation of widow- and female-headed households with limited livelihood opportunities exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the province as a whole.

In 2009, forecasts finally called for above-average rainfall, providing farming families with a ray of hope for a reversal of fortunes. In the spring, however, exceptional rain and snowmelt resulted in flash floods in 13 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. In Ghor, localized flooding damaged houses, agricultural lands, irrigation canals, and roads.

OFDA Partner Helps Turn Floods into Boon

In the short term, all 56 approved CFW projects in Ghor Province aim to meet the immediate food needs of more

than 6,700 families by providing households with income and by protecting market access through road repairs and snow removal to keep approximately 16 miles of road through the Bamiyan Pass, one of the main transport routes, open during the winter. In the medium term, projects provide participants with an impetus to restore livelihoods and grow assets, as income bases increase and households cease selling off inputs to meet emergency food needs. In the longer term, projects support community agriculture recovery by fortifying or constructing irrigation canals and flood protection walls. In the aftermath of the spring floods, CRS engaged communities in activities to construct or repair nearly 80 miles of irrigation canals and more than 100 miles of roads in Ghor—all in a rapid manner to protect and sustain the progress made to date under the OFDA-supported program. More importantly, projects completed prior to the floods mitigated risks to rain-fed crops and, in fact, yielded substantial dividends for families of Talai village in Chaghcharan District.

Families in Talai prioritized the repair of a 2,000-year-old irrigation canal as a CFW project. Dysfunctional for generations due to conflict and poverty, the canal was a reminder of difficult times, and a revival would represent a hopeful step forward. Utilizing all available CFW resources and equipment, the 117 participating families completed 13 out of 20 total kilometers of the canal prior to the spring rains. Recognizing the shortfall, remaining community members banded together and donated additional labor hours or served as guards during non-working hours to protect the canal. The in-kind contributions and continued commitment of CRS engineers and foremen ensured a completed canal just in time for the spring floods. The canal successfully prevented flood waters from inundating fields, but still facilitated enough water flow to irrigate all cultivated farmland in the area. As a result of the first successful irrigation in living memory, the community looked forward to a bountiful summer harvest in 2009 and, more importantly, has taken a significant step toward enduring food security.

Integration of Women into CFW: Reducing Vulnerability and Promoting Broader Risk Reduction

The benefits of community-driven humanitarian interventions continue to expand in Chaghcharan District. In FY 2009, CRS reported a tremendous step forward in efforts to include women in CFW programs. In Sumak and Dara villages, while conducting surveys to determine household eligibility for OFDA-supported CFW projects, CRS identified numerous young widows eager to work. Typically, female-headed households receive vouchers to purchase emergency food and non-food items, in accordance with local mores that discourage women's work outside the home. CRS approached the shura, or community council, to discuss cultural sensitivities and potential female participation in CFW. The shura agreed to allow the women to assume non-manual labor duties, including serving tea to male laborers. Three Sumak and Dara women began participating in the

program in FY 2009, and many more registered. Additional communities in Chaghcharan have expressed strong interest in participating as well, and efforts to expand the program would significantly reduce extreme vulnerability in targeted villages, while also advancing progress towards meaningful DRR.

Looking Ahead

In FY 2009 alone, OFDA provided more than \$10 million to CRS to implement CFW projects across western Afghanistan. During the first year of the project, OFDA-funded CFW projects supported more than 13,000 households in 146 villages in Ghor and Herat provinces. Combined, individuals participating in OFDA-supported CFW projects completed

nearly 400,000 days of work rehabilitating and graveling roads, constructing reservoirs, and digging wells, among other activities. CFW not only meets immediate humanitarian needs in the short term by increasing household purchasing power and food security, but also promotes DRR and early recovery by supporting agriculture and other livelihood opportunities, including for women. OFDA recognizes that significant challenges and work lie ahead in Ghor Province and, for this reason, plans to maintain consistent support through CFW and other humanitarian interventions that account for unique community needs and characteristics.



Afghanis build a road in a remote and rugged area of Ghor Province through a cash-for-work program (Courtesy of CRS).

AFRICA

Mitigating Cholera in Zimbabwe through Community Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Activities

By Johs Pierce

From August 2008 to July 2009, Africa's largest cholera outbreak in 15 years struck Zimbabwe, resulting in nearly 4,300 deaths and nearly 98,600 cases nationwide. Poorly maintained water and sanitation infrastructure contributed to the scope of the outbreak, and Zimbabwe's fragile health system was unable to treat patients adequately. In response, OFDA committed more than \$7.3 million in emergency assistance to support water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities, the provision of emergency relief supplies, health interventions, hygiene promotion and social mobilization activities, and humanitarian coordination and information management to improve epidemiological reporting and analysis.



Residents of Mzilikazi suburb, Bulawayo city, collect water from an OFDA-funded tank (Photo by Johs Pierce, USAID).

OFDA has supported WASH activities throughout Zimbabwe since FY 2007, as the increasingly irregular provision of water and sanitation services heightened the potential for the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera. The case of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city, demonstrates the merits of community-based WASH interventions. For the past several years, Bulawayo has suffered inconsistent water supply and has a sewage system that functions poorly, like most Zimbabwean cities. In 2007, the city suffered a diarrheal disease outbreak as a result of a severe water shortage that prompted relief agencies, including OFDA, to increase WASH intervention activities. Since 2007, OFDA-supported programs in Bulawayo have included hygiene promotion activities to raise awareness; social mobilization to increase community reporting of cholera cases and sewage system breaks; distribution of soap and other hygiene supplies; provision of water storage tanks and water containers to schools and houses; and provision of water purification materials for community and household use.

During the cholera outbreak, the metropolitan Bulawayo area recorded 445 cases and only 18 deaths, rates significantly lower than other urban centers. By comparison, Harare, the capital, and Harare's high-density suburbs and dormitory towns recorded nearly 19,600 cases and more than 650 deaths. Several factors played a part in keeping Bulawayo's rates comparatively low; among them were OFDA support for WASH activities in Bulawayo in FY 2009 and in previous years.

Working with Local Government

City officials have noted that without the assistance of OFDA and other donors, Bulawayo would likely have suffered much higher cholera rates during the 2008/2009 outbreak. On August 13, 2009, Bulawayo Mayor Thaba Moyo stated that "our partners came to our rescue. We managed to keep the figures down—a big achievement as compared to other regions." According to the city's Director of Health Services, Dr. Zanele Hwalina, "a combined effort" helped protect Bulawayo. City councilor James Sithole, representing Makokoba, a high-density suburb, noted that "government cannot win the war against cholera on its own; the war was won because of relief agency involvement."

Hygiene Promotion and Social Mobilization to Raise Awareness

According to Dr. Hwalina, "the reason we managed to control cholera was the very high level of awareness." Shadreck Khuphe, the UNICEF WASH coordinator in Bulawayo, noted that social mobilization programs and hygiene awareness programs funded by OFDA and other relief agencies in 2007 and 2008 meant that residents' associations "already had the best network for distribution of hygiene promotion materials" once cholera struck. In Mzilikazi, one of the oldest high-density suburbs of Bulawayo, community sanitation committee members organized by OFDA partners discussed

the importance of mobilizing neighborhoods. Committee member Cynthia Shirto noted that “we visit schools, asking about problems of burst pipes, which we report to the local councilor, and we conduct hygiene awareness presentations for students, who in turn teach parents.” Ms. Shirto also noted that once the cholera outbreak began, “we learned that we must not just sit around, but be active for the benefit of the whole community.” In addition, community sanitation committees and residents’ associations help distribute soap and other emergency hygiene supplies supplied by OFDA and implementing partners. According to Ms. Shirto and others, committee members volunteer up to two hours per day in service of the community.

Ongoing Activities to Provide Backup Water Storage

The inconsistent water supply in Bulawayo, due both to general water shortages in the drought-prone region and to leaks and burst pipes, necessitates community water storage. OFDA has provided ongoing funding for provision of large water tanks to schools, community centers, and the homes of particularly vulnerable inhabitants. On days when water flows in the municipal system, schools and households fill the tanks, providing backup water storage for days when the city taps run dry. According to Letty Mpofu, headmistress of Lozikevi Primary School in Bulawayo’s high-density suburb of Nguboyenja, the availability of backup water means that children need not bring water to school. Ms. Mpofu also noted that the school no longer occasionally cancels the school day for lack of water. Equally important, having a

constant supply of clean water for hand-washing and drinking lowers the risk of cholera transmission. OFDA-funded distribution of hygienic household water containers, such as 20-liter jerry cans, facilitates the storage of clean water:

Looking Ahead

In 2009, Bulawayo’s water and sanitation infrastructure remains poorly maintained and in need of large-scale rehabilitation. As the rainy season—a period when waterborne disease incidence tends to increase—approaches, relief agencies and city officials alike note that while the underlying risk factors for a renewed cholera outbreak have not changed, the levels of awareness and preparation amongst city authorities and humanitarian organizations have increased greatly. As Bulawayo Mayor Moyo stated, “prevention is the best cure.” Hygiene promotion and awareness-raising, social mobilization, soap and hygiene supply distribution, water tank provision, and other WASH programs funded by OFDA and other donors helped limit Bulawayo’s rate of cholera in 2008/2009. Continued support for the same activities will likely help reduce the risk of cholera transmission in 2009/2010. In FY 2009, OFDA provided more than \$8.6 million for WASH programming throughout Zimbabwe to improve community resilience to cholera and other waterborne diseases and to help mitigate a potential recurrence of cholera. The experience of the residents of Bulawayo bears out the wisdom of community-focused WASH programming as a means to limit the scope of a potentially devastating disease.



Members of a community sanitation committee in Mzilikazi, a high-density suburb of Bulawayo city, stand by an OFDA-funded water tank (photo by Johns Pierce, USAID).

AFRICA

Defending Against Drought in Kenya

By Meredith Metzler

The climate in Kenya's Eastern Province is marked by extremes, alternating between floods and long periods of drought. When rains are scarce, wells and river beds dry up, forcing inhabitants to walk up to 15 km in search of water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. Consumption of contaminated water and a lack of sufficient water contribute to the spread of diarrhea and other waterborne diseases.

OFDA frequently responds to emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene needs in drought-affected areas of Kenya. In addition, OFDA supports programs aimed at strengthening local populations' ability to cope with and combat the effects of drought, thereby reducing the need for future emergency interventions. Since FY 2007, OFDA has provided nearly \$3.1 million to implementing partner Welthungerhilfe¹

(WHH) in support of an innovative program designed to turn floodwaters into a source of accessible, safe drinking water, available to communities when other water sources run dry.

Harvesting Rain with Rock Catchments

With funding from OFDA, WHH assists Kenyan communities to construct and manage rock catchment water systems designed to collect and store rainwater for future use. A rock catchment uses natural rock surfaces to divert rainwater to a central collection area. The collected rainwater passes through a sand and gravel filter and into covered storage tanks that protect the water from contamination and evaporation. Each storage tank is fitted with a tap for easy access. WHH estimates that rock catchments can collect 90 percent of total rainfall in the catchment areas, providing a valuable water supply even when rains are below normal levels. Working primarily through gravity, a rock catchment system requires no fuel or chemicals and has little environmental impact.

¹ WHH was previously known as German Agro Action.



Residents of Ithumba village in Makueni District work together to move stones to the rock catchment construction area (Courtesy of Welthungerhilfe).



Women in Ithumba village, Makueni District, reuse cement containers to transport water to the curing storage tanks. Frequent watering prevents cement from cracking in Kenya's dry heat (Courtesy of Welthungerhilfe).

When possible, WHH ensures that rock catchments are built from local materials with local labor. This approach enables village residents to earn income and provides communities with the skills and knowledge needed for future repairs and maintenance of the rock catchments and storage tanks. WHH trains men and women from the local community to serve on catchment committees, which are responsible for managing the water supply once construction is complete. Committees charge users a small fee to pay for upkeep and repairs and may opt to offer discounts for the poorest inhabitants. Some water management committees have used the proceeds from water fees to fund other projects for the benefit of the community, such as tree nurseries.

Clean Water Makes a Difference

Between 2007 and 2008, WHH built five rock catchments in Makueni District, Eastern Province, providing safe drinking water to more than 19,000 people. As a result, most beneficiary communities have experienced a significant reduction in the number of diarrhea cases. "Before we had water from the catchment, my family members used to complain about stomach aches from waterborne diseases," said Joseph Musuvi Kamandi, a resident of Vololo village, Makueni District. "The water that we scooped from river beds was contaminated by animal waste. There are no cases of waterborne diseases now."

The creation of a clean water source close to the village particularly benefits women and children, who usually bear responsibility for collecting water for the family. "The children used to attend school irregularly, because they had to assist their parents in fetching water," said Margaret Kamene Mutua, vice-chairperson of the Vololo Rock Catchment Committee. "Now this is not the case when we have water collected by the rock catchment. Before I had to walk to Mbole River, which is 8 km away. Now I only walk 2 km to the rock catchment."

Looking Ahead

Encouraged by the success of the program in Makueni District, OFDA and WHH began building rock catchments in Tana River District villages, Coast Province, in September 2008. With further program expansion, WHH plans to build rock catchments and other water collection systems in Mwingi District, Eastern Province, through June 2010, providing safe, accessible drinking water to an additional 70,000 people. Not only do the rock catchments improve the health and quality of life of the people who use them, but stored water from the catchments may help save lives during periods of drought. By enabling the harvesting and protection of a vital resource, OFDA and WHH strengthen Kenyans' ability to sustain themselves and their communities during times of drought.

AFRICA

Zambezi River Basin DRR Programs

By Michael Keegan

Approximately 32 million people live in the nearly 1.4 million square km Zambezi River basin, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The Zambezi, Africa's fourth largest river, flows more than 2,600 km from northwestern Zambia, through eastern Angola, along the borders of Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe, and through Mozambique into the Indian Ocean. During periods of flooding, backflows from the Zambezi River impact communities living along the Shire River, a major tributary of the Zambezi in Malawi. The residents of the river basin depend heavily on agriculture, while riverine community livelihoods focus on fishing. While the river provides support, above-normal flooding can also adversely affect community livelihoods and increase the risk of waterborne diseases, particularly among vulnerable populations. Most recently in 2009, OFDA has responded to heavy flooding in the Zambezi River basin in areas of Angola and Namibia. The OFDA DRR programming described below aims to enhance disaster preparedness in the Zambezi River basin.

Zambezi River Basin Initiative

OFDA is supporting a three-year initiative implemented by IFRC and a related program led by the U.N. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to reduce flood vulnerability in the seven countries which encompass the Zambezi River basin – Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. IFRC will help vulnerable communities adapt to climate-related threats such as flooding through conservation-based farming techniques, soil conservation, water-harvesting techniques, and reforestation. IFRC will also build DRR and disaster management capacity in both riverine communities and local Red Cross branches.

Zambezi River Flood Early Warning and Mitigation

Complementing IFRC's efforts, the WMO, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and national meteorological and hydrological services and disaster management entities are supporting an initiative to assess flood early warning capacity in riparian countries and to formulate a consensus strategy. Focusing on basin-wide cooperation and an integrated approach to flood early warning, the activity will address the technical, institutional, and capacity-building issues related to developing flood preparedness and early warning systems. The strategy and IFRC programming will help link technology to communities, encouraging the development

of a framework for a sustainable, integrated flood early warning and management in the Zambezi basin.

Development of Zambezi River Basin Atlas

OFDA is supporting the development of an atlas of the Zambezi River basin, implemented by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) through FFP. The atlas, which will be made available publicly, will include Zambezi basin livelihood baseline data, maps, graphs, and a variety of food security-related analysis of the basin's livelihoods and coping strategies, including the effects of normal seasonal and above-average flooding along the river.

The River Value: Converting Risk to Opportunities in Mozambique

With OFDA funding, International Relief and Development (IRD) is working with flood-prone communities in the Chinde District of Mozambique to utilize opportunities created by the flooding. Chinde District is located at the mouth of the Zambezi River and is one of the areas of Mozambique most at risk of flooding, due to generally low-lying, riverine topography and a large number of inhabited islands. Benefiting nearly 17,800 people, the two-year River Value program will work with local disaster risk management committees to increase production of staple post-flood crops and cash crops, increase access to clean water, and promote hygiene and sanitation. The local committees will manage the project activities, and with support from IRD will transition from a response-only focus to take responsibility for managing risks and guiding communities through accelerated post-flood recovery.

Increasing Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in Mozambique

OFDA is also supporting a two-year project implemented by the non-governmental organization World Vision to reduce the vulnerability of households and communities to recurrent climate and weather-induced disasters and increase resilience against poor harvests. Beginning in May 2009, the intervention is targeting 44,500 beneficiaries in Zambezia, Tete, and Sofala provinces. The project will encourage community-level disaster preparedness and promote sustainable agricultural practices such as conservation agriculture in participating households.

Community-Based Disaster and Natural Resource Management in Zambia

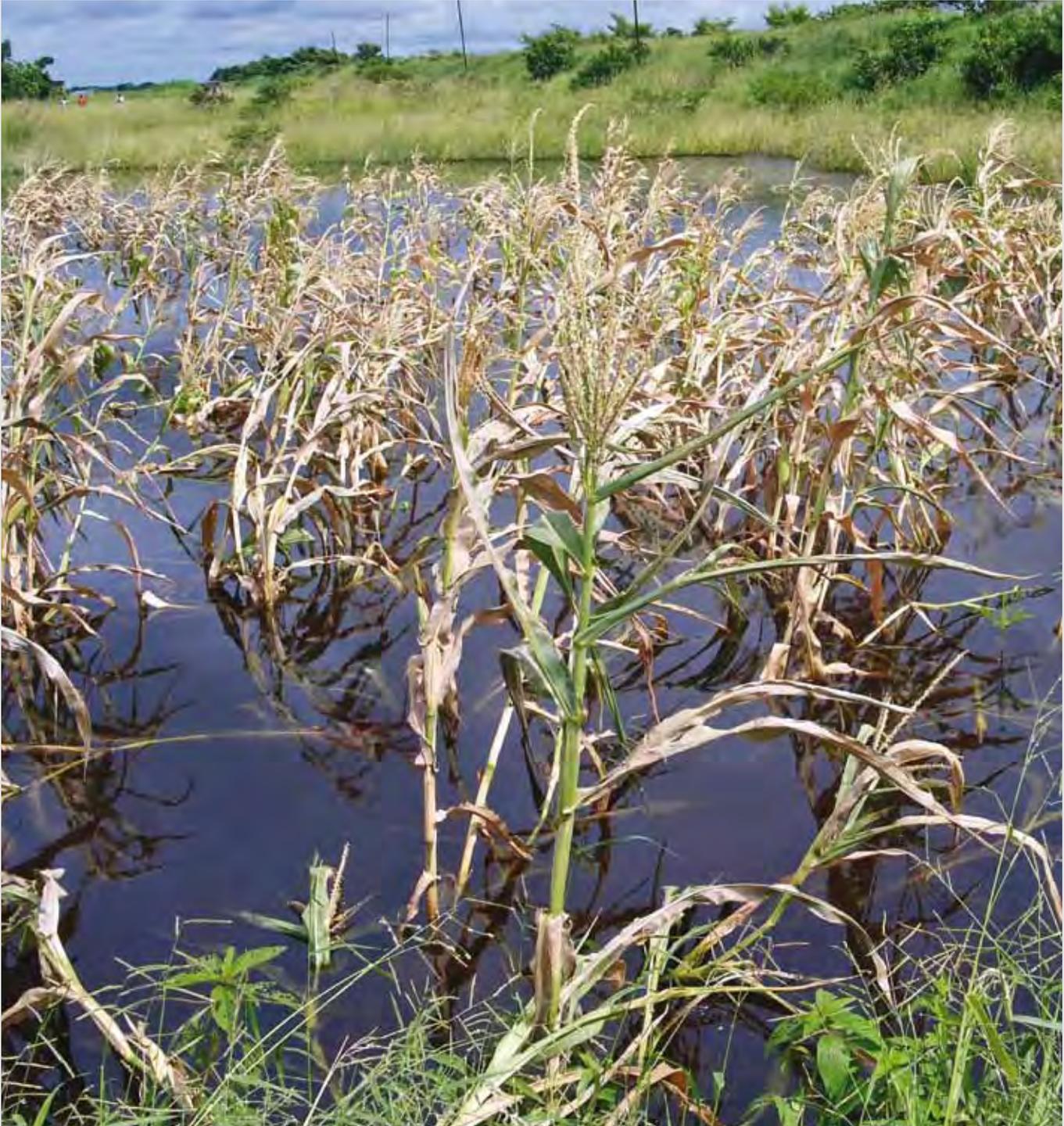
With OFDA funding, Concern is implementing a program to increase the capacity of local government and community structures to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the impacts of disasters in the Western Province of Zambia, benefiting approximately 125,000 individuals. Western Province includes nearly 13,000 square km of Zambezi River flood plain. The program will develop partnerships and create linkages between civil society, traditional leadership, and government structures. The program, initiated in 2009, also helps to empower participating households protect

rural household livelihood assets through community-based disaster management activities and improved household production.

OFDA DRR Programming in the Zambezi River Basin

OFDA DRR programming in the Zambezi River basin aims to reduce the impact of recurrent floods on vulnerable populations through risk reduction interventions. OFDA-

supported programming includes flood preparedness and early warning systems—benefiting the 32 million people living in the Zambezi River basin—as well as income generation and livelihood diversification to improve household resiliency and increase food security of nearly 190,000 targeted beneficiaries.



Floods in the Zambezi River basin regularly damage crops, as pictured here in Mozambique in 2007 (photo by Sidney Velado, USAID).

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



LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

OFDA Urban Search and Rescue Capacity Building

By Auriana Koutnik

During the past decade, thousands of firefighters, Red Cross workers, civil defense personnel, and other first responders have completed OFDA training courses to improve urban search and rescue (USAR) operations. Such courses include training on USAR techniques, the incident command system, and medical and hazardous materials first response. As a result, first responders throughout Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are better prepared to save lives and alleviate suffering by responding quickly and effectively to disasters.

Disaster Networking: Improving and Promoting Standards

The OFDA-supported Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP) provides USAR teams in the LAC region with specialized training and technical assistance to build USAR team capacities. In so doing, OFDA collaborates with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), a global network of representatives from more than 80 countries that operates under the U.N. umbrella. The INSARAG Regional Group of the Americas focuses on promoting INSARAG guidelines to ensure the quality of light- and medium-level USAR groups in the region.

The INSARAG guidelines provide minimum standards for the administrative, logistic, and operational levels of USAR teams, which are categorized worldwide according to their operational capabilities into light, medium, and heavy teams. Toward this end, OFDA specialists, along with firefighters from Los Angeles County, California, and Fairfax County, Virginia, assist LAC teams with the adoption of INSARAG administrative, logistic, and operational standards.

In FY 2008 and FY 2009, OFDA provided assistance to seven USAR teams in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela that are in the process of adopting the INSARAG guidelines. OFDA has identified another 29 teams in the region as potential candidates for capacity building assistance in the coming years.

Advancing Regional Cooperation

In addition to building capacity and promoting the INSARAG standards for USAR teams, OFDA provides funding for other INSARAG Americas activities, including USAR mobilization exercises and regional meetings. In late September 2009, OFDA—in association with INSARAG—provided technical assistance and funding for the first national USAR mobilization exercises in Guatemala. In addition, OFDA assisted Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico to plan national

exercises scheduled for the first half of FY 2010, and expects to provide funding for these exercises.

“The purpose of these exercises is threefold: to help demonstrate the capacity of local USAR teams, to help the teams learn to operate within the structure of their national emergency response system, and to promote support for the regional INSARAG Americas group,” explained Manuel Santana, an OFDA disaster risk management specialist who coordinates the USAR training and technical assistance component of the RDAP in Latin America.

A Long History of OFDA Engagement: One Country, One USAR Team at a Time

OFDA support for USAR training programs first began in the mid-1990s, when OFDA and the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department in Florida developed and launched a Spanish-language urban search and rescue course (Búsqueda y Rescate en Estructuras Colapsadas, or BREC) in response to identified training needs in the region. In 2005, recognizing that the BREC course was geared more toward medium-level USAR teams, the Colombian Red Cross developed a USAR course to prepare light-level teams (Curso de Rescate en Estructuras Colapsadas, Nivel Liviano, or CRECL). The CRECL course became part of the RDAP training portfolio in 2006 and was translated into English in 2008 for use in the Caribbean.

In FY 2008, working with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA, formerly CDERA), OFDA began to provide USAR training and technical assistance to Caribbean nations seeking to form USAR teams. As a result, five countries—Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Kitts and Nevis—have created small teams whose members are prepared to deploy as part of a larger regional USAR team that responds as needed in CDEMA nations. A second round of OFDA



Members of the Brasilia Firefighters Corps USAR team conduct an exercise as part of efforts to gain INSARAG Americas accreditation, to which OFDA provides technical assistance (Courtesy of Brasilia Firefighters Corps).



The OFDA-trained light-level USAR team of the Colombian Red Cross, Cundinamarca section, conducts a field exercise as part of the INSARAG Americas accreditation process (Courtesy of the Colombian Red Cross).

training planned in the English-speaking Caribbean in FY 2010 will build USAR capacities in Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the USAR capacity-building program in the Caribbean, OFDA helped construct a USAR training field in Barbados and donated USAR protective gear and equipment in FY 2008. In addition, the OFDA-funded RDAP provided training in FY 2009 to create a cadre of nine USAR instructors in the Caribbean and is currently working to establish a second training field in the region in FY 2010.

“The disadvantage these trainers face is that they do not have much practical experience, while those from Los Angeles and Fairfax do. The Caribbean trainers are operating on theoretical knowledge,” explained Clive Lorde, an OFDA disaster risk management specialist who coordinates the USAR training and technical assistance component of the RDAP in the English-speaking Caribbean. As a result, in FY 2010, experts from Los Angeles and Fairfax will continue to provide USAR training alongside the Caribbean instructors, with the goal of fully transitioning the training to local trainers as the program matures.

Following the November 2008 collapse of a primary school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti—resulting in the deaths of 100

people, mostly children—OFDA called in the support of the Fairfax USAR team to assist Haitian firefighters and other rescue workers.

The response prompted efforts to strengthen USAR capacities in Haiti. In late August 2009, OFDA deployed an assessment team composed of USAR specialists from Fairfax and the RDAP to Haiti for 10 days to help develop a USAR program support strategy. The team met with local authorities and technical specialists and visited fire services in five cities. One immediate result of the visit, according to OFDA regional advisor Julie Leonard, was a Government of Haiti decision to create a working group tasked with developing a national USAR strategy and policy directions. OFDA plans to support these efforts in FY 2010.

Looking Ahead: More Pieces in the Puzzle

“Our goal is not just to provide courses,” said OFDA senior regional advisor Tim Callaghan, who also serves as the chairman of INSARAG Americas. “It is to build countries’ capacities to respond, and to provide integral support based on our long-term vision and accumulated experience in the region.” USAR capacity building constitutes one significant piece of this vision.

GLOBAL

Volcano Crisis Response Team Improves Eruption Preparedness

By Meredith Metzler

Every year, an average of 50 volcanoes erupt worldwide, putting lives and property at risk. OFDA works to reduce those risks through the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP), the world's only volcano crisis response team. OFDA established VDAP in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in the wake of the 1985 eruption of Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Colombia, an event that killed more than 23,000 people. Since 1986, OFDA has provided approximately \$16.7 million to support VDAP, including nearly \$1.6 million in FY 2009.

VDAP scientific teams travel to volcanic areas throughout the world at the request of host governments, using mobile volcano monitoring equipment to quickly assess hazards and generate eruption forecasts. The early warning the forecasts provide allows local authorities to evacuate high-risk areas before a disaster occurs, reducing fatalities and economic losses. VDAP programs also include training and technical assistance to local geologists to enhance preparedness and response for future volcanic events.

Eruption Forecasting in Saudi Arabia

In June 2009, VDAP responded to a request from the Saudi Geological Survey (SGS) for assistance monitoring the Harra Lunayyir volcanic area in northwestern Saudi Arabia. Since early 2007, the region has experienced increasing seismic activity, including swarms of tens of thousands of micro-earthquakes and one magnitude 5.4 earthquake on May 19, 2009, that expanded ground cracks to a length of 8 km. The increased activity prompted fears of a possible major earthquake or eruption and resulted in the evacuation of approximately 40,000 people from the nearby town of Al-Ays and surrounding areas.

Two VDAP scientists traveled to Saudi Arabia on June 19, 2009, to work with the SGS at Harra Lunayyir on an assessment project funded by the Government of Saudi Arabia. The VDAP team provided satellite radar data and earthquake data analysis that confirmed the volcanic nature of the earthquake swarms. In addition, the team assisted with volcano monitoring, eruption forecasting, and a seismic risk assessment. VDAP also trained SGS geologists in advanced techniques in seismic monitoring and volcanic data interpretation. The VDAP scientists concluded that major eruptions or earthquakes were unlikely to occur within the next several months; however, geological conditions could change rapidly, increasing the risks to nearby populations and requiring a swift response.

To transform geohazard information into effective risk reduction techniques, the VDAP team also helped establish a permanent monitoring and warning system that enables the SGS to assess changes in the volcano as they occur. In the event of seismic activity or an eruption, the SGS could immediately issue warnings to emergency managers, enabling the timely evacuation of vulnerable populations and increasing the speed and accuracy of disaster response.

Preparing for Eruptions in Tanzania

Because each volcanic situation differs from others, VDAP teams must adapt their assessments and evaluations accordingly. In Tanzania, Ol Doinyo Lengai volcano reawakened after 40 years of low-level activity, erupting several times from September 2007 to April 2008. The explosions and accompanying ash forced temporary evacuations of nearby settlements and contaminated water supplies and grasslands on which nomadic herders depend to feed cattle.



AVDAP seismologist consults with the Director of Earthquakes and Volcanoes Center, Saudi Geological Survey, at the site of ground fissuring following geological activity (Courtesy of USGS).

In response to a request from the Government of Tanzania (GoT), two VDAP scientists and Gari Mayberry, the geoscience advisor for OFDA and USGS, traveled to Ol Doinyo Lengai in January 2009 to work with counterparts from the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) to evaluate the situation and recommend actions to address the risks posed by the volcano. As the volcano lacked monitoring equipment, the project provided a unique challenge for the team.

"We usually do not deal with volcanoes that have no monitoring equipment, so this forced us to look at the situation in a new way," said Mayberry. "We determined that disaster risk reduction education may be the most feasible way to reduce the hazard around Ol Doinyo Lengai in the short term."

The VDAP team's recommendations to the GoT for short-term eruption preparedness included teaching local villagers

protection techniques such as evacuating to sturdy buildings during ash fall, protecting water resources, and ensuring that livestock have uncontaminated food and water. VDAP facilitated the translation into Swahili by the University of Dar es Salaam of existing pamphlets on living with ash fall and the health impacts of ash for distribution to populations at risk. In FY 2010, VDAP plans to work with the GST and the University of Dar es Salaam on a volcano hazard map for Ol Doinyo Lengai to improve understanding of the risks associated with the volcano and to assist the GoT in making decisions regarding DRR activities.

Maintaining the Commitment

As growing human populations push ever closer to volcanic zones, VDAP's work to protect lives and livelihoods will only become more important. VDAP field teams' assessments and capacity-building work with local counterparts will continue to assist in preventing future eruptions from becoming disasters.



Scientists from VDAP and the Geological Survey of Tanzania assess the ashfall from a recent eruption of Ol Doinyo Lengai volcano, Tanzania (Photo by Gari Mayberry, USAID).

ASIA

Preparedness

Disasters—including earthquakes, typhoons, floods, landslides, volcanoes, droughts, tsunamis, and wildfires—affect populations throughout the Asia region. Demographic changes, rapid urbanization, and environmental degradation have reduced available habitable land, leading to settlement in hazard-prone, marginal lands, such as flood plains and steep slopes. In addition to natural disasters, civil conflicts and complex emergencies cause hardships and impede development. Moreover, declining socio-economic conditions are increasing some populations' vulnerability to risks or hazards.

In FY 2009, OFDA provided more than \$2.5 million for ongoing preparedness and mitigation projects throughout the Asia-Pacific region. OFDA implemented disaster mitigation activities in six rapidly growing Asian urban areas at high risk for hydrometeorological disasters. Project activities included preparedness and mitigation action planning workshops, hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments, and community-based early warning mechanisms. Additional programming included implementing training and capacity building for risk-based urban land use planning, piloting community-based flood forecasting and warning systems, developing city-level disaster management information systems and public awareness and advocacy campaigns, and assisting micro-credit enterprises to improve the resistance of houses to disasters.

OFDA continued to support the Climate Forecast Applications project, which works to strengthen the national capabilities of Indonesia, the Philippines, and East Timor to manage and reduce the impacts of climate fluctuations through targeted demonstration projects and community participation. The project makes climate forecasting information available to local government officials engaged in water resource management and to farmers and local communities, which utilize the data for planting and other purposes, and local government officials engaged in water resource management.

In India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, OFDA promotes disaster preparedness through the development of national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors through the Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER). Phase III of PEER began in March 2009 and includes a community-based program that trains non-professional volunteer first responders in basic medical response, light search and rescue, triage, crowd control, and casualty management. The project is directed by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, which

will carry out training in the program's nine partner countries: India, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. PEER assists local, regional, and national disaster management agencies in organizing and conducting training in medical first response, collapsed structure search and rescue, and hospital preparedness for mass casualties following a disaster. In FY 2009, program activities focused on enhancing first responder capacity and improving the capacity of hospitals and medical facilities to respond to emergencies.

OFDA continued a three-year project seeking to ensure drought resiliency for communities in Rajasthan, India, and Sindh, Pakistan. Through this program, communities vulnerable to drought become better able to harvest and store rainwater for increased domestic and agricultural use throughout the year; adopt water-efficient agricultural practices, employ improved land-use techniques for agriculture and livestock, and engage with local government and other actors to improve resilience to drought.

In FY 2009, OFDA also supported activities to build and strengthen the capacity of communities, community organizations, and national partners to reduce the risk of flash floods in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region, including China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and other member countries. The project also increased understanding of the physical and socioeconomic dimension of flash floods in the target areas, enhanced and encouraged transboundary coordination, and shared lessons learned in the Himalaya region.

Implementing Partners

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, CRS, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, and National Society for Earthquake Technology (Nepal)

OFDA Assistance\$2,537,395

CARIBBEAN

Preparedness

The island nations and territories of the Caribbean are highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, and drought. Environmental, climatic, and industrial factors contribute to the potential threat. Several countries in the region are vulnerable to civil unrest, which often compounds the humanitarian consequences following disasters.



Recognizing the many threats and vulnerabilities in the region, OFDA supports disaster preparedness and mitigation programs aimed at reducing the loss of human life, alleviating suffering, and reducing the economic impact of disasters. OFDA-funded DRR programs include risk identification, prioritization, and reduction, as well as post-disaster recovery and short-term rehabilitation projects. OFDA promotes local and national self-sufficiency in disaster preparedness and management by building upon and strengthening the capacity of established national and regional disaster management institutions, many of which already have the ability to meet most emergency needs after an event. In FY 2009, OFDA provided nearly \$3.5 million for preparedness and mitigation activities in the Caribbean.

Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, OFDA's implementing partners received funding to strengthen the disaster management capacity of vulnerable communities in Azua Province, an area significantly affected by tropical storms and hurricanes in FY 2008.¹ OFDA funding has been targeted to strengthen community preparedness and coping capacities through the integration of DRR activities into long-term development programs, as well as through community-level training in risk reduction, needs and damage assessments, first aid, and shelter management. In some communities, an OFDA implementing partner plans to work to strengthen or establish emergency preparedness and response committees (EPRCs), which provide guidance in the development of community-level disaster management plans. EPRCs also select and rehabilitate or reinforce community centers and churches that may serve as shelters in the case of disaster-related displacement. OFDA-supported DRR programs in the Dominican Republic included mitigation activities, such as canal maintenance and clearing in flood-prone areas, and the development of a simple early warning system to increase the effectiveness of future alert and evacuation procedures.

Haiti

In Haiti, OFDA provided support for a one-year program to increase the use of best practices in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management among children, parents, and teachers associated with 20 schools in and around Gonaïves, the city most affected by hurricanes and tropical storms in 2008.² The program began establishing school emergency response teams charged with developing and implementing school disaster preparedness plans and conducting hazard and vulnerability assessments. OFDA also worked to enhance Haiti's disaster preparedness capacity outside the school system at the community level. OFDA's implementing partner worked to reinforce the capacities of civil protection officials, develop and update local risk maps, conduct disaster

drills, and support local and national government officials in risk mitigation projects.

Jamaica

OFDA provided funding to support community-level risk reduction activities in Kingston, Jamaica. OFDA's implementing partner worked to reduce risks associated with natural and technological disasters by increasing the awareness and response capacity of vulnerable populations in Jamaica through the establishment of emergency action committees (EACs) among young adults from the inner city. The EACs undertook a series of community improvement activities designed to reduce risk, including gutter and street cleanup and repairs to the houses of vulnerable families.

Regional

In FY 2009, OFDA supported Phase II of the Readiness to Respond program, a community-based initiative strengthening disaster preparedness capacity in the Caribbean. Phase II, a two-year program, focuses on Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia, which expands the regional coverage of the original program, focused on Guyana, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Through increased training opportunities and vulnerability and capacity assessments, the program was designed to further enhance the capacity of Caribbean communities to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to the adverse affects of climate-induced disasters. OFDA also provided funds to support a disaster management conference in Barbados. The conference allowed disaster management professionals to share ideas and experiences to improve DRR and response in the region. To support national preparedness efforts in Belize, OFDA provided funding through the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan to preposition emergency relief supplies.

Implementing Partners

AmRC, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, CRS, Pan American Development Foundation, Plan USA, and SC/US

OFDA Assistance\$3,495,243

¹ For more information on the disasters, refer to page 103 of OFDA's FY 2008 Annual Report.

² For more information on the disasters, refer to pages 107-109 of OFDA's FY 2008 Annual Report.



CENTRAL AMERICA

Preparedness

Countries throughout Central America are vulnerable to hazards including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, and drought. In addition, disasters triggered by environmental and industrial incidents, such as forest fires and chemical and oil spills, pose a potential threat. Populations of countries in Central America have also suffered from the adverse effects of El Niño Southern Oscillation meteorological events, poor land management, and civil unrest and associated humanitarian consequences.

Recognizing vulnerabilities in Central America, OFDA supported disaster preparedness and mitigation programs aimed at reducing loss of human life, alleviating suffering, and reducing the economic impact of disasters.

Guatemala

In Guatemala, OFDA provided funds in support of a DRR project to improve municipal and local capacities for coordinated risk management and disaster response. A consortium of NGO partners is implementing the 18-month project, which aims to strengthen disaster risk management in five disaster-prone Guatemalan municipalities. Activities associated with the program focus on improving coordination between national and local stakeholders, including government officials, NGOs, and individuals. In addition to capacity building and first response training, the program seeks to provide technical guidance on shelter improvement and management. Through public schools in the five municipalities, OFDA's implementing partners planned to provide disaster coordination training in Spanish and indigenous languages.

Regional

In FY 2009, OFDA provided funding to preposition relief supplies in Honduras as part of a regional effort to promote disaster preparedness.

Implementing Partners

Share and World Vision International

OFDA Assistance\$1,273,066

CHINA

Preparedness

China is one of the most disaster-affected countries in the world due to the size and geographic location of the Chinese landmass, construction and settlement patterns, and the size of the country's population. The vulnerabilities of the country were again apparent on May 12, 2008, when a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck Wenchuan County in China's southwest Sichuan Province, killing nearly 70,000 people and injuring approximately 375,000 others.³

In an effort to support China's disaster preparedness, OFDA funded an implementing partner to collaborate with the Government of China to promote mitigation activities related to earthquakes and landslides in response to the Sichuan earthquake. The program aimed to improve China's ability to conduct probability forecasts for aftershocks following large earthquakes. The project also helped develop China's capacity to conduct real-time monitoring and notification of major earthquakes, assess the current and future risk of earthquake-induced landslides, and provide technical expertise for the implementation of a modern approach to seismic hazard maps for China.

Implementing Partner

USGS

OFDA Assistance \$131,257

GLOBAL

Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture and other natural resource-based enterprises form the economic foundation of many developing countries. Drought, floods, and other disasters can reduce agricultural production and resiliency of the local populations to withstand future shocks, thus undermining food security. OFDA promotes agricultural initiatives that address the immediate emergency needs of affected populations and strengthen local capacity and resilience to disasters.

OFDA's primary goal in agricultural DRR programming is to mitigate the potential effects of disaster on the agricultural sector and those who depend upon this sector for food security. In developing countries, the high degree of post-harvest loss of both food stocks and seed stores often impacts household food security. To facilitate improved post-harvest storage, OFDA supported an Annual Program

³ For more information on this disaster, refer to pages 64-65 of the FY 2008 OFDA Annual Report.



Statement (APS) for the creation of household-level seed and grain storage units. The goal of the interventions was to identify and scale up successful traditional models, identify improvements on traditional models and field test these improvements with local farmers, or introduce a new model for field testing for effectiveness and acceptability to farmers.

Safely storing seed resources helps to ensure that farmers have access to seeds of better quality, since successful storage methods will keep out pests and molds that can destroy improperly stored seeds. In some countries, a farmer might lose up to 50 percent of stored seeds to pests and diseases. Although farmers often plant spoiled seeds, the quality of such seeds is inferior and will likely lead to lower germination rates and less vigorous plants.

Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, OFDA's implementing partner worked to address post-harvest seed and grain loss and broader challenges to the agricultural sector. Through an implementing partner, OFDA worked to address challenges including development agencies' treatment of farmers as passive customers of seed rather than as competent seed managers, high rates of cowpea seed loss during storage, lack of direct retail sale of certified seed to farmers, and the loss of the genetic purity of rice seed under farmer management. Program activities included training beneficiaries in seed conservation and storage techniques and implementing a voucher system for the purchase of special seed storage containers.

Ethiopia

OFDA initiatives in Ethiopia under the APS emphasized the reduction of post-harvest loss to ensure a better chance at future production. During FY 2009, OFDA supported implementing partner efforts to assist 8,800 households to reduce the loss of seed and grain by improving the design and adoption of seed storage methods and knowledge among farmers while also building the capacity of local officials to improve post-harvest handling and storage practice. OFDA partners also worked to assist 10,500 people to enhance traditional grain storage methods and access newer technologies suitable for local conditions, while simultaneously increasing the reliability of local seed supplies.

Implementing Partners

CRS, GOAL, and Mercy Corps

OFDA Assistance \$4,199,507

GLOBAL

Avian Influenza Stockpile

The H5N1 strain of influenza A, also known as the avian flu, appears to be a much more virulent strain than the H1N1 swine influenza virus that led to a pandemic in FY 2009, according to HHS⁴. To date, hundreds of millions of domesticated poultry in Asia and Eastern Europe have died or been culled as a result of the strain, although cases of animal-to-human transmission remain uncommon. Despite the limited spread of the virus to date, WHO has noted concerns that the H5N1 virus may evolve and spread more efficiently through human-to-human contact, placing millions of lives at risk.

Building on OFDA's years of experience in procuring, transporting, and warehousing disaster relief supplies, USAID designated OFDA to help establish the U.S. Government Interagency Avian Influenza International Stockpile in FY 2006. OFDA subsequently developed and procured the required commodities—including personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfectant, and rapid field diagnostic supplies—for three standardized kits containing essential items needed to support infectious disease field outbreak investigation and disease control. In FY 2009, OFDA continued to support the stockpile by providing more than \$1.3 million through USAID's Bureau of Global Health (USAID/GH) for the purchase of PPE units for the stockpile.

Implementing Partners

John Snow International and USAID/GH

OFDA Assistance \$1,353,248

GLOBAL

Disaster Risk Reduction

According to the OFDA-supported Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, the number of disasters and affected individuals—as well as the total economic impact of disasters—has increased over the past several decades. Many U.N. and humanitarian agencies note concerns that the situation may continue to deteriorate in coming years due to increasing global populations, changing settlement patterns, and the effects of climate change. Despite increased risk factors and disaster occurrences, current DRR efforts in vulnerable communities have helped reduce the number of

⁴For more information on OFDA's response to the H1N1 pandemic, please refer to page 33 of this report.



forecasts and warnings to at-risk populations. FY 2009 activities focused on Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, in the lower Mekong River basin, as well as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and parts of China in the Ganges–Brahmaputra–Megna River basin.

In the greater Horn of Africa, OFDA's partner agencies implemented a regional program to reduce vulnerability to climate-induced extremes, particularly drought. Working in 10 countries in the region, the project has improved national and regional capacity on climate prediction and sectoral applications of climate outlooks such as disaster management, food security, water resource management, and health.

In partnership with the U.N. World Meteorological Organization, OFDA has funded an ongoing program to help develop global infrastructure, protocols, and procedures; implement regional applications of technology; and build capacity to lessen the impacts of flash floods. The global infrastructure will enable national authorities to assess flash flood potential and to improve lead time for early warning.

OFDA also continued to support an interagency agreement with the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS). The program assists national, international, and regional entities in strengthening weather, climate, and hydrometeorological services, disaster response, and risk reduction programs to reduce vulnerability to extreme hydrometeorological events.

Implementing Partners

International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, Mekong River Commission, National Disaster Management Offices, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, NWS, U.N. World Meteorological Organization, and USGS

OFDA Assistance \$2,397,630

GLOBAL

Information Management and Coordination

Within OFDA, the Office of the Director (OD) supports inventive field-focused and policy initiatives to support the broader relief system. OD staff members based in Washington, D.C.; New York; Geneva, Switzerland; Brussels, Belgium; and Rome, Italy, support the OFDA Director in undertaking such initiatives. OFDA funded a variety of

innovative programs—both new and previously existing—in FY 2009.

OFDA provided funding to the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) for two key projects. ODI supported the publication costs of the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) 8th Review of Humanitarian Action and the “State of the System” report, as well as projects to improve monitoring and evaluation. OFDA funded ODI's Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) to research networks and actors that comprise the international humanitarian system and map their interactions. Through the Humanitarian Futures Program (HFP), OFDA supported a research paper on disaster drivers, based on an extensive literature review, interviews, meetings, and workshops. Both the HPG and HFP papers are scheduled for publication and public dissemination in early 2010.

OFDA provided support for various projects undertaken in FY 2009 by InterAction, the largest coalition of U.S.-based international NGOs focused on the world's poor and most vulnerable people. With this support, InterAction engaged in humanitarian coordination and advocacy. For the past 10 years, OFDA has supported InterAction's Humanitarian Coordination Project—in which InterAction has engaged for more than 20 years. This project is designed to improve the effectiveness of the NGO community in defining and meeting the critical needs of targeted vulnerable populations, advance NGO security, and increase the professionalism of key NGO sectoral interventions. InterAction is also developing staff care training modules to support national and international staff.

With guidance from OD, OFDA provided funding for numerous other projects in FY 2009. OD focused on strengthening U.N. partnerships and promoting new initiatives to improve the humanitarian assistance structure. Through OCHA, OFDA provided \$3 million as part of pooled funding to the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Additionally, OFDA funded OCHA's programs directed to strengthening the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) systems and the Protection Standby Capacity (ProCap) program. Through WFP, OD supported the U.N. Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) systems, a network of warehouses in strategic locations worldwide, and WFP's protection training program that created modules



and promoted trainings in 10 countries in 2009. Through OD, OFDA also supported the emergency capacity of FAO and UNHCR, the current revision of the Sphere Project Handbook, and the Tulane University Disaster Management Leadership Academy.

Countries Assisted

Worldwide

Implementing Partners

FAO, IFRC, InterAction, OCHA, ODI, Tulane University, UNHCR, UNICEF, U.S. Mission in Geneva, USFS, and WFP

OFDA Assistance\$10,509,245

GLOBAL

Protection of IDPs and Other Vulnerable Persons

During disasters, affected populations may face challenges that material assistance alone cannot adequately address. For example, conflicts or natural disasters often separate families, disrupting normal care-giving for children, elderly, and disabled persons. Displacement, loss of family members, or disruption of livelihoods may increase vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and abuse for all affected individuals. In addition, conflict exposes some people to harmful threats from attacks or landmines. Every day, disaster-affected populations confront protection challenges in many countries throughout the world.

In response, OFDA promotes the protection of disaster-affected populations by supporting protection activities that minimize the risks and address the effects of harm, exploitation, and abuse. OFDA works with implementing partners to incorporate protection principles into all other relief activities. During FY 2009, OFDA provided more than \$3.7 million to support research, advocacy, and training initiatives related to the protection of vulnerable populations, particularly IDPs.

DRC

Repeated attacks by armed groups, which frequently include gender-based violence (GBV), have resulted in significant displacement of the civilian population in eastern DRC since 1998. Responding to associated protection concerns, OFDA implementing partners in DRC have incorporated protection into traditional relief activities⁵. In addition, OFDA supported protection DRR efforts by funding the

development and promotion of a coordinated strategy for addressing fuel needs in conflict-affected areas of DRC and by providing counseling services for survivors of GBV in eastern DRC's North and South Kivu provinces.

Liberia

In Liberia, an OFDA-funded partner supported community-based protection committees—comprising community leaders, women, and children—to raise GBV awareness in local villages. The partner organization also worked with local police and judiciary officials in Nimba County, Liberia, to bring rape cases to trial. As a result of such efforts, in 2009, Nimba County recorded more criminal rape convictions than any other county in Liberia.

Worldwide

OFDA provided support for an implementing partner to maintain a global database of statistics on conflict-induced displacement, provide analysis on the protection needs of IDPs and the types of assistance provided by the humanitarian community, and collaborate with governments and aid agencies to advocate for improved protection of IDPs. During FY 2009, OFDA funded several training activities for government, international, and local NGO representatives in protection principles and practices. In addition, OFDA provided funding for the dissemination of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and related guidelines, analysis and advocacy for national and international policies and practices related to internal displacement, and training on human rights and natural disasters.

Implementing Partners

Brookings Institution, Equip Liberia, IRC, NRC, and Tufts University

OFDA Assistance\$3,762,291

GLOBAL

Public Health and Nutrition

Disasters can increase the health concerns and nutritional vulnerability of affected populations by causing displacement, decreased food supply and household access, reduced access to health and WASH infrastructure, disruption of livelihoods, and reduction of purchasing power to buy food, medicines, and water and fulfill other basic needs. Moreover,

⁵For additional information, please see page 41.



the capacity of the health sector to cope with emergencies is frequently fluid. In 2007, WHO estimated that less than 50 percent of national health systems worldwide had a budget for emergency preparedness and response.

OFDA's approach to DRR programs in a nutrition context aims to prevent and mitigate the negative impact of acute malnutrition by protecting and promoting appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies, building government and community skills to prevent and treat acute malnutrition, assisting ministries of health in affected countries to develop or update national nutrition policies and protocols, and promoting research on innovative approaches for the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition. OFDA also supports DRR programs to mitigate and manage the main causes of death and disability in disaster-affected populations, support national disease control programs, build national capacities, and focus on community-based approaches. In FY 2009, OFDA provided more than \$6.2 million for public health and nutrition DRR programming.

An OFDA-funded Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) and SC/US assessment demonstrated that supplementary feeding programs (SFPs) often fail to meet humanitarian standards. Furthermore, OFDA partners have noted that incomplete reporting results in difficulty ascertaining the overall impact of SFPs. Following the ENN and SC/US assessment, OFDA supported ENN's efforts to improve SFP accountability and effectiveness through a series of working groups. Participants drafted comprehensive SFP reporting standards and helped improve understanding of reasons for beneficiary dropout. OFDA also provided funding to ENN for the creation of an online forum allowing field nutritionists to rapidly seek and offer technical advice.

In FY 2009, implementing partners Tufts University and SC/US launched the second phase of OFDA-supported Milk Matters, a three-year knowledge and practices study on milk in pastoralist communities in Somali Region, Ethiopia. Scheduled to extend through FY 2011, the study focuses on the quantity and quality of human and animal milk production, as well as milk access for different socio-economic groups. The research team is evaluating milk interventions with the goal of designing food assistance that reflects the importance of milk. Ultimately, the study aims to improve the understanding of the causes of chronically high malnutrition rates in pastoralist areas in order to prioritize interventions to improve child health and nutrition.

OFDA works in conjunction with other USG entities to advance public health and nutrition DRR objectives. In FY 2009, OFDA provided funding for the secondment of CDC health advisors to OFDA headquarters. The advisors provide technical assistance to ensure that OFDA-

supported programming appropriately and adequately addresses the needs of affected health systems and facilities during an emergency. In addition, OFDA provided funding to USAID/GH for the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II (FANTA II) Project. The project worked to improve nutrition and food security policies, strategies, and programs through technical support to USAID, host country governments, international organizations, and NGO implementing partners.

Implementing Partners

CDC, Emergency Nutrition Network, Tufts University, and USAID/GH

OFDA Assistance \$6,230,096

GLOBAL

Shelter and Settlements

Protection from nature's elements is a basic requirement for human survival, and disasters often damage or destroy the shelter infrastructure and facilities of affected communities. Indeed, population placement relative to risks, as well as effective planning, construction, and management of settlements, frequently determine whether a natural or human-caused hazard event becomes a significant disaster.

OFDA's shelter and settlements strategy is designed to provide adequate, habitable, safe, and secure shelter in an expeditious and appropriate manner in countries affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises. Within this sector, OFDA supports the introduction or reinforcement of DRR activities at appropriate household and community levels, undertaking efforts to prevent or mitigate future losses, and develop capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

In FY 2009, OFDA fully funded the North American Shelter and Settlements Network, hosted by InterAction. The network seeks to promote improved shelter and settlements practices through stronger linkages to international discussions on sector issues, training and outreach activities, and relevant publications.

Implementing Partner

InterAction

OFDA Assistance \$215,763



INDONESIA

Preparedness

Indonesia is highly seismically and hydrometeorologically active. The OFDA-supported Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters has repeatedly classed the country among the five most disaster-affected countries in the world. Some of the most destructive disasters in recorded history have affected the numerous islands composing the Indonesian nation.

In FY 2009, OFDA provided ongoing funding to prepare communities, local governments, and entities in the private sector in Indonesia's West Sumatra and Bengkulu provinces to better mitigate and more effectively respond to natural disasters. Through district-level working groups, OFDA's implementing partner has supported participatory hazard mapping, surveyed local populations to determine the level of preparedness, sponsored events to raise awareness in schools and communities, and supported the establishment of community-level disaster preparedness teams in many communities. The earthquake in October 2009⁶ in West Sumatra provided a unique opportunity to evaluate the program's effectiveness in two districts targeted for training that were impacted by the earthquake. More than 80 percent of those surveyed in the impacted communities reported that the training had made them better prepared for the emergency.

Implementing Partner

Mercy Corps

OFDA Assistance \$194,804

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Preparedness

A range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, and drought, routinely afflict countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In addition, disasters triggered by environmental and industrial incidents, such as forest fires and chemical and oil spills, pose a potential threat. At times, El Niño Southern Oscillation meteorological events and poor land management exacerbate the effects of potential hazards. Civil unrest and associated humanitarian consequences have also affected several countries in the region.

Recognizing vulnerabilities in the LAC region, OFDA supports disaster preparedness and mitigation programs to identify, prioritize, and reduce risk, as well as post-disaster recovery and short-term rehabilitation projects. OFDA promotes local and national self-sufficiency in disaster preparedness and management. OFDA's five regional advisors based in San José, Costa Rica, and a consultant network of 21 disaster risk management specialists dispersed throughout the region oversee and monitor these preparedness programs. In total, OFDA provided more than \$12 million for LAC preparedness and mitigation activities in FY 2009.

Established in 1989, the Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP) is the primary vehicle for OFDA's disaster risk management activities in the region. OFDA consultants oversee the multi-course program, including instruction in disaster management concepts, training methodologies, and technical disciplines. In many LAC countries, national trainers conduct disaster management training, with OFDA staff providing only technical support. The program also provides technical assistance, including guidance for strategic planning and organizational development processes, facilitation in the development and evaluation of national and local risk management training programs, support for inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, and assistance in the preparation of local, departmental, and national emergency action plans. Since the program's inception, more than 53,700 participants have been trained and 5,430 instructors certified in 32 countries. Many OFDA-trained individuals have assumed leadership roles in national disaster management organizations and presently conduct training in their own countries using local resources.

In addition to RDAP, OFDA supported ongoing efforts to increase the capacity of health professionals to respond to disasters in the region. OFDA-funded efforts focused on increasing preparedness capacity in the health sector through advocacy and technical support to improve health policy and legislation, and supporting continuous training of partner organization staff and MoH personnel. OFDA-supported programs work with local and national government counterparts to ensure that health facilities throughout the region have the capacity to operate during and immediately after disasters.

OFDA also supported the efforts of a U.S.-based academic institution to encourage new DRR activities in the LAC region while strengthening existing programs. The ongoing five-year project provides opportunities for key actors and

⁶More detailed information on this earthquake is forthcoming in the FY 2010 OFDA Annual Report.



stakeholders to consolidate and improve risk management programs in the region's higher education institutions. The program also identifies, promotes, and strengthens 12 existing DRR communities of practice (CoPs) comprising multiple stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, universities, international organizations, NGOs, and civil society groups. In addition, OFDA provided funding to strengthen risk management programs in the region, making each program more sustainable through scholarships, faculty and student exchanges, and public and private sector internships.

In FY 2009, OFDA entered a trilateral agreement to support a regional stockpile of emergency relief supplies, pre-positioned in Panama. The centrally-located stockpile of 20,000 mosquito nets, 20,000 ten-liter water containers, 10,000 kitchen sets, 10,000 hygiene kits, and 5,000 blankets will improve humanitarian response efforts in the LAC region, allowing relief agencies to rapidly deliver readily-available emergency supplies to populations in need.

In an effort to improve DRR planning and activities in the region, OFDA provided funding to design a series of workshops for promoting interaction and dialogue on the comprehensive integration of humanitarian response, gender equality, and environmental analysis into DRR programming. The workshops provide a forum to address gaps in the measurement of a disaster's impact from a gender perspective and serve to strengthen systematic DRR activities and planning. OFDA's implementing partner plans to conduct the three workshops in 2010.

In late April 2009, OFDA and USGS, through the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP) partnership, organized a ten-day workshop to support seismologists who monitor volcanoes in Latin America. More than 50 participants from observatories in 12 countries in North, Central, and South America attended the event in Colombia. The purpose of the workshop was to promote increased cooperation among the scientists, review and upgrade the hardware and software provided by VDAP to observatories in the region, and enlist seismologists' assistance to create a seismicity manual related to regional volcanic activity.

Implementing Partners

Florida International University, IFRC, IOM, International Resources Group, and PAHO

OFDA Assistance\$12,106,695

NEPAL

Preparedness

Nepal's location in a volatile tectonic region among the high peaks and slopes of the Himalayan mountain range has rendered the country particularly vulnerable to earthquakes, floods, and landslides. Nepal's burgeoning population, underdeveloped infrastructure, and poor economic and social conditions compound the risks of natural disasters to vulnerable populations.

In FY 2009, OFDA provided funding to enhance community capacity in disaster preparedness and response. OFDA's implementing partner prepositioned relief supplies for distribution when disasters occur. In addition, OFDA's implementing partner worked to repair and rehabilitate community water and sanitation facilities, as well as to improve the hygiene and sanitation practices of Nepali communities.

Implementing Partner

SC/US

OFDA Assistance \$725,000

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Preparedness

Earthquakes, typhoons, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, droughts, tsunamis, and wildfires impact populations throughout the Pacific Islands. Demographic changes and environmental degradation have reduced the availability of habitable land and increased the likelihood that people living on these islands will settle in hazard-prone, marginal lands, such as steep and denuded hillsides; flood plains; and poorly constructed shelters.

To assist the region in disaster preparedness efforts, OFDA continued to support the Pacific Islands Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) in FY 2009. The program aims to improve the disaster response capacity of the Pacific Island countries. In 2009, this program continued to use both new training materials as well as training materials and courses developed by OFDA and adapted for the Pacific region to strengthen the capacity of local and national actors in these Pacific countries to respond to disaster and reduce disaster risk. In each country, this project continued to expand the cadre of



Regional

In FY 2009, OFDA supported efforts to coordinate agricultural emergency relief and rehabilitation interventions and to disseminate knowledge and information on conservation activities in the region. OFDA also supported U.N. efforts to coordinate other humanitarian activities in the region. To meet the increasing demands for skilled professionals to reduce and manage disaster risks in Africa, OFDA continued to support the Partners Enhancing Resilience to People Exposed to Risks – Universities (Periperi U) in FY 2009. Periperi U is an innovative program that aims to strengthen the capacity of African universities, including three in southern Africa, in disaster-related scholarship and practice. Utilizing a multi-pronged approach that comprises short course training, formal education, local research, and policy advocacy, Periperi U enhances institutional development. In addition, OFDA provided funding to FFP to support FEWS NET, a network that collaborates with international, regional, and national partners to provide timely and rigorous early warning and vulnerability information on emerging and evolving food security issues.

Lesotho and Malawi

In FY 2009, OFDA funded projects to strengthen rural mountain livelihoods in Lesotho by combining the promotion of conservation agriculture techniques with improved access to markets and improved seed varieties and fertilizers. Implementing partners trained community farmer groups in project planning, management, and marketing to enable communities to effectively manage natural resources and surplus production. A similar project in Malawi supported drought mitigation through irrigation promotion and conservation agriculture. Both projects aimed to increase agricultural production while reducing the vulnerability of rural livelihood activities to drought and soil erosion.

Madagascar

Madagascar is frequently affected by cyclones and resulting floods⁹. In preparation for cyclones and floods, OFDA provided FY 2009 funding to store and distribute plastic sheeting. OFDA also supported a project in southern Madagascar to promote drought mitigation measures through multi-use water source development for both agriculture and consumption. The program involved intensive community education on basic hygiene practices, home vegetable gardening, and small-scale irrigation systems.

Mozambique

In FY 2009, OFDA launched a two-year DRR program in Inhambane Province, Mozambique. Program activities include increasing the production of drought-resistant crops such as sorghum, cassava, and legumes; expanding access to safe drinking water; promoting hygiene; increasing market

linkages; and establishing income-generating activities, such as beekeeping and marketing of oil seeds. OFDA is also working with vulnerable communities to establish cyclone early warning systems.

Swaziland

Populations in southern Swaziland face recurrent droughts, high food prices, and other challenges. To improve agricultural practices under drought conditions, improve hygiene practices, and expand access to safe water, OFDA provided funding for a three-year DRR program, designed to reduce households' and communities' vulnerability to drought in southern Swaziland. The program builds on successes and lessons learned from an OFDA-funded program that concluded in southern Swaziland in January 2009.

Zambia and South Africa

In FY 2009, OFDA assisted Zambia's national disaster management agency, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, to replenish depleted emergency relief supply stockpiles following a response to flooding in FY 2007. OFDA also continued to support efforts to reduce flood hazard risks of approximately 100,000 individuals in peri-urban areas of Kanyama Settlement in Lusaka, Zambia, through community-led activities such as drainage construction, canal clearing, garbage removal, flood and epidemic management, and support for DRR-sensitive municipal development plans. In addition, OFDA provided emergency food assistance and non-food WASH items for Zimbabweans in South Africa.

Implementing Partners

Africare, CARE, Chemonics, Concern, CRS, Diplomat Freight Services, Department of Science and Technology (South Africa), FAO, IFRC, IOM, IRD, North-West University, OCHA, UNDP, U.N. World Meteorological Organization, University of Cape Town, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance\$27,099,943

⁹For more information on OFDA's response to the Madagascar cyclone and storm, see page 46.



WEST AFRICA

Preparedness

Countries in West Africa experience a range of disasters, from complex emergencies to chronic food insecurity and malnutrition, often at emergency levels; cyclical drought; seasonal floods; and disease outbreaks. Climate variability, environmental and natural resource degradation, lack of economic development, and increasing urbanization further compound the risks by increasing populations' vulnerability to disasters. During the last two decades, cities across Africa have expanded rapidly, increasingly in areas prone to floods, landslides, earthquakes, and other hazards. Many of the rapidly growing cities are outpacing the capacity of poorly resourced local authorities to provide and maintain essential services. In addition, protracted complex emergencies in the region have resulted in large-scale displacement and increased population vulnerability to natural hazards.

OFDA remains committed to assisting in the development of preparedness, mitigation, and emergency response capacities in West Africa. During FY 2009, OFDA provided more than \$4.3 million for ongoing DRR programs in the region.

Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire

In FY 2009, OFDA supported an implementing partner to provide training to reinforce local capacity in the management of severe acute malnutrition in children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women in the East Region of Burkina Faso and areas of Côte d'Ivoire. The program focused on training local health staff, particularly in stock management of drugs and supplies. Another partner in Côte d'Ivoire worked to promote the dignified and sustainable return of IDPs in western Côte d'Ivoire, following increased political and security stabilization in the area. OFDA also supported U.N. humanitarian coordination efforts, security awareness trainings, and emergency agricultural and malnutrition treatment operations throughout Côte d'Ivoire.

Guinea and Guinea-Bissau

OFDA provided support for the development of an integrated, evidence-based, sub-regional cholera response plan for Guinea and neighboring Guinea-Bissau, as both countries have experienced a series of seasonal cholera epidemics since 2002. Implementing partners conducted field research to improve targeting of the cholera response, built the capacity of the coordinating institutions, and developed a plan for effective emergency response activities. OFDA also supported cholera preparedness efforts in the Forest Region of Guinea, through encouraging coordination between the health system and humanitarian organizations, and improving WASH training and capacity-building for

local organizations focusing on at-risk populations. In addition, an OFDA partner in Guinea worked to support the continued development of a simple, community-based nutritional surveillance system in urban Conakry and a program expansion to Kankan Region. The ongoing system is designed to strengthen national capacity to identify and respond to acute malnutrition and advocate for use of the monthly data collected by the Government of Guinea, donors, and humanitarian agencies.

Liberia

The civil war in Liberia exposed approximately 50 percent of all Liberian women to various forms of gender-based violence (GBV). Although the conflict has ended, the incidence of GBV, particularly domestic violence, remains high. During FY 2009, OFDA provided support to a program working to meet the health, psychological, legal, and protection needs of individuals affected by GBV, in addition to fostering awareness of GBV within Liberian communities. The awareness campaign included sessions on domestic violence, harmful traditional practices, women's rights, and the health and social consequences of GBV. OFDA also supported GBV-related legal services and counseling to war victims in Margibi and Montserrado counties, Liberia.

Regional

During FY 2009, OFDA supported a baseline assessment of regional markets in the Western Basin of West Africa, including the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, and Senegal, in an effort to better understand the trade routes and behaviors of the traders. An increased understanding will allow the humanitarian community to improve food security analysis of the region. Other OFDA-supported regional DRR initiatives include funding to support a U.N. Regional Nutrition Advisor position in western Africa to promote emergency nutrition preparedness and response for child survival, to organize a conference on OFDA's grant proposal guidelines, and to support a regional office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs.

Implementing Partners

ACF, ARC, Christian Children's Fund, Concern, FAO, Helen Keller International, IRC, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, and WFP

OFDA Assistance\$4,315,726



Funding Summary - FY 2009 Declared Disasters

Obligations from October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

Country	Disaster	Declaration Date	Affected	Dead ¹	Obligation	Disaster Assistance Provided by OFDA
Global	Influenza A/ HINI	-	340,000	4,100	\$46,223	RMT activated to coordinate USG response; health activities
Subtotal Global						\$46,223
Africa						
Angola	Floods	03/17/09	220,000	60	\$501,475	Deployment of assessment team to evaluate humanitarian conditions; local procurement of emergency relief supplies; logistics and shelter and settlements activities
Burkina Faso	Measles Outbreak	05/11/09	51,000	300	\$250,000	Procurement of measles vaccines and vaccination supplies
Burkina Faso	Floods	09/02/09	150,000	8	\$1,450,000	Agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, and WASH activities
CAR	Complex Emergency	03/02/09	32,000	-	\$292,410	Provision of emergency relief supplies; health activities
Chad	Complex Emergency	10/01/08	1,213,000	-	\$9,784,344	Provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, and WASH activities
Comoros	Floods	05/07/09	100,000	2	\$50,000	Agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, and protection activities
Djibouti	Food Insecurity	10/30/08	441,000	-	\$1,298,980	Deployment of a regional advisor to assess food security conditions; nutrition activities
DRC	Complex Emergency ²	10/14/08	2,100,000	5,400,000*	\$32,977,698	Deployment of a DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, and WASH activities
Ethiopia	Complex Emergency	10/06/08	6,200,000	-	\$61,276,990	Deployment of a Humanitarian Assistance Team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; provision of emergency relief supplies; local food procurement; agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, nutrition, risk reduction, and WASH activities
Kenya	Food Security Crisis	10/29/08	3,800,000	-	\$24,253,180	Agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, nutrition, health, local food procurement, and WASH activities
Liberia	Caterpillar Infestation	02/03/09	500,000	-	\$100,000	Humanitarian coordination and information management and WASH activities
Madagascar	Cyclone and Storm	02/03/09	101,218	25	\$891,255	Provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, and natural and technological risks activities
Madagascar	Complex Emergency	03/25/09	1,000	150	\$227,502	Provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security activities
Mauritania	Floods	09/09/09	10,000	1	\$25,100	WASH activities
Mozambique	Food Price Crisis	-	247,000	0	\$5,000,000	Local/Regional procurement of food aid
Namibia	Floods	03/18/09	350,000	92	\$700,000	Deployment of assessment team to evaluate humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies; shelter and settlements and WASH activities
Niger	Floods	09/16/09	100,000	3	\$50,000	WASH activities
Senegal	Floods	09/17/09	350,000	4	\$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies; WASH activities

Somalia	Complex Emergency	10/31/08	3,800,000	-	\$9,170,450	Provision of emergency relief supplies, agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, regional food procurement, and WASH activities
Sudan	Complex Emergency	10/16/08	8,000,000*	-	\$139,949,736	Provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, health, nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities
Sudan	Floods	09/23/09	111,455	20	\$50,000	WASH activities
Tanzania	Munitions Explosion	05/06/09	18,800	26	\$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Uganda	Food Security Crisis	11/03/08	1,100,000	-	\$5,000,000	Agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems activities
West Africa	Food Price Crisis	-	-	-	\$30,710,231	Agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, and nutrition activities
Zimbabwe	Complex Emergency	10/06/08	7,100,000	-	\$23,623,876	Provision of emergency relief supplies; local/regional procurement of food aid; health, protection, nutrition, agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, natural and technological risks, and WASH activities
Zimbabwe	Cholera Outbreak	12/15/08	98,592	4,288	\$7,311,374	Deployment of a DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; provision of emergency relief supplies; health, WASH, and natural and technological risks activities

Subtotal Africa

\$355,044,601

Asia and the Pacific

Bangladesh	Cyclone	05/28/09	4,800,000	190	\$3,620,188	Deployment of regional advisor and shelter specialist to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; airlift of emergency relief supplies; economic recovery and market systems, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities
Fiji	Floods	01/14/09	9,000	11	\$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Indonesia	Earthquake	09/04/09	180,000	81	\$100,000	Deployment of regional advisor and shelter specialist to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; provision of emergency relief supplies
Laos	Floods	10/01/09	178,000	17	\$50,000	Deployment of a regional advisor to assess humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies
Nepal	Food Price Crisis	-	2,500,000	-	\$5,000,000	Local/Regional procurement of food aid
Pakistan	Complex Emergency	10/20/08	2,700,000	-	\$102,552,961	Deployment of a DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; activation of Washington, D.C.,-based RMT; provision of emergency relief supplies; economic recovery and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities
Pakistan	Earthquake ³	10/31/08	68,200	166	\$2,333,367	Deployment of a DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; provision of emergency relief supplies; shelter and settlements and WASH activities
Papua New Guinea	Floods	12/18/08	75,300	-	\$150,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Philippines	Complex Emergency	10/31/08	511,090	-	\$246,041	WASH activities
Philippines	Tropical Storm ⁴	09/28/09	4,929,382	464	\$246,222	Deployment of a regional advisor and field officer to assess humanitarian conditions; airlift and provision of emergency relief supplies

Country	Disaster	Declaration Date	Affected	Dead ¹	Obligation	Disaster Assistance Provided by OFDA
Solomon Islands	Floods	02/13/09	20,000	10	\$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Sri Lanka	Complex Emergency	10/21/08	253,000	-	\$7,935,926	Deployment of field team and WASH advisors to assess humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, protection, and WASH activities
Sri Lanka	Floods	12/01/08	360,000	15	\$100,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Taiwan	Typhoon	08/11/09	6,000	376	\$250,000	Deployment of two regional advisors to assess humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies
Vietnam	Floods	11/13/08	600,000	89	\$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies

Subtotal Asia and the Pacific

\$122,734,705

Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia

Afghanistan	Complex Emergency	10/20/08	260,000	-	\$27,298,157	Provision of emergency relief supplies; economic recovery and market systems, natural and technological risks, humanitarian coordination and information management, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities
Gaza	Complex Emergency	-	900,000	-	\$334,442	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Iraq	Complex Emergency	-	2,500,000*	-	\$83,420,750	Provision of emergency relief supplies; humanitarian coordination and information management, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities
Italy	Earthquake	04/06/09	1,000	290	\$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Kyrgyzstan	Earthquake	10/08/08	860	75	\$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies to support construction of a heating system and mobile bathhouses for affected populations
Kyrgyzstan	Food Price Crisis	-	2,000,000	-	\$7,069,847	Local/Regional procurement of food aid
Tajikistan	Mudslides and Floods	05/22/09	15,000	28	\$50,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies; WASH activities
Yemen	Floods	10/27/08	25,000	98	\$349,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Yemen	Complex Emergency	09/08/09	150,000*	-	\$250,000	Health, nutrition, and WASH activities

Subtotal Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia

\$118,872,196

Country	Disaster	Declaration Date	Affected	Dead ¹	Obligation	Disaster Assistance Provided by OFDA
Latin America and the Caribbean						
Belize	Floods	10/27/08	38,000	-	\$50,000	Deployment of disaster risk management specialist and field officer to assess humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies
Brazil	Floods	11/25/08	69,000	120	\$100,000	Deployment of assessment team to evaluate humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies
Brazil	Floods	05/01/09	1,200,000	56	\$200,000	Deployment of assessment team to evaluate humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies
Colombia	Floods	12/22/08	1,200,000	76	\$150,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies
Colombia	Floods	02/24/09	31,320	1	\$125,000	Provision of emergency relief supplies, WASH activities
Costa Rica	Floods ⁵	11/26/08	46,000	-	\$143,448	Deployment of assessment team to evaluate humanitarian conditions; airlift and provision of emergency relief supplies
Costa Rica	Earthquake	01/09/09	2,943	23	\$50,000	Logistical support for the rental of helicopters to assist evacuation of affected populations
Guatemala	Floods	11/06/08	48,000	3	\$74,997	Deployment of a disaster risk management specialist to assess humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies
Haiti	Accident	-	250	100	\$1,111,954	Deployment of a Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team and support staff to join a DART already in country and assist search and rescue efforts, advise recovery and demolition efforts, and conduct damage assessments.
Honduras	Floods	10/21/08	320,000	70	\$436,072	Deployment of assessment team to evaluate humanitarian conditions; airlift and local procurement of emergency relief supplies
Mexico	Hurricane	09/14/09	72,000	4	\$299,135	Deployment of assessment team to evaluate humanitarian conditions; provision of emergency relief supplies
Panama	Floods ⁶	11/24/08	7,400	5	\$164,798	Deployment of assessment team to evaluate humanitarian conditions; airlift and provision of emergency relief supplies
Subtotal Latin America and the Caribbean						\$2,905,404
TOTAL FY 2009 DISASTER RESPONSE						\$599,603,129

Notes:

* This figure represents the cumulative total of deaths or affected individuals 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 \$949,250, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to DRC to \$33,926,948.

3) OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at \$193,450, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance for the Pakistan earthquake to \$2,526,817.

4) OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at \$158,274, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance for the Philippines tropical storm to \$404,496.

5) OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at \$129,036, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Costa Rica for floods to \$272,484.

6) OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at \$85,536, bringing total OFDA emergency assistance to Panama to \$250,334.

OFDA Assistance for Previous FY Disasters*

Country	Disaster	Obligation	Assistance Provided by OFDA
Asia and the Pacific			
Burma	Cyclone	\$6,008,047	Support for ACTED, ADRA, Church World Services, IOM, IRC, MERLIN, Relief International, SCF/US, and UNDP for the provision of emergency relief supplies, as well as economic recovery and market systems, health, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities
China	Earthquake	\$444,518	Reimbursement for DOD transportation services
India	Floods	\$1,948,130	Support for ACTED, CRS, Christian Children's Fund, and Project Concern International to implement economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, protection, and WASH activities
Laos	Floods	\$250,000	Support for UNICEF to implement WASH activities
Pakistan	Floods	\$674,382	Support for ACTED and SCF/US for the provision of emergency relief supplies, as well as economic recovery and market systems, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities
Philippines	Complex Emergency	\$50,005	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2008
Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia			
Georgia	Complex Emergency	\$8,507,977	Support for ADRA, CARE, CHF, CNFA, CRS, IRC, Mercy Corps, SCF/US, and UMCOR for the provision of emergency relief supplies, as well as agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, shelter and settlements, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities; logistics; administrative costs
Greece	Wildfires	\$22,571	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2008
Latin America and the Caribbean			
Bolivia	Floods	\$27,124	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2008
Haiti	Hurricane	\$4,151,086	Support for CHF, CRS, Fonkoze, Groupement Ingenieria Estrella, UNICEF, and World Concern for the provision of emergency relief supplies; agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, shelter and settlements, and nutrition activities; logistics; humanitarian studies, analysis, or applications; administrative costs
Jamaica	Storm	\$1,593	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2008
Nicaragua	Hurricane	\$141,877	Reimbursement for DOD transportation services
Panama	Floods	\$880	Replenishment of stockpiled commodities provided during FY 2008
Peru	Earthquake	\$6,887	Support for CARE for the provision of emergency relief supplies
TOTAL FUNDING FOR PREVIOUS FY DISASTERS			\$22,235,077

* Please refer to OFDA Annual Report FY 2008 for more information on these disasters.

FY 2009 Disaster Risk Reduction Activities

Country or Region	Activity	Obligation	Assistance Provided by OFDA
Africa			
Southern Africa (including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe)	Southern Africa Preparedness ¹	\$27,099,943	Agriculture and food security preparedness; drought preparedness; flood preparedness, forecasting, and management; hydrometeorological risk reduction; and disaster preparedness, response, and management activities
West Africa (including Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Senegal)	West Africa Preparedness	\$4,315,726	Agriculture and food security preparedness, health preparedness, nutrition capacity building, and disaster preparedness, response, and management activities
Asia and the Pacific			
Regional	Asia Preparedness	\$2,537,395	Climate forecasting; conflict preparedness; disaster preparedness, response, and management; drought preparedness; earthquake safety; health preparedness; hydrometeorological risk reduction; volcano monitoring; and flood preparedness, forecasting, and management activities
Regional	Asia Regional Support	\$302,393	Staff support
China	China Preparedness	\$131,257	Earthquake safety activities
Indonesia	Indonesia Preparedness	\$194,804	Disaster preparedness, response, and management activities
Nepal	Nepal Preparedness	\$725,000	Disaster preparedness, response, and management activities
Pacific Islands (including the Federated States of Micronesia and the Royal Marshall Islands)	Pacific Islands/FEMA Transition	\$864,821	Staff support
Pacific Islands (including the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, the Royal Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu)	Pacific Islands Preparedness	\$569,551	Disaster preparedness, response, and management activities
Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia			
Regional (including Kazakhstan)	EMCA Regional Support	\$321,052	Staff support
Latin America and the Caribbean			
Regional	LAC Preparedness	\$12,106,695	Provision of emergency relief supplies; protection, emergency health preparedness, school-based disaster preparedness, volcano monitoring, and disaster preparedness, response, and management activities
Caribbean (including Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; the Bahamas; the British Virgin Islands; Dominica; the Dominican Republic; Grenada; Haiti; Jamaica; St. Kitts and Nevis; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and Trinidad and Tobago)	Caribbean Preparedness	\$3,495,243	Hydrometeorological risk reduction, tsunami and coastal warnings hazard system, and disaster preparedness, response, and management activities
Central America (including Guatemala and Honduras)	Central America Preparedness	\$1,273,066	Hydrometeorological risk reduction, school-based disaster preparedness, and disaster preparedness, response, and management activities
South America (including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela)	South America Preparedness	\$1,110,826	Disaster preparedness, response, and management activities; shelter and settlements risk reduction

Country or Category	Activity	Obligation	Assistance Provided by OFDA
Global			
Global (including Burkina Faso and Ethiopia)	Agriculture and Food Security	\$4,199,507	Agriculture and food security activities, staff support, exercise training and support
Global	Avian Influenza Stockpile	\$1,353,248	Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risk reduction
Global	Disaster Risk Reduction	\$350,000	Humanitarian studies, analysis, or applications
Global	Geohazards	\$2,086,761	Hydrometeorological risk reduction, volcano monitoring
Global	Hydrometeorological Hazards	\$2,397,630	Hydrometeorological risk reduction, drought preparedness, flood preparedness, forecasting, and management
Global	OD/Information Management and Coordination	\$10,509,245	Provision of emergency relief supplies; logistics support; protection; health; WASH; agriculture and food security; and economic recovery and market systems activities; humanitarian studies, analysis, or applications
Global	Information Management	\$559,803	Development and maintenance of online databases and repositories of data used for preparedness, disaster response, coordination, documentation, and analytical purposes.
Global	Public Health and Nutrition	\$6,230,096	Health, nutrition, and humanitarian coordination and information management activities; exercise training and support; humanitarian studies, analysis, or applications
Global	Shelter and Settlements	\$215,763	Shelter and settlements risk reduction
Global (including DRC and Liberia)	Protection of IDPs and Other Vulnerable Persons	\$3,762,291	Protection; humanitarian coordination and information management; and economic recovery and market systems activities; humanitarian studies, analysis, or applications
SUBTOTAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ²			\$86,712,116

1) OFDA also provided stockpiled commodities valued at \$146,000, bringing total OFDA DRR assistance to southern Africa to \$27,245,943.

2) This figure does not include disaster risk reduction activities incorporated into past or ongoing response activities.

OFDA Funding and Budget for FY 2009	
Obligated Funding for FY 2009 Disasters	\$599,603,129
Obligated Funding for Previous FY Disasters	\$22,235,077
SUBTOTAL FY 2009 Obligated Funding for Disaster Response	\$621,838,206
Disaster Risk Reduction Activities	\$86,712,116
Program Support and Operations	\$44,837,292
TOTAL FY 2009 Obligated Funding	\$753,387,614
Budget Carryover to FY 2010	\$281,220,330
TOTAL OFDA Budget for FY 2009	\$1,034,607,944

Disaster Summaries in this Annual Report

The disaster descriptions on the preceding pages cover USG FY 2009. Between October 1, 2008, and September 30, 2009, OFDA responded to 55 declared disasters. In addition, OFDA responded to eight emergencies for which no disaster declaration was issued.

Explanation of Assistance Covered

The present annual report documents only the financial record of FY 2009 assistance provided through OFDA's budget. In addition to OFDA funds delineated in the report, other USG entities provided humanitarian assistance in response to many of the disasters detailed in the preceding pages. When such information was made available, OFDA staff noted in the case reports the participation of other USG agencies.

Detailed Situation Reports and Fact Sheets on Major Disasters Available Separately

OFDA staff regularly produce information products, including situation reports and fact sheets, regarding declared disasters which include detail beyond what is provided in the case reports found in the 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 2009

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

Asia and the Pacific – Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

Burma – Cyclone

Chad – Complex Emergency

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

East and Central Africa – Complex Emergency; Historical Assistance in Review; Regional Situation Report

Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia – Disaster Risk Reduction Programs

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Georgia – Complex Emergency

Global – Food Insecurity; Influenza A/H1N1; Pandemic Influenza; OFDA Annual Program Reviews

Global Sector Updates – Disaster Risk Reduction 2009; Nutrition; Pandemic Influenza; WASH; Logistics

Haiti – Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs; Storms

Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

Iraq – Complex Emergency

Kenya – Food Insecurity

Latin America and the Caribbean – Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs; Floods

Lesotho and Swaziland – Disaster Risk Reduction Programs

Malawi – Complex Emergency

Pakistan – Complex Emergency; Displacement due to Conflict and Flooding; Earthquake; Floods; Humanitarian Situation and Programs

Philippines – Tropical Storm

Somalia – Complex Emergency

Southern, West, and North Africa – Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

Southern Africa – Floods

Sri Lanka – Complex Emergency

Sudan – Complex Emergency; NGO Expulsions

Taiwan – Typhoon

Uganda – Complex Emergency

West Africa – Floods

Zimbabwe – Complex Emergency; Cholera Outbreak



Publication Credits

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Cover design by Laureen Reagan. Maps created by Brendan Bartow and Dong Chung.

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:

The Field Operations Guide (FOG) is a pocket-sized manual that contains methodologies 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. The 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: Caption: On May 24, a boy laughs while queuing during a food distribution in Chota Lahore Camp in Swabi District, North-West Frontier Province, Pakistan. Credit: ©UNICEF/PAKA2009-4237/Marta Ramoneda



Back: Girls participate in an OFDA-funded water pump inauguration in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region, Ethiopia (Photo by Fikremariam Solomon, USAID).





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