USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Commonly Used Acronyms

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

AAH/USA	Action Against Hunger
ACF	Action Contre la Faim
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AmRC	American Red Cross
ARC	American Refugee Committee
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
HKI	Helen Keller International
IMC	International Medical Corps
iMMAP	Information Management and Mine Action Programs
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRD	International Relief and Development
Oxfam/GB	Oxfam Great Britian
PSI	Population Services International
SC/UK	Save the Children/U.K.
SC/US	Save the Children/U.S.
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
WCDO	World Concern Development Organization
WHH	Welthungerhilfe

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
UNDP	U.N. Development Program
UNDSS	U.N. Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	U.N. Population Fund
UNHABITAT	U.N. Human Settlements Program
UNHAS	U.N. Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	U.N. Children's Fund
WFP	U.N. World Food Program
WHO	U.N. World Health Organization

U.S. Government (USG) Acronyms

AFRICOM	U.S. Africa Command
CDC	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CENTCOM	U.S. Central Command
DART	Disaster Assistance Response Team
DCHA	Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense
EUCOM	U.S. European Command
FFP	Office of Food for Peace
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PACOM	U.S. Pacific Command
RMT	Response Management Team
SOUTHCOM	U.S. Southern Command
State	U.S. Department of State
State/PRM	State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USUN	U.S. Mission to the United Nations

OFDA Acronyms

CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ERMS	Economic Recovery and Market Systems
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender-based Violence
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
USAR	Urban Search-and-Rescue
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Miscellaneous

AFP	Agence France-Presse
FY	fiscal year
IDP	internally displaced person
km	kilometer
mph	miles per hour
MT	metric ton

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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Message from the OFDA Director

MARK BARTOLINI

Conflict in Syria and drought in the Sahel presented two distinct types of crises requiring emergency responses by OFDA in 2012. While these crises have not received the media attention of 2011's Japan earthquake and Somalia famine, they have been no less devastating for the people suffering through the tragedies.

The conflict in Syria grew more brutal by the day, with Syrian regime forces using military force to suppress opposition fighters and terrorize innocent civilians. The regime's tactics have included the deliberate targeting of bread lines and bakeries, as well as hospitals, medical personnel, and patients. As the conflict broadened, widespread violence became the greatest obstacle to delivering humanitarian assistance.

Facing these challenges, OFDA proactively responded, delivering humanitarian aid into Syria as the crisis unfolded. OFDA adopted an approach that emphasized maximum flexibility to address civilians most affected by the war, working through a number of U.N. agencies and NGO partners and with a range of approaches. Notably, OFDA supported NGOs working in both government and opposition-held areas, and worked to ensure that a significant level of assistance reached opposition-held and contested areas, recognizing the difficulty other international assistance providers were having reaching these regions. OFDA, through its network of partners, sought to identify local organizations, determine their capacity and accountability, and then provide them the funds, training, and materials necessary to save lives.

The provision of humanitarian relief under such conditions poses severe risks—both for the providers and the recipients of aid. For these reasons, OFDA refrained from branding its assistance and its implementing partners adopted extraordinary methods to protect their staff and the viability of their programs. Even with such precautions by OFDA and other donors, staff working on programs have been killed, wounded, and arrested. Despite risks, Syrian and international organizations have persevered, making heroic efforts to provide life-saving assistance to areas under siege.

Our partners created supply chains supporting a network of field hospitals and mobile medical clinics and to distribute surgical supplies, mobile x-ray machines, and essential drugs—such as anesthetics, painkillers, and antibiotics. They trained hundreds of Syrian medical personnel in advanced trauma surgery and over 2,000 in advanced first-aid techniques to address shortages of health care workers. As the conflict continues to worsen, humanitarian agencies are attempting to reach Syrians with chronic conditions, like diabetes and cancer, in order to provide them with life-saving drugs. Facing enormous challenges, health care workers had already vaccinated over a quarter of a million children by the end of September. With increasing violence and millions displaced, programs designed to provide clean water and promote hygiene are saving lives. OFDA is also ensuring its partners address sexual- and gender-based violence by ensuring adequate numbers of female staff, as well as adequate training and supplies to support those affected. OFDA is supporting psychosocial programs for children to help identify and overcome the severe implications of trauma.

In September 2012, OFDA laid the foundation for an intensive effort that would provide over 600,000 internally displaced Syrians with relief supplies, such as plastic sheeting, blankets, clothing, and mattresses, to help them survive the hardships of winter conditions in bombed out buildings, such as schools, gymnasiums, and public buildings—where many of the displaced have sought refuge.

The imperative of providing aid discreetly to ensure the safety of aid workers created challenges for OFDA in terms of coordination, especially given the growing scale of the crisis and the complexity of the humanitarian response. For that reason, OFDA worked closely with other international humanitarian actors to provide more accurate data and identify and respond to the areas of greatest need.

As FY 2012 drew to a close, it was clear that the world faced a growing humanitarian crisis of historic proportions with no prospect for resolution in the short-term, but leaving OFDA in a position to build upon an approach that emphasized maximum flexibility to meet the rapidly expanding needs.

The Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa suffers from chronic food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and malnutrition, which combined lead to over 300,000 children a year dying before their fifth birthday. Recurrent drought and other natural disasters, such as floods and locust swarms, exacerbate these already trying conditions, resulting in increased loss of life and pushing the most vulnerable into intractable poverty as they sell off limited property and accumulate debt to pay for food.

The long-standing crisis in the Sahel constitutes one of those "silent crises" far from most of the world's media attention, but each year exacting a staggering toll on human life—particularly among young children.

In 2012, severe drought conditions in many regions of the Sahel led to livestock deaths, withering crops, and diminishing incomes for the millions of people in this region who eek out marginal livelihoods under incredibly difficult conditions.

OFDA responded to this crisis with a two-pronged approach that aimed to meet emergency needs while empowering the most vulnerable to better withstand future shocks. First, OFDA provided life-saving assistance building on interventions that began in late 2011, which were triggered by early warning systems predicting severe food security problems based on climatic conditions, crop productivity, livestock health, and market prices. Second, OFDA played a key role in the initiation of the Sahel Joint Planning Cell (JPC), following the successful launch of USAID's Horn of Africa JPC, which promoted building resilience through a more strategic response from both the emergency response and development bureaus in USAID.

The vision underpinning JPCs is a more unified approach within USAID and among other stakeholders to leverage complementary capacities during both humanitarian and development program implementation cycles, with the overall goal of helping the most vulnerable populations face the recurring crises prevalent in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

With climate change and environmental degradation accelerating the desertification of once arable lands, innovative land management practices and rainwater harvesting are being employed to create more sustainable agricultural conditions.

In addition to promoting more sustainable agricultural practices, USAID partners are piloting ways to improve health through crop diversification—such as the planting of moringa, a fast-growing tree with exceptional nutritional value that can benefit both humans and livestock. Incorporating these longer-term development programs with emergency interventions can have immediate benefits for vulnerable populations facing a future of chronic shocks.

> "I cannot say enough to honor the unsung heroes that staff this office."
>
> **MARK BARTOLINI,** *OFDA Director*

The crises in Syria and the Sahel were accompanied by extreme weather events, including super typhoons, flooding, drought, and continuing political upheaval in Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, Burma, and Mali. OFDA staff worked tirelessly to address these crises, to strengthen the overall international response structure, and to continuously improve its own processes.

As I prepare to step down as Director in early 2013, I cannot say enough to honor the unsung heroes that staff this office. Every year, despite intense pressures and a crushing workload, they focus with unflagging intensity and humanitarian commitment on doing all they can to save the lives of those impacted by the world's worst crises. They are a formidable and indispensible representation of America's compassion, technical abilities, and commitment to assisting the world's most vulnerable.

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

In FY 2012, OFDA responded to 63 humanitarian emergencies in 54 countries, assisting tens of millions of disaster-affected individuals around the world.

Approximately 60 percent of OFDA's FY 2012 funding supported populations in Africa affected by disasters. In Sudan and South Sudan, OFDA worked to sustain peace following South Sudan's independence in 2011 and assist vulnerable populations during the country's transition to statehood. In FY 2012, OFDA continued to support populations affected by persistent poor crop and livestock conditions resulting from the 2011/2012 Horn of Africa drought—the worst drought the region had faced in decades. In addition, OFDA responded to the crisis in the Sahel, where conflict and food insecurity affected an estimated 18.7 million people.

In Asia, OFDA supported populations affected by complex emergencies in Afghanistan, Burma, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In addition, OFDA responded to humanitarian needs arising from natural disasters, including floods and a tropical storm. OFDA also implemented DRR programs in Asia to strengthen local disaster response capacity and promote techniques to mitigate the effects of disasters, such as improved construction methods to help residences and businesses withstand earthquakes and high winds.

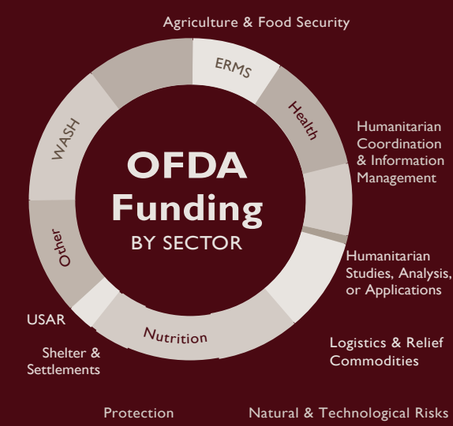
In Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia, OFDA responded to humanitarian needs arising from conflict and a range of natural disasters, including an earthquake, wildfire, floods, and winter emergencies in the region. When conflict erupted in Syria, OFDA immediately responded to humanitarian needs, working through local partners to provide life-saving relief and medical supplies to affected populations. OFDA also assisted vulnerable and food-insecure populations affected by ongoing conflict and worsening economic conditions in Yemen. OFDA completed humanitarian programs in Iraq in FY 2012, providing additional technical assistance and closing out the OFDA program office in Baghdad.

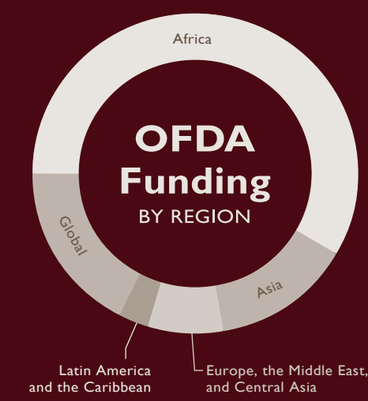
In Latin America and the Caribbean, OFDA responded to humanitarian needs resulting from a wildfire and tropical storms. In addition, OFDA prioritized DRR programs in the region, investing in local capacity to prepare for and mitigate the potential negative impacts of future disasters.

In FY 2012, OFDA provided a total of nearly $717 million in humanitarian assistance to support interventions in various sectors across the globe. The majority of OFDA humanitarian interventions helped to build communities' resilience, while simultaneously saving lives and alleviating human suffering. This total includes an estimated $106 million for DRR activities to help communities prepare for and mitigate the effects of disasters, as well as more than $136 million for disaster response programs with DRR components.

Types of Disasters Requiring OFDA Assistance

OFDA also responded to one of each of the following disasters: cyclone, drought, earthquake, fresh water shortage, munitions explosion, refugee influx, and tropical storm.

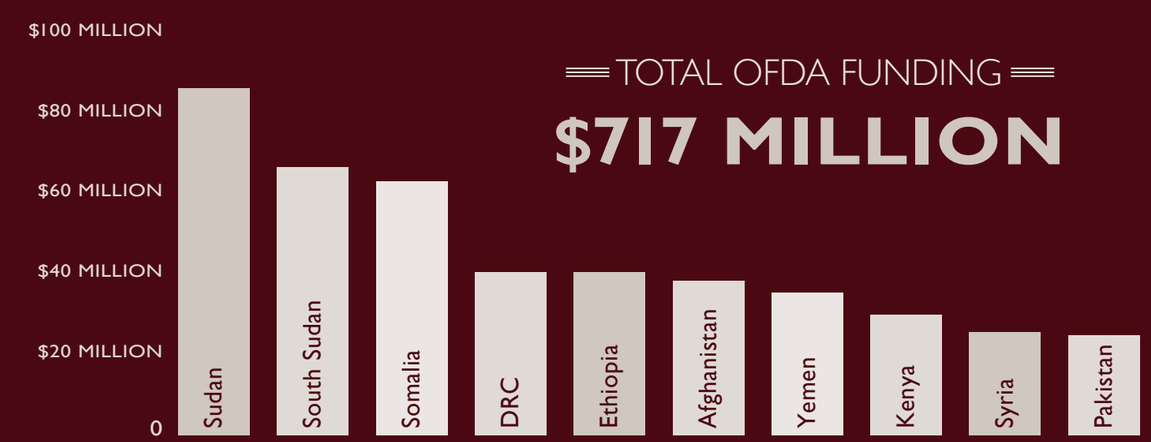




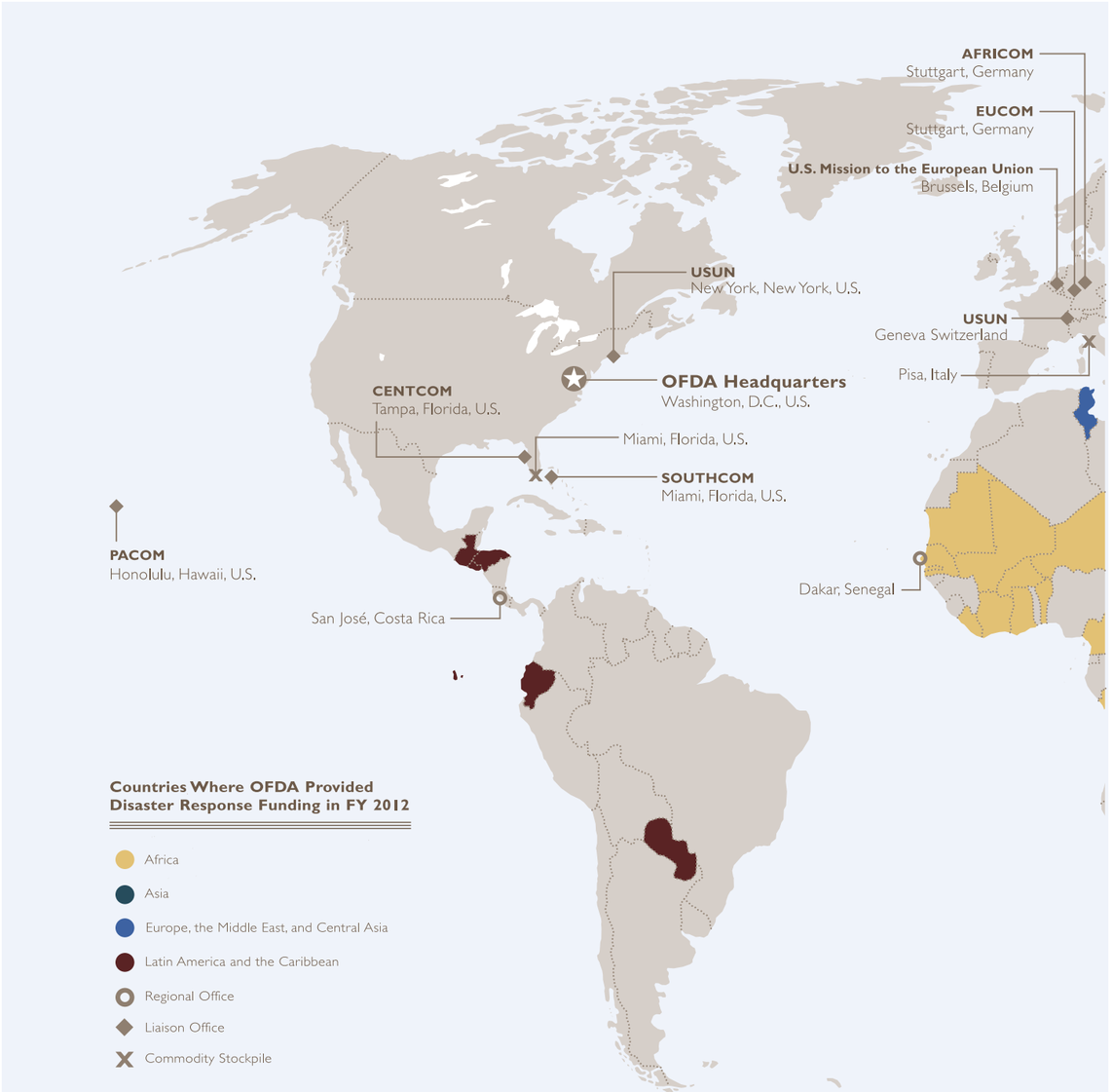
63 OFDA Disaster Responses

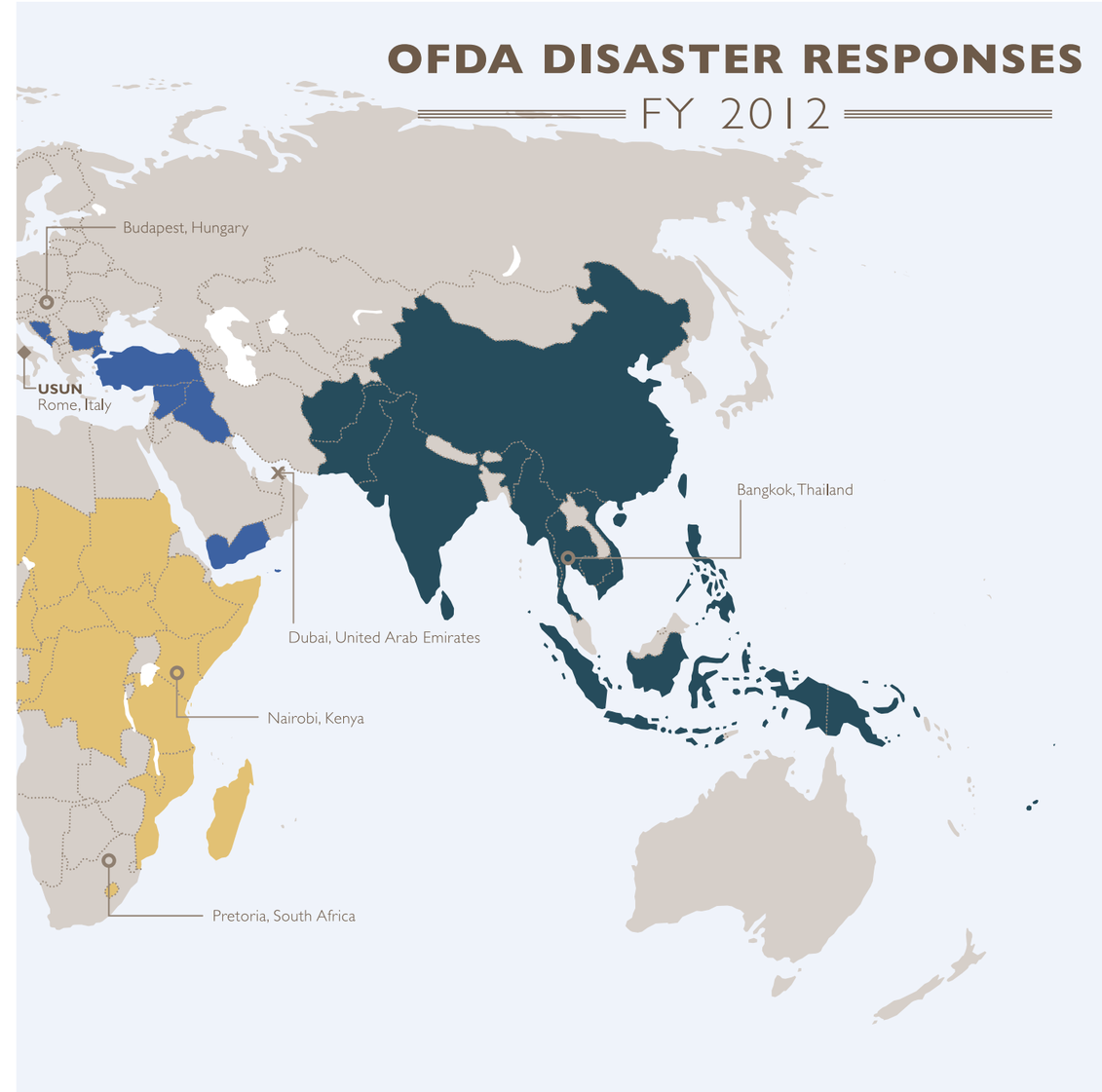
54 Countries received OFDA Disaster Support

24 Floods in FY 2012. Floods were the most frequent disaster.

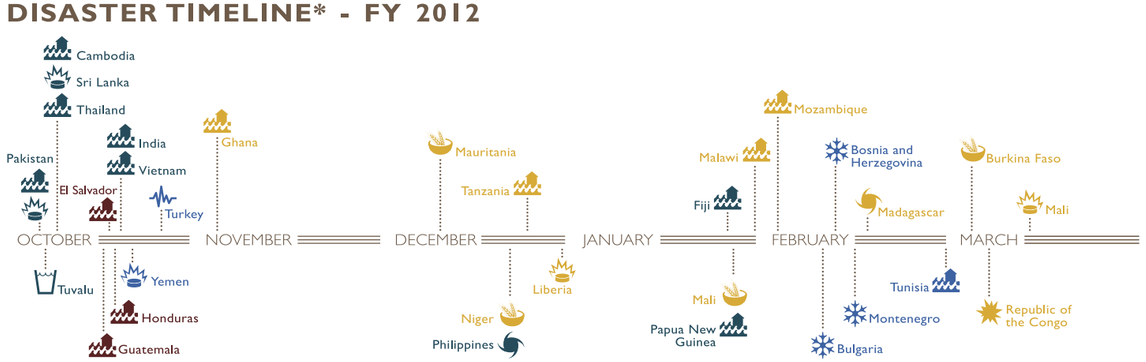


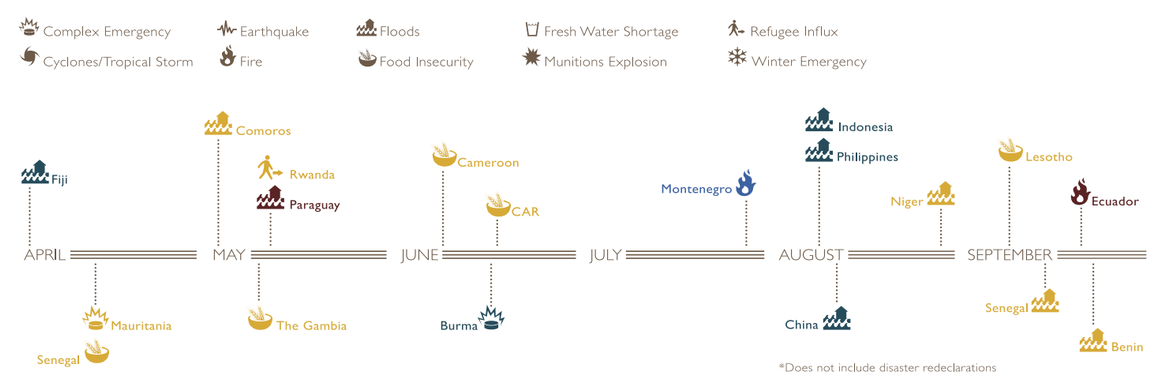
10 Largest OFDA Responses in FY 2012





DISASTER TIMELINE* - FY 2012





*Does not include disaster redeclarations

A woman digs a trench to collect rainwater near the village of Tibiri in the southern Zinder Region of Niger.
Courtesy of Issouf Sanogo/AFP

"When we reduce hunger in the world, or help a farmer recover from a flood or a drought, it strengthens the entire world economy. When we put an end to a preventable disease, all of us are safer because of it."

U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

On the nomination of Dr. Jim Kim for World Bank President

Saving Lives

Every day, in every region around the globe, OFDA staff are monitoring crises and preparing to deploy at a moment's notice in accordance with the three pillars of our emergency response mandate: to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and mitigate the social and economic impact of disasters. Not long after a conflict breaks out or natural disaster strikes, OFDA engages partners on the ground to provide critical, life-saving assistance. When earthquakes, tsunamis, or poor construction cause buildings to collapse and potentially trap hundreds of people in the rubble, OFDA's USAR teams can deploy to disaster zones within hours to locate and rescue trapped individuals. And, when insecurity or natural disasters threaten to prevent vulnerable populations from receiving much-needed humanitarian assistance, OFDA finds a way to reach those in need. OFDA plays an important role as catastrophic events unfold, immediately responding to emerging disasters, and providing a lifeline to affected communities when they need it most.

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A child is screened for malnutrition at a clinic in the Bawdupha IDP camp on the outskirts of Sittwe, Burma.
Courtesy of Soe Than Win/AFP

Reaching IDPs in Burma

BY ALISON LAPP

At times in a nation's history, the slow march forward seems to accelerate to a run, with momentous events crowding the pages of the newspapers nearly every week. For Burma, 2012 was such a year, as the new civilian government continued to move away from more than half a century of military rule toward political and economic reform. However, as is common in moments of significant change, these developments did not equally reach all of Burma's residents. For many in parts of Burma, 2012 was a year marked by violence. In northern Burma, fighting between Government of Burma (GoB) forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) intensified, affecting populations in both Kachin and Shan states, while a separate conflict between ethnic Rakhine and Rohingya communities erupted into riots, arson, and looting in western Burma's Rakhine State. As vulnerable populations in Kachin, Shan, and Rakhine states fled their homes, factors like insecurity, limited humanitarian aid worker access, and geographic isolation made reaching some IDPs difficult. While communities impacted by the recent violence experienced the darker side of Burma's history, OFDA provided critical humanitarian relief to those made most vulnerable by the events of 2012.

Responding to Priority Camp Needs

The causes of displacement in Kachin, Shan, and Rakhine states were complex and disparate, and humanitarian conditions within each state varied widely, particularly by ethnic group and area of control. As the number of IDPs residing in camps in both Kachin and Rakhine increased, the risk of health complications associated with crowded camp conditions grew worse. Some groups lacking adequate access to sanitation facilities and safe drinking water contracted waterborne diseases and skin infections, exacerbated by limited access to functioning medical facilities.

To address these needs in the three affected states, OFDA required a partner with strong technical capacity in the WASH sector, experience working in the affected communities to understand the cultural context of each area, and established partnerships with local government agencies and NGOs able to work in difficult-to-reach areas. UNICEF, which has long-standing programs in Burma, met these criteria. With OFDA assistance, UNICEF partners began constructing latrines, hand-washing and gender-separated bathing facilities, and drainage and rainwater harvesting structures, as well as rehabilitating water points and providing water treatment supplies to improve IDPs' access to safe drinking water. These WASH activities targeted nearly 48,000 conflict-affected beneficiaries.

Kachin State: Aid Across Battle Lines

In June 2011, the fragile peace established by the 1994 ceasefire between the GoB and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)—the political body that oversees the KIA—broke down. The renewed fighting escalated throughout 2012 and, as of September 2012, had displaced approximately 75,000 individuals in Kachin and northern Shan states, according to the U.N. During an assessment trip to Kachin State IDP camps in August, OFDA staff noted that the GoB and relief agencies were providing humanitarian assistance to IDPs residing in GoB-controlled areas; however, the GoB continued to deny international humanitarian organizations regular access to KIO-controlled territory. As a result, camps in these areas received less aid and assistance deliveries occurred on an infrequent basis, despite the fact that approximately 60 percent of people displaced by the fighting resided in KIO-controlled areas.

An additional 7,000 conflict-affected people from Kachin State fled across the Burma–China border to seek refuge in Yunnan Province; however, in August, the Government of the People's Republic of China began forcibly repatriating the majority of these refugees. OCHA reported that at least 3,000 of these individuals moved to IDP camps in KIO-controlled areas, increasing humanitarian needs in the difficult-to-reach sites.

To assist conflict-affected populations on both sides of the shifting frontline, OFDA's partner UNICEF focused on building the WASH response capacity of local Burmese NGOs. Access for international organizations was rare, leaving local organizations to provide assistance in camps in KIO areas. As such, UNICEF implemented the OFDA-funded programs in partnership with two international NGOs, as well as two local NGOs that were able to use established relationships with local communities in Kachin and Shan states as a starting point from which to quickly launch disaster response programs. UNICEF's experience constructing latrines and water systems, coupled with the local NGOs' understanding of and access to affected communities, allowed OFDA assistance to reach IDPs who would otherwise be beyond the reach of life-saving international aid.

Rakhine State: Balance in Volatile Circumstances

In early June 2012, a local incident between the ethnic Rakhine and Rohingya communities ignited widespread inter-communal violence in Rakhine State, leading to increased population displacement, primarily in and around the capital of Sittwe. The GoB and relief agencies based in Rakhine State began assisting IDPs immediately following the outbreak of hostilities; however, campaigns against providing aid to Rohingyas by some ethnic Rakhine people affected humanitarian agencies and disrupted some of their activities.

As tensions between Rakhine and Rohingya populations continued to run high and a recurrence of violence remained possible, OFDA encouraged its partners to provide coordinated, informed, and balanced assistance to avoid

Key Humanitarian Events in the **Kachin State Conflict**

JUNE 2011
- Fighting resumes in Kachin State, breaking a 17-year ceasefire

DECEMBER 2011
- Initial U.N. relief convoys permitted into KIO-controlled areas, then prohibited

MARCH 2012
- U.N. obtains GoB permission to resume convoys bringing aid to KIO territory

JUNE 15, 2012
- USG declares a disaster due to multiple conflicts throughout Burma, including in Kachin State

JULY 2012
- GoB suspends U.N. relief convoys indefinitely

AUGUST 2012
- China forcibly repatriates Kachin refugees
- OFDA assesses humanitarian conditions in Kachin State; OFDA begins WASH assistance through UNICEF

SEPTEMBER 2012
- Fighting had displaced approximately 75,000 people to camps, host communities, and remote jungle areas

Key Humanitarian Events in the **Rakhine State Conflict**

JUNE 8, 2012
- Widespread sectarian violence erupts following increased tensions between ethnic Rakhine and Rohingya communities

JUNE 10, 2012
- The GoB declares a state of emergency for Rakhine State

JUNE 15, 2012
- USG declares a disaster due to multiple conflicts throughout Burma, including in Rakhine State

JUNE 27, 2012
- OFDA staff travel to Rakhine State to join a senior GoB delegation for an assessment of humanitarian conditions
- OFDA announces assistance to UNICEF for WASH activities

SEPTEMBER 2012
- OFDA provides additional assistance to UNICEF for WASH and nutrition assistance in Rakhine State

Demonstrators, including ethnic Kachins, artists, and civil society groups, participate in a downtown Yangon peace rally to call for an end to the conflict in Kachin State. *Courtesy of Ye Aung Thu/AFP*

aggravating existing friction. OFDA urged partners to ensure that assistance was based on need, reached both Muslim and Buddhist communities, and did not compound the conflict. Based on this guidance, UNICEF and its partners endeavored to reach the most vulnerable members of all displaced communities when implementing WASH programs, as well as nutrition initiatives that included therapeutic feeding for children suffering from SAM, supplemental blanket feeding for children less than five years of age, and nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women.

Solutions Through Coordination

OFDA also provided assistance to help OCHA perform its role as coordinator of principled humanitarian responses throughout Burma. In Kachin State, OCHA promoted improved humanitarian access to populations in need, regardless of their location. In March 2012, OCHA helped negotiate an agreement with the GoB to permit U.N. convoys to bring life-saving aid into KIO-controlled areas. In Rakhine State, OCHA established humanitarian clusters—coordinating bodies for humanitarian assistance—to ensure that all actors providing humanitarian aid in the same sector did so according to a common strategy, thereby helping them avoid the perception of favoritism by inadvertently offering different types of aid, duplicating efforts, or overlooking unaided populations. OCHA worked to include local Burmese organizations in coordination activities as well.

Conclusion

During the Kachin and Rakhine conflicts of 2012, access restrictions and misperceptions regarding the equal distribution of aid threatened to keep assistance from reaching some of the people whose lives had been disrupted by the fighting around them. By focusing on strengthening the response capacity of local NGOs with access to otherwise restricted areas and advocating for balanced assistance, OFDA sought to overcome these challenges and ensure that life-saving activities reached affected groups in need of aid.

Then and Now

OFDA's Leading Role in International Urban Search-and-Rescue

BY ALISHA MCMICHAEL

Imagine experiencing a disaster—such as the earthquake in Haiti, the tsunami in Japan, or even Hurricane Sandy in the United States—and being trapped and injured under piles of rubble or debris without knowing if anyone is able to rescue you. It is frightening to think about, but when a magnitude 8.1 earthquake struck near Mexico City in 1985, search-and-rescue resources were virtually non-existent—and the results were catastrophic.

The devastating earthquake caused more than 400 buildings to collapse in Mexico City and damaged thousands more, contributing to more than 10,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries. Neither trained nor equipped to perform the life-saving USAR techniques used today, first responders were helpless to assist many of the victims trapped under the rubble, and lives were lost. This earthquake illustrated the extraordinary level of destruction a natural disaster can cause in an urban area, and it underscored the critical need for improved USAR resources in disaster response efforts.

USAR's Roots with OFDA: Meeting a Critical Need

After witnessing the Mexico City earthquake response, OFDA realized it could fill a gap in overseas USAR capabilities within its mandate to save lives. OFDA convened with national and international disaster response experts to discuss the critical need for search-and-rescue resources in future emergency responses. OFDA included rescue as part of its humanitarian efforts and began working with Virginia's Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and Florida's Metro-Dade—now Miami-Dade—Fire Rescue Department to vigorously train a robust and professional team of U.S.-based USAR responders able to deploy overseas on short notice without support from the host country experiencing the disaster.

Participants in a national USAR mobilization exercise in Mexico utilize USAR techniques to simulate extraction from rubble. *Pedro Soto/USAID*

The planning was put into action in December 1988 after a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck the Spitak Region of Armenia, located in the Soviet Union at the time of the disaster. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to accept USG assistance for rescue operations—a historic event during the Cold War—and OFDA quickly assembled and deployed a combined team of rescuers from Miami-Dade and Fairfax County to assist in search-and-rescue efforts. This first response provided valuable knowledge and hands-on experience that OFDA used as a foundation for helping to build the international USAR system in place today.

OFDA's Evolving Role: Building a Better System

As the concept continued to grow in the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s, OFDA began to assume the role of international USAR leader. In addition to increasing the USAR capacity of U.S. response teams, OFDA began to focus on formalizing the USAR response process. OFDA workshops, attended by international search-and-rescue leaders, prompted the creation, in 1991, of the U.N.'s International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), a consortium currently comprising more than 80 disaster-prone and disaster-responding countries. OFDA supported INSARAG in establishing minimum international standards for USAR teams and a methodology for international coordination—published in the INSARAG Guidelines in 1999—as well as a USAR directory and classification system. OFDA also supported INSARAG in the development of the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) system, which is responsible for assessment, coordination, and information management at disaster sites.

In addition to supporting the U.N.'s efforts to improve coordination among international USAR teams, OFDA has encouraged the development of national USAR capacity within the disaster response operations frameworks of hazard-prone countries. Recognizing that first responders to a disaster have the potential to save the most lives, OFDA began introducing USAR concepts into its disaster risk reduction trainings, particularly those countries in Asia and Latin America most frequently affected by natural disasters. OFDA developed the Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP) in Latin America in 1989 and expanded it in 1991 to include the Caribbean countries. In Asia, OFDA initiated the Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) in 1998 to improve disaster response capacity in India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines, and progressively expanded the program to include six additional countries. OFDA has also provided short-term emergency assistance and USAR training to a number of other countries, such as Iceland, Jordan, and South Africa, as well as shared training information and overseen the transfer of USAR equipment to China, Japan, and New Zealand following disaster responses.

In the process of improving the international USAR system, OFDA indirectly strengthened emergency response efforts in the United States. In 1989, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established the National Urban Search-and-Rescue Response System as a framework for domestic response efforts. FEMA organized local emergency services personnel into integrated disaster response teams, referred to as task forces, similar to those developed by OFDA for international deployment. The OFDA-supported Miami-Dade and Fairfax County USAR teams that had deployed to Armenia joined 26 other teams to form FEMA's National Urban Search-and-Rescue Response System.

Today, OFDA maintains agreements with L.A. County and Fairfax County USAR teams, which allow OFDA to activate these teams for international disaster responses when needed. OFDA also frequently draws on the knowledge and skills of these teams to develop and deliver effective international training programs.

What is USAR?

USAR involves the detection, location, extraction, and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. USAR is considered a multi-hazard discipline, as it may be needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, storms, tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist attacks, and hazardous materials releases.

OFDA's Role Today: Strengthening USAR Worldwide

Training and equipping local emergency personnel to rapidly respond to disasters is one of the most effective ways to save lives. Knowing this, OFDA's disaster preparedness efforts are now focused primarily on building the capacity of national and regional first responders, including USAR units, which are able to respond to local disasters more quickly than international teams. In Asia, USAR is a major component of the OFDA-supported PEER program, which has trained more than 2,600 disaster response professionals, including more than 1,800 individuals who attended multiple trainings to build a broader skill set or have graduated to become PEER instructors themselves. To continue building the capacity of national and regional first responders and disaster management agencies, OFDA provided PEER with more than $1 million in funding in FY 2012.

Similarly, the OFDA-supported RDAP, operating in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), is a comprehensive capacity-building program with a large USAR component. Governments and organizations from 30 LAC countries currently participate in RDAP, which has trained more than 75,000 people and certified almost 7,000 instructors since it began in 1989. Although RDAP originally focused on training local responders, OFDA shifted from a strictly instructional approach to providing more technical assistance as local experts began conducting disaster management training in the region. OFDA's support to RDAP now includes working with governments and disaster management organizations on a wide spectrum of activities, such as establishing training programs, assisting with USAR team self-evaluations and accreditation processes, and strengthening the legal, logistical, and operational foundations for national USAR systems.

In FY 2012, OFDA—through RDAP—employed a country-specific approach to USAR in LAC, developing trainings and technical assistance programs based on each country's capabilities, strengths, and challenges. One especially noteworthy accomplishment was the completion of a three-day, OFDA-supported mobilization exercise in Mexico. As the largest simulation training held in LAC in 2012, the exercise assessed the performance of Mexican USAR teams and evaluated the coordination between municipal, state, and federal disaster response systems. RDAP is using the training as a model for other LAC countries and expects the lessons learned to assist with building USAR capacity throughout the region. In total, OFDA provided more than $6 million for RDAP activities in the LAC region in FY 2012 to continue strengthening national and regional capacity.

OFDA remains committed to strengthening the global USAR system. For example, OFDA is engaged with INSARAG and has representatives participating in working groups to refine the INSARAG Guidelines. OFDA also retains a roster of UNDAC members that can deploy rapidly to a disaster site to coordinate USAR response activities. In addition, OFDA has also developed and continues to maintain the Americas Support Team, which provides UNDAC with on-site logistical and operational support during a disaster in LAC countries.

Due in large part to OFDA's initiative and leadership, USAR is now a standard component of the international disaster response system, and teams around the world are trained, equipped, and ready to respond when a disaster strikes. Nearly 30 years ago, OFDA created the first U.S.-based USAR team and began offering search-and-rescue as part of its humanitarian assistance to meet a critical need. Since then, OFDA has continued to lead and support international USAR efforts to build the robust international system in place today. OFDA's support for strengthening national and regional teams to help themselves and their neighbors has decreased the need for USG USAR assistance. And, most importantly, OFDA's emphasis on building national and regional capacity has increased the number of lives saved following catastrophic events.

OFDA-supported USAR teams examine a collapsed building in Christchurch, New Zealand. *Rebecca Gustafson/USAID*

How USAR Teams Save Lives

Saving Lives

USAR is a demanding job—physically and emotionally—that requires countless hours of training, the ability to deploy on short notice, and the willingness to work under hazardous conditions, yet L.A. County and Fairfax County USAR teams eagerly take up the challenge to help OFDA meet its most important mandate—saving lives.

USAR Team

While USAR teams always coordinate with host country search-and-rescue personnel and other international teams, OFDA-supported teams have the ability to work independently 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for up to 14 days.

USAR teams comprise engineers, doctors, hazardous materials experts, canines and canine search experts, firefighters, paramedics, and a variety of other specialists.

L.A. County and Fairfax County USAR teams can be ready to deploy internationally within 10 hours of a disaster.

Equipment

The team arrives at disaster sites with a comprehensive equipment cache. It contains everything needed to begin detecting, locating, extracting, and providing medical care to victims.

Navigating Chaos

OFDA's Assistance to Syria

BY FIONA BAKER

The conflict taking place in Syria has rapidly deteriorated into one of the world's most violent and intractable humanitarian crises. What began with peaceful protests on the heels of the Arab Spring movement in 2011 degenerated into a bloody civil war. In 2012, Syria became a country of shifting frontlines: its cities scarred by bombings and sniper fire, its population uprooted and divided. By late September 2012, relief agencies reported that the conflict had resulted in 30,000 deaths, displaced in excess of 1.2 million people inside Syria, and caused 300,000 people to flee to Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. In the midst of growing chaos, OFDA launched immediate life-saving assistance beginning in February 2012, providing humanitarian support throughout conflict-affected areas of Syria.

The Toll of Conflict

In addition to the increasing number of violent deaths, the crisis resulted in significant damage to infrastructure and obstructed communities' access to basic goods and services. For instance, by early September 2012, half of all public hospitals and the majority of private health facilities in hard-hit Homs Governorate were not functioning, according to the U.N. The fighting also resulted in shortages of critical medicines for conditions such as tuberculosis, hypertension, hepatitis, diabetes, and cancer. Meanwhile, growing numbers of IDPs were cut off from access to the basic household necessities for people to care for their families.

The Obstacles

In the face of increasingly alarming conditions, aid agencies launched a multi-sector response and immediately encountered significant barriers. For one, fighting and escalating lawlessness hindered relief efforts. Another significant barrier to providing assistance was the direct targeting of violence against relief workers, particularly in the medical field. The difficult operating environment also had an impact on the USG in Syria. After a series of attacks, the U.S. Embassy in Damascus closed and withdrew all American staff from the country in February 2012.

During 2012, the U.N. took the lead in negotiating with the Syrian Government to expand humanitarian access throughout the country; meanwhile, local and international humanitarian actors struggled to find solutions for reaching people in need.

> "The relief we send [to Syria] doesn't say "Made in America," but make no mistake—our aid reflects the commitment of the American people."
>
> PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

OFDA's Response

In early 2012, an OFDA team with staff in Washington, D.C., and across the Middle East region worked to identify relief organizations with access to affected people inside Syria and creative approaches to reach those who required immediate, life-saving assistance within the challenging security context. By February 2012, OFDA's first NGO partner was providing emergency medical assistance in Syria—making the USG one of the very few international donors supporting such services at the time. This assistance included support for informal 'medical points' treating traumatic injuries associated with increasing levels of violence, as well as for chronic health conditions and basic primary health care. As the conflict persisted and deepened over FY 2012, OFDA expanded its response, supporting nutrition, protection, logistics, and information management interventions through the combined efforts of NGO partners, local sub-partners, and U.N. agencies across the country.

To protect aid recipients and relief workers from potential reprisals for receiving USG-funded assistance, the names of OFDA partners are not publicized. Despite the low visibility, OFDA's nearly $20 million of FY 2012 humanitarian assistance funding for Syria provided a degree of dignity and support for the highly vulnerable, and in many cases meant the difference between life and death.

Nadia in post-operative care. *Courtesy of unnamed OFDA NGO partner*

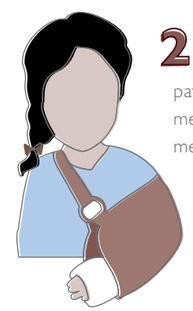
Success Story

In September 2012, Nadia*, a 10-year-old girl from Damascus, was injured when a shell landed on the vehicle in which she was riding with her brother and grandmother, who was killed. Nadia suffered severe abdominal injuries. Doctors transported her to a field hospital where surgeons immediately began an operation to save her life. The doctors were able to stabilize her, and Nadia was reunited with her mother and siblings. The family fled to Jordan, where Nadia has since recovered from her injuries.

*Not her real name

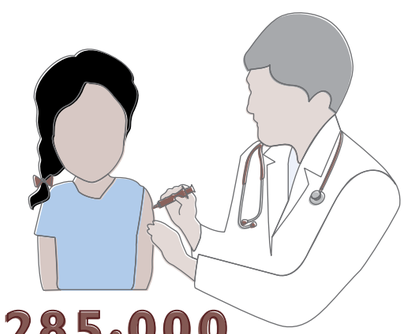
OFDA Medical Assistance to Syria

In FY 2012, OFDA supported a range of relief activities in Syria, including emergency medical assistance for people affected by the conflict. OFDA-funded medical programs reached those in need by providing supplies, administering vaccinations, and conducting trainings in trauma care and emergency surgery.



200,000

patients reached through field hospitals and medical points in Syria by OFDA-trained medical workers.

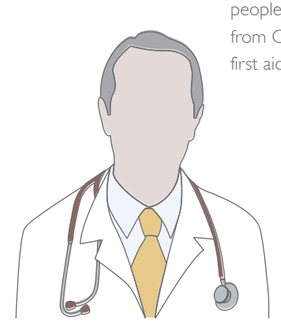


285,000

children under the age of five received measles vaccinations through UNICEF with OFDA support.

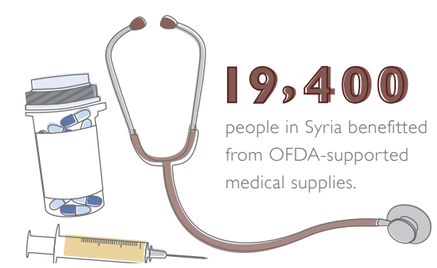
10,500

people in Syria benefitted from OFDA-supported first aid kits.



270

medical personnel trained through OFDA-supported emergency medical courses.



19,400

people in Syria benefitted from OFDA-supported medical supplies.

Somali women line up to receive a hot meal at a food distribution point in Somalia's capital Mogadishu. *Courtesy of Roberto Schmidt/AFP*

"We remain fully committed to the importance of humanitarian assistance in times of crisis to address the urgent needs and protect the assets of the most vulnerable people. And we know we can increase the impact of that assistance by building greater local and regional capacity both to predict and respond to emergencies and to better bridge the gap between humanitarian and development assistance."

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

World Food Day

Preparing and Preventing

Investing in a Safer Tomorrow

As many countries experience regular or seasonal hazards, such as flooding and tropical cyclones, OFDA is working to turn predictability into prevention by investing in activities that promote disaster preparedness and mitigation and help build communities' resilience to future shocks. OFDA engages with national and local authorities, as well as community-based organizations and community members, recognizing their central role in strengthening disaster response mechanisms. In FY 2012, in the aftermath of widespread flooding in Thailand, OFDA collaborated with the Government of Thailand to initiate a number of preparedness and mitigation programs to make communities less vulnerable to future floods. In addition, OFDA supported the Zambezi River Basin Initiative in southern Africa to help reduce the risks of climate-related disasters by encouraging the establishment of community risk management committees and strengthening information-sharing mechanisms at the local, regional, national, and international levels. On a broader scale, OFDA led the way on DRR innovations in the shelter and settlements sector by promoting the use of shelters that can withstand strong winds, high water, and seismic activity, as well as by working with communities to safeguard existing housing settlements against the effects of earthquakes and storms. In FY 2012, OFDA also held a DRR competition to recognize innovative disaster risk mitigation programs. The competition presented an opportunity for successful OFDA-funded DRR projects to be shared with fellow humanitarian partners and reflected OFDA's commitment to DRR as a key component of its mandate.

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A man paddles through floodwaters in Thailand's ancient capital, Ayutthaya. *Ben Hemingway/USAID*

Following Historic Floods, OFDA Helps Thailand Prepare for Future Disasters

BY LISA GABRIEL

Between August and November 2011, floodwaters swept through 65 of Thailand's 77 provinces, destroying homes, inundating rice paddies, crippling the manufacturing industry, and damaging centuries-old temples and ancient historical sites. By early November, months of heavy monsoon rains and tropical storms had caused the worst flooding the country had witnessed in more than half a century.

Assisted by OFDA and other humanitarian actors, the Royal Thai Government (RTG) mobilized an enormous response, addressing the humanitarian needs of several million flood-affected people nationwide. In the wake of the floods, OFDA's focus quickly turned to a pressing issue made apparent by the disaster: the need for improved disaster preparedness, mitigation, and risk reduction to help ensure that the next time floods—or another hazard—strike Thailand, the population will be better prepared.

OFDA's Swift Response

As soon as the scale and impact of the historic floods became apparent, OFDA acted immediately, standing up a 10-person response team in Thailand to oversee its emergency response activities. OFDA's team worked hand-in-hand with the RTG and its Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) to assess flood conditions, identify gaps in assistance, and address the basic needs of flood-affected populations. OFDA supported IOM to provide boats, motors, water pumps, water treatment filters, generators, and relief items that helped Thai emergency responders and government officials reach those in need. OFDA's assistance enabled the DDPM to rescue families stranded by floodwaters, remove standing water from critical infrastructure, and ensure adequate electrical supply to displacement sites and key government locations. OFDA also supported the deployment of an experienced Incident Command System (ICS) trainer from USFS—which has worked with the DDPM since 2010—to provide support to DDPM officials during flood response coordination efforts. In addition, OFDA worked closely with other USG entities, including a DoD Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team, to determine flood impact throughout the country.

Devastating Floods Emphasize the Need for DRR

Thailand, a country with significant local, regional, and national capacity to respond to domestic disasters, was able to quickly mobilize extensive support through the Thai Red Cross Society—one of OFDA's partners during the initial stage of the response—as well as RTG agencies, the private sector, and individuals. Nonetheless, despite Thailand's ability to respond, the floods resulted in 815 deaths, caused more than $46 billion in economic damages, and affected approximately 13.6 million people—roughly 20 percent of the country's population. Following the floods, OFDA quickly recognized the need for improved DRR measures within the country, from helping families better understand how to reduce their disaster vulnerability to strengthening drainage systems and enhancing disaster preparedness and coordination among key RTG agencies.

Following the 2011 floods, OFDA supported SC/US to produce and distribute 10,000 "Alert Little Mole" storybooks to schoolchildren in disaster-prone areas of Thailand. The 64-page storybook uses animal characters to teach children how to prepare for disasters, particularly floods. *Courtesy of SC/US*

OFDA Helps Prepare Thai Communities for Future Floods

The numerous rivers that cross Thailand can quickly rise in the event of heavy monsoon rains or a typhoon, leaving populations exposed to frequent flooding, often on a yearly basis. A large portion of the Thai population, as well as the country's economic resources and manufacturing assets, is

OFDA's Enduring Support for ICS in Thailand: Before, During, and After the Floods

Since the mid-1980s, OFDA has worked with USFS to institutionalize disaster response systems and build disaster management capacity internationally, including in Thailand. In particular, USFS trains government officials in disaster-prone countries on the ICS—the USG's own management framework for integrating personnel, equipment, procedures, facilities, and communications during emergencies—thereby enabling more effective response operations within a common organizational structure.

BEFORE

In April and May 2011—just months prior to the devastating floods—USFS conducted a series of train-the-trainer ICS courses to help Thai government officials incorporate ICS elements into the country's disaster response framework.

DURING

OFDA supported the deployment of an ICS specialist from USFS to work with Thai emergency responders. At the request of the RTG, the ICS specialist conducted a real-time evaluation of the government's floods response and noted possible areas for improvement, helping the RTG to improve ongoing and future emergency response operations.

AFTER

Observations from the ICS specialist helped to inform subsequent OFDA-funded ICS trainings for staff from DDPM and other RTG ministries following the floods. OFDA's continued support to the RTG has included sessions on emergency operations centers and effective coordination among multiple government agencies during disasters, as well as the translation and printing of ICS training materials into Thai for use by RTG officials and other emergency responders.

concentrated within the Chao Phraya River basin, while tributaries of the Mekong River—the world's 12th largest river—snake through northeastern Thailand. In addition, rapid urbanization in recent years has exacerbated flood risks, as the number of people residing in flood-prone areas continues to grow and canals used for drainage are filled in to make way for roads.

Recognizing the opportunity to reinforce the importance of DRR after the devastating floods, OFDA worked with its partners to initiate a number of flood preparedness and mitigation programs throughout the country to help at-risk communities better prepare for all-too-frequent flooding. OFDA-funded activities ranged from training community first responders and medical staff to capacity building for government officials and national and local institutions. Through the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), OFDA supported training at the local government, community, and household levels to enhance people's understanding of flood vulnerability, emphasize lessons learned from the floods, and link DRR measures with community development initiatives, such as health and sanitation programs and irrigation and drainage systems. With funding from OFDA, IOM developed practical, user-friendly temporary shelter management guidelines and resources for handling population displacement. OFDA assistance to SC/US even reached schoolchildren through the creation of disaster awareness learning materials, such as coloring books and games.

A Long-Term Approach Ensures Success

By engaging various members of the community—a range of key government agencies, local community members, health workers, and teachers and their students—OFDA sought to improve people's general knowledge of disasters and help them learn how to prepare for and respond to disasters' harmful effects. OFDA activities also took a long-term approach, seeking ways to benefit Thai communities for years to come, such as helping the RTG and local institutions develop and implement their own flood mitigation and preparedness projects. By strengthening the foundation of disaster risk management in the country from the household to the national level, OFDA has helped ensure that communities in Thailand will benefit from DRR activities long after OFDA's post-flood programs end.

An instructor from ADPC teaches children about disasters as part of an OFDA-supported DRR program in

In Goma, nearly all the t-shelters provided in 2002 had evolved into permanent housing for thousands of families by 2012. *(l) Courtesy of CRS, (r) Kiko Lattu/USAID*

The Genesis and Growing Utility

of OFDA Transitional Shelter Activities

BY CHARLES A. SETCHELL, *SENIOR SHELTER, SETTLEMENTS, AND HAZARD MITIGATION ADVISOR*, AND RACHEL INGERSOLL

When a natural disaster—such as an earthquake, flood, cyclone, or volcanic eruption—destroys entire communities, or events like drought or conflict force people to flee to seek food or safety, housing is often the most visible loss suffered by affected populations. In these crisis situations, OFDA rapidly provides appropriate shelter for displaced persons. One of the most forward-looking shelter responses that OFDA supports are transitional shelters, or t-shelters, which typically utilize a combination of plastic sheeting and salvaged and new building materials to create functional covered living space for those who have none. T-shelters not only address immediate needs, but also serve as a cost- and time-effective approach to re-engaging disaster-affected populations in the longer-term process of developing a home.

T-Shelters Enable Longer-Term Housing Recovery in Goma

Although earlier OFDA shelter efforts could be considered transitional in nature, OFDA's first intentionally conceived, designed, and implemented t-shelter project followed the January 17, 2002, eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano near Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lava and ash fall damaged and destroyed housing across the city and left up to 105,000 people—many who were already vulnerable due to limited incomes and conflict-related insecurity—in need of shelter.

With thousands of jobs lost and the urban and regional economy devastated, OFDA worked with other humanitarian agencies to mount a rapid response in Goma. Responding to the security and economic concerns expressed by affected communities, and cognizant of sufficient space available in Goma to accommodate residents, OFDA funded a program that combined DRR activities to enhance self-sufficiency in disaster preparedness and strengthen resilience with urban t-shelters. OFDA provided 5,000 families in the city with t-shelters within nine months of the eruption. Other humanitarian actors embraced OFDA's strategy and provided an additional 10,000 families with t-shelters. In total, OFDA contributed nearly $5 million for recovery assistance in Goma, nearly half of which supported the combined DRR and urban t-shelter program.

In 2012, OFDA conducted a "ten-years-on" assessment in Goma and found that approximately 90 percent of the 5,000 t-shelters provided in 2002 had evolved into permanent housing by 2004, and that nearly 100 percent of the t-shelters had become permanent housing by 2012. Almost all disaster-affected beneficiaries who continued to occupy their houses had transformed their t-shelters to permanent housing using their own funds—a substantial achievement that illustrates how t-shelters provided a stepping stone for

the displaced population in Goma to assume ownership of their housing recovery process.

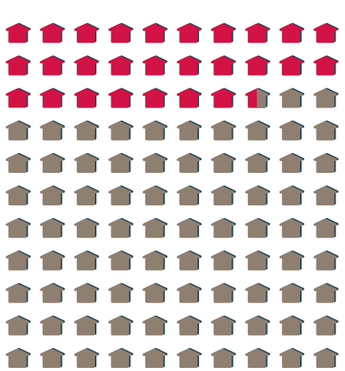
Innovative T-Shelter Applications Respond to Post-Earthquake Needs in Haiti

After the devastating January 12, 2010, earthquake struck Haiti, OFDA initiated a program that would ultimately become its largest-ever shelter and settlements endeavor. Total OFDA support for critical shelter needs following the earthquake exceeded $108 million, with emergency humanitarian shelter interventions—such as repairs to damaged houses, as well as t-shelters—benefitting more than 313,000 individuals, or approximately one-fifth of the estimated 1.5 million people displaced by the earthquake. OFDA's t-shelters accommodated more than 28,500 households, representing approximately 25 percent of the total population who received t-shelters through the humanitarian community's collective efforts in Haiti.

OFDA's implementing partners in Haiti utilized a number of key structural elements and materials for t-shelters, including wind-resistant measures such as appropriately framed walls, tightly fitting doors and windows, and OFDA's durable plastic sheeting, as well as hurricane strapping and diagonal bracing to reinforce the structure. In the densely populated neighborhoods of metropolitan Port-au-Prince, innovative t-shelter activities helped initiate the process of rebuilding the earthquake-damaged city. For example, in response to limited land availability and the need to increase density in order to provide shelter for the greatest number of people, some humanitarian actors provided t-shelters with sufficient space for families but that were also more compact to better fit urban space constraints. In other cases, the humanitarian community designed t-shelters as attached units with common walls, permitting higher densities in crowded neighborhoods. Furthermore, OFDA implementing partners CHF International and Project Concern International produced innovative two-story t-shelters as part of a neighborhood project in Ravin Pintade, reducing land requirements and better reflecting the contextual reality of the teeming city.

In Haiti, OFDA is focused on learning from its experiences providing t-shelter assistance through engaging implementing partners on post-project evaluations, assessing performance, and conducting research on earthquake- and hurricane-resistant shelter design. This research, primarily conducted at the Florida International University (FIU) Engineering Center (see right), in conjunction with best practices learned from other assessments, will provide a foundation to develop detailed guidance for future shelter and settlement responses during humanitarian emergencies around the world.

Innovative Processes to Rebuild Haiti After the 2010 Earthquake



1.5 million people displaced by earthquake

110,000 total t-shelters built

28,500 t-shelters provided by OFDA

= 1,000 t-shelters

Total OFDA support for critical shelter needs following the 2010 Haiti earthquake benefitted more than 313,000 individuals, or approximately one-fifth of the estimated 1.5 million people displaced by the earthquake. OFDA's t-shelters accommodated approximately 25 percent of the total population who received t-shelters through the humanitarian community's collective efforts.

The Future of T-Shelters

A key challenge confronting the transformation of transitional shelter to permanent housing is creating appropriate guidance and training for humanitarian actors that result in safer structures and more resilient settlements. To achieve this successfully, the humanitarian community must work to bridge the gap from traditional humanitarian relief to more permanent development activities. T-shelters serve as a good example of this transformation, offering an effective alternative to the costly and time-consuming establishment of permanent housing, while empowering disaster-affected populations to develop their shelters into permanent homes over time.

Two-story t-shelters in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Ravin Pintade. *Charles A. Setchell/USAID*

OFDA-funded Florida International University

Wall of Wind Tunnel Tests

"Wow!" is one way to describe the Wall of Wind (WoW) testing facility, a collaborative project between the International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC) and the College of Engineering and Computing at FIU in Miami.

The cutting-edge lab simulates hurricane conditions using an array of 12 giant fans, stacked two high and focused on a revolving test platform, to generate winds of more than 150 mph—the force of a Category Five hurricane. The high winds allow extreme testing of building materials and structural designs with the goal of improving and reinforcing residence and business structures to reduce wind damage during intense storms.

OFDA's t-shelters are designed to jump-start recovery in disaster-affected neighborhoods. Constructing t-shelters to replace destroyed housing helps engage affected populations in the incremental, longer-term process of housing development and can serve as the first step back toward the type of housing that existed in settlements prior to disaster events. T-shelters often feature a mix of both emergency shelter materials, such as plastic sheeting and salvaged and new building supplies, including concrete blocks, bricks, metal roofing, and wood framing. OFDA specifies that t-shelters must resist a Category One hurricane. But given their transitional quality, could a t-shelter really stand up to a hurricane?

In September 2011, FIU IHRC staff began the process of conducting studies to evaluate various structural elements of OFDA t-shelters. Project staff visited Haiti to identify the soundest methods and materials used in t-shelter construction. They then duplicated these field practices by building full-scale t-shelters and placing them in the WoW facility where they were subjected to wind speeds over 100 mph—well in excess of the 74-95 mph of a Category One hurricane.

The testing indicated that OFDA t-shelters, when built with basic wind-resistant construction measures, could readily withstand a Category One hurricane with only minimal loss of some roofing materials when the WoW wind speeds accelerated. And when Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy swept over Haiti in 2012, the WoW tests proved accurate; OFDA's t-shelters withstood wind and heavy rain and had very little reported damage.

OFDA plans to disseminate the WoW-identified "best practice" t-shelter construction techniques throughout the humanitarian community to help improve the quality of shelter programs and identify the soundest construction for t-shelters in hurricane-vulnerable regions worldwide.

Disaster Risk Reduction Competition Winners

In 2012, OFDA held a competition to select the most effective and innovative disaster risk mitigation programs taking place around the world. The competition process and chosen winners revealed a desire to share successful DRR project experiences with fellow humanitarian partners and, at its core, reflected OFDA's commitment to DRR as a key component of its mandate to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of humanitarian emergencies worldwide.

The competition determined three winners—one each at the international, national, and local levels—based on overall program quality, as well as the extent to which the programs help warn against, prepare for, mitigate, or prevent disasters; transition DRR projects to sustainable development; or increase livelihoods resilience. A new initiative by the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) helps humanitarian actors across the globe access information and lessons learned from past crises. At the national level, The Asia Foundation (TAF) helps small businesses in Vietnam collaborate with community and government organizations to mitigate seasonal flood and storm damage by improving disaster preparedness and response. Lastly, Mercy Corps is working with pastoral communities in the hard-hit Tillabéri Region of western Niger to increase food security and reduce conflict through rehabilitating grazing lands, improving livestock health, and restoring the livelihoods of thousands of drought-affected people.

READ ON

to learn more about these noteworthy DRR projects.

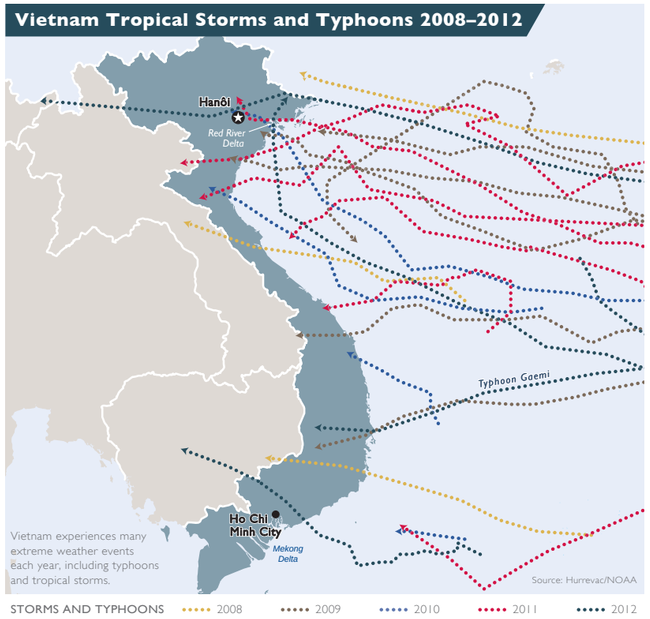
Making Disaster Preparedness Business as Usual in Vietnam

BY FIONA BAKER

Members of the private sector can play many roles during times of crisis. Businesses may serve as providers of relief, paving the way to recovery, or may themselves become casualties of disaster. In the highly hazard-prone country of Vietnam, small— and medium–sized enterprises (SMEs)—which encompass all businesses from small family shops to companies with up to 250 workers—employ 77 percent of the working population. As a result, the ability of entire communities to cope with the impacts of a disaster often depends on how quickly and how well local businesses rebound. To strengthen SMEs as a cornerstone of Vietnam's resilience, OFDA has supported TAF to improve businesses' disaster preparedness and management capability and cultivate SME corporate social responsibility practices.

Each year, warming seas in the southern Pacific Ocean generate powerful westward-moving typhoons that batter coastal areas of eastern Asia with gale force winds and torrential rains. In Vietnam, a 2,200-mile coastline and two major river deltas—the Red and the Mekong—combine with rising sea levels and a varied terrain to make the country highly susceptible to hydrometeorological disasters, particularly flooding and landslides. With only one exception, the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi has declared at least one weather-induced disaster each fiscal year since FY 1992.

These weather emergencies cause frequent losses of life and property, with average annual economic shocks amounting to $257 million, according to the U.N. Despite these substantial and recurrent damages, a recent survey from TAF found that half of SMEs in Vietnam lacked any form of



emergency preparedness planning. As SMEs employ the majority of the workforce in Vietnam, TAF and its partners recognized the importance of strengthening businesses' preparedness to reduce the negative effects of disasters for the entire population.

In FY 2011, OFDA began supporting TAF for Vietnam's first program linking SMEs with government and community groups to help them better prepare for floods and typhoons. In FY 2012, TAF expanded and refined the program, training representatives from 200 companies in the North Central Coast provinces of Nghe An and Thua Thien-Hue and in the South Central Coast provinces of Da Nang, Binh Dinh, and Khanh Hoa. In total, the program has trained more than 500 individuals since its inception in 2011 and formed a group of 20 master trainers to conduct courses throughout disaster-prone areas. SMEs trained to date have included construction, seafood processing, and tourism companies.

> "I quickly decided to take action after taking the course. At the moment, I am asking my staff to carry out a risk assessment and develop a response plan, including buying tools to prepare for when the storm or flood comes."
>
> TRAINING PARTICIPANT AND COMPANY DIRECTOR FROM DA NANG PROVINCE

Watch

the VTV1 news pieces highlighting SME disaster preparedness [with English subtitles]:

http://youtu.be/cToOkYksKbo
http://youtu.be/k_zR3jzFxfg

Through TAF trainings, participants developed preparedness plans for their companies and learned about disaster response management procedures. Encouraging corporate social responsibility practices among local businesses was another key component of the program. In Da Nang Province, for example, TAF supports an engineering association of young professionals to improve the disaster preparedness of particularly vulnerable households. To date, this program has engaged more than 50 businesses to support disaster preparedness in local communities.

In addition, TAF collaborated with Vietnam's national television channel, VTV1, to broadcast news pieces and a documentary film showcasing best practices in business disaster preparedness and corporate social responsibility. The trainings and television pieces highlighted simple and effective approaches to disaster preparedness—such as keeping an up-to-date roster of staff and contacts, developing alternate transportation and communications plans, and installing reinforced windows and doors.

One TAF training participant, the company director of a construction business in Da Nang Province, developed a detailed and cost-effective preparedness and response plan, which he shared with other local business leaders in the area. Several months later, when Tropical Storm Gaemi swept toward Vietnam's central coast, these companies activated their disaster plans, effectively insulating businesses and staff from the effects of the storm.

By investing in SME resilience through company trainings and countrywide awareness-raising campaigns, OFDA is strengthening Vietnam's ability to prepare for disaster while also reducing the economic and human toll of destructive weather events.

Community members in Niger's Tillabéri Region gather around a well. One aim of PASTORAL is to improve the number and quality of water sources to enhance the community's ability to adapt to difficult weather patterns. *Courtesy of Mercy Corps*

On Common Ground

Maximizing Community-Based Solutions to Minimize Food Insecurity in Niger

BY MATT PURCELL

Popular images of pastoral and farming life rarely capture the difficult reality faced by communities around the world whose lives are tied to the land. This holds true for the Sahel[1] region of West Africa, where harsh weather conditions and poor soil have made raising livestock and growing crops a continual challenge, one further compounded by the adverse effects of climate change.

For the last 20 years, once-dependable patterns of rain have become unpredictable, and each season brings a renewed struggle to fend off the encroaching deserts that surround crops and grazing lands. In 2012 alone, irregular rains, prolonged drought, and poor harvests left 6.4 million people in Niger—nearly 40 percent of the country's population—at risk of food insecurity. As arable land has diminished, conflict between herders and farmers has grown. Each year throughout the region, herders and their livestock move along seasonal migration paths that lead to resting areas, water sources, and grazing lands. These paths often become overused or compete with crop fields for space, creating community tensions that heighten when available animal fodder declines and shared water sources dry up.

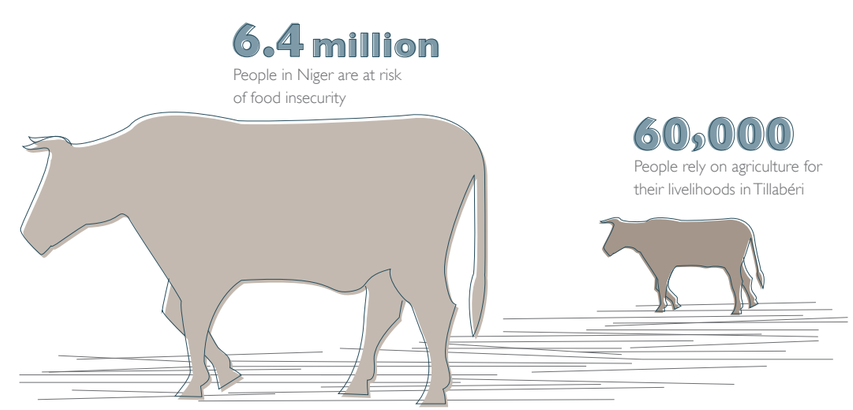
To bolster food security and mitigate conflict, OFDA partnered with Mercy Corps to create the Project for Land Improvement and Rehabilitation of Local Areas (PASTORAL), a two-year program that utilizes existing local institutions to introduce improved farming and livestock practices and provide mechanisms for community-led conflict resolution.

The New Normal

PASTORAL began in 2011 and is focused on the Tillabéri Region of Niger, which is situated along an important seasonal migration path and one of the most food-insecure areas in the Sahel. For centuries, inhabitants of the Tillabéri Region have weathered the difficult environmental conditions of the Sahel and found ways to shield themselves from the risks they frequently encountered—until now. Existing water resource networks, originally created to provide nourishment in lean times, are in poor condition and cannot withstand chronic drought. In addition, local grazing practices often rely on herds remaining in one spot until feed is no longer available, which has destroyed a large number of once-fertile agricultural lands.

> "Before the project, we thought our land was unrecoverable, the fields were dead and nothing could grow…It has not been long since [PASTORAL] started, and we are seeing the benefits already."
>
> AMADOU BAWA, PASTORAL BENEFICIARY

PASTORAL solves these problems on two levels by providing assistance to address the immediate needs of affected populations and empowering those same groups to develop new systems that reduce future risks. Along with animal feed distributions, PASTORAL supports temporary work programs to construct terraces carved in the ground that reduce soil erosion and improve grazing land, and to rehabilitate existing wells to expand water storage capacity. PASTORAL also provides temporary employment opportunities for 2,000 people to dig trenches that collect and preserve rainwater for future irrigation use. By improving the number and quality of water sources and integrating enhanced land management techniques, PASTORAL builds on the community's capacity to adapt to difficult weather patterns in the future, while also reducing



[1] The Sahel comprises areas of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and The Gambia.

Preparing and Preventing: Investing in a Safer Tomorrow

pressure on limited land and water resources today. To date, these measures have reached approximately 75,000 people and rehabilitated some 350 hectares of land across Tillabéri.

Shared Risks, Shared Responsibility

The cornerstone of PASTORAL and the foundation of its success lies in its emphasis on community involvement and local ownership in every phase of the project. For example, PASTORAL developed a land and water management system using committees drawn from existing local organizations. Farmers and herders repected within their communities lead these committees, which help manage local natural resources, prevent excessive tree or fodder use, and mitigate herder–farmer conflicts when they arise. The committees also serve as a legitimate, widely endorsed forum to understand and identify common needs related to land management. In total, OFDA has supported 20 land tenure commissions to resolve land-based conflicts, helping to protect the animal assets of up to 60,000 people who rely on agriculture and pastoralism for their livelihoods.

Although the landscape of the Sahel does not present an ideal environment for growing crops, the OFDA-supported PASTORAL project in Niger enables communities to join together and adopt more sustainable practices, overcome shared obstacles, and prepare for future challenges.

The DNA Project

Creating a New Code for Humanitarians

BY SARAH JACKSON

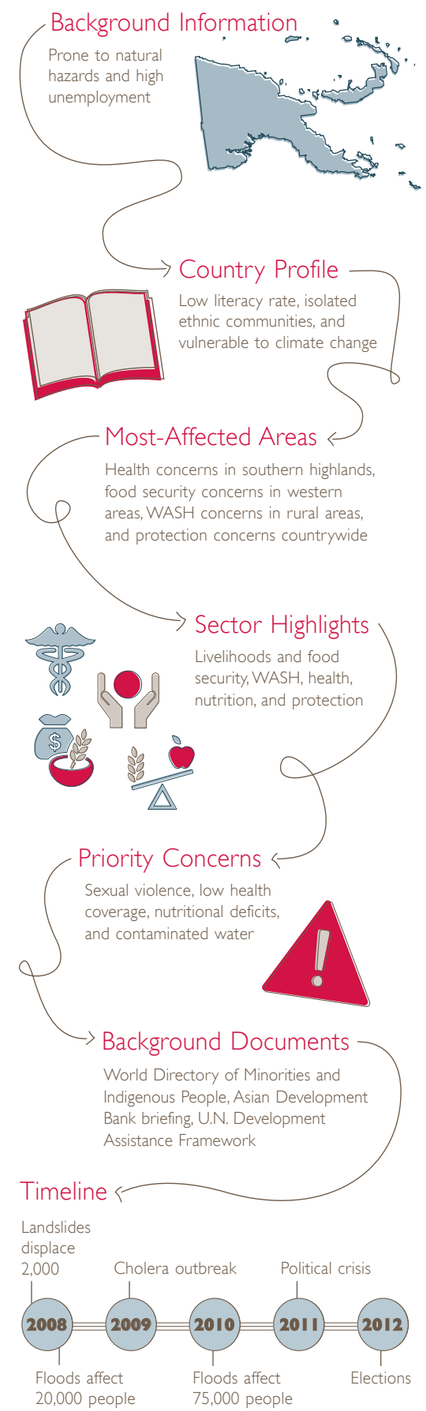
In the wake of a humanitarian crisis, a myriad of well-intentioned organizations often rush to help distressed communities. Because these organizations rely on different sources of information, relief and response efforts can sometimes be disjointed and misdirected. Notwithstanding improvements in recent years, effective coordination among relief agencies remains one of the most challenging aspects of delivering humanitarian assistance.

Painting a Holistic Picture

To address this critical issue, OFDA supports ACAPS's Disaster Needs Analysis (DNA) project, which aims to improve disaster preparedness and relief efforts by creating a shared situational awareness, or an overview of a given current crisis, a list of related priority concerns, information gaps, sector details, and lessons learned from similar disaster responses in order to help establish a mutual understanding of needs on the ground. A team of analysts compile the timely, multi-sectoral, and technical DNA project reports, which are issued within days of a disaster's onset to provide a holistic picture of a crisis and offer recommendations that adhere to humanitarian principles. DNA project reports provide critical information that enables experts to act quickly and confidently and helps humanitarian organizations better determine which populations need help, where to deploy, how to conduct assessments, and what kinds of activities to implement.

Preparedness DNA:

Papua New Guinea



Development

In FY 2012, ACAPS began developing preparedness DNA reports for disaster-prone countries to identify potential risks and areas of concern in advance of an actual disaster. For example, ACAPS released a preparedness DNA report on Papua New Guinea in May 2012. The report highlighted areas of the country that are particularly vulnerable to specific types of hazards, including volcanoes, cyclones, flooding, tsunamis, and earthquakes, and argued that if humanitarian organizations know where and how disasters are likely to strike, they will be better positioned and more adequately equipped to deliver timely, life-saving assistance.

Innovation for the Future of Disaster Response

In FY 2012, the DNA project team completed 21 reports on more than 13 different countries, including Cambodia, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Syria, and Yemen. Additionally, ACAPS developed a mobile application called the Global Emergency Overview that lets users rapidly share DNAs and expedites the process of receiving feedback from first responders in disaster-affected areas.

Inception

The DNA project was developed in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake response when it became evident that a timely, comprehensive understanding of the disaster situation could have enhanced relief efforts. When floods devastated Pakistan later in 2010, a widely commended secondary data review, which was collated for the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination team, inspired ACAPS to harness its staff's operational experience to develop a standardized approach to gathering and synthesizing information. ACAPS then integrated the resulting DNA project into its portfolio of services.

By providing relevant and multi-sector information on particular countries or regions, ACAPS's DNA project strengthens preparedness before disasters strike and enhances emergency action immediately after crises occur. In today's world, the value of data often depends on its timeliness and presentation. The DNA project embraces this reality, and in doing so, improves coordination between humanitarian organizations, expediting and strengthening important relief efforts that directly benefit populations in need.

I AM OFDA

AL DWYER

Principal Regional Advisor for East Asia and the Pacific

My name is Al Dwyer and, as the principal regional advisor for OFDA's East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand, I lead a dedicated team that responds to disasters across 32 countries. I began my career with OFDA in 2005 and have had the honor to provide assistance on behalf of the American people throughout the world.

I joined OFDA because I wanted to both serve my country and work for a global leader on disaster response. Serving on 10 DARTs, I have seen some of the worst situations imaginable, but I have also seen the resilience and spirit of giving that people show when faced with these emergency situations. One example that stands out to me is Tropical Storm Washi, which affected the Philippines the week before Christmas in 2011.

Tropical Storm Washi slammed into the Philippine island of Mindanao in the late hours of December 16, 2011. As the storm passed over the coastal cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, water from nearby rivers swelled and surged into surrounding communities, reaching the rooftops of houses as many families still slept in their beds. Tropical storms of this magnitude are rare in this part of the Philippines, and many families that lived along the town's river were unprepared. The impact was swift—hundreds of people were swept out to sea, and thousands more watched their houses and all of their possessions, including presents wrapped for the upcoming Christmas holiday, wash away in the torrent of water.

I arrived in Cagayan de Oro as part of the USAID assessment team the day after the disaster struck. The force of the flash flood had scraped the land clean to the bedrock for about 300 feet on each side of the river, leaving no trace of the hundreds of homes that had been there, and depositing 40-feet high debris piles at the river's bend filled with remnants of furniture, clothing, and holiday ornaments. Speaking with survivors, I heard stories of families being whisked from their homes in the black of night by the floodwaters, and the agony of not knowing what other family members' fates might be.

Yet, I was also struck by how quickly the community rallied together to heal the effects of the disaster, particularly during the Christmas season. Many families in Cagayan de Oro, even those with little to nothing themselves, opened their homes to families affected by the storm, and local universities and businesses directed their staff and resources to help those in need.

As a part of the OFDA response on the ground, I was proud to see our contributions supporting this community-led effort and reaching families just days after the disaster hit. Providing families with essential items, like toothbrushes, clean drinking water, tarpaulins, and soap, allowed them to focus on the difficult tasks of picking up the pieces of their lives and grieving their losses. When Christmas arrived about a week later, presents were the last thing on people's minds. The town had pulled together in the face of the tragedy, and previous strangers celebrated the holiday together with a renewed spirit of optimism toward the future.

Years with OFDA: Eight

Hometown: Sebastian, Florida

FROM THE FIELD:

Sayo's Story

BY LOREN HYATT

Before OFDA-supported programs began in Sayo Elu's village in southwestern Ethiopia, she had no personal assets and no role in household decision-making. Sayo spent much of her day walking three hours from her village to collect water for her family, which was often unsafe to drink. Sayo's husband worked and provided for Sayo and their five children.

The area where Sayo lives—in Hamer District in rural Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region—was hit hard by the 2011/2012 drought crisis in the Horn of Africa. Facing persistent drought conditions, farmers were unable to grow crops to sell on the market or even provide enough food for their families. Villages like Sayo's also experienced water shortages, limiting the supply of safe drinking water for both people and livestock. In addition, poor hygiene and sanitation conditions in Sayo's village led to the spread of debilitating waterborne diseases, such as cholera, which worsened health conditions among those already suffering from acute malnutrition.

Sayo became involved with community-based learning in action hygiene and sanitation activities, which aim to motivate communities to adopt healthier behaviors. Through these OFDA-funded WASH interventions, Sayo learned the reasons behind many of the illnesses that afflict her family and others in her village, helping her better understand how to prevent them. In an effort to improve community health, Sayo began to share her new knowledge, such as improved hand washing and other sanitary practices, with others throughout her village.

When the program expanded to other areas of the district, Sayo was one of five pioneering women to become a paid community facilitator. Sayo left her home and traveled to other villages to pass along her knowledge. Despite being in a new community and facing the challenge of instructing men who were not accustomed to female leaders, Sayo effectively encouraged communities outside of her own to practice better hygiene and sanitation habits.

After working for five months as a community facilitator far from home, Sayo returned to her village with enough money to purchase food and other essential items for her family. Sayo had also saved money to purchase goats as an investment in her family's financial future. Sayo continues to spread awareness of improved sanitation practices through social visits and other travel to surrounding villages. After working with OFDA partners in the field, Sayo's understanding of how diseases are transmitted has increased. She now believes the majority of diseases found in her community can be prevented through behavioral change, community discussion and awareness about sanitation conditions, and improved personal hygiene.

In and around Sayo's village, OFDA refurbished 15 wells that increase access to safe drinking water for drought-affected communities. These OFDA programs also promoted improved hygiene and sanitation practices among an estimated 7,200 individuals between February and June 2012. Prior to the 2011/2012 drought crisis, many other Ethiopians like Sayo benefited from WASH assistance provided through other USAID development-focused programs in Ethiopia.

While the OFDA-funded portion of this WASH program has concluded with the end of drought conditions in Ethiopia, USAID and other donors continue to support WASH interventions in Sayo's community and surrounding areas, supporting improved hygiene and sanitation practices and investing in a safer future for communities like Sayo's.

With OFDA support, rural communities in southwestern Ethiopia received trainings on improved hand-washing practices. *Kate Farnsworth/USAID*

"I now realize by changing our hygiene and sanitation practices, we will feel better. And, when I earn money teaching others, the elders respect me and allow me to talk at community meetings."

SAYO ELU, OFDA-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

“Our humanitarian assistance is one of the most meaningful expressions of who we are as a people, and Americans can take pride in the fact that we are always ready to answer a call for help.”

USAID ADMINISTRATOR DR. RAJIV SHAH

Bread for the World Conference

A young Somali girl joins other women living in an IDP camp queuing to receive a hot meal from a Somali NGO.
Courtesy of Roberto Schmidt/AFP

Bridging the Gap

From Relief to Recovery

To assist communities recovering from disasters, OFDA is fostering a coordinated transition from relief activities to long-term development programs. To achieve this, OFDA collaborates with other USAID offices to support the development vision of the national governments of affected countries, where possible, and provide assistance to disaster-affected communities, as necessary. In the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, OFDA is actively engaged in joint planning cells to coordinate efforts among international donors and between the humanitarian assistance and development communities. Through ERMS programs implemented in numerous countries worldwide to help restore local economic activity following disasters, OFDA aims to encourage strong humanitarian programs that more easily link relief to recovery activities. In Ethiopia specifically, OFDA is working with other USAID colleagues to address long-term recovery concerns even while meeting populations' immediate humanitarian needs. By bridging the gap between relief and recovery, OFDA is helping affected populations survive disasters today while building resilience to future disasters and benefiting from continued growth and development in the years to come.

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Making Markets Work: Using Markets to Improve Disaster Response and Support Crisis Recovery

A woman in Burkina Faso sits beside her onion harvest, a hearty crop that can withstand dry conditions. *Laura Meissner/USAID*

Joint Planning Cells

Building Resilience in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel

BY EMILY M. ROSTKOWSKI

Year after year, families that can barely meet household needs during stable times find their sources of income in jeopardy and savings strained or depleted when disasters strike. In areas of recurrent crises, repeat disasters create a pattern that disproportionately affects the poorest populations and renders them less able to withstand the next drought or crisis. More robust preparation and support in between these emergencies would help communities withstand many of the frequent climatic and meteorological challenges they face. However, gaps between emergency humanitarian and long-term development assistance, as well as the limited participation of host governments to address these issues, have constrained the international community's ability to help families and communities reduce, adapt to, and recover from shocks.

When drought and food insecurity again struck vulnerable populations in east and west African countries in 2011 and 2012, respectively, donor governments and host governments alike sought to jointly change previous policies and find program linkages that seek to end the cycle of emergencies. In FY 2011, USAID established the first joint planning cell (JPC)—a team made up of USAID's humanitarian and development experts who work together to analyze the root causes of vulnerability, determine the appropriate blend of assistance and engagement that is required to combat continuous loss among communities, and design a more integrated approach that blends humanitarian relief and development activities to address the root causes of vulnerability. JPC members engage in joint planning, project design, and evaluation processes. By enabling humanitarian and development actors to coordinate interventions, JPCs aim to enhance resilience—the ability to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and enables comprehensive growth. In addition to bringing together field-based OFDA and other USAID staff, JPCs coordinate with national governments, NGOs, U.N. agencies, regional organizations, research institutions, and other donors to create broad strategies for community change.

Humanitarian Assistance vs. Development Assistance

Humanitarian assistance aims to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of natural and man-made disasters. For example, in the aftermath of an earthquake, humanitarian assistance could include emergency medical care, plastic sheeting for shelter, and support for households to obtain food and clean water.

Development assistance seeks long-term solutions to chronic problems through economic development, health, democracy-promotion, and agricultural activities. These activities would include such interventions as small business development, technical skills education, and health system strengthening.

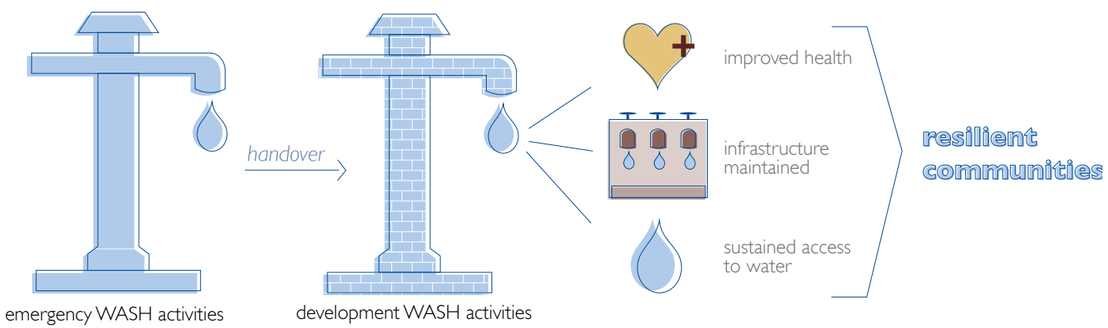
OFDA cannot stop floods, locust infestations, monetary inflation, or other types of shocks from occurring. However, in partnership with USAID colleagues, OFDA can help households and communities to prepare for and lessen the effects of these shocks. The JPC process allows OFDA and USAID development staff to benefit from each other's expertise, lessons learned, and successes. To date, USAID headquarters, in cooperation with USAID regional offices, has implemented the JPC process in the Horn of Africa—Ethiopia and Kenya—and in the Sahel—Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.

Bridging the Gap

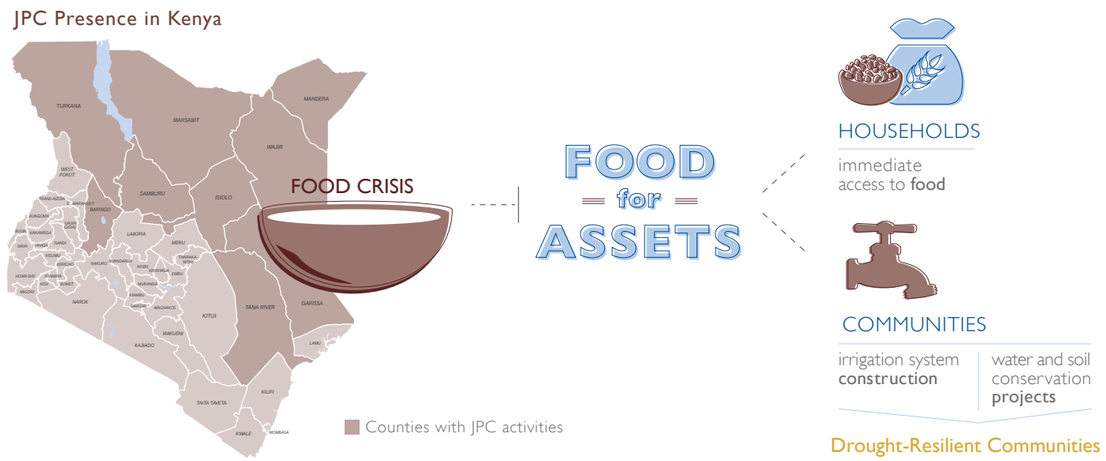
The international community increasingly recognizes humanitarian interventions as the foundation upon which development activities can and must build. For example, OFDA often implements emergency WASH programs to reduce the spread of disease by increasing access to safe drinking water, constructing sanitation facilities in IDP camps, and promoting improved hygiene practices among affected populations. As an emergency winds down, wells can fall into disrepair, populations can revert to unhealthy hygiene behaviors, and the advances made during the early relief response can be lost if the resources and leadership to maintain them are not in place. Under the JPC framework, OFDA and development partners work collaboratively to build local and institutional capacity so life-saving activities can be sustained well beyond the emergency phase. When emergency WASH activities are converted into development WASH programs, these gains are retained and expanded. Water systems that function well are essential to reduce the need for future emergency interventions, which may save lives but do not increase resilience to future shocks. This collaborative approach aims to reduce community and household resource loss and maintain health improvements during the relief-to-development transition, and, ultimately, decrease chronic vulnerability.

Horn of Africa JPC

The 2011 Horn of Africa drought resulted in 13.3 million people requiring humanitarian assistance, prompting the international community to re-think how it could use short-term emergency interventions as stepping stones to programs that address the underlying causes of chronic vulnerability that often develop from a lack of host government and international support for long-term solutions. USAID established the Horn of Africa JPC in 2011 to mitigate the severity of future droughts as the frequency of weather-related climatic shocks increase.



Bridging the Gap: From Relief to Recovery



By reducing risk, building resilience, and expanding economic opportunities, USAID aims to strengthen social stability and economic growth in targeted arid land areas in the Horn of Africa by 2017. In Kenya, the JPC programs are building on successes from OFDA's initial three-year Arid and Marginal Lands Recovery Consortium (ARC) project—a coordinated effort to increase access to food and safe drinking water, diversify household incomes, and improve agricultural techniques for vulnerable communities in the arid lands located in northern and eastern Kenya. Jointly funded OFDA and USAID/Kenya, WASH activities complement ARC by continuing to expand access to safe drinking water and promote improved hygiene and sanitation practices in many of the same areas served by the project. Concurrently, JPC member FFP supports WFP to provide temporary employment opportunities through a food-for-assets program, which compensates participants for their labor constructing water and irrigation infrastructure. This program increases households' access to food, while local communities benefit from improved infrastructure.

The Horn of Africa JPC led to the expansion of Feed the Future—the USG's USAID-led global hunger and food security initiative—into the same areas served by OFDA's emergency activities. Under Feed the Future, USAID/Kenya aims to diversify household incomes, strengthen community management of natural resources, increase access to markets, improve livestock-related economic opportunities as part of the five-year Resilience and Economic Growth in the Arid Lands programs. By coordinating the implementation of development and humanitarian programs and activities from various sectors in a focused area, the Horn of Africa JPC achieves a more sustainable impact than if OFDA and the various USAID offices operated separately.

Sahel JPC

Insecurity, high food prices, and poor crop production left more than 18 million people unable to meet household food needs across the Sahel in 2012. Building on lessons learned in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel JPC formed in early 2012 to coordinate existing USAID humanitarian and development assistance and complement these programs with new investments that help build resilience by offering opportunities to earn an income, strengthening livestock and crop production, reinforcing civil society and government institutions, and improving health and nutrition conditions.

Moving forward, the Sahel JPC plans to focus new investments to support chronically vulnerable households in Niger and Burkina Faso. Through both new investments and improved coordination of existing humanitarian and development assistance, the Sahel JPC aims to reduce malnutrition, poverty, and food insecurity among nearly 2 million people by increasing household incomes, improving natural resource management, and strengthening disaster risk management.

RAIN partners construct a market hub in Babile town, Jijiga Zone. *Greg Holyfield/USAID*

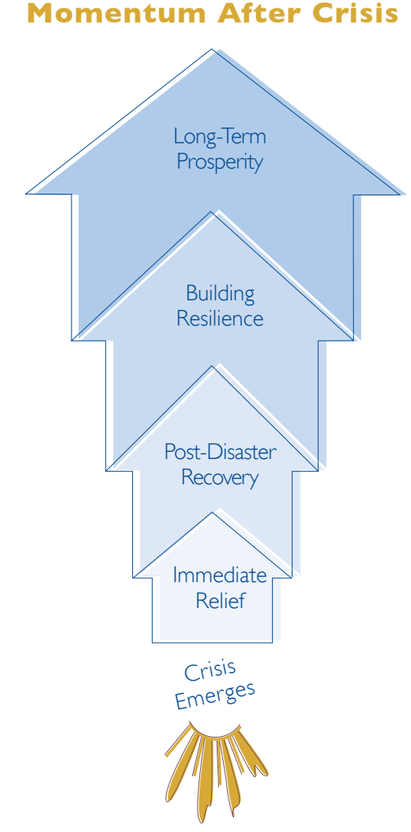
USAID's RAIN–PRIME Transition

OFDA Builds Momentum for Lasting Change in Southeastern Ethiopia

BY MARK SKEITH

For some people, the term *momentum* simply represents the product of mass and velocity in Newton's physics equation. For pastoral and agricultural communities in southeastern Ethiopia who have benefited from the OFDA-supported Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Incomes and New Markets (RAIN) program, momentum symbolizes the burgeoning hope that they may build on the substantial agricultural, economic, and environmental gains made through RAIN to secure a more resilient and prosperous future.

With more than $20.7 million in OFDA support since April 2009, the RAIN program has reached more than 1.3 million livestock herders and farmers in Ethiopia's Oromiya and Somali regions with agriculture and food security, economic recovery, and WASH assistance designed to help protect, promote, and diversify livelihoods. Designed in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and local communities, and implemented by NGO partners Mercy Corps and SC/UK, RAIN provides families with the skills and opportunities to better cope with drought and other cyclical environmental shocks, leading to quicker disaster recovery and



increased household confidence to invest in local markets and infrastructure.

Recent livelihoods gains for RAIN-supported communities remain nascent and fragile as they are susceptible to drought, floods, and other events that can damage crops, reduce water supplies, harm livestock, spur disease outbreaks, and disrupt local food and livestock markets that provide essential food items and sources of income. As the multi-year initiative draws to a close, OFDA and USAID/Ethiopia's Office of Economic Growth and Transformation have worked together to orchestrate a seamless transition from OFDA's resilience-building RAIN program to its development-focused successor—the five-year, USAID/Ethiopia Pastoralists Resiliency Improvement and Market Expansion (PRIME) program—so that these communities may sustain their momentum on the path toward resilience and long-term prosperity.

Empowering Communities and Strengthening Markets to Withstand Recurring Shocks

During droughts and floods, families are often forced to sell livestock or other household goods to make ends meet. RAIN empowered these households to enhance the productivity of their farmlands and livestock herds, increase access to local markets to improve buying and selling opportunities, and establish additional sources of income to mitigate the impacts of unforeseen events.

To protect against crop and livestock losses during crises, RAIN provided short-term work that injected much-needed cash into the local economy, while simultaneously building better livestock rangelands, water sources, trade routes, market stalls, and storage facilities. Between April 2009 and September 2012, the program provided temporary employment to nearly 30,500 people, including nearly 15,000 women, who earned more than 16.3 million Ethiopian birr, or approximately $1.1 million, to construct and rehabilitate vital community infrastructure.

RAIN has increased rural economic productivity and local participation in more profitable markets by improving access to farming and livestock supplies and services. By mid-2012, RAIN had transferred management of 22 of 30 new or rehabilitated market facilities—including community slaughterhouses, milk collection centers, livestock markets, market hubs, and an all-weather bridge—to local cooperatives that had also received business skills training. More than 1,750 entrepreneurs use the new market structures, which have improved access to milk, meat, and other food commodities for an estimated 187,200 people. Mercy Corps and SC/UK also provided business skills and marketing training to 55 local agricultural, veterinary, dairy, and animal feed suppliers across southeastern Ethiopia, empowering these local vendors to strengthen ties with regional wholesalers to increase inventories when demand increases, with local banks to secure loans for their businesses, and with GoE authorities to ensure compliance with local regulations. As the RAIN program comes to a close, USAID/Ethiopia's PRIME initiative will continue supporting local suppliers and local cooperatives, ensuring that they expand market coverage to more remote areas for years to come.

From April 2009 to September 2012…

30
market sites constructed or rehabilitated.

30,500
people employed through temporary employment programs.

119,800
seedlings planted.

810
animal health practitioners trained.

5.5 million
livestock vaccinated or received other veterinary treatment.

…With OFDA Support

Improving Access to Cash When It's Needed Most

As a core component, the innovative RAIN initiative established and ensured access to cash for vulnerable populations living in remote areas of Oromiya and Somali regions. The vast majority of rural producers, particularly women, have limited access to formal savings accounts and credit institutions. Informal kinship- and trader-based credit is available, but on an unreliable basis. Savings are primarily used to purchase additional livestock, which can expose households to risks when drought, disease, or animal feed shortages threaten the health of herds. Minimal credit services exist for individuals hoping to pursue entrepreneurial activities outside of the traditional agriculture and livestock sectors, such as food stalls and teashops.

To strengthen financial services for lower-income households in rural areas, RAIN implementing partners helped establish the Somali Microfinance Institute Share Company (SMFISC), the first microfinance institution (MFI) in Ethiopia providing services that conform to Islamic sharia-compliant financing principles associated with lending and borrowing. The successful launch of SMFISC's first two branches in Somali Region's Fik and Jijiga zones has transformed financial market coverage in these areas, particularly for prospective Muslim and women borrowers. SMFISC conducted market assessments to expand financial services to rural villages and towns surrounding its Fik and Jijiga branches, as well as additional assessments to expand financial services to clients through three new branches. By September 2012, SMFISC had extended loans totaling approximately 2.3 million Ethiopian birr—or nearly $125,000—to more than 580 recipients to invest in farmlands, livestock herds, and family businesses.

In remote areas where formal financial services are not yet available, RAIN has provided training and technical assistance to more than 110 community-based microfinance groups, including rural savings and credit cooperatives (RuSACCos), to strengthen semi-formal financial services in these areas. Working through RuSACCos whenever possible, Mercy Corps and SC/UK awarded business grants totaling 11.9 million Ethiopian birr—or nearly $800,000—to more than 3,500 people hoping to restore economic opportunities. Furthermore, more than 2,000 individuals have saved more than 1.3 million birr—or nearly $80,000—at RAIN-supported microfinance institutions and RuSACCos so that they can better cope with future crises when they strike.

RAIN program beneficiaries en route to a RAIN-rehabilitated pond that provides safe drinking water to nearby communities. *Greg Holyfield/USAID*

While promising, these financial service achievements are relatively new, and RAIN-supported MFIs and community-based microfinance groups still rely heavily on Mercy Corps technical assistance and strategic guidance. Through USAID/Ethiopia's PRIME initiative, these young financial organizations will receive continued support over the next five years to foster permanent changes in the communities they service.

USAID Orchestrates a Relief-to-Development Transition

Through a competitive bidding process, USAID selected Mercy Corps to lead PRIME, allowing for a seamless transition between

Bridging the Gap: From Relief to Recovery

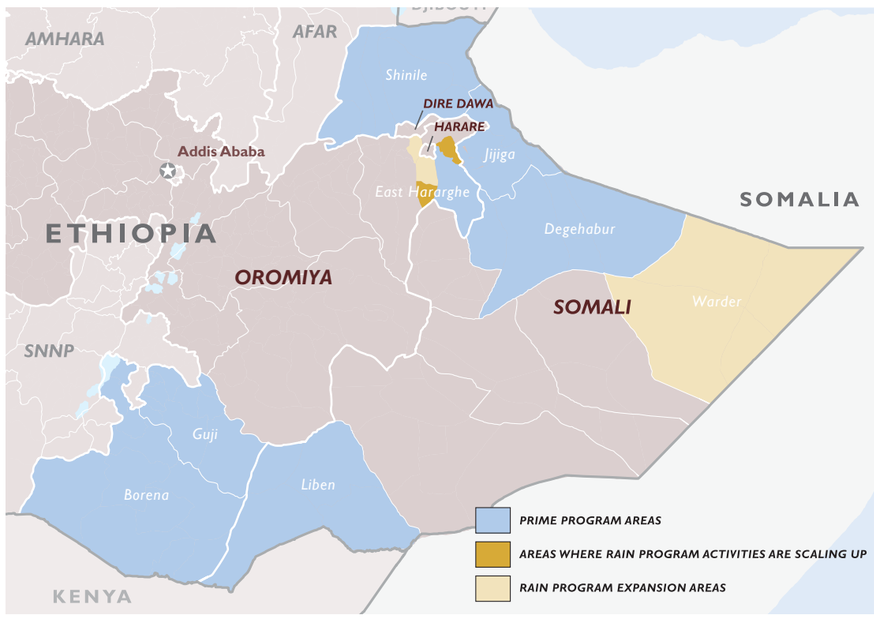
resilience building and development operations and capturing invaluable lessons learned by RAIN staff since the program's inception in 2009. The PRIME program will continue to improve agriculture and livestock productivity and competitiveness, help communities adapt to perennial climate change risks, promote non-livestock economic opportunities, and expand financial service coverage in selected areas. Many of PRIME's interventions are designed to reinforce and expand upon the progress and partnerships achieved through RAIN by providing continued services and technical support.

For instance, RAIN-supported pastoral communities have made considerable strides to protect, rehabilitate, share, manage, and develop their natural resources through the establishment or strengthening of 45 rangeland management committees, 59 water user committees, four livestock fodder management committees, 108 communities that have created community action and disaster preparedness plans, and 153 GoE community-based development agents trained in natural resource management and DRR techniques. PRIME will continue to engage and provide technical assistance to these action-oriented community groups as they mature over the next five years. RAIN-supported local veterinary facilities will also receive continued support through PRIME to prevent devastating disease outbreaks and avoid losing momentum in the private delivery of animal health services.

In total, USAID's RAIN–PRIME transition will reinforce support to more than 800,000 participating individuals, as well as hundreds of emerging private, public, and civil society organizations, on their path toward resilience and long-term prosperity.

The RAIN–PRIME Transition Plan

In December 2012, Mercy Corps will conclude RAIN's activities while concurrently launching PRIME in Oromiya Region's Borena and Guji zones and Somali Region's Degehabur, Jijiga, Liben, and Shinile zones. RAIN's critical WASH activities will continue for the remainder of the OFDA-supported initiative in program areas. This strategic reallocation of USAID resources allows OFDA to extend ongoing RAIN activities for 12 additional months beyond the original program end date, scale up activities in Oromiya Region's East Hararghe Zone, and expand programming into Somali Region's Warder Zone.



Sri Lankan farmers meet with OFDA during the EMMA. *Laura Meissner/USAID*

Making Markets Work

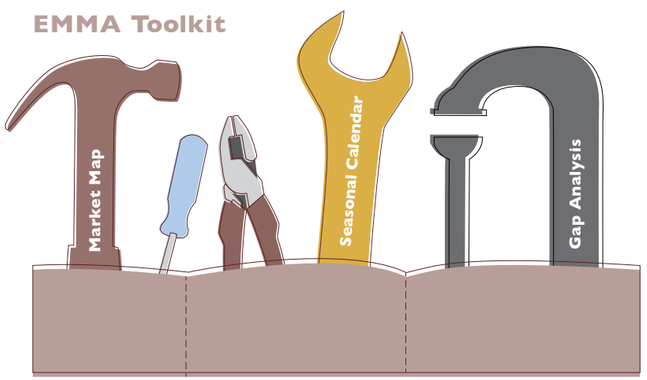
Using Markets to Improve Disaster Response and Support Crisis Recovery

BY RACHEL MILLER

Despite the visible damage wrought by disasters, many markets continue to function and can help people recover from crisis. Humanitarian agencies working to help people after a disaster can utilize markets to quickly deliver relief items—such as food or shelter materials—to disaster-affected communities. For people affected by a crisis, even a partially functioning market can enable them to start earning an income again and obtain the goods and services needed to recover.

Donors and NGOs alike are increasingly using market-based interventions as a way to more effectively assist crisis-affected populations. Recognizing the need to ensure that market-based interventions benefit the people most in need, OFDA has catalyzed the development of the Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) toolkit, or guidance manual, in collaboration with NGO partners. The EMMA toolkit informs market-based interventions by rapidly assessing post-disaster markets and determining the best way to meet needs.

With $800,000 in funding since FY 2008, OFDA has supported EMMA toolkit development and trainings for practitioners around the globe, helping build organizational capacity to assess markets and develop effective response options. These activities have helped ensure that practitioners have the skills they need to conduct assessments and plan appropriate responses when disasters strike. This way, relief agencies can identify the potential for markets to deliver much-needed goods or services and help protect people's livelihoods; promote longer-term stability; and ensure humanitarian aid does not harm the local economy.



A market system comprises the network of people or organizations that produce, transport, trade, sell, and purchase a good, as well as support services and regulations. Market-based interventions help strengthen key market systems, restore the ability of households to purchase basic items, and re-establish livelihoods following a disaster.

How Does EMMA Work?

When a country experiences a disaster, it disrupts many of the established linkages that vulnerable people use to access key survival items. However, just because a crisis disrupts a market does not mean the market is broken entirely. The EMMA toolkit is a series of easy-to-use tools designed to assist individuals without market-related experience to conduct appropriate market analyses during the first few weeks of a crisis. EMMA helps organizations identify which parts of a market system continue to function following a crisis, as well as how markets may be used to help respond to people's needs. EMMA can help identify whether basic supplies are available in the local market and the best ways to get them to the people who are most affected, or determine how to help the market get back to functioning normally.

One of the most helpful tools in the EMMA toolkit is the market map, which helps organizations evaluate the pre- and post-disaster markets for a particular commodity by noting where the disaster has disrupted infrastructure—such as roads—or affected the people who produce or sell the good.

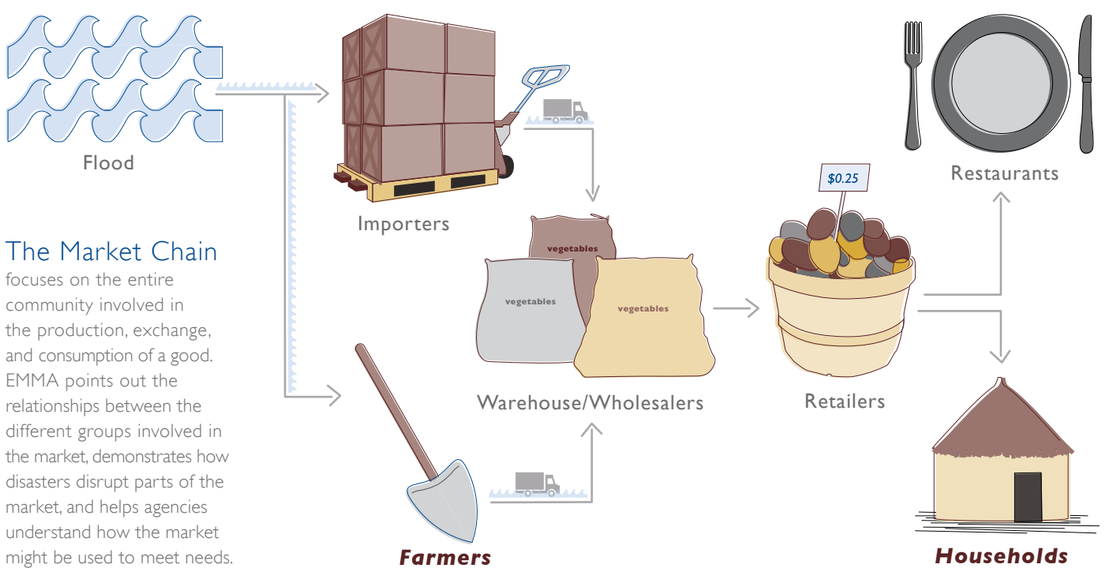
Market Map of a Crisis-Affected Market for Vegetables

For example, floods have disrupted the market for vegetables, affecting key infrastructure and the process of buying and selling. Humanitarian organizations want to help both the rural households eating vegetables and farmers who produce the vegetables. Agencies can use this information to see how they can protect farmers' livelihoods and restore rural families' access to vegetables.

The Market Environment

describes the rules and important issues affecting the market.

- ☑ Government Subsidies
- ☑ Conflict
- ☑ High Tariffs

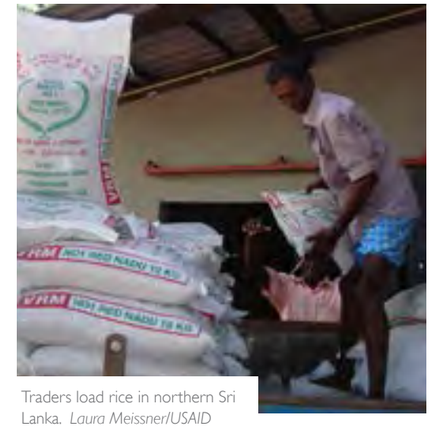


The Market Chain

focuses on the entire community involved in the production, exchange, and consumption of a good. EMMA points out the relationships between the different groups involved in the market, demonstrates how disasters disrupt parts of the market, and helps agencies understand how the market might be used to meet needs.

Infrastructure and Services,

when disrupted, can affect the functioning of the market. For example, trucks help transport goods along roads to traders or retail stores. Warehouses help store goods until they are moved to retailers. Disasters often disrupt the infrastructure and services market actors rely on.



Traders load rice in northern Sri Lanka. *Laura Meissner/USAID*

Making Connections That Build Longer-Term Recovery

In 2009, the 26-year civil war in Sri Lanka ended. A heavy rainy season triggered flooding and further hardships in early 2011. In March 2011, OFDA conducted an EMMA of the market for rice—a staple food and important income source, particularly for vulnerable populations. The conflict destroyed storage facilities, forced some mills to shut down, and damaged water tanks and irrigation structures. Flooding also damaged some crops and roads in eastern parts of the country. Although the market for rice was still functioning, the EMMA found that it was not working at full capacity and recommended strategies to revitalize the market, reduce market inefficiencies, and support income-earning opportunities among families. In response, OFDA funded Practical Action in FY 2012 to provide cash-based programming and support the rehabilitation of critical irrigation infrastructure. Through this program, vulnerable farmers are paid to rehabilitate water tanks that allow communities to water their fields during the dry season. The project is rebuilding the linkages between farmers; service providers, such as packaging and seed suppliers; and buyers of rice, thus strengthening the market system and encouraging longer-term recovery.

Why Use EMMA?

- Rapidly identifies opportunities to use markets effectively to provide humanitarian assistance
- Reduces the risk that interventions will do harm or create dependency
- Makes markets understandable to non-economists
- Demonstrates the complex relationships within markets and helps relief agencies better understand and utilize those connections
- Promotes longer-term stability of critical markets

Shifting the Way We Do Business

As reliable market analyses have become more widespread and integrated into responses, both humanitarian organizations and donors—including OFDA—are shifting programming and funding decisions to more fully incorporate market-based programming. Humanitarian actors are increasingly building on lessons learned from EMMA and utilizing the toolkit to identify and fund more market-based activities that help ensure people's survival while protecting and rebuilding livelihoods. By strengthening the capacity of humanitarian actors, EMMA is helping improve disaster response and supporting the longer-term recovery of the critical markets that undergird societies across the world.

Highlighting How EMMA Helps Organizations and Donors Do Things Differently

When conflict in Sudan's Abyei Area in May 2011 displaced more than 100,000 people, destroyed crops, and closed down key roads used to transport goods, humanitarian organizations conducted an EMMA among displaced individuals. The EMMA evaluated the markets for hoes and okra seeds—two critical farm inputs necessary for displaced farmers to begin replanting crops. Prior to the crisis, many NGOs directly distributed okra seeds to beneficiaries. However, the EMMA found that these direct distributions were undermining the local vendors and recommended that NGOs instead provide vouchers to purchase equipment and seeds, which would help stimulate the local market and contribute to its longer-term stability. In response to these recommendations, OFDA provided more than $700,000 to Norwegian Refugee Council for agriculture and food security initiatives, including seed fairs and providing vouchers to beneficiaries that allow them to choose their preferred seeds and tools from local traders. These activities helped crisis-affected households gain access to farm inputs necessary to provide their families with food, while bolstering the capacity of local traders and strengthening the markets' ability to support local demand.

I AM OFDA

MICHAEL ERNST
Regional Advisor for DRR, South Asia

As a young electrical engineering graduate from Colorado State University, I left an aerospace firm for the Peace Corps to follow a life-long interest in international affairs inspired by my parents—both retired U.S. diplomats.

Working with the Peace Corps in Kenya enabled me to witness the impacts of years of extreme drought and famine affecting the Horn of Africa; a recurrent disaster that has, over the years, prompted international response. The experience made me realize the critical importance of water and helping vulnerable populations prepare for water-related disasters. Upon my return from Kenya, I pursued a PhD in civil engineering and hydrology. I later brought this knowledge to OFDA, where I now assist communities throughout Asia in preparing for and mitigating the risks of floods and drought.

Within months of my first posting to Bangladesh, I joined the humanitarian response to extreme flooding in the southwest of the country. While the benefits of humanitarian assistance were evident in the lives saved by our quick provision of emergency supplies, its limits were also made clear. Humanitarian responses necessarily prioritize the most urgent needs, which mean flood-affected communities are mostly left to help themselves rebuild their own lives.

I worked for a few years with the U.N. before returning to OFDA, knowing that I wanted to continue supporting efforts to reduce disaster risk. Strengthening disaster preparedness and building resilience requires the necessary socio-economic and political will of risk-prone countries and regions. Part of my work with OFDA is to find ways to make such potentially life-saving collaborations efficient and lasting. For instance, in Bangladesh, like other countries with large deltas, floodwater tends to originate outside of the country. Early warning systems can turn government forecasts of floods and other disasters into alerts that give communities much-needed time to protect valuable assets and get out of harm's way. Warnings are further improved when countries throughout the region share hydro-meteorological information.

At present, I am based in Bangkok, Thailand, bringing DRR efforts to the South Asia region. The Asian monsoons are certainly very different than anything I experienced growing up in Colorado, but I've adapted over the years, just as I've worked to help communities adapt to their disaster risks. While my parents have long passed, I can't help but think they would be happy to see me serving on behalf of the American people in this way, as they did in their time.

Years with OFDA: Five
Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado

FROM THE FIELD:

Thouk's Story

BY ALISON LAPP

As floods in Cambodia reached waist height in September and October 2011, inundating fields and destroying crops, the last thing one might have expected people to need was more water. However, Thouk Reth was one of many in the affected community who found himself surrounded by a world submerged, yet wishing for water of a different kind—safe drinking water for himself, his wife, and their two children.

Heavy rains fell over nearly all of Cambodia in the fall of 2011, with floodwaters spreading across 18 of 24 provinces, dampening prospects for 1.5 million people and destroying nearly 10 percent of the nation's crops. In many areas, floodwaters also flowed into low-lying and uncovered community wells, contaminating families' only source of drinking water and increasing the risk of waterborne disease transmission. To prevent this problem from recurring during Cambodia's annual flood season, OFDA upgraded more than 350 community wells in the most affected provinces of Kandal and Kampong Thom through World Vision, raising wells as much as 10 feet above ground and equipping them with concrete covers and hand pumps to dispense the water protected within. This progress surpassed the number of water points originally targeted for improvement by more than 100 wells. The water supply for more than 28,000 people is now safer from flood contamination, thanks to the project.

Approximately 13 families draw water from the upgraded well in Thouk's village in Prasath Ballang District of Kampong Thom Province, and none experienced stomach sickness in the months following the water source rehabilitation, he noted. "I know [OFDA] could not give us each a well, but it's the same as if you had, [your own well] because there is enough clean water in this one for us all to share," Thouk said.

Working with World Vision, OFDA also distributed water purification tablets to nearly 3,400 families, many of whom stored the supplies so that they would be available for immediate water treatment during the next seasonal floods. Doing this enabled the families to keep a step ahead of potentially debilitating hydrometeorological events that, by nature of their predictability in the region, can be withstood without significant health consequences, as long as effective preparedness measures like this are in place.

As in other communities that received well rehabilitations, residents of Dong village, where Thouk lives, pitched in to help elevate the well's base through OFDA-sponsored temporary employment. Similar cash-for-work initiatives included cleaning schools and repairing flood-damaged roads—projects that provided needed income to families that lost crops to the floods. The work allowed affected communities to participate in upgrading their shared wells, making the improvements more than just a gift, but also a commitment to safeguarding drinking water in flood-prone areas shared among OFDA, World Vision, and, most importantly, the families that use the wells.

With the floodwaters gone by April 2012, Thouk playfully uses the water from the upgraded well in his village to give his daughters and a friend cooling relief from the midday sun. *Alison Lapp/USAID*

During the floods, many affected community members used small canoes to travel within their inundated villages. *Ward Miller/USAID*

Ahmed Di Ba, a resident of Kaedi, searching for pasture for his cows in drought-stricken south Mauritania.
Courtesy of Pablo Tosco AFP/OXFAM

"Reaching out to those suffering from crisis and disaster is a fundamental human impulse and a deeply enshrined American value. It is a value we share with people around the globe. It is the silver lining of any crisis, when the best of who we are as people emerges just when things are the bleakest."

NANCY LINDBORG
USAID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

World Humanitarian Day

OFDA at the Forefront

OFDA serves as the lead USG office for disaster response, going beyond the operational details of providing on-the-ground assistance in the aftermath of emergencies. OFDA works to enhance the global humanitarian system by taking stock of response mechanisms even when no disaster is occurring and assuming a role of global leader in humanitarian policy and engagement. For example, OFDA continues to promote robust coordination structures among humanitarian partners globally, including the concept of Good Humanitarian Donorship. In addition, through USAID's Center for International Disaster Information, OFDA encourages responsible giving and fundraising when a devastating disaster moves Americans to take independent action in response to great humanitarian needs. OFDA staff continue to push boundaries to make the most effective and efficient programming to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of disasters.

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Smart Compassion

Making Heartfelt Donations Count

BY ASHLEY MCLAUGHLIN

Imagine that a catastrophic typhoon has just torn apart your home and left your family without access to food or water. Maybe your personal business was destroyed, your crops washed away, or your streets flooded due to blocked sewers, increasing the risk of disease transmission. You may look to relief organizations to receive basic necessities, such as food, shelter, and urgent medical care. In addition to these immediate needs, many people require less conventional yet equally important assistance to recover from a disaster. USAID and its partners can help rebuild a small business or organize and fund local programs to manage debris cleanup.

USAID and other humanitarian organizations recognize that the needs of disaster-affected communities are immense and require diverse response options depending on the type, severity, and location of a disaster. With all of the chaos and uncertainty that disaster brings, relief workers need flexibility to respond quickly, appropriately, and thoroughly, both immediately and as the recovery evolves.

While humanitarian needs can often be immense, the good news is that the U.S. public is always eager to assist people who are affected by disasters. USAID's Center for International Disaster Information (USAID CIDI) was created to inform and guide those who wish to support international disaster relief in the most efficient, relevant ways possible.

Cash is Best

Unsolicited material donations often fail to reflect official assessments of identified need and can hamper relief efforts by blocking space needed to organize and deliver life-saving supplies. Unneeded material donations also require costly disposal at the affected country's expense.

While all donations are given with good intentions, USAID CIDI promotes monetary donations to relief organizations, even as small as $1, as the best way to help people affected by natural and man-made disasters. With cash donations, there are no transportation or storage costs, no delays in distribution, no customs fees, no carbon footprint, and they do not divert relief workers' time and attention.

Cash enables professional aid organizations to purchase exactly what disaster survivors need when they need it. That is why "cash is best" for supporting disaster survivors, the relief agencies who help them, and relief efforts overall.

Consider this simple equation: 100,000 liters (L) of clean water hydrates 40,000 people for a day. The average cost of 100,000 L of clean water purchased in-country is approximately $500, while the cost of the same amount of water purchased in the U.S. is approximately $50,000, and this is before it is even shipped! Transportation expenses, customs fees, and delivery charges add anywhere from $150,000 to $700,000 to the total cost. In some cases, the cost of providing in-kind donations can be up to 1,500 times the cost of locally procured alternatives.

Aside from cash savings, the purchase of relief supplies in local markets also helps stabilize employment and generate cash flow in disaster-affected areas. Purchasing in-country ensures that relief items are fresh, culturally appropriate, and timely. Sometimes the best way to repair damaged structures and buildings is through manual work completed by affected communities themselves. Relief organizations can use monetary donations to provide financial compensation for such local efforts, which not only repair critical community infrastructure, but also help vulnerable individuals earn much-needed cash to buy food and other basic goods.

USAID CIDI

In 1988, Hurricane Gilbert—a Category Five hurricane that affected 10 countries in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico—elicited an outpouring of material donations, which inadvertently hampered humanitarian efforts to deliver aid to affected populations. Inappropriate donations, such as expired medication and used clothing, clogged transportation routes and delayed the distribution of vital relief supplies. To harness Americans' tremendous generosity, USAID created CIDI to serve as a public resource to those interested in learning how to best help survivors when disasters strike overseas. Today, USAID CIDI is the only organization, domestic or international, with a singular focus on effective disaster relief donations and the advantages of cash over unsolicited material donations in support of effective humanitarian response. USAID CIDI does not collect donations, but rather distributes information about useful donations in support of disaster response.

USAID CIDI activities range from conducting public awareness campaigns, to working with schools, churches, and diaspora communities on effective donations, and building partnerships with national and international organizations to promote good donations. When a large-scale emergency strikes, USAID CIDI can activate a call center to help OFDA respond to public inquiries about donations. Once activated, USAID CIDI sets up extra telephone lines, contacts local volunteers, and immediately begins fielding calls and answering donors' questions.

CIDI's annual PSAid contest solicits submissions from U.S. college students for short video public service announcements (PSAs) about Smart Compassion. Winning PSAid submissions are distributed to national media outlets to air to the U.S. public. In FY 2012, these PSAs were broadcast more than 5,100 times to nearly 108 million viewers.[1] Widely considered a thought leader on donation issues, USAID CIDI worked with the AdCouncil and a coalition of donation stakeholders to launch the "Help Where It's Needed Most" PSA campaign in 2012 to inform the public that monetary donations help more people at a lower cost than material donations.

In 2012, USAID CIDI facilitated discussions between Somali clan elders and leaders and USG officials to address ways that Somali diaspora communities could effectively provide donations to the Horn of Africa, which was experiencing the worst drought in 60 years. USAID CIDI maintains contact with diaspora groups throughout the U.S. on donations issues so that they are prepared to successfully support disaster-affected people when emergencies occur overseas. In addition, USAID CIDI conducts outreach to embassies and consulate offices that may need help when unsolicited material donations are dropped off on their doorstep following a disaster.

Helping Out

The desire of Americans to assist disaster-affected people is powerful and inspiring. USAID CIDI's mission is to direct those good intentions to do the most for the largest number of people. The next time a disaster pulls at your heartstrings, consider honoring those you hope to help by providing a monetary donation—no matter how small—in order to ensure the most effective and enduring result of your contribution.

For more information on Smart Compassion and to obtain toolkits with ideas for repurposing material donations, PSAs for local campaigns, and fundraising ideas, please visit www.cidi.org.

[1] FY 2012 and previous PSAid submissions are available for viewing at www.psaid.org.

How Many Liters of Water Can $1 Buy?

Improper Donations

FROSTBITE CREAM
Rwanda Insecurity, 1994

WEIGHT LOSS DRINKS
Rwanda Insecurity, 1994

CHANDELIERS
Central America Hurricane, 1998

PROM GOWNS
Central America Hurricane, 1998

FERTILITY DRUGS
Haiti Earthquake, 2010

relief organizations from sorting
y supplies. Financially strapped
osts of disposing inappropriate

OFDA at the Forefront

Mark Bartolini, OFDA Director, speaks with the international media at the U.N. Office in Geneva during a meeting of the Syria Humanitarian Forum. *Courtesy of Dominique Nicolas/USUN*

Strengthening Humanitarian Partnerships

OFDA's Engagement with the International Disaster Response Community

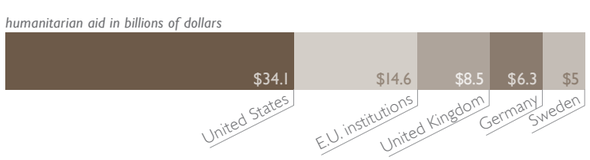
BY AMY SHATSOFF

The American people consider it their moral obligation to help those less fortunate than themselves. This is true when people throw spare change into a basket to donate to a local food pantry, when they write a check to support people in the United States or abroad suffering from a devastating hurricane, or when they participate in a walk-a-thon to raise money for a cause. An individual donation will not attain the overall desired outcome—one person making a donation will likely not rebuild a house that was destroyed during a hurricane. However, the collective effort of multiple donations or thousands of people participating in an event can make a significant impact. Similarly, while the USG—through OFDA and other government agencies—is typically one of the largest contributors to international emergency responses, a number of other governments also step up to provide assistance.

OFDA takes a multi-pronged approach to encourage participation and coordination of resources in an overall effort to save lives during a humanitarian disaster. Through outreach and engagement, OFDA strategically partners with other donors to create program complementarity and to ensure people in need of humanitarian assistance receive relief—regardless of the donors' political affiliations. OFDA encourages donors to provide funding to the international humanitarian system. OFDA also focuses on strategic planning to ensure relief is timely and the international humanitarian community is providing the right kind of assistance, therefore making humanitarian aid more effective and decreasing the need for prolonged support from the donor community.

STATISTIC Nº 1 ‡

Between 2001 and 2010, the top contributors of humanitarian aid were the United States, European Union (E.U.) institutions, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Sweden.



OFDA maintains a global network of humanitarian advisors who work closely with other donor governments on a range of humanitarian issues. These advisors, located where a number of humanitarian agencies maintain headquarters in New York, Geneva, and Rome, sustain strong working relationships with other diplomatic missions in order to promote humanitarian principles, coordinate disaster response activities, and work with senior representatives of foreign governments to influence policy.

Outreach and Engagement

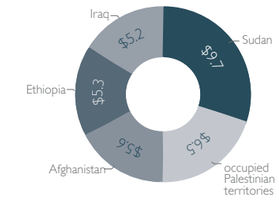
Recognizing that the moral obligation to help those in need extends beyond the borders of the United States and taking the initiative to reach out and engage other key players in all aspects of disaster response is critical to saving lives. In FY 2012, OFDA focused on building strategic partnerships with other donors and new partners. In March, USAID signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the White House with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which includes 57 member states, making it the second largest international organization behind the U.N. The MOU created a formal linkage between USAID and the OIC and laid out broad areas of cooperation in order to maximize program and resource coordination, such as regular consultations and dialogue to identify and share international humanitarian assistance priorities and planned interventions to ensure needs are being met. This partnership between USAID and OIC on humanitarian assistance will be followed by a technical exchange to develop a plan of action outlining details of future exchanges and collaboration on humanitarian issues, including joint training to maximize each organization's contributions to the international humanitarian system and collaboration to build NGO capacity in OIC member countries.

Funding

As in past years, FY 2012 saw a number of ongoing and emerging humanitarian crises that required international donor support. Notably, populations in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa suffered from a drought that led to increased food insecurity and malnutrition, and the conflict in Syria left people without access to basic services. Despite the desire to support all people who are suffering, resources are limited, and OFDA cannot support every disaster on a large scale.

STATISTIC Nº 2 ‡

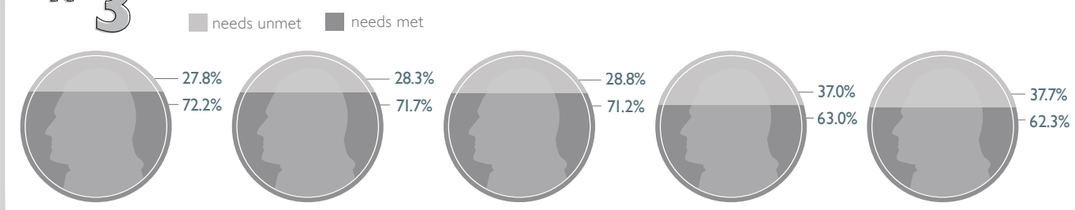
Between 2001 and 2010, the top recipients of humanitarian aid included Sudan, occupied Palestinian territories, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Iraq.

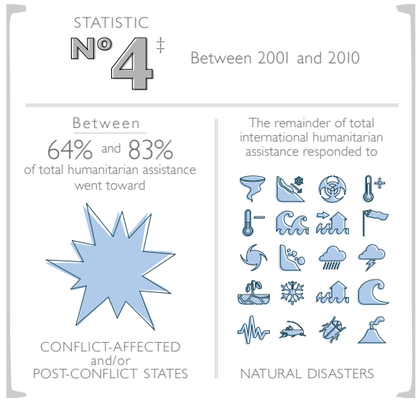


The USG is reaching out to other donors to encourage them to bring funding to the table. For instance, in FY 2012, Yemen experienced a serious food security crisis, which was compounded by ongoing fighting in the country. Donors were slow to fund the U.N.'s consolidated appeal, particularly given ongoing demands in the Horn of Africa, Syria, and other high-profile crises. The USG, through OFDA, reached out to OCHA and hosted a senior-level interagency meeting with OCHA's Under-Secretary-General to raise the profile of the Yemen crisis. As part of this effort, OCHA also arranged meetings with other key donor governments, including the Gulf States, in an effort to drum up additional commitments. Following these meetings, USAID senior officials undertook a joint mission to Yemen with the OIC, Gulf Cooperation Council, League of Arab States, and

STATISTIC Nº 3 ‡

Despite large increases in humanitarian funding, the gap between met and unmet needs in U.N. consolidated appeals widened by 10 percent between 2007 and 2011.





OCHA senior leadership, and held press conferences in the region and met with other donor governments to urge them to increase their contributions to Yemen. Although it is difficult to determine the direct impact of such engagement, ensuring that emergencies do not become forgotten crises creates momentum for other donor countries to provide support.

The USG is a founding member of the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative, a donor forum and network that facilitates collective advancement of humanitarian principles and good practices. It recognizes that by working together, donors can more effectively encourage and stimulate principled donor behavior and, by extension, improve humanitarian response.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), established by the U.N. with support from the United States and other U.N. member states, provides a centralized mechanism to rapidly support humanitarian crises worldwide. Created by U.N. General Assembly Resolution 46/182 in 2006, the CERF allows countries with comparably fewer resources to make a bigger impact through the pooling of funds that are distributed following a crisis to implementing partners on the ground that have not yet received support from donors. One of the most critical aspects of the CERF is the support it provides to underfunded emergencies, leveraging donor dollars from multiple countries to focus on crises where there may not be political will for one country to provide large amounts of support. While the USG utilizes an array of funding mechanisms to respond to humanitarian crises, the USG also supports the CERF through OFDA. The CERF receives nearly $500 million annually from over 70 entities, including $36 million from OFDA since the CERF's inception.

Funding supported a number of humanitarian emergencies during FY 2012, including complex emergencies in Central African Republic and Eritrea—countries with low visibility but significant humanitarian needs.

Strengthening the Humanitarian Architecture

OFDA continues to work closely with other donors to reform the international humanitarian architecture, formulating best practices for financing humanitarian programs and disaster management, and engaging in initiatives to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian aid. For example, during FY 2012, OFDA regularly engaged in discussions with the U.N., NGOs, and other donors regarding the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Transformative Agenda, which lays out a set of concrete actions to transform and improve the way the humanitarian community responds to humanitarian disasters. The Transformative Agenda, prompted by the weaknesses in the global system made apparent during the 2010 Haiti earthquake and Pakistan floods, focuses on improving the timeliness and effectiveness of humanitarian relief through enhanced leadership, more effective coordination structures, and improved accountability. Ultimately, the Transformative Agenda seeks to save more lives during a crisis by improving the systematic approach for providing aid—thereby overcoming inefficiencies and decreasing the funding responsibility of donors in the long-term. In partnership with the USG Humanitarian Policy Working Group, OFDA provides critical policy guidance, technical analysis, and funding support to various components of the humanitarian architecture. This direct support has strengthened U.N. leadership initiatives on the ground, led to strengthened coordination structures at the global and country levels, and improved humanitarian partnerships.

While the USG continues to be a leader in international humanitarian response, it is not the only—or in some instances always the most well-placed—contributor. The collective sum of donations and advocacy through the humanitarian system is what makes the biggest impact.

‡ Source: Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2012; http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/GHA_Report_2012-Websingle.pdf

A MLT member speaks to JHOC participants during a training exercise. *Yoni Bock/USAID*

Improving Civilian–Military Coordination During Foreign Disaster Response Operations

The Development of the JHOC and Growth of OFDA's Military Liaison Team

BY YONI BOCK

In the fall of 2003, five OFDA staff just returning from Iraq met in a small basement office in Arlington, Virginia, to discuss experiences and challenges during their deployment. A 60-person DART had deployed in March 2003 to assist in coordinating the U.S. emergency relief effort and to assess and respond to existing humanitarian needs across the country. These five individuals included the first non-military USG personnel to reach Baghdad, arriving three days after coalition forces entered the city in April. Reflecting on their months working with United States and coalition forces, the DART members identified a pressing need for U.S. military personnel, and military leadership in particular, to possess a better understanding of the overarching legal, policy, and fiscal guidance on USG international humanitarian and disaster assistance.

An Idea for JHOC Emerges

During this 2003 discussion, the small group conceived a Joint Humanitarian Operations Course (JHOC) as a platform for OFDA staff to familiarize DoD personnel with basic humanitarian principles, better understand the role of OFDA as the USG federal lead for foreign disaster assistance, and appreciate the overarching role of the host nation, NGOs, and U.N. agencies in international disaster response. A JHOC training would identify areas of mutual coordination and cooperation in order to better prepare staff across DoD at the planning and decision-making levels to work collaboratively with USG civilian agencies during future humanitarian emergencies.

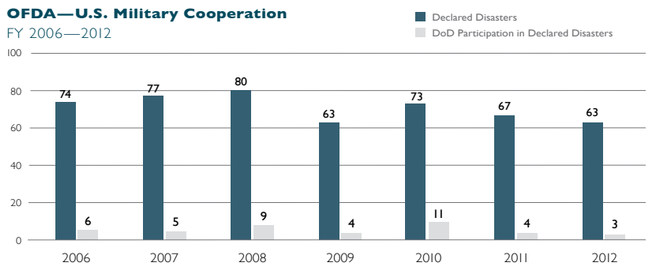
Between 2003 and 2012, the JHOC grew from an idea into a premier USG humanitarian training course offered by OFDA's Military Liaison Team (MLT) nearly 100 times a year worldwide. To meet the expansion of the JHOC and concurrent increased demand from across the U.S. military services for a better understanding of the strategic, operational, and tactical environment of foreign disaster relief operations, OFDA increased the number of MLT staff from four to 15 over the same time period.

Overlapping Operational Spaces

Although OFDA's working relationship with the U.S. military spans more than 50 years, the U.S. military has historically played a role in less than 10 percent of USG foreign

A Hurricane Mitch after-action review, hosted by the U.S. Army Peacekeeping Institute in September 1999, recommended that U.S. military planners more clearly "define civilian–military authority relationships and supporting and lead roles that…can and will generate an effective interagency and multinational unity of effort."[1]

[1] See Hurricane Mitch After Action Review Conference Report, U.S. Army Peacekeeping Institute, 20-23 September, 1999. Available at www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/army-usawc/mitch18oct.doc.



disaster response operations. Nevertheless, this civilian–military engagement gained tremendous traction and heightened urgency as the location of humanitarian and military operations increasingly overlapped—not only in Iraq and Afghanistan in more recent years, but also during operations in Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and Kosovo during the 1990s. The massive USG response to Hurricane Mitch in 1998 in Latin America and the Caribbean highlighted a need for more efficient and effective coordination among USG entities in order to avoid duplication of efforts while ensuring efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

Lack of prior humanitarian training among U.S. military planners, particularly on OFDA's role as the federal lead for foreign humanitarian response, contributed to the challenges experienced by OFDA staff in their interactions with U.S. military personnel during the missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, where security and stabilization missions were often mistakenly characterized as humanitarian interventions. At the same time, the ongoing realignment of U.S. civilian and military capacities to meet 21st century threats and risks; the broadening of military missions to include protection of civilians as core missions; and increasingly larger humanitarian response—both to natural disasters and complex emergencies—all challenged and stretched the resources of USG actors.

Participants in a JHOC training take part in a group exercise. *Courtesy of Margret Menzies/U.S. Army Africa*

The JHOC Grows and Expands

By 2005, MLT staff, working with OFDA's Training Unit, had redesigned and expanded the basic JHOC structure into a standard two-day package that utilized interactive presentations, participant discussion groups, and case study methodology to highlight international disaster response best practices and the specific policy authorities and fiscal authorizations that civilian and military agencies possess.

When the Indian Ocean tsunami and Pakistan earthquake hit in 2004 and 2005, respectively, the JHOC had already become a formal learning opportunity to build awareness of the U.S. military roles and relationships during a humanitarian mission. Partially as a result of the early JHOC engagements, activities in both the Indian Ocean tsunami and the Pakistan earthquake responses were better coordinated than earlier disaster responses.

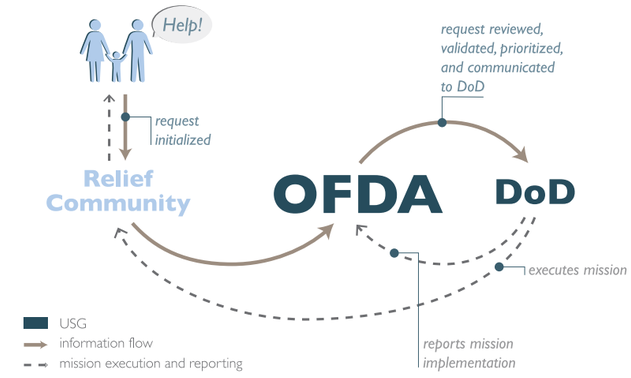
The JHOC Receives DoD Certification

In November 2005, the Pentagon identified the provision of humanitarian assistance as a core U.S. military mission that military personnel must train for and understand.[2] One year later, OCHA's Consultative Group on the Use of Military and Civil Defense Assets stated that foreign militaries should be providers of "unique" capacities in foreign disaster responses only when no comparable civilian alternative exists. These two broader trends heightened the need for better cohesion between U.S. military and humanitarian personnel.

Between 2006 and 2012, OFDA's MLT continued to refine and update the JHOC curriculum, incorporating the latest developments in the broader USG and international humanitarian architecture, such as the Cluster System, the revised Oslo Guidelines, and OFDA's Mission Tasking Matrix

[2] The Pentagon; new Stability Operations Instruction (3000.05) course.

MITAM: OFDA established the MITAM system, a tactical tool for communicating, validating, and implementing U.S. military missions during foreign humanitarian operations.



The MITAM system does not rely on any existing organizational structure or operational platform, but rather allows flexible coordination between any deployed OFDA civilian–military coordinator and any tactical level U.S. military unit.

- MITAM aggregates requests for assistance from across the range of humanitarian actors
- Routes requests through the OFDA team for review, prioritization, and validation
- Communicates the validated requests to the appropriate DoD entity for action
- Reports on mission implementation back to the initial requestor and also up through the broader U.S. interagency.

(MITAM). In late 2012, the JHOC hit a milestone when the Pentagon's exercise and training directorate certified that U.S. military officers could receive joint qualification credit for completing the JHOC. As the only USAID-sponsored course to receive this certification, the Pentagon's decision recognized that understanding the USG international disaster response structures—relevant offices, policies, mandates, and roles and responsibilities—plays an important part of the professional development and education of U.S. military officers.

While the target audience for the JHOC is any DoD staff member who may have a role in the U.S. military's foreign disaster response missions, this subset comprises an ever-increasing range of offices and personnel, from deployed units in the field to students in military training facilities to staff officers working in Washington, D.C., and component commands. Overwhelmingly positive feedback from course participants continues to reinforce the value of the training and the necessity of ensuring that U.S. military decision-makers are more fully aware of existing Pentagon policy and fiscal guidance surrounding DoD's supporting role during foreign disaster response.

Changing the "Business" of Civilian–Military Coordination

OFDA's investment in the JHOC as a core tool for building civilian–military coordination has succeeded in changing the actions and procedures of the U.S. military. Staff at geographic combatant commands (GCCs) now collaborate with OFDA in the decision-making process before taking action. OFDA staff regularly provide input and review of military requests related to the provision of humanitarian assistance. And USG foreign disaster response missions are more coordinated and efficient than ever before, not only in terms of resources expended but also in terms of assistance delivered to affected populations.

New security challenges, protracted humanitarian crises, ongoing budget issues, and continued emphasis from Congress and the presidential administration on whole-of-government planning have thrust the core JHOC messages of civilian-led, needs-based assistance, and humanitarian principles into the center of the USG policy debate. The winding down of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan naturally raises questions about the future role of military actors to reinforce and strengthen partner capacity around the world. The success of the JHOC to date, together with the formal recognition from the Pentagon that the JHOC curriculum contributes to the preparation of future military leaders, ensures that the course will be part of the discussion for the foreseeable future.

The JHOC is offered monthly in Washington, D.C., several times a year at each of the GCCs, and other times for supporting components, deployed teams in the field, and military learning institutes. To learn more about the JHOC, find a training date, or request a JHOC in a particular location, please email JHOC@usaid.gov

As of 2012, more than 10,000 U.S. military officers, enlisted personnel, civilians, and contractor staff, as well as dozens of foreign military officers, have completed the JHOC.

Protecting Communities from Climate-Related Disaster in the Zambezi River Basin

BY GINA VORDERSTRASSE

Only roofs and treetops are visible above high floodwaters in northern Namibia. *Jan Wessel/USAID*

Water shortages caused by climate change are projected to adversely affect up to 3.2 billion people globally by 2080.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE, 2012

Communities living along the Zambezi River basin in southern Africa illustrate the tragic disaster truism: the most vulnerable people are often the worst affected by disaster. Every day, the 32 million people living in the Zambezi River basin—stretching through Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—face the detrimental effects of climate change, including frequently recurring floods that displace thousands of people, damage crops, impair livelihoods, and trigger disease outbreaks.

In impoverished basin communities, people already struggle to buy food, receive basic health care, and earn steady incomes. Above-average flooding often reinforces and worsens the existing vulnerability of these communities, leaving people along the Zambezi in an almost perpetual cycle of disaster, displacement, and recovery. Through the six-year Zambezi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI), OFDA is working to break this devastating cycle by helping communities predict, prepare for, withstand, and recover from climate-related crises.

OFDA's Dynamic Approach to Addressing Climate-Induced Vulnerabilities

Climate change adversely affects the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events, increasing the exposure of communities to food shortages and disease. Making an entire nation, region, or even a single community more resilient to the effects of climatic shocks requires a cooperative and dynamic approach that will enhance disaster preparedness, food security, and access to health care.

The ZRBI—founded by IFRC in 2009 and scheduled to continue through 2015—goes beyond simply addressing and preventing the immediate effects of disasters. Through ZRBI and other DRR activities, OFDA is working to improve infrastructure, such as roads, markets, and water pumps; reduce residents' exposure to water- and vector-borne diseases; and maintain economic opportunities in disaster-prone areas. OFDA contributed $2 million to IFRC's critical work in the Zambezi River basin during FY 2012, bringing OFDA's support for ZRBI since FY 2009 to $3.5 million.

Planning for the Future with DRR

The OFDA-supported ZRBI helps communities in the Zambezi River basin recover from rapid-onset crises, such as flooding, while enabling affected populations to prevent or build capacity to reduce the impact of future disasters through DRR activities. ZRBI reduces the risks of climate-related disasters by encouraging the establishment of community-based DRR committees, training national and community teams in disaster response management, and strengthening information-sharing mechanisms at the local, regional, national, and international levels. To complement the ZRBI, OFDA and the World Meteorological Organization developed a strategy for basin-wide flood forecasting and early warning in 2009, which enhanced information sharing among key stakeholders in the region.

236,000

people in the Zambezi River basin's most flood-affected areas have directly benefitted from the first three years of ZRBI. IFRC estimates that 400,000 additional people living in adjacent communities benefit indirectly from early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and malaria prevention measures.

Ensuring Food Security

Food shortages are often a devastating consequence of weather-induced disasters that can destroy harvests, kill livestock, and sever access to food markets. Experience along the Zambezi River basin has shown that to save lives, disaster response activities must immediately increase food access for communities while also improving farming techniques and money-earning opportunities that can withstand variations in climate. Through ZRBI, OFDA provides seed varieties that produce crops able to survive episodes of extreme heat and flooding.

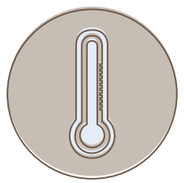
Communities also benefit from ZRBI-supported irrigation systems, improved natural resource management, and conservation agriculture techniques that improve harvest yields in farming communities. In Namibia and Zambia, OFDA partner FAO—in a project designed to complement the ZRBI—supported communities to prevent crop losses due to floods during the rainy season. For example, the program provided short-cycle seeds, which offered farmers higher yields in a shorter amount of time than traditional seeds, so they could replant quickly should floods destroy an entire crop-field. The project also trained partners and communities in pre- and post-disaster crop production and improved food and seed storage to reduce losses and strengthen household-level food security.

Addressing Climate-Related Health Risks

The basin areas experience some of the highest temperatures in southern Africa. Extreme heat, in addition to the stagnant water produced by floods, increases the risk of water- and vector-borne diseases—particularly malaria—among vulnerable communities. As such, responding to emergency health needs and increasing access to primary health care services are also critical components of OFDA's DRR programming in the basin. In addition to emergency interventions, the ZRBI aims to increase disease outbreak awareness and the quality and quantity of health interventions by organizing community-led trainings in malaria and cholera prevention, as well as hygiene promotion. As climate variability and change result in water scarcity, which may spark conflict among water users, OFDA helps alleviate community tensions by ensuring that people receive sufficient water from local sources and establishing and training community water committees on water conservation techniques to increase access to safe drinking water.

Climate and DRR in the Zambezi River Basin

By acknowledging and responding to the inherent vulnerability of developing



Climate change refers to significant and lasting shifts in global weather patterns over periods ranging from decades to millions of years. Changes in the composition of the atmosphere and land use—due to natural or manmade causes—affect climate change.

DID YOU KNOW?

Floods, droughts, cyclones, and extreme temperatures constitute approximately 75 percent of all natural disasters globally and affect more than 200 million people each year.

A road damaged by flooding impedes travel in Mozambique. *Tresja Denysenko/USAID*

> Our generation's response to [climate change] will be judged by history, for if we fail to meet it—boldly, swiftly, together—we risk consigning future generations to an irreversible catastrophe.
>
> **PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA**

nations to climate-related crises, OFDA recognizes that humanitarian crises—caused or exacerbated by climate change—have the potential to undermine the social, economic, and political stability of communities. OFDA's interventions address not only immediate disaster risks, but also long-term vulnerabilities worsened by climate change and related environmental shocks. Through DRR activities like the ZRBI, OFDA is preparing communities for the challenges and tribulations that accompany natural variations and a changing global climate—thereby saving lives, strengthening livelihoods, reducing vulnerability, and building a foundation for sustainable development.

DRR Saves Lives

In 2001, floods devastated Mozambique, resulting in the deaths of approximately 1,700 people, substantial population displacement, and damage to homes and community infrastructure. Seven years later, floods of a similar magnitude claimed 40 lives, a staggering improvement that is in part due to effective community-based early warning systems, timely evacuation procedures, and additional disaster preparedness interventions implemented since 2001. OFDA continues working to further reduce disaster-related fatalities and address the increased vulnerability heightened by climate change.

FROM THE FIELD:

Latchi's Story

BY HELEN HO

In southwestern Niger, where rainfall is sparse and droughts are common, the landscape of Dantchandou village was once characterized by expanses of dry, dusty ground dotted with shrubs and the occasional tree. Today, in its place is a lush landscape teeming with *moringa*, a drought-resistant, fast-growing tree with highly nutritious leaves.

Among the residents of Dantchandou village is Latchi Djibo, a divorced mother of eight and the secretary of a local *moringa* producers association. A sign over the entrance to her home reads *Chez Madame Moringa*, or *Madame Moringa's Place*. "I call myself Madame Moringa because moringa is my husband now. *Moringa* helps me take care of my family," she says.

In 2010, Latchi joined a project—funded by OFDA and implemented by the National Cooperative Business Association's/Cooperative League of the USA International (NCBA/CLUSA International)—and learned to grow, process, and sell moringa. By collecting leaves from the *moringa* trees she has planted around her home, Latchi prepares a variety of *moringa*-based dishes for her family and for sale in the village. She also buys *moringa* leaves from other producers to sell in neighboring markets, sometimes traveling as far as 50 miles to the capital of Niamey.

"In addition, I apply what I have learned with the project," explains Latchi. "I advise on the nutritional virtues [of *moringa*] by talking to my customers about the beneficial effects, especially for women and children." *Moringa* leaves contain significant amounts of protein, calcium, iron, and vitamins. In fact, by consuming only two tablespoons of *moringa* leaf powder, adults can meet one-third of their daily protein needs, 75 percent of their calcium needs, and 100 percent of their vitamin A needs.

Since starting her *moringa* enterprise, Latchi has earned approximately $80 every month—a substantial amount in Niger, one of the poorest countries in Africa. "Before, I was unknown," she reports, "but now, thanks to the project, my name and the name of my village is everywhere, and I receive phone calls regularly just to…let me know that my *moringa* product is good."

With the income she earns from selling *moringa* leaves and dishes, Latchi buys maize, rice, and other food to feed her children, as well as clothes, school supplies, and medicines. Perhaps more importantly, no one in her family has been malnourished since she started farming *moringa*.

In Dantchandou village, Latchi continues to regularly entertain visitors eager to witness the greening of her village. "While there have been projects in my village, and there may still be a few others, there has not been another project like the *moringa* one, which has pulled us out of extreme poverty, malnutrition, and hunger," says Latchi.

Latchi Dijbo, also known as Madame Moringa, in April 2012. *Courtesy of NCBA/CLUSA International*

> *Hareyban*—no more hunger—for anyone who wishes to plant *moringa*!
>
> **LATCHI DIJBO**

Often called the Tree of Life, a *moringa* seed can grow more than 10 feet tall within one year and begin producing leaves within three months of planting.

Even with minimal watering, a tree can provide an adequate crop of highly nutritious leaves, allowing families to supplement their food stocks year-round, but particularly during the annual dry season.

CASE REPORTS

Africa

76 **Benin**
Floods

76 **Central African Republic**
Complex Emergency

76 **Central African Republic**
Food Insecurity

76 **Comoros**
Floods

77 **Côte d'Ivoire**
Complex Emergency

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81 Burkina Faso
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82 Cameroon
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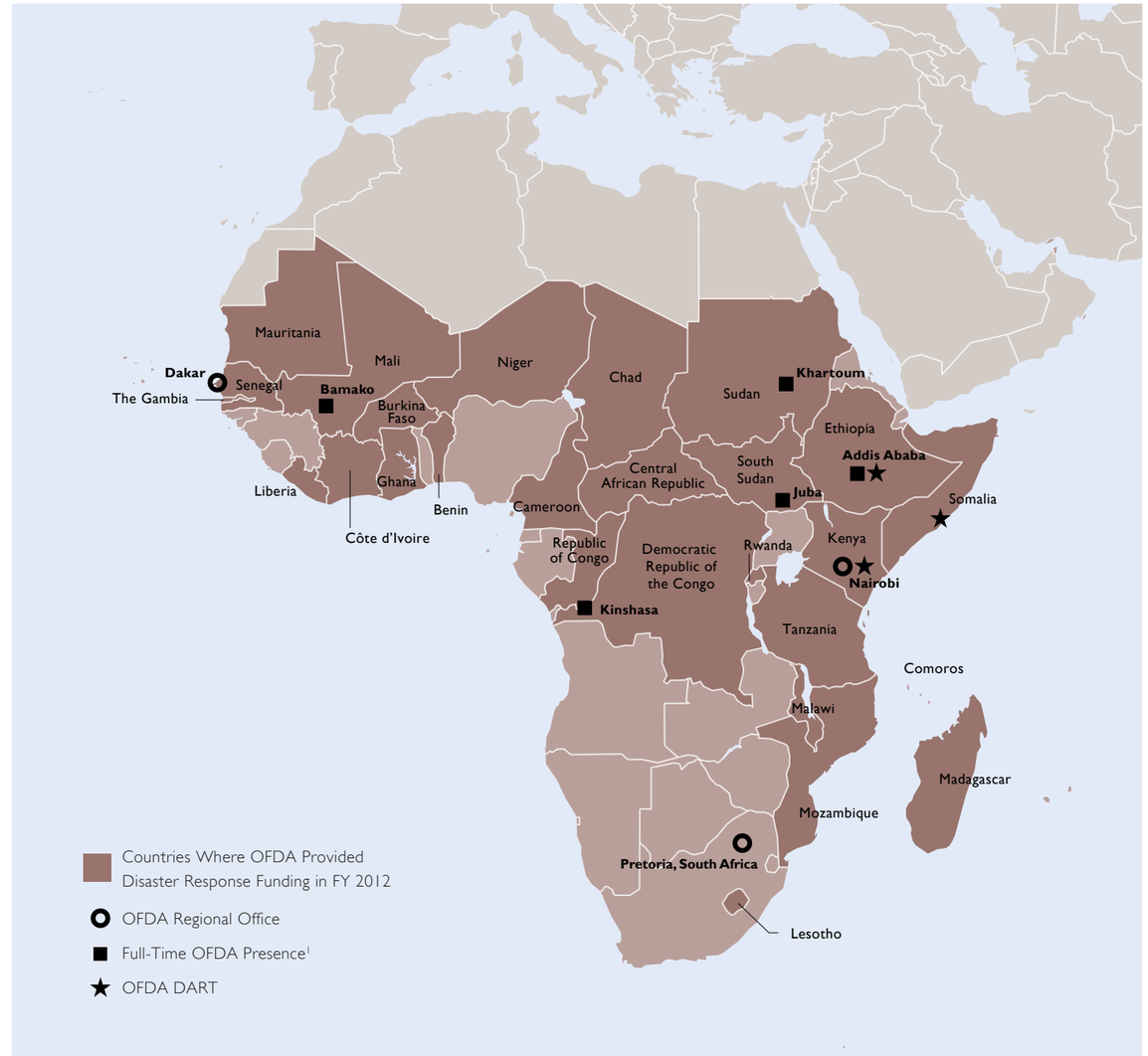
84 **Senegal**
Floods

84 **Somalia**
Complex Emergency

84 **South Sudan**
Complex Emergency

85 **Sudan**
Complex Emergency

85 **Tanzania**
Floods



Regional Summary

OFDA responded to 32 disasters in 27 countries in Africa in FY 2012. In total, OFDA provided more than $419 million for humanitarian assistance in Africa, including nearly $273 million for disaster responses, approximately $50 million for DRR activities, and more than $89 million for disaster response programs with DRR components. OFDA deployed a DART in response to crises in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia and deployed emergency humanitarian staff to disasters in Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, the Republic of Congo, and the Sahel.

[1] Additional OFDA staff supporting the regional response are located at AFRICOM in Stuttgart, Germany.

Benin

Floods

Between late August and September 2012, heavy rains in the Niger River area of northern Benin triggered flooding in five communes in northern and eastern parts of the country. Floods resulted in seven deaths, displaced approximately 16,000 individuals, and affected an estimated 55,000 people. The flooding also destroyed houses, public buildings, and nearly 50,000 acres of crops, according to relief agencies and international media.

On September 21, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Michael A. Raynor issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA helped improve access to safe drinking water for 500 flood-affected households through the distribution of water purification tablets and plastic water containers, as well as training on disinfecting water for consumption.

Implementing Partner in Benin

CRS

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

Central African Republic

Complex Emergency

Central African Republic (CAR) remained a country in conflict in FY 2012, with ongoing insecurity and humanitarian access restrictions limiting access to basic services and disrupting agricultural production. Since 2009, persistent conflict and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacks have resulted in large-scale displacement and increased humanitarian needs in CAR. As of September 2012, LRA-related violence had internally displaced approximately 21,000 people in CAR, and an estimated 800 refugees from CAR were residing in neighboring countries.

On October 11, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Laurence D. Wohlers redeclared a disaster due to the humanitarian impacts of ongoing conflict involving multiple armed groups, including the LRA. In February 2012, a USG team that included OFDA staff traveled to LRA-affected areas in southeastern CAR to track the progress of ongoing programs and assess humanitarian and security conditions. The team confirmed that populations continued to require emergency assistance, particularly basic health care, WASH services, protection interventions for unaccompanied minors, and relief supplies for IDPs.

OFDA-supported health interventions increased access to primary health care services and emergency obstetric care services for up to 27,000 LRA-affected individuals. OFDA also funded protection activities that provided psychosocial care and prevented and responded to GBV among up to 60,000 conflict-affected populations in southern CAR.

Implementing Partners in CAR

Merlin, Mercy Corps, OCHA, and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance **$3,002,013**

Central African Republic

Food Insecurity

Limited food stocks and inflated food prices, combined with conflict-related population displacement, ongoing insecurity, and limited humanitarian access, diminished food security in Vakaga Prefecture in northeastern CAR by mid-2012. Humanitarian organizations reported that 45,000 people were at risk of food insecurity in Vakaga, with populations in affected areas experiencing elevated GAM levels.

On June 16, 2012, Ambassador Wohlers declared a disaster due to food insecurity in northeastern CAR. In response, OFDA supported critical health interventions, including CMAM programs, essential health services, and vaccinations, targeting more than 32,000 people.

Implementing Partner in CAR

IMC

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

Comoros

Floods

Unseasonably heavy rains in late April 2012 caused flooding and landslides on the Anjouan, Grande-Comore, and Moheli islands of Comoros. The disaster—prompted by rainfall approximately seven times higher than the national average for April—displaced more than 1,600 people, affected nearly 65,000 individuals, and severely damaged public infrastructure, such as water supply systems, roads, and local markets, according to the U.N.

On May 1, 2012, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Eric M. Wong declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided support for emergency relief supplies and WASH interventions, including increased access to safe drinking water and promotion of improved hygiene practices to prevent disease outbreaks during and after the emergency.

Implementing Partner in Comoros

UNICEF

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

Côte d'Ivoire

Complex Emergency

Conflict resulting from the disputed presidential election between incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and President-elect Alassane Ouattara in November 2010 led to extensive displacement throughout Côte d'Ivoire and into neighboring countries, primarily Liberia. Although violence declined by April 2011, unresolved land tenure disputes, longstanding ethnic tensions, and fear of potential retaliation by forces loyal to Gbagbo or Ouattara inhibited returns to some areas and resulted in additional displacement and continued humanitarian needs in FY 2012. In September 2012, nearly 165,000 conflict-affected people remained displaced within Côte d'Ivoire and neighboring countries, according to OCHA.

On October 11, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Phillip Carter III redeclared a disaster for FY 2012 due to the ongoing complex emergency. In FY 2012, OFDA provided support for conflict-affected populations in Côte d'Ivoire through agriculture and food security interventions, protection of vulnerable populations, and ERMS support. In addition, OFDA-supported health activities ensured sustained access to critical health care services for approximately 30,000 Ivoirians, including 4,800 IDPs.

Implementing Partners in Côte d'Ivoire

FAO, OCHA, Première Urgence, SC/US, and Solidarités

OFDA Assistance **$3,977,987**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Complex Emergency

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remained in crisis in FY 2012, as fighting between the Armed Forces of the DRC and multiple armed groups persisted. LRA attacks also continued to affect civilians in eastern DRC, where the number of IDPs totaled approximately 2.4 million by September 2012, according to the U.N. Resulting restricted humanitarian access, GBV, forced recruitment of individuals into armed groups, and limited access to agricultural lands and traditional markets contributed to a deteriorating humanitarian situation in eastern DRC during FY 2012.

On October 12, 2011, U.S. Ambassador James F. Entwistle redeclared a disaster due to the humanitarian impact of persistent fighting and significant population displacement. During FY 2012, OFDA deployed DRC-based staff to conduct assessments and identify humanitarian needs among conflict-affected individuals in eastern DRC.

OFDA provided assistance for health and WASH activities, including installing water points, improving existing water supply services, distributing soap, and educating beneficiaries on disease prevention through good hygiene practices, benefiting up to 961,000 people with health activities and at least 42,000 beneficiaries with WASH interventions. OFDA also supported agriculture and food security programs that helped enhance crop production and improve food security for as many as 193,000 conflict-affected individuals.

Implementing Partners in the DRC

AAH, ACTED, Concern, CRS, Handicap International, IMC, Medair, Merlin, Mercy Corps, OCHA, Première Urgence, SC/US, Samaritan's Purse, Solidarités, Tearfund, UNICEF, WFP, WHH, and ZOA

OFDA Assistance **$34,694,337**

Ethiopia

Complex Emergency

Consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, combined with rapid population growth, sustained high food prices, and endemic poverty, have contributed to chronic food insecurity and water scarcity in Ethiopia. In 2011, severe drought conditions resulted in below-normal harvests, acute shortages of safe

drinking water, a sharp reduction in available pasture for livestock, and increased malnutrition levels. The drought depleted incomes and livestock herds, leaving Ethiopia's population highly vulnerable to recurring shocks, such as flooding, disease, and conflict over resources.

In 2012, the poor performance of the February-to-May rains increased food insecurity and malnutrition in agricultural highland communities dependent on seasonal rainfall, while below-average April-to-June rains led to deteriorating livestock health and reduced milk availability in southern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. Furthermore, the continued influx of refugees from neighboring countries increased pressure on limited food, water, and pasture. As of September 2012, an estimated 368,000 refugees, including nearly 212,000 Somali refugees, resided in Ethiopia, according to UNHCR.

On October 19, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Donald E. Booth redeclared a disaster for the complex emergency in Ethiopia. From July 2011 to February 2012, a regional DART in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Nairobi, Kenya, identified priority humanitarian needs and coordinated USG humanitarian efforts, with support from a Washington, D.C.-based RMT.

Of total FY 2012 assistance to Ethiopia, OFDA provided nearly $22 million for health, nutrition, and WASH activities aimed at reducing malnutrition, preventing disease, and increasing access to safe drinking water. Interventions included rehabilitating water sources and latrines, providing primary health care and nutrition services, training local health workers on malnutrition treatment and disease surveillance, and promoting proper hygiene practices for disease prevention. In total, OFDA targeted up to 80,000 people through health interventions, 1.4 million people through activities to treat and prevent acute malnutrition, and more than 900,000 people through WASH programs.

Implementing Partners in Ethiopia

ADRA, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli, Concern, CRS, FAO, Food for the Hungry, CHF International, GOAL, IRC, Mercy Corps, Merlin, OCHA, Project Concern International, SC/UK, UNICEF, and WFP

OFDA Assistance **$34,567,645**

Ghana

Floods

In late October 2011, heavy rainfall caused flooding in Ghana's Eastern and Volta regions, as well as in the capital city of Accra. The floods resulted in 14 deaths, displaced 17,000 individuals, and affected a total of approximately 43,000 people. The floodwaters also destroyed houses and businesses and damaged roads, waterways, and bridges, according to OCHA.

On November 2, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Donald G. Teitelbaum declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA supported the distribution of emergency relief commodities to 3,000 flood-affected individuals in Accra and surrounding areas.

Implementing Partner in Ghana

CRS

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

Kenya

Drought

In 2011, severe drought resulted in sharply deteriorating food security conditions among populations in northern, southeastern, and coastal areas of Kenya. Unfavorable rains caused a shortage of grazing resources, deteriorated livestock health, reduced milk production for household consumption, and depleted livestock herds—a critical source of income for vulnerable pastoral communities in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). Lower-than-expected and failed harvests in some areas increased market prices for agricultural products, and acute malnutrition prevalence increased dramatically in many parts of Kenya.

Strong October-to-December 2011 short rains and subsequent above-average harvest yields contributed to generally improved humanitarian conditions in early 2012. Nevertheless, one favorable rainy season was insufficient to initiate full recovery in areas of Kenya affected by prolonged and severe drought conditions. In FY 2012, challenges to achieving food security—including climate-related shocks, sustained high food prices, depleted livestock herds, and crop diseases—continued to delay recovery in drought-affected communities. Localized inter-communal conflict and population movements, particularly the continued flow of Somali refugees to northeastern Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp complex, strained limited local resources. As of July 2012, approximately 2.2 million people, including more than 623,000 refugees, required immediate humanitarian assistance in Kenya.

On October 28, 2011, U.S. Ambassador J. Scott Gration renewed the Kenya disaster declaration for FY 2012 due to the ongoing effects of the 2011 drought. From July 2011 to February 2012, a regional DART in Nairobi, Kenya, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, monitored drought conditions, identified priority humanitarian needs, and coordinated USG humanitarian efforts in collaboration with a Washington, D.C.-based RMT. To mitigate the severity of recent and future droughts in pastoral areas of Kenya's ASALs, OFDA continued to complement immediate, life-saving humanitarian interventions with assistance to address chronic vulnerabilities and strengthen community resilience through FY 2012.

Implementing Partners in Kenya

ACTED, Adeso, ADRA, Concern, Food for the Hungry, CHF International, IMC, IRC, Mercy USA, Merlin, Neighbours Initiative Alliance, OCHA, Oxfam, Practical Action, SC/US, Solidarités, UNICEF, Wajir South Development Association, WHH, and WFP

OFDA Assistance **$24,133,289**

Liberia

Complex Emergency

Post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire beginning in late November 2010 prompted tens of thousands of Ivoirians to seek refuge in neighboring Liberia. By April 2011, more than 170,000 refugees had crossed into eastern Liberia, according to UNHCR. Although security conditions in Côte d'Ivoire subsequently improved, nearly 65,000 registered refugees remained in Liberia as of September 2012, primarily as a result of persistent ethnic and political tensions in Côte d'Ivoire. Approximately 60 percent of the remaining refugees continued to reside in host communities near the Liberia–Côte d'Ivoire border. The long-term presence of Ivoirian refugees in Liberian communities strained already limited local resources, including household food reserves, health care services, and shelter availability.

On December 29, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield reissued a disaster declaration due to the continued humanitarian needs of Liberian host communities. In FY 2012, OFDA supported programs to improve agricultural production, which included providing seeds, tools, and training in crop protection techniques, benefiting 15,000 host community members affected by the Ivoirian refugee crisis. In addition, OFDA supported a program that provided psychosocial and legal services to communities affected by violence, including GBV.

Implementing Partners in Liberia

CRS, Equip Liberia, and FAO

OFDA Assistance **$1,523,996**

Madagascar

Cyclone

From February 14 to 20, 2012, Tropical Cyclone Giovanna passed over Madagascar, bringing heavy rains and winds up to 120 mph to the island nation. The cyclone resulted in 112 deaths, affected nearly 325,000 people, and destroyed more than 44,000 houses throughout the country. The storm also caused significant damage to public infrastructure, such as water, electrical, and telecommunications services, as well as roads and bridges.

On February 15, 2012, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Glenn Fedzer declared a disaster due to the effects of the cyclone. In response, OFDA immediately supported the distribution of emergency relief supplies, including locally procured materials that affected communities used to repair homes, roads, and bridges, as well as 400 rolls of plastic sheeting—pre-positioned with OFDA funding—that allowed up to 4,000 families to mend damaged roofs or make other housing repairs. On February 18 and 19, two OFDA staff members conducted assessments of the heavily affected Brickaville and Vatomandry districts in eastern Madagascar—where Tropical Cyclone Giovanna made landfall—to evaluate ongoing humanitarian needs. OFDA subsequently funded a program that assisted approximately 11,500 families by repairing and reinforcing cyclone-affected houses to withstand future wind damage; distributing maize, bean, and vegetable seeds and fishing kits to help ensure short-term food security; and providing temporary employment opportunities in areas where the storm had disrupted local economies.

Implementing Partner in Madagascar

CARE

OFDA Assistance **$486,663[1]**

[1] This figure does not include the total cost of OFDA relief supplies provided during the response that have yet to be replenished.

Malawi

Floods

Heavy rains generated by Tropical Cyclone Funso in mid-January 2012 resulted in localized flooding in Malawi, particularly in the southern district of Nsanje, where floods affected more than 6,000 people. Flooding also damaged or destroyed more than 1,700 acres of cropland, as well as houses, roads, and bridges, and limited affected populations' access to markets, health facilities, and schools.

On January 30, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Jeanine E. Jackson declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA supported hygiene promotion activities and the distribution of emergency relief supplies. OFDA also provided agricultural inputs to help farmers begin replanting lost crops.

Implementing Partner in Malawi
CRS

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

Mozambique

Floods

From mid-January to early March 2012, heavy rains generated by Tropical Storm Dando, Tropical Cyclone Funso, and Tropical Storm Irina caused significant flooding in Mozambique, with the most extensive flooding occurring in Gaza, Inhambane, Maputo, and Zambézia provinces. The floods resulted in 44 deaths and damaged or destroyed approximately 28,000 houses, according to OCHA. Flooding also destroyed more than 100,000 acres of crops, according to the Government of Mozambique.

On February 1, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe declared a disaster due to the effects of floods. In response, OFDA provided immediate assistance for water treatment supplies that allowed flood-affected populations to disinfect water for consumption. In late January, OFDA's principal regional advisor for Southern Africa traveled to Mozambique to assess humanitarian conditions and help determine additional USG response options. In response to identified shelter and WASH needs, OFDA transported emergency relief supplies, including rolls of plastic sheeting and water containers, to assist more than 25,000 flood-affected people. OFDA also supported latrine construction, hygiene promotion activities, and the rehabilitation of water supply facilities to help prevent the spread of waterborne disease, benefiting nearly 50,000 people.

Implementing Partners in Mozambique
IOM, PSI, UNICEF, and WFP

OFDA Assistance **$2,102,000**[2]

Niger

Floods

In mid-August 2012, heavy rains resulted in flooding throughout southern Niger, including in the capital of Niamey. The rise of the Niger River to the highest levels since 1929 and subsequent flooding caused more than 80 deaths and affected approximately 520,000 people, according to the U.N. Floodwaters destroyed more than 52,000 houses and resulted in significant livestock and crop losses. When possible, displaced families found temporary refuge in public buildings or with relatives; however, the floods left thousands of Nigeriens without adequate shelter.

On August 28, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Bisa Williams declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA supported the distribution of emergency relief supplies, including shelter materials, to flood-affected people in Niger.

Implementing Partner in Niger
ShelterBox

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

Republic of Congo

Munitions Explosion

On March 4, 2012, a series of munitions explosions occurred at a military munitions depot in the Republic of Congo's capital city of Brazzaville, killing more than 200 people and injuring approximately 1,300 others. The blasts forced approximately 136,000 residents to seek refuge in spontaneous displacement sites throughout Brazzaville, according to the U.N. The explosions and resulting shockwaves destroyed an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 houses, as well as public buildings, roads, and other infrastructure. In addition, the disaster launched unexploded ordnance up to 2 miles outward from the epicenter of the blasts, posing additional safety and security risks to local residents.

[2] This figure does not include the total cost of relief supplies provided during the response that have yet to be replenished

On March 5, 2012, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Margaret B. Diop declared a disaster due to the effects of the explosions. In response, OFDA deployed a regional advisor to Brazzaville to assess humanitarian needs and identify response options. OFDA supported child protection programming, improved access to safe drinking water, and provided relief supplies and hygiene kits for populations displaced by the disaster, targeting up to 31,000 individuals.

Implementing Partners in the Republic of Congo
ACTED and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance **$850,504**

Rwanda

Refugee Influx

By mid-May 2012, several weeks of fighting between the Armed Forces of the DRC and armed opposition groups in the DRC's North Kivu Province had generated a refugee flow of more than 8,200 people to Rwanda, according to UNHCR. The rapid influx of refugees at the Nkamira Transit Center in western Rwanda led to a shortage of food and relief supplies and limited access to shelter, health services, and sanitation facilities. Prior to the spike in arrivals, relief agencies were already providing humanitarian assistance to approximately 55,000 Congolese refugees in Rwanda.

On May 10, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Donald W. Koran declared a disaster due to the refugee influx to Rwanda. In response, OFDA provided support for WASH interventions, including the construction of drainage ditches, garbage disposal pits, latrines, and shower facilities, at Nkamira Transit Center.

Implementing Partner in Rwanda
UNICEF

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

Sahel Food Insecurity and Complex Emergency

In FY 2012, many people in the Sahel—a region including parts of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal—experienced difficulty producing and purchasing food. Erratic rains and localized dry spells during the 2011 agricultural season contributed to poor harvests, which reduced household income and exacerbated already above-average cereal prices. As a result, some families depleted assets, including seed supplies, to meet basic needs. The U.N. estimated that food insecurity affected nearly 19 million people throughout the region at the height of the crisis.

Beginning in January 2012, conflict in northern Mali complicated the regional food insecurity crisis by triggering population displacement within the Sahel. As of September, ongoing insecurity had displaced more than 174,000 people within the country, and an additional 203,000 Malians had fled to neighboring Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger, straining resources in already food-insecure host communities.

As early as September 2011, OFDA began deploying staff to assess humanitarian conditions in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. Between April and June 2012, an OFDA humanitarian assessment team traveled to eight Sahelian countries in West Africa to evaluate conditions, review existing response programs, and identify additional needs and supplemental response options. During FY 2012, OFDA staff also participated in USAID's Sahel Joint Planning Cell, a group comprising representatives from different USAID offices that worked to improve linkages between humanitarian and development programs in the region and ensure that development programs focused on meeting the root causes of recurrent food insecurity and nutrition crises.

In response to the food insecurity and complex emergency in the Sahel in FY 2012, OFDA supported region-wide activities in the sectors of agriculture and food security, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics, humanitarian studies and analysis, and nutrition, as well as country-specific interventions.

Total OFDA Assistance to Sahel Food Insecurity and Complex Emergency Country Programs **$57,788,108**[3]

Burkina Faso

Food Insecurity

On March 2, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Dougherty declared a disaster in Burkina Faso as a result of food insecurity. In response, OFDA provided support for agricultural, livelihoods, and nutrition interventions, as well as humanitarian coordination activities, to benefit more than 110,000 people. For example, OFDA supported the training of health center staff and community health workers to improve the coverage and quality of

[3] Does not include more than $5.2 million provided regionally.

acute malnutrition treatment in more than 120 villages, benefiting approximately 14,000 people. The program also trained women in home gardening techniques, which helped increase families' access to nutritious vegetables.

Implementing Partners in Burkina Faso

ACF, Africare, CRS, FAO, HKI, Plan USA, SC/US, and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance **$6,575,700**

Cameroon

Food Insecurity

On June 7, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Robert P. Jackson declared a disaster for food insecurity in Cameroon. In response, OFDA supported nutrition and WASH activities to assist more than 12,000 people residing in the country's most-affected northern areas. Through a partner, OFDA worked to expand the coverage of acute malnutrition treatment programs and provide health facilities with essential medicines, equipment, and supplies. To reduce the transmission of cholera, an endemic waterborne disease that often exacerbates acute malnutrition, OFDA supported efforts to increase the availability of safe drinking water and improve sanitation conditions and hygienic practices in affected areas.

Implementing Partner in Cameroon

UNICEF

OFDA Assistance **$1,000,000**

Chad

Complex Emergency

Since 2004, domestic and regional conflict, frequent natural disasters, and limited natural resources have contributed to a complex emergency in Chad. In FY 2012, consecutive years of inadequate rainfall, failed harvests, and a lack of alternative livelihood options culminated in food insecurity across most of Chad, particularly in communities within the country's Sahelian belt. On October 17, 2011, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Todd C. Holmstrom redeclared a disaster in Chad due to the country's continuing complex emergency, which included food insecurity among its contributing factors.

In response, OFDA supported agricultural, livelihoods, nutrition, and WASH interventions, as well as humanitarian coordination and logistical services, for the benefit of more than 280,000 vulnerable Chadians. OFDA-funded activities included distributing seeds, supporting market gardening associations, rehabilitating boreholes, strengthening CMAM treatment programs, and providing essential medical supplies and therapeutic foods to health facilities in some of the most food-insecure areas of Chad.

Implementing Partners in Chad

ACF, ACTED, CRS, FAO, IMC, IOM, IRC, Merlin, OCHA, Première Urgence, Solidarités, UNICEF, WCDO, and WFP

OFDA Assistance **$10,671,419**

Mali

Food Insecurity and Complex Emergency

On January 26, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard declared a disaster in Mali due to the effects of food insecurity. As a result of humanitarian needs associated with conflict in the northern part of the country and consequent population displacement, a disaster declaration for complex emergency—issued by U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Peter Barlerin, a.i.—followed on March 12, 2012. In response to the two-fold emergency, OFDA supported programs to address the immediate humanitarian needs of both food-insecure and conflict-affected populations while strengthening resilience wherever possible. OFDA emergency response interventions included activities to reduce and treat acute malnutrition, as well as the distribution of cash transfers, farming inputs, and emergency relief commodities, such as mosquito nets and kitchen kits. Programs with resilience-building components included the rehabilitation of community assets through temporary employment activities, as well as trainings for farmers in improved livestock-raising and agricultural production practices. OFDA assistance benefited up to 225,000 Malians during FY 2012.

Implementing Partners in Mali

AAH/USA, Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA), ACTED, FAO, HKI, IOM, IRC, Mali Red Cross, Mercy Corps, OCHA, Oxfam/GB, SC/US, UNICEF, WFP, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance **$14,684,094**

Mauritania

Food Insecurity and Complex Emergency

On December 8, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Jo Ellen Powell declared a disaster due to the effects of food insecurity in Mauritania. In early 2012, significant numbers of Malian refugees fled to southeastern Mauritania as a result of fighting in northern Mali, increasing pressure on already limited local resources and prompting Ambassador Powell to declare a second disaster on April 12, 2012, due to the complex emergency. In response to the two emergencies, OFDA supported nutrition, food security, livestock, and WASH interventions in food-insecure regions of Mauritania while working to address the urgent needs of populations hosting Malian refugees. OFDA-supported activities to address food insecurity included distributing seeds, providing cash transfers, and offering temporary employment opportunities. To alleviate the strain of an increased population with humanitarian needs on host communities, additional OFDA initiatives sought to strengthen existing acute malnutrition treatment programs, increase access to safe drinking water, and improve humanitarian access to vulnerable populations in eastern parts of the country, including refugees and host families.

Implementing Partners in Mauritania

AAH/USA, Counterpart International, FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, and WFP

OFDA Assistance **$4,758,208**

Niger

Food Insecurity

On December 20, 2011, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Lucy K. Abbott issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of food insecurity in Niger. In response, OFDA supported agricultural and livelihoods interventions, such as cash transfers, temporary employment opportunities, improved access to seeds, and trainings in livestock health maintenance and enhanced agricultural practices. OFDA also supported health and nutrition activities, including the rehabilitation of health centers and CMAM trainings, as well as humanitarian coordination and logistical services. In FY 2012, OFDA assisted as many as 760,000 food-insecure Nigeriens.

Implementing Partners in Niger

ACTED, Africare, CRS, FAO, HKI, Humedica, Lutheran World Relief, Mercy Corps, National Cooperative Business Association's Cooperative League of the United States of America (NCBA/CLUSA), OCHA, Oxfam/GB, Plan USA, Première Urgence, SC/US, UNICEF, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium, and WFP

OFDA Assistance **$16,997,281**

Senegal

Food Insecurity

On April 12, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Lewis A. Lukens issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of food insecurity in Senegal. In response, OFDA assisted food-insecure families through temporary employment opportunities, distribution of seed and cash vouchers, and trainings in improved agricultural production and storage techniques to benefit approximately 30,000 people. OFDA also amplified the crisis response capacity of an existing multi-year USAID/Senegal award, allowing its implementing partners to quickly supplement ongoing development activities with interventions to address emergency food insecurity needs in Matam Region.

Implementing Partners in Senegal

Center for International Studies and Cooperation, NCBA/CLUSA, Counterpart International, and CRS

OFDA Assistance **$2,023,996**

The Gambia

Food Insecurity

On May 8, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Pamela White declared a disaster due to the effects of food insecurity in The Gambia. In response, OFDA provided an initial funding to help fulfill immediate agricultural production and food security needs in affected communities. To address a critical shortage of groundnut, rice, and other seeds, which hindered seasonal planting, OFDA supported the procurement and distribution of such seeds for as many as 28,000 smallholder farmers. OFDA also provided cash transfers to approximately 20,000 people to enable vulnerable families to purchase basic household goods available in local markets.

Implementing Partners in The Gambia

FAO, Forum for African Women Educationalists Gambia Chapter, and WFP

OFDA Assistance **$1,077,410**

Senegal

Floods

Between July and September 2012, floods triggered by heavy seasonal rainfall resulted in 19 deaths and affected more than 287,000 people in western Senegal, including the capital city of Dakar. A U.N. rapid assessment in early September indicated that flood-affected populations in Diourbel, Fatick, and Thies towns and Dakar required humanitarian assistance, particularly to address WASH needs.

On September 13, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Lewis A. Lukens declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided emergency WASH supplies to flood-affected populations to help remove standing floodwater and improve health, hygiene, and sanitation conditions.

Implementing Partner in Senegal

CRS

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

Somalia

Complex Emergency

Since 1991, chronic food insecurity, widespread violence, and recurrent droughts and floods have caused a persistent complex emergency in Somalia. The 2011 drought—widely regarded as the country's worst in 60 years—sharply deteriorated food security among pastoralists and populations in marginal farming areas, resulting in famine in areas of Bay, Bakool, and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions, as well as among IDPs in Mogadishu and the nearby Afgooye corridor. The U.N. announced in February 2012 that the famine crisis had ended in Somalia, attributing improved conditions primarily to a robust humanitarian response and a strong January-to-March harvest.

More than 2.5 million people required continued, life-saving assistance during the first half of 2012. Poor April-to-June 2012 rainfall and resulting below-average harvests caused seasonal food shortages, elevated food prices, and food insecurity, particularly among crop-dependent, agro-pastoral populations of southern Somalia still recovering from the 2011 drought and famine crisis. Ongoing conflict, mainly between al-Shabaab militants and Somalia government and supporting forces, continued to displace populations and limit humanitarian access. As of September 2012, approximately 1.36 million IDPs remained displaced in Somalia, while more than 1 million Somali refugees had fled to neighboring countries.

On October 13, 2011, U.S. Special Representative to Somalia James C. Swan redeclared a disaster for the complex emergency in Somalia. From July 2011 to February 2012, a Horn of Africa regional DART monitored humanitarian conditions in Somalia, identified priority needs, and coordinated USG response efforts in collaboration with a Washington, D.C.-based RMT.

To rebuild livelihoods and restore economic activity in drought-affected, access-restricted locations, OFDA supported innovative and flexible approaches, including cash transfer programs and market-based agricultural initiatives. One OFDA partner offered cash-for-work opportunities to approximately 55,000 individuals, including 30,000 IDPs, to create a temporary source of income for vulnerable households, inject much-needed cash into the local economy, and rehabilitate essential community infrastructure.

OFDA Assistance[4] **$57,232,730**

South Sudan

Complex Emergency

Following a January 2011 referendum on self-determination, South Sudan became the world's youngest nation on July 9, 2011. At independence, the new country faced a complex emergency marked by the combined challenges of ongoing conflict, insecurity, and recurrent environmental shocks. In addition, the return of South Sudanese individuals from Sudan to South Sudan surged during the independence period, significantly straining the absorptive capacity of communities countrywide.

In 2012, conflict that began in 2011 between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North in Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states continued to cause Sudanese refugees to flee to South Sudan. In addition, localized inter-communal violence in several areas of the country and fighting along the border with Sudan triggered significant internal displacement, while macro-economic and environmental shocks compounded humanitarian needs. The U.N. estimated that up to 4.7 million people—approximately 35 percent of the population of South Sudan—required humanitarian assistance in 2012. Insecurity, landmines, bureaucratic impediments, and limited infrastructure persisted as major challenges to the delivery of relief aid to populations in need.

[4] OFDA does not publicly report names of implementing partners in Somalia due to security concerns.

On October 6, 2011, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Christopher J. Datta redeclared a disaster due to the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing complex emergency in South Sudan. In response, OFDA supported the delivery of relief aid to returnees in transit, IDPs and other conflict-affected populations, and communities hosting large numbers of Sudanese refugees. OFDA also promoted the sustainable reintegration of returnees into communities across South Sudan by targeting returnee and host populations with interventions in agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH.

Implementing Partners in South Sudan

AAH/USA, ACTED, Adeso, ADRA, ARC, CARE, Christian Mission Aid, Concern Worldwide, CRS, FAO, CHF International, GOAL, IMC, IOM, IRC, Medair, MENTOR Initiative, Mercy Corps, Norwegian People's Aid, Norwegian Refugee Council, OCHA, Pact, Relief International, SC/US, Solidarités, Tearfund, UMCOR, UNICEF, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium, WCDO, WFP, WHH, WHO, World Relief International, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance **$60,834,253**

Sudan

Complex Emergency

In FY 2012, Sudan continued to cope with the effects of conflict, economic shocks, food insecurity, and perennial environmental hazards, including floods. In Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, Sudan's "Two Areas," fighting that began in mid-2011 between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North intensified, internally displacing or otherwise severely affecting approximately 690,000 people, according to OCHA. As of late September 2012, an additional 215,000 conflict-affected people from the Two Areas had fled to neighboring countries in search of refuge and assistance, UNHCR reported. Meanwhile, conflict in Sudan's western region of Darfur persisted among the Sudanese Armed Forces, militias, and various ethnic groups.

Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments throughout FY 2012 increasingly compromised the ability of relief agencies to respond to humanitarian and recovery needs in Sudan. In April, the GoS terminated operations of seven international NGOs in eastern Sudan, contributing to a general contraction of humanitarian space countrywide. Meanwhile, heavy seasonal rains and associated flooding resulted in significant loss of life, displacement, and property damage throughout Sudan between mid-July and September, exacerbating the complex emergency.

In September 2012, the U.N. estimated that approximately 4.2 million people remained internally displaced or otherwise in need of humanitarian assistance in Sudan.

On October 17, 2011, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Mary C. Yates renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Sudan for FY 2012.

In response, OFDA provided support for agriculture and food security, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH interventions, as well as humanitarian coordination, information management, logistical support, and relief commodities in Sudan. OFDA assistance to Sudan included nearly $61.1 million for Darfur, more than 40 percent of which supported early recovery initiatives in areas where security and access permitted.

Implementing Partners in Sudan

ACTED, ADRA, ARC, CARE, Concern Worldwide, CRS, FAO, GOAL, HelpAge International, IFRC, IMC, IOM, Merlin, Near East Foundation, OCHA, Partner Aid International, Relief International, SC/US, Tearfund, Terre Des Hommes, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, U.N. Mine Action Service, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Germany, WFP, WHH, WHO, World Relief International, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance **$80,542,185**

Tanzania

Floods

In late December 2011, heavy rainfall caused flooding throughout Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city. The floodwaters overwhelmed the city's drainage systems, destroyed houses throughout the Msimbazi River basin, and resulted in the deaths of at least 40 people. In addition, flooding displaced approximately 10,000 residents and affected more than 50,000 people, according to the Tanzania Red Cross National Society (TRCNS).

On December 23, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Alfonso E. Lenhardt declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA supported the delivery of emergency relief items, such as plastic sheeting, water purification tablets, soap, water containers, and blankets, to assist flood-affected households in Dar es Salaam.

Implementing Partner in Tanzania

TRCNS

OFDA Assistance **$50,000**

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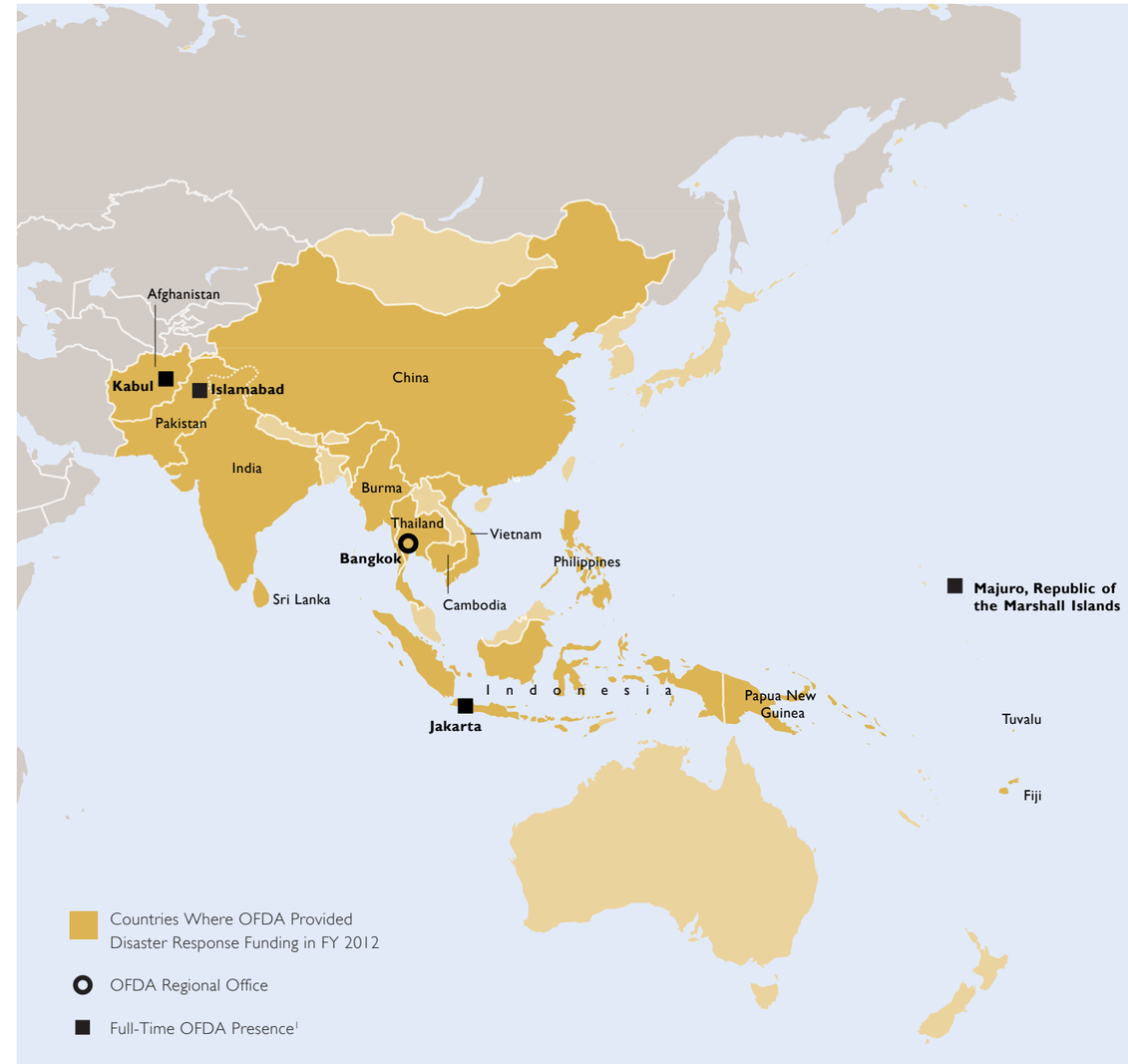

Regional Summary

OFDA responded to 17 disasters in 14 countries in Asia and the Pacific in FY 2012. In total, OFDA provided more than $100 million in Asia, including nearly $48 million for disaster response programs, approximately $31 million for DRR programs, and more than $19 million for disaster response programs with DRR components in Asia and the Pacific. OFDA deployed emergency humanitarian staff in response to the complex emergency in Burma, a tropical storm in the Philippines, and floods in Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

[1]Additional OFDA staff supporting the regional response are located at CENTCOM in Tampa, Florida, and PACOM in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Afghanistan

Complex Emergency

Natural disasters and conflict have resulted in continuous and repeated displacement and contributed to significant vulnerability throughout Afghanistan over the past decade. Approximately 445,850 people remained displaced due to insecurity as of September 2012, with others displaced as a result of natural disasters, according to U.N. agencies. Southern, eastern, and western regions continue to register the highest levels of internal displacement due to volatile security conditions.

Natural disasters often exacerbate existing needs among vulnerable populations. During the winter of 2011/2012, unusually harsh weather conditions resulted in the deaths of at least 28 children in Kabul's Informal Settlements and 43 deaths due to avalanches in Badakhshan and Nuristan provinces. Subsequent springtime snowmelt and seasonal rains generated localized flooding in many areas of the country, resulting in casualties and damage to livestock and croplands. In total, avalanches, extreme weather, floods, and landslides in Afghanistan killed at least 440 people and affected more than 251,000 others between January 1 and September 9, 2012, according to OCHA.

On November 9, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker redeclared a disaster due the effects of recurring natural disasters, ongoing displacement, and continued insecurity throughout Afghanistan. In response, OFDA supported interventions across multiple sectors, including ERMS, health, nutrition, shelter, and WASH.

During the winter emergency, OFDA partners drew from pre-positioned stocks of emergency relief supplies, including shelter materials and WASH items, to rapidly assist affected communities. In total, OFDA relief commodity provisions and logistics activities benefited nearly 327,000 people countrywide in FY 2012. In addition, OFDA staff in Kabul tracked humanitarian needs resulting from the winter emergency, flooding, and ongoing conflict and coordinated with partners to ensure optimal impact.

Implementing Partners in Afghanistan

ACTED, Aga Khan Foundation, IMC, iMMAP, IOM, IRC, OCHA, SC/US, Tearfund, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and ZOA

OFDA Assistance: $32,504,552

Burma

Complex Emergency

Multiple ongoing and emerging conflicts in Burma's Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states resulted in increasing levels of displacement and humanitarian need in FY 2012.

In Kachin and Shan states, fighting between Government of Burma forces and the Kachin Independence Army escalated in June 2011, when the parties breached a 17-year ceasefire. By September 2012, the conflict had displaced an estimated 75,000 people to IDP camps, host families, remote jungle areas, or neighboring China, according to OCHA.

In western Burma's Rakhine State, tensions between ethnic Rakhine Buddhist and Rohingya Muslim populations intensified in June 2012, leading to riots, arson, looting, and other acts of violence, particularly affecting populations in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Sittwe townships in northern Rakhine. By September 2012, the conflict had resulted in approximately 87 deaths and displaced an estimated 75,000 people to 40 IDP camps and other temporary locations, according to OCHA.

On June 15, 2012, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Michael E. Thurston declared a disaster due to the complex emergency in Burma. In response, OFDA provided support for WASH interventions, including latrine and water point construction, benefiting 42,800 people, and nutrition surveillance activities identifying and treating cases of child malnutrition for 6,000 beneficiaries. OFDA also supported humanitarian coordination and information management activities countrywide. In addition, between June and September, OFDA regional advisors conducted a series of assessments in affected areas to evaluate humanitarian conditions and determine response priorities.

Implementing Partners in Burma

OCHA and UNICEF

OFDA Assistance: $1,733,272

Cambodia

Floods

Two months of heavy rainfall beginning in August 2011 caused extensive flooding in 18 of Cambodia's 24 provinces, resulting in 247 deaths and affecting more than 1.5 million people, including 46,000 families displaced to evacuation centers, according to the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC). The floods also caused widespread damage to infrastructure and destroyed nearly one-tenth of the country's rice harvest, threatening livelihoods and food security. The RGC, with support from humanitarian organizations, conducted search-and-rescue operations and provided emergency assistance to flood-affected populations.

On October 7, 2011, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Jeff Daigle declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. Following the disaster declaration, an OFDA regional advisor traveled to Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, and Kandal provinces, three of the most flood-affected areas in Cambodia, to assess humanitarian conditions and coordinate response activities with partners. Based on humanitarian gaps identified during the assessments, OFDA provided assistance for activities aimed at expanding access to safe drinking water, promoting proper sanitation and hygiene practices, and improving agricultural production and food security for nearly 59,000 flood-affected people.

Implementing Partners in Cambodia

SC/US and World Vision

OFDA Assistance: $1,521,807

China

Floods

In early August 2012, two tropical storms and one typhoon made landfall in eastern China, resulting in extensive flooding across China's coastal provinces. Combined with heavy rainfall beginning in January, the hydrometeorological events cumulatively affected more than 245 million people throughout China. Floods and landslides resulted in the deaths of nearly 700 people, left more than 180 others missing, and displaced approximately 6.6 million people, according to the Government of the People's Republic of China. In addition, flooding damaged or destroyed an estimated 3.9 million houses and more than a half a million acres of cropland.

On August 10, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Gary F. Locke declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA supported the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations.

Implementing Partners in China

China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and Red Cross Society of China

OFDA Assistance: $100,000

Fiji

Floods

Heavy rains beginning on January 22, 2012, resulted in floods and landslides in Fiji, particularly affecting western areas of Viti Levu, Fiji's largest and most populous island. The floods and landslides resulted in eight deaths, displaced approximately 4,500 people, and disrupted the water supply, according to the IFRC.

On January 25, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Frankie A. Reed declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided support to procure and distribute emergency relief supplies, including blankets, hygiene kits, and water purification tablets, to the most-affected individuals.

Implementing Partner in Fiji

Fiji Red Cross Society

OFDA Assistance: $50,000

Fiji

Floods

Beginning in late March 2012, heavy rains triggered flash floods in Fiji, with the most extensive flooding occurring in Western Division. The floods resulted in four deaths and affected more than 190,000 people—many of whom experienced flooding in January 2012—and displaced an estimated 15,000 people to approximately 150 temporary evacuation centers, according to the U.N. and the Government of Fiji (GoF). On March 30, the GoF declared a state of disaster for the most acutely flood-affected areas of Western Division.

On April 1, 2012, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Jeffrey J. Robertson declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA supported relief partners in procuring and distributing emergency relief supplies, including blankets, hygiene kits, and water purification tablets, to flood-affected individuals.

Implementing Partners in Fiji

Fiji Red Cross Society and Rotary International Fiji

OFDA Assistance: $150,000

India
Floods

Beginning in mid-July 2011, heavy monsoon rains caused flooding in several states in eastern India. In mid-September, a new wave of floods inundated 19 of 30 districts in Odisha State. Excess water released from the Hirakud and Rengali dams exacerbated the floods, while high tides in the Bay of Bengal slowed the drainage of water into the sea. In total, the two waves of flooding affected 3.4 million people and resulted in 41 deaths, according to IFRC.

On October 18, 2011, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., A. Peter Burleigh redeclared a disaster for FY 2012 to allow for a continued humanitarian response to the floods. In response, OFDA provided cash grants and emergency relief items, including hygiene kits and temporary shelter materials, to flood-affected families. OFDA assistance also helped 4,000 farming households obtain seeds to plant during the winter crop season.

Implementing Partners in India
CRS and SC/US

OFDA Assistance: $497,838

Indonesia
Floods

Floods and associated landslides triggered by a four-day period of heavy rainfall beginning in late July 2012 in Maluku Province resulted in 10 deaths and displaced at least 6,000 people to temporary shelters. The flooding and landslides, which affected approximately 80 percent of the provincial capital of Ambon, prompted the Government of Indonesia to declare a state of emergency in Ambon and deploy 800 military personnel to flood-affected areas to assist with relief efforts. In early August, an OFDA regional advisor and a U.S. mission disaster relief officer visited Ambon and nearby Haruku Island, which also experienced heavy flooding, to assess the impact of the floods and the need for humanitarian assistance.

On August 7, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Scot A. Marciel declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods and landslides. In response, OFDA provided household relief commodity kits and school supplies for children in flood-affected areas in Ambon.

Implementing Partner in Indonesia
Mercy Corps

OFDA Assistance: $100,000

Pakistan
Complex Emergency

Chronic unrest associated with Government of Pakistan offensives against militant groups in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPk) Province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in northern Pakistan continued to generate displacement and humanitarian needs and prevent many IDPs from returning to areas of origin in FY 2012. In addition, IDPs who successfully returned to home areas often required humanitarian assistance and livelihoods support to facilitate reintegration. As of mid-September 2012, more than 742,000 conflict-displaced people were residing in KPk and FATA. The security situation across Pakistan remained volatile, with ongoing clashes, sectarian violence, and military operations resulting in sustained levels of humanitarian need.

On October 4, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Cameron P. Munter reissued a disaster declaration due to the complex emergency in Pakistan. With FY 2012 funds, OFDA supported a variety of interventions designed to improve humanitarian conditions and build community resilience, focusing on vulnerable conflict-affected IDPs residing with host communities. OFDA activities during FY 2012 included providing agricultural supplies to formerly displaced farmers returning to home areas, as well as livestock production training for pastoral workers.

OFDA Assistance[1]: $7,787,135

Pakistan
Floods

Flooding caused by heavy monsoon rains beginning in FY 2011 resulted in persistent humanitarian needs into FY 2012, with approximately 1.8 million people displaced as of November 2011, according to UNICEF. While smaller in magnitude and scope than the unprecedented floods of 2010, the 2011 floods caused more than 520 deaths, as well as significant damage to infrastructure and cropland, particularly in Sindh Province, according to the Government of Pakistan. The inundation also increased the needs of populations still recovering from the historic floods of 2010.

On October 4, 2011, Ambassador Munter reissued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the floods, allowing OFDA to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to affected populations throughout the country.

[1] OFDA does not publicly report names of implementing partners in Pakistan due to security concerns.

During the following monsoon season, starting in August 2012, Pakistan once again experienced heavy seasonal rains, resulting in severe localized flooding in many areas of the country, particularly in Balochistan, Punjab, and Sindh provinces. By late September, the floods had caused 430 deaths and affected an estimated 4.8 million people countrywide, according to relief agencies. With additional FY 2012 funding, OFDA was able to provide assistance to populations affected in 2012 under existing programs established in response to the 2011 flood season.

In addition, in FY 2012, OFDA supported interventions to strengthen the resilience of populations living in flood-prone areas through community-based trainings in disaster management and in flood- and earthquake-resistant construction techniques using locally adapted materials.

OFDA Assistance: $19,026,519

Papua New Guinea
Floods

Heavy rainfall beginning in December 2011 resulted in floods and landslides across Papua New Guinea, affecting more than 25,000 people in nine provinces and the National Capital District. The floods and landslides destroyed cropland and limited population movement and access to markets. On January 24, 2012, a landslide extending more than 1 mile buried more than 40 houses in two villages near Tari town, Southern Highlands Province, causing the deaths of at least 25 people.

On January 26, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Teddy B. Taylor declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods and landslides. In response, OFDA immediately provided shelter, WASH, and other emergency relief commodities to affected communities.

In late January, OFDA deployed a regional advisor to assess flood impact and determine additional humanitarian response options. Based on the resulting recommendations, OFDA provided further funding for WASH interventions and trainings on crop production, agribusiness, and disaster preparedness activities to mitigate the floods' effects on livelihoods for approximately 4,000 flood-affected people.

Implementing Partners in Papua New Guinea
CRS and WFP

OFDA Assistance: $349,032

Philippines
Floods

In early August 2012, heavy monsoon rains exacerbated by Typhoon Haikui triggered floods in northern and central areas of the Philippines that, in combination with associated landslides, affected nearly 4.5 million people across 17 provinces, including more than 771,000 people displaced to temporary shelters. The floods and landslides also resulted in 112 deaths and damaged or destroyed nearly 14,300 houses.

On August 7, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr., declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided immediate assistance for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected populations. Following an OFDA assessment to the three most-affected regions, OFDA provided additional funding for hygiene promotion activities, temporary work opportunities, and the distribution of water kits to enable the storage of safe drinking water, benefiting more than 17,000 people.

Implementing Partners in the Philippines
CRS and WFP

OFDA Assistance: $500,000

Philippines
Tropical Storm

Beginning on December 16, 2011, heavy rains from Tropical Storm Washi combined with high tides to produce flash flooding in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. The flooding and associated landslides resulted in nearly 1,300 deaths and displaced more than 87,000 people to temporary shelters, affecting approximately 700,000 people in total, according to the Government of the Philippines. The storm also damaged or destroyed approximately 52,000 houses, as well as roads, bridges, and agricultural land across 13 provinces.

On December 20, 2011, Ambassador Thomas declared a disaster due to the effects of the storm. In response, OFDA immediately provided emergency WASH supplies, including water purification tablets, hygiene kits, and water containers, to the most-affected individuals in Mindanao. From December 20 to 22, an OFDA regional advisor and USAID/Philippines staff conducted a rapid needs assessment in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities. Based, in part, on assessment findings, OFDA supported additional WASH

activities, benefiting nearly 30,000 people, and provided shelter assistance to more than 28,000 others.

Implementing Partners in the Philippines
CRS, IOM, OCHA, Plan International, and WFP

OFDA Assistance: $2,248,602

Sri Lanka
Complex Emergency

Displaced populations and conflict-affected individuals who returned to home areas following the end of Sri Lanka's civil war in May 2009 continued to require humanitarian assistance in FY 2012. In September 2012, the Government of Sri Lanka closed Manik Farm, the country's largest and most prominent IDP camp, signifying a milestone in the country's transition to recovery. By the end of September 2012, more than 470,000 people had returned to northern Sri Lanka, while approximately 115,000 people remained displaced in welfare centers, with host families, or at transit sites, according to the U.N.

On October 7, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis reissued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the complex emergency in Sri Lanka. In response, OFDA continued to support activities that facilitate the transition from relief to development by filling strategic gaps that complement Government of Sri Lanka's development strategies. These activities included livelihoods activities that benefited approximately 32,400 people, as well as agriculture and food security initiatives, such as irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation and the provision of seeds, benefiting more than 12,400 people. OFDA partners also provided transitional shelter to approximately 3,000 beneficiaries in former conflict areas. In addition, an OFDA regional advisor traveled to northern Sri Lanka in May with representatives from State/PRM, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, and USAID/Sri Lanka to assess the recovery and returns process.

Implementing Partners in Sri Lanka
Practical Action, Sewalanka Foundation, OCHA, and ZOA

OFDA Assistance: $3,728,449

Thailand
Floods

Beginning in late July 2011, several tropical storms and heavy monsoon rains caused widespread flooding and landslides in 65 of Thailand's 77 provinces. Flooding resulted in an estimated 823 deaths and affected 13.6 million people, according to the Royal Thai Government (RTG). Although floodwaters began to recede in northern areas and several central provinces by October, water flowing down from upstream locations—combined with high tides—caused significant flooding in provinces surrounding Bangkok, as well as outer suburbs of the capital, damaging several major industrial estates, inundating the Don Muang Airport, and forcing thousands of people to depart their houses for evacuation centers.

On October 7, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. To respond to flood-related needs, OFDA activated a 10-member assessment and response team that worked with the RTG, other members of the USG, and relief partners to provide immediate emergency relief. OFDA supported partners to procure and distribute emergency relief commodities, including WASH supplies, as well as boats, motors, water pumps, water treatment filters, and generators, used as part of RTG relief efforts that benefited approximately 275,000 people. In addition, OFDA supported the deployment of a USG specialist in the incident command system—a framework for effectively managing disaster response—to work in the RTG emergency operations center and conduct a real-time evaluation of flood response operations, thus building on previous and ongoing OFDA efforts to enhance RTG national and local disaster response capacity.

Implementing Partners in Thailand
IOM and Thai Red Cross Society

OFDA Assistance: $1,130,266

Tuvalu
Fresh Water Shortage

In late September 2011, prolonged drought conditions and ruptured water desalination tanks led to widespread fresh drinking water shortages throughout Tuvalu, a small island nation with limited fresh groundwater sources. Additionally, rainwater catchment and tank storage mechanisms in Tuvalu were not functional at the height of the crisis. According to IFRC, the shortage severely affected more than 5,500 Tuvaluans in Funafuti, Tuvalu's capital, and Nukulaelae islands.

On October 5, 2011, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Douglas A. Morris declared a disaster due to fresh water shortage. In response, OFDA enabled the purchase of a desalination unit, which provided safe drinking water for disaster-affected families.

Implementing Partner in Tuvalu
UNDP

OFDA Assistance: $50,000

Vietnam
Floods

Seasonal monsoon rains, exacerbated by three sequential tropical storms, resulted in flooding across southern and central Vietnam, particularly in the Mekong Delta region, between September and October 2011. The floods resulted in approximately 60 deaths, damaged or destroyed an estimated 88,000 houses and several thousand acres of cropland, and affected approximately 700,000 people.

On October 18, 2011, U.S. Ambassador David B. Shear declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods in Vietnam. In response, OFDA supported the distribution of emergency relief supplies, including life jackets, water filters, blankets, and mosquito nets, to more than 3,000 people and local search-and-rescue teams in three southern provinces. In addition, an OFDA regional advisor deployed to flood-affected areas to assess humanitarian needs and determine appropriate response activities.

Implementing Partner in Vietnam
CARE

OFDA Assistance: $100,000

Water taxis cross the Brahmaputra River in Bangladesh's capital city, Dhaka. *Rob Friedman/USAID*

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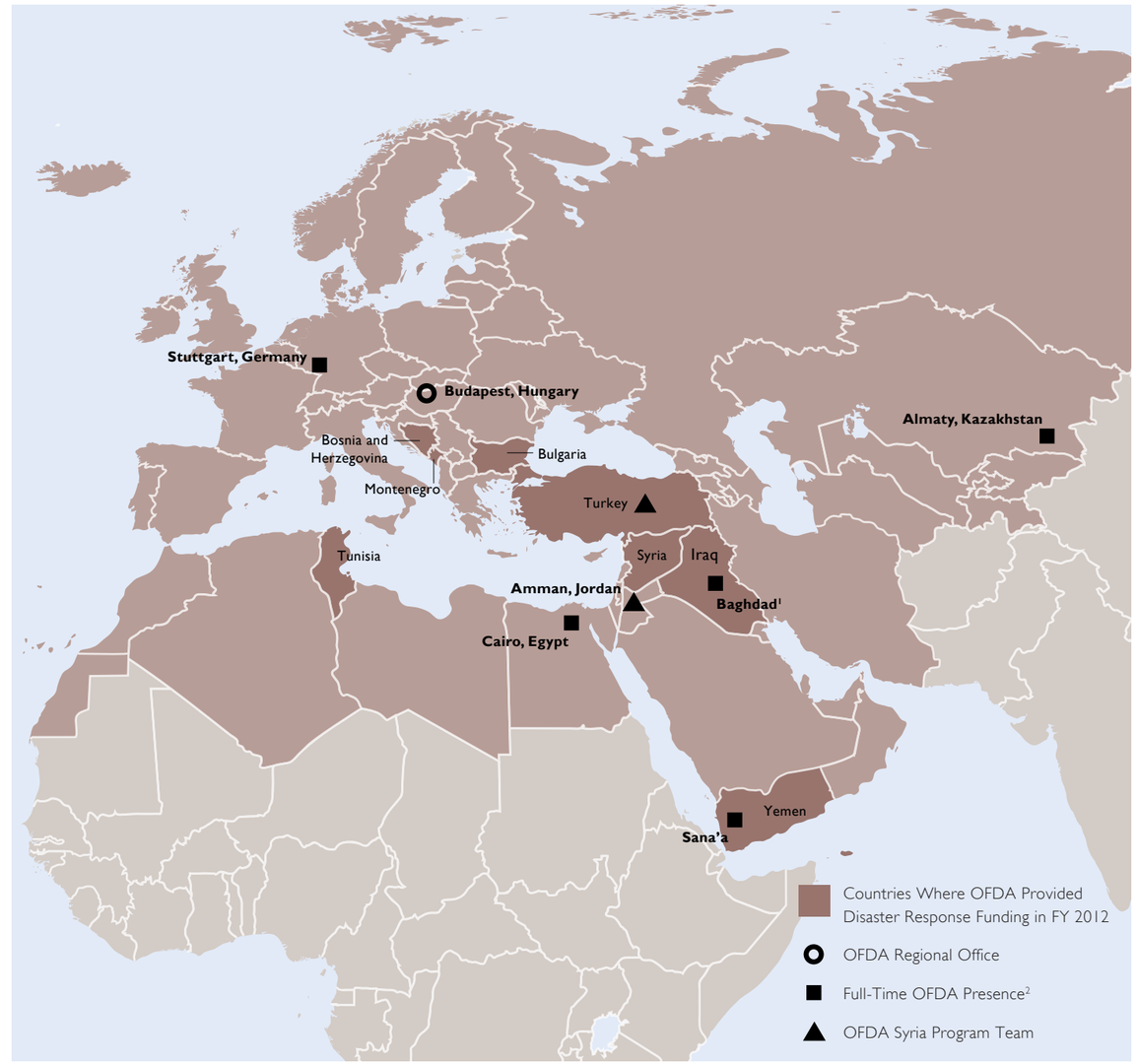

Regional Summary

OFDA responded to disasters in eight countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA) in FY 2012. In total, OFDA provided more than $52 million for humanitarian assistance in EMCA, including more than $48 million for disaster responses, nearly $2.2 million for DRR activities, and approximately $1.6 million for disaster response programs with DRR components. OFDA deployed emergency humanitarian staff in response to complex emergencies in Syria and Yemen and an earthquake in Turkey.

[1] OFDA's Baghdad office closed in FY 2012.

[2] Additional OFDA staff supporting the regional response are located at CENTCOM in Tampa, Florida.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Winter Emergency

In February 2012, extreme cold, heavy snowfall, and strong winds led to a winter emergency in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) that resulted in eight deaths and the need for immediate humanitarian assistance for nearly 5,500 people. The heavy snowfall damaged utility infrastructure, cutting off electricity and heat to approximately 50,000 people in Mostar—BiH's most-affected municipality—and limiting access to electricity and water in numerous other municipalities. Snowfall also blocked roads, hampering relief access to remote villages.

On February 10, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Patrick S. Moon declared a disaster due to the effects of the winter emergency. In response, OFDA provided support for emergency relief commodities, including blankets and hygiene kits, and snowmobiles to reach people in inaccessible areas.

Implementing Partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

OFDA Assistance: $48,866

Bulgaria

Winter Emergency

In early February 2012, a severe winter storm—accompanied by heavy rainfall and below-freezing temperatures—struck Bulgaria, causing the Ivanovo Dam to collapse on February 6 and flood the southern village of Bisser. The flooding and winter conditions killed eight people and displaced nearly 1,000 others, while cold temperatures affected nearly 50,000 people across five of Bulgaria's districts.

On February 8, 2012, U.S. Ambassador James B. Warlick, Jr., declared a disaster due to the effects of the winter emergency. In response, OFDA provided assistance for emergency relief equipment, including electric pumps, generators, rescue boats, and portable lamps.

Implementing Partner in Bulgaria

Bulgarian Red Cross

OFDA Assistance: $50,000

Iraq

Complex Emergency

Acute insecurity over the past decade generated significant internal displacement in Iraq, where OFDA provided continuous humanitarian assistance beginning in 2003. In February 2006, the bombing of the Al-Askari Mosque in Samarra and subsequent sectarian violence triggered the most sizable population movement in Iraq's history. More than 1.6 million people—or 5.5 percent of the population—fled their communities, increasing Iraq's total displaced population to nearly 2.8 million people, according to the U.N. Beginning in 2008, improved security conditions led to a decrease in conflict-related displacement and an increase in humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, including IDPs. OFDA continued to identify and meet needs in regions of critical vulnerability countrywide. With improved security, humanitarian agencies' focus began to shift to early recovery activities in areas where conditions stabilized.

The ongoing transition from relief to development allowed OFDA to close its Iraq office in FY 2012, after providing more than $451 million in humanitarian assistance over the previous decade to benefit IDPs, host community members, and other vulnerable populations countrywide. OFDA assistance included support for the distribution of emergency relief commodities, provision of emergency shelter, expanded access to essential WASH facilities and services, income-generating opportunities, humanitarian coordination and information sharing among relief agencies, supporting IDPs, agriculture and livestock-rearing programs, and the promotion of children's psychosocial health. To facilitate successful closure of the office and completion of remaining activities, in FY 2012, OFDA provided funding for administrative costs associated with ongoing programs.

Through activities launched the previous year, OFDA continued to distribute emergency relief commodities and provide emergency shelter to conflict-affected populations in FY 2012. OFDA also maintained agriculture and livestock-rearing activities to increase food security and income-generating opportunities to facilitate economic recovery. In addition, OFDA continued to promote children's psychosocial health by supporting child-friendly spaces and teacher training and strengthened humanitarian coordination and information sharing among relief agencies providing assistance to IDPs.

OFDA Assistance: $133,612[1]

[1] Funding represents administrative costs associated with the completion of all programs and the closing of OFDA's Iraq office in FY 2012. OFDA did not commit any FY 2012 funding toward new or existing Iraq programs.

Montenegro

Fire

On July 24, 2012, a fire devastated a section of Camp Konik, a refugee settlement in Montenegro's capital, Podgorica. Dry weather and windy conditions contributed to the spread of the fire, which destroyed more than 150 dwellings and displaced approximately 800 residents, according to the Government of Montenegro (GoM). The GoM and partners responded by clearing the disaster site, erecting sanitation facilities and tents, and providing food assistance, hygiene kits, and safe drinking water to the affected population.

On July 27, 2012, Ambassador Brown declared a disaster due to the effects of the fire. In response, OFDA helped provide medical supply storage containers and mobile kitchen equipment to help meet the health and cooking needs of displaced individuals.

Implementing Partner in Montenegro

RCM

OFDA Assistance: $50,000

Montenegro

Winter Emergency

In early February 2012, severe winter weather affected northern and central Montenegro, with some areas receiving more than 2 meters of snow. The winter emergency caused extensive power outages, forced the closure of major transportation routes, stranded approximately 12,000 people in their homes, and resulted in four deaths, according to the GoM and international media.

On February 13, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Sue K. Brown declared a disaster due to the effects of the winter emergency. To address humanitarian needs, OFDA supported the procurement and distribution of emergency relief commodities, including hygiene kits.

Implementing Partner in Montenegro

Red Cross of Montenegro (RCM)

OFDA Assistance: $100,000

Syria

Complex Emergency

In March 2011, civilians began participating in peaceful demonstrations throughout Syria calling for President Bashar al-Asad's resignation and an end to a 1963 emergency law suspending civilian constitutional protections. In response to the demonstrations, President al-Asad initially pledged legislative reforms. However, the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) failed to implement the reforms, and SARG forces loyal to President al-Asad began responding to demonstrations with violence, leading armed opposition groups to retaliate. On July 14, 2012, ICRC stated that a non-international armed conflict, a term used to describe civil war, existed in the country.

Between March 2011 and September 2012, fighting spread throughout Syria, resulting in humanitarian needs among more than 2.5 million people, including at least 1.2 million IDPs, according to an official U.N. estimate. An additional 300,000 people had fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq by September 2012.

In response to the humanitarian impact of the conflict, OFDA deployed staff to the region in March 2012 to coordinate assistance with relief agencies, the U.N., and other USG offices. In FY 2012, OFDA provided nearly $19.7 million to address the needs of more than 700,000 conflict-affected Syrians.

More than half of OFDA's assistance—nearly $10.9 million—supported emergency health care for conflict-affected Syrians. OFDA also provided hygiene kits and household items, including sheets and blankets, to displaced families. In addition, OFDA supported humanitarian coordination and information management, as well as nutrition, protection, and WASH interventions.

Implementing Partners in Syria

IFRC, OCHA, UNDSS, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and NGO partners[2]

OFDA Assistance: $19,695,864

Tunisia

Floods

Melting snow and heavy rains caused rivers in northwest Tunisia to overflow and led to widespread flooding in Jendouba Governorate in late February 2012. Floodwaters reached a depth of nearly 10 feet in some areas, destroying houses and damaging nearly 35,000 acres of cropland. Flooding resulted in five deaths, displaced

[2] OFDA does not publicly report names of NGO partners in Syria due to security concerns.

populations residing along the river, and affected more than 9,000 people, according to the Office of the Governor of Jendouba.

On February 29, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Gordon Gray III declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, OFDA assisted the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including winter clothes, stoves, and gas heaters, to flood-affected populations.

Implementing Partner in Tunisia
Tunisian Social Solidarity Union

OFDA Assistance: $50,000

Turkey
Earthquake

On October 23, 2011, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck 18 miles from the city of Van in eastern Turkey, at a depth of 12.4 miles, according to USGS. The initial earthquake was followed by hundreds of aftershocks and an additional 5.6 magnitude earthquake 10 miles from Van on November 9. The earthquakes resulted in 644 deaths and significant displacement due to collapsed or damaged buildings, according to the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS).

On October 25, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, OFDA contributed $300,000 to provide relief commodities and shelter assistance to affected populations and deployed a regional advisor to help coordinate USG response efforts. OFDA also supported a USGS Earthquake Disaster Assistance Team mission to Turkey.

The Government of Turkey's robust response to the earthquakes reflected significant investments in disaster preparedness. Following large-scale earthquakes in 1999, OFDA began supporting DRR activities in earthquake-prone areas of Turkey, including the area affected by the 2011 earthquakes. To increase Turkey's USAR capacity, OFDA supported training programs, provided technical and program guidance, and donated equipment and vehicles to a Turkish USAR team. OFDA also supported a program to generate basic awareness of seismic hazards and provide training in mitigating the risks of those hazards. By 2005, OFDA had reached approximately 4.7 million children, 190,000 teachers, 110,000 staff, and more than 560,000 adults through this program.

Implementing Partners in Turkey
IFRC, Kimse Yok Mu, and TRCS

OFDA Assistance: $300,000

Yemen
Complex Emergency

Beginning in 2004, conflict between the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) and al-Houthi opposition forces repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, affecting more than 1 million people. In 2011, increased fighting between RoYG military forces and tribal and militant groups in the wake of the Arab Spring resulted in further displacement in northern, central, and southern Yemen, while limiting the capacity of the RoYG to provide basic services throughout the country.

Conditions continued to deteriorate in 2012, with ongoing conflict and a worsening economic situation contributing to increased displacement and food insecurity. A large-scale food insecurity and malnutrition crisis had been building in Yemen due to economic factors. A food security survey conducted by WFP and the RoYG in early 2012 documented that 10 million of Yemen's 24 million people were food insecure. In May 2012, the RoYG launched an offensive to regain control of the southern governorate of Abyan, where militants had occupied several major towns. The fighting displaced an additional 37,000 people but restored a fragile measure of stability to southern Yemen. More than 500,000 people remained displaced countrywide in September 2012, according to the U.N.

On October 20, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Gerald M. Feierstein reissued the disaster declaration for Yemen due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from conflict and associated displacement. OFDA provided nearly $30 million in humanitarian assistance and posted a humanitarian advisor to Yemen in FY 2012.

OFDA assistance reached conflict-affected populations, as well as those most affected by the country's deteriorating economic conditions. Through support for WASH, nutrition, and health interventions, OFDA treated and prevented acute malnutrition and addressed the severe illnesses and poor WASH conditions that often exacerbate malnutrition. OFDA also funded livelihoods support and humanitarian coordination assistance.

Implementing Partners in Yemen
ACTED, ADRA, CHF International, IMC, iMMAP, IOM, IRC, IRD, Mercy Corps, OCHA, SC/US, UNICEF, and WHO

OFDA Assistance: $29,574,467

A displaced boy pushes a wheelbarrow laden with humanitarian aid distributed by international aid agencies in the Yemeni capital of Sana'a in 2010. *Courtesy of Mohammed Huwais/AFP*

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Regional Summary

OFDA responded to five disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in FY 2012. In total, OFDA provided nearly $22 million in LAC, including an estimated $3.6 million for disaster responses, nearly $8.2 for DRR activities, and approximately $8.7 million for disaster response programs with DRR components. OFDA activated or deployed emergency humanitarian staff for disasters in Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Paraguay.

Ecuador

Fires

By mid-September 2012, forest and brush fires that began in June had affected 18 of Ecuador's 24 provinces and were threatening large population centers, including the capital city of Quito, where local authorities evacuated approximately 6,000 people. In total, the fires burned more than 40,000 acres of land, resulted in five deaths, and damaged houses and infrastructure, according to the Government of Ecuador (GoE) National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR).

In response to a GoE request for technical assistance, OFDA activated a three-person team in Ecuador on September 12—comprising disaster risk management specialists and a forest fire expert—to support the SNRG in the areas of coordination, operations, logistics, and information management.

On September 19, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Adam E. Namm issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the fires, prompting OFDA to fund the purchase of firefighting equipment, including 300 specialized backpacks and 400 fire rakes, for local fire brigades in Ecuador.

OFDA Assistance: $100,000

El Salvador

Floods

In mid-October 2011, 10 days of heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Depression 12-E caused flooding and landslides in El Salvador, damaging 20,000 houses, resulting in 35 deaths, and affecting an estimated 300,000 people, according to the U.N. While the Government of El Salvador (GoES) evacuated communities from areas threatened by landslides, continued rainfall and flooding obstructed national response efforts.

On October 16, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. To determine humanitarian needs and coordinate response activities in affected areas, OFDA had activated an assessment team, including eight local disaster relief consultants and an El Salvador-based OFDA disaster risk management specialist, four days earlier. Based on assessment findings, OFDA immediately supported the distribution of hygiene kits, kitchen sets, shelter materials, and fuel to flood-affected populations. OFDA also airlifted additional relief supplies, including approximately 10,000 10-liter water containers, 10,000 hygiene kits, 2,500 blankets, 1,000 kitchen sets, and 100 rolls of reinforced plastic sheeting for shelters, from its warehouse in Miami to San Salvador and authorized the GoES to distribute nearly 3,000 OFDA-funded pre-positioned hygiene kits to affected populations. Due to persisting flood-related needs, OFDA provided additional funding for shelter activities and programs that repaired water infrastructure to improve access to safe drinking water.

Implementing Partners in El Salvador

CRS, GoES Civil Protection Agency, and World Vision

OFDA Assistance: $621,151[1]

Guatemala

Floods

In mid-October 2011, floods and landslides triggered by Tropical Depression 12-E in Guatemala led to 39 deaths and the evacuation of more than 38,000 people, according to the U.N. The storm affected nearly 255,000 people and caused widespread infrastructure damage to roads and bridges.

On October 15, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Arnold A. Chacon declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. To determine humanitarian conditions and response options, OFDA had activated an assessment team, including six local disaster relief consultants and a Guatemala-based OFDA disaster risk management specialist, on October 12. Following the assessment, OFDA supported the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including personal hygiene kits, safe drinking water supplies, and blankets for flood-affected communities, as well as protective gear and equipment for emergency responders.

Implementing Partner in Guatemala

Government of Guatemala National Emergency Response Commission

OFDA Assistance: $47,626

[1] This figure does not include the total cost of OFDA relief supplies provided during the response that have yet to be replenished.

Honduras

Floods

Sustained heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Depression 12-E in mid-October 2011 caused floods and landslides throughout Honduras, resulting in a reported 29 deaths and affecting an estimated 70,000 people, according to the Government of Honduras Permanent Emergency Commission (COPECO). In addition, flooding and landslides damaged or destroyed more than 3,000 houses and numerous public roads and bridges. COPECO personnel and local humanitarian actors conducted damage and humanitarian needs assessments, provided rescue operations, and delivered emergency relief items to affected areas.

On October 17, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Lisa J. Kubiske declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. To evaluate humanitarian conditions and response options, OFDA had activated an assessment team of three local disaster relief consultants on October 14. In response to conditions in Honduras, OFDA supported the distribution of locally procured emergency relief items, including hygiene kits, mattresses, and blankets. In addition, OFDA authorized the immediate distribution of pre-positioned OFDA-funded commodities, such as hygiene kits and kitchen sets, to flood-affected populations. In conjunction with the Regional Disaster Assistance Program—OFDA's long-standing program to build the disaster management capacity of governments in LAC—OFDA also provided COPECO with approximately 1,300 gallons of fuel to airlift relief supplies and rescue personnel to flood-affected areas of Honduras.

Implementing Partners in Honduras

Plan International and SC/US

OFDA Assistance: $100,000

Paraguay

Floods

Weeks of unseasonably heavy rainfall resulted in flooding in northern Paraguay's Chaco region during April 2011. The floods led to seven deaths, affected approximately 80,000 people, destroyed houses, rendered many roads impassable, and adversely affected health and education services, according to the Government of Paraguay (GoP). On April 13, the GoP declared a state of emergency and established an emergency operations center to lead response efforts and provide humanitarian assistance to affected populations. To conduct humanitarian needs assessments in the affected areas, OFDA activated an assessment team, including two local disaster relief consultants and a Bolivia-based OFDA disaster risk management specialist, on April 25.

On May 10, 2011, U.S. Ambassador James H. Thessin declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, OFDA provided immediate support for the purchase, transport, and distribution of emergency relief supplies, such as mattresses and mosquito nets, to benefit an estimated 2,700 individuals. Due to significant shelter needs, OFDA provided additional funding to support the construction of transitional shelters for an estimated 3,150 people in flood-affected communities. The shelters were designed to accommodate rainwater harvesting practices already present in the area—which experiences regular dry seasons and associated water shortages—thereby using the floods response as an opportunity to prepare for future seasonal shocks.

Implementing Partner in Paraguay

ADRA

OFDA Assistance: $749,662

Cash-for-work beneficiaries clear a drainage canal in Haiti.
Johs Pierce/USAID

How the USG Provides International Humanitarian Assistance

The USAID Administrator is designated as the President's Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance. Within USAID, OFDA is designated as the lead USG office for managing and coordinating USG humanitarian assistance in response to international disasters. In cooperation with other USG offices and international humanitarian experts, OFDA continuously monitors global hazards, identifies potential areas of need, and responds when disaster strikes.

> Save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of disasters. OFDA'S MANDATE

OFDA's Organizational Structure

A professional team of more than 300 staff, including senior managers, experienced disaster responders, and technical experts, work to implement OFDA's mandate at OFDA's headquarters in Washington, D.C., and in regional offices strategically located around the world.

- DISASTER RESPONSE AND MITIGATION DIVISION staff coordinate the procurement and delivery of humanitarian assistance and relief supplies, as well as provide sector-specific technical assistance to inform the humanitarian response. OFDA regional and technical experts work collaboratively with partner NGO staff to ensure interventions are effective, efficient, and consistent with OFDA's mandate.
- OPERATIONS DIVISION staff develop and manage logistical, operational, and technical support for field offices and disaster responses, including USAR teams, DARTs, and RMTs.
- PROGRAM SUPPORT DIVISION staff provide programmatic and administrative support, including budget and financial services, procurement planning, contracts and grants administration, training support, information technology, communications support, and information services.

OFDA's Operational Partners within USAID and the USG

During a disaster, OFDA is charged with leading and coordinating USG-wide response efforts and, in doing so, often partners with other USAID offices and USG agencies, both operationally and as part of the broader USG effort to support countries experiencing a crisis. Additional USAID and USG offices—listed to the right—commonly provide technical and material assistance to ensure that populations in need of humanitarian aid receive is rapidly and efficiently.

USAID/DCHA Partner Offices

FFP

OTI

Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation

Office of Civilian-Military Cooperation

Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance

Beyond USAID

Depending on the type of disaster, key USG entities may provide specialized support, funding, and technical assistance. OFDA maintains agreements and memorandums of understanding with federal and local entities that allow OFDA to call forward these entities' resources under OFDA authority, direction, and funding, as well as expedite operational support during a disaster.

HHS*

– CDC*

– Federal Occupational Health*

DoD**

Fairfax County, VA, and Los Angeles County, CA, USAR

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

U.S. Coast Guard**

USFS*

USGS*

State/PRM

USDA*

*Denotes pre-existing interagency agreement

**Denotes a pre-existing memorandum of understanding for operational support

Declaring an International Disaster

OFDA provides humanitarian assistance in response to international disasters. OFDA continually monitors global hazards, identifies potential areas of need, and stands ready to respond whenever disaster strikes.

Disaster Declaration

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 when an event meets the following criteria:

- The disaster is beyond the ability of the affected country to respond
- Host nation asks for or is willing to accept assistance
- Responding is in the interest of the USG

Disaster Response

Once a disaster is declared, USAID can respond in a variety of ways based on the need and severity of the disaster. USAID may choose one or a combination of the response options below.

Immediately provide up to $50,000 in initial relief assistance to the U.S. Embassy or the USAID Mission in the affected country for relief supplies or to support other humanitarian programs.

Procure, transport, and distribute emergency relief supplies—such as plastic sheeting, water containers, water purification units, blankets, and medical supplies—from one of OFDA's three regional warehouses.

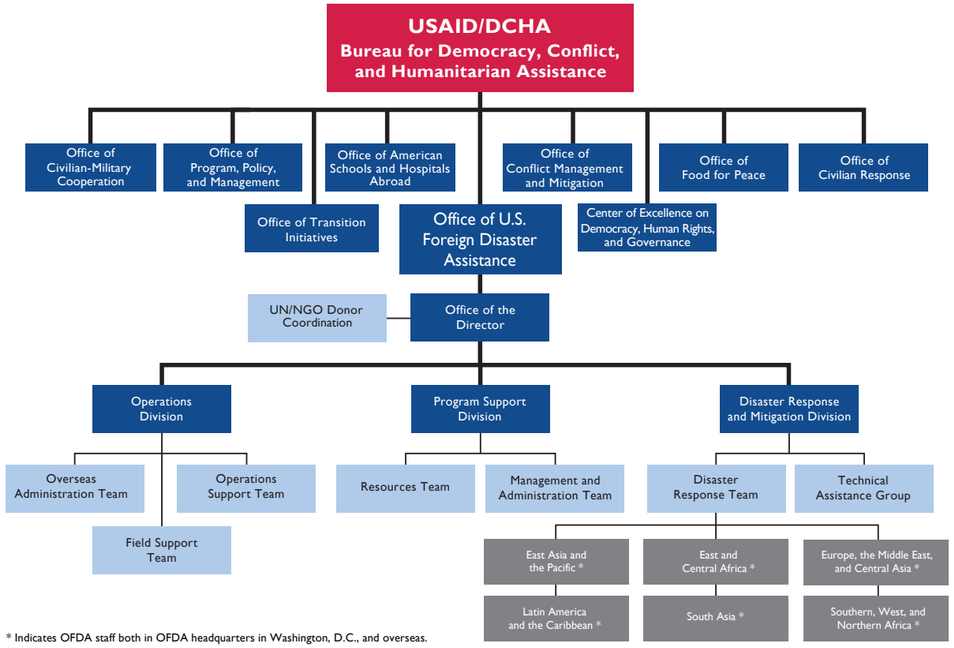
Activate an on-call RMT in Washington, D.C., to provide operational support to the DART and serve as the focal point for coordination among USG interagency partners and other key stakeholders.

Deploy regional staff, assessment teams, or a DART to disaster-affected areas to conduct assessments, determine additional needs, provide technical assistance, recommend proposals for funding, and coordinate with response organizations.

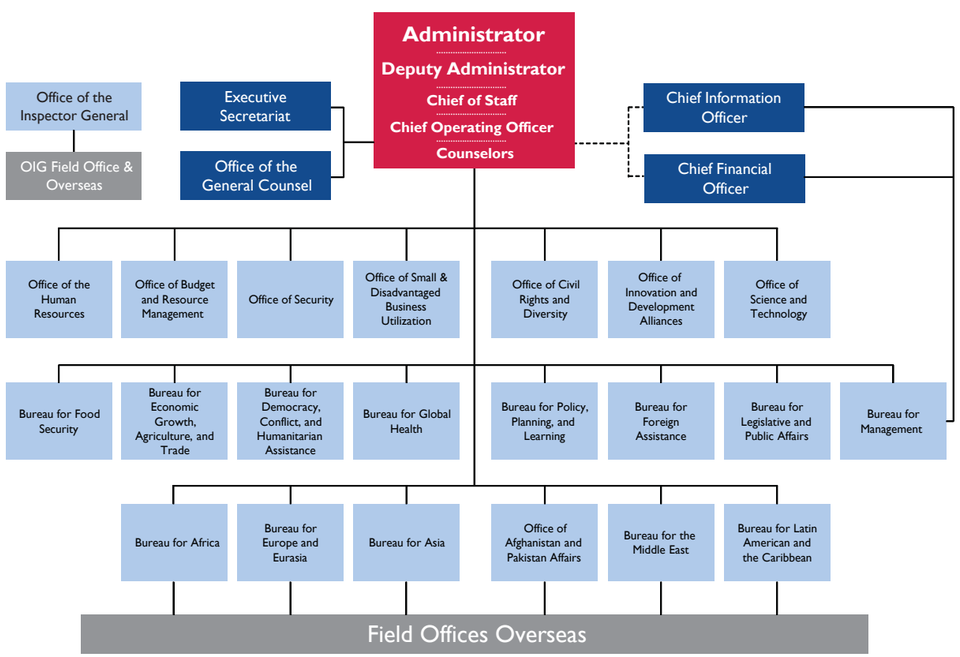
Support relief and early recovery activities through grants to relief agencies. OFDA staff carefully monitor grantee programs to ensure that resources are used wisely and to determine whether projects need to be adapted to changing conditions.

Request support from other USG agencies when their unique capabilities are required.

Organizational Chart for DCHA and OFDA



Organizational Chart for USAID



FY 2012 Response Summary

Declared Disasters | Responses from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012

COUNTRY	DISASTER	DECLARATION DATE	AFFECTED	DEAD	DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OFDA
AFRICA					
Benin	Floods	09/21/12	55,000	7	WASH activities
Burkina Faso	Food Insecurity	03/02/12	2,100,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, and nutrition activities; support for humanitarian coordination and information management
Cameroon	Food Insecurity	06/07/12	350,000*	-	Nutrition and WASH activities
CAR	Complex Emergency	10/11/11	21,000**	20**	Deployment of OFDA staff to monitor programs and conduct assessments of humanitarian and security conditions; health, nutrition, and protection assistance; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management
CAR	Food Insecurity	06/16/12	45,000	-	Health activities
Chad	Complex Emergency	10/17/11	3,600,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, nutrition, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management; humanitarian air service support
Comoros	Floods	05/01/12	65,000	-	WASH activities
Côte d'Ivoire	Complex Emergency	10/11/11	165,371***	3,000	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, and protection activities; support for humanitarian coordination and information management
DRC	Complex Emergency	10/12/11	2,400,000***	-	Deployment of DRC-based OFDA staff to conduct humanitarian assessments and identify needs; agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Ethiopia	Complex Emergency	10/19/11	4,800,000*	-	Deployment of a regional DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; activation of a Washington D.C.-based RMT; agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Ghana	Floods	11/02/11	43,000	14	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Kenya	Drought	10/28/11	4,350,000*	-	Deployment of a regional DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; activation of a Washington D.C.-based RMT; agriculture and food security, ERMS, natural and technological risk reduction, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities; humanitarian coordination and information management; humanitarian studies, analysis, or applications
Lesotho[1]	Food Insecurity	09/07/12	725,519	-	Technical assistance

[1] No funding was provided for disaster response activities in FY 2012.

COUNTRY	DISASTER	DECLARATION DATE	AFFECTED	DEAD	DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OFDA
Liberia	Complex Emergency	12/29/11	140,000	-	Agriculture and food security and protection activities
Madagascar	Cyclone	02/15/12	324,780	112	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, and shelter and settlements activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Malawi	Floods	01/30/12	6,159	-	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Mali	Complex Emergency	03/12/12	425,106***	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management; humanitarian air service support
Mali	Food Insecurity	01/26/12	4,600,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management; humanitarian air service support
Mauritania	Complex Emergency	04/12/12	-	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, nutrition, and WASH activities; humanitarian coordination and information management; humanitarian air service support
Mauritania	Food Insecurity	12/08/11	700,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, nutrition, and WASH activities; humanitarian coordination and information management; humanitarian air service support
Mozambique	Floods	02/01/12	119,471	44	WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Niger	Floods	08/28/12	520,000	-	Shelter and settlements activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Niger	Food Insecurity	12/20/11	6,400,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, and nutrition activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management; humanitarian air service support
Republic of Congo	Munitions Explosion	03/05/12	136,000	200	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate assistance; protection and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Rwanda	Refugee Influx	05/10/12	8,200	-	WASH activities
Senegal	Floods	09/13/12	287,384	19	WASH activities
Senegal	Food Insecurity	04/12/12	739,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, and natural and technological risk reduction
Somalia	Complex Emergency	10/13/11	4,000,000*	-	Deployment of a regional DART to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; activation of a Washington D.C.-based RMT; agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management; humanitarian studies, analysis, or applications

FY12 Response Summary

COUNTRY	DISASTER	DECLARATION DATE	AFFECTED	DEAD	DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OFDA
South Sudan	Complex Emergency	10/06/11	4,700,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Sudan	Complex Emergency	10/17/11	4,200,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Tanzania	Floods	12/23/11	50,000	40	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
The Gambia	Food Insecurity	05/08/12	240,000	-	Agriculture and food security and ERMS activities

ASIA

Afghanistan	Complex Emergency	11/09/11	445,850***	440****	ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Burma	Complex Emergency	06/15/12	150,000***	87	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate humanitarian assistance; nutrition and WASH activities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Cambodia	Floods	10/07/11	1,500,000	247	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate humanitarian assistance; agriculture and food security activities; ERMS and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
China	Floods	08/10/12	245,000,000	698	Natural and technological risk reduction activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Fiji	Floods	01/25/12	4,500	8	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Fiji	Floods	04/01/12	191,598	4	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
India	Floods	10/18/11	3,400,000	41	Agriculture and food security activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Indonesia	Floods	08/07/12	6,000	10	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate humanitarian assistance; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Pakistan	Complex Emergency	10/04/11	742,000***	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Pakistan	Floods	10/04/11	1,800,000	520	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, natural and technological risk reduction, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management

COUNTRY	DISASTER	DECLARATION DATE	AFFECTED	DEAD	DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OFDA
Papua New Guinea	Floods	01/26/12	25,000	25	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate humanitarian assistance; agriculture and food security, natural and technological risk reduction, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Philippines	Floods	08/07/12	4,451,711	112	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate humanitarian assistance; WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Philippines	Tropical Storm	12/20/11	698,882	1,268	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate humanitarian assistance; ERMS, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Sri Lanka	Complex Emergency	10/07/11	115,000***	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH activities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Thailand	Floods	10/07/11	13,600,000	823	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate humanitarian assistance; natural and technological risk reduction activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Tuvalu	Fresh Water Shortage	10/05/11	5,500	-	WASH activities
Vietnam	Floods	10/18/11	700,000	60	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate humanitarian assistance; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities

EMCA

Bosnia and Herzegovina	Winter Emergency	02/10/12	50,000	8	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Bulgaria	Winter Emergency	02/08/12	50,000	8	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Iraq	Complex Emergency	-	2,750,000***	-	Administrative and program support costs
Montenegro	Fire	07/27/12	800	-	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Montenegro	Winter Emergency	02/13/12	20,000	4	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Syria	Complex Emergency	-	2,500,000*	31,000	Health, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management
Tunisia	Floods	02/29/12	9,000	5	Logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Turkey	Earthquake	10/25/11	650,000	644	Deployment of a USAID/OFDA regional advisor to affected areas to help coordinate response efforts; shelter and settlements activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Yemen	Complex Emergency	10/20/11	12,700,000*	-	Agriculture and food security, ERMS; health, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian coordination and information management

COUNTRY	DISASTER	DECLARATION DATE	AFFECTED	DEAD	DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OFDA

LAC

Ecuador	Fires	09/19/12	-	5	Deployment of OFDA staff to provide technical assistance; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
El Salvador	Floods	10/16/11	300,000	35	Activation of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate with government and relief agencies; shelter and settlements and WASH activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities; humanitarian air service support
Guatemala	Floods	10/15/11	254,903	39	Activation of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate assistance; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Honduras	Floods	10/17/11	70,000	29	Activation of OFDA team to conduct assessments and coordinate assistance; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities
Paraguay	Floods	05/10/12	80,000	7	Deployment of OFDA staff to conduct assessments and coordinate assistance; shelter and settlements activities; logistics support and the provision of emergency relief commodities

Notes: A hyphen (-) in the dead and/or affected columns indicates that reliable information was not available or applicable.

* Figure represents the number of people in need of humanitarian or food assistance identified by the U.N.

** Figures represent the number of people displaced and killed as a result of LRA activities in CAR.

*** Figure represents the population displaced by the complex emergency.

**** Figure represents the number of people killed by natural disasters. The number of casualties resulting from conflict is unknown.

FY 2012 Funding Summary

Disasters

AFRICA

COUNTRY/REGION	DISASTER	DECLARATION DATE	DISASTER RESPONSE	DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR	DRR	OPERATIONAL READINESS	ADMIN SUPPORT	GRAND TOTAL
Benin	Floods	09/21/12	$50,000					$50,000
Burkina Faso	Food Insecurity	03/02/12	$100,000	$6,475,700				$6,575,700
Cameroon	Food Insecurity	06/07/12	$1,000,000					$1,000,000
Central African Republic	Complex Emergency	10/11/11	$3,002,013					$3,002,013
Central African Republic	Food Insecurity	06/16/12	$50,000					$50,000
Chad	Complex Emergency	10/17/11	$1,325,978	$9,215,068	$130,373			$10,671,419
Comoros	Floods	05/01/12	$50,000					$50,000
Cote d'Ivoire	Complex Emergency	10/11/11	$749,658	$3,228,329				$3,977,987
DRC	Complex Emergency	10/12/11	$33,882,566				$811,771	$34,694,337
Ethiopia	Complex Emergency	10/19/11	$6,384,351	$26,290,265	$1,000,000		$893,029	$34,567,645
Ghana	Floods		$50,000					$50,000
Kenya	Drought	10/28/11	$12,519,281	$9,402,358	$2,169,785		$41,865	$24,133,289
Liberia	Complex Emergency	12/29/11		$1,523,996				$1,523,996
Madagascar	Cyclone	02/15/12	$486,663					$486,663
Malawi	Floods	01/30/12	$50,000					$50,000
Mali	Complex Emergency	03/12/12	$6,274,891	$8,409,203				$14,684,094
Mali	Food Insecurity[1]	01/26/12						
Mauritania	Complex Emergency	04/12/12	$1,300,000	$3,458,208				$4,758,208
Mauritania	Food Insecurity[2]	12/08/11						
Mozambique	Floods	02/01/12	$2,102,000					$2,102,000
Niger	Floods	08/28/12	$50,000					$50,000
Niger	Food Insecurity	12/20/11	$852,000	$16,145,281				$16,997,281
Republic of the Congo	Explosion	03/05/12	$850,504					$850,504
Rwanda	Refugee Influx	05/10/12	$50,000					$50,000
Senegal	Floods	09/13/12	$50,000					$50,000
Senegal	Food Insecurity	04/12/12	$748,033	$1,275,963				$2,023,996
Somalia	Complex Emergency	10/13/11	$57,137,714	$77,832		$3,208	$13,976	$57,232,730
South Sudan	Complex Emergency	10/06/11	$57,626,672	$1,633,155	$402,780	$4,175	$1,167,471	$60,834,253
Sudan	Complex Emergency	10/17/11	$77,310,465	$185,139			$3,046,581	$80,542,185
Tanzania	Floods	12/23/11	$50,000					$50,000
The Gambia	Food Insecurity	05/08/12	$577,410	$500,000				$1,077,410
The Sahel	Food Insecurity		$3,619,823	$1,499,000		$28,151	$82,344	$5,229,318
DISASTERS TOTAL			**$268,300,023**	**$89,319,497**	**$3,702,938**	**$35,534**	**$6,057,036**	**$367,415,028**
PRIOR YEAR DISASTER COST - REPLENISHMENT OF RELIEF COMMODITIES								
Benin	Floods					45,473		$45,473
PRIOR YEAR DISASTER COST - REPLENISHMENT OF RELIEF COMMODITIES TOTAL						**$45,473**		**$45,473**
AFRICA TOTAL			**$268,300,023**	**$89,319,497**	**$3,702,938**	**$81,007**	**$6,057,036**	**$367,460,501**

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

COUNTRY/REGION	DISASTER	DECLARATION DATE	DISASTER RESPONSE	DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR	DRR	OPERATIONAL READINESS	ADMIN SUPPORT	GRAND TOTAL
Afghanistan	Complex Emergency	11/09/11	$22,531,215	$9,139,956	$79,593	$9,247	$744,541	$32,504,552
Burma	Complex Emergency	06/15/12	$1,733,272					$1,733,272
Cambodia	Floods	10/07/11	$1,521,807					$1,521,807
China	Floods	08/10/12	$100,000					$100,000
Fiji	Floods	01/25/12	$50,000					$50,000
Fiji	Floods	04/01/12	$150,000					$150,000
India	Floods	10/18/11	$497,838					$497,838
Indonesia	Floods	08/07/12	$100,000					$100,000
Pakistan	Complex Emergency	10/04/11	$7,209,200			$29,260	$548,675	$7,787,135
Pakistan	Floods	10/04/11	$8,953,145	$5,730,734	$4,342,640			$19,026,519
Papua New Guinea	Floods	01/26/12	$319,238	$29,794				$349,032
Philippines	Floods	08/07/12	$500,000					$500,000
Philippines	Tropical Storm	12/20/11	$2,248,602					$2,248,602
Sri Lanka	Complex Emergency	10/07/11		$3,726,649		$1,800		$3,728,449
Thailand	Floods	10/07/11	$1,130,266					$1,130,266
Tuvalu	Fresh Water Shortage	10/05/11	$50,000					$50,000
Vietnam	Floods	10/18/11	$100,000					$100,000
DISASTERS TOTAL			**$47,194,583**	**$18,627,133**	**$4,422,233**	**$40,307**	**$1,293,216**	**$71,577,472**
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC TOTAL			**$47,194,583**	**$18,627,133**	**$4,422,233**	**$40,307**	**$1,293,216**	**$71,577,472**

[1] Funding to respond to food insecurity is included in the Mali Complex Emergency funding total.

[2] Funding to respond to food insecurity is included in the Mauritania Complex Emergency funding total.

COUNTRY/REGION	DISASTER	DECLARATION DATE	DISASTER RESPONSE	DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR	DRR	OPERATIONAL READINESS	ADMIN SUPPORT	GRAND TOTAL
EMCA								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Winter Emergency	02/10/12	$48,866					$48,866
Bulgaria	Winter Emergency	02/08/12	$50,000					$50,000
Iraq	Complex Emergency		$84,505			$843	$48,264	$133,612
Montenegro	Fire	07/27/12	$50,000					$50,000
Montenegro	Winter Emergency	02/13/12	$100,000					$100,000
Syria	Complex Emergency		$19,659,975			$5,782	$30,107	$19,695,864
Tunisia	Floods	02/29/12	$50,000					$50,000
Turkey	Earthquake	10/25/11	$300,000					$300,000
Yemen	Complex Emergency	10/20/11	$27,975,386	$1,594,812		$565	$3,704	$29,574,467
DISASTERS TOTAL			**$48,318,732**	**$1,594,812**		**$7,190**	**$82,075**	**$50,002,809**
EMCA TOTAL			**$48,318,732**	**$1,594,812**		**$7,190**	**$82,075**	**$50,002,809**
LAC								
Ecuador	Fires	09/19/12	$100,000					$100,000
El Salvador	Floods	10/16/11	$621,151					$621,151
Guatemala	Floods	10/15/11	$47,626					$47,626
Honduras	Floods	10/17/11	$100,000					$100,000
Paraguay	Floods	05/10/12	$749,622					$749,622
DISASTERS TOTAL			**$1,618,399**					**$1,618,399**
PRIOR YEAR DISASTER COST - REPLENISHMENT OF RELIEF COMMODITIES								
Bahamas	Hurricane		$28,840					$28,840
Haiti	Earthquake		$26,703					$26,703
Haiti	Cholera Outbreak		$1,364,999					$1,364,999
Haiti	Tropical Storm		$66,613					$66,613
Panama	Floods					$42,000		$42,000
PRIOR YEAR DISASTER COST - REPLENISHMENT OF RELIEF COMMODITIES TOTAL			**$1,487,155**			**$42,000**		**$1,529,155**
LAC TOTAL			**$3,105,554**			**$42,000**		**$3,147,554**
DISASTERS TOTAL			**$366,918,892**	**$109,541,442**	**$8,125,171**	**$170,504**	**$7,432,327**	**$492,188,336**

COUNTRY/REGION	DISASTER RESPONSE	DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR	DRR	OPERATIONAL READINESS	ADMIN SUPPORT	GRAND TOTAL
Regional and Global Support						
AFRICA						
East and Central Africa	$3,626,619		$68,908	$1,082	$228,867	$3,925,476
Southern Africa	$14,411		$31,404,618		$300,185	$31,719,214
Uganda			$498,919			$498,919
Western Africa	$1,000,000		$331,311	$14,562	$194,113	$1,539,986
Zimbabwe			$14,274,753			$14,274,753
AFRICA TOTAL	**$4,641,030**		**$46,578,509**	**$15,644**	**$723,165**	**$51,958,348**
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC						
Bhutan			$224,800			$224,800
Burma			$3,420,040			$3,420,040
Cambodia			$449,627			$449,627
China			$757,374			$757,374
East Timor			$518,738			$518,738
Fiji	$200,000					$200,000
FSM and RMI			$166,440	$25,490	$749,450	$941,380
India			$300,000			$300,000
Indonesia		$100,000	$5,883,144			$5,983,144
Laos			$374,500			$374,500
Mongolia			$110,000			$110,000
Nepal	$276,822		$3,125,084	$7,935	$70,515	$3,480,356
Pacific	$100,000		$1,662,702	$10,458	$75,349	$1,848,509
Papua New Guinea		$150,000	$200,000			$350,000
Philippines		$200,000	$3,920,000			$4,120,000
Solomon Islands			$499,892			$499,892
South Asia			$291,844	$7,261	$102,782	$401,887
Sri Lanka			$200,725			$200,725
Thailand			$557,455			$557,455
Vanuatu			$499,831			$499,831
Vietnam			$3,572,810			$3,572,810
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC TOTAL	**$576,822**	**$450,000**	**$26,735,006**	**$51,144**	**$98,096**	**$28,811,068**

COUNTRY/REGION	DISASTER RESPONSE	DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR	DRR	OPERATIONAL READINESS	ADMIN SUPPORT	GRAND TOTAL
EMCA						
Balkans			$784,405			$784,405
Central Asia			$1,382,900		$10,431	$1,393,331
EMCA					$15,781	$15,781
EMCA TOTAL			**$2,167,305**		**$26,212**	**$2,193,517**
GLOBAL						
Agriculture and Food Security		$1,047,410	$456,794	$4,996	$56,966	$1,566,166
Economic Recovery and Market Systems		$1,083,419		$6,318		$1,089,737
Geohazards			$2,699,663			$2,699,663
Global Support					$2,772,911	$2,772,911
Global/DRR			$437,538			$437,538
Hydrometeorological Hazards			$3,898,002		$17,037	$3,915,039
Information Management and Coordination	$6,606,480	$10,287,531	$3,691,292	$3,612,409	$409,259	$24,606,971
Monitoring and Evaluation		$150,000		$251,574	$25,435	$427,009
Vulnerable Population and IDP Protection	$300,000	$300,000		$88,000	$228,181	$916,181
Public Health and Nutrition	$4,594,949	$3,230,010	$82,557	$18,535	$2,235,400	$10,161,451
Shelter and Settlements		$299,983	$6,936	$379,327	$3,191	$689,437
GLOBAL TOTAL	**$11,501,429**	**$16,398,353**	**$11,272,782**	**$4,361,159**	**$5,748,380**	**$49,282,103**
LAC						
Caribbean	$510,843	$1,500,000	$619,335	$337,548	$754,907	$3,722,633
Central America			$321,691			$321,691
LAC/Regional		$7,180,354	$7,188,070	$14,712	$80,705	$14,463,841
South America			$64,998		$9,575	$74,573
LAC TOTAL	**$510,843**	**$8,680,354**	**$8,194,094**	**$352,260**	**$845,187**	**$18,582,738**
Regional and Global Support Total	$17,230,124	$25,528,707	$94,947,696	$4,780,207	$8,341,040	$150,827,774

COUNTRY/REGION	DISASTER RESPONSE	DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR	DRR	OPERATIONAL READINESS	ADMIN SUPPORT	GRAND TOTAL
Program and Operational Support						
Operational Support	$2,636,474		$3,201,355	$14,587,644	$15,123,651	$35,549,124
Program Support				$150,555	$38,270,057	$38,420,613
PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT TOTAL	**$2,636,474**		**$3,201,355**	**$14,738,199**	**$53,393,708**	**$73,969,736**
GRAND TOTAL	**$386,785,490**	**$135,070,149**	**$106,274,222**	**$19,688,911**	**$69,167,075**	**$716,985,846**

Summary – FY 2012 OFDA Funding and Budget Carryover

Disasters Total	$366,918,892	$109,541,442	$8,125,171	$170,504	$7,432,327	$492,188,336
Regional and Global Support Total	$17,230,124	$25,528,707	$94,947,696	$4,780,207	$8,341,040	$150,827,774
Program and Operational Support Total	$2,636,474		$3,201,355	$14,738,199	$53,393,708	$73,969,736
GRAND TOTAL	**$386,785,490**	**$136,175,886**	**$106,274,222**	**$19,688,911**	**$69,167,075**	**$716,985,846**

Fact Sheets or Program Summaries

Produced for Major Disasters and DRR Programs in FY 2012

AFGHANISTAN – Complex Emergency Fact Sheets, Pounds of Prevention, Winter Emergency Fact Sheet

AFRICA – DRR Fact Sheet

BRAZIL – Pounds of Prevention

BURMA – Complex Emergency Fact Sheet

CAMBODIA – Success Story

CAR – Complex Emergency Fact Sheet

CENTRAL AMERICA – Floods Fact Sheets

COLOMBIA – Pounds of Prevention

CÔTE D'IVOIRE – Complex Emergency Fact Sheet

DRC – Complex Emergency Fact Sheets

EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA – Humanitarian Assistance in Review 2003–2012, Regional Snapshot

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC – DRR Fact Sheet, Humanitarian Assistance in Review 2003–2012, Regional Snapshot

ETHIOPIA – Success Stories

EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CENTRAL ASIA – Humanitarian Assistance in Review 2003–2012, Regional Snapshot

THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS – Fact Sheet, Program Summary

GLOBAL – DRR Fact Sheet, Pounds of Prevention

GLOBAL SECTOR UPDATES – Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Monitoring and Evaluation, Natural and Technological Risks, Nutrition, Protection, Safety and Security, Shelter and Settlements, WASH

HAITI – Cholera and Earthquake Fact Sheets, Success Stories

HORN OF AFRICA – Drought Fact Sheets

INDONESIA – Success Story, Pounds of Prevention

IRAQ – Complex Emergency Fact Sheet, Monitoring USAID Activities in High Threat Environments, Success Story

KENYA – Success Story, Pounds of Prevention

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN – DRR 2012–2014 Plan, Humanitarian Assistance in Review 2003–2012, Newsletters, Regional Snapshot

MADAGASCAR – Success Story

MOZAMBIQUE – Success Story, Pounds of Prevention

NEPAL – Success Story

PAKISTAN – Floods and Complex Emergency Fact Sheets, Success Story

THE PHILIPPINES – Floods Fact Sheet, Tropical Storm Fact Sheet, Pounds of Prevention, Success Story

SAHEL – Food Insecurity and Complex Emergency Fact Sheets

SOUTH ASIA – DRR Fact Sheet, Humanitarian Assistance in Review 2003–2012, Regional Snapshot

SOUTH SUDAN – Complex Emergency Fact Sheets

SOUTHEAST ASIA – Floods Fact Sheets

SOUTHERN AFRICA – DRR Fact Sheet, DRR Strategy 2012–2014, Floods and Cyclones Fact Sheets, Humanitarian Assistance in Review 2003–2012, Regional Snapshot

SRI LANKA – Complex Emergency Fact Sheet

SUDAN – Complex Emergency Fact Sheet

SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN – Success Story

SWAZILAND – Success Story

SYRIA – Complex Emergency Fact Sheets

TURKEY – Earthquake Fact Sheet

WEST AND NORTH AFRICA – DRR Fact Sheet, Humanitarian Assistance in Review 2003–2012, Regional Snapshot

YEMEN – Complex Emergency Fact Sheets

Disaster Summaries

in this Annual Report

The disaster descriptions on the preceding pages cover USG FY 2012. Between October 1, 2011, and September 30, 2012, OFDA responded to 63 disasters.

Explanation of Assistance Covered

This annual report documents only the financial record of FY 2012 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, the annual report notes the participation of other USG agencies.

Detailed Fact Sheets and Public Summaries of Major Disasters Available Separately

OFDA staff often produce information products, including public fact sheets, regarding declared disasters that include detail beyond what is provided in the case reports found in the annual report. Such documents provide more in-depth information on individual OFDA disaster responses, as well as assistance by region or sector. To read current fact sheets and other public information products, please refer to OFDA's website: http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis.

Publication Credits

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Maps created by Brendan Bartow.

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 USG.

Cover Photo Credits

Front: Having been displaced from their home in southern Somalia, a father sits with his child and other refugees at Dagahaley site within the Dadaab refugee camp complex. *Courtesy of Pablo Tosco, OXFAM/AFP*

Back: Nepalese school children play in a community where OFDA supported the rehabilitation of a public well. *Rob Friedman/USAID*

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.

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 fact sheets on selected international disasters and crises, which describe the humanitarian situation and the corresponding USG response.

Current 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/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis. Fact sheets are also available on OCHA's ReliefWeb home page at http://www.reliefweb.int.

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