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

Asia and Pacific – Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

September 30, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated April 10, 2007.

BACKGROUND

In the Asia-Pacific region, people are severely affected by earthquakes, typhoons, floods, landslides, volcanoes, droughts, tsunamis, wildfires, and other natural hazards. Asia’s vulnerability is compounded by socio-economic conditions that have steadily increased the impact of disasters. Demographic changes, urbanization, and environmental degradation have reduced the amount of habitable land available, forcing the settlement of hazard-prone, marginal lands, such as flood plains and steep slopes. In addition to natural disasters, civil crises and complex emergencies also cause hardships and impede development. USAID/OFDA remains committed to assisting in the development of preparedness, mitigation, and emergency response capacities in the region. Since 1995, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$46 million for ongoing preparedness and mitigation projects throughout the region, including more than \$7 million in FY 2007.

PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION ASSISTANCE FOR ASIA-PACIFIC

USAID/OFDA Assistance in FY 2007.....	\$7,150,504
USAID/OFDA Cumulative Assistance for all Active Programs.....	\$45,806,733

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

- Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), Phase II: Funded by USAID/OFDA and implemented by the Kathmandu-based National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) since 2003, PEER is developing national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors in six Asian countries. PEER is geared primarily towards earthquake preparedness, but is widely applicable to any collapsed structure or mass casualty situation. PEER assists local, regional, and national disaster management agencies in organizing and conducting training in medical first response, collapsed structure search and rescue, and hospital preparedness for mass casualties. The first phase of PEER, managed by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), began in 1998 in India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. Phase II of PEER expanded activities to Bangladesh and Pakistan, as well as increased the corps of trainers, adapted courses to national requirements, and created a coordinating network of disaster responders in each country. Phase II of PEER began in March 2003 and will continue through March 2008. USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.6 million to date in FY 2007, and a total of more than \$11 million since FY 1998.

- Program for Hydrometeorological Risk Mitigation in Asian Cities (PROMISE): In September 2005, USAID/OFDA provided a grant to ADPC for a new three-year phase of urban disaster mitigation activities entitled “PROMISE.” This program builds upon the activities of the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP) in which ADPC developed pilot disaster preparedness projects in targeted Asian cities. PROMISE promotes hydrometeorological, or rainfall-related, disaster preparedness through demonstration projects in five highly vulnerable secondary urban centers in South and Southeast Asia: Chittagong, Bangladesh; Hyderabad, Pakistan; Dagupan City, the Philippines; Kalutara, Sri Lanka; and Da Nang, Vietnam. All of the target cities are rapidly growing urban areas that have been significantly impacted by hydrometeorological disasters. In FY 2007, funding was provided to expand the program to include Indonesia. In the target cities, ADPC has facilitated preparedness and mitigation action planning workshops, carried out hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments, and established community-based early warning mechanisms. Additional programming included training and capacity building for risk-based urban land use planning, piloting community-based flood forecasting and warning systems, developing city-level disaster management information systems and public awareness and advocacy campaigns, and assisting micro-credit enterprises to promote proper construction and improve resistance of houses to disasters. USAID/OFDA is providing \$855,286 for PROMISE in FY 2007, and funding since FY 2005 totals \$1,855,286.

- Pacific Islands Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP): USAID/OFDA has supported PDAP, implemented by The Asia Foundation (TAF), since 1995. The objectives of the program are the following: improve the capacity and performance of local and national disaster management agencies and individuals, develop and adapt training materials relevant to the region, and strengthen the capacity of South Pacific nations to organize and conduct disaster management courses. The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands,

Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu participated in the first phase of the program, which helped to improve disaster management training in multiple South Pacific nations. From 2004 to 2008, Phase II expands the program to include the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which are currently transitioning from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to USAID for U.S. disaster assistance. The second phase also includes the adaptation of USAID/OFDA-developed training materials for Pacific country applications. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is providing \$302,729 to PDAP, and total funding to date is \$3,906,813.

- **Asia Flood Network (AFN):** AFN strengthens the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions in climate, weather, and hydrological forecasting while directly involving communities at risk in reducing vulnerability to hydrometeorological hazards. In collaboration with partners in Asia, AFN is jointly implemented by USAID/OFDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Current activities are focused on Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam in the Mekong river basin and Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Megna (GBM) basin. USAID/OFDA, in cooperation with NOAA and USGS, has been providing 24-hour satellite estimates and short-term forecasts of rainfall in these regions. Under AFN, the Mekong River Commission (MRC), the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and country representatives in the Mekong and GBM river basins were trained on the application of satellite-based rainfall estimates (SRE) to floods and droughts, flash flood guidance, and dissemination of information to vulnerable populations in remote areas. In addition, USAID/OFDA, NOAA, and USGS are working with partners to implement flash flood guidance in the region. This program will continue through August 2008. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided \$2,329,927 of the estimated \$2,500,000 total cost, including \$250,000 in FY 2007.
- **Volcano Disaster Assistance Project (VDAP):** The USAID/OFDA-funded VDAP program, implemented by USGS, provides technical assistance to national volcano monitoring organizations. In Asia, VDAP provides technical assistance to the Philippines Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the Center of Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (CVGHM) in Indonesia, and the Port Moresby Geophysical Observatory and Rabaul Volcano Observatory (RVO) in Papua New Guinea. VDAP assistance includes training in hazard assessment, development of early warning plans, installation and updating of volcano monitoring equipment, and other technical assistance. Since FY 2005, VDAP has worked with CVGHM to improve volcano hazard monitoring and assessment through the construction of a regional volcano observatory for North Sulawesi, where more than 500,000 people live on the flanks of hazardous volcanoes. In FY 2007, a VDAP team worked with Indonesian experts to install new volcano monitoring equipment. VDAP also provided seismic monitoring equipment to CVGHM in response to heightened volcanic activity in Indonesia at the Gamkonora volcano in July 2007 and at the Karangetang volcano in September 2007. VDAP provided assistance for Philippine volcanologists to monitor gas emissions from volcanoes, and provided remote assistance to RVO in Papua New Guinea for volcano-related earthquakes in the Sulu Range. In Asia, USAID/OFDA has provided \$460,000 to the VDAP program in FY 2007, and a total of \$3,425,000 to date.
- **Managing the Psychosocial Aspects of Disasters and Complex Emergencies:** USAID/OFDA is funding an ADPC project to examine disaster mental health and psychosocial resources that already contribute to the management and effective delivery of programs to disaster-affected populations in Asia. A team of psychosocial support and disaster mental health specialists will consult with representatives from national health ministries, universities, U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and donors in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is providing \$106,836 for the project.

SOUTH ASIA PROGRAMS

- **Flood Management in the Himalayas:** USAID/OFDA has supported technical assessments and forums for decision-makers and technical personnel from the Hindu Kush–Himalayan region to strengthen capacities on flash flood management, promote collaboration, and develop regional approaches to flood management, flood early warning systems, and broader transboundary water issues. A regional organization based in Nepal, ICIMOD, hosts the forums that include participants from countries throughout the South Asia and Himalayan region. USAID/OFDA has provided \$125,000 in FY 2007, and \$269,000 to date.
- **Drought Preparedness in India and Pakistan:** Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is implementing a three-year project which seeks to ensure that communities in Rajasthan, India, and Sindh, Pakistan, are drought resilient. The project targets 7,200 people in Sindh and 60,000 people in Rajasthan. Through this program, drought-vulnerable communities will be better able to harvest and store rainwater for increased domestic and agricultural use throughout the year, adopt water-efficient agricultural practices, utilize improved land-use techniques for agriculture and livestock, and engage with local government and other actors to improve resilience to drought. The project began in June 2006 and will

continue through September 2008. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided \$200,000 to the project, and has provided a total of \$600,000 to date.

- Emergency Flood Preparedness in Bangladesh: Save the Children/U.S., World Vision, and lead agency CARE joined to form the Emergency Working Group of Cooperative Sponsors (EWG) to improve emergency response to floods in Bangladesh. The EWG also works to reduce the incidence of health problems associated with a disaster, particularly water-borne diseases. With USAID/OFDA support, the EWG promotes coordination between communities and local authorities and maintains and operates mobile water purification plants, zodiac boats, and a mobile health unit. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided four additional mobile water treatment units valued at \$203,100, including transport. Total USAID/OFDA funding to date for this project is \$403,113.
- Community Flood Monitoring and Forecasting in Bangladesh: Implemented by Riverside Technology Inc., this five-year USAID/OFDA project supports a community-based approach for flood monitoring and forecasting to reduce the vulnerability of communities living in flood plains and mitigate future flood damage in Bangladesh. The project began in September 2002 and will continue through March 2008. Total project funding to date totals \$576,977.
- Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project: NSET coordinates the long-term earthquake risk reduction plan for the Kathmandu Valley and works with the Government of Nepal, NGOs, schools, and local communities to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness. The project began in September 2000 and will continue through August 2008. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided \$187,556, and total funding is \$984,189 to date.
- Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Water Supply: USAID/OFDA is providing funding to the U.N. Children's Fund to support earthquake preparedness in Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, and Thimi municipalities in the Kathmandu Valley. The preparedness program includes upgrading existing water supply facilities for emergency operation, developing and disseminating preparedness information, and training local government and NGO personnel in nutrition, sanitation, hygiene, and the protection of children separated from family members. USAID/OFDA has provided \$250,000 to the project in FY 2007.
- Technical Assistance for the Pakistan National Seismic Network (PNSN): In FY 2006 and 2007 USAID/OFDA provided funding to USGS to assist the Government of Pakistan (GOP) in establishing a new seismographic network of stations in and around earthquake-prone cities in Pakistan. At the request of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, USGS provided technical expertise to assist in the deployment of a national seismic network. USAID/OFDA provided a total of \$66,263 for the program.
- Earthquake Risk Management Conference in Pakistan: USAID/OFDA supported a conference hosted by the GOP's Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority in Islamabad, Pakistan, in April 2007. Organized by the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the U.N. Human Settlements Program, and NSET, the conference focused on best practices and lessons learned from recent geological disasters in Pakistan, particularly the October 2005 earthquake. USAID/OFDA support for the activity totaled \$25,000.

SOUTHEAST AND EAST ASIA PROGRAMS

- Promoting Private Sector Disaster Assistance in China: In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA supported TAF programming to enhance private sector participation in and contribution to disaster assistance, as well as to promote multi-sectoral approaches to disaster management. TAF is cooperating with Chinese business associations, the China Charity Federation, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs, which has a lead role in disaster management in China. The program will also involve American Chamber of Commerce in China. This project began in October 2006 and will continue to September 2008. USAID/OFDA provided \$240,000 in FY 2007, and the total to date is \$590,000.
- Climate Forecast Applications: This project is a follow-up initiative to the USAID/OFDA-funded "El Niño"-related Extreme Climate Events (ECE) program, which was implemented from 1998 to 2003. The Climate Forecast Applications project, implemented by ADPC, strengthens the national capabilities of Indonesia and the Philippines to manage and reduce the impacts of climate fluctuations through targeted demonstration projects and community participation. The project makes climate forecasting information available to farmers and local communities, and helps them utilize the data for planting and other decision making purposes. The second phase of the program began in April 2003 and was expanded to include East Timor in 2007. In FY 2007 USAID/OFDA is providing \$250,000 to the project, and total funding from FY 1998 to date, including the ECE program, is \$2,623,863.

- Drought Preparedness in Southeast Asia: CARE, with USAID/OFDA support, is implementing drought preparedness activities in Cambodia, East Timor, and Vietnam. This program promotes community-based drought preparedness planning while also developing expertise in effective low-cost and innovative drought mitigation and preparedness technologies. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000, and the total provided to date is \$1,200,000.
- Flood Early Warning in the Mekong River Basin: In January 2003, USAID/OFDA and MRC, an inter-governmental river basin organization based in Laos, began an innovative demonstration project to strengthen warnings to communities most at risk to floods. The project works with the most flood-vulnerable communities in Cambodia to develop appropriate flood information. In addition, the project develops tools, methods, and protocols—with the help of local implementing partners—to enable flood-vulnerable populations to effectively prepare and respond to flood information. This five-year program began in January 2003 and ends in December 2007. Total USAID/OFDA funding to date is \$1,250,000.
- Flood Proofing for Households in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam: USAID/OFDA provided \$180,250 to support the flood proofing of homes in the poorest flood-prone villages in the Mekong Delta from September 2005 through March 2008. This was a follow-on program to the USAID/OFDA-funded U.N. Development Program (UNDP) initiative to implement a comprehensive flood preparedness program in seven provinces of central Vietnam from June 2000 through December 2004. A coastal storm early warning system implemented by the Government of Vietnam with support from USAID/OFDA and UNDP helped mitigate the impact of storms such as Typhoon Damrey in September 2005, and Typhoon Durian in December 2006. Since FY 2001, USAID/OFDA funding for flood and storm preparedness in Vietnam, including flood early warning, coastal storm early warning, and flood proofing of households totals \$2,834,250.
- Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response in Indonesia: International Medical Corps (IMC), with USAID/OFDA support, is promoting the technical, administrative, financial, and logistical capabilities of Ambulan 118, a leading Indonesian NGO, to respond rapidly and effectively to disasters in Indonesia. IMC is strengthening and expanding training in emergency relief best practices and creating a training-of-trainers program. In addition, Ambulan 118 and IMC have pre-positioned medical and non-medical equipment and supplies in the field. Through this project, medical teams from Ambulan 118 and IMC provided emergency medical care during disasters including the March and September 2007 Sumatra earthquakes, the January 2007 Jakarta flooding, and the May 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake. This project began in September 2005 and will continue through September 2008. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided \$858,722 and total funding to date is \$2,176,722.
- Indonesia Mobile Water Treatment Units: In FY 2007, as part of ongoing disaster preparedness programming in Indonesia, USAID/OFDA is providing six mobile water treatment units to USAID implementing partners for use in future humanitarian emergencies. Potable water is often a critical need in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. The total cost of the units, including transport is \$274,115.
- Conflict Preparedness Program in Mindanao, Philippines: Implemented by Save the Children/Philippines, the first phase of this initiative supported disaster preparedness activities in response to new internal displacement and provided prompt access to these populations in the conflict-affected areas of western Mindanao. The program supports an emergency response network of local NGOs and community-based groups to implement preparedness and relief activities, provide small grants to local NGOs, and create small stockpiles of locally procured relief items for emergencies. The second phase of this initiative supports returning internally displaced persons (IDPs) through livelihood interventions using seeds and tools, basic fishing equipment, and other assistance. The program also supports community activities to ensure potable water resources. Initiated in March 2003, the program responded to new displacement due to conflict in FY 2007. USAID/OFDA has provided \$375,000 to support this project in FY 2007, and total funding to date is \$1,475,000.
- Text Messaging Disaster Alert System in the Philippines: USAID/OFDA provided funding through USAID/Philippines to help the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) implement a nationwide disaster alert system. U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney and PNRC Chairman Senator Richard Gordon formally launched the alert system in January 2007 via an exchange of text messages. Text messaging is being increasingly adopted as a low-cost method for rapid mass dissemination of disaster alerts. This project will enable the PNRC to issue alerts down to sub-district level for a total investment by USAID/OFDA of just \$7,660.

- Avian Influenza Preparedness: The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reports that since 2003, the “H5N1” Avian Influenza (AI) virus killed 174 people in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. Over the past four years USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to WHO to support AI containment activities in the region, pre-positioned 10,000 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the countries most at risk, and provided funding to the American Red Cross (AmRC) to facilitate, in cooperation with host-country Red Cross societies, AI preparedness and response workshops in Cambodia and China. In FY2007, USAID’s Bureau of Global Health provided nearly \$1.4 million for AI preparedness programming in Asia via funding transferred from USAID/OFDA. USAID/OFDA is an active participant of USAID’s AI Working Group, which works with other agencies involved in AI preparedness and response, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of State, and U.S. Department of Defense. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided \$69,266 to transport PPEs to Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. USAID/OFDA funding for WHO, AmRC, and the provision of PPEs since FY 2004 totals \$690,716.

USAID/OFDA FY 2007 Preparedness and Mitigation Assistance for Asia–Pacific by Sector

Project Name	Hydro-Meteorological	Earthquake/Volcanoes	Health	Conflict	Multi-Hazard
PEER, Phase II					\$1,597,749
PROMISE	\$855,286				
PDAP					\$302,729
AFN	\$250,000				
VDAP		\$460,000			
Managing the Psychosocial Aspects of Disasters and Complex Emergencies			\$106,836		
Flood Management in the Himalayas	\$125,000				
Drought Preparedness in India and Pakistan	\$200,000				
Bangladesh Emergency Flood Preparedness	\$203,100				
Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Preparedness		\$187,556			
Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Water Supply		\$250,000			
Earthquake Risk Management Conference in Pakistan		\$25,000			
Promoting Private Sector Disaster Assistance in China					\$240,000
Climate Forecast Applications	\$250,000				
Drought Preparedness in Southeast Asia	\$500,000				
Mekong River Basin Flood Early Warning	\$20,145				
Indonesia Emergency Preparedness through IMC/Ambulan 118			\$858,722		
Indonesia Mobile Water Treatment Units	\$274,115				
Philippines Conflict Preparedness				\$375,000	
Avian Influenza Preparedness			\$69,266		
Total: \$7,150,504	\$2,677,646	\$922,556	\$1,034,824	\$375,000	\$2,140,478

USAID/OFDA Cumulative Funding for Active Programs in Asia–Pacific

Project Name	Hydro-Meteorological	Earthquake/ Volcanoes	Health	Conflict	Multi-Hazard
PEER		\$5,889,395			\$5,196,808
AUDMP					\$9,453,800
PROMISE	\$1,855,286				
PDAP					\$3,906,813
AFN	\$2,329,927				
VDAP		\$3,425,000			
Managing the Psychosocial Aspects of Disasters and Complex Emergencies			\$106,836		
Flood Management in the Himalayas	\$269,000				
Drought Preparedness in India and Pakistan	\$600,000				
Bangladesh Emergency Flood Preparedness	\$403,113				
Community Flood Forecasting in Bangladesh	\$576,977				
Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Preparedness		\$984,189			
Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Water Supply		\$250,000			
PNSN		\$66,263			
Earthquake Risk Management Conference in Pakistan		\$25,000			
Promoting Private Sector Disaster Assistance in China					\$590,000
Climate Forecast Applications	\$2,623,863				
Drought Preparedness in Southeast Asia	\$1,200,000				
Mekong River Basin Flood Early Warning	\$1,250,000				
Flood Proofing in Vietnam	\$180,250				
Indonesia Preparedness through IMC/Ambulan 118			\$2,176,722		
Indonesia Mobile Water Treatment Units	\$274,115				
Philippines Conflict Preparedness				\$1,475,000	
Philippines Text Messaging Alert System					\$7,660
Avian Influenza Preparedness			\$690,716		
Total: \$45,806,733	\$11,562,531	\$10,639,847	\$2,974,274	\$1,475,000	\$19,155,081