

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

**SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS UPDATE – MAY 2008**

**SECTOR OVERVIEW**

USAID/OFDA is at the forefront of the humanitarian community's shelter and settlements activities, all of which revolve around a common goal: the recovery of the physical places where people live, interact, and often work. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$18 million in humanitarian shelter assistance and shelter-related risk reduction activities in nearly 20 countries, including Afghanistan, East Timor, Lebanon, Pakistan, Peru, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. USAID/OFDA also continues to contribute to the broader shelter and settlements strategic framework within the international humanitarian community.

**AFGHANISTAN: SHELTER, BASIC SERVICES, AND URBAN RECOVERY MANAGEMENT**

The Kabul Area Shelter and Settlements (KASS) project is the largest recent shelter and settlements project to which USAID/OFDA has provided technical assistance. USAID/OFDA worked closely with USAID/Afghanistan, the Kabul Municipality, and implementing partner CARE to complete the multi-faceted project in October 2007. Working in selected districts of Kabul, USAID/OFDA provided shelter assistance to nearly 3,800 households, as well as latrines, potable water, drainage, gravel roads, livelihood generation projects, and training programs in health, sanitation, protection, and seismic hazard mitigation. The KASS project provides the humanitarian community with the first replicable model for large-scale, urban, and post-disaster shelter and settlement interventions, and is an example of how to address wide-scale urban shelter and service delivery challenges. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA will build on the KASS experience by supporting a KASS-2 program featuring transitional shelter assistance to approximately 12,400 households in Kabul and assisting all residents in the project areas through the improvement of urban service infrastructure. The KASS-2 program will also feature a two-year capacity building project throughout the Kabul area.



*USAID/OFDA supported the construction of this and other seismic-resistant transitional shelters in Kabul (Charles Setchell, USAID).*

**PERU: BUILDING BACK BETTER AND LEARNING TO LIVE WITH RISK**

On August 15, 2007, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Peru, affecting approximately 652,000 people, damaging or destroying a total of 137,000 houses, and causing destruction in coastal and mountainous areas. USAID/OFDA responded with nearly \$2.6 million, including \$325,000 for shelter and settlements programs and more than 1,100 rolls of plastic sheeting.

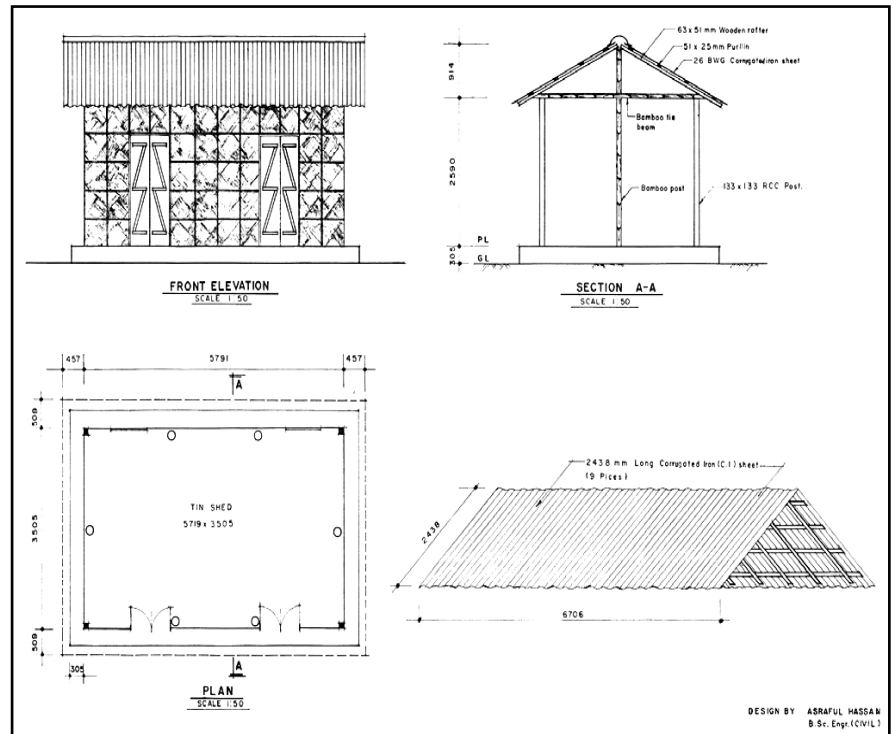
In the weeks following the earthquake, the Government of Peru (GOP) established a Fund for the Reconstruction of the South (FORSUR), and announced that reconstruction would begin within three months and end in mid-2008. At USAID/Peru's request, USAID/OFDA returned to Peru in November and December 2007 to meet with FORSUR officials to support the rapid formulation and implementation of a strategic recovery and reconstruction program, including the GOP's provision of \$2,000 shelter rebuilding grants to earthquake-affected families. In collaboration with USAID/Peru, other donors, and the GOP, USAID/OFDA designed a seismic hazard awareness and public information program, including

hands-on training in seismic-resistant construction of transitional shelter. Implementing partner CARE will lead the program, which is scheduled to commence in summer 2008.

## BANGLADESH: TRANSITIONAL SHELTER AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

On November 15, 2007, Cyclone Sidr hit the coast of Bangladesh, affecting 9 million people and killing more than 3,400 individuals. Community cyclone shelters and effective early warning systems saved thousands of lives, but homes and livelihoods sustained significant damage. According to the Government of Bangladesh (GOB), the cyclone damaged nearly 1.5 million houses.

Although self-recovery efforts and GOB and international assistance were rapid, several factors, including significant damage and extreme poverty, increased the risks for ill-equipped families facing the summer monsoon season and future storms. In close consultation with USAID/Bangladesh, USAID/OFDA allocated approximately \$3.5 million to support shelter and settlement activities, including a 2,500-household transitional shelter project implemented by non-governmental partners Catholic Relief Services and Caritas. This project is incorporating the fundamentals of an established shelter design, integrating construction measures to mitigate wind and flood impacts, and providing training for construction engineers to adopt risk-reduction techniques. The project will assist Bangladeshi families to mitigate a myriad of risks.



USAID/OFDA partners have revised the above shelter design by the Grameen Bank to mitigate wind and flood impacts (courtesy of Grameen Bank).

## UPCOMING SECTOR ACTIVITIES

- On May 21, 2008, USAID/OFDA plans to co-host a workshop on Timber Guidelines Peer Review with the International Federation of the Red Cross, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and InterAction.
- USAID/OFDA is planning to support an upcoming shelter and settlements workshop in fall 2008. The workshop will focus on transitional shelter as a means of bridging the gap between relief and reconstruction; address underlying causes of shelter vulnerability; build greater capacity within the shelter sector through clear guidelines, principles, and information resources; and establish a shelter community that will meet regularly and provide shelter training to interested humanitarian staff.
- USAID/OFDA plans to publish an article on settlement-based disaster risk reduction programs in Bamako, Mali, for InterAction's publication, *Monday Developments*.
- USAID/OFDA anticipates participating in the revision of the Sphere Project Handbook chapter on shelter and settlements.
- USAID/OFDA plans to support an electronic scrapbook on better shelter practice and a shelter and settlements network for humanitarian organizations based in North America.