

PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PIDM)

BACKGROUND

- Every year droughts, floods, and typhoons kill and displace thousands of people across Asia and the Pacific Islands. USAID/OFDA is committed to assisting countries and their communities in saving lives and reducing the human and economic impacts of natural disasters through targeted disaster preparedness and mitigation programs.
- Since 1995, USAID/OFDA has supported PIDM implemented by The Asia Foundation as part of its regional preparedness and mitigation strategy. 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. The second phase includes two additional countries: the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- The program is designed to improve the capacities of local, national, and regional disaster management agencies and communities; develop and adapt training materials relevant to the region; and strengthen the capacity of Pacific nations to organize and conduct their own national disaster management training programs.



Participants collaborate in a regional exercise management course (photo courtesy of Kathryn Hawley, The Asia Foundation).

PROGRAM UPDATE

- The first phase of PIDM (1995–2003) worked to improve disaster management training in multiple South Pacific nations. From 2004 to 2008, Phase II of PIDM continues activities begun in the initial countries, with the addition of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- In Phase II, The Asia Foundation aims to further develop USAID/OFDA training courses, expand the cadre of qualified local trainers for these courses, encourage greater host-country contribution and national ownership for the courses, and strengthen regional linkages with other relevant disaster management and risk reduction training agencies.
- PIDM has created regional mechanisms for cooperation and mutual assistance as well as established partnerships among regional disaster management training assistance providers.
- At the national level, PIDM has worked to integrate disaster management training into educational and institution curricula, helping individual countries to organize and conduct disaster management training at the national level.
- During the last 7 years, PIDM has provided regional disaster management training to hundreds of professionals, while national courses in each of the target countries have trained others across 13 Pacific countries. PIDM participants include top disaster management officials in the region.

Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA PIDM Assistance to the Pacific Islands \$544,943
Total FY 1998 – FY 2006 USAID/OFDA PIDM Assistance to the Pacific Islands \$3,605,084