



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

INDIA – Disaster Preparedness

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

January 9, 2004

This fact sheet updates Fact Sheet #1, FY 2003, dated March 5, 2003.

SUMMARY

- USAID/OFDA is committed to assisting in the development of preparedness, mitigation, and emergency response capacities in India. To date, USAID/OFDA’s current disaster preparedness programs in India total more than \$2.9 million. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1 million in humanitarian assistance to mitigate the effects of drought in Rajasthan State in FY 2003. Substantial additional support for disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts is provided by USAID/India. A summary of USAID/OFDA’s current disaster preparedness assistance is listed below.

USAID/OFDA RELIEF ASSISTANCE

- During 2002, insufficient and erratic monsoons resulted in drought conditions in 14 Indian states, particularly in Rajasthan, one of the country's poorest states. According to USAID/India, the drought affected more than 43 million people in 40,689 villages of Rajasthan. On January 16, 2003, U.S. Chargé d' Affaires Albert A. Thibault issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the drought. USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to help meet the emergency needs of drought victims. USAID/OFDA then provided an additional \$503,629 to Catholic Relief Services, \$264,225 to World Vision, and \$254,685 to Lutheran World Relief to implement drought relief and mitigation projects in Rajasthan. **\$1,072,539**

USAID/OFDA PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

- Incident Command System (ICS) Training: Implemented through an interagency agreement between USAID and the U.S. Forest Service, this capacity-building program provides ICS training and simulation exercises at the national and state levels in India and the region. The program also provides technical assistance and training to government and non-government disaster managers to develop coordinated disaster response planning. This activity started in April 2002 and will continue until September 2006. In FY 2002, USAID/OFDA provided \$906,712 and USAID/India contributed \$150,000 for the project. In FY 2003, USAID/India provided an additional \$150,000. To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$800,000. Total USAID/OFDA funding for the program amounts to more than \$1.7 million **\$1,706,712**
- India Earthquake Safety Initiative: Implemented by Geohazards International, the program conducts risk assessments and risk reduction activities in 20 of India’s most earthquake-prone urban areas and conducts mitigation activities in five of those areas. The program began in September 2002 and will continue until October 2005. To date, the total USAID/India funding commitment is \$846,799, and the total USAID/OFDA funding is \$650,000 **\$650,000**
- Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), Phase II: The PEER program aims to create a large pool of trained instructors from emergency response agencies who will in turn train others from their organization. Phase II of PEER began in March 2003 and will continue through 2008. PEER is currently managed by the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) based in Nepal and is operational in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. PEER focuses on first responder training, collapsed structure search and rescue, and the development of hospital preparedness for mass casualty events. In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA contributed \$1,500,000 for PEER programs throughout the Asia region, and in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided \$650,000. To date total PEER Phase II funding amounts to \$2,150,000 **\$430,000***
- Flood and Drought Mitigation Strategies in South Asia: Through this program, implemented by the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition, USAID/OFDA supports the utilization of flood and drought coping strategies developed by local communities in India and Nepal and recommends new and more effective strategies for reducing vulnerabilities. The program began in September 2002 and will continue until March 2004. Total funding to date is \$299,140 **\$150,000***

- **Regional Cooperation in Flood Forecasting and Prevention:** The program brings together decision-makers and technical personnel from the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region to promote collaboration and share information related to flood management, flood early-warning systems, and broader trans-boundary water issues in the region. Forums are hosted by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Consultative teams make assessments of the collaborating national institutions and recommend linkages and mechanisms required for a regional flood-information system. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan participate in the program, which began in November 2001 and will continue through March 2004. The U.S. Department of State’s Regional Environment Office provided \$100,000 for the program’s current phase that started in September 2002. Total USAID/OFDA funding to date is \$250,860 **\$35,800***

**Describes approximate spending for India based on total project cost for all countries as of January 9, 2004.*

USAID/OFDA FY 2003 RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO INDIA..... \$1,072,539

USAID/OFDA ONGOING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ASSISTANCE TO INDIA.....\$2,972,512[†]

[†]Includes FY 2004 funding to date as of January 9, 2004.