

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN THE PHILIPPINES

### BACKGROUND

- The Philippines is vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards, such as typhoons, periodic droughts, earthquakes, and floods.
- In addition to natural hazards, an ongoing conflict in the southern Philippines has displaced hundreds of thousands of people over the last three decades. In 2003, the conflict displaced an estimated 400,000 people, largely from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. While the majority of the displaced families have now returned home, civilians continue to be affected by sporadic fighting.

### PROGRAM UPDATE – PHILIPPINES

- Mindanao Emergency Response Network (MERN): Implemented by Save the Children/Philippines (SCF/P), this program uses MERN's 40 participating local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to work collectively in preparedness and relief activities, has created small stockpiles of locally procured relief items for emergencies, livelihood recovery for returning displaced persons, and provides small grants to MERN members for humanitarian assistance. Initiated in March 2003, funding for this program will continue until June 2007. Additionally, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 to SCF/P in FY 2006 for community-based disaster preparedness in Southern Leyte Province. USAID/OFDA funding for this project totals \$1.1 million since March 2003.



Save the Children programs in the Philippines support safe community spaces for conflict-affected families.

### PROGRAM UPDATE – REGIONAL PROGRAMS

- Climate Forecast Applications (CFA): Since 1998, USAID/OFDA has supported the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center's (ADPC) activities to promote understanding of and preparation for extreme climate events. The current five-year project (FY 2003-FY 2008) seeks to strengthen the capability of Asian countries, including the Philippines, to manage and reduce the impacts of climate fluctuations through targeted demonstration projects and community participation. The CFA program also mobilizes communities to utilize climate forecast data for agriculture, water resource management, and other sectors sensitive to climate variability. In FY 2006, including Philippines and Indonesia, USAID/OFDA contributed \$325,000, and total project funding to date is approximately \$2.3 million.
- Program for Enhanced Emergency Response (PEER), Phase II: This five-year activity includes training programs for medical first responders, collapsed structure search and rescue, and mass casualty training for hospitals. Initiated in March 2003 and implemented by the National Society of Earthquake Technology (Nepal), the program will continue through March 2008. USAID/OFDA's FY 2006 contribution to PEER was \$1.5 million for 6 countries. Total project funding amounts to more than \$9.4 million since FY 1998.
- Program for Hydro-Meteorological Risk Mitigation in Asian Cities (PROMISE): USAID/OFDA is supporting ADPC's efforts to increase community preparedness and capacity for managing hydro-meteorological disasters, with an initial pilot project in Dagupan City, a low-lying coastal delta area of Luzon Province vulnerable to flooding. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to PROMISE to 5 countries, including Philippines.