

ASIA FLOOD NETWORK (AFN)

BACKGROUND

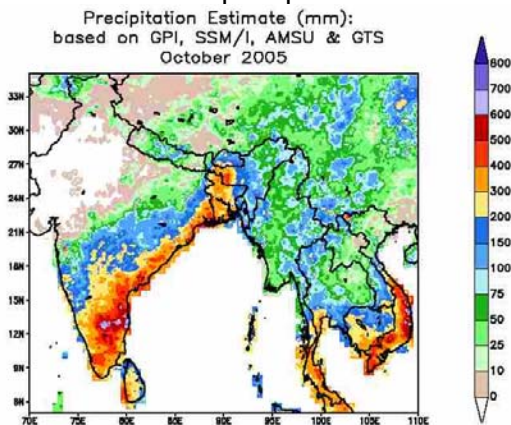
- Hydro-meteorological hazards—such as floods, droughts and cyclones—affect more people in Asia than other types of natural disasters. Floods, in particular, affect millions of people every year, with devastating effects on lives and livelihoods. USAID/OFDA is committed to saving lives and reducing the socio-economic impact of floods through targeted flood preparedness and mitigation programming.
- AFN, a flood mitigation initiative in Asia, is jointly implemented by USAID/OFDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in collaboration with regional partners in Asia. AFN is expected to continue through August 2008.
- Since 2001, USAID/OFDA has supported AFN to strengthen the capacity of regional and national institutions in climate, weather, and hydrological forecasting. Through AFN, USAID/OFDA and regional partners directly focus on reducing the vulnerability of high-risk communities to hydro-meteorological hazards by promoting information sharing of hydro-meteorological data and information on trans-boundary river basins.
- Targeting the flood-prone Mekong and the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Megna (GBM) river basins, U.S. Government (USG) and regional partners provide 24-hour satellite estimates and short-term forecasts of rainfall over the region. USAID/OFDA and partners also work to advance the hydro-meteorological modeling of watershed and river deltas where data are scarce. Improving the dissemination of forecast and warning information to users and at-risk populations is also a key objective.



Heavy rains flood communities in Bihar, India.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- Under AFN, in collaboration with regional organizations—the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Mekong River Commission (MRC)—USAID/OFDA, NOAA, and USGS have conducted workshops in 2005, including flash flood forecasting and warning systems, the use of radio and internet to disseminate information in remote areas, and satellite-based precipitation estimation and forecasting.
- From October 22 to 28, 2005, USAID/OFDA, in cooperation with ICIMOD, the Chinese Meteorological Agency, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Government of Norway, sponsored an international workshop in Lhasa, Tibet, on preparedness, mitigation, and management of flash floods in the context of sustainable development. The workshop was hosted by ICIMOD, whose member countries in attendance—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan—presented the status of flash flood management in their respective countries. In addition, international hydro-meteorological experts demonstrated systems and technologies for forecasting, early warning, and the mitigation of flash floods.



NOAA provides satellite precipitation estimates, including the estimate above.

Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA AFN Assistance to Asia..... \$500,000
Total FY 2003–2006 USAID/OFDA AFN Assistance to Asia..... \$2,000,000*

* Total project funding is estimated at \$2,500,000 through 2008.

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