

Asia and the Pacific



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India

Earthquake

On March 29, 1999, an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale struck northern India. The epicenter of the earthquake was in the Chamoli District of Uttar Pradesh, approximately 295 km north-east of Delhi and 120 km from the Chinese and Nepali borders. Damage from the earthquake was found in six different districts. On March 31, a tremor measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale occurred in the quake-affected districts, causing additional infrastructure damage. The Disaster Coordinator in the Government of India's Ministry of Agriculture estimated that 100 people were killed and 413 were injured. In addition, 7,364 homes were destroyed and 12,000 dwellings were damaged. In Chamoli District, the area most impacted by the earthquake, press reports indicated that 95% of all buildings sustained structural damage.

On March 31, U.S. Ambassador Richard F. Celeste declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake and aftershocks. BHR/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through USAID/New Delhi to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to support the immediate relief needs of the earthquake victims. Following subsequent tremors, BHR/OFDA provided \$46,600 through the U.S. Embassy to IFRC to purchase and distribute relief supplies (tarpaulins and blankets) for the continuing emergency needs of the victims in Uttar Pradesh.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$71,600

Indonesia

Complex Emergency

Political uncertainties and acute economic crisis began to foster growing unrest throughout the entire archipelago of Indonesian islands in 1998. In addition, Indonesia was confronted with escalating and increasingly violent and widespread sectarian and ethnic conflicts. Conflicts continued into 1999, and from January - September 1999, conflicts in Ambon,

West Kalimantan, East Timor, Aceh, and Irian Jaya caused hundreds of deaths and the displacement of more than 500,000 people.

On May 7, 1999, U.S. Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy declared a disaster in response to the conflict developing throughout Indonesia. BHR/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through USAID/Jakarta to WVUS to assist more than 21,000 people being sheltered in evacuation centers in Pomtianak and Singkawang in West Kalimantan. WVUS worked in conjunction with the Government of Indonesia (GOI) to provide family survival kits, assist with the construction of temporary shelters, and manage and monitor food distribution for the shelters.

As part of BHR/OFDA's continuing efforts to monitor the situation in Indonesia, BHR/OFDA Asia regional advisors traveled in June and July to Aceh Utara, East and West Timor, and West Kalimantan to assess current and future humanitarian needs. The regional advisors presented their assessment findings to USAID/Jakarta in order to promote a coordinated, effective, and appropriate response to ongoing humanitarian issues. As a result of the assessment, BHR/OFDA provided a grant in July for \$165,000 to Yayasan Dian Desa, a local NGO. The grant funded the construction of wells and latrines along the border of West and East Timor in anticipation of a large outpouring of people from East Timor.

Following an overwhelming U.N.-supported vote for independence from Indonesia on August 30, pro-integrationist militias in East Timor rampaged through and plundered several towns. Thousands of civilians were killed in the ensuing violence. More than 450,000 East Timorese were displaced from their homes, including approximately 200,000 IDPs who fled to the surrounding hills and jungles of East Timor and another 250,000 who fled to West Timor and other areas of Indonesia. Homes and private assets on the island, including U.N. and NGO offices, were pillaged or burned by militia forces during the rampage. Food stocks were also looted or burned. On September 15, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to send a peacekeeping force (totaling approximately 7,500 troops) to East Timor. The GOI officially handed East Timor over to the International Force for East

Timor (INTERFET) on September 27, paving the way for international assistance and the elimination of militia activity.

In response to the violence and destruction in East Timor, BHR/OFDA dispatched regional advisors from Manila and a program officer to Jakarta to coordinate assistance with international donors, the U.N., the U.S. Embassy, and USAID/Jakarta. The advisors also served as liaisons with implementing relief partners. In addition, BHR/OFDA provided 1,200,000 sq.ft. of plastic sheeting, 20,000 blankets, and 5,200 five-gallon water containers, all of which arrived in country on September 22. BHR/OFDA also funded the commercial transport of 300,000 humanitarian daily rations (HDRs) donated by DOD. The HDRs arrived in Darwin, Australia—the initial base for relief operations—on September 18, at a cost of \$1.2 million. WFP and INTERFET airdropped approximately 180,000 DOD-provided HDRs to IDPs, while WFP stockpiled the remaining HDRs for future use in other areas of Indonesia. BHR/OFDA also provided approximately \$11 million in additional, immediate relief assistance in FY 2000.

In FY 1999, BHR/FFP provided 59,620 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance (comprised of rice, corn, and beans) through grants to CARE, CRS, Church World Services, Mercy Corps International (MCI), and WVUS for programs throughout Indonesia. This assistance included 4,000 MT of corn provided to WFP in response to the crisis in East Timor. Total BHR/FFP assistance to Indonesia was valued at nearly \$34.6 million. BHR/OTI provided more than \$17 million in FY 1999 funds for programs in Indonesia, including \$1.4 million for programs in East Timor. All of BHR/OTI's \$1.4 million in funding for both Indonesia and East Timor were spent on their core areas of focus: civil society, media, civil-military relations, and governance. All activities were related to political transition initiatives in Indonesia.

USAID/Jakarta provided more than \$1.1 million in grants to the National Cooperative Business Association, WVUS, ACF, and CARE. This funding was used for emergency food and health programs in Ambon, East Timor, and West Kalimantan.

State/PRM provided \$5.1 million to interna-

tional organizations to support emergency operations at the onset of the East Timor crisis. This funding was allocated to UNHCR, ICRC, WFP, and UNOCHA.

DOD donated 300,000 HDRs (mentioned above), valued at \$1.3 million, to WFP for airdrop operations to isolated populations in East Timor. DOD provided the transportation of Portuguese relief commodities and donated 20 refurbished trucks for transportation to WFP. DOD also provided personnel to INTERFET to assist with intelligence gathering, communications, logistics, coordination, and airlift capability.

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| <i>BHR/OFDA Assistance</i> | <i>\$1,657,125</i> |
| <i>Other USG Assistance</i> | <i>\$60,571,049</i> |
| <i>Total USG Assistance</i> | <i>\$62,228,174</i> |

Malaysia

Health Emergency

In early March 1999, the Government of Malaysia's (GOM) Ministry of Health, frustrated at its limited success in containing an outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis that had been raging for five months, submitted patient samples to the CDC. CDC medical researchers detected among a subset of the patient samples a deadly virus related to the Hendra virus (formerly known as equine morbillivirus, first detected in Australia in 1994).

On March 19, BHR/OFDA was alerted to a pending disaster declaration for the disease outbreak in Malaysia. As a result of the outbreak, 104 people died and 258 were directly affected. Based on a specific request from U.S. Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe, BHR/OFDA coordinated the deployment of an eight-person Outbreak Investigation and Control Team from the CDC. Funding for the team was covered under a pre-existing inter-agency agreement between BHR/OFDA and CDC's Office of International and Refugee Health. BHR/OFDA provided \$14,647 to fund the purchase of masks and other respiratory equipment for GOM personnel, including the hospital staff of the Ministry of Health, officers and technicians within Veterinary Services,

and Ministry of Defense personnel.

On March 22, BHR/OFDA received a disaster declaration from Ambassador Pascoe, and part of the CDC team arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, to begin making contact with the Ministry of Health and other international disease experts. The GOM undertook a number of actions to deter the spread of the disease, including the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of pigs and mass vaccinations against Japanese Encephalitis.

The mass pig extermination affected thousands of families and farm workers whose livelihoods depended on the swine industry. As relief to the affected pig farmers, BHR/OFDA provided \$5,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur to the Lion's Club of Malaysia's Japanese Encephalitis Family Support Fund. The fund focused on helping children and elderly adversely affected by the viral outbreak.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$19,647

North Korea

Food/Health Emergency

Since 1995, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has suffered from significant food shortages due to poor resource planning, lack of agricultural inputs, and general economic decline. Chronic and systemic deficiencies, particularly in the agriculture and health sectors, have been exacerbated by several consecutive years of natural disasters that have left millions of people vulnerable to malnutrition and diseases.

Due to an increased harvest and considerable amounts of food, medicine, and health equipment donated by the international community, a moderate improvement in the DPRK's overall humanitarian situation was realized during FY 1999. Nonetheless, a November 1998 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply assessment indicated that the country's food and health situation remained precarious. According to this assessment, the DPRK entered 1999 requiring 1.05 million MT of food assistance.

The U.N. launched its fifth consolidated appeal for the DPRK in December 1998, requesting \$275 million in international donor assistance. The larg-

est portion of the appeal consisted of a request from WFP for \$124 million to provide 208,815 MT of food aid, in addition to 324,700 MT of food commodities already secured, to feed approximately 5.4 million vulnerable people.

On March 25, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Charles Kartman declared a disaster due to the continuing and severe food shortages and the near total collapse of the DPRK's health care system. In response to the disaster declaration, BHR/OFDA provided \$52,992 to CARE for an emergency assessment to examine the utility of and design for a pilot potato production project. In addition, BHR/OFDA provided \$290,000 to airlift 220,000 pounds of donated seed potatoes to Pyongyang from Colorado. The seed potatoes were then transported to cooperative farms in North Korea by a consortium of U.S. PVOs. The consortium used the seed potatoes as part of an innovative food production program aimed at improving food security at the community level.

In FY 1999, BHR/FFP provided 85,000 MT of corn-soy blend, rice, and vegetable oil through the WFP appeal. This emergency food assistance was valued at \$46.6 million.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$342,992
Other USG Assistance \$46,665,100
Total USG Assistance \$47,008,092

Pakistan

Cyclone

On May 20, 1999, a cyclone struck the coastal areas of southern Pakistan. The resulting high winds and waters caused more than 100 deaths and affected 650,000 inhabitants. In addition, infrastructure damage and livestock losses were significant. On May 25, U.S. Ambassador William B. Milam declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the cyclone. BHR/OFDA provided \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad to the Edhi Foundation, a local NGO operating in the region. The funds were used to provide emergency food, cooking utensils, and fuel to victims of the cyclone.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$25,000