

Philippines

Typhoon

On October 21, 1998, Typhoon Loleng struck the province of Cataduanes and continued on into the eastern, southeastern, and north-central sections of the island of Luzon. Cataduanes, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, and Quezon were the provinces most severely damaged by high winds and heavy rains. The provinces of Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Viscaya, Isabela, and portions of Ilocos Norte were also affected. Officials of the Government of the Philippines reported that 161 people were killed, 141 injured, and 18 missing. According to the Philippine National Red Cross, more than 297,000 families were affected by the typhoon. The National Disaster Coordinating Council estimated that Typhoon Loleng caused approximately \$60.5 million worth of damage to agriculture and infrastructure in the affected provinces.

On October 27, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Thomas C. Hubbard declared a disaster due to the effects of the typhoon. BHR/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through USAID/Manila to the Philippine National Red Cross. The assistance was used to distribute rice, canned goods, and ready-to-eat foods to meet the immediate relief needs of the typhoon's victims.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

Southeast/East Asia Floods

During the months of June, July, and August 1999, unusually heavy monsoon rains compounded by Typhoon Olga, which struck in early August, caused severe flooding in many of the countries of Southeast and East Asia. In August 1999, BHR/OFDA received disaster declarations from the U.S. Ambassadors to Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Cambodia

Heavy monsoon and typhoon rains in Kampot Province caused severe flooding during August 1999. More than 40,000 inhabitants were affected, hundreds of livestock killed, 10,000 hectares of rice paddies destroyed, and several villages left isolated. On August 13, U.S. Ambassador Kent M. Wiedemann declared a disaster for flooding in the southern regions of Cambodia. BHR/OFDA provided \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh to the American Red Cross in support of IFRC's relief programs. IFRC supplied more than 7,000 household kits to flood victims. The kits consisted of shelter repair materials, cooking utensils, clothing, and personal hygiene items.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

China

Heavy monsoon rains that started in mid-June and were compounded by Typhoon Olga led to severe flooding along the upper and middle Yangtze River during August 1999. According to the Chinese Red Cross, 725 people were killed and an estimated 58.9 million people were affected as a result of the flooding, including approximately 5.5 million inhabitants who were rendered homeless. On August 4, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James Moriarty declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. BHR/OFDA responded by providing \$500,000 to IFRC/Geneva in support of its international appeal for flood victims in the southern Yangtze River Valley. BHR/OFDA funding was used to help meet the emergency water, sanitation, food, clothing, and shelter needs of flood victims. BHR/OFDA also provided \$53,092 to replenish plastic sheeting and water container stockpiles.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$553,092



Philippines

Heavy monsoon rains in late July and early August caused severe flooding and landslides. Sections of Manila and nearby suburbs were submerged in waist-deep water, and rising waters breached the La Mesa Dam in Quezon. The Government of the Philippines reported 59 people dead, 50 missing, and more than 1.5 million affected by the floods. In addition, the National Disaster Coordinating Council in Manila reported that 264 houses were destroyed and 2,114 were damaged. On August 5, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Terry A. Breese declared a disaster due to the severe flooding in Rizal Province and Manila. BHR/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through USAID/Manila to the Philippine National Red Cross to meet the emergency relief needs of flood victims.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

Republic of Korea

Between August 2-4, 1999, torrential rains associated with Typhoon Olga caused flooding throughout the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Government of the ROK reported that the floods left 31 people dead, 21 missing, and 20,000 homeless. Additionally, 35,000 hectares of agricultural land were inundated. On August 4, U.S. Ambassador Stephen W. Bosworth declared a disaster for the flood-affected regions. BHR/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to the Korean National Disaster Relief Committee. The funds were used to provide temporary shelter to those displaced by the flooding.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

Thailand

During August 1999, heavy rains caused significant flooding in the Chantaburi and Trat provinces of Thailand. Seven people died in the flooding, and more than 90,000 people were affected by damage or destruction to 400 homes, 11,000 hectares of orchards, 32,000 fish ponds, and 15 bridges. On August 4,

U.S. Ambassador Richard E. Hecklinger declared a disaster due to the extensive damage caused by the flooding. BHR/OFDA provided \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to the Government of Thailand's Ministry of Interior to procure relief items to meet the emergency relief needs of flood victims.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

Vietnam

Heavy rainfall during the end of July 1999 caused what the Government of Vietnam (GVN) reported as the worst flooding to strike Binh Thuan and several adjacent southern provinces in 15 years. The GVN estimated that at least 30 people were killed and 43 were missing. In addition, 3,668 houses were destroyed. The flooding caused significant damage to bridges, roads, rural health clinics, and water systems. On August 4, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Dennis G. Harter declared a disaster due to the severe flooding in southern Vietnam. BHR/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi to the IFRC for the local purchase of blankets, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, and shelter materials for flood-affected families.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

Taiwan Earthquake

On September 21, 1999, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale struck the central island region of Taiwan. The initial earthquake was followed by a series of aftershocks, including one on September 26 that measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale. The earthquake's epicenter was located 12 km west of Sun-Moon Lake in rural Nantou County. The earthquake caused substantial damage to housing and infrastructure, especially in the cities of Tachung and Nantou. Numerous high-rise structures collapsed or were rendered uninhabitable, including buildings in Tachung, Chunghua, and Yunlin counties. By October 15, the IFRC estimated that 2,300 people were killed and





(photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

9,000 injured. In addition, Taiwan authorities estimated that more than 82,000 housing units were partially or totally destroyed, and some 380,000 people were left homeless following the earthquake. Total damages from the earthquake were estimated at \$9.2 billion.

On September 21, Taiwan authorities formally requested SAR assistance through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), which manages the USG's unofficial bilateral relations with Taiwan. BHR/OFDA responded to the request by providing \$25,000 through AIT to the Taiwan Red Cross and by activating an urban SAR team. On September 21, BHR/OFDA deployed a USAID/DART, including a 19-person advance team and a 71-person SAR team from Fairfax County, Virginia. Two structural engineers from the Miami-Dade, Florida Fire Rescue Department were also deployed on September 21. The SAR component of the USAID/DART began its operations on September 22 in the city of Toului. Two Fairfax County and two Miami-Dade SAR personnel also joined the U.N.'s On-Site Operations and Coordination Center in an advisory and safety capacity.

After the rescue of a 32-year-old male on September 23 by the SAR component of the USAID/DART,

international SAR efforts began to scale back. Following consultations with local emergency response officials, the USAID/DART team started its demobilization process on September 26. The USAID/DART team was re-mobilized following the strong aftershock on September 26; however, local authorities soon determined that additional international SAR assistance was not required, and all USAID/SAR personnel subsequently departed Taiwan on September 28. The total cost of the USAID/DART/SAR deployment was more than \$2.1 million. Of this total, nearly \$1.4 million was funded by BHR/OFDA in FY 1999, and \$752,117 was funded in FY 2000.

In response to a request from AIT, DOD provided 1,500 bodybags to local authorities. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) sent a team to Taiwan to collect damage data on dams near the earthquake epicenter and to evaluate the dams' resilience during a large earthquake. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, under an existing Memorandum of Understanding with Taiwan authorities, sent a team of three dam safety experts to conduct safety evaluations of affected dams. As a follow up to SAR assistance, BHR/OFDA provided \$20,000 in FY 2000 to fund a USGS technical team

to visit Taiwan to discuss the earthquake event and examine options for collaboration on future mitigation activities.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$1,411,362
Other USG Assistance \$165,000
Total USG Assistance \$1,576,362

Vietnam

Storm/Floods

During November 1998, three severe tropical storms—Chip, Dawn, and Elvis—struck the coast of central and southern Vietnam, inflicting heavy losses on people and property. The most severely affected prov-

inces were Quang Tri, Quang Binh, Thuan Thien, Hue Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Dac Lac, and Binh Thuan. The Vietnamese Central Committee for Storm and Flood Controls estimated that 267 people were killed, 470,000 houses flooded, and 56,000 hectares of rice fields inundated. The IFRC determined that nearly 2.4 million people were adversely affected by the flooding. Total economic losses were estimated at \$48 million.

On November 30, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Douglas Peterson declared a disaster in response to the heavy rains and severe flooding. BHR/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi to the IFRC for the purchase and delivery of emergency housing, clothing, and cooking utensils. In response to a request for additional assistance, BHR/



Flooding left this village under water, destroying homes and livestock (photo by IFRC).

OFDA provided \$200,000 through the U.S. Embassy to the IFRC for the local procurement of emergency commodities, including shelter materials, blankets, mosquito nets, and cooking utensils. BHR/OFDA also provided \$171,000 through the U.S. Embassy to UNDP to distribute rice and maize seeds to vulnerable farming families in Quang Tri, Quang Binh, and Ha Thin provinces. This seed project responded to the immediate needs of the most seriously affected populations by offering a replacement rice crop. In addition, the project incorporated disaster mitigation concepts into the disaster response by creating seed banks to increase future food security.

BHR/OFDA Assistance \$396,000

