



Heavy rainfall during September 2001 inundated western Bangladesh, causing extensive flood damage that affected millions of people (photo by Golam Kabir, USAID/Bangladesh).

crops, several roads (including major trade routes to India), shrimp cultivation ponds, and personal property such as household items, food supplies, seeds, and livestock. In addition, the floodwaters inundated and widely contaminated tube wells, the main source of drinking water in the affected areas.

On October 4, U.S. Ambassador Mary Ann Peters declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy to CARE in support of a program to provide emergency food assistance and potable water to flood victims. On October 11, an airlift of USAID/OFDA-funded relief commodities arrived in Dhaka, at a total procurement and transport cost of \$235,093. The airlift included 10 Zodiac boats (used to conduct assessments and distribute food and potable water), 391,680 sq. ft of plastic sheeting, two large-capacity water purification units, and 10,000 collapsible five-gallon water containers. These commodities were consigned to CARE and WVI. In addition to the airlifted relief commodities, two USAID/OFDA-provided water purification units,

consigned to CARE in 1998, were reused in the disaster response.

In mid-October, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor visited Bangladesh to consult with USAID/Bangladesh staff who conducted damage and needs assessments following USAID/OFDA's initial response. Based on the recommendations from these assessments, USAID/OFDA provided another \$600,000 through USAID/Bangladesh to CARE and WVI to support emergency food assistance to 70,000 severely affected families.

In addition to USAID/OFDA emergency assistance, USAID/FFP redirected food commodities, valued at \$150,000, from its P.L. 480 Title II development program, to support a CARE project that distributed food packages to 35,000 flood-affected families.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$860,093
Other USG Assistance\$150,000
Total USG Assistance\$1,010,093