

casts as well as forecasts of the sea-level height in the Bay of Bengal that controls drainage of floodwaters from the country. The technology is being transferred to local institutions, and significant efforts are underway to ensure the application of the resulting forecast information.

In Vietnam, USAID/OFDA supports flood preparedness efforts through a \$994,000, four-year grant to UNDP to develop a flood early-warning system and enhance flood basin mapping in central Vietnam. USAID/OFDA also funds a three-year, \$1.4 million project, implemented by UNDP, to assist the Government of Vietnam in establishing a radio-based coastal storm early warning system for fishing boats at sea.

Initiatives such as these are critical in mitigating the impact of future hydro-meteorological disaster events. According to recent scientific studies, floods and drought are expected to increase in frequency and intensity in the future. These USAID/OFDA-supported initiatives empower disaster-prone countries to mitigate, prepare for, and respond more effectively to extreme hydro-meteorological disasters, thereby reducing loss of life as well as property, and curtailing the need for substantial international disaster assistance in the coming years.

—Amy Tohill-Stull

INDONESIA

COMPLEX EMERGENCY

During FY 2001, civil strife and population displacement, exacerbated by Indonesia's recent political and economic crises, continued in the provinces of Maluku, North Maluku, Central Sulawesi, Central and West Kalimantan, Aceh, West Timor, and Irian Jaya. In the Moluccas and Central Sulawesi regions, violent conflict occurred between Christian and Muslim militias. In Central Kalimantan, ethnic divisions and migrant issues led to outbreaks of violence, and in the provinces of Aceh and Irian Jaya, violence occurred between separatist groups and the Government of Indonesia (GOI). WFP reported that, as a result of these conflicts, more than 1.3 million people were internally displaced throughout Indonesia at the end of FY 2001.

On July 23, 2001, Megawati Sukarnoputri succeeded Abdurrahman Wahid as the President of Indonesia. The Megawati government stated its intention to resolve the issue of IDPs within Indonesia by the end of 2002.

Maluku and North Maluku

Since 1999, the conflict in the Moluccas has left more than 4,000 people dead and destroyed homes, shops, places of worship, and public buildings. Sectarian conflict during FY 2001 led to continued population displacement and the declaration of a "state of

civil emergency" for the region. In addition, public services, such as health, transportation, education, water, and sanitation, continued to be disrupted. According to September 2001 WFP estimates, more than 413,000 IDPs remained in the Moluccas.

Central Sulawesi

Central Sulawesi Province has experienced more than three years of sectarian conflict between Christian and Muslim militias, including those from outside Sulawesi. During April 2000, civil unrest in the region resulted in



Indonesian IDPs used a warehouse on Ambon Island for temporary housing (photo by Nick Macdonald/Mercy Corps)

the destruction or damage to more than 5,000 homes and public buildings, and an estimated 250 deaths. During June and July 2001, violence continued in the region, resulting in 18 deaths and additional destruction of houses, temporary barracks, and mosques. In September 2001, WFP estimated that more than 85,000 IDPs remained in Sulawesi.

Central and West Kalimantan

In the provinces of Kalimantan, economic competition and ethnic discrimination contributed to the tensions between the indigenous Dayaks and Madurese migrants, who resettled under the transmigration policies of previous governments. Tensions escalated and resulted in violence during March and April 2001 in Central Kalimantan. The conflict resulted in a sudden influx of Madurese IDPs to Madura Island and other parts of Java. In June, tensions escalated amidst demands that the Madurese residents be resettled to other areas, resulting in renewed violence. The GOI deployed troops to Central Kalimantan to restore order. WFP estimated that more than 58,000 people were displaced as a result of the violence.

Aceh

Since 1999, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the GOI had been engaged in negotiations over autonomy for the province of Aceh. The Humanitarian Pause, a cease-fire that began in June 2000, led to a notable decrease in violence. However, in early 2001, the conflict escalated, resulting in increased displacement within Aceh and migrations to neighboring North Sumatra. WFP estimated that more than 54,000 IDPs were in Aceh. On August 9, 2001, in an apparent attempt to resolve the conflict, President Megawati signed a decree giving special autonomy to the Aceh Province.

West Timor

The violence that followed the 1999 independence referendum in East Timor resulted in more than 200,000 East Timorese fleeing to West Timor and more than 200,000 others displaced within East Timor. In September 1999, the U.N. deployed a peacekeeping force to East Timor to re-establish order. During October 1999, UNHCR and IOM entered West Timor and began to formally repatriate East Timorese refugees. Since October 1999, UNHCR and IOM has assisted in the repatriation of more than 136,000 East Timorese refugees.



With USAID/OFDA support, Mercy Corps and its local partners built partitions in the Ambon Island warehouse to provide privacy for IDP families (photo by Anna Young/Mercy Corps).

Irian Jaya

Pro-independence activities in Irian Jaya Province increased during FY 2001. Pro-independence organizations, such as the Free Papua Movement, clashed with the Indonesian military, resulting in the displacement of thousands of residents.

On October 13, 2000, U.S. Ambassador Robert S. Gelbard redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Indonesia. USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$5.4 million in emergency assistance to local and international NGOs during FY 2001 to assist IDPs and victims of conflict in the affected areas.

USAID/OFDA provided \$75,000 to WFP to conduct an assessment of IDP livelihoods issues in affected areas. WVI and IMC received more than \$775,000 from USAID/OFDA to provide medical and trauma services, shelter repairs, water and sanitation initiatives, and hygiene kits and basic household items to IDPs living on Madura Island. IMC also received \$200,000 from USAID/OFDA to provide emergency shelter, health services, non-food commodities, and water and sanitation programs benefiting IDPs in Kalimantan. USAID/OFDA supported IRC with \$200,000 to expand water and sanitation facilities, as well as distribute non-food emergency relief commodities to IDPs in Aceh Province. CARE, IMC, and IRC used \$596,800 from USAID/OFDA to provide emergency shelter, seeds and tools, and water and sanitation programs to IDPs in

Sulawesi. USAID/OFDA also provided more than \$3.5 million to WVI, ACF/F, IMC, and Mercy Corps for emergency shelter, hygiene kits, fishing equipment, seeds and tools, primary health services, water, and sanitation initiatives, and community rehabilitation programs for IDPs living in the Moluccas. To assist USAID/Indonesia in the monitoring of humanitarian needs and the coordination of USG emergency assistance, USAID/OFDA posted an EDRC in Jakarta during the fall of 2000.

USAID/OTI provided more than \$12 million through 228 grants to local and international NGOs for projects that focused on strengthening civil society, civil-military relations, community stabilization, governance, and media outlets throughout Indonesia.

USAID/Indonesia's Office of Population, Health, and Nutrition (PHN) provided nearly \$2.7 million in grants to ACF/F, WVI, SC/US, and WHO for supplemental and therapeutic feeding, psycho-social activities, and polio vaccinations for vulnerable populations. The USAID/Indonesia PHN office also provided funding to Columbia University for a Public Health in Complex Emergencies training workshop for the GOI's Ministry of Health staff.

In addition, State/PRM provided grants totaling \$737,311 to UNHCR, IOM, and ICRC for East Timorese reintegration programs and emergency relief activities.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$5,398,884
OTHER USG Assistance\$15,883,665
TOTAL USG Assistance\$21,282,549

INDONESIA

FLOODS

During the fall of 2000, the onset of the monsoon season brought heavy and continuous rains to the Indonesian archipelago, which resulted in widespread flooding in Sumatra, North Sulawesi, West Nusa Tenggara, and Java. The flooding precipitated numerous landslides in some affected areas and led to significant infrastructure damage. More than 70 people were killed, 20,000 residents were displaced, and others of the affected populations lost personal property and their livelihoods. Heavy rains continued throughout the remainder of the monsoon season, which extends from October through March.

On November 1, 2000, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Steven Mull issued a disaster declaration in response to the severe flooding in the central Java provinces of Cilacap and Banyumas. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Indonesia to CRS, which in cooperation with Yayasan Social Bina Sejahtera, a local NGO, provided emergency food commodities and health care to flood victims.

On November 28, U.S. Ambassador Robert S. Gelbard issued a second disaster declaration for floods and landslides in Sumatra. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Indonesia to IFRC. IFRC, in collaboration with the Indonesian Red Cross, provided 2,000 household kits and tarpaulins to affected families in 10 districts. In addition, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor conducted a needs assessment in Sumatra from November 29 to December 3. The assessment determined that the floodwaters had receded and that immediate humanitarian needs included potable water for West Sumatra and Aceh provinces.

During the fall of 2000, USAID/OFDA posted an EDRC in Jakarta to assist USAID/Indonesia in the monitoring of humanitarian needs and to coordinate USG emergency assistance to disaster-affected areas. On December 5, a two-person team composed of USAID/OFDA's EDRC and a representative of USAID/Indonesia arrived in Manado, North Sulawesi, to assess the ongoing humanitarian situation after additional flooding occurred. The assessment team determined that immediate needs included potable water, emergency food assistance, and basic household items.

U.S. Ambassador Robert S. Gelbard issued a third disaster declaration for monsoon flooding on December 6, 2000. This declaration allowed USAID/OFDA to provide assistance in response to the floods in the entire country of Indonesia, including floods in Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara provinces, as well as any additional flooding that might occur in Indonesia throughout the monsoon season. With the recommendations put forth in the humanitarian assessment by the EDRC and USAID/Indonesia, USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$25,000 through USAID/Indonesia to IFRC for the purchase and distribution of emergency household kits. On February 13, USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$113,500 through USAID/Indonesia to IFRC, WVI, and Mercy Corps to address the immediate humanitarian needs of approximately 42,500 beneficiaries in greater Jakarta and other areas of East Java.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$188,500

INDONESIA

FLOODS

Several days of unseasonably heavy rain in late July and early August 2001 resulted in flooding and landslides in three sub-districts of Nias Island, located 97 km southwest of North Sumatra Province. The floods and landslides caused significant damage to infrastructure, killed at least 84 people, and displaced more than 1,000 residents.

On August 3, U.S. Ambassador Robert S. Gelbard declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding and landslides on Nias Island. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Indonesia to IFRC to help meet the immediate needs of the most severely affected flood victims.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000

LAOS

FLOODS

Beginning in July 2000, heavier than normal monsoon rains beset the Southeast Asian countries of Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The rains resulted in extensive flooding of the entire Mekong watershed area.

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane reported that the floods affected approximately 450,000 people in more than 1,000 villages, and resulted in 15 deaths. In addition, the floodwaters contaminated water sources and increased the risk of water-borne diseases in the affected villages. The floods destroyed more than 8% of Laos' rice crop, or about 180,000 MT.

On October 3, 2000, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Karen B. Stewart declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding in the central and southern regions of Laos. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 to the Government of Laos' National Disaster Management Office to support flood relief efforts. In addition, on November 14, 2000, USAID/OFDA provided \$99,500 to CARE for the distribution of 200 MT of rice seed. The seed distribution targeted 4,000 households in 60 villages of the four most seriously affected districts of Khammouane and Savanakheth provinces.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$124,500

LAOS

FLOODS

Heavy rains during August and September 2001 resulted in flooding throughout much of Laos, including Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champassak, and Attapeu provinces. The floods affected an estimated 453,000 households and damaged 59,000 hectares of rice fields. Since the floodwaters rose slowly, few affected families lost livestock and personal possessions, which were moved to higher ground.

On September 26, 2001, U.S. Ambassador Douglas A. Hartwick declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 to USAID/Laos to assist with the local relief efforts for flood victims.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000

MONGOLIA

WINTER EMERGENCY

Mongolia experienced two consecutive years of severe summer drought followed by winter weather emergencies. As a result of the droughts, livestock were unable to achieve the necessary body weight to survive the harsh winter snowstorms and freezing temperatures. In addition, because fodder was buried far beneath the snow, grazing animals could not obtain adequate food supplies. These winter conditions were exacerbated by overstocking and overgrazing around villages, an insufficient number of water distribution points, and the scarcity of veterinary services. According to the State Emergency Commission, the winter emergency of 2000-2001 affected approximately 76,230 herding families and killed more than 1.5 million head of livestock in 17 provinces.

On January 31, 2001, U.S. Ambassador John R. Dinger declared a disaster due to the effects of the extreme winter weather in Mongolia. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Mongolia to the Mongolian Red Cross to help meet the immediate needs of victims whose livelihoods were affected by the weather. In addition, USAID/OFDA deployed a program officer, at a cost of \$10,042, to conduct an assessment in affected areas from March 9 to 15. The assessment found that current levels of international emergency assistance were sufficient to meet existing humanitarian needs.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$35,042

PHILIPPINES

DISPLACED PERSONS

The escalation of fighting between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2000 displaced more than 300,000 residents from nine provinces of central Mindanao. By the spring of 2001, 60% of IDPs had returned to their homes as a result of advances in the peace process. However, more than 140,000 IDPs remained vulnerable, housed in evacuation centers or with host families in remote areas of central Mindanao.

From February 22 to 24, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor assessed the existing humanitarian conditions in Mindanao. The USAID/OFDA assessment found that IDPs needed potable water, sanitation facilities, family hygiene kits, and the restoration of livelihoods because of infrastructure damage. On March 22, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Michael E. Malinowski declared a disaster in response to the needs of the conflict-affected persons in Mindanao.

USAID/OFDA provided \$422,625 through USAID/Philippines to AAH/USA, working in coordination with OXFAM and MSF/B, to improve health and living conditions and restore the livelihoods of returnees and IDPs residing in evacuation centers in central Mindanao. The funding improved access to potable water and sanitation facilities for 13,800 returnees in the municipality of Matanog, Maguindanao Province. In addition 5,830 family hygiene kits and 5,923 seeds and tools kits were distributed to returnees and IDP families in Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$422,625

SRI LANKA

CYCLONE

On December 26 and 27, 2000, a cyclone passed through the northeastern portion of Sri Lanka, affecting the districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa. The storm affected approximately 60,000 families, damaged between 44,000 and 60,000 homes, inundated crop-lands, damaged telecommunications and power lines, and contaminated potable water sources. The extent of damage was difficult to assess due to insecurity in the region where the cyclone struck, an area controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam. The Government

of Sri Lanka (GOS) provided approximately \$310,000 in emergency relief commodities to the affected areas, including emergency shelter for the displaced people at Nalanda Vidyalaya and Jamalia Muslim Vidyalaya. In addition, local NGOs and relief agencies assisted government officials in responding to the disaster.

From January 10 to 16, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor traveled to Sri Lanka to assess the damage and local needs. Based on the recommendations of the assessment, U.S. Ambassador E. Ashley Wills declared a disaster on January 16, 2001. USAID/OFDA provided \$40,000 through the U.S. Embassy to ICRC and the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. In coordination with the GOS, Trincomalee authorities, and the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, ICRC used the USAID/OFDA assistance to provide plastic sheeting and emergency household kits to affected populations.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$40,000

SRI LANKA

DROUGHT

Insufficient rainfall for more than 21 months resulted in drought conditions for the southeastern portion of the country during FY 2001. According to officials of the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL), the affected areas included Hambantota, Ampara, Moneragala, Ratnapura, Badulla, Kurunegala and Puttalam districts. Hambantota, Kurunegala, and Moneragala districts were most severely affected. The GSL and the Sri Lanka Red Cross estimated that more than one million people suffered from the effects, with more than 500,000 residing in Hambantota District. The drought depleted three consecutive rice harvests, killed thousands of head of livestock, and increased the level of malnutrition among children. In addition, the drought damaged water-harvesting mechanisms such as irrigation tanks and wells. Because many crops failed, farmers lacked the required seeds for new planting seasons.

On August 27, 2001, the GSL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued an appeal for international relief assistance. On September 6, U.S. Ambassador E. Ashley Wills declared a disaster, following an official visit to the affected regions and consultation with local government officials. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Sri Lanka to NGOs for the purchase of portable water tanks to facilitate the distribution of potable water to affected families. A USAID/OFDA

regional advisor and a USAID/OFDA hydro-meteorological expert conducted a comprehensive drought assessment in Sri Lanka from September 15 to 22.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000

TAIWAN

FLOODS

From September 16 to 18, 2001, Typhoon Nari remained stationary over Taiwan, dropping more than a meter of rain in the most severely affected areas. According to the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), the floods and landslides that resulted from the typhoon led to 59 deaths, 21 persons missing, hundreds of people injured, an undetermined number of houses destroyed, and disruption of the existing electrical, water, transportation, and telecommunications services. Local media reports stated that an estimated 650,000 households were affected by the loss of electricity and potable water.

On September 19, the acting director of AIT Pamela Slutz, declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding and landslides. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through AIT to the Taiwan Red Cross to help meet the immediate needs of the most affected flood victims.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000

THAILAND

FLOODS

During November 2000, several weeks of heavy rainfall led to severe flooding in ten provinces of southern Thailand (Songkhla, Nakorn Si Thammarat, Chumphon, Narathiwat, Yala, Surat Thani, Phatthalung, Pattani, Satun, and Trang). The Government of Thailand's Ministry of Interior reported 51 confirmed deaths and 808,231 residents affected by the floods. Floodwaters damaged or destroyed 63,000 hectares of cropland, 819 schools, and 81 bridges. Transportation, telecommunications, and other public services in the affected provinces were disrupted.

On December 4, 2000, U.S. Ambassador Richard E. Hecklinger issued a disaster declaration due to the damage caused by the flooding. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to Thailand's Red Cross Society for the purchase and dis-

tribution of emergency food, medicines, and other relief supplies to flood victims.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000

THAILAND

FLOODS

In August 2001, the effects of Typhoon Usagi resulted in heavy rainfall, severe flooding, and landslides in the northern part of the country. The floods and landslides affected approximately 450,000 people in 24 provinces, including 104 deaths and 109 residents injured.

On August 14, 2001, U.S. Ambassador Richard E. Hecklinger declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding and landslides. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to Thailand's Red Cross Society to help meet emergency shelter, food, and potable water needs of the most affected families.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000

VIETNAM

FLOODS

During September 2001, heavy rains and extensive flooding of the upstream portions of the Mekong River combined to cause the Tien and Hau rivers in the Mekong River Delta to overflow. The flooding worsened in October 2001, resulting in an intensification of the disaster situation and an expansion of the affected area. The floodwaters damaged approximately 280,000 houses, affected 1.4 million people, and killed more than 300 residents, 237 of them children.

On September 18, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Robert Porter declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Vietnam to WVI and CRS to address the immediate needs of flood victims.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000