

Kumanovo regions. A contribution of \$549,158 to IRC went toward a Community Information Centers program in Kosovo and Macedonia that provided information about conditions in the region, population movements, and other logistical issues. Finally, State/PRM provided \$717,663 to Mercy Corps to support cross-border returns and stabilization activities in the Tetovo area.

USAID/OFDA Assistance \$2,930,701
Other USG Assistance \$11,793,001
Total USG Assistance \$14,723,702

MOLDOVA

WINTER EMERGENCY

Between November 26 and 28, 2000, an ice storm struck the northeastern area of Moldova. The ice damaged or destroyed one-third of the country's electrical distribution network, and affected an estimated 700,000 people. The loss of power disrupted water and sewage systems, creating sanitation problems and health risks.

On December 8, U.S. Ambassador Rudolf V. Perina declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the accumulated ice. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau to International Partnership for Human Development for the procurement and distribution of wool blankets for orphanages, nurseries, and hospitals, and firewood for affected rural communities.

USAID/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

PAKISTAN

EARTHQUAKE

On January 26, 2001, a major earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter Scale and centered in India's Gujarat State in Western India also affected southeastern Sindh Province in neighboring Pakistan. Although Pakistan did not suffer the level of casualties and property destruction that India experienced, assessments found that housing and water resources were significantly damaged in Pakistan's affected area. Wells reportedly turned brackish after the earthquake, while damaged housing and continuing aftershocks forced some 100,000 residents to sleep in the open through February.

During the week of March 5, the Governor of Sindh appealed to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad for interna-

tional relief assistance. On March 13, U.S. Ambassador William B. Milam declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the earthquake and subsequent aftershocks. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy to contribute to an IFRC appeal for the procurement of tents and blankets for earthquake victims.

USAID/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

PAKISTAN

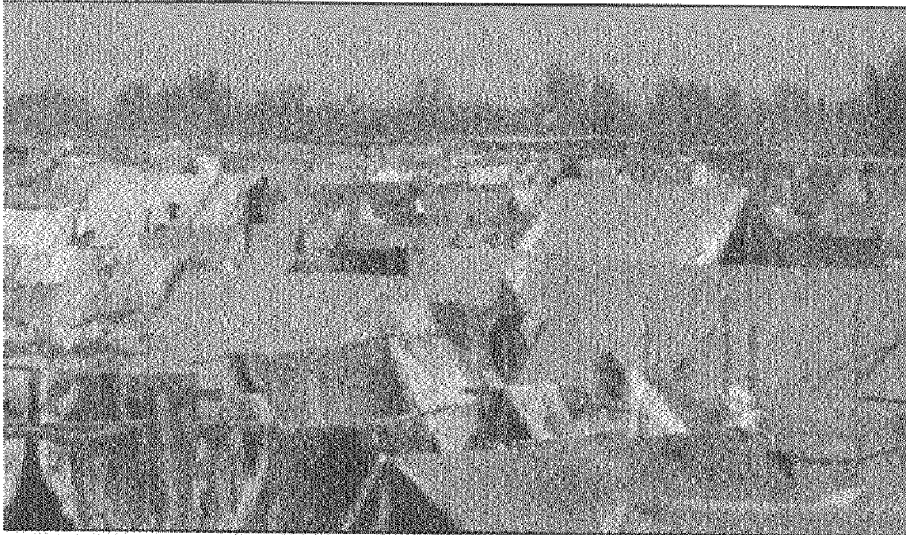
REFUGEES

The combined effects of a three-year drought and renewed conflict in Afghanistan, particularly the September 2000 Taliban capture of the northeastern city of Taloqan, spurred a refugee flow of an estimated 180,000 Afghans into Pakistan. The outflow from Afghanistan began in September 2000 and peaked during February 2001. The new refugees, who were housed in two makeshift camps near Peshawar at Jalozai and New Shamshatoo, lived in very poor conditions and initially received minimal emergency relief assistance.

Limiting relief assistance to new refugees was largely due to the concerns of the Government of Pakistan (GOP) about its ability to cope with a new refugee influx, in addition to the existing caseload of an estimated two million Afghan refugees. By the end of FY 2001, the number of new refugees had decreased to 152,000 as a result of a combined voluntary repatriation and refugee status determination program initiated by UNHCR and the GOP in June 2001.

On February 2, 2001, U.S. Ambassador William B. Milam issued a disaster declaration due to the influx of additional Afghan refugees. Between February 6 and 10, USAID/OFDA conducted a needs assessment in the Jalozai and Shamshatoo refugee camps. In response to the findings of the assessment, USAID/OFDA airlifted 500 tents, 5,000 blankets, three WHO 1,000-person medical kits, and 240,000 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting from a USAID/OFDA stockpile for distribution by IRC in the two new refugee camps. The total cost of the airlift was \$242,600, including the cost of commodity replenishment to a USAID/OFDA stockpile.

USAID/OFDA also provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad to IRC for the local purchase and distribution of blankets, water containers, and



USAID/OFDA airlifted relief supplies to Pakistan as the flow of Afghan refugees into Jalozai camp increased and living conditions deteriorated (photo by Ron Libby, USAID/OFDA).

tents. On February 7, an additional \$50,000 was provided by USAID/OFDA to the U.S. Embassy for the local procurement and distribution of additional emergency relief commodities to assist new Afghan refugees. (For additional information on USG assistance for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, see the "Afghanistan-Complex Emergency" case report.)

USAID/OFDA Assistance \$393,700

POLAND

FLOODS

Heavy rains in mid-July 2001 caused flooding in northern Poland. Additional rainfall in late July expanded the affected areas of severe flooding to southern Poland. Approximately 30 people died and more than 15,000 residents were forced to evacuate their homes. The Vistula River overflowed its banks in southeast Poland on July 29, forcing an additional 4,000 people to flee. The flood surge continued to move up the Vistula River, producing new flooding and evacuations in low-lying areas. The Government of Poland, the State Fire Service, and the Polish Army responded to the disaster. The Polish Red Cross, Caritas, and Polish Humanitarian Action provided food and basic relief items to the flood victims.

On July 31, U.S. Ambassador Christopher R. Hill declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the

severe flooding in the provinces of Malopolska, Podkarpackie, and Swietokrzyskie. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw to a local NGO, Polish Humanitarian Action, for the delivery of emergency relief commodities to flood-affected areas.

USAID/OFDA Assistance . . \$25,000

ROMANIA

FLOODS

Between March 3 and 7, 2001, heavy rainfall and melting snow caused flooding that affected ten counties in the north and west of Romania. Most of

the severe flooding occurred in the counties of Transylvania and Maramures. The Government of Romania reported that 2,589 houses were inundated, in addition to 11,262 hectares of farmland. Flooding also isolated 430 houses, forced the evacuation of 3,723 people, and destroyed numerous dikes, bridges, and roads.

On March 9, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Susan R. Johnson declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the severe flooding. USAID/OFDA provided USAID/Romania with \$25,000 for a grant to International Orthodox Christian Charities to procure emergency commodities, including food, hygiene items, and mineral water for evacuees.

USAID/OFDA Assistance \$25,000

RUSSIA

FLOODS

A harsh winter and the spring thaw that followed in May 2001 resulted in the worst flooding in eastern Siberia in a century. The Republic of Sakha was most severely affected, with more than 46,000 people evacuating their homes along the Lena River. More than 6,000 homes, 75 km of road, and eight bridges were under water. Flooding had the greatest impact on the town of Lensk, which has a population of 37,800.

On June 7, U.S. Ambassador James F. Collins declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the flooding. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Russia to AmRC to support a portion of the IFRC's May 28 appeal for aid to flood victims. The USAID/OFDA funds were transferred from AmRC to the Russian Red Cross for the delivery of emergency food, warm clothing, blankets, and potable water.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000

SERBIA-MONTENEGRO

COMPLEX EMERGENCY

During FY 2001, Kosovo continued to recover from the effects of war and displacement, two years after NATO concluded its air campaign against the Yugoslav military and Serbian security forces. The conflict, which escalated with fighting between Serb forces and the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army in 1998, prompted the displacement of thousands of ethnic Albanians and resulted in the damage and destruction of an estimated 35% of the housing stock in Kosovo.

The security situation in Kosovo improved in FY 2001 following stabilization along the Kosovo-Serbia frontier. At the end of the conflict in 1999, a three-mile wide area known as the Ground Safety Zone was established to act as a buffer between Yugoslav troops and NATO's Kosovo Protection Force (KFOR) peacekeepers. Ethnic Albanian guerillas from the Liberation Army for Presevo, Medvedja, and Bujanovac (LAPMB), however, took advantage of the zone by using it as a base for attacks on Yugoslav troops. In May 2001, NATO allowed the controlled return of Yugoslav forces into the zone, and the LAPMB disarmed and vacated the area.

The positive changes along the border encouraged the return of IDPs and refugees who had fled their homes. The number of returnees contributed to the ongoing need for shelter. Despite reconstruction efforts by the international community and the private sector, emergency shelter continued to be a priority throughout the winter of 2000-2001.

During 1999, USAID/OFDA implemented the largest emergency shelter program in its history in response to the extensive shelter damage in Kosovo. USAID/OFDA

continued the shelter program in FY 2001, following a disaster declaration on October 12, 2000, by the U.S. Chief of Mission in Pristina Christopher W. Dell. The declaration cited continuing shelter needs for returning refugees and other vulnerable families.

In FY 2001, USAID/OFDA funded four NGOs to implement shelter programs. ADRA used a USAID/OFDA grant of \$702,310 to provide winterized housing for 209 returnee and IDP families in Mitrovica municipality. USAID/OFDA provided \$626,938 to ARC for a program to provide warm, dry rooms for winter shelter in conflict-damaged or unfinished housing for 543 families in the Gjilane region and 515 families in Klina municipality. WVI constructed warm, dry rooms for more than 800 families in Skenderaj and Vushtrii municipalities with \$1,266,258 in USAID/OFDA funding. In Djakovica and Decani municipalities, Solidarités provided 265 families with emergency shelter assistance through a \$522,768 USAID/OFDA grant.

In addition to shelter assistance, USAID/OFDA provided \$400,000 to WFP to assist in the completion of its food aid program and to support centers for social work benefiting vulnerable families and minority groups.

With the finalization of the majority of its shelter grants, USAID/OFDA closed its Kosovo Program Office on May 4, 2001. The office had been operational since the closure of the DART in late March 2000.

In order to address ongoing food needs for returning refugees and other vulnerable groups, USAID/FFP contributed nearly 6,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at nearly \$3.5 million.

USAID/OTI completed its Kosovo Transition Initiative (KTI) on September 30, 2001. The KTI, implemented by IOM, provided more than \$6.5 million in FY 2001 to form Community Improvement Councils that facilitated the community rebuilding process and promoted relationship building between citizens and the government. The KTI also supported local NGOs and media outlets.

In addition to its regional contributions, State/PRM provided \$2.7 million to NGOs for minority stabilization projects to facilitate refugee return. The stabilization projects included income generation, education, commu-

nity development, and tolerance building activities. State/PRM also made an earmarked contribution to UNHCR for the Kosovo Women's Initiative and funded an NGO program addressing gender-based violence.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$3,752,970
Other USG Assistance\$12,773,504
Total USG Assistance\$16,526,474

TAJIKISTAN

DROUGHT

During FY 2001, Tajikistan continued to suffer from one of the worst droughts in the last 75 years. According to FAO, rainfall during 2000 was 60% below the long-term average. Reduced rain and snowfall exacerbated an ongoing trend of declining agricultural output due to deteriorating infrastructure and the residual effects of political instability and civil strife during the mid-1990s. As a result, the 2001 wheat harvest, Tajikistan's main staple crop, was estimated at 18% less than the previous year, and 36% lower than the 1999 wheat crop, according to FAO.

On October 31, 2000, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner redeclared a disaster due to the effects of the drought. USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to ACTED for a seed distribution program to benefit 8,000 drought-affected families, \$100,000 to WFP for the purchase of vehicles in support of emergency food operations, and \$484,194 to AAH/USA for food security activities benefiting 15,000 families.

USAID/FFP provided 22,280 MT of P.L. 480 Title II food commodities, valued at more than \$12.6 million including transport, towards WFP's emergency and protracted relief and recovery operations in Tajikistan. USDA also provided food assistance through a contribution of 26,500 MT of Section 416(b) surplus food commodities, valued at \$16,057,390 including transport.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$834,194
Other USG Assistance\$28,688,690
Total USG Assistance\$29,522,884

TAJIKISTAN

EARTHQUAKE

On October 31, 2000, an earthquake centered in northern Afghanistan, registering 6.7 on the Richter Scale, shook a remote district in Tajikistan's southern Khatlon Province. Assessments conducted by relief agencies and USAID/Tajikistan staff found that the earthquake had damaged more than 780 houses, of which approximately 228 were completely destroyed, and affected more than 6,000 people. Families left homeless by the earthquake were forced to live in light tents in increasingly frigid winter weather. The earthquake also damaged schools, health centers, and roads.

On November 14, U.S. Ambassador Robert P. Finn declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake and requested assistance to meet urgent shelter needs. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$109,000 to SNI/US to reconstruct 170 homes damaged in the earthquake.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$109,000

UKRAINE

ACCIDENT

On August 19, 2001, a methane explosion in the Zasyadko coal mine in the eastern city of Donetsk killed 54 miners and injured 35 others. The injured miners were hospitalized in four local medical facilities. More than 200 miners were evacuated, and 10 miners were reported missing.

USAID contract staff traveled to Donetsk on August 23 to assess the immediate medical needs. On August 24, U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual requested emergency relief assistance for the victims of the explosion. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Ukraine to Counterpart International for the provision of emergency medical supplies for the injured miners. On August 25, DOD sent additional medical equipment and supplies worth \$36,690 to hospitals treating the accident victims.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000
Other USG Assistance\$36,690
Total USG Assistance\$61,690

Terrorism or Technological Disaster: The All Hazards Approach

The threat of terrorist acts has emerged as one of the most difficult problems the world faces in the post-Cold War period. While the most commonly used terrorist devices have been conventional explosives, as was the case in the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the technical capability remains for terrorists to use chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. The Government of Iraq's chemical attacks on Iran and its Kurdish populations in northern Iraq during the late 1980s and the 1995 sarin attacks by the Aum Shinrikyo cult in the Tokyo subway highlight the level of death and destruction that are possible when such weapons are used.

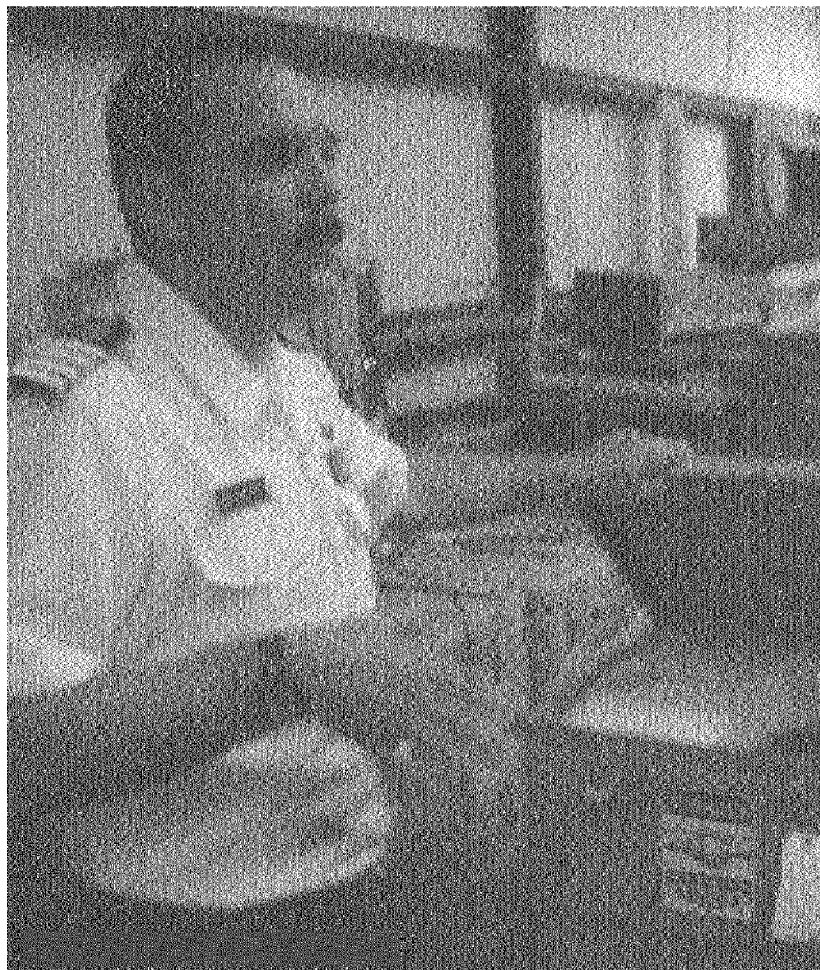
In addition to malicious intent, technological disasters or hazardous material incidents caused by human error or a natural disaster can put affected populations at risk. Examples of accidental technological disasters include the emission of toxic gases from a chemical plant in Bhopal, India, during 1984 that killed more than 16,000, and the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in the former Soviet Union in 1986. Many smaller hazardous materials incidents occur worldwide each year and go unnoticed by the international media.

The all hazards approach does not differentiate between a terrorist act or a technological accident. They both elicit a similar response, which requires planning for a few unique circumstances such as ongoing threats, contamination, decontamination, and special medical concerns.

Consequence Management (CM) is the term most commonly used for all types of technological disasters, including terrorist acts and hazardous materials accidents. While some believe the probability of a catastrophic event is low, the potential hazards

of such destruction oblige governments to prepare response plans for any eventuality.

USAID/OFDA's focus is on saving lives and livelihoods at risk due to any disaster, however manifested. The social, political, and economic infrastructures of industrializing countries are more vulnerable to hazardous materials accidents and have an increased likelihood that they would have catastrophic consequences (morbidity, mortality, environment, etc.)



Captain Joe Hughart from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services helps to manage and maintain the USAID/OFDA cache of CBRN-related technical assessment equipment at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Georgia (photo by Michelle Jennings, USAID/OFDA).