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OFDA

Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

Bureau for Humanitarian Response
U.S. Agency for International Development

Annual Report
FY 1999

BHR/OFDA Annual Report FY 1999

The FY 1999 Annual Report of the U.S. Agency for International Development/Bureau for Humanitarian Response/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance was researched, written, and produced by Jamy Bond, Kasey Channell, Philip Chinnici, Laura Coughlin, Alex Mahoney, Sue Moreira, Wesley Mossburg, Joseph Ponte, Eurydice Rorick, Zema Semunegus, Amy Sink, Amy Tohill-Stull, Katharine Winings, Joanne Welsh, Beverly Youmans, and Giselle Zimmerman of The Mitchell Group/Labat-Anderson, Incorporated in Washington, D.C., under contract number AOT-000-C-00-4121-00.

Vietnamese villagers return to their homes to survey the damage caused by the November 1998 floods (photo by IFRC).

Central cover photo: Ariel view of the Aguan River Valley in Northern Honduras during the aftermath of hurricane Mitch (photo by Guy Lawson, BHR/OFDA). Front cover, photo 1: Vulnerable residents in Thiet, Sudan receive food and non-food relief supplies from a World Vision program that was jointly funded by BHR/OFDA and BHR/FFP (photo by Ted Maly, BHR/OFDA). Photo 2: A man grieves over the loss of his home in Turkey, the site of the twentieth century's most devastating earthquake (photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team). Photo 3: Refugees from Kosovo line up to return from Kukes, Albania after the signing of the NATO Peace agreement (photo by Amy Tohill-Stull, BHR/OFDA).Back cover, photo 1: A farmer marks a goat that he recently purchased through a BHR/OFDA-funded animal restocking program in Marsabit, Kenya (photo by World Concern Development Organization). Photo 2: Two apartment buildings crumble to the ground in Toulin, Taiwan as a result of the Septemer 21 earthquake (photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team). Photo 3: A family returns to its home. The home was damaged in the conflict by Serb forces and repaired with materials from the BHR/OFDA roofing project (photo by Paul Majorowitz, BHR/OFDA).

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Commonly Used Acronyms

U.S. Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) and Private Groups

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AAH-USA	Action Against Hunger/United States
ARC	American Refugee Committee
CARE	Cooperation for American Relief Everywhere
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CWS	Church World Services
IMC	International Medical Corps
IRC	International Rescue Committee
LWR	Lutheran World Relief
SC/US	Save the Children/United States
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
WVUS	World Vision, Incorporated/United States

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

ACF	Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger)
FHI	Food for the Hungry International
MDM	Médecins du Monde/Médicos del Mundo (Doctors of the World)
MERLIN	Medical Emergency Relief International
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)
MCI	Mercy Corps International
SCF	Save the Children Fund
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid

Country of Origin

/B	Belgium
/F	France
/H	Holland
/UK	United Kingdom
/US(A)	United States (of America)

International Organizations and United Nations (U.N.) Agencies

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (U.N.)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IOM	International Organization for Migration (U.N.)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization (WHO)
UNDP	U.N. Development Program
UNHCR	U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	U.N. Children's Fund
UNOCHA	U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (formerly UNDHA)
WFP	World Food Program (U.N.)

U.S. Government Organizations/Programs

BHR	Bureau for Humanitarian Response (USAID)
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
DART	Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART)
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
FFP	Office of Food for Peace (USAID/BHR)
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/BHR)
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/BHR)
PRM	Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State)
State	U.S. Department of State
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

Miscellaneous

EDRC	Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator
FY	fiscal year
HDRS	humanitarian daily rations
IDP	internally displaced person
MT	metric ton
P.L.	Public Law
SAR	search and rescue
sq. ft.	square feet

Message From the Director

BHR/OFDA and other relief organizations have long understood that responding to natural disasters is different from responding to war-generated emergencies. Natural disasters do not necessarily divide communities, as wars–by their very nature–necessarily do. A regrettable reality is that the divisiveness of the wars themselves spill into what has been referred to as humanitarian space, a space required in order to respond in a neutral manner to the suffering that wars generate.

War-torn environments impact humanitarian space and the efficacy of humanitarian relief in several ways. One complicating factor endangering humanitarian workers is the perception of those involved in or directly affected by the war. In such environments, humanitarian organizations and staff are sometimes perceived by combatants and/or victims as sympathetic to one or another specific group. This reality fundamentally impacts the ability to deliver assistance and places great demands on staff. We must recognize when we plan and deliver assistance that beneficiaries will not always be grateful for the assistance we provide, and communities will not always be friendly.

Additionally, we need to recognize that humanitarianism and relief–which we once considered one and the same–are increasingly emerging as separate yet parallel concerns. In fact, all relief is not necessarily humanitarian. For example, there are times, as in the mass flight from Rwanda to the former Zaire, when all humanitarian energy is devoted to keeping people alive. Beyond that, assisting those with relief needs is no longer enough; we also should be looking at questions of human rights and simple dignity. To provide relief that is truly humanitarian, we need to begin setting requirements–such as the principles of unfettered access and humanitarian space–upon which the delivery of assistance will be conditioned.

Although we cannot yet ensure that humanitarian rights and humanitarian standards are respected in all war-generated emergencies, we will do our job in as disciplined and humane a manner as possible. Limits currently exist to our ability to provide truly humanitarian aid, but people continue to need help, and we will respond as best we can.

H. Roy Williams
Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

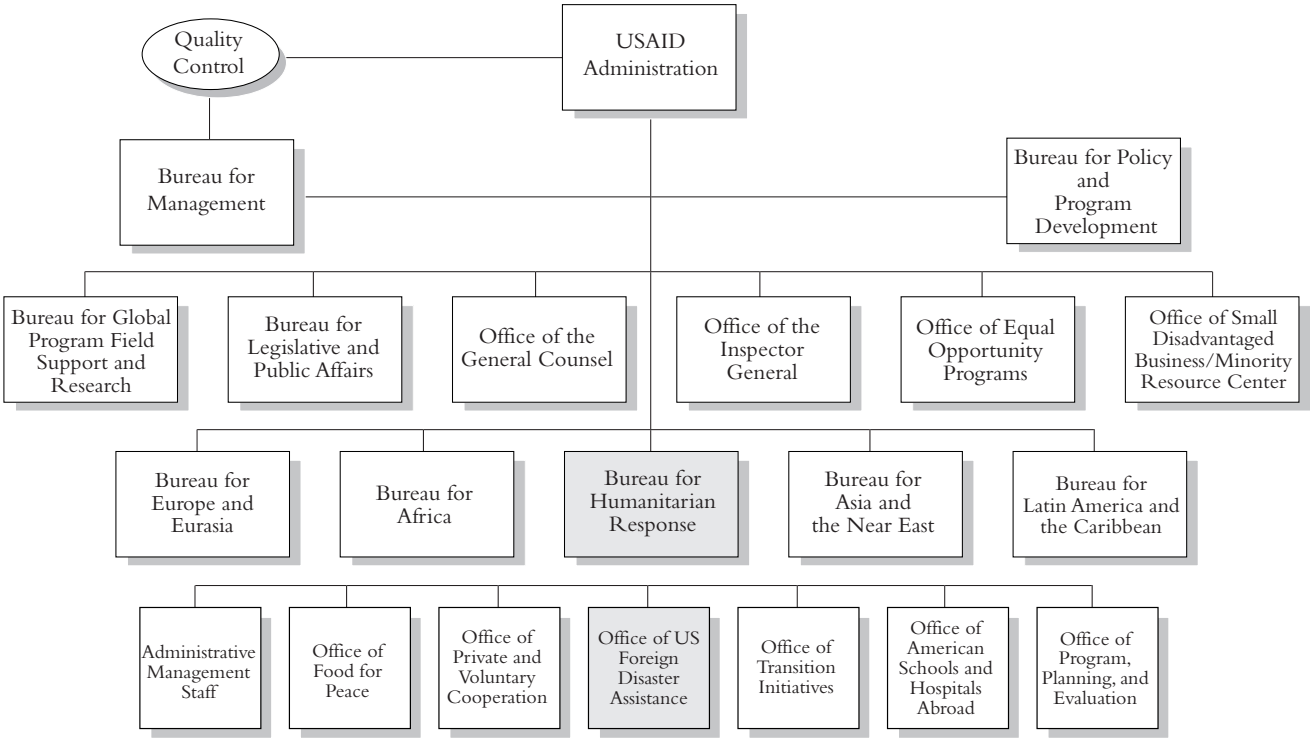
How Does the U.S. Government Provide Humanitarian Aid?

The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

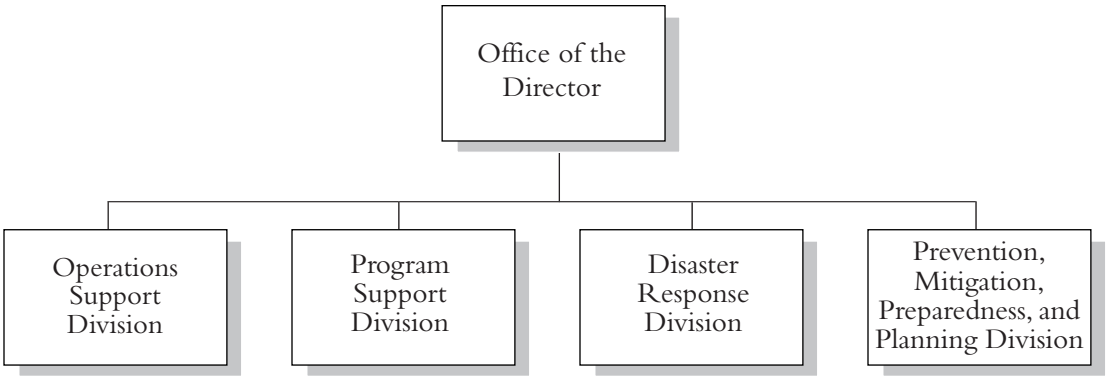
OFDA is the office within USAID responsible for providing non-food, humanitarian assistance in response to international crises and disasters. The USAID Administrator is designated as the President's Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance, and OFDA assists in the coordination of this assistance. OFDA is part of the Bureau for Humanitarian Response (BHR), along with the Office of Food for Peace (BHR/FFP), the Office of Transition Initiatives (BHR/OTI), the Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation (BHR/PVC), and the Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (BHR/ASHA).

BHR/OFDA is organized into four divisions, under the management of the Office of the Director. The Disaster Response Division (DRD) is responsible for the aid given in response to disasters and crises that occur overseas. The Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness and Planning (PMPP) division oversees assistance that is provided to prevent or reduce the impacts of disasters on the people and economic infrastructure in foreign countries. The Operations Support (OS) division provides the necessary technical and logistical support to the Office and its programs and personnel overseas. The Program Support (PS) division administers the Office's financial and accounting systems, which allow for rapid disbursement of funds in order to respond quickly to disasters. BHR/OFDA also maintains a staff of field personnel stationed in critical countries to monitor both disaster response and mitigation activities.

U.S. Agency for International Development



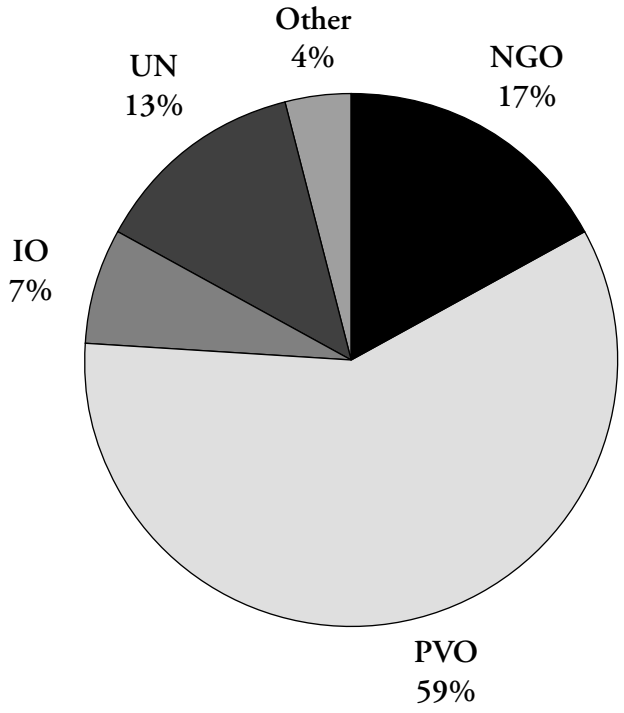
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance



BHR/OFDA/DRD provides humanitarian assistance in response to a declaration of a foreign disaster made by the U.S. Ambassador or the U.S. Department of State. Once an event or situation is determined to require U.S. Government (USG) assistance, BHR/OFDA can immediately provide up to $25,000 to the U.S. Embassy or USAID Mission to purchase relief supplies locally or give a contribution to a relief organization in the affected country. BHR/OFDA can also send its own relief commodities, such as plastic sheeting, tents, and water purification units, from one of its four stockpiles located in Italy, Guam, Honduras, and the U.S. Increasingly, BHR/OFDA deploys short- or long-term field personnel to countries where disasters are occurring or threaten to occur, and in some cases, dispatches a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART).

The largest percentage of BHR/OFDA's assistance goes to relief and rehabilitation project grants managed by Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Organizations (IOs). Relief projects include airlifting relief supplies to affected populations in remote locations, managing primary health care and supplementary feeding centers, and providing shelter materials to disaster evacuees and displaced persons. A rehabilitation project might immunize dislocated populations against disease, provide seeds and tools to farmers who have been affected by disasters, or drill wells or rehabilitate water systems in drought-stricken countries. BHR/OFDA carefully monitors the organizations implementing these projects to ensure that resources are used wisely and to determine if the project needs to be adapted to changing conditions. The goal of each project is to meet the humanitarian needs of the affected population, with the aim of returning the population to self-sufficiency.

OFDA Funding and Grants by Agency Type, FY 1999



Note: Figures are estimates.

The "notwithstanding" clause of Section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 states that no statutory or regulatory requirements shall restrict BHR/OFDA's ability to respond to the needs of disaster victims in a timely fashion. BHR/OFDA follows the standard USAID procedures for routine procurements, but utilizes expedited or modified procedures when necessary to achieve its disaster response objectives. The first principle in disaster response accountability is to ensure that appropriate assistance gets to the neediest victims in time to minimize death and suffering. Procurement and accounting procedures may be expedited, but must include effective systems of internal control.

Not all of BHR/OFDA's assistance goes to providing aid in response to disasters. BHR/OFDA's mitigation staff oversees a portfolio of projects designed to reduce the impact of disasters on victims and economic assets in disaster-prone countries. During the last several years, BHR/OFDA has invested in a number of programs in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the World Environment Center, and other offices within USAID. These programs not only enhance a country's capacity to manage its own disasters and hazards, but also promote the transfer of technology, goods, and services between the U.S. and the host country. BHR/OFDA mitigation-related programs range from investing in drought early warning systems that can possibly head off a famine to training local relief workers to manage the response to a disaster more effectively. BHR/OFDA is increasingly investing in programs designed to prevent, mitigate, prepare, and plan for complex emergencies, which are more the result of human actions than of acts of nature.

Other U.S. Offices that Provide Foreign Humanitarian Assistance

BHR/OFDA is not the only office within the USG that provides humanitarian aid to foreign countries. BHR/FFP is responsible for administering the USG's foreign food aid programs, under U.S. Public Law (P.L.) 480 Titles II and III. Title II emergency food aid programs are targeted to vulnerable populations suffering from food insecurity as a result of natural disasters, civil conflict, or other crises. Title II emergency food aid is provided without repayment requirements, whereas Title III food aid is provided as a bilateral loan program to countries in need of assistance. BHR/OTI is the office within USAID responsible for providing assistance to countries that are in a stage of transition from crisis to recovery. Its assistance is designed to facilitate the transition to peace and democracy by aiding in the demobilization of combatants or developing democratic governance structures within the country. Other parts of USAID, such as the regional bureaus, provide foreign development aid, which often complements humanitarian relief programs or can be regarded as disaster rehabilitation assistance. Countries that have achieved sustainable development are less likely to require massive USG humanitarian assistance.

Three of the biggest providers of USG humanitarian assistance are the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) and the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs (DOD/PK/HA). USDA works closely with BHR/FFP in allocating surplus food commodities to developing countries, under the Section 416(b) program of the Agricultural Act of 1949. This food aid is often used for emergency feeding programs in countries experiencing food shortages due to drought or civil strife. State/PRM provides multilateral grants to international relief organizations in response to refugee emergency appeals and contributes to the regular program budgets of organizations such as the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). DOD/PK/HA coordinates the utilization of DOD assets for humanitarian assistance overseas. In addition, DOD works closely with BHR/OFDA and the U.S. Department of State to coordinate the Denton Program, a program that transports humanitarian goods on a space available basis, using U.S. military transportation. The USGS, the U.S. Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also provide technical assistance in response to disasters and potential hazards overseas.

BHR/OFDA Publications

In addition to its annual report, BHR/OFDA produces several other publications that are available on the Internet and by request. One of the most useful is the Field Operations Guide, a pocket-sized manual that contains methodology for conducting disaster assessments, as well as information on BHR/OFDA response procedures. BHR/OFDA also produces current reports on disasters and crises around the world, which describe the situation and the corresponding USG response.

Current reports are available on several Internet gophers and World Wide Web sites, such as:

USAID Home Page
http://www.usaid.gov

UNOCHA ReliefWeb Home Page
http://www.reliefweb.int

Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA) Disaster Information Center
http://www.vita.org

To have these reports sent to you automatically, send an E-Mail message to:

listproc@info.usaid.gov, and type in the Message field: subscribe OFDA-L <Your Name>

BHR/OFDA's Evolving Role in Disaster Response

Introduction

The decade of the 1990's presented BHR/OFDA with new challenges to its mandate of saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the economic impact of disasters. 1998's unprecedented year of international humanitarian emergencies continued into FY 1999 with the devastation of an earthquake in Turkey, the widespread destruction from Hurricane Mitch in Central America, and the shelter crisis due to civil strife in Kosovo.

An increase in highly visible, conflict-related, complex emergencies such as those in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia have consumed the bulk of international humanitarian resources over the past decade. In addition, vulnerability to natural disasters is greater than ever, due to factors such as population growth and environmental degradation. In response to these changes, BHR/OFDA has adopted new programming and response capabilities. Its mission represents a reshaped approach to humanitarian relief. FY 1999 illustrates that in any humanitarian disaster BHR/OFDA may find itself functioning as a donor, a coordinator, and even an implementer of disaster response.

A widowed IDP mother prepares food for her child in the village of Thiet, Lakes Region of southern Sudan. BHR/OFDA funded a WVUS program that provided non-food relief items to the IDPs, including the cooking pot (photo by Ted Maly, BHR/OFDA).

While BHR/OFDA has traditionally viewed itself as functioning with immediate and short-term response capability to humanitarian disasters and providing basic necessities to affected populations, the Office also recognizes the importance of incorporating mitigation techniques into its response activity whenever possible. Mitigation techniques are those designed to reduce the number of lives lost and amount of property damaged from natural and complex disasters. The unique nature of BHR/OFDA's role in disaster response during FY 1999 provided the Office with an opportunity for strategic response planning in an effort to minimize the impact of future disasters. Throughout the year, BHR/OFDA used its position as a key player in the international humanitarian relief community to make mitigation an integral part of emergency response.

BHR/OFDA as a Donor in Emergency Relief

By the middle of the 1990s, BHR/OFDA had been providing relief assistance to many of the same conflict-related disasters for several consecutive years, yet long-term humanitarian conditions remained largely unchanged. In recognition of its need for flexibility, BHR/OFDA responded to the situation by taking on an expanded donor role, one that more fully integrates rehabilitation efforts into relief activities. In collaboration with its implementing partners, BHR/OFDA committed itself to developing programs that could prevent further deterioration of conditions in disaster-affected countries.

In 1994 in southern Sudan, when the country could barely produce enough food to meet local needs, BHR/OFDA began funding innovative rehabilitation activities designed to positively impact the country's economy. One such project distributed seeds and tools to local farmers and supported local grain production in an effort to increase food security and develop local capacities. Now, in several areas of the country, farmers are producing a surplus of grain. Subsequently, BHR/OFDA's implementing partners began purchasing grain from local farmers for delivery to vulnerable populations struggling to survive in food-deficit areas. Today, markets that did not exist five years ago are flourishing and filled with an abundance of produce and manufactured goods.

In a further attempt to provide relief assistance designed to improve the country's economy, BHR/OFDA committed funds to road repair projects throughout Sudan. The rehabilitation of road networks reduced the cost of providing relief assistance to vulnerable areas, as transporting relief commodities by road is more cost efficient than by air. Improvements in road conditions increased mobility and facilitated regional trade by allowing farmers access to more markets. These successes are examples of how BHR/OFDA was able to use its role as a donor to facilitate a relief and rehabilitation program in southern Sudan that fosters self-reliance and productivity well beyond the immediate crisis.

As new natural and conflict-related disasters unfold, BHR/OFDA continues to encourage more innovative relief and rehabilitation programs. In 1996, the Office revised its guidelines on grant proposals to reflect a new commitment to strategies that safeguard livelihoods and maintain economic and agricultural viability during complex emergencies. A new focus was placed on strengthening the integration of relief and development efforts. In 1998, BHR/OFDA placed a premium on context-specific programming, requiring grantees to address variables such as gender, the environment, and social and political networks that are specific to a particular disaster. As illustrated with successful programs in Sudan, these new approaches to funding are beginning to surface as BHR/OFDA's role in disaster relief expands and adapts to new challenges.

BHR/OFDA as Coordinator and Implementer in Emergency Relief

The increased number of humanitarian actors engaged in international disasters has created a need for greater coordination among all agencies and governments. FY 1999 found BHR/OFDA facilitating that role in a number of disasters. The Office worked with a host of USG agencies and international organizations, funded key USG field positions, and bolstered the overall effectiveness of

The BHR/OFDA-sponsored Miami-Dade Search and Rescue Team, including dogs, search for buried survivors after the Turkey earthquake in August 1999 (photo by the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

relief efforts. At other times during the year, BHR/OFDA played the role of an implementer in relief activities, operating in key positions on the ground, assessing needs, and responding to them directly through its USAID/DART.

The Turkey Earthquake

In August 1999, Turkey was struck with one of the most powerful earthquakes of the century, killing more than 15,000 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. BHR/OFDA responded immediately by sending the largest USAID/DART ever deployed by the Office, and demonstrating OFDA's ability to quickly mobilize and coordinate technical experts. The USAID/DART in Turkey included two Search and Rescue (SAR) contingents from Fairfax County, Virginia and Miami-Dade, Florida; two epidemiologists from CDC; and a water/sanitation specialist. This unique team functioned as a highly effective tool for disaster response, capable of on-the-spot emergency needs assessments and the coordination of USAID's response with other donors, the host government, and additional USG agencies present in the field. The success of the USAID/DART in Turkey demonstrated BHR/OFDA's continual effort to improve its response readiness and operational capabilities.

Hurricane Mitch

Hurricane Mitch stunned the international humanitarian relief community in October 1998 when it hovered over Central America for several days, with sustained winds of 112 km/hour, dumping heavy rainfall and causing significant destruction in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. In response, the U.S. mounted one of the largest international emergency relief responses to a natural disaster in U.S. history. From the very first moments of the storm, BHR/OFDA personnel were on the ground conducting damage assessments. USAID/DARTs that were deployed prior to Mitch making landfall provided a mobile team of

response and technical specialists and proved to be a valuable operational presence in the field. BHR/OFDA effectively collaborated with DOD to help deliver critical assistance such as water, food, medicines, shelter, and blankets to the millions of people affected by the hurricane. The relief effort is another example of how FY 1999 challenged BHR/OFDA to take on expanded roles in emergency relief efforts. BHR/OFDA was a key player in coordinating the most significant contribution the USG has ever made to a natural disaster.

Civil Strife in Kosovo

In June 1999, a humanitarian crisis developed in Kosovo when tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians tried to return to their homes and villages after fleeing across nearby borders due to violent conflict with Serb forces. Ethnic Albanians returned to find that 365,000 homes had been damaged during the conflict. Winter was fast approaching and an estimated 800,000 people were homeless, creating a shelter crisis unanticipated by the humanitarian relief community. The situation in Kosovo was one of the most complicated complex disasters ever to challenge BHR/OFDA and one that highlighted the Office's ability to adapt itself to longer and more complex operational roles in the field.

Lumber is off-loaded in the BHR/OFDA-funded emergency shelter materials depot in Gjilane (Ferizaj), Kosovo (photo by Jamy Bond, BHR/OFDA).

The immediate and large influx of IDPs back into Kosovo overwhelmed the international relief community. BHR/OFDA took the lead in responding to the crisis. In coordination with the U.S. military and professional contractors, the USAID/DART already present in the field quickly established a logistical supply system that brought needed lumber for roofing into the province by train. Still, NGOs in the field continued to struggle with the enormous need to shelter the Kosovar community. Recognizing that these NGOs were in need of further operational support, the USAID/DART established a centralized depot to receive incoming emergency shelter materials. This logistical operation represented an unusual hands-on role by BHR/OFDA in an effort to provide the support structure necessary for NGO partners to implement their shelter programs before the onset of winter. In effect, BHR/OFDA's depot operations provided emergency shelter assistance to an estimated 6,000 families who otherwise may not have received any assistance.

This increased operational presence in the field has placed greater demands on BHR/OFDA staff in Washington. In FY 1999, the Office established a Washington-based Response Management Team (RMT) to provide sustained support for the increased number, size, and duration of USAID/DARTs. When a disaster hits, BHR/OFDA not only deploys a USAID/DART to the field, but also mobilizes the RMT in Washington to ensure accurate communication, appropriate analysis, quick response to field requests and prompt information dissemination. In addition, the RMT coordinates with BHR/OFDA's partners in Washington on recommendations and decisions, and responds to inquiries from across the USG. The implementation of the RMT structure in Washington parallels that of an operational DART on the ground. In effect, new roles for BHR/OFDA in the coordination and operation of relief activities in the field are reflected by similar roles in Washington.

Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation

In FY 1999, the devastation from both natural and complex emergencies focused the international community's attention on the importance of working to prevent and mitigate disaster whenever possible. Preparing vulnerable populations for the likelihood of disasters can significantly decrease the damage and destruction they cause. In addition to the grave human losses that resulted from disasters in Central America, Kosovo, and Turkey, decades of development investments in roads, schools, health clinics, and economic growth were destroyed. The emotional impact and high cost of such losses have, in effect, sensitized public opinion and governments to the need for more disaster mitigation activities. In FY 1999, BHR/OFDA committed itself to addressing this need. The Office expanded in-house expertise and increased its response capability by providing scientific, technical, and analytical knowledge to activities and decision-making.

BHR/OFDA supported an international team of geoscientists in removing dangerous carbon dioxide from Lakes Nyos and Monoun, Cameroon (photo by George Kling, University of Michigan).

In response to an earthquake in Armenia, for example, BHR/OFDA's technical experts worked quickly with local organizations and partners to collect information, determine areas at high risk of future earthquakes, and create maps that were used to make reconstruction efforts more earthquake-resistant. In response to Hurricane Georges in the Dominican Republic, which left 44,000 people homeless, BHR/OFDA funded the use of salvaged timber to provide shelter for the affected population. The program reduced fire hazard potential by lowering fuel loads, limited soil erosion potential, and decreased insect infestation by removing a potential habitat. These successful projects exemplify the value and viability of integrating longer-term disaster mitigation efforts into initial response programming.

A further example of BHR/OFDA's continuing focus on minimizing the impact of future disasters is The Central American Mitigation Initiative (CAMI) announced by President Clinton in March 1999. Over the next three years, $11 million will be invested in activities that increase the ability of Central American governments to forecast, monitor, and respond to natural disasters.

Finally, in September 1999, BHR/OFDA began

an effort geared toward actually preventing a disaster's occurrence. The effort involved a degassing program in Cameroon created to mitigate the effects of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from two volcanic lakes, which killed 1,800 people in 1984 and 1986 and now threaten 10,000 more. The University of Michigan deployed a scientific team to Cameroon to install a system that uses slow, controlled removal of CO_2 gas from lake waters as a simple and effective means of keeping gas emissions from reaching dangerous levels.

In addition to expanding in-house technical expertise, BHR/OFDA has spent the past decade working to maximize USG emergency response capacity by increasing its cooperation with other USG offices. Since 1990, the number of formal relationships between BHR/OFDA and agencies such as the USGS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USDA, U.S. Public Health Services, and USFS has grown significantly. Each partnership offers BHR/OFDA direct access to staff with a range of technical expertise on both a short- and long-term basis. Staff members from various USG agencies and universities rotate through the Office as fully integrated team participants, for months and even years at a time. The result is a continual, on-site cadre of experts with disaster experience who contribute to BHR/OFDA's support for relief initiatives and programs aimed at mitigation.

Conclusion

While its primary mandate of saving lives and reducing human suffering remains the same, BHR/OFDA has evolved to keep up with a changing world. FY 1999 marks BHR/OFDA's recognition of the expanded role it has to play in disaster relief. The face of BHR/OFDA today reflects an ability to evolve and maintain effectiveness in a more complex international environment; an ability to mobilize technical resources and build relevant knowledge into emergency relief response; and an emphasis on enhancing prevention, mitigation, and preparedness activities. BHR/OFDA recognizes that adaptability is essential and improvements are imperative to the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance. In further anticipation of the challenges to come, BHR/OFDA is already making plans on how to meet them through a continuous review of its efforts, and a broader enhancement of its systems and capabilities.

Prior-Year and Non-Declared Disasters

Activities initiated in response to a disaster declaration often require additional funding for completion in subsequent fiscal years. In FY 1999, BHR/OFDA obligated a total of $259,005 in response to disasters declared in FYs 1998 and 1996.

FY 1998 Carryover

Bangladesh - Floods
Replenishment of water containers and plastic sheeting to stockpile.....**$73,388**

Mexico - Fires
Grant amendment to Government of Mexico to audit OFDA assistance **$5,000**

St. Kitts, Nevis & Anguilla - Hurricane
Replenishment of water containers and plastic sheeting to stockpile and deployment of personnel to assist in communications support and assessments **$136,661**

FY 1996 Carryover

Bolivia - Drought
Replenishment of 300-gallon water tanks to stockpile..... **$14,256**

Ecuador - Earthquake
Replenishment of 300-gallon water tanks to stockpile..... **$29,700**

BHR/OFDA Carryover Assistance in FY 1999 ..... **$259,005**

FY 1999 Declared Disasters

Disaster Summaries in this Annual Report

The disaster descriptions on the following pages cover the period of the USG's fiscal year, October 1, 1998 through September 30, 1999. During FY 1999, BHR/OFDA responded to 64 new "declared" disasters.

How a Disaster is Declared

The Chief of the U.S. Mission declares a disaster in the affected country when he or she determines that a disaster exists that warrants a USG response and that is beyond the ability of the host country's response capacity. In the event that a U.S. Mission is not located in the affected country, the appropriate U.S. Assistant Secretary of State may declare a disaster. A disaster cannot be declared without a request from the host country for USG assistance. A disaster declaration allows the Chief of Mission or U.S. Assistant Secretary of State to allocate up to $25,000 (the "Disaster Assistance Authority") for host country relief efforts. BHR/OFDA releases the $25,000 Ambassador's Authority from its International Disaster Account (IDA) and provides the Mission with guidance to determine the need for additional USG assistance. BHR/OFDA sends assessment teams to disaster sites when needed to assist in the verification of relief needs.

BHR/OFDA Assistance and Other USG Assistance

Many of the disasters in FY 1999 required a complex mix of USG financial and staff resources. The disaster descriptions include total dollar figures for the assistance provided from BHR/OFDA's IDA, as well as summary information on assistance provided by other USG offices, such as BHR/FFP, BHR/OTI, USDA, DOD, and State/PRM. It is not always possible for BHR/OFDA to verify total assistance provided by other USG offices. However, wherever possible, State/PRM and BHR/FFP funding for regional grants, programs, and international appeals are listed separately.

Assistance Provided by U.S. PVOs and the International Community

Information included in the disaster descriptions on assistance provided by U.S. PVOs and the international community is compiled from reports submitted voluntarily to BHR/OFDA. It is not always possible to verify the accuracy of these reports.

Detailed Situation Reports and Fact Sheets on Major Disasters Available Separately

BHR/OFDA produces documents that provide more detailed information about declared disasters than is provided in the case reports found in this annual report. Situation reports are 4-5 page documents updated periodically and written on long-term, complex emergencies. Fact sheets are traditionally one-page documents written on natural disasters and complex emergencies, which eventually may warrant situation reports.

Situation reports or fact sheets were written for the following major disasters in FY 1999:

Bahamas - Hurricane
Colombia - Earthquake
Ethiopia - Drought
Indonesia - Complex Emergency
Kosovo - Complex Emergency
Liberia - Complex Emergency
Sierra Leone - Complex Emergency
Somalia - Drought
Taiwan - Earthquake
Turkey - Earthquake

Note: Historical and current situation reports and fact sheets are available from BHR/OFDA upon request.

Serbia-Montenegro: A family returns to their home that was damaged in the conflict by Serb forces and reparied with materials from the BHR/OFDA roofing program (photo by Jamy Bond, BHR/OFDA).

Albania: Refugees from Kosovo line up to return from Kukes, Albania after the signing of the NATO agreement (photo by Amy Tohill-Stull, BHR/OFDA).

No caption available

no caption available

Taiwan: Two apartment buildings crumble to the ground in Toulin, Taiwan as a result of the September 21 earthquake (photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

Angola: A community kitchen in Kuito, partially supported by an OFDA-funded NGO, provides supplemental wet meals to malnourished children and caretakers (photo by Helene Carlson, BHR/OFDA).

Africa

Africa

MAURITANIA
MALI
GAMBIA
SIERRA LEONE
LIBERIA
NIGERIA
CHAD
SUDAN
ERITREA
DJIBOUTI
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
ETHIOPIA
CAMEROON
SOMALIA
REPUBLIC OF CONGO
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
KENYA
RWANDA
BURUNDI
TANZANIA
COMOROS
ANGOLA
MOZAMBIQUE
LESOTHO

Angola
Complex Emergency

The Government of the Republic of Angola (GRA) and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) resumed fighting during April 1998 in the wake of the collapse of the peace process that the signing of the Lusaka Protocol launched in November 1994. In December 1998, UNITA forces began laying siege to a number of cities and towns, most notably the government-held cities of Huambo, Malanje, and Kuito.

A community kitchen in Kuito, partially supported by an OFDA-funded NGO, provides supplemental wet meals to malnourished children and caretakers (photo by Helene Carlson, BHR/OFDA).

Renewed fighting caused a sharp rise in the number of IDPs, as many of them fled to provincial cities to escape fighting in insecure rural areas. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), more than 500,000 of the estimated 2.6 million IDPs in Angola were displaced after January 1999. These IDP totals do not include the estimated three million people who remained inaccessible in UNITA-controlled territory. More than 281,000 people fled Angola to neighboring countries; of that number, 49,000 fled after fighting resumed in April 1998.

A government-run daycare center intended to care for and provide supplemental food to children expands to address malnutrition concerns in adult and elderly populations in Malange (photo by Helene Carlson, BHR/OFDA).

The laying of landmines intensified following the resumption of hostilities, with estimates of the total number of mines ranging between seven and 20 million. Landmines and unexploded ordnance existed in large numbers around IDP camps and alongside major roads. More than 70,000 Angolans are estimated to have lost limbs as a result of landmine explosions.

The resurgence of war caused the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Angola. Epidemics and shortages of food and potable water threatened the health of those affected by the renewed fighting. The isolation of large areas of Angola due to insecurity also exacerbated the plight of IDPs. Many of the roads into the larger towns and cities to which IDPs fled were cut off due to conflict, landmines, or banditry. As a result, food prices rose significantly in provincial cities isolated by road closures, and more than 90% of relief commodities had to be airlifted to isolated areas. Increases in military activity, however, caused relief commodity airlifts to be suspended periodically. In UNITA-controlled territory, the lack of access meant that relief agencies were limited in their ability to assess and provide for the needs of the vulnerable population.

In an escalating number of attacks, humanitarian aid workers were harassed, detained, wounded, and killed.

Seven Angolan relief workers were killed between April and October 1999. Combatants forcibly conscripted local employees of international humanitarian relief organizations, confiscated communications equipment and vehicles, shot down humanitarian aircraft, and diverted relief commodities.

On February 18, U.S. Ambassador Joseph Sullivan declared a disaster due to the deteriorating humanitarian situation. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $25,000 through USAID/Luanda to UNOCHA for a water and sanitation project administered by Development Workshop for IDPs newly arrived in the capital, Luanda. During FY 1999, BHR/OFDA deployed several assessment missions to Angola and funded eight grantees to conduct emergency relief activities. BHR/OFDA provided $8 million in emergency relief through organizations such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Médecins Sans Frontières/Belgium (MSF/B), International Medical Corps (IMC), World Vision, Incorporated/United States (WVUS), and Africare. These funds supported a variety of emergency relief activities, including therapeutic and supplementary feeding centers, hospital emergency care and referrals, primary health care programs, mobile health clinics, water/sanitation initiatives, and seeds and tools distributions. BHR/OFDA also contributed to U.N. activities by providing funds to UNOCHA, the World Food Program (WFP), and the U.N. Development Program (UNDP). In addition, BHR/OFDA funded an information officer to provide USAID/Luanda and BHR/OFDA with regular field reporting on the changing humanitarian situation.

In FY 1999, BHR/FFP provided 42,447 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, worth $33.8 million, toward WFP's appeal for distribution to vulnerable groups. BHR/OTI provided $339,771 for landmine awareness activities; Voice of America daily radio newscasts; and community revitalization projects that included rehabilitating schools, markets, roads, latrines, and irrigation canals. USAID's Bureau for Africa gave $2.7 million to promote child survival, including polio prevention and treatment. It also provided $8.5 million for agricultural recovery, democracy and governance, and economic growth programs. State/PRM contributed $50 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and $44.1 million to UNHCR to assist refugees, including Angolans, in the region.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $8,056,595
Other USG Assistance $45,415,571
Total USG Assistance $53,472,166
STATE/PRM Assistance $94,100,000*

**State/PRM funding to Angola is regional and, therefore, cannot be included in total United States Government (USG) assistance figures for Angola.*

Burundi

Complex Emergency

The conflict between Hutus and Tutsis that began with the assassination of Burundian President Melchoir Ndadye in October 1993 continued unabated in FY 1999. Despite several positive developments in the ongoing peace process, including the efforts to engage in all-party peace talks, the slow progress in both regional and international peace processes prevented a cease-fire and the signing of a peace agreement. However, due to some progress in the talks, economic sanctions imposed by regional leaders in 1996 were lifted in 1999 and resulted in a devaluation of the local currency and a slight fall in market prices. Despite the evaluation, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that the decrease in prices did not benefit the average family, as basic food prices remained at twice pre-sanction levels.

The six-year conflict between Hutus and Tutsis has caused more than 850,000 Burundians to be displaced from their homes. In FY 1999, more than 300,000 people were forcibly moved to regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural by the Government of Burundi. In addition, 300,000 Burundians remained as refugees in neighboring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC), Tanzania, and Rwanda. In the absence of a cease-fire agreement, the security situation in Burundi remained volatile. Due to insecurity around Bujumbura, an additional 250,000 people were forc-

ibly removed from their homes.

In FY 1999, the fluid movement of IDPs within Burundi was mirrored by refugee movements throughout the region. Refugees from the conflict-stricken Great Lakes region fled to Burundi, bringing the total number of refugees in the country to 20,490 from DROC and 1,671 from Rwanda. The level of insecurity, combined with continual population movements, also adversely impacted overall humanitarian operations by preventing reliable, safe access to various regions of Burundi.

The continued violence and displacement of the Burundian population affected access to basic health services. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that child mortality rates reached 210 deaths per 1,000 live births, while maternal mortality rates peaked at 800 deaths per 100,000 live births. FAO estimated that Burundi, which was a food exporter prior to the conflict, required 50,000 MT of food assistance in FY 1999. The health and agriculture sectors in Burundi during FY 1999 were also weakened by ongoing drought conditions.

On October 6, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Morris N. Hughes Jr. redeclared a disaster due to the continuing humanitarian crisis. BHR/OFDA provided approximately $9.4 million in emergency assistance. BHR/OFDA grants to WVUS, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), MSF/H, UNICEF, Gruppo di Volontarioto Civile, MSF/B, and IMC totaled more than $3.7 million and supported therapeutic feeding centers and basic health services throughout the country. Food security activities totaling nearly $1.8 million were implemented by Solidarites, Cooperation for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), Concern, WVUS, FAO, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). With BHR/OFDA assistance, International Rescue Committee (IRC) provided for water/sanitation and basic shelter needs for 222,000 IDPs. In addition, BHR/OFDA funded $321,000 in reintegration and resettlement activities implemented by Action Aid and $205,937 in support of women's associations through Children's Aid Direct. BHR/OFDA also continued to fund an Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC) to monitor BHR/OFDA programs and report on humanitarian developments. In addition, BHR/OFDA funded more than $800,000 in support of U.N. coordination activities.

BHR/FFP provided 520 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP, at a value of $656,300. State/PRM provided $3.6 million to assist returning Burundian refugees through a $2.3 million contribution to UNHCR activities and $1.3 million in support of the ICRC programs.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $9,387,738
Other USG Assistance $4,256,300
Total USG Assistance $13,644,038

Cameroon

Volcano

On March 27, 1999, Mount Cameroon, the only active volcano in West Africa, erupted. The slow-moving lava flows from the volcano caused minimal damage and did not threaten lives. The Government of Cameroon (GOC), however, was concerned that lava flows would sever the Limbe-Idenao road south of the town of Bakingili and reach the Gulf of Guinea. The GOC evacuated the 15,000 residents from coastal villages that lay in the path of the potential lava flows, and requested international assistance in providing relief goods to evacuees. The displaced villagers were temporarily housed at the Tiko Airstrip, east of Limbe in the Southwest Province.

On April 13, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Marc Boulware declared a disaster to assist those displaced by the lava flows. Relief goods required by evacuees included beds, mattresses, blankets, tents, water containers, portable latrines, medical supplies, and emergency food. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Yaounde for the local purchase of emergency relief items. In addition, BHR/OFDA funded a USGS volcanologist to assess the damage and additional dangers posed by Mount Cameroon. The volcanologist conducted an assessment between April 21 - May 1 and concluded that the lava flows ceased on April 17, falling short of the Limbe-Idenao road. On May 5, the U.S. Embassy reported that BHR/OFDA's assistance was

not required and de-obligated the $25,000 provided on April 13.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $13,101

Central African Republic

Complex Emergency

As a result of the fighting in the DROC between government forces and separatist factions, an estimated 17,000 people crossed into the Central African Republic (CAR) from the DROC between July 2-22, 1999. Of the total, approximately 6,000 civilians and 5,000 soldiers crossed into the southern Mobaye and Bangassou regions of the CAR, while the remaining 6,000 people (consisting largely of civilians, but including some soldiers) traveled to Bangui, the CAR's capital. On July 22, U.S. Ambassador Robert Perry declared a disaster as a result of the sudden influx of people from the DROC. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Bangui to Africare to provide for the emergency relief needs of new arrivals settling in the Bangui area. Africare established a feeding program in the Port Amont area of Bangui, drilled a well at the camp in Bou Bou, where new arrivals to Bangui were accommodated, and provided medical treatment. Soldiers identified in the camp's population were excluded from receiving any of the BHR/OFDA-funded food and non-food assistance.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Chad

Floods

Heavy rainfall between June and September 1999 caused flooding in many regions of Chad. The hardest hit area was the town of Ati, which has a population of 30,000 people. The floodwaters left more than 128,000 people affected, 5,200 buildings destroyed, 1,257 head of livestock dead, and 165,124 hectares of agricultural land under water. In response to an appeal by the Government of Chad, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Edward Rowe declared a disaster on August 17 due to the effects of the flooding. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena to the Chadian Red Cross to procure and deliver relief supplies to the affected residents of Ati. The relief supplies included plastic sheeting, blankets, shovels, picks, and wheelbarrows.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Comoros

Complex Emergency

In a struggle for political control, fighting broke out between separatist factions on Comoros' island of Anjouan on December 4, 1998. As a result of the violence, 10,000 - 20,000 civilians were internally displaced on Anjouan Island. The fighting ceased on December 14, but many IDPs remained in outdoor gathering areas without access to shelter or food. On December 14, U.S. Ambassador Harold W. Geisel declared a disaster for Comoros in response to the civil strife in Anjouan. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Port Louis to UNDP. UNDP used the funds to provide emergency food assistance and logistical support to the IDPs being sheltered in the towns of Sima, Bandani, Pomonni, and Moheli.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Complex Emergency

In August 1998, fighting in the DROC worsened, and regional violence transformed into a rebellion against the Government of the DROC (GDROC). For the first time, the fighting spread across the entire country. Despite international efforts to end the conflict, rebel forces–aided by Rwanda and Uganda–controlled a vast area of eastern DROC at the beginning of FY 1999. The continued fighting devastated the overall economy and threatened the ability of local populations to safeguard their livelihoods. The prolonged conflict destroyed infrastructure, exacerbated food shortages, and left human rights violations in its wake.

As a result of the ongoing conflict, international relief staff were withdrawn from North and South Kivu, Province Orientale, and Maniema. The humanitarian situation was further complicated by limited supplies of fuel and the lack of a functioning transportation infrastructure.

By August 1999, both the GDROC and rebel factions signed the Lusaka Accord, calling for a ceasefire on September 1; and, on August 6, the United Nations Security Council approved the deployment of international observers. However, suspicion and mistrust surrounded the agreements and, by the end of FY 1999, all sides were alleged to have violated the Lusaka terms.

As a result of several years of violence, more than 836,000 IDPs remained in need of emergency assistance in the DROC. In addition, refugees continued to move across national borders. Estimates indicated that more than 178,000 people fled to Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia, and the CAR. During FY 1999, DROC, in turn, hosted more than 250,000 refugees, including 157,000 from Angola, 61,000 from Sudan, 20,000 from the Republic of Congo, 20,000 from Burundi, 10,000 from Rwanda, and 2,300 from Uganda.

While no sector of economic or social life was left untouched by the war, the health sector was among the most devastated. In addition to the health problems induced by long-term displacement, poverty, and food shortages, those affected by the war also witnessed empty hospital dispensaries, a lack of doctors and nurses, a devastated health infrastructure, and a collapse of traditional safety nets.

In response to the crisis, U.S. Ambassador William L. Swing redeclared a disaster in the DROC on October 2, 1998. BHR/OFDA responded with more than $4.5 million in assistance to affected populations. During FY 1999, BHR/OFDA funded a full-time EDRC in Kinshasa to monitor developments in the humanitarian situation and the progress of BHR/OFDA-funded activities. Due to the magnitude of the emergency health needs in the DROC, more than one-third of BHR/OFDA's assistance targeted the health sector. BHR/OFDA partners, including UNICEF, CRS, MERLIN, IRC, and ACF, received over $1.7 million to implement activities that re-established health systems, provided emergency health and nutrition assistance, and administered measles immunizations.

In addition, BHR/OFDA provided more than $1.6 million to Food for the Hungry International (FHI), ACF, and Action Against Hunger/United States (AAH-USA) to implement seed distribution and food security activities. BHR/OFDA also contributed $300,000 to UNICEF's emergency response and preparedness activities that benefited 210,000 children in the eastern region. IRC received $456,197 from BHR/OFDA to meet the essential needs of 223,000 IDPs in South Kivu. Other BHR/OFDA assistance included $255,000 to AirServ to transport relief supplies to support affected populations.

In FY 1999, BHR/FFP provided 8,150 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance totaling more than $5.8 million to affected populations in the DROC. BHR/OTI funded more than $3.9 million in small grant activities that supported peacebuilding activities by coalitions of civil society organizations and contributed to good governance and collaboration between local government and civil society at the grassroots level. State/PRM provided $7.3 million in assistance to refugee populations in FY 1999. State/PRM supported ICRC efforts with $4.8 million in funding and contributed $2.5 million to UNHCR activities.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $4,597,135
Other USG Assistance $17,063,814
Total USG Assistance $21,660,949

Djibouti

Epidemic

An outbreak of malaria occurred in Djibouti's remote rural districts of Tadjourah, Ali Sabieh, and Dikhil as a result of above average rainfall between September and December 1998. More than 43 deaths and 2,000 cases of malaria were reported in the first few days of the outbreak. The increase in cases of malaria was a direct result of significant increases in mosquito and fly populations incubated in large pools of standing water. On December 14, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Lange Schermerhorn declared a disaster in response to the epidemic. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Djibouti to locally purchase mosquito nets and support an aerial insect spraying and disinfection program.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Eritrea

Complex Emergency

In February 1999, following an eight-month lull, intense fighting resumed between Eritrea and Ethiopia along contested border areas that included the towns of Badme and Shiraro. During June, the fighting along the border spread to areas further to the east, with Gash-Barka and Debub (southern) provinces the most adversely affected. According to the Government of the State of Eritrea (GSE), 100,000 Eritreans were displaced or directly affected by the border conflicts in FY 1999; thousands of soldiers also were killed, wounded or captured during the clashes. An additional 160,000 people were classified as vulnerable, with their livelihoods threatened by the conflict. While exact figures and the degree of coercion were difficult to confirm, the GSE and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also continued to expel each other's nationals throughout FY 1999. An estimated 30,000 people of Eritrean descent were expelled from Ethiopia from December 1998 through the end of FY 1999.

According to appeals issued by the GSE and the U.N., affected populations required the immediate provision of emergency food and specific non-food items, including shelter materials and potable water. Continued fighting disrupted trade and economic activity and affected humanitarian access to vulnerable populations on both sides of the border.

The USG actively participated in various diplomatic initiatives during FY 1999 to establish a cease-fire and end the Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict. The main peace initiative included a framework agreement supported by the U.N. and the Organization for African Unity and negotiated by the United States and Rwanda. President Clinton repeatedly appealed to both sides to respect a U.S.-brokered moratorium on air strikes and called for a cease-fire. In addition, the U.N. Security Council repeated calls for an immediate end to hostilities and a mandatory U.N. arms embargo against both countries. Despite these and other peace initiatives by the international community, tensions along the border areas remained high, as Ethiopian and Eritrean forces continued their efforts to gain disputed areas through military means.

On February 5, U.S. Ambassador William Clarke redeclared a disaster due to the effects of the border fighting. In FY 1999, BHR/OFDA provided $976,000 to UNICEF and Africare to procure and distribute locally produced supplementary food, shelter materials, and household goods in conflict-affected areas. BHR/OFDA provided funds to airlift and distribute 10,300 one-gallon water containers, 28,000 blankets, and other emergency relief items to IDPs and affected populations along the border. The cost of the airlift was $116,407. In addition, BHR/OFDA replenished its Pisa, Italy stockpile with additional one-gallon water containers and blankets at a cost of $77,880.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $1,170,287

Ethiopia
Complex Emergency

Renewed hostilities during February 1999 along the Ethiopia-Eritrea border affected an estimated 375,000 Ethiopians during FY 1999. Among those in most need were 150,000 IDPs, mostly from the Tigray Region, and an estimated 40,000 people of Ethiopian descent who returned to Ethiopia from Eritrea. More than 4.2 million Ethiopians also faced serious food shortages due to poor and uneven rainfall levels during recent agricultural growing seasons. In addition to emergency food distributions, war-affected populations required emergency health and shelter assistance. Insecurity and logistical constraints, however, limited the access of relief organizations to many war-affected regions during FY 1999.

On March 25, U.S. Ambassador David Shinn redeclared a disaster for FY 1999 as a result of the renewed border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. BHR/OFDA provided $239,500 to transport plastic sheeting to Ethiopia and to replenish blankets and plastic sheeting in a BHR/OFDA stockpile that was previously drawn down to airlift relief supplies to Ethiopia. BHR/OFDA also funded $34,500 for UNDP to assist with drought monitoring and emergency coordination. In addition, BHR/FFP provided 37,740 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than $20.6 million, through WFP and a local NGO, Relief Society of Tigray. *(For additional information, please see "Eritrea - Complex Emergency" and "Ethiopia - Drought" case reports.)*

BHR/OFDA Assistance $274,000
Other USG Assistance $20,605,900
Total USG Assistance $20,879,900

Ethiopia
Drought

During FY 1999, more than 4.2 million Ethiopians faced serious food shortages due to poor and uneven rainfall. The drought conditions and the lack of significant rainfall occurred in North Wello and East Hararghe zones, as well as in large areas of western and southern Ethiopia. Poor rains failed to replenish pastures and water supplies in most lowland pastoral and agricultural areas. Drought conditions caused low-yielding harvests after the 1998 major *(meher)* and the almost complete failure of the 1999 secondary *(belg)* growing seasons. In late 1998, joint assessments conducted by the U.N., donor groups, and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) indicated that the lack of rainfall had caused significant levels of malnutrition, loss of personal assets, livestock deaths, and migration from adversely affected areas. During the last six months of 1998, emergency food requirements for drought-affected persons and the 375,000 conflict-affected Ethiopians were estimated to be 358,950 MT.

On June 2, U.S. Ambassador David Shinn declared a disaster due to the effects of the drought. Nearly $1.2 million in grants was provided by BHR/OFDA to WFP, UNICEF, and SCF/UK to support vaccine delivery, water/sanitation programs, nutritional assessments, supplementary feeding, and food storage in drought-affected regions.

In addition, BHR/FFP provided 36,920 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than $12.3 million, to CRS and the GFDRE for drought-affected populations throughout Ethiopia. The U.N. and NGOs, in coordination with the GFDRE's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, appealed for $7.5 million to support food assistance, agriculture, water/sanitation, health, and nutrition programs. By September 1999, donors pledged 369,205 MT of emergency food assistance, and the international community urged the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea to continue negotiations to end their border conflict. *(For additional information, please see the "Ethiopia - Complex Emergency" case report.)*

BHR/OFDA Assistance $1,184,058
Other USG Assistance $12,344,300
Total USG Assistance $13,528,358

Gambia
Floods

During the summer of 1999, heavy rains (80% above average rainfall levels) and resultant floods in the Central River and Upper River divisions of The Gambia submerged at least 900 hectares of rice paddies, destroyed 5,000 houses, displaced an estimated 20,000 people, and caused the drowning of 53 fishermen. The homeless crowded into ill-equipped school buildings for shelter, delaying the start of the new school year.

On September 14, U.S. Ambassador George Haley declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $65,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Banjul to CRS for rice seed distribution and shelter reconstruction in the most devastated areas of the Central River and Upper River divisions. With approximately $56,000 of the BHR/OFDA funds, CRS worked in collaboration with the Gambian Red Cross Society to repair an estimated 2,000 homes. CRS used the remainder of the BHR/OFDA assistance for rice seed multiplication and distribution projects. The rice seed projects were implemented in collaboration with The Gambia's National Agricultural Research Institute to ensure long-term impacts.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $65,000

Kenya
Explosion

On August 7, 1998, terrorists killed 247 people in Kenya and Tanzania by detonating vehicle bombs near the U.S. Embassies. The explosion in Kenya caused 213 deaths, including 12 U.S. citizens and 32 local Kenyan employees of the U.S. Embassy. An estimated 5,000 people were injured. The blast caused serious damage to more than 100 buildings in the vicinity, including 11 government buildings. The numerous injuries and lost lives affected the livelihoods of many local households in Nairobi. The damage to infrastructure was estimated at $40 million. *(For additional background information, please see the "Kenya - Explosion" case report in the FY 1998 BHR/OFDA Annual Report.)*

Although the emergency phase of BHR/OFDA's response was concluded by the end of FY 1998, BHR/OFDA also provided technical and mitigation assistance during FY 1999. In November 1998, BHR/OFDA sent a three-person team to Nairobi and Dar es Salaam to collaborate with NGOs and local Kenyan government officials on the development of a disaster management training program. *(Costs pertaining to the team are included in the "Tanzania - Explosion" case report.)* Following this technical assistance, BHR/OFDA provided $110,000 to the American Red Cross to train local Red Cross staff and to supply stretchers and first aid kits to the affected population in Nairobi. BHR/OFDA also provided $293,624 to IMC to support a first responder training program for 40 local emergency medical trainers and 25 hospital staff in Nairobi.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $403,624

Kenya
Floods

Heavy rains in December 1997 and January 1998 compounded the emergency flood situation that existed after the most severe flooding in 40 years occurred in Kenya during October and November

A farmer marks a goat that he recently purchased through a BHR/OFDA-funded animal restocking program in Marsabit, Kenya (photo by World Concern Development Organization).

1997. Approximately 1,000 people died as a result of the floods, and 300,000 were affected. Despite relief efforts in FY 1998, inflated food prices and poor sanitary conditions, particularly in the North Eastern Province, left flood victims vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. As a result, U.S. Ambassador Prudence Bushnell redeclared the disaster for flooding on October 1, 1998 in order to continue ongoing BHR/OFDA relief programs initially funded in FY 1998. *(For additional background information, please see the "Kenya - Floods" case report in the FY 1998 BHR/OFDA Annual Report.)*

In FY 1999, BHR/OFDA provided $108,426 to World Concern for a livestock restocking program to benefit 300 families in Marsabit. BHR/OFDA provided an additional $400,000 to continue funding UNICEF's water/sanitation activities. UNICEF's activities benefitted an affected flood population of 100,000 in the north and northeastern regions. Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN) also received $199,913 from BHR/OFDA for an emergency relief support project to benefit an estimated one million people in Nyanza Province.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $708,339

Liberia

Complex Emergency

During FY 1999, Liberia continued to recover from its seven-year civil war. Over the course of the protracted fighting, an estimated 150,000 people died, 50,000 of whom were children. Of a total pre-war population of 2.4 million, some 700,000 people fled during the conflict to neighboring countries (Sierra Leone, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Nigeria) and more than one million were internally displaced. The market economy virtually ceased to function and most infrastructure was damaged or destroyed.

Although sporadic ethnic fighting occurred throughout FY 1999, especially in Lofa County, increased access to agricultural land and revived markets led to an expansion in crop production, a decrease in the rates of malnutrition, and less reliance on international food assistance. Some schools and health facilities were repaired and reopened in areas where security improved. As of September 1999, nearly half of Liberian refugees (approximately 340,000) had repatriated, and an estimated 75% of IDPs (750,000) had returned to their villages and towns. In addition, Liberia hosted 105,000 Sierra Leonean refugees at the end of FY 1999.

Liberians, however, continued to grapple with inadequate supplies of potable water, electricity, food, shelter, and health care in FY 1999. Unemployment rates were estimated at 85% or more, and the post-war challenge of reintegrating 60,000 ex-combatants, including child soldiers, remained. On October 2, 1998, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires John K. Bauman declared a disaster due to continued poor humanitarian conditions. BHR/OFDA contributed nearly $2.3 million for emergency relief activities during FY 1999, and its funding supported the resettlement and reintegration of IDPs and refugees by providing agricultural assistance and basic health services to returnees.

BHR/OFDA funded WVUS, Lutheran World Relief (LWR), CRS, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and ACF to implement agricultural rehabilitation programs in Bong, Margibi, Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, and Montserrado counties. These NGOs also participated in the Government of Liberia's Seeds and Tools Committee to promote and coordinate national agricultural rehabilitation activities. BHR/OFDA agricultural programs distributed seeds and farming tools to resettling rural families and provided technical assistance through extension services and farmer field days. CRS also procured rice seed–much of it from local markets–for other partners of the Seeds and Tools Committee to distribute. CRS managed food security and agricultural rehabilitation programs, and LWS provided training to farmers. In addition, LWS and WVUS managed seed multiplication activities. BHR/OFDA also funded an agriculture monitor to help coordinate agriculture assistance and monitor and evaluate programs.

BHR/OFDA also funded ACF, LWR, SCF/UK, IRC, and WVUS to provide nutrition and primary health care activities. With the improving nutritional status of the population, ACF closed down or transferred to fixed health care facilities (such as clinics

and hospitals) most of its therapeutic feeding centers for children under five years old. The primary health care programs of LWR, SCF/UK, IRC, and WVUS operated in ten counties throughout Liberia and included training for health workers and traditional birth attendants, immunization programs, cost recovery systems, screening for sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive health care, and maternal and child health care. SCF/UK also distributed BHR/OFDA-supplied blankets and plastic sheeting to returning refugees in several counties.

In FY 1999, BHR/FFP contributed 19,360 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities through CRS and WFP, at a value of more than $12.8 million. BHR/FFP's program in Liberia addressed several relief areas, including agricultural rehabilitation through food-for-work, educational support through food-for-education, vulnerable group and therapeutic feedings, food assistance to returning refugees and IDPs, and institutional feeding programs.

BHR/OTI contributed $266,422 to fund an audit of Liberia's Central Bank for the promotion of economic reform and to support a legal and human rights expert to monitor treason trials of government opponents. USAID/Monrovia provided $8.7 million for programs for demobilized soldiers, agricultural assistance, primary health care, disease control, and activities to promote democratic governance and protect human rights. In FY 1999, State/PRM contributed nearly $7.8 million for Liberian refugee repatriation assistance through UNHCR, American Refugee Committe (ARC), and WFP.

As conditions in Liberia improved throughout FY 1999 and Liberia no longer required the level of emergency funding provided during the height of the civil war, BHR/OFDA ended its programs on June 30 and closed its Monrovia office on July 18. BHR/OFDA and USAID/Liberia closely coordinated their efforts to ensure a smooth transition from emergency programming to more sustainable development activities and BHR/OFDA continued to monitor the situation in Liberia from Washington, D.C.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $2,276,071
Other USG Assistance $29,683,918
Total USG Assistance $31,959,989

Mali

Floods

During July and August 1999, heavy rains and resultant floods destroyed houses, cut vital rail lines to Dakar, Senegal, and disrupted road traffic to the regional capital of Mopti. In Bamako, Mali's capital, flooding caused at least eight deaths and damaged more than 100 houses. In the five most affected districts of Bamako, approximately 4,000 people were forced from their homes by floodwaters. Many of the displaced found shelter in local schools, where up to four families crowded into each classroom.

On August 11, the Mayor of Bamako contacted the U.S. Embassy to request emergency assistance. A team from USAID/Bamako accompanied the Mayor's representative on August 12 on a tour of some of the most adversely affected areas of the Capital and confirmed the need for emergency assistance. On August 13, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Robert Porter declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $10,000 through USAID/Bamako to the Malian Red Cross Society to purchase and distribute food, medicines, and other emergency relief items to assist those displaced by the floods.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $10,000

Mauritania

Floods

Heavy rains during the June to September rainy season caused severe and widespread flooding in a significant number of southern border towns and villages in Mauritania, including Kaedi, Boghe, and Tichitt. Tichitt, a town that normally receives 20 millimeters of rain per year, received 220 millimeters in three days, destroying 95% of all homes. In addition, floodwaters from the overflowing Senegal River and its tributaries destroyed houses, broke through a protective dam along the Senegal River, washed away roads and bridges, and submerged rice

and sorghum fields. At least eight people were killed and more than 11,000 families were left homeless.

On September 24, U.S. Ambassador Timberlake Foster declared a disaster due to the flooding. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott for the local purchase of 142 tents, 220 blankets, and 216 mosquito nets. The relief items were distributed by local crisis committees in Kaedi and Boghe, and by a local committee for the homeless in Rosso for the Trarza Region.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Mozambique
Floods

During the last week of February 1999, torrential rains in the Inhambane Region of southern Mozambique caused flooding. Approximately 100 people died as a result of the floods, and 70,000 were affected. The towns of Vilanculos, Inhasorro, and Govuro were left completely isolated, and the floodwaters caused significant damage to infrastructure–including major roads–and considerable loss of agricultural crops. On March 2, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Carmen Martinez declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through USAID/Maputo to WFP to partially fund the delivery of emergency relief supplies. WFP delivered 350 MT of food and non-food relief supplies–including tents, blankets, and cooking utensils–to the city of Vilanculos.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Nigeria
Explosion

A Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation pipeline supplying gasoline from the Warri Refinery to the northern portion of Nigeria burst into flames on October 17, 1998 in Jesse Town, Delta State. The explosion killed more than 500 men, women, and children. Hundreds more were severely burned, and 700 additional people eventually died from their injuries. Local hospitals were overwhelmed by the number of patients requiring treatment. Some of the victims of the explosion reportedly were illegally siphoning gasoline that had leaked from the pipeline into a concrete container located on a nearby farm.

In response to the explosion, U.S. Ambassador William Twadell declared a disaster on October 19, 1998 due to the deaths and injuries caused by the explosion. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Abuja to the Nigerian Red Cross Society, which purchased and distributed medical supplies to burn victims. The supplies included antibiotic creams and lotions, wound dressings, syringes, and intravenous fluids and sets. At the U.S. Embassy's request, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) also donated and transported medicines (such as antibiotics and special burn salves), medical supplies, and clothing, at a cost of $67,000, to assist the responding hospitals in Warri Region.

In November 1998, the U.S. Embassy requested additional assistance from BHR/OFDA to meet the continuing medical needs of burn victims, particularly the treatment of secondary infections. BHR/OFDA responded by giving $10,000 to the U.S. Embassy on November 24. The funds were used by the Nigerian Red Cross Society for the local purchase and distribution of medicines to burn victims.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $35,000
Other USG Assistance $67,000
Total USG Assistance $102,000

Republic of Congo
Complex Emergency

Violent conflict between politically linked militia groups and the Republic of Congo (ROC) military forces occurred sporadically during 1993, 1994, and 1997. In December 1998, renewed violence broke out between militia groups and ROC military forces in Makelekele and Bacongo, neighborhoods in the southern quarter of Brazzaville. As a

result, more than 200,000 residents were displaced. While 60,000 people fled to the northern quarter of the capital, 200,000 people–including 100,000 IDPs from previous uprisings–remained displaced in the militia-controlled Pool section of Brazzaville. In addition, 35,000 IDPs crossed into the DROC, where little or no humanitarian assistance was available.

On January 12, U.S. Ambassador Aubrey Hooks declared a disaster in response to the deteriorating situation for the displaced residents of Brazzaville. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa to support the health needs of the affected population in Brazzaville. In addition, BHR/OFDA provided $296,239 to IRC to support the resettlement of 45,000 returnees for four months to the southern quarter of Brazzaville. IRC assisted returnees to the neighborhoods of Bacongo, Makelekele, and Mfilou by providing emergency shelter materials; rehabilitating health centers; and supporting programs that provided health care training, vaccinations, and reproductive health care. BHR/OFDA also granted $458,246 to CRS to implement a supplemental feeding program designed to assist 150,000 returnees. An additional $600,000 was provided from BHR/OFDA to UNICEF to support an emergency health and nutrition program for 200,000 women and children.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $1,379,485

Rwanda

Complex Emergency

Following the civil war between then-Government of Rwanda (GOR) forces and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) in 1994, two million citizens became IDPs and another two million citizens fled to neighboring countries. Most refugees remained encamped in neighboring countries until the beginning of FY 1997, when a mass repatriation of Rwandan refugees occurred from Tanzania and the former Zaire.

The months that followed the mass repatriation of refugees witnessed a steady increase in the level of violence within Rwanda, focused primarily in the northwestern prefectures. Violence and insecurity continued in the northwestern prefectures throughout much of FY 1997 and FY 1998, with humanitarian workers and activities often caught in the crossfire.

During May 1998, the security situation improved and USAID/Kigali began to work closely with the GOR to re-establish the delivery of both food and non-food assistance to the IDPs remaining in the northwest. Through its NGO partners, BHR/OFDA provided emergency assistance in agriculture, health, therapeutic and supplemental feeding, water/sanitation, and technical assistance.

On October 16, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Robert E. Gribbin III reissued a disaster declaration for FY 1999 due to the continued humanitarian needs of the more than 500,000 IDPs in the northwest and the lack of agricultural production that left more than 350,000 people in need of emergency food assistance.

BHR/OFDA provided more than $3.3 million in emergency assistance to Rwanda in FY 1999. Irish Concern received $500,000 to assist IDP families, and IRC supported six communes in the prefecture of Gisenyi at a cost of $637,000. SCF/UK received $389,000 to rehabilitate the water system and support the health department. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) continued to support hospital health services in Gisenyi through a $447,000 grant from BHR/OFDA. In addition, BHR/OFDA provided $22,050 to WVUS to evaluate Rwanda's agricultural program, and $262,800 to FHI for plastic sheeting for IDPs. SCF/UK received $500,000 for health programs and provision of non-food assistance in the Gatonde and Kabya districts. Other BHR/OFDA-supported activities included the provision of plastic sheeting to address shelter needs and a contribution to UNOCHA's information coordination efforts in the northwest.

In FY 1999, BHR/OTI assistance to Rwanda totaled more than $702,500. BHR/OTI continued to support the Women in Transition initiative that provided funding to rural women's associations to assist with shelter construction, microenterprise development, livestock production, and seeds and tools. In addition, BHR/OTI also supported the

International Criminal Tribunal, which was assembled to prosecute those responsible for the genocide. BHR/FFP provided 21,600 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than $12.2 million. State/PRM assistance to Rwanda in FY 1999, which totaled $13.9 million, provided emergency relief to refugees. State/PRM provided $8.8 million to support ICRC activities and contributed $4.5 million to UNHCR initiatives. In addition, State/PRM provided $603,074 in assistance through support to ARC, CRS, and IRC.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $3,334,034
Other USG Assistance $26,835,484
Total USG Assistance $30,169,518

Sierra Leone

Complex Emergency

Since 1991, Sierra Leone has suffered through a civil crisis that has claimed more than 20,000 lives. The conflict has devastated every aspect of civil society and has left Sierra Leone as one of the least developed countries in the world, with an average life expectancy of only 37 years. During FY 1999, clashes continued in northern and eastern Sierra Leone between factional forces–consisting primarily of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF)–and forces allied with the Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL), including the Economic Community of West African States' Military Observer Group (ECOMOG). Insurgents conducted a campaign of deliberate terror that they termed "Operation No Living Thing," burning villages, mutilating civilians, and ambushing convoys.

The crisis deepened in late December 1998, when rebels captured a string of towns in the north, including the northern provincial center, Makeni. On January 6, 1999, insurgents invaded Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital, forcing residents in eastern parts of the city and thousands of other civilians to flee to the city center. The fighting in Freetown left residents without access to food, potable water, and basic utility services. In addition, NGOs and the U.N. were forced to evacuate most of their expatriate personnel from Freetown to Conakry, in neighboring Guinea.

At the end of January 1999, after weeks of heavy fighting, ECOMOG regained control of Freetown. However, between January and April 1999, fighting killed an estimated 5,000 people and displaced between 700,000 and one million people. On May 18, the warring parties signed a cease-fire agreement that guaranteed safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Sierra Leone, although insecurity continued to be a major concern. Peace talks culminated in Lome, Togo on July 7 with a power sharing agreement that gave factional leaders a major role in the GOSL. Following the signing of the Lome Accord, security problems continued, including attacks on humanitarian convoys and abductions of U.N. observers, aid workers, journalists, and other civilians.

In response to the needs of those adversely affected by the ongoing crisis in Sierra Leone, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Tibor P. Nagy Jr. redeclared a disaster for FY 1999 on October 14, 1998. BHR/OFDA initially programmed grants in FY 1999 to respond to the ongoing complex emergency; however, with the siege of Freetown, BHR/OFDA authorized its grantees to redirect existing programs.

On January 13, BHR/OFDA deployed an assessment team headed by its Monrovia-based EDRC to Conakry, Guinea. The EDRC worked with international relief organizations to determine needs, coordinate an appropriate response, and facilitate the delivery of BHR/OFDA-provided relief commodities to Conakry by air and onward to Freetown by sea. BHR/OFDA maintained its presence in Conakry until May 6, 1999. Following the signing of the Lome Accord, BHR/OFDA programmed additional grants to allow its existing partners to expand into previously inaccessible areas.

During FY 1999, BHR/OFDA provided more than $13.8 million in emergency relief assistance to Sierra Leone. CARE received nearly $1.7 million to distribute non-food emergency items, including seeds and tools and emergency shelter kits. CRS received $1.5 million to address food security and health issues. WVUS received more than $1.8 million to provide technical assistance, fund a seeds and tools program, and implement an emergency

agriculture program in the Kono District of Eastern Province. Africare addressed emergency health and agriculture needs in the eastern and southern provinces with $830,000 provided by BHR/OFDA. ACF received nearly $1.9 million to meet health, nutrition, and water/sanitation needs in Freetown. BHR/OFDA provided MERLIN with $1.4 million for emergency health and nutrition programs in Freetown and Kenema. MSF/B received $320,590 from BHR/OFDA for the emergency distribution of non-food relief items to 20,000 IDPs.

BHR/OFDA also contributed to the U.N.'s efforts through grants totaling nearly $3.5 million to UNOCHA, UNICEF, and WFP. U.N. activities funded by BHR/OFDA included the establishment of UNOCHA's humanitarian assistance coordination unit, a health and water/sanitation program by UNICEF, and support for WFP helicopter operations for assessments and humanitarian transport. In addition, BHR/OFDA provided and transported 2.1 million sq. ft. of plastic sheeting and 50,000 blankets, at a cost of $700,000.

BHR/FFP provided 22,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food aid totaling $16.1 million. BHR/OTI provided $680,336 in support of civil society for peace-building through 232 small grants, including support for civil society observers and for a technical team sent to the Lome peace talks. USAID's Bureau for Africa funded a $1.5 million children's tracing and support network. Through regional grants to ICRC and UNHCR, State/PRM provided $1.3 million in support to Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $13,875,085
Other USG Assistance $19,595,036
Total USG Assistance $33,470,121

Somalia

Complex Emergency

A complex emergency continued during FY 1999 for the eighth consecutive year in Somalia. Since the fall of Said Barre's dictatorship in 1991, Somalia has lacked a central government and been racked by conflict among its various clans.

Throughout FY 1999, attacks and counterattacks, burnings and lootings of villages, destruction of food storage pits, and targeting of displaced communities characterized the Juba, Bay, and Bakol regions of the country. Tension remained high in the southern city of Kismayo, where fierce inter-clan and factional fighting broke out for control of the town.

In addition, food insecurity arose with the failure of the 1999 main *gu* season harvest, caused by insufficient rains. Although the production of staple food grains varied considerably across areas, overall production was constrained by massive population movements and severe bird, pest, and rodent attacks that destroyed the sorghum crops in the sorghum-producing belt. Inaccessibility to major ports coupled with insecurity along major road routes further exacerbated food insecurity, as transportation costs and market prices increased. In addition to fighting and food insecurity, Somalis also lacked access to health care and sufficient water supplies.

Estimates of those affected by the fighting and food insecurity included 730,000 people in Bay, Bakol, and part of Gedo; 83,000 in Hiraan; 193,000 in Lower Shabelle; and 160,000 in Lower Juba. According to the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, an estimated 170,000 Somalis were IDPs, mainly in camps in Mogadishu; another 455,000 were living in the neighboring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Djibouti. U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Prudence Bushnell redeclared a disaster for FY 1999 on October 1, 1998, due to Somalia's ongoing civil strife and population displacements.

In FY 1999, humanitarian assistance efforts were complicated by both fighting and the closure of the Kenyan border with Somalia. Fighting became particularly intense in March, increasing the security risk for humanitarian assistance workers and IDPs. Five aid workers, including an American, were killed in Somalia in FY 1999. In August, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi closed the Kenyan border with Somalia in order to halt the flow of arms and to control the influx of refugees and tax-free goods from Somalia. The border closure with Kenya prevented the ground transport of food aid and created other logistical difficulties for the estimated 150 NGOs and U.N. agencies providing humanitarian

assistance in Somalia. After long discussions, the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted one-month clearances to WFP and the European Community Humanitarian Office for their humanitarian airlifts.

During FY 1999, BHR/OFDA provided nearly $6 million to NGOs and U.N. agencies to support health, water, agricultural, and logistical activities, as well as mitigation efforts in Somalia. BHR/OFDA-funded health programs in southern, central, and northeast Somalia included grants to UNICEF and IMC to work in the Bay, sections of Bakol, and Hiraan regions to respond to the health needs of the population, including IDPs. BHR/OFDA funded NPA, UNICEF, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) water rehabilitation projects to mitigate drought effects on vulnerable populations in northeast Somalia. In addition, BHR/OFDA funded ACF to provide water and sanitation services to IDPs in Mogadishu. In response to the U.N. FAO appeal, BHR/OFDA funded seed distribution and multiplication efforts valued at $535,459 in southern Somalia.

Vulnerable residents in Thiet, Sudan receive food and non-food relief supplies from a World Vision program that was jointly funded by BHR/OFDA and BHR/FFP (photo by Ted Maly, BHR/OFDA).

BHR/FFP provided 16,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at more than $9.9 million, to CARE to support food-for-work programs. USAID/Somalia obligated an estimated $1.5 million for assistance activities. State/PRM provided an estimated $600,000 to IRC and SCF for micro-credit and agricultural support programs, as well as $5 million to UNHCR for refugee reintegration efforts.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $5,850,867
Other USG Assistance (estimated) $17,039,000
Total USG Assistance $22,889,867

Sudan

Complex Emergency

Armed conflict continued for the sixteenth year between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and southern and northern opposition movements operating under the umbrella of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), as well as between southern opposition groups. While drought conditions improved in FY 1999, more than two million people in the Bahr el Gazal and Upper Nile regions of the south and Kassala in the north continued to require food and non-food assistance. On October 7, 1998, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Donald G.Teitelbaum redeclared a disaster due to the effects of the ongoing civil war and drought on the estimated 4.5 million IDPs in Sudan.

During FY 1999, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and Movement (SPLA/M) continued efforts to capture essential GOS-held areas in Blue Nile State and the Roseires Dam at Damazin, which provides most of Khartoum's electricity. The GOS maintained control of many major towns in the south, while the SPLA/M controlled most of the Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal regions, portions of the Upper Nile and Southern Blue Nile regions, and part of the Nuba Mountains in Kordofan Region. The Beja Congress and the Sudan Alliance Forces movements held territories in the northeast.

Insecurity remained the major constraint to humanitarian relief programs in Sudan as most trading and production capacities had been interrupted or destroyed by the fighting. Flight bans made it difficult to fully reach the most vulnerable groups, while insufficient infrastructure hindered humanitarian organizations' access to needy populations.

The U.N. estimated that over 55 aerial bombing incidents occurred in southern Sudan during FY 1999, as the GOS continued bombing civilian

targets in violation of a humanitarian ceasefire instituted in July 1998. Locations bombed included NGO compounds, relief centers, and hospital buildings. Several civilians were killed or injured in the bombings. In addition, several relief workers were killed or injured during the year in targeted attacks by assailants.

During FY 1999, approximately 2.2 million IDPs lived in Khartoum in squatter settlements or remote camp settings. An estimated 1.2 million people reportedly were living in the transition zone between northern and southern Sudan and in remote towns such as Malakal, Wau, Aweil, and Gogrial. Approximately 400,000 Sudanese sought refuge in neighboring countries, while Sudan hosted about 165,000 refugees from neighboring countries. Approximately 224,000 people fled to Uganda and Kenya to escape fighting along the Sudan-Uganda border.

In July, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved a resolution condemning the GOS for conducting a genocidal war in southern Sudan, supporting terrorism, and continuing human rights violations.

In FY 1999, the USG led the international community to revitalize the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) peace process. On August 27, President Clinton appointed Harry Johnston, a former Chairman of the Africa Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, as Special Envoy for Sudan. Johnston's mandate included strengthening the IGAD peace process, pressing human rights improvements, and focusing the spotlight on humanitarian conditions in Sudan.

As the conflict continued, food shortages crippled the northern parts of Kordofan and Darfur, while eastern and central areas produced surpluses. Efforts were made to use local agricultural surpluses from more secure areas in southern Sudan for distribution in the affected zones. The U.N. and numerous NGOs within and outside the framework of Operation Lifeline Sudan were involved in delivering relief assistance by airlifts, airdrops, barges, and truck convoys. Feeding programs attempted to reach children throughout the Bahr el Ghazal and Lakes Regions and Western Upper Nile. While more than 2.6 million people were targeted for drought-related emergency food assistance, another 1.6 million people were affected by flooding in Khartoum State. Floods disrupted relief operations in Bahr el Gazal and Jonglei, and affected Nile River, Khartoum, Kassala, El Gezira, White Nile, North Kordofan, and the South Darfur Regions.

An IDP in the Bahr el Ghazal Region of southern Sudan receives BHR/OFDA- and BHR/FFP-distributed relief supplies (photo by Ted Maly, BHR/OFDA).

USAID's Bureau for Africa worked with the USAID/Regional Economic Development Services Office and BHR/OFDA's Africa Regional Office in Nairobi to plan and monitor relief and rehabilitation activities in southern Sudan and, in collaboration with USAID/Khartoum staff, to monitor activities in northern Sudan and GOS-controlled areas of the south. USAID funded more than $95 million in relief activities, including an estimated $25 million that BHR/OFDA provided to NGOs and U.N. agencies. BHR/OFDA-supported projects funded ACF, ADRA, ARC, the American Red Cross, CARE, Concern, GOAL, IFRC, Medair, NPA, UNICEF, WFP, and WVUS to provide supplementary and therapeutic feeding; food security; seeds, tools, and fishing supplies; emergency health and water/sanitation programs; agricultural production and marketing; road

rehabilitation; and response to outbreaks of meningitis and sleeping sickness.

BHR/FFP contributed 67,330 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at more than $67 million, for distribution by ADRA, CRS, LWR, NPA, WFP, and WVUS to war- and drought- affected vulnerable persons. This assistance included 9,380 MT of food commodities, valued at approximately $3.8 million, to support WFP refugee operations in Sudan. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provided 111,930 MT of Section 416(b) food, valued at $135 million, through WFP.

USAID's Bureau for Africa provided $2.1 million to the Sudan Transitional Assistance for Rehabilitation (STAR) program to support capacity-building efforts in opposition-held areas, including approximately $1 million in sub-grants to Sudanese groups involved in milling, transport, and cooperative shops. Under the STAR program, ethnic groups signed a peace agreement known as the Wunlit Dinka-Nuer Covenant. The Covenant called for an immediate and permanent cessation of all hostile acts between the two ethnic groups and granted amnesty for offenses prior to January 1, 1999.

State/PRM provided more than $92.4 million to the UNHCR and ICRC Africa-wide appeals, portions of which were used for refugee assistance programs in Sudan and for Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries. State/PRM also provided more than $5.4 million to WFP for refugee feeding programs in Africa. State/PRM provided an additional $2.6 million to IRC and LWR to assist Sudanese refugees in Kenya and Uganda.

USAID/OFDA Assistance $24,621,493
Other USG Assistance $204,915,600
Total USG Assistance $229,537,093
State/PRM Assistance $100,515,636*

**State/PRM funding for regional programs is not included in the total figure of USG assistance to Sudan.*

Tanzania
Explosion

On August 7, 1998, terrorists killed 247 people in Kenya and Tanzania by detonating vehicle bombs near the U.S. Embassies. The explosion in Dar es Salaam caused 10 deaths-including seven local employees of the U.S. Embassy-and 76 injuries. No American citizens in the blast area were killed. *(For additional background information, please see the "Tanzania - Explosion" case report in the FY 1998 BHR/OFDA Annual Report.)*

Although the emergency phase of BHR/OFDA's response was concluded by the end of FY 1998, BHR/OFDA provided technical assistance in FY 1999. In November 1998, BHR/OFDA sent a three-person team to Nairobi and Dar es Salaam to collaborate with NGOs and local government officials on the development of a disaster management training program. The cost to deploy the team was $34,789.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $34,789

Uganda
Complex Emergency

Periodic attacks on civilians and military forces by armed insurgent groups caused many people to flee their homes in several northern and western districts of Uganda during FY 1999. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacked villages, abducted children and young adults, and ambushed military and civilian vehicles on roadways in the northern districts of Gulu and Kitgum. The LRA also conducted occasional raids in the neighboring districts of Lira, Apac, and Adjumani. Another insurgent group, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), attacked villages, murdering and abducting civilians. These attacks caused significant numbers of rural families to flee their villages in the west Nile districts of Arua, Nebbi, Moyo, and Bundibugyo to seek temporary protection.

The displaced were able to find safety and assistance in IDP camps and protected villages established

by the Government of Uganda (GOU) military. Since 1996, more than 30 official and unofficial camps have been established to protect citizens from such periodic factional fighting and displacement in northern and western Uganda. Camp populations, however, have fluctuated as significant violence has often been followed by quiet periods. During the height of the conflict, protection camps often were inaccessible to PVOs and NGOs trying to provide emergency relief assistance. In some instances, relief personnel and their vehicles became targets of violent attacks. Where camps were accessible, humanitarian relief workers were faced with the difficulty of determining accurate camp population figures so that water, food, sanitation facilities, and health units could be provided to maintain all IDPs seeking assistance.

Although IDPs were able to cultivate increasing amounts of land, the prolonged pattern of instability in northern and western Uganda caused chronic food insecurity for more than six million people and disrupted economic, social, education, and health care networks. In addition, drought conditions in the Karamoja Region, particularly the towns of Moroto and Kotido, raised the vulnerability of 700,000 people in drought-affected areas of Uganda. During FY 1999, regional insecurity in the DROC and Sudan continued to impact the number of refugees entering Uganda. According to UNOCHA, more than 530,000 Ugandans remained displaced, while the Government of Uganda hosted nearly 200,000 refugees from Sudan, DROC, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya.

On October 1, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Nancy Jo Powell redeclared a disaster in Uganda for FY 1999 in response to health and water/sanitation needs in the protected camps. BHR/OFDA provided $750,070 to support water/sanitation and nutrition activities by AAH-USA in the Gulu District and $481,562 to IRC for water/sanitation activities in Lamwo, Aruru, and Chua. BHR/OFDA also provided $98,628 to ACF for a water/sanitation and supplementary feeding program to benefit 1,200 people in the Gulu District. During FY 1999, a BHR/OFDA water/sanitation specialist traveled to protections camps in Uganda to review the ongoing water/sanitation programs for IDPs. The cost of the review was $16,076. BHR/FFP provided 17,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP at a cost of more than $9.4 million. State/PRM funded a $667,347 refugee assistance program through LWR for refugees being hosted within Uganda.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $1,346,336
Other USG Assistance $10,080,147
Total USG Assistance $11,426,483

Asia and the Pacific

Asia and the Pacific

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 northeast 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 international 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.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $1,657,125
Other USG Assistance $60,571,049
Total USG Assistance $62,228,174

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 largest 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

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 Taichung and Nantou. Numerous high-rise structures collapsed or were rendered uninhabitable, including buildings in Taichung, Chunghwa, and Yunlin counties. By October 15, the IFRC estimated that 2,300 people were killed and

Two apartment buildings crumble to the ground in Toulin, Taiwan as a result of the Septemer 21 earthquake (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 Touliu. 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 provinces 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.

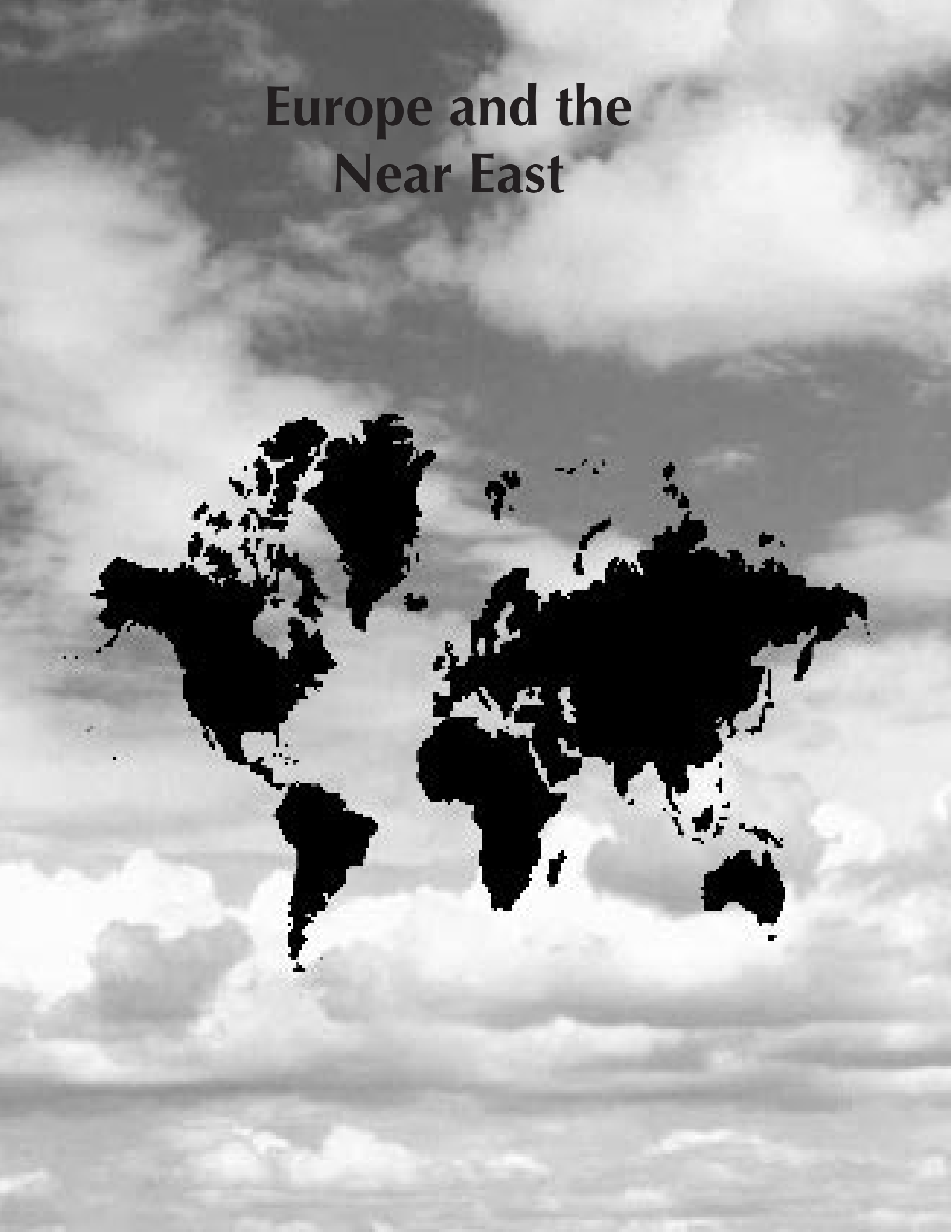
On November 30, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Douglas Peterson declared a disaster in response to the heavy rains and severe flooding. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi to the IFRC for the purchase and delivery of emergency housing, clothing, and cooking utensils. In response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

Europe and the Near East



Europe and the Near East

Afghanistan
Complex Emergency

Afghanistan remained a country in crisis during FY 1999 as more than two decades of conflict continued to take its toll on the population. The extended armed hostility in Afghanistan has caused an estimated 1.5 million deaths, including 300,000 - 400,000 children, with an additional 500,000 people either injured or disabled. The U.S. Committee for Refugees has estimated that between one million and 1.5 million Afghans remain internally displaced and 2.6 million Afghan refugees remain in other countries, the largest single refugee caseload in the world for the nineteenth year in a row. Conflict between rival factions and continuing tensions between international relief organizations and the Taliban, a Muslim fundamentalist militia group which controls most of the country, continued to generate new humanitarian needs. Hostilities made it problematic for relief organizations to address humanitarian needs, especially health service activities, 97% of which were implemented by PVOs, NGOs, and U.N. agencies.

Renewed fighting in July and August 1999 forced significant numbers of people on both sides of the conflict to flee affected areas. In July, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, also known as the Northern Alliance, issued an emergency appeal for humanitarian assistance for people displaced by fighting in the Shomali Valley, north of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city. Between August 13-16, some 20,000 people fled Shomali for Kabul, and by September 7, the total number of people who had relocated to Kabul had risen to 55,000. Of this total, some 12,400 people, including an estimated 8,000 children, sought shelter in Kabul's former Soviet compound, while most of the remainder found accommodations with relatives.

The Panjshir Valley, northeast of Kabul, also hosted a significant number of the people who had fled the fighting in the Shomali Valley. The IDP population peaked at nearly 100,000 in the Panjshir Valley but, by September 22 UNOCHA reported that 20,000 IDPs had returned to their villages or moved on to Faizabad and Kabul. WFP warned that because agricultural resources of the host population in the valley had been strained by the recent influx, up to 50,000 people in the Panjshir Valley were in need of emergency food assistance.

On October 1, 1998, Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, redeclared a disaster in Afghanistan for FY 1999 to respond to the humanitarian needs of the victims of renewed fighting. BHR/OFDA continued to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan by providing $526,140 to Save the Children /United States (SC/US) for vital health care services. In addition, BHR/OFDA provided $168,410 to ACF to purchase primary health care items for 250,000 children in Kabul. BHR/OFDA also provided $82,000 to the local Committee for Promotion of Medical and Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan for surgical materials, firewood, and other fuel supplies to benefit the Chak-e-Wardak Hospital in Wardak Province, southwest of Kabul. In FY 1999, BHR/FFP provided 9,210 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities through WFP and the Aga Khan Foundation, at a cost of nearly $6.4 million.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $776,550
Other USG Assistance $6,359,700
Total USG Assistanc $7,136,250

Afghanistan
Earthquake

On February 11, 1999, an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter Scale struck near the village of Shaikhabad in Wardak Province south of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital. A strong tremor preceded the earthquake and caused many villagers to leave their homes, helping to minimize the number of casualties. According to UNOCHA, 70 people were killed, 500 were injured, and 30,000 were rendered homeless. Approximately 5,800 houses were destroyed or heavily damaged. A total of 480 mosques were completely destroyed, while collapsing structures killed more than 1,000 head of cattle. Continued aftershocks from the quake also drove many people out of their homes into the winter cold. Nearly 30% of the children forced to sleep outdoors contracted pneumonia.

On February 16, Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, declared a disaster due to the damage from the earthquake and its aftershocks. BHR/OFDA provided $275,000 to UNOCHA to purchase plastic sheeting and tarpaulins for 16,000 victims, and $344,300 to CARE to assist 3,000 residents affected in Wardak Province.

BHR/OFDA Assistance……$619,300

Albania

Refugees

At the beginning of FY 1999, Albania hosted a population of nearly 20,000 ethnic Albanian refugees from Serbia's Kosovo Province in Serbia-Montenegro. This refugee population fled the violence in Kosovo that began with clashes between Serbian security forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in February 1998 and continued to escalate into October. Throughout the fall and winter, the refugees remained with host families receiving food and non-food aid through UNHCR and its implementing relief partners.

The humanitarian situation changed dramatically with the March 24, 1999 commencement of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air strikes against Serbia-Montenegro. In response to the air campaign, Serbian military and police units immediately began their concerted efforts to drive the majority of ethnic Albanians from the province. The result was a massive influx of refugees into the neighboring countries of Albania and Macedonia. By March 30, more than 100,000 displaced Kosovars had crossed into Albania, and by April 3, the number of ethnic Albanians arriving from Kosovo had increased to 200,000. The immediate result of the massive and rapid influx was a severe overcrowding in the mountainous northern region of Kukes.

On April 7, U.S. Ambassador Marisa Lino declared a disaster due to the refugee crisis and requested immediate USG humanitarian assistance. A USAID/DART, which BHR/OFDA had deployed to Tirana on April 2, was tasked with assessing and reporting on the international humanitarian response; supporting the efforts of UNHCR, WFP, and NGOs; coordinating the USG's role in the relief response; and identifying continuing humanitarian needs. Representatives of BHR/FFP, BHR/OTI, and State/PRM also participated on the USAID/DART.

The remoteness of the Kukes area increased the difficulty in assisting the large numbers of refugees there. Food was a critical need, especially in the early stages of the crisis, and getting sufficient supplies to Kukes was a major logistical problem. Relief agencies faced similar problems in providing shelter, water/sanitation, and health assistance. As many as 10,000 people were reported to be sleeping outside in the open. The growth in the size of the refugee population presented significant sanitation problems. Newly arriving refugees suffered from poor health, as many had spent significant time hiding in the wooded areas of western Kosovo before completing their journey into Albania.

Another major challenge facing relief efforts in Albania was the poor condition of the country's infrastructure. Albania's only international airport lacked the capacity to support nighttime logistics operations, and roads throughout the country were poorly maintained and subject to deterioration under heavy use. In early April, NATO officials announced that NATO would provide 8,000 troops to assist in the refugee relief effort. In addition, NATO's Albania Force (AFOR) provided helicopters and other logistical support to bring relief supplies to Kukes and to move refugees from Kukes to other locations in Albania. AFOR upgraded helicopter and warehouse capacity in Kukes, and DOD's Joint Task Force–Shining Hope–upgraded Albania's international airport to increase landing capacity and permit around-the-clock relief operations. DOD, WFP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), logisticians, and air operations specialists jointly staffed a coordination unit at the airport.

The scope of the refugee crisis created a tremendous need for relief response coordination. In early April, the Government of Albania (GOA), in conjunction with the OSCE and UNHCR, formed the Emergency Management Group (EMG) within the Prime Minister of Albania's office. The EMG was

responsible for coordinating the donors, relief agencies, and other international organizations involved in the humanitarian response. To assist in this effort, BHR/OFDA seconded a consultant to work within the EMG on coordination, contingency planning, and longer-term post-crisis development of an emergency response structure. A Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) was established in Tirana as a second coordination body independent of the GOA and with a significant focus on NGO activities. BHR/OFDA supported the HIC by a vertical satellite telephone link for Internet access.

By the peak of the influx in early June, the total refugee population in Albania had exceeded 465,500. Refugees were sheltered in host family homes, collective centers, and tented camps, including DOD's Camp Hope, located in Fier Prefecture. By early June, more than 283,057 refugees were living with host families, while more than 95,542 refugees were staying in collective centers, and 86,930 refugees were residing in 48 tented camps.

Refugees from Kosovo line up to return from Kukes, Albania after the signing of the NATO Peace agreement (photo by Amy Tohill-Stull, BHR/OFDA).

As of mid-May, some 348,000 refugees had been transferred from Kukes to more southern areas of Albania. Many refugees, however, were reluctant to relocate away from the Kosovo-Albania border. They wanted to wait for missing family members or return to Kosovo if the political/military situation improved. Some were reluctant to leave personal property, including farm tractors, in the border area. In early June, CARE, GOAL, UNHCR, and NATO agreed on a plan utilizing 1,800 farm tractors to assist families to move south, providing water, food, fuel, and security along the way.

Refugees began to return spontaneously to Kosovo in significant numbers within hours after the first NATO troops entered Kosovo on June 12. Despite pleas by U.N. and NGO personnel working with the refugees, many returned even though Kosovo was littered with landmines and booby traps left by departing Serb forces. By June 17, refugees were returning to Kosovo nearly as quickly as they had arrived in Albania, with 15,000 reportedly crossing the Albania-Kosovo border in a single 24-hour period. By the end of August, fewer than 4,000 refugees remained in Albania.

In response to critical relief needs that were identified by the USAID/DART, BHR/OFDA provided $11.8 million in assistance to Albania, including health, shelter, nutrition, and psychosocial emergency relief activities. BHR/OFDA provided ACF with nearly $1.5 million to support maternal, infant, and child nutrition; provide potable water; and build latrines in Kukes, Korce, and Tirana. BHR/OFDA also provided Children's Aid Direct with $2.5 million for essential child services, including family hygiene and kitchen kits, psychosocial services, and infant care centers. CRS received $2 million from BHR/OFDA for food and water distribution, cooking and hygiene kits, clothing, recreational and educational activities, and community development activities in Tirana, Kukes, Durres, Elbasan, and Fier.

In addition, BHR/OFDA provided $81,563 to IMC for host family assessments in Kukes, Has, Tirana, Krume, and Durres; nearly $1.2 million to MERLIN for emergency health activities; more than $1.5 million to Solidarités for the distribution of baby food and hygiene packs to refugees and host families in Fier, Berat, and Vlore; and approximately $1 million to SCF for emergency psychosocial assis-

tance for war-traumatized children. Furthermore, BHR/OFDA seconded a water/sanitation engineer to UNICEF to help coordinate activities in the sector.

BHR/OTI provided the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with a $3 million grant for rehabilitation/reconstruction activities related to host family efforts. BHR/FFP provided $57.1 million in P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities as a regional response to the Balkans, and some of these commodities were diverted to the refugees in Albania. State/PRM provided $16.9 million in funding to relief organizations for refugee registration; emergency shelter, hygiene, and sanitation; primary health care; winterization; food and nutrition; camp management; and education. DOD provided a total of $143.8 million in funding as a regional response to the Balkans' crisis. *(For additional information, please see the "Serbia-Montenegro - Complex Emergency" case report. Readers may also request BHR/OFDA situation reports on the Kosovo crisis.)*

BHR/OFDA Assistance $11,890,876
Other USG Assistance $19,960,401
Total USG Assistance $31,851,277

Greece
Earthquake

An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale shook Athens and its surrounding suburbs on September 7, 1999. The tremor was felt as far away as Corinth, 100 km south of the city. Nearly 100 people were killed, more than 3,000 residents were injured, and an additional 16,000 people were rendered homeless. Damage was heaviest in a low-income, industrial neighborhood close to the epicenter of the quake. At least 750 aftershocks followed the main tremor, hundreds of which registered above 3.5 on the Richter Scale.

As the death toll rose, the Government of Greece and NGOs found their emergency humanitarian resources stretched beyond capacity to respond to all of the earthquake victims' needs. On September 9, U.S. Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns declared a disaster in affected areas of Athens and its surrounding suburbs. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Athens to the Greek Red Cross for the local purchase of blankets, tents, and other emergency relief commodities to be distributed to homeless victims of the earthquake.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $50,000

Hungary
Floods

In July 1999, heavy rains caused flash flooding in eastern Hungary for the third time in the past ten months, leaving thousands affected. Eight people died as a result of the floods, and 40,000 were affected. The Government of Hungary (GOH) estimated the damage to infrastructure to be approximately $400 million, with thousands of buildings destroyed and 70,000 hectares of agricultural land under water. On July 19, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Thomas B. Robertson declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. The GOH requested support in providing water pumps, water treatment chemicals, and shelter materials. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Budapest to the Foundation for Development of Democratic Rights to assist in procuring these emergency items for flood victims.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Macedonia
Refugees

Macedonia hosted a refugee population of approximately 18,000 ethnic Albanians from Serbia's Kosovo Province at the beginning of FY 1999. This displaced group fled violence in Kosovo that began when clashes between Serbian security forces and the KLA erupted in February 1998 and continued to escalate into FY 1999.

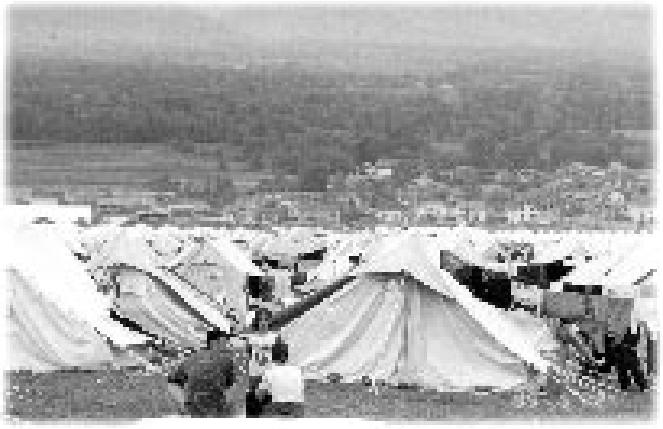
After the March 24 commencement of NATO

air strikes against Serbia-Montengro, Serbian military and police units immediately began an effort to drive ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. The result was a massive influx of Kosovar refugees into the neighboring countries of Albania and Macedonia.

Within the first week, more than 22,000 people had fled toward the Macedonian border. Within two weeks, more than 115,000 people had arrived at or crossed the border into Macedonia. Slow border processing by overwhelmed Government of Macedonia (GOM) authorities, who initially continued to follow normal immigration procedures, led to a huge bottleneck of refugees on both sides of the Macedonian border. Those seeking to cross were stranded in a "no-man's land" on the Yugoslav side of the Kosovo border, without food, water, shelter, medical care, or protection from Serbian authorities. On April 4, the GOM began transporting the stranded refugees to a new transit camp established by UNHCR at Brazda Airfield, and the back-up began to clear.

Refugees who recently arrived at Blace Reception Center in Macedonia seek shelter in tents provided by BHR/OFDA (photo by Paul Majorowitz, BHR/OFDA).

On April 7, U.S. Ambassador Christopher R. Hill declared a disaster due to the refugee crisis and requested immediate USG assistance to respond to the situation. A USAID/DART already was in Skopje and began to engage in contingency planning for the crisis situation and to coordinate humanitarian aid activities. Macedonia ultimately hosted approximately 250,000 refugees, with more than 110,000 hosted in camps and transit centers, and more than 106,000 residing with host families.



Kosovo refugees gather at the Cegrane refugee camp in Macedonia (photo by Paul Majorowitz, BHR/OFDA).

The GOM was hesitant to accept large numbers of ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo, due to sensitivities over Macedonia's ethnic balance. In light of this reluctance, the UNHCR/IOM Humanitarian Evacuation Plan (HEP), in which refugees were voluntarily transported from Macedonia to third countries, became a key component of the humanitarian response in Macedonia. From the program's commencement on April 6, more than 91,000 refugees were airlifted to 28 countries. This figure included more than 9,000 who were transported to the United States Air Force Base at Fort Dix, New Jersey for eventual transfer to American host families. A second voluntary plan, titled the Humanitarian Transfer Plan (HTP), was intended to transfer up to 1,000 refugees per day from Macedonia to camps in Albania.

The HTP served another critical need by relieving overcrowding in Macedonia's camps and transit centers. On April 19, NATO reported that all existing camps were full, yet refugees continued to stream towards Macedonia. On April 20, the GOM announced that it would permit one new camp at Cegrane which could hold up to 20,000 people, and would permit the expansion of already existing sites. Cegrane quickly filled as it was constructed, and overcrowded conditions persisted. By late April, UNHCR and WHO reported that none of the camps was in compliance with internationally recognized emergency water and sanitation standards. In late May, Macedonia's camps reportedly had one

latrine for every 200 persons, ten times the acceptable emergency standard of one for every 20 persons. Tension among refugees and with local communities was a persistent problem and was exacerbated by crowded conditions.

In the initial phase of the crisis, large quantities of HDRs were provided due to lack of cooking facilities. To meet this need, DOD supplied 600,000 HDRs; BHR/OFDA and DOD each funded transport for 300,000 HDRs. In general, sufficient food stocks were available in the region. Although delivery mechanisms were initially ill-equipped to handle the vastly increased demand for food aid, they improved steadily through April. By the end of April, 10.7 MT of food had arrived, enough to feed 300,000 people for the next two and one half months.

NATO, which had a force of some 12,000 personnel in Macedonia, provided extensive support for the humanitarian relief effort. In addition to constructing refugee camps, NATO provided initial coordination support for the humanitarian airlift into Skopje and related offloading operations. On April 24, NATO handed airlift coordination responsibility over to UNHCR and the contracting of offloading to the Department for International Development.

The USG responded to the crisis in Macedonia through a multi-agency effort. On February 19, the USAID/DART in Kosovo relocated from Pristina to Skopje in response to mounting insecurity. The USAID/DART continued to make trips into Kosovo whenever possible, but also engaged in planning and coordination of relief activities for the Macedonia crisis.

In response to the humanitarian assistance needs identified by the USAID/DART, BHR/OFDA programmed grants totaling more than $14 million for health, water/sanitation, food and non-food relief items and distribution, clothing, women and children's services, shelter, mapping, and psychosocial activities.

BHR/FFP provided $57.1 million as a regional response to the Balkans, and a portion of these commodities was allocated to Macedonia. State/PRM provided $9.7 million in funding to relief organizations for refugee registration; emergency shelter, hygiene, and sanitation; primary health care; winterization; food and nutrition; camp management; and education. DOD provided a total of $143.8 million as a regional response to the Balkans crisis. *(For additional information, please see the "Serbia-Montenegro - Complex Emergency" case report. Readers may also request BHR/OFDA situation reports on the Kosovo crisis.)*

BHR/OFDA Assistance $14,161,371
Other USG Assistance $9,720,988
Total USG Assistance $23,882,359

Russia

Fire

During the fall of 1998, major forest fires swept through Khabarovsk Krai in the Russian Far East, burning more than two million hectares. Three people were killed, 800 were left homeless, and more than one million were affected by the fires. As a result of the lethal emission of carbon monoxide and dioxide, the region sustained significant losses of wildlife and destruction of habitats for endangered species. The soil erosion caused by the fires also created human health hazards in the affected areas by disturbing existing water runoff patterns, causing flooding and disrupting the potable water supply.

Carbon monoxide levels were 24 times greater than the maximum allowable concentration in some nearby cities. Urban residents were required to tape and cover their windows to prevent contaminant particles from being inhaled. In addition, fires nearly destroyed the region's timber business, which is one of the major industries in the affected area.

On October 23, 1998, U.S. Ambassador James F. Collins declared a disaster due to the forest fires. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through USAID/Moscow to the World Wildlife Fund, a PVO already working in the area. The funds were used to provide emergency relief items to victims of the forest fires.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Serbia-Montenegro
Complex Emergency

During September 1998, Yugoslav Army (VJ) troops and Serb police began an offensive in areas north of Pristina for the first time since February 1998, when Serb forces began retaliating against members of the KLA. As a result of the September offensive, nearly 500,000 people were internally displaced and tens of thousands fled Kosovo for Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro. On October 13, 1998, U.S. Chief of Mission Richard Miles declared a disaster for Serbia-Montenegro, reporting that affected populations were in dire need of food, shelter, and medical intervention as the cold Balkan winter arrived.

On October 14, 1998, BHR/OFDA deployed a USAID/DART to Pristina to coordinate USG relief activities and to focus its relief efforts on providing for the shelter, food, water/sanitation, and health needs of those displaced by fighting. On October 27, 1998, U.S. Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke and Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic signed an agreement that allowed IDPs to begin returning to their homes. By mid-November, an estimated 60,000 IDPs had returned to their villages despite continued security problems. Many Serb police checkpoints throughout Kosovo were dismantled and freedom of movement for ethnic Albanians increased.

At the end of December 1998, however, renewed clashes between Serb forces and the KLA drove tens of thousands of people from their homes again, and by mid-February 1999, some 45,000 people were newly displaced, raising the total number of IDPs to an estimated 210,000. The renewed insecurity was also accompanied by increasing harassment of relief workers. These problems, coupled with the breakdown in peace negotiations at the talks in Rambouillet, France and the threat of NATO air strikes, led to the departure of international relief staff, including the USAID/DART, which evacuated to Skopje, Macedonia on February 19.

An ethnic Albanian elementary school on the outskirts of Pristina burned by Serb forces during the conflict (photo by Jamy Bond, BHR/OFDA).

The overall situation in Kosovo changed dramatically on March 19 when the VJ attacked key KLA strongholds and destroyed communication lines along the periphery of the province. On March 23, Serbian security forces began setting fire to random villages and expelling ethnic Albanians from cities unknown for any hostile activity. On March 24, in response to the initial NATO air strikes on Kosovo and Serbia, VJ, Serb police, and paramilitary forces stepped-up their campaign to expel ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. They did so by causing widespread destruction in rural villages and urban areas throughout the province. Large populations of ethnic Albanians fled across nearby borders into Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro. In addition to extensive reports of abuses by Serbian forces, refugees increasingly reported a lack of food as the major reason for continued displacement. While early arrivals were in relatively good health, later arrivals showed signs of poor health from living out in the open for days before reaching the borders. At the height of the forced evacuation in early June, the Yugoslav government had forced nearly 40% of Kosovo's total ethnic Albanian population to flee the province. In addition, more than 500 villages were reported emptied or burned.

Rapid progress toward a peace accord at the beginning of June made it possible for a small return of relief organizations to Kosovo; WFP gained access in early June, and the

A family returns to its home. The home was damaged in the conflict by Serb forces and repaired with materials from the BHR/OFDA roofing project (photo by Paul Majorowitz, BHR/OFDA).

first ICRC food convoys reached Pristina on June 3. Significant numbers of people seeking refuge in other towns or in the countryside remained cut off from food by the fighting. In an effort to assist those in need of emergency food commodities, BHR/OFDA contracted IRC to airdrop HDRs into Kosovo. With two flights per day, IRC was able to drop more than 500,000 HDRs to help feed IDPs who were hiding in the mountains and forests of Kosovo.

Departing Serb forces left Kosovo littered with land mines and booby traps. Despite pleas by U.N. and relief agencies for refugees to wait until Kosovo had been declared safe, refugees began streaming back into the province only hours after the first NATO troops entered. By June 17, refugees were returning nearly as quickly as they had arrived, with 15,000 reportedly crossing in a single 24-hour period. The repatriation continued unabated, with spontaneous repatriation vastly outnumbering organized efforts.

IDPs returning to the province found that one-third of the 365,000 homes throughout Kosovo had been damaged during the conflict, leaving an estimated 720,000 to 840,000 people without adequate shelter. In the approximately 2,000 towns and villages in Kosovo, 48,861 houses were destroyed beyond repair, and 33,476 were severely damaged. The need for humanitarian shelter response was enormous, and by early September, more than 60 NGOs were involved in shelter programs throughout Kosovo.

BHR/OFDA played a lead role in providing shelter for returning vulnerable Kosovars. Through its Emergency Habitability and Winterization Program (EHWP), a "self-help" effort for returnees to create a habitable and winterized space in their homes, BHR/OFDA funded several NGOs to provide more than 20,000 emergency shelter kits and 8,000 roofing kits to meet the needs of 162,000 people. The program focused primarily on rural areas that sustained the most extensive damage during the conflict. It provided basic shelter materials and

tools to identified beneficiaries and then provided the same beneficiaries with insulation and heating. BHR/OFDA provided a total of more than $33 million in grants for shelter programs in Kosovo.

Additional BHR/OFDA-funded programs targeted a wide range of needs in the affected Kosovar community. BHR/OFDA provided a total of 5 medical support units, 217,500 water containers, 190,000 rolls of plastic sheeting, 180,000 blankets, and 150,000 hygiene kits. In addition, BHR/OFDA funded three NGOs to provide emergency repairs to water and sanitation systems, and four NGOs to address emergency and primary health care needs through staffing of mobile clinics, provision of basic laboratory equipment and supplies, training of health workers, and support for a public health information campaign. BHR/OFDA funded three NGOs to support winter wheat planting, farm equipment repair, and construction of greenhouses. In total, BHR/OFDA provided more than $89.6 million in grants to implementing partners for assistance to Kosovo in FY 1999.

BHR/OTI provided nearly $12.7 million in grants to international organizations and NGOs, including UNICEF, WFP, CARE, and WVUS for relief activities. BHR/FFP provided $57.1 million in Title II commodities as a regional response to the Balkans, and some of these commodities were detailed to Albania and Macedonia. DOD provided a total of $143.8 million in funding as a regional response to the Balkans' crisis.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $89,698,986
Other USG Assistance $216,580,000
Total USG Assistance $306,278,986

Tajikistan
Floods

Heavy rainfall during late June and early July 1999 caused flooding and mudslides throughout the Asht Region of northern Tajikistan. More than 40 people were killed or injured, and hundreds of inhabitants were severely affected. The floodwaters and subsequent mudslides destroyed at least 700 dwellings and damaged numerous buildings, major roads, and electricity lines. On July 6, U.S. Ambassador Robert Finn declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the floods and mudslides in the northern villages of Dahana, Pangaz, Shahidon, Bobo Darkon, and Khiston. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through USAID/Dushanbe to the IFRC and the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society to provide shelter materials, temporary housing, and health-related supplies to victims of the flooding.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Turkey
Earthquake

On August 16, 1999, an earthquake lasting 45 seconds and measuring 7.4 on the Richter Scale struck northwestern Turkey. The earthquake's epicenter was located 88.5 km southeast of Istanbul, near the city of Izmit. Geophysicists at the U.S. National Earthquake Information Center described the earthquake as one of the twentieth century's most powerful, rivaling the 1906 earthquake that ravaged San Francisco. The cities devastated by the earthquake included Izmit, Skakrya, Istanbul, Bolu, Bursa, and Eskisehir, and they comprised Turkey's most important industrial hub. Effects of the tremor were felt as far east as Ankara, 200 miles away, and across parts of the Balkan Region.

By September 12, the Government of Turkey (GOT) estimated that 15,466 people were killed and 23,954 were injured. Following the August earthquake, an estimated 600,000 people were rendered homeless. According to UNDP, a final damage assessment revealed that 57,572 houses and 9,866 businesses were destroyed, and an additional 56,312 houses and 8,869 businesses suffered moderate damage. Turkish officials estimated that the total cost to reconstruct industrial facilities, homes, public services, and other infrastructure surpassed $25 billion.

On August 17, U.S. Ambassador Mark R. Parris issued a disaster declaration to respond to the humanitarian needs of the earthquake victims. BHR/

OFDA immediately provided the U.S. Embassy in Ankara with $25,000 to give to the Turkish Red Crescent Society. In addition, BHR/OFDA activated the Fairfax County, Virginia SAR team referred to as USAID SAR-1 and a coordination group to support UNOCHA. On August 18, a seven-person USAID/DART arrived in Istanbul. On August 19, USAID SAR-1 began operations in Izmit, and by noon had rescued three people from the rubble. On the same day, DOD deployed a 22-person crisis response medical team, and BHR/OFDA ordered the deployment of a second 70-person SAR team from the Miami-Dade, Florida Fire Rescue Department. A water/sanitation specialist and two epidemiologists from the CDC arrived to complement the USAID/DART in the following days.

President Clinton announced more relief assistance to the SAR operations, and as part of the effort, three ships from the U.S. Sixth Fleet departed Spain, carrying 2,100 Marines. The ships included 60 hospital beds, six operating rooms, and five X-ray rooms. On August 20, a BHR/OFDA-chartered plane arrived in Istanbul carrying medical supplies for 10,000 people, 30,000 blankets, and 1,200,000 sq.ft. of plastic sheeting. The SAR-1 effort rescued an additional person on August 20, bringing the total number of trapped people rescued to four. Two additional rescues were reported on August 20 by international SAR teams working in Golcuk and Ciancik. The USAID SAR-2 team deployed by BHR/OFDA, from the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, arrived on August 21 and began structural damage assessments in Yalova, Golcuk, Izmit, and Adaparazi in order to determine which structures remained habitable.

The Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue team component of the USAID/OFDA DART digs through layers of rubble in search of earthquake survivors (photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

By August 23, international SAR efforts slowed as the probability of finding additional people alive in the rubble diminished. The SAR-1 team departed Turkey on August 24, and the SAR-2 team ceased operations on August 26. SAR-2 donated $278,000 worth of rescue tools and equipment, vehicles and medical supplies to local Turkish firefighters, search and rescue personnel and hospital staff. Attention began to shift to the number of people who remained injured and homeless. A BHR/OFDA airlift of three water purification units capable of providing enough drinking water for nearly 27,000 people per day arrived on August 24, and two flights containing 11,000 hygiene kits and 17,500 five-gallon water jugs from BHR/OFDA stockpiles arrived in Istanbul on August 27. In addition, a flight with 489,600 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting for emergency shelters arrived in Istanbul on August 28. DOD provided 5,500 body bags.

The U.S. military also assisted earthquake victims through its European Command (EUCOM)

under "Operation Avid Response." On August 19, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, stationed in Naples, Italy, dispatched a 24-member surgical response team and 27,000 pounds of medical gear to Izmit. The doctors, nurses, and corpsmen worked out of a soccer stadium to provide immediate trauma care. They then moved operations offshore when three U.S. naval ships arrived on August 22 and 24. U.S. Marines from one of the naval ships used CH-46 helicopters to set up tents to protect medical supplies and to provide shelter for the homeless in the port of Golcuk. A U.S. Air Force Humanitarian Assessment Team (HAST) of 31 medical and engineering specialists based in Incirlik, Turkey arrived in Izmit on August 20 to survey the damage and assess local needs for military aid. The HAST team included specialists in water and structural systems, construction, and radio communications. EUCOM also provided 10,000 surgical gloves and masks, as well as three shipments of non-food relief supplies and tents capable of sheltering about 95,000 people.

A man grieves over the loss of his home in Turkey, the site of the twentieth century's most devastating earthquake (photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

BHR/OFDA rescue workers from the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team survey earthquake damage as they prepare to begin rescue operations in Izmit (photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

According to UNDP, a total of 87 countries had provided emergency assistance to Turkey by the end of September. This assistance included SAR teams, consisting of 2,463 personnel from 44 countries. Nineteen countries sent mobile hospitals; 26 countries provided 406 medical personnel; 45 countries sent approximately 30,000 tents; and 23 countries supplied 121,147 blankets. Five countries pledged a total of 3,650 prefabricated housing units.

In November, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Turkish Ministry of Interior to develop cooperative activities and projects in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The project, which was funded in-part by BHR/OFDA, provided for the exchange of information, emergency management practitioners, trainers, and instructors, as well as scientific and technical cooperation, in an effort to improve general emergency management and disaster mitigation practices through the GOT.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $4,393,715
Other USG Assistance $10,000,000
Total USG Assistance $14,393,715

Ukraine

Floods

During November 1998, heavy rains in the Transcarpathian Region of Ukraine caused flooding that displaced 5,200 residents, destroyed 12,000 dwellings, and left several towns without electricity, winter fuel, and potable water. On November 24, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Steven K. Pifer declared a disaster due to the flooding. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 through USAID/Kiev to Counterpart International's Humanitarian Assistance Program for the local purchase of fuel and medical supplies.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean

Bahamas
Hurricane

On September 13-14, 1999, Hurricane Floyd passed over the Bahamas with maximum sustained winds of more than 241 km/hour, torrential rains, and a storm surge causing tides more than four meters above normal. One death was reported on Grand Bahama Island, and several minor injuries occurred on the other affected islands of Eleuthera, Abaco, Cat, Moorés, and San Salvador. The hurricane disrupted electricity, telecommunications, and water service throughout the Bahamas, which has a total population of nearly 300,000. Local water distillation plants were initially unable to function due to the loss of electrical power. Structural damage to housing was significant but not catastrophic, due in part to the Bahamas' mandatory building codes. The most significant losses to shelter occurred on the islands of Abaco, Moorés, and Eleuthera.

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Schechter issued a disaster declaration on September 16 after inspecting the hurricane damage on Eleuthera and Cat islands during an aerial assessment with the United States Coast Guard (USCG). BHR/OFDA deployed one disaster specialist in advance of the hurricane's arrival, and a team of three additional specialists arrived the day after the hurricane passed. BHR/OFDA coordinated its assessments and recommendations with the U.S. Embassy, the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, the Bahamian National Disaster Agency, and the American Red Cross. In response to the recommendation of the assessment team, BHR/OFDA provided a C-130 aircraft to transport 2,500 one-gallon bottles of drinking water to the island of Eleuthera, at a cost of $15,025. Eleuthera, which has a permanent population of 11,500, is usually supplied with potable water by boat, but storm surges associated with Hurricane Floyd severely impacted Eleuthera's port facilities, temporarily preventing the delivery of water. BHR/OFDA also provided $25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Nassau to pay for materials and labor to replace the destroyed roofs of two health clinics on Cat Island.

The BHR/OFDA assessment team also identified the need for emergency shelter materials. On Abaco Island the assessment team reported that approximately 10% of the island's homes were destroyed and 40% were severely damaged. Approximately 400 houses (home to about 2,000 people) were severely damaged or destroyed in the Mud Town area, a low-lying site with poorly constructed housing. Abaco's main port facilities were damaged but remained operational, and most roads were passable. To address the need for emergency shelter materials, BHR/OFDA provided $36,000 to DOD's Southern Command to airlift 336,000 sq. ft. of BHR/OFDA plastic sheeting to Abaco Island. The plastic sheeting provided 1,400 families with temporary shelter. The airlift was paid for with FY 1998 funds, while the plastic sheeting itself was paid for with FY 2000 funds; neither funding is included in the FY 1999 total below.

BHR/OFDA also provided a $75,000 grant to Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to meet the immediate water and sanitation needs of hurricane victims. PAHO provided its assistance in coordination with the Government of the Bahamas' Ministry of Health and Hurricane Relief Committee. In addition, BHR/OFDA provided $211,653 to the USCG in support of its aerial assessments. BHR/OFDA also funded $6,107 toward an assessment.

DOD provided excess property tents and paid $300,000 in transport costs to deliver the tents to the Bahamas.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $332,785
Other USG Assistance $368,785
Total USG Assistance $668,785

Central America
Hurricane

Hurricane Mitch was one of the strongest and most damaging storms ever to hit Central America. At its height on October 26-27, 1998, the hurricane had sustained winds of 112 km/hour and dumped heavy rain throughout the region. The storm led to significant loss of life throughout Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Mitch also

affected parts of Costa Rica and Belize, although less severely. In total, Hurricane Mitch is reported to have caused up to 10,000 deaths, left an estimated 3.6 million people affected, and destroyed nearly 100,000 homes.

Prior to Hurricane Mitch making landfall, BHR/OFDA pre-positioned relief commodities and disaster response personnel along the storm's forecasted path. As soon as the storm made landfall in each of the affected countries, BHR/OFDA quickly launched its emergency relief efforts. A USAID/DART was established to undertake damage and needs assessments and to coordinate the USG relief efforts in each of the affected countries. The USAID/DART was managed by a core group working from the BHR/OFDA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in San Jose, Costa Rica, and was comprised of more than 30 personnel from BHR/OFDA, BHR/FFP, DOD, and the Miami-Dade, Florida Fire Rescue Department.

The USG regional response to Hurricane Mitch is the most significant contribution ever made toward a natural disaster by the USG, and it surpassed the magnitude of any previous disaster response in Latin America and the Caribbean. Initial USG assistance in response to Hurricane Mitch totaled $319 million, and was directed primarily toward Honduras and Nicaragua, the two most affected countries.

BHR/OFDA provided $38 million for the provision and transport of relief supplies; grants to local and international NGOs for assistance to meet the basic needs of hurricane victims; and funding for U.S. military aircraft in support of search and rescue operations, the delivery of relief assistance, and damage and needs assessments. Other USG assistance included $67 million provided by BHR/FFP; $63 million provided by the USDA for emergency food assistance; $5 million provided by USAID's regional bureau for development assistance and micro-enterprise credits; and $150 million provided by DOD for damage assessments, provision of medical assistance, infrastructure repair, and the transport of relief supplies to affected areas.

Following the immediate relief phase of the disaster, the USG announced additional assistance for Central America and the Caribbean. The assistance totaled $563 million for rehabilitation and reconstruction and included the restoration of potable water and sanitation systems; public health activities; repair of damaged homes, schools, and roads; restoration of the agricultural sector; and disaster management. The additional assistance also included $64 million to mitigate against future soil erosion and to establish country-level land use planning systems. Furthermore, the USG deferred debts to Central America and offered debt forgiveness to Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition to the assistance outlined above, BHR/OFDA announced an additional $11 million for a three-year regional disaster mitigation initiative. This initiative focuses on the coordination of regional disaster mitigation efforts and on hazard assessment and risk minimization at the national, municipal, and community levels.

Belize

The Government of Belize established an emergency operations center to prepare for the storm's arrival and evacuated more than 75,000 people from Belize City and the coastal islands to temporary shelters in Belmopan. Contrary to initial forecasts, the hurricane did not directly strike Belize. Nonetheless, heavy rains caused flooding throughout the coastal areas, particularly in Belize's capital, Belize City.

On October 29, 1998, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Joel Danies declared a disaster for Belize due to the effects of Hurricane Mitch. In response, BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 to USAID/Belize City for the local purchase of food to distribute to IDPs in shelters. BHR/OFDA also provided funding for two DOD helicopters based in Honduras to conduct aerial assessments and evacuations. However, weather conditions during the storm's peak prevented the helicopters from flying, and as Hurricane Mitch turned and tracked away from Belize, the helicopters were redeployed to support emergency logistics in Nicaragua. A four-person BHR/OFDA assessment team examined the needs of evacuated persons in Belmopan and Belize City from October 29-31 and found that food stocks were adequate in Belmopan, in short supply in Belize City, and sanitation and hygiene were poor in all flood-affected areas.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Costa Rica

Heavy rains along the entire Pacific coast of Costa Rica prompted the Costa Rican National Emergency Commission to evacuate at-risk populations. Although Hurricane Mitch did not make direct landfall with Costa Rica, heavy rains led to severe flooding and caused four deaths.

On October 23, 1998, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Richard L. Baltimore III declared a disaster in Costa Rica due to the effects of Hurricane Mitch. BHR/OFDA responded by providing a total of $45,000 to the U.S. Embassy in San Jose for the rental of local helicopters to support aerial assessments and the delivery of food, water, and medicine to affected populations.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $45,000

El Salvador

Hurricane Mitch struck El Salvador on October 30, most severely affecting the southeastern departments of Usulatan and San Miguel. The National Emergency Committee of El Salvador (COEN) reported 240 deaths, 84,000 people affected, and 10,372 homes damaged. Impacts to infrastructure were relatively slight compared to the effects of the hurricane in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. COEN reported 10 bridges, 15 health centers, 1,308 km of paved roads, and 2,665 km of unpaved roads damaged, while the USAID/DART estimated that 1,000 houses were destroyed. Water services were interrupted in many areas as municipal systems sustained damage to their pumping stations and spring intakes. Furthermore, many water wells were contaminated by the floodwaters because of local inconsistencies in using well covers. Agriculture was one of the most severely affected sectors in El Salvador. Losses in food crops varied from 20% of the corn crop to 100% of the bean crop.

U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson declared a disaster in El Salvador on November 1, 1998. On the same day, the USAID/DART began providing relief assistance in El Salvador. BHR/OFDA emergency humanitarian assistance to El Salvador, valued at nearly $1.1 million, included funding to USAID/San Salvador for the local purchase and transport of relief commodities, procurement and transport of BHR/OFDA relief supplies (286,416 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting, 6,000 five-gallon water jugs, four 3,000-gallon water tanks, and 5,150 polyester blankets), and grants to various NGOs for disaster relief transition projects.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $1,092,412

Guatemala

Hurricane Mitch struck Guatemala on November 1, causing 258 deaths and reports of 120 missing people. The hurricane destroyed 1,797 homes and damaged 17,188 others, and it affected 32 bridges and 40 roads. In addition, farmers sustained considerable loss of subsistence crops and health problems (particularly water- and vector-borne diseases) increased in incidence.

BHR/OFDA pre-positioned disaster response personnel in Guatemala on October 27. On October 31, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Donald J. Planty declared a disaster for Guatemala, and BHR/OFDA personnel began responding to the needs of hurricane victims. In total, BHR/OFDA provided more than $1.2 million in emergency disaster assistance to Guatemala. Specifically, BHR/OFDA assistance included funding to USAID/Guatemala City for the local purchase and transport of food commodities, procurement and transport of BHR/OFDA relief supplies (709,920 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting, 7,350 five-gallon water jugs, four 3,000-gallon water tanks, and 3,000 polyester blankets), rental of local helicopters for aerial assessments, and grants to NGOs for disaster relief transition projects. BHR/FFP assistance in Guatemala amounted to 9,200 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at $6.5 million.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $1,272,690

A row of homes and small shops in Tegucigalpa devastated by Hurricane Mitch (photo by Eileen Simoes, BHR/OFDA).

Honduras

Honduras suffered the brunt of Hurricane Mitch. After being stalled for more than two days off the country's northern coast, the storm traveled inland on October 30-31. Extensive wind damage and devastating floods occurred nationwide, particularly in Tegucigalpa, along the northern seaboard, and in the Bay Islands. The National Emergency Committee of Honduras (CONEH) reported that 5,657 people were killed, 8,052 were missing, 11,762 were injured, and approximately 1.9 million were affected. Impacts on infrastructure included destruction or damage to 167 bridges, 70,000 houses, and numerous road segments. The storm also devastated the agricultural cash crop industry, and caused millions of people to be deprived of food access as a result of damaged transportation linkages. In addition, Hurricane Mitch caused serious health problems in Honduras due to the lack of potable water, damage to water distribution systems, contamination of water sources, and the presence of stagnant pools that served as breeding grounds for disease vectors.

On October 27, 1998, U.S. Ambassador James F. Creagan declared a disaster in Honduras due to the impact of the hurricane. On the same day, the USAID/DART began response activities, and it programmed $14.8 million over a three-month period in Honduras for a variety of emergency response activities. BHR/OFDA assistance included the purchase and transport of relief supplies (including 2.5 million sq. ft. of plastic sheeting, 32 10,000-liter water bladders, 25,500 five-gallon water jugs, and 1,004 body bags); funding to DOD for aerial assessments, transport of relief supplies, and search and rescue operations; a transitional shelter program implemented by the IOM; and grants to NGOs, the national government, and the local water authority for water system repairs, shelter construction, and targeted disaster relief. BHR/FFP provided 74,056 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at $41.4 million, to meet the needs of 800,000 people through August 1999.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $14,809,750

Nicaragua

Hurricane Mitch also severely devastated Nicaragua. According to the Nicaraguan National Emergency Commission (NEC), an estimated 2,863 people lost their lives, 884 people were missing, and 867,752 people were affected. Furthermore, Nicaraguan authorities estimated that 33 bridges and 31,750 houses were destroyed, 86 bridges and 113,950 houses were damaged, and 8,000 km of roadway were affected. As in Honduras, Hurricane Mitch severely impacted the agricultural sector, with most damage affecting cash crops rather than staple crops. Acute food shortages, as in Honduras, were due more to inaccessibility to markets than to the inadequacy of food stocks. Serious health problems, including water- and vector-borne diseases, also arose after the hurricane; however, major disease outbreaks were contained.

A damaged bridge north of León along the Chiquito River isolates local residents (photo by Val Deutsch, Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

On October 29, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Lino Gutierrez declared a disaster in Nicaragua due to the effects of Hurricane Mitch. On the same day, BHR/OFDA established a USAID/DART in Nicaragua and began providing emergency humanitarian assistance. BHR/OFDA assistance, valued at $6.6 million, included funding to USAID/Managua for the local purchase and delivery of relief supplies; procurement and transport of relief commodities (682,992 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting, 15,500 five-gallon water jugs, three 10,000-liter water bladders, 4,000 wool blankets, and 10,000 polyester blankets) from BHR/OFDA's Maryland-based stockpile; funding to DOD for aerial assessments, transport of relief supplies, and search and rescue operations; a grant to IFRC for a transitional housing project; and numerous grants to NGOs for the provision of emergency relief assistance. BHR/FFP assistance in Nicaragua amounted to 29,703 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at $19.1 million, to meet the needs of 400,000 people through August 1999.

Apartment buildings in Guatemala's capital city lay in piles of rubble after being struck by Hurricane Mitch (photo by Eileen Simoes, BHR/OFDA).

BHR/OFDA $6,645,114

BHR/OFDA Regional Assistance

In addition to the specific BHR/OFDA-provided, country-level assistance noted above, BHR/OFDA also funded $14.3 million in regional assistance to Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. This assistance included $4.3 million to PAHO for health, water, and sanitation activities; $5 million to DOD in support of reconstruction activities, including the purchase of materials and supplies; $4 million to DOD for helicopters to aid in the delivery of relief commodities; $500,000 to the International Center for Tropical Agriculture for seed multiplication in Honduras and Nicaragua; $245,849 to BHR/OFDA's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in San Jose, Costa Rica for USAID/DART administrative costs; and $100,000 for the activation and staffing of a 1-800 public information center.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $14,328,320

Total Assistance for Hurricane Mitch
USAID/OFDA Assistance $38,043,286
Other USG Assistance $270,340,621
Total USG Assistance $308,383,907

Colombia
Earthquake

On January 25, 1999, an earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter Scale struck central Colombia. The most devastated areas included the cities of Armenia and Calarcá in the Department of Quindío, and the city of Pereira in the Department of Risaralda. The tremor killed 1,171 people, injured 4,765 residents, affected more than 425,000 people, and rendered 150,000 inhabitants homeless. More than 30 aftershocks were recorded, the largest of which registered nearly 5.6 on the Richter Scale. The Government of Colombia declared 20 municipalities to be disaster zones, with more than 45,000 houses destroyed or damaged. An estimated 65% of all buildings were destroyed or damaged beyond repair in Armenia and Calarcá.

A street in Armenia, Colombia following the January earthquake (photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

On January 26, U.S. Ambassador Curtis W. Kamman declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the earthquake and aftershocks. BHR/OFDA provided $125,000 to USAID/Bogotá for the local purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting and blankets. Included in this figure was a grant for $15,000 provided through USAID/Bogotá to the Colombian Red Cross. BHR/OFDA facilitated the transport of 8,400 HDRs to Pereira to meet emergency food needs. The HDRs were provided by DOD and transported to Pereira at a total cost of $140,000.

Following the disaster declaration, BHR/OFDA immediately deployed a three-person assessment team, comprised of a senior regional advisor, an information officer, and a health specialist, to con-

duct damage and needs assessments, coordinate the USG response, and report on the disaster situation. The assessment team was augmented with an additional disaster response specialist on January 30. A BHR/OFDA-funded 62-person Miami-Dade, Florida SAR team was deployed to Colombia on January 26, at a cost of $890,517. Upon arriving in Colombia, the SAR team established an emergency operations center and integrated itself into international SAR efforts in Armenia. Although the SAR team did not rescue any survivors, they successfully used technical equipment to retrieve eight bodies from a collapsed structure. On January 28, Colombia's president officially declared the rescue phase over, and the SAR team began the demobilization process. Four members of the SAR team remained in Armenia to help the assessment team address remaining relief needs. The final SAR team member departed Colombia on February 8.

A Miami-Dade Search and Rescue dog sniffs a void in an attempt to locate earthquake survivors buried under a collapsed building (photo by Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Team).

BHR/OFDA also funded the deployment of an eight-person Community Technical Support Team, comprised of Miami-Dade and Fairfax County, Virginia SAR personnel, to advise Colombian officials on ongoing rescue and relief efforts. The technical assistance team arrived in Bogota on January 28, but returned to the U.S. the following day given the completion of SAR efforts and the demobilization of the SAR team.

On January 27, BHR/OFDA airlifted 8,000 blankets and 40,000 sq.ft. of plastic sheeting to Bogotá to help meet the immediate needs of earthquake victims. Total purchase and transport costs for the relief supplies was $209,750. On February 4, a second airlift of 1,200,000 sq.ft. of plastic sheeting arrived in Colombia; the total cost of the second purchase and airlift was $174,030. BHR/OFDA plastic sheeting was provided to earthquake victims who remained unprotected from heavy rains in late January and early February. BHR/OFDA technical assistance and plastic sheeting also was used to construct community kitchens and day-care facilities in Barcelona, Buena Vista, Pijao, and Armenia. Finally, BHR/OFDA plastic sheeting was provided to small coffee producers to repair homes and processing facilities. This allowed coffee production to resume and, therefore, helped to stabilize the local economy.

Through USAID/Bogotá, BHR/OFDA funded a four-person USACE team to conduct a site assessment of an unstable hillside above a critical aqueduct that supplies water to the city of Pereira. The assessment cost $51,000. With $250,000 in assistance provided through BHR/OFDA, PAHO provided medical equipment and emergency repairs to health infrastructure in affected communities.

In addition, BHR/OFDA provided $1 million through USAID/Bogotá to fund four rehabilitation projects. The projects included local hazard mapping of earthquake risk that provided the basis for Armenia's housing and infrastructure reconstruction plan;

workshops to provide instruction on earthquake-resistant uses of local construction materials; the construction of community centers to serve as facilities for pre-existing day care programs for working parents; and the establishment of a materials bank to provide basic seismically-resistant construction materials for shelter rehabilitation. All project activities were undertaken in coordination with Colombian officials, the Colombian Association of Seismic Engineering, the Colombian Institute of Family Well-Being, the National Federation of Coffee Growers, and the Foundation for Higher Education. BHR/OFDA also funded two USGS seismic and earthquake hazards experts to evaluate the technical aspects and objectives of proposed microzoning work for Colombia.

USAID/OFDA Assistance $2,843,495
Other USG Assistance $42,000
Total USG Assistance $2,885,495

Dominican Republic
Hurricane

During FY 1999, BHR/OFDA continued to provide relief assistance to Dominican victims of Hurricane Georges. On September 23, 1998, the storm crossed the Dominican Republic, killing 208 people and displacing 134,836 residents from their homes. The actual total number of deaths may never be determined because many unregistered migrant workers were swept away by floodwaters and mudslides. *(For additional information, please see the "Dominican Republic - Hurricane" case report in the FY 1998 BHR/OFDA Annual Report.)*

The areas of the Dominican Republic most affected by Hurricane Georges were the southeast provinces of La Romana and San Pedro de Macoris, the south-central province of Distrito National (which includes Santo Domingo), and the southwest provinces of San Juan, Bahoruco, and Barahona. While the greatest wind damage to housing was in the coastal areas of Santo Domingo and to the east, most flood damage to houses was in the south and west. Critical shortages of food, water, and shelter occurred in poor urban neighborhoods and rural areas throughout the country in the aftermath of the storm.

Schools, hospitals, clinics, Santo Domingo's international airport, and municipal water systems in the impacted areas also were damaged or closed. In addition, nearly all of the country's road network and 60% of the bridges sustained some damage. Disruptions to the agricultural sector were also significant. The Government of the Dominican Republic's Secretary of Agriculture reported that agricultural damage totaled $260 million. This total included losses of crops, poultry, small ruminants, pastures, and grain crops for large animals. According to the Dominican Tourism Association, between 5-10% of the country's tourism facilities were adversely affected.

On October 5, 1998, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Linda Watt redeclared a disaster due to the continued emergency needs that existed in the aftermath of Hurricane Georges. BHR/OFDA contributed nearly $3 million in assistance in FY 1999, in addition to the more than $1.9 million that it provided in FY 1998. This assistance included $254,000 to assist a Government of the Dominican Republic Forestry Department wood salvaging project, $603,094 for an agricultural rehabilitation project in the Tamayo community, and nearly $1.7 million for emergency shelter and water/sanitation repairs in Santo Domingo, San Juan, Azva, and the southwest region of the Dominican Republic. An additional $260,000 was spent on water tanks, generators to power small municipal water pumps, and seeds for replanting in the southwestern part of the country. BHR/OFDA also replenished plastic sheeting dispatched to the Dominican Republic, at a cost of $91,239.

First Lady Hillary Clinton announced a USG relief and reconstruction package of $14.2 million during her November 19-21, 1998 visit to the Dominican Republic. In FY 1999, BHR/FFP provided 18,550 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at $10.8 million, to WFP and the American Red Cross.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $2,963,439
Other USG Assistance $10,844,900
Total USG Assistance $13,808,339

Haiti

Hurricane

During FY 1999, BHR/OFDA continued to provide relief assistance to Haitian victims of Hurricane Georges. On September 22-23, 1998, the storm struck Haiti, leaving 147 people dead, 34 injured, and 167,500 affected. The heavy rains also caused extensive crop damage with total losses to the agricultural sector estimated at $179 million. *(For additional information, please see "Haiti - Hurricane" case report in the FY 1998 BHR/OFDA Annual Report.)*

On December 23, 1998, U.S. Ambassador Timothy Carney redeclared a disaster due to the emergency needs that existed in the aftermath of the hurricane. A team of BHR/OFDA regional advisors conducted assessments immediately after the hurricane and identified the need to rehabilitate water and irrigation systems.

BHR/OFDA-funded rehabilitation projects included $14,500 for a CRS training program for farmer associations; $20,303 to CARE to rehabilitate an existing irrigation system for 350 families; $153,256 to the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) to repair the municipal water system in the city of Desvarieux; and $35,500 to the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development for road rehabilitation that benefitted 25,718 residents in the Bel Fontaine Region.

To increase food security in the most adversely affected regions of Haiti, BHR/OFDA provided more than $1.2 million to CARE to distribute bean seeds and plantain cuttings to farmers in the northwest and southern regions for the December 1998 planting season. PADF received $168,510 from BHR/OFDA to support a tool bank for 10,000 farm families. To restore salt production facilities, BHR/OFDA provided $28,821 to CARE and UMCOR for a joint project that supported the livelihoods of 200 people. In addition, $42,890 was provided to replenish a BHR/OFDA stockpile with plastic sheeting and blankets that were distributed immediately after Hurricane Georges struck Haiti.

BHR/OFDA Assistance ……$1,732,440

Honduras

Fire

On February 11, 1999, a fire occurred at the El Cajón Dam hydroelectric power station in northern Honduras. The power station generates 60% of the electricity consumed by Honduras. The fire caused extensive damage to one transformer, while three others sustained minor damage. In addition, the fire created toxic fumes, which made approaching the hydroelectric facility hazardous. There were no reported deaths or injuries as a result of the fire.

At the request of the President of Honduras, U.S. Ambassador James Creagan declared a disaster on February 12 and requested technical assistance to assess the extent of the damage. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $200,000 to fund the deployment of two USG teams to the site. A six-person environmental safety assessment team from the USCG Gulf Strike Team was dispatched to the scene on February 13. The USCG team evaluated the environmental hazards caused by the transformer fire and cleared the way for the safe entry of other technical experts from the Government of Honduras and the USACE. On February 14, a two-person USACE engineering team arrived in Honduras to assess the extent of structural damage to the power station.

Upon arrival, the USCG team determined that carbon monoxide levels at the dam remained high. Protective equipment was provided to permit access for local response personnel to cool down the transformer and ventilate the power station and transformer room. By February 17, the USCG's monitoring of the power station's air quality indicated that contaminant levels were no longer critical. Thereafter, engineers from the national electric company and USACE were allowed to enter the site without protective equipment. Following its assessment, the USACE team provided recommendations to Honduran officials on more effective technical error data analysis, fire suppression systems, ventilation systems, and transformer and cable replacement procedures. On February 19, the USCG and USACE teams departed Honduras.

BHR/OFDA Assistance …… $200,000

Honduras

Floods

From September - November 1999, heavy rains triggered a national state of alert along the Ulua, Humaya, and Sulaco rivers. Flooding and landslides occurred throughout Honduras, adversely affecting communities in many departments, including Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa de Copan, Choluteca, Valle, and Morazan. In addition, sections of Tegucigalpa, Honduras' capital, were flooded several times. The Honduran National Disaster Agency reported that 39 people were killed, 30,022 residents were evacuated, and more than 3,000 houses were damaged or destroyed.

On September 24, U.S. Ambassador Frank Almaguer declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. BHR/OFDA provided $25,000 to the IOM for the local purchase of emergency relief supplies, including stoves, shelter materials, and construction tools for flood victims. On September 27, BHR/OFDA airlifted 391,680 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting to Honduras to provide temporary shelter for 1,600 flood-affected families. The total cost of the BHR/OFDA plastic sheeting and airlift was $50,000.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $75,000

Paraguay

Cold Wave/Fire

Poor rainfall, fires to clear agricultural lands, and periods of frost combined to cause significant crop losses and to damage grazing areas in northern Paraguay during the fall of 1999. The fires burned dry agricultural fields, rangelands, pastures, and forests, affecting more than 13,000 people living in rural communities near the cities of Concepción and San Pedro. On September 22, U.S. Chargé d' Affaires Stephen G. McFarland declared a disaster due to damage caused by the fires and unusual weather conditions. BHR/OFDA responded by providing $25,000 through USAID in Asuncion to the Paraguayan Red Cross for the local purchase of emergency food supplies. The Paraguayan Red Cross focused its emergency food distribution on approximately 1,340 affected families in 17 localities in the Belen District, 20 km east of the city of Concepción.

BHR/OFDA Assistance $25,000

Appendix

Appendix: Summary of BHR/OFDA Response in FY 1999

Obligations from October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999
This chart includes funds from the International Disaster Assistance account.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Africa						
Angola	Complex Emergency	02/18/99	-	2,600,000	$8,056,595	Grants to Africare, CRS, IMC, MSF/B, and WVUS for improved food security, nutrition/medical programs, a health care program, and an emergency relief program. Grants to WFP for personnel transport, to UNDP for civil/military advisors, and to UNOCHA/UCAH for field coordination. Funding for an information officer and BHR/OFDA field administrative costs.
Burundi	Complex Emergency	10/06/98	-	850,000	$9,387,738	Grants to ACF, ActionAid, Children's Aid Direct, CARE, Concern, Gruppo di Volontarioto Civile, IMC, IRC, MSF/B, MSF/H, Solidarites, and WVUS for health services, therapeutic feeding centers, food distribution, water/sanitation and basic shelter assistance, a food security program, reintegration and resettlement, support for women's associations, and nutrition/medical projects. Grants to UNOCHA/IRIN, FAO, UNICEF, WFP and IFRC for information services and coordination, seeds procurement, provision of essential drugs and therapeutic products, food needs assessments, and food security. Funding to FAO for agriculture programs. Administrative expenses to support BHR/OFDA's country coordinator and field representative.
Cameroon	Volcano	04/13/99	-	*10,000 - 20,000	$13,101	Disaster Assistance Authority for the local purchase of relief supplies. Funding in support of a USGS impact assessment.
Central African Republic	Complex Emergency	07/22/99	-	17,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority given to Africare to assist refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Chad	Floods	08/17/99	-	128,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to the Chadian Red Cross to procure and deliver relief supplies to flood victims.
Comoros	Complex Emergency	12/14/98	-	15,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to UNDP to provide emergency food assistance and logistical support to IDPs.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Complex Emergency	10/02/98	-	1,014,000	$4,597,135	Grants to AAH-USA, CRS, FHI, IRC, MERLIN, and Air Serv for clinic rehabilitation and health assistance activities, seeds/tools distribution, measles vaccinations, food security, nutrition and agriculture programs, and air transport services. Grants to UNICEF for airlifts of health and logistics supplies and for emergency response and preparedness. Funding for BHR/OFDA's EDRC.
Djibouti	Epidemic	12/14/98	43	2,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority for the local purchase of mosquito nets and support for an aerial insect spraying program.
Eritrea	Complex Emergency	02/05/99	-	260,000	$1,170,287	Grant to Africare for an emergency relief project. Grant to UNICEF to procure and distribute supplementary food. Funding to cover airlifts and replenishment of blankets and water tanks.
Ethiopia	Complex Emergency	03/25/99	-	375,000	$274,000	Grant to UNDP to assist in emergency coordination. Transport and replenishment of plastic sheeting blankets.
Ethiopia	Drought	06/02/99		4,200,000	$1,184,058	Grant to SCF/UK for a nutritional assessment, supplementary feeding, and food storage. Grants to WFP and UNICEF for supplementary food and health and water/sanitation assistance.
Gambia	Floods	09/14/99	53	20,000	$65,000	Disaster Assistance Authority given to CRS for shelter and seeds programs.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Kenya	Explosion	10/01/98	213	5,000	$403,624	Grants to American Red Cross and IMC to train Red Cross and EMS staff.
Kenya	Floods	10/01/98	1,000	300,000	$708,339	Grants to MERLIN and World Concern Development Organization for an animal restocking program and emergency relief support. Grant to UNICEF for a water/sanitation project.
Liberia	Complex Emergency	10/02/98	150,000	700,000	$2,276,071	Grants to ACF, CRS, IRC, LWR, SCF/UK, UMCOR and WVUS for seeds/tools distributions, a nutritional program, an emergency health program, rural primary health services, and agriculture training. Funding to support an agriculture specialist.
Mali	Floods	08/13/99	8	4,000	$10,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to the Malian Red Cross to purchase and distribute emergency relief items to flood victims.
Mauritania	Floods	09/24/99	8	11,000 families	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority for the local purchase of emergency relief supplies for flood victims.
Mozambique	Floods	03/02/99	100	70,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to WFP for delivery of emergency relief supplies to flood victims.
Nigeria	Explosion	10/19/98	1,200	-	$35,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to the Nigerian Red Cross to purchase and distribute medical supplies to burn victims.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Republic of Congo	Complex Emergency	01/12/99	-	295,000	$1,379,485	Grants to CRS and IRC for resettlement activities and supplemental feeding. Grant to UNICEF for an emergency health and nutrition program.
Rwanda	Complex Emergency	10/16/98	-	850,000	$3,334,034	Grants to Concern, FHI, IRC, NPA, SCF/UK, and WVUS for plastic sheeeting, emergency assistance, assistance to IDPs, rehabilitation of water infrastructure, support to the health department, hospital health services, evaluation of Rwanda's agricultural program, and provision of non-food items. Grant to UNOCHA for information coordination. Funding to cover the airlift and replenishment of plastic sheeting, technical assistance, and program support costs.
Sierra Leone	Complex Emergency	10/14/98	5,000	*700,000 - 1,000,000	$13,875,085	Grants to ACF, Africare, CARE, CRS, MERLIN, MSF/B and WVUS for procurement and distribution of non-food items, seeds/tools distributions, shelter packages, food security, emergency health and agriculture programs, a water/sanitation program, and a health/nutrition program. Grants to UNOCHA, UNICEF, and WFP for a humanitarian assistance coordination unit, a health and water/sanitation program, and to support WFP's appeal for helicopter support. Funding to cover the airlift and replenishment of plastic sheeting and the sealift of blankets and plastic sheeting. Funding for OFDA's EDRC and to cover administrative and program costs.
Somalia	Complex Emergency	10/01/98	-	1,200,000	$5,850,867	Grants to ADRA, ACF, IMC, and Norwegian People's Aid for water/sanitation projects, an emergency health care project, and a health education project. Grant to UNICEF for air operation support and for an emergency preparedness and response project. Grant to FAO for seeds distribution and multiplication.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Sudan	Complex Emergency	10/07/98	-	4,500,000	$24,621,493	Grants to ACF, ADRA, ARC, American Red Cross, CARE, CMA, CRS, Concern, IRC, GOAL, Medair, Norwegian People's Aid, SC/US, SCF/UK, and WVUS for family survival kits, health projects, primary health care projects, a water/sanitation project, the provision of seeds/tools and fishing equipment, supplementary and therapeutic feeding, agricultural production and marketing projects, agricultural support, food security and household support, projects in an IDP camp, local capacity building, a sleeping sickness project, a borehole drilling project, and an animal health training project. Grants to IFRC, UNICEF, and WFP for an emergency water/sanitation project, a food security project, and road rehabilitation. Funding to cover the costs of an airlift and the replenishment of plastic sheeting. Funding to cover program support costs.
Tanzania	Explosion	10/09/98	10	76	$34,789	Funding to send a team to help develop a disaster management training program.
Uganda	Complex Emergency	10/01/98	-	6,000,000	$1,346,336	Grants to ACF/F, AAH-USA, and IRC for water/sanitation and supplementary feeding projects and a nutrition project. Funding to cover the costs of a technical review of water/sanitation intervention programs.
Subtotal					**$78,773,037**	
Asia and the Pacific						
Cambodia	Floods	08/13/99	-	40,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to IFRC to supply household kits to flood victims.
China	Floods	08/04/99	725	58,900,000	$553,092	Grant to IFRC to support the water/sanitation, food, clothing, and shelter needs of flood victims. Replenishment of water containers and plastic sheeting.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
India	Earthquake	03/31/99	100	77,000	$71,600	Disaster Assistance Authority given to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the procurement and distribution of supplies. Mission allowance provided to IFRC for the purchase and distribution of tarpaulins and blankets.
Indonesia	Complex Emergency	05/07/99	-	500,000	$1,657,125	Funding for a water/sanitation project in West Timor, and funding to WVUS for the provision of family survival kits, construction of temporary shelters, and management of food distribution in West Kalimantan. Funding to cover the costs of aircraft charters to transport blankets, water jugs, HDRs, and plastic sheeting to East Timor.
Malaysia	Health Emergency	03/22/99	104	258	$19,647	Funding to purchase masks and other respiratory equipment. Grant to the Japanese Encephalitis Family Support Fund to assist victims of the viral outbreak.
North Korea	Food/Health Emergency	03/25/99	-	-	$342,992	Grant to CARE for a food assessment. Funding to transport seed potatoes.
Philippines	Typhoon	10/27/98	161	297,006 families	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to the Philippine National Red Cross for the distribution of food items to typhoon victims.
Philippines	Floods	08/05/99	59	1,500,00	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to the Philippine National Red Cross for emergency relief activities for flood victims.
Republic of Korea	Floods	08/04/99	31	20,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to the Korean National Disaster Relief Committee to provide temporary shelter for victims of the floods.
Taiwan	Earthquake	09/21/99	2,300	380,000	$1,411,362	Funding for costs associated with USAID/DART deployment. Funding to DOD for airlift of SAR team.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Thailand	Floods	08/04/99	7	90,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to Thailand's Ministry of Interior to procure relief items to assist flood victims.
Vietnam	Storm/Floods	11/30/98	267	2,400,000	$396,000	Grants to IFRC and UNDP to locally procure emergency commodities and to fund seeds activities in flood-affected areas.
Vietnam	Floods	08/04/99	30	1,000,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to IFRC for the local purchase of emergency relief items to assist flood victims.
Subtotal					**$4,601,818**	
Europe and the Near East						
Afghanistan	Complex Emergency	10/01/98	-	4,100,000	$776,550	Grants to ACF, Committee for Promotion of Medical and Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan, and SC/US for primary health care services and supplies, and fuel for a hospital.
Afghanistan	Earthquake	02/16/99	70	30,000	$619,300	Grant to CARE for earthquake relief. Grant to UNOCHA for the purchase and distribution of plastic sheeting and tarpaulins.
Albania	Refugees	04/07/99	-	500,000	$11,890,876	Grants to ACF, CAD, CRS, MERLIN, SCF/UK and Solidarités for baby care centers, hygiene and kitchen kits, psychological assistance for refugees, food and non-food distributions, nutrition and water/sanitation activities, emergency medical support, and transport systems. Funding for costs associated with the USAID/DART deployment, ground transportation, purchase of hygiene kits, sealift/airlift of HDRs, and replenishment of blankets.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Greece	Earthquake	09/09/99	100	19,000	$50,000	Funding provided to the Greek Red Cross for local purchase of blankets, tents, and other emergency relief items for earthquake victims.
Hungary	Floods	07/19/99	8	40,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority given to the Foundation for Development of Democratic Rights for the purchase and distribution of water pumps, water treatment chemicals, and shelter materials.
Macedonia	Refugees	04/07/99	-	250,000	$14,161,371	Grants to CRS, DOW, IRC, ICMC, MCI, Shelter Now, and Solidarités for psycho-social services for women and children, food parcel delivery, transport and distribution of clothing, local procurement of relief goods, winterization of houses, and water analysis/well cleaning. Sealift of humanitarian supplies. Funding to cover costs of the USAID/DART deployment.
Pakistan	Cyclone	05/25/99	100	650,000	$25,000	Funding provided to the Edhi Foundation for emergency food, cooking utensils, and fuel for victims of the cyclone.
Russia	Fire	10/23/98	3	1,000,000	$25,000	Funding provided to the World Wildlife Fund for the provision of emergency relief supplies for victims of the fire.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Serbia-Montenegro	Complex Emergency	10/13/98	-	800,000	$89,698,986	Grants to ADRA, ARC, CARE, CAD, Concern, Cooperative Housing Foundation, CRS, FHI, GOAL, IMC, IRC, Medair, MCI, MDM, Pharmacienes Sans Frontieres, Relief International, Solidarités, and WVUS for mobile health clinics and health-care structures, emergency winterization programs, agricultural recovery programs, water/sanitation programs and geographic information support, water analysis/well cleaning and rehabilitation, food and non-food distribution, hygiene assistance programs, weatherization projects, emergency shelter assistance and rehabilitation, assessments, delivery of relief supplies, laboratory rehabilitation, and provision of winter wheat seed. Grants to WFP, FAO, and UNOCHA for food distribution and food security, emergency agriculture, and coordination activities. Funding for the purchase, transport/airlift and/or replenishment of medical support kits, hygiene kits, blankets, tents, water containers, HDRs, and plastic sheeting. Funding to cover costs associated with the USAID/DART deployment. Funding for peace verification monitors and for telephone/accounting support services from FEMA.
Tajikistan	Floods	07/06/99	40	-	$25,000	Funding to IFRC and the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society to provide shelter materials, temporary housing, and health-related supplies to flood victims.
Turkey	Earthquake	08/17/99	15,466	600,000	$4,393,715	Funding to cover the airlift and deployment of two SAR teams. Funding to cover the purchase and airlifts of plastic sheeting, the purchase of emergency medical supplies and water purification services, and the transport of hygiene kits and water jugs. Funding to cover administrative costs of the USAID/DART.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Ukraine	Floods	11/24/98	17	24,340	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to Counterpart International's Humanitarian Assistance Program to purchase fuel and medical supplies for flood victims.
Subtotal					**$121,715,798**	
Latin America and the Caribbean						
Bahamas	Hurricane	09/16/99	-	300,000	$332,785	Grant to PAHO for water/sanitation assistance. Funding to purchase and transport water and to repair roofs on health clinics. Funding to cover transportation of BHR/OFDA and USCG assessment teams.
Belize	Hurricane	10/29/98	-	75,000	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority used for the local purchase of food to distribute to IDPs.
Colombia	Earthquake	01/26/99	1,171	425,000	$2,843,495	Funding to cover costs of deploying a SAR team and OFDA personnel, the airlift of DOD-donated HDRs, and the transport and replenishment of plastic sheeting and blankets. Grant to PAHO for the provision of medical equipment and repair of health infrastructure. Funding to support an assessment by the USACE and USGS.
Costa Rica	Hurricane	10/23/98	4	0	$45,000	Funding to cover costs of chartering helicopters for assessments and delivery of food commodities.
Dominican Republic	Hurricane	10/05/98	208	134,836	$2,963,439	Funding to continue the FY 1998 response to Hurricane Georges and for rehabilitation activities and replenishment of plastic sheeting.
El Salvador	Hurricane	11/01/98	240	84,000	$1,092,412	Funding to purchase emergency supplies; to replenish blankets, water jugs, and plastic sheeting; and to airlift relief supplies. Grants to NGOs for disaster relief transition projects.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Guatemala	Hurricane	10/31/98	258	75,900	$1,272,690	Grants to CARE and CRS for relief efforts. Funding to cover purchase and airlifts/trucking of relief supplies; helicopter rental for assessments; and replenishment of plastic sheeting, water jugs, and blankets. Grants to NGOs for disaster relief transition projects.
Haiti	Hurricane	12/23/98	147	167,500	$1,732,440	Grants to CARE, PADF, and Winrock International for rehabilitation projects, including irrigation systems, roads, and municipal water systems. Grants to CARE, CRS, and UMCOR for a farmer association training program, seeds distribution, and a livelihoods program.
Honduras	Hurricane	10/27/98	5,657	1,900,000	$14,634,750	Mission allowances to CRS, SC/US, and various local PVOs for relief grants. Grant to IOM for a housing program. Funding to DOD and others for aerial assessments and airlifts/transport of relief supplies. Replenishment of plastic sheeting, water jugs and tanks, and blankets. Funding for an emergency municipal clean up program, housing and sanitation facilities, and administrative costs. Grant to IOM for a shelter program.
Honduras	Fire	02/12/99	-	-	$200,000	Funding to USCG and USACE for a technical assessment of the El Cajón Dam.
Honduras	Floods	09/24/99	39	30,022	$75,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to IOM for the purchase of relief commodities. Replenishment and transport of plastic sheeting.
Nicaragua	Hurricane	10/29/98	2,863	867,752	$6,645,114	Grant to IFRC for a transitional housing project. Funding for airlifts/transport and local purchase of emergency relief supplies. Funding to cover costs of DOD helicopters to evacuate victims and deliver relief supplies. Replenishment of plastic sheeting, water jugs and tanks, and blankets. Grants to NGOs to provide emergency relief assistance.

Country	Disaster	Date	Dead	Affected	Obligation	Type of Assistance
Paraguay	Cold Wave/Fire	09/22/99	0	1,340 families	$25,000	Disaster Assistance Authority provided to the Paraguayan Red Cross for the purchase of emergency food supplies.
Regional	Hurricane		10,000+	3,600,000	$14,328,320	Funding provided on a regional basis in response to Hurricane Mitch. Funding to cover the costs of the USAID/DART deployment, DOD's SOUTHCOM air-lift operations and reconstruction activities, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture's seed multiplication program, and USAID/Washington's response activities. Grant to PAHO for emergency health and water sanitation assistance.
Subtotal					**$46,215,445**	
TOTAL					**$251,306,098**	

Note: The Disaster Assistance Authority is a discretionary fund of up to $25,000 available to an ambassador upon declaration of a foreign disaster to meet immediate relief needs.
Note: A dash (-) in the dead and affected columns indicates that information was not available.
Note: An asterisk (*) in the affected column indicates that only a range estimate was available.
Note: This table does not reflect carryover assistance from FY 1998 and FY 1996. Please see page 16 for carryover assistance figures.