



## **Asia and the Pacific: Disaster Preparedness and Response**

### **OVERALL STRATEGY**

- USAID/OFDA promotes an integrated approach to disaster preparedness and response that is based primarily on long-term engagement with national disaster management authorities, regional disaster management organizations, and NGO partners. Effective disaster preparedness results in reduced requirements for disaster relief.

### **DISASTER HAZARDS**

- Natural disasters (earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, landslides, volcanoes, tsunamis, and drought) and conflict.
- Asia's vulnerability to natural disasters has increased dramatically during the last two decades due to population pressures, increased habitation of marginal lands, urbanization, rapid and uncontrolled industrialization, and growing water scarcity.

### **KEY ELEMENTS**

- USAID/OFDA has four regional advisors permanently based in Asia, including two at the main regional office in Thailand and two at the sub-regional office for South Asia in Nepal. Major disasters require additional deployments, such as USAID Disaster Assistance Response Teams (USAID/DART) or assessment teams.
- USAID/OFDA has promoted disaster preparedness and mitigation programs in Asia since 1995, including: 1) flood and storm early warning; 2) disaster management training; 3) urban disaster mitigation programs; 4) volcano monitoring equipment and training; 5) earthquake safety initiatives; 6) drought preparedness; and 7) community-based conflict preparedness.
- Six of Asia's most disaster-prone countries have adopted the USAID/OFDA-funded Program for Enhanced Emergency Response (PEER) as a core element of national training programs for disaster managers and first responders. PEER has three training components, including Search and Rescue, Hospital Mass Casualty, and Medical First Responders.
- Considerable technical capacity and resources exist in the region. Most Asian countries are now capable of managing disasters up to moderate severity without external assistance. However, catastrophic natural disasters, such as the South Asian tsunami and Pakistan earthquake, regularly overwhelm local capacities and require external assistance.

### **FY 2006 ASSISTANCE**

- \$7.2 million for disaster preparedness and mitigation
- \$80.2 million for relief in response to 18 declared disasters

A Fact Sheet on USAID/OFDA Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs in the Asia and the Pacific Region can be found at

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/).