Launch of USAID/OFDA-Supported Disaster Preparedness and Assessment Trainings in Vietnam
From August 15 to 23, USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor (RA) Brian Heidel visited Vietnam to attend the launch of two USAID/OFDA-supported trainings—Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) and Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA).

CADRE Training for First Responders in Vietnam
Designed to enhance community-level disaster preparedness among the Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based agencies, the CADRE training is the first course launched in Vietnam by USAID/OFDA grantee the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as a part of the overall Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER). Through practical exercises and disaster simulations, CADRE participants learn to assess hazards, manage mass casualties, rescue people trapped under collapsed buildings, and conduct water rescue for victims of flooding by the end of the three-day course. CADRE participants, including 24 VNRC staff from 13 provinces across Vietnam, stated that they had never attended a training with such intensive simulation exercises and noted the practicality of the training for other VNRC staff and volunteers. The best students from this and

Disaster Preparedness in FSM/RMI
In advance of the upcoming storm season, USAID/OFDA has increased disaster preparedness activities in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in collaboration with other U.S. Government (USG) agencies, host governments, and international organizations.

In July, USAID Disaster Assistance Coordinator (DAC) Bart Deemer accompanied USAID/OFDA Principal Regional Advisor (PRA) Al Dwyer and RA Justin Sherman to FSM and RMI to monitor preparations for the storm season—typically beginning in November. To date in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided more than $1 million for activities in FSM and RMI, including support to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to preposition emergency relief supplies. IOM maintains offices in Pohnpei and Yap states, FSM, and Majuro, RMI, as well as service agreements.

USAID/OFDA Responds to Volcanic Eruption in Indonesia
USAID/OFDA is providing assistance to the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to augment support for individuals displaced by the Mt. Sinabung volcanic eruption.

On August 29, the Mt. Sinabung volcano erupted for the first time in 400 years, emitting ash and lava more than 4,900 feet in the air and displacing individuals in the surrounding community. From August 30 to September 2, USAID/OFDA PRA Al Dwyer traveled to Indonesia to monitor humanitarian conditions in the affected area, as well as meet with local government, NGO, U.N. agency, PMI, and USG personnel.

Dwyer noted that the USG contribution of $50,000 will help support the robust response from the PMI, the local government, private sector, and other organizations to meet the needs of the estimated 23,000 displaced individuals.
USAID/OFDA Staff Discuss Disaster Response in the Philippines

From August 23 to 25, USAID/OFDA RA Justin Sherman attended a U.S. Air Force-sponsored Disaster Response Exchange and Exercise (DREE) in the Philippines. DREE is designed to facilitate information sharing among emergency response agencies and the USG on disaster management. Attended by U.S. military, government agency, and NGO staff, the workshop’s main training component focused on the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is a predefined chain of command that helps response personnel, such as firefighters, police, and medical staff, collaborate more effectively during emergency responses. On the first day of the meeting, Sherman provided an overview of USAID/OFDA’s mission, mandate, and capabilities to the 75-person group.

USAID/OFDA-Supported Trainings in Vietnam (Continued from Page 1)

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In November 2008, USAID/OFDA assumed responsibility for disaster operations in FSM and RMI from FEMA. Disaster response in FSM and RMI represents a unique interagency collaboration between USAID and FEMA, as well as a cooperative effort between USAID offices. On August 11, USAID convened a meeting with representatives from 14 federal agencies in Washington, D.C. to discuss how USAID plans to work with federal partners during a disaster response in FSM and RMI. Meeting participants also discussed other USG agencies’ response capabilities to enhance coordination during potential disaster responses in FSM and RMI.

USAID Convenes FSM/RMI Federal Partners Meeting in Washington, D.C.

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Disaster Preparedness in FSM/RMI

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with local medical, logistics, and construction agencies to provide emergency assistance in the event of a disaster. The IOM regional mission in the Philippines supports the FSM and RMI offices and is available to provide additional staff and relief supplies if needed. During the trip, Dwyer, Sherman, and Deemer monitored emergency relief supply prepositioning at IOM warehouses, as well as participated in a planning meeting for an October 2010 table top exercise with U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Military, and host government personnel. The table top exercise will focus on reviewing the disaster assistance and response capabilities of the host governments, as well as response options from the USG.

EMMA: Assessing the Economic Impact of Disasters

On August 18 and 23, Heidel also attended the launch of the first EMMA training in Vietnam. Heidel noted that the training builds on the advances in disaster preparedness and management in Vietnam demonstrated during the 2009 Hurricane Ketsana response and “brings together people in localities and regional disaster management to take on the challenges of disasters in Vietnam.” ADPC coordinates the CADRE training as a part of the regional PEER program, designed to strengthen disaster response capabilities in nine countries in Asia.

USAID OFDA Responds to Flooding and Landslides in China

In response to recent floods and landslides, USAID/OFDA is funding the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) for the provision of emergency relief supplies, such as blankets and water containers, to affected families in China. From June to August, heavy monsoon rains extending from southern China to central and northern areas have resulted in floods and landslides across nearly 30 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities. As of August 31, the Government of China Ministry of Civil Affairs reported that floods and landslides had killed a total of 3,185 people, left more than 1,060 others missing, and resulted in the evacuation of approximately 15.2 million people. To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided $200,000 to the RCSC in response to floods and landslides in China.