



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## **PROTECTION SECTOR UPDATE – JUNE 2010**

### **SECTOR OVERVIEW**

During disasters, affected populations often face challenges that material assistance alone cannot adequately address. For example, conflicts or natural disasters often separate families, disrupting normal care-giving for children, the elderly, and disabled persons. Displacement, loss of family members, or disruption of livelihoods may increase vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and abuse for men, women, and children. Conflict exposes some people to harmful threats from attacks or landmines. Disaster-affected populations confront protection challenges like these in many countries throughout the world. In response, USAID/OFDA supports stand-alone protection activities aimed at minimizing the risks and addressing the effects of harm, exploitation, and abuse, as well as by working with implementing partners to incorporate protection principles into all other relief activities through protection mainstreaming.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$30 million to 25 U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for stand-alone protection activities in 14 countries, addressing child protection, gender-based violence, psychosocial support services, and protection coordination and advocacy. Between October 2009 and May 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$13.5 million for protection activities in 11 countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe.

### **GLOBAL INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE PROTECTION**

During FY 2009, USAID/OFDA continued to support global research, advocacy, and training initiatives related to the protection of disaster-affected populations, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs). USAID/OFDA supported the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), which maintains a global database of statistics on conflict-induced displacement; provides analysis on the protection needs of IDPs and the types of protection assistance provided by the humanitarian community; and partners with governments and aid agencies to advocate for improved protection of IDPs. IDMC also trains government, international, and local NGO representatives in protection principles and practices. In addition, USAID/OFDA provides funding to the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement to disseminate the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and related guidelines; analyze and advocate for national and international policies and practices related to internal displacement; and provide training on human rights and natural disasters. USAID/OFDA's support to the InterAction<sup>1</sup> Protection Working Group helps facilitate and improve coordination of humanitarian protection actors and promote protection practices within the U.S.-based NGO community. USAID/OFDA also provides funding to the Women's Refugee Commission to develop a strategy for addressing household energy concerns in humanitarian contexts.

### **HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION WORKSHOPS**

Since 2007, USAID/OFDA has hosted humanitarian protection workshops for NGOs and U.N. agencies. In March 2010, USAID/OFDA offered two protection workshops in Nairobi, Kenya. In total, 33 participants from 17 agencies working in Kenya, Sudan, and Ethiopia, attended the workshops. USAID/OFDA plans to host workshops in Thailand, Costa Rica, and DRC during 2010.

### **USAID/OFDA CONTACT**

Anita Malley, IDP/Protection Advisor, (202) 712-4017 or [amalley@usaid.gov](mailto:amalley@usaid.gov)

<sup>1</sup> InterAction is the largest coalition of U.S.-based international NGOs