



Acronym: OFDA
Full Name: Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
Website: www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/
Established: 1964
Location: Washington, D.C., United States

Areas of expertise: Humanitarian assistance

Main Partners and collaborations: Office of Food for Peace (FFP), the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM), U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (State/CRS), U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Assistance for Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA), Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

Short Description:

The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) coordinates and provides U.S. Government humanitarian assistance in case of humanitarian emergency outside the United States. This office was created in 1964 and is part of the USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA)¹.

Main activities:

OFDA's main activities are focused on: response to natural disasters, humanitarian assistance in case of humanitarian conflicts, mitigation activities for the reduction of impacts of recurrent natural disasters and training to build local capacity for disaster management and response.

To coordinate effectively these activities, OFDA is organized into three areas, namely:

- The **Disaster Response and Mitigation (DRM) division**, which is competent for the coordination by the provision of relief supplies and humanitarian assistance, and the development of program strategies for the application of science and technology to disaster management.
- The **Operations Division (OPS)**, which efforts are focused on the logistical, operational, and technical support for disaster responses.
- The **Program Support (PS) division** is responsible of programmatic and administrative support².

Contact:

Address: Information Center
U.S. Agency for International Development
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C. 20523-1000

Telephone: (1) (202) 712 4810
Fax: (1) (202) 216 3524

¹ Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/ - 18.03.2010).

² GlobalCorps (<http://www.globalcorps.com/ofda.html> - 18.03.2010).