

The United States responds to Asia-Pacific disasters

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Following a series of devastating natural disasters that hit the Asia-Pacific region in the past two months, the United States has responded with over \$34.5 million in comprehensive assistance for disaster relief, recovery and reconstruction. Recent US disaster relief for the Asia-Pacific region includes:

Philippines: U.S. forces were the first international government responders to help Philippine authorities in search and rescue missions following Tropical Storm Ketsana, which flooded Metropolitan Manila in late September. Since then, USAID has provided \$5.3 million for disaster assistance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided \$8.5 million in food aid, and the U.S. Department of Defense provided over \$800,000 for emergency relief supplies, logistics and transportation. On November 11, Secretary Clinton announced in Manila an additional \$5.2 million for assistance to flood and storm victims, bringing total U.S. assistance to \$19.8 million.

Indonesia: In response to the September 30 earthquake in Padang, West Sumatra that resulted in over 1,000 deaths, USAID provided more than \$7.1 million for immediate emergency relief; shelter and settlements; water, sanitation and hygiene; economic recovery; and health assistance. The U.S. Department of Defense provided \$4.3 million in immediate medical relief and air transportation. To date the total contribution is \$11.4 million.

Vietnam: For Vietnam's victims of Typhoon Ketsana, the United States contributed a total of \$750,000 in disaster relief. A \$100,000 contribution through the International Federation of the Red Cross provided household kits for 13,000 people in the hardest hit areas. In addition, USAID provided over \$500,000 for economic recovery and market systems and \$150,000 for emergency relief supplies, logistics and transportation. USAID also gave \$250,000 for storm relief and recovery following the severe flooding and landslides caused by Typhoon Mirinae earlier this month.

Laos: In Laos, USAID provided \$100,000 for emergency response activities and emergency supplies to Savannakhet Province and other areas affected by Typhoon Ketsana.

Samoa: The tsunami that slammed Samoa September 29 left 143 people dead and affected another 4,500. The United States has provided over \$1.4 million for humanitarian assistance.

Tonga: The tsunami also left 9 dead and 470 affected in Tonga. USAID has provided \$50,000 for humanitarian assistance.

Total USG relief to the Asia-Pacific region since September: Over \$34.5 million.