



Recommendations for Improved Humanitarian Assistance

USAID – ACVFA

Humanitarian Assistance Working Group

October 24, 2007

Introduction



Four important recommendations to ensure effective Humanitarian Assistance:

1. **Maintain a central emergency fund** with “notwithstanding capabilities”, dedicated to humanitarian assistance;
2. **Fund humanitarian assistance programs through core budgets** and shift away from a reliance on supplementals;
3. **Create a clear strategy and appropriate funding mechanisms for transitional programming** that provide an effective transition from relief to development;
4. **Ensure a robust capacity within USAID to respond fully to humanitarian crises without over-reliance on military capacity**



Maintain a central emergency response fund

Decreasing quantity emergency funds

Core Development Assistance by Account, FY 2006-FY 2008 (in millions of Dollars)				
Selected Core Development accounts	FY 2006	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2008 Request	% Change FY07-FY08
<i>Transition Initiatives (OTI)</i>	39.6	39.6	37.2	-6.10%
<i>Disaster/Famine (IDFA)</i>	579	361.4	297.3	-17.70%
<i>Food Aid (PL480)</i>	1,588.00	1,313.00	1,319.00	0.40%
<i>Migration/Refugee</i>	88.5	887.9	828.5	-6.70%
Total	3,095.10	2,601.90	2,482	-4.6%

Adapted from CRS Report for Congress: State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. Connie Veillette, Susan Epstein (6/11/07)



Fund Humanitarian Assistance through core accounts and reduce reliance upon supplemental funding

- Increased reliance on supplementals in recent years
- Creates unpredictable and unreliable funding

<u>Selected 150 Account Funding through supplementals (totals in thousands of USD)</u>			
	<i>FY 2005</i>	<i>FY 2006</i>	<i>FY 2007</i>
<i>Total</i>	1,488,896	1,230,470	1,234,006
<i>Total Selected Supplemental Funding (IDFA, ERMA, MRA)</i>	228,356	56,330	206,500
<i>Total without Supplemental Funding</i>	1,260,540	1,174,140	1,027,506



Create a clear strategy for transitional programming

- Persistent gap between relief and development
- OTI – a partial answer



Ensure a robust capacity within USAID to respond fully to humanitarian crises without over-reliance on military capacity

- Maintain central role of USAID and other civilian agencies in USG emergency response:
 - Ability to coordinate with multiple stakeholders
 - More cost effective
 - Potential to link relief with longer term development