

# **Chapter VI**

## **Commonly Used Acronyms and Terminology**

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**ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency International)—U.S. PVO. Works to improve the quality of life for people in the poorest parts of the world. Responds to disasters throughout the world. Immediate aid is coupled with long-term rehabilitation projects that help communities get back on their feet.

**Affected Country**—Term used to define a country stricken by a disaster.

**Affected Population**—People requiring immediate emergency assistance from outside sources as a result of a disaster situation or event.

**AFRICARE**—U.S. PVO. Works to develop water resources, increase food production, encourage environmental management practices, deliver basic health services, and provide emergency assistance to refugees and displaced people in rural Africa.

**AICF** (Action Internationale Contre la Faim)—European NGO Focuses on primary health care, potable water, environmental sanitation, and agro-based income generation.

**AID** (Agency for International Development (officially, USAID))—The official U.S. Government agency responsible for international assistance and development.

**Air Serv International**—U.S. PVO. Provides air transportation and related aviation services to relief agencies in remote areas of the world.

**Americares**—U.S. PVO. Offers donated assistance to people in countries of turmoil. May also commit in these countries to assist with ongoing programs that will contribute help on a continual basis.

**ARC** (American Red Cross)—U.S. PVO. Channels financial aid, material, and technical personnel to victims of natural disasters worldwide, multilaterally through the IFRC and directly through sister national societies. Assists ICRC in providing relief to victims of armed conflict. Contributes to disaster preparedness of other national societies.

**ARI** (Acute respiratory infections)—ARI's are serious, potentially fatal infections in a displaced and malnourished population.

**Assessments—** **Damage assessment** is the process of evaluating the damages and losses caused by a disaster.

**Situation assessment** is the process of evaluating the situation caused by a disaster, such as the number killed, injured, and affected.

**Needs assessment** is the process of evaluating the needs of the affected population as a result of the disaster.

**Assisting Country**—Term which more specifically defines a country providing aid to a disaster stricken country (affected country). Assisting countries may or may not be a donor country.

**ATA**—Actual time of arrival.

**ATD**—Actual time of departure.

**Bailey Bridge**—Transportable (in pieces) temporary bridge.

**Cable**—Secured (classified) and unsecured (unclassified) hard copy telecommunications system used by AID and State Department to pass information back and forth worldwide.

#### **Cargo Abbreviations and Terms:**

**Air Waybill (AWB)** is a document serving as a guide to a carrier's staff in handling, dispatching, and delivering the consignment. It is a non-negotiable document.

**Bill of Lading** is a receipt for goods, contract for their carriage, and documentary evidence of title to goods. As such it is a bill of exchange, a negotiable document of title. Usually issued in sets of three originals and several copies.

**C and F** **Cost and Freight.** The shipper pays for freight to the named port of destination.

**CIF** Cost, insurance, and freight.

**COD** Cash on delivery.

**Dead Weight (DWT)** is a vessel's dead weight in the number of tons (2240 pounds) required to sink the vessel in the water to its load line. DWT includes cargo, bunkers, and stores. **DWT cargo capacity** is the weight available for cargo after all other allowances have been made.

**FOB**                    **Free on Board.** The price of goods covers transportation to the port of shipment, loading, and stowage. Not transportation costs to final destination.

**Long Ton**            A measure of weight equivalent to 20 hundred-weight (cwt) of 112 lbs each = 2,240 lbs = 1016 kilos.

**MT**                    **Metric Ton.** MT = 1,000 kilos = 2,205 lbs.

**Short Ton**            2,000 lbs. = 907.2 kilos

**CIDA** (Canadian International Development Agency)—Canadian government's foreign assistance and development agency.

**CRS** (Catholic Relief Services)—U.S. PVO. Operates relief, welfare, and self-help programs to assist refugees, war victims, and other needy people. Emphasis on distribution of food, clothing, and medicine.

**CARE** (Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere)—U.S. PVO. Provides relief and development programs in the areas of health, nutrition, AIDS, population management, natural resources management, agriculture, small economic activities, and emergency assistance.

**CDC** (Centers for Disease Control)—A part of the U.S. Public Health Service, located in Atlanta, Georgia.

**CM** (Chief of Mission)—Refers to the highest ranking official in a country's embassy.

**Cold Chain**—The refrigerated transportation system for vaccines from the manufacturer to the individual.

**Concern** (Irish Concern)—Irish NGO. Helps communities improve their health conditions and establish self-reliant systems for access to needed health care.

**CSB** (Corn-Soya-Blend)—A fortified cereal blend used for general food distribution.

**CSM** (Corn-Soya-Milk)—A protein fortified blended dry food used for supplementary feeding.

**CWS** (Church World Service)—U.S. PVO. Affiliated with the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S. Sponsors programs to provide relief in disaster situations, to respond to refugees and displaced people, and to support self-reliant and participatory socioeconomic development.

**Cyclone**—Name given to severe tropical storms in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific Ocean.

**DALIS** (Disaster Assistance Logistics Information System)—A commodities tracking system developed by DOD and OFDA. It is a program that uses database software.

**DART** (Disaster Assistance Response Team)—Name for OFDA's field operational response capability.

**DCM** (Deputy Chief of Mission)—The second ranking person in an embassy.

**Death Rate**—see mortality rate.

**Denton Amendment**—Law allowing the U.S. military to air/sea lift donated humanitarian relief commodities for NGO's, on a space-available basis to countries affected by disasters.

#### **Department of Defense Terms:**

##### **Aircraft Types**

**C-5**—(Galaxy) U.S. Air Force's largest cargo aircraft.

**C-12**—U.S. military small passenger aircraft. Commercial version named King Air.

**C-130**—(Hercules). U.S. military cargo aircraft.

**C-141**—(Starlifter). U.S. Air Force cargo aircraft.

**CH-47**—(Chinook). U.S. Army heavy-lift helicopter.

**CH-53A**—(Sea Stallion). U S. Navy heavy-lift helicopter.

**H-3**—(Sea King) U.S. military medium-lift helicopter.

**AO** Area of Operation.

**AORs** **Areas of Responsibility.** The U.S. military divides the world into five geographical areas of responsibility which are each supervised by area commanders (area CINC's). There are other commands with worldwide responsibilities (see SOCOM and TRANSCOM). The commands are:

**SOUTHCOM—Southern Command: Latin America land area.** Headquartered in Panama.

**PACOM—Pacific Command: Pacific Ocean, part of Indian Ocean, and East and Southeast Asia.** Headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**CENTCOM—Central Command: Countries bordering the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.** Headquartered in Tampa, Florida.

**EUCOM—European Command: Europe, Africa not in CENTCOM, the Mediterranean Sea, and bordering countries.** Headquartered in Germany.

**USACOM—The Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean.** Headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia.

**SOCOM—Special Operations Command: Worldwide.** Headquartered in Tampa, Florida.

**TRANSCOM—Transportation Command: Unified command providing management of all surface/air/sea lift.** Headquartered at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

**BDE** Brigade.

**BN** Battalion

**CA**            **Civil Affairs Units.** Able to assist civil governments and their citizens in disasters. Part of SOF.

**CINC**        **Commander in Chief.** Of an AOR.

**CMO**        **Civil Military Operations.** U.S. military term.

**CMOC**       **Civil Military Operations Center.** U.S. military term.

**CMOT**       **Civil Military Operations Team.** U.S. military term.

**CP**         **Command Post.** Military term.

**CTF**        **Combined Task Force.** Military force made up of two or more allied nations.

**Command Staff designations: S=Special, G=General, J=Joint**

S/G/J 1 = Admin  
 S/G/J 2 = Intelligence  
 S/G/J 3 = Operations  
 S/G/J 4 = Logistics  
 S/G 5 = Civil Affairs  
 J 5 = Plans and Policies  
 S/G/J 6 = Communications

**JCS**        **Joint Chiefs of Staff.**

**JTF**        **Joint Task Force.** DOD force made up of two or more military services and used in an operation.

**HAST**      **Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team.**  
 Deployed by CINC to assess existing conditions and need for follow-on forces.

**HMMWV**    **(hum vee) Highly Mobile Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle.** U.S. military term for the successor to the "Jeep".

**MRE**       **Meal, Ready-to-Eat.** Complete individual combat meal in a pouch. Usually heated in boiling water.

- Operation** \_\_\_\_\_. Name designator for each military operation, e.g., Operations Provide Hope, Sea Angel, Provide Comfort, Restore Hope...
- PSYOPS** **Psychological Operations.** Part of Special Operations Forces.
- ROE** **Rules of Engagement.**
- SOF** **Special Operations Forces.**
- Zulu** (see Zulu Time)

**DHA** (United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs)—Focal point in the U.N. system for disaster relief affairs.

**Displaced Person**—Usually refers to an individual who has been forced to move from his/her home to some other location within the same country. Within the U.S. Government, usually assisted by OFDA.

**DOD**—Department of Defense.

**Donor Country**—Country that provides aid to a developing country.

**DRD** (Disaster Response Division)—An OFDA division that is responsible for developing and implementing OFDA's disaster response strategy.

**DSM**—Dry Skim Milk.

**DTP** (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis)—Immunization for small children.

**EC** (European Community)—Twelve European nations pledged to unite by 1999 into a federation with a single currency, central bank, and a common defense and foreign policy. Headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium.

**ECHO**—European Community Humanitarian Office.

**ETA**—Estimated time of arrival.

**ETD**—Estimated time of departure.



**Ex-pat** (Ex-patriate)—Individual residing in a country other than their own.

**FAA**—Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

**Fairfax**—Fairfax County (Virginia) Fire and Rescue Department. Specially trained members of the department are deployable on OFDA DART's in the SAR component.

**FAO** (Food and Agriculture Organization)—This U.N. agency serves as the organizing and coordination agency to plan and execute development programs within the whole range of food and agriculture, including forestry and fisheries. Headquartered in Rome.

**FAS** (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service)—Office within USDA responsible for procurement and shipping of P.L.480 food commodities.

**Fast On-Set Disasters**—Also known as **sudden or quick onset** disasters. Disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, floods, and tsunamis.

**FEMA** (Federal Emergency Management Agency)—U.S. agency responsible for coordinating federally declared disasters in the United States and its territories.

**FEWS** (Famine Early Warning System Project)—Information system designed and financed by AID. Mandate is to identify problems that could lead to famine conditions in 11 African countries so that such conditions can be preempted, thereby helping ensure food security in these countries.

**FFP** (Food for Peace)—Refers to the overseas food donation program authorized by Title II of Public Law 480, passed by the 83rd Congress, second session in 1954. Under this program, U.S. agricultural surpluses are donated to “friendly governments” through non-profit relief organizations or PVO's such as CARE and Catholic Relief Services. The program is administered jointly by AID and the Department of Agriculture.

**FLY**—Term used to describe weather covers for a tent or shelter cover set up to keep individuals shelter from the elements.

**Food Basket**—The particular selection of food commodities that are handled by the assistance operation and included in the rations distributed to the target beneficiaries.

**Food for Work**—Disaster relief intervention designed to use capabilities of the affected population to improve infrastructure and support systems within the community by paying workers with food.

**Food Pipeline**—Term used to describe the various location points and the amount of food going to an affected population. Locations include the port of origin, the ship on the high seas, the port of entry, and the distribution system in the affected country.

**Food Categories or Types**—Food distributed in disaster relief usually falls into three categories or types:

**Cereals**—Corn, wheat, rice, sorghum.

**Pulses**—Beans, peas.

**Oils**—Vegetable oil, butter oil.

**FS (Forest Service)**—OFDA has an RSSA with the Forest Service to provide disaster management training and technical specialists for DART's.

**GO\_** —Three letter abbreviation for Government of \_\_\_\_\_, such as GOK (Government of Kenya) or GOJ (Government of Japan).

**GOAL**—Irish humanitarian relief agency. Programs include food and health relief activities.

**Global Affairs**—(See humanitarian and refugee affairs).

**Grant (as used in P.L. 480 Programs)**—The transfer, by the United States to foreign governments, of foreign currencies acquired by the United States through sales of United States farm products. **GRANT** also is used in connection with the transfer, by the United States to foreign governments, of U.S. agricultural commodities by FAS and in connection with the transfer of money to various IO's and PVO's/NGO's to perform predefined relief activities.

**GTZ (German Technical Assistance Agency)**—The German government's foreign assistance and development agency.

**Handbook 8**—U.S. AID's Handbook covering the foreign disaster assistance activities.

**HDR** (Humanitarian Daily Ration)—DOD ration introduced in October 1993 for use by DOD in humanitarian relief efforts. Designed to be acceptable by all ethnic and religious groups. To be used as a stop-gap feeding asset until other foods are chosen to meet specific or multiple nutritional deficiencies can arrive.

**HF Radios** (High Frequency Radios)—Radio communication system which does not rely on line of site.

**Host Country**—Country in which AID has a development or disaster assistance program.

**HQ**—Headquarters.

**Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs Office (HRA)**—Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense office within DOD which is the initial point of contact for OFDA when OFDA desires to request the use of DOD assets. See DOD Directive 5100.46 or USAID Handbook 8 for details of relationship.

**Hurricane**—Name given to severe tropical storms in the eastern Pacific and western Atlantic.

**IBRD** (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)—The World Bank.

**ICRC** (International Committee of the Red Cross)—Private, international relief organization with headquarters in Geneva. It works principally in cases of civil conflict, ensuring legal protection for victims, and acting as a neutral, independent humanitarian organization in complex emergency situations. At times they may get involved in humanitarian operations. It is neutral as regards politics, religion, and ideology. Its international character derives from its mission, which is enshrined in the Geneva Conventions.

**IMC** (The International Medical Corps)—U.S. PVO. Provides health care and establishes health training programs in developing countries and distressed areas worldwide, often where few other relief organizations operate. Its goal is to promote self-sufficiency through health education and training.

**IFRC** (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)—Formerly known as the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Located in Geneva, Switzerland, this is the umbrella organization for all Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**InterAction** (American Council for Voluntary International Action)— A membership association of U.S. PVO's engaged in international humanitarian efforts, including relief, development, refugee assistance, public policy, and global education.

**INTERTECT**—A consulting company specializing in services that deal with displaced persons and refugee issues.

**IO** (International Organization)—Acronym for organizations such as United Nations and IOM that are international in their scope.

**IOM** (International Office for Migration)—Geneva-based international organization that provides arrangements for the transport of refugees and migrants and provides other resettlement services worldwide to meet the specific needs of the receiving countries.

**IRC** (International Rescue Committee)—U.S. PVO. Assists refugees and internally displaced victims of war and civil strife. Activities include medical support, self-help, and public health, including water and sanitation, education, maternal child care, and shelter projects.

**Irish Concern**—Irish PVO specializing in nutritional rehabilitation and health care.

**ITSH** (Internal Transport, Storage, and Handlin)—Costs associated with the internal transport, storage, and handling of relief commodities from the seaport of entry to the distribution point.

**JICA** (Japan International Cooperation Agency)—Japanese government's foreign assistance and development agency.

**LWF** (Lutheran World Federation)—Umbrella organization for Lutheran relief and developing country organizations.

**LWR** (Lutheran World Relief)—U.S. PVO. Provides financial, material, and personal support, usually through counterpart church-related agencies, in the areas of disaster relief, refugee assistance, and social and economic development.

**Maize**—Another name for corn.

**MCH** (Mother-Child Health)—Refers to programs that are targeted at improving the health of mothers with children.

**MDRO (Mission Disaster Relief Officer)**—This is the individual in a USAID Mission who has the responsibility for developing and implementing a mission disaster relief plan. Normally the point of contact for OFDA Washington and a DART.

**Metro Dade**—Metro Dade County (Florida) Fire and Rescue Department. Specially trained members of the department are deployable on OFDA DART's in the search and rescue component.

**Monetization**—Relief assistance programs where relief commodities (usually the most sought after types), are sold by local merchants to affected populations using local currencies. Merchants are able to purchase the commodities at subsidized rates from participating donor countries. Donor countries use profits from the sales to fund community improvement projects that are carried out by the local affected population. Monetization attempts to increase the purchasing power of the affected population which can then begin the process of reestablishing economic cycles within the community.

**Morbidity**—The incidence or prevalence of a disease or of all diseases in a population.

**Mortality Rate**—Also known as death rate. A ratio of deaths/10,000 persons/day, based on the number of deaths times 10,000 divided by the number of days times the population.

**MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)**—A common form of agreement, usually with USG agencies, that is less formal than a contract.

**MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders))**—Relief organization that specializes in medical assistance. MSF has core MSF organizations located in France, Holland, Belgium, Spain, and other national country offices including the United States.

**MUAC (Mid-upper-arm circumference)**—Method of measuring rapidly assess the nutritional status of young children.

**NASAR (National Association for Search and Rescue)**—Through grant agreement with OFDA, coordinates preparation of search and rescue resources for deployment on OFDA DART's.

**NDMS** (National Disaster Medical System)—Part of U.S. Public Health Service, responsible for developing and implementing a system to support medical needs during major disasters that have a large Federal medical response need.

**NFDM** (Non-fat Dry Milk)—U.N. refers to it as dry skim milk (DSM).

**NGO** (Nongovernmental Organization)—Refers to transnational organizations of private citizens that maintain a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. NGO's may be professional associations, foundations, multinational businesses, or simply groups with a common interest in humanitarian assistance activities (development and relief). NGO is a term normally used by non-U.S. organizations as the equivalent of the term PVO (see PVO) used in the United States.

**OAS** (Organization of American States)—Intergovernmental organization of all North, Central, South American, and Caribbean countries except Cuba and Canada.

**OAU**—Organization of African Unity.

**ODA** (Overseas Development Administration)—British government's foreign assistance and development agency.

**OE** (Operating Expenses)—Money given to OFDA to fund travel, per diem, salary, and office expenses of AID direct hire employees.

**OFDA** (Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance)—Office responsible for the coordination of all U.S. Government assistance to foreign countries after a natural or manmade disaster.

**OS** (Operations Support)—OFDA division responsible for conducting the operational implementation of OFDA's disaster response strategy.

**OSOCC** (On-Site Operations Coordination Center.)—Location of a coordinating group set up near an earthquake disaster and composed of staff from affected country local officials, assisting country SAR teams, and UN-DHA, which meets to coordinate the use of assisting country SAR teams. An OSOCC reports to and receives direction and priorities from local officials and is only set up at the request of the affected country.

**ORT** (Oral Rehydration Therapy)—Treatment used for dehydrated patients, usually children, to prevent death from dehydration which is often the result of diarrheal diseases.

**ORS** (Oral Rehydration Salts)—Electrolyte replenishing salts which often come in premixed packages. Used in ORT.

**PAHO** (Pan-American Health Organization)—U.N. agency responsible for monitoring health training, health systems, and disaster-related health issues in the Americas.

**Partners** (Partners of the Americas)—Pairs U.S. States with regions and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to foster interAmerican friendship and cooperation to carry out projects in areas such as natural resource management, environmental education, democratic initiatives, child health, and nutrition, emergency preparedness, and drug abuse prevention and education

**PEM** (Protein-energy malnutrition)—Major cause of death among infants and young children, usually caused by low food intake and infection. There are three types of PEM: nutritional marasmus, kwashiorkor, and marasmic kwashiorkor.

**PIO/T** (Project Implementation Order/Technical)—A term used by AID for documents authorizing a development/disaster response project or activity.

**PIO/C** (Project Implementation Order/Commodity)—A term used by AID for the documents authorizing the purchase of commodities.

**P.L. 480**—Public Law 480. The Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, Public Law 480 has been the principal legislative authority for channeling U.S. food to needy countries. There are parts of the law that OFDA is associated with:

Title I: Managed by USDA. Food aid sold to countries able to pay for food but experiencing foreign exchange difficulties. Local currency generated by sale of food on local markets is used by country governments for agriculture, trade promotion, and public infrastructure.

Title II: Managed by AID. Provides emergency and non-emergency food aid in support of development projects—in many cases the food is given directly to individuals—through programs such as supplementary feeding, Food for Work, and disaster assistance.

Title III: Managed by AID. Provides food to needy countries that are ranked on need based on the food security index. Eligibility for Title III can be based on.

1. daily per capita consumption is less than 2300 calories;
2. mortality rate of children under 5 years of age in the country is in excess of 100 per 1000 births; and
3. country unable to meet its food security requirements through domestic production or imports due to a shortage of foreign exchange earnings.

Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949. Managed by USDA. Allows donation of surplus food to developing countries. Relieves temporary commodity shortfalls and generates local funds to assist needy people.

**Plastic Sheeting** —OFDA contracts for the manufacture of a special coated scrim net plastic sheeting that is both durable and long lasting. OFDA distributes the plastic sheeting in rolls (one roll/box) which are 24 feet wide and 102 feet long.

**PMP** (Prevention, Mitigation, and Preparedness)—An OFDA division that is responsible for developing OFDA's long-term strategies in disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness.

**Prevention**—Encompasses those activities taken to prevent a natural phenomenon or potential hazard from having harmful effects on either persons or economic assets. Includes channelling the direction of debris flow away from population centers, construction of dams or dikes to eliminate flooding, and safe destruction of outdated hazardous materials.

**Mitigation**—Concentrates on reducing the harmful effects of a disaster. Accepts the occurrence of disasters, but attempts to limit their impact on human suffering and economic assets. Includes improving building standards, installing hurricane straps to reduce wind damage to roofs, and modifying crop patterns to reduce vulnerability.



**Preparedness**—Aims to limit the impact of a disaster by structuring the response and providing quick, effective actions after the disaster. Addresses actions in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster phases. Also includes early warning systems.

**Program Money**—Money given to OFDA to fund its program activities, such as RSSA, PSC's, and grants.

**PSC (Personal Services Contractor)**—Individuals contracted by OFDA to assist OFDA in Washington and the field.

**USPHS (Public Health Service)**—The lead USG agency for medical/health policy and operational activities. CDC is under PHS.

**Pulses**—Beans and peas.

**PVO (Private Voluntary Organization)**—Private non-profit humanitarian assistance organizations involved in development and relief activities. PVO is the equivalent term of NGO, which is normally used by non-U.S. organizations.

**Rapid Onset Disaster.** See fast on-set disaster.

**Ration**—The particular amount of food provided by an assistance program for beneficiaries in a specified target group to meet defined nutritional objectives. The "daily ration" is the amount provided per person per day. The "distribution ration" is the quantity provided to each individual or household at each distribution.

**Redd Barna**—Norwegian NGO associated with Save the Children Federation.

**REDSO (Regional Economic Development Support Office)**—AID offices located in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nairobi, Kenya that assist USAID Missions in Africa with economic and development programs.

**Reftel (Reference Telegram)**—In cable traffic "Reftel" means to reference information in a previous telegram (cable).

**Refugee**—Individual who flees to a foreign country to escape danger or persecution. Within the U.S. Government, usually assisted by the State Department's Refugee Bureau Program.

**Resrep** —See UNDP.

**RSSA** (Resources Support Services Agreement)—An agreement between AID and another U.S. agency or department that authorizes work.

**SAR** (Search and Rescue)—Component of the DART operations function, responsible for searching for and rescuing victims trapped in collapsed buildings, usually as a result of an earthquake. Also referred to as urban search and rescue

**SAT** (Southern Air Transport)—A for-profit air transport company located in Miami, Florida which provides aircraft for movement of food and relief supplies to disaster areas. Aircraft most often contracted by OFDA is the "Herc" (Hercules, Lockheed L-100-30).

**SATCOM System** (Satellite Communications System)—Refers to International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT) communications system which can provide almost worldwide communications for voice, data, and fax using a system of geostationary satellites.

**SCF** (Save the Children Federation)—U.S. PVO. Helps disadvantaged children through programs in primary health, environmentally sound sustainable agriculture, microenterprise, and non-formal education. SCF has affiliates in several countries including the U.K. and Spain and is associated with Redd Barna in Norway.

**Seeds and Tools**—Distribution of seeds and tools is a relief intervention designed to give affected populations an opportunity to become more self-sufficient in food production.

**Selective Feeding**—A collective term used for all feeding/food distribution programs in which food is provided to specifically selected beneficiaries. It typically includes both supplementary and therapeutic feeding.

**Septel** (Separate Telegram)—In cable traffic, reference to a "septel" means that information will be contained in a separate telegram (cable) to follow.

**SFP** (Supplementary Feeding Program)—Feeding program offering extra calories for vulnerable populations of displaced persons.

**Sitrep**—A situation report on the current disaster situation and on the current U.S. response activities. Completed as required.

**Slow Onset Disasters**—Disasters which develop over a period of time. Examples are famine, civil strife, and insect infestations.

**Sudden Onset Disasters**—See fast onset disasters

**TA** (Travel authorization)—U.S. government form that authorizes someone to travel as stated on the TA.

**TDY**—Temporary Duty.

**TFP** (Therapeutic Feeding Program)—Intensive feeding program offering total calories for severely malnourished infants and small children in a health care setting (sometimes referred to as “nutritional rehabilitation”).

**Typhoon**—Name given to severe tropical storms in the western Pacific.

**UHF Radios** (Ultra High Frequency Radios)—Radio systems that are dependent on line of sight or repeaters.

**UN - United Nations.** International organization formed to promote international peace, security, and cooperation under the terms of the U.N. Charter.

**UNDP** (United Nations Development Program)—This is the central U.N. development agency in developing countries. In most of these countries, UNDP has a resident representative (resrep). During a disaster the resrep leads the U.N. in-country team in needs assessment and local relief coordination of aid from the U.N. system. Headquartered in New York.

**UNHCR** (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)—This U.N. agency is responsible for protecting refugees, seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems by facilitating voluntary repatriation and resettlement, and by providing supplementary aid and emergency relief to refugees as may be necessary. Headquartered in Geneva.

**UNICEF** (United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund)—This fund provides money for programs for health, education, and welfare for children and mothers in most developing countries. Headquartered in New York.

**UNIPAC** (UNICEF Packing and Assembly Center)—A U.N. facility in Copenhagen, sponsored by the Danish government, with a stockpile of prepacked drugs and supplies identified on the WHO and UNHCR medical supply lists. These supplies must be ordered through OFDA Washington.

**USAID** (U.S. Agency for International Development)—See AID above.

**USAID/Embassy**—Refers to the AID and State Department presence in a country.

**USAID Mission**—Name used to describe the office of the U.S. Agency for International Development in a foreign country.

**USG**—United States Government.

**USGS** (United States Geological Survey)—Provides earthquake information and technical specialists to OFDA as required.

**USUN**—United States Mission to the United Nations.

**VHF Radios** (Very High Frequency Radios)—Radio system that is dependent on line of sight or repeaters.

**VITA** (Volunteers in Technical Assistance)—Provides OFDA with an information clearinghouse called the Disaster Information Center (DIC) located in Rosslyn, Virginia, which is designed to track private sector donations and offers of volunteer technical assistance for use by OFDA and PVO's responding to foreign disasters. Also provides computer bulletin board system VITANet, which enables PVO's to easily access the offers of private sector disaster assistance that are collected by VITA.

**VOLAGS** (Voluntary agencies)—Term used at one time to describe NGO's/PVO's, such as CARE and Catholic Relief Services.

**WASH** (Water and Sanitation for Health Project)—Special project established by AID to provide comprehensive water and sanitation technical assistance to AID bureaus, missions, and OFDA and to other development organizations through the auspices of AID.

**Weight-for-Height**—Method of measurement to assess the nutritional status of young children by comparing the weight and height of random samples of the child population (less than 60 months) of an area at regular intervals (see also Z-Score).

**WFP** (World Food Program)—U.N. organization responsible for procuring, accepting, and distributing food commodities to NGO's and needy countries. Headquartered in Rome.

**WHO** (World Health Organization)—U.N. organization responsible for coordinating international public health work. Headquartered in Geneva.

**WHO Emergency Kit**—Standard list of drugs and medical supplies WHO has identified and can make available as needed for an emergency. The Kkit is configured to be used by 10,000 people for 3 months.

**WVRD** (World Vision Relief and Development Inc)—U.S. PVO. Provides cash, in-kind gifts, in-kind services, and technical resources for large-scale relief/rehabilitation and development projects. Development projects include international health care, water development, food security, natural resource management, and microenterprise development.

**WSB** (Wheat-Soya-Blend)—A fortified cereal blend used for general food distribution.

**WSM** (Wheat-Soya-Milk)—A protein fortified blended dry food used for supplementary feeding.

**XA** (Office of External Affairs)—Office within AID that deals with the press.

**Zulu Time**—Also known as Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Method of synchronizing time worldwide to the time at the 0 meridian.

**Z-Score**—New standard measurement used during nutritional surveillance. “Z” represents the median. A **Z-Score** represents the standard deviation above or below the median. Children with Z-Scores of less than -2 are considered malnourished. Z-Scores of less than -3 are considered severely malnourished.