

**INFORMATION PAPER
PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, DISASTER RELIEF & MINE ACTION
DIVISION**

Subject: DoD Humanitarian Assistance (HA)

Background:

- The DoD Humanitarian Assistance Program, as authorized by 10 U.S.C. section 2561, consists of a funded transportation program, transportation of DOD non-lethal excess property (see separate papers), and the baseline humanitarian assistance (HA) program. Most activities authorized under 10 U.S.C. section 2561 fall under the HA category. The program is funded by the Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) two-year appropriation.
- First authorized by Congress in 1986, primarily for the transportation of relief material, HA activities were widened in FY1996 and today include such things as: basic construction/renovation of schools and clinics; improvement of water supply and sanitation; and disaster relief and emergency response preparedness activities.
- Project nominations originate in the beneficiary country, generally in the Security Cooperation Organization (SCO), and in coordination with the United States Agency for International Development and other relevant U.S. government stakeholders. Projects are reviewed by the appropriate Geographic Combatant Command (COCOM) and then submitted to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) for approval. The COCOM then determines if/when it will fund each approved project. (The number of DSCA-approved projects traditionally exceeds available funding.)
- DSCA utilizes the Overseas Humanitarian Assistance Shared Information System (OHASIS) as the primary mechanism for project tracking and nomination. The web-based system is being updated to include program management functionality and to provide the framework for COCOM and DSCA program managers and PS&SO policymakers to carry out more sophisticated program analyses.
- PGM/HDM prepares the annual report to Congress required by 10 U.S.C. 2561.