



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CENTRAL ASIA

OVERVIEW

Natural hazards such as droughts, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires affect a range of countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA). In addition, rapid urban growth and environmental degradation in some countries have led to overcrowding and settlement in hazard-prone areas. Moreover, protracted conflict and limited governmental disaster management capacity in many EMCA countries compound the risks associated with natural disasters.

Recognizing the vulnerabilities present throughout the EMCA region, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce the economic and social impact of disasters. Programs measure and analyze disaster risks to identify and then implement risk-reduction solutions. USAID/OFDA provides technical assistance and technology transfer to build communities’ and local governments’ capacity. USAID/OFDA also supports project-level activities such as seismic-resistant shelter construction, hazard mapping, and pre-positioning of emergency relief commodities. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3.5 million for DRR projects throughout the EMCA region. USAID/OFDA obligated an additional \$22.8 million for DRR components of disaster response programs.

EMCA DRR FUNDING IN FY 2011 ¹	
Stand-alone DRR Programs in EMCA <i>(see pages 1-3)</i>	\$2,464,259
DRR Programs during Disaster Response <i>(see pages 3-4)</i>	\$1,000,000
Disaster Response Programs with DRR Components ² <i>(see pages 4-5)</i>	\$22,821,934
TOTAL DRR Funding in EMCA <i>(including Disaster Response Programs with DRR Components)</i>	\$26,286,193

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN EMCA

In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA’s EMCA team provided nearly \$2.5 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives. USAID/OFDA also provided funding for regional and global programs to strengthen disaster preparedness and response. At the regional and country levels, USAID/OFDA and implementing partners engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies that reduced the risk of disasters and were tailored to the needs of at-risk populations. The strategies reflect core DRR principles, requiring effective risk reduction programs to assess vulnerabilities and risks; account for the causes, nature, and frequency of disasters; and consider the distinct economic and social systems of each community. Where possible, USAID/OFDA programs addressed underlying causes of recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, rapid urban growth, and climate change. These regional and global activities were enacted independently of a disaster response.

Global and Regional Programs Active in EMCA³

- **Global Flash Flood Guidance System:** With \$175,000 in assistance to the U.N. World Meteorological Organization (WMO), USAID/OFDA continues to work on a global flash flood guidance and early warning system with regional implementation for the Middle East and Black Sea region. USAID/OFDA supports rapid assessments of flash floods that increase the lead time for early warning and allow for rapid mobilization of response activities. The WMO program emphasizes strengthening the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological services through cross training of hydrologists and meteorologists. In addition, the program encourages cross-border cooperation in monitoring flash floods, preparing flood warnings, and devising flood response strategies.

¹ Year of funding indicates the Fiscal Year of obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² The figure reported represents funding for the portions of disaster response programs that contain DRR components.

³ Funding figures for global and regional initiatives represent program totals, including USAID/OFDA funding for activities implemented both within and outside of EMCA.

- Views from the Frontline: To increase the ability of global civil society groups to collaborate on strategic DRR policy and practices, in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA supported the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction's "Views from the Frontline" (VFL) project through approximately \$760,000 in assistance to Tearfund. A participatory action research project designed to bring the voices and concerns of vulnerable people into DRR policy and practice, VFL strengthens links between local, national, regional, and international civil society organizations. In FY 2011, VFL extended its geographical coverage to 70 countries, including Middle Eastern and Central Asian nations.

Europe

Balkans

- Flash Flood Guidance System for Southeastern Europe: Through the Global Flash Flood Guidance System, USAID/OFDA is developing a flash flood guidance system for southeastern Europe and building government capacity in flash flood monitoring and warning systems. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$500,000 in FY 2011 to WMO to facilitate regional applications of technology and build capacity to lessen the impacts of flash floods. The guidance system will enable national authorities to assess flash flood potential and improve lead time for early warning.
- Seismic Hazard Mapping: USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$200,000 to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct seismic hazard mapping in the Balkans in FY 2011. USGS technical assistance to seismologists in the Balkans will improve local understanding of seismic hazards in the region by creating new seismic hazard maps. The hazard maps are constructed using proven scientific methodologies and contain the most current available regional information regarding active faults, geology, and historic seismicity.

Hungary

- Sludge Assistance: In October 2010, a dam burst in northeastern Hungary, inundating nearby villages with an alkaline, iron-rich, red sludge from an industrial plant. With more than \$13,000 in assistance to USGS, USAID/OFDA supported analysis of the sludge to assist Government of Hungary agencies in determining the health and environmental effects of the spill and develop local response capacity for future disasters.

Central Asia

Regional

- Earthquake Risk Reduction: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$230,000 to USGS for earthquake risk reduction activities in Central Asia. The activities aim to minimize the loss of life and property from earthquakes, protect quality of life, and contribute to economic and physical development in the region.
- Strengthening Regional DRR Coordination: Through the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), USAID/OFDA provided more than \$210,000 to the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) to strengthen regional DRR coordination in Central Asia, with a focus on Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The program promotes and facilitates regional and national capacity development, including through regional conferences. In late 2011, USAID/OFDA supported a regional conference on seismic risk reduction for Central Asia and the Caucasus held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The conference provided a forum for technical experts and the humanitarian community to discuss earthquake preparedness and mitigation. With USAID/OFDA support, UNISDR is providing technical assistance to the Central Asia Center for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction in Almaty, Kazakhstan, which will serve as the coordination hub for information sharing between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan on trans-boundary hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities.

Afghanistan

- Quality Potato Seed through Improved Production and Storage Practices: The majority of households in central Afghanistan's Ghor Province depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, with potatoes a key crop for both cash and subsistence. In response to Ghor's poor spring 2011 food security outlook, USAID/OFDA, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is implementing a DRR program aimed at reducing post-harvest seed loss. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to CRS to facilitate training and technology demonstrations related to potato seed production and storage, benefiting as many as 6,000 individuals.

Kyrgyzstan

- Reducing the Vulnerability of Children in Kyrgyzstan: Large-scale natural disasters, such as earthquakes, can result in the collapse of school facilities, injuring or killing children and teachers. Smaller-scale, recurrent disasters, such as floods, can undermine the integrity of school infrastructure. With approximately \$1 million from USAID/OFDA, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is assessing the physical safety of nearly 1,000 preschools and more than 2,000 school facilities in Kyrgyzstan to determine vulnerability to local hazards, with an emphasis on seismic risk. The results and recommendations of the assessment will contribute to the development of a national program for school and preschool rehabilitation, strengthening, and construction.

DRR PROGRAMS DURING DISASTER RESPONSE

In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA devoted \$1 million for DRR programs in EMCA during disaster response efforts. These programs incorporate DRR across a range of sectors to better protect people in subsequent crises. The following section also includes previously funded programs that remained active in FY 2011.

Afghanistan Complex Emergency

- Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Phase II in Badakhshan and Baghlan Provinces: With funding from USAID/OFDA prior to FY 2011, the Aga Khan Foundation worked to enable communities and local authorities in Badakhshan and Baghlan provinces in northeastern Afghanistan to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from shocks caused by natural disasters. The project integrated disaster preparedness at the grassroots level by partnering with community development committees to conduct awareness-raising activities and to provide trainings on disaster assessment and response. The program also helped local authorities collect and collate information from government agencies and NGOs regarding disaster risks across the provinces, map disaster-prone areas, improve disaster risk and emergency information management systems, and strengthen existing disaster response structures.
- Emergency Winterization Assistance and Capacity-Building for Internally Displaced Persons and Vulnerable Groups: Through June 2011, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with funding from USAID/OFDA prior to FY 2011, continued to enhance coordination and build local governments' emergency response capacity throughout Afghanistan through technical and material assistance. In addition, IOM provided immediate winterization assistance to individuals internally displaced or otherwise affected by natural disasters, including children and the elderly, through the provision of emergency supplies, including tarpaulins, sandbags, soap, plastic buckets, cooking utensils, winter clothing, basic construction tools, and seeds. IOM continued to utilize rapid procurement and warehousing mechanisms for pre-positioning and delivery of emergency relief commodities countrywide.
- Community-Based Seismic Awareness, Preparedness, and Mitigation Project for Kabul Municipality: USAID/OFDA partner Shelter for Life, with funding prior to FY 2011, continued to support a hillside risk assessment in Kabul Municipality. Shelter for Life's program aimed to increase awareness at the grassroots level about seismic activity and the risks caused by earthquakes, provide seismic hazard reduction training, and engage with relevant government and academic institutions to promote improved housing construction practices.

Iraq Complex Emergency

- Enhancing Capacity of Duty Bearers to Respond to Emergencies: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA, through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), enhanced the capacity of Iraqi governorate authorities to prevent, respond to, and manage emergencies through the expansion and strengthening of the existing national Governorate Emergency Cell (GEC) network currently operating in 11 of Iraq's 18 governorates. With \$1 million in assistance from USAID/OFDA, DRC designed and implemented technical workshops on the response and management of emergencies and assisted the GECs in establishing proper preparedness mechanisms, including contingency plans.
- Iraq Knowledge Network: With funding from USAID/OFDA prior to FY 2011, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) continued to support the Iraq Knowledge Network (IKN) survey of 18 governorates and 30,000 households. This project concluded in December 2010. The IKN established critical baseline indicators in the sectors of agriculture and food insecurity, economic recovery and market systems (ERMS), protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to inform disaster relief and rehabilitation activities in Iraq. The IKN directly supported disaster relief and preparedness and contingency planning within Iraq by helping relief agencies and the Government of Iraq (GoI) prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters. Additionally, IKN supported technical

assistance and training for the GoI, allowing Iraqi government personnel to take over environmental hazard mapping activities.

DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAMS WITH DRR COMPONENTS

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs designed to mitigate the effects of future emergencies, USAID/OFDA implements disaster response programs that include DRR components. These programs incorporate risk reduction approaches into a broad range of sectoral disaster response interventions to protect more people in future crises. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$22.8 million in disaster response assistance with DRR components in response to the complex emergency in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Complex Emergency

- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided the International Rescue Committee (IRC) with more than \$8.5 million for DRR activities in ERMS, logistics and relief supplies, natural and technological risks, shelter and settlements, and WASH. To address the economic impact of floods on local economies and livelihoods, IRC provided temporary employment for the replanting of crops and repair of infrastructure. In addition, IRC strengthened the ability of four local NGOs to respond to humanitarian needs in six disaster-prone Afghan provinces by embedding local NGO staff in IRC emergency response teams. This activity provided the local organizations with hands-on experience in emergency supply distribution and other response activities.
- While mitigation and preparedness activities help lessen the impact of disasters, the probability of a large-scale event in Afghanistan, such as floods and earthquakes, remains high. As a result, with USAID/OFDA funding, IOM has established warehouses throughout the country containing large quantities of relief commodities, which can be rapidly mobilized in the event of increased humanitarian needs, whether resulting from natural disasters or conflict. With nearly \$5 million from USAID/OFDA, IOM pre-positioned emergency materials, such as tarpaulins and rope, in the warehouses throughout the country prior to the onset of winter to facilitate rapid response efforts.
- USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2 million to Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) to support DRR activities in logistics and relief commodities, natural and technological risks, and protection. SC/US engaged local residents to identify the various hazards that have affected their home areas, as well as information on the location of vulnerable populations, natural resources, and social service facilities. The resulting community hazard maps established potential disasters' nature, scope, and likely impact on residents' property and livelihoods. The maps are also used to inform local emergency-preparedness plans, including safe evacuation routes and gathering points. In addition, SC/US replenished pre-positioned emergency relief commodity stocks in warehouses in six provinces.
- USAID/OFDA-supported DRR activities in the nutrition sector aim to build resiliency within community health systems to mitigate the nutritional impact of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided \$2 million to UNICEF and \$300,000 to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) for nutrition interventions, including early detection and prevention of acute malnutrition through active screening, as well as therapeutic feeding centers for treatment. WHO also received \$600,000 from USAID/OFDA to reduce the incidence of health problems associated with disasters. For example, to prevent additional outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea in Kandahar, Zabul, and other flood-prone provinces, WHO increased health and hygiene awareness through local radio messaging and the dissemination of health education materials.
- Rapid-onset disasters pose a continuous threat to communities throughout the eastern highlands of Afghanistan, while local individuals often lack the skills and resources needed to prepare for such disasters. Accordingly, USAID/OFDA is increasing the capacity of local communities and organizations to prepare for and respond to rapid-onset disasters and other acute humanitarian needs in high-risk and insecure regions of eastern Afghanistan through \$1.5 million in assistance to the International Medical Corps (IMC). Capacity-building activities include development of hazard reduction plans and training in rapid needs assessments and disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response.
- With more than \$1.7 million from USAID/OFDA, the NGO Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) worked to develop effective methods for reliably capturing, reporting, analyzing, and disseminating information concerning the humanitarian and security situation in Afghanistan. By establishing a common operating picture, iMMAP provided relief agencies with the scope of knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about humanitarian interventions. iMMAP also supported improved integration of humanitarian project databases, facilitating the quick dissemination of humanitarian-related information.
- The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster—the coordinating body for food security and agriculture activities in Afghanistan—is a central part of the humanitarian community's response to the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan.

Through the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million to improve the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster's coordination mechanisms and risk reduction activities.

USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN EMCA IN FY 2011¹

USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA					
Country/Region	Program	Activity	Partner	Subtotal	Total
Afghanistan	Quality Potato Seed through Improved Production and Storage	Agriculture and Food Security	CRS	\$250,000	\$250,000
Balkans	Seismic Hazard Mapping	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$198,770	\$700,000
	Flash Flood Guidance System	Natural and Technological Risks	WMO	\$501,230	
Central Asia	Reducing the Vulnerability of Children	Natural and Technological Risks	UNICEF	\$1,059,251	\$1,501,200
	Earthquake Risk Reduction	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$227,370	
	Strengthening Regional DRR Coordination	Natural and Technological Risks	OCHA	\$214,579	
Hungary	Sludge Assistance	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$13,059	\$13,059
TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA					\$2,464,259
USAID/OFDA DRR DURING DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDING IN EMCA					
Country	Program	Activity	Partner	Subtotal	Total
Iraq	Enhancing Capacity of Duty Bearers to Respond to Emergencies	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	DRC	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR DURING DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDING IN EMCA					\$1,000,000
USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS FUNDING IN EMCA²					
Country	Program	Activity	Partner	Subtotal	Total
Afghanistan	Complex Emergency Response	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	FAO	\$1,000,000	\$22,821,934
		Natural and Technological Risks	IMC	\$1,500,000	
		Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	iMMAP	\$1,708,045	
		Logistics and Relief Supplies	IOM	\$4,999,733	
		ERMS, Logistics and Relief Supplies, Natural and Technological Risks, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	IRC	\$8,572,948	
		Logistics and Relief Supplies, Natural and Technological Risks, Protection	SC/US	\$2,141,208	
		Nutrition	UNICEF	\$2,000,000	
		Health, Nutrition	WHO	\$900,000	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS FUNDING IN EMCA					\$22,821,934
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN EMCA IN FY 2011					\$26,286,193

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