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

FACT SHEET, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019　　　　　　　　　SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

$589.6 million

Total USAID/OFDA FY 2019 Funding for EMCA

$4.7 million

Program in Iraq with DRR Component

6

Partners Implementing FY 2019 Programs with DRR Components

OVERVIEW

- Natural hazards, such as droughts, earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and extreme winter weather, affect a range of countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA).[1] Protracted conflict and limited governmental disaster management capacity in many EMCA countries compound the risks associated with natural disasters. Furthermore, environmental degradation and rapid urban growth in some countries have led to overcrowding and settlement in hazard-prone areas.

- During FY 2019, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) responded to complex, large-scale crises in EMCA while supporting DRR activities. In Europe and Central Asia, USAID/OFDA facilitated ongoing DRR efforts to build resilience and improve emergency preparedness, mitigation, and response capacity at the local, national, and regional levels. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $7.2 million for DRR projects throughout EMCA.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) FUNDING
TO EMCA IN FY 2019

Stand-Alone DRR Programs	$2,410,928
Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response	$4,744,440
$7,155,368	

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN EMCA

In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided approximately $2.4 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives in EMCA that improved preparedness and aimed to mitigate and prevent the worst impacts of disasters. Additionally, USAID/OFDA supported multi-regional and global DRR programs that strengthened disaster preparedness and response. At the regional and country levels, USAID/OFDA-supported initiatives engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies to reduce the risk of disasters. These programs all reflected USAID/OFDA's commitment to support capacity development; strengthen linkages among monitoring, risk identification, early warning, and early action; and expand partnerships and joint programming.

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[1] The EMCA region encompasses Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen.

EMCA Regional Programs

- **Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Risk Management Capacity in Central Asia:** USAID/OFDA provided the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) with $250,000 in FY 2019 to strengthen the capacity of Red Crescent National Societies in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to implement emergency preparedness and early action programming, including improving coordination with government-led frameworks. IFRC also evaluated existing response capacities, pre-positioned supplies, revised and updated contingency plans, and trained first responders for Red Crescent National Societies in the three countries.

- **Reducing Adverse Health Impacts of Crises and Disasters in Central Asia and Europe:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided IFRC with $400,000 to enhance the emergency readiness and resilience capabilities of local communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and throughout Europe as part of efforts to strengthen health systems in disaster-prone areas. The programming aimed to reduce the negative impacts of crises and disasters on the health of affected populations and local health systems, including damage of health and water infrastructure, mass casualty events, mass population movements, and infectious disease outbreaks.

- **Improving Institutional Disaster Response Readiness in Southeastern Europe:** USAID/OFDA provided IFRC with $350,000 in FY 2019 to strengthen the institutional disaster response readiness of six Red Cross National Societies in southeastern Europe and at IFRC's Regional Office for Europe in Budapest, Hungary. The program focused on improving preparedness actions and regional cooperation, including enabling real-time crisis and disaster information exchange in southeastern Europe through innovative approaches and procedures.

- **Enhancing DRM in Eastern Ukraine:** USAID/OFDA supported an NGO partner with $700,000 in FY 2019 to improve disaster risk management (DRM) capacity in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts*. The two-year $1.4 million project is supporting 22 local relief organizations to improve coordination with local authorities on DRM, conduct water risk assessments to ensure access to safe drinking water, and develop water safety plans. The partner is also working with local authorities and organizations to improve their capacity to manage and cope with conflict-related risks—including mine and shelling risks, utility outages, and water quality disruptions.

- **Supporting Children in National Disaster Response Systems in Central Asia:** With nearly $261,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to strengthen the ability of national governments in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to provide comprehensive and inclusive national disaster response capabilities. The programming focused on supporting national governments to improve monitoring and evaluation, partnership planning, pre-positioning of relief supplies, and other emergency preparedness activities in line with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and IFRC's Global Principles for Humanitarian Response.

- **Strengthening Ukraine's Disaster Management System:** Through an interagency agreement, USAID/OFDA provided $200,000 to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to support Ukrainian officials to enhance the country's disaster management system by using components of the National Incident Management Systems and Incident Command Systems to better coordinate and provide on-scene management.

- **Enhancing Regional IFRC Response Capacity and Strengthening RDRTs in Central Asia and Europe:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the IFRC to revitalize the Red Cross Red Crescent Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) system in Central Asia and eastern and southern Europe, as well as strengthen cooperation between response teams and national authorities to increase the efficiency of emergency preparedness and response efforts. IFRC revised and introduced new specialized trainings to build the expertise of RDRT roster members for deployment to emergency settings, including updated training on cash transfer programming as an

increasingly important component of assistance beyond the emergency response phase. Finally, IFRC strengthened the management of RDRT staff rosters by improving databases and emergency alert systems.

- **Hydrometeorological Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to strengthen capacity on detection, monitoring, and warning of flash floods in several countries throughout the EMCA region. In collaboration with national authorities, the program aims to enhance the capabilities of national meteorological and hydrological services to support disaster management and risk reduction by strengthening provision of flash flood warnings and information to reduce loss of life. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided $250,000 in FY 2019 to WMO to initiate a partnership with the Bosnia and Herzegovina National Meteorological and Hydrological Service to strengthen early warning of hydrometeorological hazards.

PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs implemented to prevent or mitigate the effects of hazards in the region, USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response in FY 2019.

Country-Specific Programs
Iraq

- **Strengthening GoI Response Readiness:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the UN Development Program (UNDP) to assist the Government of Iraq (GoI) in establishing an early warning system and preparedness measures to protect vulnerable assets, communities, and institutions against the threat of Mosul Dam failure. UNDP took a phased response approach to the program, which commenced in FY 2016: Phase I facilitated communications between key decision-makers in the event of a Mosul Dam breach; Phase II focused on protecting essential infrastructure and developing alert systems, emergency response plans, and public awareness campaigns; Phase III supported the development of a national response plan, including institutional capacity building and creating an enhanced flood early warning system; and Phase IV expanded upon the Phase III risk management component by building community preparedness until the structural vulnerability of Mosul Dam was stabilized. Phase IV concluded in December 2018. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided more than $4.7 million to UNDP to support training for GoI officials and emergency operators, as well as launch a risk awareness and advocacy program on the health hazards for vulnerable communities in the Tigris floodplain.

USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING FOR EMCA IN FY 2019[2]

LOCATION	PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	PARTNER	TOTAL
USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS				
EMCA Regional	Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Risk Management Capacity in Central Asia	Risk Management Policy and Practice	IFRC	$250,000
	Reducing Adverse Health Impacts of Crises and Disasters in Central Asia and Europe	Risk Management Policy and Practice	IFRC	$400,000
	Improving Institutional Disaster Response Readiness in Southeastern Europe	Risk Management Policy and Practice	IFRC	$350,000
	Strengthening DRM in Eastern Ukraine	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Risk Management Policy and Practice; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Implementing Partner	$700,000

	Supporting Children in National Disaster Response Systems in Central Asia	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UNICEF	$260,928
	Enhancing Ukraine's Disaster Management System	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	USFS	$200,000
	Hydrometeorological Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction	Natural and Technological Risks	WMO	$250,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS				**$2,410,928**
USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE				
Iraq	Strengthening GoI Response Readiness	Natural and Technological Risks	UNDP	$4,744,440
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE				**$4,744,440**
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING FOR EMCA IN FY 2019				**$7,155,368**

[2] Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2019. This chart captures all USAID/OFDA DRR funding provided in FY 2019; program descriptions in the fact sheet reflect USAID/OFDA-supported DRR programs active during the fiscal year, regardless of year of funding.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.

- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work