

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

# MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING SECTOR UPDATE



USAID/OFDA is supporting FIU to evaluate USAID/OFDA-funded DRR programs in LAC, including an initiative to upgrade a water and sanitation system in flood- and landslide-prone urban areas of Guatemala. *Photo Courtesy of USAID.*

## Performance Evaluations in Latin America and Senegal

USAID/OFDA continued to support performance evaluations to ensure accountability and efficiency of programming in FY 2018. In FY 2017–2018, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2 million to Florida International University (FIU) to reinforce DRR best practices in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and strengthen DRR programs among public- and private-sector organizations, particularly universities. This funding included \$260,000 to support an evaluation of USAID/OFDA’s approach to urban DRR in LAC, aiming to build an evidence base for urban DRR strategies and inform future USAID/OFDA programming. The evaluation assessed the effectiveness and sustainability of projects in six countries, including Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, and Peru.

USAID/OFDA also provided \$540,000 in FY 2018 funding for a research study led by Action Against Hunger (AAH), the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the University Cheick Anta Diop of Dakar to evaluate the impact of combining standard outpatient therapeutic treatment of acute malnutrition with low-cost interventions to improve household water quality and hygiene practices in Senegal. The findings from this study will inform AAH advocacy efforts and operational guidelines and, if positive, will guide the scale-up of this approach across AAH global programs.

## USAID/OFDA ME&L Activities

### FY 2018 FUNDING

Standalone Global and Regional ME&L Programs	\$5,337,639
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ME&L Interventions Worldwide	\$4,283,070
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**\$9,620,709<sup>1</sup>**

## Sector Overview

USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) integrates monitoring, evaluation, and learning (ME&L) activities into emergency response and disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs worldwide to improve the quality of programming, enhance accountability, and ensure that USAID/OFDA-supported assistance is appropriate and effective.

FY 2018 USAID/OFDA ME&L activities included third-party monitoring programs in difficult-to-access areas and external performance evaluations across various contexts. USAID/OFDA’s ME&L support complements and builds upon ME&L work conducted by the partners implementing USAID/OFDA-funded humanitarian programs.

<sup>1</sup> All of USAID/OFDA programs incorporate ME&L components. USAID/OFDA FY 2018 ME&L sector funding supported activities in five countries, including Iraq, Senegal, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen.

## ME&L Capacity Building and Training

During the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, USAID/OFDA, along with other United States Government agencies, negotiated 10 Grand Bargain policy commitments aimed at improving the accountability, effectiveness, and sustainability of international humanitarian assistance. To implement these policy commitments, the USAID/OFDA ME&L team plans to conduct the first USAID/OFDA-specific monitoring and evaluation training in January 2019 to increase USAID/OFDA staff awareness and capacity regarding relevant monitoring and evaluation procedures and systems. USAID/OFDA also supports capacity-building activities for partner organizations to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, improving the quality of data collection and analysis to better inform program development. Additionally, the ME&L team continues to conduct global trainings for implementing partners regarding changes to USAID/OFDA M&E proposal requirements.

## Third-Party Monitoring in Complex Emergencies

In countries experiencing complex emergencies, security concerns can prevent USAID/OFDA and partner organization staff from conducting regular site visits to monitor program developments. To address this obstacle, USAID/OFDA contracts independent third-party monitors, who have an in-depth understanding of local customs and security conditions, to implement monitoring projects that combine quantitative and qualitative methods—including direct observations, document reviews, focus group discussions, individual interviews, and surveys—for data collection at program sites. Subsequently, the contractors prepare monthly reports that assist USAID/OFDA and implementing partners in making programmatic adjustments to improve the quality of assistance in complex emergencies. Third-party monitoring projects can also inform future USAID/OFDA program design and strategic decision making. In FY 2018, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$4.7 million to support third-party monitoring in complex emergencies.

## Developing a Global Guide to Monitoring Emergency Response Activities

USAID/OFDA continues to support ALNAP—a global network of non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, members of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, donors, academics, and other stakeholders dedicated to learning how to improve humanitarian response mechanisms—to develop a monitoring guide for emergency response activities. ALNAP is drawing from best practices, lessons learned, and the experience of its diverse network to codify available monitoring resources in a comprehensive guide tailored to address the challenges of humanitarian contexts. The project aims to provide appropriate tools to build monitoring capacity among humanitarian actors and highlight the importance of monitoring response activities during emergencies.

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