

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

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

\$1.2 million

USAID/OFDA Funding for Programs with DRR Components in Yemen

\$190,000

USAID/OFDA Funding for Regional EMCA Programs with DRR Components

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Partners Implementing FY 2015 Programs with DRR Components

OVERVIEW

- Natural hazards, such as earthquakes, droughts, floods, wildfires, and extreme winter weather, affect a range of countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA).² In addition, rapid urban growth and environmental degradation in some countries have led to overcrowding and settlement in hazard-prone areas. Protracted conflict and limited government disaster management capacity in many EMCA countries compound the risks associated with natural disasters.
- During FY 2015, USAID/OFDA responded to large-scale complex crises in EMCA while supporting DRR activities where the situation allowed. USAID/OFDA facilitated ongoing DRR efforts that built resilience and improved emergency preparedness, mitigation, and response capacity at the local, national, and regional levels. In FY 2015, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.4 million for DRR projects throughout EMCA.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) FUNDING TO EMCA IN FY 2015

Stand-Alone DRR Programs	\$190,000
Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response	\$1,232,333
\$1,422,333	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ¹ DRR FUNDING TO EMCA	

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN EMCA

In FY 2015, USAID/OFDA provided \$190,000 for a stand-alone DRR initiative in EMCA that improved preparedness and aimed to mitigate and prevent the worst impacts of disasters. In addition, USAID/OFDA supported multi-regional and global DRR programs that strengthened disaster preparedness and response. At the regional and country levels, ongoing USAID/OFDA-supported initiatives engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies—tailored to the needs of at-risk populations—to reduce the risk of disasters. These programs all reflected USAID/OFDA’s commitment to support capacity development; strengthen linkages among risk identification, monitoring, early warning, and early action; and expand partnerships and joint programming. Analysis of existing capacities and social, economic, and environmental trends guided programs. When possible, USAID/OFDA programs addressed the problems caused by recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, rapid urban growth, and climate change.

¹ USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² 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, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, 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 Program

- **The Joint Israel-Palestine Preparedness Project:** With \$190,000 in FY 2015 assistance, USAID/OFDA continued supporting the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to create a more diverse, flexible, and adaptable humanitarian response to the protracted conflict between Israel and Palestine in West Bank/Gaza. Program activities spanned a variety of existing and emerging responder and partner networks and included building national capacity for disaster preparedness and response, developing cross-border standard operating procedures, and establishing a regional committee to address preparedness and disaster response efforts and responsibility for project implementation.

Southeastern Europe Regional Program

- **Southeastern Europe Capacity Building on Hydrometeorological Extremes:** With previous fiscal year funding, USAID/OFDA continued supporting the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to strengthen the capacity of national authorities throughout southeastern Europe to implement hydrometeorological early warning and forecasting systems. To support national meteorological and hydrological service in the area, NOAA and WMO created a partnership that reduced populations' risk to climate and weather-induced disasters—such as floods, droughts, and landslides—by enhancing the ability of national agencies to predict events in advance and enabling emergency managers and the general public to take appropriate action.

Central Asia Regional Programs

- **Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Caucasus and Central Asia:** In FY 2015, OCHA continued efforts to improve information management and enhance preparedness and emergency response capacities at the local, national, and regional levels in the Caucasus and Central Asia. With previous funding from USAID/OFDA, OCHA strengthened relationships among information management institutions, conducted on-the-job training for staff at key response agencies, assisted in developing information sharing policies, and supported the improvement of regional capacity to undertake vulnerability analyses. OCHA worked with national disaster management offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as international humanitarian NGOs, UN agencies, and local community-based organizations. This program concluded in March 2015.
- **Regional Coordination in DRR in Central Asia and South Caucasus:** USAID/OFDA continued supporting the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to organize regional workshops for government officials, emergency response staff, and local NGOs to increase dialogue and collaboration on policy for regional hazard priorities. Program activities—supported with prior year USAID/OFDA assistance and concluding in March 2015—included developing contingency plans and DRR policies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Country-Specific Programs

Armenia

- **Reducing Vulnerability of Children in Armenia:** Natural disasters, such as earthquakes and flooding, frequently cause heavy damage or destroy vulnerable buildings and infrastructure, thus inflicting economic losses and resulting in deaths or injuries. With previous fiscal year funding to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), USAID/OFDA supported the Government of Armenia (GoA) to implement a school safety assessment program that evaluated the schools' vulnerability to hazards and promoted safety for school children. UNICEF supported the structural assessment of more than 1,400 schools and assisted the GoA to identify priority schools for rehabilitation and develop a plan to rehabilitate and retrofit vulnerable schools. This program concluded in February 2015.

Kyrgyzstan

- **Reducing Vulnerability of Children in Kyrgyzstan:** Through previous fiscal year funding, USAID/OFDA supported UNICEF to determine schools' structural vulnerability to local natural hazards in Kyrgyzstan. Results from the assessment indicated that up to 85 percent of assessed school structures required restoration to reduce their vulnerability to hazards, such as earthquakes. The assessment also contributed to the development of a national program for school rehabilitation, structural retrofitting, and construction. UNICEF concluded activities in April 2015.

Yemen

- **Support to the Rehabilitation of the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Center in Yemen:** The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, continued efforts to rehabilitate the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Center in Yemen in FY 2015. Activities—concluding in May 2015—included the rehabilitation of the main building and storage hangars to reinstate the center's operational capacity and fulfill the center's role of monitoring desert locust breeding areas, as well as the implementation of a preventive control strategy.

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, in FY 2015 USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response in Yemen.

Country-Specific Program

Yemen

- **Protecting Livelihoods in Yemen:** Complementing its ongoing response to the complex emergency in Yemen, in FY 2015 USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.2 million through a partner organization to incorporate DRR activities into emergency relief efforts to protect livelihoods. The partner implemented agricultural and disaster preparedness and mitigation activities, targeting approximately 7,600 people in six Yemeni governorates.

USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

LOCATION	PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	PARTNER	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA²					
EMCA Regional	The Joint Israel-Palestine Preparedness Project	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	OCHA	\$190,000	\$190,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA					\$190,000
USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS IN EMCA					
Yemen	Protecting Livelihoods in Yemen	Agriculture and Food Security; Risk Management Policy and Practice	Implementing Partner	\$1,232,333	\$1,232,333
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS IN EMCA					\$1,232,333
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN EMCA IN FY 2015					\$1,422,333

¹ Year of funding indicates the fiscal year of obligation, not appropriation, of funds. This chart captures all USAID/OFDA DRR funding provided in FY 2015; program descriptions in the fact sheet reflect USAID/OFDA-supported DRR programs active during the fiscal year, regardless of year of funding.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2015.

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 or +1.202.821.1999.
 - 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>