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

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016   SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

$3.3 million
USAID/OFDA Funding for Programs with DRR Components in Iraq

$200,000
USAID/OFDA Funding for Regional EMCA Programs with DRR Components

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Partners Implementing FY 2016 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 conflicts 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 2016, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) responded to complex, large-scale crises in EMCA while supporting DRR activities in areas with significant need, particularly in Iraq. In the Middle East, 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 2016, USAID/OFDA provided more than $3.5 million for DRR projects throughout EMCA.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) FUNDING
TO EMCA IN FY 2016

Stand-Alone DRR Programs	$200,000
Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response	$3,359,868
$3,559,868	

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN EMCA

In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided $200,000 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 to develop effective strategies, each 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.

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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, 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 Programs

- **Regional Preparedness Project**: With $200,000 in FY 2016 funding, USAID/OFDA continued supporting the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to increase cooperation and coordination among relief agencies responding to disasters in Israel, Jordan, and West Bank/Gaza. OCHA supported workshops training relief actors to assess current disaster response capacities, strategize regional cooperation for future disasters, and increase the disaster response capabilities of local organizations in their respective countries.

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 2016 USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response in Iraq and Yemen.

Country-Specific Programs

Iraq – Mosul Dam

- **Strengthening GoI Response Readiness:** Complementing ongoing complex emergency activities in Iraq, USAID/OFDA provided the UN Development Program (UNDP) with $2.9 million in FY 2016 funding to assist the Government of Iraq (GoI) in establishing an early warning and preparedness system to protect vulnerable assets, communities, and institutions against the threat of Mosul Dam failure. UNDP developed a three-phase response system: Phase I notifies key decision-makers and guides their strategic communications efforts in the event of a Mosul Dam breach; Phase II focuses on protecting essential infrastructure and developing alert systems, emergency response plans, and public awareness campaigns; and Phase III supports the development of a national response plan, including through the creation of an end-to-end flood early warning system and institutional capacity building.

- **Enhancing Public Access to Preparedness Information:** In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA supported a partner with more than $333,000 to enhance public access to disaster preparedness information through outreach campaigns and new technologies. USAID/OFDA also supported the partner to develop a flash flood communication plan to disseminate information to affected populations in the event of a Mosul Dam breach.

- **Developing a Siren-Based Early Warning System:** With nearly $80,000 in FY 2016, USAID/OFDA funded an interagency agreement with the U.S. Department of the Air Force (USAF) to support MIT/Lincoln Labs to assist in the assessment and placement of early warning sirens to effectively reach nearly 1.5 million people residing within the floodplain of a potential Mosul Dam breach, and the development of alternative methods for alerting at-risk populations in ISIL-controlled areas of Mosul.

Yemen

- **Protecting Livelihoods in Yemen:** With previous fiscal year funding, a USAID/OFDA partner organization incorporated DRR activities into emergency relief efforts that enhance and protect livelihoods. The partner implemented agricultural and disaster preparedness and mitigation activities, reaching approximately 7,600 people in six Yemeni governorates. This program concluded in August 2016.

LOCATION	PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	PARTNER	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA[2]					
EMCA Regional	Regional Preparedness Project	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	OCHA	$200,000	$200,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA					**$200,000**
USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS IN EMCA					
Iraq	Enhancing Public Access to Preparedness Information	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Implementing Partner	$333,640	
	Developing a Siren-Based Early Warning System	Natural and Technological Risks	USAF	$78,100	$3,359,868
	Strengthening GoI Response Readiness	Natural and Technological Risks	UNDP	$2,900,000	
		Program Support		$48,128	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS IN EMCA					**$3,359,868**
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN EMCA IN FY 2016					**$3,559,868**

[1] Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. This chart captures all USAID/OFDA DRR funding provided in FY 2016; 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, 2016.

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