Natural disasters, including drought, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, as well as ongoing complex emergencies and limited government capacity in the region, present significant challenges to vulnerable populations in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA). Between FY 2004 and FY 2013, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided assistance in response to a range of disasters, including floods, wildfires, winter emergencies, and complex crises.

Between FY 2004 and FY 2013, USAID provided nearly $1.79 billion for emergency response programs in the EMCA region. USAID/OFDA assistance included more than $895 million for agriculture and food security, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, as well as support for humanitarian coordination and logistics and the provision of relief commodities. USAID/FFP assistance included more than $892 million in emergency food assistance.

In the last decade, USAID deployed eight Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART’s) and multiple humanitarian assessment teams to the region. DARTs deployed to Iran and Morocco in FY 2004 in response to earthquakes and to Israel in FY 2011 in response to wildfires. DARTs also deployed to

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The EMCA region comprises 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.
Lebanon in FY 2006, Georgia in FY 2008, and Libya in FY 2011 in response to complex emergencies. In FY 2004, USAID deployed a regional DART to North and West Africa to respond to locust infestations. Most recently, the protracted crisis in Syria prompted USAID to deploy a DART to the region in January 2013. During the past ten years, USAID also activated multiple Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams to better facilitate DART coordination and response efforts.

To complement emergency assistance and mitigate the underlying causes of vulnerabilities, USAID/OFDA supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) programming in the EMCA region. USAID/OFDA DRR interventions include technical assistance and technology transfer to build capacity in communities and national agencies, as well as project-level activities such as seismic-resistant shelter construction. USAID/OFDA DRR activities in FY 2013 include support for disaster preparedness and risk reduction in the Balkans, a regional snowmelt assessment to enhance flood preparedness in Europe and the Middle East, and strengthened regional DRR coordination in Central Asia.

Through emergency and development food assistance programs, USAID/FFP works to save lives and reduce food insecurity in times of crisis and situations of chronic food insecurity. USAID/FFP emergency food assistance includes both in-kind food aid and cash-based assistance in the form of local and regional procurement of food commodities, cash transfers, and food vouchers, where market conditions allow.

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1 FY 2013 rounded figures represent committed or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2013. FY 2013 figures are subject to fluctuation due to end-of-fiscal-year financial review and reconciliation activities. Figures do not include USAID/OFDA disaster preparedness and mitigation assistance provided outside of declared disaster responses or USAID/FFP development assistance.

* Countries categorized as other have received less than $3 million cumulatively from USAID/OFDA over the past 10 years, and include—in order of descending funding—Morocco, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Russia, Israel, Moldova, Albania, West Bank/Gaza, Turkey, Ukraine, Montenegro, Tunisia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Hungary, Uzbekistan, Switzerland, Slovenia, Portugal, Poland, Oman, Macedonia, Italy, Cyprus, Croatia, Algeria, Czech Republic, and Kazakhstan.

* Chart does not include disaster preparedness and mitigation assistance, administrative support costs, or funding that cannot be categorized by sector due to changes to the USAID/OFDA accounting system that occurred during the decade covered by this document.