OVERVIEW

- Southern Africa faces numerous natural hazard events each year, including drought, floods, and cyclones, the effects of which can create or heighten humanitarian crises, such as acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Such disasters present significant challenges to vulnerable populations who often lack access to basic services and the resources necessary to cope with crises. In addition, environmental degradation, slow economic growth, and limited government capacity frequently compound existing vulnerabilities and exacerbate the impact of disasters in the region. In FY 2014, as in previous years, USAID/OFDA not only responded to urgent needs resulting from disasters, but also funded DRR programs that bolstered the ability of communities to prepare for and mitigate potential emergencies.

- USAID/OFDA’s FY 2014 DRR activities in Southern Africa focused on instituting early warning systems for floods and cyclones, strengthening agricultural livelihoods to mitigate the effects of drought and food insecurity, and managing environmental health concerns to reduce the incidence of waterborne disease. USAID/OFDA funding also promoted efforts to build national and regional capacity for risk management and to connect DRR actors within local, regional, and international civil society organizations operating throughout the region.

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1 USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
2 USAID/OFDA’s Southern Africa region encompasses Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
**STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA’s Southern Africa team provided approximately $10.6 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives that improve preparedness and aim to mitigate and prevent the worst impacts of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided additional funding for regional and global stand-alone programs that include activities in Southern Africa to strengthen disaster preparedness and response. At the regional and country levels, USAID/OFDA and implementing partners 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 underlying causes of recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, rapid urban growth, and climate change.

**Global and Multi-Regional Programs Active in Southern Africa**

- **Improving Post-Harvest Storage of Sweet Potatoes:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the International Potato Center and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to improve post-harvest storage of sweet potato crops in Sub-Saharan Africa. In many parts of the world with poor soil or erratic rainfall, sweet potatoes are becoming an increasingly important crop due to its nutritional value and ability to grow in marginal areas. The program worked to identify the most appropriate storage techniques for extending sweet potato shelf life, both for household consumption and commercial sale. Improved storage could positively affect food security and vitamin A status by reducing post-harvest crop losses and augmenting household food supplies, while also enabling smallholder farmers to increase income by selling their crops at higher prices beyond the major harvest season.

- **Mitigating Earthquake Risks in Sub-Saharan Africa:** In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided more than $198,000 to Pennsylvania State University to begin implementing a pilot project for the mitigation of earthquake risks in Sub-Saharan Africa. Over the course of multi-year activities, the program—using data from the AfricaArray seismic network—will strengthen and maintain a network of seismic stations around Africa and assist African geoscientists and researchers with earthquake monitoring, with training sessions on seismic hazard assessment and risk mitigation and the introduction of improved techniques for assessing seismic hazard and risk to inform the development of new building codes. AfricaArray will work closely with the USAID/OFDA-funded Global Earthquake Model to review project results, develop an earthquake-risk scenario, and receive technical assistance. Earthquakes pose an increasing risk to areas prone to seismic activity in Sub-Saharan Africa, as urbanization has led to the construction of new buildings that do not take into account seismic hazards.

- **Earthquake Disaster Assistance Team (EDAT):** In FY 2014, the USAID/OFDA-funded EDAT, implemented by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), conducted an assessment following landslides that occurred in northeast Comoros’ Anjouan Island in April 2014. The assessment sought to determine the factors contributing to the landslides—strong motion from an earthquake, sustained precipitation, and an increase in rainfall runoff—to provide guidance to mitigate the impact of future landslides. Findings from the assessment led EDAT to recommend that Comoros authorities develop rainfall threshold alerts for future landslides, create geologic hazards maps, and consider community-based early warning systems.

**Southern Africa Regional Programs**

- **Coordination and Advocacy for Conservation Agriculture in Southern Africa:** Through a regional program, USAID/OFDA continued supporting FAO to increase awareness and adoption of conservation agriculture techniques in FY 2014. Demonstration sites throughout southern Africa allow local communities, government and NGO staff,

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3 Funding figures for global and regional initiatives represent program totals, including USAID/OFDA funding for activities implemented both within and outside Southern Africa.
and policymakers to learn first-hand the drought-mitigating benefits of conservation agriculture. FAO also coordinated additional activities, including policy analysis of conservation agriculture. USAID/OFDA contributed more than $1.1 million for this program in FY 2014.

- **Coordination of Food and Agricultural DRR and Disaster Risk Management:** With $800,000 in FY 2014 funding, USAID/OFDA supported FAO to coordinate food security and agricultural DRR and disaster risk management activities in southern Africa. The program aimed to reduce the region’s vulnerability to disasters through increased collaboration among DRR actors, enhanced integration of risk prevention and mitigation into regional and national policies, and improved knowledge management. Program interventions included strengthening a repository for best practices and lessons learned, offering technical assistance to the Southern African Development Community and other regional actors, and reinforcing working relationships with other UN agencies, particularly on regional initiatives.

- **CCCM and DRM Capacity Building:** Through the International Organization for Migration (IOM), USAID/OFDA supported activities to strengthen disaster risk management (DRM) authorities in Southern Africa. With $2.2 million in FY 2014 assistance, IOM developed country-specific needs assessments, capacity building plans, and training curriculums for DRM, as well as training material for camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) skills to prepare officials for possible drought-related displacement.

- **Incident Command System (ICS) Program:** In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $1.6 million to support a program seeking to further familiarize disaster responders with the ICS model. A global standard for disaster management, ICS is a framework designed to integrate personnel, equipment, procedures, facilities, and communications during complex events, enabling more effective response operations within a common organizational structure in order to mitigate the impact of disasters. Through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USAID/OFDA worked to increase national disaster response capacity by building train-the-trainer programs, as well as the response management skills of national first responders. USAID/OFDA supported the training of participants from Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, and Zambia through ICS courses held in South Africa.

- **Southern Africa Regional Flash Flood Guidance System:** With $500,000 in FY 2014 support through the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO), USAID/OFDA continued to provide technical assistance to a regional flash flood guidance and severe weather early warning in seven countries in southern Africa. WMO and partner countries are working to strengthen the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological services and emergency managers to facilitate rapid assessments of flash floods and other severe weather events, increasing the lead time for early warning and allowing for rapid mobilization of preparedness and response activities. The program also encouraged cross-border cooperation in monitoring flash floods and severe weather events, preparing flood warnings, and devising flood response strategies.

- **DRR Degree Program for Southern Africa:** The African Centre for Disaster Studies (ACDS) at North-West University in South Africa continued implementing activities in FY 2014 as part of a USAID/OFDA-supported, multi-year program to develop a transdisciplinary DRR training program intended to build the capacity of municipal- and provincial-level practitioners in disaster management and related fields. ACDS researched and designed lesson modules on various emergency response and DRR topics and made them available online to multiple audiences, including NGO and government staff.

- **Land and Livelihoods Restoration through Holistic Management:** Through the Africa Centre for Holistic Management (ACHM), USAID/OFDA supported the restoration of degraded watersheds and pasture lands to enhance water supplies and food security in southern Africa. ACHM promoted a holistic land management approach, which re-establishes the symbiotic balance between plant growth, soil-building, and herd animals, thereby improving
land productivity and water retention and reducing the risk of disaster in participating communities. The program directly benefitted an estimated 76,000 people in Zimbabwe and trained relief agency staff from other nations in the region, including Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia, to encourage wider adoption of holistic land management. This program concluded in February 2014.

- **Partners Enhancing Resilience to People Exposed to Risks – Universities (Periperi U):** USAID/OFDA continued supporting the Periperi U program in FY 2014 to meet increasing demands for skilled professionals to manage disaster risks in Africa. The first program of its kind on the continent, Periperi U—through prior year funding from USAID/OFDA—provided a platform for disaster-related training and research in DRR and humanitarian assistance through a network of Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, and Swahili-speaking universities. Previously hosted at the University of Cape Town since its inception in June 2006, the secretariat of Periperi U moved to Stellenbosch University in South Africa in 2011.

- **Regional Girls in Risk Reduction Leadership (G.I.R.R.L.) Program:** With prior year support from USAID/OFDA, CARE and ACDS continued implementing the G.I.R.R.L. program, a regional learning activity in southern Africa, in FY 2014. The program provided technical assistance and promoted the integration of DRR approaches that account for the unique needs of adolescent girls into existing and proposed DRR programs. Interventions in Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe targeted more than 4,000 participants—comprising girls, government officials, and NGO staff—and addressed the challenges faced by girls in disaster and post-disaster situations. This program concluded in October 2013.

- **Rescue Program for National Development (RESPOND):** Through Rescue South Africa’s RESPOND initiative, USAID/OFDA helped build the emergency response capacity of countries in southern Africa. The program offered accredited rescue training courses and other capacity-building measures to first responders in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, and Zambia, forming teams able to handle sudden-onset disasters both locally and across the region. This program concluded in December 2013.

- **Zambezi River Basin Flood Early Warning and Mitigation:** With prior year assistance, USAID/OFDA continued supporting a multi-year flood early warning and mitigation program jointly implemented by WMO, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and USGS. In partnership with national disaster management entities, meteorological and hydrological services, and regional authorities, the program continued developing a consensus-based strategy for a comprehensive early warning system for the Zambezi River basin.

- **Zambezi River Basin Initiative:** In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA continued supporting the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to reduce the risk and impact of flooding and other natural disasters in the six countries—Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zambia—encompassing the Zambezi River basin. The program promoted conservation agriculture, natural resource management, small-scale irrigation, and the use of flood- and drought-tolerant seed varieties, benefitting more than 235,000 people in the region. The program also built DRR and disaster management capacity of local communities and national Red Cross societies by developing community-based DRR committees, training national and community teams in disaster management, and strengthening information-sharing relationships at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

**Country-Specific Programs**

**Lesotho**

- **Mountain Integrated Conservation Agriculture II (MICA II):** Supported with prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, the multi-year MICA II program continued to help more than 23,000 individuals in Lesotho reduce their exposure to drought and other natural hazards in FY 2014. Building on MICA I program efforts to strengthen rural mountain livelihoods, MICA II, implemented by CRS in partnership with CARE, promoted conservation.
agriculture and improved smallholder farmers’ access to markets and agricultural inputs. The program also trained farmers in community-based disaster risk management and in the formation of savings and lending groups to mitigate the impact of future shocks.

**Malawi**

- **Drought Mitigation through Irrigation Promotion and Conservation Agriculture Extension II (DICE II):** USAID/OFDA increased the capacity of vulnerable Malawian households to mitigate the effect of weather-related shocks through a CARE-implemented program supported with prior year funding. In FY 2014, DICE II sought to extend drought mitigation approaches refined during previous programs, including the original DICE program, to populations in the Dowa, Ntcheu, and Salima districts of Malawi’s Central Region. Interventions included establishing small-scale irrigation schemes, introducing conservation agriculture techniques, enacting savings-and-loan groups, and strengthening local early warning systems.

- **Karonga Empowering Emergency Preparedness (KEEP) Program:** With previous fiscal year funding, USAID/OFDA supported the CRS-implemented KEEP program, which aimed to reduce vulnerability to recurrent natural disasters, such as floods, for nearly 39,000 people in Karonga District, northern Malawi. Specifically, KEEP brought together communities, local government officials, and local NGOs to improve early warning and alert systems, enhancing the capacity of vulnerable populations to respond during future emergencies. To mitigate the impact of potential disasters, the program also worked with individuals to establish savings-and-loan groups and address poor sanitation conditions and hygiene practices. This program concluded in December 2014.

**Mozambique**

- **Improving Decentralized Emergency and Rapid Response Capacity:** Through IOM, USAID/OFDA built the capacity of Government of Mozambique officials to prepare for and respond to natural disasters. With more than $1.2 million in FY 2014 assistance, the program supported the Mozambique National Institute of Disaster Management to develop resources and worked with municipal authorities to establish disaster management committees, clarify roles and responsibilities in times of crisis, and strengthen communication with national disaster management authorities.

- **Increasing Resilience to Climatic Shocks in Zambezia Province:** During FY 2014, USAID/OFDA continued supporting International Relief and Development (IRD) to mitigate the impact of climatic shocks for nearly 30,000 people residing in the Zambezi and Shire River basins of northern Mozambique’s Zambezia Province. With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, IRD worked to reduce the risk of waterborne-disease transmission during floods and to improve community access to water during dry periods by installing rainwater harvesting systems, rehabilitating wells, promoting point-of-use water treatment products, and training beneficiaries in positive hygiene and sanitation practices. This program concluded in September 2014.

- **Reduction of Vulnerability to Drought and Other Climate-Related Disasters in Southern Mozambique:** In Inhambane Province, southern Mozambique, IRD continued to help approximately 39,000 people reduce their vulnerability to drought and other climate-related disasters during FY 2014. Through prior year support from USAID/OFDA, the program promoted conservation agriculture techniques, planting of drought-resistant crops, production of vegetables for consumption and sale, and establishment of secondary income-generating activities, such as beekeeping. IRD also improved community access to water during dry periods by installing rainwater harvesting systems and rehabilitating water wells.

**Namibia**

- **Conservation Agriculture Program for Northern Namibia:** Through the National Cooperative Business Association’s CLUSA International program (CLUSA), USAID/OFDA supported a multi-year program to reduce Namibians’ vulnerability to weather-related shocks in FY 2014. With prior year assistance, the program continued
efforts to train more than 10,000 farmers from the country’s drought-prone northern regions in conservation agriculture, including land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting, and post-harvest techniques.

- **Reducing Risks of Population Displacement in Southern Africa:** IOM—through prior year funding from USAID/OFDA—enhanced regional coordination and response capacity for displacement situations in collaboration with key government officials and national stakeholders, such as national Red Cross societies. The program, which concluded in January 2014, established a regional support hub in Namibia to provide training in disaster risk management and camp management activities to participants in Botswana, Mozambique, and Namibia.

**Swaziland**

- **Mitigating Negative Impacts of Climate Change:** With nearly $1.6 million in FY 2014 funding, USAID/OFDA continued supporting IRD to implement a multi-year, community-based drought mitigation program in southern Swaziland. The program integrated agricultural interventions and water and sanitation activities in 15 drought-prone *tinkhundla*—sub-district-level administrative divisions—by training participants in conservation agriculture techniques and by forming community gardening groups. The program also promoted safe hygiene practices and installing rainwater harvesting systems and borehole pumps.

**Zambia**

- **Sustainable Health and Agriculture for Resilient Populations (SHARP):** To enhance the capacity of disaster-prone communities in southern Zambia to handle future emergencies, USAID/OFDA supported Land O’Lakes’ SHARP program in FY 2014 to promote more effective cultivation practices and marketing of food and fodder crops, increase access to safe drinking water, provide trainings in good hygiene practices, and establish community-level early warning systems. With prior year funding, the multi-year program is targeting as many as 60,000 vulnerable Zambians.

- **Zambia Fodder Pilot:** Using prior year assistance from USAID/OFDA, Land O’Lakes reduced fodder shortages and improved livestock health and production in Zambia’s Southern and Western provinces, thereby reducing vulnerability to the natural hazards—notably drought and floods—that typically affect these areas. The two-year program aimed to research, develop, and test fodder and fodder-seed production systems while promoting fodder and fodder-seed production as a viable alternative livelihood to some vulnerable households in targeted areas. This program concluded in August 2014.

**Zimbabwe**

- **Livestock for Accelerated Recovery and Improved Resilience:** With nearly $1 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2014 funding, partner Land O’Lakes strengthened the productive asset base of vulnerable Zimbabweans in the provinces of Manicaland and Matabeleland South by promoting improved practices in small livestock and rangeland management. In its first two years, the program targeted more than 6,000 people, providing goats to participating households, training beneficiaries in animal care, and helping beneficiaries find markets for their animals. In addition, the program advocated for holistic rangeland management, which helps improve soil conditions, reduce environmental degradation, and mitigate communities’ exposure to natural hazards. In FY 2014, Land O’Lakes expanded activities to target an additional 3,200 people in Manicaland, while also introducing new activities designed to bolster vulnerable populations’ access to water resources.

- **Building Disaster-Resilient Communities in Zimbabwe:** In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA continued supporting the partnership of International Rescue Committee, Action Contre La Faim (ACF), and Zimbabwean NGO the Institute of Water and Sanitation Development to conduct activities that reduce disaster risk among communities in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces, eastern Zimbabwe. Using prior year funding, the program supported activities to improve sanitation infrastructure, promote sanitary hygiene practices, train beneficiaries in agricultural practices that reduce land
degradation, establish provincial- and district-level food security and nutrition committees, and create local emergency preparedness and response plans.

- **Community-Based, Food Security- and Livelihood-Centered DRR:** To foster household resilience to climatic shocks, USAID/OFDA partner GOAL—using prior year funding—worked with communities in Manicaland Province, eastern Zimbabwe, to implement conservation agriculture practices and improve livestock management techniques. The program, which targeted approximately 67,500 Zimbabweans with activities designed to increase food security and reduce exposure to potential natural hazards and other risks, concluded in July 2014.

- **Enhanced Resiliency to Droughts (ERD):** The CARE-implemented ERD program built upon a previous USAID/OFDA-supported program through drought-mitigation activities in Masvingo Province, southeastern Zimbabwe. With prior year assistance from USAID/OFDA, the program emphasized community-based DRR efforts, including training local community members in 10 drought-prone areas to teach DRR principles to others. The program also supported the development of local DRR plans of action. In addition, the ERD program instructed farmers in conservation agriculture techniques, distributed multiple seed varieties to diversify production, and rehabilitated three water catchment sites to address farmers’ water needs, ultimately benefiting up to 24,500 individuals. This program concluded in October 2013.

- **Improved Food and Nutrition Security at National and Household Levels:** In partnership with FAO, USAID/OFDA—through previous assistance—worked to improve food security and livelihoods for vulnerable rural households in Zimbabwe. The program built upon efforts to decentralize coordination, allowing district- and provincial-level government participation in food security activities. FAO developed surveys and assessments to determine food security conditions and promoted conservation agriculture techniques and seed multiplication to help increase Zimbabwean farmers’ access to certified, quality seeds. This program concluded in March 2014.

- **NGO Joint Initiative for Urban Zimbabwe:** Since 2006, USAID/OFDA has supported integrated assistance to at-risk populations living in and around the six largest urban centers in Zimbabwe through the Joint Initiative (JI) consortium—led by Mercy Corps and including Africare, CARE, CRS, and Oxfam. Although conditions in the country are gradually improving, some needs persist; with prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued supporting the consortium’s interventions for approximately 55,000 vulnerable individuals in FY 2014. The JI worked to expand its agricultural and food security focus by promoting activities, such as compost production, that enhance environmental sustainability while diversifying income-earning opportunities.

- **Reducing Community Vulnerability to the Impacts of Climate Change:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to enhance resilience and diversify agricultural production for approximately 2,400 households through DRR activities in Chipinge District, Zimbabwe. Through partner ACF, USAID/OFDA distributed vouchers for agricultural inputs to farmers and provided farming equipment for communities to share during planting season. Beneficiaries also received training in cultivation techniques and livestock management, in addition to disaster mitigation and preparedness activities. This program concluded in February 2014.

- **Reducing Risks of Population Displacement in Zimbabwe:** USAID/OFDA supported IOM’s efforts to assist internally displaced persons, returned Zimbabwean migrants, vulnerable third-country nationals, and Zimbabwean communities at risk of displacement due to natural, socio-economic, or human-induced shocks. Building on past USAID/OFDA-funded IOM activities, this two-year program—which concluded in July 2014—provided short-term humanitarian assistance to displaced and returning populations while advocating for durable solutions. The program also built local communities’ capacity to prepare for disasters and to manage population movements.
• South Matabeleland Disaster Risk Management: With prior year assistance through CRS, in FY 2014 USAID/OFDA strengthened community, district, and provincial capacities to prepare for and mitigate the hazards of both cyclical and extreme weather events in southern Zimbabwe. USAID-OFDA-supported activities included training farmers in environmental management practices that prevent land degradation, as well as promoting the use of water treatment products and rainwater harvesting systems to improve communities’ access to safe drinking water.

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, early recovery, and transition programs. These initiatives, which were in accordance with regional DRR strategies, incorporated risk reduction objectives into a broad range of sectoral interventions to increase the resilience of communities to future shocks. In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA sought to prevent and treat acute malnutrition and improve food security in Southern Africa.

Southern Africa Regional Programs
• Strengthening the OCHA Regional Office for Southern Africa: When emergencies occur, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates humanitarian assistance to ensure a coherent response among local and international humanitarian organizations. In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA committed $600,000 to bolster the capacity of OCHA’s regional office to guide humanitarian decisions, implement coordination mechanisms, manage and disseminate information, and support relevant actors to respond to crises, as needed.

Country-Specific Programs
Madagascar
• Diversification for Nutrition and Enhanced Resilience: In February 2013, Tropical Cyclone Haruna made landfall in Madagascar’s southwestern coast, bringing heavy wind and rain that resulted in widespread flooding that damaged or destroyed approximately 5,300 houses and 1,500 hectares of rice fields, affecting an estimated 22,300 people. In areas impacted by the storm, USAID/OFDA continued to support activities in FY 2014 that built communities’ capacity to respond to future disasters. Through more than $590,000 to CRS, USAID/OFDA supported the distribution of vouchers—each reimbursable for agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizer, and livestock—and community training sessions on topics including dietary diversity, nutritious crops, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Malawi
• Addressing Root Causes to Increase Food Security and Build Resiliency: Through Project Concern International (PCI), USAID/OFDA supported households in Malawi’s Balaka and Machinga districts to strengthen early detection and community-based management of malnutrition, with more than $262,000 in FY 2014 assistance. PCI trained local health providers and officials in the prevention and treatment of malnutrition, demonstrated healthy food preparation techniques, and taught community members to monitor child growth.

Namibia
• Strengthening Food Security Monitoring and Response: With $500,000 through the UN World Food Program (WFP) in FY 2014, USAID/OFDA continued to strengthen the capacity of the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) to effectively design and manage a response in the aftermath of natural disasters. Previously through this program, USAID/OFDA supported the GRN to conduct its 2013 food security assessment, which helped determine the severity of food insecurity in Namibia. FY 2014 activities included technical assistance for needs assessments, as well as trainings in logistics, supply chain, and warehouse management.
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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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1Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. This chart captures all USAID/OFDA DRR funding provided in FY 2014; 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, 2014.
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:
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.