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

FACT SHEET, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017   SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

$2.9 million
USAID/OFDA FY 2017 Funding for Programs with DRR Components in Iraq

$309,700
USAID/OFDA FY 2017 Funding for Regional EMCA Programs with DRR Components

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Partners Implementing FY 2017 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 conflict 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 2017, 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 2017, USAID/OFDA provided more than $3.5 million for DRR projects throughout EMCA.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) FUNDING
TO EMCA IN FY 2017

Stand-Alone DRR Programs	$406,852
Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response	$3,125,185
$3,532,037	

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN EMCA

In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $407,000 for stand-alone DRR initiatives 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, 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 economic, environmental, and social trends guided programs. When possible, USAID/OFDA programs addressed the problems caused by recurrent disasters, including climate change, environmental degradation, and rapid urban growth.

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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 2017 funding, USAID/OFDA continued supporting the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to increase cooperation and coordination among relief actors responding to disasters in Israel, Jordan, and Palestine in West Bank/Gaza. OCHA supported workshops training humanitarian actors to assess disaster response capacities, strategize regional cooperation for future disasters, and increase the disaster response capabilities of local organizations in their respective countries.

Country-Specific Programs
Israel
- **Wildland Fire Capacity Building and Exchange of Best Practices:** In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided more than $97,000 to increase the capacity of the Israeli National Fire and Rescue Services to respond to wildfires. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) shared best practices with their Israeli counterparts so that appropriate USFS tactics and techniques can be adapted to the local context.

West Bank/Gaza
- **Wildland Fire Behavior and Suppression Operations Training:** In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $110,000 for wildfire response training in West Bank/Gaza. The USFS trained nearly 20 participants from the Palestinian Civil Defense on wildland fire behavior and operational firefighting techniques.

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 in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen in FY 2017.

EMCA Regional Programs

- **Nutrition Information Systems Project:** In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA supported an NGO to conduct a global emergency nutrition program, including $100,000 to bolster nutrition information systems—including data collection, information sharing, monitoring, and Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions surveys—in Syria and $50,000 for nutrition information system support in Yemen. The project aims to increase nutrition response effectiveness in humanitarian emergencies by facilitating technical coordination and nutrition assessment support, and enhancing information sharing and best practices for nutrition activities across the Middle East. The organization provided trainings and technical expertise to nutrition actors on coordination, implementation, and management of nutrition surveys.

Country-Specific Programs
Iraq
- **Strengthening GoI Response Readiness:** Complementing ongoing complex emergency activities in Iraq, USAID/OFDA provided the UN Development Program (UNDP) with nearly $3 million in FY 2017 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. Since the program's inception in FY 2016, UNDP has taken a phased response approach: Phase I facilitated communications between key decision-makers in the event of a Mosul Dam breach; Phase II focused on protecting essential infrastructure and developing alert systems, emergency response plans, and public awareness campaigns; and Phase III supported the development of a national response plan, including institutional capacity building and creating an end-to-end flood early warning system. Phase IV—an FY 2017 addition—expands upon the Phase III risk management component by building community preparedness for a breach until the structural vulnerability of Mosul Dam is stabilized. In addition, the project aims to strengthen flood risk management capacity in Iraq's Tigris flood plain.

USAID/OFDA DDR FUNDING FOR EMCA IN FY 2017[1]

LOCATION	PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	PARTNER	TOTAL
USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS[2]				
EMCA Regional	Regional Preparedness Project	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	OCHA	$200,000
Israel	Strengthening Capacity for Fire Disaster Response	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USFS	$97,129
West Bank/Gaza	Strengthening Capacity for Fire Disaster Response	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USFS	$109,723
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS				**$406,852**
USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE				
Iraq	Strengthening GoI Response Readiness	Natural and Technological Risks	UNDP	$2,975,185
Syria	Improving Nutrition Information System for Effective Response	Nutrition	Implementing Partner (IP)	$100,000
Yemen	Improving Nutrition Information System for Effective Response	Nutrition	IP	$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE				**$3,125,185**
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING FOR EMCA IN FY 2017				**$3,532,037**

[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 2017; 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, 2017.

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 +1.202.661.7710.
  – 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