FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019
SAFETY AND SECURITY SECTOR UPDATE

USAID/OFDA supports the work of UNDSS to increase humanitarian access and provide security training for humanitarian staff in complex environments. *Photo courtesy of UNDSS.*

Supporting Innovation in Humanitarian Safety and Security

USAID/OFDA's Safety and Security Unit (SSU) currently invests more than $2 million in multi-year global grant activities, with the goal of improving humanitarian safety and security; facilitating safety- and security-related coordination and information management; promoting best practices and professionalization of the sector; providing innovative safety and security training to the humanitarian community; and building a better understanding of the international humanitarian safety and security landscape. In FY 2019, the SSU's global grantees included the European Interagency Security Forum, the Humanitarian Outcomes Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD), and Insecurity Insight.

While financial support to critical capacity-building programs, improvements in practice, and practical research are vital, USAID/OFDA also engages with the humanitarian safety and security community—including fellow donors, international organizations, and UN agencies—to affect systemic change. USAID/OFDA continues to believe that assistance is best informed by the specific needs of the people we serve, as well as the operational requirements of our partners.

The SSU's past global investments include: InterAction's Security Advisory Group; the 2010 revision of the Humanitarian Practice Network's Good Practice Review Number 8, an essential resource for humanitarian safety and security professionals; funding for the International Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Safety and Security Association to promote the professionalization of humanitarian safety and security staff; and Save the Children Federation (SCF)-led research on the acceptance approach to safety and security management in the humanitarian sector, among others.

USAID/OFDA Safety and Security Activities
FY 2019 FUNDING

Safety and Security Activities Worldwide	**$609,336**

$609,336

Sector Overview

In their work worldwide, humanitarian aid workers face critical safety and security challenges—which disproportionately affect humanitarian staff and the communities they serve—such as close proximity to active conflict; shrinking humanitarian space; prevalence of non-state actors who reject or ignore international humanitarian law; politicization of humanitarian work; and the encroachment on humanitarian independence and neutrality.

The USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) understands how vital operational safety and security management is to humanitarian programing. This priority drives USAID/OFDA's efforts as a lead donor in the humanitarian safety and security sector. In this role, USAID/OFDA has developed a multi-tiered strategy of engagement to build the humanitarian safety and security capacity of its partners—and the humanitarian community as a whole—through financial and technical support.

USAID/OFDA provided more than $609,000 in FY 2019 for activities that improved operational security, facilitated security-related coordination and information management, promoted best practices, provided innovative security training to humanitarian actors, and built a better understanding of the international humanitarian security landscape.

Ensuring the Fulfillment of Humanitarian Missions

USAID/OFDA invests in multi-year country-specific grant activities that assist UN agencies and humanitarian aid organizations in fulfilling their mandates through capacity-building, coordination, information services, and support services. USAID/OFDA is currently supporting the work of the International NGO Safety Organization (INSO), which provides essential safety and security services for humanitarian organizations in 13 countries.

Additionally, USAID/OFDA supports the UN's Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), which provides essential security risk management in complex environments. With USAID/OFDA support, UNDSS works to increase humanitarian access in collaboration with host governments and humanitarian stakeholders; the department also provides security planning and training for UN and NGO personnel.

Improving Access to Aid Through Data and Analysis

Since 2005, USAID/OFDA has supported the NGO Humanitarian Outcomes, which manages the AWSD, with multi-year funding to strengthen data collection and analysis. The AWSD collects and analyzes data on incidents of violence against humanitarian workers worldwide and works with public sources, relief organizations, and security entities to obtain and verify data to inform its reporting. Free and available to the public, the database enables the humanitarian community to evaluate changing security environments. USAID/OFDA provided approximately $445,000 to Humanitarian Outcomes in FY 2019. The AWSD is available at: https://aidworkersecurity.org/
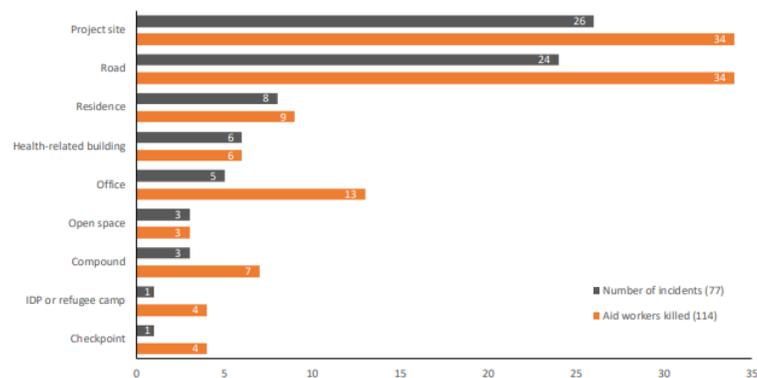
Supporting the European Interagency Security Forum

Since 2010, USAID/OFDA has supported the EISF, a network of security managers from more than 50 Europe-based NGOs, to enhance the safety and security of relief workers operating in increasingly complex and volatile environments. EISF facilitates increased and sustainable access to disaster-affected populations around the world by coordinating with fellow agencies on safety and security issues and strengthening security risk-management approaches. EISF also produces original research and conducts capacity-building workshops, biannual forums, and knowledge-sharing events.

Strengthening Humanitarian Operations Through Expert Data Analysis

USAID/OFDA supports the team of experts at Insecurity Insight to collect information on and analyze the nature of civilian populations' insecurity during armed conflict, including security threats against particular groups, such as journalists and relief workers. An Insecurity Insight-supported project, Aid in Danger, focuses on disruptions to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and produces monthly reports for the humanitarian community that enabl relief organizations to better plan and monitor programs in insecure environments. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA continued to support Insecurity Insight with approximately $164,000 in funding through partner SCF.

Known locations of reported aid worker deaths
This graph shows the number of incidents in which aid workers were killed and the number of aid workers killed, by known location type between January and December 2018.

Source: Insecurity Insight

With USAID/OFDA support, Insecurity Insight's Aid in Danger project provides data on security incidents targeting humanitarian workers around the world. *Image courtesy of Insecurity Insight.*