OVERVIEW

- Natural disasters affect approximately 200 million people globally each year. To minimize loss of lives and livelihoods, USAID/OFDA supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs aimed at saving lives, strengthening resilience, and protecting livelihoods, assets, and infrastructure before, during, and after disasters.

- In addition to country- and region-specific DRR programs, USAID/OFDA supports DRR activities with a global focus designed to address common and recurring issues in humanitarian emergencies and improve DRR implementation worldwide. Many USAID/OFDA-funded global DRR programs explore integration of science and technology in DRR activities to advance risk reduction, test implementation of innovative approaches; improve global coordination and awareness efforts; develop guidelines, tools and information on reducing disaster risk; and emphasize building the preparedness and response capacity of populations and governments at all levels.

- The DRR programs funded by USAID/OFDA in FY 2016 align with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which aims to reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries.

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1 USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided more than $44 million for global DRR activities, in addition to the more than $133 million provided for county- and region-specific programs. Of the total global funding, nearly $13 million supported stand-alone DRR initiatives, while $31.5 million supported programs that integrated DRR activities into a broad range of disaster response interventions to not only meet immediate needs, but also to strengthen people’s ability to cope during subsequent crises.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC DRR PROGRAMS
USAID/OFDA implements DRR programs in a range of technical areas with multiple goals, such as enhancing disaster management capacity, implementing hydrometeorological early warning systems, monitoring seismic risks, promoting gender equality in DRR management, reducing post-harvest seed loss, and controlling and reducing vector-borne diseases. Overall, these programs endeavor to reduce risk and increase community resilience to potential shocks.

Agriculture and Food Security

When disasters impact agriculture, the provision of agricultural inputs, particularly seeds, is a common intervention, and efforts to improve the design and management of seed-based activities are a critical complement. With approximately $650,000 in FY 2016 funding, USAID/OFDA supported an initiative led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to strengthen global capacity for seed system security assessments, which help prevent poorly tailored or inappropriate seed responses. The program seeks to increase the number of seed-security assessments conducted worldwide, particularly among smallholder farmers, by expanding the cadre of trainers who can educate others in the assessment methodology, developing a detailed online course on seed-security assessments, and maintaining an up-to-date seed system database and website for practitioners.

Using USAID/OFDA funding awarded in a previous fiscal year, CRS has worked with farmers to rigorously analyze seed-based interventions and has disseminated the findings for improved seed-security response options, targeting farmers in emergency, chronic stress, and development contexts. CRS has also developed a decision-tree guide to help practitioners identify the best responses for various seed-security problems. Additionally, the non-governmental organization (NGO) has held webinars on evolving seed-response options, as well as a global meeting on decentralized seed systems that included discussions on community-based seed production and women’s agro-enterprise groups.

In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided $275,000 to Purdue University to conduct in Tanzania a two-year pilot project of interventions that could address the major post-harvest challenges faced by smallholder farmers throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The project is distributing Purdue Improved Crop Storage bags and training farmers on crop-storage practices to help reduce post-harvest crop losses inflicted by insects and rodents. The project is also arranging for farmers to receive a line of credit at harvest time that they can repay up to six months later. The credit assistance is expected to help farmers meet their immediate, post-harvest financial obligations, such as repaying loans for agricultural inputs, without resorting to selling their crops at harvest, when grain prices are typically at their lowest.

USAID/OFDA allocated approximately $36,000 in FY 2016 through USAID’s Bureau of Food Security (USAID/BFS) to support Agrilinks, an information-sharing platform for food security and agriculture professionals. USAID/OFDA’s funding is enabling the creation of six webinars, including one on the use of Quality Declared Seed—classified on the basis of guidelines developed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)—as an option for expanding smallholder farmers’ access to quality seed.

Natural and human-induced disasters can disrupt and devastate livestock-reliant businesses and households. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) project, which outlines international norms for designing, implementing, and evaluating livestock interventions to assist crisis-affected populations, by providing nearly $325,000 to Vetwork UK. The funding permits the LEGS project to promote the use of LEGS among key humanitarian organizations, develop new LEGS learning products, and host training-of-trainers courses that help practitioners from around the world build livestock intervention expertise.
With prior-year USAID/OFDA assistance, FAO continued in FY 2016 to conduct pest management activities worldwide, develop regional cooperation mechanisms to address transboundary pests, promote the use of safer tools and techniques for locust control, and provide technical assistance for locust surveillance and monitoring. Since FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has contributed $3 million in support of FAO’s work.

**Economic Recovery and Market Systems**

- Market-based programming has become increasingly accepted as a best practice in humanitarian response. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $300,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to strengthen such programming by improving the systematic use of information gathered from market analyses and assessments in the design of humanitarian interventions across sectors. IRC aims to increase field-level use of market analysis techniques, develop a framework to clearly define the market information necessary for specific programmatic decisions, and test and evaluate new approaches for collecting and managing market information for program creation and adaptation.

- With prior-year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support IRC in promoting market-sensitive crisis response and preparedness through the execution of several Pre-Crisis Market Mapping and Analyses (PCMMAs), technical assistance to agencies conducting emergency market assessments, and support to a growing community of practice focused on markets in crisis. USAID/OFDA’s funding also allowed IRC to develop an interactive, online learning program that provides guidance on conducting market analysis in pre- and post-disaster contexts.

- In previous years, USAID/OFDA supported the Small Enterprise Education and Promotion (SEEP) Network to develop the Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS)—a companion to the Sphere Handbook that focuses on economic interventions to improve the purchasing power of vulnerable households prior to, during, and following emergencies. During FY 2016, prior-year USAID/OFDA funding continued to support the SEEP Network to complete a revision of the MERS handbook and help implementing agencies roll out the standards in the field.

- Prior-year USAID/OFDA funding also continued to support information-sharing platform Microlinks and its efforts to increase the knowledge and capacity of aid workers in the economic recovery and market systems sector. USAID/OFDA support has enabled the creation of seminars on operationalizing the minimum standards for economic recovery and private sector engagement in DRR.

- USAID/OFDA continued to support NetHope in FY 2016 and its pilot of a public-private partnership that seeks to improve the distribution of humanitarian cash assistance through a payments platform. Implemented in Pakistan’s Sindh Province, the program aims to make humanitarian cash programming through digital payments more transparent and easier to monitor while reducing costs and expediting the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

**Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management**

- USAID/OFDA maintains a partnership with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to ensure robust humanitarian coordination as a means to prevent and respond to emergencies. OCHA received nearly $13 million from USAID/OFDA in FY 2016 to undertake multiple programs, including initiatives to enhance regional disaster response capacity by supporting OCHA’s regional offices; strengthen information management services for the humanitarian community to facilitate coordination and improve decision-making; build the capacity of and strengthen partnerships with global rising actors; bolster private sector engagement; and reinforce the role of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) networks.

- In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA contributed an additional $846,000 to continue its support for the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)—hosted by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)—to improve humanitarian performance through learning, peer-to-peer sharing, evaluations, and research. ALNAP uses the broad range of experience and expertise within its membership to produce tools and analysis relevant to humanitarian agencies, including a library of preparedness and DRR-focused learning resources, the annual State of the Humanitarian System report, and evaluations of humanitarian action.

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3 The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.
• The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) continued in FY 2016 to enhance its capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance in high-risk environments and improve UN interagency risk management coordination, collaboration, and capacity development at the headquarters, country, and regional levels. UNICEF also worked to strengthen the risk management-related efforts of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principled Humanitarian Action Task Team and facilitate an exchange of best practices on comprehensive risk management and due diligence. Since FY 2013, USAID/OFDA has provided $880,000 to UNICEF for these activities, including $250,000 in FY 2016.

• With more than $500,000 in FY 2016 funding, USAID/OFDA supported Adeso in establishing a Global Southern NGO network, intended to augment local and national NGOs’ capacities to contribute effectively to international disaster response, recovery, and resilience-building efforts. The Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)—comprising at least 70 local and national humanitarian organizations from the Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa regions—was launched at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit with the aim of amplifying the voices of local and national NGOs to influence international aid policies and practices.

• In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Building a Better Response (BBR) project led by the International Medical Corps (IMC) consortium, which aims to enhance the capacity of NGO personnel and other humanitarian staff to engage with the international humanitarian system through a consultative learning program. The BBR e-learning course, designed to help humanitarian stakeholders better understand the humanitarian response architecture, is free for anyone interested and offers a certificate from the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative upon completion of the course. In addition, BBR staff regularly facilitate global in-person workshops and trainings to improve the capacity of emerging partners in different countries. USAID/OFDA has provided nearly $8.7 million to the IMC consortium in support of BBR since FY 2012.

• USAID/OFDA also continued to support IMC’s development of a simulation-based capacity strengthening exercise for disaster response. This exercise provides senior staff from various U.S. Government agencies with an opportunity to participate in a simulated emergency response, during which participants build and apply knowledge of international coordination structures in a controlled learning environment. Since FY 2014, USAID/OFDA has contributed more than $1.5 million for this project.

• USAID/OFDA funding provided to IMC in a previous fiscal year continues to help build the capacity of national NGOs to respond to humanitarian crises and coordinate within the international humanitarian system. Through a two-year project, IMC is developing curriculum and designing training workshops that will address the assessed needs of participating NGOs and providing on-site support to enable the creation of work plans that address crucial gaps in the capacity of the NGOs.

• In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided approximately $320,000 to iMMAP to continue enabling the rapid deployment of information management officers to bolster information management (IM) support for humanitarian clusters, as well as to enhance overall IM capacity at the field level. With USAID/OFDA funding, iMMAP is facilitating coordination and decision-making through analysis and improved data and information sharing among humanitarian actors.

• To support the continued development of geospatial data services that benefit humanitarian operations, USAID/OFDA provided more than $444,000 in FY 2016 to the University of Georgia’s Office of Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS), supplementing USAID/OFDA contributions from previous years. ITOS develops applications for, and provides other geospatial services to, the humanitarian community, such as building common operational datasets. ITOS’s activities strengthen the planning and coordination of disaster relief and risk reduction activities by organizing, processing, and improving access to geospatial data for the humanitarian community.

• Building on assistance provided in previous years, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT), maintained by the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), with more than $306,000 in FY 2016. EM-DAT provides the humanitarian community and general public with statistics on all recorded disasters since 1900, allowing for trend analyses and historical comparisons to improve risk assessment and preparedness. USAID/OFDA’s funding enables CRED to maintain the EM-DAT, improve disaster data collection at the national and regional levels, geo-reference new disaster data, and modify the EM-DAT website to increase usability.

• USAID/OFDA contributed more than $450,000 in FY 2016 to augment prior-year funding to support the Joint IDP Profiling Services (JIPS) through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Through improved approaches to collecting and
organizing IDP data, JIPS seeks to increase humanitarian actors’ understanding of displacement, inform policy development, and advance the capacity of governments and relief agencies to address IDP needs.

- USAID/OFDA continued to fund the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in FY 2016 to support the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC)—a global program that tracks, analyzes, and disseminates information on internal displacement, highlighting potential areas of intervention for humanitarian actors. With continued support from USAID/OFDA, IDMC plans to pilot an improved IDP monitoring methodology and build a state-of-the-art online data platform providing real-time internal displacement estimates from situations across the world. USAID/OFDA has provided $4.2 million to support IDMC since FY 2013.

- To help build the next generation of humanitarian leaders, USAID/OFDA provided financial support to a Concern Worldwide consortium for the creation of a Program on Humanitarian Leadership. This new humanitarian leadership program includes a rigorous academic component that provides participants, many of whom are from national NGOs, with access to technical experts, as well as a practical field-based placement with international NGO members of the consortium.

- Using prior-year USAID/OFDA funding, the Cuny Center for the Study of Societies in Crisis continued working in FY 2016 to digitize and transfer its disaster management research collection to Texas A&M University’s Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, ensuring open access to documentation that may inform future disaster responses worldwide.

- During FY 2016, prior-year USAID/OFDA funding supported the preparations for the May 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, Turkey, which brought together global humanitarian actors to focus attention on humanitarian crises and the need for stronger collective action.

**Logistics Support and Relief Commodities**

- In recent years, USAID/OFDA has supported Fleet Forum and its partner humanitarian organizations to increase field staff’s knowledge and skills in the area of vehicle fleet management and safety. During FY 2016, Fleet Forum implemented a Fleet Excellence Training, which focuses on developing the capacity of local staff responsible for vehicle fleet operations to handle fleet management in both emergency and non-emergency settings, and worked to design a new Fleet Management in Emergencies training suite that consists of an e-learning module, classroom training, and a written guide. USAID/OFDA provided more than $215,000 in FY 2016 for Fleet Forum activities.

- In FY 2016, the Fritz Institute’s Humanitarian Logistics Certification Program—a recognized best practice for training in humanitarian logistics and supply chain management—received more than $78,000 in USAID/OFDA funds to support scholarships that enable representatives from funding-constrained organizations, such as national NGOs and host government ministries, to receive logistics training at the institute. USAID/OFDA has supported 81 scholarships since FY 2014. With USAID/OFDA assistance, the Fritz Institute is also integrating new training components on the role of supply chain management during cash-based humanitarian interventions into its certification program.

- With prior-year USAID/OFDA funding, the Fritz Institute is developing a key performance indicator framework to enable humanitarian organizations to strengthen logistics operations by learning from and incorporating identified best practices. Organizations that adopt the framework will, for example, have an enhanced capacity to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of supply chain processes, allowing them to better meet the needs of disaster-affected populations. The framework also aims to improve the coordination of activities among the various actors in the logistics sector by adopting common language and processes.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

- For decades, USAID/OFDA has supported natural disaster preparedness and resilience activities in South Asia, including in Nepal. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA sought to examine the effectiveness of USAID/OFDA’s DRR investments in the country made prior to the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck in April 2015, as well as to better understand its performance in improving Nepal's preparedness and resilience to large-scale natural disasters. With more than $648,000 from USAID/OFDA, The Mitchell Group, Inc. is evaluating the performance of two USAID/OFDA-supported DRR projects implemented in Nepal between 2010 and 2016: the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) and the Building Code Implementation Program in Municipalities of
Nepal (BCIPN). The performance evaluation will help inform and improve future USAID/OFDA-funded DRR activities in Nepal and glean lessons for broader efforts to promote disaster-resilient societies worldwide.

- In East Asia and the Pacific (EAP), USAID/OFDA’s DRR strategy includes support for programs aiming to increase national Incident Command System (ICS) capacities and thereby enhance the capacity of countries to manage disaster response operations, particularly during the initial emergency phase prior to the arrival of external assistance. USAID/OFDA provided approximately $356,000 to DevTech Systems, Inc. in FY 2016 to review the effectiveness and sustainability of ongoing USAID/OFDA-supported ICS programming in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The evaluation will allow USAID/OFDA to better understand the performance of its ICS program in the EAP region and contribute to USAID/OFDA’s evidence-based DRR interventions.

**Natural and Technological Risk**

**Geohazards**

- Following a 1985 eruption at Colombia’s Nevado del Ruiz volcano that resulted in approximately 23,000 deaths, USAID/OFDA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) established the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP). Over the past three decades, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately $36 million to support VDAP, including more than $3.1 million in FY 2016 to support VDAP at the global level. At the request of host governments, VDAP scientists travel to volcanic areas around the world and use mobile volcano monitoring equipment to help local partners rapidly assess hazards and generate eruption forecasts. Early warnings provided by VDAP and local partners allow authorities to evacuate high-risk areas before a disaster occurs, reducing fatalities and economic loss. VDAP also provides technical trainings, primarily focusing on the EAP and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) regions, which have higher concentrations of potentially dangerous volcanoes with large populations nearby. During FY 2016, VDAP conducted four on-site earthquake responses worldwide.

- USAID/OFDA provided nearly $500,000 to USGS in FY 2016 to support worldwide projects funded through the Natural Hazards Mitigation Interagency Agreement—a partnership that enables USAID/OFDA to quickly access USGS experts in the fields of biology, geographic information systems, hydrology, landslides, seismology, and tsunamis to assist before, during, and after natural disasters. Through the agreement, in FY 2016, USAID/OFDA supported global projects focused on developing methodology to forecast the occurrence of earthquake aftershocks and the Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes (PAGER) project, which provides automatic information about the potential impact of earthquakes, including estimated fatalities and economic losses, soon after the events occur. USAID/OFDA also contributed approximately $2 million in FY 2016 to support region-specific projects under the interagency agreement.

- Since FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has supported the work of the Global Earthquake Model Foundation (GEM) —a public-private partnership that aims to establish uniform and accessible standards for calculating and communicating the risk of an earthquake occurring in a particular area. USAID/OFDA contributed nearly $250,000 in FY 2016 to support GEM’s endeavors to create a global active faults repository and a global structural vulnerability database, which, in combination with other data, will inform an open and accessible global earthquake hazard and risk model. Such a model will offer crucial information on an earthquake’s expected ground-shaking intensities and the potential resultant economic and human losses, thus facilitating improved understanding of earthquake risk around the world. During the year, GEM also continued to build capacity for earthquake risk assessment and management in Africa and the Middle East using prior-year USAID/OFDA funding.

- USAID/OFDA funding provided in a previous year continued to support Pennsylvania State University in FY 2016 to implement a pilot project for the mitigation of earthquake risks in sub-Saharan Africa. The project used data from the AfricaArray seismic network—a program that strengthens and maintains a network of African geoscientists and researchers—to train individuals on seismic hazard assessment and risk mitigation, as well as to introduce improved techniques for assessing seismic hazard and risk to inform the development of new building codes. 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.
In FY 2016, prior-year USAID/OFDA funding allowed GeoHazards International to continue researching the various factors that influence the efficacy of protective actions—steps individuals take while an earthquake is occurring to protect themselves from injury or death—during earthquake shaking. The program seeks to reduce vulnerability among populations living in earthquake-prone areas by developing and distributing context-specific guidelines on protective actions to take during an earthquake.

**Hydrometeorological Hazards**

- USAID/OFDA continued its support to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in FY 2016 with a $3.5 million contribution. To help reduce loss of life and vulnerability to hydrometeorological extremes, NOAA and its partners work to improve the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological services in numerous countries to deliver weather, climate, and hydrometeorological information and warnings. Their activities have included conducting regional climate variability and prediction workshops to address cross-border cooperation and capacity-building on climate prediction, including El Niño and La Niña monitoring and prediction; developing new technology for weather monitoring and information dissemination to remote populations, such as 3D printed automated weather stations and chatty beetle radio and internet communication; developing storm surge warning capacity in the Caribbean; and launching an impact-based forecasting program as part of Weather-Ready Nation—a NOAA initiative designed to help communities prepare for extreme weather, water, and climate events.

- USAID/OFDA provided $200,000 in FY 2016 to continue supporting USGS efforts to reduce flood risk in Africa and Asia by strengthening the capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions.

- In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided $660,000 to the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to strengthen the capacity of national meteorological or hydrometeorological services around the world to reduce the impact of hydrometeorological extremes, including floods, droughts, cyclones, coastal hazards, severe weather, and other climate-, water-, and weather-induced hazards. Examples of activities include supporting the Afghanistan Meteorological Department on weather monitoring and forecasting; operationalizing flash flood guidance and flood early warning systems in over 60 countries; monitoring urban flooding; and forecasting coastal flood inundations and severe weather in Africa and Asia. Since FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has contributed more than $6.2 million to support WMO’s capacity-building efforts.

- The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) received approximately $465,000 from USAID/OFDA in FY 2016 to continue conducting flood risk reduction activities and improving the ability of communities and local governments to reduce flood risk through natural resources management policy and practice. Through this project that began in FY 2012, WWF has developed the Natural and Nature-Based Flood Management: A Green Guide for flood risk management at local levels and is training local governments, NGOs, and community members on flood risk management plans and implementation.

**Protection**

**Advocacy, Coordination, and Policy**

- USAID/OFDA supported OCHA’s Gender Capacity (GenCap) and Protection Capacity (ProCap) rosters with $1.1 million in FY 2016 funding. GenCap and ProCap maintain rosters of gender and protection specialists who are able to deploy rapidly to emergencies worldwide and provide technical input to humanitarian coordinators, humanitarian country teams, and cluster leads to ensure they are better able to prevent and respond to emergency-related gender and protection concerns. OCHA also utilized USAID/OFDA funding to strengthen coordination among humanitarian protection stakeholders by preparing global protection reports, briefing the UN Security Council on advances and challenges in implementing protection principles, and developing guidance for safeguarding protection standards, particularly in UN peacekeeping operations.

- In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA contributed more than $117,000 to enable DRC to deploy a protection specialist to support the Global Protection Cluster’s Operations Cell. The specialist is exclusively supporting field-level protection personnel and operations and aims to establish a protection-focused community of practice, develop information-sharing networks, and facilitate learning opportunities, among other activities.
• USAID/OFDA provided more than $400,000 in FY 2016 to HelpAge International, a member of the Age and Disability Consortium, to conduct global consultations to revise the Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion and support the long-term deployment of two disability inclusion advisors in Kenya and Pakistan. Building on USAID/OFDA-supported efforts since FY 2014, the new funding seeks to increase the skills and capacity of humanitarian actors to meet the needs of the most vulnerable during a crisis by offering the technical support and guidance necessary to ensure an appropriate response.

• USAID/OFDA augmented its support for IRC’s protection mainstreaming work with $250,000 in FY 2016. With the new funding, IRC is further enhancing its Protection Mainstreaming Resource Kit—created with USAID/OFDA assistance provided in prior years—by updating the community-based protection guidance, allowing humanitarian personnel to better implement stand-alone community-based protection interventions and also better mainstream protection methodologies into existing community-based humanitarian programs.

• USAID/OFDA and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) each provided $500,000 to the UN World Food Program (WFP) in FY 2016 to continue supporting the integration of protection principles and accountability mechanisms into WFP’s food assistance programs. With USAID funding, WFP is developing approaches to improve beneficiaries’ safety along with their food security.

• With $600,000 in USAID/OFDA FY 2016 funding, the Women’s Refugee Commission (WRC) is working to make humanitarian response efforts more inclusive of adolescent girls, who often face heightened risks in the aftermath of disasters, by building on I’m Here, an operational approach that WRC developed with previous-year USAID/OFDA funding. I’m Here comprises guidance and field tools to help humanitarian personnel identify and address the needs of adolescent girls from the start of a crisis. Using the new funding, WRC is engaging with relief agencies on how to integrate I’m Here into their existing operations and training humanitarian staff on how to improve their organizations’ program design to increase their reach to adolescent girls. WRC is also collaborating with two partner organizations to create a complementary, real-time monitoring tool for I’m Here that would track changes in adolescent girls’ access to humanitarian interventions through the implementation of I’m Here by relief agencies.

• Using prior-year USAID/OFDA funding, UNICEF continues to support the integration of protection accountability mechanisms into the Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Clusters. UNICEF is reinforcing the quality and accountability of humanitarian actions and capturing lessons learned to develop guidance for a system-wide, people-centered approach.

• With previous-year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support InterAction in FY 2016 to analyze results-based protection practices and organize training and learning events related to the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, and abuse. InterAction also engages with the Global Protection Cluster on global discussions related to bolstering protection responses to internal displacement.

**Child Protection**

• Since 2013, USAID/OFDA has supported Terre des Hommes—as part of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (the Alliance), a sub-group of the Global Protection Cluster—to help create and roll out the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS), which aim to improve the quality, predictability, and accountability of humanitarian response efforts to child protection concerns during emergencies. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided an additional nearly $344,000 to Terre des Hommes to support the second phase of CPMS implementation, which focuses on institutionalizing CPMS into global-, regional-, and country-level humanitarian frameworks; developing lessons learned for various contexts; identifying and addressing gaps in knowledge within the current edition of the CPMS; and improving the guidance for child protection mainstreaming in the key humanitarian sectors.

• During FY 2016, USAID/OFDA contributed more than $357,000 to IRC, which chairs the Alliance’s Case Management Task Force. With USAID/OFDA’s assistance, IRC is developing tools and training that facilitate effective case management for child protection, such as guidance on information management and referrals and a coaching program to build the capacity of case workers and managers.
• USAID/OFDA provided $210,000 to UNICEF in FY 2016 to extend its support to the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) to improve the group’s capacity to offer technical assistance in child protection assessments, update the existing Child Protection Rapid Assessment Toolkit, and develop and pilot new assessment tools. The CP AoR, as part of the Global Protection Cluster, supports field-based child protection responses.

• With prior-year USAID/OFDA funding, UNICEF continued its support to the CP AoR in FY 2016. UNICEF deployed interagency experts to bolster technical knowledge at the field level and provided technical assistance and capacity-building activities for humanitarian actors working on child protection issues in new and ongoing emergencies. UNICEF also developed a methodology and toolkit to monitor child protection activities. In addition, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Alliance’s Assessment and Measurement Task Force (AMTF) through previous-year funding to UNICEF. AMTF produces research tools and methods that strengthen the capacities of practitioners and policy makers to measure and assess humanitarian child protection work.

• In FY 2016, UNICEF received $1 million from USAID/OFDA to strengthen its efforts to protect children during complex emergencies. With USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF is reinforcing its monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) on grave violations committed against children in armed conflict to ensure that data and analyses are available to inform the humanitarian interventions seeking to prevent such violations. USAID/OFDA is also supporting UNICEF’s work to halt the recruitment and use of children by armed forces during a conflict and to promote the reunification and reintegration of children forcibly separated from their families and communities. In addition, through a $500,000 contribution in FY 2016, USAID/OFDA is supporting the efforts of UNICEF and its partners to institute the Primero platform, a more effective and secure information management system for their child protection work.

• With prior-year funding, USAID/OFDA continued its support to Save the Children U.S. (SC/US) and its work strengthening emergency response programming for unaccompanied and separated children. SC/US had developed and tested a suite of tools for measuring the nature and scale of separation of children from their families with previous USAID/OFDA assistance. With the tools, SC/US aims to improve the quality of assistance to unaccompanied and separated children and advocate for policies that bolster child welfare and protection systems in humanitarian contexts.

Gender-Based Violence

• During FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided UNICEF with an additional $378,000 to continue supporting a number of protection interventions focused on GBV and increased levels of violence in the home during emergencies. With USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF has rolled out guidance and resources for GBV prevention and response, including an accountability framework for the IASC GBV guidelines and a resource pack to educate humanitarian personnel and local governments on implementing GBV programs during emergencies. Through UNICEF, USAID/OFDA also supported the Transforming Households: Reducing Incidence of Violence in Emergencies (THRIVE) program, which aims to develop and pilot interventions to combat and prevent violence in the home exacerbated during emergencies.

• Through $500,000 to UNFPA, USAID/OFDA is supporting the UN agency’s endeavors to reinforce GBV coordination and technical response at the global and field levels. UNFPA is leading a participatory process to develop global minimum standards for the prevention of and response to GBV in emergencies and deploying regional emergency GBV advisors to build the capacity of humanitarian organizations engaged in GBV prevention and response. UNFPA is also providing a training specialist to support the roll out of the IASC GBV guidelines—revised in 2015—across the Middle East, including Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey.

• With more than $640,000 in FY 2016 USAID/OFDA funding, IRC is working to improve the capacity of local organizations to address and respond to GBV in emergencies by creating a package of directions, tools, and resources that local partners can easily adapt for various emergency contexts. These resources include guidance on case management, mobile service delivery, and more tailored guidance on specific age, gender, and disability considerations in the provision of GBV-related assistance. In addition, IRC is forming a network of its female staff working in seven countries to advance opportunities for women’s leadership and participation in GBV prevention and response.

• In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Real-Time Accountability Partnership (RTAP), an initiative that convenes humanitarian actors to promote system-wide accountability for GBV prevention and response in emergencies, through prior-year funding to UNFPA and IRC. Comprising USAID/OFDA, UNFPA, IRC, UNICEF,
OCHA, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the six-member partnership is working to ensure that all humanitarian actors prioritize and integrate GBV prevention and response, focusing on strategic-level actions that fall within the responsibility of donors, humanitarian coordinators, humanitarian country teams, protection lead agencies, cluster bodies, and service providers. With USAID/OFDA support, IRC is helping coordinate the partnership, while UNFPA oversees the development and implementation of evaluation tools to assess the use of the RTAP framework for action and ways to improve GBV responses.

**Psychosocial Support**

- To supplement its prior-year support, USAID/OFDA provided UNICEF with an additional $300,000 in FY 2016 to better address the psychosocial consequences of crisis on the mental and emotional well-being of those affected. With USAID/OFDA funding, UNICEF developed and is field testing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Emergency Settings. USAID/OFDA also supported UNICEF’s creation of operational guidance, tools, and resources on community-based psychosocial support, providing an alternative to child-friendly spaces in areas where physical space is limited.
- In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA contributed nearly $450,000 to Johns Hopkins University to initiate a research project to build a stronger evidence base for PSS programming in low-resource humanitarian settings. Johns Hopkins researchers are consulting PSS practitioners from a range of humanitarian organizations and conducting a review of existing research to categorize PSS interventions according to their levels of benefit and strength of evidence. The project ultimately aims to identify the most effective PSS interventions for implementation by the humanitarian community, as well as appropriate methodologies to assess the impact of PSS programs during humanitarian responses.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to improve psychosocial interventions for disaster-affected populations. In previous years, WHO utilized USAID/OFDA funding to develop and pilot a Problem Management Plus (PM+) manual that provides guidance for community workers to facilitate the delivery of low-intensity psychosocial support. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA’s assistance allowed WHO to extend its pilot studies of the PM+ manual from Pakistan to Nepal to further evaluate the manual’s effectiveness before potentially releasing it for use by the humanitarian community. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately $1.4 million to support this program, including $300,000 in FY 2016.
- The Institute for Health Policy in Sri Lanka received nearly $367,000 from USAID/OFDA in FY 2016 in support of its MHPSS.net website, a global platform offering resources to MHPSS practitioners, including those in low-resource settings. With USAID/OFDA funding, the website is working to expand its database of MHPSS resources available from technical groups and other relief organizations, facilitate knowledge exchanges among its network members, capture lessons learned, organize topical webinars, and support the implementation of international guidelines and tools related to MHPSS.
- Through prior-year funding, USAID/OFDA supported IRC to enhance psychosocial support programming for children, improving their ability to cope with and heal from emotional distress, exposure to violence, and conflict. With USAID/OFDA support, IRC developed a toolkit that includes psychosocial relief activities for children showing signs of emotional and social distress, basic parenting support activities, and basic life skills, such as literacy and math skills.

**Public Health and Nutrition**

- During FY 2016, USAID/OFDA contributed an additional $300,000 to Action Against Hunger (AAH) to continue supporting Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART)—a multi-year initiative and methodology to collect accurate and reliable nutrition, anthropometric, and mortality data to inform nutrition response activities and reduce malnutrition risk. AAH serves as a neutral, non-operational project convener and technical advisor for the adoption of SMART across the humanitarian sector.
- Although country-level emergency nutrition coordination has improved in recent years, the humanitarian nutrition community continues to face challenges related to the availability of technical specialists for rapid deployments to emergency responses. To address this constraint, USAID/OFDA supplemented prior year funding to IMC with
Mental health is often overlooked during emergencies, although mental illness is common among populations requiring humanitarian assistance. USAID/OFDA has supported IMC in recent years to promote the integration of mental health care into primary health care services, including funding a pilot program focused on the Central African Republic, the Philippines, and South Sudan that concluded in January 2016. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided IMC nearly $428,600 to translate its experience with integrated mental health programs and capacity building into a toolkit that helps implementing organizations, donors, host government agencies, and other stakeholders more effectively meet the mental health needs of crisis-affected populations. Working with a range of stakeholders, including the Global Health Cluster, IMC aims to develop a toolkit that provides easy-to-follow steps for designing and implementing an integrated mental health program, as well as associated materials and resources.

Infants and young children are the most vulnerable to illness, malnutrition, and death, particularly during emergencies. While studies have shown that optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding can reduce child mortality, implementing infant and young child feeding programs during emergencies remains challenging for many relief agencies. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided $800,000 to SC/US to begin implementing a two-year infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) program that aims to strengthen global IYCF-E capacity through a series of regional and national-level trainings and the production of an IYCF-E orientation video. SC/US also plans to review and define a methodology for monitoring IYCF-E programming.

USAID/OFDA provided WHO with $633,500 in FY 2016 to improve the humanitarian health response to disasters. With $508,500 in USAID/OFDA funding, WHO began implementing a program to strengthen the Health Cluster at the global and country levels, with a particular emphasis on enhancing coordination and information management capacity. With an additional $125,000, USAID/OFDA supported WHO’s efforts to establish minimum standards and a training program for emergency medical teams (EMTs) throughout the world. EMTs, or groups of health professionals who provide direct clinical care, deploy as surge capacity to support the local health system following disasters. WHO aims to ensure that all EMTs are trained and entered into a global classification system to enhance emergency health response coordination and effectiveness.

USAID/OFDA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continued their multi-year partnership in FY 2016. Prior year USAID/OFDA funding provided to CDC through an interagency agreement supported research evaluating the impact of a variety of projects, including programs aimed at improving maternal and newborn survival among IDPs in Somalia; integrating reproductive health in disaster risk reduction programs; and enhancing information management in humanitarian emergencies.

With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA supported SC/US in FY 2016 to enhance surge capacity and coordination within the Global Health Cluster. As the leader of a consortium of humanitarian partners working in health, SC/US is increasing the availability of cluster coordinators and information management officers for humanitarian responses and promoting cooperation between humanitarian organizations responding to health emergencies.

In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA continued to support AAH to implement a multi-year pilot program designed to increase the number of nutrition technical staff in the humanitarian workforce by providing nutrition-focused learning and development opportunities. With USAID/OFDA support, AAH is increasing the knowledge and skills of program participants, equipping them to manage and deliver quality nutrition programs in humanitarian contexts.

USAID/OFDA supported the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) in FY 2016 with prior year funding to build international, national, and individual knowledge and capacity to respond to food security and nutrition emergencies. With USAID/OFDA funding, ENN has expanded the readership of its Field Exchange and Nutrition
Exchange publications; supported an online forum to provide remote technical support to food and nutrition sector practitioners; conducted technical research; created and informed guidance; and convened technical meetings.

- With prior year assistance from USAID/OFDA, AAH continued to strengthen local capacity to conduct nutritional analysis, particularly in Chad, Ethiopia, and Kenya. As part of a consortium comprising four NGOs, ACF provided technical assistance to humanitarian stakeholders to analyze the causes of under-nutrition, propose effective interventions, and monitor and evaluate the impact of nutrition interventions.

- In FY 2016, World Vision used prior year USAID/OFDA funding to continue enhancing the quality of care for children experiencing acute malnutrition via the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) mobile health (mHealth) application. The mHealth application uses mobile technology to strengthen the ability of health workers to manage data for CMAM interventions. In collaboration with a consortium of other USAID/OFDA partners, World Vision first developed standard technical specifications for the CMAM mHealth application. World Vision and the consortium then piloted the application in four countries—Chad, Kenya, Mali, and Niger—to improve the quality of and access to CMAM program performance data to help save lives and reduce the number of malnourished children that experience medical complications.

- USAID/OFDA supported the MENTOR Initiative in FY 2016 with prior year funding to analyze integrated vector management strategies in humanitarian settings, with the aim of improving the ability of relief actors across sectors to better integrate disease management and the control and reduction of vector-borne diseases into response activities. Program activities concluded in August 2016.

- With prior year assistance, USAID/OFDA continued in FY 2016 to support the Combined Protocol for Acute Malnutrition Study, known as ComPAS—a research consortium led by IRC. ComPAS is working to produce and pilot a new protocol using a single therapeutic product at tapered doses as children progress through acute malnutrition treatment and are discharged based on response to treatment. The use of a single product would simplify malnutrition treatment and reduce the logistics burden of procuring multiple treatment products and managing separate severe and moderate acute malnutrition programs.

- The Coverage Monitoring Network (CMN)—implemented by AAH and other NGOs—strengthens humanitarian response efforts by identifying and responding to barriers to accessing CMAM interventions. With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued supporting the CMN through June 2016 to improve the quality of malnutrition assessments and bolster the development of global guidance related to acute malnutrition program management.

- With prior year USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF continued implementing a program in FY 2016 aimed at reducing nutrition-related deaths by bolstering countries’ national preparedness and response measures. The program, which concluded in March, included documenting and sharing nutrition-related lessons learned during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to help humanitarian organizations mitigate risks and improve efficiency and effectiveness of similar interventions in the future. UNICEF also worked to improve emergency response programming by providing technical support and capacity development in Latin America and in the East Asia and Pacific region.

**Risk Management Policy and Practice**

- To build resilience at the community level, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) “Frontline–Turning Community Views into Action” program with $500,000 in FY 2016. Building on findings from the USAID/OFDA-funded “Views from the Frontline” and “Action at the Frontline” initiatives, the GNDR program is designed to strengthen local capacity and leadership to build resilience to disasters. The program aims to enable civil society organizations and communities to understand shocks and stresses that impact their resilience; identify partnerships and actions based on local capacities and resources while they learn, discover, innovate, and share local-level strategies and actions; and create influence and political space to effect national and global policies. GNDR is implementing this program in more than 90 countries.

- In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided $250,000 to the International Council of Volunteer Agencies (ICVA) to continue improving the humanitarian community’s knowledge and utilization of the Sphere Project. With USAID/OFDA assistance, ICVA has supported global training activities, including the development of an e-learning course; published a *Sphere Unpacked* guide in four languages; and organized regional Sphere practitioners meetings,
among other activities. In particular, activities have focused on strengthening the Project’s partnerships with Arabic-speaking regions, including the Middle East and Gulf states, as well as countries in central and western Africa.

- In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) with more than $978,000 to support the local and national implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in the Arab Region and the development of regional implementation strategies and plans for SFDRR, as well as UNISDR’s work on urban resilience. USAID/OFDA also provided funding to support the May 2017 session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, a gathering of DRR stakeholders from around the world convened every two years. In addition, USAID/OFDA contributed funding toward the UNISDR Science and Technology Conference held in January 2016, where UNISDR launched its Science and Technology Partnership for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and its Science and Technology Road Map to 2030, which aim to promote the application of science and technology to decision-making in DRR.

- USAID/OFDA continued to engage with the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) in FY 2016 with prior year funding. The GFDRR assists developing countries with reducing their vulnerability to natural disasters by incorporating DRR and climate change adaptation activities into country development strategies. USAID/OFDA has provided more than $6 million to support the GFDRR since FY 2010.

- With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support Oxfam/Great Britain (Oxfam/GB) in FY 2016 to enhance emergency response preparedness, increase the effectiveness of emergency WASH activities, and strengthen post-disaster resilience in Bangladesh, Haiti, Indonesia, and Zimbabwe through market-based activities. With USAID/OFDA assistance, Oxfam/GB trained staff from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector on the principals and implementation of the EMMA toolkit—a resource for understanding market systems during disasters. Oxfam/GB also implemented information sharing, training, and policy and advocacy activities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of market-based responses and bolster economic recovery in post-disaster settings.

- With prior year USAID/OFDA assistance, NOAA collaborated with the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit Environment (GLOBE) program in FY 2016 to install 3D printed weather stations and conduct trainings in six schools in the Lake Victoria region in Kenya. The program aimed to teach students about their local weather and climate through collecting and analyzing data to compare with other schools in the network. The program also trained students to use meteorological data to assess and reduce the impacts of weather- and climate-related hazards on their communities. The data collected will help scientists improve weather forecast models and early warning system applications in the region as part of the development of the Weather Ready Nations Ambassador Program.

Safety and Security

- Since 2010, USAID/OFDA has supported the European Interagency Security Forum (EISF), comprising security managers from more than 50 humanitarian organizations, to enhance the safety and security of aid workers operating in complex and volatile environments. Through coordination with fellow agencies on security issues and strengthening of integrated security risk management approaches, EISF facilitates increased and sustainable access to populations in need. EISF activities include capacity-building workshops, bi-annual forums, and knowledge-sharing events. USAID/OFDA provided EISF approximately $109,600 in FY 2016 through the NGO Christian Aid.

- With prior year assistance, USAID/OFDA supported Humanitarian Outcomes in FY 2016 to strengthen data collection and analysis through the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD). The AWSD collects, analyzes, and shares data on violent incidents targeting aid workers, and the publicly available data allows the humanitarian community to assess changing security environments. USAID/OFDA previously funded the establishment of the AWSD and supported Humanitarian Outcomes to increase data analysis related to operational security.

Shelter and Settlements

- With approximately $57,000 in FY 2016 assistance, USAID/OFDA began supporting two graduate student fellowships through Habitat for Humanity to encourage new shelter and settlements research and innovative approaches to meeting humanitarian shelter and settlements needs, particularly in urban areas. The graduate students’ research is linked to
topics identified by USAID/OFDA and the humanitarian community as requiring further study, such as incorporating hazard mapping efforts into settlements planning; identifying and reviewing new assessment tools for the urban context; and identifying informal land management and tenure mechanisms that promote disaster risk reduction.

- With more than $175,000 in FY 2016 assistance, USAID/OFDA supported the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as one of the lead agencies for the Global Shelter Cluster, to begin developing a biannual publication designed to increase the profile and understanding of the humanitarian shelter and settlements sector. The two-part publication, titled *The State of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements*, will provide an overview of the extent and nature of humanitarian shelter needs and responses and offer analysis of current trends in the sector.
- USAID/OFDA provided the Shelter Centre, a Switzerland-based NGO, nearly $27,000 in FY 2016 to support the coordination of a global meeting of humanitarian shelter and settlements specialists, scheduled for October 2017. The Shelter Centre aims to use the meeting to enhance sector cohesiveness and improve humanitarian assistance delivery.
- The Shelter Projects, a program implemented by IOM, aims to improve capacity to address future humanitarian shelter and settlements needs by systematically reporting on shelter and settlements responses and lessons learned. USAID/OFDA provided IOM with $25,000 in FY 2016 to support the compilation and distribution of shelter and settlements case studies from 2015 and 2016.

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

- In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided more than $399,000 to AAH to conduct research, in conjunction with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology, on the determinants of hand hygiene in emergency settings. Following ongoing studies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq, AAH and partners plan to develop and disseminate a range of materials to help equip emergency responders to effectively implement hygiene programs in disaster settings.
- USAID/OFDA provided IFRC nearly $800,000 in FY 2016 to support the Emergency Sanitation Project (ESP), a consortium of humanitarian agencies and other stakeholders dedicated to researching new technologies and methodologies for improving the provision of sanitation during humanitarian responses. USAID/OFDA is supporting the second phase of the project, which aims to address the most challenging sanitation issues and further develop, test, and disseminate technologies identified during the first phase.
- USAID/OFDA also continued to support IFRC with nearly $700,000 of FY 2016 assistance to increase capacity and enhanced coordination within the Global WASH Cluster. With USAID/OFDA support, IFRC collaborated with UNICEF and six other humanitarian organizations to manage a Geneva-based Field Support Team that can provide critical WASH surge capacity to enhance emergency responses, in addition to increasing coordination capacity among WASH actors before and after crises occur.
### USAID/OFDA GLOBAL DRR FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2016

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PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts and disaster risk reduction measures is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations and working with communities to reduce recurrent impact of natural hazards. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses and risk reduction activities around the world can be found at www.interaction.org and www.cidi.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