Natural disasters, including drought, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, as well as ongoing complex emergencies and limited government capacity in the region, present significant challenges to vulnerable populations in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA). Between FY 2005 and FY 2014, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided assistance in response to a range of disasters, including floods, wildfires, winter emergencies, and complex crises.

Between FY 2005 and FY 2014, USAID provided more than $2.7 billion for emergency response programs in the EMCA region. USAID/OFDA assistance included more than $1.2 billion for agriculture and food security, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, as well as support for humanitarian coordination and logistics and the provision of relief commodities. USAID/FFP assistance included nearly $1.5 billion for food assistance in the form of U.S. purchased food, locally and/or regionally purchased food, cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and related activities.

In the last decade, USAID deployed six Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) and multiple humanitarian assessment teams to the region. During FY 2011, a DART deployed to Israel in response to wildfires. DARTs also deployed to Lebanon in FY 2006, Georgia in FY 2008, and Libya in FY 2011.
USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (FY 2005 – 2014)

USAID/OFDA

USAID/FFP

USAID Disaster Response Funding to Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa¹
(FY 2005 – 2014), in millions

in response to complex emergencies. The protracted crisis in Syria prompted USAID to deploy a field team to the region in March 2012 and stand-up a DART in January 2013. More recently, a DART deployed to Iraq in the wake of deteriorating security in FY 2014. During the past ten years, USAID also activated multiple Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams to better facilitate DART coordination and response efforts.

To complement emergency assistance and mitigate the underlying causes of vulnerabilities, USAID/OFDA supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) programming in the EMCA region. USAID/OFDA DRR interventions include technical assistance and technology transfer to build capacity in communities and national agencies, as well as project-level activities, such as seismic-resistant shelter construction. USAID/OFDA DRR activities in FY 2014 include support for desert locust monitoring and control activities in Yemen, strengthened regional DRR coordination in Central Asia, and improved operational preparedness throughout the region.

Through emergency and development food assistance programs, USAID/FFP works to save lives and reduce food insecurity in times of crisis and situations of chronic food insecurity. In recent years, USAID/FFP has responded to several high-profile crises, including in Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen. Since 2013, USAID/FFP has partnered with the U.N. World Food Program and non-governmental organizations to spend nearly $1 billion to provide emergency food assistance to conflict-affected persons inside Syria, as well as Syrian refugees in the region. USAID/FFP emergency food assistance includes both in-kind food aid and cash-based assistance in the form of local and regional procurement of food commodities, cash transfers, and food vouchers, where market conditions allow.

¹ FY 2014 rounded figures represent committed or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2014. FY 2014 figures are subject to fluctuation due to end-of-fiscal-year financial review and reconciliation activities. Figures do not include USAID/OFDA disaster preparedness and mitigation assistance provided outside of declared disaster responses or USAID/FFP development assistance.

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

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