Cyclical drought, food insecurity, cyclones, floods, disease outbreaks, and complex emergencies present significant challenges to vulnerable populations throughout the Southern Africa region. 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 humanitarian assistance in response to a diverse range of natural and manmade disasters, including floods, droughts, and food insecurity throughout Southern Africa; cyclones in Madagascar and Mozambique; complex emergencies in Comoros, Madagascar, and Zimbabwe; disease outbreaks in Angola, Botswana, and Zimbabwe; locust outbreaks in Madagascar; a tsunami in Seychelles; refugee returns in Angola; and earthquakes in Comoros and Malawi.

Between FY 2005 and FY 2014, USAID provided nearly $1.2 billion in humanitarian assistance to Southern Africa. The total comprises more than $1 billion from USAID/FFP 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 and nearly $140 million from USAID/OFDA for interventions in agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

### Number of Disasters Declared in Southern Africa
By Type (FY 2005 – 2014)

- Tsunami
- Refugee Return
- Earthquake
- Locust Outbreak
- Disease Outbreak
- Drought
- Cyclone
- Complex Emergency
- Food Insecurity
- Floods

The Southern Africa region encompasses Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
In the last decade, USAID deployed multiple humanitarian assessment and response teams to the region, including a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) for the 2008/2009 cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe.

In Southern Africa, USAID/OFDA disaster response activities frequently focus on providing emergency relief supplies, such as plastic sheeting and water containers; supporting agriculture and food security activities, such as distribution of seeds and other farming inputs; and implementing WASH interventions, including hygiene awareness campaigns.

USAID/OFDA has employed a regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy since FY 2009 to promote activities that help reduce the vulnerability of at-risk populations to climate-induced disasters and increase their resilience to future shocks. USAID/OFDA-supported DRR activities include strengthening agricultural livelihoods, promoting holistic land management, addressing sanitation conditions and other environmental health concerns, and building capacity for disaster risk management in Southern Africa through trainings and support for early warning systems.

To supplement its emergency food assistance, USAID/FFP provides development food assistance to address the underlying causes of food insecurity. In countries where recurring crises such as the 2003–2007 successive droughts reduce families’ ability to cope with shocks due to crop failure and selling of assets, for example, USAID/FFP’s development programs seek to build families’ and communities’ resilience. Programs reduce chronic malnutrition among children under five and pregnant and lactating women, improve communities’ agricultural productivity, and expand and diversify household income and assets.

---

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 $2 million cumulatively from USAID/OFDA over the past 10 years and include Botswana, Comoros, Seychelles, South Africa, and Swaziland.

** Between 2003 and 2007, USAID/FFP provided in-kind food assistance to Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe as part of the response to the Southern Africa Food Insecurity Crisis.

* 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.