A variety of natural hazards—including cyclical drought, floods, and environmental degradation—are endemic to the East and Central Africa (ECA) region, where conflict, rapid population growth, and limited government response capacity have compounded humanitarian needs over the last decade. Between FY 2008 and FY 2017, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided humanitarian assistance in response to a diverse range of emergencies, including complex emergencies in CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, RoC, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan; drought and food insecurity in the Horn of Africa; post-election violence in Kenya; disease outbreaks and flooding in multiple countries; and refugee crises across the region.

Between FY 2008 and FY 2017, USAID provided more than $13.9 billion to respond to disasters in the ECA region. USAID/OFDA assistance included nearly $3.2 billion for programs in agriculture and food security; economic recovery and market systems; health; humanitarian coordination and information management; logistics support and relief commodities; nutrition; protection; shelter and settlements; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). USAID/FFP support included more than $10.7 billion for food and nutrition assistance in the form of U.S. in-kind food aid; local and regional food procurement; cash transfers for food; food vouchers; specialized nutrition products; and related activities, such as asset-building programs and vocational training for vouchers.

USAID responded to 94 disasters in ECA during the last decade, providing life-saving assistance to people in need. Following recurring periods of below-average agricultural yields, droughts, and floods, USAID programs improved livestock health and crop production, strengthened prevention and treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, supported livelihoods activities, and improved WASH conditions.

USAID has frequently deployed humanitarian teams to the region, including six Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) responding to complex emergencies in DRC, Kenya, and South Sudan; drought in Ethiopia; and two regional food insecurity crises in the Horn of Africa between FY 2008 and FY 2017. USAID also activated related Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams to support coordination and emergency response efforts in affected countries.