Protracted complex emergencies and natural disasters, including drought, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, present significant challenges to vulnerable populations in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA). Between FY 2010 and FY 2019, 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 complex emergencies in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen; earthquakes in Tajikistan and Turkey; floods in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Tunisia; and fires in Canada, Israel, Montenegro, Portugal, and Russia.

Between FY 2010 and FY 2019, USAID provided nearly $9.6 billion for emergency response programs in the EMCA region. USAID/FFP assistance included nearly $5.5 billion for food assistance in the form of U.S.-purchased food; locally, regionally, and internationally procured food; cash transfers for food; food vouchers; and related activities such as nutrition messaging and community asset building. USAID/OFDA assistance included nearly $4.1 billion for agriculture and food security, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, as well as support for humanitarian coordination and logistics and relief commodities.

In the last decade, USAID responded to 77 disasters in EMCA. USAID also frequently deployed humanitarian teams to the region, including four Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs). Escalated conflict in Syria prompted USAID to activate a DART—consisting of staff in Jordan, and Turkey, at the regional office in Hungary, and at other locations in the Middle East—in FY 2013; the DART remained active in FY 2019. USAID deployed a DART to Iraq in FY 2014 in the wake of deteriorating security that prompted significant population movement and, following improvements in conditions, deactivated the DART in FY 2019. In FY 2011, USAID deployed a DART to Libya in response to a complex emergency and another DART to Israel in response to wildfires. During the past 10 years, USAID also activated multiple Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams to better facilitate DART coordination and response efforts.