Protracted conflicts, drought, earthquakes, floods, and seasonal storms—compounded by limited government response capacity in some countries—present significant challenges to vulnerable populations in South Asia. 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 humanitarian assistance in response to a diverse range of disasters in the region, including complex emergencies in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan; two cyclones in India; drought in Afghanistan and Pakistan; an earthquake in Nepal; and floods and landslides throughout the region.

USAID provided more than $2.6 billion to assist disaster-affected populations in South Asia between FY 2010 and FY 2019. USAID/FFP funding included nearly $1.9 billion for emergency food assistance and nutrition support through U.S. in-kind food assistance; local, regional, and international procurement of food and nutrition commodities; cash transfers for food; food vouchers; leveraging of government wheat stocks; and complementary activities, such as support for nutrition education, income generating activities, and humanitarian logistics and coordination to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance. USAID/OFDA assistance included nearly $743 million 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; risk management policy and practice; search-and-rescue; shelter and settlements; and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

In the last decade, USAID responded to 51 disasters in South Asia and deployed humanitarian teams to the region as needed, including two Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) in response to a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Nepal in FY 2015 and flooding in Pakistan in FY 2010, and activated Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams to support DART coordination and response efforts. Beginning in FY 2017, USAID also deployed staff through a Humanitarian Assistance Cell to respond to the influx of more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

1 FY 2019 figures represent committed or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2019. FY 2019 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.