

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

# SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS SECTOR UPDATE



USAID/OFDA partnered with local authorities and community members in July 2018 to promote earthquake-resistant building practices in Ecuador’s Manabí Province, where a magnitude 7.8 earthquake damaged more than 9,700 buildings in April 2016. Photo courtesy of Miyamoto International.

## Humanitarian Shelter & Settlements Activities Worldwide

During FY 2018, USAID/OFDA S&S advisors deployed to serve on USAID Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs), conduct field assessments, design sector strategies, and monitor project activities. Travel to disaster-affected areas often entails conducting land and housing market analyses to better understand impacts, needs, and resources, as well as engaging with affected populations, cluster lead agencies, host country institutions, and implementing partners. In FY 2018, S&S advisors served on the Caribbean Hurricanes DART in response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria to ensure the timely provision of shelter assistance and develop strategies to implement the Build Back Safer initiative for disaster-affected populations in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica. USAID/OFDA also airlifted emergency relief commodities, including rolls of plastic sheeting to disaster-affected populations across the region. S&S interventions included project monitoring and hands-on trainings, as well as online, radio, and text programming to ensure that the plastic sheeting was utilized for maximum benefit.

In FY 2018, S&S advisors also worked closely with regional and field teams to provide guidance on sector strategies, including in Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Syria. Related to this work, the S&S team reviewed approximately 180 grant proposals, providing input to regional teams and implementing partners to improve both proposal and project quality. S&S advisors also participated in discussions

## USAID/OFDA Shelter and Settlements Activities

### FY 2018 FUNDING

Standalone Global and Regional Shelter and Settlements Programs	<b>\$924,847</b>
---	------------------

Shelter and Settlements Interventions Worldwide	<b>\$178,753,425</b>
---	----------------------

**\$179,678,272<sup>1</sup>**

## Sector Overview

USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) remains at the forefront of the humanitarian community’s shelter and settlements (S&S) activities, which focus on a common goal: the expeditious and appropriate provision of covered living space to adequately shelter displaced populations, while also promoting safer, healthier settlements that link emergency S&S assistance to longer-term recovery efforts.

In addition to supporting S & S activities worldwide, USAID/OFDA allocated more than \$1.4 million in FY 2018 to directly purchase 3,740 rolls of plastic sheeting—sufficient to provide emergency shelter for an estimated 187,000 people.

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA supported shelter activities in 35 countries during FY 2018, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Syria.

with colleagues and other stakeholders to clarify and apply USAID's policies and procedures on construction, disability, and environmental compliance. In addition, the advisors engaged with Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) lead agencies, focusing on recovery issues and more effective transitions from humanitarian shelter activities to longer-term housing reconstruction. Identifying opportunities to incorporate disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures into S&S sector projects, where needed and appropriate, also remained a priority. Finally, S&S advisors continued to participate in the research and evaluation of plastic sheeting, solar-powered lights, stoves, kitchen sets, and other non-food items, in concert with other humanitarian agencies.

## Building Back Safer After Earthquakes Destroy Homes

In April 2016, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck off the coast of northwestern Ecuador. The earthquake and several aftershocks caused at least 660 deaths, injured more than 4,600 people, and damaged or destroyed more than 9,700 buildings, displacing an estimated 30,000 people. Following the immediate disaster response, USAID/OFDA and partners remained committed to reducing the impacts of future disasters and worked with local authorities and disaster-affected community members to promote the building of earthquake-resistant homes. With \$350,000 in USAID/OFDA support, structural engineering company Miyamoto International collaborated with nearly 750 homeowners, local builders, and masons in Ecuador's Manabí Province on cost-effective solutions for constructing seismically sound structures. In July 2018, Miyamoto International conducted the Ecuador Building Resilience Program—a training program for homeowners and local officials consisting of workshops on how to build safer, reinforced homes using locally available materials such as bamboo, bricks, and cement.

## Promoting Settlements as a Platform for Response, Recovery, and Risk Reduction

USAID/OFDA continues to support the Settlements Approach, which promotes integrated, multi-sector programming in defined locations. The S&S team seeks to build upon the expanding application of the Settlements Approach in a number of countries by emphasizing its utility as a DRR-based upgrading activity in high-risk urban informal settlements. The highly vulnerable populations in these hazard-prone areas will continue to experience an increasing frequency of disaster events unless efforts are implemented to address identified vulnerabilities. This will require the adoption of an evidence-based, multi-sector process with participation from residents, local and national officials, private sector actors, and others to create safer shelters and settlements. To encourage this process, the S&S team supported partnerships with academic, diaspora, private sector, and professional development actors on S&S DRR activities. The S&S team continues to interact with GSC and Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management actors on a range of related activities at the national and global level, with an emphasis on promoting understanding and adoption of the Settlements Approach.

## Leading Global Shelter and Settlements Learning Initiatives

In FY 2018, S&S advisors presented a one-day USAID/OFDA S&S training course on five occasions for both in-house staff and personnel from numerous other humanitarian organizations. The online version of the course is available on USAID/OFDA and USAID training platforms and through [Interaction](#), [YouTube](#), and [DisasterReady.org](#). It is also available in Spanish, with translations to other languages in progress. Additionally, a Senior S&S Advisor contributed a chapter to the *Global Report on the State of Shelter and Settlements* (slated for publication in late 2018) and the S&S team contributed a chapter to *Health in Humanitarian Emergencies*, published by Cambridge University Press and available [here](#). During FY 2018, USAID/OFDA advisors discussed or presented on a multitude of S&S and DRR topics for various organizations, including national and local government officials, the International Organization for Migration, U.S. Department of State, Japanese International Cooperation Agency, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Building Museum, Interaction, Aid and Development Summit, and several major universities.

## Graduate Student Fellowships in S&S

USAID/OFDA awarded two graduate student fellowships in July 2018, as part of larger efforts to improve S&S sector programming, increase awareness of the sector in North America, and expand career options for S&S activities. The successful candidates—from graduate programs in civil engineering at the University of Washington and urban planning at Columbia University—are focusing fieldwork on host government implementation of building regulations for vulnerable populations assisted by humanitarian actors and how construction and local governance processes operate in conflict settings, respectively.

**USAID/OFDA CONTACT:** USAID/OFDA Shelter and Settlements Team, [ofdaSHELTER@usaid.gov](mailto:ofdaSHELTER@usaid.gov)

USAID/OFDA information products are available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis>