Humanitarian Assistance in Review
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2006 – 2015

The EAP region comprises Australia, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, North Korea, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, the Solomon Islands, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

Recurrent earthquakes, floods, typhoons, and volcanoes present significant challenges to vulnerable populations in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region. Some countries also face civil unrest and associated humanitarian impacts, as well as limited government capacity to respond to disasters. Between FY 2006 and FY 2015, 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 complex emergencies in the region. Examples include cyclones and typhoons in Burma, the Pacific Islands, and the Philippines; earthquakes in China and Japan; floods in Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea; tsunamis in Indonesia, Japan, and Samoa; drought in the Marshall Islands; volcanic eruptions in Indonesia and the Philippines; and conflict in Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.

Between FY 2006 and FY 2015, USAID provided approximately $306 million to respond to disasters in the EAP region. USAID/OFDA assistance included more than $175 million for programs in agriculture and food security; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive hazards (CBRNE); economic recovery and market systems (ERMS); health; humanitarian coordination and information management; logistics support and relief commodities; nutrition; protection; search and rescue; shelter and settlements; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). USAID/FFP support included nearly $131 million for food assistance in the form of U.S.-purchased food, locally and regionally purchased food, cash transfers, food vouchers, and related activities.

Number of Disasters Declared in East Asia and the Pacific By Type (FY 2006 – 2015)
In the last decade, USAID frequently deployed humanitarian teams to the EAP region, including seven Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs). USAID deployed DARTs to Indonesia following earthquakes in FY 2006 and FY 2010; to Burma after Cyclone Nargis in FY 2008; to New Zealand following an earthquake in FY 2011; to Japan in response to an earthquake and resulting tsunami and nuclear emergency in FY 2011; to the Marshall Islands in FY 2013 due to a drought; and to the Philippines in FY 2014 for Typhoon Haiyan. USAID also activated multiple Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams to support coordination and response efforts.

Due to the recurrent or chronic nature of many of the disasters affecting populations across the EAP region, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP provide additional funding beyond that programmed toward specific responses and support projects that increase the resilience of vulnerable populations to cope with future shocks. In collaboration with U.S. Government, host country, and regional counterparts, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP’s initiatives seek to build the resilience of affected households and communities, in conjunction with development programs, where feasible and appropriate. USAID/OFDA also supports early recovery activities that help crisis-affected populations rebuild livelihoods and strengthen self-sufficiency, where possible, sustainable, and appropriate. USAID/OFDA has developed an EAP regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy to complement emergency assistance interventions and address the underlying causes of vulnerability, emphasizing building local capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters. DRR programs include flood management in Southeast Asia, volcano monitoring in Indonesia, community-based DRR in the Philippines, and disaster preparedness and response training throughout EAP.

Through emergency and development food assistance programs, USAID/FFP works to save lives and reduce hunger and malnutrition in times of crisis and situations of chronic food insecurity. USAID/FFP emergency food assistance interventions include cash transfers for food, food vouchers, general food distributions, targeted supplementary feeding, and food-for-work, food-for-training, and food-for-assets programs, among other activities.

---

1 EAP countries categorized as ‘Other’ have each received less than $500,000 cumulatively from USAID/OFDA during the past 10 years and include Kiribati, Mongolia, Palau, South Korea, Taiwan, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

2 FY 2015 figures represent committed or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2015. FY 2015 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.

3 Chart does not include disaster preparedness and mitigation assistance, administrative support costs, or funding not categorized by sector due to changes to the USAID/OFDA accounting system that occurred during the decade.