

# EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CENTRAL ASIA – DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**\$291.3 million**

Total USAID/OFDA Funding to EMCA in FY 2013

**\$8.7 million**

Programs in Yemen with DRR Components

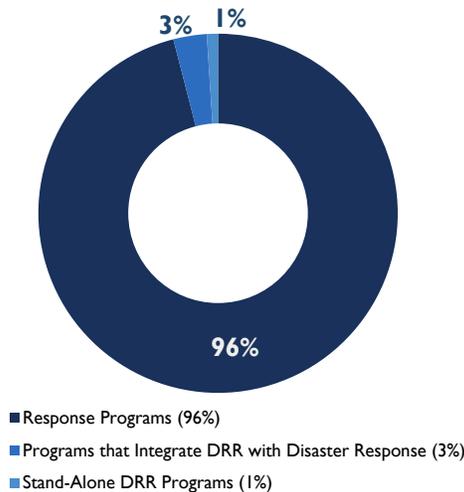
**\$900,000**

Regional Southeastern European Programs with DRR Components

**7**

Partners Implementing FY 2013 Programs with DRR Components

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY PROGRAM TYPE IN FY 2013



## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) FUNDING TO EMCA IN FY 2013

Stand-Alone DRR Programs	\$2,232,134
Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response	\$8,395,641

**\$10,627,775**  
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING TO EMCA

## OVERVIEW

- Natural hazards, such as earthquakes, droughts, floods, wildfires, and extreme winter weather, affect a range of countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA)<sup>2</sup>. In addition, rapid urban growth and environmental degradation in some countries have led to overcrowding and settlement in hazard-prone areas. Protracted conflict and limited governmental disaster management capacity in many EMCA countries compound the risks associated with natural disasters.
- Recognizing the vulnerabilities present throughout EMCA, USAID/OFDA supports DRR projects to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce the economic and social impact of disasters. Programs measure and analyze disaster risks to identify and then implement risk-reduction solutions. USAID/OFDA provides technical assistance and technology transfer to build communities' and local governments' capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$10.6 million for DRR projects throughout EMCA, including programs that integrate DRR with disaster response.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> The EMCA region encompasses Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen.

## STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN EMCA

In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.2 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives in EMCA that improve preparedness and aim to mitigate and prevent the worst impacts of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided additional funding for regional and global stand-alone programs that include activities in natural and technological risks and humanitarian coordination and information management to strengthen disaster preparedness and response. At the regional and country levels, USAID/OFDA and implementing partners engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies—tailored to the needs of at-risk populations—to reduce the risk of disasters. These programs all reflected USAID/OFDA’s commitment to support capacity development; strengthen linkages among risk identification, monitoring, early warning, and early action; and expand partnerships and joint programming. Analysis of existing capacities and social, economic, and environmental trends guided programs. When possible, USAID/OFDA programs addressed underlying causes of recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, rapid urban growth, and climate change.

### Global and Multi-Regional Programs Active in EMCA<sup>3</sup>

- **Action at the Frontline:** To develop information products that facilitate greater understanding of resilience building at the community, civil society, and institutional levels, USAID/OFDA supports the Global Network for Disaster Reduction’s “Action at the Frontline” program through FY 2013 assistance. Based on the findings of the “Views from the Frontline” initiative that highlighted the effects of small-scale, recurrent disasters on local communities, the network will research common enabling factors and limitations to recovery and adaptation. The information products will also inform the establishment of new post-2015 frameworks for DRR, sustainable development goals, and climate change—all of which require strategic implementation at the local level. Beginning in 2013, the program will support 50 to 60 program sites worldwide, including Egypt, Jordan, and the southern Caucasus, to train local populations in risk mitigation and encourage participation in disaster planning activities that build resilience to potential crises.
- **Snow Melt Outlook Assessment:** USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$19,000 in FY 2013 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to assess snow cover in watersheds in Southeastern Europe, the Black Sea region, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. NOAA partner, Hydrologic Research Center, utilized this information to provide a potential flood-risk outlook to national meteorological and hydrological services in the region for the spring of 2013.
- **Global Flash Flood Guidance System:** With prior year funding to the U.N. World Meteorological Organization (WMO), USAID/OFDA continues to work on a global flash flood guidance and early warning system with implementation in the Black Sea region, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Southeastern Europe, and Central Asia in EMCA. USAID/OFDA supports rapid assessments of flash floods that increase the lead time for early warning and allow for swift mobilization of response activities. The WMO program emphasizes strengthening national capacity through cross-trainings of hydrologists and meteorologists. In addition, the program encourages cross-border cooperation to monitor flash floods, prepare flood warnings, and devise flood response strategies.

### EMCA Regional Programs

- **Improving Regional Information Management and Coordination:** While national disaster management capacity varies according to country, strengthening coordination at the regional level will improve disaster preparedness, early warning, and contingency planning capabilities with government and international partners throughout the EMCA region. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to improve disaster preparedness efforts, including DRR activities, and to provide specialized support in the event of sudden-onset disasters or crises through improved regional information management and coordination.

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<sup>3</sup> Funding figures for global and regional initiatives represent program totals, including USAID/OFDA funding for activities implemented both within and outside EMCA.

## **Southeastern Europe Regional Programs**

- **Emergency Preparedness and DRR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, and Montenegro:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, and Montenegro are susceptible to a number of natural disasters, including floods, landslides, earthquakes, droughts, extreme winter weather, and forest fires. With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in FY 2013 for DRR activities in the three countries at both the national and community level. UNICEF works with local authorities to plan, design, and conduct targeted risk assessments in selected communities and schools, helping to identify areas for strengthening disaster resilience while building the capacity of governments to better understand and target DRR interventions. In addition, UNICEF is working with national and local government authorities to support the development of DRR action plans in selected vulnerable communities.
- **Southeastern Europe Capacity Building on Hydrometeorological Extremes:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$750,000 to WMO to strengthen the capacity of national authorities throughout Southeastern Europe on hydrometeorological early warning systems. Partnering with NOAA to support national meteorological and hydrological service agencies in the region, WMO aims to reduce populations’ risk to climate and weather-induced disasters, such as floods, droughts, and landslides, by enhancing the ability of national agencies to predict such events and subsequently communicate appropriate action to at-risk communities.
- **Seismic Hazard Mapping for Southeastern Europe:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$150,000 to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to build seismic hazard awareness and associated risk mitigation efforts throughout Southeastern Europe. To facilitate the process, USGS will host an OpenQuake modeling workshop in early FY 2014 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, during which participants plan to share additional data to refine hazard, exposure, and physical vulnerability models. Governments will be able to utilize this new information to support hazard mitigation efforts and inform building design codes throughout the region. The efforts will culminate with USGS scientists meeting with local scientists, government institutions, and USAID missions in the region to introduce a preliminary hazard model for Southeastern Europe—developed under a previous USAID/OFDA-funded project—and to share information about the earthquake risk in the country.

## **Central Asia Regional Programs**

- **Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Caucasus and Central Asia:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support OCHA to improve information management and enhance preparedness and response capacities at the local, national, and regional levels in the Caucasus and Central Asia, with a goal of ensuring effective coordination of humanitarian activities when emergencies occur. Through on-the-job training for staff at key response agencies, assistance in developing information sharing policies, and support for improving regional capacity to undertake vulnerability analysis, OCHA is strengthening relationships with information management institutions at the country and regional levels and building the capacity of agencies to prepare for and respond to disasters. OCHA is working with the national disaster management offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as up to 20 international humanitarian NGOs, 19 U.N. agencies, 15 Red Cross or Red Crescent movement organizations, and a number of local community-based organizations.

## **Country-Specific Programs**

### *Armenia*

- **Reducing Vulnerability of Children in Armenia:** Large-scale natural disasters, such as earthquakes, can result in the collapse of school facilities, injuring or killing children and teachers, while smaller-scale, recurrent disasters, such as floods, can undermine the integrity of school infrastructure. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$350,000 to UNICEF to support the Government of Armenia (GoA) in implementing a school safety assessment program to

determine schools' vulnerability to local hazards, particularly seismic risks, and promote safe education facilities for children. During the one-year project, UNICEF will support the GoA to assess more than 1,400 schools, hosting more than 386,000 students. UNICEF will then advise the GoA on using assessment findings to identify priority schools for rehabilitation and for developing repair or replacement plans to make the schools safe for students.

### *Kyrgyzstan*

- **Reducing Vulnerability of Children in Kyrgyzstan:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$200,000 to UNICEF to present school safety assessment findings, which determined the vulnerability of schools and preschools in Kyrgyzstan to local hazards. The USAID/OFDA assessment identified that up to 85 percent of schools and preschools required rehabilitation work to lessen their vulnerability to disasters, and contributed to the development of a national program for school and preschool rehabilitation, strengthening, and construction. UNICEF conducted the conference in April 2013.

### *Yemen*

- **Reducing Risk to Food Insecurity in Yemen:** Large areas of chronic food insecurity continue to affect populations in Yemen, with sporadic conflict a key driver. Yemen is also prone to desert locusts, which threaten agricultural production. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$275,000 through an interagency agreement to USAID's Office of Food for Peace to support the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEW NET) in Yemen. With this funding, FEWS NET staff conduct analysis and produce monthly reports indicating the current food security situation and projected outlook for the coming months. Humanitarian agencies utilize this information to identify particularly vulnerable populations and inform program interventions to reduce risk to future stresses.

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## **PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE**

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs implemented to prevent or mitigate the effects of hazards in the region, USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response, early recovery, and transition programs. These initiatives, which were in accordance with regional DRR strategies, incorporated risk reduction objectives into a broad range of sector interventions to increase the resilience of communities to future shocks. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA sought to increase access to safe drinking water and promote improved hygiene practices; prevent and treat acute malnutrition; improve food security; and strengthen livelihoods throughout EMCA.

### **Country-Specific Programs**

#### *Yemen*

- **Community Water Resilience in Yemen:** Emergency humanitarian conditions in Yemen—due to political crisis, ongoing conflict, and a worsening economic situation—continued to threaten the livelihoods and food security of a significant segment of the country's population in FY 2013. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.9 million to International Relief and Development (IRD) to increase access to water and improve healthy hygiene practices for vulnerable communities in Hadramut and Al-Maharah governorates. Communities in these areas have experienced recurrent drought and conflict, which have placed pressure on an already weak water and sanitation system and increased vulnerability to disease outbreaks. With USAID/OFDA support, IRD will construct sand dams—water storage facilities under sand, protecting water from contamination and evaporation with minimal operational and maintenance costs—to provide nearly 13,000 beneficiaries with a clean, local, and reliable water source, even during periods of drought.
- **Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in Yemen:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.3 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to increase resilience among vulnerable communities in conflict-affected Abyan Governorate, making them less prone to future stresses and crises. The program aims to protect and rebuild livelihoods of vulnerable communities in Abyan by rebuilding livestock assets

and providing tools for income-generating projects. In addition, the project aims to improve access to and management of water and sanitation resources through rehabilitation of water and sanitation sites and promotion of sustainable water management, making communities less prone to drought and waterborne illness.

- **Complex Emergency Response, Integrating DRR:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) to address humanitarian needs, improve living conditions, and build the resilience of vulnerable communities in Yemen through DRR activities in the agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems (ERMS), and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sectors. ACTED provided temporary employment for the repair of small-scale infrastructure, supplying immediate income while protecting communities against landslides and facilitating better access to irrigation and roads. The program also focused on the link between agricultural livelihoods and reducing malnutrition by distributing seeds and conducting trainings on nutrition and improved farming practices that highlight existing food resources in the local environment and encourage diversification of diet. In addition, ACTED supported the construction of rainwater cisterns and shallow wells, rehabilitation of local water systems, promotion of healthy hygiene practices to prevent diseases, and capacity-building activities for local water committees and national-level water authorities. This project concluded in May 2013.
- **Livelihoods Assistance in Yemen:** Improving security in southern Yemen during FY 2013 facilitated the large-scale return of displaced populations. To support a sustainable returns process, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$4.2 million to Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in FY 2013 to increase resilience among recent returnees to southern Yemen. With USAID/OFDA support, ADRA is implementing agriculture and food security activities in Abyan and Lahj governorates, providing beneficiaries with assistance in developing small business plans and productive assets to improve agricultural livelihoods in fishing, livestock, and irrigation. By restoring and rehabilitating livelihoods, returnees and other vulnerable populations are therefore less vulnerable to future stresses associated with recurrent conflict and environmental shocks.

**USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2013<sup>1</sup>**

LOCATION	PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	PARTNER	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA<sup>2</sup></b>					
EMCA Regional	Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Caucasus and Central Asia	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	OCHA	\$500,000	\$500,000
Southeastern Europe Regional	Capacity Building on Hydrometeorological Extremes	Natural and Technological Risks	WMO	\$750,000	\$899,866
	Seismic Hazard Mapping	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$149,866	
Armenia	Reducing Vulnerability to Seismic Risks in Armenia	Natural and Technological Risks	UNICEF	\$348,865	\$348,856
Kyrgyzstan	Reducing Vulnerability to Seismic Risks in Kyrgyzstan	Natural and Technological Risks	UNICEF	\$208,412	\$208,412
Yemen	Inter-Agency Agreement	Agriculture and Food Security	USAID/FFP	\$275,000	\$275,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN EMCA</b>					<b>\$2,232,134</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS IN EMCA</b>					
Yemen	Complex Emergency Response	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	ADRA	\$4,184,694	\$8,395,641
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; WASH	IOM	\$2,315,300	
		WASH	IRD	\$1,895,647	
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS IN EMCA</b>					<b>\$8,395,641</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN EMCA IN FY 2013</b>					<b>\$10,627,775</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the fiscal year of obligation, not appropriation, of funds. This chart captures all USAID/OFDA DRR funding provided in FY 2013; program descriptions in the fact sheet reflect USAID/OFDA-supported DRR programs active during the fiscal year, regardless of year of funding.

<sup>2</sup> The figure reported represents the integrated DRR-response portion of larger disaster response programs.

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>