FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SECTOR UPDATE

With support from USAID/OFDA, MapAction staff provide training on mapping during humanitarian emergencies as part of an intensive UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) training course designed to prepare new UNDAC team members for deployment to establish humanitarian coordination, assessment, and information management mechanisms during the first phase of a sudden-onset disaster or emergency. *Photo courtesy of MapAction.*

Monitoring Access Constraints to Reach People in Need

Relief actors' ability to reach people in need is central to humanitarian response, yet in complex crises, access constraints can hinder the delivery of assistance to affected populations. With support from USAID/OFDA, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is strengthening the principled delivery of humanitarian assistance through monitoring of access restrictions and advocacy efforts to reduce bureaucratic, logistical, and security impediments. OCHA's work focuses on measuring the frequency and severity of such constraints to improve data collection, enhance analysis, and better inform access-related policies and operational priorities at the country level. In especially complex environments, including Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, OCHA has established Access Units to manage these efforts. Access Units serve as a centralized mechanism for coordinating access issues across the humanitarian response, leading the development of access monitoring and reporting frameworks and working with a range of stakeholders to gather information about impediments to support collective advocacy and negotiations. In protracted conflict environments like South Sudan and Yemen, for instance, the Access Units are using security incident tracking and information on access constraints to map hotspots for humanitarian staff and bolster coordinated negotiations with state and non-state entities.

USAID/OFDA HCIM Activities

FY 2019 FUNDING

Stand-Alone Global and Regional HCIM Programs	**$3,730,069**
HCIM Interventions Worldwide	**$174,191,308**

$177,921,377

Sector Overview

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is a global leader in advancing humanitarian coordination and information management (HCIM) during emergencies, engaging with other donors, the UN, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure a strong disaster response through effective coordination, rigorous data and information standards and practices, and robust analysis. At the country level, USAID/OFDA supports coordination mechanisms, invests in comprehensive data collection and analysis, and bolsters information management capacity within humanitarian clusters to ensure common understanding of urgent needs and response gaps and enable evidence-based decision making. USAID/OFDA supports partners specializing in different aspects of HCIM to improve coordination capabilities, strengthen the humanitarian data and information ecosystem, and build the capacity of relief actors, governments, and communities to better prepare for and respond to disasters.

Promoting People-Centered Responses Through Robust Assessments and Analysis

Humanitarian coordination brings together relevant national, regional, and international actors to ensure common understanding of urgent needs and response gaps. To this end, USAID/OFDA continues to support OCHA's Assessment Planning and Monitoring Branch, which helps OCHA and its partners deliver more effective collective humanitarian responses by optimizing tools, knowledge, and support to advance rigorous assessments and robust needs analysis. These efforts promote a more people-centered response, helping ensure response efforts prioritize the specific needs of those most affected by crises. To further improve targeted, needs-based assistance, in FY 2019, USAID/OFDA funded eight multi-sector needs assessments through the REACH Initiative, which contributed to broader evaluation efforts by the international humanitarian system and underpinned improved analysis to better inform response priorities. Through the USAID/OFDA-supported multi-sector needs assessment in the Central African Republic, for example, humanitarian actors undertook the largest humanitarian data collection exercise since 2016, covering approximately 9,000 households in more than 500 localities across all sub-prefectures, helping focus response priorities to address the most acute needs.

Improving Humanitarian Action With Effective Information Management

When a crisis strikes, high-quality, timely data and information products are essential to facilitate a coordinated humanitarian response. Since 2014, USAID/OFDA has supported iMMAP Inc. to deploy highly trained Information Management Officers (IMOs) during emergencies to provide information management support to the humanitarian cluster system—sector-specific bodies comprising host governments, NGOs, UN agencies, and other stakeholders activated to coordinate humanitarian response activities. With support from USAID/OFDA and through the UN Standby Partnership Program, which provides targeted, short-term support to humanitarian field operations, iMMAP Inc. deployed 13 IMOs during FY 2019 to support OCHA and clusters led by the UN World Food Program (WFP) and UN World Health Organization (WHO). Following Tropical Cyclone Idai, which devastated areas of central Mozambique and neighboring countries in March 2019, IMOs deployed to Mozambique to support the Food Security Cluster, as well as the Health Cluster. The IMOs helped establish reporting systems, collected and processed data, and provided analysis and information products to keep key stakeholders informed of health and food security response efforts and gaps. IMOs also deployed to Panama and Venezuela during FY 2019 to support information management needs as OCHA scaled up response efforts to the crisis in Venezuela.

Using Mapping to Enhance Humanitarian Response

Through a global program with MapAction, USAID/OFDA is working to promote and improve the use of geographic information systems (GIS), mapping, and spatial analysis to facilitate an effective humanitarian response. The four-year program—launched in FY 2017—trains humanitarian responders on GIS resources, supports relief organizations with remote mapping assistance to improve coordination and decision making, and builds partnerships with national and regional disaster management agencies to increase the impact of GIS during disasters. USAID/OFDA's assistance also enables MapAction to engage with key stakeholders, including international humanitarian organizations and national entities, to strengthen standards and protocols for humanitarian information management. In FY 2019, MapAction continued to develop partnerships with regional disaster management agencies in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and the Caribbean, providing a platform to strengthen GIS capabilities among regional humanitarian responders. During the fiscal year, MapAction conducted 17 trainings for more than 380 personnel on GIS resources and data management and processing tools, as well as helped select partners increase the availability of data necessary to facilitate GIS services in the event of a crisis. MapAction also provided remote mapping assistance for seven UN agencies, NGOs, and other organizations to support emergency responses around the world.

Reducing Internal Displacement Through Progress Monitoring Tools

Despite the dramatic increase in the number of internally displaced persons worldwide in recent years, limited capacity exists to systematically track and measure progress toward reducing internal displacement. To help address this gap, USAID/OFDA—through funding to the Norwegian Refugee Council—supported the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) to launch a comprehensive displacement progress monitoring project in FY 2019. The project builds on IDMC's unique displacement monitoring capabilities to develop a severity assessment, which measures the level of displacement in affected countries, and an Internal Displacement Index (IDI), which captures indicators related to displacement—including the level of displacement, humanitarian needs, funding for humanitarian and development programming, and the institutional context, such as laws related to social protection or disaster risk reduction—in IDMC-monitored countries. Using these tools, IDMC is also providing country-level technical assistance to develop country-specific indicators and dashboards that will help national governments monitor internal displacement, identify evidence-based solutions to reduce and mitigate internal displacement, and measure progress toward reaching those goals. During the first year of the project, IDMC applied the severity assessment across 24 countries experiencing internal displacement and calculated the IDI for 46 monitored countries.

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