

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

HEALTH SECTOR UPDATE



USAID is working with IOM to respond to cholera in Yemen, providing vital supplies like ringer's lactate, which replaces lost fluids and electrolytes; water treatment; and oral rehydration solution. Photo courtesy of IOM Yemen.

Responding to Emergency Health Needs in Libya

USAID/OFDA continues to provide emergency assistance to conflict-affected and displaced populations in Libya. As of February 2019, the UN estimated that 554,000 people in Libya were in need of emergency health assistance. Escalating conflict in and around Libya's capital city of Tripoli displaced an estimated 128,000 people in FY 2019, further disrupting access to health care. Ongoing hostilities also continued to impact health facilities, with the UN recording nearly 50 attacks on health facilities and health workers from April to September 2019.

In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1 million to partners for emergency health care services throughout the country, including in rural or hard-to-reach communities. USAID/OFDA supported the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to provide medical supplies and trauma kits to more than 40 health facilities throughout Libya, supporting as many as 220,000 people. In addition, USAID/OFDA partners continue to provide health services through fixed and mobile medical teams, as well as train staff countrywide to strengthen national health care infrastructure.

Improving Cholera Response Efforts in Disaster Contexts

Cholera remains a global health threat, with an estimated 2.9 million cases and 95,000 related deaths recorded annually, according to WHO. The risk of cholera

USAID/OFDA Health Activities

FY 2019 FUNDING

Standalone Global and Regional Health Programs	\$8,270,914
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Health Interventions Worldwide	\$431,371,720
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\$439,642,634¹

Sector Overview

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) remains at the forefront of the humanitarian community's efforts to alleviate mortality and morbidity during crises by supporting a wide range of health interventions. USAID/OFDA-supported initiatives include life-saving medical assistance, immunization campaigns, disease surveillance systems, vector-control activities, and capacity-building trainings for local health workers. Recognizing the inextricable link between health and other core humanitarian sectors—particularly nutrition; protection; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)—USAID/OFDA supports integrated programs that simultaneously address multiple determinants of health in emergencies, such as access to health facilities, treatment for acute malnutrition, psychological support and case management services, and safe drinking water.

¹ USAID/OFDA FY 2019 health sector funding supported activities in 24 countries, including Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Venezuela, and Yemen.

infection is frequently greater among populations affected by conflict and disaster, where public services and utilities are often nonexistent or under significant strain. In Yemen, where ongoing conflict has damaged or destroyed public infrastructure and disrupted health care systems, humanitarian actors recorded nearly 697,000 suspected cholera cases and 913 related deaths from January to September 2019.

To identify effective response strategies for cholera outbreaks, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$996,000 to Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to determine best practices for both health and WASH rapid response teams (RRTs). Health actors have conducted minimal research on the operations and effectiveness of RRTs addressing cholera to date, and have not studied health and WASH RRT coordination. The program aims to fill this knowledge gap through a cross-country comparative analysis to establish factors encouraging optimal RRT cholera interventions across emergency contexts. JHU is engaging key stakeholders throughout the humanitarian system, including WHO, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in cholera RRT operations.

Building Pharmaceutical and Medical Commodity Management Capacity in Humanitarian Crises

In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$372,000 to JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc., to support the development and implementation of pharmaceutical and medical commodity (PMC) management best practices for humanitarian organizations in emergency settings. Access to adequate medical commodities is often threatened in emergency settings, as unstable conditions can cause quality, management, and security issues in PMC supply chains. Enhanced practices could improve relief actors' supply chain processes, ensuring affected populations have sustained access to high quality PMCs. The USAID/OFDA-supported project plans to develop curricula and learning materials; deliver training in Jordan, Kenya, and Nigeria for humanitarian partners working in the surrounding regions; and share findings with global working-groups and USAID/OFDA implementing partners.

Expanding Access to Essential Health Information for Affected Communities (HeRAMs & IMMAPP)

With \$500,000 in FY 2019 USAID/OFDA funding, WHO worked to bolster emergency health response systems by scaling the Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS), a vital tool for decision-makers to properly assess, analyze, and prioritize health programs in emergency contexts. HeRAMS—which was developed in 2007 during the crisis response in Darfur, Sudan—facilitates increased information sharing among relief actors on health care service availability, coverage, and needs in affected communities. USAID/OFDA's support will enable WHO to implement HeRAMS worldwide, as well as improve the consistency and quality of the tool's application. Separately, USAID/OFDA also provided \$500,000 in FY 2019 funding to iMMAPP, allowing the NGO to strengthen information management and reporting on health needs in several crisis-affected countries through the Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Supporting Synergy Between Community Health Models

USAID/OFDA provided more than \$505,000 in FY 2019 to Tufts University to explore greater integration between One Health approaches—which incorporate public health, animal health, and environmental factors—and traditional community health approaches. The project examines the intersection of these disciplines and resulting best practices for community health and community animal health workers, who are often on the front lines of conflict and natural disasters. The Tufts team plans to conduct an interdisciplinary literature review, engage with stakeholders and sector experts, and participate in field-based assessments with target communities. Further, Tufts plans to share the study's results by creating an implementation guide for partners, publishing its outcomes on a knowledge sharing platform, and disseminating findings to relevant government institutions.

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USAID/OFDA is now part of USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). Historical USAID/OFDA information products are available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis>