

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE SECTOR UPDATE



Staff from USAID and partner the International Organization for Migration inspect a water point in Mozambique's Dondo District. Photo by USAID/OFDA staff.

## Providing Safe Drinking Water to Hurricane-Affected Households

Successive tropical cyclones hit Mozambique in March–April 2019, generating significant humanitarian needs, particularly for WASH assistance. Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall over Mozambique's Beria city, Sofala Province, on March 15, producing torrential rains and strong winds. The cyclone resulted in approximately 950 deaths, displaced 200,000 people, damaged or destroyed nearly 240,000 houses, and affected nearly 2 million people in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Tropical Cyclone Kenneth, which made landfall over Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province on April 21, resulted in an additional 45 deaths and affected 500,000 people. The extent and duration of the flooding across Mozambique destroyed WASH infrastructure, left displaced households without access to sanitation facilities, and exacerbated risks of water contamination.

In response, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), comprised of USAID and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) staff, to lead the U.S. Government (USG) response, conduct assessments, and coordinate response efforts. After assessments identified WASH assistance as a key humanitarian priority, USAID/OFDA partnered with the UN Children's Fund

## USAID/OFDA WASH Activities FY 2019 FUNDING

Stand-Alone Global and Regional WASH Programs	\$2,637,700
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WASH Interventions Worldwide	\$367,459,229
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<b>\$370,096,929<sup>1</sup></b>
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## Sector Overview

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs represent vital components of USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) responses, as disaster-affected populations are more susceptible to illness and death from waterborne diseases. WASH interventions in emergencies often include construction or repair of latrines, hygiene support, solid waste management, and the provision of safe drinking water. USAID/OFDA also links emergency WASH activities with transition and development programs funded by other USAID offices and involves institutional partners—such as local governments—to promote the sustainability of water- and hygiene-focused projects. USAID/OFDA support to operational research also enables the development and testing of improved emergency sanitation options for challenging environments, such as densely populated or flood-prone areas.

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA FY 2019 WASH sector funding supported activities in 40 countries, including Burma, Colombia, Haiti, Nigeria, and Yemen.

(UNICEF) to repair municipal water supply systems and provide vulnerable populations with safe drinking water. Meanwhile, USAID/OFDA implemented emergency water treatment protocols, including distributing household water disinfection products and conducting hygiene awareness activities to reduce the risks of acute watery diarrhea and cholera. USAID/OFDA also provided WASH supplies—including jerry cans, emergency water treatment systems, and latrine kits—from its warehouse in Miami, Florida. In combination with disease surveillance and cholera vaccination efforts, USAID-supported WASH activities contributed to the aversion of a significant health crisis in Mozambique following tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth.

## Restoring Water Systems in The Bahamas

Hurricane Dorian made landfall over the Bahamas' Abaco and Grand Bahama islands on September 1–2, resulting in at least 67 deaths, affecting nearly 76,300 people, and damaging or destroying approximately 7,300 buildings across the two islands. The storm—a Category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale—brought heavy rain and storm surges of up to 23 feet, causing damage to infrastructure and extensive flooding. The hurricane severely damaged piped water and sewage systems that served more than 76,000 residents of Abaco and Grand Bahama, as well as nearby islands.

In response, USAID/OFDA provided technical assistance to The Bahamas' National Water and Sewage Corporation to repair and restore water and sewage systems and supply safe drinking water to hurricane-affected individuals. By coordinating with the Government of The Bahamas, response actors, and other international donors, USAID/OFDA was able to build the capacity of the local government to respond to emergency WASH needs. USAID/OFDA also provided 6 metric tons of WASH commodities—including household water buckets, hygiene kits, and water storage units—to affected households. Additionally, USAID/OFDA supported International Medical Corps to install potable water systems at a primary health clinic, increasing access to safe drinking water for patients and community members, and construct latrines and hand washing facilities at the clinic.

## Supporting Conflict-Affected Populations in Burma

With support from USAID/OFDA, UNICEF is responding to WASH needs among displaced populations in Burma's Rakhine State. With USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF is distributing hygiene kits and water containers to displaced households in Rakhine, reaching nearly 390,000 people from January to September 2019. Additionally, UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—to ensure the provision of critical WASH services to conflict-affected populations and strengthen water quality management for internally displaced persons and host communities. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$5.8 million for WASH-specific efforts in Burma.

## Documenting Effective Practices in Menstrual Hygiene Management among Displaced Populations

With support from USAID/OFDA, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is working to expand available evidence and guidance for practitioners and NGOs regarding disposal of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) materials, waste management, and laundering needs among displaced women and girls. Displaced populations often reside in overcrowded environments and lack access to basic levels of privacy. Such contexts can complicate routine MHM, prompting women and girls to develop mechanisms to hide their menses or risk embarrassment, ridicule, or violence. This can increase girls' and women's vulnerability as they engage in strategies for maintaining and disposing of materials hygienically and discreetly. To analyze potential methods to mitigate these risks, IRC conducted a global desk review and performed qualitative assessments in four ongoing emergencies worldwide. IRC plans to utilize the data to develop a compendium to complement the MHM in Emergencies toolkit, providing practical guidance—including assessment tools, case studies, and design strategies—to relief actors.

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