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). 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 the EMCA region, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) supports disaster risk reduction (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. USAID/OFDA also supports activities such as seismic-resistant shelter construction and hazard mapping. In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than $3.7 million for DRR projects throughout the EMCA region, including programs that integrate DRR with disaster response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMCA DRR FUNDING IN FY 2012¹</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stand-alone DRR Programs in EMCA (see pages 1-3)</td>
<td>$2,167,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response² (see page 3)</td>
<td>$1,594,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DRR Funding in EMCA</td>
<td>$3,762,117</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN EMCA
In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA’s EMCA team provided more than $2.1 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives that advance the goal of improving preparedness and mitigating and preventing the worst impacts of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided additional funding for regional and global stand-alone programs, which include activities in the EMCA region, 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 nongovernmental 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 between 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 the programs.

Global and Regional Programs Active in EMCA

- **Views from the Frontline:** To increase the ability of global civil society groups to collaborate on strategic DRR policy and practices, USAID/OFDA continued to support “Views from the Frontline” (VFL), an initiative of the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction, through FY 2012 assistance to Tearfund. A participatory action research project designed to bring the voices and concerns of vulnerable people into DRR policy and practice, VFL strengthens links between local, national, regional, and international civil society organizations in 70 countries, including Middle Eastern and Central Asian nations.

- **Global Flash Flood Guidance System:** With assistance provided to the U.N. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) prior to FY 2012, USAID/OFDA continues to work on a global flash flood guidance and early warning

¹ Year of funding indicates the fiscal year of obligation, not appropriation, of funds.
² The figure reported represents the integrated DRR–response portion of larger disaster response programs.
system with regional implementation in the Middle East, Black Sea, southeastern Europe, and Central Asia regions. 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 the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological services through cross-training of hydrologists and meteorologists. In addition, the program encourages cross-border cooperation to monitor flash floods, prepare flood warnings, and devise flood response strategies.

**Europe**

- **Emergency Preparedness and DRR in Bosnia & 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. In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $480,000 to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support 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.

- **Flash Flood Guidance System for Southeastern Europe:** Through the Global Flash Flood Guidance System, USAID/OFDA is developing a flash flood guidance system for southeastern Europe and building government capacity in flash flood monitoring and warning systems. Augmenting support granted in previous years, USAID/OFDA provided more than $250,000 of FY 2012 funding to WMO to facilitate regional applications of technology and build capacity to lessen the impacts of flash floods in southeastern Europe. The guidance system will enable national authorities to assess flash flood potential and improve lead time for early warning.

- **Southeastern Europe Snowmelt Workshop:** Following a winter of heavy snowfall in several countries in southeastern Europe, USAID/OFDA provided approximately $50,000 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in FY 2012 to support a workshop focused on coordinating responses to potential hazards related to the high volumes of melting snow.

- **Seismic Hazard Mapping:** Relying on funds from FY 2011, USAID/OFDA continued to support the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in FY 2012 to provide technical assistance to scientists in areas of southeastern Europe to improve regional seismic hazard mapping. The program goal is to improve local understanding of seismic hazards in the region by providing the tools to create new seismic hazard maps. Using proven scientific methodologies, the new hazard maps will contain the most current available regional information regarding active faults, geology, and historical seismicity.

**Central Asia**

- **Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Caucasus and Central Asia:** In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided $500,000 to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (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 and advice 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 works 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.

- **Flash Flood Guidance System for Central Asia:** Through the Global Flash Flood Guidance System, USAID/OFDA provided more than $882,000 in FY 2012 funding to WMO to develop an operational flash flood guidance system for countries in Central Asia. As in other regions, the system is designed to generate rapid assessments of flash flood potential based on minimal data, thereby improving early warning lead time and allowing for rapid mobilization of response activities through national agencies. Such early warnings give vulnerable communities time to take action.
and reduce the loss of life associated with flash floods. The guidance system focuses on strengthening the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological agencies through activities such as cross-training of hydrologists and meteorologists from different countries within the region and facilitating cooperation in monitoring potential flash floods across borders.

- **Strengthening Regional DRR Coordination:** Using FY 2011 funds for OCHA, USAID/OFDA continued to support the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in FY 2012 to strengthen regional DRR coordination in Central Asia, with a focus on Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The program promoted and facilitated regional and national capacity development, including through regional conferences. In December 2011, USAID/OFDA supported a regional conference on seismic risk reduction for Central Asia and the Caucasus held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

**Country-Specific DRR Programs**

**Kyrgyzstan**
- **Reducing the Vulnerability of Children in Kyrgyzstan:** 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. With FY 2011 funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support UNICEF in FY 2012 to conduct activities related to an assessment of the physical safety of schools and preschools in Kyrgyzstan to determine vulnerability to local hazards, with an emphasis on seismic risk. The results and recommendations of the assessment will contribute to the development of a national program for school and preschool rehabilitation, strengthening, and construction.

**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 responses in Yemen and Turkey.

**Yemen**
- **Integrating DRR into Complex Emergency Response:** Deterioration of humanitarian conditions in Yemen during 2011—due to political crisis, ongoing conflict, and a worsening economic situation—threatened the livelihoods and food security of a significant segment of the country’s population. In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) with more than $1.5 million 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, the 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.

**Turkey**
- **USGS Earthquake Disaster Assistance Team (EDAT):** Using prior year funding through an existing interagency agreement, USAID/OFDA continued to work with USGS in FY 2012 to reduce earthquake risk through the deployment of EDATs comprising seismologists, geologists, and tsunami and landslide experts, as appropriate. EDAT members collaborate with scientists in earthquake-affected countries to better understand the local geology and its effect on earthquakes. Following a magnitude 7.1 earthquake and multiple aftershocks in eastern Turkey during October and November 2011, USAID/OFDA supported the deployment of an EDAT to provide technical assistance to the Government of Turkey’s emergency response office (AFAD) and to Turkish seismologists at Bosphorus University’s Kandilli Observatory (KOERI) and the Middle East Technical University’s Earthquake Engineering Research Center. The EDAT collaborated with Turkish seismologists and AFAD staff to conduct damage assessments and evaluate existing systems for monitoring and assessing earthquake hazards. The EDAT concluded its effort by consolidating a list of technical recommendations for improving DRR measures throughout the country to help mitigate the impact of future earthquakes.
### USAID/OFDA DRR Funding in EMCA in FY 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Southeastern Europe Snowmelt Workshop March 2012</td>
<td>Natural and Technological Risks</td>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>$784,405</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emergency Preparedness/Response and DRR in Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Moldova, and Montenegro</td>
<td>Natural and Technological Risks</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flash Flood Guidance System</td>
<td>Natural and Technological Risks</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Caucasus and Central Asia</td>
<td>Natural and Technological Risks</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
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<td>$1,382,900</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flash Flood Guidance System</td>
<td>Natural and Technological Risks</td>
<td>WMO</td>
<td>$882,900</td>
<td></td>
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**TOTAL USAID/OFDA Stand-Alone DRR Funding in EMCA**  
$2,167,305

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<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Complex Emergency Response</td>
<td>Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH</td>
<td>ACTED</td>
<td>$1,594,812</td>
<td>$1,594,812</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL USAID/OFDA Integrated Funding in EMCA**  
$1,594,812

**TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR Funding in EMCA in FY 2012**  
$3,762,117

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1. Year of funding indicates the fiscal year of obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Note that this chart does not include USAID/OFDA global DRR programs or programs active in FY 2012 funded with prior year funding. Programs active in FY 2012 supported with prior year funding include USGS seismic hazard mapping in Europe, UNISDR regional coordination in Central Asia, UNICEF school safety in Kyrgyzstan, and EDAT activities in Turkey.

2. The figure reported represents the integrated DRR–response portion of larger disaster response programs.

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