



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

OVERVIEW

The East and Central Africa (ECA) region comprises 14 countries that face a range of environmental hazards, including disease outbreaks, drought, floods, and seismic events. Additional factors such as conflict, climate variability, rapid population growth, slow economic development, political instability, inter-communal tensions, and limited government capacity compound risks to populations by increasing their vulnerability to disasters.

Due to the cyclical or chronic nature of many emergencies in the ECA region, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) integrates disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities into humanitarian responses to help bolster the capacity of households and communities to prepare for and respond to future shocks. ECA’s regional DRR strategy complements emergency response activities and addresses the underlying causes of food insecurity and other vulnerabilities.

In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA focused on integrating strategic, context-specific DRR components into response programs designed to strengthen community resilience and increase preparedness, mitigation, and emergency response capacities in ECA. USAID/OFDA also supported stand-alone DRR projects to improve national and local disaster preparedness, identify best practices, and inform DRR policy and practice. During FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$36.6 million for programs that integrate DRR components into disaster response activities and more than \$4.1 million for stand-alone DRR programs in the ECA region.

ECA DRR FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ¹	
Stand-alone DRR Programs in ECA (see pages 1-3)	\$4,140,392
Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response ² (see page 3-6)	\$36,588,749
TOTAL DRR Funding in ECA	\$40,729,141

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN ECA

- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA’s ECA team provided more than \$4.1 million for country-level, regional, and global stand-alone DRR initiatives that aim to improve national and local disaster preparedness in ECA, while mitigating and preventing the worst impacts of disasters, including death and loss of livelihoods. USAID/OFDA and implementing partners engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop and enhance effective DRR strategies—tailored to the needs of at-risk populations—to reduce the risk of disasters. These programs reflect 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. Where feasible and appropriate, USAID/OFDA programs address the underlying causes of recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, rapid urban growth, and climate change.

Global Programs Active in ECA³

- Armyworm Early Warning Capacity Building: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$280,000 to the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA)—a regional pest management organization comprising government authorities from eight countries in ECA—to educate vulnerable farming communities in high-risk armyworm districts in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania on the use of the community-based armyworm monitoring,

¹ Year of funding indicates the FY of obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

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

³ Funding figures for global and regional initiatives represent program totals, including USAID/OFDA funding for activities implemented both within and outside of ECA.

forecasting, and early warning systems. DLCO-EA aims to reduce armyworm damage to crops and pastures, thereby improving food security conditions and strengthening livelihoods for targeted rural communities.

- Views from the Frontline: To increase the ability of global civil society groups to collaborate on strategic DRR policy and practices, USAID/OFDA has supported the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction's "Views from the Frontline" (VFL) project since 2009. In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$440,000 through VFL partner Tearfund to support this participatory action research project designed to elicit the voices and concerns of vulnerable people to inform DRR policy and practice. VFL strengthens linkages between local, national, regional, and international civil society organizations in nearly 70 countries, including six ECA countries.
- Seed Storage Lessons Learned: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$180,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to document lessons learned from seven USAID/OFDA-supported household seed storage improvement projects implemented by four NGOs in Africa and Asia since FY 2009. CRS brings together USAID/OFDA partners to review past activities, identify best practices in household seed storage, and discuss challenges and opportunities associated with scaling up seed storage interventions. Through this project, CRS aims to increase knowledge among humanitarian actors on the benefits and effective implementation of household seed storage systems, which reduce seed loss in the event of seed-borne disease and pest and insect infestations, leading to improved food security and protecting vulnerable populations' livelihoods.

Regional Programs Active in ECA

- Periperi U: In previous fiscal years, USAID/OFDA has supported the Partners Enhancing Resilience to People Exposed to Risks – Universities (Periperi U) program in order to meet increasing demands for skilled professionals to manage disaster risks in Africa. The first of its kind on the continent, Periperi U provides a platform for disaster-related training and research in DRR and humanitarian assistance through a network of Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, and Swahili-speaking universities. Ten institutions currently participate in Periperi U, including universities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Since FY 2006, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$6 million for the program.

Country-Specific Programs

Ethiopia

- Root and Tuber Crop Diversification: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) root and tuber program in Ethiopia's Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. FAO introduces highly nutritious, drought-resistant crops—including cassava, taro, and sweet potatoes—in farming communities to improve household food security and address local nutritional challenges. Between August 2009 and July 2011, this USAID/OFDA-supported program distributed root and tuber planting materials to more than 47,500 farming households.

Kenya

- Urban Informal Settlements Early Warning System: Since FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has supported Concern's efforts to develop a framework of standardized indicators for detecting and monitoring humanitarian crises in Kenya's urban informal settlements to mitigate chronic vulnerabilities in these areas. With nearly \$2.2 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2012 support, Concern is operationalizing the new urban early warning surveillance system in Nairobi's informal settlements, with plans to expand to the cities of Kisumu and Mombasa by 2015.

South Sudan

- Strengthening Local Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity: With more than \$400,000 in FY 2012 USAID/OFDA support, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) is implementing a pilot DRR project in South Sudan's Jonglei State to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity for local authorities, NGOs, and community-based organizations in areas prone to flooding and other hazards. Through the pilot project, USAID/OFDA is supporting the development of disaster risk mapping exercises to identify risks and coping strategies and assess impacts in disaster-affected areas. NPA is also establishing community-level DRR committees and providing disaster risk management training to key local authorities and relief organizations in Jonglei's Duk and Pibor counties.

Uganda

- National and Local Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$500,000 through the American Red Cross (AmRC) to strengthen Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) national and local capacity to deliver, coordinate, and advocate for effective disaster risk management in Uganda. AmRC provides technical support and training to URCS headquarters and branch staff on early warning systems, seasonal forecasting, advocacy, and volunteer management. In eastern Uganda's flood- and landslide-prone Manafwa River Basin, AmRC and URCS are also promoting local disaster preparedness through the establishment of community-level disaster response teams and contingency plans.

PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs implemented to prevent or mitigate the effects of hazards in ECA, USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation activities into disaster response and early recovery programs. In accordance with regional DRR strategies, these initiatives incorporate risk reduction objectives into a broad range of sectoral interventions to increase the resilience of communities to future shocks. In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA not only responded to prolonged drought and famine conditions in the Horn of Africa but also built resilience throughout the region to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, and respond to future droughts and other environmental shocks.

Ethiopia

- Community Management of Acute Malnutrition: With nearly \$550,000 in USAID/OFDA support, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continues to implement community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) activities in Ethiopia's Somali Region that help reduce severe and moderate malnutrition prevalence among children and pregnant and lactating women and increase community capacity to identify and treat malnutrition.
- Redirecting Ethiopian Communities to Overcome Vulnerability and Enhance Resilience: USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.4 million in FY 2012 to support CHF International's Redirecting Ethiopian Communities to Overcome Vulnerability and Enhance Resilience (RECOVER) program, which implements livelihoods protection and diversification activities in Somali Region that help households establish sustainable, drought-resilient livelihoods. Through the program, USAID/OFDA supports capacity building trainings for pastoralists in locally identified alternative livelihoods activities, such as carpentry, skin and hide processing, and handicraft making. CHF International also trains community and host government officials on mechanisms to more effectively transmit early warning information to isolated areas and prepare response plans, allowing communities to protect household assets and minimize livelihoods losses.
- Disaster Risk Management Agricultural Task Force: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided \$400,000 through FAO to build the capacity of the Disaster Risk Management Agricultural Task Force (DRM-ATF), established by the Government of Ethiopia to share information on agricultural hazards and threats, conduct joint assessments, and coordinate and improve the quality of food security, nutrition, and related early recovery interventions in farming and pastoral areas.
- Conservation Agriculture Initiative: USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 in FY 2012 to support FAO's conservation agriculture initiative, which introduces crops with better drought tolerance and increased yields to vulnerable farmers. FAO aims to improve the food security of vulnerable communities in Ethiopia through promoting, planning, and coordinating conservation agriculture activities at national and regional levels.
- Agriculture Commodity Diversification: With more than \$1.2 million in USAID/OFDA funding, Food for the Hungry (FH) worked to diversify local crop production of approximately 37,500 people in SNNP Region, raising annual household income and bolstering assets. FH activities include strengthening the capacity of existing and newly established beekeeping cooperatives. These activities help vulnerable households better cope with hazards that frequently affect their communities, such as drought and flooding.

- Mitigating WASH and Protection Risks: With more than \$5.6 million in FY 2012 support from USAID/OFDA, International Rescue Committee (IRC) is building capacity at the local level through its Rapid Response Program to improve access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and promote hygiene education among disaster-affected communities to lower the risk of spreading waterborne illnesses. IRC is also working to mitigate the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in disaster- and conflict-related emergencies.
- Improving livelihoods through RAIN+: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$3.8 million to Mercy Corps' Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Incomes and New Markets for Enhancing Resilience and Recovery (RAIN+) program to improve livelihoods opportunities for more than 400,000 food-insecure people in Ethiopia's Oromiya and Somali regions. Mercy Corps protects against agricultural- and pastoral-asset loss during periods of drought and other environmental shocks by providing short-term employment opportunities to affected populations and aims to develop high-impact markets that spur private sector investment and local economic growth. To prevent the spread of disease, Mercy Corps also increases access to safe drinking water and promotes behavioral change through increased knowledge of improved health and hygiene practices.
- Expanding Access to Health Care Services: USAID/OFDA provided \$1.6 million to Merlin to increase access to primary and emergency health care and nutrition services for nearly 52,000 drought-affected people in Oromiya Region. These interventions help prevent the spread of disease and reduce morbidity and mortality rates.
- Improving Livelihoods and Markets: With more than \$2.2 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2012 support, Save the Children/U.K. (SC/UK) targets pastoral and agro-pastoral households in Ethiopia's Somali Region by promoting access to immediate economic opportunities, such as temporary employment. SC/UK also works to develop markets by improving access to loans and enhancing market linkages to strengthen and diversify livelihoods for up to 50,000 individuals, reducing the potential impacts of drought and other endemic hazards on vulnerable communities.
- Building Local Capacity and Strengthening Early Warning Systems: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) with \$7.5 million for health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions that respond to the immediate needs of drought- and conflict-affected populations, as well as build local capacity and strengthen early warning. With USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF collects data from drought-prone areas and prepares early warning reports, trains health care workers to improve the quality of services to treat common childhood illnesses, and replenishes critical pre-positioned WASH supplies to ensure minimum emergency stock levels.
- Air Transport Support to Pre-Position Relief Commodities: USAID/OFDA provided the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) with \$800,000 in FY 2012 to deliver safe, efficient, and cost-effective passenger and light cargo air transport service for the humanitarian community working in Ethiopia, allowing relief commodities to be pre-positioned in disaster-prone areas.

Kenya

- Arid and Marginal Lands Recovery Consortium Project: USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$2.4 million to FH in FY 2012 to build upon the gains made through the initial three-year Arid and Marginal Lands Recovery Consortium project—a coordinated effort to improve food security and household purchasing power in Kenya's drought-prone areas through emergency cash transfers and livelihoods-strengthening interventions. FH activities in FY 2012 focus on increasing drought resilience for more than 120,000 individuals through market support, livelihood diversification activities, promotion of enhanced agricultural techniques, and expanding access to safe drinking water. With a stronger economic foundation, families become less vulnerable to drastic resource losses and more resilient to the impact of natural disasters in the long term. Since FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$24.1 million for the program.
- Nutrition and Protection Preparedness: USAID/OFDA provided \$3 million to UNICEF to integrate the management of acute malnutrition into local health care structures. Rather than relying on emergency nutrition services, integrated management of acute malnutrition supports established health care providers to prevent malnutrition and scale up nutrition services during crises, as necessary.

- Increasing Drought Resistance in the ASALs: USAID/OFDA provided \$4 million to USAID/Kenya for the Kenya Arid Lands Disaster Risk Reduction WASH Program through Millennium Water Alliance to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, address environmental issues in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), and promote improved hygiene and sanitation practices. The program aims to build local capacity and change community behavior to reduce disease and improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations in Kenya's ASALs.
- Safe Access to Cooking Fuel and Alternative Energy: USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to WFP in FY 2012 to expand the Safe Access to Cooking Fuel and Alternative Energy (SAFE) program, which increases awareness about protection and environmental risks associated with the collection of firewood and distributes culturally appropriate, efficient stoves to vulnerable host population households near Kenya's Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps.
- In addition to these programs, several FY 2011 USAID/OFDA-funded DRR activities in Kenya continued to address the needs of vulnerable populations in FY 2012. With FY 2011 funding, USAID/OFDA provided additional support for agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems (ERMS), logistics, nutrition, protection, and WASH DRR activities through the following organizations: Adeso, FAO, the Kenya Red Cross Society, Mercy USA, UNICEF, and Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

Somalia

- Livelihoods and Emergency Assistance Project: USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$78,000 to Adeso to support community-based disaster management activities targeting more than 100,500 individuals in flood-prone areas. The program aims to build the capacity of communities to respond to different hazards by conducting DRR mainstreaming workshops—focusing on coping mechanisms and mitigation actions—and by establishing a disaster management system led by community elders that enables volunteers to monitor and report potential risks.

South Sudan

- Vector-Borne Disease Control: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.6 million to MENTOR to reduce the impact of major vector borne diseases (VBDs)—such as malaria—among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities affected by floods, displacement, and/or conflict in South Sudan. MENTOR aims to establish sustainable, technical, and operational VBD control planning and build capacity for disease control among local partners and affected communities in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan's Ministry of Health.
- Several FY 2011 USAID/OFDA-funded DRR activities in South Sudan continued to address the needs of returnees and IDPs, host communities, and other vulnerable populations in FY 2012. USAID/OFDA supported agriculture, livestock, and fishery interventions; health and nutrition activities; gender-based violence and other protection measures; livelihoods and short-term employment programs; logistics and infrastructure repair and construction; and shelter activities through the following organizations: Action Against Hunger/United States, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, ADRA, the American Refugee Committee, CHF International, Concern, CRS, IMA World Health, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), IRC, Mercy Corps, NPA, Norwegian Refugee Council, PACT, Relief International, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children/U.S., UNICEF, WFP, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. Office for Project Services, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières, World Concern Development Organization, and World Vision.

Sudan

- Responding to Health and Protection Needs of Returnee Populations: In FY 2012, CRS supported health and protection activities for up to 27,000 people in Sudan through more than \$35,000 in funding from USAID/OFDA. To respond to the health and protection needs of returnee populations in transit sites in Sudan, CRS pre-positioned emergency health items; facilitated mobile health services, vaccination campaigns, and training for medical personnel; and increased awareness of security and protection issues among returnees through trainings.
- Darfur Early Recovery Assessment: USAID/OFDA provided \$150,000 to USAID/Sudan as part of a joint assessment of early recovery activities in Darfur. The exercise brought together key actors from the Government of Sudan, the U.N., NGOs, and the donor community in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2012 to review the progress

achieved in the implementation of recovery activities in Darfur, capture lessons learned, identify opportunities and constraints, and discuss the requirements, conditions, and prospects of future recovery programming.

- In addition to these programs, several FY 2011 USAID/OFDA-funded activities continued to support DRR processes in Sudan in FY 2012. With FY 2011 funding, USAID/OFDA provided additional support for agriculture and food security, ERMS, health, humanitarian coordination, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH DRR activities through various partners, including CARE, Concern, FAO, GOAL, IOM, SC/US, the U.N. Development Program, UNICEF, WHH, WHO, and World Vision.

USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN ECA IN FY 2012⁴

USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN ECA					
Country/Region	Program	Activity	Partner	Subtotal	Total
Ethiopia	Root and Tuber Crop Diversification	Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Kenya	Urban Informal Settlements Early Warning System	Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Concern	\$2,169,785	\$2,169,785
South Sudan	Strengthening Local Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity	Natural and Technological Risks	NPA	\$402,780	\$402,780
Uganda	National and Local Disaster Risk Management Capacity Building	Natural and Technological Risks	AmRC	\$498,919	\$498,919
ECA	Administrative Costs			\$68,908	\$68,908
TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN ECA					\$4,140,392
USAID/OFDA PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE IN ECA ⁵					
Country/Region	Program	Activity	Partner	Subtotal	Total
Ethiopia	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition	Nutrition	ADRA	\$549,565	\$25,290,265
	Redirecting Ethiopian Communities to Overcome Vulnerability and Enhance Resilience	ERMS, Natural and Technological Risks, WASH	CHF International	\$1,445,422	
	Disaster Risk Management Agricultural Task Force	Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	\$400,000	
	Conservation Agriculture Initiative	Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	\$100,000	
	Agriculture Commodity Diversification	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	FH	\$1,204,256	
	Mitigating WASH and Protection Risks	Protection, WASH	IRC	\$5,652,968	
	Improving Livelihoods and Health	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Mercy Corps	\$3,820,597	
	Expanding Access to Health Care Services	Health, Nutrition	Merlin	\$1,600,000	
	Improving Livelihoods and Markets	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	SC/UK	\$2,217,457	
	Building Local Capacity and Strengthening Early Warning Systems	Health, Nutrition, WASH	UNICEF	\$7,500,000	
Air Transport Service to Pre-Position Relief Commodities	Logistics and Relief Commodities	WFP	\$800,000		
Kenya	Arid and Marginal Lands Recovery Consortium Project	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Natural and Technological Risks, WASH	FH	\$2,352,358	\$9,402,358
	Nutrition and Protection Preparedness	Nutrition	UNICEF	\$3,000,000	
	Increasing Drought Resistance in the ASALs	WASH	USAID/Kenya	\$4,000,000	
	Safe Access to Cooking Fuel and	Protection	WFP	\$50,000	

	Alternative Energy				
Somalia	Livelihoods and Emergency Assistance Project	Natural and Technological Risks	Adeso	\$77,832	\$77,832
South Sudan	Vector-Borne Disease Control	Health	MENTOR	\$1,633,155	\$1,633,155
Sudan	Responding to Health and Protection Needs of Returnee Populations	Health, Protection	CRS	\$35,139	\$185,139
	Darfur Early Recovery Assessment	ERMS	USAID/Sudan	\$150,000	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS FUNDING IN ECA					\$36,588,749
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN ECA IN FY 2012					\$40,729,141

⁴ Year of funding indicates the fiscal year of obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

⁵ The figure reported represents the integrated DRR-response portion of larger disaster response programs.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/disaster-risk-reduction>