

IRAQ - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

6.7 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Iraq
UN – November 2018

4.2 million

IDP Returns in Iraq Since 2014
IOM – December 2018

1.8 million

IDPs in Iraq
IOM – December 2018

576,030

IDPs in Ninewa Governorate
IOM – December 2018

269,844

Iraqi Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – September 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 HNO identifies 6.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and prioritizes protection, livelihoods, quality service provision
- Late 2018 flooding affects at least 32,000 people in northwestern and central Iraq
- Only 9 percent of camp-based IDPs plan to return to areas of origin by mid-2019

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2018

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$252,766,960
USAID/FFP ²	\$17,192,210
State/PRM ³	\$229,038,000
\$498,997,170	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Relief actors, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, are providing winter assistance to vulnerable populations across Iraq. The humanitarian community also continues to engage with the Government of Iraq (GoI) to address critical gaps, particularly shelter assistance and kerosene needed for winter heating. As of mid-December, partners of the Shelter/Non-Food Item (SNFI) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter and non-food item activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—had provided assistance to nearly 90,000 households, approximately 80 percent of the cluster’s goal for the 2018/2019 winter season.
- Approximately 6.7 million Iraqis will require humanitarian assistance in the coming year, according to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). Protection of vulnerable individuals remains a priority in 2019, with significant challenges hindering the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly those who may be perceived to have affiliations to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), often due to the stigmatization associated with their areas of origin or familial ties. The HNO also emphasizes the need to improve the quality of basic services and infrastructure and increase income-generating opportunities for sustained IDP returns.
- While nearly 4.2 million people had returned to areas of origin as of mid-December, 1.8 million people remained displaced, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The rate of IDP returns has slowed in recent months, and only 9 percent of IDPs residing in formal settlements intend to return to areas of origin by mid-2019, according to a mid-2018 survey. As a result, many displaced Iraqis will continue to rely on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs in the coming year.

¹ USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

FLOODS

- From November 22–23, heavy rainfall and severe flooding affected at least 22,000 people in southern areas of Ninewa Governorate’s Mosul District and 10,000 people in Salah al-Din Governorate’s Shirqat District, the UN reports. Among the most-affected areas were Mosul’s Qayyarah Airstrip and Jed’dah 1–6 IDP camps, where households lost food, relief items, and shelter due to the storm. In Shirqat, flooding displaced households from the worst-affected villages of al-Horya and al-Khadranayah to neighboring areas, leaving populations in need of relief commodities and other emergency assistance. Subsequent rainfall from November 30–December 1 and December 5–7 resulted in further flooding in Ninewa, damaging bridges, roads, and other infrastructure in Ninewa’s city of Mosul and affecting approximately 260 households in As Salamyiah 1 and 2 and Nimrud IDP camps, located in Ninewa’s Hamdaniya District. The storms also caused limited damage in areas of Dohuk and Kirkuk governorates.
- Following the initial November 22–23 floods, more than 10 USAID partners and State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported assessment and response activities. USG-supported relief efforts included providing emergency relief commodities; conducting water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, such as water trucking and garbage and solid waste management services; and distributing food assistance. In addition, partners operating in affected Ninewa IDP camps repaired damaged infrastructure and implemented emergency flood mitigation measures. Relief actors also responded to needs arising from subsequent flooding. In As Salamyiah 1 and 2 and Nimrud IDP camps, humanitarian agencies temporarily relocated households residing in flood-prone areas and provided relief commodities and other emergency assistance.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS

- The rate of IDP returns countrywide has slowed in recent months, highlighting the increasingly protracted nature of displacement in Iraq, according to IOM. The organization recorded a less than 1 percent rate of return in October—the lowest rate of return since March 2016—and recorded an only marginally higher rate of 1.3 percent between November and mid-December. Humanitarian assessments continue to identify perceived insecurity in areas of origin and damaged or destroyed housing as significant barriers to return, as well as lack of livelihoods, poor basic service provision, and fear of discrimination or other social cohesion concerns. As of December 15, approximately 1.8 million people remained displaced and nearly 4.2 million people had returned to areas of origin, IOM reports.
- While only 9 percent of IDPs in camps across Iraq plan to return to areas of origin by mid-2019, intentions to return vary greatly depending on area of origin, with rates ranging from 0–28 percent, according to recent analysis of IDP movement intention data. Only 5 percent of the 1.1 million IDPs originating from Ninewa—accounting for approximately 60 percent of IDPs nationwide—intend to return to areas of origin by mid-2019, according to the report. As more IDPs experience protracted displacement, relief agencies continue to look for durable solutions to displacement beyond returns to areas of origin, including opportunities to more fully integrate into host communities. Simultaneously, humanitarian organizations emphasize the need to maintain quality service provision in camps for populations who will continue to rely on emergency assistance.
- Meanwhile, the GoI continues efforts to close and consolidate IDP camps, particularly in Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates. While some camp reductions and closures have been organized in consultation with humanitarian actors, authorities have also forcibly relocated some households to other IDP sites and encouraged premature returns to areas of origin, raising critical protection concerns and contributing to secondary displacement. Of the more than 1,100 households who arrived at IDP camps in November, nearly 570 households—approximately 50 percent—were experiencing secondary displacement, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. IDPs arriving at displacement sites commonly reported insecurity, lack of livelihoods, insufficient assistance and shelter, and community tensions or disputes as reasons for displacement, UNHCR reports.
- The GoI Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) facilitated the return of nearly 750 Iraqi refugees from Syria and Turkey in November, according to UNHCR. Approximately 350 Iraqi refugees returned from Turkey, while nearly 400 Iraqi refugees arrived from northeastern Syria’s Al Hol camp to a transit site in Ninewa’s Hammam al-Alil town. The majority of returnees reported movement restrictions and a lack of humanitarian assistance and services in Al Hol

camp as primary reasons for returning to Iraq. The movement followed the MoMD-facilitated return of 1,400 Iraqi refugees from Syria during October.

PROTECTION

- Displaced populations face a number of protection risks preventing sustainable returns, including unexploded ordnance (UXO), blocked returns, and intercommunal tensions, as well as attacks by extremist groups and small-scale security operations. Moreover, households with perceived ISIS ties—including many female-headed households—are particularly vulnerable to movement restrictions, blocked returns, and collective punishment or retribution. Addressing these complex protection issues is a priority for the humanitarian response in 2019, with the HNO identifying 4.5 million people in need of protection support.
 - Between September 2017 and September 2018, a State/PRM partner operated three community centers in areas of Dohuk, Erbil, and Ninewa governorates. Through the community centers, more than 730 individuals participated in social cohesion activities and nearly 1,100 people participated in community-building group sessions. Additionally, the partner supported 1,600 children through child-friendly spaces, supplied case management services to approximately 400 children, and provided psychosocial support services or psychological first aid to more than 300 children with specific protection needs. The organization also conducted more than 4,600 home visits to deliver information and referrals on available protection services, ultimately providing gender-based violence case management or other forms of mental health services to more than 2,400 people.
 - State/PRM continues to support programs aimed at increasing access to legal assistance and documentation. Between September 2017 and August 2018, a State/PRM partner successfully resolved more than 4,200 legal assistance cases—including helping more than 2,100 individuals to obtain identity documents—in Anbar, Diyala, Dohuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Sulaimaniya governorates. The partner also arranged for a delegation from the National and Civil States Directorate to visit Dohuk's Dawadia and Ninewa's Essian IDP camps to help IDPs from Ninewa obtain civil documentation. Additionally, the partner trained nearly 1,300 teachers, parents, community leaders, law enforcement, and justice officials on child rights and protection issues.
 - In November, with USAID/OFDA support, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered child protection services in areas of Dohuk, Erbil, and Ninewa, reaching nearly 3,800 children with psychosocial support services and 9,900 children and adults with education on child protection issues. Additionally, UNICEF launched psychosocial support and case management services at four recently established child protection centers serving vulnerable children in Ninewa's Sinjar District. In November, the centers provided psychosocial support to nearly 1,300 children and case management for approximately 20 children. Countrywide, UNICEF reached more than 18,500 children and caregivers during November through psychosocial support and other structured protection training and awareness programs with support from USAID/OFDA and other donors.
 - Throughout November, a USAID/OFDA partner conducted critical mine risk education activities for nearly 6,500 IDPs and other at-risk populations in Dohuk, Erbil, Ninewa, and Sulaimaniya who are from areas with high levels of UXO contamination. Additionally, the organization reached approximately 170 community focal points, including teachers, across the four governorates with training on delivering mine risk education and reporting on explosive hazards.
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FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- Approximately 2.5 million Iraqis require emergency food assistance, according to the 2019 HNO. Needs are greatest among camp-based IDPs and vulnerable host community members, particularly in Anbar, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, and Ninewa. Additionally, the HNO warns that more than 20 percent of returnees, 25 percent of IDPs, and 20 percent of IDPs outside of camps—particularly in Dohuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din—could become food-insecure in the absence of livelihoods support.

- During November and December, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided emergency food assistance to nearly 517,000 people across Iraq. The distributions included more than 6,700 metric tons of in-kind food assistance and approximately \$9.9 million in cash transfers for food.
 - With support from USAID/OFDA, an NGO is implementing a livelihoods recovery program to support conflict-affected populations in Ninewa through the distribution of cash grants to restore pre-conflict businesses. In addition, the organization provides mentorship support to help recipients adapt businesses to the post-conflict market context. As of November, the partner had reached more than 2,100 people with livelihoods support since launching the program in February 2018.
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HEALTH

- An estimated 5.5 million people will require health assistance in the coming year, according to the 2019 HNO. As the majority of camp-based IDPs are expected to remain displaced in the short-to-medium term, continuity of primary health care services for camp-based populations remains the priority health need, the UN reports. In 2018, Health Cluster partners reached more than 3 million people with health care assistance.
 - In Sinjar, USAID/OFDA is supporting the delivery of health care services to conflict-affected populations, including religious and ethnic minority communities. Through a primary health care center and a mobile medical team, a USAID/OFDA partner reached approximately 2,400 people with primary health care services in December. The partner also offers peer support groups, counseling, and other types of psychosocial support through its health facilities to strengthen self-help and social support within the community.
 - USAID/OFDA is also supporting comprehensive primary health care services for displaced populations, including in Ninewa's As Salamyiah 2 and Dohuk's Bajet Kandala 1 IDP camps, where nearly 11,400 individuals sought health care consultations in November. In As Salamyiah 2, a partner also conducted approximately 80 mental health and psychosocial support consultations and supported more than 50 deliveries during the month. USAID/OFDA also funded the delivery of primary health care services to approximately 1,300 people in Ninewa's Khazer IDP camp during October.
 - With \$30.3 million in FY 2018 funding, USAID/OFDA is supporting the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to provide essential health care services to populations in conflict-affected areas of Iraq. On January 14, WHO facilitated the delivery of medical kits and supplies to the Diyala Directorate of Health (DoH) with support from USAID/OFDA and other donors. The shipment, which included pharmaceutical and medical supply kits, will support health care services for primarily returnee populations in the governorate. WHO is also working with the DoH to develop a response plan to address the health care needs of returnees and IDPs in Diyala during the coming year.
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WASH

- USAID/OFDA partners are implementing WASH interventions to improve access to safe drinking water and promote strong health and hygiene practices among conflict-affected populations. In Kirkuk, one organization is conducting water trucking to increase access to safe drinking water for the more than 1,400 households residing the governorate's Laylan IDP camps. The NGO is also supporting latrine maintenance and desludging and garbage collection at the sites. A second USAID/OFDA partner is increasing awareness about appropriate hygiene practices in schools across Kirkuk's Hawija District. From August–December, the organization reached approximately 1,500 students with messaging on effective hygiene practices through 50 hygiene promotion sessions.
- With FY 2018 support from USAID, UNICEF conducted critical WASH interventions in Basrah Governorate between September and December in response to a spike in cases of waterborne illnesses in the governorate. As of December, UNICEF had improved access to safe drinking water for at least 500,000 people in Basrah city and Abu al-Khasib District and provided 28,000 students and teachers with messaging on maintaining adequate hygiene practices with limited water availability. The UN reported that daily gastrointestinal illnesses in Basrah reached a peak of approximately 4,000 cases per day in late August before significantly decreasing by mid-October.

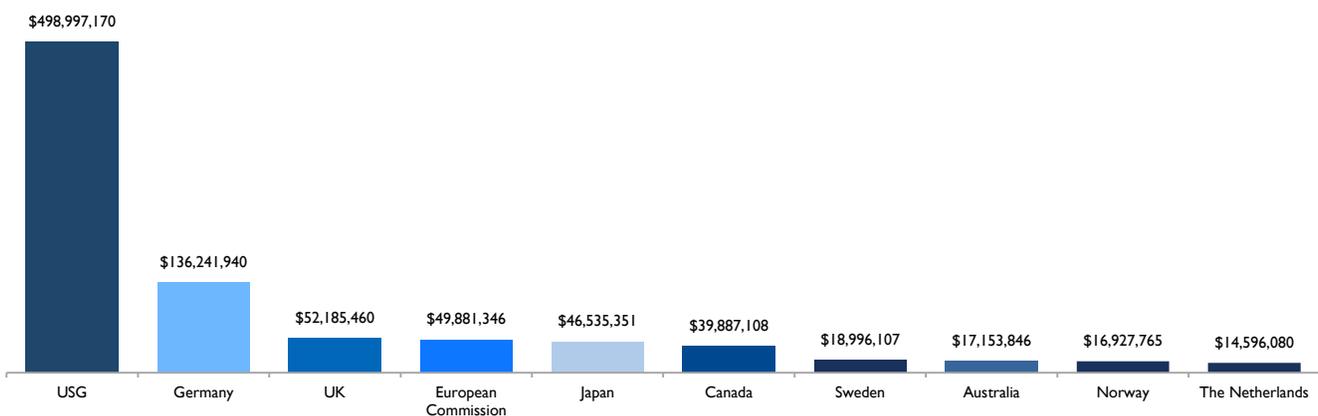
EDUCATION

- Between September 2017 and September 2018, a State/PRM partner rehabilitated 15 schools, supporting more than 10,400 refugee, IDP, and host community children in Diyala, Dohuk, and Ninewa. The partner also trained nearly 420 teachers, the majority of whom showed improved knowledge of teaching skills following the intervention. In addition, State/PRM supported UNICEF to launch life skills training in more than 300 schools in Baghdad and Najaf governorates in October, reaching nearly 18,800 students, nearly 700 teachers, and 300 parent-teacher association members. Between September and October, UNICEF also trained nearly 800 teachers and school staff countrywide on improved teaching techniques, psychosocial support service delivery, and positive discipline methods.

WINTER ASSISTANCE

- Humanitarian organizations continue to provide assistance to help vulnerable Iraqis meet basic needs during the winter season. With USAID/OFDA funding and other donor support, IOM recently distributed 25,000 winter relief item kits—containing blankets, heaters, and water storage containers—to address the needs of approximately 150,000 people across Iraq. USAID/OFDA funding also enabled UNICEF to provide more than 80,000 winter clothing kits to displaced children across Iraq as of mid-January. Additionally, with support from State/PRM and other donors, UNHCR had delivered winterization assistance to nearly 416,000 displaced Iraqi refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria as of December.
- Although SNFI Cluster partners had reached 80 percent of beneficiaries targeted for winter assistance in Iraq by mid-December, humanitarian agencies faced delays in distributions due to GoI customs restrictions, hindering the transportation of humanitarian cargo between the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) and GoI-administered areas, the cluster reports. Additionally, humanitarian agencies continue to engage with the GoI MoMD to fill critical winter assistance gaps, including the need for kerosene in IDP camps. Due to the lack of kerosene, humanitarian agencies received reports of camp residents resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as burning trash for heating. In addition, more than 14,000 MoMD tents across Iraq remain in critical condition and require replacement, without which households may be exposed to harsh conditions during the remaining winter months.

2018 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of February 8, 2019. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publically announced USG commitments for FY 2018, which began on October 1, 2017. Non-USG funding figures do not necessarily reflect pledges announced during the Iraq donor conference on July 13, 2017.

CONTEXT

- The situation within Iraq remained relatively stable until January 2014, when ISIS forces began seizing control of parts of northern and central Iraq. Significant population displacement ensued as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, such as the IKR, to escape fighting.
- On August 11, 2014, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to help coordinate USG efforts to address the urgent humanitarian needs of newly displaced populations throughout Iraq. DART and State/PRM staff in Iraq work closely with local officials, the international community, and humanitarian actors to identify critical needs and expedite assistance to affected populations. To support the DART, USAID also established a Response Management Team (RMT) based in Washington, D.C.
- Approximately 6.7 million people in Iraq will require humanitarian assistance in 2019, according to the UN. Prolonged displacement is exhausting the resources of IDPs and host community members alike at a time when the capacity of both the GoI and Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to humanitarian needs remains challenged by budgetary constraints. Meanwhile, UN agencies, NGOs, and other relief actors face funding shortages, logistical challenges, and security constraints that complicate efforts to meet critical needs.
- In August 2014, the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) activated a system-wide Level 3 (L3) response for Iraq due to the pace and volatility of the humanitarian crisis. L3 responses are activated in the most complex humanitarian emergencies, where the highest level of mobilization across the humanitarian system is required to scale up and meet needs. In late December 2017, the IASC downgraded the Iraq emergency to an L2 designation, signaling the beginning of a scale-down process for humanitarian operations.
- On October 4, 2018, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Douglas A. Silliman redeclared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2019 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2018¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,914,679
Implementing Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Anbar, Baghdad, Dohuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya	\$142,526,060
IOM	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$21,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$11,000,000
UNICEF	Protection	Countrywide	\$150,000
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Dohuk, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Muthanna, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya	\$36,800,000
UNICEF	WASH	Basrah	\$750,000 ²
UN Office for Project Services	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,506,830
WHO	Health	Anbar, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$30,300,000
	Program Support		\$2,819,391
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$252,766,960
USAID/FFP³			

Implementing Partner	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$192,210
Implementing Partner	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance	Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$4,000,000
WFP	Cash-Based Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$13,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$17,192,210
STATE/PRM⁴			
Implementing Partners	Advocacy and Reconciliation, Capacity Building for Government, CCCM, Durable Solutions, Education, Emergency Response, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$65,864,456
Implementing Partners	Capacity Building for Government, CCCM, Education, Livelihoods, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$7,483,544
IOM	Advocacy and Reconciliation, Capacity Building, Durable Solutions, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Livelihoods	Countrywide	\$23,000,000
IOM	Durable Solutions, Livelihoods	Turkey	\$300,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$102,800,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$24,900,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$3,190,000
UN Human Settlement Program	Capacity Building for Government, Durable Solutions, Livelihoods, Shelter and Settlements	Anbar, Basrah, Ninewa	\$1,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$229,038,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$498,997,170

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2014–2018

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING⁵	\$796,949,215
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING⁶	\$199,235,726
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$1,144,089,283
TOTAL DOD FUNDING⁷	\$77,357,233
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2014–2018	\$2,217,631,457

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 8, 2019.

² Funding represents the FY 2018 USAID/OFDA contribution provided in response to the September 10, 2018, disaster declaration for a health emergency in Basrah.

³ USAID/FFP funding supports humanitarian programming benefiting IDPs and other conflict-affected Iraqis; figures do not include USAID/FFP funding for activities assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq.

⁴ State/PRM funding supports humanitarian programming inside Iraq and for refugee populations who fled Iraq for neighboring countries; figures do not include funding for activities assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq.

⁵ Figure reflects corrected FY 2014–2018 USAID/OFDA funding total.

⁶ Figure reflects corrected FY 2014–2018 USAID/FFP funding total.

⁷ U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>