Chronic conflicts, drought, earthquakes, floods, seasonal storms, and severe winter weather, compounded by limited government response capacity in some countries, present significant challenges to vulnerable populations in South Asia. Between FY 2007 and FY 2016, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided humanitarian assistance in response to a diverse range of natural and man-made disasters in the region. Examples include cyclones in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan; earthquakes in India, Nepal, and Pakistan; floods and landslides throughout the region; and complex emergencies in Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

USAID provided more than $2.5 billion to assist disaster-affected populations in South Asia between FY 2007 and FY 2016. USAID/FFP support included approximately $1.8 billion for emergency food assistance in the form of U.S.-purchased food, locally and regionally purchased food, cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and related activities, such as rehabilitating community assets. USAID/OFDA assistance included nearly $789 million for programs in agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics support and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, search and rescue, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

In the last decade, USAID responded to 64 disasters in South Asia and deployed humanitarian teams to the region as needed, including five Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs). The majority of DARTs in South Asia responded to emergencies in Pakistan, including an earthquake and conflict and related displacement in FY 2009 and flooding in FY 2010. USAID also deployed a DART to Bangladesh in response to Cyclone Sidr in FY 2008 and to Nepal following a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in FY 2015. USAID also activated multiple Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams to support coordination and response efforts.