

IRAQ - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

JANUARY 23, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

4.1
million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Iraq
UN – November 2019

4.59
million

IDP Returns in Iraq Since 2014
IOM – December 2019

1.41
million

IDPs in Iraq
IOM – December 2019

239,192

Iraqi Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – September 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing suspension of access approvals hinders delivery of humanitarian assistance, affecting 2.4 million people
- Escalated regional tensions prompt access and safety concerns among relief actors in Iraq
- 2020 Iraq HNO identifies 4.1 million people in need across the country

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$221,899,166
USAID/FFP ²	\$33,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$215,683,525
\$470,582,691	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Critical relief programs supporting millions of vulnerable Iraqi households are at risk of halting due to the continued suspension of Government of Iraq (GoI) access authorizations for relief organizations operating in Federal Iraq, the UN reports. The suspension has delayed or prevented the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to many areas since December, affecting an estimated 2.4 million people. The UN, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and humanitarian donors are advocating for the GoI to ensure the unfettered delivery of emergency assistance for conflict-affected populations throughout Iraq.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported a significant increase in the number of IDP returns to areas of origin during September and October compared with July and August, likely due to scaled-up camp consolidation and closure efforts during the period. However, returns have since reverted to a reduced rate as camp closures and consolidations have slowed. An estimated 4.59 million people had returned to areas of origin as of December 31, IOM reports.
- The UN released the 2020 Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) in mid-November, identifying 4.1 million people in need of emergency assistance—a nearly 40 percent decrease from the 6.7 million people identified in the 2019 HNO. As the humanitarian response increasingly shifts toward finding durable solutions for populations displaced by conflict, the HNO emphasizes the need to assist returnees and out-of-camp internally displaced persons (IDPs), including by addressing continued protection issues and ensuring access to basic services, shelter, and livelihoods to advance recovery and build resilience.

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)

CURRENT EVENTS

- Escalated tensions between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the U.S. Government (USG)—including violent protests at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq’s capital city of Baghdad during the week of December 30—have prompted access and security concerns for relief agencies throughout Iraq and the region, according to international media. In a January 8 statement urging for de-escalation, NGO the Norwegian Refugee Council noted that tens of millions of people across the Middle East require life-saving assistance due to prior or ongoing conflict, and further conflict would severely impact vulnerable communities and impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need throughout the region. NGO Oxfam also released a statement on January 8 noting that heightened security concerns, road checkpoints, and other movement challenges following Iranian missile attacks against Iraqi bases hosting U.S. troops in Iraq had restricted Oxfam’s operations in Iraq. As a result, Oxfam temporarily suspended operations—including cash assistance distributions—in three locations.
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HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- In early December, the GoI suspended the issuance of access letters, which relief actors must obtain each month to access program sites and continue providing life-saving assistance in Federal Iraq, according to the UN. Access letters had expired for nearly all NGO actors and no new access authorizations had been issued as of mid-January, according to the UN. The suspension has rendered some NGOs—including USG partners—unable to implement emergency response activities in many areas, with the UN reporting that nearly 2,500 humanitarian missions have been cancelled or prevented from reaching their destinations since early December. The restrictions on humanitarian movements have affected an estimated 2.4 million people in need, the UN reports.
 - UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Marta Ruedas released a statement on January 16 expressing strong concern regarding the suspension and called on the GoI to allow relief organizations to resume the full, unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance across Iraq. The USG continues to closely monitor the situation and support advocacy efforts to ensure the continued delivery of emergency assistance.
 - Prior to the total suspension of access letters in December, widespread internet shutdowns related to large-scale protests—which began in October in Baghdad and subsequently spread to central and southern governorates—reduced issuance of access letters in November, delaying program implementation in GoI-administered areas, the UN reports. Physical blockades and roadblocks, as well as self-imposed movement restrictions among NGOs and UN agencies due to security concerns, also hindered relief activities during the month.
 - Humanitarian actors reported nearly 70 access incidents across 14 districts during November, according to the UN. The access impediments primarily comprised movement restrictions on humanitarian staff or commodities, largely due to insecurity or bureaucratic impediments; however, relief agencies also reported violence against humanitarian personnel, assets, or facilities, as well as interference in the implementation of relief activities, military operations and ongoing hostilities, and restrictions on or obstruction of beneficiary access to emergency assistance. The November figure represents a notable increase compared to previous months, with an average of approximately 50 access incidents reported each month from July to October. Relief agencies continue to report the largest number of access challenges in Ninewa Governorate, accounting for more than 60 percent of November incidents, the UN reports.
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HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

- The 2020 Iraq HNO identified approximately 4.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including nearly 1.8 million people with acute needs. More than 50 percent of the population in need resides in Ninewa and Anbar governorates, which host nearly 1.4 million and more than 926,000 of people in need, respectively. The overall figure represents a nearly 40 percent decrease from the estimated 6.7 million people who required assistance in 2019, reflecting the changing humanitarian context approximately two years after the end of active conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). However, needs remain high among some populations, particularly those displaced by conflict. The needs of returnees in areas of origin and IDPs living in out-of-camp locations are particularly severe, with

these groups constituting 89 percent of the population identified with acute needs. Accordingly, the HNO emphasizes the importance of supporting resilience and recovery, meeting basic needs, and promoting physical and mental well-being; key issues to address include insufficient livelihoods, gaps in essential services, destroyed property, lack of social cohesion, and continued insecurity in some areas. The HNO informs the development of the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan, anticipated for release in early 2020.

- Nearly 1.8 million people across Iraq require food and livelihoods assistance, according to the HNO. Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates have the highest concentration of food-insecure returnees, accounting for approximately 224,400 and nearly 93,500 returnees, respectively. In IDP camps, regular food assistance is needed in 2020 to prevent increased malnutrition rates and reliance on negative coping strategies among IDPs; an estimated 277,400 IDPs remained in IDP camps across Iraq as of December, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster.⁴ USAID/FFP continues to provide food assistance to camp-based IDPs and cash assistance for food to other vulnerable populations through the UN World Food Program (WFP) and an NGO partner.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS

- More than 1.41 million people remained displaced—with the vast majority of IDPs having been displaced for more than three years—and approximately 4.59 million IDPs had returned to areas of origin as of December 31, according to IOM. The number of returnees during the last reporting period more than doubled, with nearly 110,700 returnees recorded during September and October compared with approximately 45,000 returnees identified during July and August, IOM reports. While some IDPs returned to areas of origin due to improved security conditions and provision of services, the latest increase is likely due to enhanced GoI efforts to close and consolidate IDP camps across Iraq, according to IOM.
- Between August 15 and October 29, the GoI closed 11 camps, prompting the departure of nearly 16,900 displaced households to primarily non-camp settings, including homes and informal settlements, according to IOM. More than 50 percent of IDP departures during the period resulted from the closure of Ninewa’s Hammam al-Alil 1, Jed’dah 6, and Qayyara Airstrip IDP camps. The GoI also closed Ninewa’s Haj Ali; Jed’dah 1–4; and Salamiyah Nimrud camps; and Salah al-Din’s Al Alam, Al Basateen, and Al Qadisya camps between mid-August and mid-October, IOM reports. Approximately 10,000 displaced households began sheltering in non-camp settings, primarily in Ninewa, during the reporting period. Humanitarian actors continue to closely track GoI camp consolidation and closure efforts throughout the country, advocating for local and governorate-level authorities to ensure any resultant population movements are safe, voluntary, dignified, and informed.
- During recent months, through State/PRM support, IOM has led efforts to facilitate voluntary IDP returns, particularly following the July GoI National Security Council resolution that called for all IDPs—especially those in Ninewa—to return to governorates of origin and the subsequent scale-up of camp consolidation and closure efforts that began in August. IOM has spearheaded efforts to establish a new Durable Solutions Network and developed a framework for facilitating IDP returns using a structured, sustainable case management approach. In its pilot effort, IOM supported 250 households from Anbar and Ninewa to visit and assess conditions of their homes in areas of origin. Of the 250 households, all but two households have elected to voluntarily return—IOM has supported six of those 248 household returns to date.
- A November 2019 study—conducted by IOM, the Returns Working Group, and NGO Social Inquiry—across eight conflict-affected governorates in Iraq identified community reconciliation as the largest factor affecting social cohesion and safety perceptions for IDPs in return locations, thus facilitating or preventing sustainable returns. The study found that more than 608,000 returnees, or 15 percent of the returnee population, live in locations with active reconciliation needs. Of this figure, nearly 242,000 returnees—6 percent—reside in locations where surveyed IDPs reported reconciliation needs and no current reconciliation efforts; these locations are three times less likely to have full return of their pre-conflict populations. Baghdad, Diyala, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates host the majority of locations with reported reconciliation needs, according to the study.

⁴ The coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- USAID/FFP partner WFP continues to provide emergency food assistance to IDPs who are most vulnerable to food insecurity and aims to reach 250,000 food-insecure IDPs in 2020, according to the UN agency's 2020–2024 Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The 2020–2024 CSP highlights Iraq's continued dependence on costly imported food commodities—particularly oil, sugar, and dairy products—due to limited local agricultural production, which restricts vulnerable households' access to food commodities. In addition, the CSP underscores ongoing food insecurity of displaced and poor households throughout the country. While only 3 percent of Iraqis and 6 percent of displaced households remain food-insecure, WFP notes that a majority of both displaced and resident households in Iraq remain vulnerable to food insecurity due to external shocks.
- Despite access constraints and implementation challenges related to the protests in central and southern Iraq that began in October, USAID/FFP partner WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 207,000 people—including Iraqi IDPs and returnees, as well as Syrian refugees sheltering in Iraq—across eight governorates in November 2019. The civil unrest in central and southern Iraq led to disruptions in internet coverage and the operations of financial services providers, hindering WFP's ability to distribute its November mobile money transfers; however, the UN agency resumed its cash-based assistance during the first week of December. In addition, WFP provided both ready-to-eat and one-month rations upon arrival in Iraq to 15,200 Syrian refugees displaced by Turkish Armed Forces military operations in northeast Syria in early October.
- During FY 2019, a State/PRM partner supported agricultural livelihoods for IDPs and returnees, particularly in the Ninewa Plain. From July to September 2019, the partner refurbished 35 farms—including 17 cattle farms, nine sheep farms, eight poultry farms, and one arboriculture farm, for which the partner provided a complete water system. The organization also provided generators and electrical components to rehabilitate warehouses at the arboriculture farm. In addition, the partner facilitated technical training for nearly 50 farmers, focused on poultry, sheep, and cattle management, as well as beekeeping and greenhouse management. State/PRM also supported the partner to provide a training on food production for nearly 50 women and a financial literacy and business training for more than 130 individuals during the period. The business training culminated in a networking event to connect the newly trained participants with agribusiness officials from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

HEALTH, WASH, AND PROTECTION

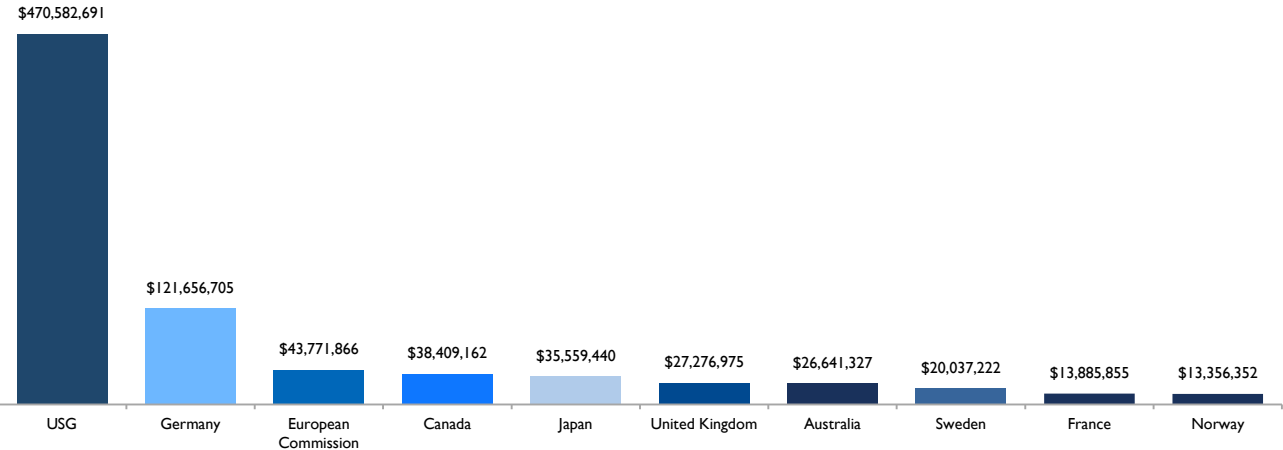
- During October 2019, a USAID/OFDA-funded NGO partner provided water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in camps and within communities across Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates, including the delivery and installation of nearly 80 water tanks, rehabilitation of one water network and five water treatment plants, and rehabilitation of WASH facilities at 10 public health centers.
- Between April and September 2019, State/PRM partner IOM completed 70 infrastructure rehabilitation projects across Anbar, Baghdad, Dhi Qar, and Ninewa governorates. The revitalization of basic infrastructure is improving access to essential services, such as electricity, water and irrigation, health, and education, for more than 424,200 people, including IDPs, returnees, and host community members. One project in Ninewa's Tal Kayf District restored electricity and improved the water supply in a village severely affected by conflict.
- A USAID/OFDA partner continued to provide critical health services throughout Anbar, Erbil, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates in October 2019. The partner conducted nearly 23,200 medical consultations through nine primary health care clinics and approximately 4,500 medical consultations through three mobile medical units during the month. In addition, the organization continued to support community health worker teams to conduct daily house-to-house visits, disseminating critical health and hygiene messaging regarding communicable diseases, chronic diseases, reproductive health, and existing health care services and referral pathways. In October, community health worker teams reached more than 3,000 people through household visits in Anbar; nearly 2,900 people in Salah al-Din; nearly 12,900 people in Erbil and Ninewa's Mosul city; and approximately 4,600 people in other areas of Ninewa.
- State/PRM continued to support mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in FY 2019, establishing sustainable community-based access to MHPSS services for vulnerable populations in Anbar, Baghdad, and Ninewa.

During the fiscal year, a State/PRM NGO partner provided MHPSS services to 2,000 vulnerable women and girls and provided PSS and case management services, as well as skills-building activities, to nearly 2,900 women and girls in the three governorates.

EDUCATION

- From June to September 2019, State/PRM partner IOM constructed six classrooms at Al-Sanober school in Tal Kayf's Wana sub-district to support IDP returnees and host community members. As the only school for girls in Wana, the new facilities improved access to education for girls by increasing the school's capacity to 1,000 students.
- Another State/PRM partner and local sub-partner worked with 27 schools in Baghdad, Dohuk, and Ninewa governorates to improve physical infrastructure, foster social and emotional learning, strengthen caregiver engagement, and address retention of boys and girls in the schools from July to September 2019. The partner completed school upgrades at four schools during the period, bringing the total to eight school buildings completed during the program year. The organization also facilitated a summer school program, enrolling nearly 2,400 students; of the students with 70 percent or greater school attendance, more than 70 percent passed their second-chance exams at the end of the summer. The project supported approximately 13,500 students—more than 50 percent of whom were female students.
- State/PRM also supported the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to address educational needs in Iraq between August and September 2019. During the period, UNICEF provided educational supplies to nearly 95,200 displaced children. In addition, the UN agency conducted teacher trainings for more than 2,200 teachers in Erbil, Kirkuk, and Ninewa during August and September.
- On December 10, a State/PRM NGO partner, in coordination with the Education Cluster, hosted a training on the Safe School Declaration—endorsed by the GoI in December 2015—for education actors, including UNICEF and national NGOs. During the training, participants discussed how to prevent, address, and report attacks on education, which could include physical damage to facilities, threats to students and educators, and utilization of schools by armed actors and related child recruitment. Participants also discussed how to implement the Safe School Declaration on a national level and how to implement a related monitoring and reporting mechanism. The State/PRM partner plans to organize similar workshops for GoI and Iraqi Kurdistan Region education ministries in early 2020.

2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*
PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of January 23, 2020. 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 publicly announced USG commitments for FY 2019, which began on October 1, 2018.

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 Iraqi Kurdistan Region, to escape fighting.
- In August 2014, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee 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 from an L3 designation.
- On August 11, 2014, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Iraq to coordinate USG efforts to address the urgent humanitarian needs of newly displaced populations throughout the country. USAID also established a Response Management Team (RMT) based in Washington, D.C., to support the DART. DART and State/PRM staff worked closely with local officials, the international community, and humanitarian actors to identify critical needs and expedite assistance to affected populations. On August 31, 2019, USAID demobilized the DART and RMT. USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP staff based in the region—including experts who served on the DART—and in Washington, D.C., continue to coordinate with USG, UN, and other humanitarian partners to provide life-saving assistance in Iraq.
- Approximately 4.1 million people require humanitarian assistance in Iraq, 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.
- On October 22, 2019, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Matthew H. Tueller redeclared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2020 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partner (IP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Countrywide	\$1,800,000
IPs	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, HCIM, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Karbala, Kirkuk, Maysan, Muthanna, Ninewa, Qadisiya, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya, Wasit	\$136,326,043
IOM	Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Karbala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$19,000,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UN Development Program	Mosul Dam Preparedness/Natural and Technological Risks	Countrywide	\$4,744,440
UNICEF	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Qadisiya, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya	\$30,000,000
UN Office for Project Services	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,389,102
UN World Health Organization	Health	Anbar, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$24,000,000
	Program Support		\$3,139,581
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$221,899,166

USAID/FFP ²			
IP	MPCA	Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$4,240,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food; Complementary Services; Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$28,760,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$33,000,000
STATE/PRM ³			
IPs	Capacity Building, Durable Solutions, Education, Emergency Response, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$55,670,344
IOM	Capacity Building, Durable Solutions, HCIM, Livelihoods	Countrywide	\$23,000,000
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$97,900,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
IPs	CCCM, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey	\$15,713,181
UNHCR	Education, Emergency Response, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$21,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$215,683,525
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$470,582,691

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FYs 2014–2019

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$1,018,848,381
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$232,235,726
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$1,359,772,808
TOTAL DOD FUNDING⁴	\$77,357,233
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FYs 2014–2019	\$2,688,214,148

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2019.

² USAID/FFP funding supports humanitarian programming for IDPs and other conflict-affected Iraqis; figures do not include USAID/FFP funding for activities assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.
 - 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>