



# LAKE CHAD BASIN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**7.1 million**

Estimated People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States  
OCHA – December 2018

**1.81 million**

Estimated IDPs in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe  
UNHCR – December 2018

**104,288**

IDPs in Niger's Diffa Region  
UNHCR – December 2018

**244,347**

IDPs in Cameroon's Far North Region  
UNHCR – December 2018

**122,312**

IDPs in Chad's Lac Region  
UNHCR – December 2018

**230,462**

Nigerian Refugees in Lake Chad Basin Areas of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger  
UNHCR – December 2018

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Recent AOG attacks in northeastern Nigeria hinder humanitarian operations
- Host governments and relief community launch response plans for Niger and Nigeria
- Food insecurity continues to affect vulnerable populations in the Lake Chad Basin

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LAKE CHAD BASIN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$140,290,943
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$237,912,448
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$62,220,000
<b>\$440,423,391<sup>4</sup></b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Deteriorating security conditions in northeastern Nigeria continue to obstruct humanitarian operations, prompting the temporary evacuation of more than 260 relief workers in Borno State, according to the UN. Where security conditions permit, humanitarian actors are returning to affected areas to provide services; however, staffing levels remain limited in some areas, with associated reductions in activities.
- Attacks by armed opposition group (AOG) actors in Borno's Rann town resulted in multiple civilian deaths and the destruction of humanitarian infrastructure and supplies in January, with a January 28 attack prompting approximately 35,000 people to flee into neighboring Cameroon, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- On January 29, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (GoN), the UN, and relief partners officially launched the 2019–2021 Humanitarian Response Strategy (HRS) requesting \$848 million to provide humanitarian assistance to people in northeastern Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. On the same day, UNHCR announced the 2019–2020 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), which requests \$135 million to support refugee relief efforts in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The Government of the Republic of Niger (GoRN) and the UN also launched the 2019 Niger Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which requests \$383 million, on February 1.
- Conflict-affected households in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe likely will continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—and Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity through May 2019.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, host community members, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees in areas of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger will likely continue to experience Stressed—IPC 2—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in 2019, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>4</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding represents publicly reported amounts as of February 13, 2019.

<sup>5</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

## NIGERIA

- On January 29, the GoN, UNHCR, and relief partners officially launched Nigeria's 2019–2021 HRS and the 2019–2020 RRRP in Nigeria's capital city of Abuja. The HRS requests \$848 million to provide multi-sector services to an estimated 6.2 million people in northeastern Nigeria. Although the 2019 HRS appeal represents a 19 percent funding decrease from 2018, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Edward Kallon has underscored the need for sustained aid to address the needs of vulnerable communities across the region, many of whom rely on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs. The RRRP appeal requests a total of \$135 million—a 14 percent decrease compared to 2018—to reach nearly 229,000 refugees and 56,000 host community members in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.
- From January 28–29, relief actors and government officials from Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria convened in Abuja for the second Regional Protection Dialogue to evaluate progress made against 2016 commitments to secure the safety of civilians. These agreements—outlined in the Abuja Action Statement (AAS)—included measures to prevent forced displacement, ensure civilian freedom of movement, uphold IDPs' and refugees' rights and protections, and enhance civil-military coordination. The representatives reaffirmed the AAS pledges made and noted the persistently high levels of forced displacements and protection challenges in the region.
- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) recently requested approximately \$53 million from the \$848 million humanitarian response appeal fund to assist newly displaced people in northeastern Nigeria through April. The request came as part of a 90-day plan that the relief community has compiled to address the emergency needs of newly displaced people. OCHA plans to prioritize addressing basic needs and providing emergency relief items to the most vulnerable people, especially women and children, who account for approximately 80 percent of the affected population in northeastern Nigeria.
- A January 14 AOG attack in Rann resulted in multiple civilian deaths, the destruction of humanitarian supplies and infrastructure, and the evacuation of 14 aid workers, according to the UN. Approximately 9,000 people fled to neighboring Cameroon following the attack; however, on January 18, UNHCR issued a press release deploring reports of the forced returns to Borno of several thousand Nigerian refugees. Additionally, approximately 35,000 people fled to Cameroon from Rann after the withdrawal of security forces and another AOG attack on January 28. The UN reported in December that Cameroon hosted approximately 100,400 Nigerian refugees, while the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that 76,000 IDPs were sheltering in Rann before the attack.
- The escalating conflict in northern Borno has significantly reduced humanitarian operational capacity. Between November and early January, humanitarian agencies withdrew more than 260 relief workers from Kala/Balge, Kukawa, and Monguno local government areas due to insecurity, undermining the delivery of assistance to hundreds of thousands of people and representing the largest withdrawal of aid workers since the humanitarian response scaled up in northeastern Nigeria in 2016, according to the UN. The deteriorating security conditions in Borno have also caused the mass displacement of more than 55,000 people between December 1 and January 24, according to IOM. Where security conditions permit, humanitarian actors are returning to affected areas to provide services; however, access remains limited in some areas due to violence, impeding the return of relief actors and prolonging the reduction of activities. USAID partners are also shifting programming as needed to adjust to the deteriorating security conditions, moving activities from remote, unsafe areas to secure towns that have accepted large newly displaced populations.
- Increased insecurity in northeastern Nigeria in December and January has undermined agricultural, livelihood, market, and pastoral activities, according to FEWS NET. Conflict-affected households in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe will continue to face Crisis and Emergency levels of acute food insecurity through at least May 2019, with populations in hard-to-reach areas likely facing similar or worse food security outcomes relative to those in neighboring, accessible areas.
- More than \$263 million is required to meet the food security needs of 2.7 million Nigerians in 2019, according to the 2019–2021 HRS. Additionally, while the estimated number of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases in Nigeria decreased by 16 percent compared to 439,000 in 2018, the estimated number of moderate acute malnutrition cases increased by 44 percent to 723,000, compared to 502,000 in 2018. The HRS also estimates that more than 1 million children in Nigeria ages five years and younger experience acute malnutrition, with 367,000 suffering from SAM. As a result, relief actors are requesting \$106 million to meet the nutrition needs of 2 million people in the country in 2019.

- Food security actors, including USAID/FFP partners, provided cash-based and in-kind emergency food assistance to approximately 1.3 million people in northeastern Nigeria in November and 1.4 million people in December, according to the Food Security Sector Working Group (FSSWG)—the coordinating body for food security activities in Nigeria, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. The November and December distribution figures represent a decrease from the monthly average of approximately 2 million people reached with food assistance from June–September, according to FSSWG reporting. USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) attributes the decrease to an emphasis on assisting northeastern Nigeria’s most vulnerable populations. The FSSWG also reported that approximately 2.2 million people received agriculture and livelihoods support as of December.
- USAID/FFP partner WFP provided food assistance to approximately 606,000 people in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe during December; the UN agency also provided nutrition assistance to 252,000 people in the states. Additionally, USAID/FFP NGO partners provided emergency food assistance to an estimated 469,000 people in northeastern Nigeria in December.
- On December 11, the Nigeria Steering Committee of the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) endorsed a standard operating procedure (SOP) to reunify unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) with family members or caregivers via air transportation. The SOP—drafted by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)—aims to facilitate reunifications of UASC with families in hard-to-reach areas. Child protection needs in northeastern Nigeria remain high; since 2016, relief actors have reunited nearly 1,200 UASC—representing only 10 percent of an overall caseload of 11,000 UASC and other vulnerable children—with their families. The SOP stipulates that UNICEF will develop criteria to identify critical protection cases eligible for transport through UNHAS. Furthermore, child protection actors agreed to request UNHAS air transportation on a case-by-case basis and as a measure of last resort. The SOP outlines request and transport processes, mandating that a representative from a child protection agency, as well as an adult caregiver in particularly vulnerable cases, accompany UASC to ensure a safe handover to caregivers.

## CAMEROON

- Vulnerable households in Far North Region will likely continue to face Stressed—IPC 2—levels of acute food insecurity through May 2019 due to conflict and below-average income, according to FEWS NET. Furthermore, the recent population influx from Rann into Cameroon could potentially exacerbate food insecurity among IDPs, refugees, and host community members.
- To assist newly arrived Nigerian refugees from Rann in and around Far North’s Goura town, relief actors—including UN agencies and NGOs—are providing food, water, and other basic services. For example, USAID/FFP partner WFP distributed emergency food rations to approximately 13,000 people as of February 1. Other relief actors are conducting health consultations and malnutrition screenings, identifying vulnerable children in need of protection, trucking water, building latrines, and distributing relief commodities, according to UNHCR. In early February, UN RC/HC Allegra Baiocchi visited Goura and highlighted the vulnerability of newly arrived refugees.

## CHAD

- Insecurity—including late December AOG activities—displaced an estimated 6,000 Nigerians into Lac Region between December 26 and January 22, according to UNHCR. In coordination with the Government of Chad, UNHCR is preregistering and relocating new arrivals from transit sites to the Dar Es Salaam refugee camp near Lac’s Baga Sola town. As of January 8, relief actors had preregistered nearly 3,200 people, of whom 55 percent were 18 years of age and younger. USAID/FFP partner WFP also assisted with relocating 2,000 of them to Dar Es Salaam, where they will be biometrically registered to receive formal documentation, food assistance, and protection services.
- In December, a USAID/OFDA partner conducted activities in Lac focused on increasing access to gender-based violence (GBV) response services and provided consultations for nearly 70 GBV cases, referring survivors to medical services as needed. In addition, a December survey conducted at the partner-supported women’s centers showed that

more than 96 percent of those surveyed could identify both the consequences of GBV and available GBV response services.

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## NIGER

- Disease outbreaks, environmental shocks, food insecurity, malnutrition, and population displacement, as well as widespread poverty, have continued to exacerbate humanitarian needs in Niger. On February 1, the GoRN officially launched the 2019 Niger HRP, which requests \$383 million to assist 1.6 million of the most vulnerable people in Niger, approximately 70 percent of the total population in need. Given that Niger was hosting approximately 244,300 refugees from Mali and Nigeria as of December 2018, more than a quarter of the HRP budget is allocated towards providing critical assistance to refugees sheltering in the country. Additionally, the combined funding requested to address the food security and nutrition needs of 676,000 and 1.2 million people, respectively, represents more than 45 percent of the overall appeal. Overall, the 2019 total funding requested represents a 14 percent increase compared to the \$336 million requested in the revised 2018 HRP; however, the 2019 population in need has decreased slightly from the 2.4 million people identified in 2018.
- Protracted displacement has exacerbated needs in Diffa Region, leaving conflict-affected populations sheltering in displacement sites and surrounding villages in urgent need of shelter support and relief commodities, according to a REACH Initiative assessment released in December. Approximately 47 percent of households in displacement sites and 34 percent in nearby villages reside in inadequate shelters; average shelters in displacement sites are insufficient to meet the Sphere standard for space per person and many people are forced to sleep outside due to lack of shelter availability.<sup>6</sup> The assessment also reports that 64 percent of households in Diffa displacement sites and 48 percent of households in nearby villages require relief commodities, as they were unable to purchase non-food items in the previous three months. Furthermore, fewer than 10 percent of households in displacement sites and nearby communities have one mosquito net per person. The assessment concludes that inadequate relief commodity and shelter access increases households' vulnerability to illness and violence, potentially exacerbating protection, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs in Diffa.
- The global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence for children ages 6–59 months in Diffa is nearly 14 percent, which is higher than the UN World Health Organization (WHO) Serious classification, according to a 2018 national Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey. Furthermore, the GAM levels of Diffa's Mainé Soroa and N'Gourti departments surpass WHO's Emergency threshold of 15 percent. In response to malnutrition in Niger, where the national GAM prevalence of 15 percent, humanitarian organizations recommended bolstering acute malnutrition prevention and care programming, continuing nutrition surveillance, and implementing a national nutritional security plan of action.
- Displaced and conflict-affected households in Diffa will continue to experience Stressed levels of acute food insecurity due to limited livelihood opportunities and high food cost, with humanitarian assistance efforts preventing deterioration to Crisis conditions through May 2019, according to FEWS NET.
- In November, a USAID/FFP partner distributed emergency food assistance to approximately 3,400 households and deployed eight mobile food shops to improve access to food in Diffa. Additionally, the partner screened more than 350 children ages five years and younger and 400 pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition, referring 50 women and five children to health centers for treatment.

<sup>6</sup> The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN, NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

## CONTEXT

- Years of conflict perpetuated by Boko Haram and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-West Africa have triggered a humanitarian crisis in Nigeria and surrounding countries in the Lake Chad Basin, including areas of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The violence—including deliberate attacks on civilians and relief workers—has displaced an estimated 2.4 million people; hindered agricultural production, livelihoods, and cross-border trade; prevented delivery of humanitarian assistance; and restricted affected populations from accessing basic services in the four countries.
- The UN estimates that nearly 11 million people in the region require humanitarian assistance, including approximately 7.7 million people in northeastern Nigeria’s three most-affected states—Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. Populations in the Lake Chad Basin remain highly dependent on emergency food assistance to meet basic food needs, in addition to requiring emergency health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH interventions.
- From November 2016–October 2018, USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the U.S. Government (USG) response to the humanitarian crisis in northeastern Nigeria. To support the DART, USAID also stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team, which deactivated in August 2018.
- U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Matthew D. Smith; U.S. Ambassador Geeta Pasi; U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Phillip Nelson; and U.S. Ambassador W. Stuart Symington re-declared disasters for FY 2018 due to the ongoing complex emergencies and humanitarian crises in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, respectively. To date, U.S. Ambassador Peter H. Barlerin; U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Richard K. Bell; U.S. Ambassador Eric P. Whitaker; and U.S. Ambassador W. Stuart Symington have re-declared disasters for FY 2019 due to the ongoing complex emergencies and humanitarian crises in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, respectively.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LAKE CHAD BASIN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
<b>NIGERIA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Nutrition; Protection; Risk Management Policy and Practice; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe	\$80,761,820
IOM	ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe	\$10,500,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	\$1,500,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	\$6,500,000
UNICEF	Health	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	\$4,745,823
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	\$1,500,000

WHO	Health	Borno	\$2,000,000
	Program Support Costs		\$2,227,293
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$114,234,936</b>
<b>CAMEROON</b>			
IPs	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Far North	\$7,007,719
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE CAMEROON RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$8,707,719</b>
<b>CHAD</b>			
IPs	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Lac	\$4,855,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support Costs		\$1,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE CHAD RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$5,856,000</b>
<b>NIGER</b>			
IPs	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Diffa	\$8,819,494
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$600,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,300,000
	Program Support Costs		\$772,794
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE NIGER RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$11,492,288</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE LAKE CHAD BASIN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$140,290,943</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>NIGERIA</b>			
IPs	Cash Transfers for Food, Complementary Services, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Northeastern Nigeria	\$116,934,539
FAO	Complementary Services	Northeastern Nigeria	\$1,600,000
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Northeastern Nigeria	\$22,580,970



	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Northeastern Nigeria	\$56,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$197,615,509</b>
<b>CAMEROON</b>			
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Far North	\$8,500,000
	Cash Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Far North	\$5,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE CAMEROON RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$14,000,000</b>
<b>CHAD</b>			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kanem, Lac	\$11,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE CHAD RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$11,500,000</b>
<b>NIGER</b>			
IP	Food Vouchers	Diffa	\$2,800,000
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Diffa	\$11,996,939
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE NIGER RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$14,796,939</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE LAKE CHAD BASIN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$237,912,448</b>
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>NIGERIA</b>			
ICRC	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$24,400,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE NIGERIA RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$24,400,000</b>
<b>CAMEROON</b>			
ICRC	Protection and Assistance to Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$470,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE CAMEROON RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$6,470,000</b>
<b>CHAD</b>			
ICRC	Protection and Assistance to Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$2,900,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE CHAD RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$2,900,000</b>
<b>NIGER</b>			
ICRC	Protection and Assistance to Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$11,000,000
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance, Protection Assistance to IDPs and Returnees	Diffa	\$1,350,000
Save the Children	Child Protection and Health to Refugees	Diffa	\$1,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
UNHCR	Protection and Multi-Sector Assistance to IDPs and Refugees	Countrywide	\$12,500,000

UNICEF	Education, Health, Protection, Shelter, WASH	Diffa	\$1,350,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE NIGER RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$28,450,000</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE LAKE CHAD BASIN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$62,220,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LAKE CHAD BASIN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$440,423,391</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding represents publicly reported amounts as of February 13, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> State/PRM also contributes to UNHCR's overall country operations in Chad and Cameroon, which may benefit populations in the Lake Chad Basin.

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## 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>