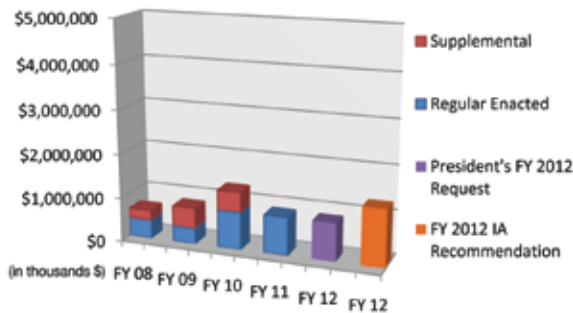




Humanitarian relief to cope with Disasters and Crises

International Disaster Assistance

(\$1.3 billion recommended)



Funding from this account enables USAID's Office for U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to provide immediate, life-saving assistance following natural and man-made disasters, including floods, earthquakes and famines such as the current crisis in the Horn of Africa. OFDA also helps communities boost their capacity to prepare for natural disasters and mitigate future damage. Such investments save money—every \$1 invested in preventative measures saves \$7 in economic losses.¹

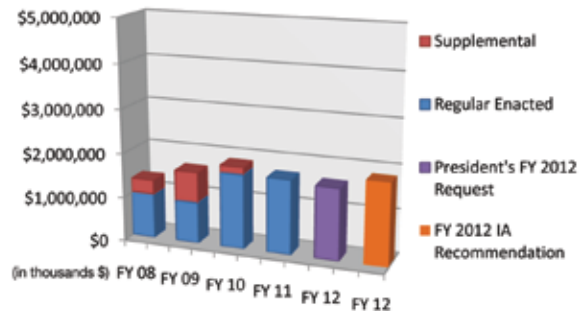
Justification: In the past, USAID relied on mid-year supplemental appropriations to address humanitarian crises, natural disasters and famines, a funding practice that delayed getting help to those most in need. During the FY2010 funding cycle, the administration and Congress committed to fully funding anticipated needs during the regular budget cycle. However, overall funding levels remain insufficient to meet the growing need. As the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti

¹ "The World Bank and the US Geological Survey estimate that economic losses worldwide from natural disasters in the 1990s could have been reduced by \$280 billion if \$40 billion had been invested in preventative measures." <http://bit.ly/okovXI>

demonstrated, when unexpected emergencies strike, OFDA does not have adequate contingency funding on hand and must reduce its response to protracted crises elsewhere in order to respond to the unanticipated. InterAction's recommended level for this account includes \$300 million to fund cash-based emergency food assistance for critical voucher programs, local and regional purchase of food, and related cash-based emergency assistance efforts.

Migration and Refugee Assistance

(\$1.85 billion recommended)



Funding from this account enables the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) to provide basic lifesaving assistance for refugees and to maintain the U.S. commitment to resettlement for refugees, displaced persons and victims of conflict. Those supported by these funds are almost entirely dependent on the international humanitarian system to survive.

Justification: Funding for MRA has increased as the number of people displaced by conflict has grown, particularly in areas affected by conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia.



Unfortunately, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has risen in recent years. Many lack access to the most basic life-saving services—health care, safe shelter, clean water and education. Refugees often cannot safely return home, and the countries that host them are typically poor themselves—in 2010, developing countries were home to four-fifths of the world’s refugees.² Most refugees live under precarious conditions; reductions in assistance mean they will not have access to the most basic elements of survival.

This assistance is implemented primarily through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international humanitarian agencies.

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance

(\$100 million recommended)

This is a revolving fund established to ensure that PRM has sufficient resources for refugee assistance in humanitarian crises.

Justification: It provides an important source of emergency funding during times of unanticipated crises. The account should be fully funded in FY2012 up to its authorized ceiling of \$100 million. Additionally, it would be prudent to double this ceiling in order to reduce reliance on supplemental funding sources and to allow a quicker response in emergencies and therefore save lives.

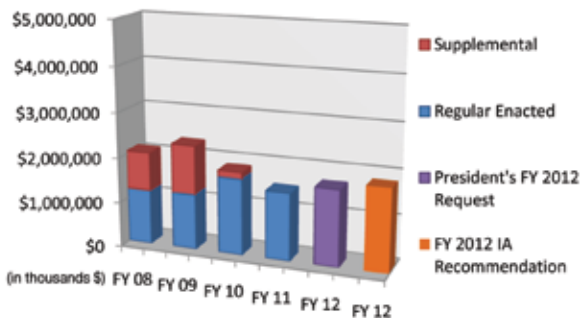
InterAction also continues to advocate that the secretary of state be given the ability to authorize the use of funds from this account. The current requirement of a presidential certification is cumbersome and can result in delays in the delivery of critical assistance.

2 UNHCR, Global Trends 2010 <http://www.unhcr.org/4dfa11499.html>



Food for Peace

(\$1.84 billion recommended)



The Food for Peace account provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities to meet emergency and non-emergency food needs in other countries, reducing hunger and malnutrition and helping achieve food security goals.

Justification: Current estimates are that \$5 billion is needed to meet emergency food needs in FY2012. The United States has traditionally provided 40-50 percent of global emergency food assistance resources; 40 percent would amount to about \$2 billion of the total \$5 billion needed. Using this formula, \$1.84 billion should come from Food for Peace grants and the remainder from the International Disaster Assistance account. A mixture of cash- and commodity-based resources provides flexibility in responding to crises.

SUCCESS STORY: Returning Home

Food assistance has played a critical role in **South Sudan** over the last few years and helped to support families returning home. Grace Lado, a 25-year-old mother of two, fled fighting in **Juba** in southern Sudan when she was only 7 years old. When her family decided to move back, a **World Food Program** food ration made that transition easier. In spite of the deteriorating security situation, WFP is currently feeding some 530,000 people across southern Sudan. These lifesaving food rations are helping people to build a stable and secure foundation in a country that is hopeful for a brighter future.

