

The Architecture of the International Disaster Response System: Lessons for CTR

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International Disaster Response System

- **Evolution of International Disaster Response Architecture**
- **Alex deWaal new research on famines**
- **System successful in reducing famine deaths since 1980**
- **System is designed for natural and certain man-made disasters only:**
 - **Earthquakes, storms, floods, civil wars, and famines.**
 - **Not prepared for nuclear or chemical events**
 - **Designed for developing countries incapable of responding**
 - **System responded to Ebola & organizing for pandemics**

Four Components of the International Response System

International
Organizations:
UN Agencies
Red Cross System

International and
Local Non-
Governmental
Organizations

Donor Government
Aid Agency Disaster
Relief Offices

Local Governments in
the Developing World

USG Foreign Disaster Response System

USAID DCHA Bureau
Office of Foreign Disaster
Assistance Coordinates USG

State Department
Population, Refugees, and
Migration Bureau

Defense
Department
Logistics Capacity
As Needed

CDC and FEMA
as Needed

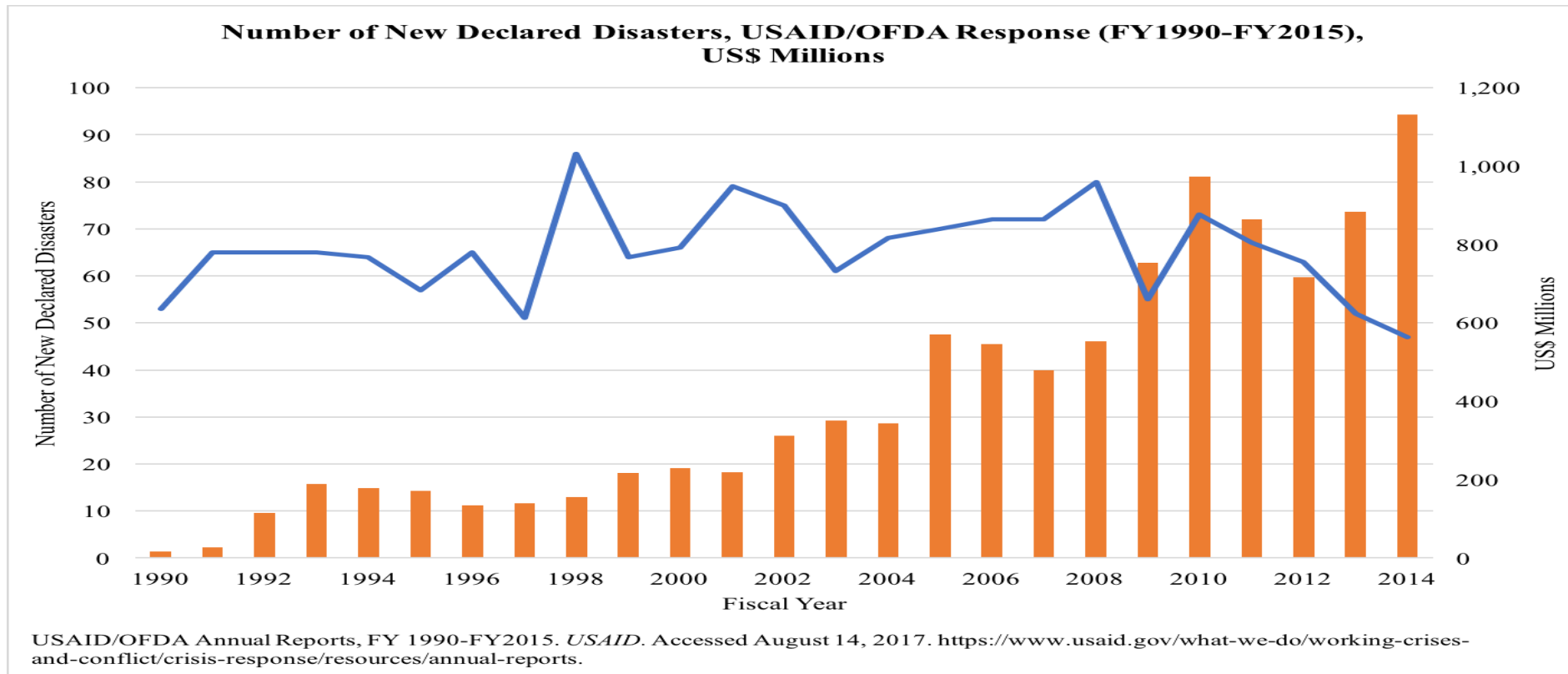
USAID DISASTER RESPONSE CAPACITY

- **OFDA budget staffing increased from \$20 M. in 1989 to \$1.6 B. in 2017**
- **Latin America Disaster Preparedness Center in Costa Rica**
- **White House and Congress decision to expand OFDA after Ebola**
- **Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART Teams)**
- **Triggering DART mobilization: disaster declaration by US Ambassador**
- **Field Officers Guide—field manual on doctrine and process**
- **Reorganizing to address future pandemics**
- **Regional commodity warehouses**
- **Interagency coordination on chemical and nuclear incidents—but OFDA not designed or prepared for these events**

Evolution of the USG Disaster Model

- **Major Changes in USG model since Haiti earthquake, Fukushima nuclear event, & Ebola**
- **All-of-government operational model**
- **Pandemic Response Capability being enhanced**
- **Dramatic rise in OFDA & FFP funding and staffing**
- **Policymakers increasingly chose DART team capacity to respond**

Growth of OFDA Spending



UN System Overhaul Needed to Deal with Pandemics

- **UN/World Health Organization unprepared for pandemics**
- **Debate: Should WHO lead on pandemics? Can it be reformed?**
- **UNOCHA International Coordination Role**
- **Problem of Complexity of Response System**
- **Problem of coordinating independent organizations**
- **Absence of centralized control**
- **Entire aid system does 5 interventions: emergency medicine, water and sanitation, shelter, food and nutrition, and rehabilitation**
- **Not designed for chemical or nuclear incidents**

USG Pandemic Response Capacity

- **Scowcroft Institute/Bush School Pandemic Preparedness Report**
- **No USG Biosecurity or pandemic preparedness strategy**
- **NSC developing a USG strategy**
- **Zika proves borders can not contain pandemics**
- **Responding to pandemics at the outbreak site**
- **Anti-vaccine movement endangering US preparedness**
- **Need for a White House leadership role in Vice President's Office**
- **Animal/human health connection clear but little funding**
- **Investing in developing health infrastructure in poor countries**