Disaster Event (e.g., earthquake, floods, hurricane, armed conflict)

Early Recovery
Guided by development principles and building upon humanitarian programs, this phase addresses the ability of the affected population and their community to become self-sustaining and activities that lay the foundation for longer-term recovery and sustainable development.

Emergency Phase
This phase addresses the mortality, morbidity, destruction and displacement caused by the disaster. Response measures to save lives and alleviate suffering include search and rescue and the provision of emergency food, water, shelter and medical care.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Care & Maintenance Phase
The disaster event (natural or manmade) will result in displacement of the affected population (internally and/or refugees). This displacement can be short-term (temporary shelters after a flood, hurricane, earthquake, etc.) or long-term (IDP or refugee camps in Sudan, DRC, Colombia, etc.). In this phase, basic needs must be met until durable solutions can be achieved.

Transition & Return and Reintegration Phase
Returns must be voluntary and based upon the informed decisions of the affected population.

Development Continuum
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
OFDA’s Mandate

1) Save Lives

2) Alleviate Human Suffering

3) Reduce the Economic and Social Impact of Disasters