

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

Middle East, North Africa, and Europe

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021



The Middle East, North Africa, and Europe (MENA) region faces a wide range of natural hazards—such as earthquakes, extreme winter weather, floods, and wildfires—in addition to complex emergencies that generate humanitarian needs and strain local response capacity. In FY 2021, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported programs across the region to build resilience and bolster emergency preparedness among community members and local disaster management specialists.

- In FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided more than \$16.2 million to seven partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Ukraine, and the Europe and Caucasus region.
- In eastern Ukraine, USAID/BHA partner ACTED enhanced the capacity of local first responders and contributed to the repair and rehabilitation of critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure during FY 2021, preparing local communities for multiple hazards.
- Separately, USAID/BHA funding enabled the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to work with and train local governments, small businesses, and other disaster management stakeholders to develop and implement ER4 strategies in Europe and the Caucasus, strengthening local capacity for disaster management.
- USAID/BHA partner the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) enhanced the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals in Libya through improving access to health services.
- In addition to the highlighted programs, USAID/BHA supported several other ER4 activities in MENAE during FY 2021, including a food assistance program in Egypt that provided displaced populations and host communities with food and nutrition assistance and a project in Ukraine that supported conflict-affected households with multi-sector assistance to meet immediate needs and build resilience to future shocks.

USAID/BHA ER4 FUNDING FOR MENAE IN FY 2021

Standalone ER4	\$2,075,859
Integrated ER4	\$14,150,000

Total: \$16,225,859

In MENAE in FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported standalone and integrated ER4 activities in Egypt, Iraq, Libya, and Ukraine, as well as the Europe and Caucasus region.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Reducing Disaster Risk Vulnerability in Eastern Ukraine Through Integrated Emergency Response

In FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported international non-governmental organization partner ACTED with \$500,000 to implement standalone ER4 programming that improved vulnerable communities' understanding of, preparedness for, and resilience to hazards and water-related risks in eastern Ukraine. ACTED and its implementing partners trained first responders in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* on first aid—to treat both immediate physical and psychosocial needs—and distributed psychological first aid kits, equipping local responders with the resources required to meet basic needs and respond to mental health and psychosocial support needs in the event of an emergency. Additionally, ACTED conducted water risk assessments and rehabilitated critical water infrastructure to increase safety and sanitation in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine.

Strengthening Disaster Management Systems in Europe and the Caucasus

With \$230,000 in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supported the USFS to strengthen capacity for disaster management in countries in Europe and the Caucasus—including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Serbia, and Ukraine. USFS provided disaster management technical assistance to the Government of Ukraine in FY 2021 to enhance local disaster response capacity through robust training on National Incident Management Systems and other response mechanisms. In the Balkans and Caucasus, USFS worked with the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Kosovo to enhance emergency response capacity through facilitating workshops with relevant disaster management stakeholders to build frameworks for disaster response and management. Notably, USFS-supported disaster response management capacities were effectively utilized to respond to wildfires that threatened populations and burned large areas of land in Europe and the Caucasus during August 2021.

Increasing Resilience and Risk Knowledge for Local Governments and the Private Sector

USAID/BHA provided \$250,000 in FY 2021 funding to UNDRR to help local governments in Europe and the Caucasus develop and strengthen disaster risk reduction action plans, help public and private sector enterprises identify disaster risks and disaster-related impacts on businesses, and improve government capacity to conduct system-level risk assessments. UNDRR provided authorities with improved disaster risk diagnostic assessment tools and collaborated with local governments to align local strategies with regional and national strategies. For small and medium business enterprises, UNDRR enhanced awareness of the operational risk landscape and improved access to information related to the creation of business plans, among other capacity- and resilience-building skills. USAID/BHA support also enabled UNDRR to collect and process additional risk data and analysis via the INFORM Risk Management Tool, a tool that supports the development of effective and sustainable risk reduction strategies.

Improving the Health and Well-Being of Vulnerable Populations in Libya

During FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported IFRC with approximately \$1.1 million to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations—including internally displaced persons, host communities, and migrants—in Libya through improving access to sustainable, affordable, and quality health services. IFRC also worked with local community leaders to establish community health committees representing various stakeholder groups to better address group-specific health issues, ensuring that locally led solutions are capable of addressing unmet needs. In response to the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Libya, USAID/BHA partner IFRC also distributed hygiene kits and COVID-19 prevention supplies to vulnerable populations, in conjunction with risk communication messaging and community engagement.

USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR MENAE IN FY 2021¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Standalone ER4			
Europe and the Caucasus	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP)	UNDRR	\$248,600
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USFS	\$230,000
Libya	Health	IFRC	\$1,097,259
Ukraine	DRRPP, WASH	ACTED	\$500,000
TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING			\$2,075,859
Integrated ER4 With Response²			
Egypt	Food Assistance	UN World Food Program (WFP)	\$10,000,000
Iraq	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	UN Office for Project Services	\$1,180,000
	HCIMA		\$970,000
Ukraine	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, HCIMA, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	ACTED	\$2,000,000
TOTAL INTERGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$14,150,000
TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2021			\$16,225,859

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, 2021.

² Integrated ER4 with Response refers to programming that incorporates ER4 components within an active humanitarian response.

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 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: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work