

Türkiye and Syria – Earthquakes

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

49,470

Earthquake-related Deaths Reported in Türkiye and Syria

Media – February 2023

118,700

Number of people injured in Türkiye and Syria

Media – February 2023

173,300

Number of Damaged or Destroyed Buildings in Türkiye and Syria

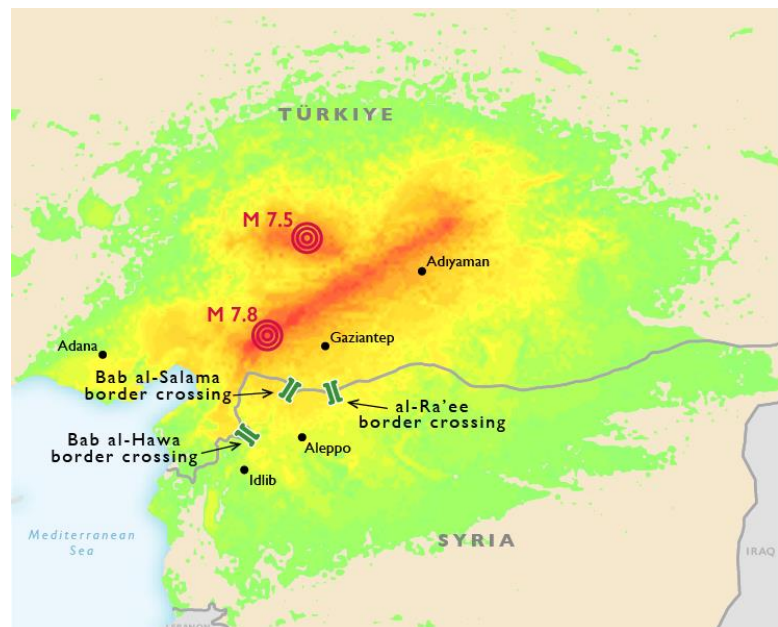
UN – February 2023

610,000

People Exposed to Strong—MMI Level IV—or Above Shaking

USGS – February 2023

- The February earthquakes continue to generate significant humanitarian needs among affected populations in Türkiye and Syria.
- Damage and destruction to health facilities in northern Syria resulting from the earthquakes further impedes vulnerable communities' already limited access to health care.
- Earthquake-related disruptions to trade and market operations are limiting population access to critical commodities in parts of Syria and Türkiye worst affected by the earthquakes and ongoing tremors.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA ¹	\$78,634,964
DoD ²	\$26,960,057

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 8

Total \$105,595,021

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

TIMELINE

February 6, 2023

At 4:17 a.m. local time, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strikes central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 11.1 miles. At 1:24 p.m. local time, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake strikes central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 6.2 miles.

February 6, 2023

GoT calls for international search-and-rescue assistance and support to meet the needs of earthquake-affected populations

February 6, 2023

U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey L. Flake issues a DHN due to the effects of the earthquakes in Türkiye

February 6, 2023

USAID/BHA deploys a DART to Türkiye and activates a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to coordinate USG response efforts

February 7, 2023

USAID/BHA deploys USAR teams from the Fairfax and Los Angeles County fire departments to support ongoing search-and-rescue efforts

February 9, 2023

USAID/BHA announces the allocation \$85 million in humanitarian assistance for earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye and Syria

February 19, 2023

USG announces the allocation of an additional \$100 million in humanitarian assistance

February 20, 2023

USAID/BHA-supported USAR teams demobilize and return to the United States

February 25, 2023

DoD begins constructing an emergency field hospital in Hatay.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Earthquakes Prompt Significant Displacement in Southern Türkiye and Northern Syria

Tremors persist in southern parts of Türkiye, with a magnitude 5.2 earthquake striking southeast Türkiye at a depth of approximately 6.2 miles on February 27, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 5 miles southeast of Malatya Province's Yesilyurt town. The earthquake had resulted in at least one death and injuries to at least 100 people as of the same day, the Government of Türkiye (GoT) Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) reports. The 5.2 magnitude tremor marks the latest in a series of more than 9,000 aftershocks and earthquakes following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 11.1 miles on February 6, international media reports.

The February earthquakes and resultant damage and destruction to infrastructure had prompted the displacement of at least 2.2 million individuals in Türkiye as of February 24, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). As of the same date, the GoT had evacuated and relocated more than 528,100 people from the worst affected provinces—including Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Elazig, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Sanliurfa—AFAD reports. Moreover, of the individuals displaced, approximately 888,500 were sheltering in tents or shipping container shelters at GoT-managed temporary displacement sites as of February 24, according to the UN. Meanwhile, many others displaced by the earthquakes are sheltering in public buildings—such as mosques, schools, and sports centers—or lack temporary shelter entirely, relief actors report. The GoT reports that the earthquakes had resulted in the collapse of or heavy damage to approximately 164,320 buildings containing 520,000 independent units as of February 23, demonstrating the scale of the tremors' impact.

In opposition-held northwest Syria, the earthquakes' impact continues to compound the humanitarian needs of the more than 4 million people who required humanitarian assistance prior to February 6. As of February 28, the February tremors had prompted the displacement of at least 55,000 households, with at least 3 million people adversely affected in Idlib Governorate alone, the UN reports. The earthquakes also resulted in the displacement of an estimated 50,000 households in Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held areas of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, and Latakia governorates as of late February, the UN reports.

Earthquake-Related Damage and Destruction Hampers Already Limited Health Care Access in Northern Syria

The February 6 earthquakes and subsequent tremors continue to impede affected populations' access to basic services, such as health care. While assessments continue, the UN World Health Organization (WHO)

estimates that the earthquakes had damaged or destroyed at least 90 health facilities, including seven hospitals, in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia, and Tartus governorates as of late February. In addition, the earthquakes damaged or destroyed at least 55 health facilities in opposition-held northwest Syria, further impeding the populations' already limited access to essential health services and heightening the risk of maternal and child deaths, transmission of preventable diseases, and deaths from chronic diseases, particularly given overcrowding at temporary shelters and the few health centers that remain operational, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports. Nearly 30 percent of surveyed internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in collective shelters in Syria's earthquake-affected areas reported lacking access to health services, while more than 50 percent reported experiencing acute watery diarrhea and 18 percent reported having contracted scabies, according to a recent UN assessment. Moreover, relief actors documented nearly 1,700 suspected cholera cases between February 13 and 19, a 12 percent increase compared to the number of suspected cases recorded during the week prior to the February 6 earthquake; nearly one-half of suspected cholera cases documented during the period were among children ages five years and younger, UNICEF reports. USAID/BHA partners, several of which provide health support to vulnerable populations, continue to adjust existing programs in Syria to address the immediate needs of earthquake-affected communities.

Earthquakes Adversely Affect Commodity Availability, Increasing the Costs of Essential Items in Northwest Syria and Türkiye

In addition to impeding access to basic services, the February earthquakes disrupted trade and transportation networks, leading to price increases and some shortages of essential commodities. Between February 10 and 14, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) conducted a market assessment across earthquake-affected districts in southern Türkiye, evaluating household food security and market access in 16 districts in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Sanliurfa. The price of staple foods, such as rice and maize, increased by up to 50 percent in some areas, while the monthly cost of rental accommodations also increased significantly in both areas directly affected by the earthquakes and communities receiving displaced households. Meanwhile, significant variations in market access were observed. Markets in Hatay were the most affected, with only two of 11 assessed market vendors operating, and one of the locations reporting shortages of basic items. In Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş, markets were largely operational; however, many essential services in Kahramanmaraş—such as education, electricity, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)—were adversely affected by the earthquake, hindering peoples' access.

Between February 12 and 16, international non-governmental organization (INGO) REACH assessed nearly 3,400 vendors across 375 earthquake-affected communities in northwest Syria. The majority of surveyed communities reported that all vendors were operating or only a few shops were closed at the time of the assessment. However, vendors in areas most severely affected by the earthquakes were more likely to have paused operations, with vendors in parts of Idlib's Harim and Jisr-Ash-Shugur districts and Aleppo's Jandairis sub-district in Afrin District reporting higher rates of vendor closures. In addition, Jandairis, Harim's Harim sub-district, and Afrin's Shaikh al-Hadid sub-district all reported limited or no availability of basic food items. The assessment identified market shortages of and price increases for items in high demand, particularly in areas where vendors rely heavily on imports from Türkiye. Items in highest demand include blankets, fuel, plastic sheeting, and tents. The most frequently reported barriers hampering vendors' ability to meet increased public demand for these items include limited financial resources, commodity price increases, and insufficient stock from suppliers and producers. Meanwhile, the availability of canned foods has stabilized in northwest Syria, although wheat flour will likely continue to be in high demand across the region, the northwest Syria Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster reports. Overall, REACH concludes that markets in northwest Syria have remained relatively resilient following the earthquakes.

KEY FIGURES



160

USAR personnel deployed to Türkiye with the DART

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

URBAN SEARCH-AND-RESCUE

In the wake of the earthquake, the GoT requested international search-and-rescue assistance. In response, USAID/BHA deployed two USAID-funded urban search-and-rescue (USAR) teams from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Los Angeles County Fire Department who joined USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) on February 7. The USAR teams traveled with more than 170,000 pounds—77 metric tons (MT)—of specialized tools and equipment, such as hydraulic concrete breaking equipment, saws, torches, and drills, along with advanced medical equipment for search-and-rescue operations.

USAID-supported USAR teams consist of 19 functional positions, staffed by experienced emergency managers, planners, search-and-rescue specialists, hazardous materials technicians, licensed engineers and construction riggers, emergency medicine physicians and paramedics, search-and-rescue dogs with handlers, and logisticians. Structure collapse resulting from earthquake events tends to create numerous void spaces in damaged or destroyed buildings where survivors may be trapped. Thus, USAR teams perform life-saving technical activities, including specialized search-and-rescue operations involving structural collapse to rescue and recover trapped individuals.

On February 20, DART USAR personnel demobilized and returned to the United States following the completion of rescue and recovery efforts in Türkiye, while 34 DART staff remained in the region to continue scaling up humanitarian assistance for affected communities in Türkiye and Syria. The USAR teams supported GoT-led rescue efforts and structural assessments in Adiyaman Province since arriving in Türkiye. In addition, the DART donated tents from its base of operations and a portion of its search-and-rescue tools and equipment to the AKUT Search and Rescue Association, a Turkish search-and-rescue NGO.

Additionally, four U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) NGO partners have provided staff and other resources to assist with search-and-rescue efforts in southern Türkiye. Overall, the GoT and international governments have deployed approximately 242,400 search-and-rescue personnel and 13,700 vehicles, including heavy machinery, to Türkiye.

FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS, AND MPCA

USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to deliver emergency food assistance in both Türkiye and Syria, as well as IFRC and its partner the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Türkiye. Additionally, five existing USAID/BHA NGO partners are amplifying programs to provide food and MPCA to earthquake-



2.5 million

Number of earthquake-affected individuals reached with food assistance in Syria and Türkiye

affected populations in Syria. NGO partners in northwest Syria are delivering flour and yeast to contracted bakeries to produce subsidized bread and distributing food kits and ready-to-eat rations (RTEs). As of February 23, WFP had distributed 25,000 RTEs to earthquake-affected populations in northwest Syria. Additionally, the UN agency procured more than 45,000 MTs of high-energy biscuits and had begun distributing them to residents of Aleppo's Azaz and Jandairis sub-districts and Idlib's Dana sub-district as of the same date. WFP had reached approximately 660,000 earthquake-affected individuals in northwest Syria and 162,000 people in SARG-held areas with food assistance as of February 19.

A USAID/BHA NGO partner is supporting eight bakeries in earthquake-affected areas of northwest Syria to provide subsidized bread to an estimated 284,800 people. Meanwhile, the NGO has begun distributing MPCA to populations in northern Aleppo and Idlib, aiming to reach up to 18,000 households with cash assistance in the coming weeks.

WFP had also reached 973,000 earthquake-affected people in Türkiye, including 868,000 affected Turkish citizens and Syrian refugees in Türkiye with hot meals, as of February 23. Overall, USAID/BHA partner WFP reached an estimated 1.7 million earthquake-affected people in Türkiye and Syria with hot meals, RTEs, and in-kind food assistance between February 6 and 20. Moreover, with USAID/BHA and other donor support, TRC had provided approximately 79.4 million pieces of bread, 72.7 million hot meals, at least 14.5 million ready-to-eat meal packages, 11.1 million units of soup, and estimated 8.1 million gallons of water, and 4.2 million beverages to earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye as of February 27.

Two State/PRM partners are broadening existing programs to support the distribution of MPCA to earthquake-affected communities, including internally displaced persons residing in affected camps, in northwest Syria. Multiple State/PRM partners have also provided food and other life-saving assistance using existing programming funds in Syria. Moreover, State/PRM partner the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continues to support 160 Palestinian refugee households in Latakia with food assistance and additional families sheltering in Aleppo's Ein al-Tal Camp with RTEs.



845

Number of MT of USAID/BHA in-kind relief and WASH commodities delivered to support earthquake survivors

RELIEF COMMODITIES AND WASH

As of February 24, 10 flights carrying USAID/BHA in-kind relief commodities had arrived in Türkiye's Adana city from the bureau's warehouse in the United Arab Emirates and a regional supplier. In total, the flights transported nearly 845 MT of relief commodities, including 65,000 high and medium thermal blankets; 56,000 14-liter buckets to store water; 189 hygiene kits sufficient to support 100 households each; nearly 41,200 kitchen sets; 520 rolls of plastic sheeting; and 54,800 plastic tarpaulins. Partner IOM is transporting the relief commodities to earthquake-affected areas of Türkiye for onward distribution to affected populations to support

their shelter and WASH needs. With international donor support, including USG funding, IOM had reached 954,900 with emergency relief supplies in earthquake-affected areas of Türkiye as of late February

State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had provided relief commodities to earthquake-affected households, including 67,500 high thermal blankets; 28,700 beds; 15,100 mattresses; 19,500 kitchen sets; 12,500 supplementary food packs; 35,800 hygiene parcels; and 26,100 family tents as of February 23.

State/PRM partner UNHCR had released 31,700 core relief items kits—comprising high-thermal blankets, water containers, kitchen sets, mattresses, plastic sheeting, and sleeping mats—for distribution to earthquake-affected households in Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Latakia, and Tartus as of February 28. UNHCR has also dispatched 37,800 winter jackets and 17,400 winter clothing kits from its warehouses in Aleppo, Tartous and Homs for distribution to earthquake-affected households. In addition, almost 251,200 adult diapers—critical for thousands of elderly persons and persons with disabilities—were released for distribution to date.

With State/PRM support, IOM had distributed relief commodities—including blankets, electric stoves, heaters, and winter clothing—for more than 114,000 earthquake-affected individuals in four provinces in southeastern Türkiye as of February 16. In addition, IOM opened its warehouse in Gaziantep Province's Gaziantep city to shelter 1,200 affected individuals and provide them with food and safe drinking water. State/PRM is also supporting UNICEF's efforts to evacuate children in shelters across southeastern Türkiye to safer locations, conducting protection assessments and providing additional support as needed. Meanwhile, the UN agency is working with local authorities to support operations in more than 100 youth centers that have been converted into temporary shelters. UNICEF had provided 38,000 hygiene kits, 9,000 items of winter clothing for babies and children, nearly 4,800 blankets, and 3,000 water containers, as well as safe drinking water, to earthquake-affected populations in Türkiye as of February 16.

PROTECTION

With State/PRM support, UNHCR and its partners are providing protection services to earthquake-affected individuals, including awareness sessions on child protection and gender-based violence, referral of people in need to case management services, psychosocial support and psychological first aid. In total, UNHCR has reached 102,000 individuals Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Homs, Hama and southern Governorates with protection services since February 6.

State/PRM is also supporting UNICEF's efforts to evacuate children in shelters across southeastern Türkiye to safer locations, conducting protection assessments and providing additional support as needed. Meanwhile, the UN agency is working with local authorities to support operations in more than 100 youth centers that have been converted into temporary shelters. Moreover, the UN agency is providing mental health and psychosocial support and assisting separated and unaccompanied



102,000

Earthquake-affected
people receiving
protection services in
Syria

children.

HEALTH



11

Number of USG partners providing health assistance in Syria and Türkiye

With USAID/BHA support, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, and seven NGOs are delivering critical health services to earthquake-affected populations in Syria. One USAID/BHA NGO partner had dispatched mobile medical units to accommodation centers to support displaced populations in Idlib's Atmeh town and Jandaris, deployed 50 community health workers to surgical hospitals, and dispatched three ambulances to affected areas, among other health-related activities as of February 14. In addition, the partner continues to provide psychological first aid services to affected individuals in northwest Syria. The NGO also established a 24-hour mental health and psychosocial support hotline for vulnerable individuals in Syria. With USAID/BHA support, a second NGO deployed a mobile clinic to Jandaris to provide emergency health services, including trauma treatment and follow-up services, to earthquake-affected populations. The mobile teams are also providing service referrals and supporting the proper management of human remains. Moreover, a third NGO partner had treated 90 individuals affected by the February 20 earthquake as of February 21. The partner also deployed a second team of doctors and supplies required for neurosurgery to northwest Syria on February 20.

Between February 15 and 22, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF screened nearly 20,800 children in Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, Latakia, and Tartus governorates for severe acute malnutrition and provided treatment, as needed. The partner also conducted rapid nutrition assessments at nearly 30 shelters in Latakia and more than 240 shelters in Aleppo. In addition, UNICEF provided critical protection services, including psychosocial support and case management for the reunification of separated children with their households. Furthermore, UNICEF deployed 33 mobile health and nutrition teams to earthquake-affected areas in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia, Idlib, and Tartus and continued to provide health services at 15 existing clinics in Idlib, Latakia, and Tartus, reaching approximately 219,500 people with essential health care and medical supplies from mid- to late February.

With pre-existing support from USAID/BHA and other donors, UNFPA had distributed nearly 200 sexual and reproductive health kits—sufficient to meet the needs of nearly 23,000 women and girls—and nearly 5,000 dignity kits, to support feminine hygiene needs, to earthquake-affected populations in northwest Syria. In addition, UNFPA partners in SARG-held areas continue to provide essential sexual and reproductive health services at 14 facilities, while more than 30 mobile teams providing sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence treatment services are assisting populations displaced by the earthquakes who are currently residing in temporary shelters. Between February 8 and 14, UNFPA's mobile teams reached nearly 20,000 women and girls. Moreover, UNFPA delivered 25 sexual and reproductive health kits—sufficient to meet the needs of

nearly 2,900 women for three months—to SARG-held areas of Aleppo on February 15.

State/PRM partner UNRWA is distributing essential medical supplies to affected Palestinian refugees in Syria and offering telemedicine services to limited program participants based on need. The UN agency is also providing essential health and psychosocial support services to households impacted by the earthquakes in Neirab refugee camp in Syria. In addition, State/PRM partner UNFPA is delivering reproductive health services through four existing delivery points throughout southeastern Türkiye and is working to maintain access to essential health services and supporting state hospitals by providing medical items, medicines, and reproductive health supplies. The UN agency is also distributing dignity and hygiene kits to affected populations in Türkiye.

In late February, DoD began the installation of a field hospital for use by the GoT in Hatay, one of the hardest-hit provinces. The GoT underscored that the need for a field hospital is even more pressing given the increased destruction from the ongoing tremors.



606,200

Pounds of relief items
airlifted by DoD in
coordination with
USAID/BHA

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

At the request of USAID/BHA, DoD delivered approximately 606,200 pounds—275 MT—of emergency relief items to earthquake-affected areas of southern Türkiye between as of February 28. The missions include the airlift of 114,900 pounds, or 52 MT, of critical relief supplies—including blankets, emergency food commodities, generators, space heaters, tents, and winter clothing—from Incirlik to Adiyaman Province’s Karagol Koyu town; Hatay Province’s Hassa, Hatay, and Samandag towns; and Kahramanmaras Province’s Elbistan, Goksun, and Pazarcik towns for onward distribution to earthquake-affected populations between February 23 and 28. Furthermore, on February 25, the DART and DoD transferred nearly 120 DoD-supplied tents from Incirlik Air Base to USAID/BHA partner IOM for onward delivery to earthquake-affected areas in Syria and 79 tents to AFAD for distribution in affected areas of Türkiye.

A DoD shipment of relief commodities—including bedding, cots, and toiletries—arrived on the USS Hershel “Woody” Williams at the port in Mersin Province on February 27 and was transferred to AFAD for distribution at displacement sites and among earthquake-affected communities.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
	USAID/BHA		
		Syria	

IOM	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Aleppo, Idlib	\$7,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Affected Areas	\$15,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$10,000,000
WHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000
Implementing Partners	HCIMA, Health, MPCA	Affected Areas	\$7,000,000
	Program Support		\$11,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE			\$41,011,000
Türkiye			
DoD	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000
IFRC	MPCA, Protection	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
IOM	Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance, Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$16,000,000
WHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$5,939,580
	Program Support		\$184,384
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE RESPONSE			\$37,623,964
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$78,634,964
DoD			
Syria			
	In-Kind Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$4,475,623
TOTAL DoD FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE			\$4,475,623
Türkiye			
	Health, In-Kind Relief Commodities, Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$22,484,434
TOTAL DoD FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE RESPONSE			\$22,484,434
TOTAL DoD FUNDING			\$26,960,057
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$105,595,021

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 28, 2023.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- 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.

- 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 [USAID's Center for International Disaster Information](#) website and [interaction.org](#).
- 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](#)