

Türkiye and Syria – Earthquakes

MARCH 7, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

51,968

Earthquake-related Deaths Reported in Türkiye and Syria

Media – March 2023

118,700

Number of people injured in Türkiye and Syria

Media – February 2023

224,000

Number of Damaged or Destroyed Buildings in Türkiye and Syria

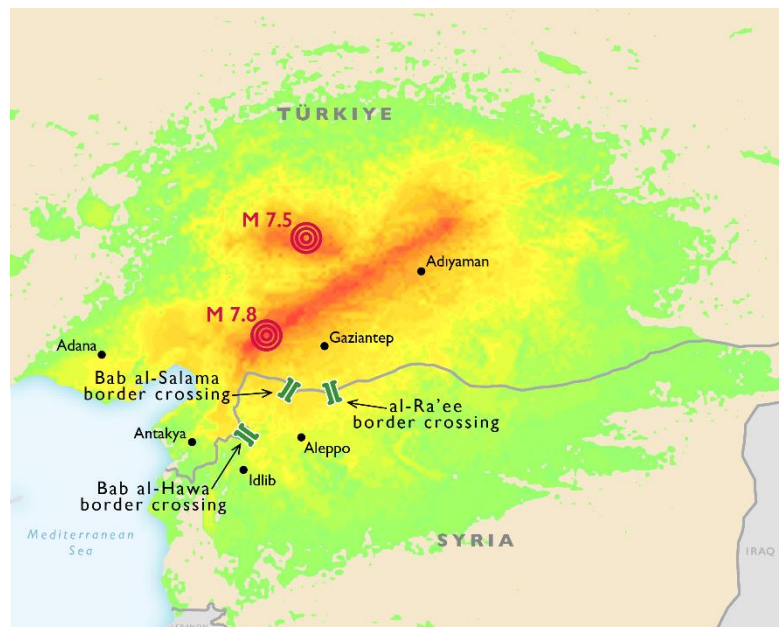
UN – March 2023

610,000

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

USGS – February 2023

- At 5:53 a.m. local time—or 9:53 p.m. ES—on March 3, a magnitude 5.0 earthquake struck central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 3.8 miles, according to the USGS.
- On March 6, Ambassador Flake handed a USAID/BHA-supported DoD-delivered 100-bed field hospital in Hatay over to the GoT MoH to enable local authorities to meet urgent medical needs.
- GoT and relief actors, including USAID/BHA partners, continue to respond to MHPSS needs in Türkiye.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA¹ \$88,106,533

DoD² \$27,600,736

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

Total \$114,707,269

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

Ambassador 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

March 6, 2023

Ambassador Flake hands the DoD field hospital in Hatay over to GoT MoH staff

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Magnitude 5.0 Earthquake Strikes Southern Türkiye on March 3

At 5:53 a.m. local time—or 9:53 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)—on March 3, a magnitude 5.0 earthquake struck central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 3.8 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 14.7 miles southeast of Goksun town in Kahramanmaraş Province. The March 3 tremor marks the latest in a series of thousands of aftershocks that followed a magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck central-southern Türkiye at a depth of 11.1 miles at 4:17 a.m. local time on February 6, or 8:17 p.m. EST on February 5. The Government of Türkiye's (GoT) Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) has reported no significant damages or casualties as a result of the March 3 earthquake, though damage and needs assessments remain ongoing.

USAID/BHA-Supported DoD-Supplied Health Facility Handed Over to GoT MoH

Health care remains a key focus for humanitarian actors responding to the effects of the earthquakes. Priority health concerns include immediate trauma care for injured individuals, post-trauma rehabilitative care, the provision of essential medicines and emergency kits, the prevention and control of disease outbreaks, and access to psychosocial support, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, access to safe deliveries and post-natal care is limited across earthquake-affected provinces, as many health facilities remain damaged and services disrupted; shortages of essential sexual and reproductive health supplies in earthquake-affected provinces also persist, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) reports.

In response to health sector needs, the DoD, in partnership with USAID/BHA, delivered, donated, and installed a modular field hospital—with 100 hospital beds and surgical and intensive care unit capabilities—in Hatay Province's Antakya city, where a 1,100 bed hospital was severely damaged and rendered nonfunctional by the earthquakes. On March 6, U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye Jeffrey L. Flake handed the field hospital over to the GoT Ministry of Health (MoH) to enable local responders to meet urgent medical needs. Separately, USAID/BHA partner Samaritan's Purse is also responding to the health needs of earthquake-affected populations in Antakya city through the organization's 52-bed field hospital.

GoT and USAID/BHA-Supported Relief Actors Respond to MHPSS Needs of Earthquake-Affected Populations

Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS)—including additional child-friendly spaces, age-appropriate education activities, as well as safe spaces for women and girls—remain essential needs for earthquake-affected individuals, particularly due to the frequent and ongoing aftershocks that have heightened and sustained levels of anxiety and sleep issues among

both adults and children in affected areas, the Turkish Psychologists Association reports.

In response, the GoT is establishing a common mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) portal for all agencies offering psychosocial services to streamline efforts to connect individuals in need with nearby certified providers, according to USAID/BHA partner the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). More than 5,000 individuals are also completing MHPSS certification to support needs arising from the earthquakes. In addition, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC)—though USAID/BHA support to implementing partner IFRC—is providing MHPSS to earthquake-affected populations at 20 collective shelters through 20 trained psychologists and over 40 social workers in coordination with Istanbul University.

UN Cross-Border Aid Deliveries to Northwest Syria Continue

UN agencies—including U.S. Government (USG) partners—continue to deliver critical humanitarian assistance to earthquake-affected populations in northwest Syria from Türkiye, transporting nearly 620 trucks of relief supplies through three border crossing points between February 9 and March 7. The total includes more than 490 trucks that crossed through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point, 100 trucks that utilized the Bab al-Salam border crossing point, and more than 24 trucks that utilized the Al Ra'ee border crossing point, the UN reports. These figures also include nearly 340 trucks from USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP), more than 160 trucks from USG partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM), nearly 80 trucks from U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 20 trucks from USAID/BHA partner WHO, and nearly 20 trucks from USG partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). In the coming weeks, some relief actors plan to transition from the supply of in-kind commodities from Türkiye to Syria towards a greater use of cash and locally procured goods for earthquake affected communities in Syria as markets stabilize and reopen, relief actors report.

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 tend 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 portions of its search-and-rescue tools and equipment to the AKUT Search and Rescue Association, a Turkish search-and-rescue non-governmental organization (NGO), and the Syrian Civil Defense, also known as the White Helmets.

Additionally, four 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 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 WFP to deliver emergency food assistance in both Türkiye and Syria, as well as IFRC and its partner the TRC to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Türkiye. Additionally, five existing USAID/BHA NGO partners are amplifying programming to provide food and MPCA to earthquake-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 March 2, WFP had distributed 528,000 RTEs and hot meals to earthquake affected populations in Syria. Additionally, the UN agency had reached 1.2 million people in SARG- and opposition-held areas of northwest Syria with general food assistance rations and cash transfers, the majority of whom are affected by the earthquakes.

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 reached with hot meals and 105,000 Turkish citizens and Syrian refugees reached with family food packages in displacement camps, as of March 2. Overall, WFP reached an estimated 2.7 million earthquake-affected people in Türkiye and Syria with hot meals, RTEs, and in-kind food assistance between February 6 and March 2. 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



2.5 million

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

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.

RELIEF COMMODITIES AND WASH



845

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

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. USG 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. Furthermore, State/PRM assistance is enabling IOM to support the GoT's efforts to manage displaced populations, including through the provision of data on the needs and locations of earthquake-affected communities.

State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed 29,000 core relief item (CRI) kits—comprising high-thermal blankets, kitchen sets, mattresses, plastic sheeting, sleeping mats, tents, and water containers—reaching 139,000 individuals as of March 6 in Syria. An additional 2,700 CRI kits were released for distribution to affected families in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia, south Idlib, and Tartous as of the same date. UNHCR has also distributed more than 110,000 relief items—including winter jackets, winter clothing, rubber boots, and adult diapers. Relief items are being released regularly from UNHCR warehouses in Aleppo, Homs, and Tartous for distribution to affected families.

With State/PRM support, IOM had distributed relief commodities—including blankets, electric stoves, heaters, mattresses, and winter clothing—for more than 954,800 earthquake-affected individuals in southeast Türkiye as of March 5. 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 southeast 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 reached nearly 277,000 people with blankets, electrical heaters, hygiene kits, and winter clothing as of February 28. In addition, State/PRM partner Relief International distributed hygiene kits to 38,000 earthquake-affected people in Türkiye's Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, and Mersin provinces in late February.



300,000

Earthquake-affected
people receiving
protection services in
Syria

PROTECTION

With USAID/BHA support, TRC—through USAID/BHA support to implementing partner IFRC—is providing MHPSS to earthquake-affected populations at 20 collective shelters through 20 trained psychologists and over 40 workers in coordination with Istanbul University.

With State/PRM support, UNHCR and its partners are also 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 conducted 245,000 interventions in 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 southeast Türkiye to safer locations, conduct protection assessments, and provide 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 and assisting separated and unaccompanied children. Moreover, with USG and other donor support, UNICEF had reached more than 198,000 earthquake-affected individuals in Türkiye with mental health and psychosocial support services and recreational activities as of February 28.



11

Number of USG partners
providing health assistance
in Syria and Türkiye

HEALTH

With USAID/BHA support, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and seven NGOs are delivering critical health services to earthquake-affected populations in Syria. On March 1, USAID/BHA partner WHO distributed life-saving medicines, supplies, and equipment—sufficient to conduct more than 280,000 treatments, including for the management of trauma, diabetes, and pneumonia—to three hospitals in northwest Syria. As of March 1, the UN agency had delivered more than 140 MT of supplies to northwest Syria to address earthquake-related needs. In addition, 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. 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 Jandarisi to provide emergency health services, including trauma treatment and follow-up services, to earthquake-affected populations.

Between February 15 and 22, USG 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, between February 6 and March 3, UNFPA had distributed more than 460 sexual and reproductive health kits—sufficient to meet the needs of 103,000 women and girls—in opposition-held areas of northwest Syria. UNFPA had also distributed nearly 38,000 dignity kits, to support feminine hygiene needs, to earthquake-affected populations in SARG-held of 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, gender-based violence treatment services, and psychological first aid are assisting more than 28,800 individuals. Between February 6 and March 3, USAID/BHA partner UNFPA provided sexual and reproductive health services to more than 20,000 women and girls, including support for more than 1,350 deliveries and 400 cesarean section deliveries performed at UNFPA-supported facilities within earthquake-affected areas.

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 southeast 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 and has provided approximately 8,900 individuals with life-saving sexual and reproductive health and gender-based

violence support.

With PRM support, an implementing partner is also supporting health services for more than 57,000 earthquake-affected individuals in Syria and has provided medical and surgical supplies to six hospitals in earthquake affected areas.

In early March, with USAID/BHA support, DoD completed the installation of a 100-bed field hospital for use by the GoT in Hatay, one of the hardest-hit provinces. Ambassador Flake handed the field hospital over to GoT MoH authorities on March 6.



275

MT 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. 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
UNICEF	Health, WASH, Protection	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$10,000,000
WHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000

Implementing Partners	HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Affected Areas	\$8,000,000
	Program Support		\$18,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE			\$47,018,000
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
Samaritan's Purse	Health	Hatay	\$3,000,000
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	\$6,312,256
	Program Support		\$276,277
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE RESPONSE			\$41,088,533
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$88,106,533
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	\$23,125,113
TOTAL DoD FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE RESPONSE			\$23,125,113
TOTAL DoD FUNDING			\$27,600,736
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$115,707,269

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 7, 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](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)