

CONTEXT

- Violence among non-state armed groups and recurring natural disasters continue to displace people; limit Colombians' ability to access crops, essential goods and services, and livelihood opportunities; and exacerbate food insecurity and health concerns among vulnerable populations.
- The ongoing economic and political crisis in neighboring Venezuela has prompted more than 7.2 million Venezuelans to flee their country; approximately 2.5 million have sought refuge in Colombia, according to the Regional Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). In recent years, the crisis in Venezuela has driven more than 980,000 Colombians previously residing in Venezuela to return to Colombia. The population influx has strained local services and exacerbated food, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs among internally displaced Colombians, Venezuelan migrants and refugees, and host community members in both rural and urban areas of the country.
- The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Colombia identified 7.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance—particularly food security and nutrition, health, protection, and WASH assistance—due to the compounding effects of conflict and related displacement, natural disasters, and migration in the country. Separately, the 2023 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan identified more than 5.4 million people in Colombia affected by the crisis in Venezuela—including Venezuelan migrants and refugees, Colombian returnees, and host community members—also in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023.
- As of February 2023, approximately 30 percent of Colombian households were food-insecure, while more than half of the migrant and refugee population in Colombia—1.3 million people—were facing acute food insecurity, according to USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partner the UN World Food Program (WFP).



ASSISTANCE

- USAID/BHA has provided more than \$616 million in response to the Venezuela regional crisis in Colombia since Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, prioritizing emergency food assistance with a complementary focus on nutrition and livelihoods for Venezuelans and vulnerable host communities. With USAID/BHA support, WFP is addressing acute food insecurity among migrant and refugee populations by providing emergency food assistance, including cash transfers for food, food vouchers redeemable in local markets, hot meals, and food kits for populations in transit.

USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) partners also provide food kits and hot meals to Venezuelan migrants and refugees in transit, as well as a range of humanitarian services—including cash assistance—to communities adversely affected by the Venezuela regional crisis. USAID/BHA-funded cash assistance programs reach thousands of individuals each month and enable people to buy essential items such as food and health supplies from local markets to meet their basic needs.

- Since 2011, USAID/BHA partners have also provided emergency food assistance to improve food security outcomes among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia. With USAID/BHA support, WFP and several NGO partners are providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and locally procured food to IDPs, while also implementing activities designed to bolster agricultural production and livelihoods. In addition, USAID/BHA has supported five NGO partners since FY 2021 to provide critical protection interventions—such as psychosocial support services to respond to GBV, specialized mental health services and sexual and reproductive health training, as well as dignity and hygiene kit distributions—shelter support, and WASH assistance to reduce the risk of disease transmission, including by distributing hygiene kits and increasing access to safe drinking water. USAID/BHA partners are also providing humanitarian coordination support to improve analysis and decision-making capacities among relief actors responding to the needs of IDPs in Colombia.
- USAID/BHA continues to provide early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance in Colombia through activities designed to increase preparedness and improve livelihood opportunities in communities affected by conflict and natural disasters. Since FY 2019, USAID/BHA has supported Miyamoto International to bolster disaster preparedness, including by strengthening regional risk management and the response capacities of departmental and municipal governments, as well as private sector organizations. USAID/BHA partner GOAL is also working both to strengthen urban risk reduction and resilience capacities at the community and government levels and to increase vulnerable communities’ resilience to natural disasters, such as flooding and landslides. GOAL also implements livelihood development and restoration activities among host community members, migrants, and returnees.

USAID/BHA Funding in Colombia ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$144,924,809	\$750,000	\$145,674,809
FY 2023	\$47,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$49,500,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 10, 2023. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.