

Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – Latin America and the Caribbean

REGIONAL SUMMARY

- In FY 2023, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided nearly \$77.4 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in nine countries across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), as well as for activities across the region. Populations throughout LAC face risks from a range of natural disasters, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, volcanic activity, and wildfires, which compound existing vulnerabilities experienced by many communities in LAC.
- Through its longstanding Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP), USAID/BHA maintained a network of 40 country, regional, and thematic disaster risk management specialists, as well as more than 300 surge staff, in countries across LAC to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity.
- USAID/BHA supported activities to strengthen community preparedness and response capacity to combat the impacts of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, and other natural disasters across the region. USAID/BHA also funded programs to improve agricultural sustainability in drought-prone areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. In Haiti, with more than \$13.7 million in FY 2023 funding, USAID/BHA supported three partners to implement standalone ER4 activities, including activities to restore watersheds in Port-au-Prince and reduce flooding effects on at-risk communities downstream.



USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for Latin America and the Caribbean in FY 2023¹

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	LAC Regional, Caribbean Regional, Central America Regional, South America Regional, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Peru	\$50,860,938
Integrated ER4	Central America Regional, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras	\$26,506,657
FY 2023 ER4 Total		\$77,367,595

¹ Integrated ER4 refers to programming that incorporates ER4 components within an active humanitarian response. USAID/BHA supported regional ER4 programs in FY 2023 that may allocate funding to additional countries not detailed in the above map.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Supporting Disaster Preparedness in the Caribbean Through Youth-Led Activities

Since 2020, USAID/BHA has supported the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Caritas Antilles to increase disaster preparedness and resilience among vulnerable communities in the Caribbean island countries of Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia—which are at high risk of recurring natural hazards, including hurricanes, and earthquakes—via a focus on youth-led community actions. With prior year funding, the program trained nearly 660 members of youth emergency action committees (YEACs) across all four countries in emergency preparedness and response, including topics such as first aid, search and rescue, radio communication, and mass casualty management between 2020 and 2023. YEAC participants also received training in leadership and other life skills, such as personal finance and public speaking, to boost their access to employment opportunities. Caritas further supported wider community preparedness for potential disasters on the islands, educating and training more than 19,100 people about disaster risks, preparedness activities, and response strategies via disaster simulations and drills, school campaigns, and other public awareness campaigns during the three-year period. Key awareness-raising campaigns in the four countries focused on fire safety awareness, basic risk analysis, and first aid skills.

Strengthening Earthquake Disaster Risk Management Across Latin America and the Caribbean

During FY 2023, USAID/BHA partner Miyamoto International continued to implement its Preparing Rescue and Emergency Personnel to Ameliorate the Response to Earthquakes (PREPARE) program in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Mexico. This earthquake risk reduction program aimed to strengthen the emergency response capacities of national and local authorities and reduce vulnerability to earthquakes and related risks in metropolitan areas. With USAID/BHA support, Miyamoto trained approximately 560 individuals in disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and/or disaster risk management during the year. More than 230 individuals from 40 community civil protection commissions received training in seismic risk prevention and preparedness measures.

During FY 2023, to address risks associated with earthquake-vulnerable structures in El Salvador's capital city of San Salvador, Miyamoto and the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at the University of El Salvador developed a training course on strategies for conducting vulnerability assessments of buildings. The course teaches participants how to identify a building's susceptibility to seismic events and develops the competencies necessary to evaluate buildings' level of vulnerability using information-gathering tools. During the year, 50 engineering professionals from 10 institutions successfully completed the course.

Supporting Restorative Agriculture and Urban Resilience in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

Countries in northern Central America remain highly vulnerable to climatic shocks—such as drought, flooding, and tropical storms and hurricanes—that can result in extensive crop losses, prolonged flooding, and severe damage to critical infrastructure, posing particularly acute risks among low-income households. In response, USAID/BHA is supporting activities to help rural households adapt practices to better withstand these shocks. In Guatemala, USAID/BHA partner World Vision helped more than 17,500 people improve their nutritional intake while also building and strengthening sustainable livelihoods and resilience to shocks and stresses by distributing vegetable seeds such as broccoli, lettuce, and onion, as well as oyster mushrooms for home gardens. The NGO also distributed chickens to improve food security and nutrition and to allow households to restore their livelihoods by providing income-generating opportunities in Guatemala's San Marcos and Totonicapán

departments. World Vision also identified 26 sites for seed banks, which are an efficient strategy to build community resilience against climate change and improve the quality of local seed systems.

USAID/BHA partners in northern Central America also work to strengthen community preparedness and improve policies and plans that aim to reduce urban disaster risks. In Honduras, USAID/BHA provided approximately \$1.1 million to GOAL to enhance the ability of urban neighborhoods in the Valle de Sula metropolitan area to respond to flooding by bolstering DRR policy, planning, and mitigation, and other practices among acutely vulnerable communities. In coordination with regional authorities, GOAL is working to develop and implement an inclusive early warning and response system for disaster-prone neighborhoods and provide technical assistance in the construction of more resilient housing and improved infrastructure, such as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems. The NGO is also working to promote access to financial services and develop connections between local authorities and businesses to increase income-generating opportunities and, by extension, communities' ability to recover from disasters, among other interventions.

Reducing Flooding and Environmental Health Risks to Communities of Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Since 2021, USAID/BHA has supported the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) to support community resilience and reduce the impact of natural disasters in Haiti's Port-au-Prince metropolitan area through watershed restoration measures in Tabarre commune and emergency preparedness activities in Cité Soleil commune. Cité Soleil, with an estimated population of approximately 400,000 people, is located downstream of Tabarre and is one of the areas of Port-au-Prince most exposed to the effects of flooding and violence in recent years.

In Tabarre, PADF supported cash-for-work activities to restore the watershed, plant 26,000 trees, and stabilize more than 3 miles of ravine, reducing the risk of flooding downstream. In partnership with the Government of Haiti Ministry of Public Works, PADF continued to support extensive cleaning operations of Tabarre's main drainage systems, removing nearly 530,000 cubic feet of waste and silt from the commune's canals and bridges to ensure adequate drainage during storms. The project also aims to build local early warning system capacity in collaboration with national authorities, training nearly 200 members of community support groups to collect data and disseminate early warnings during the year. PADF also identified non-functional water points in Cité Soleil for rehabilitation during the year to ultimately increase the supply of safe drinking water in the commune.

Increasing Food Security in Haiti

During FY 2023, a Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led consortium continued Ayiti Pi Djanm, or A Stronger Haiti, a five-year, USAID/BHA-funded Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) aiming to improve immediate food security and nutrition outcomes and bolster long-term resilience against climatic and systemic challenges—such as frequent hurricanes and a lack of high-quality and diversified seeds—among vulnerable populations in Haiti's Nord-Est and Sud departments. To address acute food insecurity, the consortium worked to implement an innovative, market-based approach that uses U.S.-sourced agricultural commodities to enhance the diversity and supply of locally produced foods. Additionally, the consortium supports new livelihood opportunities by training farming household members to produce these new staple crops and connecting them with buyers. With an increased supply and variety of locally produced food in the market, the consortium's activities will help drive the demand for these new commodities through a voucher program and a marketing campaign to promote their consumption. To foster lasting resilience to climatic and other challenges in Haiti, the consortium is also working to improve soil, fertilizer, and water management techniques for small-scale farming operations while mitigating the impact of previous environmental degradation that has contributed to food insecurity.

The five-year program, which began in FY 2022, reached more than 63,700 people with food security activities during FY 2023. USAID/BHA partners delivered six cycles of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to nearly 8,700 households experiencing food insecurity in Nord-Est and Sud to support basic needs and bolster nutrition and food consumption outcomes. The program also reached 11,530 households with a first cycle of vouchers to purchase nutritious food. The CRS-led consortium's program and other humanitarian assistance during the same time partly contributed to a reduction in assessed food insecurity from Emergency—IPC 4—to Crisis—IPC 3—outcomes in all 12 communes of Haiti's Nord and Sud departments reached by the consortium.²

Helping Communities Adapt to Climatic Risks in Peru's Cajamarca Region

With USAID/BHA support, Practical Action supported activities from 2020 to 2023 to increase the capacity of local officials and communities to prepare for and reduce the impact of climatic shocks in Peru's Cajamarca Region, located in the Andes Mountains. Due to climate change, communities in the region are at increasing risk of shocks such as droughts, floods, frost, and landslides, which can particularly affect agriculture and vulnerable people in urban areas and rural communities. In response, Practical Action supported the installation of 11 hydrometeorological and agro-climatic monitoring stations across nine districts of Cajamarca, providing early warning of extreme weather events and improving agricultural planning capacity in surrounding communities. The partner also trained more than 3,800 people in various risk management policy and practice topics, such as first aid, search and rescue, and disaster risk management activities.

Building Resilient Neighborhoods in Colombia

Colombia continues to experience a complex humanitarian crisis due to the internal conflict, migration, and recurring natural disasters such as flooding, landslides, and wildfires. The ongoing crisis in neighboring Venezuela has resulted in the movement of nearly 2.9 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants to Colombia as of November 2023, and internal conflict in Colombia's Norte de Santander Department has driven displacement within the country and a large number of new arrivals in some urban neighborhoods. Since FY 2020, USAID/BHA has supported GOAL to strengthen local government and household disaster response capacity in vulnerable communities in Colombia's La Guajira and Norte de Santander departments; Bucaramanga municipality in Santander Department; and Barranquilla municipality in Atlántico Department. During FY 2023, GOAL supported the development of preparedness plans, evacuation routes, and early warning systems in the targeted neighborhoods. Additionally, the NGO supported livelihood restoration activities for artisans and businesses—including trainings on administrative, financial, and accounting topics—that reached more than 1,300 people.

Creating Community Risk Management Committees in Ecuador

The vast majority of Ecuador's population lives in mountainous and coastal regions vulnerable to recurring droughts, earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanic activity, and wildfires. With prior year funding, USAID/BHA supported Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to address persistent risks faced by communities in Ecuador, particularly in Guayas and Pichincha provinces. ADRA worked closely with the Government of Ecuador to bolster local, regional, and national emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capacities. The NGO supported the creation of community risk management committees to develop networks and response plans. The ADRA-supported community risk management committees also organized into teams focused on first

² The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. IPC Phase 5 is referred to as "Catastrophe" when classifying a household and "Famine" when classifying an area. Famine conditions occur when at least 20 percent of the population in a given area face an extreme lack of food; the Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence, measured by weight-for-height z-score, exceeds 30 percent; and the mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 individuals per day.

aid, fire management, and evacuation and rescue, participating in trainings building their capacity as first responders. ADRA also supported community preparedness courses and workshops for schools, with more than 2,500 students and teachers participating from September 2022 to September 2023.

USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN FY 2023¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Standalone ER4			
LAC Regional	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Food Assistance, Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications (HPSAA), MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	CRS	\$3,000,000
	Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)	\$1,725,000
	DRRPP	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)	\$350,000
	HCIMA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	\$350,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	\$1,589,000
	DRRPP	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	\$1,025,000
	Program Support		\$5,156,632
Caribbean Regional	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	\$500,000
	DRRPP	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	\$1,750,000
	DRRPP, Logistics Support, MPCA	UN World Food Program (WFP)	\$3,250,000
Central America Regional	DRRPP	Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC)	\$650,000
	DRRPP	RET	\$500,000
	DRRPP, Shelter and Settlements	World Vision	\$1,140,000
South America Regional	Protection	UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	\$1,500,000
Brazil	DRRPP	World Vision	\$500,000
Colombia	Agriculture, DRRPP, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Malteser International	\$2,500,000
	HCIMA	iMMAP	\$2,000,000
Dominican Republic	DRRPP	WFP	\$900,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$100,000
Ecuador	DRRPP	WFP	\$1,000,000
El Salvador	DRRPP	CRS	\$379,996
	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$500,000
Guatemala	DRRPP	Global Communities	\$397,696
Haiti	RFSA	CRS	\$10,633,080

	DRRPP, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks, WASH	PADF	\$1,600,000
	DRRPP, WASH	Miyamoto International	\$1,400,000
Honduras	DRRPP, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks, Shelter and Settlements	GOAL	\$1,103,534
	DRRPP	ADRA	\$1,000,000
Peru	Agriculture, DRRPP, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	Practical Action	\$1,065,357
	DRRPP	PREDES	\$1,809,643
	DRRPP, Shelter and Settlements	Save the Children Federation (SCF)	\$1,486,000
TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING			\$50,860,938
Integrated ER4 With Response²			
Central America Regional	Agriculture, ERMS	Acción contra el Hambre/Spain (ACH/Spain)	\$819,545
	ERMS, Protection	CARE	\$4,824,004
Colombia	Agriculture	WFP	\$815,318
El Salvador	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	CRS	\$2,034,445
	Agriculture	WFP	\$500,000
	Agriculture, ERMS, NHTR	CRS	\$3,616,171
	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, WASH	FEDECOVERA	\$696,245
Guatemala	Agriculture, Protection	SCF	\$1,052,617
	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	World Vision	\$2,093,845
	Agriculture	WFP	\$1,000,000
Haiti	HCIMA	OCHA	\$200,000
	Agriculture, ERMS	ADRA	\$1,541,956
	Agriculture, ERMS, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	CRS	\$2,641,510
	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	Global Communities	\$1,891,247
Honduras	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	GOAL	\$1,000,000
	WASH	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	\$372,580
	Protection, WASH	World Vision	\$806,345
	Agriculture, WASH	WFP	\$600,829
TOTAL INTEGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$26,506,657
TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2023			\$77,367,595

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, 2023.

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](https://www.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](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)