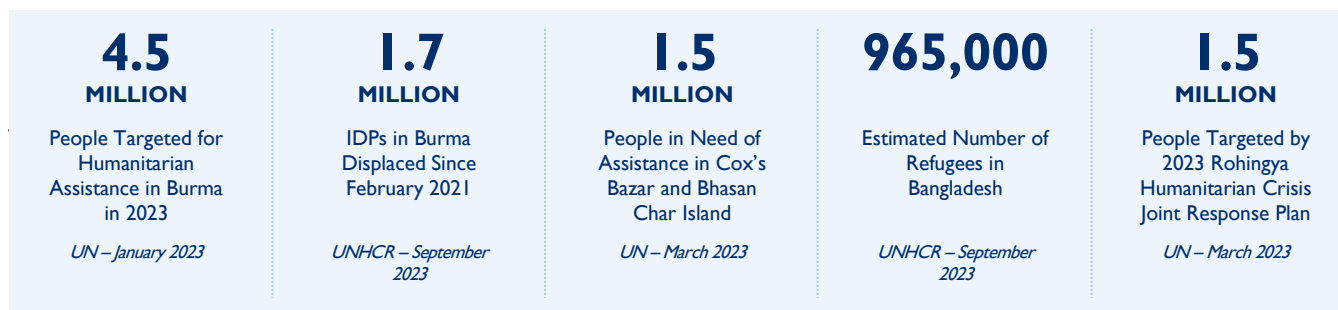


Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Military authorities in Burma permitted relief actors to resume humanitarian distributions for some Tropical Cyclone Mocha-affected populations in September, including WFP-provided assistance for 22,500 cyclone-affected people in central Rakhine State.
- In response to severe flooding in Bangladesh, U.S. Ambassador Peter D. Haas issued a DHN on August 20; USAID/BHA provided \$250,000 to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to assist disaster-affected communities in August.
- On September 21, the USG announced more than \$116 million in new humanitarian funding for the Burma and Bangladesh regional crisis response.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$196,870,324
	For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FY 2023	State/PRM ²
Total		\$410,531,716

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

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

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USG Announces More Than \$116 Million in Funding for the Burma and Bangladesh Regional Crisis Response

On September 21, U.S. Department of State Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya announced more than \$116 million in U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations in Burma, Bangladesh, and the region. This new funding brings the total USG assistance for Burma and Bangladesh to more than \$410 million in FY 2023, including more than \$17 million for the humanitarian response to Tropical Cyclone Mocha, which affected more than 10 million people across the two countries after making landfall in May. The new funding will support health and protection assistance, increased access to safe drinking water, and psychosocial support services for host community members and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and crisis-affected communities—including internally displaced persons (IDPs)—across Burma and the region. Since August 2017, the USG has provided more than \$2.3 billion in humanitarian funding for the Burma and Bangladesh regional response.

Humanitarian Response to Tropical Cyclone Mocha Resumes, Though Restrictions Continue to Hinder Humanitarian Access in Burma

Military authorities allowed relief actors to resume humanitarian distributions for some cyclone-affected populations in Burma's Chin and Rakhine states in August, representing the first-time authorities have authorized humanitarian assistance activities in nearly three months, according to relief actors. The recent resumption enabled USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) to deliver more than 1,650 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food and relief commodities to Rakhine's Sittwe township between September 17 and 20. The UN agency had reached more than 22,500 cyclone-affected individuals in areas of central Rakhine where access had been granted by military authorities as of September 29. Military authorities suspended travel authorizations for humanitarian organizations on June 8, impeding relief actors from delivering ongoing assistance to the more than 3.4 million cyclone-affected individuals—the majority of whom reside in Rakhine—who remained in need of humanitarian assistance, exacerbating the effects of Tropical Cyclone Mocha, which made landfall over Rakhine on May 14.

Humanitarian organizations and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) a.i. for Burma Ramanathan Balakrishnan continue to urge military authorities to allow the resumption of aid distributions in cyclone-affected areas. RC/HC Balakrishnan met with military authorities on September 12 to advocate for increased humanitarian access, including expedited approval of visa applications for international nongovernmental organization (INGO) country directors, memoranda of understandings for organizations operating in Burma, and three-month travel authorizations for humanitarian organizations, USG partners report.

Violence Drives Further Displacement in Burma, With More Than 1.9 Million IDPs Countrywide

Clashes between ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF), and the People's Defense Forces (PDFs) continue to drive displacement across Burma and heighten protection concerns for vulnerable populations, including the more than 1.9 million IDPs sheltering across the country, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In northeast Burma, armed clashes between the MAF and EAOs persisted through September, contributing to more than 126,000 individuals internally displaced by clashes and other insecurity in Kachin and northern Shan states as of September 25, according to UNHCR. For example, clashes between MAF and an EAO in

northern Shan's Muse township on September 1 resulted in the displacement of more than 600 people, injury to two individuals, and the damage or destruction of nearly ten houses and one school, according to a humanitarian analysis organization. Affected populations sheltered in nearby monasteries or villages and required critical humanitarian assistance, including food, blankets, and other necessities as of early September.

In northwestern Burma's Sagaing Region, MAF attacks in September displaced approximately 30,000 people who remained in need of food and medicine as of early September, according to international media. Sagaing remains Burma's most conflict-affected region, with an estimated 818,300 individuals displaced between February 1, 2021, and September 11, 2023, according to UNHCR. Meanwhile, nearly 548,000 people remain displaced due to the MAF violence—such as airstrikes, armed attacks, and destruction of homes—in southeastern Burma, including Kayah, Kayin, and Mon states, areas of Shan, and Bago and Tanintharyi regions as of September 25. As new displacement continues, relief actors have limited ability to continue to support IDPs, as food and shelter supplies are diminishing. Moreover, hostilities continue to disrupt humanitarian activities across the southeast, the UN reports. For example, road closures in Kayah prompted a humanitarian organization to relocate its staff, while an MAF airstrike in the state on September 8 reportedly hit medical facilities, reducing the ability of relief actors to provide health care services, according to the UN.

UN Appeals for Increased Humanitarian Access in Burma

The UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Martin Griffiths visited Burma between August 15 and 16 to advocate for improved humanitarian access, highlight protection concerns, and raise awareness about the ongoing humanitarian crisis. ERC Griffiths also met with military authorities in Sittwe, during which he conveyed the need to scale up direct aid for cyclone- and violence-affected individuals across the country and requested the removal of the police checkpoint outside of Rakhine's Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site, where stateless and relocated IDPs continue to be denied freedom of movement. The ERC discussed bureaucratic impediments for humanitarian workers, including problems obtaining visas and travel authorizations, which hinder the ability to reach affected populations.

An estimated 17.6 million people across Burma—approximately 30 percent of the country's total population—require life-saving humanitarian assistance in 2023, according to the UN. In response to widespread needs, USG partners—including UN agencies and NGOs—continue to reach crisis-affected communities, despite ongoing access constraints.

Floods and Landslides Affect Approximately 1.3 Million People in Bangladesh's Chittagong Division

Heavy monsoon rains associated in Bangladesh's Chittagong Division—including Bandarban, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, and Rangamati districts—in early August resulted in 51 deaths and adversely affected approximately 1.3 million people, including the displacement of more than 213,000 people as of August 13, according to the UN. Flooding and landslides caused widespread damage to critical infrastructure, including several key transportation routes, which obstructed humanitarian access and hindered search-and-rescue efforts. As a result, an estimated 600,000 people required humanitarian support, including food, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance across the division as of September 10, according to the UN.

U.S. Ambassador Peter D. Haas issued a declaration of humanitarian (DHN) need due to the effects of the flooding and landslides in Bangladesh on August 20. In response, USAID/BHA provided \$250,000 to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to support multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA)

distribution to disaster-affected communities in Bandarban. State/PRM partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in coordination with the Government of Bangladesh, provided WASH support by installing more than 130 latrines and nearly 80 handwashing devices in floods-affected areas of Cox’s Bazar as of September. The State/PRM partner also provided MPCA to more than 1,000 women in Cox’s Bazar as part of its nutrition activities. Separately, the UN released the August 2023–January 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the flash floods in Chittagong on September 10, noting that flood-affected individuals require food, health, protection, and WASH assistance, with hygienic sanitation facilities and safe drinking water remaining priority needs.

Dengue Fever Cases Reach 187,000 in Bangladesh As Rohingya Refugees in Cox’s Bazar Remain at Heightened Risk

Bangladesh is experiencing the worst dengue fever outbreak in its national history, with more than 187,000 dengue cases and 909 resultant deaths recorded between the onset of the outbreak in January and September 25, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. Children ages five years and younger are at increased risk for severe illness from the mosquito-borne disease, with children accounting for one in every five dengue-related deaths, according to UNICEF. The number of dengue fever cases reported since January already exceeds the approximately 62,400 dengue cases and 281 resultant deaths reported in all of 2022, according to the Government of Bangladesh. In Cox’s Bazar alone, approximately 13,000 people contracted dengue fever between January 1 and September 13, health authorities report. The majority of those affected are Rohingya refugees living in camps characterized by overcrowded conditions and limited access to health care and WASH services, which increases the risk of contracting dengue fever, according to international media. Moreover, UNICEF reports dengue-related complications in Cox’s Bazar resulted in 13 deaths and nearly 1,900 hospital admissions between January and September 13. USG partners, including UNICEF and WHO, are coordinating with the Government of Bangladesh to bolster dengue fever preparedness and management efforts in at-risk areas and supporting WASH experts in refugee camps to deliver disease prevention and awareness raising to Rohingya refugee communities. UNICEF reached nearly 230,000 Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar with dengue prevention through interpersonal awareness sessions as of September 18.

KEY FIGURES



**\$136.3
Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA
FY 2023 support for
food security activities



10

USG partners
implementing stand-
alone protection
interventions in FY 2023

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA provides funding to WFP to deliver emergency food assistance—including cash transfers for food; food vouchers; and in-kind food assistance through local, regional, and international procurement—to populations in Burma and Bangladesh. USAID/BHA also supports complementary nutrition services, as well as coordination and capacity-building activities among other food security actors in the two countries to strengthen response efforts. In addition, State/PRM supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, UNHCR, and NGO partners to deliver complementary livelihood and nutrition services to refugees and other vulnerable individuals in Bangladesh.

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support ten humanitarian partners to address protection concerns among displaced and violence-affected populations

throughout Burma; host communities and Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar; and Rohingya refugees residing across Southeast Asia. USG-supported protection activities in Burma and Bangladesh focus on increasing access to protection services such as gender-based violence prevention and response, child-friendly spaces, community-based mental health and psychosocial support, and legal assistance. USG partners also work with the broader humanitarian community in Burma to advocate for access to life-saving humanitarian assistance and promote the delivery of protection services in areas with significant humanitarian access constraints.



70,000

Households received tie-down kits from USG partners for cyclone and monsoon prevention

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA works with partners in Bangladesh to enhance community resilience to cyclones and other natural disasters by conducting disaster risk reduction activities, as well as infrastructure rehabilitation in host communities in Bandarban and Cox’s Bazar. State/PRM-supported shelter assistance in Bangladesh includes emergency shelter repairs and distribution of shelter materials, such as plastic sheeting to prevent roof leaks, complemented by site coordination capacity-building activities. USG partners also provide cash assistance for host community members and refugees to purchase local shelter materials to improve the resilience of their living spaces to natural disasters. In Burma, UNHCR implements protection-sensitive shelter reconstruction in Rakhine by considering IDPs specific needs in coordination with local actors.



10

USG partners implementing critical WASH programming in FY 2023

WASH

The USG supports WASH programming in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char Island and in violence-affected areas of Burma to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, prevent communicable disease outbreaks, and mitigate the risk of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—in children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women. With State/PRM funding, BRAC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, Terre des Hommes Foundation, UNHCR, and UNICEF address critical WASH needs in Cox’s Bazar by improving drainage and waste removal systems, installing handwashing stations and latrines, providing hygiene supplies and safe drinking water, and strengthening community awareness of proper WASH practices to reduce the spread of disease.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Burma’s military forces launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations—which the USG has since characterized as genocide—in Rakhine’s Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships following Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacks on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017. As of September 2023, more than 934,700 refugees—the majority of whom rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs—were sheltering in Cox’s Bazar’s 33 refugee camps, including more than 700,000 who had fled Burma into neighboring Bangladesh since

August 2017, UNHCR reports. Meanwhile, Government of Bangladesh policies limit refugees' access to basic education services, capacity to engage in income-earning activities, and freedom of movement. Refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar are also vulnerable to natural hazards, such as cyclones and flooding. Additionally, the Government of Bangladesh had relocated approximately 30,700 refugees from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char between November 2020 and September 2023.

- On February 1, 2021, Burma's military staged a coup d'état against the civilian government during which soldiers detained senior civilian government officials, including State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, and announced a one-year state of emergency. In August 2021, military authorities extended the initial one-year state of emergency to August 2023, followed by a secondary extension to February 2024 which further delayed elections. Since February 2021, clashes between the MAF, ethnic armed organizations, and other local non-state armed groups across Burma have persisted, resulting in continuous displacement and humanitarian needs, particularly in southeastern and northwestern Burma, as well as in Kachin and Shan. Coup-related instability has also resulted in access challenges, limited cash availability, and restricted banking operations, challenging the provision of assistance by relief actors at a time of significant humanitarian need.
- As of January 2021, an estimated 600,000 ethnic Rohingya—a minority group not recognized by Burma's military forces and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services—remained in Rakhine. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, including approximately 147,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes who remained displaced as of July 2023. In addition, approximately 78,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, remained displaced in Rakhine and Chin states as of mid-March 2022 due to clashes between the Arakan Army and the MAF that erupted in 2018. Displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to persistent violence and associated movement restrictions.
- On November 3, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Peter D. Haas issued a DHN for Bangladesh in response to the ongoing humanitarian needs among Rohingya refugees and affected host communities; U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Haas issued another DHN for Bangladesh on May 16, 2023, to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of populations affected by Tropical Cyclone Mocha.
- On February 3, 2023, U.S. Chargé d'Affairs Deb Lynn re-issued a DHN for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency; U.S. Chargé d'Affairs Lynn issued another DHN for Burma due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Mocha on May 15. USG partners are supporting cyclone-affected populations in Burma and Bangladesh with emergency food, shelter, and WASH assistance, as well as other critical relief commodities.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH CYCLONE RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING FOR THE CYCLONE RESPONSE IN BURMA			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Health; MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Chin, Magway, Sagaing, Rakhine	\$12,200,000
IOM	Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Chin, Magway, Sagaing, Rakhine	\$4,800,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE CYCLONE RESPONSE IN BURMA			\$17,000,000

FUNDING FOR THE CYCLONE RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH

USAID/BHA			
BDRCS	MPCA	Chittagong Division	\$250,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE CYCLONE RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH			\$250,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH CYCLONE RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$17,250,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS IN FY 2023^{2,3}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bago (East), Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan, Tanintharyi	\$16,250,000
IOM	HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Chin, Magway, Rakhine, Sagaing	\$8,150,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Bago (East), Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan, Tanintharyi	\$4,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance, Nutrition	Bago, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Sagaing, Tanintharyi	\$50,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA			\$79,900,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,874,912
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BURMA			\$25,374,912
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA			\$105,274,912
FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
BDRCS	MPCA	Bandarban	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Protection	Cox's Bazar	\$500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$139,364
WFP	DRRPP; Food Assistance–Cash for Food, Food Vouchers, Local and International Procurement, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities; Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$98,800,000
	Program Support		\$30,960
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$99,720,324
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$1,500,000
IFRC	Health, Livelihoods and Economic Recovery, MPCA, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice (RMPP), WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$11,400,000
IOM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), COVID-19	Cox's Bazar	\$25,800,000

	Response, Health, HCIMA, Livelihoods and Economic Recovery, Logistics Support, Monitoring and Evaluation, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, RMPP, WASH		
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$60,100,000
UNICEF	COVID-19 Response, Education, HCIMA, Health, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, RMPP, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$22,500,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$2,200,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$3,600,000
WHO	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$2,400,000
BRAC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$2,010,000
Humanity & Inclusion (HI)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$4,500,000
IRC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$4,511,299
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$2,500,000
Terre des Hommes Foundation	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cox's Bazar	\$3,959,939
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$146,981,238
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$246,701,562
REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL RESPONSE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Indonesia	\$650,000
Implementing Partners	Multi-Sector Assistance	Indonesia	\$47,373
Jesuit Refugee Service	Multi-Sector Assistance	India	\$300,000
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation	Multi-Sector Assistance	Malaysia	\$500,000
International Catholic Migration Commission	Multi-Sector Assistance	Malaysia	\$600,000
Implementing Partners	Multi-Sector Assistance	Malaysia	\$24,300
Implementing Partners	Multi-Sector Assistance	Thailand	\$69,400
HI	Multi-Sector Assistance	Thailand	\$1,386,169
IRC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Thailand	\$35,300,000
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Thailand	\$1,428,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Thailand	\$100,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING			\$41,305,242
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS AND CYCLONE IN FY 2023			\$196,870,324
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS IN FY 2023			\$213,661,392
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS AND CYCLONE IN FY 2023⁴			\$410,531,716

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 Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/BHA and State/PRM funding includes funding for both refugees from Burma and asylum-seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma. Funding does not include USAID/BHA support for activities in Bangladesh that are not related to the Rohingya refugee response.

³ Total value of food assistance and associated costs adjusted from estimated to actual values.

⁴USG funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine totals more than \$2.2 billion—including nearly \$1.8 billion in Bangladesh and more than \$433 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes more than \$1.1 billion in State/PRM funding and nearly \$1.1 billion in USAID/BHA funding for populations affected by the violence in Rakhine and other vulnerable populations. USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2023.

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)