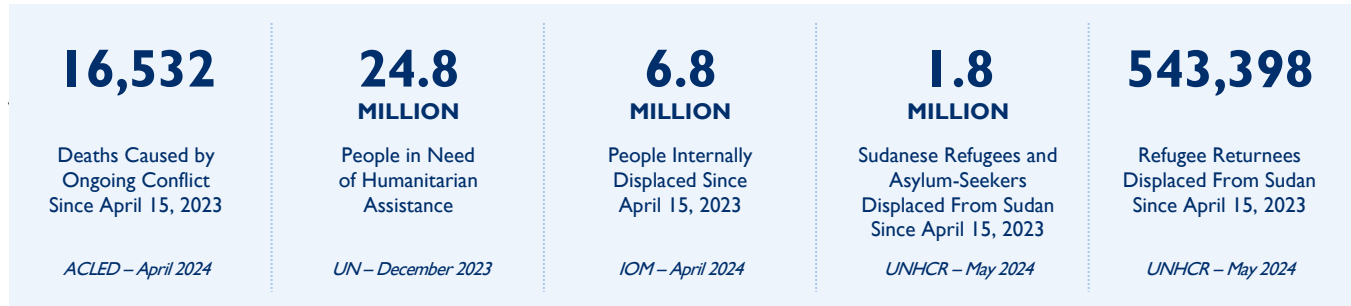


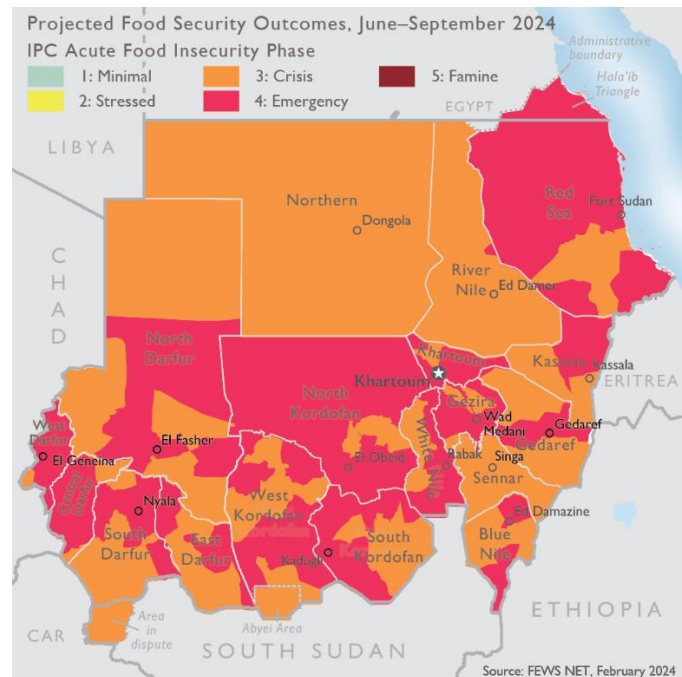
# Sudan – Complex Emergency

MAY 14, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Fighting between the RSF and SAF in and around North Darfur State’s capital city of El Fasher since April poses immediate danger to civilians and is constraining already limited humanitarian access to Darfur. The UN warns that an imminent escalation into the city is likely to result in further civilian harm, displacement, and mass atrocities.
- The conflict in Sudan has displaced nearly 9 million people since it began in April 2023. Displaced persons are increasingly citing the lack of access to food and basic services, in addition to conflict, as reasons for fleeing.
- FEWS NET warns that parts of Khartoum, West Darfur, and areas of the Darfur region with high concentrations of displaced persons, such as around El Fasher, face a credible risk of Famine—IPC 5—conditions as parties to the conflict may substantially restrict access to food.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Sudan Response in FY 2024	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$100,017,462
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$47,470,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$147,487,462</b>

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

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

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Escalated Fighting in North Darfur in Recent Days Risk Further Civilian Harm, Displacement, and Atrocities

An escalation in fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in and around North Darfur State's capital city of El Fasher since April is posing immediate danger to civilians. Armed clashes resulted in the deaths of at least 43 people between April 14 and 26; the destruction of civilian infrastructure such as the burning of at least sixteen villages west of El Fasher; and the displacement of more than 40,600 people in North Darfur's El Fasher, Kebkabiya, and Kutum localities from April 1 to April 18, including secondary displacement for some people who had already fled previous escalations in surrounding areas since the start of the war in April 2023. The UN warns that an escalation of armed violence into El Fasher itself—which it reports is likely imminent following RSF's successful besiegement of the SAF-held city as of April 26 and as media reports increased RSF-SAF clashes in El Fasher starting on May 10—is likely to result in further civilian harm, displacement, and mass atrocities, including ethnically-motivated violence, threatening the nearly 800,000 people currently residing in El Fasher who face barriers to relocate to safer localities and have limited access to humanitarian assistance due to armed group-imposed movement restrictions on key roads out of the city as of mid-April. Ongoing displacement from the northern and eastern parts of El Fasher towards southern neighborhoods has caused conditions to deteriorate in already overcrowded settlements, with improvised shelters taking up every available space between houses and roads in some neighborhoods, exposing newly displaced persons to protection risks, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). North Darfur hosted an estimated 570,200 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including nearly 204,440 IDPs who reside within El Fasher locality, or 36 percent of all IDPs in the state, as of April 17, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. Moreover, recent clashes comprise indiscriminate attacks by ethnic Arab armed groups, which local media have linked to the RSF, on villages west of El Fasher, including a series of attacks on April 13 that displaced more than 34,000 people to other locations within the locality, IOM reports. These incidents in the vicinity of the city have been characterized by deliberate attacks on civilians and indiscriminate violence, including sexual violence; looting of personal belongings from houses and markets; razing of residential and commercial structures; and the theft of livestock and destruction of crops, according to the UN. In addition, as people fled affected villages, some households were separated, resulting in reports of separated and missing children; while community-based protection structures have mobilized to support the reunification of families, disrupted communication networks are hampering efforts, the UN reported as of April 29.

On May 10, renewed RSF-SAF clashes, comprising airstrikes and the use of heavy weapons in populated areas, extended closer to the center of El Fasher, including to the outskirts of El Fasher's main market and into residential neighborhoods, resulting in at least 27 civilian deaths and 130 injuries, according to the UN as of May 12. Furthermore, the renewed clashes have resulted in further widespread displacements from eastern and northwestern parts of El Fasher towards southern neighborhoods, including an estimated 850 people displaced to various locations across El Fasher locality, according to IOM. Critical civilian infrastructure has also been destroyed in recent clashes, forcing some relief actors to shut down operations, straining the already depleted capacity of the one functioning hospital in El Fasher to respond to increasing needs as a result of the fighting. On May 12, Babiker Nahar Pediatric Hospital, supported by international nongovernmental (NGO) Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), in El Fasher fully shut down operations after a SAF airstrike landed near the hospital, collapsing the roof above the intensive care unit and resulting in the death of two children receiving treatment there, as well as the death of at least one caregiver. Meanwhile, MSF-supported El Fasher South Hospital—the

only functioning hospital in the state—has surpassed its maximum capacity and lacks the medical supplies and medicines needed to treat the wounded, according to the UN. MSF reports that as fighting began closer to the Babiker Nahar hospital on May 10, patients in the hospital began fleeing in search of safety, with many patients arriving at El Fasher’s South Hospital. Following the resumption of fighting on May 10, 160 wounded people—including 31 women and 19 children—arrived at El Fasher South Hospital; of the 160 wounded patients admitted, 25 people died.

## **FEWS NET Warns of Credible Famine Risk Unless Humanitarian Access in Darfur Improves**

Ongoing RSF-SAF clashes in North Darfur, particularly in and around El Fasher, have severely limited relief actors’ already constrained access to not only El Fasher, but also the wider Darfur region—where more than 9 million people are estimated to need humanitarian assistance according to the UN—since mid-April. In recent weeks, trucks carrying humanitarian assistance halted in neighboring Northern State’s Ad Dabbah city and at the Tina border crossing with neighboring Chad, unable to enter El Fasher due to insecurity and lack of guarantees from parties to the conflict for safe passage, according to the UN. The UN World Food Program (WFP) reports that access constraints have jeopardized the UN agency’s plans to deliver food assistance to more than 700,000 people before the onset of the June-to-September rainy season, which will limit large-scale convoy movements.<sup>3</sup> The UN and relief actors have increasingly relied on El Fasher as a humanitarian hub since the Government of Sudan (GoS) imposed restrictions on cross-border movements through Chad’s Adre crossing in February, planning to dispatch humanitarian assistance to RSF-controlled areas in Darfur from the city. Sustained and unhindered humanitarian access through Adre and El Fasher is critical to deliver assistance to populations in hard-to-reach areas of Darfur at the scale and speed required to meet the dire needs in the region, given the anticipated deepening of already severe food insecurity. On May 3, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) warned that parts of Khartoum and West Darfur states, as well as areas of the Darfur region with high concentrations of displaced persons, such as around El Fasher, face a credible risk of Famine—IPC 5—conditions, as parties to the conflict may continue actions that substantially worsen or fully cut off households’ access to food and income for an extended time.<sup>4</sup> FEWS NET notes that while this assessment of a risk of Famine warrants significant alarm, the severity of acute food insecurity anticipated in Sudan under FEWS NET’s most likely scenario, in which large areas of Sudan are expected to experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity, with some households experiencing Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity even without parties to the conflict taking further actions to restrict access to food and income, is expected to prompt a sharp rise in humanitarian needs as the lean season intensifies through September.

## **Nearly 9 Million People Displaced Since April 2023, Increasingly Citing Lack of Access to Food, Basic Services In Addition to Ongoing Fighting**

Ongoing conflict since April 15, 2023, had displaced nearly 9 million people, including nearly 6.8 million people within Sudan and more than 1.8 million people to neighboring countries—including the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan—as of late April, according to IOM and UNHCR. For IDPs in Sudan, food assistance remains the top reported humanitarian need, according to IOM’s field teams. Limited access to food among IDPs has been further exacerbated by cash availability

<sup>3</sup> Darfur region comprises the following states: Central Darfur, East Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur.

<sup>4</sup> 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. A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

shortages, soaring inflation for basic food items, and ongoing insecurity, which has disrupted supply chains for basic commodities. IOM notes that at the start of the conflict, most IDPs were displaced due to direct conflict and insecurity, while IDPs in recent months were increasingly relocating due to the lack of food, livelihoods, and basic services.

Furthermore, Sudanese refugees and returnees continue to cross into neighboring countries daily, UNHCR reports. As of late April, Chad hosted nearly 579,200 Sudanese refugees, approximately 96,200 of whom—or 17 percent—had crossed the border since January 2024. The UN reports that approximately 1,000 to 1,200 people are crossing into Chad on some days, with approximately 90 percent of new arrivals reporting lack of access to food in Sudan as their primary reason for relocating. People also continue to flee to South Sudan, with nearly 660,400 individuals—including approximately 140,200 Sudanese refugees and nearly 515,600 South Sudanese returnees—arriving in the country between April 15, 2023, and April 29, 2024, UNHCR reports. Notably, more than 5,800 people crossed the border to South Sudan between April 22 and April 29, representing a 12 percent increase from the previous week. However, this figure is still significantly lower than the peak weekly average of approximately 10,000 people recorded earlier in the year.

### **Gunmen in South Darfur Kill Two ICRC Drivers, Injure Three Others**

On May 2, unidentified gunmen killed two drivers and injured three other staff members from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) traveling in South Darfur State. This incident—the second to impact ICRC in less than six months—reflects the significant risk aid workers continue to face while delivering life-saving assistance in conflict-affected areas of Sudan. A previous attack on a clearly marked ICRC convoy in Khartoum resulted in two deaths and seven injuries in December 2023. Overall, the Aid Worker Security Database has recorded at least 22 aid worker deaths in Sudan since the start of 2023.

### **MSF Suspends Operations in Only Functional Hospital in Wad Medani**

International NGO MSF announced on May 9 that it had suspended operations in and withdrawn staff from Medani Teaching Hospital—the only functional hospital in Gezira State’s capital city of Wad Medani—following increasing security incidents and consistent bureaucratic obstructions that have affected MSF’s ability to provide life-saving medical care. Since January, MSF and GoS Ministry of Health staff have experienced repeated security incidents perpetrated or tolerated by the RSF, including the looting of the hospital, stolen vehicles, and staff detentions, among other incidents. Furthermore, SAF-affiliated government authorities have persistently denied travel permits to transport new staff and medical and logistical supplies into the city, hindering MSF’s ability to continue providing services.

MSF re-established its presence in Wad Medani in January, following the RSF’s takeover of the city in December 2023, and was the only INGO providing services in the city. Between mid-January and April, MSF provided nearly 10,000 outpatient consultations, more than 2,100 antenatal consultations, and care to 16 survivors of sexual violence between mid-January and April. Furthermore, during this period, MSF treated a constant influx of patients into the emergency room, totaling nearly 3,000 admissions, a significant number of which involved physical injuries sustained in the ongoing violence.

### **Protection Risks Constrain Freedom of Movement and Inhibit Agricultural Activities Across Darfur**

Violence and insecurity, as well as checkpoints imposed by armed groups, continued to constrain freedom of movement across the Darfur region during March, potentially limiting safe routes for civilians out of El Fasher as hostilities escalate, according to the UN. Generalized insecurity remain a key barrier

to civilian freedom of movement, particularly for those populations living in areas of active conflict; for example, IDPs at Al Salam camp in El Fasher reported they avoided moving around at night due to heightened risks of abduction, physical assault, and robbery by armed groups. In addition to these general safety risks, checkpoints imposed by armed groups further constrained movement, as IDPs in El Fasher reported risks of arbitrary detention, assault, extortion, gender-based violence (GBV), harassment, and intimidation when moving through checkpoints. Additionally, in West Darfur State's Habila town, an RSF commander issued an order instructing all people visiting or returning to Habila from Chad or from other localities of West Darfur to report to the RSF office for registration and screening, raising concern about risks of arbitrary arrest and detention of young men. The directive may also negatively impact access to markets and livelihood opportunities in Chad that many people in Habila rely on to meet basic needs, the UN reports. In addition, protection threats related to engagement in agricultural activities reduced the likelihood that farmers will invest in preparation for future harvests, contributing to growing year-to-year food insecurity in the region. Notably, the UN reports that while at least 2,400 households returned to West Darfur's Sirba locality from Chad at the beginning of the year, many hoping to resume agricultural activities as the de facto authorities promoted return, an estimated 1,000 households had moved back to Chad by early March, citing increasingly dire conditions at the locations in Sirba locality.

## KEY FIGURES



**1.8 Million**

People reached with WFP food assistance since January 2024



**2.2 Million**

People reached with oral cholera vaccines in Gedaref and Gezira in November and December 2023 by UNICEF and WHO

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support multiple UN agencies and NGOs to bolster food security and livelihoods throughout Sudan. In partnership with USAID/BHA, WFP provides emergency food assistance to people experiencing acute food insecurity countrywide through U.S.-sourced and locally and regionally procured cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, as well as cash transfers for food. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the UN agency provided life-saving food assistance and nutrition support to nearly 1.8 million people since the start of 2024, including more than 725,400 people in March, across 12 out of 18 states in Sudan. Despite ongoing access limitations, WFP reached more than 50,000 people in Khartoum State's Karari District for the first time since December 2023. In response to worsening food security conditions, WFP prioritizes hard-to-reach areas such as southern Khartoum, as well as states in the Darfur and Kordofan. To ensure the availability of stocks for reaching hard-to-reach areas during the lean season, WFP is planning to establish a hub in Dongola, Northern State.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support IOM, UNHCR, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and NGO partners to deliver life-saving health care for IDPs, refugees, and vulnerable host community members across Sudan, including through mobile clinics in hard-to-reach areas and displacement sites. USAID/BHA partners provide essential medicines and other supplies to health facilities and train health workers to improve quality of care for

conflict-affected populations. In addition, USG partners support reproductive health care provision, as well as messaging efforts that spread awareness of health and hygiene best practices to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.



## 1.4 Million

Children screened for malnutrition by USG partner UNICEF and other nutrition actors between January 2024 and March 2024

### NUTRITION

UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and other USAID/BHA and State/PRM partner organizations prevent, identify, and treat acute malnutrition by providing nutritional supplements and conducting complementary food security, health, and WASH activities. Between January and March 2024, UNICEF and other nutrition actors screened 1.4 million children ages five years and younger for malnutrition.



## 186,000

Women and children accessed GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions provided by USG partner UNICEF in 2023

### PROTECTION

USG partners—including UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and NGOs—provide conflict-affected and vulnerable people with critical protection support in Sudan and neighboring countries, including the provision of case management services and safe spaces for survivors. With support from UNICEF, 186,000 women and children accessed GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions in 2023. Additionally, UNFPA-supported mobile clinics provided health and GBV prevention and response services to more than 73,000 IDPs and host community members across 11 states between April 15, 2023 and February 5, 2024. USAID/BHA also supports the UN Mine Action Service to provide critical mine risk awareness information for populations residing in or returning to conflict-affected areas potentially impacted by explosive remnants of war.



## 4.2 Million

People in Sudan provided with safe drinking water by UNICEF and other WASH actors between January 1 and March 31

### WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and NGOs to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure for crisis-affected communities across Sudan to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, such as cholera and measles. With USG and other donor support, UNICEF and other WASH actors provided safe drinking water to an estimated 4.2 million people across Sudan between January 1 and March 31, 2024. To prevent the spread of cholera, USG partners are also supporting affected and at-risk populations with emergency WASH supplies, such as chlorine for water purification, hygiene kits, and water containers

### CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- On April 11, 2019, following a civilian uprising due to fuel shortages, high bread prices, and other economic issues, Sudanese military officials overthrew President Omar al-Bashir, resulting in a civilian-led transitional government under Abdalla Hamdok as Prime Minister; however, subsequent political uncertainty contributed to heightened humanitarian, protection, and security concerns. Following political unrest, the military took over the transitional government on October 25, 2021, arresting

civilian leadership and sparking widespread protests. On November 21, 2021, Hamdok was reinstated as Prime Minister under a power-sharing agreement with SAF military leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan before resigning on January 2, 2022. On December 5, 2022, military leaders and representatives of civilian pro-democracy parties signed a preliminary agreement for a two-year transitional civilian government.

- Fighting between the RSF and SAF began on April 15, 2023, significantly escalating the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. On April 23, USAID/BHA activated a regionally based Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG response. In addition, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee activated an initial system-wide scale-up to mobilize operational capacities and resources for Sudan from August 29, 2023, to February 28, 2024, which has since been extended for three additional months. However, bureaucratic impediments and insecurity continue to hinder relief agencies' ability to respond.
- On October 31, 2023, U.S. Ambassador John T. Godfrey reissued a declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) in Sudan for FY 2024. The U.S. Mission in Sudan has issued annual disaster declarations or DHNs due to the complex emergency in Sudan since 1987.
- The USG, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development—participating on behalf of the African Union—convened two rounds of ceasefire negotiations between the RSF and SAF in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Following the first round of negotiations in May 2023, representatives signed a ceasefire agreement, which did not hold, and the May 11 Declaration, which defined the obligations of both sides under international humanitarian and human rights law to facilitate and safeguard humanitarian action to meet the emergency needs of civilians. The second round of negotiations—convened between October and November 2023—concluded without a ceasefire agreement, though both parties reaffirmed their obligations under the May 11 Declaration. Parties have not upheld the declaration, and conflict-related protection violations against civilians have continued.
- After the second round of negotiations in Jeddah, RSF and SAF actors agreed to establish a Humanitarian Forum led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance in Sudan. As of May 14, the forum had convened only once—on November 12, 2023—despite UN efforts for additional meetings. RSF and SAF commitments made during the Humanitarian Forum have not improved humanitarian access. The UN continues to lead high-level negotiations on the ground with parties to the conflict and advocate for humanitarian access; however, approvals to move assistance across conflict lines and into opposition-controlled areas are significantly delayed, hindering efforts to scale-up support in the most affected areas.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024<sup>1,2,3</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Sudan			
UNICEF	Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$11,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$76,978,621
Implementing Partners	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$1,038,841
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			<b>\$100,017,462</b>
<b>State/PRM</b>			
Sudan			
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$15,300,000
Chad			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$17,550,000
South Sudan			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,420,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			<b>\$47,470,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024</b>			<b>\$147,487,462</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect total publicly announced State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding as of April 15, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> State/PRM funding for South Sudan benefiting displaced people from Sudan is also reported in the USG South Sudan Fact Sheet

<sup>3</sup> USAID/BHA funding for neighboring countries, including the Central Africa Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, benefiting displaced people from Sudan are not represented in USAID/BHA's funding for the Sudan crisis response in FY 2024; funding for these countries can be found in public information products linked here: <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>

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