

## BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



## Economic Recovery and Market Systems

### OVERVIEW

Economic recovery and market systems (ERMS) interventions help populations restore their livelihoods and support critical market systems at the household, local, and regional levels, in accordance with the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) mandate to reduce the economic and social impact of disasters.

ERMS programs complement individual and community recovery and resilience efforts to mitigate the effects of disasters and facilitate recovery. Crucially, ERMS activities integrate economic factors and power dynamics, such as affected populations' purchasing power and access to market systems, into program design to strengthen interventions' ability to support marginalized populations.

In FY 2023, USAID/BHA provided more than \$169.3 million in ERMS assistance to support activities throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

USAID/BHA ERMS  
Funding in FY 2023

**\$169,287,921**

## Providing Economic Recovery Assistance in Nigeria

Approximately 8.3 million people in northeastern Nigeria’s Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states required humanitarian assistance in 2023 as organized armed group violence perpetuated conflict, resulting in civilian casualties, protection violations, and widespread displacement, according to the UN. Insecurity limited relief actors’ ability to deliver assistance to affected populations, including approximately 2.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in northeastern Nigeria as of February 2023, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported. The protracted conflict, climate change, and insufficient access to critical resources continued to undermine the livelihood coping capacities of host communities, IDPs, and returnees during the fiscal year.



A picture of woman who received a USAID/BHA-funding ERMS grant to start a business in Borno State’s Shuware 5 IDP camp. Photo courtesy of a USAID/BHA-funded international NGO consortium

In response, six USAID/BHA partners provided economic recovery assistance in Nigeria, including through livelihood restoration in hard-to-reach and conflict-affected areas. In Borno State’s Konduga and Mafa local government areas (LGAs), a USAID/BHA nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner provided conditional cash grants and income generating activity training to 12,000 people to support individuals transitioning off food assistance and improve longer-term resilience and recovery. A separate USAID/BHA partner also provided livelihood restoration grants to 3,000 individuals in Borno’s Magumeri, Monguno, and Nganzai LGAs to support households to become self-sufficient as they transition from food assistance to income-generating opportunities. The recipients received training on business management, sole proprietorship, and financial literacy, as well as nine rounds of unconditional cash assistance to support households starting their preferred businesses. In Borno’s Jere LGA, another USAID/BHA partner supported 1,900 at-risk men and women by providing livelihood grants to access financial support, attain vocational and business development training, and start new businesses.

## Supporting Income-Generating Opportunities in Haiti

Amid persistent economic instability and high levels of climatic risk, increased organized criminal group (OCG) violence and the resurgence of cholera worsened the humanitarian situation in Haiti, as approximately 5.2 million people—nearly half of the population—required humanitarian assistance in 2023, according to the UN. OCG-related violence resulted in more than 2,500 civilian deaths from January to August, heightening protection-related risks, including gender-based violence. Moreover, civil unrest, disease, economic instability, insecurity, and lasting effects from natural disasters decreased the availability of livelihood opportunities and increased populations’ reliance on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs during the year.

USAID/BHA supports six organizations in Haiti to provide economic recovery assistance in the country. In FY 2023, USAID/BHA NGO partner GOAL provided capital grants—equivalent to \$240—to 270 *madam saras*, or female traders, and owners of neighborhood-level microenterprises who are dedicated to selling basic food and vital supplies for local communities to meet basic needs. Moreover, in the Upper North-West Department and Lower North-West Department, USAID/BHA partner Action Against Hunger delivered inclusive financial services to at-risk households by creating and strengthening village savings and loans associations (VSLA), which are managed by community members. The partner trained VSLA members, provided business plan development,

income generating activity support, and vocational training, and supported the processing of agricultural products and non-agricultural raw materials. This programming bolstered access to financial services for women and other groups vulnerable to economic marginalization, allowing them to pursue entrepreneurship opportunities equitably and safely. In Cité Soleil—a commune in Haiti’s capital city of Port-au-Prince—USAID/BHA partner Concern Worldwide provided livelihood grants valued between \$200 to \$250 through 80 local vendors to 700 crisis-affected youth to support them in establishing income-generating activities, along with technical training and entrepreneurship coaching.

More information on USAID/BHA sectors can be found at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/what-we-do/humanitarian-sectors](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/what-we-do/humanitarian-sectors)