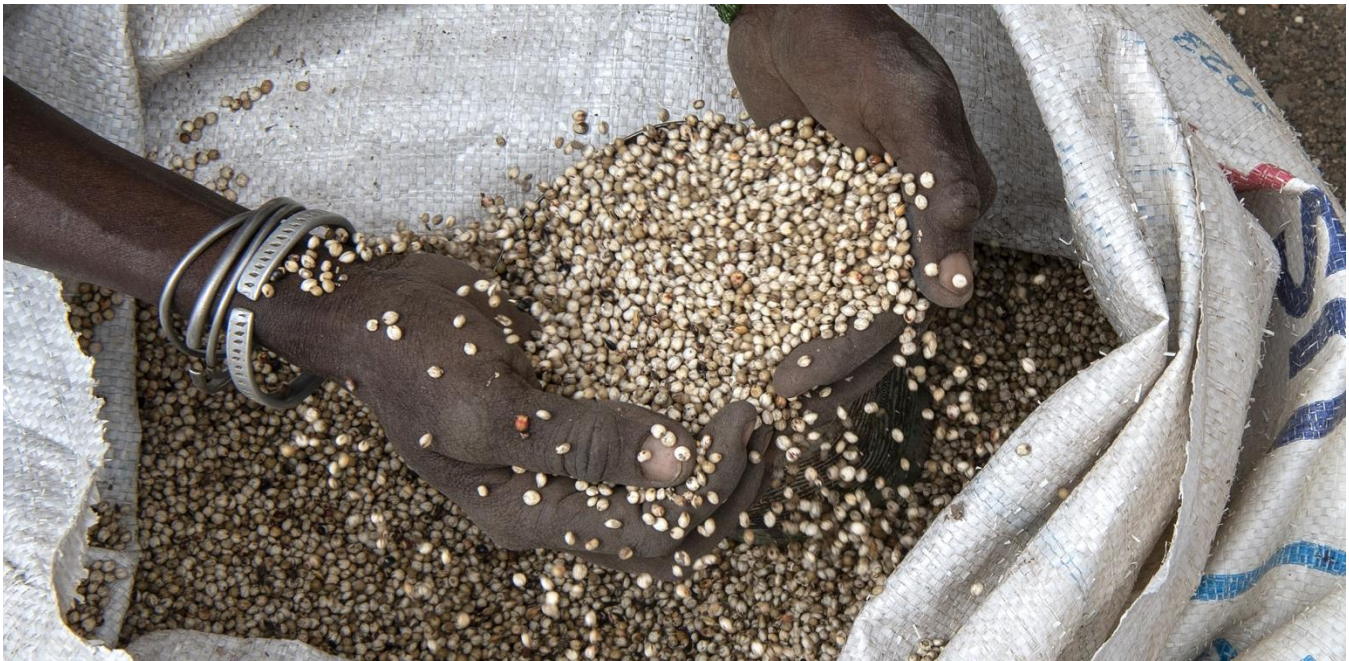


BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Food Assistance

OVERVIEW

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) leads U.S. Government (USG) international food assistance efforts and works with partners to alleviate hunger and build resilience in communities facing recurrent crises. In FY 2023, support from USAID/BHA enabled partners to deliver life-saving food assistance across a range of modalities—including cash transfers for food; food vouchers; local, regional, or internationally procured (LRIP) food; and U.S. in-kind food aid—to populations affected by conflict, natural disasters, and other shocks. USAID/BHA partners assess market conditions, feasibility, programmatic purpose, and cost effectiveness when determining which modalities are most appropriate for delivering food assistance across varying contexts. USAID/BHA also promotes a flexible approach to programming based on the context and needs of targeted populations and supports the provision of both conditional and unconditional assistance in humanitarian response.

USAID/BHA Food Assistance
Funding in FY 2023

\$5,028,765,574

In addition, USAID/BHA helps meet emergency food needs by supporting innovative technologies—such as electronic vouchers (e-vouchers) and mobile money—and helping partners to rapidly scale up food assistance after sudden-onset shocks through pre-positioned food in disaster-prone regions.

Humanitarian Partners Deliver Food to Hard-to-Reach Populations in Colombia

Populations across Colombia continued to face internal displacement, elevated protection risks, and limited access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to non-state armed group (NSAG) violence and recurring natural disasters, generating humanitarian needs for nearly 7.7 million people across the country in 2023, according to the UN. In addition, the protracted economic and political crisis in neighboring Venezuela displaced approximately 3 million individuals—many of whom included Colombian returnees unable to meet their basic needs—to Colombia during the fiscal year, placing further strain on local services and exacerbating food insecurity conditions in the country. As a result of the protracted crises in Colombia and Venezuela, approximately 30 percent of Colombian households—an estimated 15.5 million people—were food-insecure, and more than one-half of the migrant and refugee population in Colombia, or 1.3 million people, faced acute food insecurity in 2023, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP).

USAID/BHA partners scaled up the delivery of food assistance in FY 2023 in response to consistently high levels of acute food insecurity among internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and those facing confinement, a strategy NSAGs employ to exert control in hard-to-reach areas where government authorities are absent. USAID/BHA partner the Pan American Development Foundation prioritized food assistance to displaced and confined households living in isolated areas, reaching nearly 14,000 of these individuals during the fiscal year. Approximately two-thirds of recipients received in-kind food baskets due to isolation or forced confinement that prevented access to local markets. Similarly, USAID/BHA supported Heartland Alliance International (HAI) in providing relief to communities in Colombia affected by armed conflict, particularly in remote and neglected areas. Through engagement with local humanitarian coordination teams, HAI reached more than 21,000 people in these areas with food vouchers and in-kind food packages during the fiscal year. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA partner Blumont prioritized emergency assistance to households who had recently experienced forced displacement in Colombia. Blumont's initial food security surveys showed insufficient food consumption levels among nearly one-third of newly displaced households; however, following unconditional in-kind food distributions to more than 10,000 IDPs, later surveys indicated significant improvements in food security. During FY 2023, USAID/BHA also prioritized emergency food assistance for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, as well as for food-insecure host communities. With USAID/BHA support, WFP provided emergency food assistance, including cash transfers for food and food vouchers redeemable in local markets, to conflict-affected populations and Venezuelan migrants and host communities, as well as food kits and hot meals for populations in transit.

Local and International Partners Reach Drought-Affected Communities in Kenya

Five consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall between 2020 and 2022 led to a severe drought across Kenya and the greater Horn of Africa region that reduced agricultural production, killed livestock, and deteriorated households' access to food. Populations across Kenya faced high levels of humanitarian need due to the compounded effects of recurrent climate shocks—primarily drought and flooding—and disease outbreaks that have exacerbated food security conditions in the country. As a result, the UN estimated that approximately 6.4 million people in Kenya required humanitarian assistance in 2023, marking the highest number of people in need in the country in the previous ten years and representing a 35 percent increase compared to 2022.

In response to elevated food needs due primarily to drought, USAID/BHA supported two local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), five international NGOs, and WFP to provide emergency food assistance across the country in FY 2023. The Rural Community Development Agency (RACIDA), a USAID/BHA local partner, helped food-insecure populations in northeastern Kenya's Mandera County meet their daily food needs amid rising food prices, and RACIDA reached more than 8,100 people with monthly cash transfers for food between July 2022

and July 2023. Separately, USAID/BHA supported local partner the Kenya Red Cross Society in providing cash transfers for food in northwestern Kenya during the fiscal year, improving food security conditions for drought-affected communities via emergency food distributions. In addition, with USAID/BHA support, WFP provided emergency food assistance—including cash transfers for food, U.S. in-kind food aid, and LRIP commodities—to refugees in camps and to drought-affected households throughout the arid and semi-arid lands of eastern and northern Kenya.

WFP Increases Food Consumption in Lebanon Amid Refugee and Economic Crises

Approximately 3.9 million people in Lebanon—including Lebanese nationals, refugees, and migrants—required humanitarian assistance in 2023 due to the continued deterioration of the socioeconomic crisis that severely limited access to basic services and food across the country, according to the UN. The rapid depreciation of the Lebanese pound and high rates of inflation and unemployment reduced households' income amid rising prices, with Lebanon recording the second-highest food price inflation rate in the world in June 2023, the World Bank reports. These conditions contributed to more than 1.4 million individuals, approximately one-quarter of the population, experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during 2023, according to WFP.¹ In addition, Lebanon hosted more than 1.5 million refugees in 2023, making it the largest number of refugees per capita in the world and placing additional strain on limited resources across the country.

During FY 2023, USAID/BHA continued providing emergency food assistance—ongoing since FY 2012—to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, while emergency food assistance to Lebanese nationals affected by the country's economic crisis remained ongoing since 2021. USAID/BHA provided WFP with nearly \$84 million in funding to support nearly 350,000 Syrian refugees, more than 8,400 refugees of other nationalities, and approximately 300,000 Lebanese nationals with monthly food assistance. Of Lebanese individuals receiving in-kind food assistance, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption rose from approximately 50 percent September 2022 to more than 80 percent in June 2023. WFP also distributed dual currency cash and e-voucher assistance transfers to refugee populations to address the rapid depreciation of the Lebanese pound and stabilize purchasing power, transferring an estimated \$187 million in cash to Syrian refugees and refugees of other nationalities during 2023.



Workers unload food ration boxes at a WFP distribution site in Mount Lebanon Governorate's Metn District, located near Lebanon's capital city of Beirut. *Photo courtesy of WFP.*

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)

¹ The Integrated Food Security 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, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5) for acute food insecurity.