

## BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



# Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments

## OVERVIEW

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is a global leader in advancing humanitarian coordination, information management, and assessments (HCIMA). Effective humanitarian coordination informed by real-time data and robust analyses enables humanitarian actors to comprehensively understand the needs of affected populations and prioritize assistance accordingly in rapidly changing, resource-constrained, and often nonpermissive environments.

USAID/BHA HCIMA  
Funding in FY 2023

**\$470,169,413**

Within individual country contexts, USAID/BHA supports humanitarian coordination mechanisms; joint assessments, comprehensive data, and analysis aided by artificial intelligence; and strengthens information management capacity. Globally, USAID/BHA actively engages with other international donors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and UN agencies to contribute to a common humanitarian operating picture and influence global frameworks and policy. USAID/BHA implementing partners provide surge support to address coordination and information management needs and engage in the research and development of new data technologies and tools.

## Developing a Global Crisis Data Ecosystem to Bolster Response Strategies

Adequate, dependable, and publicly available data is critical during humanitarian crises to inform coherent response strategies, effective policies, and efficient allocation of resources. In FY 2023, USAID/BHA partnered with several organizations to strengthen the humanitarian data ecosystem at the country and global levels. During the year, IFRC—with USAID/BHA’s support—continued to build out a Global Crisis Data Bank containing more than a century of disaster data information for humanitarian actors to use to inform anticipatory action and disaster preparedness measures. As of August 4, 2023, the data bank contains more than 465,000 recorded impacts for more than 97,000 hazardous events. In addition, USAID/BHA contributed to the UN Development Program’s Complex Risk Analysis Fund (CRAF’d), a UN-operated multi-donor pooled fund enhancing critical datasets and improving relief actors’ analytical capacity during crisis operations. Through CRAF’d, USAID/BHA supported the publication of global conflict data through the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), improving the availability of accurate and timely data to inform crisis needs assessments and operational safety and security plans, as well as branding and messaging strategies. In FY 2023, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continued to be a critical USAID/BHA partner coordinating key data and information services for the humanitarian community and serving as a steward of the humanitarian coordination architecture. With USAID/BHA support to OCHA’s country operations, and Information Management and Center for Humanitarian Data, and Assessment, Planning, and Monitoring branches, the UN agency is bolstering fundamental analysis, data, and information requirements to allow timely and targeted humanitarian responses.

## Leveraging Emerging Technologies to Support Humanitarian Action

Data analytics help humanitarian actors make sense of quantitative information to inform decision-making that contributes to timely, strategic, and life-saving humanitarian interventions. Through the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), USAID/BHA supported ACAPS in FY 2023 to produce the Solutions Platform for Humanitarian Information Analysis (SOPHIA), which uses artificial intelligence to filter, translate, and summarize data for more than 150 crises worldwide, significantly accelerating analysts’ ability to synthesize information and present a comprehensive picture of humanitarian needs. In addition, the USAID/BHA-funded Data Entry and Exploration Platform (DEEP), an online, open-source platform to compile, structure, and analyze data for humanitarian crises, expanded in FY 2023 to begin developing a Joint Analysis Workspace (JAWS) online platform where humanitarian actors can collaborate on joint assessment and analysis. Upon its completion, JAWS will incorporate qualitative and quantitative data, as well as expert judgement processes to better analyze humanitarian conditions, needs, risks, and responses and allows analysts to focus on specific dates, geographic areas, population groups, and sectors. For example, DEEP can identify and analyze information on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan’s South Kordofan between January and March 2023 filtering for only local organizations’ assessments. Additionally, Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—members in at least five countries use the cluster’s Protection



NGO MapAction staff participate in a USAID/BHA-funded annual training simulation event. *Photo Courtesy of MapAction.*

Analytical Framework in DEEP to assess the needs in their respective countries during FY 2023. The Protection Analytical Framework—developed by the Global Protection Cluster—is a standardized method for actors to identify and prioritize protection needs in their respective contexts.

### **Supporting IDPs Through Data Collection and Analysis**

By the end of 2023, approximately 75.9 million people were internally displaced due to conflict and natural disasters, the highest figure ever reported, according to the NRC’s USAID/BHA-funded Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. USAID/BHA also supports the Danish Refugee Council’s Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service, which compiles information on IDPs from development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding actors to generate national-level data on achieving durable solutions to displacement. In Haiti, USAID/BHA supported the NGO Flowminder, which uses anonymized mobile operator data to estimate displacement numbers in access-constrained areas, to improve humanitarian actors’ targeting estimates. Flowminder, alongside the International for Migration’s (IOM)-led IDP tracking efforts, produced detailed analysis of IDP movements within Haiti, aggregating large sets of anonymized data to determine population flows and displacement trends over distinct time periods. USAID/BHA also supported the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to incorporate internal displacement and refugee data in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mozambique, the Philippines, South Sudan, and Ukraine, into the COD-PS, an online population statistics database, bolstering engagement between national statistics offices and global data experts. During FY 2023, the program significantly improved COD-PS in Mozambique and Ukraine.

### **Training Humanitarians to Use Timely and Accurate Information**

During FY 2023, USAID/BHA supported data-focused training initiatives for humanitarian generalists, managers, and specialists in several organizations, bolstering their digital literacy and analytical and technical abilities. During FY 2023, USAID/BHA supported NetHope, a consortium of more than 60 nonprofits integrating digital approaches to solve conservation, development, and humanitarian challenges, to develop the NetHope Digital Leadership Institute to expand humanitarian managers’ data and digital literacy through several courses, including one on leadership skills for a digital age. Similarly, RedR—a humanitarian training organization—and ACAPS developed course materials for humanitarian generalists to strengthen their analytical skills and expand their skillsets. USAID/BHA also supported the NGO IMPACT Initiatives to deliver a technical course for humanitarian specialists focusing on conducting needs research at the field level as opposed to the global level.

### **Grounding Responses With Multi-Sector Needs Analyses and Displacement Data**

Multi-sector needs assessments (MSNAs) are essential tools to develop a comprehensive understanding of humanitarian needs in many emergency responses. In support of efforts to improve the Humanitarian Program Cycle, USAID/BHA continued funding IMPACT Initiatives to scale up MSNAs in high-priority crises and improve analysis and research design during FY 2023. USAID/BHA also supported the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) roll out process—through participation in the JIAF Steering Committee and funding to IMPACT and OCHA—during the year to bolster methodologies analyzing multiple needs of crisis-affected populations. In FY 2023, nearly 80 percent of humanitarian country teams used the JIAF methodology to determine intersectoral people in need figures for Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans, allowing for more accurate and comparable figures across global crises.

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)