

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Health

OVERVIEW

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is at the forefront of the humanitarian community's efforts to reduce mortality and morbidity during crises by supporting a wide range of critical health interventions. USAID/BHA supports health initiatives during responses to humanitarian emergencies including life-saving medical assistance, pandemic readiness capacity-building, and pharmaceutical supply chain management. In recognition of the inextricable link between the health sector and other core humanitarian sectors, USAID/BHA supports integrated programs that address multiple determinants of health in emergencies, such as access to health facilities, psychological support and case management services, and safe drinking water, as well as treatment for wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition.

USAID/BHA Health
Funding in FY 2023

\$573,191,328

Antimicrobial Resistance Within Humanitarian Contexts

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top public health threats globally; however, little is known about the phenomenon in humanitarian contexts. To address this gap, USAID/BHA supported the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in FY 2023 to convene a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) consisting of diverse leaders across industries that support humanitarian health programs. The TAG is to guide a global baseline assessment of AMR within humanitarian settings and to develop a set of global recommendations for mitigating the threat of AMR within complex humanitarian contexts, as well to identify opportunities for advocacy, best practices, and research. IRC also aims to increase documentation of AMR in humanitarian settings, including through examining associated attitudes, existing knowledge, practices, and scale of AMR presence, and share the findings with humanitarian actors.

Developing Markers of Quality for Mobile Clinics in Humanitarian Settings

While mobile clinics are frequently utilized in humanitarian settings to provide health services to in-need populations, quality standards vary across national and international requirements. As a result, mobile clinics can differ significantly in their forms, functions, and service quality, creating difficulty for affected populations to access quality essential health services. From FY 2021 to FY 2023, USAID/BHA supported research conducted by Save the Children Federation to understand how different stakeholders define, fund, and use mobile clinics and their criteria for measuring the quality of care provided by mobile clinics. In FY 2023, USAID/BHA provided further support to Save the Children Federation to use the research findings to produce practical guidance on operationalizing standard markers of quality—including decision-making tools and a suggested list of services to be safely delivered through mobile clinics—and develop related e-learning modules and webinars for further guidance and learning. With this support, Save the Children Federation has also established a TAG to provide technical expertise as the quality markers and tools are developed and inform improvements to mobile clinic operations.

Strengthening Public Health Emergency Responses Through IOA

The dynamics that give rise to disease outbreaks are complex and multifaceted, requiring response actions to be informed by a holistic understanding of cultural, economic, political, and social perspectives. Integrated Outbreak Analytics (IOA) is a field-based initiative that addresses this need by leveraging support from national, and international experts to reinforce pre-existing local capacity and delivering data-driven recommendations at the local level to be used for operational decision-making. The use of IOA by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has been successful for previous disease outbreaks and public health responses, including the responses to outbreaks of the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Marburg fever in Ghana. In FY 2023, USAID/BHA supported UNICEF to develop an IOA-guided framework to support public health emergency responses with a toolkit of IOA guidance, principles, standard operating procedures, as well as existing case studies and related multimedia to be hosted in an open-source repository, helping to identify the next generation of actions and solutions in humanitarian emergencies.

Pharmaceuticals and Other Medical Commodities (PMC)

Strengthening Humanitarian Supply Systems Down to the Last Mile

In humanitarian settings, conflicts and disasters often disrupt already weak health systems and supply chains, and systems to regulate life-saving commodities have often collapsed. With USAID/BHA support, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) works to ensure that supplies are in place to meet life-saving sexual and reproductive health needs after crises, including quality-assured pharmaceuticals and medical devices. During FY 2023, UNFPA created comprehensive tool kits and work plans to address common challenges in supply chain delivery in an effort to ensure coordination

between implementing partners. Moreover, UNFPA continued to build operational capacity by developing a pre-deployment training package that contains materials on the various emergency medical kits, ensuring partners are familiar with essential humanitarian supplies and all phases of a humanitarian emergency. These combined efforts continue to support the delivery of essential health commodities to the last mile while decreasing lead time and tackling key challenges to supply chain management.

Increasing Collaboration for Improved PMC Supply Chain Management

In response to concurring humanitarian disasters in recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, global and regional coordinating bodies have expressed a need to improve management of PMC supply chains for responses to health crises through increased knowledge sharing and the establishment of mechanisms for collaboration. With USAID/BHA support, the John Snow Research & Training Institute (JSI) worked to address this need through a program to equip staff working with and within humanitarian organizations with guidance, follow-up support, resources, and training related to the procurement, management, and proper disposal of PMC in humanitarian and disaster relief settings, strengthening the capacity of health and supply chain personnel. For this program during FY 2023, JSI conducted eight blended learning courses, two in-person trainings, 12 webinars, and 17 mentorships to facilitate learning, knowledge sharing, and problem solving. The sessions covered a range of topics related to PMC supply chain management in humanitarian settings, including the challenges that partners face in securing the availability of pharmaceutical and other health products in humanitarian emergencies and the suggested solutions.



Students attend a five-day humanitarian health supply chain management training course in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2022. *Photo courtesy of In-Supply Health/JSI.*

JSI also completed a report summarizing the findings from the program and additional research, with a focus on utilizing data for decision-making, quantification of health supplies, and the transition from use of health kits to procurement of individual products. The report includes a compilation of challenges and solutions for delivering health supplies in humanitarian and emergency settings, and a list of articles on recent supply chain management advancements to be used as resources during slow- and sudden-onset 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)