

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Logistics

OVERVIEW

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports logistics and supply-chain related assistance, deploys experienced logistics personnel, and maintains warehouses storing relief commodities around the globe as part of its effort to ensure rapid responses to humanitarian emergencies. USAID/BHA logistics experts are based in Washington, D.C. and manage the procurement and delivery of food and life-saving relief items to populations in need; provide technical assistance to host government counterparts, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and UN agencies in the immediate aftermath of a humanitarian emergency; and support disaster risk reduction efforts to mitigate the impact of future disasters on supply chains. USAID/BHA also stores up to 100,000 metric tons (MT) of food commodities and emergency relief supplies—such as blankets, hygiene supplies, kitchen sets, and plastic sheeting—at eight warehouses located in Djibouti, Ghana, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and Florida and Texas in the United States to prepare for and respond rapidly to any emergency. In FY 2023, USAID/BHA offered logistical assistance in response to rapid-onset and protracted humanitarian emergencies by providing operational support and supplying relief items to address food; health; nutrition; shelter; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs across multiple affected regions.

USAID/BHA Logistics
Funding in FY 2023

\$180,221,559

USAID/BHA Activates Search and Rescue Teams After Syria and Türkiye Earthquakes, Delivers Emergency Relief Commodities to Displaced Populations

On February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central and southeastern Türkiye and northern Syria followed by a series of large aftershocks, including one of 7.5 magnitude, resulting in the deaths of nearly 50,800 people, injury to approximately 107,000 people, and the collapse of or heavy damage to an estimated 500,000 buildings. To support immediate, life-saving rescue efforts, USAID/BHA activated two Urban Search and Rescue teams—comprising more than 160 individuals and 12 canines based in Fairfax, Virginia, and Los Angeles, California—to deploy to the affected zone within 24 hours of the first earthquake, along with 45 MT of support equipment. Rescue crews searched for survivors and assessed the damage of more than 6,000 buildings across Türkiye’s Adiyaman Province. In addition, USAID/BHA airlifted more than 840 MT of critical shelter and WASH items—including hygiene kits, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, thermal blankets, and water buckets—from its warehouse in the United Arab Emirates’ Dubai city into the region for USAID/BHA partner IOM to distribute to individuals displaced by the earthquakes. USAID/BHA also coordinated with the U.S. Department of Defense to transfer additional emergency relief supplies into and across Türkiye, including tents that IOM then delivered to earthquake-affected areas in Syria and Türkiye.

USAID/BHA and WFP Coordinate to Bolster Regional Disaster Preparedness in the Caribbean and Pacific

To enhance transnational coordination and preparedness in regions often plagued by natural disasters, USAID/BHA supported the UN World Food Program (WFP) to strengthen the humanitarian supply chain preparedness and response capacity of governments, NGOs, and other relief organizations in the Caribbean and Pacific regions in FY 2023. Through initiatives to bolster local resilience to climatic shocks, WFP aimed to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural disasters in the two regions. In the Caribbean, the UN agency offered resources and training to prepare and respond to high- or multi-country impact scenarios, supporting the regional Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and similar efforts at the national and sub-national levels. In the Pacific, WFP prioritized long-term capacity strengthening—with activities such as conducting logistics capacity assessments and building up distribution centers and logistics hubs—while maintaining strategic and operational readiness to respond to major disasters when requested. Moreover, WFP bolstered the existing capacities of national disaster management agencies and other government entities to coordinate and manage emergency responses at the national and sub-national levels.

Notably, in the wake of the Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin in Vanuatu in March 2023, WFP supported nationally led emergency response and recovery efforts through providing assessment, coordination, information management, and service delivery assistance related to emergency telecommunications, food security, and logistics. The USAID/BHA partner buttressed multiple lines of effort to reach cyclone-affected communities, including by supporting Vanuatu’s national disaster management office with coordinating the logistics and management of relief supply distributions and information management; deploying technical personnel; and enhancing warehouse management practices. Additionally, WFP facilitated the transport of 15 MT of relief cargo—including medical supplies and food rations—from Fiji to Vanuatu via two Pacific UN Humanitarian Air Service flights, as well as an additional 15 MT of humanitarian cargo by sea.

Logistics Funding Supports Local NGO to Prevent and Respond to Chile Wildfires

Extensive wildfires that began in southern Chile on January 31, 2023, rapidly spread to Chile’s Biobío, La Araucanía, Maule, and Ñuble regions in the following weeks, resulting in the deaths of 24 individuals; the displacement of nearly 6,000 people; and the destruction of nearly 1.1 million acres of cropland, forests, and

wildland–urban interface areas, as well as approximately 1,500 structures, by mid-February. In response, USAID/BHA provided funding to local NGO Caritas Chile for the purchase of equipment to bolster Chile’s fire suppression efforts and relief supplies for affected populations. In addition, USAID/BHA, through its Regional Disaster Assistance Program, provided \$40,000 for the local procurement of fire hoses, hand tools, personal protection equipment, water storage pools, and other supplies to support efforts to control fires in rural communities across south-central Chile in FY 2023. Notably, USAID/BHA’s longstanding partnership with Chile’s National Forestry Corporation and local fire corps has helped strengthen wildfire prevention and response capabilities of communities residing in wildfire-prone areas across the country.

Grants Promote NGO Logistics Capacity and Resilience in Africa and Middle East

In FY 2023, USAID/BHA provided grants to NGO partners operating in Central and West Africa and the Middle East to optimize humanitarian logistics and strengthen supply chains, such as by conducting logistics vulnerability mapping analyses. For example, Action Contre la Faim (ACF)/Hulo, used a USAID/BHA logistics grant to provide procurement services to humanitarian organizations in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, and Lebanon and launched new programs in Jordan and Lebanon to augment procurement support and logistics coordination between Hulo cooperative members in the Middle East. Notably, ACF/Hulo’s joint procurement initiative in Burkina Faso saved partners approximately 16 percent of projected procurement costs for Rapid Response Mechanism kits. Separately, a USAID/BHA grant allowed NGO partner Humanity & Inclusion to expand its Logistics Vulnerability Index mapping and analysis, which provided calculations, maps, presentations, and field evaluations of local logistics resilience efforts in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Togo during the fiscal year.

Strategic Warehouses Support Availability of Stockpiles for Rapid Response

USAID/BHA maintains the ability to rapidly respond to international disasters with life-saving humanitarian commodities, and the establishment and maintenance of strategically located warehouses serve as a critical tool in the bureau’s readiness posture. To expedite the international transportation of humanitarian commodities in the immediate aftermath of sudden-onset disasters, USAID/BHA pre-positioned stockpiles of relief commodities in FY 2023 across eight warehouses—located in Djibouti’s Djibouti city, Ghana’s Accra city, South Africa’s Durban and Johannesburg cities, the United Arab Emirates’ Dubai city, and the United States’ Houston and Miami cities—to allow for more rapid deployment to emergency contexts. For example, USAID/BHA dispatched essential relief commodities from the warehouse in Miami to support the cholera response in Haiti between October 2202 and January 2023. USAID/BHA also provided funding to the UN Humanitarian Resource Depot (UNHRD) to source and stockpile additional relief items in UN warehouses to bolster the emergency commodity supply, from which USAID/BHA and its partners used as needed.



Emergency relief commodities arrive at a UNHRD warehouse in Accra, Ghana, to establish a regional USAID stockpile. USAID/BHA maintains eight stockpiled warehouses globally. *Photo courtesy of WFP/UNHRD.*

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)