

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

# Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

## East Africa

*Fiscal Year (FY) 2021*



The East Africa region faces a range of complex emergencies and natural disasters, including conflict-induced population displacement, floods, pest infestations, recurrent drought, and other sudden-onset disasters that generate widespread food insecurity and additional humanitarian needs. In FY 2021, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported efforts to bolster household capacity to respond to sudden- and slow-onset crises, improve response activities, and build resilience at local, national, and regional levels.

- In FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided nearly \$170 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in two countries in the East Africa region.

- In Ethiopia, USAID/BHA-funded development programs—which support the Government of Ethiopia (GoE)-led Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)—expanded the availability of diverse, nutritious, and safe foods; increased at-risk populations’ access to food, income, and productive assets; promoted gender equity and women’s and youth empowerment; and strengthened the ability of communities to adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses.

- With nearly \$45 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supported non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Mercy Corps and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and their consortia partners to implement a five-year initiative in parts of Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) to sustainably address long-standing nutritional vulnerabilities and help at-risk populations better prepare for disasters. In the third year of implementation, USAID/BHA partners continued to collaborate with county governments to conduct research and design tailored, scalable solutions that support food and nutrition resilience. In addition, the NGOs adapted their existing programming to help respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

**USAID/BHA ER4 FUNDING FOR EAST AFRICA IN FY 2021**

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Standalone ER4 | \$169,749,799 |
|----------------|---------------|

**Total: \$169,749,799**

*In East Africa in FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported standalone ER4 activities in Ethiopia and Kenya.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### *Supporting the PSNP in Ethiopia*

During FY 2021, USAID/BHA joined the GoE and partners to launch the next five-year phase of the PSNP, which seeks to address the basic food needs of approximately 9 million people experiencing food insecurity annually. Through partnerships with CRS, Food for the Hungry (FH), Relief Society of Tigray, and World Vision, USAID/BHA support to the PSNP is designed to respond to the basic needs of at-risk populations with cash and in-kind food assistance, while improving child and maternal nutrition, increasing at-risk populations' resilience to climatic shocks, and promoting gender equity and women's empowerment. During FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided more than \$116 million to the PSNP program.



USAID/BHA partner CRS provided health promotion activities to participants in Ethiopia's Oromia Region. Photo credit: CRS

In support of PSNP programming in Ethiopia, USAID/BHA partner CRS developed an eco-friendly water scheme during FY 2021, which uses solar panels to run a water pump that provides safe drinking water for an estimated 6,000 community members in Oromiya Region's Heben Arsi Zone. To build and sustain productive assets, CRS also continued the implementation of soil and water conservation structures, facilitating the formal handover of nearly 50 rehabilitated watersheds. In addition, USAID/BHA supported FH and its partners during FY 2021 to improve resilience to shocks and increase food security and nutrition for vulnerable rural households. Nearly 225,000 people across seven *woredas*, or districts, in northern Ethiopia's Amhara Region participated in food security activities during the fiscal year, according to the NGO. Due to the escalation of insecurity in northern Ethiopia's Tigray Region, PSNP partner Relief Society of Tigray redirected resources toward relief and recovery for approximately 430,000 conflict-affected people across 21 *woredas* in Tigray's Central, Eastern, Southern, and South Eastern zones. The NGO also reached nearly 40,000 children and approximately 3,400 pregnant women with nutrition-specific interventions. Finally, USAID/BHA partner World Vision and its partners provided agricultural livelihood guidance and nutrition support to nearly 498,000 people across Amhara and Oromiya, despite challenges related to expanding armed conflict and ongoing restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program aimed to enhance livelihoods, increase resilience to climatic shocks, and improve food security and nutritional outcomes; participants engaged in agricultural livelihood activities earned nearly \$5.2 million during FY 2021 through the sale of commodities produced with the support of the USAID/BHA-funded program.

### *Supporting Agriculture and Livelihoods in Kenya*

During FY 2021, the UN World Food Program (WFP) continued to provide agricultural and livelihood capacity-building support to community groups, county-level government officials, and individuals in Kenya. WFP's activities in the country emphasize capacity enhancement to accompany food assistance transfers, thereby improving the sustainability of agricultural interventions and supporting the diversification of livelihoods to help households adapt to a changing climatic and socioeconomic environment. From April to September, for example, WFP provided in-kind food commodities to nearly 304,000 people in six ASAL counties and cash-based transfers to an estimated 84,000 people in three ASAL counties. WFP also supported these households by enhancing their climate adaptation capacity, thereby enhancing their ability to

mitigate shocks and stressors. In close collaboration with county governments, WFP also provided agricultural guidance, including information on conservation agriculture, alongside the provision of agricultural assets and inputs, as well as micro-insurance to reduce the risk of climate-induced crop losses. WFP also supported nutrition programs to prevent and treat children ages five years and younger suffering from moderate wasting—a serious form of malnutrition—and pregnant and lactating women in the same target counties.

### *Sustainably Addressing Acute Malnutrition in Kenya*

USAID/BHA provided nearly \$45 million during FY 2021 to support a five-year project designed to identify the driving factors of and sustainably address long-standing nutrition vulnerabilities and help populations in ASAL regions of Kenya better prepare for and cope with recurrent disasters. At-risk populations in Kenya's ASALs tend to be more susceptible to acute malnutrition or systemic issues that can lead to or exacerbate acute malnutrition. During FY 2021, USAID/BHA partnered with two NGO consortia, led by CRS and Mercy Corps, to implement an integrated, multi-sector initiative to sustainably reduce persistent acute malnutrition in the northern ASAL counties of Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana. The initiative includes research into the key local drivers of acute malnutrition in these counties, as well as the design and implementation of tailored, scalable solutions that can be led by county governments and used as a model for additional counties after the conclusion of the project. In addition, CRS and Mercy Corps adapted their programming to support the county governments' COVID-19 response activities, reaching more than 143,000 participants with COVID-sensitive health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana during FY 2021.

#### USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR EAST AFRICA IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

| LOCATION  | ACTIVITY   | IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | AMOUNT               |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Standalone ER4</b>                             |  |                      |                      |
| Ethiopia  | RFSA   | CRS                  | \$23,644,575         |
|   | RFSA   | Food for the Hungry  | \$39,172,451         |
|   | Food Assistance  | World Vision         | \$53,602,065         |
|   | Logistics Support  |                      | \$300,000            |
| Kenya   | DRRPP  | USFS                 | \$350,000            |
|   | Food Assistance; Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications | WFP                  | \$8,000,000          |
|   | RFSA   | CRS                  | \$18,017,541         |
|   | RFSA   | Mercy Corps          | \$26,663,167         |
| <b>TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING</b> |  |                      | <b>\$169,749,799</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2021</b>               |  |                      | <b>\$169,749,799</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)