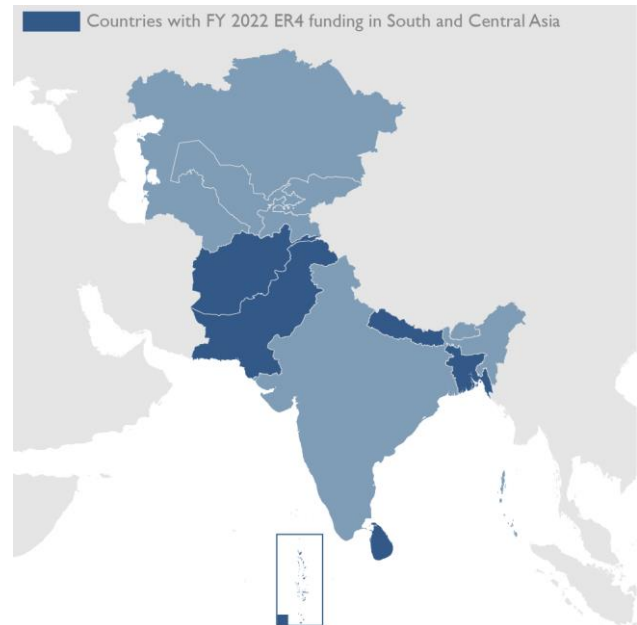


Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – South and Central Asia

REGIONAL SUMMARY

- In FY 2022, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided more than \$32.6 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in 12 countries across South and Central Asia. Populations throughout South and Central Asia are vulnerable to a range of natural disasters, including cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, floods, and landslides. These hazards compound existing vulnerabilities, such as food insecurity, faced by many communities in the region.
- In Bangladesh, USAID/BHA provided more than \$9.4 million in FY 2022 funding to reduce disaster risks and support multi-year food security activities designed to build resilience among vulnerable populations by supporting agriculture, livelihoods, maternal and child health, and women’s empowerment.
- Countries across South and Central Asia are increasingly experiencing climate-induced shocks such as cyclones, droughts, and floods, which exacerbate humanitarian needs among affected populations. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA continued to fund partners—including ACTED, CARE, and Catholic Relief Services (CRS)—throughout the region to implement climate-induced shock resiliency programs. These programs worked to expand existing emergency preparedness and risk reduction tools while simultaneously building sustainable and community-based livelihood resilience among households vulnerable to natural hazards.



USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for South and Central Asia in FY 2022

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	Bangladesh, Central Asia Regional, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, South Asia Regional, Sri Lanka	\$26,578,822
Integrated ER4	Afghanistan, Bangladesh	\$6,069,462
FY 2022 ER4 Total		\$32,648,284

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Strengthening Disaster Preparedness Through Youth Engagement in Central Asia

USAID/BHA provided more than \$1 million in FY 2022 funding to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on at-risk populations by strengthening local emergency response capacities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. During the fiscal year, joint IFRC–UNICEF programming—in coordination with local and national governments and humanitarian organizations—expanded existing emergency preparedness and risk reduction tools to help communities better respond to natural disasters. With USAID/BHA support in FY 2022, IFRC and UNICEF continued developing community-based and child-centered emergency preparedness programs in Central Asia, administering trainings to increase youth engagement in disaster response planning and enhance school safety protocols. For example, UNICEF and partners established School Disaster Management Teams in multiple schools and provided training to 60 teachers and 180 schoolchildren in Tajikistan’s Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region and Rash District.

Supporting Climate-Induced Shock Resilience in Pakistan

For more than a decade, USAID/BHA has supported programming in Pakistan focused on strengthening vulnerable populations’ resilience to drought and other climate-induced shocks through food security and livelihoods support. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA partnered with ACTED and Concern to implement drought resilience programming in Pakistan’s Sindh Province. With USAID/BHA funding, ACTED programs built food resilience through cash assistance for agricultural supplies, conducted climate-smart agriculture training for farmers, and held livestock management workshops for local communities. Meanwhile, Concern strengthened vulnerable communities’ ability to scale agricultural and livestock production by training households on water conservation and climate-smart agriculture methodologies, while also building community resilience by facilitating the development of disaster risk reduction policies and best practices at local, regional, and national levels. Additionally, the international non-governmental organization (INGO) facilitated more than 31,000 water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) education sessions during FY 2022, teaching participants how to maintain proper hygiene practices to mitigate the transmission of waterborne diseases. USAID/BHA also funded the UN World Food Program (WFP) to bolster household food security in the region through community rehabilitation and capacity strengthening trainings, and by providing cash assistance to more than 32,000 individuals to help households affected by recent drought purchase basic food items in Pakistan’s Khyber, Mohman, and Orakzai districts.

Bolstering Disaster Risk Management in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar District, natural hazards have damaged or destroyed houses, degraded environmental resources, and reduced livelihood opportunities, compounding existing humanitarian needs among low-income households. In response, USAID/BHA provided approximately \$3.2 million to CARE in FY 2022 funding to support the Northern Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Program focused on improving the structural resilience of individual settlements and community shelters against floods, in addition to building the capacity of community volunteers in disaster early action and response. With USAID/BHA support, CARE worked with local communities to construct more than 400 plinths—raised mounds of earth that elevate homesteads—to protect nearly 2,000 individuals against floodwater. To continue facilitating community engagement and capacity building, CARE additionally formed Volunteer Selection Committees in more than 100 communities under the supervision of Union Disaster Management Committees to train others to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disasters.

Strengthening Resilience Food Security Activity Across Bangladesh

USAID/BHA has supported World Vision and CARE to implement long-term food security assistance with innovative multi-sector programming throughout Bangladesh. USAID/BHA provided approximately \$950,000 to World Vision in FY 2022 to complete the five-year *Nobo Jatra*, or “New Beginning” program, which aimed to improve gender-equitable food security, nutrition, and resilience against climate shocks in southwestern Bangladesh. World Vision’s approach integrated agriculture, gender, good governance, health, livelihood, nutrition, and WASH interventions to achieve sustainable change. With USAID/BHA support, World Vision installed and rehabilitated more than 3,300 safe water points and facilitated the formation of more than 600 Water Management Committees—approximately 30 percent of which have women in leadership positions—aligned to each water point to keep the facilities functional and safe. Additionally, World Vision trained nearly 30,000 youth volunteers in disaster awareness, preparedness, and response messages as part of community-led disaster risk reduction and updated more than 18,000 household disaster preparedness and action plans.



Farmers in the USAID/BHA-funded *Nobo Jatra* program applying climate-smart agricultural practices to increase vegetable production in Kaliganj, Bangladesh.
Photo credit: World Vision

USAID/BHA provided nearly \$2.5 million in FY 2022 funding to CARE to support multi-year food security, nutrition, and resilience-building activities among vulnerable communities in northern and northeastern Bangladesh through the Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities III program. This program worked closely with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System—an intergovernmental institution that develops multi-hazard frameworks for disaster early warning systems and provides capacity-building support for disaster response—to enhance community resilience against extreme hazard events and maximize agricultural benefits from favorable weather conditions by employing adaptive weather forecasting techniques. CARE also provided support to pregnant and lactating women, children ages five years and younger, and adolescent girls through strengthening health systems, including telemedicine services, expanded private health services in hard-to-reach areas, and improved collaboration among government and non-government actors. Through these multi-year awards to World Vision and CARE, USAID has provided approximately \$188 million since 2015 to assist nearly 1.4 million individuals through multi-sector programming which strengthened gender equity, local governance, and social accountability across Bangladesh.

Building Resilience of At-Risk Communities in Sri Lanka

USAID/BHA supported Save the Children Federation (SCF) and World Vision in Sri Lanka by providing nearly \$4.3 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, to assist developing resilient agricultural practices, disaster risk reduction programs, economic support, and shelter structures throughout the country in FY 2022. Sri Lanka faced significant socioeconomic challenges during the year, driven in part by poor fiscal and tax policies, as well as reduced foreign revenue. These factors accelerated shortages of various commodities in the country—including fuel, key agricultural inputs, and basic food items—and exacerbated already-high levels of inflation, challenging the ability for the poorest households in the country to afford enough nutritious food and other basic services. As part of the USAID/BHA-supported humanitarian response to the crisis in Sri Lanka, World Vision trained approximately 3,000 local farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices and provided seeds to increase livelihood opportunities and reduce the impact of natural shocks on marginalized populations.

Additionally, during the fiscal year, SCF provided 12,500 households with multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Colombo District to bolster households' ability to afford basic items and prevent the adoption of negative coping strategies, such as reducing the quantity and quality of foods consumed or withdrawing children from school. In coordination with the Government of Sri Lanka and the national non-governmental organization (NGO) LEADS, SCF also led an awareness campaign addressing the protection risks faced by women and children, provided home-gardening support to improve household nutrition, and supported local projects, temporary work programs, and trainings which aimed to reduce the disaster risks facing vulnerable communities.

Enhancing Nepal's Food Security and Disaster Risk Management Capacity

Communities in western Nepal's Karnali River Basin remain vulnerable to numerous risks, including limited access to nutritious and affordable food or access to safe drinking water, as well as concurrent and recurrent natural disasters, such as droughts, earthquakes, floods, and landslides. During FY 2022, USAID/BHA provided \$4.6 million to Mercy Corps to help address the immediate food assistance needs of households in Karnali, while also bolstering household food security against future shocks through climate-resilient agricultural support programs. USAID/BHA-supported Mercy Corps programming promoted sustainable agriculture to nearly 22,400 individuals through multiple trainings including farmer group orientations, integrated pest management, kitchen gardening, and livestock management which increased household-level food access and availability and expand inclusion and livelihood opportunities for marginalized groups in Karnali. Additionally, USAID/BHA continued supporting the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in creating community-centric early warning systems which plans to reduce community risk of natural disasters and mitigate the risks of landslides in Nepal's Gorkha District.

USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA IN FY 2022¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Standalone ER4			
Central Asia Regional	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	IFRC	\$1,100,000
	DRRPP	UNICEF	\$1,100,000
	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	\$100,000
South Asia Regional	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	\$400,000
Bangladesh	Agriculture, DRRPP, Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA), Shelter and Settlements	CARE	\$5,732,574
	DRRPP, HCIMA	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	\$750,000
	DRRPP, ERMS, RFSA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	World Vision	\$2,949,419
Maldives	DRRPP	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	\$469,974
Nepal	Agriculture, DRRPP, Monitoring and Evaluation, MPCA, WASH	Mercy Corps	\$4,600,000
	DRRPP, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	Practical Action	\$181,855
	DRRPP	FAO	\$295,000

Pakistan	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA,	ACTED	\$1,000,000
	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, WASH	Concern	\$1,000,000
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food	WFP	\$1,000,000
Sri Lanka	Agriculture, DRRPP, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements	SCF	\$4,250,000
	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA,	World Vision	\$1,650,000
TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING			\$26,578,822
Integrated ER4 With Response²			
Afghanistan	HCIMA, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	iMMAP	\$4,756,243
Bangladesh	DRRPP	CRS	\$313,219
	DRRPP, Protection	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	\$1,000,000
TOTAL INTEGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$6,069,462
TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2022			\$32,648,284

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2022.

² Integrated ER4 With Response refers to programming that incorporates ER4 components within an active humanitarian response. Integrated ER4 With Response funding for Afghanistan and Bangladesh is also reported in the Afghanistan Complex Emergency Fact Sheet and Burma and Bangladesh Regional Crisis Fact Sheet, respectively.

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)