

# Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

## Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – Latin America and the Caribbean

### REGIONAL SUMMARY

- In FY 2022, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided approximately \$110 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in 16 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Populations in the region are vulnerable to a range of natural disasters, including drought, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, landslides, and wildfires. These hazards compound existing vulnerabilities faced by many communities in LAC.
- Through its Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP), USAID/BHA maintained a network of 29 disaster risk management specialists, as well as more than 400 surge staff, in countries across LAC to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity for natural disasters.
- In Haiti, with nearly \$19.6 million in FY 2022 funding, USAID/BHA supported six partner organizations to implement standalone ER4 activities. This included approximately \$11 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for a multi-year Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) aiming to improve immediate food security and nutrition outcomes and bolster long-term resilience against climatic and systemic challenges.
- USAID/BHA also supported activities to strengthen community preparedness and response capacity for earthquakes, volcanoes, wildland fires, and other natural disasters across the region. In addition, USAID/BHA supported activities to strengthen agricultural sustainability in drought-prone areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.



### USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for Latin America and the Caribbean in FY 2022

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru	\$36,158,634
Integrated ER4	El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua	\$73,743,026
<b>FY 2022 ER4 Total</b>		<b>\$109,901,660</b>

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### Bringing Local Organizations to the Forefront of Emergency Response Planning Across LAC

In response to the rising frequency of sudden-onset shocks and natural hazards in LAC, USAID/BHA supported the CRS-led Empowering Partner Organizations Working on Emergency Responses (EMPOWER) project in FY 2022 to strengthen the capacity of local organizations to improve disaster risk reduction (DRR) and meet emergency needs among disaster-affected communities. During the fiscal year, this regional localization program worked with local humanitarian actors in 38 countries across LAC to provide individualized training and technical assistance on developing institutional processes, systems, and structures to ensure effective emergency response capacities and expand local organizations' engagement in rapid response planning. Throughout FY 2022, CRS worked closely with the non-governmental organization (NGO) Caritas to equip staff with the necessary skills to independently implement cash feasibility assessments in disaster-affected communities and develop contingency plans for the use of market-based approaches—such as cash assistance—to address humanitarian needs following sudden-onset shocks. CRS also supported the Caritas networks in establishing the requisite mechanisms to ensure the effective delivery and evaluation of cash-based assistance. For example, in Honduras, EMPOWER worked with Caritas Honduras to lead a response to urgent needs resulting from severe seasonal flooding by providing multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to more than 450 of the most vulnerable households, enabling individuals to purchase essential items such as agricultural supplies and food commodities in local markets.

### Strengthening Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness and Response Capacity in the Caribbean

USAID/BHA provided \$2 million in FY 2022 to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to strengthen the operational capacity of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), a regional intergovernmental body for disaster coordination and management in the Caribbean. With USAID/BHA support, WFP activities enhanced the capacities of CDEMA and its 19 member states and territories to strengthen social protection systems, emergency telecommunications, and end-to-end humanitarian supply chain management during the fiscal year. Programming included enhancing early warning systems and pre-positioning logistics equipment and supplies—including first aid equipment, generators, and security lighting—to continue protecting access to food and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities throughout the region. Additionally, WFP led trainings on the maintenance, transport, and usage of this equipment to sub-regional staff within CDEMA. These pre-positioned emergency logistics equipment kits are located at regional warehouses in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, with logistics staff seconded to CDEMA facilitating the institutionalization of logistics expertise through further training and simulation activities. WFP also helped strengthen the capacity of national social protection systems to implement targeted and efficient cash-based relief activities for vulnerable populations during disasters.

### Improving Food Security and Bolstering Community Resilience in Haiti

In FY 2022, a CRS-led consortium launched *Ayiti Pi Djann*, or A Stronger Haiti, a five-year, USAID/BHA-funded RFSa aiming to improve immediate food security and nutrition outcomes and bolster long-term resilience against climatic and systemic challenges—such as frequent hurricanes and a lack of high-quality and diversified seeds—among vulnerable populations in Haiti's Nord-Est and Sud departments. To address acute food insecurity, the consortium is implementing an innovative market system approach that uses U.S.-sourced agricultural commodities to enhance the diversity and supply of locally produced foods. Additionally, the consortium is creating new livelihood opportunities by training household farmers to produce these new food staples and connecting them with buyers. With an increased supply and variety of locally produced food in the market, the consortium will help drive the demand for these new commodities through a voucher program and

a marketing campaign to promote their consumption. To foster lasting resilience to climatic and other challenges in Haiti, the consortium is also working to improve soil, fertilizer, and water management techniques for small-scale farming operations, while mitigating the impacts of previous environmental degradation that have contributed to food insecurity. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA partners laid the groundwork for this dual food security and resilience approach by connecting with private sector partners and importing staple foods, such as corn, rice, sorghum, soy, and wheat, to close consumption gaps and drive demand and increase the supply of nutritious food. In addition, USAID/BHA partners delivered three cycles of MPCA to more than 8,200 households experiencing severe food insecurity in Nord-Est and Sud to support basic needs and bolster nutrition and food consumption outcomes.

### Supporting Restorative Agriculture and Urban Resilience in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

Countries in northern Central America remain highly vulnerable to climatic shocks—such as drought, flooding, and tropical storms and hurricanes—that can result in extensive crop losses, prolonged flooding, and severe damage to critical infrastructure, posing acute risks particularly among low-income households. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA provided approximately \$19.2 million to CRS to improve drought-affected subsistence farmers' food security and resilience against natural hazards in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. With USAID/BHA support, CRS promoted sustainable agricultural practices, and strengthened access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for nearly 100,000 individuals in the Dry Corridor—an area characterized by recurrent droughts and difficult farming conditions across the three countries—and the disaster-prone departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal in Guatemala and Cortes in Honduras. The NGO trained farmers on sustainable agricultural and water management practices and distributed critical agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, enabling populations to mitigate disaster risks more effectively and build food security resilience. The partner also helped households participating in the programs establish community saving and lending groups, allowing individuals to purchase agricultural inputs in bulk at lower prices, while simultaneously providing technical assistance, training, and agricultural inputs to bolster long-term household food security. CRS also expanded access to safe drinking water and household awareness of appropriate hygiene practices across three of Guatemala's most vulnerable departments, reaching more than 44,000 individuals.

In Honduras, USAID/BHA provided \$1.5 million to GOAL Honduras to enhance the ability of urban communities in Valle de Sula Metropolitan Zone (ZMVS) to respond to flooding by bolstering DRR and other practices among acutely vulnerable communities. In coordination with ZMVS authorities, GOAL Honduras is working to create and operationalize an inclusive early warning and response system for prioritized neighborhoods and provide technical assistance in the construction of more resilient housing and improvements to existing infrastructure, such as WASH systems. The NGO is also working to augment access to financial services and linkages between local authorities and businesses to increase income-generating opportunities and, by extension, communities' ability to recover from disasters, among other interventions.

### Strengthening Earthquake Disaster Risk Management Across Latin America and the Caribbean

During FY 2022, USAID/BHA partner Miyamoto International continued to implement its Preparing Rescue and Emergency Personnel to Ameliorate the Response to Earthquakes (PREPARE) program in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Guatemala, and Mexico. PREPARE is an earthquake risk reduction program aimed at strengthening the emergency response capacities of national and local authorities and reducing vulnerability to seismic risk in metropolitan areas. In Guatemala, in coordination with the Government of Guatemala (GoG) National Disaster Response and Risk Management System, the program assisted departmental and municipal governments with the collection, organization, analysis, and application of disaster risk data for improved seismic hazard risk management and planning. The project trained nearly 100 government and private sector representatives responsible for DRR in providing technical assistance and local capacity-building. During FY 2022, PREPARE also facilitated

collaboration between the GoG and the private sector to maximize available emergency response resources and encourage greater coordination across Guatemala's ER4 programming. For example, between July and September, 530 officials were certified through PREPARE training as first response evaluators to be deployed during large earthquakes to assess structural damage to buildings. USAID/BHA has provided \$1 million to Miyamoto International for the PREPARE program in Guatemala since FY 2020.

### **Bolstering Community Preparedness for Earthquakes and Volcanoes in Peru**

Communities in Peru are vulnerable to sudden-onset disasters, including earthquakes, heavy rainfall, mudslides, and volcanic activity, which can exacerbate existing needs among affected populations. Peru's Arequipa and Sánchez Cerro provinces are particularly vulnerable to disasters due to their proximity to volcanos and the prevalence of extreme poverty among local populations. With USAID/BHA support, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) collaborated with local organizations and government officials to integrate specialized disaster risk management practices into existing local government guidelines. The NGO had reached nearly 32,800 people with disaster response simulations, public awareness campaigns, and other events by the project's conclusion in August 2022. The program's strategy focused on enhancing local early warning systems by creating clear channels to broadcast volcano alerts, supplying Emergency Operation Centers with hazard monitoring equipment, and standardizing hazard notices.

### **Preparing Ecuador to Address Natural Hazards Through Community-Led Programs**

A vast majority of Ecuador's population lives in mountainous and coastal regions vulnerable to recurring droughts, earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanic activity, and wildfires. USAID/BHA provided \$1 million in FY 2022 to ADRA to address persistent risks faced by communities in Ecuador, particularly in Guayas and Pichincha provinces. ADRA worked closely with the Government of Ecuador to bolster local, regional, and national emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capacities. With USAID/BHA support, ADRA partnered with various government agencies to train first-responders and emergency management stakeholders, as well as to develop community-led disaster response plans. In the early stages of the program, ADRA conducted 14 workshops to gather information and identify the capacities, threats, and vulnerabilities faced by communities in accordance with the methodology used by the National Risk Management Service. Additionally, ADRA installed early warning systems in six communities across the two provinces, allowing local authorities to become aware of potential hazards and take mitigation measures, such as evacuating at-risk populations or pre-positioning emergency supplies.

### **Expanding Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Caribbean**

USAID/BHA provided \$1.5 million to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in FY 2022—building on \$1.5 million provided to the humanitarian organization in FY 2021—to improve emergency preparedness and access to early warning and response systems through national Red Cross societies in more than 50 Caribbean nations. With USAID/BHA support, IFRC aimed to mitigate the adverse effects of environmental shocks and climate change by conducting training and capacity assessments, strengthening mechanisms for volunteer engagement in community-led disaster response and contingency planning, and establishing Community Disaster Response Teams across participating countries. Additionally, in April, IFRC facilitated a seminar in Trinidad and Tobago for emergency response trainers, establishing a Caribbean-wide network of instructors able to deploy across the region and provide critical emergency management and first-response training to government and local disaster risk reduction stakeholders. Through the technical assistance provided by IFRC, at-risk communities across the Caribbean enhanced their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a wide range of natural disasters during the fiscal year.

USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR LAC IN FY 2022<sup>1</sup>

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
<b>Standalone ER4</b>			
LAC Regional	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP); Food Assistance; Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Application; MPCA; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	CRS	\$2,000,000
	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIMA), Health	Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	\$1,550,000
	DRRPP	UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	\$350,000
	HCIMA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	\$350,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	\$645,000
Caribbean Regional	DRRPP	IFRC	\$1,500,000
	Natural and Technological Risks	U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	\$250,000
	Logistics Support	UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD)	\$417,594
	DRRPP	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	\$200,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	USGS	\$100,000
Central America Regional	DRRPP	Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC)	\$650,000
	DRRPP	RET International	\$500,000
	DRRPP	World Vision	\$1,140,000
Argentina	DRRPP	USFS	\$100,000
Bolivia	DRRPP	USFS	\$250,000
Brazil	DRRPP	USFS	\$300,000
Chile	DRRPP	Caritas	\$789,347
	DRRPP	USFS	\$100,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	USGS	\$24,150
Costa Rica	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	USGS	\$200,000
Colombia	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$750,000
Dominican Republic	HCIMA	WFP	\$500,000
Ecuador	DRRPP	ADRA	\$488,344
	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$500,000
El Salvador	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), DRRPP, WASH	CRS	\$380,000
	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$500,000
Guatemala	Agriculture, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	CRS	\$1,594,198
	DRRPP	Global Communities	\$370,556

	Food Assistance, HCIMA, MPCA, RFSA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	CRS	\$11,163,404
Haiti	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$599,433
	DRRPP, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks, WASH	Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)	\$850,567
	Logistics Support	WFP	\$750,000
Honduras	DRRPP, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks, Shelter and Settlements	GOAL	\$1,500,000
Peru	DRRPP	Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres (PREDES)	\$1,463,864
	DRRPP, Shelter and Settlements	Save the Children Federation (SCF)	\$1,332,177
<b>TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING</b>			<b>\$36,158,634</b>
<b>Integrated ER4 With Response<sup>2</sup></b>			
Central America Regional	ERMS	Acción contra el Hambre/Spain (ACH/Spain)	\$1,372,968
	ERMS, Protection	CARE	\$3,200,000
	Protection	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	\$4,879,856
	ERMS, Health, Protection	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	\$4,482,906
	Protection, WASH	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	\$2,044,923
Colombia	Agriculture	WFP	\$1,256,365
El Salvador	Protection	American Refugee Committee (ARC)	\$500,000
	Agriculture, ERMS, DRRPP, WASH	CRS	\$2,686,667
	Agriculture	WFP	\$2,000,000
Guatemala	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	CRS	\$4,323,525
	ERMS, Shelter and Settlements	Global Communities	\$1,989,664
	Agriculture, WASH	SCF	\$1,126,712
	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	World Vision	\$1,422,003
Haiti	Food Assistance, Nutrition	Action contre le Faim/ (ACF)	\$2,000,000
	Food Assistance	Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE)	\$3,800,000
	DRRPP, HCIMA, Logistics Support	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	\$5,950,000
	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, Food Assistance	Mercy Corps	\$10,264,254
	HCIMA	OCHA	\$300,000
	Nutrition, Protection	SCF	\$784,000
	Agriculture	UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	\$900,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	USGS	\$431,800
Honduras	Agriculture, ERMS	ADRA	\$1,723,233
	Agriculture, ERMS, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	CRS	\$4,189,828
	Agriculture, WASH	Global Communities	\$1,980,000
	Agriculture, ERMS, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	GOAL	\$2,349,299

	ERMS, Protection	HIAS	\$1,000,000
	Agriculture, ERMS	WFP	\$2,236,157
	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	World Vision	\$1,879,986
Nicaragua	Agriculture	World Vision	\$2,668,880
<b>TOTAL INTEGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$73,743,026</b>
<b>TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$109,901,660</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, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Integrated ER4 With Response refers to programming that incorporates ER4 components within an active humanitarian response. Integrated ER4 With Response funding for Haiti is also reported in the Haiti Complex Emergency Fact Sheet, and Integrated ER4 With Response funding for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras is also reported in the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras Regional Response Fact Sheet.

## 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)