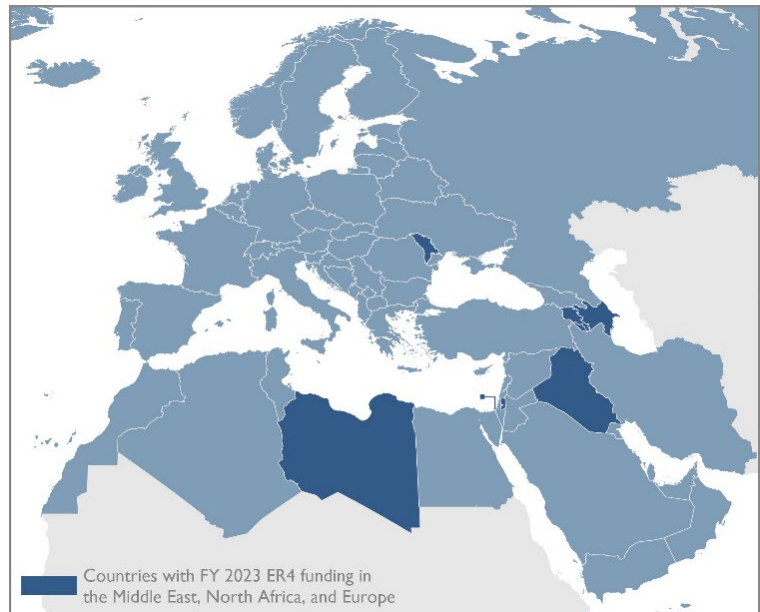


# Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

## Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – Middle East, North Africa, and Europe

### REGIONAL SUMMARY

- In FY 2023, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided more than \$9.9 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in countries across the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe (MENA). Populations in MENA are susceptible to a range of climatic shocks and natural disasters, including drought, earthquakes, extreme winter weather, floods, and wildfires, exacerbating existing humanitarian needs faced by vulnerable communities in the region.



- USAID/BHA supported programs in Iraq, Libya, the West Bank and Gaza, and the Europe and Caucasus regions during the fiscal year to build resilience and improve emergency preparedness among community members and local disaster management specialists.

- USAID/BHA partners across MENA implemented activities to bolster community-wide responses to natural disasters, strengthening the capacity of at-risk populations and mitigating the effects of future climatic events. In FY 2023, USAID/BHA provided funding to 13 implementing partners for standalone ER4 activities, including improving regional preparedness capabilities against new and recurrent climatic shocks. For example, with pre-existing support from USAID/BHA, the International Organization of Migration (IOM) strengthened the disaster risk management capacity of Libya’s local and national government authorities while providing life-saving protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to communities affected by Storm Daniel in September 2023. In Moldova, USAID/BHA supported local authorities and civil society organizations to enhance their coordination, preparedness, and response capacity to respond to natural disasters.

#### USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe in FY 2023<sup>1</sup>

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	Europe and the Caucasus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Libya, Moldova, West Bank and Gaza	\$9,928,628
<b>FY 2023 ER4 Total</b>		<b>\$9,928,628</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/BHA supported regional ER4 programs in FY 2023 that may allocate funding to additional countries not detailed in above map.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### Enhancing Integrated Climate Monitoring in Iraq

USAID/BHA provided \$900,000 in FY 2023 funding to support nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner Action contre la Faim's (ACF) two-year program to develop and implement an integrated climate monitoring dashboard to detect climate change vulnerabilities, including drought, in Iraq. Through this initiative, ACF continued to build the capacity of the Government of Iraq and local communities to monitor water flow and utilization via the dashboard, an open-source water scarcity analysis and prediction tool that enables communities, government actors, and NGOs in water-scarce areas to anticipate and plan for drought and mitigate the adverse effects of resultant water scarcity. To enhance the dashboard's effectiveness, ACF provided analytical and technical support to community-based organizations, government agencies, and local universities to improve their ability to manage water-related data. By linking community- and national-level water data initiatives, this two-year program will synchronize early warning and response systems to enhance responsiveness and service delivery, ultimately mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable populations. In addition, USAID/BHA continues to support the development and rehabilitation of community-prioritized, small-scale infrastructure—including through leakage repairs of water storage and distribution tanks—identified through the award activities to reduce water loss.

### Supporting Disaster Risk Management Capacity in Libya

With pre-existing support from USAID/BHA, IOM provided emergency assistance in the aftermath of Storm Daniel, which displaced an estimated 45,000 people in September 2023, while continuing to strengthen the disaster risk management capacity of Libya's local and national government authorities by improving data collection on climate change, environmental degradation, and the subsequent effects of these factors on community cohesion and migration. IOM collaborated with the Government of Libya to train local and national stakeholders—including government ministries and Libya's National Meteorological Center—on displacement tracking methods and fragility-related indicators used to enhance risk mapping and disaster risk management decision-making. In addition, IOM supported locally led environmental improvement projects to bolster the resilience of vulnerable populations and mitigate disaster-related impacts on communities. IOM also provided life-saving protection, shelter, and WASH assistance to displaced and flood-affected communities to address the immediate effects of natural disasters.

Separately, USAID/BHA provided \$700,000 in funding to an international NGO (INGO) partner in FY 2023 to support the transition of humanitarian activities in Libya to a durable solutions framework by partnering with government ministries to strengthen the capacity of Libya's local and national protection actors, including through critical protection interventions—such as the distribution of dignity kits, establishment of safe spaces, and provision of psychosocial support services—that support conflict-affected women and children. Following Storm Daniel, the USAID/BHA partner also provided emergency health and protection assistance to flood-affected communities.

### Strengthening Disaster Coordination in the Levant

Through nearly \$141,000 in USAID/BHA support, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) strengthened disaster response and preparedness capabilities in the Levant region in FY 2023, with a programmatic focus on the West Bank and Gaza. Following similar programs in previous years, OCHA facilitated professional dialogue sessions and joint simulation exercises to improve coordination between the Palestinian Civil Defense—the national agency responsible for emergency services and rescue in areas under the control of

the Palestinian Authority—and Israeli and Jordanian disaster response authorities, contributing to improved regional preparedness. In addition, as part of a multi-year USAID/BHA award, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) supported the Palestinian Civil Defense to design a capacity-building program, which will include training in disaster and fire management programs.

### Increasing Resilience to Natural Disasters in Europe and the Caucasus

With regional funding in FY 2023, USAID/BHA continued support for Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) efforts to bolster the resilience of communities in Europe against recurrent natural disasters, including drought and floods. The Project for Increasing Resilience to Natural Disasters and Enhancing Preparedness Strategy (PREPS) reached an estimated 3,100 people, including nearly 280 internally displaced persons, across Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia during the fiscal year with activities to strengthen disaster preparedness. In addition, PREPS supported communities and municipalities to collaborate on disaster management initiatives—including the development of preparedness plans—that increased resilience at the community, household, and municipal levels.



Armenian Red Cross volunteers offloading a truck carrying USAID/BHA-funded kitchen sets, intended to reach 700 displaced households. Photo credit: IFRC.

In Armenia, USAID/BHA supported the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to enhance preparations for the influx of more than 100,000 displaced people from Nagorno-Karabakh during FY 2023. IFRC collaborated with the Armenian Red Cross Society to develop disaster response plans and early warning systems prior to the escalation of hostilities by Government of Azerbaijan forces in September 2023, along with stockpiling critical relief supplies for distribution to an estimated 750 households.

#### USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR MENAE IN FY 2023<sup>2</sup>

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
<b>Standalone ER4</b>			
Europe and the Caucasus Regional	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP)	CRS	\$1,660,926
	DRRPP	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)	\$500,00
	DRRPP	USFS	\$680,000
	Program Support		\$108,333
Armenia	DRRPP	IFRC	\$750,000
	DRRPP	People in Need	\$400,000
Azerbaijan	Protection	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	\$500,000
Iraq	DRRPP, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), WASH	ACF	\$900,000
Libya	Protection	Implementing Partner	\$700,000
	Health, Protection	Implementing Partner	\$1,050,000
	Protection	Implementing Partner	\$700,000
	Program Support		\$79,369

Moldova	DRRPP	ACTED	\$600,000
	DRRPP	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	\$300,000
West Bank and Gaza	HCIMA	OCHA	\$140,738
	DRRPP	USFS	\$859,262
<b>TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING</b>			<b>\$9,928,628</b>
<b>TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$9,928,628</b>

<sup>2</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, 2023.

## 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://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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://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)