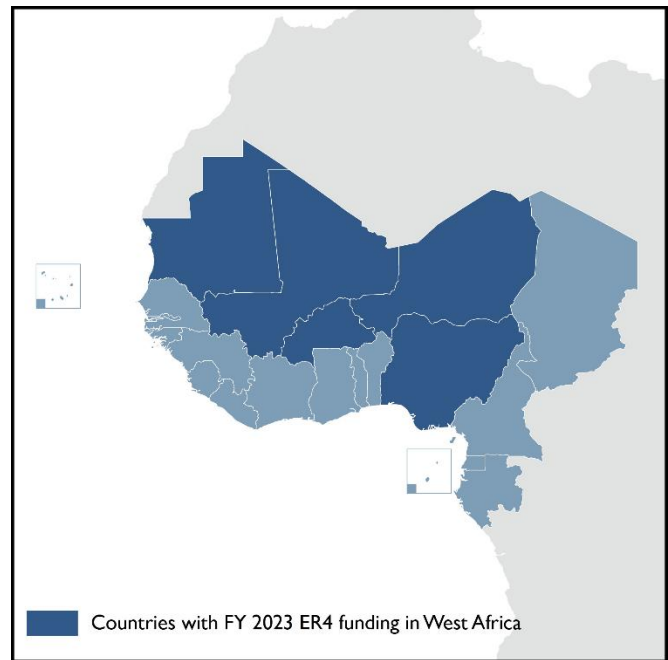


Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – West Africa

REGIONAL SUMMARY

- In FY 2023, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided more than \$69.5 million to partner organizations in West Africa conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in five countries and throughout the region. USAID/BHA funding addressed the impact of protracted complex emergencies, food insecurity, and climatic shocks, including floods and recurrent drought, on vulnerable populations.
- Multi-year Resilience Food Security Activities (RFSAs) continued to bolster food security and local resilience in the Central Sahel—a region comprising Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger—through multi-sector interventions during FY 2023. The USAID/BHA-supported Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE II) program includes RFSA programs in Burkina Faso and Niger aiming to foster more effective governance, improve health outcomes, increase access to water and other natural resources, promote economic development, and empower women and young people to be a force for positive change in their communities.
- In Niger, USAID/BHA provided nearly \$45 million in FY 2023 funding to three international nongovernmental organization (INGO) partners and the UN World Food Program (WFP) to continue to implement multi-year activities designed to sustainably improve food security, nutrition, and resilience among vulnerable populations by supporting agriculture, livelihoods, maternal and child health care, and women’s empowerment.



USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for West Africa in FY 2023¹

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Regional	\$68,543,418
Integrated ER4	Mauritania	\$1,000,000
FY 2023 ER4 Total		\$69,543,418

¹ Integrated ER4 refers to programming that incorporates ER4 components within an active humanitarian response. USAID/BHA supported regional ER4 programs in FY 2023 that may allocate funding to additional countries not detailed in above map.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Combatting Malnutrition and Improving WASH in Burkina Faso

USAID/BHA partner ACDI/VOCA continued its Victory Against Malnutrition Plus initiative (ViMPlus), a seven-year RFSA launched in 2018 to enhance community resilience to recurrent shocks, improve food and nutrition security, and strengthen the adaptive capacities of at-risk communities in Burkina Faso's Centre-Nord Region. ViMPlus—launched as part of the RISE II program—implemented several annual community investment plans and disaster risk management plans during FY 2023. Nearly 150 local community organizations mobilized more than \$61,000 in participatory financing to implement community projects focused on land and water management, as well as improving civic participation and governance. Additionally, displaced persons and other vulnerable households received interventions focused on livestock production and other income-generating activities. In FY 2023, ViMPlus also reached more than 27,300 individuals with improved health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. This included the adoption of optimal infant and young child feeding practices and preventative and antenatal care for pregnant women, as well as early screening for malnutrition and referrals to health centers for treatment.

Supporting Food Security and Resilience to Shocks in Niger

USAID/BHA continued to support partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with \$14.7 million toward the RISE II Girma project during FY 2023 to strengthen food and nutrition security in Niger's Zinder Region. During the program's lifespan from the beginning of FY 2019 to the end of FY 2023, CRS reached more than 800,000 people with program interventions, including water infrastructure projects to provide safe drinking water, a pilot project—involving 40 local masons—to promote the use of modern latrines, and partnering with a seed company to distribute more than 5 metric tons (MT) of improved seeds to village markets.

USAID/BHA delivered nearly \$11.7 million in FY 2023 support to Save the Children Federation (SCF) to continue implementing the Wadata project, a seven-year RISE II RFSA program aimed at improving food security in Zinder by increasing community capacities, food access, and productive assets. During the fiscal year, the project worked with community groups and local organizations to build community governance capacity and increase the number of women and young people in positions of responsibility. Wadata supported sustainable natural resource management through activities to establish resource management committees, mobilize community financial contributions toward water service improvement plans, and rehabilitate degraded pastoral lands. Additionally, SCF helped develop entrepreneurial projects, increase earnings from diversified livelihoods, and promote community savings and loan groups—particularly for women and youth—to address gender inequality and reduce barriers to economic growth. To improve health, hygiene, and nutrition, Wadata trained more than 3,000 facilitators to lead hygiene, nutrition, and reproductive health awareness sessions to encourage the consumption of varied foods and to bolster latrine usage, reaching more than 7,000 participants across approximately 270 villages throughout the fiscal year.

During FY 2023, USAID/BHA partner CARE reached nearly 95,000 people through the continued implementation of the Hamzari project, a multi-sector RISE II program to enhance livelihoods, improve nutrition outcomes, and expand access to WASH services while promoting gender equality in Niger's Maradi Region. With USAID/BHA support, the program supported the creation of more than 1,700 Village Savings and Loan Association groups, which enhance food security and strengthen the resilience of families and communities to shocks. Hamzari activities include improving access to credit, increasing access to grains during the lean season, and utilizing a livestock loan program informed by a tradition known as *habbanaye*, the practice of loaning livestock to someone in need until the animal reproduces. Also, in FY 2023, the Hamzari project facilitated the

establishment of 25 self-governing warrantage networks composed of approximately 140 cereal banks. The cereal banks replenished a stock of more than 400 MT of millet in three communes in Maradi, enabling adequate grain storage and contributing to the better preservation of crops and household food supply management.

USAID/BHA also provided \$12 million to WFP in FY 2023 to support activities that strengthen the resilience of crisis-affected households across Niger. Approximately 250,000 people received unconditional cash transfers and benefited from activities to enhance agricultural production.

Improving Food Security and Nutrition Outcomes in Mali

USAID/BHA provided more than \$11.5 million in FY 2023 funding to SCF to implement Albarka, a project aimed at stabilizing and strengthening food security and resilience among at-risk communities in central and northern Mali, including those affected by conflict. SCF continued to foster community self-sufficiency during the fiscal year by empowering youth to drive economic and social development, promoting improved agricultural practices, and supporting community-driven approaches to natural resource management. The INGO provided food and nutrition assistance to prevent and treat acute malnutrition and bolstered access to health and WASH services, including access to safe drinking water. Additionally, SCF continued to expand the mother-to-mother approach to promote best practices for infant and young child feeding; more than 1,800 support groups—reaching nearly 27,000 pregnant and lactating women—had been established by mid-FY 2023.



Children are screened for malnutrition in SCF's USAID/BHA-funded Albarka RFSA. Photo credit: SCF

Bolstering Disaster Response Capacity in Nigeria

Since 2016, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has supported Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency and various state emergency management agencies through USAID/BHA. USAID/BHA more than doubled its support to the USFS in FY 2023 as part of a multi-year disaster management program to enhance the Government of Nigeria's response and coordination systems. The USFS continued to provide technical assistance for the development and review of emergency management policies, as well as training for state and national emergency management staff members on emergency operation centers, incident command, and multi-agency coordination systems to improve disaster risk management. According to the USFS, USAID/BHA support has improved the Government of Nigeria's ability to effectively coordinate and respond to shocks, such as floods throughout Nigeria's 2023 rainy season.

USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR WEST AFRICA IN FY 2023¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Standalone ER4			
Regional	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Action Against Hunger/USA (AAH/USA)	\$600,000
	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP)	CARE	\$600,000
	DRRPP, HCIMA	Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)	\$350,000
	HCIMA, Humanitarian Policy Studies, Analysis, or Applications (HPSAA)	International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	\$290,804
	HCIMA	Impact Initiatives	\$1,000,000
	Agriculture, HCIMA	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	\$200,000
	Protection, HCIMA, HPSAA	SCF	\$609,794
	HCIMA	UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	\$500,000
	Program Support		\$104,910
Burkina Faso	RFSA	ACDI/VOCA	\$3,519,552
	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition	WFP	\$4,000,000
	Program Support		\$35,132
Mali	RFSA	SCF	\$11,550,322
Niger	Food Assistance, HCIMA, Nutrition	WFP	\$12,000,000
	RFSA	CARE	\$6,249,678
	RFSA	CRS	\$14,700,000
	RFSA	SCF	\$11,694,962
	Program Support		\$38,265
Nigeria	DRRPP	USFS	\$500,000
TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING			\$68,543,418
Integrated ER4 With Response			
Mauritania	Agriculture, DRRPP, Nutrition, WASH	Action contre el Hambre (ACH/Spain)	\$1,000,000
TOTAL INTEGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$1,000,000
TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2023			\$69,543,418

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, 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://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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

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