

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Development & Disaster Risk Reduction

Latin America & the Caribbean

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020



Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) experience a range of natural hazards, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, forest fires, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, and volcanoes. In FY 2020, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported programs that improved emergency preparedness and response capacity at local, national, and regional levels; provided multipurpose cash assistance to vulnerable households; and supported communities to improve and restore livelihoods.

- USAID/BHA provided more than \$43.1 million in FY 2020 to support disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in LAC.
- Through a regional program, USAID/BHA maintained a network of 29 disaster risk management specialists in LAC, as well as more than 400 surge staff, to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity for natural disasters.
- In the Caribbean, USAID/BHA supported the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to continue bolstering the capacity of Red Cross national societies to respond to emergencies in 10 countries.
- With more than \$5.8 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported six partner organizations to implement DRR and coordination activities in Haiti.
- USAID/BHA also supported activities to strengthen community preparedness and response capacity for earthquakes, forest fires, volcanoes, and other natural disasters, including in Central America, Colombia, and Peru. Separately, USAID/BHA supported activities to strengthen agricultural sustainability in drought-prone areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT & DRR FUNDING FOR LAC¹ IN FY 2020

Standalone DRR	\$43,896,932
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Integrated DRR	\$71,209
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Total: \$43,968,141

In LAC in FY 2020, USAID/BHA supported DRR activities in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago.

¹ These numbers reflect a combination of DRR and integrated DRR with response programs funded through USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Managing Disaster Risk in LAC

With prior year funding, USAID/BHA continued to support Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP) activities to manage disaster risk in the LAC region in FY 2020. During the year, USAID/BHA staff based in San José, Costa Rica, and a consultant network of 29 disaster risk management specialists throughout the region continued to oversee and monitor RDAP activities, which expanded local and regional capabilities, improved intra- and intergovernmental coordination, and strengthened disaster preparedness, mitigation, and risk management programs. In addition, through RDAP, USAID/BHA maintains a network of more than 400 local surge staff available for activation, as needed, to respond rapidly to disasters throughout the region. Over the past decade, RDAP has provided training to thousands of emergency responders, including courses on DRR, emergency management systems, the Incident Command System (ICS), forest fire prevention and control, school safety, urban search-and-rescue (USAR), disaster management, and damage assessment and needs analysis. RDAP has also provided small grants to promote community-level DRR projects. Since FY 2008, through the provision of approximately \$60.3 million for RDAP, USAID/BHA has managed disaster risk in LAC.

Building Capacity of Red Cross National Societies in the Caribbean

USAID/BHA continued to support IFRC with prior year funding to build the capacity of Red Cross national societies in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago through training activities and peer-to-peer exchanges for national and local resilience planning. Program activities also aimed to support communities to develop early warning systems, engage in contingency planning, and train and equip community disaster response teams to enhance community capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

Strengthening Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness and Response Capacity in the Caribbean

In FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided \$3.5 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to strengthen the operational capacity of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and participating states to better prepare for and respond to emergencies. WFP activities focused on enhancing CDEMA and 22 member states' and territories' capacities in emergency telecommunications and relief commodity supply chain management. The UN agency also maintained pre-positioned emergency logistics equipment at regional focal points in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, and seconded logistics staff to CDEMA to facilitate the institutionalization of logistics expertise. WFP also provided technical assistance to CDEMA to develop a comprehensive, technologically advanced end-to-end supply chain management system to improve warehouse logistics and relief commodity management during emergencies.

Continuing the U.S.–Caribbean Resilience Partnership

USAID/BHA provided the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with nearly \$500,000 in FY 2020 for the ongoing U.S.–Caribbean Resilience Partnership program to collaborate with Caribbean countries' national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) and national disaster management agencies to advance early warning and preparedness capacity for hurricane-related hazards. In partnership with the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and NMHSs, NOAA continued to implement a multi-year pilot program in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as well as activities in Belize and Mexico, to identify needs for storm surge planning and preparedness, conduct trainings, develop a wave-modeling system, and begin laying the foundation for a regional approach to storm surge and wave modeling and forecasting in the Caribbean region. USAID/BHA and NOAA also expanded the program to The Bahamas in FY 2020.

Ensuring Preparedness of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations in Haiti

With \$900,000 in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for its *Repons II*

project in Haiti to ensure community- and faith-based organizations are better prepared to lead disaster response and resilience efforts in communities, as well as maintain adherence to international humanitarian standards, including on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The CRS project drew on lessons from multi-country USAID/BHA-funded PSEA projects to support organizations to implement policies and mechanisms to prevent, mitigate, identify, and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and to promote a safer, more protective environment for beneficiaries. Building on the successful previous *Repons I* project, *Repons II* promoted increased community engagement, learning exchanges with peer organizations, and improved coordination with government agencies to further improve institutional sustainability. CRS activities also support community- and faith-based organizations' leadership, staff, and volunteers to lead community awareness and mobilization campaigns and implement practical disaster preparedness activities.

Supporting Households and Market Systems in Haiti

In FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided \$942,000 to Mercy Corps to support vulnerable households and market systems in Haiti's Croix-des-Bouquets commune to respond to urgent food security needs and reinforce community resilience for future shocks. The non-governmental organization (NGO) provided multipurpose cash transfers to vulnerable households experiencing food insecurity in locations with accessible and functional local markets. Mercy Corps activities also worked to improve the capacity of local markets to handle increased demand or shocks and to increase the availability of nutritious foods.

Strengthening Urban DRR Coordination in Central America

With prior year funding, USAID/BHA continued to support the Central American Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters (CEPRENAC) to promote education, improve coordination, and strengthen processes for urban DRR throughout Central America in FY 2020. Program activities included coordinating with national authorities to generate tools for risk reduction in housing and infrastructure planning, as well as supporting regional exchanges both between Central American emergency operations centers and with U.S. universities. In FY 2020, CEPREDENAC also supported the regional response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including through regional information sharing.

Supporting Restorative Agriculture in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

With \$8.5 million in FY 2020 funding across El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, USAID/BHA supported CRS to promote sustainable agricultural practices to drought-affected subsistence farmers to increase yields and protect against droughts. The NGO is implementing activities across the Dry Corridor—an area characterized by frequent droughts and difficult farming conditions—in all three countries. CRS teaches farmers water-conscious agricultural methods to improve soil moisture and fertility, increase yields by up to 50 percent, and reduce production risks related to drought and rainfall variability. The NGO also enables farming households to restock agricultural inputs as necessary, such as animal feed and seeds, to implement these best practices. The sustainable agriculture activities complement the efforts of ongoing emergency food assistance programs in the region.

Supporting Resilient Urban Neighborhoods in Honduras

USAID/BHA has supported GOAL in Honduras to reduce urban disaster risk in three neighborhoods of the capital city of Tegucigalpa's Ulloa sector since FY 2013. In FY 2020, GOAL continued to conduct activities in Ulloa and the city's Las Brisas, Los Pinos, and Villanueva sectors to reduce disaster risk through a neighborhood-based approach promoting local coordination and strengthening capacity. Program activities had increased community capacity for disaster preparedness and response, protected livelihoods, and reduced housing and public infrastructure vulnerability, reaching nearly 75,000 people as of September 30. GOAL also supported national- and regional-level adoption of the neighborhood-based approach and fostered engagement among education actors and government institutions. In FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided an additional \$1 million to

support the program. Cumulatively, USAID/BHA has provided more than \$6.1 million to GOAL to support urban DRR activities in Tegucigalpa since FY 2013.

Strengthening Wildfire Management Capacity in Bolivia

With \$340,000 in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to launch a technical assistance program to bolster efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to wildfires in Bolivia. USFS aims to enhance the capacities of national and local emergency management agencies, fire brigades, and community first responders to safely and effectively respond to wildfires and other natural disasters in the country. In addition, the program supports staff from Bolivia's land management agencies to lead proactive, coordinated, and sustainable efforts to protect Bolivia's ecosystems from wildfires and other disasters. USFS also provides technical advice and workshops on basic fire management strategies, disaster response interagency coordination, fire prevention, and ICS implementation, as well as technical support on predictive services to help Bolivia's emergency management agencies improve fire forecast systems.

Bolstering Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Colombia

USAID/BHA provided \$750,000 in FY 2020 funding to Miyamoto International to implement the Preparing Rescue and Emergency Personnel to Ameliorate the Response to Earthquakes (PREPARE) *Eje Cafetero* program to support the regional risk management and response capacity of departmental and municipal governments and the private sector in Colombia's Caldas, Quindío, and Risaralda departments. The program assists departmental and municipal governments with the collection, organization, analysis, and application of disaster risk data for improved risk management and planning for seismic hazards. The program also utilized national and regional partnerships and strategies developed by Miyamoto International under previous USAID/BHA-funded programs implemented since FY 2015. Miyamoto International also began work on a comprehensive evaluation of USAR personnel and other first responders in the departments to identify response gaps and support accreditation.

Supporting Urban DRR in Colombia

With \$4.1 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported GOAL to strengthen urban DRR capacities and increase the resilience of vulnerable refugees, returnees, and host communities in five neighborhoods across Colombia's Atlántico, La Guajira, Norte de Santander, and Santander departments. Adapted from a similar ongoing DRR program in Honduras, GOAL's activities mitigate urban disaster risk by strengthening local government and community response capacity, particularly in response to risks of flooding and landslides. GOAL also implements livelihoods development and restoration activities among migrants, returnees, and host community members in the neighborhoods.

Enhancing Natural Disaster Risk Management in Peru

With \$2 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to build DRR capacity for meteorological, seismic, and volcanic risks in Peru's Arequipa and Sánchez Cerro provinces. ADRA worked to integrate disaster risk management plans, projects, and guidelines into the institutional management toolkit of local governments in collaboration with social organizations and government offices at sub-national and national levels. The NGO implemented activities to sensitize the population to the risks of earthquakes and volcanoes through activities including development of risk management plans, production and dissemination of audiovisual materials, and promotion of household emergency plans. In FY 2020, ADRA also adapted its DRR activities to address risks associated with the spread of COVID-19 in Peru, with USAID/BHA support.

USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT AND DRR ASSISTANCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN FY 2020¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
DRR			
LAC Regional	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust (RET)	\$2,400,000
	Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$250,000
	Natural and Technological Risks	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	\$582,071
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)	\$571,780
Caribbean Regional	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Caritas Antilles	\$1,800,000
	Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$500,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	WFP	\$3,500,000
	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$172,253
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USFS	\$623,237
South America Regional	Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$250,000
Bolivia	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USFS	\$340,000
Colombia	Risk Management Policy and Practice	American Red Cross (AmCross)	\$500,000
	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	GOAL	\$4,100,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Miyamoto International	\$750,000
Costa Rica	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Miyamoto International	\$247,201
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	World Vision	\$500,000
Dominica	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	\$800,000
Dominican Republic	Risk Management Policy and Practice	WFP	\$950,000
	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$202,825
Ecuador	Risk Management Policy and Practice	WFP	\$2,000,000
El Salvador	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	CRS	\$3,000,000
Guatemala	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Natural and Technological Risks	CRS	\$3,500,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Miyamoto International	\$1,000,000
Haiti	Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Protection; Risk Management Policy and Practice; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	CRS	\$900,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	GOAL	\$243,635
	MPCA, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	IFRC	\$1,250,000
	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, MPCA, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Mercy Corps	\$2,842,091
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	\$350,000
	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	\$300,000
Honduras	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Natural and Technological Risks	CRS	\$2,000,000
	ERMS, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	GOAL	\$1,000,000
Mexico	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Miyamoto International	\$759,953
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	ADRA	\$2,000,000
Peru	Agriculture and Food Security, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Practical Action	\$800,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Center for Disaster Studies and Prevention in Peru (PREDES)	\$1,554,619

	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Save the Children Federation (SCF)	\$431,731
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UN Development Program (UNDP)	\$750,000
Trinidad and Tobago	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Habitat for Humanity	\$175,536
TOTAL DRR FUNDING			\$43,896,932
Integrated DRR With Response			
Haiti	MPCA	AmCross	\$71,209
TOTAL INTEGRATED DRR WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$71,209
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AND DRR FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$43,968,141

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, 2020.

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)