

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience**

**East Asia and the Pacific**

*Fiscal Year (FY) 2021*



Many countries across the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region face recurrent extreme weather events and natural hazards—such as earthquakes, floods, tropical storms, and volcanic eruptions—that can lead to sudden-onset disasters. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported a range of programs that enhanced early warning systems, increased disaster preparedness, and strengthened the capacity of first responders in at-risk communities at the local, national, and regional levels.

- In FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided nearly \$24 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in 14 countries across EAP, as well as through regional assistance.
- At the country and regional levels, USAID/BHA implementing partners engaged communities, international and regional organizations, national and local governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies—tailored to the needs of vulnerable populations—to reduce disaster-related risks.
- In response to the new and evolving effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, USAID/BHA partners across the region have increased virtual engagement and adapted programs so that activities can continue while mitigating the risk of transmission to beneficiaries and staff.
- With \$3.4 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supported the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to strengthen first responder capacity of national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies across EAP, enabling them to respond more efficiently and rapidly to natural disasters.
- During FY 2021, USAID/BHA partners continued to support Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states to develop and institutionalize early warning, disaster management, and hazard monitoring systems.
- USAID/BHA partners supported rural and urban communities in multiple countries—including Indonesia, Mongolia, and Vietnam—to build preparedness for and resilience to natural disasters and associated livelihood disruptions. Separately, USAID/BHA partners integrated gender and disability inclusion into community-based disaster preparedness in Pacific Island countries.

**USAID/BHA ER4 FUNDING FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN FY 2021**

Standalone ER4	\$21,649,322
Integrated ER4	\$1,900,000

**Total: \$23,549,322**

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### *Strengthening Community Early Warning Systems in Indonesia and the Philippines Through Crowd-Sourced Data*

Indonesia and the Philippines are among two of the most disaster-prone nations in the EAP region. As the rapid intensification of storms becomes more frequent due to climate change, real-time information is increasingly the most important resource to help at-risk communities and first response teams understand and respond to evolving situations. In FY 2021, USAID/BHA partnered with the local NGO Yayasan PetaBenaca to expand a real-time disaster reporting system across Indonesia and establish a similar model in urban areas of the Philippine's National Capital Region. By combining crowd-sourced disaster reporting from social media platforms and government-validated data into a single interface, Yayasan PetaBenaca developed a free and open-source tool to help communities, as well as local, regional, and national government actors, respond to sudden-onset emergencies. The platform developed by Yayasan PetaBenaca uses humanitarian chatbots to automatically respond to new social media posts which include words associated with sudden-onset disasters—such as earthquake, fire, or floods—and prompts the individual who posted the message to confirm their situation by completing a brief report and adding a photo. The information from each report is immediately plotted on a live web-based map, which is available to the public and provides real-time, actionable information to at-risk communities and emergency first-response teams. Both systems feed directly into National Disaster Management Agency information management systems for immediate use. With \$750,000 in FY 2021 funds, USAID/BHA assistance enabled Yayasan PetaBenaca to expand its unique platform for community engagement in disaster risk management across Indonesia and the Philippines, reaching hundreds of thousands of at-risk individuals and augmenting the capacities of local, regional, and national first-responders to address humanitarian needs quickly and effectively.

### *Supporting Specialized Training to Improve Local Response Capacities in Indonesia*

In FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported World Vision to improve disaster preparedness and emergency response capacities among urban communities and local government actors in Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta and surrounding metropolitan areas, a region particularly prone to flooding and fire risks. With approximately \$750,000 in FY 2021 funds, World Vision provided community workshops to strengthen localization approaches to disaster preparedness and response, as well as to build ER4 capacities among members of Humanitarian Forum Indonesia, a network of faith-based humanitarian and development organizations in the country. World Vision delivered psychosocial support training to faith leaders, as well as to public and private sector actors to ensure full community participation in emergency response planning, including culturally appropriate approaches to gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion. The NGO also provided targeted activities to strengthen women's leadership in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency response, including female economic empowerment programs, workshops on reproductive health in emergencies, and community-based leadership training. By expanding knowledge of both natural disaster risks and the different capacities, needs, and risks of various groups, the program helped local, regional, and national disaster response actors ensure that those most affected by disasters have agency in creating disaster preparedness strategies best suited for their needs.

### *Monitoring Volcanic Activity to Bolster Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity*

For more than 35 years, USAID has funded the USAID–U.S. Geological Survey Volcano (USGS) Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP) to provide technical assistance to national volcano monitoring organizations across

*In East Asia and the Pacific in FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported standalone and integrated ER4 activities in Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Kiribati, Laos, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Solomon Islands, Thailand, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.*

EAP, including training in hazard assessment, early warning system development, and volcano monitoring equipment installation. In FY 2021, USAID/BHA continued to support VDAP programs in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines. For example, VDAP assisted the Government of Indonesia to monitor seismic activity on Mount Merapi, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes located in a densely populated region of southwestern Indonesia. With USAID/BHA funds, VDAP provided technical equipment and satellite radar data to local government authorities, facilitating the development of volcanic activity assessments on Mount Merapi that informed government early warning systems and enabled the preemptive evacuation of at-risk populations when volcanic eruptions were detected.

### *Supporting Household and Government Awareness and Knowledge for Emergency Preparedness in the Philippines*

With approximately \$2 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supported Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to enhance household- and government-level preparedness measures, as well as to build resilience against natural hazard risks—such as earthquakes and typhoons—in the Philippines' capital city of Manila. CRS's program Supporting Household and Local Government Unit Awareness and Knowledge for Earthquake Preparedness (SHAKE) builds on nearly a decade of ER4 assistance in the Philippines through the USAID/BHA-funded Strengthening Urban Communities' Capacities to Endure Severe Shocks (SUCCESS) program. In FY 2021, CRS engaged individual households and community-, municipal-, and city-level government actors to develop comprehensive natural hazard assessments, risk reduction plans, and policies to build DRR awareness among Manila residents.

When Typhoon Vamco impacted the Philippines in November 2020, activities conducted under the SHAKE and SUCCESS programs strengthened community preparedness and ensured individuals residing in vulnerable areas received timely alerts prior to the storm's landfall. Through the two programs, CRS installed five emergency howler sirens in five *barangays*—or neighborhoods—across Metro Manila and coordinated with local DRR and management council staff to develop contingency plans for potential flooding. As a result of these activities, Metro Manila residents received timely alerts of the impending Typhoon Vamco, allowing for additional time to prepare and seek emergency shelter.

### *Enhancing Community Resilience through Red Cross Societies in the Northern Pacific*

USAID/BHA provided \$2 million in FY 2021 to IFRC to strengthen the capacities of national Red Cross societies in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands by enabling communities to assess and address hazard vulnerabilities and build community resilience through action-oriented planning. With USAID/BHA support, national Red Cross societies in the three countries continue to bolster community resilience planning by leveraging capacity-building approaches that guide national societies in developing the requisite disaster preparedness, planning, and response skills to become sustainable in the long-term. Additionally, with USAID/BHA support IFRC provides training to national Red Cross branches and volunteers—with a focus on engaging youth—in the northern Pacific region through an integrated vulnerability capacity assessment process that helps communities develop action plans to build resilience in key areas of risk and safety, including responding to sudden-onset hazards, related health risks, as well as building safe shelters and providing water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

### *Bolstering Access to GBV and SRH Services Across the Pacific Island Region*

In FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided \$1 million to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to expand access among vulnerable women and girls to safe, quality sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services across 14 countries in the Pacific Island region. This support includes activities to scale-up UNFPA's Women-Friendly Spaces model, a program which establishes safe facilities where women and girls can access essential health and protection services, including psychosocial support. Across the 14 Pacific Island

nations where UNFPA operates, USAID/BHA also supports the UN agency to deliver capacity-building trainings to health care workers on adolescent GBV and SRH in emergencies and to implement activities which strengthen national health care systems. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA has expanded its operations to support access to and the quality of GBV and SRH services, including through targeted messaging to improve community awareness of GBV and SRH service availability during COVID-19-related movement restrictions and lockdowns. With USAID/BHA support, UNFPA is also working with national governments to establish information and communications technology to expand access to telehealth consultations and online medical trainings for healthcare professionals.

#### USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN FY 2021 |

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
<b>Standalone ER4</b>			
	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Health, Logistics Support	Association for Southeast Asian Nations	\$1,050,000
EAP Regional	Humanitarian Coordination and Info Management (HCIMA)	Yayasan Peta Bencana	\$750,000
	DRRPP	IFRC	\$2,000,000
Pacific Islands Regional	HCIMA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	\$200,000
	HCIMA	WFP	\$250,000
Cambodia	DRRPP	WFP	\$872,500
East Timor	DRRPP	IOM	\$975,000
Fiji	Protection; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	\$1,000,000
	DRRPP	Mercy Corps	\$1,678,733
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	U.S. Geological Survey	\$150,000
Indonesia	DRRPP, HCIMA, Protection	World Vision	\$750,000
Kiribati	DRRPP	IFRC	\$250,000
Laos	DRRPP	WFP	\$750,000
Mongolia	Agriculture, DRRPP, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Mongolian Red Cross Society	\$599,957
	DRRPP, HCIMA, WASH	IOM	\$1,000,000
Papua New Guinea	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	U.S. Geological Survey	\$50,000
	DRRPP, ERMS	CRS	\$2,000,000
	DRRPP, HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	IOM	\$1,000,000
Philippines	DRRPP, HCIMA	WFP	\$500,000
Republic of Korea	DRRPP, HCIMA	IOM	\$603,132
Solomon Islands	DRRPP, Protection	IFRC	\$500,000
Thailand	DRRPP	IFRC	\$650,000
Vanuatu	DRRPP	CARE	\$870,000
	DRRPP	Vietnam Red Cross Society	\$800,000
Vietnam	DRRPP	American Red Cross Society	\$2,400,000
<b>TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING</b>			<b>\$21,649,322</b>

Integrated ER4 With Response <sup>2</sup>			
EAP Regional	Health, Protection	UNFPA	\$1,000,000
East Timor	Agriculture	World Vision	\$900,000
<b>TOTAL INTERGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$1,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$23,549,322</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, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Integrated ER4 with Response refers to programming that incorporates ER4 components within an active humanitarian response.

## 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)