

Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

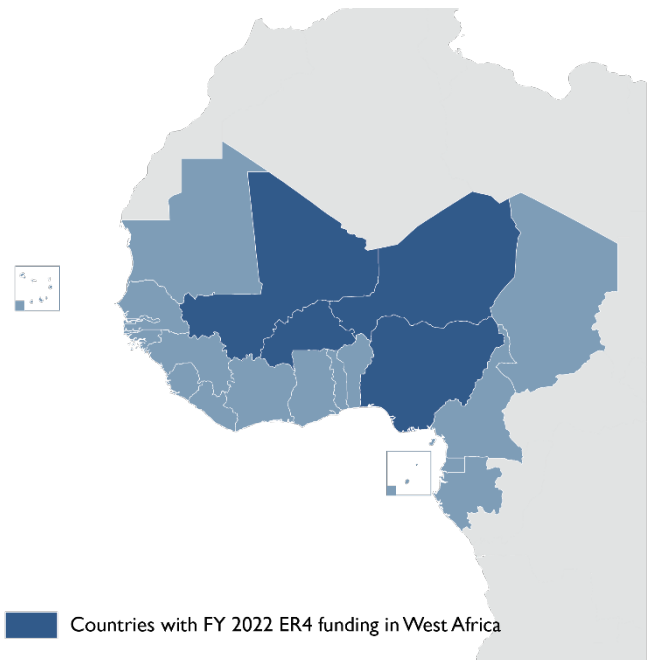
Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – West Africa

REGIONAL SUMMARY

- Many countries in West Africa faced complex emergencies, food security crises, and recurrent climatic shocks, such as drought and floods, in FY 2022.

- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided nearly \$75 million to 11 partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities across West Africa during FY 2022. USAID/BHA supported programs to address the underlying drivers of chronic food insecurity and malnutrition; help at-risk communities build assets, livelihoods, and resilience to future disasters; and improve emergency preparedness and response capacity at local, national, and regional levels.

- USAID/BHA partners in West Africa continued to implement multi-year Resilience Food Security Activities (RFSAs) in the Central Sahel—a region comprising Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger—to bolster food security and local resilience through multi-sector interventions during FY 2022. RFSAs programs in Burkina Faso and Niger constitute an integral part of the USAID/BHA-supported Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE II) program, involving civil society partners, government stakeholders, and nearly 30 implementing partners, that aims to enhance access to water and other natural resources, foster more effective governance, improve health outcomes, promote economic development, and empower women and young people to be a force for positive change in their communities.



USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for West Africa in FY 2022

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Regional	\$69,009,566
Integrated ER4	Regional	\$5,805,442
FY 2022 ER4 Total		\$74,815,008

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Strengthening Food Security and Resilience for At-Risk Communities in Mali

USAID/BHA provided more than \$16 million in FY 2022 funding to Save the Children Federation (SCF) to implement Albarka, a project strengthening food security and resilience among communities facing risk of shocks, such as conflict, in central and northern Mali. SCF provided food and nutrition assistance to prevent and treat acute malnutrition and bolstered access to livelihoods, health and sanitation services, and productive assets to foster community self-sufficiency during the fiscal year. The international non-governmental organization (INGO) also delivered cash transfers for food and agricultural inputs—namely improved rice seeds—to nearly 10,700 households during the lean season, when food is most scarce. To build livelihoods and community resilience, SCF conducted training sessions on life skills, such as public speaking and goal setting, for more than 6,300 members of youth councils, including nearly 2,600 women. The USAID/BHA partner also provided cash-for-work opportunities to at-risk populations and organized vocational mentoring for nearly 2,700 youth in trades, including food processing, metalworking, and tailoring. Moreover, the INGO revitalized nearly 1,500 community organizations, training members on advanced agriculture, health, and nutrition practices.

Building Disaster Response Capacity in Nigeria

USAID/BHA maintained support to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in FY 2022 as part of a multi-year disaster management program to build the capacity of Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to respond to shocks in the country. The USFS provided technical assistance for the review and development of emergency management policies and continued training NEMA staff members on emergency operation center, incident command, and multi-agency coordination systems. The U.S. Government agency also focused on bolstering NEMA's emergency response capacities by training staff within decentralized state emergency management agencies. With USAID/BHA support, the USFS has supported NEMA since 2016. Extensive training of national emergency responders in disaster risk management and incident command systems has improved the Government of Nigeria's ability to effectively coordinate and respond to localized disasters, including floods that occurred throughout Nigeria during the 2022 rainy season, according to the USFS.

Bolstering Emergency Response Capacity in Cameroon and the Central Sahel

During FY 2022, USAID/BHA supported partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to build the capacity of local actors to respond to emergencies in Cameroon and the Central Sahel through a multi-year project initiated in 2020. In FY 2022, CRS conducted training on needs assessments in emergency response settings for nearly 200 local partner staff, enabling them to replicate the training for their respective organizations. The INGO also trained approximately 80 local partner staff on the Sphere standards, a set of minimum humanitarian standards that promote quality and accountability.¹ Furthermore, CRS trained nearly 30 local partner senior staff on resource mobilization and provided a partner in Cameroon with emergency programming training.

Bolstering Agricultural Production, Food Security, and Gender Equality in Burkina Faso

As part of the RISE II program, USAID/BHA partner ACDI/VOCA continued its Victory Against Malnutrition Plus initiative, a five-year RFS program 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. ACDI/VOCA trained more than 300 community organizations to manage localized

¹ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN, NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

projects in FY 2022. Drawing on this training, community organizations independently mobilized nearly \$76,000 in funding to construct, maintain, and rehabilitate community infrastructure including boreholes, primary health care facilities, and meeting rooms for six village development councils and women’s associations.

In the fiscal year, ACDI/VOCA also reached more than 110,000 individuals—including nearly 90,000 women—participating in peer-to-peer programs and supported more than 64,000 people, including nearly 31,000 women, with lean-season cash assistance and vouchers to purchase livestock supplies. Moreover, the USAID/BHA partner worked with agricultural producer organizations to improve crop, seed, and soil productivity and increase the adoption of soil and water management technologies. As a result, training participants increased their agricultural production during the year, cultivating more than 28,000 acres of land using improved technologies.

USAID/BHA Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities and Resilience in Niger

USAID/BHA delivered more than \$10.6 million in FY 2022 support to SCF to continue implementing the Wadata project, a five-year RISE II RFSA program aimed at improving food security in Niger’s Zinder Region. The USAID/BHA partner worked with community groups and local organizations to increase community capacities, food access, and productive assets. Specifically, SCF helped develop entrepreneurial projects and provided life skills and vocational training—including carpentry, knitting, metalworking, motorcycle repair, and sewing—for approximately 7,400 youth participating in grassroots youth groups. To address gender inequality and reduce barriers to economic growth, SCF supported community savings and loan groups, with nearly 8,700 participating women undertaking new livelihood activities to diversify their income during the fiscal year.



Members of Wadata’s Adolescent Life Skills Education Group meet in Zinder’s Bilmari village. Photo credit: SCF

During FY 2022, USAID/BHA partner CARE continued to implement the Hamzari project, a multi-sector RISE II program to enhance livelihoods, improve nutrition outcomes, and expand access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services while promoting gender equality in Niger’s Maradi Region. With USAID/BHA support, the program strengthened at-risk populations’ food security and resilience through a livestock-loan program informed by a tradition known as *habbanaye*, the practice of loaning livestock to someone in need with the expectation that the recipient will return the animal to its owner once it provides offspring, allowing communities to share livestock assets. CARE provided nearly 1,800 goats to approximately 1,200 women who received training in livestock care and guidance on passing on a portion of future offspring to at-risk women identified through the project.

USAID/BHA partner CRS continued the RISE II Girma project during the fiscal year, seeking to strengthen food and nutrition security in Zinder. In FY 2022, CRS trained nearly 2,000 farmers on improved agricultural practices, such as crop rotation and organic fertilization. Through peer-to-peer training and technique sharing, more than 20,000 farmers utilized at least two improved agricultural practices, more than doubling the number of farmers adopting advanced techniques in FY 2021. Additionally, the USAID/BHA partner supported nearly 27,000 people participating in savings and loan groups and provided financial education training to nearly 6,400 at-risk individuals.

USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR WEST AFRICA IN FY 2022¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Standalone ER4			
Regional	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP)	International Foundation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	\$600,000
	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Action Against Hunger (AAH)	\$600,000
	HCIMA	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	\$600,000
	HCIMA	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	\$53,483
	HCIMA	UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	\$300,000
	Program Support		\$47,924
Burkina Faso	Agriculture, Food Assistance	UN World Food Program (WFP)	\$3,000,000
	RFSA	ACDI/VOCA	\$9,716,835
Mali	RFSA	SCF	\$16,086,403
Niger	Food Assistance, Nutrition	WFP	\$12,000,000
	RFSA	CARE	\$5,753,734
	RFSA	CRS	\$14,096,497
	RFSA	SCF	\$5,934,690
Nigeria	DRRPP	USFS	\$220,000
TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING			\$69,009,566
Integrated ER4 With Response²			
Regional	Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	CRS	\$2,805,442
	Protection	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	\$3,000,000
TOTAL INTEGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$5,805,442
TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2022			\$74,815,008

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, 2022.

² 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://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 [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)