

CONTEXT

- Persistent violence among non-state armed groups and recurring natural disasters in Colombia continue to prompt internal displacement; limit Colombians' ability to access crops, livelihoods, and essential goods and services; and affect food security and nutrition conditions among vulnerable households. Additionally, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related mitigation measures have disrupted livelihood activities, reduced access to health and protection services, and worsened food insecurity in the country.
- Deteriorating economic and political conditions in neighboring Venezuela have prompted more than 6.1 million Venezuelans to flee their country; approximately 1.8 million have sought refuge in Colombia, along with more than 980,000 Colombian returnees, according to the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). The population influx has strained local services and exacerbated humanitarian needs—including for food, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance—among Venezuelan migrants and refugees, Colombian returnees, and host community members in both rural and urban areas of the country.
- Approximately 7.7 million people in Colombia require humanitarian assistance due to the compounding effects of armed violence, COVID-19, increased migration flows, and natural disasters in 2022, representing an increase of more than 1 million people compared with April 2021, according to the UN. In addition, more than 4.8 million people in Colombia affected by the ongoing crisis in Venezuela are also in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, the UN reports.



ASSISTANCE

- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) continues to provide emergency and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance in Colombia and remains the largest donor for the response to the Venezuela regional crisis in the country.
- USAID/BHA has provided more than \$505 million in assistance for the response to the Venezuela regional crisis in Colombia since Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA is prioritizing emergency food assistance with a complementary focus on nutrition and livelihoods for Venezuelans, as well as for vulnerable host communities Colombia. With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) is addressing acute food insecurity among migrant and refugee populations by providing emergency food assistance, including food kits, hot meals, cash

transfers for food, and food vouchers redeemable in local markets. A USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) partner also provides essential hot meals and food kits to Venezuelan refugees and migrants traveling through Colombia on foot along the *ruta de caminantes*. Several other USAID/BHA NGO partners provide a range of humanitarian services to communities affected by the Venezuela regional crisis, including multipurpose cash assistance. Cash transfers enable recipients to prioritize basic, immediate needs such as food, health care, household items, school supplies, and shelter.

- Since 2011, USAID/BHA partners have provided emergency food assistance to improve food security outcomes among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia. With USAID/BHA support, WFP and several NGO partners are providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and locally-procured food to IDPs, as well as implementing activities designed to improve agricultural production and livelihoods. In addition, since FY 2021, USAID/BHA has supported five NGO partners to provide critical protection interventions, including psychosocial support services and programs responding to gender-based violence; shelter support; and WASH assistance to reduce the risk of disease transmission by distributing hygiene kits and augmenting access to safe drinking water. USAID/BHA partners are also providing humanitarian coordination support to bolster analysis and decision-making capacities among relief actors responding to IDP needs in Colombia.
- In addition, USAID/BHA is supporting ER4 activities designed to increase resilience and livelihood opportunities in communities affected by conflict and natural disasters in Colombia. Since FY 2019, USAID/BHA has supported Miyamoto International to bolster disaster preparedness, including by strengthening regional risk management and response capacity of departmental and municipal governments and private sector organizations. USAID/BHA partner GOAL is also working to strengthen urban ER4 capacities—both at the community and government level—and increase vulnerable communities’ resilience to natural disasters, such as flooding and landslides. GOAL also implements livelihood development and restoration activities among host community members, migrants, and returnees.

USAID/BHA Funding in Colombia ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2021	\$191,362,567	\$0	\$191,362,567
FY 2022	\$73,974,809	\$750,000	\$74,724,809

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 14, 2022. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.