

Humanitarian Snapshot

USAID/BHA in West Africa

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021

Regional Profile

Countries in West Africa¹ are vulnerable to a range of hazards, including recurrent drought and seasonal flooding that can often contribute to food insecurity. Additionally, several countries in the region have experienced protracted conflicts and widespread displacement or are hosting refugee populations, further exacerbating humanitarian conditions for affected households. In FY 2021, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided nearly \$596 million in emergency assistance to respond to crises in 10 countries across West Africa. These programs helped expand access to emergency health care, shelter, protection, and other essential services for displaced populations, in addition to addressing emergency food and nutrition assistance needs for refugees and other conflict-affected populations. USAID/BHA also provided more than \$66 million for standalone early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs that worked to address the root causes of food insecurity, help communities build resilience to future disasters, and fostered operational and technical learning and mechanisms to improve emergency preparedness and response capacity across the region.



¹The West Africa region comprises Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Humanitarian Situation in FY 2021

Humanitarian concerns in West Africa during FY 2021 were primarily driven by conflict-related displacement, climatic shocks, reduced livelihoods opportunities, and related acute food insecurity. Ongoing conflict in the Lake Chad Basin continued to affect communities in areas of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, while worsening conflict in the Central Sahel generated displacement and heightened humanitarian needs—particularly emergency food needs—in parts of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Furthermore, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic remained a prevalent concern as mitigation measures restricted access to livelihood activities and markets.

USAID/BHA Priorities for FY 2022

As conflicts and emergencies in West Africa persist and evolve, USAID/BHA's priority for FY 2022 is to respond to humanitarian needs and reduce vulnerabilities for populations most severely affected by conflict and climate-induced shocks. USAID/BHA plans to continue flexible multi-sector, multi-year programming to address acute needs as they arise and scale up integrated programs to rebuild the capacity of households that require humanitarian assistance, as well as host governments and local communities.

USAID/BHA is committed to saving lives by responding to sudden shocks, maintaining operational readiness to adapt to changing contexts through flexible rapid response mechanisms. These systems allow rapid distribution of food, health, and shelter support, as well as other essential services for populations affected by acute shocks, such as climatic events, conflict, and disease outbreaks. Increased rapid response capacity and early warning systems support remain critical due to the high incidence of climatic shocks and displacement in West Africa.

USAID/BHA also prioritizes disaster risk reduction with an emphasis on conflict and climate change hazards, in addition to enhancing technical and operational resources for humanitarian stakeholders such as improving food security analysis and the use of cash in emergency response. USAID/BHA continues to develop a comprehensive approach that bolsters resilience in areas deemed vulnerable while responding to acute needs.

FY 2021 Regional Funding Total

\$664,161,115

Top Receiving Countries in FY 2021

Nigeria	\$316,704,165
Niger	\$101,891,694
Mali	\$72,976,077
Burkina Faso	\$67,252,925
Cameroon	\$45,858,339