

International Disaster Assistance Localization Report to Congress

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) submits this report pursuant to Section 7019(e) of Division K of Public Law 117-103, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2022, which incorporates by reference the requirements of House Report 117-84. The House Report provides:

“Not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act, USAID shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations detailing programs awarded to local and national nongovernmental entities from funds made available under this heading. The report should include a description of how USAID is working to increase funding to capable local and national nongovernmental entities.”

1. Background

Localization of development and humanitarian assistance is a top priority for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Under Administrator Samantha Power, USAID is committed to empowering local and national actors as leaders, decision-makers, and drivers of change in their own countries and communities. USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) leads the agency’s localization efforts within the humanitarian sector.

USAID defines localization as the process and actions that USAID will undertake to ensure our work puts local actors in the lead, strengthens local systems, and is responsive to local communities. For USAID/BHA, this means supporting humanitarian responses that are as local as possible, a goal that aligns with the Grand Bargain – a 2016 agreement by the U.S. government (USG), other donors, and the humanitarian community to streamline funding, remove systemic barriers to entry, and make resources of all kinds more accessible to local partners.

USAID/BHA has a long history of working at the local level; however, these efforts mostly encompass early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programming in a handful of countries. Under USAID’s new vision, BHA commits to placing local and national actors at the forefront of humanitarian efforts where possible and appropriate, building on previous successes, learning from past challenges, and expanding these efforts into responses to complex humanitarian crises. BHA also understands that its localization efforts must be measured and realistic. In response to USAID’s long-term targets, BHA is developing an actionable strategic framework for localization to ensure coherence with both Agency efforts and initiatives in the broader humanitarian community.

2. Efforts to Increase Partnerships and Funding

As described in Annex I, USAID/BHA’s financial support for local and national actors has been limited. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, BHA obligated \$36 million in International Disaster Assistance (IDA) to 106 local organizations as direct partners and as sub-awardees of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, while we know that Public International Organizations (PIOs) rely significantly on local organizations for program implementation, this figure does not capture any partnerships between PIOs and local organizations as PIOs do not currently provide BHA with data on subawards. BHA provided

approximately \$2.23 billion in FY 2021 of IDA funding to Public International Organizations (PIOs).

USAID/BHA plans to increase the scale and reach of funding to local and national actors, both through direct funding and through intermediary organizations (both international NGOs and PIOs). Efforts to expand local actor support will occur along a number of overlapping lines of effort, including, but not limited to:

- Capacity-strengthening and capacity-sharing programs (both global and country-focused)
- Increased funding for ER4 programming
- Identifying windows of opportunity in protracted complex emergencies
- Piloting new approaches, including new procurement models
- Rapid response mechanisms
- Partnerships with local private sector actors where appropriate
- Support for local leaders to take part in international processes

3. Select examples

Current successes can serve as springboards for future programming. USAID/BHA will take lessons learned from these examples. A few notable examples include:

Supporting local organizations in Ukraine – As of FY22, USAID provided more than \$30 million to support the work of 60 local organizations in Ukraine via sub-awards and contracts for the humanitarian response in Ukraine. Local organizations provide expertise as first responders with established networks and access and reach populations with last-mile assistance in rural or hard-to-reach areas. Furthermore, USAID has a dedicated award with an experienced international NGO to build the capacity of 18 local Ukrainian organizations. This capacity building and participation of local NGOs as sub-awardees allows local organizations to gain demonstrable experience working with USAID’s guidelines for emergency applicants, including meeting technical and financial management requirements.

Capacity-strengthening – USAID, through a competitive process, established a program called Local Capacity Strengthening for Response, which provides support to three international NGOs to build the organizational and operational capacity of local organizations globally. Over the last several years, USAID has also provided capacity-strengthening support to local NGO partners of regional organizations, as well as leadership development to national leaders of international organizations.

Support in navigating USAID compliance requirements – Since FY 2020, USAID has provided direct funding to three new local partners in Syria and assisted them in navigating USAID compliance requirements. USAID in Syria plans to add at least one new local partner to its portfolio every fiscal year, providing capacity-strengthening support through all stages of the process.

Rapid Response Mechanisms – USAID funds Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRMs) in a number of countries, an award approach where a prime awardee or direct recipient of USAID resources manages relationships with multiple sub-awardees, often local organizations, who have the

capacity to respond to sudden onset emergency needs. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, USAID funds UNICEF to manage an RRM that provides humanitarian assistance through local partners. As recently as 2019, UNICEF's RRM was entirely implemented through international NGOs; however, following discussions with USAID, UNICEF shifted its approach in 2020 to partner exclusively with local humanitarian actors.

Working with local partners to enhance disaster preparedness at a regional level – USAID promotes disaster preparedness across South Asia in partnership with the American Red Cross, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, and the National Society for Earthquake Technology, a local Nepali organization. Through this program, partners provide support to local communities, and national, regional, and municipal disaster management authorities.

4. Opportunities and Constraints

USAID is expanding localization efforts by taking advantage of the existing momentum within the Bureau, Agency, USG interagency, and broader international humanitarian community to institutionalize localization efforts. For example, USAID is updating its Acquisitions and Assistance (A&A) Strategy to support expanded engagement with a more diverse set of local partners. In August 2022, the Agency finalized a revised Agency Risk Appetite Statement that recognizes the risks specific to local partner engagement. Localization figures prominently in the proposed Agency Learning Agenda for 2022. USAID is also finalizing a new Local Capacity Strengthening Policy which will be officially launched on October 19. USAID is also pulling together a set of tools to help advance localization practices.

Successfully advancing the localization agenda has proven to be a complex undertaking for international donors and the broader humanitarian community. Donor funding requirements and application systems are complex, and local actors often do not have the same level of support or resources as their international counterparts to navigate these requirements. By comparison, international actors often have dedicated “business development” units and teams focused specifically on fundraising and resource mobilization, while local actors rarely have this level of staff support.

As one way of addressing local partner resource constraints and expanding USAID/partner base, USAID seeks to **work with local organizations before crises to strengthen their capacity to meet Agency requirements while still ensuring partner safety, accountability, proper stewardship of USG funding, and oversight of U.S. taxpayer dollars**. Furthermore, capacity strengthening efforts and robust due diligence measures at a significant scale will require USAID to address a range of internal staffing constraints, including the following needs:

- Additional Agreement Officers (AO) and Agreement Officer Representatives (AOR) to manage a larger number of smaller grants and cooperative agreements or fixed amount awards (USAID is working towards resolution in this area);
- Additional specialized audit and risk management focused staff to conduct pre-award surveys, ensure partner compliance to award provisions, and strengthen internal control capacity;
- Establishment of localization-focused staff and units, both in the field and at headquarters;

- Recruitment of staff with experience working with local partners; and
- Development of capacity strengthening training and programs for local organizations, as well as additional acquisition and assistance staff to deliver these trainings.

As USAID/BHA seeks to advance localization, it will engage stakeholders to consider realistic solutions to these challenges.

USAID is also coordinating with local partners, donor agencies, and PIOs to use our convening authority, power of example, partnerships, and past experience to serve as a global public advocate for locally led approaches to humanitarian assistance. For example, USAID participated in the July 2022 launch in Geneva of a localization caucus with the Grand Bargain Eminent Persons Group (led by Norwegian Jan Egeland) and the Network for Empowered Aid Response, a group of humanitarian civil society organizations based in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

5. Conclusion

USAID's localization agenda builds on previous initiatives – such as USAID Forward and the Journey to Self-reliance – but stands out for its ambition to embrace localization through all of USAID's development and humanitarian assistance work and center USAID's organizational culture around localization objectives. USAID's challenge is to focus on achieving any necessary financial and legal reforms, increasing staffing, developing a clear risk management approach, and creating systems that will allow for a greater amount of USAID funding to go to local organizations. USAID looks forward to working with Congress to create an enabling environment for local organizations to not only participate in but also hold leadership roles in U.S. foreign assistance programming.

Annex I: USAID/BHA Direct IDA and Subaward Obligations to Local Partners

Total IDA Obligated to Local Partners in FY 2021	\$36,104,093
Total IDA Obligations in FY 2021	\$4,429,017,182
Percent of IDA Obligations to Local Partners (Direct and Subawardees)	0.82%
Number of Local Partners	106

USAID/BHA Direct IDA Obligations to Local Partners in FY 2021			
Country/Region	Awardee	Sectors	Funding Obligated in FY21
East Asia and Pacific Regional - ER4	Yayasan Peta Bencana	Humanitarian Coordination, Info Management & Assessments	\$750,000
Ethiopia	ECC-SDCO-Harar	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	\$400,000
Kazakhstan	Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan	Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$100,000
Mongolia - ER4	Mongolian Red Cross Society	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Agriculture	\$599,957
Syria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$4,000,000
Venezuela	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH	\$1,000,000
Vietnam - ER4	Vietnam Red Cross	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP)	\$800,000
Vietnam	Vietnam Red Cross	Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$100,000
Vietnam	Vietnam Red Cross	Shelter and Settlements, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$749,615
Grand Total Direct Local Implementing Partners			\$8,499,572
	*Name of partner withheld for safety reasons		

USAID/BHA Direct IDA Obligations to Local Partners in FY 2022 (as of 6.3.2022)			
Country/Region	Awardee	Sectors	Funding Obligated in FY22 To Date
Ethiopia	FIDO	Protection, WASH	\$399,881
Kenya	RACIDA	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	\$3,500,000
Grand Total Direct Local Implementing Partners			\$3,899,881

USAID/BHA Subaward Obligations to Local Partners in FY 2022 (as of 6.3.2022)			
Country/Region	Subawardee	Sectors	Funding Obligated in FY22 To Date
Burma	Local Implementing Partner*	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$847,287
Cameroon	Archdiocese of Bamenda	Food Assistance,Shelter and Settlements,Agriculture	\$204,099
Ethiopia	ORDA	Agriculture	\$435,504
Ethiopia	ECC-SDCO-Adigrat	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Shelter and Settlements	\$349,462
Ethiopia	ECC-SDCO-Bahir Dar	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Shelter and Settlements	\$443,802
Kenya	WARDA	Food Assistance,Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$230,082
Kenya	WOKIKE	Food Assistance,Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$226,027
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,Nutrition	\$566,048
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Protection	\$272,175
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$464,616
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$888,901
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Nutrition	\$364,817
Philippines	Diocesan Social Action Center of Maasin, Inc.	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$35,098
Philippines	Social Action Center-Justice and Peace	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$35,098
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Protection	\$1,704,609
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$65,425
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$51,362
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$46,540
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$64,223
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Agriculture	\$59,626
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$52,976
Tonga	Caritas Tonga	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$318,865
Ukraine	Local Implementing Partner*	Protection	\$423,287
Grand Total Subawardee Local Implementing Partners			\$8,149,929
	*Name of partner withheld for safety reasons		

USAID/BHA Subaward Obligations to Local Partners in FY 2021			
Country/Region	Subawardee	Sectors	Funding Obligated in FY21
Burkina Faso	OCADES Fada	WASH,Shelter and Settlements	\$65,102
Burkina Faso	OCADES Kaya	WASH,Shelter and Settlements	\$65,102
Burma	MHDO	Humanitarian Coordination, Info Management & Assessments,Shelter and Settlements,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$79,660
Cameroon	Archdiocese of Bamenda	Food Assistance,Shelter and Settlements	\$154,810
Colombia	Colombian Red Cross	WASH	\$341,029
DRC	AJEDC	Protection	\$44,197
DRC	Caritas	Food Assistance,WASH,Shelter and Settlements,Agriculture	\$524,355
DRC	SOFEPADI	Protection	\$56,926
DRC	AMACEQ	Health	\$72,150
DRC	CPJE	Health	\$30,521
DRC	UCOFEM	Health	\$30,510
Ethiopia	ANE	Shelter and Settlements	\$282,085
Ethiopia	ECC-SDCO-Harar	Shelter and Settlements	\$97,777
Ethiopia	FIDO	Shelter and Settlements	\$99,582
Ethiopia	RaDO	Shelter and Settlements	\$17,800
Ethiopia	AEID	Shelter and Settlements	\$129,535
Ethiopia	AISDA	Shelter and Settlements	\$127,481
Ethiopia	ANE	Shelter and Settlements	\$209,749
Ethiopia	ASDEPO	Shelter and Settlements	\$39,206
Ethiopia	DPO	Shelter and Settlements	\$117,570
Ethiopia	ECC-SDCO-Adigrat	WASH,Shelter and Settlements	\$1,676,855
Ethiopia	Heal Our People	Shelter and Settlements	\$40,954
Ethiopia	OSSHD	Shelter and Settlements	\$98,113
Ethiopia	REST	Agriculture	\$2,916,252
Honduras	CASM	Protection	\$310,000
Mali	AMCP-SP	Health,Nutrition	\$260,432
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance	\$446,501
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,Health,WASH,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Nutrition	\$983,052

USAID/BHA Subaward Obligations to Local Partners in FY 2021			
Country/Region	Subawardee	Sectors	Funding Obligated in FY21
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,WASH,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$1,013,037
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,WASH,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$340,825
Nigeria	Local Implementing Partner*	Protection	\$28,802
Peru	Asociación Paz Y Esperanza, Ministerio Diaconal Lima - Huá	Protection	\$122,009
Philippines - ER4	Caritas Pasig, Inc.	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP),Economic Recovery and Market Systems	\$290,542
Philippines - ER4	MDSAC	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP),Economic Recovery and Market Systems	\$222,072
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,WASH	\$359,420
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Agriculture	\$300,000
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,WASH,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$267,678
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,WASH	\$441,520
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,Health,WASH,Protection,Nutrition	\$1,919,611
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$760,000
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,WASH,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$207,215
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,Nutrition	\$63,726
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$388,000
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,WASH,Shelter and Settlements,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$110,145
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,Nutrition	\$79,440
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,WASH,Shelter and Settlements,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$1,100,000
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,Nutrition	\$342,000
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Agriculture	\$123,050
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Protection	\$45,000
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,Nutrition	\$400,000
Somalia	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,Nutrition	\$129,618
South Sudan	ACD	WASH	\$78,485
South Sudan	Africa Development Aid	Shelter and Settlements	\$64,641
South Sudan	ALSI	Agriculture	\$129,404

USAID/BHA Subaward Obligations to Local Partners in FY 2021			
Country/Region	Subawardee	Sectors	Funding Obligated in FY21
South Sudan	CAFAD	Agriculture	\$73,058
South Sudan	CCOSS	Shelter and Settlements	\$187,614
South Sudan	CEDS	WASH	\$60,605
South Sudan	CIDO	WASH,Shelter and Settlements	\$140,748
South Sudan	FADM	WASH	\$110,743
South Sudan	Grass Root Empowerment and Development	Nutrition	\$187,002
South Sudan	HACO	Agriculture,WASH	\$241,402
South Sudan	HFO	Health	\$118,666
South Sudan	Hope Restoration South Sudan	Shelter and Settlements	\$78,175
South Sudan	OPEN	Health	\$184,593
South Sudan	Peace in Action and Social Services	WASH	\$57,556
South Sudan	RAAH	WASH	\$136,011
South Sudan	RAO	Shelter and Settlements	\$138,518
South Sudan	RuCAPD	Agriculture	\$83,343
South Sudan	SMC	Health	\$91,200
South Sudan	South Sudan Health Association	Health	\$197,925
South Sudan	SPEDP	Agriculture	\$115,941
South Sudan	SPOCI	WASH	\$208,089
South Sudan	SSUDA	Shelter and Settlements	\$67,683
South Sudan	TADO	Health,Shelter and Settlements	\$206,025
South Sudan	The Rescue Mission	WASH	\$155,893
South Sudan	UNH	Health	\$159,828
South Sudan	WWoH	Agriculture	\$109,008
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Protection	\$64,813
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Nutrition	\$57,306
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Nutrition	\$80,000
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH	\$101,880
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Shelter and Settlements	\$66,673

USAID/BHA Subaward Obligations to Local Partners in FY 2021			
Country/Region	Subawardee	Sectors	Funding Obligated in FY21
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health	\$96,781
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$40,000
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$169,044
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Protection	\$78,964
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$146,582
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Agriculture	\$100,625
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$217,014
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Protection	\$222,814
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Nutrition	\$22,922
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Agriculture,Nutrition	\$60,357
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$37,700
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Shelter and Settlements	\$81,954
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Agriculture	\$46,352
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Agriculture	\$103,045
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	Health,WASH,Nutrition	\$46,561
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Agriculture	\$59,690
Sudan	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Agriculture	\$72,370
Syria	Local Implementing Partner*	WASH,Shelter and Settlements	\$868,000
Syria	Local Implementing Partner*	Humanitarian Coordination, Info Management & Assessments, Health,WASH,Shelter and Settlements,Protection,Economic Recovery and Market Systems,Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$929,941
Syria	Local Implementing Partner*	Protection	\$118,714
Syria	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance	\$1,066,456
Ukraine	Local Implementing Partner*	Food Assistance,Protection,Health,WASH	\$32,452
Ukraine - ER4	Local Implementing Partner*	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP),WASH	\$52,666
Vietnam - ER4	Vietnam Red Cross	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP)	\$238,000
Vietnam	WU	Shelter and Settlements,Multipurpose Cash Assistance	\$571,673
Grand Total Subawardee Local Implementing Partners			\$27,604,521