

Humanitarian Snapshot

USAID/BHA in South and Central Asia

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023

REGIONAL PROFILE

Countries in South and Central Asia (SCA) remained at risk of recurrent climatic shocks and natural hazards during FY 2023, many of which compounded existing vulnerabilities. In response, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided nearly \$780 million to enable the delivery of multi-sector life-saving assistance, including cash, food, nutrition, protection, and shelter support to at-risk populations. USAID/BHA's FY 2023 funding also included nearly \$35 million in standalone early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs in SCA that addressed the root causes of food insecurity, built disaster resilience, and bolstered emergency preparedness and response at local, national, and regional levels.



The SCA region comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN FY 2023

Political and economic crises, coupled with recurrent climatic shocks, exacerbated humanitarian needs among at-risk populations in SCA countries, particularly in Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Additionally, humanitarian needs persisted in Pakistan and Sri Lanka due to lingering adverse effects of floods and a protracted economic crisis in 2022, respectively.

Persistent economic and political instability in Afghanistan, compounded by recurrent natural disasters, continued to drive humanitarian needs for approximately 29.2 million people during FY 2023, while Taliban-imposed restrictions impeded delivery of principled assistance.

In Bangladesh, approximately 966,000 refugees—most of whom are ethnic Rohingya who fled genocidal military operations in neighboring Burma since 2017—continued to shelter in Cox's Bazar District's refugee camps and Bhasan Char Island and rely primarily on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. Tropical Cyclone Mocha and monsoon-related flooding also generated needs in Bangladesh in 2023. In Pakistan, long-term effects of the 2022 floods exacerbated food insecurity and the prevalence of acute malnutrition, resulting in humanitarian needs during 2023. Sri Lanka's economic crisis of 2022 continued to reverberate in 2023 with persistent chronic malnutrition amid inflation and high staple food prices. In addition, countries in Central Asia remained vulnerable to a range of natural hazards and benefited from technical assistance to strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response capacity.

USAID/BHA PRIORITIES

USAID/BHA will continue supporting emergency responses across SCA while bolstering local, national, and regional disaster preparedness and response capacities in FY 2024. In Afghanistan, USAID/BHA plans to continue providing multi-sector assistance countrywide while adapting operations to ensure assistance reaches the most vulnerable despite access constraints. In Bangladesh, USAID/BHA will continue reaching refugees with life-saving assistance, including food, livelihood support, and nutrition. Additionally, USAID/BHA will support ER4 activities aimed at reducing disaster risk across the region, addressing the long-term adverse effects of Pakistan's 2022 floods, and bolstering communities' capacities in Sri Lanka to address risks from natural hazards.

FY 2023 Regional Funding Total

\$814,565,063

TOP RECEIVING COUNTRIES IN FY 2023

Afghanistan	\$643,463,263
Bangladesh	\$106,470,324
Pakistan	\$43,029,722
Sri Lanka	\$12,392,378
Nepal	\$5,000,000

Additional information on USAID/BHA's activities can be found at: [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)

