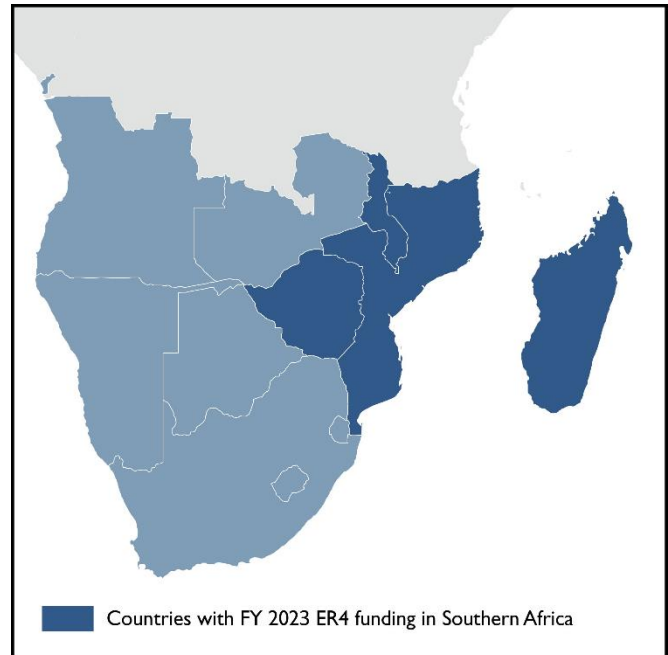


# Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

## Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – Southern Africa

### REGIONAL SUMMARY

- In FY 2023, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided nearly \$111 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in four countries across Southern Africa, as well as throughout the region. Populations in Southern Africa faced a range of challenges, including conflict-induced displacement, disease outbreaks, and severe weather events during FY 2023, and ER4 activities work to improve livelihoods while bolstering community resilience toward future shocks.
- In Mozambique, USAID/BHA partner Save the Children Federation (SCF) and its partners continued the Okhokelamo project, a five-year Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) that aims to strengthen resilience to shocks and improve nutrition outcomes for infants and young children.
- In Zimbabwe, USAID/BHA partner CARE led a consortium of local partners to implement the Takunda project, another RFSA which helps achieve equitable and sustainable food and nutrition security in four districts across the country.
- In southern Madagascar, USAID/BHA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continued working to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition among Androy and Atsimo Andrefana regions’ most vulnerable populations through the multi-year Maharo project. Activities under the RFSA aim to improve access to basic services, particularly during the lean season, and influence community behaviors to promote more resilient livelihood and agriculture practices.
- USAID/BHA partner CARE continued to implement the Titukulane project in Malawi, a five-year RFSA which helped communities prepare for and more quickly recover from shocks, such as Tropical Cyclone Freddy in early 2023, while bolstering agricultural outputs and livelihoods.



### USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for Southern Africa in FY 2023

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	Regional, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe	\$110,626,472
<b>FY 2023 ER4 Total</b>		<b>\$110,626,472</b>

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### Strengthening Livelihoods, Nutrition, and WASH Capacities in Mozambique

Mozambique is highly prone to natural disasters, with climatic shocks such as cyclones, drought, irregular rainfall, and flooding resulting in agricultural losses which impact household food security. In the country's central coastal Zambezia Province, some populations experience Stressed—IPC 2—and Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity throughout the year, according to Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>1</sup> To address food needs for some of the most vulnerable groups in the province, during FY 2023 USAID/BHA supported SCF to administer the Okhokelamo project, a five-year RFSA which aims to sustainably improve nutrition outcomes among women, adolescent girls, and children ages two years and younger. The project works to improve the household's capacity to access and consume nutritious foods year-round, through a productive asset transfer and other livelihoods interventions, as well as nutrition services, communication for social and behavior change, distribution of nutritious foods over three consecutive lean seasons, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. During the first year of the project, SCF conducted localized mapping exercises at the community level to identify local partners and resources and consulted with community members to inform new components of its livelihoods and WASH programming. SCF's critical research and community consult engagement activities in Zambezia involved a gender analysis and youth-inclusive needs assessment, and Cost of the Diet study, among other exercises, to plan for the most effective implementation of nutrition, health, livelihoods, and WASH activities over the course of the next four years through the Okhokelamo project.

### Supporting Food Security in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe remained susceptible to various climate shocks, including droughts, dry spells, and floods, as well as livestock diseases and pest infestations, that risked food security across the country during the fiscal year. To address acute and longer-term food security needs, USAID/BHA partner CARE continued the implementation of its five-year project, Takunda—meaning “we have overcome” in Zimbabwe's Shona language—to provide equitable, nutritious, and sustainable food assistance in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. During the project's third year, CARE reached more than 232,300 people—more than 50 percent of whom were women—in vulnerable and rural households with livelihoods and resilience building activities, including providing technical and vocational training to adopt the use of climate-smart agricultural practices, training farmers in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and working with agricultural business operators and farmers to ensure the availability and use of essential agricultural inputs. With CARE's programming, local farmers saw output increases in groundnuts and sorghum from 0.27 metric tons (MT) to 0.57 MT per hectare—nearly 2.5 acres—and 0.17 MT to nearly 0.65 MT per hectare, respectively, when compared to FY 2022.

### Improving Food Security and Nutrition Outcomes in Madagascar

In Madagascar, USAID/BHA continued to support CRS during its implementation of the Maharo project, a five-year, multi-sector initiative designed to prevent and reduce acute food insecurity among the most vulnerable communities in southern Madagascar's Androy and Atsimo Andrefana regions. Maharo—meaning “capable to protect or defend” in the Malagasy language's Antandroy dialect—reached more than 76,000 people during FY 2023 with assistance. With women comprising approximately two-thirds of participants, the program

<sup>1</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

emphasized strategies to improve food security while advancing gender equality and the economic and social participation of women, as well as youth and people with disabilities.

During FY 2023, Mahalo contributed to food security improvements in Androy and Atsimo Andrefana, as acute food insecurity levels improved from Crisis—IPC 3—levels between January and March to Stressed—IPC 2—conditions by September. Nearly 40,000 participants applied enhanced agricultural management practices and technologies, including better soil management, intercropping, and the use of improved seeds. As a result, average crop yields for Maharo farmers harvested nearly 40 percent more maize—a staple food in Southern Africa—in 2023 than in 2022. The project also widened coverage of nutrition programming following larger harvests and training for community health workers. Maharo’s Lead Mother program delivered care to children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and cured more than 92 percent of cases without any deaths following improved care at malnutrition treatment sites, counseling from community health workers, and food distributions with cooking demonstrations.

### Strengthening Agricultural Production and Emergency Preparedness in Malawi

In FY 2023, USAID/BHA partner CARE continued to implement the Titukulane project, a five-year, multi-sector RFSA working to improve food, nutrition, and livelihood outcomes in southern Malawi. Titukulane—meaning “let’s develop together” in Malawi’s Chewa language—reached more than 540,000 people during the fiscal year. To improve agricultural production, the project subsidized inputs which allowed 315 MT of improved groundnut, pigeon pea, rice, and soybean seeds to reach approximately 15,600 farmers, more than 11,000 of whom were women. Titukulane also constructed irrigation systems which supported more than 12,000 farmers across an estimated 7,200 acres. Participants also adopted climate-smart farming practices—including composting, proper plant spacing, and improved storage techniques—which resulted in significantly higher yields than the average farmer. For example, Titukulane-supported farmers produced approximately 200 percent more groundnuts, rice, and soybeans per hectare when compared to non-Titukulane farmers.

Titukulane also continued to prepare communities for climatic shocks, including tropical cyclones, that adversely affect livelihoods and reduce food availability among vulnerable populations. The program supported nearly 380 Village Civil Protection Committees (VCPCs)—community groups who lead local disaster management efforts—to increase overall disaster preparedness in the face of future shocks. Titukulane invested in weather communications stations, as well as rain and river gauges which monitor water levels, to bolster early warning capabilities prior to a climatic shock. The program also integrated VCPCs into local and national early warning communications networks to ensure real-time information dissemination. To further bolster preparedness, Titukulane communities set aside financial reserves, food stocks, and emergency relief supplies to support themselves in the event of a crisis. As a result of these disaster risk reduction activities, Titukulane communities demonstrated resilience and early recovery when Tropical Cyclone Freddy struck Malawi in March 2023. More than 42,000 participants received storm warnings two weeks in advance, which allowed for proactive measures, including evacuations and securing homes. Food, money, and shelter materials set aside by communities also supported early recovery efforts and decreased overall needs following the cyclone.

#### USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA IN FY 2023<sup>1</sup>

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
<b>Standalone ER4</b>			
Regional	Logistics Support, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	CARE	\$2,600,634

Madagascar	RFSA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	\$6,973,420
	RFSA	CRS	\$4,966,822
	Logistics Support		\$891,307
	Program Support		\$5,908
Malawi	RFSA	CARE	\$30,000,000
	Food Assistance, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	WFP	\$10,000,000
	Program Support		\$77,871
Mozambique	RFSA, Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	SCF	\$10,028,034
	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	CARE	\$1,500,000
	Agriculture, Monitoring and Evaluation	iDE	\$2,000,000
	Program Support		\$43,553
Zimbabwe	RFSA	CARE	\$13,712,033
	RFSA	Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)	\$20,913,309
	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	Action contre la Faim (ACF)	\$3,084,850
	Agriculture	UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	\$2,200,000
	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	Mwenezi Development Training Center (MDTC)	\$1,592,356
	Program Support		\$36,376
<b>TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING</b>			<b>\$110,626,472</b>
<b>TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$110,626,472</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2023.

## 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](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)