

# El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras – Regional Response

MAY 20, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Honduras suffered its highest reported death toll from the COVID-19 pandemic between April 28 and May 10, with 656 deaths, according to WHO.
- UNHCR called on international donors to provide financial support to humanitarian organizations and local governments in response to an estimated 1 million forcibly displaced people in the region.
- USG partners provide child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support services to children and adolescents in the region affected by violence and displacement.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras Regional Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$125,000,000
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$69,344,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$194,344,000<sup>3</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>3</sup>Figures include funding for the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras regional response announced by Vice President Kamala D. Harris on April 26, 2021. Of this amount, USAID/BHA and State/PRM had committed or obligated \$70,653,550 and \$69,344,000, respectively, as of May 17, 2021. State/PRM funding figures do not include announced \$25 million from prior fiscal years reallocated to address new priorities or approximately \$10.5 million in funding under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in the Western Hemisphere that is not included as part of State/PRM's overseas assistance totals. See detailed chart for breakdown.

## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Vaccination Rates Remain Low, COVID-19 Rises in Guatemala and Honduras**

During the week ending May 10, Honduras recorded the third-highest number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases during the pandemic, with more than 6,900 new cases. From April 28 to May 10, the country suffered its highest reported COVID-19-related deaths in a two-week period, with 656 deaths, according to data compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO). Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, more than 226,000 COVID-19 cases and 5,960 related deaths have been confirmed in Honduras as of May 18.

On May 13, the Government of El Salvador shipped 34,000 doses of the AstraZeneca coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine for use in seven towns in Honduras, following a meeting between Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele and the mayors of the Honduran towns on May 11, international media reports. As of May 7, Honduras had administered 69,303 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, representing approximately 0.7 percent of the population of more than 9.9 million, according to WHO. Meanwhile, El Salvador had administered more than 1 million doses as of the same date, representing nearly 17 percent of its population of nearly 6.5 million.

For the week ending May 10, Guatemala recorded nearly 5,300 new COVID-19 cases, its lowest weekly total since mid-March. However, the weekly total remains higher than most weeks since September 2020 and similar to reported totals in January 2021. Overall, Guatemala has recorded more than 241,500 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 7,893 related deaths as of May 18. The country had administered 182,332 doses of COVID-19 vaccine as of May 7, according to WHO, representing approximately 1 percent of its population of more than 17.9 million people.

In El Salvador, there were 660 new confirmed cases for the week ending May 10, the second-lowest weekly total since September; El Salvador had reported nearly 71,500 COVID-19 cases, with 2,191 related deaths as of May 18, according to WHO.

### **UNHCR Calls for Support for 1 Million Displaced People in Region**

On May 15, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Kelly T. Clements called for international donors to provide urgent support for up to 1 million Central Americans forcibly displaced in the region; the remarks came after an extended mission to Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico during the week of May 10, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. As needs rise—including an 88 percent increase in asylum applications in Guatemala from 2018 to 2019, with 2020 and 2021 projected to follow this trend—governments and humanitarian organizations in the region require greater financial and technical support to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to displaced populations, according to UNHCR. Since 2017, seven countries of origin, transit, and asylum in the region—Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama—are working together to address these challenges under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework, known in Spanish as MIRPS, a solutions-oriented, regional application of the Global Compact for Refugees.

### **USAID/BHA Partners Provide Life Saving Assistance in April**

In April, USAID/BHA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) conducted sessions in more than 90 agricultural field schools to train nearly 2,450 farmers—a majority of whom were women—on improving

agricultural production in Guatemala's Baja Verapaz and Chiquimula departments. CRS also distributed agricultural input kits for drought-tolerant maize production to the participants, totaling 310 metric tons of fertilizers, seeds for maize and cover crops, and green manure. USAID/BHA partner Project Concern International (PCI) continued working with communities in nine municipalities of western Guatemala's Huehuetenango Department in April to assist households affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, improve nutritional outcomes, and provide assistance to households experiencing acute food insecurity.

With USAID/BHA support, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued providing protection and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in storm-affected areas of Honduras' Atlántida, Cortés, and Yoro departments in April; the UN agency also provided water trucking services to displaced households who remain in shelters. UNICEF also distributed family and menstrual hygiene kits and provided training to families on water treatment and safe water storage. In addition, UNICEF conducted its monthly emotional recovery sessions for children in child-friendly safe spaces, and provided educational activities to sensitize children on issues of gender-based violence (GBV). The UN agency also continued GBV prevention workshops to mitigate the risk of GBV, and coordinated with other humanitarian actors to refer survivors of GBV for services, including medical and psychosocial care and emergency temporary shelter.

With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) continued providing emergency food assistance vouchers in April to populations in Honduras affected by tropical storms Eta and Iota, reaching approximately 13,300 households, nearly 66,500 individuals. The UN agency also provided logistical support to humanitarian relief operations in Gracias a Dios Department during the month, facilitating the maritime transport of nearly 50 metric tons (MT) of non-food items—including hygiene kits, agricultural tools, and other items—donated by Lutheran World Relief; shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) materials for non-governmental organization (NGO) GOAL assistance programs in the department; and approximately 400 MT of food commodities in collaboration with the Honduran Naval Force.

### **State/PRM Partners Provide Ongoing Protection Support to Vulnerable Asylum Seekers, IDPs, and Migrants**

In El Salvador, State/PRM partner UNHCR and its implementing partner identified 150 beneficiaries for entrepreneurship, vocational training, and job placement programs as of April 30. Additionally, UNHCR trained nearly 60 Panamanian border officers on international protection during the month as part of a broader strategy to strengthen access to territory and asylum processing in border areas, particularly in Panama's Darién Province. In Belize, State/PRM support through UNHCR and UNICEF is providing birth registration services to vulnerable migrants from the region through four mobile centers to reduce the risk of statelessness; approximately 400 people were registered from February to March.

### **DART Staff Conduct Monitoring Trips in Guatemala and Honduras**

On May 11 and 12, USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) staff traveled to Izabal Department's Los Amates and Morales municipalities in Guatemala to monitor assistance activities implemented by USAID/BHA partner CRS. During the visits, DART staff observed the distribution and use of WASH kits among beneficiary households, including hygiene practices promoted by the program. DART staff also visited communities in Izabal's Morales and Puerto Barrios municipalities on May 12 and 13 to observe programs implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). During the visits, the DART observed rehabilitation and disinfection of damaged wells and educational sessions to support good health care and hygiene practices; the team noted that lack of access to safe drinking water remains a primary concern for many storm-affected households in Izabal.

In Honduras, DART staff traveled to Lempira Department’s San Rafael municipality on May 10 to observe a BHA-funded food distribution conducted by UN World Food Program (WFP) and its implementing partner Mennonite Social Action Commission; the distribution reached approximately 1,500 households—approximately 7,500 people—from 30 communities on May 10 and 11. Families in Lempira who were significantly impacted by COVID-19, Hurricanes Eta and Iota and recurrent droughts received key staple foods such as beans, corn flour, oatmeal, oil, rice, sardines, and wheat flours

On May 11, DART staff traveled to the Santa Rosita community in Copán Department’s Copán Ruinas municipality in Honduras to observe World Vision multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), protection, and WASH programming. The community is more than 30 miles from the municipal center and is comprised of approximately 700 individuals, the majority of whom are of the Maya Chortí indigenous group; Santa Rosita was inaccessible for nearly two weeks in November 2020 during Hurricanes Eta and Iota. During the visit, community members shared their experiences with ongoing food insecurity, as the storms damaged or destroyed most of the crops that the community had for subsistence. Additionally, 75 homes were destroyed in landslides and the storms damaged main roads, the school, and water systems. Community members also described that they continue to experience psychosocial impacts from the storms, as many lost their homes and faced widespread flooding and landslides. DART staff also observed the functioning of a child-friendly space led by trained community volunteers from the community; the volunteers noted that they conduct a variety of activities to provide psychosocial support to children and adolescents—through art, music, dancing, basic motor skill development, and primary instruction—and provide training on hygiene practices, including prevention of the spread of COVID-19. Several participating children had previously been staying at home alone as their parents worked and as schools remained closed during the pandemic and following the storms. World Vision is operating two child-friendly spaces in the area, benefitting nearly 250 children and adolescents from Santa Rosita and the nearby Las Palmas community.

## KEY FIGURES



**172,000**

People supported  
monthly through USG  
emergency food  
assistance

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras that has been exacerbated by the triple shocks of reduced income associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, recurrent droughts, and recent hurricane damage, USAID/BHA supports the delivery of cash assistance for food and food vouchers to reduce food consumption gaps, and prevent and address malnutrition among food-insecure households during the lean season, which is projected to last through August, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). USAID/BHA is building upon years of strategic emergency food assistance to address increased needs within the three countries in a manner that enhances food consumption patterns and increases dietary diversity, while building resilience to shocks for vulnerable communities who rely heavily on agricultural production.

### PROTECTION

With State/PRM support, UNHCR is working with the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to implement the governments’



**4,500**

People supported  
monthly  
with USG-funded  
protection activities

respective commitments under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework—known in Spanish as MIRPS—to address forced displacement. PRM efforts include building government capacities to conduct protection screenings, receive and process asylum claims, and respond to protection concerns among IDPs and other at-risk communities. In addition, State/PRM provides funding through UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, and the ICRC in the three countries to support shelter, livelihoods, and other assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and vulnerable migrants including children, survivors of GBV, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) individuals, and people with disabilities. UNHCR also leads the Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—in El Salvador, providing humanitarian leadership to 28 partner organizations on a coordinated response to forced displacement in the country.

With State/PRM funding in El Salvador, UNHCR is working with the Government of El Salvador to train staff on how to identify persons in need and make referrals for services provided by the Protection Cluster. State/PRM also supports UNICEF efforts throughout the region to strengthen child welfare services for displaced and unaccompanied migrant children, and the International Committee of the Red Cross in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and the region to respond to protection needs including restoring family links, work on missing persons, and in situations of detention.

USAID/BHA’s protection partners provide psychosocial support, learning and recreational opportunities, and case management and referral services for children and women at high risk of exploitation, GBV, and other abuse. In particular, USAID/BHA partners are targeting populations in Honduras that became increasingly vulnerable to GBV and child protection concerns exacerbated by displacement and other impacts such as COVID-19 and damages caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota.



**72,000**

People supported  
through USG  
agriculture assistance

## **AGRICULTURE**

USAID/BHA partners are supporting smallholder farmers and other agriculture-dependent households in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Humanitarian actors are providing critical agricultural assistance to farmers to ensure sufficient and timely inputs for upcoming planting seasons to mitigate worsening food insecurity in the region. Partners are working with rural households through the provision of often cost-prohibitive resources such as farming tools, fertilizer, livestock feed, poultry, seeds, and access to veterinary services.

USAID/BHA partners aim to complement the agricultural inputs by providing agricultural training on climate-smart farming practices such as drip irrigation, diversification of crops, and soil management to increase crop production and to build resilience to future climate shocks. In

Honduras, families also receive training on how to increase egg production in chickens to provide nutritious food and generate additional income. USAID/BHA-funded agricultural programming strengthens livelihood opportunities and market access for rural households and helps to improve nutritional outcomes through increased availability of nutritious local foods.



**173**

Communities in Honduras' Dry Corridor supported with USG-funded ERMS activities

## **ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS**

USAID/BHA partners are supporting economic recovery and market systems (ERMS) interventions to increase financial resilience and aid vulnerable households to restore livelihoods and mitigate the impact of future shocks. Program activities include establishing community savings and loans groups and restarting and expanding income-generating activities such as providing support to restock inventory for convenience stores and other micro businesses. Additionally in some communities, USAID/BHA partners are also holding financial literacy courses to promote savings and increased awareness of and access to financial services.

### **CONTEXT IN BRIEF**

- Consecutive years of drought have adversely affected thousands of subsistence farmers and exacerbated food insecurity in rural communities in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, particularly in the Dry Corridor. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, poor health infrastructure, high population density, and insufficient availability of water and sanitation services have challenged efforts to control spread of the disease, while the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic exacerbated existing health, food, nutrition, and protection needs, increasing the total population requiring humanitarian assistance across El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- The U.S. Government halted USAID/BHA's humanitarian assistance programming in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras between March 2019 and May 2020. During the period of the freeze, food insecurity increased dramatically across the three countries. In June 2020, USAID/BHA began to reengage with its partners in the region and restarted support for food assistance programming to vulnerable populations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season was the most active season ever recorded, with 30 named storms and 13 hurricanes, including six major hurricanes, according to the UN. In particular, Tropical Storm Amanda in El Salvador in May 2020 and Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Guatemala and Honduras in November 2020 resulted in widespread destruction and large numbers of people in need, further exacerbating vulnerabilities within the region. USAID/BHA's disaster response experts in the San Jose, Costa Rica and Washington, D.C. are monitoring the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season in coordination with local partners and U.S. mission disaster relief officers in the region.
- On February 26, 2021, U.S. Ambassador William W. Popp issued a disaster declaration for Guatemala; on March 8, 2021, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Colleen A. Hoey issued a disaster declaration for Honduras; and on March 15, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Brendan O'Brien issued a disaster declaration in El Salvador. All three disaster declarations were issued for FY 2021 in response to severe food insecurity resulting from the increased displacement due to violence, the compounding impact of natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and recurrent drought.

**USG EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR THE EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL  
RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1,2</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Ahuachapan, La Union, Morazan, San Miguel, Usulután	\$7,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR</b>			<b>\$7,000,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	ERMS, Education, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$3,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,570,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR</b>			<b>\$7,270,000</b>
<b>GUATEMALA</b>			
USAID/BHA			
Action Against Hunger/Spain	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Huehuetenango	\$3,000,000
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, Nutrition, MPCA	Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula	\$8,000,000
PCI	ERMS, MPCA, WASH	Huehuetenango	\$7,000,000
SCF	MPCA, Nutrition, WASH	Quiché	\$5,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	El Progreso, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Retalhuleu, Santa Rosa, Sololá, Zacapa	\$5,500,000
World Vision	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Protection, WASH	Alta Verapaz, Totonicapán	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN GUATEMALA</b>			<b>\$31,500,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	ERMS, Education, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$6,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,145,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN GUATEMALA</b>			<b>\$8,845,000</b>
<b>HONDURAS</b>			
USAID/BHA			
ADRA	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Choluteca, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazan	\$9,000,000
CARE	MPCA, Protection	Cortes, Santa Barbara, Yoro	\$1,736,000
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cortes, Santa Barbara, Yoro	\$3,000,000
WFP	Agriculture, DRRRPP, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Copan, Cortes, Santa Barbara, Yoro	\$11,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Protection	Copan, Cortes, Yoro	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN HONDURAS</b>			<b>\$27,236,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Education, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$4,800,000
UNICEF	Education, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,636,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN HONDURAS</b>			<b>\$8,436,000</b>

<b>BELIZE</b>			
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Protection	Countrywide	\$687,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BELIZE</b>			<b>\$687,000</b>
<b>COSTA RICA</b>			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	ERMS, MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$6,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,120,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COSTA RICA</b>			<b>\$7,820,000</b>
<b>MEXICO</b>			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Education, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$11,600,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN MEXICO</b>			<b>\$21,100,000</b>
<b>PANAMA</b>			
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,446,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PANAMA</b>			<b>\$1,446,000</b>
<b>REGIONAL</b>			
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Education, Health, Protection	Regional	\$6,700,000
IOM	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Regional	\$1,500,000
UNHCR	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Regional	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; DRRPP	Regional	\$540,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN REGION</b>			<b>\$13,740,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$65,736,000</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$69,344,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$135,080,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/BHA funding figures reflect portion of the \$125 million in humanitarian assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras announced by Vice President Harris on April 26, 2021; funding figures represent committed or obligated funding from April 6, 2021 to May 17, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>State/PRM funding figures reflect portion of the \$104,848,739 announced by Vice President Harris on April 26, 2021; figures do not include announced \$25 million from prior fiscal years reallocated to address new priorities or approximately \$10.5 million in funding under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in the Western Hemisphere that is not included as part of State/PRM's overseas assistance totals.



## ER4 FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>3</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
El Salvador			
CRS	DRRRPP	La Union, San Miguel, San Vicente, Usulután	\$380,000
Miyamoto	DRRRPP	San Salvador	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR</b>			<b>\$530,000</b>
Guatemala			
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS	Baja Verapaz, Chiquimula	\$905,802
PCI	Agriculture, DRRPP, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks (NHTR), Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	DRRRPP	Countrywide	\$371,748
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR GUATEMALA</b>			<b>\$2,277,550</b>
Honduras			
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, NHTR	Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira	\$1,000,000
GOAL	DRRRPP, Shelter and Settlements	Francisco Morazán	\$650,000
	ERMS, DRRPP, NHTR, Shelter and Settlements	Cortes, Yoro	\$460,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR HONDURAS</b>			<b>\$2,110,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA ER4 FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$4,917,550</b>

<sup>3</sup>Activities include support of early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs to address chronic vulnerabilities and reduce the overall impact of recurrent shocks and stresses, and build resilience to future shocks.

<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>	<b>\$70,653,550</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>	<b>\$69,344,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN 2021<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>\$139,997,550</b>

<sup>4</sup>Reflects portion of funding announced by Vice President Harris on April 26, 2021, committed or obligated as of May 17, 2021.

## 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)