

El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras – Regional Response

JUNE 3, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

30.7 MILLION Estimated Total Population of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras <i>UN – March 2021</i>	10 MILLION Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance <i>UN – April 2021</i>	7 MILLION Estimated Number of People Impacted by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Guatemala and Honduras <i>UN – December 2020</i>	5.5 MILLION Estimated Number of People in Urgent Need of Food Assistance <i>FEWS NET – March 2021</i>	1 MILLION Estimated Number of Asylum Seekers, IDPs, and Refugees Displaced in the Region <i>UNHCR – May 2021</i>
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- Food insecurity is expected to increase among households in areas of western El Salvador, Guatemala, and parts of northern and southern Honduras, according to the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET).
- USAID/BHA partners provided emergency food assistance, livelihoods support, protection, and other humanitarian assistance in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in May.
- With State/PRM support UN partners are providing asylum seekers and migrants with livelihoods and protection services throughout the region.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras Regional Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$125,000,000
	State/PRM ²	\$69,344,000
	Total	\$194,344,000³

¹USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
²U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)
³Figures 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 \$95,139,379 and \$69,344,000, respectively, as of May 20, 2021. State/PRM funding figures reflect a portion of the more than \$104 million in State/PRM funding announced by Vice President Harris; figures do not include announced \$25 million in funding 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

Acute Food Insecurity Projected to Worsen in the Coming Months

Above-average food prices—particularly for animal products, beans, and vegetables—and significantly reduced labor demand and high transportation costs during the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic are contributing to reduced household purchasing power and food access in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, reports FEWS NET; many households in the region are also facing the impacts of tropical storms Eta and Iota as well as consecutive years of drought in some areas. An increasing number of households are facing acute food insecurity during the ongoing lean season; FEWS NET anticipates that food insecurity will continue to worsen at least until the beginning of the *Primera* season harvests in mid-August, particularly among households in coffee-producing areas of western El Salvador, Guatemala's Dry Corridor, and other areas that were affected by tropical storms Eta and Iota, and parts of northern and southern Honduras. Additionally, FEWS NET warns that irregular rainfall in areas of southern Honduras in May could contribute to adverse impacts on *Primera* season production in affected areas if below-average rainfall forecasts for early June are realized. In El Salvador and Honduras, high fertilizer prices will also likely lead to reduced access and potentially lower yields for many small-scale agricultural producers, FEWS NET reports.

USG Partners Deliver Support to Food-Insecure Households, Asylum Seekers, Vulnerable Migrants

With USAID/BHA funding, partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is delivering food security and nutrition programming in Guatemala. CRS aims to improve food security and nutrition conditions among 2,300 households in Alta Verapaz and Chiquimula departments through activities dedicated to strengthening resilience to drought and other climate-related shocks. The non-governmental organization (NGO) partner is providing agricultural inputs and training on resilient agriculture practices to farmers, delivering hygiene items and messaging to promote safe hygiene practices, and strengthening household financial resilience through education and facilitating access to financial services.

In El Salvador, USAID/BHA partner CRS has established seven Farmer Field Schools as of late May; the schools aim to train farmers as agricultural promoters of new water and soil management techniques to increase resilience to drought and improve soil quality, with the ultimate goal of increasing crop yields. Following their training, program participants work with other producers in their communities to share and promote the new methods.

With USAID/BHA support, a NGO consortium comprised of CARE, Norwegian Refugee Council, and the Mennonite Social Commission is providing psychosocial support sessions to populations in Honduras' Cortés, Santa Bárbara, and Yoro departments, including to groups of mothers and children to support them in the areas of self-protection, life planning, human rights, and self-esteem. The program also helps connect survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and other forms of abuse with available services in Honduras.

State/PRM is supporting the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to expand national- and community-level child protection capacities for vulnerable asylum seeker and migrant children and their caregivers in Mexico. During May, UNICEF trained personnel from the Government of Mexico's Department of Family Development on protection issues specific to asylum seekers and child migrants, including unaccompanied children. UNICEF is also supporting the design of a shelter certification program focused on improving awareness and detection of violence across more than 150 shelters housing vulnerable migrant children and families in Mexico. In Belize, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its implementing partners provided education services, food, psychosocial support, and shelter assistance to approximately 100 asylum seeker households, as well as livelihoods support to 150 asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in April. With State/PRM support, UNHCR also provided psychosocial support and legal services to approximately 400 asylum seekers and refugees in Panama during the month.

DART Staff Visit Affected Communities with USAID/BHA Partners

In late May, USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) staff visited communities across parts of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras where USAID/BHA partners are implementing or planning to implement humanitarian assistance activities. DART staff met with community members, program beneficiaries, and partner staff to discuss the humanitarian situation and monitor ongoing assistance programs. In El Salvador, DART staff traveled to Chalatenango Department with CRS to meet with communities; CRS activities visited in Chalatenango included a farmer field school, a water system restoration project, and a multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) distribution. DART staff also traveled to El Salvador's Usulután Department to visit a health clinic operated by USAID/BHA partner Americares. In Guatemala, DART staff traveled with USAID/BHA partner Save the Children to several municipalities in Quiché Department to observe and monitor programs providing nutrition and hygiene education and MPCA transfers to households requiring assistance due to resultant damage from tropical storms Eta and Iota and other compounding factors. In Honduras, DART staff joined USAID/BHA NGO partner CARE and its consortium members in Cortés and Yoro departments to observe protection activities that provide support to affected community members to improve their emotional and psychological well-being, as well as provide services to survivors of GBV and other forms of abuse. In La Paz Department, DART staff observed CRS activities, including a cash transfer distribution; USAID/BHA supported cash transfer programs assist vulnerable households to purchase nutritious food in local markets.

May COVID-19 Cases Among Highest of Pandemic in Guatemala and Honduras

Guatemala and Honduras have experienced some of their highest known weekly caseloads of COVID-19 of the pandemic in recent weeks. In addition to the direct impact on the health of people who contract the disease and their families, the ongoing prevalence of COVID-19 continues to limit mobility and contribute to below-normal labor demand, among other impacts on typical livelihoods patterns.

In Guatemala, more than 6,700 new cases were confirmed between May 18 and 24, according to data compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO). The total marks the seventh-highest reported weekly caseload of the pandemic in Guatemala, while four of the five highest weekly totals were reported in April 2021. Overall, more than 255,800 COVID-19 cases had been reported in Guatemala as of June 2, with 8,183 related deaths. Guatemala has one of the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the Latin America and Caribbean region, with nearly 430,000 vaccine doses administered as of May 28, reaching an estimated 2.4 percent of its population of more than 17.9 million people with at least one vaccine dose, according to WHO.

In Honduras, nearly 4,900 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed from May 18 to 24; additionally, weekly new confirmed cases of COVID-19 from April 20 through May 17 were surpassed only by totals recorded in January. Overall, more than 238,200 confirmed COVID-19 cases had been reported in Honduras as of June 2, with 6,353 related deaths, according to WHO. With the second lowest vaccination rate in the region, less than 2.6 percent of Honduras' 9.9 million people had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; approximately 253,800 doses were administered as of May 28.

Meanwhile, El Salvador has experienced declining caseloads in recent weeks, with approximately 1,000 cases from May 18 to 24 compared with more than 1,300 cases from May 11 to 17. As of June 2, WHO had reported more than 73,700 cases of COVID-19 in El Salvador, with 2,252 related deaths. More than 1.8 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in the country as of May 28, reaching approximately 28 percent of its population of nearly 6.5 million people.

KEY FIGURES



172,000

People supported monthly through USG emergency food assistance



4,500

People supported monthly with USG-funded protection activities

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras that has been exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, recurrent droughts, and damage from multiple tropical storms, 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 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 improves 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' respective commitments under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework—known in Spanish as MIRPS—to address forced displacement. State/PRM efforts include building government capacities to conduct protection screenings, receive and process asylum claims, and respond to protection concerns among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other at-risk communities. In addition, State/PRM provides funding to the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, and UNHCR 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 Clusters—the coordinating bodies for humanitarian protection activities, comprised of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders—in countries throughout the region—including El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras—providing humanitarian leadership to partner organizations on coordinated responses to forced displacement within each country.

With State/PRM funding, 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, while State/PRM partner ICRC is responding to protection needs in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and the region, including through restoring family links—including support related to missing persons—and support to individuals 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 forms of 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 those generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Eta and Iota.

AGRICULTURE



72,000
People supported
through USG
agriculture assistance

USAID/BHA partners are supporting smallholder farmers and other agriculture-dependent households in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. With USAID/BHA support, 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.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS



173
Communities in
Honduras’ Dry Corridor
supported
with USG-funded
ERMS activities

USAID/BHA partners are implementing economic recovery and market systems (ERMS) interventions to support vulnerable households to restore livelihoods, increase financial resilience, and mitigate the impact of future shocks. Program activities include establishing community savings and loans groups and restarting and expanding income-generating activities. 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, damages caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, and the impact of COVID-19 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 re-engage 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 San José, 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, 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 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
EL SALVADOR			
USAID/BHA			
Americares	Health, Protection, WASH	San Miguel, Usulután	\$1,000,000
CRS	Agriculture, MPCA	Ahuachapán, La Unión, Morazán, Sonsonate	\$2,409,500
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	MPCA, Protection	San Miguel, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Usulután	\$592,031

WFP	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Ahuachapán, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, Usulután	\$7,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, WASH	Ahuachapán, Morazán, San Miguel, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Usulután	\$2,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR			\$13,001,531
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	ERMS, Education, Protection, Shelter	Countrywide	\$3,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,570,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR			\$7,270,000
GUATEMALA			
USAID/BHA			
Action Against Hunger/Spain (AAH/Spain)	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Huehuetenango	\$3,000,000
CARE	ERMS, Protection	Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, San Marcos	\$4,498,659
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, Nutrition, MPCA	Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula	\$8,000,000
IRC	Protection, MPCA	Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango	\$499,989
PCI	ERMS, MPCA, WASH	Huehuetenango	\$7,000,000
Plan USA	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, WASH	Alta Verapaz	\$2,500,000
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
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN GUATEMALA			\$38,998,648
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	ERMS, Education, Protection, Shelter	Countrywide	\$6,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,145,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN GUATEMALA			\$8,845,000
HONDURAS			
USAID/BHA			
ADRA	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Choluteca, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán	\$9,000,000
CARE	MPCA, Protection	Cortés, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$1,736,000
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Shelter, WASH	Cortés, Francisco Morazán, La Paz, Lempira, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$7,085,670
Global Communities	Agriculture; ERMS; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Choluteca, Copán, Cortés, El Paraíso, Ocotepeque, Santa Bárbara, Valle	\$4,500,000
IRC	MPCA, Protection	Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Santa Bárbara	\$399,980
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Atlántida, Cortés, Yoro	\$2,000,000

WFP	Agriculture, DRRPP, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Cortes, Santa Barbara, Yoro	\$11,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Copan, Cortes, Santa Barbara, Yoro	\$2,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN HONDURAS			\$38,221,650
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Education, Protection, Shelter	Countrywide	\$4,800,000
UNICEF	Education, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,636,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN HONDURAS			\$8,436,000
BELIZE			
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Protection	Countrywide	\$687,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BELIZE			\$687,000
COSTA RICA			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	ERMS, MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$6,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,120,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COSTA RICA			\$7,820,000
MEXICO			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	MPCA, Protection, Shelter	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Education, MPCA, Protection, Shelter	Countrywide	\$11,600,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN MEXICO			\$21,100,000
PANAMA			
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,446,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PANAMA			\$1,446,000
REGIONAL			
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Education, Health, Protection	Regional	\$6,700,000
IOM	Protection, Shelter	Regional	\$1,500,000
UNHCR	ERMS, Protection, Shelter	Regional	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	HCIMA, DRRPP	Regional	\$540,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN REGION			\$13,740,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$90,221,829
TOTAL STATE/PRM EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$69,344,000
TOTAL USG EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$159,565,829

¹USAID/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 20, 2021.

²State/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

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

³Activities 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.

TOTAL USAID/BHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$95,139,379
TOTAL STATE/PRM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$69,344,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021⁴	\$164,663,379
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⁴Reflects portion of funding announced by Vice President Harris on April 26, 2021, committed or obligated as of May 20, 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)