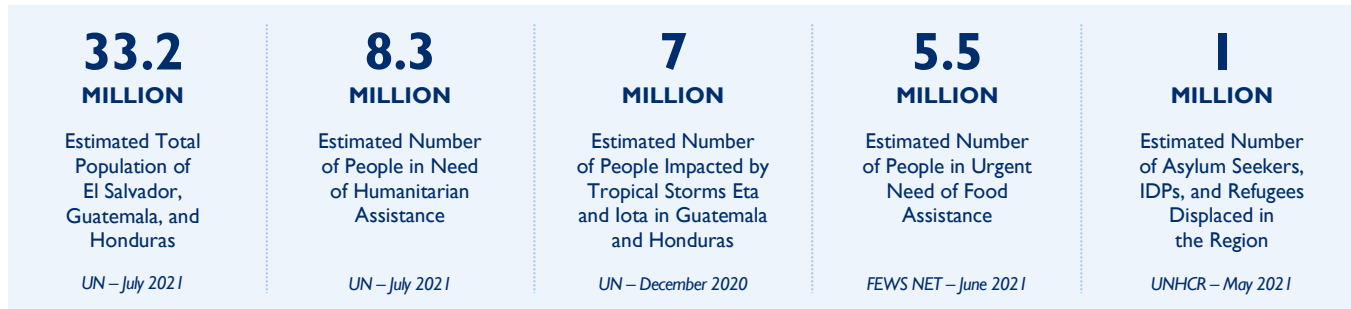




# El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras – Regional Response

AUGUST 26, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The UN released 2021 HRPs for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, appealing for \$588 million to reach more than 4.4 million people in acute need of humanitarian assistance across the three countries.
- Health actors identified a record number of weekly COVID-19 cases in Honduras from August 10 to 16, as well as spikes in cases in El Salvador and Guatemala.
- USAID/BHA staff visited program sites in Guatemala in mid-August, monitoring food security and shelter activities.



<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>	\$125,387,171
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$126,444,000
	<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$251,831,171</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 and additional State/PRM funding announced by Senior Advisor to the President on Migration Amy Pope on June 10, 2021.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### UN Launches HRPs for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

On August 19, the UN released the El Salvador and Guatemala Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs), outlining relief programming and funding requirements to address humanitarian needs in the two countries. The El Salvador HRP requests \$156 million to provide humanitarian assistance to 912,000 individuals in need. Food security needs comprise the largest portion of the HRP with \$49.4 million requested, followed by protection and early recovery with appeals for \$34.9 million and \$26.9 million, respectively. Meanwhile, the Guatemala HRP appeals for \$210 million to reach nearly 1.7 million people in need of assistance. The largest sectors within the Guatemala HRP are early recovery, with a \$66.3 million appeal, followed by protection and food security, with \$57.9 million and \$33 million, respectively. Additionally, the UN previously launched the Honduras HRP on August 9, which requested \$222 million to reach approximately 1.8 million of the most vulnerable people.

All three HRPs note increased needs due to chronic poverty and violence, climate vulnerabilities, lack of access to basic services, and ongoing impacts from storms and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In El Salvador and Honduras, the estimated number of people in need of assistance increased 164 and 115 percent, respectively, from 2020 to 2021, while the number of individuals in need in Guatemala increased 15 percent, according to the UN. In total, the UN estimates that 8.3 million people across El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras require humanitarian assistance, compared to 5.2 million people in need in early 2020.

### WHO Reports High COVID-19 Caseloads in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

El Salvador reported nearly 2,600 new COVID-19 cases from August 10 to 16, representing the highest weekly case count since the country's August 2020 peak, according to data compiled by the UN World Health Organization (WHO). To date, nearly 53 percent of people in the country have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. Meanwhile, in Guatemala, health actors continue to report record weekly case counts. From August 10 to 16, the country identified more than 21,600 new COVID-19 cases, the second highest weekly case count to date; the highest case count occurred from August 3 to 9. As of August 22, health actors had administered at least one vaccine dose to approximately 17 percent of Guatemala's population. A similar spike is occurring in Honduras, where WHO reported nearly 10,600 new COVID-19 cases from August 10 to 16, the highest weekly case count since the start of the pandemic; an estimated 19 percent of the population in Honduras has received at least one vaccine dose. In response to COVID-19 related needs in the region, USAID/BHA continues to work with partners to conduct essential health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities, including distributing hygiene kits and personal protective equipment, strengthening community surveillance, and training health care workers on infection prevention and control measures.

### USAID/BHA Staff Monitor Partner Activities in Guatemala

In mid-August, USAID/BHA staff traveled to Huehuetenango Department's Chiantla and San Juan Ixcay municipalities to visit communities benefitting from public-private partnership activities through USAID/BHA partner Project Concern International (PCI), with private sector support from Guatemalan organizations Cementos Progreso and Fundación Mario López. With materials donated by Fundación Mario López and technical support from PCI staff, the public-private partnership has delivered nearly 630 efficient wood-burning stoves in 13 communities of Chiantla; PCI staff trained community members to complete household installations of the stoves. During the visit, PCI staff also indicated that distribution of cement donations from Cementos Progreso—totaling nearly 21,000 bags to be distributed in 41 communities—have begun, and the non-governmental organization (NGO) anticipates completing distributions in mid-September. The materials will support shelter repair efforts for households affected by tropical storms Eta and Iota.

## State/PRM Partners Support Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in Belize, Panama

In June, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided food assistance, rent and legal support, and psychosocial services to nearly 100 refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants in Belize. Separately, UNHCR supported the Government of Panama (GoP) in July to conduct a capacity building training for 100 National Migration Service and National Border Services Officers stationed near the Costa Rica–Panama border on how to identify and refer individuals for protection services. Additionally, since late July, State/PRM partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR have coordinated with the GoP to prepare to provide urgent humanitarian aid and legal assistance to the estimated 15,000 people sheltering on the Colombia–Panama border awaiting entrance to Panama.

### KEY FIGURES



76,630

People received USG emergency food assistance in July



4,800

People supported with USG-funded protection activities in July

## 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. 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 that 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 the Red Cross (ICRC), IOM, UNHCR, and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the three countries to support shelter, livelihoods, and other assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and vulnerable migrants, including children; survivors of gender-based violence (GBV); lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex individuals; and people with disabilities. UNHCR also leads the Protection Clusters—the coordinating bodies for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—in countries throughout the region, 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, Honduras, and the region, including through restoring family links—such as support related to missing persons—and support to individuals in situations of detention.

USAID/BHA’s protection partners in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras 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. At present, USAID/BHA partners are assisting populations in Honduras who have become increasingly vulnerable to GBV and child protection concerns due to displacement and other impacts, such as those generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Eta and Iota. Moreover, USAID/BHA partners are scaling up programming to address additional protection needs in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.



**35,900**

People directly benefitted from improved agricultural production through USG assistance in July

## AGRICULTURE

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 appropriate and timely inputs for planting and growing seasons to mitigate worsening food insecurity in the region. Partners are working with rural households through the provision of farming tools, fertilizer, livestock feed, poultry, seeds, and access to veterinary services.

USAID/BHA partners aim to complement the agricultural inputs by providing 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, households also receive training on how to increase egg production in chickens to serve as a source of protein 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 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. 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, damage caused by tropical storms Eta and Iota, and the impact of COVID-19 have adversely affected thousands of subsistence farmers and exacerbated food insecurity in rural and urban communities in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. 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.
- USAID/BHA was required to freeze its 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 resumed 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 tropical storms 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
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>			
USAID/BHA			
Americares	Health, Protection, WASH	San Miguel, Usulután	\$1,000,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)	Ahuachapan, La Unión, Morazan, Sonsonate	\$2,409,500
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	MPCA, Protection	San Miguel, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Usulután	\$592,031
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, MPCA, Protection	La Libertad, La Paz, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Usulután	\$2,307,607

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	Health	Ahuachapán, La Paz, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, Usulután	\$800,000
UN World Food Program (WFP)	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Ahuachapan, La Unión, Morazan, San Miguel, Usulután	\$7,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, WASH	Ahuachapan, Morazan, San Miguel, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Usulután	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR</b>			<b>\$16,109,138</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$7,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,570,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR</b>			<b>\$11,270,000</b>
<b>GUATEMALA</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	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, WASH	Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula	\$13,500,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	ERMS, MPCA, Nutrition	Izabal	\$1,075,650
IRC	MPCA, Protection	Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango	\$499,989
PCI	Agriculture, ERMS, Health, MPCA, WASH	Huehuetenango	\$11,400,000
Plan USA	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, WASH	Alta Verapaz	\$2,500,000
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Quiché	\$6,578,865
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>\$51,553,163</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$14,300,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,395,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN GUATEMALA</b>			<b>\$18,695,000</b>
<b>HONDURAS</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Choluteca, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazán, Valle	\$9,000,000
CARE	MPCA, Protection	Cortés, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$1,736,000
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, 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, Copan, Cortés, El Paraiso, Ocotepeque, Santa Bárbara, Valle	\$4,500,000
GOAL	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Atlántida, Colon, Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Gracias a Dios, Intibucá, Lempira, Olancho, Yoro	\$6,585,670
IRC	MPCA, Protection	Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Santa Bárbara	\$399,980
NRC	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Protection	Copán, Francisco Morazán, Santa Bárbara	\$2,000,000
PAHO	Health	Choluteca, Gracias a Dios, Santa Bárbara	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Atlántida, Cortés, Yoro	\$2,000,000
WFP	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, Food Assistance–Cash Transfers	Atlántida, Colon, Cortés, Olancho, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$15,500,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Copán, Cortés, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN HONDURAS</b>			<b>\$52,807,320</b>
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$9,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,636,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN HONDURAS</b>			<b>\$13,336,000</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	\$7,900,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,120,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COSTA RICA</b>			<b>\$9,020,000</b>
<b>MEXICO</b>			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Education, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$38,400,000
UNICEF	Education, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,250,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN MEXICO</b>			<b>\$53,650,000</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	\$10,200,000

IOM	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Regional	\$1,500,000
UNHCR	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Regional	\$6,100,000
UNICEF	DRRPP, HCIMA	Regional	\$540,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN REGION</b>			<b>\$18,340,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$120,469,621</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>\$126,444,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$246,913,621</b>

<sup>1</sup> State/PRM funding figures reflect a portion—totaling \$69,344,000—of the more than \$104 million 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 and 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. Additionally, State/PRM funding includes \$57,100,000 announced by Senior Advisor to the President on Migration Amy Pope on June 10, 2021. Included in the overall total is \$10.8 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act in response to COVID-19.

#### ER4 FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
El Salvador			
CRS	DRRPP	La Unión, San Miguel, San Vicente, Usulután	\$380,000
Miyamoto International	DRRPP	San Salvador	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR</b>			<b>\$530,000</b>
Guatemala			
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	Baja Verapaz, Chiquimula	\$905,802
	DRRPP, Shelter and Settlements	Guatemala Department	\$1,000,000
PCI	DRRPP	Guatemala Department, Huehuetenango, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, Sololá, Totonicapán	\$371,748
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR GUATEMALA</b>			<b>\$2,277,550</b>
Honduras			
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira	\$1,000,000
	DRRPP, Shelter and Settlements	Francisco Morazán	\$650,000
GOAL	DRRPP, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks, Shelter and Settlements	Cortés, 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 REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$4,917,550</b>

<sup>2</sup> Activities include support of early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs to address chronic vulnerabilities, 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>\$125,387,171</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$126,444,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>3</sup></b>			<b>\$251,831,171</b>

<sup>3</sup> Reflects portion of funding announced, committed or obligated as of August 26, 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 [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)