

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Development & Disaster Risk Reduction

Central Africa

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020



Populations across the Central Africa region continue to face conflict, displacement, persistent food insecurity, and limited access to health care, safe drinking water, shelter, and other basic needs as a result of multiple shocks amidst limited livelihoods opportunities. In FY 2020, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported programs to address the root causes of chronic food insecurity, enhance livelihoods, and strengthen communities’ resilience to future shocks.

- With more than \$21.4 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported non-governmental organization (NGO) partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Food for the Hungry, and Mercy Corps to lead consortiums of NGOs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to improve the food and nutrition security and economic well-being of vulnerable households in Kasai-Oriental, South Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces.
- In northeast Uganda, USAID/BHA supported CRS and Mercy Corps to assist households facing chronic food insecurity in the Karamoja Sub-Region through building resilience to shocks, enhancing livelihoods, and improving food security and nutritional outcomes for vulnerable rural families. USAID/BHA also supported the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) Foundation to help extremely vulnerable refugee and Ugandan host-community households in southwestern Uganda’s Kamwenge District to improve food security and livelihoods.
- In Burundi, USAID/BHA partner CRS completed a six-year program in Muyinga Province aimed at improving the nutritional status of children through interventions in agriculture, governance, health, livelihoods, and sanitation.

USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT & DRR FUNDING FOR CENTRAL AFRICA¹ IN FY 2020

Development **\$43,153,632**

Total: \$43,153,632

In Central Africa in FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided development support to partners located in the DRC and Uganda.

¹ These numbers reflect a combination of development food security activities funded through USAID’s Office of Food for Peace and DRR and integrated DRR and response programs funded through USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Partnering to Enhance Resilience to Shocks and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in DRC

With \$5.3 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA continued to support a coalition of NGOs led by Mercy Corps to implement a five-year food security resilience capacity-building program in South Kivu to help communities address food and nutritional insecurity through increased agricultural production and household incomes. During the fiscal year, the program provided more than 1,000 metric tons of food commodities to more than 10,000 households and facilitated community rehabilitation of roads, stabilization and cultivation of previously degraded hillsides, and improvement of water sources. The Mercy Corps-led program adapted food distributions to limit the risk of transmission of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and to provide educational messages to program participants regarding COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures. Additionally, Mercy Corps conducted 72 Farmer Field Schools—primarily attended by women farmers—during the year, training participants on soil and water management for the production and marketing of various crops, primarily beans, cassava, and maize.

With \$11.2 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partner Food for the Hungry continued to work with more than 155,000 farming households in South Kivu and Tanganyika to improve agricultural production and household food security through training farmers on crop pests, plant diseases, and agricultural best practices, as well as by increasing access to quality agricultural inputs including seeds, tools, and fertilizer. Further contributing to agricultural productivity, Food for the Hungry repaired and augmented extensive irrigation canals across nearly 16,500 acres. The program also trained community members as animal health workers, providing households with services for improved livestock health and production. Additionally, participants learned about soil management practices and produced more than 1 million tree seedlings for the reforestation of nearly 1,200 acres to stabilize slopes and improve water retention and soil fertility.

In FY 2020, CRS continued working with communities from more than 470 villages in Kasai-Oriental to advance livelihoods opportunities, reduce childhood chronic malnutrition, and empower communities to sustain improvements in food security and nutrition. For example, CRS programs in more than 460 literacy centers facilitated approximately 8,800 learners—including nearly 6,400 women—to gain critical reading and writing skills and successfully pass a literacy test. CRS also facilitated improved water access for approximately 60,000 people through the construction or rehabilitation of nearly 70 water points and designation of management authorities to community leaders. Additionally, nearly 42,000 people participated in group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs.

All three USAID/BHA-supported development programs in the DRC include elements to help households mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in ways that reduce chronic vulnerability and facilitate inclusive growth.

Building Resilience, Enhancing Livelihoods, and Improving Food Security and Nutrition in Uganda

USAID/BHA supports two long-term programs in northeastern Uganda's Karamoja sub-region to respond to chronic food and nutrition insecurity that has been exacerbated by increasing vulnerability to climatic shocks. USAID/BHA programs in the region span multiple sectors including agriculture and livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, nutrition, health, governance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In FY 2020, USAID/BHA continued to support CRS to implement a five-year program in Karamoja's Abim, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit, and Napak districts. The program worked with nearly 147,000 participants during the fiscal year through a range of activities that incorporated a focus on gender, youth, conflict sensitivity, social accountability, and strengthening community capacities and ownership. Additionally, Mercy Corps continued implementation of its five-year BHA-funded program in Karamoja's Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido, and Moroto districts, working with nearly 217,000 participants in FY 2020 through activities focused on strengthening and enhancing household capacity to sustain food and nutrition security. Mercy Corps' activities are structured to achieve four interrelated objectives: inclusive and effective governance; nutrition

security for adolescent girls, children younger than five years of age, and pregnant and lactating women; the reduction of WASH-related diseases; and improved livelihood and income support. An October 2020 participant survey indicated significant achievements compared to a baseline survey in June 2018, including improvements in household food sufficiency, dietary diversity among women and girls, and the percentage of participants who earn cash income.

USAID/BHA partner AVSI Foundation continued implementing a multi-year program in southwestern Uganda's Kamwenge District among people living in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement and surrounding host communities. The program aims to improve the ability of participant households to effectively manage shocks and continuously meet basic household needs through the dissemination of knowledge and capacity development in multiple areas, including financial management, household nutrition, and livelihoods diversification, among others. During the fiscal year, the AVSI-led program noted substantial improvements in some areas, including in household adoption of good hygiene practices as evidenced by an increase in the availability of handwashing stations with soap and water, from approximately 55 percent to 90 percent among host community members and from 19 percent of households to 91 percent in the refugee settlement. The program also reached nearly 6,400 people with regular coaching sessions on topics including business management, financial literacy, formation and participation in savings groups, nutrition education and screening, and private sector linkages.

Supporting Burundian Families to Improve Agricultural Production and Household Nutrition

In FY 2020, USAID/BHA partner CRS completed the multi-year Amashiga program in northeastern Burundi's Muyinga Province that focused on addressing chronic malnutrition through the dissemination of knowledge on hygiene and nutrition, adoption of improved agricultural practices to increase yields, and the establishment of local governance structures that are responsive to farmer needs and priorities. The NGO also continued to transition the management of continuing program activities to local stakeholders following six years of CRS-led program implementation. Among its final program activities during the fiscal year, Amashiga increased dietary diversity for over 5,000 women and children through nutrition promotion sessions, cooking demonstrations, and production of nutritious vegetables from household permagardens. The program also provided monthly supplementary food rations to nearly 3,800 mother-and-child pairs during the first 1,000 days of the child's life. Additionally, CRS continued to train 230 lead farmers as community leaders in improved agricultural techniques. With the knowledge and credentials gained through the program, the lead farmers provided training to nearly 21,000 participants who attended 77 farmer field days; overall, lead farmers supported more than 2,400 households to adopt improved agricultural practices including use of improved seeds, intercropping, and Fall Armyworm prevention techniques. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project trained over 100 health professionals and 1,578 community-level leaders to raise awareness of COVID-19 symptoms and promote the adoption of practical prevention practices.

USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT AND DRR ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA IN FY 2020 ¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Development			
DRC	Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods; Capacity-Building; Health; Nutrition; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	CRS	\$4,847,304
DRC	Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods; Capacity-Building; Food Assistance; Health; Nutrition; Risk Management; WASH	Food for the Hungry	\$11,245,202
DRC	Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods; Capacity-Building; Economic Recovery, Market Systems, and Analysis; Health; Nutrition; Risk Management; WASH	Mercy Corps	\$5,309,522
Uganda	Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods; Capacity-Building; Health; Nutrition	AVSI	\$5,279,535
Uganda	Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods; Capacity-Building; Health; Nutrition; WASH	CRS	\$9,089,831
Uganda	Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods; Capacity-Building; Health; Nutrition; WASH	Mercy Corps	\$7,210,169
Uganda	Program Quality	Save the Children	\$172,069
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING			\$43,153,632
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AND DRR FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$43,153,632

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

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)