

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Development & Disaster Risk Reduction

Middle East, North Africa, & Europe

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020



The Middle East, North Africa, and Europe (MENA) face a wide range of natural hazards—such as droughts, earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and extreme winter weather—in addition to protracted conflicts that significantly impact humanitarian conditions. Limited governmental disaster management capacity in some MENA countries also compounds the risks associated with natural disasters, while environmental degradation and rapid urban growth in some countries have led to overcrowding and settlement in hazard-prone areas.

- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided approximately \$7.2 million in FY 2020 to support disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in the MENA region.
- Through a regional program, USAID/BHA supported the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to strengthen local health care capacity in disaster-prone areas in the South Caucasus, including in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.
- With \$1.2 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported Action contre la Faim (ACF) to increase the number of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) humanitarian specialists through educational support, aiming to bolster local capacity in the Middle East.
- In Libya, a DRR program worked to improve disease response readiness, particularly amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, through trainings on the proper distribution of hygiene commodities to populations in need.
- During FY 2020, USAID/BHA also supported activities that strengthened information-sharing regarding early warning messages and response capabilities among local civil society organizations in Lebanon, as well as bolstered the capacity of disaster management systems in eastern Europe.

USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT & DRR FUNDING FOR MENA¹ IN FY 2020

Standalone DRR \$7,200,000

Total: \$7,200,000

In MENA in FY 2020, USAID/BHA supported DRR activities in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine.

¹ These numbers reflect DRR programs funded through USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Enhancing Local Humanitarian WASH Capacity in the Levant

With nearly \$1.2 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA continued to support ACF to develop a WASH master's degree program in the Middle East. In collaboration with German Jordanian University (GJU) and BioForce, the program aims to increase the number of qualified humanitarian professionals in the Middle East, contribute to the localization of humanitarian programming, and promote quality humanitarian interventions in a region where nearly 40 million people require WASH support. ACF plans to launch the first student cohort in early 2021 with up to 15 students and 15 GJU faculty, aiming to transfer full management of the program to GJU in the coming years.

Strengthening Local Emergency Preparedness in Lebanon

USAID/BHA provided CARE with \$550,000 in FY 2020 to improve communication among Lebanon's civil society organizations and increase the capacity of social service providers to prepare for and mitigate multi-hazard risks in Lebanon—including the ongoing economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic—by consolidating information-sharing systems. With USAID/BHA support, CARE will establish a network information system, known as the LINKS Platform, allowing humanitarian organizations to receive and share early warning information and supporting enhanced response preparedness. The program will enable local organizations to better sustain and scale up local humanitarian responses in the event of a sudden-onset disaster.

Reducing Adverse Health Impacts of Crises and Disasters in Central Asia and Europe

In FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided \$1 million to the IFRC to continue enhancing the emergency readiness and resilience capabilities of local communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia as part of efforts to strengthen community health response in disaster-prone areas. The program builds the capacity of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to reduce the negative impacts of crises and disasters on the health of affected populations and local health care systems, including damage to health and water infrastructure, mass casualty events, mass population movements, and infectious disease outbreaks.

Enhancing Response Preparedness in Libya

In FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided \$250,000 to IFRC to improve epidemic response preparedness in Libya, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Through IFRC-led management and preparedness trainings, USAID/BHA funding will improve the Libyan Red Crescent Society's ability to identify beneficiaries, distribute humanitarian commodities, and monitor programs, with a focus on distributing hygiene and dignity kits to address COVID-19 transmission risks. The program also seeks to strategically stockpile relief items for distribution to internally displaced persons, migrants, and other vulnerable communities during periods of recovery, while training relief workers to tailor response activities to account for conditions such as extreme heat and poor water facilities.

Strengthening Eastern Europe's Disaster Management System

Through an interagency agreement, USAID/BHA provided \$1.5 million to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in FY 2020 to expand national disaster response capacity in eastern Europe. The program builds on prior year efforts to enhance Ukraine's disaster management system utilizing components of the National Incident Management Systems and Incident Command Systems to better coordinate and provide on-scene management. By expanding similar activities to countries in the Balkans and Caucuses, the program aims to strengthen disaster management capabilities among authorities across the region.

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

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
DRR			
Regional	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	\$1,400,000
	Health, Risk Management Policy and Practice	IFRC	\$1,650,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USFS	\$1,500,000
Jordan	Risk Management Policy and Practice	ACF	\$1,150,000
Lebanon	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	CARE	\$550,000
Libya	Risk Management Policy and Practice	IFRC	\$250,000
Ukraine	HCIM, Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$700,000
TOTAL DRR FUNDING			\$7,200,000
TOTAL DRR FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$7,200,000

¹ Year 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.
- 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)