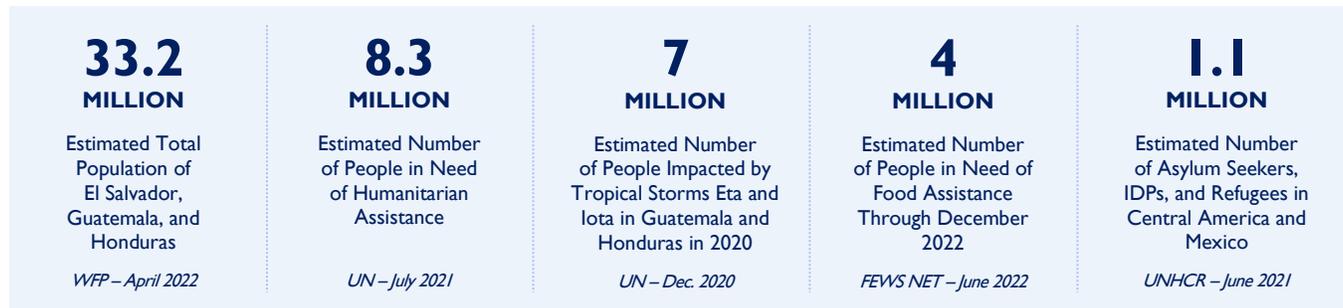


El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras – Regional Response

July 19, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- USAID Administrator Samantha Power announces more than \$198 million in humanitarian assistance for LAC on June 8, including nearly \$92 million for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- Up to 4 million people will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through December, FEWS NET reports.
- The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising commodity costs, and severe weather events exacerbate humanitarian needs among displaced people in Central America, according to World Vision.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras Regional Response in FY 2022¹

USAID/BHA² \$91,887,295

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

Total \$91,887,295

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). Funding figures include approximately \$87.5 million in emergency funding and more than \$4.3 million in standalone early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) funding.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Administrator Power Announces \$92 Million in Humanitarian Assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced approximately \$198 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), including nearly \$92 million in USAID/BHA programming in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, at the Summit of the Americas on June 8. This additional humanitarian support for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras includes more than \$87.5 million in emergency funding and \$4.3 million for early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs. The emergency funding will enable both non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN partners to provide emergency food assistance via cash transfers, multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), agricultural interventions, and livelihood support activities to help vulnerable communities meet their basic needs by bolstering household access to food and purchasing power. The funding will also support partners to implement protection interventions, such as programs preventing and responding to gender-based violence; essential health care; nutrition screening and referrals; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming to reduce the transmission risk of communicable diseases, among other interventions. In addition, USAID/BHA's \$4.3 million in ER4 funding will support partners to bolster the technical capacity of local governments and communities to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to natural hazards, including earthquakes and tropical cyclones, while strengthening and rehabilitating shelters in urban areas.

Previously, in FY 2021, the USG provided more than \$272.2 million—including approximately \$146.9 million from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) and nearly \$125.4 million from USAID/BHA—in humanitarian assistance for programming in the three countries and the Central America region.

Up to 4 Million People Face Crisis or Worse Levels of Acute Food Insecurity in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; USAID/BHA Partners Respond

Up to 4 million people are projected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through December in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras due primarily to damages to agricultural land from above-average rains, previous crop losses, and rising essential commodity costs, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).¹ Across Central America, rising global prices for fertilizer, fuel, and staple food commodities are projected to continue exacerbating existing food insecurity amid the this year's March–August lean season, diminishing purchasing power among poorer households. In Guatemala in particular, up to 2.5 million people are projected to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the period, with households in the Dry Corridor and areas affected by tropical storms Eta and Iota engaging in heightened negative coping strategies—such as reducing meal frequency and selling productive assets—to meet food needs. Meanwhile, up to 1 million and 500,000 people will likely face Crisis or worse conditions in Honduras and El Salvador, respectively, through December, as inflation and agricultural losses from previous planting seasons reduce access to food and income. However, the start of the *Primera* harvest in late August and early September will likely result in seasonal improvements to food security in the region, decreasing the number of households facing Stressed—IPC 2—and Crisis food insecurity conditions, FEWS NET reports.

In response to persistent acute food insecurity in the region, USAID/BHA partners continue to provide emergency food assistance, multipurpose cash, agriculture, and livelihood assistance, among other support, to help people meet their basic needs. In El Salvador, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP)

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

distributed cash transfers for food to more than 10,200 people and provided livelihood restoration activities—including training on drip irrigation, improved land use techniques, and poultry farming—to 3,000 additional households in Morazán and La Unión departments in June. In Guatemala, with USAID/BHA support, World Vision distributed cash transfers for food to nearly 6,800 people in San Marcos and Totonicapán departments in June, and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provided agricultural support and MPCA to approximately 8,000 individuals in Alta Verapaz and Chiquimula departments from April to June. Additionally, in Honduras, USAID/BHA partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) distributed 8,300 food rations to food-insecure households in Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, and Valle departments, while CRS provided agricultural inputs and MPCA to approximately 3,500 and 730 people, respectively, in Dry Corridor communities, from April to June.

Continued COVID-19 Pandemic Effects, Rising Commodity Costs, Severe Weather Events Exacerbate Humanitarian Needs Among IDPs in Guatemala, Honduras

The second-order effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, rising global commodity costs, and severe weather events continue to exacerbate humanitarian needs among displaced people in Guatemala and Honduras, diminishing incomes and heightening reliance on humanitarian assistance, according to a June assessment by USAID/BHA partner World Vision. From mid-2021 to mid-2022, an estimated 76 and 69 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Honduras and Guatemala, respectively, reported income loss; IDPs are overrepresented in the informal labor sector, which has faced disproportionate pandemic-related challenges. Furthermore, IDPs are often excluded from social protection mechanisms, which—combined with income loss—can increase dependence on assistance to meet basic needs. Approximately 26 and 9 percent of assessed IDPs in Guatemala and Honduras, respectively, reported relying significantly on aid to cope with decreasing access to livelihood opportunities. Consequently, 41 and 12 percent of surveyed IDPs in Guatemala and Honduras, respectively, reported experiencing moderate hunger, while an additional 6 percent of IDPs in Guatemala reported facing severe hunger, as household purchasing power decreases. In addition, many IDPs in the two countries reported experiencing significant psychosocial distress as humanitarian conditions worsen, as access to psychosocial support services (PSS) remains limited and displacement-related protection risks persist.

U.S. Government (USG) partners continue to respond to heightened humanitarian needs among displaced people in Central America. From early to mid-2022, USAID/BHA partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided livelihood support to more than 120 displaced households in El Salvador and Honduras, including training individuals on business management and providing initial funding for livelihood development. NRC also provided protection case management support—such as PSS and programs preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV)—for more than 1,270 IDPs and supported nearly 540 children through child-friendly spaces in the two countries during the period. Additionally, with USAID/BHA support, International Rescue Committee (IRC) provided protection interventions supporting nearly 6,700 children, including by providing case management services for children facing violence and abuse and establishing child-friendly spaces, in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras from April to June.

State/PRM Partner UNHCR Provides Health, Livelihoods, Protection, WASH Support in Guatemala and Honduras

State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to provide life-saving, multi-sector assistance to vulnerable people across Central America. In Honduras, UNHCR distributed more than 7,900 hygiene kits to nearly 4,900 forcibly displaced or violence-affected individuals in Choluteca Department, as well as distributed nearly 2,060 kits to individuals at reception centers for asylum seekers and migrants in El Paraíso, from March to May. The UN agency also supported an Afro-Honduran women's organization to bolster protection services for GBV survivors and displaced individuals in Atlántida Department,

including by upgrading office infrastructure to ensure confidentiality and security. In addition, in Guatemala, UNHCR delivered three ultrasound machines to health facilities in Petén to enhance health service quality, including for children; women; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) people.

KEY FIGURES



\$21.8 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA
FY 2022 support for
food assistance
operations



\$12.7 Million

In dedicated
USAID/BHA FY 2022
support for
protection programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, recurrent droughts, and damage from multiple tropical storms in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, USAID/BHA supports the delivery of in-kind food distributions and cash transfers for food to mitigate food consumption gaps and malnutrition among food-insecure households during the lean season, which is the period between planting and harvesting that can result in limited food availability and depleted food stocks. USAID/BHA continues to provide emergency food assistance to address increased needs within northern Central America by improving food consumption and increasing dietary diversity, while simultaneously strengthening resilience to shocks for vulnerable communities that rely heavily on agricultural production.

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR works with governments across Central America and Mexico to implement each governments' respective commitments under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework—known in Spanish as MIRPS—to address forced displacement. UNHCR efforts include building upon government capacities to conduct protection screenings, receiving and processing asylum claims, and responding to protection concerns among IDPs and other at-risk communities. In addition, State/PRM has supported the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) across Central America and Mexico to support shelter, livelihoods, and other multisector assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and vulnerable migrants—including children; GBV survivors; 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 countries throughout the region, providing leadership on coordinating responses to forced displacement within each country.

With State/PRM funding, UNHCR is working with the Government of El Salvador to train relevant staff to identify and refer persons in need of protection services. Furthermore, State/PRM also supports UNICEF efforts throughout the region to strengthen child welfare services for refugee, asylum seeker, and other vulnerable children.

USAID/BHA's protection partners in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

provide PSS, learning and recreational opportunities, and case management and referral services for children, women, and LGBTQI+ populations at high risk of exploitation, GBV, and other forms of abuse. USAID/BHA partners also assist populations in Honduras who have become increasingly vulnerable to GBV and child protection concerns due to displacement, as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Eta and Iota.

AGRICULTURE

USAID/BHA partners are supporting smallholder farmers and other agriculture-dependent households in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. With USAID/BHA support, humanitarian partners 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 providing farming tools, fertilizer, livestock feed, poultry, seeds, and access to veterinary services to rural households.

USAID/BHA partners complement these agricultural inputs by providing training on climate-smart farming practices such as diversification of crops, drip irrigation, and soil management to increase crop production and build resilience to future climate shocks. In Guatemala and Honduras, households also receive training on how to grow chicken and increase chicken egg production as a source of protein and additional income. USAID/BHA-funded agricultural programming also 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

USAID/BHA partners are implementing economic recovery and market systems (ERMS) interventions to restore livelihoods, increase financial resilience, and mitigate the impact of future shocks on vulnerable households. 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 increase awareness of and access to financial services.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports implementing partners to help storm-affected households in Guatemala and Honduras repair and rehabilitate damaged structures. Activities include distributing shelter materials to vulnerable individuals to support repairs. Moreover, USAID/BHA partners are providing technical assistance and materials to improve emergency shelters and build transitional shelters, while improving urban settlements to mitigate communities' vulnerability to floods, landslides, and seismic activity.



\$14.8 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA
FY 2022 agriculture
support



\$8.8 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA
FY 2022 support for
ERMS programming



\$4 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA
FY 2022 support for
shelter and settlements
programming

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Consecutive years of drought, damage caused by tropical storms Eta and Iota, and the socioeconomic effects 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. Meanwhile, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, poor health infrastructure, high population density, and insufficient availability of WASH services have challenged efforts to control the spread of the disease, while the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic have exacerbated food, health, nutrition, and protection needs across the three countries.
- Tropical storms Eta and Iota, which passed over Guatemala and Honduras in November 2020, resulted in widespread damage and destruction, exacerbating humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities 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 for El Salvador. The USG issued all three disaster declarations for FY 2021 in response to severe food insecurity resulting from the adverse socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, recurrent drought, and violence-induced displacement. The USG re-issued disaster declarations for FY 2022 in Honduras on January 21, 2022, and in El Salvador and Guatemala on January 26, 2022, in response to the severe humanitarian needs that persist throughout the three countries.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
EL SALVADOR			
USAID/BHA			
Alight	Protection	San Salvador	\$500,000
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, WASH	Ahuachapán, Morazán, Santa Ana, Sonsonate	\$5,729,859
IRC	MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
NRC	ERMS, Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,295,156
WFP	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Ahuachapán, Cabañas, Morazán, La Paz, San Miguel, La Unión, Usulután	\$8,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR			\$18,025,015
GUATEMALA			
USAID/BHA			
Acción contra el Hambre/Spain (ACH/Spain)	ERMS, MPCA	Countrywide	\$2,149,809
CARE	ERMS, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, WASH	Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Izabal	\$7,000,000
Global Communities	ERMS, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements	Huehuetenango	\$5,800,000
IRC	MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$2,588,604
NRC	ERMS, Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,284,640

Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Agriculture, MPCA, WASH	Quiché	\$3,500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$800,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Izabal, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Santa Rosa, Sololá	\$4,400,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Protection, WASH	San Marcos, Totonicapán	\$3,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN GUATEMALA			\$33,023,053
HONDURAS			
USAID/BHA			
ACH/Spain	ERMS, MPCA	Countrywide	\$985,551
ADRA	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Valle	\$6,000,000
CARE	ERMS, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cortés, Intibucá, La Paz, Santa Bárbara	\$6,500,000
Global Communities	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, WASH	Choluteca, Copán, Ocotepeque, El Paraíso, Valle	\$3,000,000
GOAL	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Atlántida, Colón, Gracias a Dios, Yoro	\$3,000,000
IRC	MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,900,000
NRC	ERMS, Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,903,110
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Francisco Morazán, La Paz, Valle	\$7,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Choluteca, Copán, Cortés, Olancho, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$3,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN HONDURAS			\$36,488,661
REGIONAL			
USAID/BHA			
Program Support			\$5,812
TOTAL USAID/BHA REGIONAL FUNDING			\$5,812
TOTAL USAID EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$87,542,541

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced emergency funding as of June 10, 2022, and exclude USAID/BHA ER4 funding.

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.
- 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.

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)