

## CONTEXT

- Persistent violence and recurring natural disasters in Colombia in recent years have prompted internal displacement; limited Colombians' ability to access crops, livelihoods, and essential goods and services; and negatively affected vulnerable households' food security and nutrition conditions. Additionally, the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Colombia and subsequent restrictions and economic impacts have compounded humanitarian needs by disrupting livelihood activities, reducing access to protection services, and worsening food insecurity.
- Deteriorating political and economic conditions in neighboring Venezuela have prompted more than 5.6 million Venezuelans to flee their country; of the total, approximately 1.7 million are in Colombia, along with more than 845,000 Colombian returnees, according to the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). The population influx has strained local services and exacerbated humanitarian needs—such as food, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)—among Venezuelan migrants and refugees, Colombian returnees, and vulnerable host community members in both rural and urban areas of Colombia.
- As of April 2021, the UN estimates that approximately 6.7 million people in Colombia require humanitarian assistance due to armed violence, COVID-19, and natural disasters, which represents an increase of more than 31 percent compared to April 2020 estimates. More than 4.1 million people in Colombia affected by the Venezuela regional crisis—including Venezuelan migrants, refugees, and vulnerable host community members—are also in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021, according to the UN.



## ASSISTANCE

- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) has consistently provided both emergency and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance in Colombia and remains the lead donor for Venezuela regional crisis response activities in the country. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, USAID/BHA is prioritizing emergency food, health, and WASH assistance for Venezuelans, as well as for vulnerable host communities, indigenous groups, households whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and populations internally displaced by conflict in Colombia. USAID/BHA is also supporting long-term ER4 programming in Colombia, including efforts to improve disaster preparedness and coordination.

- USAID/BHA has provided more than \$453 million in humanitarian food, health, WASH, and direct cash assistance for the response to the Venezuela regional crisis in Colombia since FY 2018. With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) aims to address acute food insecurity among Venezuelans in Colombia by providing emergency food assistance, including locally procured in-kind food, hot meals, cash transfers for food, and food vouchers redeemable in local markets. USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) partner Solidarités International also provides essential in-kind food to Venezuelan migrants traveling through Colombia on foot. Multiple other USAID/BHA NGO partners in Colombia provide a range of humanitarian services to Venezuelans and other populations affected by the Venezuela regional crisis, including flexible, unconditional cash assistance. Cash transfers enable recipients to prioritize basic, immediate needs such as food, health care, essential household items, school supplies, and shelter.
- USAID/BHA partners are responding to the spread of COVID-19 in Colombia through both existing health programs and COVID-19-specific interventions. With USAID/BHA support, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is working to provide essential medical supplies to Government of Colombia-run medical facilities to address the spread of COVID-19. USAID/BHA partner Pastoral Social is also conducting community-based hygiene promotion campaigns to mitigate COVID-19 risk in vulnerable communities. Additionally, with support from USAID/BHA, WFP is delivering emergency food assistance to address the needs of COVID-19-affected populations in Colombia.
- Since 2011, USAID/BHA has provided emergency food assistance to improve food security outcomes among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia. With FY 2021 funding, WFP is providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and locally procured food to food-insecure IDPs in Colombia; the UN agency is also supporting vulnerable IDPs with activities designed to improve agricultural practices.
- In addition, USAID/BHA funds activities designed to increase resilience and livelihood opportunities in communities affected by conflict and natural disasters. Since FY 2019, USAID/BHA has supported Miyamoto International to implement ER4 programming to bolster disaster preparedness in Colombia, including a program that aims to strengthen regional risk management and response capacity of departmental and municipal governments, as well as private sector organizations. USAID/BHA partner GOAL also aims to strengthen urban ER4 capacities and increase the resilience of vulnerable communities. GOAL's activities mitigate urban disaster risk by strengthening local government and community response capacity, particularly in response to risks of flooding and landslides. GOAL also implements livelihood development and restoration activities among migrants, returnees, and host community members.

USAID/BHA Funding in Colombia <sup>1</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>2</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$157,539,123	\$5,352,042	\$162,891,165
FY 2021	\$180,904,475	\$1,450,000	\$182,354,475

<sup>1</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 6, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>2</sup>Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.