

CONTEXT

- The adverse socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continue to strain Peru's health care and social service systems and exacerbate existing health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs across the country, particularly among low-income Peruvians, as well as migrants and refugees. COVID-19 restrictions have limited household purchasing power, which in conjunction with reduced livelihood opportunities, have exacerbated food insecurity and nutrition concerns among vulnerable households.
- The political and economic crisis in Venezuela continues to generate outward migration to neighboring countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, including Peru. Of the more than 6 million Venezuelans who have fled the country, approximately 1.3 million resided in Peru—primarily in the Callao and Lima regions—as of April 2022, according to the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela. Nearly 810,000 Venezuelans in Peru, roughly 62 percent of all migrants and refugees in the country, are in need of additional food, health, livelihoods, and shelter assistance to meet their basic needs, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports.
- Peru's location along the Pacific Ring of Fire—a nearly 25,000-mile geographic belt in the Pacific Ocean where tectonic movement results in increased seismic activity—renders the country extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In November 2021, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Peru's northern Amazonas Region, adversely affecting an estimated 2,800 people across 35 provinces, damaging or destroying buildings and infrastructure, and leaving more than 600 people without adequate shelter, according to the UN. Additionally, in March 2022, heavy rainfall triggered landslides in Peru's La Libertad and Arequipa regions, affecting more than 1,000 people and damaging or destroying an estimated 400 houses, according to the Government of Peru (GoP) National Civil Defense Institute.



ASSISTANCE

- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports humanitarian partners in Peru to provide both emergency and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, USAID/BHA prioritized food and multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), as well as nutrition programming for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Peru and delivered emergency food, health care, and protection assistance to vulnerable host community members, indigenous populations, and Peruvian households whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since FY 2017, USAID/BHA has provided nearly \$88 million in Peru to respond to the humanitarian needs generated by the influx of Venezuelan migrants and refugees into the country. USAID/BHA-funded activities in Peru

primarily support emergency food assistance, nutrition, and MPCA programming to meet the basic needs of vulnerable Venezuelan migrants and refugees. With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) is working to address acute food insecurity among Venezuelans in Peru by providing food assistance—including cash transfers for food and nutrition support—that aims to reach approximately 99,00 Venezuelans. Furthermore, USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) partners Save the Children Federation (SCF) and World Vision are providing in-kind food assistance, MPCA, and complementary nutrition interventions—targeted to improving nutrition practices and outcomes among pregnant and lactating women, as well as children ages five years and younger—to more than 52,000 Venezuelan migrants and vulnerable host community members in Peru.

- USAID/BHA assistance also works to mitigate the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic among vulnerable populations in Peru through national health system strengthening and targeted health care interventions. With nearly \$3.6 million in USAID/BHA support, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) are providing vulnerable indigenous communities in Peru’s Amazon basin region with improved access to health services, as well as accurate information on the risks of COVID-19 and the benefits of vaccination. Furthermore, USAID/BHA partner SCF is integrating protection activities into COVID-19-related health programming by providing psychosocial support and case management services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including vulnerable children.
- USAID/BHA partner WFP is also delivering emergency food assistance to food-insecure Peruvians and providing logistics support to the GoP, in coordination with relief partners, to facilitate nationwide GoP-led food distributions. Additionally, to combat rising acute food insecurity levels among low-income individuals residing in urban areas of Peru, with USAID/BHA funds WFP continues to support the *ollas communes* or “community pots” program, a local movement that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic which collects discarded food surplus from wholesale suppliers for delivery to community-led canteens that prepare hot meals for individuals in need.
- USAID/BHA provides sustained, multi-year funding to NGO and UN partners to conduct ER4 activities that enhance community and livelihood resilience against natural disasters. For example, USAID/BHA supports the NGO PREDES to promote localized disaster risk management (DRM) activities in Peru’s southern Lima Region—an area particularly vulnerable to earthquakes and landslides—by building community awareness of DRM best-practices through social-media campaigns that increase vulnerable communities’ knowledge of natural hazards in the region and strengthen local preparedness and response capacities through community disaster action plans, particularly among populations residing in informal settlements built on unstable, sloped terrain.

USAID/BHA Funding in Peru ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$38,906,101	\$5,536,350	\$44,442,451
FY 2021	\$50,798,954	\$1,557,797	\$52,356,751

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 2, 2022. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

²Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.