

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

# Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

## Latin America & the Caribbean

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021



Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) experience a range of natural hazards, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, forest fires, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, and volcanoes. In FY 2021, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported programs that improved emergency preparedness and response capacity at local, national, and regional levels; and supported communities to improve and restore livelihoods.

- In FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided nearly \$75 million to 30 partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in 17 countries across LAC.
- Through a regional program, USAID/BHA maintained a network of 29 disaster risk management specialists in LAC, as well as more than 400 surge staff, to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity for natural disasters.
- In the Caribbean, USAID/BHA supported the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to continue strengthening the capacity of national Red Cross societies to prepare for and respond to disasters in 13 countries.
- With nearly \$6 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supported eight partner organizations to implement standalone ER4 activities in Haiti.
- USAID/BHA also supported activities to strengthen community preparedness and response capacity for earthquakes, forest fires, volcanoes, and other natural disasters, including in Central America, Colombia, and Peru. Separately, USAID/BHA supported activities to strengthen agricultural sustainability in drought-prone areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

**USAID/BHA ER4 FUNDING FOR LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN IN FY 2021**

Standalone ER4	\$28,120,875
Integrated ER4	\$46,644,156

**Total: \$74,765,031**

*In Latin America and the Caribbean in FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported standalone and integrated ER4 activities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### *Managing Disaster Risk in LAC*

USAID/BHA continued to support Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP) activities to manage disaster risk in the LAC region in FY 2021. During the year, USAID/BHA staff based in San José, Costa Rica, and a consultant network of 29 disaster risk management specialists throughout the region continued to oversee and monitor RDAP activities designed to expand local and regional capabilities, improve intra- and intergovernmental coordination, and strengthen disaster preparedness, mitigation, and risk management programs. In addition, through RDAP, USAID/BHA maintains a network of more than 400 local surge staff available for activation, as needed, to respond rapidly to disasters throughout the region. Over the past decade, RDAP has provided training to thousands of emergency responders, including courses on disaster risk reduction, emergency management systems, the Incident Command System (ICS), forest fire prevention and control, school safety, urban search-and-rescue, disaster management, and damage assessment and needs analysis. Since FY 2008, through the provision of more than \$68.3 million for RDAP, USAID/BHA has supported activities to manage disaster risk in LAC.

### *Building the Capacity of National Red Cross Societies in the Caribbean*

In FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported IFRC to improve the disaster preparedness and response capacity of national Red Cross societies across the Caribbean, including in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, as well as Trinidad and Tobago. In FY 2021, with USAID/BHA support IFRC activities enhanced the institutional readiness of national Red Cross societies by conducting training activities and peer-to-peer exchanges for resilience and emergency response planning, developing early warning systems, facilitating contingency planning among local and national emergency responders. Through the technical assistance provided by IFRC, at-risk communities across the Caribbean enhanced their capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a wide range of natural disasters during FY 2021.

### *Strengthening Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness and Response Capacity in the Caribbean*

In FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided more than \$1.8 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to strengthen the operational capacity of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)—a regional inter-governmental agency for disaster coordination and management in the Caribbean region—and participating member states to better prepare for and respond to emergencies. WFP activities focused on enhancing the capacity of CDEMA and its 22 member states and territories to manage emergency telecommunications services and relief commodity supply chains. The UN agency also maintained pre-positioned emergency logistics equipment at regional focal points in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago; and seconded logistics staff to CDEMA to facilitate the institutionalization of logistics expertise. WFP also supported strategic stockpiles of emergency food and relief commodities for distribution during disaster. In response to the August 2021 earthquake in Haiti's Nippes Department, WFP—in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—distributed life-saving assistance from the prepositioned stockpiles within hours, reaching hundreds of thousands of people in the months following the earthquake.

### *Continuing the U.S.–Caribbean Resilience Partnership*

USAID/BHA provided the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with \$450,000 in FY 2021 for the ongoing U.S.–Caribbean Resilience Partnership program to collaborate with Caribbean countries' national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) and national disaster management agencies to advance early warning and preparedness capacity for hurricane-related hazards. In partnership with the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and NMHSs, NOAA continued to implement a multi-year pilot program in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as well as activities in Belize and Mexico, to identify needs for storm surge planning and preparedness, conduct trainings, develop a wave-modeling system, and begin laying the foundation for a regional

approach to storm surge and wave modeling and forecasting in the Caribbean region.

### *Developing an Earthquake Monitoring System in Haiti to Manage Seismic Hazard*

In FY 2021, USAID/BHA partnered with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to provide technical support to Ayiti-SEISMES, a local seismic monitoring network in Haiti, anchored by high-quality broadband stations and densified with low-cost sensors. The Ayiti-SEISMES network builds upon more than a decade of USAID/BHA support to establish a robust earthquake monitoring system in Haiti. With USAID/BHA support, approximately 20 earthquake monitoring instruments have been installed throughout Haiti, and data from the Ayiti-SEISMES network and portable instrumentation are being used to better understand the August 2021 Nippes earthquake and its implications for future seismic hazards in the region. Data from the Ayiti-SEISMES network has enabled local earthquake professionals and the Government of Haiti to provide timely and authoritative earthquake information to local officials and the public when earthquakes do occur, facilitating the coordination of a more efficient and effective emergency response. Furthermore, through USAID/BHA support to the Ayiti-SEISMES program, USGS provided detailed aftershock forecasts to USAID/BHA during the August 2021 earthquake response, facilitating an informed and appropriate humanitarian response.

### *Supporting Economic Recovery and Market Systems in Haiti*

In FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided \$2 million to Mercy Corps in Haiti to support economic recovery among vulnerable households and market systems following disasters, bolster household food security conditions and livelihoods, as well as enhance community resilience to sudden-onset shocks, such as earthquakes. USAID/BHA supported Mercy Corps to deliver three months of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to vulnerable urban households experiencing food insecurity, as well as to provide cash grants to food vendors to restock and diversify their supplies with nutritious foods. These multipurpose cash transfers and grants were provided in locations with accessible and functional local markets, which helped to normalize market functionality with stable supply and demand, as well as improved the capacity of markets to manage shocks—such as rapidly increased demand or rapidly decreased supply—during sudden-onset disasters like earthquakes.

### *Supporting Restorative Agriculture Across the Dry Corridor in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras*

In El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, USAID/BHA supported Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to promote sustainable agricultural practices to drought-affected subsistence farmers to increase yields and protect their crops against droughts in FY 2021. The non-governmental organization (NGO) is implementing activities across the Dry Corridor—an area characterized by frequent droughts and difficult farming conditions—in all three countries. CRS teaches farmers water-conscious agricultural methods to improve soil moisture and fertility, increasing yields by as much as 50 percent, and to reduce production risks related to drought and rainfall variability. The NGO also enables farming households to restock agricultural inputs as necessary, such as animal feed and seeds, to implement these best practices. The sustainable agriculture activities complement the efforts of ongoing emergency food assistance programs in the region.

### *Empowering Neighborhood Resilience in Informal Urban Settlements in Honduras*

Northern Honduras is home to large, rapidly growing, and unplanned urban centers comprised of informal settlements near the Ulúa and Chamelecón rivers, which are prone to flash floods generated by tropical storms. To increase the resilience of these communities in northern Honduras, GOAL, with support from USAID/BHA in FY 2021, helped to reduce urban disaster risk by operationalizing a neighborhood approach. The neighborhood approach to disaster risk reduction is a grassroots, localized, and bottom-up process that provides vulnerable urban communities and households with tools and mechanisms—such as early warning systems, critical market systems, protection services, social cohesion, and urban planning—to manage disaster risk effectively.

### *Supporting Resilient Urban Neighborhoods in Ecuador*

With prior year funding, in FY 2021 USAID/BHA continued to support the Adventist Development and Relief Agency

(ADRA) to help build disaster risk reduction and resilience capacities among earthquake-affected urban areas of Ecuador's Pichincha and Guayas provinces, areas that were especially affected by the April 2016 earthquake. In coordination with the Government of Ecuador's Decentralized National Risk and Management System (SNDGR), ADRA engaged community members—including vulnerable populations such as women and people with disabilities—as well as public and private sector actors to increase the awareness and preparedness of communities and households to respond effectively to disasters. ADRA also worked with the SNDGR to develop emergency management systems, deliver trainings to local and regional government actors on integration of the ICS into disaster response systems, build emergency plans for at-risk municipalities, and foster a culture of strong disaster risk reduction and resilience-building practices. In FY 2021, ADRA adapted its ER4 activities to address risks associated with the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Ecuador, developing COVID-19 mitigation workshops and community preparedness kits to inform households and government actors of appropriate hygiene and social distancing practices to reduce transmission of the disease.

### *Supporting Urban Fire Prevention Planning in Colombia*

Due to its geographical location and climatic conditions, Colombia is a nation particularly vulnerable to wildfires that often cause negative environmental and economic consequences for affected communities. From 2015 to 2018, local authorities recorded more than 1,300 forest fires across 10 municipalities in Antioquia Department's Metropolitan Area of Aburrá Valley. Many of these fires were due to human causes, as communities are often unaware of appropriate fire prevention strategies. To mitigate the fire hazard risks among populations throughout Antioquia, with USAID/BHA support World Vision provides targeted trainings to improve local communities' awareness of fire hazard risks and prevention strategies, working with local stakeholders to develop community-led forest fire prevention plans. The NGO also supports local fire brigades with technical assistance to prepare urban fire risk maps that inform emergency response planning and prevention strategies, as well as strengthen the capacity of fire brigades to address forest fires quickly and effectively when they occur.

### *Enhancing Natural Disaster Risk Management in Peru*

With more than \$800,000 in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supported Save the Children (SCF) to promote inclusive community-based disaster risk management (DRM) planning and implementation among five communities in Peru's northern Lima Province, a region particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as flooding and earthquakes. SCF engaged with local government actors and key community-based stakeholders—including academic, civil society, and private sector organizations—to integrate disaster risk management plans, projects, and guidelines into the institutional management policies of local governments in collaboration with social organizations and government offices at sub-national and national levels. The NGO also implemented activities to sensitize the population to the risks of earthquakes through activities including the training of community Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees, development of risk management plans, and production and dissemination of disaster risk reduction messaging materials.

### *Reducing the Impacts of Earthquakes in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago*

In Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago, USAID/BHA partner Miyamoto International helped communities prepare for and reduce the social and economic impacts of earthquakes in FY 2021 by strengthening the risk management and response capacity of public disaster authorities along with private-sector partners in vulnerable urban settings. Miyamoto's programs developed systems to improve coordination during disaster response through the management of individuals trained by national disaster risk management agencies—particularly civil engineers or architects trained in Miyamoto's Rapid Damage Assessment methodology for earthquake affected buildings. Additionally, the programs helped to increase the knowledge of seismic-resistant construction techniques among vulnerable populations in high-risk neighborhoods.

**USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR LAC IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>**

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
<b>Standalone ER4</b>			
LAC Regional	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP)	UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)	\$500,000
	DRRPP	Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	\$1,000,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	\$100,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	USGS	\$700,000
	DRRPP	USFS	\$400,000
Caribbean Regional	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	USGS	\$172,253
	DRRPP	IFRC	\$1,500,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	WMO	\$100,000
	DRRPP	WFP	\$1,827,488
	DRRPP	US Forest Services (USFS)	\$400,000
South American Regional	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$450,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	WMO	\$200,000
Central America Regional	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Handicap International	\$370,000
	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	USGS	\$396,852
Argentina	DRRPP	RET	\$760,000
Bolivia	DRRPP	USFS	\$100,000
Brazil	DRRPP	USFS	\$250,000
Chile	DRRPP	USFS	\$500,000
Costa Rica	DRRPP	USFS	\$100,000
Dominican Republic	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$252,799
Ecuador	DRRPP	WFP	\$1,000,000
	DRRPP	Minamoto International	\$500,000
	DRRPP	ADRA	\$511,656
El Salvador	Logistics	WFP	\$500,000
	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$150,000
	DRRPP	CRS	\$380,000
Guatemala	DRRPP	Global Communities	\$371,748
	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	CRS	\$905,802
	DRRPP, ERMS, Shelter and Settlements	Project Concern International	\$1,000,000
	Food Assistance, ERMS, HCIMA, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	CRS	\$600,000
	ERMS, MPCA	Mercy Corps	\$2,000,000
	DRRPP	USFS	\$100,000
Haiti	Logistics	WFP	\$750,000
	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$400,000
	DRRPP	IOM	\$1,050,000
	DRRPP, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks, WASH	Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)	\$649,433
	HCIMA	OCHA	\$250,000
Honduras	Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	USGS	\$200,000
	DRRPP, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks, Shelter and Settlements	GOAL	\$1,110,000

	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	CRS	\$1,000,000
Mexico	DRRPP	Miyamoto International	\$740,047
Nicaragua	ERMS	UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	\$2,000,000
Paraguay	DRRPP	USFS	\$100,000
	Agriculture and Food Security, DRRPP, Protection	ACDI/VOCA	\$215,000
Peru	DRRPP	SCF	\$807,797
	DRRPP	UN Development Program (UNDP)	\$750,000
<b>TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING</b>			<b>\$28,120,875</b>
<b>Integrated ER4 With Response<sup>2</sup></b>			
LAC Regional	HCIMA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	\$500,000
Central America Regional	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, MPCA	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	\$778,471
Colombia	Agriculture and Food Security	WFP	\$1,680,408
	WASH	American Red Cross (AmCross)	\$367,473
	Shelter and Settlements	World Vision	\$1,823,155
El Salvador	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	World Vision	\$676,611
	Agriculture and Food Security	CRS	\$708,862
	Agriculture and Food Security, DRRPP	WFP	\$1,585,568
	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Nutrition, WASH	CRS	\$6,774,232
Guatemala	Nutrition, WASH	Save the Children Federation, INC (SCF)	\$752,532
	ERMS	CARE	\$1,548,891
	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, WASH	World Vision Inc.	\$1,035,037
	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Global Communities	\$4,234,617
	ERMS	IFRC	\$293,462
Haiti	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	PLAN USA	\$583,475
	DRRPP	WFP	\$150,000
Honduras	Agriculture and Food Security	ADRA	\$3,288,539
	Agriculture and Food Security, DRRPP, ERMS	UNWFP	\$2,228,527
	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	GOAL	\$3,056,050
	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	CRS	\$4,271,529
Nicaragua	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Global Communities	\$2,035,998
	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	World Vision Inc.	\$810,948
	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Protection	SCF	\$683,597
Peru	Logistics, DRRPP	WFP	\$2,500,000
	DRRPP	IFRC	\$650,000
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Food Assistance, Logistics	WFP	\$2,476,174
	WASH	UNICEF	\$650,000
	Health	PAHO	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL INTERGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$46,644,156</b>
<b>TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$74,765,031</b>

<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 September 30, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Integrated ER4 with Response refers to programming that incorporates ER4 components within an active humanitarian response.

## 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)