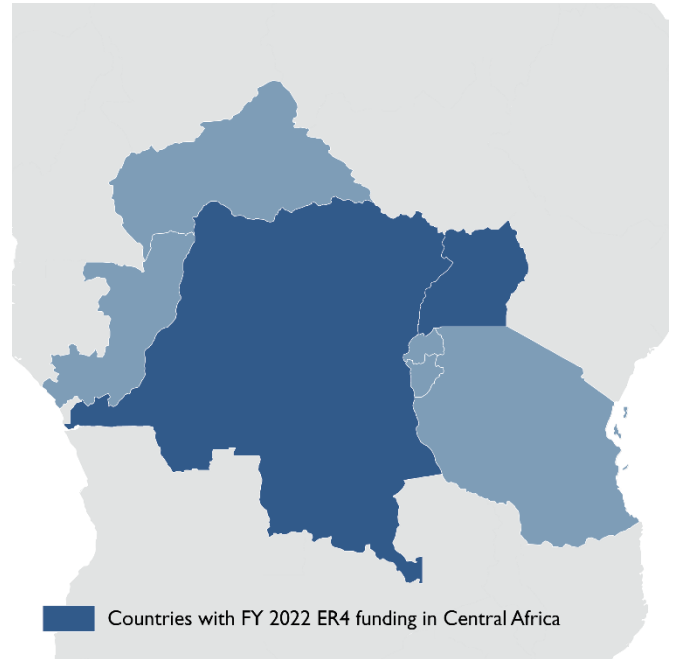


# Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

## Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – Central Africa

### REGIONAL SUMMARY

- In FY 2022, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided more than \$40 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda. Populations across Central Africa continue to face the consequences of conflict, climatic shocks, displacement, food and nutrition insecurity, and limited access to health care, safe drinking water, and shelter. During the fiscal year, USAID/BHA supported programs that improved livelihoods and mitigated the effects of chronic food insecurity.
- In the DRC, USAID/BHA supported Mercy Corps to lead a consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on improving the food security, livelihoods, and nutrition of marginalized households in South Kivu Province. In Kasai Oriental Province, USAID/BHA supported Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to lead a coalition of NGOs working to improve households’ social and economic well-being and sustainably improve food security.
- In Uganda, USAID/BHA partners CRS and Mercy Corps sustainably improved food and nutrition security for households in the country’s northeastern Karamoja Sub-Region. Meanwhile, in Northern Region’s Lamwo District and Western Region’s Isingiro District, USAID/BHA supported the Save the Children Federation (SCF) and a consortium of NGOs focused on diversifying livelihood opportunities in refugee and host communities. Furthermore, USAID/BHA helped improve the food security, health, and livelihoods of refugees and Ugandan host-community households in partnership with the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) in Western Region’s Kamwenge District.



### USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for Central Africa in FY 2022

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	DRC, Uganda	\$35,491,300
Integrated ER4	Uganda	\$4,998,458
<b>FY 2022 ER4 Total</b>		<b>\$40,489,758</b>

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### Building Community Resilience to Improve Food Security and Livelihoods in DRC

With more than \$7.5 million in USAID/BHA support during FY 2022, Mercy Corps led a coalition of NGOs to implement a seven-year Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSa) helping communities in South Kivu address food insecurity and malnutrition through improved agricultural production, increased access to nutritious food, and effective local governance.

During the fiscal year, the activity promoted a more stable and inclusive socioeconomic environment, increased household incomes, and improved nutrition for more than 90,000 participants in South Kivu's Kabare and Kalehe territories. Notably, improved access to agricultural inputs, markets, and sources of finance helped participating farmers to purchase materials required to bolster their productivity and profitability between January and March 2022. Agricultural production—especially of nutritious, lower-risk crops—also improved during FY 2022, with bean and cassava yields among participating farmers increasing by 13 and 4 percent, respectively, compared to 2021. Community-based livestock educators expanded access to nutritious food and income-generating activities by holding training sessions on rabbit-breeding techniques for participants. The activity's rabbit-distribution process benefitted nearly 4,200 households between January and March 2022. Furthermore, to raise awareness about the benefits of family planning, the RFSa referred more than 2,600 couples to health facilities to access contraceptives from January to March 2022, compared to approximately 1,950 between October and December 2021. All referred couples reported adopting at least one of the family planning methods promoted by the project.

With the support of USAID/BHA, CRS headed a consortium of NGOs focused on improving food security and reducing chronic malnutrition in children ages five years and younger across three health zones in Kasai Oriental. Despite significant challenges—such as conflict, rising inflation, and severe weather conditions—during FY 2022, the multi-year RFSa assisted approximately 100,000 individuals with agriculture, maternal and child health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support, among other types of assistance. The activity also improved collaboration and communication between government officials and local community structures through the creation of village development plans.

Notably, the activity improved households' ability to grow nutritious foods, such as carrots and okra. By the end of FY 2022, nearly 74 percent of households produced at least two types of nutritious foods from household gardens. To bolster youth involvement in community development, the RFSa also provided training and support to nearly 150 new youth associations on topics such as nutrition, governance, and WASH. Additionally, nearly 114,000 people gained improved access to water through more than 70 water points constructed with CRS support in FY 2022.

### Boosting Household Income and Improving Food and Nutrition Security in Uganda

USAID/BHA supports two long-term, multi-sector RFSAs in Karamoja to address chronic food needs. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA continued funding a five-year CRS activity that prioritized strengthening resilience to shocks, enhancing livelihoods, and improving food and nutrition security in Karamoja's Abim, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit, and Napak districts. The RFSa reached more than 272,000 participants—including more than 117,000 youth between 15 and 26 years of age—during FY 2022.

Despite socioeconomic setbacks in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and a volatile security environment, CRS staff closely coordinated with local government officials to minimize disruptions to the NGO's RFSA. Specifically, community-based monitoring groups developed under the activity identified and actively worked with local officials to resolve issues affecting public service delivery, particularly in educational and health facilities. As a result, 88 percent of community members reported improved social service delivery in FY 2022, compared to 66 percent during the previous fiscal year. Educational services saw the greatest increase, with 48 percent of community members reporting improved educational facilities—such as school renovations—in FY 2022 compared to 6 percent in FY 2021. Water facilities also improved, with 68 percent of community members reporting access to clean water in FY 2022 compared to 55 percent in FY 2021.

With USAID/BHA support, Mercy Corps continued the implementation of a five-year RFSA in Karamoja's Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido, and Moroto districts focused on strengthening households' ability to sustain food and nutrition security. During FY 2022, the RFSA carried out a wide range of activities to expand livelihood and income support, improve food security and nutrition outcomes, promote inclusive and effective governance, and reduce waterborne disease transmission risks. While the effects of climate change, conflict, COVID-19, and inflation negatively affected the activity's operating context during FY 2022, nearly 269,000 participants still reported improved food security and livelihood opportunities, among other benefits, as a result of Mercy Corps activities, such as agriculture-based financing and expanded access to financial services for men, women, and youth. Notably, the percentage of female participants with adequate dietary diversity increased from approximately 16 to 30 percent, while the percentage of male and female participants who earned cash increased from 52 to nearly 79 percent over the program's five-year period.

AVSI, with USAID/BHA assistance, continued to implement its Graduating to Resilience RFSA in Kamwenge during FY 2022. The seven-year activity aims to improve participant households' ability to sustainably meet basic needs and manage shocks through a range of capacity-building initiatives, including coaching sessions focused on business management and financial literacy and nutrition education and screening. An analysis of the first of two cohorts of participants who successfully completed the RFSA in FY 2021 showed that livelihood interventions significantly increased the annual income and per capita consumption of participating households by 45 and 25 percent, respectively.

#### USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA IN FY 2022<sup>1</sup>

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
<b>Standalone ER4</b>			
DRC	RFSA	CRS	\$5,290,616
	RFSA	Mercy Corps	\$7,562,271
Uganda	RFSA	AVSI	\$4,243,168
	RFSA	CRS	\$8,607,985
	RFSA	Mercy Corps	\$9,787,260
<b>TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING</b>			<b>\$35,491,300</b>
<b>Integrated ER4 With Response<sup>2</sup></b>			

Uganda	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications	SCF	\$4,998,458
<b>TOTAL INTEGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$4,998,458</b>
<b>TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$40,489,758</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, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Integrated ER4 With Response refers to programming that formally 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://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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://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)