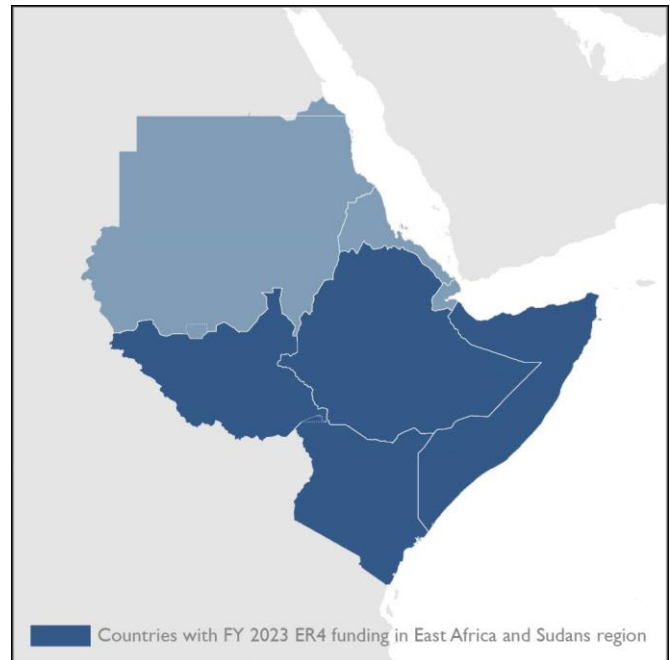


Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – East Africa and Sudans

REGIONAL SUMMARY

- The East Africa and Sudans region faces compounding effects of conflict and climatic shocks which generate displacement, food insecurity, and severe humanitarian needs. In FY 2023, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided nearly \$199 million to partners conducting standalone early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities, as well as ER4 activities integrated with an active humanitarian response, in four countries across the region. USAID/BHA supported efforts to bolster household capacity to respond to sudden- and slow-onset crises, improve response activities, and build resilience.
- In Ethiopia, USAID/BHA funded programs supporting the Government of Ethiopia (GoE)-led Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which aims to reduce chronic poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition.
- In Kenya, USAID/BHA supported Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Mercy Corps and their consortia partners to continue a five-year program to sustainably address long-standing nutritional vulnerabilities and enable at-risk populations to better prepare for shocks in Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs).
- In Somalia, a USAID/BHA partner provided agriculture support, cash-based assistance, and vocational trainings to bolster the livelihoods of vulnerable internally displaced populations and host communities.
- In South Sudan, USAID/BHA supported three consortia led by CRS, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and World Vision to continue implementing multi-year, multi-sector programs designed to accelerate recovery, build resilience to future shocks, and meet immediate humanitarian needs, including by enhancing livelihood opportunities, food, nutrition, and access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.



USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for East Africa and Sudans in FY 2023

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia	\$151,766,786
Integrated ER4	Kenya, South Sudan	\$47,144,284
FY 2023 ER4 Total		\$198,911,070

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Increasing the Impact of the PSNP in Ethiopia

During FY 2023, USAID/BHA continued to partner with three consortia led by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) CRS, Food for the Hungry (FH), and World Vision to complement the GoE's PSNP, which seeks to address the basic food needs and bolster the self-sufficiency of Ethiopians experiencing chronic and acute food insecurity. In addition to providing cash-based and in-kind food assistance to at-risk populations, USAID/BHA partners advanced efforts to improve child and maternal nutrition, expand access to livelihoods, and increase resilience to climatic shocks.

In Ethiopia's Oromia Region, CRS and partners reached more than 200,000 PSNP participants with in-kind food assistance, organized 28,900 people in lending and groups for businesses and livelihoods expansion, and assisted with access to \$1.4 million in microfinance loans. CRS provided egg-laying hens and improved seeds to nearly 12,000 households and facilitated cooking demonstration sessions for approximately 7,200 participants to enhance understanding of preparing and consuming nutrient-rich, diversified food at home. Amid the impacts of drought and ongoing water scarcity, the consortium completed ten water supply projects during the year, increasing access to safe water for more than 17,000 people in Oromia. To expand access to nutritious foods, the consortium promoted climate smart agricultural practices and technologies by providing mentoring, trainings, and technical support that reached approximately 25,000 farmers.

In Ethiopia's Amhara Region, the FH-led consortium reached more than 286,000 people across 11 *woredas*, or districts, with USAID/BHA-supported activities. Through the Poverty Reduced Sustainably in an Environment of Resilient and Vibrant Economy (PReSERVE) project, the consortium aimed to bolster livelihoods, increase food availability, and improve PSNP services. PReSERVE reached approximately 282,000 people with food security programs—including in-kind food assistance to more than 259,000 individuals—to improve their food security and provided health and nutrition interventions to approximately 19,700 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). FH and partners also trained more than 23,000 farmers on topics such as conservation techniques and production strategies and improved access to safe drinking water for nearly 7,000 households. Additionally, more than 26,000 participants of the consortium's workforce development program engaged in either new or better employment, approximately 14,600 people received \$300 in grants and enhanced their existing livelihoods, and 9,000 individuals accessed \$2.2 million in microfinance loans. Meanwhile, the consortium also delivered drought-resistant seeds to approximately 6,200 households to assist them in adapting to climate change and established a Community Food Contingency Reserve, a community-based platform whereby residents respond to small and localized shocks without waiting for external support, in 44 communities.

In addition, USAID/BHA supported World Vision and its partners in providing agricultural livelihood guidance, nutrition support, and critical WASH services to more than 615,000 people across Amhara and Oromia during FY 2023. Nearly 501,000 PSNP participants received in-kind food assistance; approximately 37,000 children ages five years and younger received nutrition-specific interventions; and an estimated 28,000 participants accessed safe drinking water through nine newly constructed water supply schemes. World Vision identified and organized nearly 37,000 beneficiaries into approximately 1,800 Village Economic and Social Associations to increase absorptive capacities through savings and social support, as well as facilitated more than \$400,000 in loans disbursed to members and mobilized approximately \$297,000 in savings. The activity supported farmers and firms, generating \$2 million in an annual sales revenue, as well as nearly 10,000 youth who participated in a workforce development program that facilitated engagement in either new or better employment. The NGO

also supported more than 36,000 smallholder farmers to apply improved land management practices and efficient use of water and natural resources to sustainably improve their agricultural production and productivity.

Sustainably Addressing Acute Malnutrition Across Kenya

USAID/BHA provided nearly \$39 million in FY 2023 funding to CRS- and Mercy Corps-led consortia for USAID Nawiri, an ongoing eight-year project to identify and address long-standing nutrition vulnerabilities, while helping populations in the ASAL regions of Kenya better prepare for and cope with recurrent disasters. USAID/BHA partners CRS and Mercy Corps are working to sustainably reduce persistent acute malnutrition in vulnerable populations through an integrated, multi-sector approach in collaboration with communities in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana counties; county governments; the private sector; and other partners. During FY 2023, amid the continuous challenges of a historic drought, the CRS- and Mercy Corps-led consortia reached more than 397,000 beneficiaries with multi-sector support, which included the development of multi-use water infrastructure to provide water for crop production and domestic and livestock consumption, food assistance and livelihoods support, and the strengthening of community health systems. The partners engaged with county governments and ensured increased government budgetary allocation for nutrition, including \$44 million in one target county for the first time. The partners continued utilizing the community integrated assessments and action planning (CIAAP) process, which was designed to foster community-led development by promoting collective decision-making and identifying priority activities to address essential community needs. The expansion and the impact of CIAAP serve as a testament to the project's commitment to enhancing the sustainable well-being of pastoralist communities. Meanwhile, the consortia utilized the Adapted Nutrition Graduation Model, which aims to raise incomes amongst acutely vulnerable populations and foster behavior change for improved childcare practices to ensure children are healthy and well-fed all year round.

Supporting Resilience Among Vulnerable Communities in Somalia

During FY 2023, a USAID/BHA partner provided integrated cash, financial management, and livelihood assistance to approximately 5,000 host community and internally displaced households to strengthen resilience to recurrent shocks. The multi-sector program targeted populations in Bay Region's Baidoa District, where conflict and drought have generated high levels of displacement and food insecurity. The USAID/BHA partner provided cash-based assistance to community members in Baidoa to purchase food and invest in livelihoods, including agricultural supplies and livestock. With USAID/BHA support, the partner strengthened households' capacity to cope with future shocks and maintain access to income by providing vocational courses for individuals entering the workforce, as well as trainings for individuals to improve their performance in the market, with topics such as more efficient agricultural practices and business development and financial skills.

Strengthening Agricultural Production and Food Resilience Amid Shocks in South Sudan

In FY 2023, USAID/BHA provided more than \$12 million to World Vision to continue implementing Accelerating Recovery and Resilience in South Sudan, a three-year, multi-sector project that aims to enhance community resilience to recurrent shocks in Upper Nile State by providing complementary services that leverage existing emergency response activities. The project prioritizes the most vulnerable, hard-to-reach households in Upper Nile's Baiet, Melut, Nasir, Renk, and Ulang counties, where needs are particularly high due to conflict and displacement, which have eroded the ability of households to recover from shocks. To strengthen the capacity of farmers and improve household food security, World Vision distributed farm tools and vegetable seeds to 630 farmers in Nasir and Ulang who received training on vegetable gardening techniques. World Vision also provided approximately 200 farmers with 600 goats in Baiet, Melut, Nasir, and Ulang. Additionally, the NGO constructed an elevated solar-powered water system in Ulang town, supplying an estimated 4,200 people with safe drinking water, and constructed 33 blocks of semi-permanent latrines across Melut, Nasir, and Ulang

to improve hygiene and sanitation in targeted communities. Furthermore, World Vision trained 16 youth and women-led income generating activity groups (IGA)—attended by nearly 200 individuals—on small business management skills, diversified livelihoods, and record-keeping in Melut. Following the trainings, the NGO provided four IGAs with various tools and start-up kits to support their livelihoods, aiming to strengthen their capacity to cope with future shocks and maintain access to income.

During FY 2023, USAID/BHA provided more than \$19 million to CRS to support Pathways to Resilience, a three-year project working to improve food and nutrition security in response to climate and conflict shocks that adversely affect livelihood in South Sudan’s Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei states. In FY 2023, CRS supported more than 500 farmer field schools and youth commercial farmer groups, training approximately 9,500 and 3,000 people, respectively, on crop management techniques—such as insect control, land preparation, and post-harvest sorting—to build capacity, increase agricultural productivity, and improve food quality. Of this total, nearly 9,400 farmers adopted and practiced at least one improved crop management practice as a result. The NGO partner also facilitated 20 cooking demonstrations for more than 1,400 people to improve nutrition practices and enhance understanding of preparing and consuming nutrient-rich, diversified food. Additionally, CRS improved access to financial services through Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs). During FY 2023, CRS established 75 SILCs and trained more than 2,200 group members on business planning skills, financial literacy, and income generating activities to increase economic empowerment and household income. To promote improved WASH practices, CRS facilitated 29 handwashing sessions for nearly 7,000 people and established 83 new care groups for the dissemination of essential WASH promotion messages.

USAID/BHA also maintained support to the NRC’s multi-year Complementary Action for Resilience Building (CARB) project in South Sudan’s Unity and Western Bahr El Ghazal states, providing more than \$14 million in FY 2023. CARB activities focused on enhancing the capacity of communities to better prepare for and respond to shocks, restoring livelihoods and increasing food production, and strengthening nutritional practices. Notably, to enhance household access to nutritional food and income, NRC provided fishing kits consisting of fishing hooks and twines to nearly 12,000 people and reached 800 people with training on sustainable fishing practices, which contributed to reduced post-harvest losses. The NGO also conducted agriculture-related training sessions and distributed agricultural inputs, such as seeds and tools, to approximately 22,000 people to support dry season farming and wet season crop production. Through these capacity-building trainings, farmers adopted and practiced at least one improved crop management practice as a result. Additionally, the program conducted mid-upper arm circumference measurements and one-to-one child nutrition counseling services for nearly 25,000 children ages five years and younger and 11,000 PLW, to improve infant and young child feeding practices. Furthermore, in FY 2023, NRC trained nearly 2,500 people across the two states on local disaster risk reduction (DRR) and nearly 2,000 committee members and community leaders on early warning systems focused on climate change DRR, hazard identification, and disaster preparedness. Through the training provided by NRC, at-risk communities enhanced their ability to assess risks and prepare for, respond to, and recover from a wide range of disasters more effectively.

USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR EAST AFRICA AND SUDANS IN FY 2023¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Standalone ER4			
Ethiopia	Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA)	CRS	\$26,729,329
	RFSA	FH	\$31,132,726

	RFSA	World Vision	\$49,095,001
	Program Support		\$10,284
Kenya	RFSA	CRS	\$25,687,397
	RFSA	Mercy Corps	\$13,299,489
	Program Support		\$12,560
Somalia	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Implementing Partner	\$5,800,000
TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING			\$151,766,786
Integrated ER4 With Response²			
Kenya	DRRPP	U.S. Forest Service	\$350,000
South Sudan	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	CRS	\$19,706,056
	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Protection, WASH	NRC	\$14,451,438
	Agriculture, Food Assistance, HCIMA, Health, Protection, WASH	World Vision	\$12,636,790
TOTAL INTEGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$47,144,284
TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2023			\$198,911,070

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2023.

² 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.
- 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
 - 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)