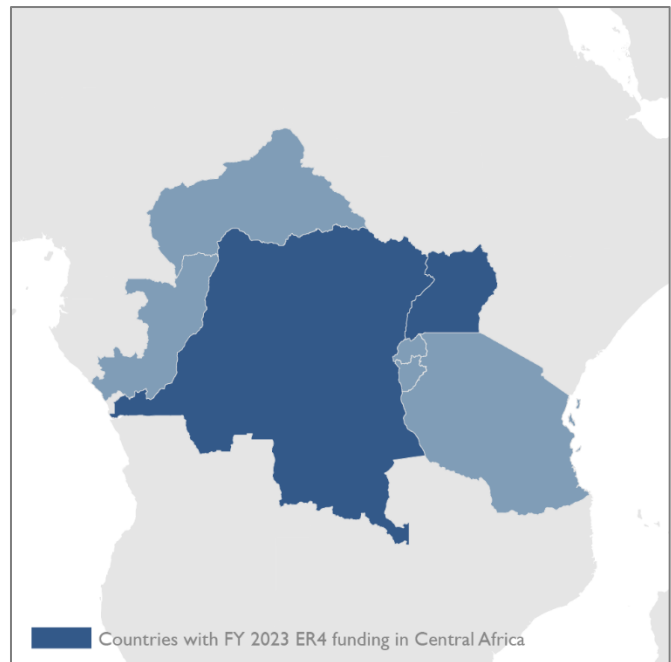


Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – Central Africa

REGIONAL SUMMARY

- Populations across Central Africa continue to face the consequences of conflict, climatic shocks, displacement, food insecurity and malnutrition, and limited access to health care, safe drinking water, and shelter. In FY 2023, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided nearly \$61 million to partner organizations conducting early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda. USAID/BHA supported Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSAs) programs that improved livelihoods and mitigated the effects of chronic food insecurity.
- USAID/BHA-supported RFSAs in the DRC improved nutrition outcomes in East Kasai and South Kivu provinces by increasing the availability of nutrient-rich food, conducting cooking demonstrations, and increasing awareness among target populations of available services. USAID/BHA also began three new RFSAs in FY 2023, which aim to bolster the economic, food, and nutrition outcomes of populations in Kasai and Central Kasai provinces.
- In Uganda, USAID/BHA supported the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) to improve food security, nutrition, and livelihood conditions for vulnerable refugees and host community households through capacity-building initiatives in Western Region’s Kamwenge District.



USAID/BHA ER4 Funding for Central Africa in FY 2023

Funding Type	Country	Total
Standalone ER4	DRC, Uganda	\$56,156,885
Integrated ER4 ¹	Uganda	\$4,447,121
FY 2023 ER4 Total		\$60,604,006

¹ Integrated ER4 refers to programming that incorporates ER4 components within an active humanitarian response.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Strengthening Nutrition Outcomes in the DRC's East Kasai and South Kivu Provinces

The *Budikadidi* and *Enyanya* RFSAs, supported by previous USAID/BHA fiscal year funding, completed their programming in the DRC in FY 2023, strengthening vulnerable populations' capacity to prevent malnutrition, improve food security, and promote economic well-being. Led by USAID/BHA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the *Budikadidi* RFSAs supported community-based agricultural production groups, increasing the availability of nutrient-rich foods in three health zones in East Kasai. The program linked small farmers to market and value chain support services; promoted biofortified crops; implemented livelihood activities; and strengthened health, natural resource management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure. Approximately 60 percent of households in the program produced at least two types of nutrient-rich food from *Budikadidi*-supported agricultural activities during FY 2023.

The *Enyanya* RFSAs, implemented by USAID/BHA partners Mercy Corps, improved economic well-being, food security, and nutrition outcomes of vulnerable households in three health zones in South Kivu, specifically targeting women and youth ages 15 to 29 years. During FY 2023, *Enyanya* reached more than 351,000 people, including through approximately 1,400 cooking demonstrations that promoted healthy, locally sourced recipes and the increased use of nutrient-rich foods. As a result of the RFSAs activities, 87 percent of the female participants of the nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities consumed a diet of minimum diversity during the year. Participants also demonstrated a better understanding of available health services, and community members and health centers were able to identify malnutrition cases more easily, enabling earlier case management. The *Enyanya* RFSAs also supported the construction and rehabilitation of nearly 40 water points in FY 2023, providing access to safe drinking water for more than 98,000 people.

In addition, USAID/BHA supported the startup of three new multi-year RFSAs in FY 2023 to continue ER4 efforts in the DRC. With an initial \$53 million, the RFSAs, led by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), CRS, and Mercy Corps, aim to sustainably improve economic situation, food security, and nutrition outcomes among vulnerable households in Kasai and Central Kasai provinces.

Increasing Resilience by Bolstering Food and Nutrition Outcomes and Livelihood Capacity in Uganda

Through more than \$3.1 million in FY 2023 funding, USAID/BHA continued to support a consortium of implementing partners led by AVSI to implement the Graduating to Resilience RFSAs in Kamwenge. The seven-year program, which began in October 2017 and is scheduled to conclude in September 2024, aims to improve participant households' ability to sustainably meet basic needs, improve food security outcomes, and manage shocks through both capacity-building initiatives—including coaching sessions focused on business management and financial literacy—and nutrition education and screening. More than 6,500 households, including 3,400 host community and 3,100 refugee households, participated in the program during the fiscal year.

During FY 2023, consortium staff implementing the Graduating to Resilience program continued to mentor 70 coaches, who are community members trained to assume case management responsibilities to support others in their community and their household. Coaches received training on several topics throughout the fiscal year, including on family case management, nutrition and food preparation, the mid-upper arm circumference nutrition screening method, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and referral processes for acute malnutrition. In addition, the RFSAs provided cash transfers to participants, mainly through mobile money services, in both small amounts to bolster immediate food consumption and one-time large amounts to support asset and livelihood building. The RFSAs program also continued to support nearly 290 village saving and loan associations, which

saved nearly \$568,000 between January and March, a 23 percent increase compared to the savings from September to December 2022. Furthermore, the RFSA placed nearly 170 youth participants, including approximately 80 host community members and more than 85 refugees, in private sector apprenticeships focused on skills training. The program also continued financial literacy training to participants, with nearly 6,800 participants receiving training on topics such as bank services, budgeting, debt management, financial negotiation, insurance, and savings.

USAID/BHA ER4 ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA IN FY 2023¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Standalone ER4			
DRC	RFSA	ADRA	\$21,398,100
	RFSA	CRS	\$17,959,904
	RFSA	Mercy Corps	\$13,659,780
Uganda	RFSA	AVSI	\$3,139,101
TOTAL STANDALONE ER4 FUNDING			\$56,156,885
Integrated ER4 With Response			
Uganda	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Save the Children Federation (SCF)	\$4,447,121
TOTAL INTEGRATED ER4 WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$4,447,121
TOTAL ER4 FUNDING IN FY 2023			\$60,604,006

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.

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)