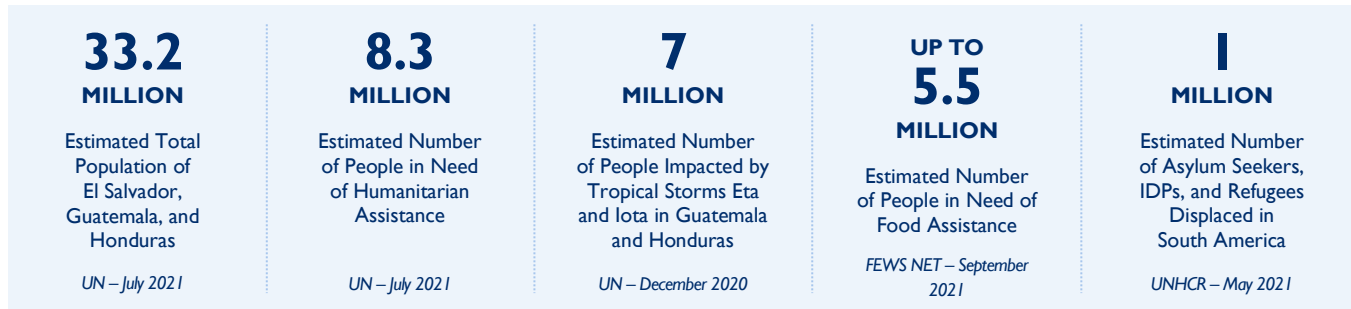




El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras – Regional Response

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Vulnerable populations in areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity due to the lean season, rising food prices, and the economic impacts of COVID-19.
- USAID/BHA staff traveled to Honduras in late August and early September to meet with agriculture and emergency food assistance program beneficiaries.
- From June to September, State/PRM provided protection support to refugees and people seeking asylum in Belize and Panama.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras Regional Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$125,387,171
	State/PRM ²	\$126,444,000
	Total³	\$251,831,171

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

³ Figures include funding for the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras regional response announced by Vice President Kamala D. Harris on April 26, 2021 and additional State/PRM funding announced by Senior Advisor to the President on Migration Amy Pope on June 10, 2021.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

FEWS NET Reports Ongoing Food Insecurity in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

Populations in the highlands of southern Guatemala, the Dry Corridor and hurricane-affected areas in Guatemala and Honduras, and coffee-producing areas in western El Salvador continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).⁴ With the peak of the lean season from August to September, reduced access to food has been compounded by rising prices for staple food products and low labor demand due to the lingering economic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. While an anticipated increase in labor demand during harvests in October through December will likely reduce the number of people experiencing food insecurity through January 2022, the improvements will not be sufficient for vulnerable households to avoid negative coping strategies. As such, Crisis outcomes will likely persist in parts of western El Salvador, particularly Ahuachapán and Santa Ana departments; central Guatemala, including hurricane-affected Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments; and southern Honduras, FEWS NET reports.

Additionally, FEWS NET predicts below-average October harvests among smallholder farmers in rainfall-deficient areas of Honduras, while average harvests are expected in El Salvador and Guatemala. Although both bean crops and maize are currently developing well, forecasts indicate some periods of above-average rainfall in the November–December season, which may result in localized losses of bean, as this crop is particularly sensitive to moisture and fungal diseases. Moreover, red bean prices continue to rise in Guatemala due to seasonal price increases and the high cost of agricultural inputs and transportation; prices are stable in El Salvador and Honduras. Gas prices have also remained higher than the five-year average since May, according to FEWS NET. Overall, FEWS NET estimates that in the absence of humanitarian assistance, as many as 2.5 million people in Guatemala, up to 2.5 million people in Honduras, and up to 500,000 people in El Salvador are expected to experience Crisis levels of acute food insecurity.

USAID/BHA Meets with Beneficiaries of Agriculture, Food Activities in Honduras

From August 31 to September 2, USAID/BHA staff traveled to Honduras to meet with beneficiaries of USAID/BHA-funded programs. In Yoro Department’s Morazán municipality, staff spoke with GOAL program participants to discuss ongoing agriculture assistance activities. With USAID/BHA funding, GOAL is providing agricultural training, fertilizer, and seeds, allowing beneficiaries to increase crop yields. USAID/BHA staff also met with community members in Cortés Department’s La Lima municipality, where USAID/BHA is supporting the UN World Food Program (WFP) to reach 1,800 households with emergency food assistance. Additionally, USAID/BHA observed agricultural activities implemented by partner World Vision in Yoro municipality, holding two focus group discussions with program participants. Through the USAID/BHA-funded program, World Vision has delivered fertilizers and established agricultural field schools to train participants in the use of improved maize varieties and soil and integrated pest management techniques, including production of organic fertilizers and natural insecticides and post-harvest handling.

State/PRM Partner Support Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in Central America

In July, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Belize (GoB) Department of Youth Services to allow child asylum-seekers to access GoB-provided youth services, including protection services against gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, trafficking, and other forms of abuse. Meanwhile, in Panama, UNHCR facilitated a training session on protection principles for stateless persons to nearly 40 instructors in August, who will train staff members of government departments, including the National Migration Service. UNHCR also provided psychosocial and mental health services to more than 240 asylum-seekers in Panama in June.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

Additionally, from January to August, UNHCR and its implementing partners provided basic medical care, food, hygiene kits, legal information and counseling, psychological first aid, and shelter assistance, as well as access to telephone calls and Wi-Fi, to nearly 31,300 vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers in Guatemala. To date in 2021, UNHCR has also provided individual assistance to an estimated 5,800 persons of concern in Honduras and 11,000 people have benefitted through community-based interventions in the country.

KEY FIGURES



81,572

People received USG emergency food assistance in August



4,800

People supported with USG-funded protection activities in August

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras that has been exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, recurrent droughts, and damage from multiple tropical storms, USAID/BHA supports the delivery of cash assistance for food and food vouchers to reduce food consumption gaps and prevent and address malnutrition among food-insecure households during the lean season. USAID/BHA is building upon years of strategic emergency food assistance to address increased needs within the three countries in a manner that improves food consumption patterns and increases dietary diversity, while building resilience to shocks for vulnerable communities that rely heavily on agricultural production.

PROTECTION

With State/PRM support, UNHCR is working with the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to implement the governments' respective commitments under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework—known in Spanish as MIRPS—to address forced displacement. State/PRM efforts include building government capacities to conduct protection screenings, receive and process asylum claims, and respond to protection concerns among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other at-risk communities. In addition, State/PRM provides funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the three countries to support shelter, livelihoods, and other assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and vulnerable migrants, including children; survivors of GBV; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex individuals; and people with disabilities. UNHCR also leads the Protection Clusters—the coordinating bodies for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders—in countries throughout the region, providing humanitarian leadership to partner organizations on coordinated responses to forced displacement within each country.

With State/PRM funding, UNHCR is working with the Government of El Salvador to train staff to identify persons in need and make referrals for services provided by the Protection Cluster. State/PRM also supports UNICEF efforts throughout the region to strengthen child welfare services

for displaced and unaccompanied migrant children, while State/PRM partner ICRC is responding to protection needs in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and the region, including restoration of family links—such as support related to missing persons—and support to individuals in situations of detention.

USAID/BHA’s protection partners in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras provide psychosocial support, learning and recreational opportunities, and case management and referral services for children and women at high risk of exploitation, GBV, and other forms of abuse. At present, USAID/BHA partners are assisting populations in Honduras who have become increasingly vulnerable to GBV and child protection concerns due to displacement and other impacts, such as those generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Eta and Iota. Moreover, USAID/BHA partners are scaling up programming to address additional protection needs in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.



39,289

People directly benefitted from improved agricultural production through USG assistance in August

AGRICULTURE

USAID/BHA partners are supporting smallholder farmers and other agriculture-dependent households in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. With USAID/BHA support, humanitarian partners are providing critical agricultural assistance to farmers to ensure appropriate and timely inputs for planting and growing seasons to mitigate worsening food insecurity in the region. Partners are working with rural households through the provision of farming tools, fertilizer, livestock feed, poultry, seeds, and access to veterinary services.

USAID/BHA partners aim to complement these agricultural inputs by providing training on climate-smart farming practices such as drip irrigation, diversification of crops, and soil management to increase crop production and to build resilience to future climate shocks. In Honduras, households also receive training on how to increase chicken egg production as a source of protein and additional income. USAID/BHA-funded agricultural programming strengthens livelihood opportunities and market access for rural households and helps to improve nutritional outcomes through increased availability of nutritious local foods.



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Communities in Honduras’ Dry Corridor supported with USG-funded ERMS activities

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS

USAID/BHA partners are implementing economic recovery and market systems (ERMS) interventions to restore livelihoods, increase financial resilience, and mitigate the impact of future shocks in vulnerable households. Program activities include establishing community savings and loans groups and restarting and expanding income-generating activities. In some communities, USAID/BHA partners are also holding financial literacy courses to promote savings and increased awareness of and access to financial services.



\$3.2 Million

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlement activities in FY 2021

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA supports implementing partners to help storm-affected households repair and rehabilitate damaged structures. Activities include distributing shelter materials to vulnerable individuals to support repairs, as well as offering temporary relocations to safe shelters if needed. Moreover, USAID/BHA partners are providing technical assistance and materials to improve emergency shelters and build transitional shelters, while improving urban settlements to mitigate communities' vulnerability to floods, landslides, and seismic activity.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Consecutive years of drought, damage caused by tropical storms Eta and Iota, and the impact of COVID-19 have adversely affected thousands of subsistence farmers and exacerbated food insecurity in rural and urban communities in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, poor health infrastructure, high population density, and insufficient availability of water and sanitation services have challenged efforts to control spread of the disease, while the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic exacerbated existing health, food, nutrition, and protection needs, increasing the total population requiring humanitarian assistance across El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- USAID/BHA was required to freeze its humanitarian assistance programming in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras between March 2019 and May 2020. During the period of the freeze, food insecurity increased dramatically across the three countries. In June 2020, USAID/BHA began to re-engage with its partners in the region and resumed support for food assistance programming to vulnerable populations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season was the most active season ever recorded, with 30 named storms and 13 hurricanes, including six major hurricanes, according to the UN. In particular, Tropical Storm Amanda in El Salvador in May 2020 and tropical storms Eta and Iota in Guatemala and Honduras in November 2020 resulted in widespread destruction and large numbers of people in need, further exacerbating vulnerabilities within the region. USAID/BHA's disaster response experts in San José, Costa Rica, and Washington, D.C., are monitoring the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season in coordination with local partners and U.S. mission disaster relief officers in the region.
- On February 26, 2021, U.S. Ambassador William W. Popp issued a disaster declaration for Guatemala; on March 8, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Colleen A. Hoey issued a disaster declaration for Honduras; and on March 15, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Brendan O'Brien issued a disaster declaration in El Salvador. All three disaster declarations were issued for FY 2021 in response to severe food insecurity resulting from the increased displacement due to violence, the compounding impact of natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and recurrent drought.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
EL SALVADOR			

USAID/BHA			
Americares	Health; Protection; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	San Miguel, Usulután	\$1,000,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)	Ahuachapan, La Unión, Morazan, Sonsonate	\$2,409,500
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	MPCA, Protection	San Miguel, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Usulután	\$592,031
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, MPCA, Protection	La Libertad, La Paz, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Usulután	\$2,307,607
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	Health	Ahuachapán, La Paz, La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel, Usulután	\$800,000
WFP	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Ahuachapan, La Unión, Morazan, San Miguel, Usulután	\$7,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, WASH	Ahuachapan, Morazan, San Miguel, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Usulután	\$2,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR			\$16,109,138
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$7,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,570,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EL SALVADOR			\$11,270,000
GUATEMALA			
USAID/BHA			
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Huehuetenango	\$3,000,000
CARE	ERMS, Protection	Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, San Marcos	\$4,498,659
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, Nutrition, MPCA, WASH	Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula	\$13,500,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	ERMS, MPCA, Nutrition	Izabal	\$1,075,650
IRC	MPCA, Protection	Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango	\$499,989
Project Concern International (PCI)	Agriculture, ERMS, Health, MPCA, WASH	Huehuetenango	\$11,400,000
Plan USA	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, WASH	Alta Verapaz	\$2,500,000
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Quiché	\$6,578,865
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	El Progreso, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Retalhuleu, Santa Rosa, Sololá, Zacapa	\$5,500,000
World Vision	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Protection, WASH	Alta Verapaz, Totonicapán	\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN GUATEMALA			\$51,553,163
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$14,300,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,395,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN GUATEMALA			\$18,695,000

HONDURAS			
USAID/BHA			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Choluteca, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazán, Valle	\$9,000,000
CARE	MPCA, Protection	Cortés, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$1,736,000
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cortés, Francisco Morazán, La Paz, Lempira, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$7,085,670
Global Communities	Agriculture; ERMS; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Choluteca, Copan, Cortés, El Paraiso, Ocotepeque, Santa Bárbara, Valle	\$4,500,000
GOAL	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Atlántida, Colon, Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Gracias a Dios, Intibucá, Lempira, Olancho, Yoro	\$6,585,670
IRC	MPCA, Protection	Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Santa Bárbara	\$399,980
NRC	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Protection	Copán, Francisco Morazán, Santa Bárbara	\$2,000,000
PAHO	Health	Choluteca, Gracias a Dios, Santa Bárbara	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Atlántida, Cortés, Yoro	\$2,000,000
WFP	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Atlántida, Colon, Cortés, Olancho, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$15,500,000
World Vision	Agriculture, ERMS, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Copán, Cortés, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$2,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN HONDURAS			\$52,807,320
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$9,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,636,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN HONDURAS			\$13,336,000
BELIZE			
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Protection	Countrywide	\$687,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BELIZE			\$687,000
COSTA RICA			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	ERMS, MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$7,900,000
UNICEF	Education, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,120,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN COSTA RICA			\$9,020,000
MEXICO			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Education, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$38,400,000
UNICEF	Education, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,250,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN MEXICO			\$53,650,000

PANAMA			
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,446,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN PANAMA			\$1,446,000
REGIONAL			
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Education, Health, Protection	Regional	\$10,200,000
IOM	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Regional	\$1,500,000
UNHCR	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Regional	\$6,100,000
UNICEF	DRRPP, HCIMA	Regional	\$540,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN REGION			\$18,340,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$120,469,621
TOTAL STATE/PRM EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹			\$126,444,000
TOTAL USG EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$246,913,621

¹ State/PRM funding figures reflect a portion—totaling \$69,344,000—of the more than \$104 million announced by Vice President Harris on April 26, 2021; figures do not include announced \$25 million from prior fiscal years reallocated to address new priorities and approximately \$10.5 million in funding under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in the Western Hemisphere that is not included as part of State/PRM's overseas assistance totals. Additionally, State/PRM funding includes \$57,100,000 announced by Senior Advisor to the President on Migration Amy Pope on June 10, 2021. Included in the overall total is \$10.8 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act in response to COVID-19.

ER4 FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021²

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
El Salvador			
CRS	DRRPP	La Unión, San Miguel, San Vicente, Usulután	\$380,000
Miyamoto International	DRRPP	San Salvador	\$150,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR			\$530,000
Guatemala			
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	Baja Verapaz, Chiquimula	\$905,802
	DRRPP, Shelter and Settlements	Guatemala Department	\$1,000,000
PCI	DRRPP	Guatemala Department, Huehuetenango, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, Sololá, Totonicapán	\$371,748
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR GUATEMALA			\$2,277,550
Honduras			
CRS	Agriculture, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks	Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira	\$1,000,000
	DRRPP, Shelter and Settlements	Francisco Morazán	\$650,000
GOAL	DRRPP, ERMS, Natural Hazards and Technological Risks, Shelter and Settlements	Cortés, Yoro	\$460,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR HONDURAS			\$2,110,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA ER4 FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$4,917,550

² Activities include support of early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs to address chronic vulnerabilities, reduce the overall impact of recurrent shocks and stresses, and build resilience to future shocks.

TOTAL USAID/BHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$125,387,171
TOTAL STATE/PRM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$126,444,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021³	\$251,831,171

³ Reflects portion of funding announced, committed or obligated as of September 23, 2021.

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)