

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Development & Disaster Risk Reduction

Southern Africa

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020



Many countries across Southern Africa face frequent food insecurity, recurrent drought, and sudden-onset disasters, such as cyclones and floods. In FY 2020, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported programs to address the underlying drivers of chronic food insecurity; improve emergency preparedness and response capacity at local, national, and regional levels; and empower communities to build assets and livelihoods.

- In FY 2020, USAID/BHA development and disaster risk reduction (DRR) partners in Southern Africa assisted communities with agriculture, capacity-building, health, livelihoods, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). These activities build on the lessons learned and best practices of previous USAID development activities in the region, which have improved nutrition, household income, and resilience to shocks.
- Also in FY 2020, USAID/BHA partners in Southern Africa concluded two multi-year development food security activities (DFSAs) in Zimbabwe and launched two new DFSAs in Zimbabwe, which include activities scheduled to be implemented through FY 2025.
- With approximately \$1.7 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA supported non-governmental organization (NGO) CARE to provide logistics, shelter and settlements, and WASH support across Southern Africa to bolster response capacity and resilience.
- USAID/BHA development activities integrated cross-cutting efforts to facilitate and expand women and youth roles in community engagement and decision-making.

USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT & DRR FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA¹ IN FY 2020

Development	\$61,691,639
Integrated DRR	\$1,666,667

Total: \$63,358,306

In Southern Africa in FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided development and DRR support in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

¹ These numbers reflect a combination of DFSAs funded through USAID’s Office of Food for Peace and integrated DRR and response programs funded through USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Improving Health and Nutrition in Madagascar

In FY 2020, USAID/BHA began partnering with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to implement activities in Southern Madagascar, both of which will last until FY 2024. ADRA activities aim to support vulnerable populations in Atsimo-Atsinanana and Vatovavy-Fitovinany regions, while the CRS activities address populations in need in Androy and Atsimo-Andrefana regions. Both ADRA and CRS aim to sustainably improve the health and nutrition of women, adolescent girls, and children younger than five years of age; help households increase income and asset production while building savings; and enhance community resilience to natural disasters and climate-related shocks and stresses.

BHA's development activities in Madagascar build on the lessons learned and best practices of previous USAID programs in other southern Madagascar communities that have helped improve nutrition conditions, strengthen community resilience to shocks, and bolster agricultural livelihoods. For example, from 2015 to 2019, stunting prevalence—a key indicator of child undernutrition—declined from 53.6 percent to 39.4 percent among households benefiting from USAID development activities. During the same period, another USAID development partner contributed to an estimated 60 percent increase in income for 135,000 beneficiary households.

While the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic presented unique challenges to partner activities during FY 2020, ADRA and CRS were able to respond to evolving needs by devising approaches to incorporate COVID-19 mitigation protocols and conducting field visits to assess farmers' needs and challenges for the 2020/2021 agricultural season. The USAID/BHA partners also worked to cultivate strategic partnerships for private sector engagement, including linking farmers to agricultural cooperatives, chocolate producers, and local impact investment firms.

Supporting Livelihoods, Nutrition, Resilience in Malawi

USAID/BHA partnered with CARE in FY 2020 in Southern Malawi's Mangochi and Zomba districts. CARE aims to increase diversified, equitable, and sustainable incomes for vulnerable households; improve the nutritional status of children younger than five years of age, adolescent girls, and women; and develop institutional and local capacities to reduce risk and increase resilience among chronically vulnerable households in alignment with the Government of Malawi's National Resilience Strategy.

In Malawi, previous USAID development activities contributed to increased crop production and income amongst participant households, reduced vulnerability to floods, and improved nutrition conditions. While extensive flooding in 2019 devastated much of southern Malawi, USAID partners found that the communities aided with USAID development assistance were less affected by flooding and able to recover quickly compared to other areas. These results were partly due to riverbank stabilization, river dredging, disaster risk management, early warning system, and soil and water conservation activities.



CARE staff distribute handwashing materials in Mangochi District. Photo Courtesy of CARE.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Malawi, CARE adapted WASH assistance and awareness activities to focus on COVID-19 prevention and supported district-level COVID-19 response efforts. CARE additionally provided water storage and handwashing materials to health facilities, markets, schools, and other gathering places while conducting practical demonstrations and awareness-raising sessions for more than 17,000 Malawians.

Assisting Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has been affected by various recurrent shocks in recent years, including drought, invasive crop pests, disease outbreaks, and hyperinflation. Between FY 2013 and FY 2020, USAID/BHA supported two partners to carry out activities in Zimbabwe—one in Matabeleland North and South provinces through Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) and another in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces through World Vision. The partners focused on working within communities to expand household access to food, increase resilience to shocks, and improve nutrition and health among mothers and children younger than five years of age. USAID/BHA provided more than \$141 million in funding since FY 2013 to support the two activities, including \$474,006 in FY 2020 funding to World Vision.

USAID/BHA-supported care group and nutrition activities—such as the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, enriching children’s porridge with nutritious, locally available foods, and proper handwashing—contributed to a reduction in stunting. For example, stunting rates decreased from 31.7 percent in FY 2013 to 24.5 percent in FY 2020 for people participating in the CNFA activities, and from 28.1 percent in FY 2013 to 19.7 percent in FY 2020 for beneficiaries reached through the World Vision activities.

The partners also improved smallholder farmers’ access to funding and markets, strengthened supply chains, and increased uptake of technology and training of peers. Over the duration of the World Vision activities, the total number of farmers applying improved technologies and management practices—including conservative agriculture, pest and disease management, irrigation water management, and post-harvest handling and storage—grew from more than 2,000 farmers utilizing nearly 2,100 acres to an estimated 75,500 farmers utilizing more than 208,500 acres of land by FY 2020.

In FY 2020, USAID also provided approximately \$17.5 million to begin two new activities through CARE and CNFA in Matabeleland North, Manicaland, and Masvingo provinces. Through these new multi-year activities, CARE and CNFA aim to improve household income through village savings and lending associations and climate-smart agricultural practices; strengthen community nutrition and WASH practices; and increase resilience through community leadership, disaster preparedness, and capacity-building. CNFA is also applying a unique watershed management approach in Matabeleland North that engages communities in improving soil, water, and plant resources and improving community ownership, use, and governance of watershed resources.

Regional

USAID/BHA also partnered with CARE to implement a rapid response fund (RRF) for acute humanitarian needs resulting from sudden-onset flooding and cyclones. The RRF strategy is to provide an integrated, immediate response to the logistics, shelter, and WASH needs of vulnerable communities in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, many of which were impacted heavily by tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth in 2019. The RRF functions as a regional platform to coordinate the humanitarian response to natural disasters, enabling CARE to rapidly engage logistics systems to deliver prompt, safe, and cost-effective relief assistance to disaster-affected populations. CARE’s shelter activities will focus on ensuring the dignified protection of people against the elements and other risks during the emergency, recovery, and stabilization phases. Additionally, CARE aims to improve immediate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities while promoting improved hygiene practices and behaviors to prevent and mitigate the occurrence of water-borne diseases and illnesses.

USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT AND DRR ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA IN FY 2020¹

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Development			
Madagascar	Agriculture, Civil Society, Disaster Readiness, Environment, Health, Nutrition, WASH	ADRA	\$10,297,020
	Agriculture, Civil Society, Disaster Readiness, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition	CRS	\$13,183,411
Malawi	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction, Health, Nutrition, WASH	CARE	\$20,200,000
Zimbabwe	Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation, Civil Society, Environment, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, Private Sector Productivity, WASH	CARE	\$8,484,134
	Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation, Civil Society, Environment, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, Private Sector Productivity, WASH	CNFA	\$9,053,068
	Agriculture, Capacity-Building, Nutrition	World Vision	\$474,006
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING			\$61,691,639
Integrated DRR With Response			
Regional	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	CARE	\$555,556
	Shelter and Settlements	CARE	\$555,556
	WASH	CARE	\$555,555
TOTAL INTEGRATED DRR WITH RESPONSE FUNDING			\$1,666,667
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AND DRR FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$63,358,306

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, 2020.

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