



USAID Office of Inspector General

Information Brief

USAID's Assistance to Address Global Food Security Impacted by Russia's War Against Ukraine

Russia's war against Ukraine has impacted the global food system and contributed to worldwide increases in agricultural commodity prices. Russia and Ukraine are key food suppliers to global markets, accounting for 12 percent of food trade worldwide from 2019 to 2021. As a result, countries far beyond Ukraine's borders have experienced increased food insecurity. Through two supplemental appropriations, the U.S. government has devoted more than \$1 billion of food security funding for development assistance to Ukraine and other countries experiencing an elevated risk of food insecurity. OIG is conducting an audit of USAID's response to increased food insecurity worldwide caused by Russia's war that will expand on this information brief.

USAID Obligated Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Funding to Support Development Assistance

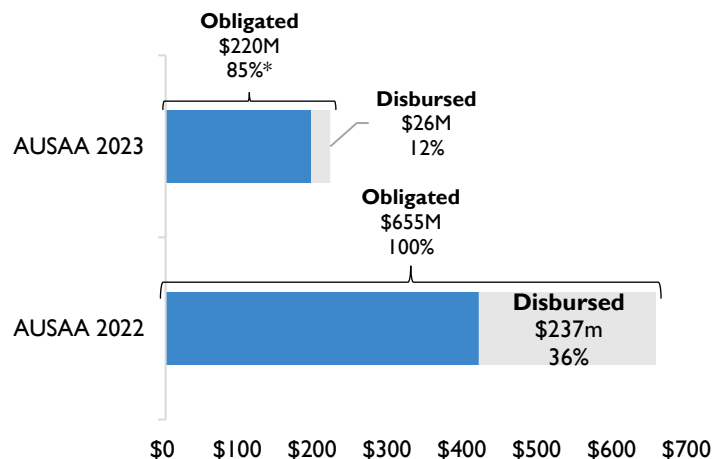
In 2022, Congress passed two Ukraine supplemental appropriations bills—the **Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act (AUSAA), 2022**¹ and the **AUSAA, 2023**²—which included funds to help address agriculture and nutrition-related needs beyond Ukraine that were worsened by Russia's war. By bolstering Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative, this food security funding seeks to mitigate the impacts of the war that are most likely to exacerbate global food insecurity, poverty, and malnutrition. Congress provided the appropriations through the Economic Support Fund—funds supporting development and economic assistance around the world, particularly in countries of strategic importance to the United States—through both USAID and State Department funding, with USAID programming over 75 percent of this funding. Table 1 illustrates this division of funds.

Table 1. Allocation of AUSAA Funds Between USAID and State Department

Agency/Department	AUSAA, 2022	AUSAA, 2023	Total
USAID	\$655M	\$260M	\$915M
State	\$105M	\$40M	\$145M
Total	\$760M	\$300M	\$1.06B

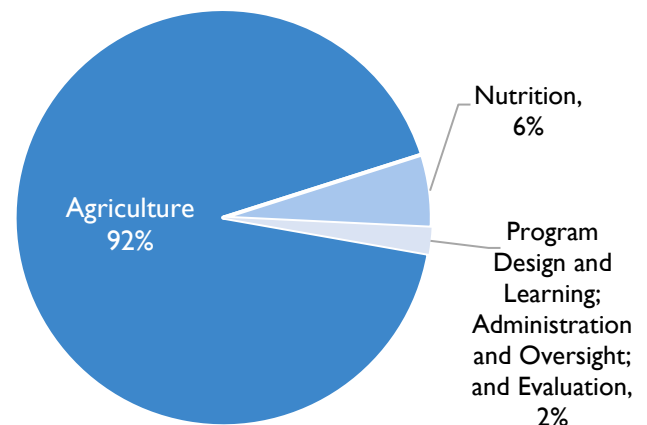
As of November 2023, USAID obligated 100 percent of its AUSAA, 2022 and 85 percent of AUSAA, 2023 funding for food security, and disbursed 36 percent and 12 percent of the obligated funds, respectively (see Table 1 and Figure 1). The largest portion of funding was obligated to agricultural activities, as shown in Figure 2. The Agency is using the funds primarily to bolster activities under existing awards to its implementing partners (e.g., host-country governments, public international organizations, private sector entities, and nongovernmental organizations) and, in some cases, to design and procure new awards to mitigate increased food insecurity around the world caused by the war.

Figure 1. USAID's Obligations and Disbursements, as of November 2023



* The \$220 million in obligated funds from AUSAA, 2023 represents 85 percent of the \$260 million total in Table 1.

Figure 2. USAID's Obligations by Activity Area, as of November 2023



¹ Pub. L. No. 117-128 (May 21, 2022).

² Pub. L. No. 117-328 (Dec. 29, 2022).

USAID Funding Focuses on Three Key Lines of Effort to Support Impacted Countries

USAID uses AUSAA funding to support three key lines of effort from the U.S. government’s Near-Term Plan to Address Global Food Security detailed in Figure 3. Funded activities include providing targeted fertilizer subsidies to support agricultural resilience and help farmers offset elevated fertilizer prices; supporting other agricultural inputs, such as drought resistant seeds; supporting programs for pregnant and nursing women; and helping school feeding nutrition efforts. USAID identified countries at risk of food insecurity stemming from Russia’s war against Ukraine by assessing their **exposure** to shocks from the war and their resulting level of **vulnerability**. USAID defined exposure as “countries with high reliance on cereal and fertilizer from Russia or Ukraine,” and vulnerability as “countries with high levels of underlying poverty, hunger, malnutrition, or humanitarian need.”

Figure 3. Three Lines of Effort to Help Address Global Food Insecurity

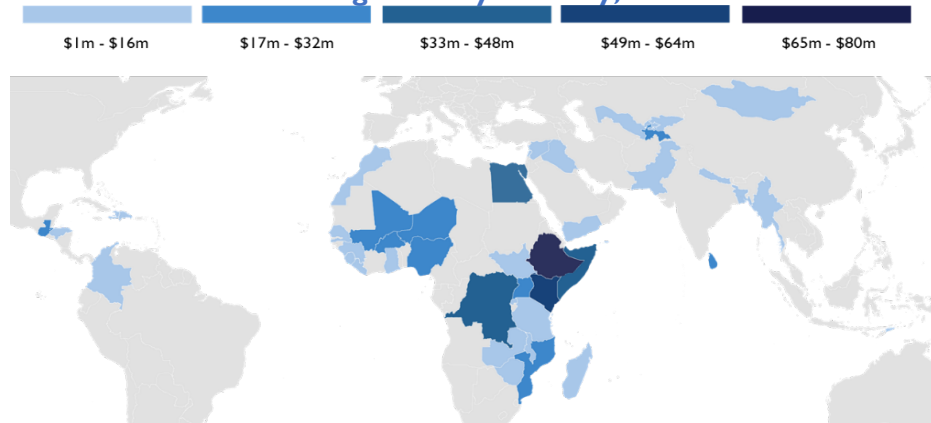


The additional funding allocated to USAID for food security centers on low- and lower-middle-income countries with acute food insecurity and existing programming under the U.S. government’s Feed the Future initiative. USAID’s Bureau of Resilience, Environment, and Food Security (REFS) is responsible for leading the initiative. REFS coordinates with and provides technical assistance to bureaus and missions that implement Feed the Future activities, including those that are programming AUSAA funding. In addition, REFS uses AUSAA funding for centrally managed activities such as support for analysis of the impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on global food security, an effort designed to enable USAID, foreign governments, and other stakeholders to develop policies and adjust their programming to respond to the crisis. As of November 2023, 43 USAID missions outside of Ukraine had obligated AUSAA funds, including all 20 Feed the Future target countries and 23 other countries impacted by the war. REFS and four regional missions also had obligated AUSAA funds. Table 2 illustrates the distribution of AUSAA funding to REFS and by geographical region, while Figure 4 illustrates AUSAA obligations across the 43 missions outside Ukraine.³ Over half of all USAID’s AUSAA funds have been obligated for food security programming in Africa.

Table 2. USAID’s AUSAA Obligations of \$875M by Geographical Region and REFS, as of November 2023

Obligation Amount	Asia	Africa	Eastern Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Middle East	REFS
Dollar amount	\$98.5M	\$451M	\$35M	\$64M	\$79M	\$147M
Percent	11%	52%	4%	7%	9%	17%

Figure 4. USAID’s AUSAA 2022 and 2023 Obligations by Country, as of November 2023



Source: OIG-generated map

³ Figure 4 does not include funding obligated by USAID/Ukraine, the four regional missions, or REFS.