

# AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

# 6.3 million

Estimated People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2019  
 UN – December 2018

# 4 million

Estimated People in Need Due to Drought  
 UN – December 2018

# 3.6 million

Estimated People Experiencing Severe Acute Food Insecurity  
 UN – December 2018

# 349,794

People Internally Displaced by Conflict in 2018  
 UN – January 2019

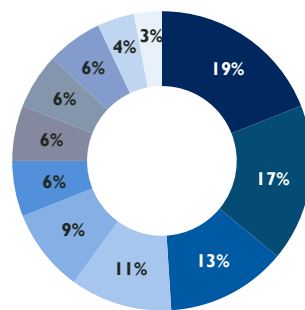
# 805,850

Total Returns from Iran and Pakistan in 2018  
 IOM – January 2019

# 15,699

Registered Returnees in 2018  
 UN – January 2019

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2018–2019



- WASH (19%)
- Shelter & Settlements (17%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (13%)
- Health (11%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (9%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (6%)
- Nutrition (6%)
- Protection (6%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (6%)
- Multipurpose Cash Assistance (4%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2018–2019



- Local & Regional Procurement (59%)
- Complementary Services (Twinning) (23%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (12%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (6%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Drought internally displaces nearly 287,000 people as of January
- USAID/OFDA airlifts relief commodities for nearly 70,000 drought-displaced people
- USAID/FFP contributes 300 MT of High Energy Biscuits for drought-affected households
- Relief organizations require \$612 million in 2019 to address humanitarian needs in Afghanistan

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$52,717,134
USAID/FFP	\$74,591,259
USAID/Afghanistan	\$21,150,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$83,590,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$232,049,141</b>

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Severe drought has affected an estimated 10.5 million people across Afghanistan, the UN reports. The prolonged lack of rainfall has exacerbated humanitarian needs generated by ongoing conflict in the country, resulting in the combined displacement of more than 600,000 people since January 2018.
- Approximately 6.3 million people in Afghanistan are in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)—a more than 90 percent increase since the 2018 HNO. Of the total, an estimated 4.9 million people require food and livelihoods assistance in 2019 due to the impacts of ongoing conflict and drought.
- In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA—with support from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)—airlifted more than 200 metric tons (MT) of relief commodities to meet the winterization needs of nearly 70,000 drought-affected people in Badghis and Herat provinces. USAID/FFP also contributed 300 MT of High Energy Biscuits to support drought-affected households through partner the UN World Food Program (WFP).

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## CURRENT EVENTS

- Approximately 6.3 million people in Afghanistan will require humanitarian assistance in 2019, nearly double the number of people in need in 2018, according to the 2019 HNO for Afghanistan. The 2019 Update to the 2018–2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Afghanistan, which the UN released in December 2018, estimates that relief organizations require approximately \$612 million to address the needs of the 4.5 million people most acutely in need of humanitarian assistance. The 2019 Update prioritizes life-saving assistance, protection, and the prevention of further deterioration of food security conditions, as well as livelihoods activities and mental health and psychosocial support services.
- On October 16, 2018, the UN Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) announced an additional \$34.6 million in funding to provide emergency assistance to drought-affected populations in Afghanistan. This funding is supporting national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international NGOs, and UN agencies to provide emergency shelter to affected populations in preparation for the winter season in Afghanistan, in addition to providing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, health and nutrition services, and other relief commodities. Overall, AHF and CERF have disbursed a combined total of \$76.7 million to more than 40 organizations to support humanitarian assistance programs benefiting an estimated 3.5 million individuals in 2018, according to the 2019 HRP.

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## INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND RETURNS

- In 2018, armed conflict displaced approximately 350,000 people in Afghanistan, according to the UN; to date in 2019, conflict has already displaced an estimated 1,500 people. Nearly 70 percent of Afghanistan’s population lives in areas affected by high levels of violence and insecurity, the UN reports.
- The number of civilian casualties resulting from person-borne improvised explosive device attacks and airstrikes in Afghanistan increased by 46 and 39 percent, respectively, from January–September 2018, according to the UN. Overall, the UN recorded an estimated 8,000 civilian casualties, including nearly 2,800 deaths and 5,300 injuries, between January and September 2018.
- In addition to continued violence, drought displaced an estimated 287,000 people in 2018, including approximately 263,000 people from rural areas of Badghis and Herat provinces to Badghis’s capital city of Qala-e-Naw and Herat’s capital city of Herat, according to the UN. The influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has led to the emergence of nearly 20 informal settlements in Herat and Qala-e-Naw, the UN reports.
- Approximately 806,000 undocumented Afghans returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan in 2018, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The majority of undocumented Afghans—more than 773,000 people—returned from Iran, an increase of nearly 66 percent compared to the same period in 2017. Recent political and economic developments in Iran, including significant currency devaluation, likely contributed to increased returns, IOM reports. Humanitarian agencies anticipate returns from Pakistan to slow in the coming months after the Government of Pakistan extended the validity of refugee proof of registration cards through June 2019 for registered refugees. To date in 2019, an estimated 29,000 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan, according to the IOM.
- Approximately 16,000 registered Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan in 2018, with most refugees returning to Kabul, Nangarhar, and Sar-e Pul provinces, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). State/PRM is supporting UNHCR to strengthen community-based protection measures and provide emergency assistance for vulnerable returnees and IDPs, while strengthening the capacity of local communities and governments. State/PRM is also supporting several NGOs to assist returnee populations with access to employment opportunities, protection support, and basic legal services.

## DROUGHT AND FOOD INSECURITY

- Drought in Afghanistan has affected nearly 10.5 million people, contributing to an estimated 4.9 million people requiring food and livelihoods assistance in 2019, according to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security and agriculture activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. While Stressed—IPC 2—and Crisis—IPC 3—outcomes persist throughout most of the country, populations in areas of Daykundi Province and the Wakhan Corridor in Badakhshan Province continue to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity, resulting in large food consumption gaps, high acute malnutrition, or extreme loss of livelihood assets, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>4</sup> Emergency food assistance is preventing more severe levels of food insecurity in provinces most affected by drought, including Badakhshan, Badghis, Ghor, and Nuristan, FEWS NET reports.
- The drought has also affected the agriculture sector in Afghanistan, from which approximately 80 percent of Afghanistan’s population derives its livelihoods, resulting in limited food production and depleted livestock, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports. The October 2017-to-February 2018 wet season, characterized by below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures, resulted in negative crop production. Additionally, lack of fodder, pasture, and water, as well as limited veterinary services, have resulted in reduced productivity for rural livestock-rearing households, including in southern and western regions of Afghanistan. Furthermore, the drought has exacerbated the vulnerability of indebted rural households in Bamyan, Daykundi, and Kunar provinces experiencing chronic poverty and food insecurity who rely on credit to purchase cereals and pulses. The drought has disproportionately affected rural populations, many of whom depend on rain-fed agriculture for livelihoods. More than 90 percent of farmers have insufficient quantities of seeds for the current planting season, and nearly 50 percent of pastoralists indicated reduced livestock productivity and increased animal death, FAO reports.
- Drought-affected households have resorted to negative coping mechanisms, such as reduced food intake, according to the UN. A recent FAO assessment of 20 provinces in Afghanistan noted that drought-affected households had sold livestock and reduced planting areas by nearly 70 percent to conserve water. Additionally, according to the 2018 Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), which surveyed more than 16,000 rural households across Afghanistan from August–September, approximately 70 percent of households experienced one or more drought-related shocks in 2018, including high food prices, loss of employment, and reduced income. Furthermore, average animal count and agricultural land cultivation have declined by nearly 30 and 20 percent, respectively, since 2017.
- A weak El Niño event will likely develop by late February, potentially bringing above-average snowfall and rainfall and warmer-than-average temperatures to Afghanistan through April, according to the World Meteorological Organization and the UN. While increased precipitation levels and snowmelt could potentially replenish depleted water supplies and support drought recovery efforts, the El Niño event may also contribute to flooding, landslides, and increased risk of crop pests in Afghanistan, potentially damaging crops and exacerbating food insecurity in some areas of the country. FEWS NET projects that the beginning of the April–July barley and wheat harvest season will likely improve food access and household-level income. However, Stressed and Crisis levels of food insecurity will likely persist due to sustained displacement and reduced labor opportunities across the country. In response, aid agencies are developing contingency plans to address potential El Niño-related humanitarian needs in Afghanistan.
- In FY 2019, USAID/FFP contributed 300 MT of regionally purchased High Energy Biscuits to support drought-affected households with children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through partner WFP.
- Through USAID/FFP support, WFP has reached 750,000 drought-affected people in Afghanistan with emergency food assistance since late December 2018. From January 10–16, WFP reached more than 301,000 people across seven provinces and distributed nearly 3,200 MT of food. In 2018, WFP reached a total of nearly 2.3 million drought-affected people with assistance; in 2019, the UN agency plans to scale up efforts in Afghanistan to reach 2.5 million people with food assistance.

<sup>4</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standard tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

- In December 2018, WFP pre-positioned 3,300 MT of emergency food commodities to support an estimated 200,000 people following an initial supply of 3,400 MT of food and nutrition supplies last November. WFP plans to provide approximately 400,000 people, including PLW and malnourished children, with nutrition assistance during the winter.
- In December 2018, FAO announced an upcoming project with the Government of the Republic of Korea (GRoK) to provide emergency assistance to an estimated 5,800 drought-affected households in Badghis and Ghor provinces. The GRoK provided approximately \$1 million for the implementation of the project, which will provide beneficiaries with supplies, including certified seeds and fertilizers, and training on agriculture practices and disaster preparedness. The Government of Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock will also provide program support.

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## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- In 2018, attacks on health care workers and facilities in at least 20 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces hindered access to critical health care services for approximately 5.6 million people in Afghanistan, according to the Health Cluster. Relief actors report that violence in Afghanistan affected more than 150 health care staff in 2018 and resulted in 44 deaths and more than 70 kidnappings from January–November 2018. Additionally, armed actors destroyed or damaged almost 120 health facilities during the same period.
- The UN World Health Organization (WHO) recorded approximately 1,900 confirmed cases of measles in 2018, compared to 1,500 cases in 2017, mainly due to low vaccination coverage, the Health Cluster reports. In late September, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported mobile teams in Badghis and Herat to vaccinate approximately 28,800 displaced children ages nine months to 10 years against measles.
- The UN reports that health actors provided more than 85,000 trauma-related consultations between January and September 2018, compared to more than 69,000 cases during the same period in 2017. The provinces with the greatest need for conflict-related trauma care include Farah, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Kunduz, Logar, and Nangarhar; the nine provinces host 40 percent of the population requiring trauma care in Afghanistan, the UN reports.
- With support from USAID/OFDA, an NGO established the first six of 12 first aid trauma posts in remote areas of Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan provinces from January 1–15. The NGO also deployed specialized nurses and delivered medical supplies to the centers, where conflict-affected populations can access life-saving emergency medical services. Additionally, the organization trained medical staff on the management of neonatal and childhood illness, nutrition counseling, and immunizations. USAID/OFDA is also supporting the NGO to conduct repairs on four existing hospitals in Nangarhar.
- Approximately 2 million acutely malnourished children ages five years and younger and 485,000 PLW in Afghanistan are in need of emergency nutrition support, according to the UN. An estimated 1.6 million children ages 6–59 months in Afghanistan were acutely malnourished as of late 2018—an estimated 300,000 more children than in early 2017; approximately one-third of malnourished children are facing severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the UN reports. In Herat, where the population is experiencing Crisis levels of food insecurity, nutrition screenings from September–October 2018 indicated that 25 percent of children ages 6–59 months were acutely malnourished.
- According to the EFSA, Afghanistan's national prevalence of stunting—a manifestation of chronic malnutrition characterized by impaired growth and development—in children ages five years and younger is nearly 41 percent. Additionally, more than 10 percent of boys and nearly 9 percent of girls exhibited signs of wasting, or extremely low weight-for-height, which is a measure of acute malnutrition.
- USAID partner UNICEF and other relief actors are providing nutrition support to children and PLW experiencing malnutrition through nearly 120 nutrition facilities in western provinces, including Badghis, Farah, Ghor, and Herat. Health actors admitted more than 10,000 children experiencing SAM in western Afghanistan to treatment programs from July–November. Additionally, UNICEF supported nearly 22,200 women in IDP settlements with counseling on infant and young child feeding practices.

## WASH AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

- Current drought conditions have worsened water supply and access to sanitation services in Afghanistan, where approximately 60 percent of the population does not have access to adequate sanitation facilities and nearly 40 percent of the population continues to use untreated water sources, increasing risk of exposure to waterborne illnesses, according to the UN. A UN and REACH Initiative assessment reported that nearly 50 percent of communities from 900 drought-impacted areas used less than 5 liters of water per person per day—falling below the Sphere standard of 7.5–15 liters of water per person per day—and nearly 40 percent of communities walked more than a kilometer to access safe drinking water.<sup>5</sup>
- As of November 15, 2018, UNICEF had provided approximately 146,500 people with safe drinking water at IDP sites in Badghis and Herat and had supported other WASH activities for more than 33,000 drought-affected people in Badghis. Additionally, UNICEF had enabled an estimated 60,200 people to access functional and culturally sensitive latrines as of mid-November.
- From November 15–20, 2018, USAID/OFDA, with support from the DoD, airlifted more than 200 MT of relief commodities from a regional warehouse in the United Arab Emirates to Afghanistan to meet the winterization needs of nearly 70,000 drought-affected populations in Badghis and Herat. USAID/OFDA partner IOM organized the local warehousing and distribution of relief supplies, which included approximately 20,000 thermal blankets, more than 10,000 kitchen sets, and at least 1,800 rolls of plastic sheeting.
- From late November 2018 to early January 2019, USAID/OFDA supported an NGO to distribute more than 900 winterization kits to disaster-affected households in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar provinces. During the first two weeks of January, the organization also distributed emergency relief commodities, tents, and WASH items; constructed latrines; and established water access points to benefit disaster-affected Afghans. Additionally, USAID/OFDA supported the NGO to provide psychosocial support services to gender-based violence survivors, disaster safety training to healthcare workers, and hygiene education sessions to vulnerable communities in northeastern Afghanistan.
- With USAID/OFDA support, another NGO provided relief items—including blankets, children’s clothes, hygiene kits, kitchen supplies, shoes, and tarps—to an estimated 1,900 conflict-affected people in Balkh, Faryab, and Sar-e-Pul during October.
- In December 2018, a USAID/OFDA partner NGO provided cash grants for the purchase of emergency relief commodities—including blankets, hygiene items, and shelter materials—to more than 200 households, or approximately 1,300 people, including returnees and individuals affected by natural disasters. The NGO also conducted education sessions on hygiene practices and natural disaster preparedness, as well as supported child-friendly spaces throughout the country during the month. Additionally, the NGO directly engaged with community members to identify sites to establish new wells in Badghis, Helmand, Herat, and Nangarhar provinces and to create new child-friendly spaces in Laghman and Nangarhar provinces.

<sup>5</sup>The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN, NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

## CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that conflict has displaced an estimated 1.3 million people since 2017, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improve humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: address the life-saving needs of individuals affected by conflict, drought, and natural disasters and strive to reduce the drivers of displacement through early recovery and disaster risk reduction (DRR) programming; strengthening and integrating national-level DRR capacity building efforts; and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.
- USAID/FFP food assistance and disaster readiness programs are designed to respond to the food security and nutritional needs of IDPs and returnees, as well as people affected by economic stress; to support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; to treat moderately malnourished children and PLW; and to contribute to learning among primary and lower secondary school pupils and adults, particularly women.
- A USAID senior humanitarian advisor based in Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul manages USAID/Afghanistan's Office of Humanitarian Assistance, oversees USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP operations, and is supported by two national staff. A State/PRM Refugee Coordinator based in Kabul, supported by two national staff, monitors refugee and returnee issues in Afghanistan.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$300,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities	Badghis, Herat	\$2,045,249
	Program Support		\$13,089
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$2,858,338</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$594,497
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$594,497</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019</b>			<b>\$3,452,835</b>

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018<sup>1,2</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$550,000
	Agriculture and Food Security	Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, Herat	\$2,500,000
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$36,858,796
IOM	HCIM, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	HCIM, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$200,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$350,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WHO	Health	Baghlan, Kabul, Kandahar	\$2,400,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$49,858,796</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
Implementing Partner	Cash Transfers for Food	Daykundi	\$975,000
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$4,221,762
	Local and Regional Food Procurement		\$43,051,239
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Countrywide	\$8,283,284
	Complementary Services (Twinning)		\$17,465,477
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$73,996,762</b>
<b>USAID/Afghanistan</b>			
FEWS NET	Climate Surveillance	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Implementing Partners	ERMS, Livelihoods, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$9,650,000
UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
UNICEF	WASH	Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Laghman, Nangarhar, Samangan	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING</b>			<b>\$21,150,000</b>
<b>State/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partners	Education, Humanitarian Assistance, Livelihoods, Protection	Countrywide	\$32,116,511
IOM	Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$1,580,036
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Regional	\$48,900,000

WHO	Protection	Pakistan	\$994,201
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$83,590,748</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$228,596,306</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$232,049,141</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/Afghanistan, USAID/FFP, and USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 14, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

## 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 [www.interaction.org](http://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: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>