

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

APRIL 11, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

6.3 million

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

13.5 million

People Experiencing Severe Acute Food Insecurity
FAO – March 2019

300,000

People Displaced by Drought
FAO – March 2019

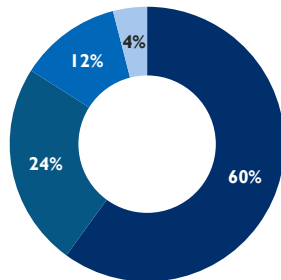
175,434

People Affected by Natural Disasters in 2019
IOM – March 2019

100,682

Total Returns from Iran and Pakistan in 2019
IOM and UNHCR – March 2019

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (60%)
- Logistics & Relief Commodities (24%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (12%)
- Nutrition (4%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



- Local & Regional Food Procurement (58%)
- Food Vouchers (19%)
- Complementary Services (13%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (10%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID/FFP distributes 1,300 MT of food assistance to households affected by floods
- State/PRM offers critical support to displaced and returning populations
- USG provides additional \$61 million in humanitarian aid for Afghanistan

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$8,552,444
USAID/FFP	\$47,094,497
State/PRM ³	\$9,300,000

\$64,946,941

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Following severe drought in 2018, populations in Afghanistan continue to face acute food insecurity and the deterioration of livelihoods, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects that most vulnerable households in the country will require emergency food assistance through at least September 2019 due to impacts of the drought, as well as ongoing conflict and displacement.
- Between January and early April, flash floods prompted by heavy rains affected more than 163,000 people in Afghanistan, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian actors, including USAID/OFDA partners, are distributing relief commodities to households in six provinces affected by the floods.
- The U.S. Government (USG) announced more than \$61 million in humanitarian assistance—including \$46 million from USAID/FFP, \$9.3 million from State/PRM, and \$5.7 million from USAID/OFDA—to provide food, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support to Afghan households affected by conflict and natural disasters, as well as repatriation and reintegration support.

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

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

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

DROUGHT AND FOOD INSECURITY

- Approximately 13.5 million people in Afghanistan continue to face severe acute food insecurity, according to FAO. While Afghanistan has received above-average rainfall in recent months, soil moisture in most parts of the country has not increased due to drought conditions reducing soil absorption rates, and insecurity continues to limit access to farms and labor opportunities; in addition, more than 90 percent of farmers report having had few or no seeds to plant wheat—a staple crop in Afghanistan—during the October 2018–March 2019 planting season, FAO reports. As a result, the UN agency estimates that it is unlikely that the June–September harvest will meet subsistence and income needs. In addition, drought conditions, which heavily affected western portions of the country, continue to drive internal displacement.
- Households across most areas in Afghanistan will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or Stressed—IPC 2—levels of acute food insecurity through at least September 2019 due to drought, ongoing conflict, displacement, and limited income opportunities, according to FEWS NET.⁴ While humanitarian assistance is likely preventing worse conditions in areas of Badakhshan, Badghis, Herat, and Ghor provinces, some households in Badakhshan and Daykundi provinces continue to experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of severe acute food insecurity.
- As of March, FAO had reached nearly 41,600 households in Afghanistan with agricultural assistance aimed at facilitating wheat production and provided more than 70,100 households with emergency livestock assistance. In addition, the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, led by USAID/OFDA partner FAO and USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP), plans to contribute to assistance packages for returnees—which will include food and livelihoods assistance—in the coming months.
- On March 26, USAID/FFP announced more than \$46 million in funding to WFP and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to support food security and nutrition response activities in Afghanistan. With support from USAID/FFP, WFP will continue to distribute emergency food assistance to people in Afghanistan affected by drought and other natural disasters, as well as provide cash transfers for food to vulnerable populations residing in areas with functioning markets. In addition, USAID/FFP’s recent contribution will support UNICEF to continue to provide specialized nutritious foods for children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

FLOODING

- Heavy rains and subsequent flooding had displaced more than 42,000 people and affected an estimated 163,000 people across Afghanistan as of late March, OCHA reports. According to international media, the recent floods have resulted in numerous deaths and have damaged or destroyed thousands of houses.
- In response to late-March flooding in northern and western Afghanistan, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) is coordinating with the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN, and international relief organizations to assess affected areas and respond to immediate needs, according to the UN. As of early April, relief organizations, including USAID/OFDA partners, were distributing blankets, food, health services, hygiene kits, shelter kits, and tents and providing psychosocial support to affected households in Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan, Herat, and Sar-e Pul provinces, as well as preparing additional distributions of cash assistance, emergency shelter repair kits, food, and other relief items.
- In early and mid-March, humanitarian organizations, in coordination with ANDMA, additionally responded to flood-related needs in northern Afghanistan and provided multi-sector assistance to more than 6,000 affected households in Farah, Helmand, Kandahar, and Zabol provinces, according to OCHA.
- From March 1–13, USAID/FFP partner WFP provided more than 1,300 metric tons (MT) of food assistance—including High Energy Biscuits, vegetable oil, and wheat flour—to flood-affected households in Helmand, Kandahar, Kunar, Nuristan, and Zabol provinces. WFP also provided more than 1,400 flood-affected people with emergency food assistance in Farah and Herat provinces in February. Additionally, WFP assisted nearly 1.8 million people across 19 provinces with approximately 16,500 MT of food and \$450,000 in cash transfers for food in February.

⁴ 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.

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND RETURNS

- During 2018, conflict in Afghanistan resulted in nearly 11,000 civilian casualties, including more than 3,804 deaths and nearly 7,190 injured persons, according to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The figure represents the highest number of recorded civilian fatalities since 2009. An estimated 28 percent of the overall casualties—approximately 3,100 people—were children, likely due to increased aerial and suicide attacks in 2018, according to UNAMA. The number of casualties recorded in 2018 represents a 5 percent increase compared to the number of casualties recorded in 2017.
- A non-state armed group offensive displaced approximately 38,500 people in Badghis’s Balamurghab District from March 10–18, according to OCHA. Ongoing clashes and road blockages have prevented humanitarian organizations from assisting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the district.
- A non-state armed group offensive from March 22–26 displaced an estimated 21,000 individuals, more than half the population, in the Chapadara District of Kunar, according OCHA. Check points prevented some IDPs from fleeing the conflict, and humanitarian organizations do not have access to some areas of displacement.
- Prompted by drought and conflict, more than 37,000 IDPs arrived in Herat Province’s capital city of Herat between September 2018 and March 2019, IOM reports. A majority of the IDPs originated from Badghis and other areas of Herat and remain in need of food assistance and shelter. More than 32,000 of the IDPs report lacking identification documents, according to IOM.
- In March, with State/PRM funding, a non-governmental organization (NGO) initiated a program in western Afghanistan to protect displaced communities, including through improving civil documentation; assisting on accessing housing, land, and property rights; and providing psychosocial support and educational activities to vulnerable children affected by displacement.
- The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reopened its voluntary repatriation program from Pakistan to Afghanistan on March 1, following a winter pause. On the same date, the State Bank of Pakistan issued a directive to banks and development finance institutions allowing Afghan refugees holding proof of registration cards to open up bank accounts.
- With State/PRM funding, UNHCR provides \$200 to each registered individual upon their return to Afghanistan. In coordination with multiple international organizations, NGOs, and the Government of Afghanistan (GoA), UNHCR also provides vaccinations, land mine awareness services, school enrollment information, and referral services to returning refugees.
- To date in 2019, more than 99,980 undocumented Afghans returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan, IOM reports. IOM expects that more than 570,000 undocumented Afghans will return from Iran due to ongoing economic challenges in Iran, and at least 50,000 Afghans will return from Pakistan in 2019. State/PRM is supporting IOM efforts to register undocumented Afghan returnees at major border crossing points, as well as establishing a reintegration referral mechanism.
- State/PRM supports returnee populations with access to employment opportunities, protection support, and basic legal services. With State/PRM funding, an NGO is working to strengthen child protection and increase returnees’ access to education. Another State/PRM partner is promoting durable solutions for returnees by obtaining access to civil documentation, access to justice, and access to essential services. State/PRM is also supporting returnees’ access to livelihoods through support to NGO projects designed to help returnees gain the skills and tools they need to achieve self-reliance.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- A USAID/OFDA partner screened more than 460 children for acute malnutrition in Kandahar from February 1–15, referring 20 cases to health facilities for treatment. The NGO also conducted trainings on health management information systems for 65 community volunteers in cooperation with the GoA Directorate of Public Health from February 9–12.

- Delays related to new import regulations have contributed to medicine shortages thereby preventing a USAID/OFDA partner from operating four trauma clinics in two provinces since February 1; the partner estimates that the shortages and related clinic closures prevent nearly 300 individuals from accessing health care services per day. Despite shortages, the partner reached 150 people, more than 10 percent of whom received treatment for conflict-related injuries, in five health centers in hard-to-reach areas of northeastern Afghanistan as of February 11.

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; and to treat moderately malnourished children and PLW.
- State/PRM supports the sustainable voluntary return of Afghan refugees while preserving asylum space in host countries through humanitarian diplomacy and assistance as well as initiatives that ensure that areas hosting returning refugees can support all members of the community.
- On October 3, 2018, U.S. Ambassador John R. Bass redeclared a disaster for Afghanistan due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- 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, oversees State/PRM humanitarian diplomacy and assistance programs, and reports on refugee and returnee issues in Afghanistan.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Countrywide	\$550,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,300,000
	USG Airlift of OFDA Emergency Drought Relief Commodities	Badghis, Herat	\$2,051,285
	Program Support		\$151,159
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$8,552,444
USAID/FFP			
UNICEF	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement, Complementary Services (Twinning)	Countrywide	\$40,594,497

TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$47,094,497
State/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Protection	Badghis	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Pakistan	\$3,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$9,300,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$64,946,941

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), HCIM, Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$36,819,832
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan	\$3,050,000
IOM	HCIM, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$350,000
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
UNICEF	HCIM	Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar	\$200,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
	Program Support Costs		\$38,964
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$49,858,796
USAID/FFP³			
Implementing Partner	Cash Transfers for Food	Afghanistan	\$975,000
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Afghanistan	\$4,221,762
	Local and Regional Food Procurement		\$43,051,239
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Afghanistan	\$8,283,284
	Complementary Services (Twinning)		\$17,465,477
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$73,996,762
USAID/Afghanistan			
Implementing Partners	ERMS, Livelihoods, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Afghanistan	\$9,650,000
FEWS NET	Climate Surveillance	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
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
TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING			\$21,150,000
State/PRM			

Implementing Partners	Education, Humanitarian Assistance, Livelihoods, Protection	Afghanistan	\$28,833,978
IOM	Capacity Building	Afghanistan	\$1,580,036
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Afghanistan and Region	\$48,900,000
Implementing Partners	Education, Livelihoods, Protection	Pakistan	\$2,982,533
WHO	Protection	Pakistan	\$994,201
Implementing Partner	Protection	Tajikistan	\$200,000
Implementing Partner	Protection	Turkey	\$100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$83,590,748
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$228,596,306

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds as of April 5.

² 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.
- 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 or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>