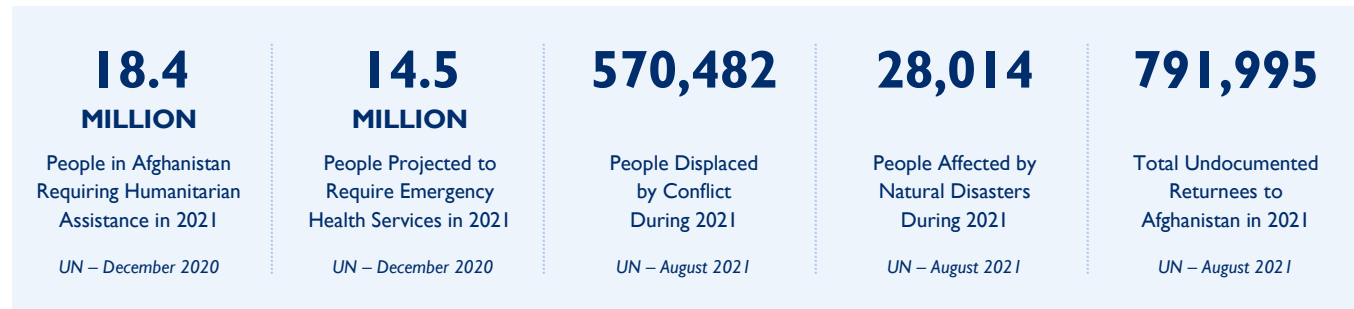


# Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Access to health services across Afghanistan continues to decline due to a loss of funding to the sector, affecting thousands of health facilities.
- WHO delivers urgently needed medical supplies by air amid recent challenges transporting commodities into Afghanistan.
- More than 7 million people in Afghanistan who depend on agriculture and livestock for livelihoods require humanitarian assistance in the coming months due to ongoing drought and the upcoming winter.



### TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup> \$157,500,000

State/PRM<sup>2</sup> \$108,856,953

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

**Total \$266,356,953**

<sup>1</sup>USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Health Care Service Availability Continues to Decline in Afghanistan**

The recent suspension of development assistance to the Afghan health sector following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan affects more than 2,500 health facilities across the country, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Due to the loss of funding, some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have decreased implementation of health sector activities, leading to the immediate suspension of some services at health facilities. In addition, hospitals managed by the Ministry of Public Health lack necessary funds for operational costs, including fuel, staff salaries, and waste management. WHO warns that the absence of sustained funding for health services will leave millions of Afghans without access to primary and secondary health care, including immunization services, pre- and post-natal care, malnutrition treatment, and other essential services, disproportionately affecting women, children, and older people. In addition, WHO expects that decisions regarding the previously planned scale-up of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination, surveillance, and testing activities, as well as the installation of oxygen production plants in hospitals, will remain stalled until a new government is in place.

### **WHO Delivers Emergency Medical Supplies Via Air**

On August 30, a flight carrying 12.5 metric tons of WHO medical supplies arrived in Balkh Province's Mazar-e Sharif city, representing the first delivery of medical supplies by the UN agency since the Taliban seizure of Kabul on August 15. The commodities include essential medicines, medical devices, and supplies needed for trauma care. Health workers will use the supplies to support the basic health needs of more than 200,000 people; treatment of 6,500 trauma patients; and provision of 3,500 surgical procedures. WHO is coordinating with Pakistan International Airlines to send two additional flights of supplies to Afghanistan from the UN agency's logistical hub in the United Arab Emirates' Dubai city.

Prior to the August 30 arrival of medical commodities, WHO had utilized up to 70 percent of its in-country emergency reserves to provide supplies to key health facilities, with stocks of medical supplies—including trauma kits, emergency supplies for hospitals, and medicines for treating chronic malnutrition in children—reaching critically low levels in Afghanistan. However, relief organizations were unable to access Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul during the second half of August due to insecurity, crowds, and use of the airport for international evacuation operations. As of early September, HKIA was out of operation due to significant infrastructure damage and a lack of air traffic control services and other services critical for the airport to function, international media report. WHO and other UN agencies continue to advocate to the Taliban for the establishment of a stable humanitarian air bridge to facilitate the movement of relief commodities into the country.

### **Continued Drought Threatens Livelihoods of More Than 7 Million People**

Severe drought conditions in recent months, combined with ongoing COVID-19-related economic impacts and displacement, have increased livelihood support needs among agricultural and livestock-owning households in Afghanistan, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). An estimated 7 million people, many of whom are already experiencing acute food insecurity, are in need of additional assistance to bolster livelihoods in the coming months. FAO expects the 2021 harvest in Afghanistan will be 15 percent below average due to drought conditions, making the winter wheat harvest particularly crucial to preventing worsening household food security outcomes and protecting agricultural livelihoods. The UN agency is preparing to support up to 250,000 farming households—approximately 1.5 million people—with seeds and other assistance for winter wheat planting, but

urgently requires additional funding to support households to begin planting in late September. FAO also warns that many herding and livestock-owning households require humanitarian assistance to support animals during the winter, due to increased prices of livestock feed and other factors. With funding from USAID/BHA and other donors, FAO has supported more than 1 million people across 30 provinces in Afghanistan during 2021 with agricultural inputs, agronomic training, and livestock feed, as well as cash-based assistance to support the most vulnerable households to meet immediate food and other basic needs.

USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is also supporting drought-affected households across Afghanistan through the delivery of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, including provision of potable water through water trucking, the construction and repair of hand pumps, provision of hygiene items, and delivery of hygiene promotion activities. From August 1 to 20, UNICEF facilitated the provision of safe drinking water for more than 5,500 people in informal settlements in Kabul and more than 1,100 displaced people in Kandahar city. The UN agency also reached more than 3,700 conflict- and drought-affected households—approximately 18,500 people—across eight provinces with hygiene kits. USG partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) also continues to provide emergency shelter and relief commodities, as well as multipurpose cash assistance, to households in Afghanistan affected by conflict and natural disasters. During July and August, IOM supported nearly 10,400 people in nine provinces with emergency assistance.

## KEY FIGURES



**3.5 Million**

People targeted with USAID/BHA-supported WFP food and nutrition assistance



**11**

Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The USG supports the delivery of life-saving emergency food assistance across Afghanistan, providing vulnerable populations with locally, regionally, and internationally procured in-kind food assistance; cash transfers for food; and food vouchers. With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) has also expanded food assistance to support populations who have experienced reduced access to income-generating activities and staple foods in urban communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner FAO provides households with seeds and livestock feed to bolster agricultural livelihoods recovery and resilience. USAID/BHA also supports coordination and capacity-building activities among food security actors in Afghanistan to strengthen humanitarian response efforts.

### PROTECTION

Insecurity continues to generate serious protection concerns in Afghanistan. With support from State/PRM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides protection assistance to refugees and refugee returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. Additionally, USG NGO and UN partners support mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs, including individual counseling, activities to support development of coping skills, and safe healing and learning spaces for children. USG partners also implement child protection activities and family services, provide legal assistance

to returning refugees to access documentation, and integrate MHPSS and other protection measures into education, health, and nutrition programming.



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Number of USG implementing partners supporting health programming

## HEALTH

The USG is supporting nine partners to implement life-saving health activities across Afghanistan to improve community health awareness, bolster outpatient consultation efforts, and provide support to essential health services. USG partners aim to increase equitable access to and utilization of health services among IDPs, conflict-affected persons, and vulnerable host communities. USG assistance supports hospitals and clinics and enables the deployment of mobile health teams to deliver emergency and primary health care services, conduct trainings for local community health workers and health care professionals, provide essential medicines, and support vaccination campaigns.



5

Number of USG implementing partners supporting shelter programming

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

Shelter needs among populations in Afghanistan remain significant due to conflict and natural disasters, such as floods and landslides, which frequently result in displacement and damage or destruction of houses. USG partners provide emergency shelter for newly displaced people, as well as shelter repair kits, transitional shelter, and multipurpose cash assistance to support the housing needs of IDP and host community populations. Partners also conduct trainings to improve preparedness for natural hazards.



3

Number of USG implementing partners supporting livelihoods programming

## LIVELIHOODS AND EDUCATION

With USG funding, partners deliver livelihoods programming and skills training to support sustainable refugee reintegration and boost opportunities for vulnerable host community populations; activities include courses to increase literacy, business knowledge, and skills development. State/PRM partners support returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities in Afghanistan by providing access to skills training and adult literacy courses, in addition to access to education for Afghan refugees and host community children in Pakistan. Partners also work to ensure IDP and returning refugee children have access to learning spaces and accelerated learning programs to help children prepare for enrollment in formal schools, as well as support initiatives to improve infrastructure in schools within host communities.



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Provinces reached with support for COVID-19 preparedness and response

## COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

In FY 2021, the USG continues to support UN agencies and NGO partners to conduct activities dedicated to preventing, mitigating, and responding to the spread of COVID-19 in Afghanistan. USG partners have conducted COVID-19 awareness campaigns, trained community health workers on infection prevention and control measures, and expanded delivery of WASH services. USG partner-supported mobile health teams also conducted outpatient consultations, provided referrals and transportation to isolation and treatment facilities, and advised personnel on proper COVID-19 protocols. UN partners have also provided hygiene kits and medical

equipment to frontline health workers, deployed mobile health teams, and supported risk communication and community engagement activities. In response to secondary effects of the pandemic—such as increased food insecurity and protection risks—USG partners are delivering food and multipurpose cash assistance, increasing provision of protection services to affected populations, and supporting efforts to increase livelihoods opportunities for returning refugees. In addition, USG implementing partners have adapted some activities in response to the pandemic as they continue to address other humanitarian needs.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Ongoing insecurity and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that more than 4.9 million people remain in protracted displacement in Afghanistan, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year. In 2021, drought and the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are further exacerbating humanitarian needs.
- The Taliban seized Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul on August 15, following the successive capture of several provincial capitals and territory in early August.
- On October 25, 2020, the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires to Afghanistan, Ambassador Ross Wilson, re-declared a disaster for FY 2021 for Afghanistan due to the ongoing complex emergency.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide, Balkh, Farah, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Konar, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Wardak, Zabul	\$12,500,000
FAO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000
	Agriculture	Badghis, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Herat, Jowzjan, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Zabul	\$6,000,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Health, Shelter	Badakhshan, Badghis, Daykundi, Ghor, Herat, Kandahar, Nuristan	\$1,200,000
IOM	DRRPP, HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide; Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia	\$8,000,000
UNICEF	HCIMA, Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$16,500,000

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$800,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$112,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$157,500,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partners	Health, ERMS, Protection	Countrywide	\$24,400,000
IOM	Health	Countrywide	\$2,900,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Protection, Logistics Support, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$30,400,000
		Pakistan	\$25,400,000
		Regional	\$24,300,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,456,953
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$108,856,953</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$266,356,953</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 3, 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](https://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](https://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://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)