

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

18.4 MILLION	14.5 MILLION	634,800	28,014	890,726
People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2021 <i>UN – December 2020</i>	People Requiring Emergency Health Services in 2021 <i>UN – December 2020</i>	People Displaced by Conflict in 2021 <i>UN – September 2021</i>	People Affected by Natural Disasters During 2021 <i>UN – September 2021</i>	Total Undocumented Returnees to Afghanistan in 2021 <i>UN – September 2021</i>

- Relief organizations, including USAID/BHA partner WFP, scale up food assistance to households in Afghanistan experiencing food insecurity.
- Humanitarian agencies reach hundreds of thousands of people across Afghanistan with multi-sector assistance.
- State/PRM partner UNHCR continues to monitor movements of Afghans seeking protection in neighboring countries, observing an increase in arrivals through unofficial border crossings but no large-scale flows.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA¹ \$297,338,820

State/PRM² \$176,226,619

Total \$473,565,439

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

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

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Relief Actors Increase Response to Food Insecurity-Related Needs

USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to report concerning levels of food insecurity among Afghans. According to recent WFP surveys, on average, three-quarters of Afghan households are reducing portion sizes due to limited income and resources to purchase sufficient quantities of food. An estimated three-quarters of households are also borrowing food or consuming cheaper food. A preliminary analysis of the annual countrywide food security assessment, which will inform the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, also indicates that food security has significantly deteriorated across Afghanistan during the past year.

In response to urgent needs, food security and agriculture actors in Afghanistan reached 3.8 million people with food assistance and more than 160,700 people with agriculture and livelihood assistance during September. WFP and its partners scaled up assistance deliveries during the month, reaching 3 million people across the country—more than double the number of people supported in August. In the coming weeks, WFP plans to continue expanding its response. The UN agency had positioned approximately 14,000 metric tons (MT) of food commodities in the country as of September 30 and anticipates the delivery of more than 50,000 MT of commodities during October. WFP has also established a new logistics hub in Uzbekistan’s Termez city, near the Hairatan border crossing into Afghanistan’s Balkh Province, to support operations in Afghanistan.

Humanitarian Agencies Continue to Deliver Assistance Across Afghanistan

During September, humanitarian organizations continued to deliver multi-sector assistance to populations across Afghanistan, including education, food security and agriculture, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support. Relief agencies provided health consultations to approximately 450,000 people and delivered approximately 140 medical kits to health facilities across 28 provinces, sufficient to meet the urgent health needs of 573,000 people for three months. Additionally, humanitarian organizations, including State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), provided relief commodities to more than 32,100 people and individual protection services to more than 2,100 people during the month. Relief agencies also restored access to safe drinking water for thousands of people during September, reaching approximately 186,200 people in two drought-affected provinces through water trucking and 219,200 people in Kabul through provision of fuel to restore functioning of the city’s water network. To mitigate the risk of infectious disease spread, humanitarian organizations continued distribution of hygiene items and delivery of hygiene promotion and disease prevention messaging, including for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Relief organizations, including USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), also continue nutrition activities in Afghanistan; during September, nutrition actors reached nearly 20,800 children ages 6–59 months and approximately 10,200 pregnant and lactating women with treatment for wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—and support through targeted supplementary feeding programs, respectively.

UNHCR Monitors for Afghan Arrivals in Neighboring Countries, Supports Refugee Registration Exercise in Pakistan

State/PRM partner UNHCR continues to track movements of Afghans to neighboring countries and provide assistance to Afghans in need of international protection support in the region. In recent months, UNHCR has not observed large-scale influxes of Afghans seeking protection in neighboring countries; as of late September, most of Afghanistan’s major land border crossing points with

neighboring countries were closed to entry by Afghans, except in limited instances for individuals with specific documentation accepted by the relevant country authorities. However, UNHCR reports increased movements of undocumented Afghans across irregular land border crossing points, particularly into Iran, in recent weeks. The UN agency continues to experience challenges monitoring arrivals of Afghans in Iran, including due to the absence of a centralized registration system in Iran and UNHCR's lack of access to Iran's Sistan and Balochistan Province, where many Afghans cross informally into Iran via Pakistan. Overall, UNHCR has recorded approximately 35,400 newly arrived Afghans potentially in need of international protection in neighboring countries since the start of 2021, including 10,800 individuals in Pakistan and more than 16,300 people in Iran, who primarily arrived through unofficial border points.

In support of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, UNHCR continues to support the Government of Pakistan (GoP) to carry out the Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE), the process of verifying and updating the data of more than 1.4 million Afghan refugees who hold proof of registration (PoR) documents in Pakistan. The GoP and UNHCR are also issuing new PoR cards, which will be valid for an initial two years. As of late September, the GoP and UNHCR had verified or newly recorded the information of approximately 744,800 individuals—more than 50 percent of the target—and were on track to complete information processing for all eligible persons by the end of 2021. The individuals reached through DRIVE to date include registered Afghan refugees; young children of PoR cardholders, who are in the process of registration for the first time; and undocumented immediate family members of Afghan refugees who will receive certificates to demonstrate family links with registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Analysis of DRIVE data, which has also commenced, will provide information on demographic changes, protection needs, and the socioeconomic situation of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

KEY FIGURES



3.5 Million

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



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Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The U.S. Government (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, 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 the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners provide 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

With support from State/PRM, 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 ten 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. Additionally, USG funding supports the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to coordinate emergency health response activities across the country, support the continuation of essential health services, and ensure continued supply of critical health and medical commodities into the country.



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 (MPCA) 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 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.

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, 2021, following the successive capture of several provincial capitals and territory in early August. Following the collapse of the Government of Afghanistan, economic and political instability has resulted in the deterioration of basic service provision across the country, increased prices of staple foods and fuel, reduced household purchasing power, and other developments that constrain the ability of Afghan households to meet basic needs.
- In late August, the USG activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in the region outside of Afghanistan to lead the USG response to humanitarian needs generated by the crisis in Afghanistan and a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to support the DART.
- On October 25, 2020, the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires to Afghanistan, Ambassador Ross Wilson, redeclared a disaster for FY 2021 for Afghanistan due to the ongoing complex emergency.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide, Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Bamyan, Daykundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Konar, Kunduz, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Sar-e Pul, Takhar, Uruzgan, Wardak, Zabul	\$47,000,000
	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000
FAO	Agriculture	Badghis, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Herat, Jowzjan, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Zabul	\$20,000,000
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
International Organization for Migration (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 (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$800,000
WHO	HCIMA, Health	Countrywide	\$5,300,000

WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$197,900,000
	Program Support		\$138,820
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$297,338,820
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Health, ERMS, Protection	Countrywide	\$35,754,998
		Pakistan	\$8,025,536
IOM	Health	Countrywide	\$3,400,000
	Health	Pakistan	\$400,000
	Protection	Kosovo	\$3,975,132
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Protection, Logistics Support, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$34,100,000
		Pakistan	\$30,750,000
		Regional	\$31,250,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Education, WASH, Protection	Pakistan	\$10,000,000
		Regional	\$8,514,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$7,256,953
		Pakistan	\$600,000
WHO	Nutrition	Pakistan	\$2,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$176,226,619
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$473,565,439

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, 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://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: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)