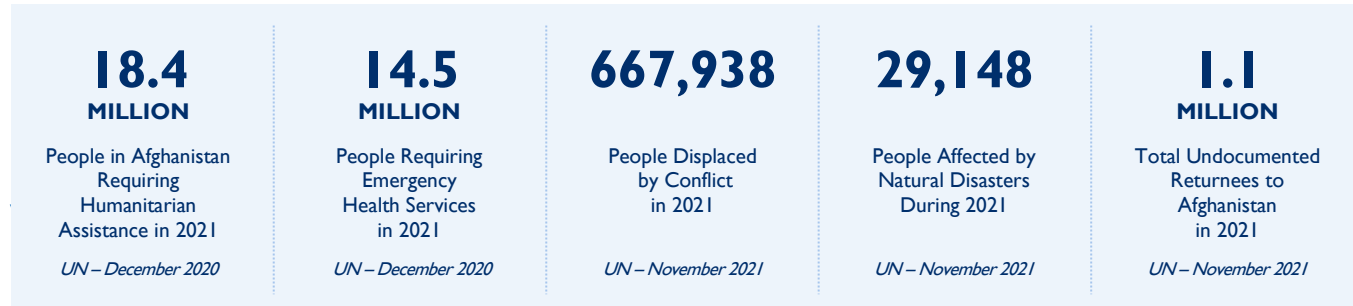




Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Although humanitarian partners are working to increase delivery of assistance, Afghanistan’s ongoing cash liquidity crisis continues to impede the provision of some humanitarian services.
- Afghanistan is expected to experience record-high food insecurity in the coming months, with nearly 23 million people expected to face acute levels of food insecurity by March 2022.
- Despite challenges, USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners continue efforts to scale up the provision of assistance in response to rising humanitarian needs.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$297,338,820
	State/PRM ²	\$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 Organizations Continue to Scale Up Response Despite Ongoing Liquidity Crisis

As of November 21, donors had fully funded the UN's \$606 million flash appeal for Afghanistan that aims to reach 11 million people with multi-sector assistance from September to December 2021. However, in a November 22 report, the UN warned that the country's ongoing cash liquidity crisis was hindering relief actors' abilities to pay operational costs for some relief programs. Humanitarian organizations report continued difficulties paying staff and contractor salaries, as well as processing payments for implementing partners, suppliers, and service providers.

Despite these recent implementation challenges, humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan have continued to scale up activities and reached approximately 7.2 million people with food assistance, nearly 142,000 people with relief commodities, at least 880,000 people with primary and secondary health care services, and approximately 32,000 people with psychosocial support services since September 1, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Organizations have also treated more than 178,000 children younger than five years of age for malnutrition and have provided nearly 199,000 drought-affected people with safe drinking water via water trucking.

IPC Status November 2021-March 2022	
Phase 5	0 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	8,740,000 people in Emergency
Phase 3	14,074,000 people in Crisis
Phase 2	12,473,000 people in Stress
Phase 1	6,441,000 people Minimally Food Insecure

Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Rising Countrywide

Relief agencies report widespread food insecurity across Afghanistan, which is projected to worsen as the country enters winter. An October International Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report estimated that approximately 18.8 million people in Afghanistan experienced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in September and October, including 6.9 million people experiencing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity.³ The IPC projects that food insecurity will worsen in later months during the agricultural lean season, with nearly 23 million people—or 55 percent of the country's population—experiencing Crisis or worse conditions by March 2022, including 8.7 million people experiencing Emergency levels of food insecurity. The estimate represents the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever projected during the ten years in which IPC analyses have been conducted in Afghanistan. Urban residents are also projected to suffer from food insecurity at rates similar to rural communities, which represents a substantial departure from prior years. According to the UN, up to 3.2 million children younger than five years of age could experience wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—by the end of 2021 due to rising food insecurity, including one million children with severe wasting.

With USAID/BHA and other donor support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) is continuing efforts to rapidly scale up food assistance in Afghanistan in response to heightened food insecurity. The UN agency reached an estimated 5.5 million people in October, compared to 4 million people in September and 1.3 million people in August. Overall, WFP has reached approximately 14.8 million people in Afghanistan since the start of 2021, including an estimated 13.2 million people with food assistance, 1.5

³ The IPC is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

million people with nutrition support, and 246,000 people with livelihood assistance. Pending assessed needs and adequate humanitarian access, the UN agency aims to further scale up operations to meet the food and nutrition needs of almost 23 million people in Afghanistan by the end of 2022. USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is also scaling up nutrition support in Afghanistan, providing lifesaving treatment for an estimated 30,000 children with severe wasting during the month of October, as well as nutrition counseling on infant and young child feeding practices for approximately 150,000 women.

Continued Insecurity Threatens Civilians

International media report continued attacks affecting civilians in some areas of the country, particularly in Kabul and the eastern region. In Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital city, a magnetic bomb exploded on a minibus in a neighborhood mostly populated by members of the Hazara ethnic minority group on November 17, killing two people and injuring five others, according to international media. The bombing was the second attack within a week in the neighborhood, following a similar attack on November 13 that killed one person and injured four others. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan (ISIS-K) claimed responsibility for both attacks, representing an increasing trend of ISIS-K activity in Afghanistan, media report. The group has reportedly launched more than 330 attacks across Afghanistan since the start of 2021, compared with 60 attacks in 2020, according to a November 17 UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan briefing to the UN Security Council. Relief actors warn that continued insecurity could increase humanitarian needs and complicate the provision of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

KEY FIGURES



5.5 Million

People reached with USAID/BHA-supported WFP food and nutrition assistance in October

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 coronavirus disease (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.



11

Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions

PROTECTION

With support from State/PRM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides protection assistance to refugees and 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.



10

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 affected populations. Each year, USG partners preposition shelter materials for use during the harsh winter months—a process that is currently ongoing. 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 18, 2021, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Ian McCary redeclared a disaster for FY 2022 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; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Countrywide, Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Bamyán, 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
FAO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000
	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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)