

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

24.4 MILLION	22.8 MILLION	676,431	1.2 MILLION	29,148
People in Afghanistan Expected to Require Humanitarian Assistance in 2022 <i>UN – December 2021</i>	People Expected to Face Acute Food Insecurity by March 2022 <i>IPC – October 2021</i>	People Displaced by Conflict in 2021 <i>UN – December 2021</i>	Total Undocumented Returnees to Afghanistan in 2021 <i>UN – November 2021</i>	People Affected by Natural Disasters During 2021 <i>UN – November 2021</i>

- On December 22, the UN Security Council (UNSC) approved a UN sanctions carveout for humanitarian assistance and other activities supporting basic needs in Afghanistan.
- An estimated 24.4 million people in Afghanistan will require humanitarian assistance in the coming year, according to the UN’s 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview.
- USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners are continuing to scale up response efforts to meet a broad, multi-sector increase in humanitarian needs across Afghanistan.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA¹ \$297,338,820

State/PRM² \$176,226,619

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

Total \$473,565,439

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

UNSC Approves Sanctions Carveout for Humanitarian Aid and Basic Needs

On December 22, the UNSC unanimously approved Resolution 2651, which establishes a carveout to the UNSC Resolution 1988 sanctions regime for humanitarian assistance and other activities supporting basic needs. Relief agencies have strongly advocated for such an exemption over the past several months, as it will allow the international community to provide urgent support to vulnerable populations in Afghanistan without potentially violating UN sanctions against sanctioned Taliban actors or associated groups. The resolution also includes reporting requirements for humanitarian assistance providers and requires that the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator brief the UNSC every six months.

UN to Issue Largest 2022 Appeal for Afghanistan Response

An estimated 24.4 million people in Afghanistan will require humanitarian assistance in the next year, according to the UN's 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview, an annual document released in December that analyzes current and future trends in worldwide humanitarian needs. The UN notes that this represents a dramatic increase in needs compared to the previous year, driven by a combination of conflict, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, recurrent economic shocks, and severe drought. The 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview projects that relief agencies will require at least \$4.4 billion to reach 22.1 million people with humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan in 2022, representing the largest expected funding appeal for any country in the coming year.

Nearly All Afghans Lack Sufficient Food, WFP Reports

Approximately 98 percent of Afghans are experiencing insufficient food consumption, according to a recent WFP telephone survey. The survey—conducted in rural and urban areas across all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces from October 23 to November 21—indicated a 17 percent increase in insufficient food consumption compared to a prior survey conducted before the collapse of the Government of Afghanistan in mid-August. Nearly 70 percent of households reported not having enough food at least once during the previous two weeks, primarily due to a lack of money to purchase food. Households also consumed protein, dairy, pulses, and fruits less than one day each week, a decline for each food type compared to August. The WFP survey results align with October Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reporting, which projects that nearly 23 million people—or 55 percent of the country's population—will experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse conditions by March 2022, including 8.7 million people experiencing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity.³

Afghanistan Relief Actors Report Severe, Multi-Sector Humanitarian Needs

UN agencies report a broad increase in malnutrition across Afghanistan due to increased food insecurity and deteriorating water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions. Wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—currently exceeds emergency thresholds in 27 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, and half of all children under the age of five—or approximately 3.2 million children—are expected to face wasting during the current winter season, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports. Relief actors are scaling up nutrition treatment activities, including through mobile health and nutrition teams, to address needs during the winter. Meanwhile, effects of severe drought are exacerbating food insecurity, endangering livelihoods for the approximately 85 percent of Afghans who depend on agriculture for income and increasing the risk of infectious disease outbreaks due to reduced availability of water, which supports sanitation and hygiene. Health needs remain severe, with nearly 15 million people in need of

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.

humanitarian health assistance, according to the UN.

KEY FIGURES



7 Million

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



11

Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions



10

Number of USG implementing partners supporting health programming

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 is expanding food assistance and nutrition services to support populations in need. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners are providing seeds and livestock feed in at-risk areas to bolster the coping capacity of vulnerable households. 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, 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.

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, in part due to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, and harsh winter weather. USG partners provide emergency shelter for displaced and otherwise vulnerable 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 pre-position shelter materials for use during the harsh winter months.



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

- 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. Since 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 negatively impacted the ability of Afghan households to meet basic needs.
- The cumulative effects of conflict, internal displacement, COVID-19, drought, and economic collapse have drastically increased levels of humanitarian need throughout Afghanistan. The UN predicts that 24.4 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2022, a 33 percent increase compared to the 18.4 million people in need identified in the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, with the severity of needs deepening across all sectors.
- 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](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)