

# Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

|  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>24.4</b><br/>MILLION</p> <p>People in Afghanistan in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in 2022</p> <p><i>UN – January 2022</i></p> | <p><b>22.8</b><br/>MILLION</p> <p>People Expected to Face Acute Food Insecurity by March 2022</p> <p><i>IPC – October 2021</i></p> | <p><b>22.1</b><br/>MILLION</p> <p>Afghans Prioritized for Humanitarian Assistance Under the 2022 HRP</p> <p><i>UN – January 2022</i></p> | <p><b>736,098</b></p> <p>People Newly Displaced by Conflict in 2021</p> <p><i>UN – February 2022</i></p> | <p><b>1.2</b><br/>MILLION</p> <p>Cross-Border Returnees from Iran and Pakistan in 2021</p> <p><i>UN – November 2021</i></p> |
|--|--|--|--|---|

- Relief actors condemn the February 24 killing of eight health workers who were conducting polio vaccination campaigns in northern Afghanistan.
- Approximately 95 percent of Afghans experienced inadequate food consumption in January, according to WFP.
- USG partners are providing emergency assistance to households affected by the January 17 earthquakes in Badghis Province.



|  |                        |                      |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b><br>For the Afghanistan Response in FYs 2021–2022 | USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup> | \$605,739,542        |
|  | State/PRM <sup>2</sup> | \$176,226,619        |
|  | <b>Total</b>           | <b>\$781,966,161</b> |

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

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### UN Condemns Killing of Eight Health Workers in Northern Afghanistan

Eight health workers—including four women—were targeted and killed by unknown actors while conducting a polio vaccination campaign in northern Afghanistan on February 24, the UN reports. The killings occurred across four separate locations in Kunduz and Takhar provinces and prompted the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to suspend the distribution of vaccines in both provinces. These incidents represent the first attacks on polio workers since health actors resumed nationwide polio vaccination campaigns in November 2021. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, UNICEF, and WHO have issued statements condemning the attacks, calling for prompt investigations and accountability for the perpetrators, as well as underscoring the need for the protection and safety of health workers.

### USG Partners Respond to January 17 Earthquakes in Badghis

On January 17, two earthquakes of magnitudes 4.9 and 5.3 struck Badghis, resulting in at least 26 deaths and the damage or destruction of approximately 1,000 houses, relief actors report. In response, humanitarian organizations, including USG partners, provided emergency food assistance, shelter support, and other relief items to affected households. As of late February, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) had delivered an estimated 130 metric tons of food to approximately 1,350 households, while USAID/BHA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had reached more than 15,000 people with shelter and relief commodities, including blankets and warm clothing. Additionally, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) distributed blankets, household items, and shelter supplies. The incidents underscore Afghanistan’s continued vulnerability to natural hazards and disasters—such as droughts, earthquakes, and floods—which affected at least 29,000 people in Afghanistan throughout 2021, according to the UN.

### Ninety-five Percent of Afghans Experienced Insufficient Food Consumption in January

Approximately 95 percent of Afghans experienced inadequate food consumption in January, according to WFP. Access to markets has deteriorated countrywide since December 2021, with winter weather conditions in January blocking roads and preventing 17 percent of Afghan households from accessing markets, compared with 3 percent in December. Consequently, 66 percent of households adopted negative coping strategies—such as borrowing food and restricting meals—in January, an increase from 58 percent in December. WFP notes that food security conditions deteriorated in Afghanistan’s central highlands region and northern provinces—where household food consumption is the poorest—as well as in Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul and western regions.

With USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP continues to respond to acute food security needs across Afghanistan. WFP has reached approximately 10.1 million people with food and nutrition assistance to date in 2022, including an estimated 4.3 million people between February 1 and 17. The UN projects that nearly 23 million people, or 55 percent of the country’s population, will experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse food insecurity conditions by March 2022, including 8.7 million people experiencing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (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.

## UN Transitional Engagement Framework Requests \$3.6 Billion To Support Community Systems, Essential Services

On January 26, the UN launched the Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF) for Afghanistan, outlining the UN's overarching strategy for assistance in Afghanistan in 2022. The TEF requests \$8 billion in total to support the UN's three priorities: providing life-saving assistance, sustaining essential services, and preserving community-level systems. The framework's first priority, emergency assistance, is outlined in the 2022 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, which requests \$4.4 billion to reach approximately 22.1 million people. The TEF requests an additional \$3.4 billion to support essential services disrupted or suspended since mid-August 2021, including agricultural production, basic infrastructure, education, and health care. The framework requires a further \$208 million to support community-based initiatives, such as community resilience planning, legal capacity building, and support for women's civil society groups.

### KEY FIGURES



**8.5 Million**

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



**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 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 and other donor 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 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

USG NGO and UN partners—such as State/PRM partner UNHCR—provide protection assistance to refugees and returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. Additionally, USAID/BHA and State/PRM 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, as well as integrate MHPSS and other protection measures into education, health, and nutrition programming.

### HEALTH

The USG is supporting ten humanitarian partners to implement life-saving health activities across Afghanistan to improve community health awareness, bolster outpatient consultation efforts, and complement other donor efforts to provide affordable primary and secondary health care. USG partners aim to increase equitable access to and utilization of health services among

conflict-affected persons, IDPs, and vulnerable host communities. USG assistance supports clinics and hospitals 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 enables 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 business knowledge, literacy, and skills development. State/PRM partners support host communities, IDPs, and returning refugees in Afghanistan by providing access to adult literacy courses and skills training, as well as 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 among 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 HRP, 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, a.i., 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 2022<sup>1</sup>

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER  | ACTIVITY   | LOCATION  | AMOUNT               |
|---|--|---|----------------------|
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>  |  |   |                      |
| Implementing Partners (IPs)   | Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH | Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Loghar, Uruzgan Wardak, Zabul   | \$15,000,000         |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM)                                | Shelter and Settlements  | Countrywide   | \$8,257,000          |
| UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)   | MPCA   | Daykundi, Ghazni, Ghor, Kabul, Kunduz, Loghar, Nuristan, Paktia, Paktika, Panjshir, Parwan, Wardak, Zabul | \$15,000,000         |
| WFP   | Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition                   | Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamiyan, Daykundi, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Uruzgan                  | \$270,000,000        |
|   | Program Support  |   | \$143,722            |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>  |  |   | <b>\$308,400,722</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b> |  |   | <b>\$308,400,722</b> |

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

| <b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>   | <b>ACTIVITY</b>   | <b>LOCATION</b>   | <b>AMOUNT</b>        |
|---|---|---|----------------------|
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>  |   |   |                      |
| IPs   | Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; HCIMA; Health; 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          |
| 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            |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>  |   |   | <b>\$297,338,820</b> |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>  |   |   |                      |
| IPs   | Health, ERMS, Protection  | Countrywide   | \$35,754,998         |
|   |   | Pakistan  | \$8,025,536          |
|   | Health  | Countrywide   | \$3,400,000          |
| IOM   | Health  | Pakistan  | \$400,000            |
|   | Protection  | Kosovo  | \$3,975,132          |
|   |   | Countrywide   | \$34,100,000         |
| UNHCR   | Education, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH  | Pakistan  | \$30,750,000         |
|   |   | Regional  | \$31,250,000         |
| UNICEF  | Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH  | 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          |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>  |   |   | <b>\$176,226,619</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>       |   |   | <b>\$473,565,439</b> |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FYs 2021–2022</b> |   |   | <b>\$781,966,161</b> |

## **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)