

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

JULY 9, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

3.3 million

Estimated People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2018
UN – December 2017

132,744

People Internally Displaced by Conflict in 2018
UN – June 2018

379,506

Undocumented Returnees from Iran and Pakistan in 2018
IOM – June 2018

7,349

Registered Returnees in 2018
UNHCR – June 2018

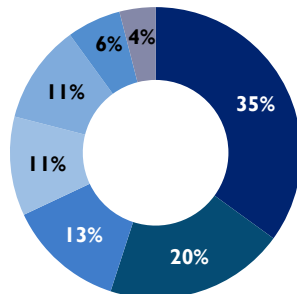
2,258

Civilian Deaths and Injuries in 2018
UN – April 2018

80,891

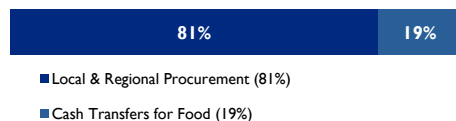
Individuals Affected by Natural Disasters in 2018
IOM – June 2018

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2018



- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (35%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (20%)
- Shelter & Settlements (13%)
- Protection (11%)
- WASH (11%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (6%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (4%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2018



- Local & Regional Procurement (81%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (19%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly 380,000 undocumented Afghans return from Iran and Pakistan
- Drought conditions in Badghis, Ghor, and Herat affected more than 22,400 people from January to mid-June
- USG provides more than \$67 million in FY 2018 assistance to respond to acute needs across Afghanistan

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018

USAID/OFDA	\$5,613,741
USAID/FFP	\$25,975,000
USAID/Afghanistan	\$12,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$23,600,000
Total	\$67,188,741

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Nearly 380,000 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran and Pakistan between January and June, representing an increase of approximately 65 percent compared to the same period in 2017, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Relief actors are responding to critical humanitarian needs among internally displaced persons (IDPs)—including nearly 133,000 people displaced by conflict in 2018—and returnees, the UN reports.
- Persistent drought conditions and high temperatures have contributed to food insecurity in Afghanistan, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Resulting crop damage and reduced access to fodder and grazing areas have threatened farmers' and herders' agricultural production and livestock supply and undermined food security and livelihood opportunities in the country, particularly in central, northern, and southwestern provinces.
- The UN revised the 2018 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in May to increase the funding appeal from \$430 million to \$547 million due to the impact of drought conditions and resultant deterioration in food security, aiming to reach 4.2 million people with emergency humanitarian assistance across Afghanistan.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS

- Military operations and insecurity continue to generate population displacement in Afghanistan. In early June, military operations displaced nearly 3,800 people in Nangarhar Province’s Dehbala and Pachieragam districts, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, insecurity recently displaced more than 2,600 people in Kunar, Nangarhar, and Nuristan provinces. Further, ongoing clashes between Government of Afghanistan (GoA) forces and armed groups in southern Afghanistan displaced nearly 1,130 people in Helmand Province, approximately 900 people in Uruzgan Province, and an estimated 380 people in Zabul Province in early June, according to OCHA. In total, conflict displaced nearly 133,000 people—approximately 20 percent of whom are seeking shelter in hard-to-reach areas—from January 1–June 17, OCHA reports.
 - Nearly 380,000 undocumented Afghans—including nearly 363,000 people from Iran and more than 17,000 people from Pakistan—returned to Afghanistan from January 1–June 30, according to IOM. This figure represents a nearly 65 percent increase compared to the more than 231,000 undocumented persons who returned to Afghanistan during the same period in 2017. Decreased income-generating opportunities for Afghans in Iran has caused a surge in returns in 2018, with more than twice as many returns recorded from January–June than the 150,000 recorded during the same period in 2017. In addition, humanitarian organizations continue to express concern that ongoing developments in Iran and Pakistan could result in potential large-scale influxes of registered and unregistered returnees.
 - More than 7,300 registered refugees returned from Iran and Pakistan from January–June, primarily due to lack of income-generating opportunities and high living costs, according to interviews conducted by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
 - UNHCR continues to provide returning refugees with a \$200 cash grant under the agency’s voluntary repatriation program, while referring returnees to other UN agencies and the GoA for health care and protection services. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR also provides targeted humanitarian assistance to vulnerable individuals, supports community-based protection activities in high-return areas, and promotes the community integration of returnees. In 2017, UNHCR facilitated the return of approximately 58,800 registered Afghan refugees through its voluntary repatriation program.
 - From May 29–June 5, USAID humanitarian partners—including the UN World Food Program (WFP)—provided emergency food and cash assistance, relief commodities, and hygiene kits to more than 14,700 IDPs in Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Jowzjan, Kunduz, Loghar, Nangarhar, and Samangan provinces.
 - With \$350,000 in FY 2018 funding, USAID/OFDA supports OCHA to reinforce coordinated humanitarian planning and response efforts and advocate the needs of vulnerable populations in Afghanistan.
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INSECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Conflict continues to affect civilians, with election-related security incidents from April 10–May 10 resulting in nearly 90 civilian deaths, an estimated 190 injuries, and the abduction of at least 26 civilians, according to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Approximately 75 percent of incidents occurred at schools or mosques utilized for election-related purposes. In total, violence against civilians resulted in nearly 480 fatalities in Afghanistan from January 1 to June 21, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project.
 - Ongoing attacks on humanitarian organizations and staff—including a May 21 attack on non-governmental organization (NGO) staff clearing mines in Kandahar Province’s Malang Kariz area, which resulted in the deaths of five workers—continue to limit relief organizations’ ability to access vulnerable populations in Afghanistan.
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NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE AND SHELTER

- Approximately 80 natural disaster events affected nearly 80,900 people, resulted in 45 deaths, injured 21 people, and damaged or destroyed more than 8,700 houses across 26 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces from January–June, according to IOM. On average, disasters—including drought, earthquakes, flash flooding, and landslides—affect approximately 200,000 people in Afghanistan each year, OCHA reports.

- USAID partners are coordinating with the GoA Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) to address humanitarian needs generated from heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding and landslides that occurred from May 9–15, which affected more than 1,400 households across 14 provinces. USAID partners distributed cash assistance and emergency relief commodities—including food assistance, household kits, and solar kits—to nearly 1,000 disaster-affected households in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Faryab, Ghazni, Kabul, Kunar, Nangarhar, Samangan, and Takhar provinces from May 11–15. In addition, USAID NGO and UN partners distributed emergency relief assistance—including blankets, food assistance, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, soap, and solar kits—to nearly 9,500 individuals across 10 provinces from May 29–June 5. As part of USAID’s ongoing preparedness and response efforts, partners have also pre-positioned relief supplies and shelter materials throughout the country.
- USAID/OFDA supports one NGO to enhance natural disaster tracking and preparedness in Afghanistan. In coordination with ANDMA, the NGO provides flood forecast updates to humanitarian stakeholders, providing information on high-risk locations and estimates of populations at-risk of localized flooding to support humanitarian access, coordination, and disaster risk reduction efforts. Additionally, the organization manages a data center that provides maps and data to the GoA and more than 400 relief organizations.
- Another USAID/OFDA-supported NGO continues to strengthen communities’ capacity to mitigate flood and landslide risks in Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan provinces. From September 2017–March 2018, the organization supported the establishment and training of nearly 20 community-based disaster management committees, 20 school emergency response teams, and 10 women action committees to strengthen communities’ ability to prevent, mitigate, and respond to natural disasters. The NGO also distributes relief commodities and emergency shelters to households affected by heavy rainfall, fires, and floods.
- Displaced households in northern Afghanistan lack access to weather-resistant shelter due to lack of land and high rental costs, particularly in provinces with high numbers of IDPs and returnees. With \$1.2 million in FY 2018 USAID/OFDA funding, an NGO aims to construct transitional shelters for more than 360 households—approximately 2,100 people—affected by disasters or forced displacement in Balkh, Jowzjan, and Sar-e Pul provinces. The NGO also plans to conduct trainings to increase household capacity to prepare for reoccurring natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and heavy snowfall.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- The October-to-May winter wet season concluded with below-average rainfall and record-low levels of snow accumulation throughout Afghanistan, FEWS NET reports. Parts of Afghanistan’s Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan, and Nimroz provinces are transitioning to the summer season with less than 55–70 percent of normal cumulative precipitation levels, while cumulative precipitation levels in northern and southwestern provinces are 85 percent lower than normal for the summer season, according to FEWS NET. Resultant water shortages could affect up to 2.2 million people across 20 provinces, where populations rely on agriculture, livestock, and agricultural labor for food and livelihoods. In addition, FEWS NET expects that the aggregate wheat production in 2018 will be less than the five-year average due to below average rainfall.
- Continued drought conditions, exacerbated by continued limited cumulative precipitation and high temperatures, have contributed to deteriorating food security conditions and livelihood opportunities, particularly among farmer and herder communities. As of June 14, drought had affected more than 22,400 people in Badghis, Ghor, and Herat provinces since January, the UN reports. Many poor families, undocumented returnees, and IDPs—whose livelihoods have been affected by conflict and drought conditions—are likely to continue facing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity during the coming months, according to FEWS NET.³ Small-scale livestock raisers are at particularly high risk for food insecurity, as projected drought conditions after the August–September harvest season will likely reduce livestock supply, the UN reports. Between May 28 and June 3, approximately 150,000 livestock died due to drought in Helmand, according to local authorities.

³ 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, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

- A joint assessment team—comprising USAID implementing partners and ANDMA—determined approximately 2,200 households were displaced from Badghis and Ghor to Herat due to drought in May. The assessment found that displaced households are in need of emergency food assistance, relief commodities, and shelter support.
- In May, the UN revised the 2018 Afghanistan HRP to increase the funding appeal from \$430 million to \$547 million due to the impact of drought conditions and resultant deterioration in food security. The HRP aims to reach 4.2 million people with emergency humanitarian assistance across the country.
- USAID/FFP contributed approximately \$975,000 to an implementing partner to provide cash-based transfers in July and August to an estimated 3,000 food-insecure households affected by drought and seasonal hunger in central Afghanistan. In addition, USAID/FFP contributed in-kind ready-to-use therapeutic foods to UNICEF to treat approximately 54,300 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition from October 2017–April 2018.
- In April, USAID/FFP partner WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 1.2 million people, including more than 460 households displaced by drought in Herat. Additionally, improved humanitarian access enabled WFP to access Badakhshan’s Warduj District for the first time since September 2016 and distribute 225 metric tons of emergency food assistance to support 1,250 people.

HEALTH AND WASH

- Attacks on health care workers and facilities continue to prevent conflict-affected populations from accessing critical health services. Relief actors recorded 63 attacks on health workers and facilities, including five deaths and 45 kidnappings, from December 2017–June 2018, according to the Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.
- The most common communicable diseases recorded across Afghanistan in May were acute respiratory illnesses and acute diarrheal diseases, with more than 419,000 reported cases and nearly 238,000 reported cases, respectively, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, health actors recorded nearly 50 disease outbreaks—including chicken pox, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), mass psychogenic illness, measles, pertussis, rabies, and scabies—in May. WHO recorded more than 2,000 measles cases and 12 related deaths across 31 provinces from January–May, with the greatest number of cases recorded in Badghis, Paktiya, and Zabul provinces. From May–June, Herat Regional Hospital admitted 36 patients with CCHF, four of whom had died as of June 17, OCHA reports.
- Ongoing population movements and returns from Iran and Pakistan have strained the capacity of health facilities. Returnees to Nimroz lack access to basic health services, as the province lacks a functioning health facility. In total, Health Cluster partners reached more than 1 million people with psychosocial support, outpatient referrals, postnatal care, and physical rehabilitation, among other services, across 25 districts in May.
- The ongoing drought continues to hinder vulnerable communities’ access to safe drinking water, with as many as 30 percent of water sources considered dry in Badghis, Jowzjan, and Nimroz in May, according to the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster. To respond to increasing WASH needs, USAID/Afghanistan provided \$12 million to UNICEF and four NGOs to support WASH programming—including hygiene kit distribution, hygiene promotion trainings, and latrine and water infrastructure construction—for vulnerable populations in Afghanistan in FY 2018.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

- To date, international donors have contributed more than \$158 million toward the revised 2018 Afghanistan HRP—representing nearly 30 percent of the approximately \$547 million appeal, according to OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service. The U.S. Government (USG) is the single largest provider of funding to the HRP, followed by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the Government of Australia.

CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that conflict has displaced more than 2 million people since 2012, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 200,000 Afghans each year.
- On October 22, 2017, Special Chargé d’Affaires Ambassador Hugo Llorens renewed the disaster declaration for FY 2018 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from conflict, displacement, and recurring natural disasters in Afghanistan.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improve humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: supporting rapid response capacity to address acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; strengthening community-based disaster preparedness and response; and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.
- USAID/FFP food assistance and disaster readiness programs are designed to respond to the food security and nutritional needs of IDPs and returnees, as well as people affected by economic stress; to support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; to treat moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women; and to contribute to learning among primary and lower secondary school pupils and adults, particularly women.
- A USAID senior humanitarian advisor based in Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul leads the USG’s humanitarian response in war-torn Afghanistan. The senior humanitarian advisor leads USAID/Afghanistan’s Office of Humanitarian Assistance, oversees USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP operations, and is supported by two national staff.
- In addition, a State/PRM Refugee Coordinator based in Kabul monitors refugee and returnee issues in Afghanistan.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,700,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$350,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$550,000
	Program Support Costs		\$13,741
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$5,613,741
USAID/FFP³			
Implementing Partner	Cash Transfers for Food	Daykundi	\$975,000
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$21,000,000
	Cash Transfers for Food		\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$25,975,000
USAID/Afghanistan			
Implementing Partners	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$9,500,000

UNICEF	WASH	Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Laghman, Nangarhar, Samangan	\$2,500,000
TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING			\$12,000,000
State/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Regional	\$18,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$23,600,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$67,188,741

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/Afghanistan and USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as April 30, 2018.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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 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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>