

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

7.4 million

Population in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2017
UN – September 2017

268,626

Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict to Date in 2017
UN – September 2017

375,599

Undocumented Returnees to Afghanistan to Date in 2017 From Iran and Pakistan
IOM – September 2017

52,247

Registered Afghan Returnees From Pakistan to Date in 2017
UN – September 2017

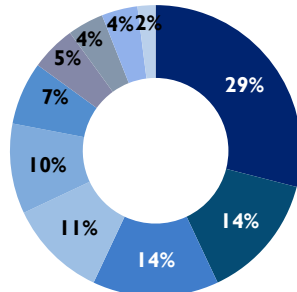
8,019

Civilian Deaths and Injuries to Date in 2017
UN – September 2017

108,853

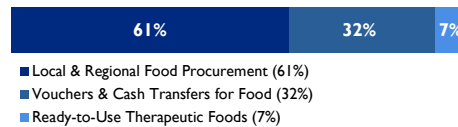
Individuals Affected by Natural Disasters to Date in 2017
IOM – September 2017

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2017



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (29%)
- Shelter & Settlements (14%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (14%)
- Health (11%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (10%)
- Protection (7%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (5%)
- WASH (4%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Other (2%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017



- Local & Regional Food Procurement (61%)
- Vouchers & Cash Transfers for Food (32%)
- Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (7%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict displaces nearly 270,000 Afghans from January–September 2017
- Deteriorating security conditions hinder access to displaced populations in hard-to-reach areas
- Armed groups target health care workers and facilities

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA	\$29,831,547
USAID/FFP	\$69,000,000
USAID/Afghanistan	\$6,000,000
Total	\$104,831,547

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Conflict displaced nearly 270,000 people in 30 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces from January–September, according to the UN. While the rate of displacement has decreased, following a spike in late 2016, conflict continues to result in widespread humanitarian needs. The UN predicts that fighting will intensify through at least December.
- High levels of violence continue to disproportionately affect Afghan civilians, with more than 8,000 civilian deaths and injuries reported by the UN to date in 2017.
- Natural disasters—including avalanches, flooding, landslides, and other hazards—impacted nearly 109,000 Afghans in 33 provinces as of September, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and USAID/Afghanistan provided nearly \$105 million to assist conflict- and disaster-affected populations in Afghanistan.

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

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

INSECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Violence against humanitarian workers and facilities, obstruction of humanitarian activities, and ongoing insecurity continue to hinder relief access to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable populations. Attacks against aid workers have resulted in 15 deaths, 13 injuries, and 43 abductions since January, according to the UN. In September, 32 security incidents affected aid workers, facilities, and activities, bringing the total number of incidents reported since January to nearly 260.
 - Conflict has resulted in more than 2,600 civilian deaths and nearly 5,400 civilian injuries to date in 2017—a 6 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2016, according to the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan. Ground engagements, suicide and complex attacks, and improvised explosive devices caused more than 70 percent of civilian casualties in 2017; Faryab, Kabul, Kandahar, Helmand, and Nangarhar provinces were most affected. Insecurity is likely to increase in the coming months, following the announcement of parliamentary elections scheduled for July 2018 and predictions of a mild winter, the UN reports.
 - With USAID/Afghanistan support, the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program III continues to mitigate the impact of conflict, improvised explosive devices, and landmines through humanitarian interventions—including economic reintegration assistance, physical rehabilitation, and psychosocial counseling services—for conflict-affected civilians.
 - With USAID/Afghanistan support, the UN World Food Program (WFP)-operated UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides aerial transport for humanitarian personnel, with the aim of increasing humanitarian access and facilitating delivery of food and other emergency assistance to populations in need. From July–September, UNHAS transported more than 5,600 passengers from 150 humanitarian organizations to destinations across Afghanistan.
-
-

DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS

- The UN estimates that conflict has displaced more than 1.7 million people in Afghanistan over the past five years. To date in 2017, conflict has internally displaced nearly 270,000 people across 30 of the country’s 34 provinces. The majority of IDP households in hard-to-reach areas—districts with active fighting or controlled by non-state armed groups—have been displaced for a year or more and lack access to humanitarian services.
 - As of September, nearly 376,000 undocumented Afghans and more than 52,000 registered Afghan refugees had returned from Iran and Pakistan, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The majority of returnees are sheltering in Nangarhar, the capital city of Kabul, or along the corridor from Kunduz Province to Baghlan Province, according to IOM.
 - From July–September, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP supported the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and the WFP to provide cash transfers, emergency food assistance, basic health services, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support to more than 91,000 returnees at border crossings countrywide.
-
-

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- More than 250 natural disaster events affected nearly 109,000 individuals in 33 provinces between January and September, IOM reports. To improve local preparedness and response capacity, USAID/OFDA-supported disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs provided trainings to more than 4,500 community emergency response team members throughout Afghanistan from January–July.
- Between July and September, USAID/OFDA supported IOM to provide blankets, household items, and shelter assistance to more than 3,800 people affected by natural disasters and pre-position emergency relief supplies in nearly 25 locations countrywide in preparation for potential flooding and the winter season.
- USAID/OFDA partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted emergency needs assessments among more than 1,800 households affected by natural disasters and conflict in Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Loghar, Nangarhar, and Paktiya provinces from July–September. IRC provided nearly 1,100 households with cash assistance for the purchase of household commodities.

- With ongoing USAID/OFDA support, non-governmental organization (NGO) partner International Medical Corps (IMC) is providing relief supplies to disaster-affected populations and building community capacity to respond to natural disasters. Following heavy rainfall and floods in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar provinces in August, IMC conducted a needs assessment and distributed relief commodities and shelter assistance to affected households. From July–September, IMC also trained nearly 80 hospital staff members in disaster response management, including triage systems, and trained nearly 1,100 community members in emergency preparedness and response. In addition, IMC conducted training-of-trainers for nearly 20 masons, who subsequently trained more than 280 additional masons on disaster-resilient construction.
- Through USAID/OFDA assistance, the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF/US) builds local capacity to respond to disasters, promotes coordination to improve DRR programming, and establishes stockpiles of essential commodities in hazard-prone areas in Badakhshan and Baghlan provinces. AKF/US conducted nearly 20 village awareness seminars, trained more than 40 community emergency response teams, and implemented trainings on risk assessment for Government of Afghanistan (GoA) officials from January–August.
- USAID/OFDA partner Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) is promoting resilience to natural disasters in eight provinces of Afghanistan. From July–September, SC/US implemented 30 small-scale disaster mitigation projects, including drainage culverts, evacuation plans, and flood diversification canals, benefiting more than 70,000 people in Kabul, Kandahar, and Kunduz.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports seasonal improvements in food security in recent months compared to the February–May period. In August and September, FEWS NET reported near-average wheat harvests, with regular imports expected to cover harvest shortfalls and stabilize prices. Overall, FEWS NET expects income from livestock sales and harvests of fruits, potatoes, and other crops to reduce the number of people facing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity.³
- Despite favorable agricultural conditions, acute levels of food insecurity will persist in late 2017 and early 2018 due to widespread conflict and the onset of winter, FEWS NET forecasts. Vulnerable populations, including IDPs and returnees, are likely to experience Crisis levels of food insecurity due to the disruption of food sources and incomes.
- Emergency food assistance is likely preventing Crisis-level food insecurity for many newly displaced households with limited income opportunities, FEWS NET reports. In July, USAID/FFP contributed \$24 million to WFP to support distribution of more than 12,500 metric tons of locally and regionally procured food, as well as cash transfers for food, to nearly 1.7 million people. In FY 2017, USAID/FFP provided \$64 million to WFP for emergency food assistance and \$5 million to UNICEF for the provision of ready-to-use therapeutic foods to vulnerable populations across Afghanistan.
- With USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF aims to reduce acute malnutrition in Afghanistan by delivering critical nutrition services to vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating women, as well as informing communities about available services and nutrition best practices. From July–September, UNICEF admitted nearly 43,000 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition and more than 49,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition to inpatient and outpatient treatment centers. UNICEF also provided nearly 28,000 acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women with nutrition care and support during the same period.
- USAID/FFP supported WFP to implement targeted supplementary feeding programs in more than 400 health centers and school feeding programs in nearly 30 schools across the country in August, benefiting nearly 52,000 children ages 6–59 months and more than 13,000 students, respectively.

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.

HEALTH AND WASH

- Insecurity continues to strain existing health infrastructure and prevent Afghans from accessing critical health services. The UN recorded 17 security incidents against health workers or health facilities in September, bringing the total number of incidents targeting health workers or facilities to 103 from January–September.
 - In June and July, insecurity-related constraints prevented nearly 500,000 people in Laghman from accessing health care services and prevented the national polio immunization campaign from reaching an estimated 70,000 children, according to the UN. Vaccination campaigns are critical to eradicate poliovirus in Afghanistan, one of two polio-endemic countries; as of September 30, WHO had reported six polio cases across Afghanistan in 2017.
 - Members of the Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—reached nearly 135,000 people with health services from June–July. Of the total, more than 40 percent of beneficiaries were women and up to 60 percent of beneficiaries resided in conflict-affected areas. From July–September, USAID/OFDA partner WHO trained more than 680 doctors, nurses, medical staff, and health workers in trauma care; established specialized trauma care services in eight hospitals and health centers; and developed mass casualty management preparedness and response capacity in 10 hospitals.
 - From January–September, WASH Cluster members—including USAID partners the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), IMC, IRC, SC/US, UNICEF, and ZOA—reached more than 600,000 people with emergency WASH assistance, such as constructing latrines, drilling wells, and providing hygiene and water treatment supplies to vulnerable households. Among this assistance, USAID/OFDA partner IRC conducted training on hygiene best practices for approximately 2,100 people, facilitated the installation of more than 100 emergency latrines, and delivered hygiene kits to more than 400 households from July–September.
-
-

SHELTER

- Shelter remains a critical need for Afghan IDPs and returnees, with more than 100,000 people living in tents or without shelter as of July, according to the UN. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, launched in January, continues to monitor population movements, provide quantitative and qualitative data on shelter and other humanitarian needs, and facilitate an effective and rapid humanitarian response.
 - With USAID/OFDA support, ACTED provided transitional shelters to 450 households displaced by natural disasters in Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Jowzjan provinces from January–September. ACTED also continues to address the shelter needs of 320 households in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar who lost their homes during a 2015 earthquake that affected nearly 130,000 people.
-
-

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- USAID/OFDA supports Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) to provide information management services for disaster-affected communities and humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan. In FY 2017, iMMAP provided district-level information on potential winter hazards to inform winterization planning in coordination with the Shelter Cluster. Additionally, iMMAP manages the Afghanistan Spatial Data Center, which provides maps and data to the GoA and more than 400 relief organizations for emergency response, monitoring, and planning.
- In addition, USAID/OFDA partner UNICEF recently improved coordination between humanitarian WASH actors to respond to natural disasters. By establishing a program cooperation agreement among NGOs in the sector, UNICEF reduced the response time to many natural disasters, such as recent floods in Nimroz Province, from several weeks to one week or less.
- Through USAID/OFDA assistance, AKF/US convened a national DRR workshop in Kabul from August 6–7 to bolster GoA, UN, NGO, and civil society coordination on natural disaster response.

LINKAGES BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

- Strengthening linkages between humanitarian and development assistance in Afghanistan remains a priority for USAID and other response stakeholders. A recently approved USAID development credit authority (DCA) will help IDPs, returnees, and host communities access credit. By guaranteeing a percentage of loans for small businesses in vulnerable communities across Afghanistan, the DCA aims to improve livelihood opportunities and support long-term economic recovery.
- Following advocacy from humanitarian stakeholders, World Bank development mechanisms are assisting vulnerable populations such as IDPs and returnees. In 2017, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)—established in 2002 to provide a coordinated financing mechanism for GoA development initiatives—began supporting IDPs and returnees. The ARTF operates in key sectors such as education, governance, and infrastructure to promote long-term, sustainable recovery. USAID contributed more than \$270 million to the ARTF in FY 2017, making the U.S. government the largest ARTF donor. Within the ARTF, the Citizens Charter Afghanistan Project seeks to bridge the gap between immediate humanitarian assistance and recovery of long-term livelihoods for IDPs and returnees by promoting access to basic services, providing income support, and supporting reintegration into host communities.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

- To date, international donors have contributed nearly \$210 million toward the 2017 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)—approximately 51 percent of the \$409 million request. The UN revised the original \$550 million HRP request downward following the lower than expected number of registered refugee returns between January and June.

CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that conflict has displaced more than 1.7 million people since 2012, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 235,000 Afghans each year.
- On October 5, 2016, U.S. Ambassador P. Michael McKinley renewed the disaster declaration for FY 2017 due to increased 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 for 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 Kabul continues to monitor the humanitarian situation and oversee USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP activities in Afghanistan. The senior humanitarian advisor leads USAID/Afghanistan's Office of Humanitarian Assistance, supported by two national staff.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
ACTED	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Baghlan, Faryab, Laghman, Nangarhar	\$1,900,000
AKF/US	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Badakhshan, Baghlan	\$1,810,383
IMC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan	\$2,400,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$3,569,307
IOM	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Countrywide	\$4,850,000
INTERSOS	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Kandahar	\$1,491,935
IRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktiya	\$3,850,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$200,000
SC/US	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$4,400,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$800,000
UNICEF	WASH	Countrywide	\$358,455
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$2,699,707
ZOA	Shelter and Settlements	Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul	\$1,500,000
	Program Support Costs		\$1,760
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$29,831,547
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$42,000,000
	Food Vouchers, Cash Transfers for Food	Countrywide	\$22,000,000
UNICEF	Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$69,000,000
USAID/Afghanistan			
FEWS NET	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics and Humanitarian Access	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING			\$6,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$104,831,547

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2017.

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>