

# AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**5.5 million**

Estimated People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2018  
UN – May 2018

**243,500**

People Internally Displaced by Conflict in 2018  
UN – September 2018

**577,224**

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

**13,262**

Registered Returnees in 2018  
UNHCR – September 2018

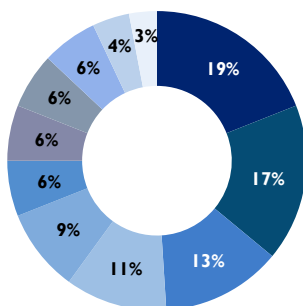
**8,050**

Civilian Deaths and Injuries in 2018  
UN – September 2018

**253,600**

Individuals Displaced by Drought in western Afghanistan in 2018  
UN – September 2018

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2018



- WASH (19%)
- Shelter & Settlements (17%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (13%)
- Health (11%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (9%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (6%)
- Nutrition (6%)
- Protection (6%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (6%)
- Multipurpose Cash Assistance (4%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2018



- Local & Regional Procurement (58%)
- Complementary Services (Twinning) (24%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (12%)
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (6%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Drought internally displaces an estimated 253,600 people as of September 30
- Some drought-affected households likely to experience IPC 4 levels of acute food insecurity by January
- Conflict, strained capacity hinder humanitarian response efforts

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018

USAID/OFDA	\$49,858,796
USAID/FFP	\$73,996,762
USAID/Afghanistan	\$21,150,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$83,590,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$228,596,306</b>

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Populations in Afghanistan are experiencing increased humanitarian needs due to severe, persistent drought in 20 of the country's 34 provinces. The drought, which began in early 2018, has affected an estimated 2.2 million people to date. Priority needs among drought-affected populations include agriculture and food security, health, nutrition, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, the UN reports.
- From January–September, more than 577,200 undocumented Afghans returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan, representing a nearly 54 percent increase compared to the same period in 2017, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Recent political and economic developments in Iran, where the majority of returnees had fled, likely drove the uptick in returns, IOM reports.
- On September 22, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan John R. Bass announced an additional \$43.8 million in USAID/FFP funding to deliver critical food assistance to drought-affected populations in Afghanistan. In FY 2018, the U.S. Government (USG) provided nearly \$228.6 million to assist conflict- and disaster-affected Afghans.

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

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

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

## DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS

- To date in 2018, conflict has internally displaced an estimated 243,500 Afghans, compared to approximately 268,600 people during the same period in 2017, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The UN reports that improved security following a sharp increase in violence during 2017 allowed some internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return to areas of origin. In addition to continued violence, worsening drought conditions have displaced approximately 253,600 individuals in western Afghanistan, including approximately 120,000 people newly displaced from rural areas of Badghis Province who fled to the province's capital city of Qala-e-Naw and surrounding areas from September 1–16, the UN reports.
- More than 577,200 undocumented Afghans had returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan as of September 22, according to IOM. The majority of undocumented Afghans—more than 552,000 people—returned from Iran, an increase of nearly 92 percent compared to the same time period in 2017. Recent political and economic developments in Iran, including currency devaluation and a decrease in demand for individuals working in the informal economy, likely contributed to the increasing trend, IOM reports.
- Nearly 13,300 registered Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan since January, with most refugees returning to Kabul, Nangarhar, and Sar-e Pul provinces, according to the Office of UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The majority of returnees relocate to urban areas with limited job opportunities and inadequate access to essential services, which can fuel secondary displacement. State/PRM is supporting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assist returnee populations with improved access to employment opportunities as well as protection and basic legal services.

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## DROUGHT RESPONSE

- Drought conditions and below-average rainfall from March–April damaged rain-fed wheat crops in northern Afghanistan, leading to severe crop losses in Badghis, Herat, Faryab, Sar-e Pul, and Zabul provinces. Estimated losses of rain-fed and irrigated wheat production are 70 and 7 percent, respectively, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. Additionally, some agro-pastoral households in the worst-affected areas have sold their livestock due to a lack of grazing lands, driving livestock prices down and undermining livelihoods.
- According to a recent UN-led needs assessment, more than 80 percent of drought-affected households surveyed in western Afghanistan had poor food consumption scores, and nearly 70 percent of households had resorted to negative coping mechanisms—such as reducing food intake—as a result of the drought. Separately, an emergency food security assessment by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN World Food Program (WFP) also noted negative coping mechanisms among households in northwestern Badghis and Ghor provinces, with more than 50 percent of households in the two provinces selling livestock and approximately 30 percent of households selling agricultural land or houses to cope with the effects of the drought.
- The Government of Afghanistan (GoA) is coordinating with the UN and other humanitarian actors to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from the drought. Relief organizations are prioritizing emergency support in displacement sites and drought-affected villages in Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jowzjan, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nimroz, Samangan, and Sar-e Pul provinces. Between August and mid-September, relief agencies provided humanitarian assistance—including emergency food assistance, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH support—to nearly 691,000 vulnerable people in drought-affected areas, according to the UN.
- USAID/FFP partners are coordinating with the GoA to address urgent needs resulting from drought conditions. USAID/FFP partner WFP reached approximately 783,000 people across 14 drought-affected provinces—including the five worst-affected provinces of Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, and Jowzjan—from June–August and plans to assist a total of 1.4 million people in 20 drought-affected provinces through October. A USAID/FFP NGO partner has also reached more than 2,000 drought-affected individuals in Daykundi Province with cash distributions.
- With USAID/OFDA support, IOM and an NGO partner had rehabilitated latrines and distributed emergency cash assistance, tents, and relief items—including blankets and solar lamps—to more than 12,300 drought-affected people in Badghis, Ghor, and Herat, as of September.

- On September 22, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan John R. Bass announced an additional \$43.8 million in USAID/FFP funding to WFP to support the procurement of food commodities and the milling, fortification, transportation, and distribution of approximately 44,500 metric tons (MT) of GoA-provided wheat to drought-affected communities. As of mid-September, WFP had begun milling, fortifying, and distributing approximately 10,000 MT of the GoA-donated wheat. In the coming weeks, the UN agency plans to pre-position additional wheat and food commodities in drought-affected areas to improve access to emergency food assistance during the 2018/2019 winter season.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- The number of households facing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity across Afghanistan as of September was atypically high due to drought, reduced wheat production, limited labor opportunities, and ongoing conflict, FEWS NET reports.<sup>3</sup> Much of the country will likely experience Crisis levels of acute food insecurity through March 2019, at the peak of the January-to-April lean season, while households in the most severely drought-affected areas, specifically Badghis and Faryab provinces, will likely experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity by January, according to FEWS NET.
- The global acute malnutrition prevalence among children ages 6–59 months in Kunar and Uruzgan provinces was 21 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively, far exceeding the UN World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent. Additionally, the Nutrition Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian nutrition activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—reports severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence of 5 percent in Kunar and 7.6 percent in Uruzgan, surpassing the WHO emergency threshold of 2 percent.
- Approximately 1.6 million children ages five years and younger in Afghanistan require treatment for moderate or severe acute malnutrition, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports. Drought-affected populations have increasingly relied on untreated water sources, heightening the risk of water-borne illness transmission and likely contributing to increased malnutrition among children, according to the UN agency. UNICEF reached approximately 122,200 children experiencing SAM with nutrition services from January–June.
- With approximately \$4.2 million in FY 2018 funding, USAID/FFP is supporting UNICEF to distribute 830 MT of ready-to-use therapeutic food sufficient to treat nearly 59,800 children ages five years and younger experiencing SAM. USAID/FFP is also supporting UNICEF to train health care workers on the integrated management of acute malnutrition and provide technical assistance to improve the quality of malnutrition treatment services.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- The recent drought-related population influx to Badghis’s Qala-e-Naw city has strained response capacity in displacement sites, with an estimated 130,000 IDPs in Qala-e-Naw lacking access to sanitation facilities and 42,000 IDPs lacking access to safe drinking water, according to OCHA. In response, UNICEF is conducting water trucking operations, constructing and rehabilitating sanitation facilities, and conducting community-based health and hygiene education sessions in Badghis and neighboring Herat. As of mid-September, UNICEF had provided more than 141,000 people in Badghis and Herat with safe drinking water and enabled more than 28,000 people to access functional latrines.
- Health, protection, and shelter are also key areas of concern in Badghis, as only five mobile health teams are available to support the entire province’s IDP population, and many IDPs are residing in makeshift shelters. OCHA estimates that more than 10 additional mobile health teams are required to meet immediate health needs in Badghis.
- Violence against health workers and facilities continues to hinder the delivery of basic health care services throughout Afghanistan. A hospital in Nuristan Province remains closed due to ongoing conflict, and medical staff have reported that non-state armed groups (NSAGs) are pressuring health facility staff in several districts of Nangarhar Province to provide medical supplies and trauma care for combatants. Additionally, violence perpetrated by NSAGs has halted

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

immunization efforts in some areas of Kunar Province, preventing the vaccination of approximately 6,200 children younger than five years of age.

- In FY 2018, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$9.7 million for WASH interventions in Afghanistan and approximately \$5.4 million for health activities. With USAID/OFDA support, partners constructed and rehabilitated damaged latrines, provided basic WASH services to underserved communities, distributed family hygiene kits, conducted awareness sessions to promote safe hygiene and sanitation practices, and implemented malnutrition treatment programs.

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## OTHER ASSISTANCE

- On September 17, the UN launched Awaaz Afghanistan—the country’s first interagency nationwide call center, which provides information about emergency services to populations affected by conflict and natural disasters, in Kabul. The call center enables citizens to provide feedback about services, in an effort to increase oversight and accountability for organizations implementing humanitarian activities in the country.
- To date, international donors have contributed more than \$182 million toward the revised 2018 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)—representing nearly 34 percent of the \$547 million appeal. The Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team revised the HRP in May to address humanitarian needs in severely drought-affected areas of the country.

## 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 250,000 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 <sup>1</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$550,000
	Agriculture and Food Security	Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, Herat	\$2,500,000
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$36,819,832
IOM	HCIM, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$350,000
UNICEF	HCIM	Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar	\$200,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WHO	Health	Baghlan, Kabul, Kandahar	\$2,400,000
	Program Support Costs		\$38,964
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$49,858,796</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
Implementing Partner	Cash Transfers for Food	Daykundi	\$975,000
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$4,221,762
	Local and Regional Food Procurement		\$43,051,239
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Countrywide	\$8,283,284
	Complementary Services (Twinning)		\$17,465,477
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$73,996,762</b>
<b>USAID/Afghanistan</b>			
FEWS NET	Climate Surveillance	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Implementing Partners	ERMS, Livelihoods, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$9,650,000
UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
UNICEF	WASH	Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Laghman, Nangarhar, Samangan	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING</b>			<b>\$21,150,000</b>
<b>State/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partners	Education, Humanitarian Assistance, Livelihoods, Protection	Countrywide	\$31,116,511
IOM	Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$1,580,036

UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Regional	\$48,900,000
WHO	Protection	Pakistan	\$994,201
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$83,590,748</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$228,596,306</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/Afghanistan and USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as September 30, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)