

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

MAY 27, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

24.4 MILLION	19.7 MILLION	22.1 MILLION	5.8 MILLION	381,600
People in Afghanistan in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in 2022 <i>UN – January 2022</i>	People in Afghanistan Experiencing Acute Food Insecurity <i>IPC – May 2022</i>	Afghans Prioritized for Humanitarian Assistance Under the 2022 HRP <i>UN – January 2022</i>	IDPs in Afghanistan as of December 2021 <i>UN – December 2021</i>	Cross-Border Returnees from Iran and Pakistan in 2022 <i>UN – May 2022</i>

- An estimated 19.7 million people in Afghanistan—nearly half the country’s population—are currently experiencing acute levels of food insecurity, according to the latest IPC analysis. While a scale-up of humanitarian assistance has prevented food security from worsening, severe levels of hunger persist countrywide.
- Relief actors—including USG partners—are assessing and responding to humanitarian needs resulting from early May flooding, which adversely affected thousands of people across 15 provinces.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$378,480,081
	State/PRM ²	\$133,728,233
Total		\$512,208,314

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

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

Nearly 20 Million People in Afghanistan Are Facing Acute Food Insecurity, According to Latest IPC Analysis

Approximately 19.7 million people across Afghanistan—47 percent of the country’s population—are experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the current March–May period, which corresponds with the peak of Afghanistan’s lean season, according to a May Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.³ This total includes nearly 6.6 million people experiencing Emergency—IPC 4—levels, as well as approximately 20,000 people facing Catastrophe—IPC 5—conditions in Ghor Province. In addition, pre-existing chronic food insecurity and access challenges during the winter months resulted in the unprecedented emergence of IPC 5 conditions in the province. According to the report, key drivers of food insecurity include economic collapse—characterized by a cessation of international development funding, disrupted financial services, escalating unemployment, heightened food prices, and loss of access to offshore assets—and ongoing drought, leading to decreased production of wheat and other staple crops.

Aggregate food insecurity during the current March–May period has decreased by nearly 14 percent compared with the previous November–March period—when an estimated 22.8 million people experienced acute food insecurity conditions—due to the scale-up of humanitarian food assistance in recent months, according to the IPC report. The analysis further projects that food security conditions in Afghanistan will marginally improve from June to November 2022, corresponding with the harvest and post-harvest seasons, as the number of people facing acute food insecurity decreases to approximately 18.9 million. However, food needs for numerous Afghans will remain high over the coming six months, a period in which below-average crop yields, continued economic contraction, decreased humanitarian food assistance funding, and supply chain disruptions resulting from the Ukraine complex emergency are expected to occur. To address these challenges, large-scale food assistance will be required in the coming months, particularly in the absence of development investments to restore livelihoods and improve macroeconomic conditions in Afghanistan.

With USAID/BHA and other donor support, relief actors—including the UN World Food Program (WFP)—have continued to scale-up emergency food assistance to respond to heightened food insecurity in Afghanistan. In March, relief actors reached 21 percent of households across Afghanistan with emergency food assistance, an increase from 14 percent in January, WFP reports. To date in 2022, WFP has reached more than 17 million people countrywide—including an estimated 15 million people in April alone—with more than 415,000 metric tons of food assistance, as well as approximately \$113 million in emergency cash assistance.

Early May Flooding Affects Hundreds of Households Across 15 Provinces

Heavy rainfall and resultant flooding in northern and northwestern Afghanistan in early May resulted in at least 22 deaths and adversely affected thousands of people, according to the UN. Floods—which affected at least 15 provinces—damaged or destroyed at least 1,270 houses, while causing damage to agricultural land, crops, orchards, and roads. The recent floods mark the onset of Afghanistan’s flood season, which will likely continue to drive displacement in the coming months. In 2021, natural disasters displaced an estimated 29,000 people in Afghanistan, with most displacements due to flooding, according

³ The IPC is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

to the UN. As of mid-May 2022, natural disasters—including earthquakes, flooding, and landslides—had adversely affected more than 45,000 people. The current level of flooding is typical for the spring in Afghanistan, when communities are inundated annually due to a combination of snow melt, rains, and land degradation resulting from deforestation and drought. Despite the seasonal floods, Afghanistan’s water basin is below average and declining due to warming temperatures. In total, 20 of the country’s 34 provinces in Afghanistan received below average precipitation during the winter, 10 of which received precipitation at 60-80 percent below the 2001-2015 average. Thus, many agricultural areas will face shortages of water for irrigated crops over the coming months.

In response to the May floods, relief actors—including U.S. Government (USG) partners—continue to conduct needs assessments and provide initial food and shelter assistance to affected households. As of late May, WFP has provided emergency food assistance to nearly 4,000 flood-affected households.

KEY FIGURES



15 Million

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



11

Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions



9

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 (LRIP) 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

USG partners—such as State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—provide 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 the 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 nine 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 to underserved

populations. USG partners aim to increase equitable access to and utilization of health services among IDPs, host communities, and other conflict-affected populations. 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 the 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 Kabul on August 15, 2021, following the successive capture of several provincial capitals and territory in early August. Since the Taliban takeover 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, and reduced household purchasing power, inhibiting many Afghan households from meeting their basic needs.
- The cumulative effects of conflict, internal displacement, coronavirus disease (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 (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 effects of the ongoing complex emergency.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Natural Hazards and Technological Risks; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Bamiyan, Daykundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Konar, Kunduz, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Sar-e Pul, Uruzgan, Wardak, Zabul	\$62,766,004
FAO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$8,257,000
UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	Health, HCIMA, Nutrition, Protection, MPCA, WASH	Countrywide, Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamiyan, Daykundi, Ghazni, Ghor, Faryab, Herat, Kabul, Kunduz, Loghar, Nuristan, Paktia, Paktika, Panjshir, Parwan, Wardak, Zabul	\$33,645,428
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$361,800
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, LRIP; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamiyan, Daykundi, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Uruzgan	\$270,721,579

WHO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$228,270
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$378,480,081
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Livelihoods	Balkh	\$1,128,233
IOM	Health	Pakistan	\$6,300,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$80,300,000
		Pakistan	\$32,000,000
		Regional	\$3,900,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Pakistan	\$9,300,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Pakistan	\$800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$133,728,233
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$512,208,314

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 31, 2022.

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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)