

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

JUNE 14, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>23.7 MILLION</p> <p>Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – December 2023</i></p>	<p>17.3 MILLION</p> <p>Number of People Prioritized for Humanitarian Assistance Under the 2024 HNRP</p> <p><i>UN – December 2023</i></p>	<p>32.1 MILLION</p> <p>People Reached With Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan in 2023</p> <p><i>UN – December 2023</i></p>	<p>6.6 MILLION</p> <p>Number of IDPs in Afghanistan as of December 2022</p> <p><i>IOM – June 2023</i></p>	<p>610,800</p> <p>Number of Afghan Returnees From Pakistan Since September 15, 2023</p> <p><i>IOM – June 2024</i></p>
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- Relief actors, including USAID/BHA partners, are providing emergency assistance to people affected by severe flooding in May that resulted in 225 deaths and widespread damage.
- Harvests starting in June are projected to improve food security for many Afghan households, but limited livelihood opportunities and slow recovery from drought and floods continue to generate food assistance needs.
- The Government of Pakistan has delayed implementation of its Illegal Foreigners’ Repatriation Plan, but Afghans continue to return from Pakistan and many returnees and host community members face high levels of humanitarian need.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$231,581,223
For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2024	State/PRM ²	\$26,060,000
Total		\$257,641,223

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

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

May Floods Cause Hundreds of Deaths and Widespread Damage

Heavy rains caused severe flooding across northeastern, northern, and western Afghanistan in May, affecting more than 59,100 people and resulting in 225 confirmed deaths, injury to approximately 220 people, and widespread destruction of infrastructure across nearly 260 of Afghanistan's 421 districts as of June 6, the UN reports. The most heavily affected provinces include Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Takhar provinces in the northeast, Faryab Province in the north, and Ghor Province in the west. Communities affected by the flooding require food, health, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, according to relief actors. The flooding disproportionately affected women and girls, who were more likely to be in their homes during heavy rains, while men were more likely to be outside and able to take shelter in sturdier buildings, such as mosques, according to the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group. Additionally, Taliban restrictions on women's education, mobility, and employment outside the home may have hindered women's access to early warning information and resources that could have allowed them to evacuate more quickly. The flooding damaged and destroyed nearly 7,000 houses and critical infrastructure such as markets, roads, schools, and water systems, the UN reports. Notably, the floods have threatened agricultural livelihoods by inundating agricultural land, causing the deaths of livestock, and disrupting irrigation systems, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports. Floods had also destroyed seven health facilities and damaged 24 others across eight provinces as of June 5, while health and nutrition teams responding to community needs faced a shortage of supplies, according to the Health Cluster.³ Some health actors have temporarily relocated health services to private houses to ensure that health care is still accessible and available to affected populations. The destruction of main roads and bridges has hindered access to affected communities, with relief actors relying on donkeys, helicopters, or smaller vehicles to reach some communities in need.

In response, relief actors are providing multi-sector assistance to meet households' food, health, protection, shelter, and WASH needs. Humanitarian organizations, including USAID/BHA partners, reached approximately 43,000 people in flood-affected areas with food assistance and approximately 56,500 people with health care, including specialized maternal and child health services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and treatment for traumatic injuries, between May 10 and June 3. Additionally, FAO and other partners are repairing damaged irrigation systems and safely disposing of dead livestock to reduce the risk of disease transmission. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) and other members of the Health Cluster are also monitoring for any increase in waterborne diseases. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered safe drinking water to more than 28,300 people per day and provided critical WASH supplies such as soap and water containers to approximately 23,000 people across all flood-affected areas as of June 6.

Mild Improvement in Food Security Projected Following Summer 2024 Harvests

Afghanistan's central highlands, northern, and western regions continued to experience widespread Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity in May due to slow recovery from past recurrent droughts, recent floods, and limited access to food and livelihood opportunities.⁴ However, household food security in much of Afghanistan will likely improve between May and October due to the start of

³ The Health Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (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.

wheat harvests in June, improvements in household purchasing power, and sustained humanitarian assistance, according to IPC and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analyses. The wheat harvest is likely to improve household access to food and income through increased paid agricultural labor opportunities and decreased food prices, which are expected to strengthen purchasing power. The improvement is likely to reduce the share of the population facing Crisis levels of acute food security to levels similar to the country's five-year average by October, FEWS NET projects. However, Crisis outcomes may remain prevalent in higher elevation areas where the harvest does not typically occur until October, likely resulting in household access to income for food purchases remaining low.

Despite projected improvements, access to income-generating opportunities remains limited for many households in Afghanistan, reducing their ability to purchase food amid economic stagnation and high levels of competition for casual labor opportunities. Furthermore, poor labor markets may not present sufficient income-generating opportunities to support the expected increase in Afghans returning from Pakistan through the end of 2024, potentially constraining purchasing power amid already high levels of unemployment, according to FEWS NET and IPC. Drought recovery also continues slowly in some areas, and high temperatures and projected below-average snowpack may limit the availability of water for irrigation of crops during the summer. Additionally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warns that the growth of yellow rust—a fungal infection affecting wheat, Afghanistan's primary staple crop—and potential locust infestations may negatively affect future crop yields and the availability of food. The UN World Food Program (WFP) also plans to replace its general food assistance program with targeted food assistance to vulnerable households in identified hotspots during the summer months to conserve resources to meet increased needs in the winter, when food is most scarce.

Food Assistance Remains a Priority Need Following 611,000 Cumulative Returnee Arrivals From Pakistan

Afghan returnees from Pakistan and host community members continue to face high levels of humanitarian need, with an estimated 611,000 people having returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan between September 15, 2023 and June 1, 2024, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)-led Border Consortium. Returnees and host community members cite food assistance as their primary need, with approximately 79 percent of 24,600 households surveyed by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group of humanitarian organizations between November 2023 and February 2024 reporting that they lacked access to affordable food sources. The survey also indicated that many returnees rely on humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs, and 61 percent of respondents reported being unable to afford health care services. Additionally, returnees continue to face significant protection risks, with 75 percent of respondents reporting that latrines used by their households are not safe for women and girls. Some respondents also reported incidents of child labor, child marriage, and physical violence and harassment in their communities, particularly in southern Afghanistan. As 94 percent of returnee respondents intend to remain in their areas of return, relief actors remain concerned about the strain on already limited resources and access to livelihood opportunities in provinces with large returnee populations, including Kandahar, Kunar, and Nangarhar provinces.

In response to the ongoing needs of Afghans returning from Pakistan, State/PRM partners have reached more than 538,000 returnees—more than 60 percent of whom are adolescents and children—with emergency assistance, including integrated health and protection support, legal identity documentation guidance, and protection screenings, between September 15, 2023 and June 1, 2024. Additionally, with support from USAID/BHA and other donors, UNICEF continues to provide returnee and host community populations in need with cash, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH assistance in the

northern and western regions of Afghanistan.

Relief actors note that the expected second phase of the Government of Pakistan’s (GoP) Illegal Foreigners’ Repatriation Plan (IFRP), which would continue the deportation of undocumented Afghans and expand deportations to target Afghan Citizen Card holders, has not yet begun as of mid-June. The GoP also extended the validity of Proof of Registration cards for Afghan refugees to June 30, 2024, reducing immediate pressure to return to Afghanistan and enabling refugees’ continued access to essential services. Nevertheless, more broad-based implementation of the IFRP is likely to drive increased needs throughout Afghanistan.

6,000 IDPs Evicted From Informal Settlement in Kabul Amid Continuing Shelter Needs

Taliban security forces demolished houses and displaced at least 6,000 people in the Nasaji Bagrami internally displaced person (IDP) settlement and other informal sites in Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul beginning on June 2, according to relief actors. Officials had issued eviction notices to Nasaji Bagrami residents on April 15 and had announced plans to relocate residents of Kabul’s 47 informal settlements—which house approximately 70,000 people—to their areas of origin in July 2022, citing the end of the conflict as the reason for the relocations. Displaced persons established the Nasaji Bagrami site more than ten years ago, and its residents—90 percent of whom were displaced by conflict—were already experiencing severe poverty prior to their eviction, according to REACH. Evicted households urgently require temporary housing, as well as food, health, and WASH assistance.

Nearly 2.8 million people—including economic migrants, impoverished host community members, newly displaced people, long-term IDPs, and recent returnees from Pakistan and Iran—resided in more than 870 informal settlements across 24 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces as of December 2023, according to a REACH report. Residents of these informal settlements largely lack legal title to the land on which they reside and urgently need assistance, relief actors report. Anticipated and recent returns from Iran and Pakistan will likely increase competition for housing and income-generating opportunities, particularly in Kabul and other urban areas, IOM reports. Furthermore, forced displacement—including forced evictions—remains a key driver of Afghanistan’s protection crisis, increasing the vulnerability of households without access to safe shelter and basic services, according to members of the Humanitarian Country Team.

KEY FIGURES



2.5 Million

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

The U.S. Government (USG) supports the delivery of life-saving emergency food assistance across Afghanistan, providing at-risk populations with cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and in-kind food assistance. With USAID/BHA support, WFP reached 2.5 million people across Afghanistan with food assistance in April. Additionally, USAID/BHA-supported international NGO (INGO) partners are providing seeds and livestock feed in areas at risk of food insecurity to bolster the capacity of vulnerable households, along with food and other assistance.



11

Number of USG partners providing health assistance in 2024

HEALTH

The USG supports UN and INGO partners to implement life-saving health activities across Afghanistan to improve access to health care services for IDPs, host community members, and other conflict- and shock-affected populations. USG assistance supports clinics and mobile health teams to deliver emergency and primary health care services, conduct trainings for local community volunteers, provide essential medicines, and implement vaccination campaigns. Additionally, USG funding supports WHO to coordinate emergency health response activities, maintain the continuation of essential health services, and ensure the continued supply of critical health and medical commodities in Afghanistan.



14

Number of USG partners conducting protection interventions

PROTECTION

USG partners—such as State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—provide protection assistance to IDPs, refugees, returnees, and other vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. Additionally, USG partners deliver 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 and provide legal assistance to returning refugees to access documentation. With USAID/BHA support, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and its NGO partners provided gender-based violence and psychosocial support through 14 Maternal and Child Health Centers in 12 provinces, reaching more than 63,000 beneficiaries during the first three months of 2024.



9,000

Number of emergency shelter modules prepositioned by USAID/BHA partner IOM

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

Shelter needs among populations in Afghanistan remain significant due to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, harsh winter weather, landslides, and displacement driven by conflict. USG partners provide emergency shelter for displaced and otherwise vulnerable people, as well as shelter repair kits, transitional shelters, and multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to support the housing needs of affected populations. In addition, USG partners pre-position shelter materials each year for distribution ahead of the harsh winter months and support heating costs for at-risk households. From October 2023 to March 2024, with support from USAID/BHA and other donors, IOM reached nearly 97,600 people with cash assistance for immediate winterization needs. IOM also reached more than 75,000 people affected or displaced by conflict or natural disasters with emergency shelter items, including blankets, clothing, and shelter repair tool kits.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—including IOM, UNICEF, and NGO partners—are working to meet WASH needs in Afghanistan through the provision of safe drinking water and essential hygiene items, the rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems, and hygiene promotion

activities. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, UNICEF reached approximately 10,700 people with safe drinking water in four flood-affected districts in Baghlan and Takhar between May 16 and June 6. UNICEF also reached nearly 2,700 people with hygiene promotion messages and provided nearly 1,800 households in Baghlan with critical WASH supplies, including soap and water containers.



5

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 through activities such as 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. 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 2021. Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, economic and political instability have resulted in the deterioration of basic services across the country, increased staple food and fuel prices, and reduced household purchasing power, affecting many Afghan households' ability to meet their basic needs.
- The cumulative effects of conflict, internal displacement, earthquakes and other natural disasters, and poor economic conditions have drastically increased levels of humanitarian need throughout Afghanistan. The UN predicts that 23.7 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2024.
- In late August 2021, 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 9, 2023, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Karen Decker reissued a declaration of humanitarian need for FY 2024 due to the continued impact of the ongoing complex emergency.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$500,000
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$31,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Protection	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$30,245,916
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$150,000,000
WHO	HCIMA, Health	Countrywide	\$3,583,333
Implementing Partners (IPs)	HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$9,390,000
	Program Support		\$661,974
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$231,581,223
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Afghanistan	\$7,500,000
		Pakistan	\$4,500,000
IPs	Multi-Sector	Afghanistan	\$14,060,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$26,060,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$257,641,223

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 14, 2024.

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://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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)