

# AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #5, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

MAY 1, 2013

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**534,006**

Total Number of Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict

Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – March 2013

**130,000**

People at Risk of Floods in Northern Afghanistan through May

U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – March 2013

**37,000**

People Affected by Natural Disasters between January and April

OCHA – April 2013

**6,400**

Homes Damaged or Destroyed by Natural Disasters between January and April

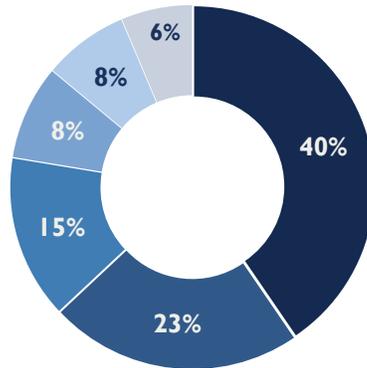
OCHA – April 2013

**18**

Deaths due to the April 24 Earthquake

International Organization for Migration (IOM) – April 2013

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2013



- Logistics & Relief Commodities
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management
- Nutrition
- Natural & Technological Risks
- Health
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Earthquake and springtime flooding result in fatalities and structural damage in northern Afghanistan
- Rising insecurity continues to affect humanitarian operations
- USAID/OFDA commits additional \$1.5 million for U.N. health and nutrition activities

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN TO DATE IN FY 2013

USAID/OFDA	\$15,759,380
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$41,036,600
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$24,557,190

**\$81,353,170**  
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On April 24, a magnitude 5.6 earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan near Mehtar Lam, the provincial capital of Laghman, approximately 60 miles east of Kabul, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The tremor led to 18 deaths, injured at least 140 people, and damaged 676 houses in Nangarhar, Kunar, and Kabul provinces, according to USAID/OFDA partner IOM. The earthquake also caused widespread damage to mud-built homes in some affected villages, according to international media.
- Since mid-April, flooding has affected several areas of Afghanistan, including Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunar, Sar-e Pul, and Uruzgan provinces. In late April, flash floods in the northern provinces of Balkh and Sar-e Pul resulted in 23 deaths and affected more than 2,800 families, according to relief agencies and media outlets.
- In response to these events, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authorities (ANDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs) are leading response and assessment efforts.
- Attacks on non-governmental organization (NGO) humanitarian aid workers in the first quarter of 2013 have exceeded the number of incidents during the same period last year by 63 percent, reflecting an overall trend of increased violent attacks of all types, according to the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office.

<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)

## FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates mostly normal seasonal conditions through September, likely leading to stable food security outcomes in the coming months. However, chronic and acute food insecurity will continue to impact vulnerable populations. In addition, low rainfall in northeastern areas of Afghanistan may result in reduced wheat yields for the May/June crop. As April rainfall accounts for approximately one-quarter of total annual precipitation in Afghanistan, harvest yields—particularly in rain-fed areas of northern and northeastern Afghanistan—depend largely on the total precipitation levels during the month.
  - To date in FY 2013, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$41 million to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation in Afghanistan, which supports emergency food assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and populations affected by natural disasters.
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## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Afghanistan's humanitarian indicators in health and nutrition remain poor, particularly among displaced communities and in areas experiencing chronic food insecurity.
  - In April, USAID/OFDA committed \$1.5 million to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), including \$1.2 million to implement emergency health interventions among populations affected by natural disasters or conflict. The WHO health interventions will ensure timely access to emergency health care services, focusing on maternal and child health.
  - In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing \$300,000 to WHO for nutrition activities mitigating the effects of severe acute malnutrition across 13 high-risk provinces. WHO nutrition activities will improve access to inpatient services for severely malnourished children by strengthening and expanding life-saving therapeutic services and feeding care while promoting gender-sensitive and child-friendly services.
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## NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- Between January 1 and April 21, natural disasters affected more than 37,000 people and damaged or destroyed 6,400 homes across 29 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, according to OCHA. Natural disasters over this period included avalanches, floods, heavy rainfall, landslides, mudflows, and extreme weather, such as snow, severe cold, sandstorms, hail, and wind. The peak snowmelt and flood season in Afghanistan typically lasts between February and early June.
- In April, at least 22 natural disaster incidents occurred throughout Afghanistan, as reported by the USAID/OFDA-funded IOM Humanitarian Assistance Program. IOM, ANDMA, PDMCs, and humanitarian organizations are coordinating assessments and providing assistance based on identified needs. Civil society organizations, including the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), are participating as first responders, joining assessments and distributing food and relief commodities.
- In response to the floods, the GIROA will likely provide cash assistance to affected families in Balkh and Sar-e Pul provinces. Following the floods in Balkh Province, ARCS and provincial council members helped relocate flood-affected households and assess livestock losses. In addition, two joint assessment teams, with participation from ANDMA and relief agencies, deployed to Kishindih and Sholgara districts to assess and verify emergency needs, according to IOM, and the GIROA Minister of Agriculture has pledged assistance for agriculture losses. ANDMA is also participating in a joint assessment of flood-affected areas of Kunar Province.
- With USAID/OFDA funding, IOM maintains stocked warehouses throughout the country containing relief items that can be quickly mobilized in the event of increased humanitarian needs resulting from natural disasters or conflict. USAID/OFDA funding supports IOM's efforts to strengthen national and local government assessments and data collection.
- With support from USAID/FFP, and in response to flooding triggered by heavy rainfall in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces in March, WFP allocated 123 metric tons (MT) of food assistance for distribution to affected families. WFP is providing food assistance for three months to families affected by flooding in six districts of Parwan Province and is currently conducting assessments to determine needs resulting from the April floods.

## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Through the 2013 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for Afghanistan, U.N. agencies and NGOs have requested approximately \$471 million to address the humanitarian needs of populations affected by the ongoing complex emergency and natural disasters across the country. Of the approximately \$217 million donors have contributed in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan to date in 2013, \$170 million has been for the CHAP, according to OCHA.

### CONTEXT

- Since 2002, conflict and frequent natural disasters have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. Conflict has displaced approximately 534,000 people, and recurring natural disasters, including drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year, according to the CHAP document.
- Winters in Afghanistan are particularly harsh for IDPs and other vulnerable populations. For the 2012/2013 winter season, the GIRoA and international humanitarian community distributed fuel, food, and cold-weather relief commodities and improved coordination efforts to ensure increased emergency response capacity to vulnerable populations in urban and rural areas.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improving humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: supporting rapid response capacity for acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; improving humanitarian indicators and building household economic resilience; and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.
- On October 27, 2012, U.S. Deputy Ambassador James B. Cunningham renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Afghanistan for FY 2013.

### USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2013<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$300,000
Information Management and Mine Action Programs	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,049,681
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks	Countrywide	\$5,908,689
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition and WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
U.N. Humanitarian Air Service	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WHO	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
	Administrative Support		\$1,010
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$15,759,380</b>

<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	14,790 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,078,600
WFP	14,650 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,958,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$41,036,600</b>

<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan	\$11,920,000
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$237,190
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$24,557,190</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2013</b>			<b>\$81,353,170</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of May 1, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

## **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 response efforts in Afghanistan 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:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>