

# AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #6, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

JULY 5, 2013

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**570,705**

Total Number of Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict

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

**2.5 Million**

Registered Afghans Displaced to Neighboring Countries

UNHCR/International Organization for Migration (IOM) – December 2012

**28,650**

Current Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) Caseload

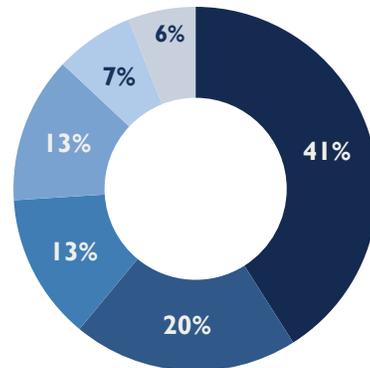
Afghanistan Nutrition Cluster – June 2013

**34**

Percent of the Afghan Population that is Food Insecure

U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – June 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

- A recent surge in security incidents and fighting has increased displacement, threatened the safety of humanitarian staff, and hindered relief agencies' ability to provide assistance
- USAID/FFP recently provided \$4.7 million in emergency food assistance

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2013

USAID/OFDA	\$17,420,868
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$45,776,600
STATE/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$24,557,190

**\$87,754,658**

TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Increased insecurity and attacks on relief agencies continue to threaten the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance to affected populations. In May, relief agencies reported 25 incidents of violence against humanitarian personnel, assets, and facilities in 11 provinces throughout Afghanistan, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Between May and June, the Humanitarian Assistance Program—funded by USAID/OFDA and implemented by IOM—received 18 reports of natural disaster events. The majority of incidents involved localized flooding or river bank erosion resulting from rising water levels in the central, eastern, and northeastern parts of the country. In response to these events, relief agencies and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authorities (ANDMA) are coordinating assistance to meet identified needs.

<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 INSECURITY

- Levels of internal displacement have steadily increased in Afghanistan since the beginning of 2013 as a consequence of ongoing conflict and hostilities. Providing humanitarian assistance to isolated and remote areas remains challenged by insecurity, particularly in the northern and southern regions of the country.
  - UNHCR recorded nearly 35,000 new conflict-displaced people in May throughout Afghanistan. This figure represents a significant increase from the 1,930 newly displaced persons UNHCR recorded in April. In addition, UNHCR reported 18,000 voluntary refugee returnees to Afghanistan between January and May—equivalent to only 19 percent of total refugee returns for all of 2012.
  - In late May, armed attacks occurred at the IOM office in Kabul and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) facility in Jalalabad. Such high-profile attacks present a rising degree of unpredictability and higher security risks for humanitarian aid workers.
  - The Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities in Afghanistan—recently reported a 40 percent increase in the number of security incidents involving public health facilities, staff, and patients between January and April relative to the same period in 2012. Particularly affected provinces include Badakhshan, Balkh, Daykundi, Faryab, Kandahar, Kunar, Logar, Nuristan, and Paktika. In some areas, conflict and road insecurity have led to the temporary closure of health facilities or suspension of outreach activities. Recruitment of qualified staff, particularly female personnel, in these areas is becoming increasingly difficult.
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## NUTRITION

- In mid-June, the Nutrition Cluster reported more than 28,000 current SAM cases, affecting children under five years of age and pregnant or lactating women.
  - USAID/FFP recently provided 810 metric tons (MT) of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), at an estimated cost of \$4.7 million, to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for its programs in Afghanistan. UNICEF will use the RUTF to treat young children suffering from SAM.
  - USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2.3 million in FY 2013 to support nutrition activities in Afghanistan. Through the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), USAID/OFDA is helping to mitigate the effects of SAM across 13 high-risk provinces by strengthening and expanding life-saving therapeutic services and feeding care for severely malnourished children. Additionally, USAID/OFDA-funded UNICEF activities include increasing nutrition interventions for children affected by SAM, disseminating information on infant and young child feeding and hygienic practices to pregnant women, and providing micronutrient supplementation to children.
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## FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Due to well-distributed and timely rains, the ongoing wheat harvest in Afghanistan is projected to reach or exceed the 2012 above-average production levels, particularly in the country’s northern and eastern areas, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). As a result, food availability will likely increase both at the household and market levels, replenishing food stocks for households normally dependent on wheat as a staple food and helping Afghans recover from the 2011 drought. FEWS NET predicts that below-normal levels of irrigation water in northern Afghanistan could negatively affect the second growing season.
- FEWS NET expects the above-normal wheat harvest to stabilize and potentially lower wheat flour prices, which recently rose to levels exceeding 2012 prices. Abundant harvests also help to improve food security conditions for laborers by providing opportunities to earn adequate wages to meet basic needs. In addition, sufficient rains have helped improve pasture areas, leading to favorable conditions for livestock health and increases in livestock prices that benefit pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.
- Despite such positive developments, FEWS NET anticipates that populations affected by natural disasters and conflicts, particularly those newly displaced or recently returning home, will continue to experience acute food

insecurity. Affected groups are expected to face Stressed—Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification 2—levels of food insecurity from now until the end of the current forecast period in September.

- To date in FY 2013, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$41 million in emergency food assistance to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to support its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in Afghanistan. The PRRO aims to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to almost 2.4 million food insecure and vulnerable people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and populations affected by natural disasters.
- Also in FY 2013, USAID/OFDA has provided \$300,000 to FAO to support the coordination of agriculture and food security emergency preparedness and response activities, including monitoring food insecurity conditions, building local response capacity, and strengthening early warning systems.

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## **OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- The U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) recently initiated helicopter flight operations out of Bamyan Province, with weekly scheduled stops in four cities in central and northern Afghanistan. Adept at operating at high altitudes, the helicopters permit humanitarian assistance to reach areas previously inaccessible due to winter conditions and other physical constraints. USAID/OFDA has supported UNHAS with \$2.7 million in FY 2013.
- Through the 2013 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for Afghanistan, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have requested approximately \$474 million to address the humanitarian needs of populations affected by the ongoing complex emergency and natural disasters across the country. As of July 2, the CHAP was funded at approximately 55 percent.

### **CONTEXT**

- Since 2002, conflict and frequent natural disasters have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. Approximately 571,000 people remain internally displaced by conflict, and recurring natural disasters, including drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year, according to the CHAP.
- Winters in Afghanistan are particularly harsh for IDPs and other vulnerable populations. For the 2012/2013 winter season, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the 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>			
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$300,000
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,049,681
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Natural and Technological Risks	Kunar and Nuristan Provinces	\$957,863
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
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHAS	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
WHO	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
	Administrative Support		\$4,635
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$17,420,868</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNICEF	810 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,740,000
WFP	29,440 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$41,036,600
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$45,776,600</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance, 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>\$87,754,658</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 July 5, 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>