

# AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

DECEMBER 27, 2017

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**3.3 million**

Population in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2018  
UN – December 2017

**438,000**

Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict to Date in 2017  
UN – December 2017

**551,242**

Undocumented Returnees to Afghanistan to Date in 2017 from Iran and Pakistan  
IOM – December 2017

**58,750**

Registered Afghan Returnees to Date in 2017  
UNHCR – December 2017

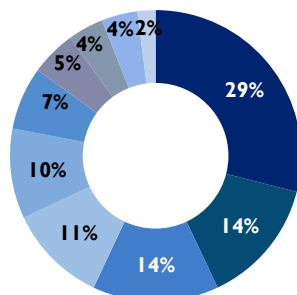
**8,019**

Civilian Deaths and Injuries to Date in 2017  
UN – October 2017

**111,543**

Reported Individuals Affected by Natural Disasters to Date in 2017  
IOM – December 2017

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2017



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (29%)
- Shelter & Settlements (14%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (14%)
- Health (11%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (10%)
- Protection (7%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (5%)
- WASH (4%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Other (2%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2017



- Local & Regional Food Procurement (61%)
- Vouchers & Cash Transfers for Food (32%)
- Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (7%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict displaces approximately 438,000 Afghans from January 1–December 19, 2017
- GoA, humanitarian agencies to address winter needs of 78,000 households
- Afghanistan HRP requests \$430 million to assist approximately 2.8 million people

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA	\$29,831,547
USAID/FFP	\$68,379,707
USAID/Afghanistan	\$6,000,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$109,706,218
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$213,917,472</b>

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On December 1, the UN released the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2018–2021, estimating that 3.3 million people—nearly one in every 10 Afghans—will require humanitarian assistance between January and December 2018. The HRP calls for \$430 million in funding to assist an estimated 2.8 million of the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan in 2018, representing a significant decrease from the 5.7 million people targeted by the 2017 HRP. Although needs across Afghanistan remain dire, the decrease reflects efforts on behalf of the humanitarian community to more effectively distinguish between acute humanitarian needs resulting from sudden shocks, such as conflict or natural disasters, and chronic needs, associated with insecurity and poverty, which require longer-term, systemic response.
- Conflict displaced an estimated 438,000 people in 31 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces from January 1–December 19, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Approximately 15 percent of displaced people relocated to hard-to-reach areas, where full verification of the extent of displacement remains challenging due to limited humanitarian access.
- In FY 2017, the U.S. Government (USG) contributed nearly \$214 million to assist conflict- and disaster-affected populations throughout Afghanistan.

<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)

## **INSECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS**

- Violence against humanitarian workers and facilities, obstruction of humanitarian activities, and ongoing insecurity continue to hinder relief access to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable populations, particularly in the provinces of Badghis, Helmand, Kabul, Nangarhar, and Uruzgan. As of November 30, attacks against aid workers had resulted in 17 deaths, 27 injuries, and 47 abductions since January, according to the UN. In addition, the UN reports nearly 350 security incidents resulting in temporary access constraints; the majority of incidents involved violence against humanitarian aid workers, assets, or facilities.
  - In October, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced the closure of two field offices, including one in the northern Afghan city of Maymana, Faryab Province, and one in the city of Kunduz, Kunduz Province, following a series of attacks targeting its staff. ICRC also announced plans to reduce its presence in Mazar-i-Sharif, Balkh Province, where the international organization operates an orthopedic center. ICRC has maintained a continuous presence in Afghanistan for more than 30 years.
  - High levels of violence continue to disproportionately affect Afghan civilians, with more than 8,000 civilian casualties, including 2,640 deaths, occurring between January 1 and September 30, according to the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan. Ground engagements, suicide and complex attacks, and improvised explosive devices have caused nearly 75 percent of civilian casualties to date in 2017, with residents of Faryab, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces most affected.
  - With USAID/Afghanistan support, the UN World Food Program (WFP)-operated UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides aerial transport for humanitarian personnel, with the aim of increasing humanitarian access and facilitating delivery of food and other emergency assistance to populations in need. From January–November, UNHAS transported more than 17,200 passengers from 150 humanitarian organizations to destinations across Afghanistan.
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## **DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS**

- Conflict continues to prompt significant population displacement across Afghanistan, with an estimated 438,000 people displaced from and within 31 of the country's 34 provinces between January 1 and December 19. The UN anticipates as many as 450,000 people could be displaced by year-end, which would represent a 33 percent reduction in displacements compared to 2016. Nonetheless, the total number of people who remain displaced by conflict in Afghanistan continues to increase, with more than 1.5 million displaced as of late 2016 compared to 492,000 displaced as of 2012; the figure is expected to reach more than 1.9 million people by the end of 2017.
- Intensified clashes between non-state armed groups in southern Nangarhar Province's Khogyani District resulted in the displacement of more than 40,000 people within Khogyani and to the nearby districts of Behsud, Chamtala, Chaparhar, Pachieragam, and Surkh Rod, as well Nangarhar's capital city of Jalalabad, in mid-October. Renewed fighting in late November prompted additional displacements from 20 villages in the area. As of November 30, more than 61,000 people remained displaced following the recent intensification of fighting in Khogyani. Several USAID partners—including the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US), WFP, UN World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)—are responding to acute needs in the region.
- Recent clashes between the Afghan National Security Forces and the Taliban in northern Afghanistan's Sar-e-Pul Province caused more than 7,000 people to flee the area between December 1 and 19, the UN reports. The Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and relief agencies operating in the province, including USAID/OFDA partner SC/US, are responding to acute needs, although continued insecurity is limiting humanitarian assessments and the delivery of assistance to affected areas.
- As of December, more than 551,240 undocumented Afghans and approximately 58,750 registered Afghan refugees had returned from Iran and Pakistan, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the majority of returnees from Iran comprise individuals, while most returnees from Pakistan comprise families. The majority of returnees are sheltering in Nangarhar Province, the capital city of Kabul, or along the corridor from Kunduz to Baghlan, according to the IOM. As of December 1,

UNHCR had temporarily suspended the voluntary repatriation of Afghans from Pakistan until March; this suspension occurs every winter.

- State/PRM continues to support several partners to meet the immediate needs of returning refugees, including through cash-based assistance, as well as efforts to expand livelihood opportunities and promote returnees' longer-term integration into the communities to which they choose to return.

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## **NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

- Natural disasters, including avalanches, flash floods, heavy snowfall, and landslides, affected more than 111,500 people across 33 provinces between January and December, IOM reports. In response, USAID/OFDA partner IOM has distributed blankets, household items, and shelter assistance to more than 37,100 people. IOM has also pre-positioned emergency relief supplies in nearly 25 locations throughout Afghanistan to expedite the delivery of emergency relief supplies to communities affected by natural disasters and severe winter conditions.
- USAID/OFDA supports several disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs which seek to strengthen local capacity to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters. Between January and July, USAID/OFDA-supported DRR partners reached more than 4,500 people with trainings on community-based emergency response, including first aid and basic search-and-rescue operations. In addition, in November, USAID/OFDA partner SC/US reached more than 2,300 people in Balkh, Kabul, and Kandahar with trainings intended to bolster community-level preparedness and response capacity ahead of the 2017/2018 winter season.

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## **SHELTER AND WINTERIZATION ASSISTANCE**

- Shelter remains a critical need for Afghan IDPs and returnees, with the most vulnerable populations residing in sub-standard housing with limited access to basic services. The 2018–2021 Afghanistan HRP estimates that 900,000 people across Afghanistan will require shelter assistance in 2018; the figure includes 400,000 people displaced by the ongoing conflict; 200,000 people affected by natural disasters; 400,000 returnees; and 40,000 Pakistani refugees. Although shelter needs remain a top priority, the HRP also forecasts significant need for basic household items, including winterization assistance such as blankets, emergency shelter materials, and winter clothing.
- USAID/OFDA partner ACTED continues to provide transitional shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support and conduct shelter hazard mitigation trainings for conflict- and disaster-displaced households in Baghlan, Faryab, Laghman, and Nangarhar provinces. In October, the non-governmental organization (NGO) conducted technical trainings for nearly 300 households, while continuing support for 485 households reconstructing transitional shelters.
- With USAID/OFDA support, ZOA aims to provide emergency shelter assistance to more than 400 internally displaced and returnee households in Jowzjan and Sar-e-Pul provinces. ZOA also conducts disaster risk reduction trainings to raise awareness of hazards and strengthen preparedness for natural disasters, including earthquakes and floods.
- Relief agencies estimate 78,000 households, primarily in the central and northeastern provinces of Badakhshan, Bamyan, Daykundi, and Kabul, will require seasonal support between December and February. The figure includes more than 3,000 internally displaced households that reside in high-elevation areas, where extreme weather conditions are expected, and more than 15,000 displaced households that are expected to endure severe winter conditions during the 2017/2018 winter season. Extreme winter conditions, including heavy snowfall, avalanches, and rain-induced disasters, affected populations in 33 provinces during the 2016/2017 winter season, relief agencies report.
- In coordination with the GoA, IOM and UNHCR released a joint winterization response strategy for the 2017/2018 winter season. The plan aims to reach all 78,000 households in need of seasonal assistance, prioritizing the distribution of \$200 in cash-based assistance to ensure flexibility in addressing households' most urgent needs, such as blankets, fuel, and winter clothing. Extremely vulnerable households will also receive support to upgrade existing shelters or temporarily relocate from at-risk areas. As of December 10, UNHCR and other members of the Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Item (NFI) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter and NFI activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—had provided more than 33,500 households with \$200 to support

seasonal needs. In addition to the joint response strategy, UNICEF plans to provide more than 26,000 households with blankets, plastic sheeting, and winter clothing, while WHO is pre-positioning pneumonia kits in hospitals countrywide.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- In October, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) forecast below-average aggregate wheat output for 2017 due to limited rainfall and prolonged periods of dryness, particularly in the northern provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Ghor, Jowzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, and Takhar. Cumulatively, FEWS NET estimated that total wheat production in 2017 will reach 4.3 million metric tons, representing only 86 percent of the five-year annual average for Afghanistan. Below-average precipitation is expected to persist throughout the October–May wet season due to ongoing La Niña conditions, contributing to reduced crop yields and subsequent demand for seasonal labor.
- Despite some regional differences, FEWS NET expects Crisis or Emergency—IPC 3 and 4—levels of food insecurity to affect particularly vulnerable communities, including displaced populations, undocumented returnees from Pakistan, and households affected by limited income-generating opportunities or poor agricultural product, across all regions of Afghanistan; the situation is expected to be most severe during the lean season, which spans January–May.<sup>3</sup> An estimated 1.9 million people in Afghanistan are severely food insecure, while 40 percent of Afghan children ages five years and younger are experiencing stunted growth due to poor nutrition, according to the UN. In response, the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster seeks to address the food security needs of 1.65 million people, including populations affected by conflict, cross-border migration, and natural disasters.
- In FY 2017, USAID/FFP provided WFP with \$64 million to deliver locally- or regionally-procured emergency food assistance and cash-based transfers to nearly 2.9 million food-insecure people. From November 26–December 2, WFP and implementing partners reached more than 12,000 IDPs across nine of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces with emergency food assistance and cash transfers for food and relief items. Additionally, WFP reached an estimated 19,000 Pakistani refugees in Khost Province with cash-based transfers.
- With USAID/OFDA support, UNICEF aims to reduce acute malnutrition in Afghanistan by delivering critical nutrition services, including ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF), to vulnerable populations, including children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women experiencing acute malnutrition, across Afghanistan. Cumulatively, the UN estimates that 1.1 million people in Afghanistan require nutrition assistance.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- The prolonged conflict is contributing to increased trauma needs throughout Afghanistan, with health agencies reporting more than 69,000 trauma cases between January and September—an increase of 21 percent compared to the number of trauma cases recorded during the same time period in 2016.
- Attacks on health facilities and personnel continue to disrupt critical health services and prevent Afghans from accessing life-saving care. In November, the UN recorded four security incidents against health workers or health facilities, bringing the total number of incidents targeting health facilities and personnel to 117 from January–November.
- As of December 18, health agencies had reported 12 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus in Afghanistan to date in 2017; the total includes one case recorded in Kandahar’s Shah Wali Kot District in mid-December, according to OCHA. The recent case is the fourth to originate from Taliban-controlled parts of Shah Wali Kot in 2017.
- Members of the WASH Cluster, including several USAID partners, reached more than 718,000 people with emergency WASH services from January–October. In total, the 2018–2021 HRP estimates that 1.1 million people across Afghanistan require life-saving WASH assistance, including access to safe drinking water, distribution of hygiene and water kits, and provision of emergency latrines.

<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.

## OTHER ASSISTANCE

- On October 25, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) announced a contribution of €5 million—approximately \$5.9 million—in humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan. The funding will be used to address the food, health, shelter, and protection needs of an estimated 75,000 people in Afghanistan, and brings the European Union’s total contribution for humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan to €30.5 million—nearly \$36.3 million—in 2017.
- As of December 27, international donors have contributed nearly \$300 million toward the 2017 Afghanistan HRP—representing 73 percent of the \$409 million appeal. The USG is the single largest donor of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, followed by ECHO, the Government of the United Kingdom, and the Government of Japan.

## CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that conflict has displaced more than 1.9 million people since 2012, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 235,000 Afghans each year.
- On October 22, 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 for 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 Kabul continues to monitor the humanitarian situation and oversee USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP activities in Afghanistan. The senior humanitarian advisor leads USAID/Afghanistan’s Office of Humanitarian Assistance, supported by two national staff.
- A State/PRM Refugee Coordinator based in Kabul continues to monitor the protection of, assistance to, and durable solutions for refugees, returnees, and asylum seekers in Afghanistan.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2017<sup>1</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
ACTED	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Baghlan, Faryab, Laghman, Nangarhar	\$1,900,000
Aga Khan Foundation (AKF/US)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Badakhshan, Baghlan	\$1,810,383
IMC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan	\$2,400,000
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$3,569,307

IOM	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Countrywide	\$4,850,000
INTERSOS	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Kandahar	\$1,491,935
IRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktiya	\$3,850,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$200,000
SC/US	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$4,400,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$800,000
UNICEF	WASH	Countrywide	\$358,455
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$2,699,707
ZOA	Shelter and Settlements	Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul	\$1,500,000
	Program Support Costs		\$1,760
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$29,831,547</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$42,000,000
	Cash Transfers for Food	Countrywide	\$22,000,000
UNICEF	RUTF	Countrywide	\$2,061,960
	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$2,317,747
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$68,379,707</b>
<b>USAID/Afghanistan</b>			
FEWS NET	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics and Humanitarian Access	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING</b>			<b>\$6,000,000</b>
<b>State/PRM</b>			
AfghanAid	Livelihoods Assistance	Nangarhar	\$1,122,066
Implementing Partner	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$26,400,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
International Labor Organization	Livelihoods Assistance	Turkey	\$653,766
IRC	Livelihoods Assistance, Protection	Badghis, Helmand, Laghman, Nangarhar	\$1,497,953
Other NGOs	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Regional	\$7,632,433
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Regional	\$70,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$109,706,218</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2017</b>			<b>\$213,917,472</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 anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 27, 2017.

<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).

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>