

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

AUGUST 20, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

6.3 million

People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2019
UN – December 2018

13.5 million

People Experiencing Severe Acute Food Insecurity
FAO – March 2019

5.2 million

Drought-Affected People Reached With Humanitarian Assistance
OCHA – June 2019

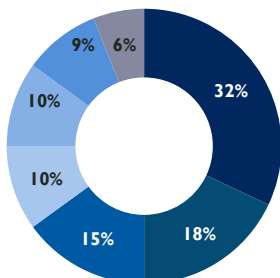
292,700

People Affected by Natural Disasters in 2019
OCHA – July 2019

287,100

Total Returns from Iran and Pakistan in 2019
OCHA – August 2019

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (32%)
- Other Sectors (18%)
- Shelter & Settlements (15%)
- Health (10%)
- Protection (10%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (9%)
- Nutrition (6%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



- Local & Regional Food Procurement (52%)
- Vouchers & Cash Transfers for Food (46%)
- Complementary Services (2%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- USG provides additional \$125 million in humanitarian aid for Afghanistan
- Between April and June, USAID/FFP partner WFP reached 1.9 million drought-affected people with food assistance
- USAID/OFDA partner provides emergency shelter assistance to 80,000 people

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$49,485,271
USAID/FFP	\$101,149,999
State/PRM ³	\$52,982,938
Total	\$203,618,208

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 20, the U.S. Government (USG) announced nearly \$125 million in additional FY 2019 humanitarian assistance—including \$40.9 million from USAID/OFDA, \$54 million from USAID/FFP, and nearly \$29.6 million from State/PRM—to provide food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support to Afghan households affected by conflict and natural disasters, as well as repatriation and reintegration support, totaling nearly \$204 million in FY 2019.
- Severe drought followed by heavy rainfall in March and April resulted in widespread flooding and landslides in Afghanistan, affecting nearly 293,000 people as of late July, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). USAID implementing partners continue to provide food, health, safe drinking water, sanitation, and shelter assistance to disaster-affected populations. In addition, from January 1 to August 13, approximately 217,000 people were newly displaced in Afghanistan as a result of conflict, according to OCHA.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

DROUGHT AND FLOODING

- Since March 2018, Afghanistan has experienced a severe and persistent drought, affecting more than 10.5 million people, according to the 2019 UN Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Afghanistan. As of June 30, relief actors had provided humanitarian assistance to approximately 5.2 million drought-affected individuals in Afghanistan—including 4.8 million people in drought-affected rural areas and more than 452,000 displaced persons—OCHA reports.
- Between April and June, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reached 1.9 million drought-affected people with emergency food assistance. This represents a decrease from the height of the October 2018 to March 2019 drought response, which covered the food needs of 2.7 million people including 250,000 people displaced by the drought. WFP aims to provide sufficient food assistance to address the needs of 845,000 people in the five most drought-affected provinces of Badghis, Herat, Ghor, Kandahar, and Nuristan.
- Due to two consecutive years of drought leading to limited vegetation and poor soil absorption of water, heavy rainfall in March and April resulted in flooding and landslides in at least 14 provinces in Afghanistan, according to the UN. Heavy rains and subsequent flooding in 2019 had resulted in the deaths of 147 people; injuries to 160 others; the damage or destruction of nearly 25,000 houses; and other adverse effects across Afghanistan as of late July, OCHA reports. In response, WFP provided food assistance for 280,000 people from April to June. With support from USAID/OFDA, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had provided assistance including blankets and emergency shelter support to nearly 80,000 disaster-affected people as of July 9.
- As of late May, approximately 2,700 drought-affected households had received multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) via a USAID/OFDA implementing partner in Balkh and Samagan provinces. Community health workers, taught by the partner, trained more than 2,800 mothers on infant feeding practices and detected and treated nearly 1,200 cases of acute respiratory infection and approximately 1,300 cases of acute watery diarrheal disease in the provinces in May. During the same period, the partner educated more than 1,300 community leaders and nearly 6,000 male community members on maternal health and common communicable diseases that often affect children.
- With USAID/OFDA support, an implementing partner provided MPCA and hygiene kits to nearly 400 disaster-affected and returnee households in Baghlan, Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar provinces in June. The partner also provided trainings on construction, disaster preparedness, and hygiene promotion to more than 1,000 households in the same provinces. Additionally, the partner continued to enhance access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure through latrine and well construction in Badakhshan, Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Takhar provinces.
- From June 16 to 30, another USAID/OFDA implementing partner provided safe drinking water to approximately 7,000 drought-affected individuals and hygiene kits to approximately 3,300 drought-affected individuals in Sar-e Pul Province. With USAID/OFDA support, the partner also provided relief commodities to more than 1,200 conflict-affected individuals in Faryab and Sar-e Pul provinces.
- In early July, WFP began new asset creation activities in Laghman and Nangarhar provinces to build flood protection walls and irrigation canals. These activities aim to support more than 870 families with food assistance and improve food security and diversity for families, including through kitchen garden activities involving 90 women. WFP has also initiated an asset creation activity in Baghlan Province supporting watershed management activities, including water intakes and spillways to control water flow from dams, while adding 250 meters of irrigation construction.
- Vulnerable populations recovering from the drought in Badghis Province, as well as displaced and returnee households across Afghanistan, will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through September 2019, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).⁴ Most other vulnerable households across the country will likely face Stressed—IPC 2—or Minimal—IPC 1—levels of acute food insecurity due to improved crop conditions and water availability resulting from above-average rainfall, FEWS NET reports. Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate during the winter, as is typical in food insecure areas of Afghanistan. As household food stocks decline, rural poor households will likely rely on market purchases for food; consequently, decreased household purchasing power due to limited labor opportunities and below-average incomes may result in widespread Crisis levels of acute food insecurity, particularly during the winter season from October 2019 to January 2020, according to FEWS NET.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standard 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.

CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT, AND RETURNS

- As of August 11, approximately 217,000 people had been internally displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan in 2019, and forced displacement had affected 30 of 34 provinces in the country, according to OCHA.
- From January 1 to June 30, conflict in Afghanistan resulted in more than 3,800 civilian casualties, including 1,366 deaths and more than 2,400 injured persons, according to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The figure represents a 27 percent decrease in overall civilian casualties compared to the same period in 2018, as well as the lowest number of casualties during the same period since 2012. UNAMA attributes the overall reduction in civilian casualties to a decrease in civilian casualties from suicide improvised explosive device attacks; despite the decline, during the same period UNAMA also notes a 31 percent increase in civilian casualties due to military operations conducted by pro-government forces.
- From January through mid-July, WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 150,000 people displaced by conflict, including 26,000 returnees from Pakistan and Iran and an estimated 70,000 Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika provinces.
- On April 11, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) suspended vaccination and relief activities in territories controlled by non-state armed groups due to safety concerns, according to international media.
- As of April 30, more than 56,000 people remained displaced due to clashes between non-state armed groups in Nangarhar's Khogyani and Sherzad districts, OCHA reports. On May 2, Government of Afghanistan and relief actors began responding to the emergency needs of the newly displaced population, including providing MPCA for nearly 600 households, according to OCHA.
- On May 8, a non-state armed group attack on a non-governmental organization compound in Kabul resulted in the death of three relief organization staff members, international media reports. According to the UN, 77 humanitarian staff members were killed, injured, or abducted from January 1 to July 10, compared to 76 such incidents during all of 2018.
- Between July 9 and 15, military operations by Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) against non-state armed groups in Kunduz Province displaced more than 10,000 people, according to OCHA. The UN agency deployed four assessment teams to areas hosting the newly displaced population during the period; the teams noted approximately 900 people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance as of July 15. Additionally, clashes between ANSF and non-state armed groups displaced approximately 14,000 people in Ghor on July 6.
- On June 27, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) extended validity of Proof of Registration cards until June 30, 2020, granting temporary legal residence to approximately 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. In addition, the GoP extended permission for Afghanistan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders to remain in Pakistan until October 31, 2019, providing identification to approximately 870,000 people. According to IOM, more than 1 million undocumented and ACC-holding people resided in Pakistan as of July 2019.
- During 2019, approximately 3,000 registered Afghan refugees had voluntarily returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan as of June 30, according to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This figure represents an estimated 60 percent decrease from the nearly 8,000 Afghan refugees who repatriated during the same period in 2018. According to the UN agency, more than 5.2 million Afghan refugees have repatriated with UNHCR assistance since 2002. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR provides \$200 to each registered individual upon their return to Afghanistan.
- As of August 13, more than 287,000 undocumented Afghans returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan, OCHA reports; IOM projects that more than 570,000 undocumented Afghans will return from Iran in 2019 due to ongoing economic challenges in the country. State/PRM is supporting IOM efforts to register undocumented Afghan returnees at primary border crossing points, as well as to establish a reintegration referral mechanism. Many returnee households are likely to require livelihoods support, particularly due to decreased agricultural labor demand in September, which will likely prompt countrywide Crisis levels of acute food insecurity through January 2020, according to FEWS NET.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- From January 1 to March 31, humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan provided emergency assistance to approximately 1.9 million disaster-affected people; 250,000 conflict-affected people; and 600,000 displaced persons under the 2018–2021 HRP, according to OCHA. The 2019 Update to the 2018–2021 HRP, which the UN released in December 2018, estimates that relief organizations require approximately \$612 million in 2019 to meet the humanitarian assistance needs of 4.5 million people. As of August 20, international donors had contributed approximately \$170.5 million to the appeal, representing nearly 28 percent of requested funding.

CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that conflict has displaced an estimated 1.3 million people since 2017, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improve humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: to address the emergency needs of individuals affected by conflict, drought, and natural disasters and strive to reduce the drivers of displacement through early recovery and disaster risk reduction (DRR) programming; to strengthen and integrate national-level DRR capacity building efforts; and to enhance 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 internally displaced persons and returnees, as well as people affected by economic stress; to support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; and to prevent and treat moderate and severe acute malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women.
- State/PRM supports the sustainable voluntary return of Afghan refugees while preserving asylum space in host countries through humanitarian diplomacy and assistance, as well as initiatives that ensure that areas hosting returning refugees can support all members of the community.
- On October 3, 2018, U.S. Ambassador John R. Bass redeclared a disaster for Afghanistan due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- A USAID senior humanitarian advisor based in Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul manages USAID/Afghanistan's Office of Humanitarian Assistance, oversees USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP operations, and is supported by two national staff. A State/PRM refugee coordinator based in Kabul, supported by two national staff, oversees State/PRM humanitarian diplomacy and assistance programs, and reports on refugee and returnee issues in Afghanistan.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support, MPCA, Natural and Technological Risks, Nutrition, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$34,855,664
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$3,050,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$500,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$8,300,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities	Badghis, Herat	\$2,071,660
	Program Support		\$707,947
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$49,485,271
USAID/FFP²			
Implementing Partners	Cash Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Food Procurement, Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$7,555,502
UNICEF	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement, Complementary Services (Twinning)	Countrywide	\$87,094,497
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$101,149,999
State/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Education, Livelihoods, Protection, and Other Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$22,282,938
UNHCR	Education, Livelihoods, Protection, and Other Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,200,000
UNHCR	Education, Livelihoods, Protection, and Other Humanitarian Assistance	Pakistan	\$11,200,000
UNHCR	Education, Livelihoods, Protection, and Other Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$5,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$52,982,938
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$203,618,208

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds as of August 20.

² 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.
- 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: www.cidi.org or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>