

# AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**6.3 million**

People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2019  
UN – June 2019

**13 million**

People Experiencing Severe Acute Food Insecurity  
UN – June 2019

**4.2 million**

People Reached With Humanitarian Assistance in 2019  
OCHA – June 2019

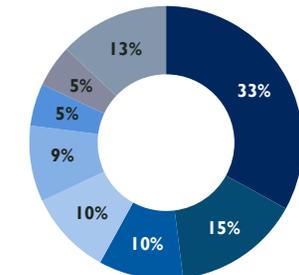
**295,000**

People Affected by Natural Disasters in 2019  
OCHA – September 2019

**383,000**

Total Returnees to Afghanistan in 2019  
OCHA – September 2019

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (33%)
- Shelter & Settlements (15%)
- Health (10%)
- Protection (10%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (9%)
- Nutrition (5%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (5%)
- Other Sectors (13%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As of September 28, conflict—primarily between the Taliban, other non-state armed groups (NSAGs), and Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF)—displaced nearly 283,000 people in 2019, including more than 32,300 people in September, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Election-related violence leading up to and during Afghanistan’s September 28 presidential election, including Taliban-planted improvised explosive device (IED) attacks and road closures, negatively affected humanitarian programming throughout the country, according to USAID/OFDA partners.
- As of September 26, conflict had resulted in the death of 27 aid workers in 2019, according to the UN. Despite deteriorating security conditions, including more than 310 humanitarian access incidents in Afghanistan since January, relief actors have reached 4.2 million people with humanitarian assistance.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Election-related violence results in hundreds of civilian casualties, disruptions to humanitarian assistance
- Conflict displaces 283,000 people in 2019, as of September 30
- Approximately 383,000 Afghans returned to Afghanistan in 2019

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$50,883,146
USAID/FFP	\$101,149,999
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$85,024,775
<b>\$237,057,920</b>	

<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)

## CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT, AND RETURNS

- The security situation in Afghanistan remained volatile leading up to and during the September 28 presidential elections, the UN reports. Relief actors reported hundreds of security incidents across all areas of the country, with the highest figures reported in the eastern, northeastern, and southeastern regions of the country. In eastern Afghanistan, 19 IEDs reportedly detonated against civilians and ANSF members and an additional six IEDs were discovered in Jalalabad city, resulting in civilian and ANSF casualties, the UN reports. Additionally, NSAGs reportedly blocked highways in Kunar Province and cut power supplies in Laghman and Nangarhar provinces during the elections. Initial reports noted hundreds of civilian casualties, with healthcare and school infrastructure affected as well, according to the UN. In response to anticipated election-related violence, USAID/OFDA partners implemented additional security protocols, including suspending program activities and restricting staff movement, while Government of Afghanistan (GoA) authorities closed approximately one-third of the polling locations in advance of the elections, according to international media.
- The UN reports the displacement of more than 12,700 people in August and more than 32,300 people in September. Overall in 2019, conflict between the Taliban, other NSAGs, and ANSF resulted in the displacement of nearly 283,000 people as of September 28, compared to more than 307,000 people during the same period in 2018, according to the UN. Children ages 18 years and younger represent nearly 60 percent of newly displaced people in 2019.
- On September 26, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) issued a statement regarding the continuing incidence of civilian casualties in the country; ongoing conflict resulted in the deaths of approximately 3,800 civilians during the first half of 2019 due to ongoing conflict, according to the UN. UNAMA reiterated the responsibility of all parties to the conflict to ensure protection of civilians from harm, referencing two Taliban attacks on September 17 and 19, which resulted in approximately 55 civilian deaths and injured more than 140 people.
- As of September 30, more than 6,000 registered Afghan refugees had voluntarily returned to Afghanistan from Iran, Pakistan, and other countries in 2019, according to State/PRM partner the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UN agency has supported the repatriation of more than 5.2 million Afghan refugees since 2002. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR provides \$200 to each registered individual upon return to Afghanistan.
- Approximately 383,000 undocumented Afghans returned or were deported to Afghanistan, including more than 330,000 from Iran and more than 16,000 from Pakistan, as of September 28, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. State/PRM continues to support IOM and the GoA Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation to register Afghan returnees at primary border crossing points, as well as to establish a reintegration referral mechanism.
- In August and September, State/PRM funded non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to initiate projects that support integration of returnee populations into Afghan communities, including increasing returnees' access to education and strengthening child protection through Safe Healing and Learning Spaces, parenting skills classes, and child protection monitoring. Another partner continued to promote durable solutions for returnees by facilitating access to civil documentation and justice through legal counseling and assistance. State/PRM is also supporting returnees' access to livelihoods through NGO-led activities, including establishment of small businesses and provision of employment services, as well as entrepreneurship, literacy, numeracy, and vocational training.

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## FOOD INSECURITY

- Increased insecurity and conflict-related displacement between August and September exacerbated food insecurity throughout the country. Many newly displaced households are likely experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity, as they have lost access to food and income sources and face limited alternative livelihoods opportunities, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.<sup>4</sup> Approximately 9.5 million people are experiencing Crisis levels and nearly 3 million people are experiencing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity across 23 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

- Approximately 12.5 million people, including 2.5 million people in urban centers, were moderately or severely food-insecure in August, according to the preliminary results of the Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA). Of the nearly 22,000 households surveyed, 19 percent reported poor food consumption scores (FCSs) and 41 percent reported acceptable FCSs, nine percentage points lower and five points higher, respectively, compared to the previous year, representing a relative improvement in food security conditions. The August 2019 SFSA marked the first assessment which included urban populations in the analysis. When adjusted for the inclusion of the urban population and other census figures used in the analysis, approximately 1.5 million fewer people are food insecure compared to August 2018, which marked the height of the drought that began due to below average rainfall in spring 2018.
- Total planting area for winter wheat is likely to be average to above-average as a result of the favorable climate conditions and increased numbers of households engaging in farming as a favored income source, despite the recent increase in conflict, according to FEWS NET. In areas where conflict is intermittent, temporarily displaced households are likely to return to their homes to plant winter wheat; however, farmers residing in conflict-affected areas will continue to face difficulty accessing their land.
- In August, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) dispatched more than 3,700 metric tons (MT) of food assistance and more than \$611,000 in cash-based transfers to nearly 417,000 people in 31 provinces, the UN agency reports. As part of the ongoing emergency response, WFP assisted approximately 77,000 people with more than 800 MT of in-kind food and \$87,000 in cash transfers for food during the last week of September. Additionally, the UN agency reached more than 10,000 people displaced by conflict with food assistance, 6,300 of whom received cash-based transfers for food in Takhar Province after registration in SCOPE—WFP’s beneficiary information management system. WFP also provided seasonal support to more than 67,500 people in Faryab and Maidan Wardak provinces as the USAID/FFP partner shifts from response to recovery to deliver assistance to individuals facing food insecurity in hard-to-reach areas, including in provinces that did not receive food assistance during the drought response, which ended in June.
- Due to ongoing conflict in Ghazni Province, WFP suspended delivery of food assistance from September 19 to 25, affecting more than 100,000 people. Additionally, WFP suspended distributions in advance of Afghanistan’s national elections and resumed on October 2, prioritizing areas with high needs in Ghazni, Kandahar, and Maidan Wardak provinces, according to WFP.

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## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND PROTECTION

- Violence continues to limit humanitarian access to populations in need throughout Afghanistan. In August, relief actors reported nearly 20 incidents affecting access, health facilities, and health workers, including one aid worker death, injury to one person, and one abduction. Relief actors recorded the majority of incidents in southern Afghanistan’s Kandahar and Zabul provinces, followed by Nangahar Province in eastern Afghanistan. Despite approximately 320 recorded humanitarian access incidents in Afghanistan in 2019, humanitarian agencies have assisted 4.2 million people from January to June.
- On September 10, the UN Security Council issued a report on behalf of Secretary-General António Guterres on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan, noting more than 14,000 grave violations against children between 2015 and 2018. Violations included killing and maiming of nearly 12,600 children; the recruitment and use of children in combat, combat-related support roles, and sexual abuse; sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals; and denial of humanitarian access to children. Armed groups were the main perpetrators of all grave violations against children except for sexual violence, which was predominantly attributed to Afghan security forces. Secretary-General Guterres recommended the deployment of a senior child protection advisor to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Resolute Support Mission to monitor the implementation of measures taken by the GoA and international forces to mitigate child casualties. Additionally, Secretary-General Guterres expressed concern regarding the lack of reintegration opportunities for children formerly associated with parties to the conflict and called upon the GoA to release children allegedly associated with parties to the conflict from detention, in line with the GoA-endorsed Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed groups.

- In September, a USAID/OFDA partner continued to support vulnerable populations in eastern Afghanistan through six mobile gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response teams. The NGO reached more than 2,400 people with nearly 120 GBV awareness sessions in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar provinces and identified more than 80 GBV cases reported in the provinces. Through community dialogues, the partner also reached approximately 240 community members in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar.
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## **WASH AND HEALTH**

- With USAID/OFDA support, an NGO partner completed the rehabilitation of approximately 60 wells in Balkh Province and built nearly 150 wells in Balkh, Badakhshan, Faryab, Jowzjan, and Takhar provinces in September, thereby improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. The partner also reached more than 1,300 households in Balkh, Faryab, and Jowzjan with hygiene promotion activities, bringing the total households reached to more than 26,000 since the start of the program in September 2018. The partner also reached nearly 1,000 households in Balkh, Faryab, and Jowzjan with hygiene and water kits in September.
  - During the second half of September, a USAID/OFDA partner reached nearly 5,800 people in Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan, and Sar-e Pul provinces with health education consultations on hygiene, psychosocial support, treatment of outpatient diseases, and vaccination services. The partner also reached more than 3,850 people in Balkh and approximately 7,000 people in Sar-e Pul with safe drinking water, as well as nearly 1,560 people in Balkh with hygiene kits.
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## **INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE**

- During the pre-election period, the Education and Protection Clusters—the coordinating bodies for humanitarian education and protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—conducted a planning exercise to mitigate the risk of violence prior to, during, and after the September 28 election, including identifying the most at-risk schools. Cluster members monitored key protection issues, including child protection concerns, displacement, GBV, and International Humanitarian Law violations to identify people in need of assistance, inform the humanitarian response, and support advocacy on protection of civilians.
- From January 1 to June 30, humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan provided assistance to approximately 4.2 million people under the 2018–2021 HRP, according to OCHA. This included providing emergency food and livelihoods assistance to 3.2 million people, access to safe drinking water to 835,000 people, and protection services to 837,000 people. The 2019 update to the 2018–2021 HRP, which the UN released in December 2018, estimated that relief organizations would require approximately \$612 million in 2019 to meet the humanitarian assistance needs of 4.5 million people. As of September 29, international donors had contributed nearly \$279 million to the appeal, representing nearly 46 percent of requested funding, according to OCHA.

## 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 national staff and short-term support from Bangkok, Thailand, and Washington, D.C. 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 2019<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Natural and Technological Risks, Nutrition, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$35,855,664
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		\$1,105,822
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$50,883,146</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup></b>			
Implementing Partners	Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement, Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$7,555,502
UNICEF	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$6,500,000

WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement, Complementary Services (Twinning)	Countrywide	\$87,094,497
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$101,149,999</b>
<b>State/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partners	Education, Livelihoods, Protection, Multisector Assistance	Countrywide	\$27,220,645
Implementing Partners	Education, GBV Prevention	Pakistan	\$4,704,130
UNHCR	Multisector Assistance	Countrywide	\$22,800,000
UNHCR	Multisector Assistance	Pakistan	\$19,700,000
UNHCR	Multisector Assistance	Regional	\$10,600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$85,024,775</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019</b>			<b>\$237,057,920</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds as of September 30.

<sup>2</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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
  - 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>