USAID Response to Oct. 26, 2015 Earthquake

Please attribute any information below to United States Agency for International Development Mission Director for Afghanistan, Herbie Smith.

- The rescue effort in Afghanistan is being led by Wais Barmak, the Minister of State for Disaster Management and Director General of Afghanistan’s National Disaster Management Authority, which USAID is supporting, as needed. The American people are always ready to assist when disaster strikes.
- “USAID-funded humanitarian assistance partners are participating in assessments and relief assistance alongside the Afghan government, the UN and non-governmental organizations. The response is being led by the Afghan government. Existing national and provincial response teams are making sure assistance is properly targeted and reaches Afghans affected by this tragedy.”
- The Afghan government has developed, with USAID’s assistance, a strong national plan. The Afghan government has not made requests for international assistance to date.
- USAID's assistance to Afghanistan includes stockpiling relief supplies under Disaster Risks Reduction and having contingency plans already in place for emergencies such as this.
- USAID has 500,000 Emergency Shelter/Non-Food item kits placed strategically through the county. Kits include a kitchen set, a family kit which includes blankets, clothing, emergency shelter, solar lantern, mattress, tent, tarpaulin, carpet, and small amounts of cash. Tents are “winterized” to ensure warmth and safety during winter months.
- USAID provides funding to the International Office of Migration for over 46,000 emergency shelters and tents in 26 warehouses located across the country and covering all affected areas. The Provincial Disaster Management Committees in Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Nuristan, Laghman, Kunar, Nangarhar, and Kabul are convening and in some cases re-convening to coordinate assessments and response following yesterday's earthquake.
- USAID's total funding for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan in FY15 was $94,813,686 which includes funds for the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), for Food for Peace (FFP) as well as USAID Mission funds.
- USAID/Afghanistan is working with 15 partners countrywide to provide relief and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities affected by the on-going complex emergency.
- USAID/Afghanistan’s humanitarian assistance NGO partners Save the Children, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Aga Khan Foundations’ FOCUS, International Medical Corps (IMC) and International Rescue Committee (IRC), and UN partners World Food Program (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF have operations in the affected provinces. They are involved in assessments and response efforts with provincial and district authorities.
- USAID/OFDA supports humanitarian coordination and information management systems that support Afghan government mechanisms: the National Disaster Management Committee and the Provincial Disaster Management Committees which are responsible for disaster response.