

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

APRIL 6, 2016

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

3.5 million

People in Afghanistan Targeted by the UN for Humanitarian Assistance
OCHA – November 2015

65,000

Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict in 2016
UN – March 2016

137,000

Vulnerable Afghan Refugee Returnees in 2015
OCHA – September 2015

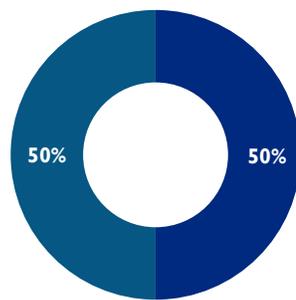
237,112

Pakistani Refugees in Afghanistan
OCHA – March 2016

2.6 million

Afghan Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – June 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2016



■ Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (50%)
■ Health (50%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2016



■ U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (90%)
■ Local & Regional Food Procurement (10%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Civilian deaths in Afghanistan in 2015 surpass previous record
- UNAMA documents increasing attacks on health facilities and personnel
- Increased precipitation in March signals an improved agro-climatic outlook, raises flooding concerns

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2016

USAID/OFDA	\$5,991,085
USAID/FFP	\$30,000,000
USAID/Afghanistan	\$20,500,000
State/PRM ³	\$10,250,000

\$66,741,085

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Conflict displaced more than 335,400 people in Afghanistan in 2015—a 78 percent increase from 2014, according to the UN. To date in 2016, conflict has displaced approximately 65,000 people in 21 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.
- In 2015, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) recorded approximately 11,000 civilian casualties, including more than 3,500 deaths and nearly 7,500 injuries. The figure represents a 4 percent increase from 2014 and the highest annual total since UNAMA began formally documenting civilian casualties in 2009.
- In January, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team—comprising representatives from the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) Ministry of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, the UN, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—released the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The 2016 HRP requests approximately \$393 million to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to an estimated 3.5 million people in Afghanistan, including internally-displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and returnees.

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)

INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT

- The 2016 HRP estimates that conflict has displaced a cumulative total of 1.1 million people in Afghanistan over the last 15 years. In 2015, conflict displaced more than 335,400 people—a 78 percent increase from 2014, the UN reports. The reporting and verification of the current displacement figure remains constrained due to the limited ability of humanitarian actors to access insecure and contested areas.
- Conflict resulted in the deaths of more than 3,500 civilians in Afghanistan and injured nearly 7,500 others in 2015—the highest recorded annual total since 2009 and a 4 percent increase since 2014. UNAMA primarily attributes the conflict-related civilian casualties in 2015 to increased fighting in and around populated areas, suicide bombings, and attacks on civilian locations in major cities.
- In 2015, UNAMA recorded 60 attacks targeting health facilities and staff in Afghanistan—a nearly 50 percent increase from 2014. The UN continues to record attacks in 2016; on February 23, the UN called on armed actors to cease attacks targeting health care workers and health infrastructure following 14 abductions of aid workers and 20 incidents against humanitarian assistance providers in February. Additionally, as of late January, more than 20 health facilities in Helmand, Nangarhar, Paktia, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces remained closed due to ongoing security concerns, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).
- In recent months, USAID/OFDA partner WHO has supported the establishment of nine clinics and two mobile health units in Badghis, Daikundi, Ghor, and Kandahar provinces to provide life-saving primary health care services for IDPs and other conflict-affected populations. WHO is also supporting mobile health services for IDPs living in Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul. Additionally, WHO distributed more than 60 emergency health kits in 21 provinces.
- More than 237,000 Pakistani refugees who fled military operations in North Waziristan Agency require humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces, according to the UN. Approximately 80 percent of the refugees in Khost and Paktika live in inadequate shelters, and an estimated 70 percent have unmet health needs and require food and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.
- In January and February, an estimated 600 Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan through the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-assisted voluntary repatriation program. More than 7,000 Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan during the same period in 2015. The UN attributes the significant decrease in voluntary returns to seasonal factors and an extension of the validity of Government of Pakistan-issued Proof of Registration cards, which allow Afghan refugees to legally reside in Pakistan. Additionally, the aftermath of an attack on a school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province’s Peshawar city in December 2014 likely contributed to an especially high return rate in early 2015.

FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported in March that above-average precipitation in February and March has largely compensated for the effects of below-average precipitation on crops since October 2015, resulting in normal water availability for crop irrigation during the harvest season lasting until August 2016. FEWS NET also forecast above-average temperatures through at least May 2016, which may trigger early blooming, damage tree crops, and cause flooding due to snowmelt. USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reported in early February that increased wheat prices may restrict vulnerable households’ ability to purchase food. As a result, humanitarian actors are tracking precipitation levels and food prices, as well as stockpiling food and emergency relief commodities in anticipation of increased humanitarian needs in the coming months.
- USAID/OFDA is supporting the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with \$550,000 in FY 2016 funding to conduct humanitarian coordination and information management activities within the Afghanistan Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. The FSAC—co-led by FAO and WFP—organized a two-day workshop on coordination among food security actors in Kabul on February 9–10. Participants, including GoA, UN, and NGO representatives, discussed improving coordination on conducting assessments and response activities. With input from

the meeting, an FSAC team recently traveled to Mazar-e Sharif city, Balkh Province, to monitor a joint FAO–WFP resilience program and participate in an inter-cluster exercise to plan for potential natural disaster response activities.

- USAID/FFP is supporting WFP to respond to acute food security and nutrition needs of Afghanistan’s most vulnerable populations. In January, WFP distributed an estimated 2,000 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance to approximately 242,500 people. In addition, USAID/Afghanistan and USAID/FFP are supporting the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to conduct a community-based program to address acute malnutrition and expand access to treatment, in collaboration with the GoA Ministry of Public Health and local NGOs. As of late December, UNICEF had distributed nutritional supplies to nearly 160,000 nutrient-deficient children across Afghanistan.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- Following the October 2015 earthquake that affected an estimated 130,000 people, Afghanistan’s Hindu Kush region experienced three additional earthquakes between late December 2015 and early February. The largest, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake on December 25, affected nearly 700 people. USAID/OFDA partners—such as Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS), the International Medical Corps (IMC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US), WFP, and WHO—and other humanitarian agencies have provided emergency relief items, including food, medical supplies, and shelter materials, to affected populations. As of late February, IMC had provided relief commodities to more than 40 affected families in Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan provinces, and SC/US had provided relief supplies to nearly 5,000 affected people in Balkh, Bamyan, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, and Sar-e-Pul provinces.
- During the 2015/2016 winter season, relief agencies—including USAID/OFDA partners FOCUS, IOM, IMC, IRC, SC/US, WFP, and WHO—provided vulnerable populations in Afghanistan with winter-specific assistance. In December and January, humanitarian organizations distributed food and firewood to returnees living in poorly heated settlements outside of Kabul. As of late January, UNHCR had provided cash assistance to approximately 15,000 IDP households and an estimated 7,700 returnee households across Afghanistan, and UNICEF had provided winterization kits to 2,200 vulnerable households in Badakhshan and Balkh provinces. USAID/OFDA partner IRC distributed winterization kits—comprising blankets, plastic sheeting, and seasonally appropriate clothing—to nearly 12,000 vulnerable individuals in Badghis and Khost provinces in January and February.
- According to FEWS NET, increased precipitation across Afghanistan in the coming months will likely elevate the risk of floods and landslides. USAID/OFDA partners have developed contingency plans to prepare for the higher-than-average precipitation and possible flooding. For example, IOM is using ongoing FY 2015 USAID/OFDA funding to stock emergency relief commodities in warehouses across the country to supplement potential GoA-led response efforts. USAID/OFDA is also supporting the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), UNICEF, and ZOA with ongoing FY 2015 funding to pre-position WASH supplies across Afghanistan in anticipation of flood- and landslide-related humanitarian needs. Additionally, ACTED and ZOA have conducted disaster risk reduction trainings in Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Jowzjan provinces to help communities affected by the 2014 floods prepare for future disasters. The trainings, which included hazard mitigation and mapping activities, were part of a larger USAID/OFDA-funded program that also provided transitional shelters to more than 600 households displaced by the 2014 floods.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$500,000 to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to support humanitarian coordination and information management activities. OCHA is working in Afghanistan to improve the ability of humanitarian actors to access populations in need, fill gaps in service provision, and collaborate on disaster response efforts.
- With nearly \$2 million in FY 2016 USAID/OFDA funding, iMMAP is developing maps depicting Afghanistan’s humanitarian landscape. Drawing on satellite-generated, real-time data, USAID/OFDA is supporting iMMAP to provide forecasting advisory services to humanitarian assistance stakeholders in Afghanistan. The interactive maps

allow the GoA and relief organizations to identify populations at risk of disasters, such as avalanches or floods, and enable partners to plan an effective and timely response.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As of late March, international donors had contributed more than \$39 million, or approximately 10 percent of the estimated \$393 million requested by the 2016 HRP, to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF)—a pooled funding mechanism for addressing Afghanistan’s most critical humanitarian needs. Previously known as the Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund, the AHF supports relief organizations to respond to highly prioritized needs identified in the HRP.
- USAID/Afghanistan recently provided \$5,000,000 to the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to support humanitarian access and logistics operations in Afghanistan. UNHAS operates two fixed-wing aircrafts and a helicopter in the country, transporting an average of 1,900 passengers and more than seven MT of cargo each month.

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 1.1 million people over the past 15 years, while natural disasters, such as floods and avalanches, affect 250,000 Afghans each year. Additionally, Afghanistan continues to host more than 237,000 Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika following July 2014 military operations in Pakistan’s North Waziristan Agency.
- On October 15, 2015, Ambassador P. Michael McKinley renewed the disaster declaration for FY 2016 due to increased humanitarian needs resulting from conflict, displacement, and recurring natural disasters in Afghanistan.
- 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 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; support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; treat moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women; and 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, which is supported by two national staff.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE PROVIDED IN FY 2016¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$550,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,900,575
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$2,999,985
	Program Support Costs		\$40,525
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$5,991,085

USAID/FFP ³			
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$27,000,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Earthquake- and conflict-affected areas	\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$30,000,000
USAID/AFGHANISTAN			
ACTED	WASH	Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan	\$1,998,531
FEWS NET	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$11,001,473
ZOA	WASH	Sar-e Pul, Uruzgan	\$1,499,996
TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING			\$20,500,000
STATE/PRM			
International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$10,250,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$10,250,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$66,741,085

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 6, 2016.

³ 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 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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - 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>