

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

JANUARY 13, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

4.5 million

People in Afghanistan Targeted by the UN for Humanitarian Assistance in 2016
UN – December 2016

592,324

Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict in 2016
OCHA – December 2016

370,102

Registered Afghan Refugee Returnees from Pakistan in 2016
UNHCR – December 2016

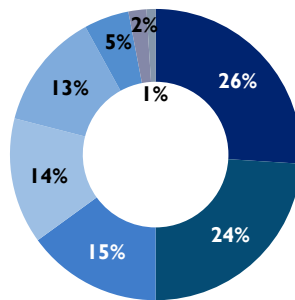
248,189

Undocumented Afghan Returnees from Pakistan in 2016
IOM – December 2016

1.3 million

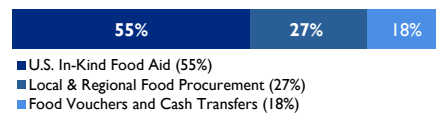
Registered Afghan Refugees in Pakistan
OCHA – October 2016

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2016-2017



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (26%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (24%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (15%)
- Shelter & Settlements (14%)
- Health (13%)
- WASH (5%)
- Protection (2%)
- Natural & Technological Risks (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2016-2017



- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid (55%)
- Local & Regional Food Procurement (27%)
- Food Vouchers and Cash Transfers (18%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict-induced displacement in 2016 surpassed UN projections
- Approximately 618,300 Afghans return from Pakistan in 2016
- UN reports that armed clashes increased by 23 percent compared to previous year

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2016-2017

USAID/OFDA	\$22,891,090
USAID/FFP	\$64,000,000
USAID/Afghanistan	\$6,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$115,176,980
Total	\$208,068,070

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- An estimated 4.5 million people in Afghanistan require humanitarian assistance according to the UN as of December 13, exceeding the figure projected in the 2016 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan by 400,000 people. The UN attributes the increase to the rapid rise in conflict-induced displacement and surge of approximately 618,300 refugees and undocumented Afghans returning from Pakistan, combined with existing humanitarian needs in the country.
- Ongoing clashes between Government of Afghanistan (GoA) forces and insurgent groups increased by an estimated 23 percent in 2016 compared to 2015, reaching its highest level since the UN began recording incidents in 2007. Across Afghanistan, conflict displaced more than 592,300 people in 2016, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- In FY 2016 and to date in FY 2017, the U.S. Government (USG) contributed approximately \$208 million—including \$20 million and \$19.6 million in FY 2017 funding from USAID/FFP and State/PRM, respectively—to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency in Afghanistan. USG partners continue to provide life-saving, multi-sector assistance to vulnerable populations.

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, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Between January and late December, nearly 248,200 undocumented Afghans and approximately 370,100 registered Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This marks a significant increase from 2015; the UN reported that an estimated 84,000 undocumented Afghans and approximately 54,000 registered refugees returned to Afghanistan from January–September 2015. The high number of returns in 2016 is due to multiple factors, including a doubling of UNHCR’s repatriation grant to refugee returnees; tighter border controls by Pakistani authorities that have separated families and negatively affected cross-border commerce for Afghans; uncertainty among refugees regarding Government of Pakistan-issued Proof-of-Registration cards and future legal status in Pakistan; and anti-refugee sentiment among Pakistanis.
- UNHCR-managed voluntary repatriation centers—where returning Afghan refugees may register for documents needed to collect assistance—closed for winter in December, but will reopen on March 1, when high levels of returns are expected to resume. Since 2002, UNHCR has facilitated the return of more than 4 million Afghan refugees from Pakistan. As of late November, the UN World Food Program (WFP) and IOM had initiated biometric registration of undocumented returnees from Pakistan at border crossing points.
- Armed clashes between GoA forces and insurgent groups from January–October increased by 23 percent compared to the same period in 2015, reaching the highest level since the UN began recording incidents in 2007. Conflict in 31 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces displaced more than 592,300 people in 2016, with the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) originating from Baghlan, Helmand, Kunduz, and Uruzgan provinces, the UN reports. This marks an increase from UN projections in September that ongoing conflict would displace up to 400,000 people in 2016. For the first time, all 34 Afghan provinces are hosting IDPs, according to the UN. The UN estimates that 18 percent of IDPs in Afghanistan are located in areas inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to insecurity or environmental factors.
- Ongoing insecurity continues to hamper implementation of humanitarian programs and restrict access to newly displaced populations, according to the UN, which recorded 26 incidents directly or indirectly targeting UN personnel or property between September and December. Despite the overall increase in insecurity and armed clashes, the number of incidents targeting humanitarian actors from January–November decreased by 24 percent compared to the same period in 2015, the UN reports.
- USAID partner the WFP-operated UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) increased access to populations in need of food and other humanitarian assistance by providing aerial transport to humanitarian personnel. In 2016, UNHAS transported approximately 6,300 humanitarian personnel to at least 25 destinations across Afghanistan.
- Multiple USAID partners are providing assistance to conflict-affected and displaced households throughout Afghanistan. In October and November, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) distributed emergency relief items—including hygiene kits, tents, water purification tablets, and winter clothes and supplies—to nearly 3,500 households, including both internally displaced and undocumented refugee households returning from Pakistan. Additionally, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) is targeting 770 households with transitional shelter assistance and hygiene promotion training in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Jowzjan, Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar provinces. From October–December, ACTED collected data, recruited and trained staff, and verified beneficiaries in preparation for new shelter construction. ACTED facilitated the construction of more than 750 houses in Badakhshan, Badghlan, and Jowzjan as of late December 2016.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- While the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) forecasts above-average temperatures and average to below-average precipitation for the October–May wet season, early-onset winter conditions have resulted in cold temperatures and increased snowfall in high-elevation areas of northern and western Afghanistan. As of November 28, winter conditions had rendered 13 districts in Badakhshan, Faryab, and Jowzjan provinces inaccessible. Winter conditions will likely exacerbate existing vulnerabilities due to increased food prices and decreased daily labor wage-earning opportunities, according to the UN.

- Humanitarian organizations, including USG partners, have developed natural disaster contingency plans that involve pre-positioning emergency relief supplies to ensure that populations receive adequate support during the winter season, according to OCHA. WFP pre-positioned food commodities for more than 188,000 people across eight provinces. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) has distributed pneumonia kits sufficient to treat an estimated 100,000 people to nearly 100 medical facilities in 24 provinces. UNHCR and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) pre-positioned emergency relief supplies—including blankets, hygiene kits, shelter supplies, and winter clothing—to benefit at least 50,000 vulnerable households. IOM has provided an estimated 4,900 households, or approximately 33,000 people, with blankets, emergency shelter materials, tarps, and winter clothing in 2016.
- USAID/OFDA partner Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) noted in a December 22 news release that many returnee households are choosing to remain in more temperate provinces as winter sets in, and the influx of vulnerable populations is placing additional pressure on health services and food and safe drinking water supplies in host communities. SC/US distributed relief supplies, including blankets, household items, hygiene kits, shelter repair materials, tarps, and warm clothing, to approximately 10,500 disaster-affected people, including more than 6,400 children, in Faryab, Jowzjan, and Sar-e Pul provinces in November. SC/US also conducted disaster risk reduction and child protection trainings in eight provinces, reaching an estimated 30,200 people, including nearly 18,000 children, from September 15 to November 30.
- USAID/OFDA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) and sub-partner FOCUS continue to facilitate disaster preparation and mitigation efforts for vulnerable communities in Afghanistan. In November, FOCUS conducted six school disaster risk reduction trainings and five village disaster awareness raising seminars in Badakhshan and Baghlan. IMC also supported communities in Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan provinces by establishing and training community emergency response teams and training religious leaders and teachers on disaster readiness.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- To date in FY 2017, USAID/FFP has contributed \$20 million to WFP to provide emergency food assistance to conflict-affected populations in Afghanistan: \$12 million supports cash-based transfer or voucher programs, and \$8 million supports in-kind emergency food assistance. Through USAID/FFP assistance, WFP is addressing the food needs of more than 131,000 undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan for six months through in-kind and cash-based programs. Additionally, WFP is providing in-kind emergency food assistance to approximately 30,000 newly displaced IDPs and more than 28,000 Pakistani refugees residing in Afghanistan.
- In FY 2016, USAID/FFP provided \$44 million to WFP to support emergency food operations in Afghanistan, including the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). WFP provided emergency food assistance to more than 124,200 conflict-affected people in November through the PRRO, which includes locally procured High Energy Biscuits and fortified wheat valued at \$14 million. WFP also launched a media campaign on November 29 in partnership with the GoA Ministry of Public Health to promote fortified food products, such as wheat, as a means of addressing malnutrition. Over the past five years, USAID has remained WFP’s largest donor in Afghanistan, contributing nearly 50 percent of the UN agency’s resources.
- With USAID support, UNICEF is assisting in screening and providing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment for children younger than five years of age. Between January and October, UNICEF reached more than 163,600 children, approximately 95 percent of the nearly 172,000 children targeted for assistance in 2016. UNICEF is also conducting trainings to help medical staff identify SAM cases and supply chain management seminars to build the capacity of GoA agencies, implementing partners, and UNICEF staff to effectively manage nutrition supplies.

HEALTH AND WASH

- The influx of Afghan returnees from Pakistan in recent months has caused increased demand for health services in many areas, and 4.5 million people live in conflict-affected districts with extremely limited or no access to health services, according to WHO. WHO noted that acute respiratory infections, particularly pneumonia, are becoming increasingly common with the onset of winter; these infections are a leading cause of death among children younger than five years of age in Afghanistan, according to OCHA. WHO is also monitoring Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) cases

in the country. The UN agency reported four new cases in November, bringing the total CCHF cases to date in 2016 to 154, including 18 deaths.

- USAID/OFDA provided WHO with nearly \$3 million in FY 2016 to improve access to trauma care and basic health services. In October and November, WHO supported trauma care in Kunduz, provided pneumonia kits to returnee households, developed winter preparedness plans with other relief actors, and conducted water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) trainings for medical personnel. WHO is also focusing on preventing and controlling communicable diseases and supporting coordination at the regional and provincial levels to avoid duplication of efforts among health actors working in Afghanistan.
- With USAID support, UNICEF provided WASH services—including the construction of water access points and provision of hygiene kits—to nearly 14,900 conflict-affected people in Khost, Lagman, and Paktiya provinces as of November 30. USAID has provided UNICEF with more than \$3 million since FY 2015 to support emergency WASH activities and coordination efforts.
- In Sar-e Pul and Uruzgan, USAID/OFDA partner ZOA is conducting hygiene promotion campaigns and constructing wells to ensure safe drinking water access. As of November 30, ZOA had completed construction of more than 40 wells and provided hygiene awareness training to at least 3,000 people in Uruzgan. ZOA also built two wells and began construction on two additional wells in Sar-e Pul in November.
- USAID is supporting ACTED to provide WASH programming, including repairing and drilling wells, to more than 9,700 disaster-affected households in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan, and Kunduz. In November, ACTED established or repaired more than 240 wells in Balkh, Faryab, and Kunduz, increasing vulnerable communities' access to safe drinking water. Additionally, ACTED distributed nearly 170 hygiene kits and water storage and purification materials to flood- and conflict-affected households in Jowzjan in November.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- With nearly \$2 million in FY 2016 funding, USAID/OFDA partner iMMAP is using satellite-generated, real-time data to provide forecasting advisory services to humanitarian stakeholders in Afghanistan. In October and November, iMMAP acquired housing data that is expected to improve the accuracy of risk assessment models and mapped humanitarian access issues related to conflict- and natural disaster-affected population movements. iMMAP also established the Afghanistan Spatial Data Center, launched on December 20 by USAID and the GoA Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs. The Afghanistan Spatial Data Center is an interactive, web-based tool that provides information management services—such as community hazard maps—designed to assist the humanitarian community to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters; more than 400 users were registered for the service as of early January.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The Government of Japan provided approximately \$12.4 million to UNICEF to support vaccination campaigns targeting an estimated 1.3 million children and 2.5 million women of child-bearing age in Afghanistan. The assistance will provide 36 million vaccine doses for public health campaigns in 2017, representing more than 30 percent of the total 110 million dose requirement for the year.
- As of December 19, seven donors—including Australia, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom—had committed \$59.3 million to the Common Humanitarian Fund for Afghanistan, a rapid-response funding mechanism designed to make funding readily available during a crisis.
- To date in 2016, international donors have contributed approximately \$439 million for humanitarian interventions in Afghanistan, according to OCHA. Of the total, \$197.2 million has supported the 2016 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan—52 percent of the \$393 million requested—and \$60.3 million has supported the flash appeal launched by the UN in response to the increase in IDPs and refugee returns in September.

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 1.2 million people over the past 15 years, while natural disasters, such as floods and avalanches, affect 235,000 Afghans each year. Additionally, Afghanistan continues to host approximately 120,000 Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktiya following July 2014 military operations in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency.
- On October 5, 2016, U.S. Ambassador P. Michael McKinley renewed the disaster declaration for FY 2017 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; 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 (SHA) based in Kabul continues to monitor the humanitarian situation and oversee USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP activities in Afghanistan. The SHA leads USAID/Afghanistan's Office of Humanitarian Assistance, which is supported by two national staff.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
	Food Vouchers and Cash Transfers	Crisis-Affected Areas	\$12,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$20,000,000
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Regional	\$19,100,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$19,600,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$39,600,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2016¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
ACTED	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badakhshan, Baghlan, Jowzjan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar	\$2,799,695
Aga Khan Foundation (AKF/US)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kabul	\$1,403,251
IMC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan	\$2,348,945
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,200,575

IOM	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Countrywide	\$5,474,104
IRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktiya	\$2,239,589
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
SC/US	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Badakhshan, Balkh, Faryab, Helmand, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Nangarhar, Sar-e Pul, Takhar, Zabul	\$2,300,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$550,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$2,999,985
	Program Support Costs		\$74,946
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$22,891,090

USAID/FFP³			
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$35,000,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Crisis-Affected Areas	\$17,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$44,000,000

USAID/AFGHANISTAN⁴			
FEWS NET	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING			\$6,000,000

STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$23,700,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,464,239
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Pakistan	\$12,512,741
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Regional	\$57,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$95,576,980
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$168,468,070

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2016–2017			\$208,068,070
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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 January 13, 2017.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

⁴ USAID/Afghanistan also continues to support ACTED, UNICEF, and ZOA through ongoing FY 2015 funding.

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:
 - USAID 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>