

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #7, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

612,000

Total Number of Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict

Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – September 2013

3.1 Million

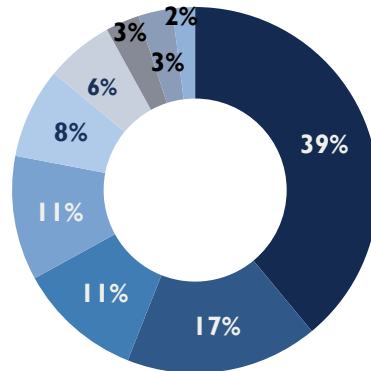
Registered Afghans Displaced to Neighboring Countries

UNHCR/International Organization for Migration (IOM) – September 2013

8.8 Million

Food-Insecure Afghans
Afghanistan Nutrition Cluster – June 2013

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2013



- Logistics & Relief Commodities (39%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (17%)
- Nutrition (11%)
- Natural & Technological Risks (11%)
- Health (8%)
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (6%)
- Protection (3%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (3%)
- Shelter & Settlements (2%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Attacks against humanitarian workers continue to hinder access and interrupt relief services
- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$4.5 million to improve access to lifesaving emergency health services in Afghanistan

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2013

USAID/OFDA	\$21,503,977
USAID/FFP ²	\$46,154,700
STATE/PRM ³	\$88,194,480

\$155,853,157

TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Insecurity, military operations, and attacks on relief workers continue to limit humanitarian access and impact relief operations in Afghanistan. In August, relief agencies reported 25 incidents of violence against humanitarian personnel, assets, and facilities, resulting in eight deaths and injuring four people. The U.N. reports that continued high levels of violence against humanitarians reflect mounting instability, fragmentation of armed groups, and suspicion of and hostility toward aid workers.
- During the month of August, heavy rains and flooding throughout Afghanistan's central, southeastern, and central highlands regions resulted in more than 1,400 damaged or destroyed houses and left an estimated 68 people dead and 92 injured, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates near-normal second crop performance, which combined with the above-normal wheat harvest, is forecast to improve food stocks at both the household and market levels in many areas of Afghanistan. However, poor food security conditions resulting from dry weather are affecting Bamyan, Daykundi, and Ghor provinces, the U.N. reports.

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 RETURNS

- In the first six months of 2013, war-related incidents resulted in the death of approximately 1,300 civilians and injured more than 2,500 others—a 23 percent increase in total civilian casualties compared to the first half of 2012. The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan’s Mid-Year Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict also reported a 38 percent increase in casualties among women and children from January–June 2013 compared to the same time period in 2012.
- The Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for protection activities in Afghanistan—estimates that 5.4 million civilians in conflict-affected areas have limited access to food, safe drinking water, health care, and other basic services.
- Between January and August, UNHCR recorded more than 113,000 people as newly displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan, bringing the total conflict-displaced population to approximately 612,000 people. Armed conflict, deteriorating security conditions, and intimidation account for approximately 80 percent of displacement in the country.
- Between January and July, nearly 29,000 Afghan refugees voluntarily returned to Afghanistan, a 41 percent decline in the number of returns during the same time period in 2012, the U.N. reports. OCHA attributes the lower rate of return to uncertainty leading up to Afghanistan’s 2014 elections, as well as expectations that Pakistan would extend refugee cards, known as Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, for Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan. On July 25, Pakistan extended PoR cards through December 2015, allowing nearly 1.7 million Afghan refugees to remain in the country for two more years, according to UNHCR.
- Refugees who returned to Afghanistan in 2013 cited deteriorating security conditions in Pakistan, fear of arrest and deportation, improved security and increasing employment opportunities in some parts of Afghanistan, and the assistance package offered by UNHCR as important factors in their decision to return.

LOGISTICS AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

- As many Afghan populations reside in remote, disaster-prone areas, USAID/OFDA supports the pre-positioning of relief commodities to allow for the timely distribution of lifesaving assistance following conflict-related displacement or natural disasters. USAID/OFDA recently provided more than \$1.2 million to two partners—International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)—to replenish stocks of pre-positioned emergency relief commodities throughout the country. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$8 million to support logistics activities and the pre-positioning and distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- With USAID/OFDA support, IOM’s Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP), a mechanism that supports coordinated assessments and response activities following hazard events in Afghanistan, has provided emergency relief commodities to populations affected by floods, avalanches, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters throughout the year. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4 million to support the procurement, storage, and distribution of emergency relief commodities through the HAP.
- Throughout FY 2013, the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) facilitated relief efforts with helicopter flight operations in central and northern Afghanistan to complement its fixed-wing service. The helicopter flights permitted humanitarian assistance and emergency evacuation services to reach remote areas inaccessible to fixed-wing aircraft. USAID/OFDA supported UNHAS with \$2.7 million in FY 2013.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- In August, the U.N. received reports of six attacks against health facilities and health workers in Balkh, Kunar, Laghman, Logar, and Nangarhar provinces. Attacks and other violent incidents at health facilities endanger the lives of patients and medical personnel and hamper the ability of health workers to provide medical care to sick and injured patients.

- In mid-June, OCHA reported that nearly 126,000 children under the age of five suffer from global acute malnutrition, of which nearly 29,000 suffer from severe acute malnutrition. Afghanistan’s humanitarian indicators in nutrition and health remain poor, particularly among displaced communities and in areas experiencing chronic food insecurity.
- In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.3 million to support U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) nutrition interventions in Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA-supported activities included strengthening and expanding inpatient therapeutic interventions for children affected by severe acute malnutrition, disseminating information on infant and young child feeding and hygienic practices to pregnant women, and providing micronutrient supplementation to children.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided an additional \$455,000 to WHO for health activities, bringing total USAID/OFDA funding to WHO to nearly \$2 million in FY 2013. The increased support will improve access to lifesaving emergency health care services, with a focus on maternal and child health, for communities affected by natural disasters and conflict. In Afghanistan, WHO continues to respond to the health needs of particularly vulnerable groups requiring humanitarian assistance, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), populations residing in informal settlements, and host communities.

FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- In most regions of Afghanistan, farmers have completed the wheat harvest. Adequate precipitation throughout the summer provided sufficient levels of irrigation water for the second growing season—consisting of cotton, maize, and rice crops. As a result, FEWS NET anticipates a near-normal second harvest. The above-average wheat harvest, combined with the expected near-normal second crop harvest, will increase the population’s access to wheat and other food. However, some regions will likely have well below-average harvests, including areas of the west-central highlands, as well as Faryab, Jowzjan, and Khost provinces.
- In August, the Ghor Provincial Disaster Management Committee, along with the U.N. and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), conducted a household food security survey in Ghor Province’s 10 districts, determining that poor food security conditions persist but that affected areas are not experiencing drought conditions. This survey added further precision to the initial rapid food security assessment conducted by the U.N World Food Program (WFP) and FEWS NET in June and July that determined that a failed harvest and falling livestock prices due to diminished rainfall were threatening to result in Crisis—Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 3—level food security conditions in Ghor. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and humanitarian organizations are coordinating response activities to prevent a further deterioration in food security conditions.
- In FY 2013, USAID/FFP approved two separate contributions of wheat, vegetable oil, and yellow peas to WFP’s Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). The two contributions—totaling 29,440 metric tons (MT)—supported emergency relief and recovery operations, including general food distributions, food-for-training, food-for-assets, and nutritional support. USAID/FFP’s assistance supported communities affected by localized disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, and drought, as well as people displaced by conflict, families residing in the Kabul Informal Settlements, returnees, and other vulnerable populations. The PRRO—which has assisted more than 7.6 million beneficiaries since 2010—is expected to close at the end of 2013 with a new PRRO set to begin in 2014. In total, USAID/ FFP provided more than \$41 million in FY 2013 to WFP to support ongoing food assistance and nutrition programs for food insecure populations in all of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces.
- Also in FY 2013, USAID/FFP provided its first contribution of ready-to-use-therapeutic food (RUTF) to UNICEF’s Afghanistan operation. The new partnership between USAID/FFP and UNICEF is part of a larger agreement that seeks to address the emergency food needs of severely malnourished children under the age of five. With USAID/FFP support, UNICEF and the GIROA Ministry of Public Health distributed 810 MT of RUTF in response to short-term and acute malnutrition.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- In line with USAID's objective to improve data collection and information sharing in Afghanistan, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2 million to Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) in FY 2013. USAID/OFDA-supported activities enhanced the information management capacity of humanitarian agencies, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), and other GIRoA authorities to facilitate timely reporting and improve baseline data, monitoring, and forecasting capabilities. USAID/OFDA has supported iMMAP in Afghanistan since 2010 as part of a multi-year commitment to improving humanitarian coordination and information management.
- The Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team—comprising U.N., NGO, and donor representatives—has agreed to establish a Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) by January 2014. Several donors expressed support for the CHF, which is intended to promote a longer-term humanitarian strategy for Afghanistan and encourage improved funding continuity in a deteriorating humanitarian situation. Preparations for the CHF are underway, with plans to establish a joint OCHA–U.N. Development Program humanitarian financing unit, identify CHF partners, determine cluster roles, and establish CHF governance bodies.
- USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3.6 million in FY 2013 to support humanitarian coordination and information management in Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA-funded activities benefitted more than 200 humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan, ANDMA and other GIRoA ministries, and eight humanitarian clusters—the coordinating bodies for humanitarian activities in the country. By enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis, USAID/OFDA is improving the effectiveness of humanitarian relief operations in Afghanistan.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Through the 2013 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for Afghanistan, the U.N. has requested approximately \$474 million to address the humanitarian needs of populations affected by the ongoing complex emergency and natural disasters across the country. As of September, the CHAP was funded at approximately 64 percent. Compared to 21 humanitarian appeals globally, the Afghanistan CHAP has received the highest percentage of funding requested.

CONTEXT

- Since 2002, conflict and frequent natural disasters have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. Approximately 612,000 people remain internally displaced by conflict, and recurring natural disasters, including drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year, according to the CHAP.
- Winters in Afghanistan are particularly harsh for IDPs and other vulnerable populations. For the 2012/2013 winter season, the GIRoA and the international humanitarian community distributed fuel, food, and cold-weather relief commodities and improved coordination efforts to ensure increased emergency response capacity to vulnerable populations in urban and rural areas.
- 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 building household economic resilience; and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.
- On October 27, 2012, U.S. Deputy Ambassador James B. Cunningham renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Afghanistan for FY 2013.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$300,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,049,681
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Natural and Technological Risks	Kunar, Nuristan	\$957,863
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks	Countrywide	\$5,908,689
IRC	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,050,000
SC/US	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Balkh, Bamyan, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Sar-ePul, Uruzgan	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
U.N. Human Settlements Program (UNHABITAT)	Shelter and Settlements	Herat	\$149,591
UNHAS	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
WHO	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,955,000
	Administrative Support		\$233,153
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$21,503,977
USAID/FFP³			
UNICEF	810 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,118,100
WFP	29,440 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$41,036,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$46,154,700
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$16,800,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$937,708
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$14,256,772
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan	\$56,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$88,194,480
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2013			\$155,853,157

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2013.

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>