

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

APRIL 30, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

3.3 million

Estimated People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2018
UN – December 2017

75,600

Estimated People Internally Displaced by Conflict in 2018
UN – April 2018

212,750

Estimated Undocumented Returnees from Iran and Pakistan in 2018
IOM – April 2018

4,545

Estimated Registered Returnees in 2018
UNHCR – April 2018

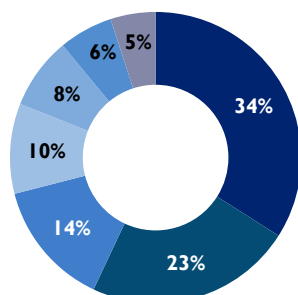
2,258

Estimated Civilian Deaths and Injuries to date in 2018
UN – April 2018

2,324

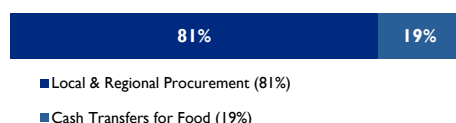
Estimated Individuals Affected by Natural Disasters in 2018
IOM – April 2018

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2018



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (34%)
- Shelter & Settlements (23%)
- Protection (14%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (10%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (8%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (6%)
- WASH (5%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2018



- Local & Regional Procurement (81%)
- Cash Transfers for Food (19%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly 213,000 undocumented Afghans return from Iran and Pakistan
- Increasing violence results in approximately 2,300 civilian casualties from January to March
- USG provides nearly \$62 million in humanitarian assistance to respond to acute needs across Afghanistan in FY 2018

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018

USAID/OFDA	\$5,613,471
USAID/FFP	\$25,975,000
USAID/Afghanistan	\$12,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$18,000,000
\$61,588,471	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On April 29, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan John R. Bass announced an additional \$36.6 million in U.S. Government (USG) funding to assist conflict- and disaster-affected populations throughout Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in the region. The contribution includes \$5.6 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$1 million from USAID/FFP, \$12 million from USAID/Afghanistan, and \$18 million from State/PRM, and supplements \$25 million in previously announced FY 2018 funding from USAID/FFP. Cumulatively, the USG has provided nearly \$276 million to respond to acute needs in Afghanistan from FY 2017–2018.
- Intensified conflict in Afghanistan continues to result in high numbers of civilian casualties, with 763 deaths and approximately 1,500 injuries recorded from January–March, the UN reports.
- Nearly 213,000 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran and Pakistan between January and April, representing an increase of nearly 50 percent compared to the same period in 2017, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Relief actors are responding to critical humanitarian needs among internally displaced persons (IDPs)—including more than 75,600 people displaced by conflict in 2018—and returnees, the UN 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)

DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS

- Conflict continues to generate population displacement in Afghanistan, with more than 75,600 people—many of whom lack sufficient access to services—displaced by conflict from January 1–April 29, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Afghanistan’s northern provinces of Kunduz and Faryab host the largest numbers of IDPs displaced in 2018, with cumulative IDP populations of approximately 14,000 and 12,800 IDPs, respectively; however, the UN had recorded forced displacement in 29 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces as of April 29.
- Displaced populations are often located in hard-to-reach and insecure areas where Government of Afghanistan (GoA) authorities and relief organizations are unable to adequately identify or respond to humanitarian needs; approximately 30 percent of populations newly displaced in 2018 were sheltering in hard-to-reach areas as of March 21, OCHA reports. These areas—including 100 of Afghanistan’s approximately 400 districts classified as hard-to reach in 2017—are also among the worst affected by conflict.
- Nearly 213,000 undocumented Afghans—including nearly 203,000 people from Iran and 10,000 people from Pakistan—returned to Afghanistan from January 1–April 21, according to IOM. This figure represents an increase of nearly 50 percent compared to the nearly 144,000 undocumented persons who returned to Afghanistan during the same period in 2017. Uncertainty regarding future extensions of Proof of Registration Cards—which provide Afghan refugees with legal protections in Pakistan—held by approximately 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees, as well as a tenuous political and security environment in Iran and Pakistan, continue to generate concern among humanitarian organizations regarding potential large-scale influxes of registered and unregistered returnees.
- More than 4,500 registered refugees returned from Iran and Pakistan from March 1–April 28, following the resumption of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) voluntary repatriation program; the program provides returning refugees with a \$200 cash grant and mine awareness training, while referring refugees to health and protection services through GoA and UN agencies. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR also provides targeted assistance to vulnerable individuals, supports community-based protection activities in high-return areas, and promotes the integration of returnees. In 2017, UNHCR facilitated the return of approximately 58,800 registered Afghan refugees through its voluntary repatriation program.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations displaced by conflict and natural disasters, as well as vulnerable returnee populations, in Afghanistan. With \$3.5 million in FY 2018 support, USAID/OFDA partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) provides cash transfers for relief commodities, as well as protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support, to vulnerable populations. From January–September, IRC reached 3,800 households—comprising more than 25,000 IDPs, returnees, and disaster-affected people in Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, and Paktia provinces—with cash grants intended to support the purchase of relief commodities. In addition, through \$350,000 in FY 2018 funding, USAID/OFDA supports OCHA to reinforce coordinated humanitarian planning and response efforts, as well as advocate the needs of vulnerable populations in Afghanistan.

INSECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Insecurity continues to affect civilians in Afghanistan, with conflict from January–March resulting in at least 763 civilian deaths and an estimated 1,500 injuries. A similarly high number of civilian casualties—approximately 1,470 injuries and 786 deaths—was recorded during the same period in 2017, according to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Although violence typically decreases during the winter season in Afghanistan, international media reported ongoing attacks targeting civilians—including a January 27 ambulance-borne improvised explosive device attack in Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul that resulted in more than 100 deaths and at least 235 injuries—and armed clashes during the 2017/2018 winter season.
- Ongoing attacks on humanitarian organizations and staff—including a January 24 attack on non-governmental organization (NGO) Save the Children in the city of Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, which resulted in the deaths of four humanitarian workers and two civilians and at least 27 injuries—have limited relief organizations’ ability to access vulnerable populations and led to a decrease in the number of humanitarian organizations operating in the country. While conflict- and disaster-affected Afghans in contested districts or districts outside GoA control—estimated at 43

percent of districts in the country as of August 2017—require significant humanitarian assistance, only one percent of the 44,000 relief workers in Afghanistan in 2017 were operating in areas outside of GoA control, according to the UN.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE AND SHELTER

- Natural disasters affected approximately 320 households—more than 2,320 people—in 14 provinces between January 1 and April 17, IOM reports. Below-average precipitation in recent months has reduced the risk of seasonal flooding, which typically peaks between February and May each year, although risk of localized flash flooding remains, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). On average, disasters—including drought, earthquakes, flash flooding, and landslides—affect approximately 200,000 people in Afghanistan each year, according to OCHA.
 - In order to bolster community capacity to mitigate flash flood and landslide risk, USAID/OFDA partner the International Medical Corps (IMC) rehabilitated local agricultural infrastructure in Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan provinces in February and March. IMC also supported the establishment and training of five community-based disaster management committees, ten school emergency response teams, and four women action committees to strengthen communities' ability to prevent, mitigate, and respond to natural disasters.
 - Shelter is often a critical concern for conflict- and disaster-affected populations, many of whom reside in damaged or destroyed houses. A September 2017 assessment by the REACH Initiative found that displaced households sheltering in informal settlements, particularly in central and western provinces, cited shelter assistance as their priority need. Lack of adequate shelter is often associated with additional challenges, such as inadequate WASH conditions and lack of access to markets. In response to critical shelter needs, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)—with USAID/OFDA support—constructed emergency transitional shelters for more than 490 households, or approximately 3,500 individuals, in eastern and northern Afghanistan. In addition, with \$1.2 million in support, USAID/OFDA partner ZOA plans to construct shelters for more than 360 disaster-affected or returnee households, or nearly 2,100 people, in Balkh, Jowzjan, and Sar-e-Pul provinces in 2018.
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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Afghanistan has experienced below-average precipitation throughout the 2017/2018 October–May wet season, with as much as 75 percent less precipitation recorded compared to the 2016/2017 season. Ongoing La Niña conditions are likely to result in below-average rainfall through the end of the wet season, threatening agricultural yields and increasing the risk of livestock disease and starvation, according to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security and agriculture activities in Afghanistan, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders, and co-led by USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) and USAID/OFDA partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Following below-average agricultural production in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Ghor, Herat, Jowzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, and Takhar provinces in 2017, vulnerable households across Afghanistan are experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity, according to FEWS NET.³ IDPs, refugees, and returnees are particularly vulnerable due to their lack of agricultural land or assets. According to the UN, more than 80 percent of people displaced by conflict in Afghanistan are in need of food assistance.
- Although food security conditions for some households are expected to improve in the coming months with the end of the January-to-May lean season, displacement, insecurity, and loss of livelihoods continue to exacerbate food insecurity throughout much of Afghanistan. FEWS NET projects that displacement and reduced labor opportunities will drive Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity throughout much of the country through September 2018, with many households experiencing Crisis conditions.

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized 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.

- With \$550,000 in FY 2018 funding, USAID/OFDA is supporting FAO to strengthen coordination for food security response planning, implementation, and monitoring in Afghanistan through the FSAC. The FSAC provided food assistance to more than 22,100 IDPs and cash transfers to support the purchase of food to nearly 15,100 IDPs across Afghanistan from January–April. In addition, WFP provided food assistance to approximately 19,600 Pakistani refugees in Khost, including at the Gulen refugee camp, from February 19–25.
- An estimated 1.6 million children younger than five years of age, including 546,000 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 443,000 pregnant and lactating women will require treatment in 2018, according to the Nutrition Cluster. The SAM rate is higher than 3 percent—exceeding the UN World Health Organization (WHO) critical threshold of 2 percent—in 24 provinces, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports. In response, USAID/FFP is supporting UNICEF to provide emergency nutrition assistance, such as ready-to-use therapeutic foods, to children and pregnant and lactating women experiencing acute malnutrition.
- On April 2, USAID/FFP announced \$25 million in support to WFP to provide approximately 547,000 food-insecure people with emergency food assistance, including more than 16,000 metric tons of locally and regionally procured food and cash-based transfers for food. The contribution is supporting efforts to assist Afghanistan’s most food-insecure populations, including drought-affected communities, IDPs, and returnees.

HEALTH AND WASH

- Attacks on health care workers and health facilities continue to prevent conflict-affected populations from accessing critical health services. From December–March, insecurity and violence prompted the closure of 34 health facilities, 14 of which remained closed as of late March, the UN reports. During the same period, relief actors recorded 48 security incidents involving health care workers and facilities, resulting in the death of four health care workers and the kidnapping or detention of 38 others.
- Afghanistan remains one of three polio-endemic countries worldwide, with seven cases of wild poliovirus reported as of April 24, according to health actors. In response, the GoA and health actors are conducting sub-national immunization campaigns, such as the February 12–16 campaign, which aimed to provide oral polio vaccines to 5.9 million children ages five years and younger in high-risk areas.
- The Health Cluster provided more than 240,000 people with health care services from January–February. Cluster organizations focused on providing trauma care and emergency primary health care services to conflict-affected populations and returnees from Pakistan, WHO reports.
- Conflict and natural disasters have resulted in deteriorated WASH infrastructure, with nearly 70 percent of people lacking access to improved sanitation and 45 percent lacking access to sources for safe drinking water, increasing risks of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea. In response, USAID/Afghanistan provided \$12 million to ACTED, IMC, Mercy Corps, UNICEF, and ZOA in FY 2018 to support WASH programming—including hygiene kit distribution, hygiene promotion trainings, and latrine and water infrastructure construction—for vulnerable populations in Afghanistan.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

- To date, international donors have contributed approximately \$82.4 million toward the 2018 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)—representing 19.2 percent of the \$430 million appeal, according to OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service. The USG is the single largest provider of funding to the HRP, followed by the Government of Denmark and the Government of the United Kingdom.

CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that conflict has displaced more than 2 million people since 2012, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 200,000 Afghans each year.
- On October 22, 2017, Special Chargé d’Affaires Ambassador Hugo Llorens renewed the disaster declaration for FY 2018 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from conflict, displacement, and recurring natural disasters in Afghanistan.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improve humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: supporting rapid response capacity to address acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; strengthening community-based disaster preparedness and response; 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 based in Kabul leads the U.S. Government’s humanitarian response in war-torn Afghanistan. The senior humanitarian advisor leads USAID/Afghanistan’s Office of Humanitarian Assistance, oversees USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP operations, and is supported by two national staff.
- In addition, a State/PRM Refugee Coordinator based in Kabul monitors refugee and returnee issues in Afghanistan.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
IRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Pakiya	\$3,500,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$550,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$350,000
ZOA	Shelter and Settlements	Balkh, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul	\$1,200,000
	Program Support Costs		\$13,471
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$5,613,471
USAID/FFP ³			
Implementing Partner	Cash Transfers for Food	Daykundi	\$975,000
WFP	Local and Regional Procurement	Countrywide	\$21,000,000
	Cash Transfers for Food		\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$25,975,000
USAID/Afghanistan			
ACTED	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Badakhshan, Balkh, Takhar	\$3,000,000
IMC	WASH	Kunar, Nangarhar	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps	WASH	Herat	\$2,000,000

UNICEF	WASH	Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Laghman, Nangarhar, Samangan	\$2,500,000
ZOA	WASH	Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Uruzgan, Zabul	\$2,500,000
TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN FUNDING			\$12,000,000
State/PRM			
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide and Regional	\$18,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$18,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$61,588,471

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 30, 2018.

³ 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.
- 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 +1.202.661.7710.
 - 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>