

PAKISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY AND DROUGHT

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

5 million

Estimated Population Affected by Drought in Balochistan and Sindh
FAO – September 2019

1.4 million

Estimated Registered Afghan Refugees in Pakistan
UNHCR – September 2019

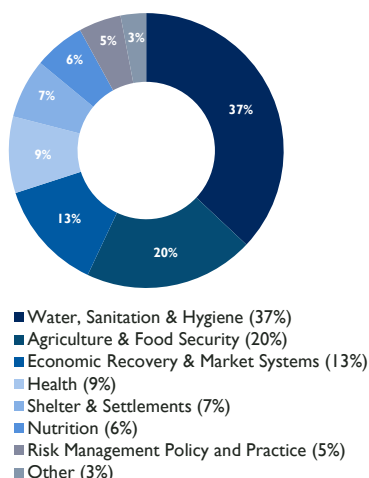
4,623

Voluntary Returns of Registered Afghan Nationals from Pakistan in 2019
UNHCR – September 2019

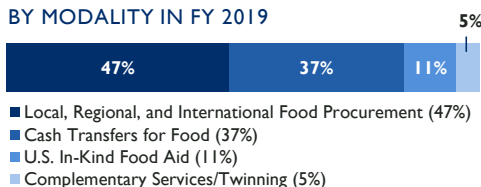
16,397

Undocumented Afghan Returnees from Pakistan in 2019
IOM – September 2019

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



HIGHLIGHTS

- Effects of the 2018/2019 drought continue to cause food insecurity, disrupt livelihoods
- USG provides \$39.8 million in FY 2019 to support humanitarian response activities

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE PAKISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$9,582,650
USAID/FFP	\$18,042,729
USAID/Pakistan	\$1,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$11,200,000
\$39,825,379	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Recent drought conditions continue to negatively impact vulnerable populations across Pakistan, exacerbating humanitarian needs in the country. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that drought had adversely affected approximately 5 million people in Pakistan as of September, with effects of the drought on local communities persisting in Pakistan's southern Balochistan and Sindh provinces despite average monsoon rains in May–August. In response to drought-induced humanitarian needs, USAID is supporting programs to provide emergency food assistance, bolster livelihoods opportunities, and address water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) gaps for affected communities in the two provinces.
- The number of polio virus and dengue fever cases has increased in Pakistan in 2019, leading to a heightened need for health care and vaccination services. The Government of Pakistan (GoP) had reported nearly 49,000 suspected cases of dengue fever and nearly 70 confirmed cases of polio to date in 2019.

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 POPULATION MOVEMENT

- The security situation in Pakistan remains volatile, with the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project recording 906 conflict-related deaths in Pakistan between January 1 and September 30. Approximately 17,000 households remained displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPk) Province due to ongoing conflict as of August.
 - The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with funding from State/PRM, resumed its voluntary returns program for registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan in March, following the annual winter hiatus. Since the resumption, more than 4,600 Afghan refugees had returned to Afghanistan via two UNHCR voluntary repatriation centers in Balochistan's Quetta city and KPk's Nowshera city as of September 30. The total number of voluntary returns represents a projected decrease from the approximately 14,000 voluntary returns in 2018 and more than 57,000 voluntary returns in 2017. A UNHCR survey of refugees identified ongoing insecurity in Afghanistan as the main cause for the decline in voluntary returns.
 - The majority of Afghan refugees in Pakistan remained concentrated in KPk and northern Balochistan, with approximately 30 percent of Afghan refugees residing in refugee settlements in the two provinces, according to UNHCR. UNHCR continues to facilitate access to education and health services to refugees, including through a scholarship program for refugee students and immunization programs in the settlements. Additionally, UNHCR provides legal assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, reaching more than 24,000 Afghans to date in 2019.
 - In addition to registered refugee returns, more than 16,000 undocumented Afghans have returned to Afghanistan through the Torkham border between KPk and Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, and the Chaman border between Balochistan and Afghanistan's Kandahar Province through September, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). State/PRM funds IOM to improve the Government of Afghanistan's capacity to support refugee and undocumented returnees from Pakistan. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR to provide returning refugees with multipurpose cash assistance of approximately \$200 per individual upon arrival at UNHCR transit centers in Afghanistan to support reintegration.
 - Between July and September, State/PRM non-governmental organization (NGO) partners initiated projects to support Afghan refugees in Pakistan, including education and protection programs. State/PRM also supports advocacy and diplomacy efforts regarding refugee protection concerns in Pakistan; on March 1, the State Bank of Pakistan directed banks to allow refugees to use their Proof of Registration (PoR) cards to open bank accounts.
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NATURAL HAZARDS

- On September 24, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake struck Pakistan's Mirpur District in the northeastern Azad Jammu and Kashmir region, resulting in 39 deaths and approximately 750 injuries, according to the GoP National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). In response, the NDMA deployed eight field teams to conduct search-and-rescue activities and assess the affected areas; the NDMA also distributed relief commodities to affected households.
 - In July and August, monsoon rainfall caused flooding and landslides in much of northeastern Pakistan including in Azad Jammu and Kashmir Region and KPk and Punjab provinces. The flooding caused more than 200 deaths and 150 injuries, as well as the destruction of nearly 700 houses as of August 26, the NDMA reports. Additional monsoon rainfall caused flooding in Sindh between August 9 and 12, resulting in at least 26 deaths. The Sindh Provincial Government declared an emergency in three affected districts, and GoP rescue units assisted with evacuation and recovery.
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DROUGHT, FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION, AND LIVELIHOODS

- Increased temperatures and below average rainfall during recent May to August monsoon seasons resulted in severe drought conditions in Balochistan and Sindh, affecting approximately 5 million people across 26 districts in the two provinces. Drought conditions persisted following the 2018 monsoon season, which produced rainfall levels that were 45 percent below average in Balochistan and 70 percent below average in Sindh. Despite moderate rainfall during the 2019 summer monsoon season, FAO projects that the accumulated effects of long-term drought will persist in

Balochistan, adversely affecting food production, livestock, and livelihoods. In response, government authorities in Balochistan and Sindh have declared emergencies and implemented relief activities; however, households in many affected areas remain in need of humanitarian assistance, the UN reports.

- Accumulated effects of drought have negatively impacted food security conditions for populations in affected areas. More than 490,000 people in Balochistan are projected to experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity and nearly 1.3 million individuals could experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through November 2019, according to the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis.⁴ Meanwhile, nearly 528,000 people and approximately 727,000 people could experience Emergency and Crisis levels of acute food insecurity, respectively, in Sindh through October 2019. In total, more than 3 million people in the two provinces are expected to face severe acute food security and are in need of emergency food and livelihood assistance, the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis reports.
- In addition to impacts on food security, the duration and effects of drought have contributed to acute malnutrition in affected areas of Pakistan. In Balochistan and Sindh, global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among children and pregnant and lactating women in many of the drought-affected districts has surpassed the UN World Health Organization (WHO) 15 percent emergency threshold, according to the 2018 GoP National Nutrition Survey (NNS). The survey found that GAM levels had reached 33 percent among children ages 6–59 months in Balochistan’s Panjgur District and 29 percent in Sindh’s Umerkot District. Overall, the NNS survey identified an average GAM prevalence of 20 percent among children and pregnant and lactating women in Balochistan.
- Three years of consecutive drought has negatively affected the livelihoods of rural communities in Balochistan and Sindh, where communities have lost significant portions of livestock and other animals due to disease and death. Approximately 70 percent of households in Sindh reported incurring new debt in 2019, primarily to cover food and health needs, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Additionally, the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis reports that nearly 70 percent of surveyed households in Balochistan also incurred new debt from February to July to meet basic needs.
- On February 15, Ambassador Paul W. Jones, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., declared a disaster due to drought in Balochistan and Sindh provinces, and \$150,000 was provided to the FAO for relief activities in the initial response.
- USAID/FFP continues to support WFP to provide emergency food assistance—such as locally, regionally, and internationally procured food assistance and cash transfers for food—to vulnerable households in Pakistan, including drought-affected individuals in Balochistan and Sindh and temporarily displaced persons in KP. WFP provided more than 4,200 metric tons of food assistance and \$88,000 in cash-based transfers to approximately 315,000 people across Pakistan in August. Additionally, WFP continues to provide livelihood support—such as conditional cash or food transfers and vocational skill trainings—and conduct community-based activities to prevent acute malnutrition in drought-affected districts of Balochistan and Sindh.
- USAID/FFP partner UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) continues to provide nutrition services, including the provision of ready-to-use therapeutic foods, to more than 43,500 children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women in Balochistan and Sindh.
- Through the Responding to Pakistan’s Internally Displaced Fund, USAID/OFDA is supporting 13 local NGOs to assist more than 250,000 drought-affected people in Balochistan and Sindh with cash grants, livestock feed distributions, nutrition assistance, and WASH interventions. In addition, USAID/OFDA NGO partners reached 100,000 people in Sindh with programs including emergency shelter distribution, livestock vaccinations, livelihood support, and disaster risk reduction.
- The GoP has launched its Sindh and Balochistan Drought Response Plan, a long-term program to address the effects of the drought in coordination with FAO, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, WHO, and various NGOs. The Drought Response Plan aims to provide short-term emergency assistance and long-term livelihoods restoration to affected communities. As of August 5, donors had contributed \$27 million to the plan, approximately 30 percent of the requested \$96 million.

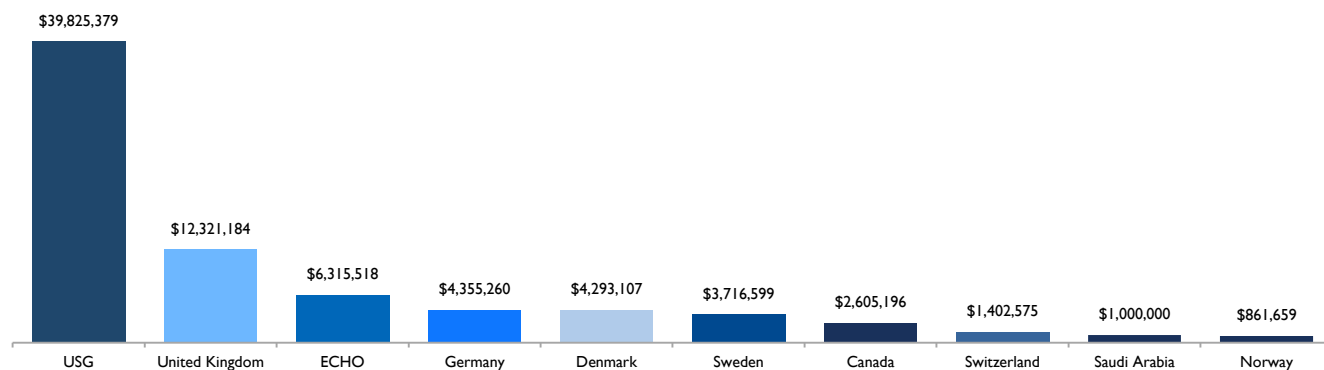
⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

HEALTH AND WASH

- From January 1 to September 29, the GoP National Institute of Health recorded 69 confirmed cases of polio virus in Pakistan, an increase compared to the 12 cases reported in 2018 and eight cases in 2017. An estimated 50 of the cases were identified in KPk, with other cases reported in Balochistan, Punjab, and Sindh, according to the Pakistan Polio Eradication Program.
- In response to the increase in polio cases detected in Pakistan, the GoP conducted an August vaccination campaign, reaching more than 7.1 million children in 46 districts between August and September. The GoP is also focusing on building trust between local communities and health officials and countering misinformation about vaccinations. Additionally, the GoP began offering polio vaccinations for all travelers crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan in March.
- To date in 2019, WHO has reported nearly 49,000 suspected cases of dengue fever, a potentially life threatening mosquito-borne virus, representing an increase from the approximately 3,000 dengue fever cases recorded from January to December 2018. The increase in suspected dengue fever cases is likely due to poor WASH conditions and heavy rainfall, which contributes to increased mosquito breeding, according to WHO. GoP health officials confirmed at least 16,000 of the dengue fever cases, primarily in urban areas, including nearly 3,000 cases in Sindh's capital city of Karachi—Pakistan's largest city—and 4,000 in Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad.
- Prolonged drought conditions in Balochistan and Sindh have negatively impacted WASH conditions among affected populations. Although many areas rely on GoP-installed water supply systems and filtration units for safe drinking water, an estimated 35 percent are non-functional in drought-affected districts, according to the UN. In Balochistan, nearly 40 percent of surveyed households reported insufficient access to safe drinking water, more than 20 percent reported relying on untreated water sources, and nearly 50 percent lacked access to sanitation facilities and practiced open-defecation as of July, the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis reports. Similarly, nearly 30 percent of households in Sindh rely on untreated water sources to meet water needs and nearly 80 percent practice open-defecation, which increases health risks.

2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of September 30, 2019. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments based on the fiscal year, which began on October 1, 2018.

CONTEXT

- Since 2008, ongoing conflict between the GoP and militants in KP had internally displaced an estimated 5.3 million Pakistanis as of May 2018, with approximately 17,000 households remaining displaced in KP—including the former Federally Administered Tribal Regions—as of December 2018, according to OCHA. Although both spontaneous and GoP-assisted returns to areas of origin continue amid improved security conditions, the overall security situation in Pakistan remains volatile, with security incidents and sectarian violence—as well as limited livelihood opportunities and service availability in areas of return—contributing to continued humanitarian needs.
- In addition, Pakistan frequently experiences natural disasters, including drought and floods. Recurring disasters, combined with chronic poverty, limit the ability of vulnerable households to recover and result in additional displacement and humanitarian needs. Since 2010, natural disasters have displaced more than 17 million people across Pakistan, according to the UN.
- Pakistan continues to host refugees fleeing conflict in Afghanistan, with approximately 1.4 million Afghans holding GoP-issued PoR cards, which confer *de facto* refugee protection upon holders. Since 2002, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary return of more than 4.4 million refugees from Pakistan to Afghanistan. In addition to PoR card holders, there are approximately 878,000 Afghans with Afghan Citizen Cards, which do not confer refugee status or permanent residency, and an unknown number of undocumented Afghans.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE PAKISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Protection Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$9,250,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$150,000
	Program Support		\$182,650
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$9,582,650
USAID/FFP³			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Balochistan, Sindh	\$2,042,729
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Complementary Services,	Countrywide	\$16,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$18,042,729
USAID/Pakistan			
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/PAKISTAN FUNDING			\$1,000,000
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Multisector Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,100,000
UNHCR	Multisector Assistance	Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka	\$8,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$11,200,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE PAKISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$39,825,379

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2019.

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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org.
 - 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>