

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

JANUARY 10, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

9.4 million

People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2020
OCHA – December 2019

10.2 million

People Experiencing Severe Acute Food Insecurity
UN – November 2019

5.4 million

People Reached With Humanitarian Assistance in 2019
OCHA – October 2019

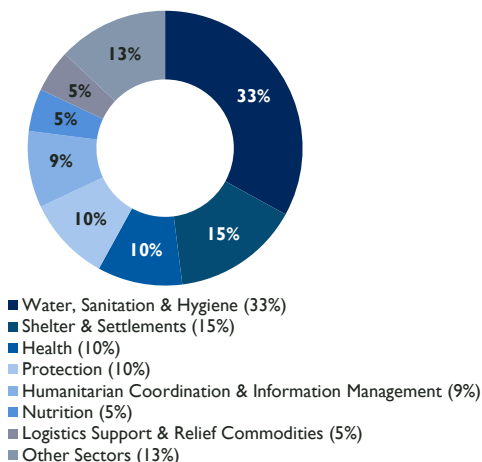
296,000

People Affected by Natural Disasters in 2019
OCHA – December 2019

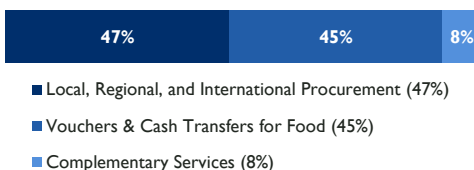
478,000

Total Returnees to Afghanistan in 2019
UN – December 2019

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



HIGHLIGHTS

- USG and Taliban renew Afghanistan peace negotiations in Qatar
- Relief actors provide winterization support for 2019–2020 winter wet season
- Conflict displaces more than 402,000 people in Afghanistan during 2019

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$50,883,146
USAID/FFP	\$101,149,999
State/PRM ³	\$85,024,775
\$237,057,920	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The U.S. Government (USG) resumed peace talks with Taliban representatives in Qatar's capital city of Doha in early December, aiming to reduce violence and end the country's decades-long war. The ongoing conflict continues to create a difficult operating environment for humanitarian actors due to access constraints and attacks on relief organizations. From late November to early December, targeted attacks in Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul and Nangarhar Province resulted in the deaths of seven aid workers, highlighting the ongoing security risks relief actors face.
- Relief actors estimate that approximately 667,000 people will require assistance to survive harsh conditions during the 2019–2020 winter wet season in Afghanistan. Humanitarian agencies, including USG partners, are providing relief commodities and food, health, livelihoods, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to vulnerable communities for the winterization response.

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)

CURRENT EVENTS

- Afghanistan remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for humanitarian workers in 2019, according to the USAID-supported Aid Worker Security Database. Unidentified assailants killed six aid workers—including a prominent Japanese doctor, Tetsu Nakamura, who was given honorary Afghan citizenship by the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) for his decades of humanitarian service to Afghanistan—in Nangarhar’s Jalalabad city, according to international media. The attack occurred just ten days after an attack on a UN vehicle in Kabul, which resulted in the death of one aid worker. The UN condemned the attack on its vehicle and called on the GoA to investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice.
 - Relief actors estimate that approximately 667,000 people require assistance to survive harsh conditions during Afghanistan’s 2019–2020 winter wet season, based on climate and food security projections. The international community is providing relief commodities, as well as food, health, livelihoods, shelter, and WASH assistance, for winterization efforts. USG partners are supporting particularly vulnerable Afghan communities, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and recent returnees, with food assistance, medical services and medication, relief commodities, and shelter materials.
 - The 2019 update to the 2018–2021 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan—revised by the UN in December 2018—estimated that relief organizations would require approximately \$612 million in 2019 to meet the humanitarian assistance needs of 4.5 million people in Afghanistan. As of December 18, international donors had contributed nearly \$441 million to the appeal, representing approximately 72 percent of requested funding, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In 2020, the UN anticipates that an estimated 9.4 million people in Afghanistan—nearly one-quarter of the country’s total population—will require humanitarian assistance. The year-on-year increase of people in need is due to a broader scope of vulnerability analysis and the inclusion of individuals who require resilience and recovery assistance, in an effort to prevent a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.
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CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT, AND RETURNS

- Security conditions in Afghanistan remain volatile, with more than 6,600 security incidents recorded from August to early November, representing a 13 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018, the UN reports. The most common security incidents included armed clashes, use of improvised explosive devices, and airstrikes. Helmand, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces had the most active conflict areas during the reporting period, according to the UN. In addition to endangering civilians and hindering relief activities, conflict had displaced more than 402,000 people in Afghanistan in 2019, as of December 8, the UN reports.
- Insecurity continues to constrain humanitarian access. Clashes between armed opposition groups and community members prevented humanitarian access in areas of Herat Province in November; security concerns also restricted NGO movement in areas of Ghor Province, a USAID/OFDA partner reports.
- State/PRM non-governmental organization (NGO) partners continue to support returnee populations’ integration into local communities with projects to improve access to education and provide livelihoods support. As of December 9, more than 470,000 undocumented Afghans had voluntarily returned or were deported to Afghanistan and nearly 8,000 registered Afghan refugees had voluntarily returned to Afghanistan from Iran, Pakistan, and other countries in 2019, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), respectively. State/PRM continues to support IOM efforts to register undocumented Afghan returnees at primary border crossing points, as well as to establish systems to refer returnees to needed services and support. In addition, State/PRM partner UNHCR provides \$200 to each registered refugee to meet their individual needs upon their return to Afghanistan. The UN agency reports that more than 5.2 million Afghan refugees have repatriated with UNHCR assistance since 2002.

FOOD INSECURITY

- The main drivers of food insecurity in Afghanistan are conflict—which restricts livelihood activities and limits household income—and below-average labor wages and remittances, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Despite the near-average 2019 wheat harvest, many households are projected to face Stressed—IPC 2—levels of acute food insecurity from October 2019 to January 2020, according to FEWS NET.⁴ As winter approaches, the most vulnerable households—including poor households still recovering from the 2018 drought, IDPs, and returnees—will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity due to ongoing conflict, limited labor markets, and the depletion of winter food stocks.
- In Daykundi and Helmand provinces, populations could face Serious levels—indicated by the prevalence of wasting, or low weight-for-height—of Global Acute Malnutrition, a combined measurement of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases. Mortality and nutrition surveys conducted in 2019 noted wasting prevalence of approximately 14 and 13 percent in Daykundi and Helmand, respectively, which exceed the 10 percent emergency threshold. Continued conflict, illness, constrained access to health care facilities, and limited dietary diversity are expected to contribute to malnutrition throughout the winter months. In provinces with high rates of MAM, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) supplied health centers and partners with 610 metric tons (MT) of specialized nutritious foods to treat more than 184,000 children younger than five years of age and approximately 75,000 pregnant and lactating women suffering from MAM in October.
- Due to favorable weather conditions, 2019 production of maize, rice, wheat, and other cereals exceeded 2018 production by 6.1 million MT, representing a 7 percent increase over the five-year average, according to USAID partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). Farmers whose livelihoods are dependent on livestock benefitted from above-average rainfall that improved pastureland for livestock rearing. As of mid-December, 2019–2020 winter wheat planting was ongoing under favorable rainfall conditions, which GIEWS projects will support increased winter wheat production to surpass the average area under cultivation by approximately 2.5 million hectares. As of mid-December, FAO has distributed more than 4,700 MT of seeds to more than 94,000 households.
- In October, USAID/FFP partner WFP reached more than 1.1 million people across 31 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces with nearly 10,000 MT of in-kind food assistance and approximately \$773 million in cash transfers. This included seasonal support to more than 452,000 vulnerable individuals in Faizabad, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Mazar cities, as well as in-kind food assistance to more than 16,000 Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan and approximately 600 individuals affected by flooding in March and April. USAID/FFP support also enabled WFP to provide emergency food assistance and cash transfers to nearly 523,000 individuals, including 52,000 conflict-affected people, in six provinces in October. Additionally, nearly 194,000 individuals participated in WFP’s food-for-assets programming, which included construction of a water intake system in Daykundi and an irrigation canal and solar water pumps in Ghor, in exchange for in-kind food assistance.
- During 2019, USG partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reached nearly 250,000 children younger than five years of age suffering from SAM across 24 provinces with life-saving therapeutic foods and nutritional support. More than 90 percent of the children were treated on an outpatient basis, while those with medical complications were referred for inpatient treatment, exceeding the Sphere standards of a 75 percent cure rate for SAM treatment.⁵ With USAID/FFP support, UNICEF trained 150 health workers in drought-affected areas on Infant and Young Child Feeding practices in emergencies, conducted more than 1,500 supervision visits, and continued to provide training of trainers on the revised Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Guidelines, training 600 health workers from October 2018 to November 2019.

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.

⁵ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN, NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

HEALTH, WASH, AND PROTECTION

- A USAID/OFDA NGO partner conducted approximately 70 hygiene promotion sessions for nearly 2,800 IDPs in six IDP camps or settlements in western Afghanistan during November. The sessions focused on diarrheal disease control and treatment, personal hygiene, safe drinking water sourcing and usage, and waste management. The partner also repaired sanitation systems in a Karizak town health facility and plans to transfer management of the facility to the GoA Ministry of Public Health in late December. In addition, the NGO rehabilitated 16 wells, supporting access to safe drinking water for nearly 4,700 people, in Herat's Maslakh IDP camp in November. Since the start of its programs for IDPs and returnees in western Afghanistan in June 2018, the NGO has reached more than 28,000 individuals with direct hygiene promotion sessions and supported more than 26,100 individuals through its water supply infrastructure program, including the construction or rehabilitation of 85 wells.
 - In October, a USAID/OFDA partner supported nearly 5,200 individuals with relief items in Faryab, Jowzjan, Kunduz, and Nangarhar provinces. With USAID/OFDA support, the partner's mobile health services teams provided outpatient services to nearly 9,500 people; health education sessions to nearly 5,600 people; vaccinations to nearly 770 people; pre- and post-natal care to approximately 390 women; and psychosocial support to more than 330 women.
 - In November, a USAID/OFDA NGO partner deployed 26 mobile community-based protection teams to six provinces in the eastern and northern regions of Afghanistan. The teams conducted nearly 750 awareness sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), health rights, and protection from abuse for more than 15,000 individuals, and provided psychosocial counseling services to 70 GBV survivors. In addition, the mobile teams conducted trainings on awareness methodologies, GBV, and psychosocial counseling and support for community mobilizers, midwives, and case management staff in the partner's women- and girl-friendly spaces.
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INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- On November 21, the European Commission allocated more than \$44 million in additional emergency assistance for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in neighboring countries. The assistance will support access to education, food, health care, protection services, safe drinking water, and sanitation facilities, and provide shelter for populations affected by conflict, forced displacement, and natural disasters, as well as returning refugees, in Afghanistan. In total, the E.U. has contributed nearly \$86 million in humanitarian aid for the Afghanistan crisis in 2019.

CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that conflict has displaced an estimated 1.3 million people since 2017, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improve humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: address the emergency needs of individuals affected by conflict, drought, and natural disasters; strengthen and integrate national-level disaster risk reduction capacity building efforts; and enhance 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; and to prevent and treat moderate and severe acute malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women.
- State/PRM supports the sustainable voluntary return of Afghan refugees while preserving asylum space in host countries through humanitarian diplomacy and assistance, as well as initiatives that ensure that areas hosting returning refugees can support all members of the community.
- On September 27, 2019, U.S. Ambassador John R. Bass redeclared a disaster for FY 2020 for Afghanistan due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- A USAID senior humanitarian advisor based in Kabul manages USAID/Afghanistan's Office of Humanitarian Assistance and oversees USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP operations. A State/PRM refugee coordinator based in Kabul oversees State/PRM humanitarian diplomacy and assistance programs, and reports on refugee and returnee issues in Afghanistan.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Natural and Technological Risks, Nutrition, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$35,855,664
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$3,050,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$8,300,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities	Badghis, Herat	\$2,071,660
	Program Support		\$1,105,822
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$50,883,146
USAID/FFP²			
Implementing Partners	Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement, Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$7,555,502
UNICEF	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement, Complementary Services (Twinning)	Countrywide	\$87,094,497

TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$101,149,999
State/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Education, Livelihoods, Protection, Multisector Assistance	Countrywide	\$27,220,645
Implementing Partners	Education, GBV Prevention	Pakistan	\$4,704,130
UNHCR	Multisector Assistance	Countrywide	\$22,800,000
UNHCR	Multisector Assistance	Pakistan	\$19,700,000
UNHCR	Multisector Assistance	Regional	\$10,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$85,024,775
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$237,057,920

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds as of September 30, 2019.

² 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>