

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

APRIL 28, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>24.4 MILLION</p> <p>People in Afghanistan in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in 2022</p> <p><i>UN – January 2022</i></p>	<p>22.8 MILLION</p> <p>People Expected to Face Acute Food Insecurity by March 2022</p> <p><i>IPC – October 2021</i></p>	<p>22.1 MILLION</p> <p>Afghans Prioritized for Humanitarian Assistance Under the 2022 HRP</p> <p><i>UN – January 2022</i></p>	<p>5.8 MILLION</p> <p>IDPs in Afghanistan as of December 2021</p> <p><i>UN – December 2021</i></p>	<p>1.2 MILLION</p> <p>Cross-Border Returnees from Iran and Pakistan in 2021</p> <p><i>UN – November 2021</i></p>
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- The UN condemns a series of attacks on civilian areas in Balkh, Kabul, and Kunduz in late April, which resulted in dozens of civilian casualties.
- Increased market access and humanitarian food assistance prevented food insecurity from worsening in March, according to WFP.
- Continued drought conditions and forecasted above-average temperatures will likely result in a below-average wheat harvest, FEWS NET reports.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$378,480,081
	State/PRM ²	\$133,728,233
Total		\$512,208,314

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

April Attacks Across Afghan Provinces Result in Dozens of Civilian Deaths

Following a reduction during the winter months, attacks by armed actors in Afghanistan increased in April. Bombings across several provinces targeted densely populated civilian areas—including educational facilities, markets, and mosques—and resulted in dozens of civilian casualties, relief actors and international media report. Between April 19 and 22, separate explosions across Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul, as well as Balkh and Kunduz provinces, resulted in the deaths of at least 77 Afghans and injury to dozens of others. On April 19, unknown actors bombed a school and education center in a Kabul neighborhood with majority ethnic Hazara residents, resulting in at least six deaths and nearly 20 injuries. Separately, on April 21, three separate bombings in Balkh, Kabul, and Kunduz reportedly killed at least 31 people and injured dozens of others. Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan (ISIS-K) claimed responsibility for the April 21 bombings in Balkh, which targeted a predominantly Hazara mosque in Balkh’s Mazar-i-Sharif city, and in Kunduz, which targeted a bus. Further, unknown actors bombed a mosque in Kunduz on April 22, resulting in 33 deaths and an estimated 40 injuries.

In response, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov issued statements strongly condemning the attacks and urging parties to abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law to ensure the safety of civilians and civilian facilities. Separately, several explosions in Kabul and Herat Province’s Herat city—targets of which included a market and a mosque—in early April resulted in at least six deaths and dozens of injuries, according to local and international media. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to monitor security conditions in Afghanistan, which have yet to affect humanitarian operations.

Humanitarian Scale-Up, Increased Market Access Prevent Food Insecurity From Worsening in March

The majority of Afghans continue to face acute food insecurity, with an estimated 22.8 million people experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in March, according to the UN.³ However, a continued scale-up of humanitarian food assistance, as well as increased market access, prevented food consumption scores from worsening between February and March, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. Approximately 93 percent of Afghan households experienced insufficient food consumption in March, a decrease from 95 percent in February. March represents the first time in recent months that inadequate food consumption scores—which have remained at 95 percent or above since late August—have decreased. However, rates of inadequate food consumption remain elevated compared to mid-August, when an estimated 81 percent of Afghan households did not have enough to eat.

WFP also notes the percentage of households adopting negative coping strategies—such as borrowing food, consuming less-preferred foods, and restricting meals—decreased from 71 percent in February to 63 percent in March. The slight decrease in food insecurity is likely due to the continued scale-up in food assistance by humanitarian agencies, which reached more than 20 percent of Afghan households with emergency food assistance in March, compared to 18 percent in February and 14 percent in January, the UN agency reports. Additionally, more Afghans were able to access markets in March compared to the previous month; an estimated 19 percent of Afghans reported challenges accessing markets in March, a decrease from 26 percent in February. However, market access remains low compared to December 2021, when only 3 percent of households faced challenges in accessing markets.

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, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

With USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP continues to respond to acute food security needs across Afghanistan. WFP reached approximately 4 million people with food and nutrition assistance between April 1 and 15.

Drought Conditions Projected to Continue, Affect Wheat Harvest

Relief actors, including USG humanitarian partners, continue to monitor Afghanistan’s ongoing drought, which could drive continued acute food insecurity by adversely affecting crop production. Continued drought conditions and forecasted above-average temperatures will likely result in a below-average wheat harvest, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Precipitation levels between October 2021 and mid-April 2022 were between 55 and 70 percent of average levels across parts of northern, northeastern, and southern Afghanistan, and between 70 and 95 percent of average in the country’s central highlands. Since early April, below-average precipitation, above-average temperatures, and low snow water volumes—an important source of water for crops in the warmer months—are anticipated to adversely affect wheat crops in Afghanistan’s northern wheat belt, which stretches from Herat in the west to Kunduz in the northeast. With the exception of above-average precipitation from mid- to late April, meteorologists project below-average participation and above-average temperatures through August due to ongoing La Niña weather patterns, which FEWS NET notes could adversely affect the wheat harvest. Since November 2021, drought conditions have displaced an estimated 3,500 people, according to the UN. The UN projects that up to 284,500 Afghans could be displaced by drought in 2022.

KEY FIGURES



12 Million

People reached with USAID/BHA-supported WFP food and nutrition assistance in March



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Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The USG supports the delivery of life-saving emergency food assistance across Afghanistan, providing vulnerable populations with locally, regionally, and internationally procured (LRIP) in-kind food assistance; cash transfers for food; and food vouchers. With USAID/BHA support, WFP is expanding food assistance and nutrition services to support populations in need. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners are providing seeds and livestock feed in at-risk areas to bolster the coping capacity of vulnerable households. USAID/BHA also supports coordination and capacity-building activities among food security actors in Afghanistan to strengthen humanitarian response efforts.

PROTECTION

USG partners—such as State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—provide protection assistance to refugees and returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. Additionally, USG NGO and UN partners support mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs, including individual counseling, activities to support development of coping skills, and safe healing and learning spaces for children. USG partners also implement child protection activities and family services, provide legal assistance to returning refugees to access documentation, and

integrate MHPSS and other protection measures into education, health, and nutrition programming.



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Number of USG implementing partners supporting health programming

HEALTH

The USG is supporting nine partners to implement life-saving health activities across Afghanistan to improve community health awareness, bolster outpatient consultation efforts, and complement other donor efforts to provide affordable primary and secondary health care. USG partners aim to increase equitable access to and utilization of health services among IDPs, conflict-affected persons, and vulnerable host communities. USG assistance supports hospitals and clinics and enables the deployment of mobile health teams to deliver emergency and primary health care services, conduct trainings for local community health workers and health care professionals, provide essential medicines, and support vaccination campaigns. Additionally, USG funding supports the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to coordinate emergency health response activities across the country, support the continuation of essential health services, and ensure continued supply of critical health and medical commodities into the country.



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Number of USG implementing partners supporting shelter programming

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

Shelter needs among populations in Afghanistan remain significant, in part due to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, and harsh winter weather. USG partners provide emergency shelter for displaced and otherwise vulnerable people, as well as shelter repair kits, transitional shelter, and multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to support the housing needs of affected populations. Each year, USG partners pre-position shelter materials for use during the harsh winter months.



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Number of USG implementing partners supporting livelihoods programming

LIVELIHOODS AND EDUCATION

With USG funding, partners deliver livelihoods programming and skills training to support refugee reintegration and boost opportunities for vulnerable host community populations; activities include courses to increase literacy, business knowledge, and skills development. State/PRM partners support returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities in Afghanistan by providing access to skills training and adult literacy courses, in addition to access to education for Afghan refugees and host community children in Pakistan. Partners also work to ensure IDP and returning refugee children have access to learning spaces and accelerated learning programs to help children prepare for enrollment in formal schools, as well as support initiatives to improve infrastructure in schools within host communities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The Taliban seized Kabul on August 15, 2021, following the successive capture of several provincial capitals and territory in early August. Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, economic and political instability has resulted in the deterioration of basic service provision across the country, increased prices of staple foods and fuel, reduced household purchasing power, and negatively impacted the ability of Afghan households to meet basic needs.
- The cumulative effects of conflict, internal displacement, coronavirus disease (COVID-19), drought, and economic collapse have drastically increased levels of humanitarian need throughout Afghanistan. The UN predicts that 24.4 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2022, a 33 percent increase compared to the 18.4 million people in need identified in the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), with the severity of needs deepening across all sectors.
- In late August, the USG activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in the region outside of Afghanistan to lead the USG response to humanitarian needs generated by the crisis in Afghanistan and a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to support the DART.
- On October 18, 2021, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Ian McCary redeclared a disaster for FY 2022 for Afghanistan due to the effects of the ongoing complex emergency.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Natural Hazards and Technological Risks; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Bamyān, Daykundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Konar, Kunduz, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Sar-e Pul, Uruzgan, Wardak, Zabul	\$62,766,004
FAO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$8,257,000
UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	Health, HCIMA, Nutrition, Protection, MPCA, WASH	Countrywide, Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamyān, Daykundi, Ghazni, Ghor, Faryab, Herat, Kabul, Kunduz, Loghar, Nuristan, Paktia, Paktika, Panjshir, Parwan, Wardak, Zabul	\$33,645,428
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$361,800
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, LRIP; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamiyan, Daykundi, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Uruzgan	\$270,721,579

WHO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$228,270
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$378,480,081
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Livelihoods	Balkh	\$1,128,233
IOM	Health	Pakistan	\$6,300,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$80,300,000
		Pakistan	\$32,000,000
		Regional	\$3,900,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Pakistan	\$9,300,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Pakistan	\$800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$133,728,233
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$512,208,314

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 31, 2022.

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 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: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)