

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- On September 23, the USG announced more than \$326.7 million in new funding to continue delivering life-saving assistance in Afghanistan.
- The UN cites the ongoing macroeconomic crisis, limited access to basic services, and continued decline in the rights of women and girls as major challenges facing Afghans one year after the Taliban takeover of the country.
- USG partners are providing emergency food, health, relief commodity, and shelter assistance to populations affected by heavy rains and flash floods in Afghanistan since June.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$671,246,762
	State/PRM ²	\$252,503,803
Total		\$923,750,565

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

USG Announces More Than \$326.7 Million in New Humanitarian Funding for Afghanistan

On September 23, the U.S. Government (USG) announced more than \$326.7 million in additional funding to respond to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan's most vulnerable populations, bringing the total USG humanitarian contribution in Afghanistan and to Afghan refugees in the region to nearly \$923.8 million in FY 2022. The most recent announcement includes nearly \$208 million from USAID/BHA and nearly \$118.8 million from State/PRM. USG assistance will enable non-governmental organization (NGO) and UN partners to deliver lifesaving food and nutrition assistance; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support; and health and protection services, including gender-based violence prevention and response activities to address the increasing needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls. Additionally, this assistance will fund efforts to reintegrate returnees in their areas of origin, provide multi-sector aid to displaced populations in Afghanistan and neighboring countries, and support humanitarian coordination efforts. The USG is committed to addressing heightened needs resulting from the Afghanistan complex emergency and remains the single largest donor to the humanitarian response. Between the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, and September 23, the USG has provided more than \$1.1 billion in humanitarian assistance to support vulnerable populations in Afghanistan and Afghan refugees regionally.

Aid Actors Reflect on Afghanistan Crisis One Year After Taliban Takeover

In the year since the Taliban takeover, humanitarian conditions have severely deteriorated across Afghanistan, with recent earthquakes and flash floods compounding already dire needs among vulnerable populations countrywide. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Ramiz Alakbarov commended relief actors for preventing worst-case outcomes in Afghanistan in an August 15 statement, crediting humanitarian organizations with averting potentially dire food security conditions and quickly disbursing aid to earthquake- and flood-affected populations. The RC/HC also praised the humanitarian community for assisting nearly 23 million Afghans between January 1 and June 30. Despite these achievements, RC/HC Alakbarov underscored that humanitarian needs in Afghanistan remain severe, with the UN World Food Program (WFP) reporting that more than 90 percent of households are struggling to meet their basic food needs, the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally. Furthermore, millions of Afghans are expected to face life-threatening conditions during the upcoming winter season when harsh, snowy weather renders some roads impassable, preventing many populations from accessing markets and humanitarian actors from reaching people in need of aid. In response, the RC/HC advocated for relief actors to sustain heightened levels of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations. RC/HC Alakbarov also called on the international community to provide additional development assistance to support ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change, support the agricultural sector, and address other underlying issues that have resulted in heightened humanitarian needs across the country.

Save the Children Federation (SCF) acknowledged the effects of the ongoing food security crisis on Afghan children in an August report, noting that nearly 90 percent of children were consuming less food in June compared to August 2021. The international NGO (INGO) cites economic collapse, drought, limited access to income-generating activities, and Taliban-imposed restrictions that curtail the rights of women and girls as the primary factors for reduced food intake among children. Limited access to food is reportedly contributing to mental health issues, with nearly 30 percent of girls and nearly 20 percent of boys whom the INGO surveyed showing signs of depression and anxiety. The report also highlighted the gender dynamics underlying the food security crisis, citing survey results indicating that girls were

more likely to go to bed hungry than boys. In response to these challenges, SCF advocated for continued support for the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition risks facing Afghan children.

Flash Floods Adversely Affect 110,000 People; Relief Actors Respond

Heavy rains and resultant flooding since June had adversely affected nearly 110,000 people, damaged or destroyed 14,000 houses, damaged more than 84,500 acres of croplands, and resulted in significant livestock losses across 33 of Afghanistan's provinces as of August 31, the UN reports. Eastern parts of the country are most affected, accounting for nearly 60 percent of flooding incidents and nearly 40 percent of all recorded flood-affected households. Furthermore, the number of flood-related deaths recorded in 2022 had reached 256 as of late August, representing a 75 percent increase compared to 2021. Despite this, Afghanistan's overall flood levels for 2022 are consistent with those of previous years due to below-average flooding during the spring and a surge in atypical floods during the June-to-August summer season. A Taliban so-called spokesperson delivered remarks during a news conference on August 25 in Kabul, insisting that the Taliban lacked the capacity to manage the flood response and requested international assistance. Meanwhile, USG partners maintain that they have sufficient commodities, staff capacity, and technical expertise to effectively manage the flood response.

Relief actors, including USG partners, continue to assess the needs of and provide urgent assistance to populations worst affected by flash floods. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the UN World Food Program (WFP) had provided emergency food assistance to nearly 39,000 flood-affected people across 13 provinces as of late August. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) also delivered USAID/BHA-supported shelter materials, relief commodities, and winter clothing to more than 2,120 households in Ghazni, Logar, and Nangarhar provinces between August 11 and 23. In addition, State/PRM partner the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) reached approximately 3,200 flood-affected individuals with emergency health services and referrals to specialized services through its static health facilities and mobile health teams.

Aid Actors Continue Providing Emergency Assistance to Earthquake-Affected Households

Humanitarian organizations continue to deliver emergency assistance to populations adversely affected by the magnitudes 5.9 and 5.1 earthquakes that struck southeastern Afghanistan on June 22 and July 18, respectively, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,000 people and the destruction of critical infrastructure. As of August 31, relief actors, including USAID/BHA partners, had delivered assistance to approximately 380,000 people residing in Khost Province's Shamal, Spera, and Tani districts; Paktika's Province's Barmal, Gayan, and Ziruk districts; and Paktiya Province's Zadran District, the UN reports. The figure includes 158,000 people who received health services, 125,000 people who benefitted from food and agricultural support, and 94,000 people who received emergency shelter and relief commodities. Aid organizations also scaled up the provision of WASH services in the seven aforementioned districts and other surrounding areas to prevent the spread of acute watery diarrhea and other water-borne diseases, reaching approximately 1.2 million people in Khost, Paktika, and Paktiya as of the same date.

KEY FIGURES



21.4 Million

People reached with USAID/BHA-supported WFP food and nutrition assistance between January and June



11

Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions



9

Number of USG implementing partners supporting health programming

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 INGO 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 INGO and UN partners support mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs, including individual counseling, activities to support the 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.

HEALTH

The USG supports 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 to underserved populations. USG partners aim to increase equitable access to and utilization of health services among IDPs, host communities, and other conflict-affected populations. USG assistance supports hospitals, clinics, and 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, support the continuation of essential health services, and ensure the continued supply of critical health and medical commodities in Afghanistan.



5

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 earthquakes, 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 MPCA to support the housing needs of affected populations. In addition, USG partners pre-position shelter materials each year for distribution ahead of the harsh winter months.



3

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 through activities such as 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 2021. Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, economic and political instability has resulted in the deterioration of basic service provision across the country, increased staple foods and fuel prices, and reduced household purchasing power, affecting many Afghan households' ability to meet their basic needs.
- The cumulative effects of conflict, internal displacement, coronavirus disease (COVID-19), drought and other natural disasters, 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 2021, 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, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; 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; WASH	Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Bamyan, Daykundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktiya, Sar-e Pul, Uruzgan, Wardak, Zabul	\$78,427,415
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture, MPCA	Countrywide	\$30,500,000
	HCIMA		
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$63,057,000
	WASH	Badghis, Daykundi, Farah, Herat, Khost, Paktika	
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Health, HCIMA, Nutrition, Protection, MPCA, WASH	Countrywide, Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamyan, Daykundi, Ghazni, Ghor, Faryab, Herat, Kabul, Kunduz, Loghar, Nuristan, Paktiya, 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)	Health, Protection	Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamyan, Daykundi, Faryab, Herat, Jowzjan, Sar-e Pul, Uruzgan	\$2,361,800
	HCIMA	Countrywide	
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamiyan, Daykundi, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Uruzgan	\$460,721,579
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Countrywide	
WHO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$533,540
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$671,246,762
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education, Food Security, Health Livelihoods, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Protection	Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nimroz	\$55,328,233
		Pakistan	\$5,638,648
IOM	Health	Countrywide	\$4,535,000
	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	Countrywide	\$51,589,172
	Health, Protection	Pakistan	\$800,000
WHO	Health	Pakistan	\$2,812,750
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$252,503,803
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$923,750,565

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 23, 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](https://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: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)