

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

JANUARY 23, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.7 million

Number of Afghan Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – July 2014

7.4 million

Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan

Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) November 2014

805,409

Total Number of Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict

UNHCR – December 2014

156,193

Afghans newly displaced by conflict in 2014

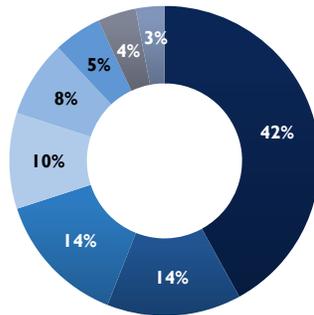
UNHCR – December 2014

2.2 million

Number of Very Severely Food-Insecure Afghans

HCT - November 2014

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2014 & FY 2015



- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (42%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (14%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (14%)
- Shelter & Settlements (10%)
- Health (8%)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (5%)
- Nutrition (4%)
- Other (3%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2014 & FY



HIGHLIGHTS

- The Afghanistan HCT—comprising UN, international organization, and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives—releases Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for 2015
- USAID supports winter preparedness and response activities
- USAID/FFP provides 26,100 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2014 & FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$25,708,077
USAID/FFP	\$100,967,946
State/PRM ³	\$107,456,647
\$234,132,670	
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Afghanistan's 2015 HNO—released in November—reports 7.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance throughout the country, including 225,000 Pakistani refugees and nearly 245,000 Afghan refugee returnees. Afghanistan's 2015 SRP—also released in November—requests \$405 million to assist 3.8 million people identified as the most vulnerable, including refugees and returnees, conflict- and natural disaster-affected populations, malnourished children, and nearly 1.8 million of the 2.2 million people classified by the UN as severely food insecure.
- In September, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah—the 2014 presidential candidates locked in a months-long electoral stalemate—signed an agreement to form a national unity government led by Ghani as President and Abdullah as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In January, President Ghani and CEO Abdullah submitted the names of the ministers selected for the unity government cabinet to the Afghan National Assembly for approval, a significant step toward establishing a government the international community hopes will help bring stability to the country.
- To date in FY 2015, USAID/FFP has provided 26,100 MT of in-kind food assistance—valued at nearly \$35 million—to support UN World Food Program (WFP) operations in Afghanistan. Additionally, USAID/OFDA continues to support vulnerable Afghans with more than \$25 million of ongoing FY 2014 funding.

¹USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

²USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- As of December, more than 805,000 people remained displaced throughout Afghanistan due to insecurity, according to UNHCR. Of the total, more than 156,000 Afghans were newly displaced in 2014—a nearly 26 percent increase from 2013. The HCT reports that conflict between Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) forces and non-state actors increased in 2014 and affected more civilians than in previous years.
 - The HCT anticipates continued humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan in 2015 resulting from widespread insecurity, internal displacement due to conflict and natural disasters, Pakistani refugees seeking shelter in Afghanistan, and a decrease in the ability of the GIROA to meet its planned development goals.
 - Conflict continues to hinder humanitarian access and threaten the safety of aid workers in Afghanistan. Data collected for the 2015 HNO indicates that while NGOs were not directly targeted more frequently in 2014 than in previous years, the increased insecurity restricted NGOs' capacity to reach populations outside of urban areas. The HCT notes concerns that humanitarian space may decrease further in 2015 as criminal groups—currently loosely controlled by the GIROA and militant groups—become less accountable and potentially more violent.
 - Military operations in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency that began in June 2014 had displaced approximately 225,000 Pakistanis to Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika provinces as of November, according to the HCT. UNHCR reported a total of nearly 287,000 Pakistani refugees—approximately 40,000 families—in Khost and Paktika as of January 2015. The majority of refugees are residing in host communities, with the remainder sheltering in the Gulan displacement camp in Khost. The most pressing humanitarian need facing many Pakistani refugees in Afghanistan is shelter support, particularly in areas that experience severe winter weather. Other priority needs include emergency relief commodities and access to safe drinking water and basic health care services.
 - UN agencies and NGOs—including USAID partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and WFP—continue to collaborate with the GIROA to respond to the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Khost and Paktika, providing food, shelter, and relief commodities to vulnerable households. Between June 2014 and January 2015, more than 46,000 families received one-month food rations, approximately 26,000 families received emergency relief commodities, and more than 10,000 families received tents, according to the UN. In addition, the UN and NGOs vaccinated more than 47,000 Pakistani children against polio and established mobile clinics in both provinces to increase access to health care services. The UN and NGOs are also distributing potable water and drilling wells in affected areas to increase access to safe drinking water.
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NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- Between January and October 2014, IOM recorded 259 natural disaster incidents throughout Afghanistan, including floods, landslides, heavy rainfall, harsh winter conditions, and earthquakes, which collectively affected more than 17,000 families. Through the USAID/OFDA-funded Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP), IOM and its partners provided nearly 9,600 disaster-affected families with shelter materials and emergency relief items. USAID/OFDA is supporting the HAP, which works with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and other relief actors to monitor, assess, and respond to natural disasters in Afghanistan, with \$6.5 million in ongoing FY 2014 funding.
- An estimated 2 million people live in high-altitude areas of Afghanistan that regularly experience acute winter weather, including nearly 1.3 million people identified as in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Particularly vulnerable populations include children and the elderly, impoverished families, Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika, people newly displaced by conflict or lacking shelter due to natural disasters, and people residing in Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS).
- Although meteorologists predict above-average temperatures for the 2014/2015 winter season in Afghanistan, long-term forecasts remain unpredictable, necessitating the development of emergency response plans and the pre-positioning of relief commodities. With \$1 million in ongoing FY 2014 support from USAID/OFDA, OCHA is working with the GIROA to coordinate winter preparedness and response efforts.

- As of December, the UN and NGOs—including USAID partners the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), IOM, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO—had begun pre-positioning food, shelter materials, health kits, and relief commodities, including winter clothing and blankets, throughout Afghanistan to assist vulnerable communities. The Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—also plans to establish health facilities to support the GIRA Ministry of Public Health winter preparedness and response activities.
- During the 2014/2015 winter season, the humanitarian community is targeting 830,000 people in Afghanistan for food assistance, including 49,000 people residing in KIS; more than 145,000 people with shelter assistance, including 120,000 people in Khost and Paktika; 43,750 people with health assistance; and more than 14,000 families with relief kits pre-positioned by IOM in 24 locations across the country, according to OCHA.

FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Approximately 2.2 million people in Afghanistan live on fewer than 1,500 kilocalories per day and are classified by the UN as very severely food insecure, according to the HCT. In addition, an estimated 2.4 million people face severe food insecurity, while 3.1 million people are considered moderately food insecure. In total, food insecurity affects nearly 8 million people countrywide—approximately 28 percent of the total population.
- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects that overall food-insecurity levels for most of Afghanistan’s population will likely to remain at Minimal—IPC 1—through March due to average harvests and adequate income from cash crops and labor in 2014.¹ However, conflict- and disaster-affected households in areas experiencing Minimal levels of food insecurity may remain in need of food assistance.
- FEWS NET expects Badghis Province to experience Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity between January and March due to below-average harvests, with some families potentially entering Crisis—IPC 3—levels by March as winter conditions reduce access to markets. Pakistani refugees and Afghan host communities in Khost and Paktika are also expected to remain at Stressed levels of food insecurity through March, provided they continue to receive humanitarian assistance; otherwise, they may face Crisis levels, according to FEWS NET.
- Below-average snowfall to date in the 2014/2015 winter season has caused abnormal dryness in parts of the country, according to FEWS NET, which notes that continued low levels of precipitation may negatively impact the agricultural season. However, increased precipitation in the coming month could increase the seasonal average to normal levels, according to relief agencies working in Afghanistan’s food security and agriculture sector.
- To date in FY 2015, USAID/FFP has provided WFP with 26,100 MT of in-kind emergency food assistance—valued at nearly \$35 million—to support food-insecure and vulnerable people, including IDPs, returnees, and populations affected by natural disasters. In FY 2014, USAID/FFP provided 41,440 MT of in-kind food assistance—valued at \$59.5 million—to help WFP reach more than 855,000 food-insecure people.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- The HCT reports a shortage of trained health care workers in Afghanistan, particularly for trauma care. With only three health care workers per 10,000 people, Afghanistan falls significantly below the minimum international WHO standard of 22 health care workers per 10,000 people required to provide basic health coverage. Increased fighting in 2014 exacerbated the need for trained health care workers, as more people required medical treatment after sustaining conflict-related injuries than in the previous year.
- Afghanistan’s 2015 HNO identifies 1.2 million Afghan children younger than five years of age as acutely malnourished; of those, approximately 500,000 children require treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), while 700,000 are experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), according to the HCT. Additionally, an estimated 250,000 pregnant and lactating women require nutrition support for MAM.

¹ 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.

- Afghanistan’s 2015 SRP requests \$78 million to provide nutrition assistance to 2.1 million children and pregnant and lactating women. In 2015, the Nutrition Cluster aims to increase access to acute malnutrition programs, which include infant and young child feeding promotion messages and micronutrient supplements.
- To enhance nutrition-specific data collection at the provincial and district levels, USAID/OFDA is supporting UNICEF to improve humanitarian coordination and provide training to nutrition partners to strengthen their capacity to conduct assessments and surveys. USAID/OFDA is also supporting UNICEF to increase access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in all 34 Afghan provinces. The WASH support specifically targets children, as poor hygiene, lack of sanitation, and inadequate access to safe drinking water directly contribute to infant mortality and morbidity, as well as under-nutrition.
- In FY 2014, USAID/FPP provided UNICEF with 830 MT of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF)—valued at nearly \$6.5 million—to treat approximately 60,000 children with SAM in Afghanistan and supported the implementation and scale-up of the community management of acute malnutrition approach.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- USAID/OFDA continues to support six partners with nearly \$3.5 million in ongoing FY 2014 funding to improve humanitarian coordination and information management in Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA-funded activities benefit ANDMA and other GIRoA ministries, as well as more than 200 humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan, and have helped standardize information collection and dissemination to improve humanitarian response throughout the country.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Afghanistan’s 2015 SRP requests \$405 million to assist 3.8 million of the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan—approximately 51 percent of the total number of people in need throughout the country. The 2014 SRP requested \$406 million to target 5 million people and received \$264 million—65 percent—from international donors as of December 31. Donors also contributed \$172 million to support humanitarian programs outside of the SRP, bringing the total amount of 2014 funding for Afghanistan to nearly \$439 million.

CONTEXT

- Since 2002, ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. As of December 2014, more than 805,000 people remain internally displaced by conflict, while natural disasters, including drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year, according to the UN.
- In addition, Afghanistan’s food security situation depends on numerous factors, including seasonal agriculture patterns where food availability relies heavily on access to irrigation, agricultural labor, and other wage labor for production; food item availability in the market and consumption per capita as a part of utilization, dietary diversity, and raising livestock; and food stability which is affected by natural and man-made disasters.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improving humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: supporting rapid response capacity for acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; improving humanitarian indicators; and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.
- USAID/FPP 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; support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; treat moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women; and contribute to learning among primary and lower secondary school pupils and adults, particularly women.
- On October 9, 2014, U.S. Ambassador P. Michael McKinley renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Afghanistan for FY 2015.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
	Administrative Support		\$23,356
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE IN FY 2015			\$23,356
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	26,100 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$34,998,846
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE IN FY 2015			\$34,998,846
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN TO DATE IN FY 2015			\$35,022,202

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2014

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
ACTED	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badakhshan Province	\$1,278,268
Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Badakhshan, Baghlan Provinces	\$1,008,496
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Kunar and Nuristan Provinces	\$1,750,000
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,752,158
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
IRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Laghman, Logar, Paktiya, Nangarhar Provinces	\$1,600,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyan, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Sar-e Pul, Takhar, Uruzgan Provinces	\$1,648,938
UNICEF	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,340,000
U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$300,000
U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
ZOA	Shelter and Settlements	Sar-e Pul Province	\$1,241,696
	Administrative Support		\$265,165
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE IN FY 2014			\$25,684,721
USAID/FFP³			
UNICEF	830 MT of Title II RUTF	Countrywide	\$6,466,200
WFP	41,440 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$59,502,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE IN FY 2014			\$65,969,100
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$20,400,000
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$18,556,647
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan	\$59,600,000
UNHCR	Refugee Affected and Hosting Area Program	Pakistan	\$8,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE IN FY 2014			\$107,456,647
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2014			\$199,110,468

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 January 23, 2015.
³ Estimated value of food assistance.

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:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - 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>