

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

MARCH 27, 2014

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.6 million

Number of Afghan Refugees as of Mid-2013
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – December 2013

2.2 million

Number of Severely Food-Insecure Afghans
U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – November 2013

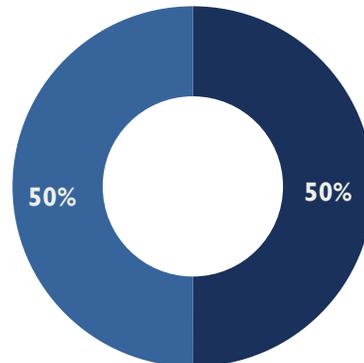
654,664

Total Number of Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict
UNHCR – February 2014

124,354

Afghans Newly Displaced by Conflict in 2013
UNHCR – December 2013

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2014



- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (50%)
- Logistics & Relief Commodities (50%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) launches a national policy on internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- The U.S. Government (USG) commits \$83 million in new assistance to address humanitarian needs

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN IN 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$6,112,256
USAID/FFP ²	\$59,174,500
STATE/PRM ³	\$46,900,000

\$112,186,756

TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On February 11, the GIROA launched a national policy for IDPs, acknowledging the central responsibility of the GIROA in preventing and responding to displacement and recognizing the right of all Afghans to freedom of movement and residence. According to GIROA officials, the policy—drafted with support and technical assistance from UNHCR—aims to establish a coordinated, comprehensive strategy to find solutions for IDPs in the country. U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have welcomed the policy.
- OCHA reported that winter assistance to the approximately 30,000 people residing in the Kabul Informal Settlement (KIS) sites concluded in February. U.N. and NGOs distributed emergency relief commodities—such as blankets, clothing, shelter materials, and fuel—as well as more than 1,000 metric tons (MT) of food to more than 6,300 families across 46 KIS locations.
- In recent months, the USG committed \$83 million in humanitarian assistance for the complex emergency in Afghanistan. This includes nearly \$47 million from State/PRM for regional assistance to Afghan refugees, as well as food assistance valued at \$30 million from USAID/FFP and more than \$6 million in USAID/OFDA support for humanitarian coordination and logistics.

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, DISPLACEMENT, AND RETURNS

- The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan released its 2013 Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict report in February. The report notes that armed conflict in Afghanistan resulted in nearly 3,000 civilian deaths and injured more than 5,600 people throughout 2013—a seven percent increase in civilian deaths and a 17 percent increase in civilian injuries from 2012.
- Insecurity continues to affect humanitarian activities. OCHA reported 15 incidents of violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, and assets throughout February—a 25 percent decrease from the 20 reported incidents in January. National elections scheduled for April may result in an escalation in violence targeting international personnel and civilians. On March 20, a Taliban attack on a Kabul hotel resulted in nine deaths and led to the withdrawal of some election observer mission staff due to security concerns, media report.
- Afghanistan’s northern Faryab Province experienced 21 incidents of armed conflict between Afghan National Security Forces and non-state armed forces in February, according to the U.N. Humanitarian actors conducted assessments and reported that the conflict had displaced 147 families in Faryab.

HEALTH

- OCHA notes humanitarian concerns surrounding reports that more than 170 health facilities will serve as polling centers in the presidential elections planned for April, as this may interrupt the delivery of health services in a country with already limited access to health care. Using health facilities as polling centers will likely also increase the risk of violence against health personnel, facilities, and assets, according to the U.N.
- In February, NGO Médecins Sans Frontières released a report based on research conducted in 2013 in Afghanistan’s Helmand, Kabul, Khost, and Kunduz provinces. The report’s findings suggest that access to basic and emergency health care remains severely limited in Afghanistan; of the more than 800 patients interviewed in the report, 40 percent faced violence, landmines, checkpoints, and harassment while trying to access health care services.

FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects that food insecurity impacts are likely to remain at Minimal—IPC 1—levels through June for most of Afghanistan’s population due to above-normal food production and livestock prices in 2013.⁴ However, newly displaced persons may face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity.
- Drought in Afghanistan’s central Ghor Province resulted in emergency food needs across all 10 provincial districts in February. OCHA reported that the Provincial Disaster Management Committee had provided nearly 8,650 MT of wheat grain to drought-affected communities, benefitting an estimated 66,000 families in Ghor as of February 28. The GIROA Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are also distributing seeds to drought-affected farmers.
- FAO serves as co-chair, together with the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities, comprising U.N. agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—in Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA recently committed \$300,000 through FAO to support ongoing FSAC efforts to monitor and address acute food insecurity needs, while promoting disaster risk reduction activities such as early warning systems and diversified agricultural techniques.
- USAID/FFP recently completed its second FY 2014 contribution of in-kind food assistance to WFP’s new Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation in Afghanistan. This second contribution of 21,060 MT, valued at approximately \$30 million, will help support WFP’s food assistance operations to feed 3.6 million food-insecure people throughout Afghanistan over the next three years. With its combined food contributions of 41,440 MT, USAID is the largest

⁴ 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.

contributor of food assistance to WFP in Afghanistan in FY 2014 to date, having contributed 12 percent of WFP's total three-year appeal.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- USAID/OFDA has provided \$1 million to OCHA to date in FY 2014 to improve humanitarian coordination and information management in Afghanistan.
- The Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) works in Afghanistan to develop effective methods for reliably capturing, reporting, analyzing, and disseminating humanitarian and security information. Through creating maps and integrating humanitarian project databases, iMMAP strengthens a common operating picture for relief agencies that allows them to share and quickly disseminate knowledge to make informed decisions about humanitarian interventions. USAID/OFDA—which first began supporting iMMAP in Afghanistan in FY 2010—recently committed nearly \$1.8 million in FY 2014 for continuing iMMAP activities.
- USAID/OFDA also recently committed \$3 million to the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to support humanitarian transportation and logistics in Afghanistan. UNHAS operates two fixed-wing aircraft and a helicopter in Afghanistan to transport humanitarian personnel and supplies within the country and to carry out evacuations when required.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The U.N. Strategic Response Plan for Afghanistan requests a total of \$406 million from the international donor community to support humanitarian needs through 2014. As of March 27, donors had committed approximately \$143.8 million in assistance.

CONTEXT

- Since 2002, conflict and frequent natural disasters have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. More than 654,000 people remain internally displaced by conflict. Recurring natural disasters, including drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year, according to the U.N.
- 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.
- On October 10, 2013, U.S. Deputy Ambassador James B. Cunningham renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Afghanistan for FY 2014.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2014¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,752,158
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNHAS	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
	Administrative Support		\$60,098
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$6,112,256
USAID/FFP			
WFP	41,440 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$59,174,500
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			\$59,174,500
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$11,100,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan	\$35,800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$46,900,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2014			\$112,186,756

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of March 27, 2014.

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>