

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

JUNE 27, 2014

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.5 million

Number of Afghan Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)/International Organization for Migration (IOM) – January 2014

2.2 million

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

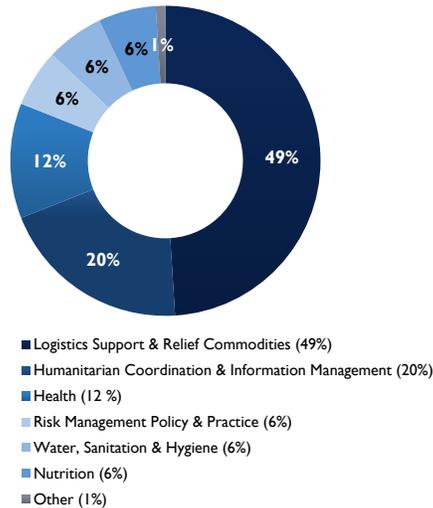
672,736

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

124,354

Number of Afghans Newly Displaced by Conflict in 2013
UNHCR – December 2013

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2014



USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2014



HIGHLIGHTS

- Spring floods and landslides affect more than 150,000 people across Afghanistan
- USAID/OFDA contributes \$6.5 million to the IOM-implemented Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP)
- USAID/FFP provides 20,386 metric tons (MT) of mixed commodities to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO)

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN TO DATE IN FY 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$16,933,131
USAID/FFP	\$65,682,500
State/PRM ³	\$80,000,000
\$162,615,631	
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Floods have affected more than 150,000 people across Afghanistan to date in 2014—more than double the nearly 65,000 people affected by floods in 2013, according to OCHA. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and relief agencies continue to provide humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected populations.
- Approximately 60 percent of Afghanistan's 12 million eligible voters—or more than 7 million people—participated in the June 14 presidential run-off election, choosing between Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai to succeed current President Hamid Karzai, according to the Independent Election Commission (IEC). The U.N. reports that election-day attacks by anti-government elements resulted in 53 civilian deaths, and IEC officials—who are currently tallying the votes and expect to announce the results in July—reported that insecurity prevented fewer than 200 of the 6,365 polling stations from operating. The handover of authority from President Karzai to the newly elected president will mark the first democratic transfer of power in Afghanistan.
- To date in FY 2014, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$16.9 million to support humanitarian assistance efforts in Afghanistan, including approximately \$3.4 million to improve humanitarian coordination and information management. USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$65.7 million to support emergency food assistance efforts nationwide.

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)

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- Afghanistan has experienced heavy rainfall since April, resulting in widespread flooding and multiple landslides. To date, floods have affected more than 150,000 people in 27 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces—including the most-affected provinces of Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan, and Sar-e Pul—and damaged or destroyed more than 16,000 houses throughout the country, according to OCHA. On June 6, a severe flash flood in the Guzargah-e-Nur district of Baghlan Province affected nearly 800 additional families, according to USAID/OFDA partner IOM. OCHA reports that the 2014 floods have already resulted in 175 deaths in Afghanistan and affected more than double the nearly 65,000 people affected by floods in 2013.
- On May 2, a landslide in Argo district, Badakhshan Province, affected an estimated 1,000 families, causing as many as 500 deaths and displacing 700 families whose houses were damaged or destroyed, OCHA reports. On May 18 and 29, smaller landslides in Balkhab district, Sar-e Pul, and Maimana district, Faryab, affected nearly 140 additional families.
- The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and relevant Provincial Disaster Management Committees continue to lead humanitarian assessment and response efforts to the floods and landslides with support from the U.N. and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). OCHA reports that relief agencies have completed needs assessments and relief supply distributions in the most affected districts and sufficient relief stocks remain in country to meet the remaining humanitarian needs. However, as of June 5, the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter and NFI activities, comprising U.N. agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—had identified 8,000 families in need of shelter assistance to rebuild their destroyed homes.
- The U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) recently announced plans to allocate the remaining \$2.4 million in the U.N. Emergency Response Fund (ERF) for Afghanistan to meet the priority needs outlined in the National Shelter Recovery Plan developed by the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster. The ERF is currently accepting NGO proposals for shelter programs and plans to disburse the funding in July. The disbursement will mark the final funding allocation before the closure of the ERF mechanism in Afghanistan, which will be replaced by the Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF).
- USAID/OFDA recently committed \$6.5 million in FY 2014 funding to continue supporting the IOM-implemented HAP in Afghanistan. Through HAP, IOM works closely with the ANDMA and other relief agencies to monitor, assess, and respond to natural disasters in Afghanistan, including the recent floods and landslides. USAID/OFDA previously supported IOM to implement flood mitigation projects in at-risk communities; pre-position emergency shelter materials and relief commodities in areas prone to natural disasters; and train ANDMA personnel on assessing, identifying, and responding to humanitarian needs—activities that helped decrease the impact of recent disasters in Balkh, Sar-e Pul, and other provinces. Through HAP, IOM has assisted more than 12,200 families—approximately 85,500 people—affected by floods, landslides, and river bank erosion since January 2014, distributing family revitalization and shelter kits, blankets, and solar lighting equipment.
- During May 2014, USAID/FFP partner WFP responded to natural disasters in Afghanistan, including the floods in Balkh Faryab, Jowzjan, and Sar-e Pul provinces, and assisted conflict-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Herat, Jalalabad, and Ghor provinces. Through WFP's general distribution, the agency reached nearly 257,400 people with 4,640 MT of mixed food. During these emergencies, WFP provided a monthly ration package consisting of 100 kilograms (kg) of wheat, 7.4 kg of oil, 7 kg of pulses, and 0.5 kg of iodized salt for a two-month period. Where relevant, WFP provided 4.2 kg of High Energy Biscuits for the first three days following the onset of a disaster.

INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT

- Since mid-June, an estimated population of more than 65,000 persons has crossed into Afghanistan's border province of Khost and more than 20,000 have crossed into Paktika Province from neighboring Pakistan to flee a large-scale military operation launched by Pakistani military forces against the Tehrik-i-Taliban in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency (NWA), according to international media and relief agencies in the region. As of June 25, UNHCR reported that nearly 3,340 families—approximately 22,610 individuals—from NWA had registered for assistance in Khost Province. UNHCR and its partners, in collaboration with the GIRoA, are continuing to conduct registrations and assessments to determine the total population and needs, though access to these areas remains limited. UNHCR and its

partners have begun providing assistance, including tents and food, to the newly registered arrivals. The humanitarian community has identified shelter, safe drinking water, and access to sanitation services as the most pressing needs and expressed concern about stress the new refugees will place on the already limited resources of the Afghan communities in Khost.

- Insecurity continues to affect humanitarian activities in Afghanistan. OCHA reported 30 violent incidents against NGOs in May that resulted in two deaths and nine injuries, as well as the abduction and subsequent release of 12 NGO staff members. Five of the incidents targeted NGO-managed hospitals and health facilities, including one attack that destroyed a mobile clinic providing health services in a Kabul Informal Settlement.
- UNHCR and partners continue to conduct a verification exercise throughout Afghanistan to confirm existing IDP statistics. As of May, verification activities had concluded in north and central areas, where IDP figures decreased by 18 percent and increased by 20 percent, respectively. Verification activities remain ongoing in other areas.

FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects that food insecurity is likely to remain at the Minimal—IPC 1—level through September for most of Afghanistan’s population due to an anticipated average harvest and above-average livestock prices in 2014.⁴ According to a May 2014 WFP and FEWS NET pre-harvest assessment, the 2014 harvest is expected to reach or exceed average harvest volume compared to 2012 and 2013. The wheat harvest will likely increase staple food availability and improve economic access to food as labor opportunities from the annual lean season increase. In addition, spring livestock births and milk production also positively affected household food diversity. However, FEWS NET expects newly displaced persons to face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity and continue to depend on external food assistance. Other vulnerable populations, including IDPs, returnees, and those who have lost their livelihoods assets, will also face challenges accessing adequate amounts of food despite increases in availability.
- Access to food remains a challenge for vulnerable Afghan populations despite increases in food availability, according to the WFP and FEWS NET assessment findings. In addition to rising wheat prices and deteriorating wage labor conditions, the 2014 floods in Afghanistan’s northern provinces negatively affected the food security of approximately 150,000 people and destroyed approximately 34,000 hectares of cultivated land—resulting in acute or transitory food insecurity among IDPs, returnees, and people who lost their livelihood assets.
- According to WFP, humanitarian access in Afghanistan remains a key operational concern. The fluctuating security situation has continuously changed the operating environment, challenging WFP and partner efforts to provide food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable groups.
- For FY 2014, USAID/FFP has provided 41,440 MT—valued at \$59.2 million—of in-kind food assistance to WFP’s PRRO. As of June, USAID/FFP is the largest donor to the 2014 PRRO, contributing approximately 39 percent of total funding.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- OCHA recently reported that the Afghanistan CHF allocated \$19.2 million to fund 16 humanitarian interventions in the health and nutrition sectors, primarily in southern Afghanistan. The HC established the CHF in early 2014 as a tool to promote needs-based assistance based on the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) and to provide timely, predictable, and strategic funding to U.N. agencies and NGOs working in Afghanistan. With its first allocation, the CHF will fund three U.N. agencies and eight national and international NGOs to target 400,000 acutely malnourished children with nutrition assistance and provide 800,000 people with access to life-saving health services. OCHA notes that the HC will likely announce a second CHF allocation strategy in August, pending receipt of pledged funding for the CHAP.

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.

- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$2 million to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) to increase timely and equitable access to critical health amenities, including trauma care and referral services, for communities affected by conflict and insecurity throughout Afghanistan. With USAID/OFDA support, WHO programs plan to benefit 1.5 million Afghans by establishing temporary health facilities and providing medicines, medical supplies, and disease surveillance assistance. In addition, WHO will help the highest-risk provinces develop and implement mass casualty management plans and coordinate with the Health Cluster to prepare for and respond to unexpected humanitarian emergencies.
- With more than \$1.3 million in USAID/OFDA support, the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is working to improve coordination among and provide training to nutrition partners to strengthen their capacity to conduct assessments and surveys, in turn improving nutrition-specific data at the provincial and district levels. USAID/OFDA also recently provided \$1 million to UNICEF to increase access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in all 34 Afghan provinces. The WASH support will specifically target 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.
- USAID/FPP recently provided UNICEF with 830 MT of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF)—valued at \$6.5 million—to help treat approximately 60,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) across all 34 Afghan provinces. The program, which targets children less than five years old, supports the implementation and scale-up of the community management of acute malnutrition approach to expand access to SAM treatment. UNICEF provides technical support and capacity building, both directly to the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health and via NGOs, to treat children afflicted by SAM.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- To date in FY 2014, USAID/OFDA has provided five partners with more than \$3.4 million to improve humanitarian coordination and information management in Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA-funded activities benefit more than 200 humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan, as well as the ANDMA and other GIRoA ministries, and have helped to standardize information collection and dissemination to improve assessments and determine vulnerabilities throughout the country.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The U.N. Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for Afghanistan requests a total of \$406 million from the international donor community to support humanitarian needs through 2014. As of June 27, donors had committed approximately \$169 million—or 41 percent of the requested total, according to OCHA. Donors had also contributed more than \$117 million outside of the SRP, bringing the total amount of humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan to approximately \$286 million.

CONTEXT

- Since 2002, conflict and frequent natural disasters have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. More than 672,000 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.
- In addition, Afghanistan's food security situation depends on numerous factors, including seasonal agriculture patterns where food availability from production relies heavily on access to irrigation, access to agricultural labor, and other wage labor; 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. According to the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, an estimated 7.6 million people—30.1 percent of the Afghan population—are very severely to moderately food insecure.
- 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/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; support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; treat both moderately malnourished children under age five and pregnant and lactating women; and contribute to learning among primary and lower secondary school pupils and adults, particularly women.
- 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			
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,752,158
IOM	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	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
	Administrative Support		\$40,973
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$16,933,131

USAID/FFP ³			
UNICEF	830 MT of Title II RUTF	Countrywide	\$6,508,000
WFP	41,440 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$59,174,500
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$65,682,500
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$20,400,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan	\$59,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$80,000,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2014			\$162,615,631

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 June 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>