

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

JULY 2, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

7.4 million

Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) November 2014

3.8 million

Number of People in Afghanistan Targeted by the UN to Receive Humanitarian Assistance

OCHA – March 2015

2.6 million

Afghan Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

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

916,435

Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict

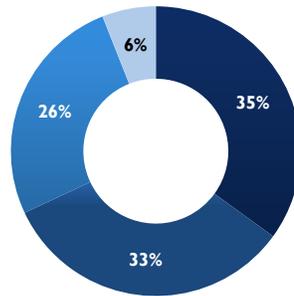
UNHCR – May 2015

70,132

Afghan Refugee Returnees from Pakistan in 2015

International Organization for Migration (IOM) – June 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (35%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (33%)
- Health (26%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (6%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- Renewed fighting displaces more than 20,000 families across five provinces
- Targeted attacks on aid workers and foreigners result in 20 aid worker deaths
- USAID/OFDA commits additional assistance to support humanitarian coordination and health initiatives

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$9,247,399
USAID/FFP	\$54,551,800
USAID/AFGHANISTAN	\$1,000,000
STATE/PRM ³	\$57,350,000

\$122,149,199
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Intense fighting in recent months between the Taliban and the Afghan National Security Forces has caused population displacement from areas of northeastern Kunduz Province to Kunduz city. Tens of thousands of civilians remained trapped in battle zones in Kunduz Province as of late June, according to the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations.
- Security conditions across Afghanistan have worsened in recent months due in part to increased attacks by the Taliban. In the capital city of Kabul, an attack on a North Atlantic Treaty Organization convoy on June 30 resulted in one death and injured at least 20 people, while a June 22 attack on Afghanistan's parliament building killed two people and injured more than 30 civilians, according to international media.
- Key humanitarian priorities in Afghanistan include improving humanitarian access, responding to seasonal rains and floods, and providing support to the most vulnerable populations—internally displaced persons (IDPs), Afghan returnees, refugees, malnourished children, and food-insecure families.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed more than \$940,000 in additional funds to Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) for information management and an additional \$600,000 to OCHA for humanitarian coordination.

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 AND DISPLACEMENT

- Conflict in several provinces has resulted in deteriorating security conditions and increasing numbers of IDPs. OCHA reports that renewed fighting had displaced more than 20,000 families from Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Faryab, and Kunduz provinces as of June 2. On June 22, the UN Security Council urged the international community to increase support for facilitating peace talks between the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and insurgent groups.
- Humanitarian actors in Afghanistan continue to experience threats and violence. On June 2, an unidentified armed group in Balkh Province killed nine staff members of the Czech non-governmental organization (NGO) People in Need, according to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). National and international NGOs reported 11 aid worker deaths and 21 incidents involving violence against humanitarian staff or damage to NGO facilities in May. The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief reports that the violence has resulted in at least 26 aid workers deaths in Afghanistan to date in 2015.
- The UN estimates that more than 4,200 civilians were killed or injured in Afghanistan between January 1 and June 22 due to intensified conflict. Civilian casualties increased by 16 percent during the first four months of 2015, compared to the same time period in 2014, OCHA reports. A June 26 report released by the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict found that more children—an estimated 2,500—were killed or injured in Afghanistan in 2014 than in any other year since 2010.
- Residents in at least six Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS) located on privately owned land had received verbal eviction notices as of May 31, according to OCHA. The evictions—scheduled to start in late June—could affect more than 1,400 people, many of whom are economic migrants, conflict-induced IDPs, or returnees from Iran and Pakistan. A lack of security, minimal access to basic services, and poor living conditions render KIS residents particularly vulnerable to injury and illness. Protection-focused humanitarian organizations are working with GoA authorities to find sustainable solutions for families at risk of eviction, as well as the remainder of the estimated 40,000 individuals who currently reside in approximately 50 KIS locations throughout Kabul.
- As of June 6, IOM reported that an average of more than 440 undocumented Afghans had voluntarily returned from Pakistan each day in 2015, compared to an average of approximately 60 per day in 2014—a nearly eightfold increase in returnee rates. Since the beginning of 2015, IOM has assisted more than 9,400 spontaneous Afghan returnees and more than 700 deportees forcibly returned to Afghanistan from neighboring countries.
- Approximately 200,000 registered Pakistani refugees—more than 32,000 families—remained in Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika provinces as of June, according to UNHCR. As the number of refugee families in the provinces has increased, OCHA reports that resource constraints have recently forced the UN World Food Program (WFP) to reduce the size of food rations and the number of families served, straining relations between the refugees and organizations working in the two provinces.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- Between January and May, avalanches, flooding, heavy snowfall, and landslides affected an estimated 50,000 people across 21 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, according to IOM.
- On April 28, a landslide in Jerow-Bala village—located in Badakhshan's Khwahan District—caused 52 deaths and left more than 230 families without shelter. In response, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) worked with international humanitarian partners to dispatch a team to assess the area and deliver blankets, emergency relief items, food, plastic sheeting, and tents to disaster-affected families. OCHA estimates that seasonal flooding and landslides in Baghlan, Faryab, Kunduz, Samangan, and Takhar provinces resulted in 22 deaths, displaced more than 2,600 families, and destroyed approximately 430 homes in April.
- In May, floods and landslides affected more than 3,200 families across 15 provinces. Focus Humanitarian Assistance, the International Rescue Committee, IOM, Save the Children, and WFP coordinated with ANDMA to provide emergency assistance to approximately 1,600 disaster-affected families. Heavy rains in early June caused additional flash floods and landslides that affected an estimated 500 families in northern and northeastern Afghanistan.

- Through previous year USAID/OFDA assistance, IOM’s Humanitarian Assistance Program continues to work with the GoA and other relief actors to respond quickly to natural disasters across the country. In coordination with ANDMA, IOM dispatches teams to assess disaster-related damage, mobilizes assistance from pre-positioned stocks located throughout Afghanistan, and supports disaster risk reduction activities designed to build community resilience.
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FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- More than 30 percent of Afghanistan’s population—approximately eight million people—are affected by hunger, and approximately 2.1 million people are classified as severely food insecure, according to a recent GoA National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment report.
 - In early June, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the GoA, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and WFP presented preliminary results of the 2015 pre-harvest assessment for Afghanistan to USAID. While the report predicted a near-average May-to-August harvest season, it also stressed the importance of providing continued support to Afghans most severely affected by conflict, food insecurity, and natural disasters. FAO also reports that the price of wheat, a staple in the diets of many Afghan families, has increased 16 percent since August 2013, making it less affordable for the more than one-third of Afghans living in poverty.
 - In April, WFP distributed nearly 3,776 metric tons (MT) of food to more than 280,000 people in need of assistance. In May, UNHCR, WFP, and humanitarian partners distributed food packages and wheat rations to approximately 25,000 refugee families in Khost and Paktika, UNHCR reports.
 - On June 4, the Government of the Russian Federation donated 31 heavy-duty cargo trucks—collectively valued at \$2.5 million—to WFP to assist with delivery of food supplies to remote areas of Afghanistan.
 - With USAID/OFDA assistance, FAO continues to lead the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security and agriculture activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—in Afghanistan.
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HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- The UN World Health Organization (WHO) reported nine measles and two pertussis outbreaks in Afghanistan in May, along with 10 suspected outbreaks of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever—a tick-borne virus with a mortality rate of approximately 30 percent—in Herat Province. Health workers also documented one case of polio—the second in Afghanistan since January—in Farah Province in May. On June 16, international NGO Rotary International announced plans to provide \$2.3 million to support polio immunization activities in Afghanistan.
- To enhance provincial capacity to respond to public health emergencies, the International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted early warning system and emergency preparedness and response refresher trainings for approximately 130 public health officers in central, eastern, and southern Afghanistan in May. IMC also supported mass casualty management and simulation exercises for more than 40 community health practitioners and provided training on the prevention and control of waterborne diseases to nearly 100 public health officers from 30 provinces.
- FAO reports that an estimated 45 percent of child deaths in Afghanistan are linked to malnutrition and the number of children ages five years and younger requiring treatment for SAM has tripled over the past year. Between January and April, the Nutrition Cluster reported providing treatment to more than 60,000 acutely malnourished children, representing a 95 percent increase in children treated for malnutrition compared to the same time period in 2014. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in close collaboration with GoA’s Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and implementing partners, admitted more than 25,000 children ages five years and younger into SAM treatment programs in April and May.
- USAID/Afghanistan recently announced the launch of a five-year, \$60 million family planning and maternal, newborn, and child health program implemented by global health NGO Jhpiego and designed to reduce Afghanistan’s high mortality rates among mothers, infants, and children five years of age and younger.

- With \$2.3 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2015 funding, WHO is working to enhance public access to emergency trauma care services and ensure timely responses to public health outbreaks across Afghanistan. In the coming months, WHO plans to scale up efforts to coordinate health activities; distribute emergency medicines and supplies; monitor disease outbreaks; promote community health awareness and outreach; support emergency health care, mobile health clinics, and referral services; and train practitioners in providing conflict-related psychosocial support.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- To date, the USG has provided more than \$122 million to support humanitarian interventions in response to the complex emergency in Afghanistan. Other international donors have collectively provided approximately \$161 million, according to OCHA.
- Of the total humanitarian assistance provided to Afghanistan, \$123 million has supported the UN's 2015 Strategic Response Plan for Afghanistan—30 percent of the \$405 million requested.

CONTEXT

- Since 2002, ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. As of April 2015, more than 870,000 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.
- Afghanistan's food security situation depends on numerous factors, including seasonal agriculture patterns and their effect 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.
- Since June 2014, Afghanistan has experienced an influx of Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika due to military operations in North Waziristan Agency. As of May 2015, approximately 10,000 refugee families continued to reside in Gulan Camp in Khost's Gurboz District, with nearly 33,000 additional refugee families residing in other areas of Khost and Paktika.
- 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 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			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$550,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,112,032
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$2,300,000
	Program Support Costs		\$285,367
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$9,247,399
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	40,300 MT of In-Kind Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$54,551,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$54,551,800
USAID/AFGHANISTAN			
FEWS NET	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE			\$1,000,000
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$9,350,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$48,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$57,350,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN TO DATE IN FY 2015			\$122,149,199

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 July 2, 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>