

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

MARCH 13, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

9.4 million

People in Afghanistan Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2020
UN – December 2019

11.3 million

People Projected to Experience Severe Acute Food Insecurity
UN – November 2019

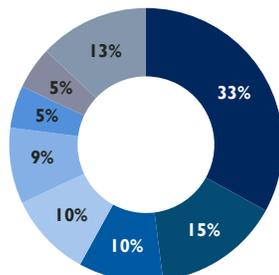
22,400

People Affected by Natural Disasters in 2020
UN – March 2020

84,885

Total Returnees to Afghanistan in 2020
UN – March 2020

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (33%)
- Shelter & Settlements (15%)
- Health (10%)
- Protection (10%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (9%)
- Nutrition (5%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (5%)
- Other Sectors (13%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



- Local, Regional, and International Procurement (47%)
- Vouchers & Cash Transfers for Food (45%)
- Complementary Services (8%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Local authorities report 7,000 people displaced in Kunar due to insecurity
- Health organizations report seven COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$50,883,146
USAID/FFP	\$101,149,999
State/PRM ³	\$85,024,775
\$237,057,920	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The UN reports that conflict displaced approximately 33,100 people across Afghanistan from January 1 to March 3. Additionally, from March 3 to 4, Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and international military airstrikes and ongoing clashes between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K) combatants displaced approximately 7,000 people in Kunar Province's Nurgal district, local authorities report.
- Winter weather conditions, including heavy rainfall, snow, and subsequent flash floods, in early 2020 have exacerbated humanitarian needs and resulted in access impediments for relief organizations across Afghanistan, the UN reports. In addition, anticipated early snow melt from March to April may increase the risk of flooding in some areas of the country, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).
- Humanitarian access constraints and attacks on relief organizations continue to disrupt the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, with attacks resulting in the deaths of 23 aid workers during 2019.

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)

CURRENT EVENTS

- U.S. Government and Taliban officials signed the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan—which aims to reduce violence in the country, allow for the conditional withdrawal of international military forces, and open Government of Afghanistan (GoA)–Taliban negotiations for a comprehensive ceasefire—in Doha, Qatar, on February 29.
- As of March 11, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) had reported seven confirmed cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Afghanistan, with patients in Herat and Samangan provinces. All individuals with the virus are in isolation units, according to the GoA Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). In response, local authorities and humanitarian agencies are screening travelers for COVID-19 symptoms at regional entry points, according to the UN. In addition, the MoPH developed a COVID-19 emergency response plan, which includes MoPH-led prevention measures to mitigate the spread of the virus and COVID-19 case management planning. USAID/Afghanistan’s Office of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/OHA) staff continue to monitor the situation countrywide in coordination with USAID/Afghanistan’s Office of Health and Nutrition, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the MoPH, and the Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

NATURAL HAZARDS

- Winter weather conditions, including heavy precipitation and resultant flash floods, are exacerbating humanitarian needs and disrupting access to vulnerable populations for relief organizations across eastern, southern, and western Afghanistan.
- Harsh winter weather affected approximately 22,400 people from January 1 to March 8, the UN reports. In response, a USAID/OFDA NGO partner is providing emergency relief commodities, including blankets, clothing, and tarps, to affected populations. Additionally, the organization’s community-based emergency response teams are raising public awareness of weather-related risks and supporting populations to temporarily relocate from high risk areas in advance of anticipated flooding, decreasing the impact of flooding on local communities.
- From March to April, above-average temperatures may lead to early snow melt, resulting in a heightened risk of flooding in central, eastern, and western Afghanistan, FEWS NET projects. On February 20, the Afghanistan Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT)—comprising NGOs and UN humanitarian actors—released a flood contingency plan. The plan identified approximately 200,000 people in need, with flooding from snow melt already affecting an estimated 20,000 people as of late February. The ICCT highlighted agriculture and food security; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); emergency shelter; and relief commodities as priority needs. As of February 20, the flood contingency plan had received \$12.8 million in funding, approximately 30 percent of the \$42 million appeal.

CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT, AND RETURNS

- The UN reports that conflict—primarily between ANSF and NSAGs—displaced approximately 33,100 people across Afghanistan from January 1 to March 3. Following relative calm in late February, ANSF–NSAG clashes resumed in northeastern Afghanistan’s Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, and Takhar provinces from March 2 to 8. Fighting also continued in Balkh, Faryab, Helmand, Jowzjan, Kandahar, Kunar, and Sar-e-Pul provinces during the same period, the UN reports. Additionally, ANSF and international military airstrikes, as well as ongoing clashes between NSAG and ISIS-K combatants, in Kunar’s Chawkay, Dara-e-Pech, Narang, Nurgal, and Watapur districts displaced an estimated 1,000 households—approximately 7,000 individuals—to Nurgal from March 3 to 4, according to local authorities. In response to insecurity, humanitarian organizations and local authorities had provided life-saving assistance—including food, health care, relief commodities, and shelter supplies—to approximately 24,400 newly internally displaced persons (IDPs) in affected areas as of March 8.
- Conflict-related access constraints and attacks on relief organizations continue to impede humanitarian operations in Afghanistan; in 2019, attacks resulted in the deaths of 23 aid workers, making Afghanistan the second deadliest country for humanitarians, according to the Aid Worker Safety Database.

- From January 1 to February 29, approximately 63,500 undocumented Afghans returned or were deported to Afghanistan from Iran, according to the UN. With State/PRM support, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to register undocumented Afghan returnees at primary border crossing points, as well as to establish returnee referral systems for essential services and support. On March 2, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) resumed refugee return operations following a winter hiatus beginning in November. With State/PRM support, UNHCR provided \$200 in multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to each registered refugee to meet their individual needs upon their return to Afghanistan. Additionally, State/PRM NGO partners continue to support returning refugees' integration into local communities with projects to improve access to education and provide livelihoods support.

FOOD INSECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Conflict, weak labor markets, below-average remittances, and the enduring effects of the 2018–2019 drought will likely continue to generate Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity across central, northern, southern, and western areas of Afghanistan through May, according to FEWS NET.⁴ Many households in Afghanistan have completely or nearly exhausted their existing food stocks during the ongoing January-to-May lean season, as conflict and the effects of winter weather restrict access to food and labor markets, FEWS NET reports. Population displacement and weak demand for labor will likely continue to negatively affect household purchasing power, resulting in Stressed—IPC 2—levels of acute food insecurity projected countrywide from June to September, with some areas in central and northeast Afghanistan experiencing Crisis outcomes, despite expected near-average harvest levels, FEWS NET projects.
- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided nearly 10,500 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food assistance and cash transfers for food to more than 1.4 million food-insecure people across 28 provinces in December. Additionally, WFP distributed more than 870 MT of specialized nutritious foods to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to more than 396,300 children younger than five years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in December. In January, WFP reached an estimated 560,000 people with emergency food assistance, as well as approximately 141,000 children and PLW with emergency MAM treatment and prevention nutrition services.
- In 2019, USAID partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other nutrition agencies treated nearly 303,000 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Afghanistan. More than 84 percent of treated children recovered, exceeding the Sphere standards of a 75 percent recovery rate for SAM treatment.⁵ However, an estimated 300,000 children—approximately 50 percent of the 600,000 children experiencing SAM in the country—did not have access to life-saving treatment in 2019, UNICEF reports.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

⁵ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN, NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that conflict has displaced an estimated 1.5 million people since 2017, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improve humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: address the emergency needs of individuals affected by conflict, drought, and natural disasters; strengthen and integrate national-level disaster risk reduction capacity building efforts; and enhance 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; to support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; and to prevent and treat MAM and SAM among children and PLW.
- State/PRM supports the sustainable voluntary return of Afghan refugees while preserving asylum space in host countries through humanitarian diplomacy and assistance, as well as initiatives that ensure that areas hosting returning refugees can support all members of the community.
- On September 27, 2019, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Karen Decker redeclared a disaster for FY 2020 for Afghanistan due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- A USAID senior humanitarian advisor based in Kabul manages USAID/OHA and oversees USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP operations. A State/PRM refugee coordinator based in Kabul oversees State/PRM humanitarian diplomacy and assistance programs, and reports on refugee and returnee issues in Afghanistan.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support, MPCA, Natural and Technological Risks, Nutrition, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$35,855,664
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$3,050,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$8,300,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities	Badghis, Herat	\$2,071,660
	Program Support		\$1,105,822
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$50,883,146
USAID/FFP²			
IPs	Cash Transfers for Food; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$7,555,502
UNICEF	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement; Complementary Services (Twinning)	Countrywide	\$87,094,497
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$101,149,999

State/PRM			
IPs	Education, Livelihoods, Protection, Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$27,220,645
IPs	Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention	Pakistan	\$4,704,130
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$22,800,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Pakistan	\$19,700,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Regional	\$10,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$85,024,775
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$237,057,920

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds as of September 30, 2019.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org.
 - 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>