



AFGHANISTAN – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

This is the final Afghanistan fact sheet for FY 2012.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In mid-September, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and Government of Pakistan (GoP) officials agreed to support the voluntary repatriation of nearly 1.7 million Afghan refugees currently residing in Pakistan at a meeting chaired by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The meeting precedes the scheduled December 31, 2012, expiration of the current Tripartite Agreement among GIROA, GoP, and UNHCR. That date also marks the end of validity of Proof of Registration cards held by Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Approximately 40,000 Afghan refugees returned from Pakistan during the first eight months of 2012, representing a 24 percent increase from the same period during 2011, according to UNHCR.
- Afghanistan’s transition from spring to summer coincided with a decrease in natural hazards from a monthly average of 67 during April–June to 10 in July and four in August, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The 10 natural hazards in July, all of which were floods, resulted in five reported deaths and affected more than 4,600 people.
- Following winter and spring seasons during which the humanitarian community drew heavily from emergency relief supplies pre-positioned in Afghanistan, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is working through implementing partners to replenish and expand the stockpiles. Part of the USAID/OFDA strategy for responding to conflict and natural disasters in Afghanistan is to pre-position relief supplies to facilitate a rapid response to identified humanitarian needs as a result of sudden onset disasters or conflict.
- In the last three months of FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$9.3 million in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, increasing total USAID/OFDA FY 2012 assistance to more than \$32.5 million. In addition, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided nearly \$24 million in the final months of FY 2012 for activities benefitting Afghans, including refugees who have returned to Afghanistan and Afghan refugees residing in Iran and Pakistan. In total, the U.S. Government (USG) provided more than \$189 million in humanitarian funding to Afghanistan in FY 2012.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Total Number of IDPs ¹ Displaced by Conflict in Afghanistan	~423,700	UNHCR – July 2012
Displaced Afghans Residing in Neighboring Countries	~5.5 million	UNHCR – June 2012

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ²	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan	\$32,504,522
USAID/FFP ³ Assistance to Afghanistan	\$67,551,591
State/PRM Assistance to Afghanistan and Afghans in the Region	\$89,324,608
Total USAID and State Assistance	\$189,380,751

Context

- Since 2002, frequent natural disasters and conflict have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. Recurring natural disasters in Afghanistan, including drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, affect an average of 400,000 Afghans each year, according to OCHA. From January 1 to August 31, natural hazards, including floods, avalanches, landslides, and extreme cold temperatures, reportedly killed 441 people, affected an estimated 251,000 others, and damaged or destroyed more than 27,400 houses across 177 Afghan districts, according to OCHA.

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

³ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

- Repeated and protracted displacement places additional pressure on host communities' limited resources, resulting in instability and increased humanitarian needs. In addition, insufficient government capacity to repair and expand infrastructure and provide basic services prevents sustainable returns to areas of origin and compounds community vulnerabilities countrywide.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support 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 building household economic resilience, and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.

Natural Hazards and Shelter

- OCHA field offices recorded 345 natural disaster events in Afghanistan from January 1 to August 31. The humanitarian community, GIRoA, subnational Afghan government officials, and Afghan citizens responded to the disasters by conducting search-and-rescue operations, providing humanitarian assistance, and undertaking early recovery activities. In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA continued to support humanitarian response and coordination efforts undertaken by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which leads the National IDP Task Force for displacement resulting from natural disasters.
- Floods, landslides, avalanches, and earthquakes destroyed nearly 5,000 houses in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, and Takhar provinces from March to August, according to USAID/OFDA partner the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED). In response, USAID/OFDA recently provided \$700,000 to ACTED to construct earthquake-resistant temporary shelters for more than 1,700 displaced people from these four provinces. The shelters, which ACTED plans to construct prior to the 2012/2013 winter season, are designed to protect occupants from winter conditions.
- In May 2012, flooding and landslides destroyed more than 1,500 houses in northern Sar-e Pul Province, according to USAID/OFDA non-governmental organization (NGO) partner ZOA. In response, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$799,000 to ZOA to provide transitional shelter to approximately 400 households before the start of the 2012/2013 winter season, as well as disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management training to 60 local community development councils.
- In total, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$2.1 million to fund shelter and settlements activities in Afghanistan in FY 2012.

Conflict-Related Displacement

- Conflict displaced more than 13,400 people during July, increasing the number of conflict-affected IDPs during the first seven months of 2012 to more than 128,000, according to UNHCR. This number is roughly commensurate with the same period in 2011.
- UNHCR continues to lead the humanitarian community's response aimed at meeting the needs of conflict-affected IDPs, while working in close coordination with the GIRoA Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation.
- During July, approximately 600 families displaced by conflict in May returned to home areas in Kapisa Province, according to OCHA.

Food Security

- In July, the GIRoA Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livelihoods estimated that Afghanistan would produce 6.3 million metric tons (MT) of cereals in 2012, which would represent the second largest harvest in 35 years and a 42 percent increase from 2011, according to OCHA. The 2012 bumper harvest is expected to improve food security throughout Afghanistan by increasing availability and access to cereals; however, vulnerable groups such as returnees, IDPs, malnourished children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and households affected by the 2011 drought and 2012 floods will require continued support to meet basic food requirements.
- Since launching its Emergency Operation (EMOP) in response to the 2010/2011 winter drought, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has reached more than 2.3 million beneficiaries in 14 Afghan provinces through food distributions and vouchers. WFP assistance includes more than 68,000 MT of food, representing approximately 70 percent of planned assistance, and nearly \$2.2 million in vouchers. In the remaining months of the EMOP, WFP will focus on supplementary feeding for young children, voucher distribution, and the completion of food-for-work activities.
- In May, USAID/WFP approved the contribution of an additional 16,410 MT of Title II emergency food assistance—valued at approximately \$20 million—for WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation in Afghanistan.

USAID/FFP's contribution will enable WFP to continue providing food assistance to populations affected by conflict and natural disasters in Afghanistan. To date in FY 2012, USAID/FFP has contributed nearly \$59 million to WFP to provide approximately 47,680 MT of Title II emergency food commodities. USAID/FFP has also contributed approximately \$8.9 million to three other implementing partners for the distribution of locally and regionally procured food and cash-for-work activities.

Logistics and Relief Commodities

- The northern Afghanistan provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar, and Baghlan are vulnerable to multiple natural hazards, including flooding, landslides, and avalanches, while the remoteness of the provinces presents challenges in reaching affected populations immediately following disasters. To address these constraints, USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$108,000 to the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) to establish emergency stockpiles that the humanitarian community and GIRoA can draw upon during future disaster responses. The funding will also enable AKF to undertake rapid needs assessments in remote areas following disasters.
- In addition, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.4 million to Save the Children to replenish stockpiles of emergency relief supplies and tools for shelter construction in strategic locations throughout Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA also recently provided nearly \$975,000 to the International Medical Corps (IMC) to replenish and expand emergency stockpiles for use during humanitarian emergencies in Kunar and Nuristan provinces.
- In total, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$12.6 million for logistics support and the procurement, stockpiling, and distribution of relief commodities in Afghanistan in FY 2012.

Livelihoods

- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA, through ZOA, continued to provide assistance to the most vulnerable drought-affected households in three districts in Sar-e Pul Province, where more than 65 percent of farmers suffered total crop loss during the 2011 drought. Through a commitment of more than \$1.1 million, USAID/OFDA provided temporary work opportunities and distributed cash payments to meet the basic needs of more than 12,300 people prior to the 2012 harvest. Work opportunities include repairing damaged irrigation canals and roads—projects intended to mitigate the impact of future natural hazards.
- In total, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$3.9 million for economic recovery and market systems (ERMS) activities in Afghanistan in FY 2012.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Protection

- USAID/OFDA recently provided more than \$1.6 million to carry out phase three of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction project in northeastern Afghanistan's Badakhshan and Baghlan provinces through AKF. The project integrates disaster preparedness at the grassroots level by partnering with community development committees to conduct awareness-raising activities and provide trainings on disaster assessment and response. The project also helps local authorities collect and collate information from GIRoA agencies and NGOs regarding disaster risks across the provinces, map disaster-prone areas, improve disaster risk and emergency information management systems, and strengthen existing disaster response structures. Under phase three, AKF plans to extend the project to 80 additional high-risk villages while continuing to work with 20 villages included in previous phases.
- USAID/OFDA also recently committed more than \$525,000 to implement phase two of a program designed to enhance the capacity of communities in eastern Afghanistan to prepare for emergencies and conduct joint assessments and response activities following disasters. Through the program, USAID/OFDA partner IMC is conducting training on disaster preparedness and mitigation and creating community emergency response teams to respond to disasters, among other activities. The program directly targets approximately 2,300 people in Kunar and Nuristan provinces and indirectly targets more than 500,000 provincial residents.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed nearly \$1.2 million to SC/US to implement the third year of a disaster risk reduction (DRR) program targeting nearly 114,000 people in Balkh, Bamyan, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Sar-e Pul, and Uruzgan provinces. Building off the accomplishments of the project's first two years, SC/US is providing disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management training to district, local, and provincial Afghan officials, as well as community members. SC/US is also assisting officials and communities to develop hazard risk reduction plans.
- USAID/OFDA is also providing nearly \$832,000 to SC/US for activities designed to advocate for child protection during emergencies and enhance the capacity of civil society groups and GIRoA ministries to protect the needs of children and other vulnerable groups during disaster responses.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
ACTED	Shelter and Settlements	Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Takhar Provinces	\$700,000
AKF	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks	Baghlan and Badakhshan Provinces	\$2,002,233
IMC	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks	Kunar and Nuristan Provinces	\$1,500,000
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,998,075
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$7,498,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risk Reduction, WASH	Badghis and Helmand Provinces	\$2,444,515
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
SC/US	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Protection	Balkh and Bamyán Provinces	\$2,623,531
SC/US	Logistics and Relief Supplies, Natural and Technological Risks, Protection	Balkh, Bamyán, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Sar-e Pul, and Uruzgan Provinces	\$3,437,548
Tearfund	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Jowzjan Province	\$399,696
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)	Health and Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
ZOA	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Natural and Technological Risks, Shelter and Settlements	Sar-e-Pul Province	\$1,947,166
	Administrative Support		\$753,788
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$32,504,552
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	47,680 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$58,648,300
Other Implementing Partners	Locally and Regionally Procured Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$8,903,291
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$67,551,591
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran	\$47,600,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$25,000,000
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$16,724,608
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$89,324,608
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2012			\$189,380,751

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 September 30, 2012.

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 response efforts in Afghanistan 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 or afg.humanitarianresponse.info.