



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #39, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

December 31, 2001

Note: This Fact Sheet updates previously released Central Asia Region Fact Sheets and Situation Reports.

Numbers Affected

- According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 7.5 million Afghans are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance including food, shelter, health, education, and demining initiatives.

Relief Activities

- On December 31, the UN World Food Program (WFP) announced that they have dispatched 114,000 MT of food into Afghanistan during the month of December. This record level of food delivered in a single month will cover the food needs of six million Afghans for two months. WFP reported that their efforts in Afghanistan, along with their partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), currently constitute the largest, most complicated, and one of the most dangerous food aid programs ever carried out by WFP in its nearly 40 years of existence.
- On December 30, UNICEF and WHO inaugurated a countrywide measles vaccination program. It will start in Kabul on January 1, 2002 and continue in other areas of the country during the subsequent three months. The aim is to reach at least nine million children, including displaced children and children in areas most difficult to access. UNICEF reported that the average number of children who die from measles in Afghanistan is estimated at 35,000 per year. This accounts for approximately 40 percent of all vaccine-preventable childhood deaths in the country. Even with the vaccination campaign, this number could be higher in 2002 due to drought- and conflict-related poverty, lack of health services, and poor nutrition.

Security

- On December 31, Afghanistan's Interior Minister Yunus Qanooni and Britain's Major General John McColl initialed the agreement on the deployment of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops. Last week, the UN Security Council authorized an international security force for Afghanistan - led by Britain, but also with troops from Germany, Italy, Belgium and other countries - to assist the interim government in the maintenance of security in Kabul and surrounding areas. Additional troops could begin arriving in Kabul next week, but the bulk of the 5,000-strong multinational force is expected to take up to four weeks to deploy.

Population Movements

- On December 31, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that, with security and political stability progressively returning to Afghanistan, tens of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are returning to their homes despite landmines and the massive destruction in many areas caused by two decades of war and drought. UNHCR reported that in the last two months, an estimated 60,000 refugees returned home from Pakistan and Iran, while more than 30,000 internally displaced Afghans have arrived in Kabul since late November.
- Many refugees and IDPs are going to Kabul, due to its relative security and perceived economic opportunities, even if they originate from other regions. There is some concern among aid officials that the city's absorptive capacity may be overtaxed. UNHCR has stated that they would assist the needs of spontaneous returnees upon arrival in Afghanistan, but could not facilitate returns by refugees to areas outside their original homes.
- On December 31, UNHCR also reported that the number of refugees returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan through the Chaman border crossing has been decreasing overall: on December 27, 3,800 refugees crossed back into Afghanistan; on December 28, 1,500 crossed; on December 29, 3,000 crossed; and on December 30, 2,500 crossed. UNHCR had no explanation for these fluctuating numbers.
- On December 31, UNHCR transferred an estimated 1,400 Afghan refugees from the makeshift Jalozi camp, east of Peshawar in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) to Kotkai and Old Bagzai, respectively in Bajaur and Kurram Agencies. The convoy to Kotkai transported approximately 1,000 individuals, while the convoy to Old Bagzai carried approximately 400 individuals. Starting January 2, 2002, UNHCR will increase the relocation rate to 2,000 refugees each day in order to meet its target of 10,000 transfers per week. The relocation program began on November 19.
- On December 31, UNHCR, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), undertook its first assisted return of IDPs, with more than 600 people returning from the Panjshir Valley to the

homes they fled three years ago in the Shomali Plain east of Kabul. UNHCR plans to continue assisted return to the Shomali Plain on a daily basis. Approximately 200,000 people fled the region between 1998 and 2000, during fighting between Taliban and Northern Alliance forces. UNHCR provided shelter rehabilitation materials to the returnees, and the return was preceded by a mine clearance operation in villages and adjacent fields.

U.S. Government Activities

Disaster Declarations & Background

- On October 4, 2001, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster for Afghanistan for FY 2002.
- On October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster for Tajikistan due to drought.

FY 2002 USG Assistance to Afghanistan

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| Total USAID/OFDA | \$69,323,036 |
| Total USAID/FFP | \$40,555,000 |
| Total USAID/OTI | \$1,687,820 |
| Total State/PRM..... | \$32,260,000 |
| Total DOD* | \$50,897,769 |
| TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance FY 2002..... | \$194,723,625 |
| TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance FY 2001..... | \$183,107,625 |
| TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan FY 2001/2002 | \$377,831,250 |

FY 2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan

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|---|---------------------|
| Total USAID/OFDA | \$998,180 |
| Total USAID/FFP | \$20,000,000 |
| TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2002..... | \$20,998,180 |
| TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001..... | \$67,210,000 |
| TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002 | \$88,208,180 |

Note: Full details of funding above are available in weekly USAID/OFDA Central Asia Region Situation Reports.

**Note: DOD funding totals are estimates.*

USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html