



**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

Situation Report #29, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

April 19, 2002

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

BACKGROUND

Two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men. A devastating regional drought compounded the crisis, drying up wells, parching agricultural land, killing off livestock, collapsing rural economies, and eventually exhausting the coping mechanisms of many ordinary Afghans, forcing them to leave their homes in search of food and water.

International relief agencies, with support from the United States (U.S.), have long been active in providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, even during the restrictive years of the Taliban. On October 7, 2001, a Coalition-led military campaign against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces began, and by December 2001, the Taliban had collapsed. The new Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) was sworn in on December 22, 2001, increasing humanitarian access to the country and beginning the process of reconstruction. Tens of thousands of refugee and internally displaced families have started to return to their homes to assist in the rebuilding. The U.S. Agency for International Development's Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), which began its emergency coordination work in response to the regional drought in June 2001, continues to assess the humanitarian needs of vulnerable Afghans, and to monitor the relief programs of its implementing partners.

Afghanistan: Numbers at a Glance

Total population (CIA Factbook)	26,813,057	Internally Displaced (UNDP/OCHA)	
Refugees Since January 1, 2002 (UNHCR)		Total as of February 20, 2002.....	920,000
Pakistan	60,000	north and northeast	500,000
Iran	unknown	south and west	420,000
Old Caseload Refugees (UNHCR)		Internally Displaced Returns Since January 1, 2002 (IOM)	
Pakistan	2,000,000	To Kabul (spontaneous)	64,750
Iran	1,500,000	To northeast (spontaneous)	117,000
Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002 (UNHCR)		To Shomali Plain	
Pakistan (spontaneous)	180,000	from Panjshir Valley (voluntary assisted).....	13,500
Pakistan (voluntary assisted since March 1).....	280,000	from Kabul (voluntary assisted).....	14,200
Iran (spontaneous).....	61,000	From Herat (voluntary assisted)	23,000
Iran (voluntary assisted since April 9)	9,000	From Mazar-e-Sharif (voluntary assisted).....	25,000
		From Pyandj River (voluntary assisted).....	8,561

FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan* \$551,229,150

FY 2001/2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan \$88,208,180

CURRENT SITUATION

Overview. Former Afghan king Zahir Shah returned to Kabul as an ordinary citizen. The initial phase of the Loya Jirga process began with the selection of representatives in the first of the country's 381 districts. Pamphlets have appeared in Kandahar Province threatening consequences if women and girls return to work and school. Security incidents were reported in Kabul, Kandahar, and eastern Afghanistan. The response effort following the April 12 earthquake in Baghlan Province is shifting from

emergency relief to rehabilitation. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) plans to assist 8.8 million Afghans to meet their food needs in April. Assisted voluntary refugee returns continued from Pakistan and Iran. Returns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) accelerated, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisting Afghans to make the journey from the Tajik border, Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Herat. A nationwide polio vaccination campaign was launched with the aim of eliminating the disease by the end of 2002.

Political/Military. On April 18, under tight security, former Afghan king Zahir Shah returned to Kabul as an ordinary citizen. AIA Chairman Hamid Karzai and six other AIA ministers accompanied Shah on his travel from Italy, where he had been in exile since 1973. Some 200 people greeted the former king in a small ceremony at the airport, after which he left for his rehabilitated home in a suburb of Kabul. Shah will remain under the protection of Italian security forces until an Afghan security detail is trained. On June 10, the former king is expected to open the Loya Jirga, which will determine a transitional government until democratic elections can be held.

On April 15, the first phase of the Loya Jirga process got underway when several hundred tribal elders in Mardyan village, Jowzjan Province convened a meeting (shura) to select district representatives. These representatives will in turn meet at the end of May to select their district's delegation to the Loya Jirga, to be held June 10-16 in Kabul. Over the coming weeks, each of the county's 381 districts will hold shuras to select their district representatives. Eventually, 1,051 Afghans will be chosen to attend the Loya Jirga, with an additional 450 seats reserved for various Afghan institutions and groups.

On April 16, Coalition forces announced they were engaged in a new operation against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in southeastern Afghanistan.

Security. Handwritten and unsigned pamphlets have appeared in Kandahar Province threatening unspecified consequences if women and girls return to work and school. On April 17, soon after the pamphlets started to appear, an unidentified man threw acid in the face of an Afghan woman teacher in Chaman, along the Pakistani border. Similar pamphlets have been found around Spin Boldak, warning against cooperation in finding Taliban and al-Qaeda forces.

On April 17, a group of U.S. soldiers in civilian clothes came under fire in Kandahar city as they were shopping on a busy street. One U.S. soldier and an Afghan were wounded in the attack. On April 14, rockets targeted the office of the local governor of Kandahar. No injuries were reported. On April 13, renegade gunmen from the AIA security forces fired on two British patrols in Kabul. The incident resulted in the arrest of seven men from the minority Shia Hazara group, who were reportedly attempting to sabotage security in the capital.

The AIA's poppy eradication program, which was linked last week to the outbreak of violence in several

places, was suspended on April 12 following the deaths of two government workers whose tractors struck landmines while destroying the poppy crop.

Earthquake. On April 12, at 8:30 a.m. local time, an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck Nahrin District, Baghlan Province in northeastern Afghanistan, approximately 90 miles north of Kabul. The U.N. Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reports 50 people died, approximately 150 were injured, and up to 7,500 people were affected. Strong aftershocks continued to rattle the region. Organizations operating under existing USAID grants, which had redirected assistance to help meet the emergency food, water, and shelter needs of those affected by the March 25 earthquake, continued to provide humanitarian assistance. In Jelgah valley, east of Nahrin, a roadblock caused by the earthquake and heavy rains delayed assessment and delivery of relief supplies to that area until late this week. Following reports of injured in more remote locations, mobile medical teams are being organized by the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO). According to UNAMA, the relief effort is now shifting from emergency to rehabilitation.

Food Aid and Logistics. Since October 2001, WFP, with support from USAID, has delivered 407,643 MT of food into Afghanistan, of which 326,230 MT has been distributed throughout the country, assisting some 6.6 million food-insecure Afghans.

In April, WFP plans to assist 8.8 million Afghans to meet their food needs. The increase in beneficiaries from the previous figure of 6.6 million Afghans reflects the acute need for food in the months just before the wheat harvest starts in June and July, as well as the expanding goals of WFP programs in Afghanistan. WFP is now providing assistance to a large number of refugees repatriating to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan, as well as to IDPs returning to their villages. Each returning family receives a three-month supply of food. In addition, in the northern areas where recent rains are raising hopes of a good harvest this summer, interim conditions remain difficult. According to WFP, in the most drought-affected provinces of Ghor, Badghis, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul, and northern Badakshan, up to 80 percent of the population are in need of emergency food assistance. Other expanding WFP programs, such as "food-for-work" and "food-for-education," are designed to aid the transition from relief to reconstruction.

IOM reports that the main road from Herat into Ghor Province is closed due to rain-induced landslides.

IDPs and Refugees. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the AIA, and the non-governmental organization (NGO) community are preparing for the anticipated return this summer of up to 1.2 million Afghan refugees and IDPs (approximately 400,000 refugees from Pakistan, 400,000 refugees from Iran, and 400,000 IDPs in Afghanistan).

According to UNHCR, more than 280,000 Afghans have returned from Pakistan since its program of assisted voluntary repatriation began March 1. Ninety percent of the returnees pass through the Takhtabaig voluntary repatriation center near Peshawar, Pakistan, and an estimated 40 percent are destined for urban centers in Afghanistan. On April 17, the first group of 450 Afghans living in Islamabad returned home. The refugees, primarily ethnic Uzbek and Tajik minorities, were registered by an UNHCR mobile unit. An estimated 120,000 Afghan refugees are living in Islamabad.

According to UNHCR, more than 9,000 Afghans have returned from Iran through the northern Islam Qala crossing point at Dogharun since its program of assisted voluntary repatriation began on April 9. Returns this summer are expected to average 1,600 per day, six days a week, with an estimated half of the returnees traveling to Herat, around 20 percent to Kabul, and the remainder to Ghazni, Kunduz, Loghar and Wardak provinces. The Milak-Zaranj border crossing in the south remained closed due to factional unrest in Nimruz Province.

In northern Afghanistan, IOM continued to assist IDPs leaving the camps on the islands in the Pyandj River, on the Tajik-Afghan border. Since April 8, some 8,561 people boarded barges and crossed the river, where IOM trucks took them home to Kunduz Province and they received UNHCR returnee kits and WFP food aid. On April 19, IOM reported that the assisted return operation was complete.

In Kabul last week, IOM convoys assisted some 3,036 people from the former Soviet compound to return to villages in the Shomali Plain. On April 16, IOM began assisting IDPs from Shaidayee camp near Herat, which shelters an estimated 23,000 persons, to return home to their villages in Herat and Badghis provinces. IOM reports that more than 27,000 IDPs living in Maslakh and Shaidayee camps have now registered to return home, and IOM hopes to assist 3,000 persons per day from Herat to make the return. This week, IOM continued its assistance to IDPs returning from Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh Province to

neighboring Jowzjan Province. Next week IOM and UNHCR expect to begin assisting 2,000 Hazara IDP families (10,000 people) from northern Bamiyan Province to Saighan, Baghlan Province. Another 380 IDP families (1,900 people) are expected to travel from Kabul city to Bamiyan Province with IOM convoys, while 2,000 Tajik IDP families (10,000 people) will travel from Shibar, Parwan Province to Bamiyan Province.

According to WFP, the number of Afghans waiting to enter Pakistan at the Chaman border crossing outside the Killi Faizo transit camp was 41,000. UNHCR reports that some of these Afghans have been waiting at Chaman for two months.

Health. *With USAID/OFDA support, on April 16 the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched a three-day nationwide polio vaccination campaign targeting children younger than five years old, with the aim of eradicating the disease in Afghanistan by the end of 2002. Some 60,000 medics and volunteers trained by the AIA Ministry of Health and WHO went door-to-door seeking out children, with teams also operating at refugee and IDP camps, border crossings, and airports. Afghanistan is one of ten countries worldwide with endemic polio. According to WHO, there have been 360 confirmed cases of polio in Afghanistan since 1997, but only one case reported so far this year.*

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Background. On October 4, 2001, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by USAID/OFDA, Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Humanitarian Demining Program (State/HDP), the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance is for displaced persons inside Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

On March 26, 2002, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Robert P. Finn issued a disaster declaration due to the

earthquake in Baghlan Province. USAID/OFDA responded by providing an additional \$25,000 in Disaster Assistance Authority to ACTED, one of many USAID-funded grantees who are providing humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

Personnel. USAID/OFDA currently has one Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based

in Kabul to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in the region. USAID/DART members coordinate with the humanitarian relief community and assess the humanitarian situation.

OTHER USG ASSISTANCE

***New Actions.** State/PRM is providing \$1,833,251 to the NGO Save the Children/US in support of primary and reproductive health care and administrative services to Afghan refugees in Haripur and Baluchistan, Pakistan.*

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2002				
USAID/OFDA				
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$743,543
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
	Airlift – Islamabad	35,400 blankets		\$312,350
	Airlift – Pakistan	5 health kits		\$29,415
	Airlift – Turkmenabad	5 health kits		\$33,923
	Airlift – Uzbekistan	350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	10,000 kitchen sets and 20,000 blankets		\$473,400
	Airlift – Mazar-e-Sharif	37,600 blankets for UNICEF		\$65,000
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	1,000 winterized tents		\$167,000
	ACTED	Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
	ACTED	IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
	ACTED	Livelihoods, agriculture, emergency rehab	Takhar, Baghlan, Shamali, Kabul, and Faryab.	\$750,000
	CARE	Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,537,035
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,087
	Church World Service	Transport of non-food items		\$49,902

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
Concern Worldwide		Distribution of seeds & tools, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, income generation activities	Badakshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Bamiyan provinces	\$1,737,318
Concern Worldwide		Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343
Field Support		Operational support for DARTs in Central Asia Region		\$1,339,456
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)		Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
FAO		Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
FAO		Manual locust eradication program	North	\$260,000
FAO		Security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, & spring seed distribution	All	\$2,500,000
FOCUS / Aga Khan		Seed multiplication, water supply rehabilitation, and complementary food distribution	Bamiyan, Baghlan, and Balkh	\$1,436,134
GOAL		Food, shelter, water, sanitation, winterization	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$5,500,000
GOAL		Emergency agricultural, potable water and sanitation rehabilitation, and shelter repair	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$1,000,000
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)		Seed multiplication, technical assistance for seed procurement and regulation	All	\$2,525,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh provinces	\$562,313
IOM		Distribution of charcoal for cooking and heating fuel	Herat, Kunduz, and Faryab	\$1,069,760
International Medical Corps (IMC)		Primary health care	Herat	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan	\$3,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)		Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
IRC		Medical, public health, education & self-help programs in camps and urban settings	Balkh, Ghor	\$3,250,104
International Resource Group (IRG)		Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy Corps		Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps		Rehabilitation of wells & agriculture infrastructure, seed multiplication	Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Takhar, Kunduz & Baghlan	\$3,000,308

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
UNOCHA		Coordination	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
UNCHS (Habitat)		Cash-for-work rehabilitation of public areas, solid waste removal	Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif	\$382,850
Save the Children (SC)/US		Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
SC/US		Spot reconstruction, cash-for-work, and medical clinic rehabilitation	Faryab, Sar-e-Pul	\$3,262,312
Shelter for Life		Cash-for-work road reconstruction & emergency home repair for returning IDPs	Kunduz & Takhar	\$1,294,550
Solidarites		Rehabilitation, agricultural revitalization	Balkh, Bamiyan, Samangan	\$1,739,115
World Food Program (WFP)		Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000
WFP		Emergency road repair	Turkmen border	\$300,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center		\$2,000,000
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,500,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA				\$84,863,726
USAID/FFP				
WFP		Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan		\$2,000,000
WFP		31,050 MT Lentils and vegetable oil		\$25,418,500
WFP		36,000 MT Wheat		\$15,900,000
WFP		72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
WFP		24,320 MT Food commodities		\$18,600,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP				\$100,473,500
USAID/OTI				
Voice of America		Radio program		\$187,820
IOM		HEAR bulletin and radios		\$1,500,000
IOM		Community reconstruction		\$8,095,631
Internews		Media/journalist training		\$998,720
RONCO		Small grants/operations support		\$3,000,000
UNDP		UNDP Trust Fund in support of the Interim Afghan Administration		500,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/OTI.....				\$14,282,171
STATE/HDP				
HALO Trust		Demining program		\$3,300,000
UNICEF		Mine awareness program		\$700,000
UN Mine Action Program		Demining equipment		\$1,000,000
RONCO		UXO experts		\$2,000,000
Total FY 2002 State/HDP				\$7,000,000
USDA				
WFP		40,000 MT of Food commodities		\$22,500,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
Total FY 2002 USDA				\$22,500,000
STATE/PRM				
	ICRC	Emergency Appeal		\$10,100,000
	ICMC	Support for Afghans in Pakistan		\$515,304
	IFRC	Emergency Appeal		\$4,000,000
	IOM	Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
	IOM	Support for Refugees and IDPs		\$1,000,000
	IRC	Operational Support		231,248
	Mercy Corps	Support for Afghans in Pakistan		\$376,781
	Mercy Corps	Operational support		\$162,775
	Save the Children/US	Health services for Afghan refugees		\$1,833,251
	UNDP	Support for Information Systems		\$500,000
	UNOCHA	Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,125,000
	UNOCHA	Coordination of activities (communications, IT, security)		\$1,000,000
	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Special Program for Afghanistan		\$500,000
	UNHCR	Emergency Appeal		\$30,000,000
	UNHCR	Support for returning Afghan refugees		\$20,000,000
	UNICEF	Back-to-school campaign		\$2,000,000
	UNICEF	Emergency Relief		\$4,000,000
	WFP	Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
	WFP	Coordination and Support Services		\$1,500,000
	WHO	Basic health for returning Afghans		\$1,000,000
Total FY 2002 State/PRM **				\$86,844,359
DOD				
		Airdrop of 2,423,700 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)		\$50,897,769
Total FY 2002 DOD				\$50,897,769
Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan**				\$366,861,525

TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT FY 2002				
USAID/OFDA				
	CARE	Purchase and distribution of winter wheat to 36,000 people		\$998,180
Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA.....				\$998,180
USAID/FFP				
	WFP	35,000 MT wheat flour		20,000,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP.....				\$20,000,000
Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan.....				\$20,998,180

FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY	
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*	\$184,367,625
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002**	\$366,861,525
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001	\$551,229,150
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001	\$67,210,000
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002	\$88,208,180

*Note: An accounting adjustment was made on April 12 to State/PRM funding amounts for FY01 resulting in an increase of \$1.26 million in the previously reported total for FY01. Detailed breakdowns of FY01 and FY02 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region situation reports.

**Note: An accounting adjustment was made on April 12 to State/PRM funding amounts for FY02, resulting in a reduction of \$4.66 million in the previously reported total for FY02. State/PRM contributions include funding obligated to international organizations and NGOs in FY02, as well as new contributions to UN partners announced on April 2.

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