



AFGHANISTAN – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As of January 23, severe cold temperatures and avalanches associated with heavy snowfall had resulted in 43 deaths in Badakhshan Province in northeastern Afghanistan, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The situation in the most affected districts of Badakhshan was improving as of late January, with an increased number of passable roads and improved access to the provincial capital of Fayzabad. As of early February, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were assisting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) with clearing roads and delivering emergency relief supplies to residents of more than 30 villages in Badakhshan’s most affected areas.
- In January, severe cold temperatures resulted in the deaths of 22 children living in two informal settlements in Kabul Province, according to international media sources. In response, OCHA provided funding through its Central Emergency Response Fund to the Danish Refugee Council for heating interventions and established a task force to address humanitarian needs of the estimated 30,000 people living in 46 informal settlements in Kabul. OCHA is leading assessments of the situation but has not issued an urgent request for international assistance to date. In addition, USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has pre-positioned emergency winter supplies for up to 500 families in Kabul’s informal settlements, with additional supplies available if needed.
- In January, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$7.5 million to IOM to deliver emergency relief supplies to populations affected or displaced by conflict and natural disasters in Afghanistan in 2012. The funding expands IOM’s presence in remote areas and increases IOM’s coordination capacity within the humanitarian cluster system—a mechanism to improve collaboration between the host government, U.N., relief agencies, and donors during disasters.
- In January, USAID/OFDA, through non-governmental organization Tearfund, initiated a nearly \$400,000 program to provide temporary employment for members of approximately 1,700 food-insecure households in Jowzjan Province, northern Afghanistan. Income earned through the program will enable participating households to purchase food during the lean season before Afghanistan’s 2012 spring harvest.
- The U.N. has released the 2012 Consolidated Appeal (CAP) for Afghanistan, requesting approximately 35 percent less funding for humanitarian assistance than the 2011 CAP. Of the 11 sectors for which funding is requested in the 2012 CAP, multi-sector activities, food security, and agriculture compose more than 56 percent of the funding request. Nutrition represents the next highest request at nearly 12 percent.
- In FY 2012, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$44 million in humanitarian funding to support Afghans affected by conflict and natural disasters. Of the total, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$10 million to support humanitarian activities in Afghanistan. In addition, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided \$27.3 million in emergency food assistance, including \$20 million to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) for the purchase of nearly 15,300 metric tons (MT) of food commodities. In FY 2012, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided approximately \$7 million for humanitarian assistance, livelihoods support, gender-based violence prevention, and protection interventions for Afghans, including refugees who have returned to Afghanistan and Afghan refugees residing in Iran and Pakistan.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
IDPs ¹ in Afghanistan	~480,300 ²	U.N. – December 2011
Refugees in Neighboring Countries	~2.7 million	UNHCR ³ – May 2011
Returnees to Afghanistan since 2002	5.7 million	U.N. – December 2011

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

² This figure includes 450,000 individuals estimated to be displaced by conflict and 30,300 individuals estimated to be displaced by natural disasters.

³ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012⁴	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan	\$9,942,393
USAID/FFP Assistance to Afghanistan	\$27,300,000
State/PRM Assistance to Afghanistan and Afghans in the Region	\$6,997,887
Total USAID and State Assistance	\$44,240,280

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2011	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan	\$30,524,309
USAID/FFP Assistance to Afghanistan	\$167,700,000
State/PRM Assistance to Afghanistan and Afghans in the Region	\$71,963,534
Total USAID and State Assistance	\$270,187,843

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. In recent years, drought has been the most frequent natural disaster in Afghanistan; since 2000, the country has experienced eight droughts that have resulted in diminished agricultural production. As of December 2011, U.N. agencies estimated that approximately 450,000 people, out of a total population of approximately 24.9 million, remain internally displaced as a result of conflict in Afghanistan. This includes an estimated 161,000 people newly displaced in the first nine months of 2011, representing a 65 percent increase compared to the same period in 2010.
- Frequent and protracted displacements contribute to the loss of working-age community members and the influx of displaced persons into communities with scarce 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.

Winterization Efforts

- To meet humanitarian needs during the 2011/2012 winter season, U.N. and other humanitarian agencies had pre-positioned food commodities in 16 provinces, emergency relief commodities in 25 provinces, medicine in 32 provinces, and heavy machinery in 1 province as of November 15, 2011.
- With support from USAID/OFDA, IOM had pre-positioned more than 20,500 family revitalization kits, nearly 14,900 emergency shelter kits, and approximately 13,300 winterization kits throughout Afghanistan, particularly in remote areas that frequently become inaccessible during the winter season, as of late November.
- As of the end of November, WFP had pre-positioned nearly 10,000 MT of food commodities to ensure a continued food supply to vulnerable communities in remote areas during the 2011/2012 winter season.

Food Security

- Residents of Afghanistan's northern and northwestern provinces continue to experience food insecurity and will likely continue to rely on emergency food assistance until the 2012 harvest, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). The 2011 primary harvest of rain-fed crops in northern and central Afghanistan is approximately 70 percent lower than the eight-year average due to a November 2010 to April 2011 drought. As a result, nearly 2.6 million people in 14 provinces remain severely food insecure, according to WFP. On October 1, 2011, the U.N. launched an emergency revision of the 2011 CAP in response to humanitarian needs caused by the drought.
- In response to the drought, the GIROA Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) plans to draw from its strategic grain reserve, comprising approximately 45,000 MT of cereals that are in stock or in transit, according to WFP. MAIL has announced plans to provide a ration consisting of 200 kg of wheat grain, 25 kg of rice, 50 kg of wheat seeds, and 50-100 kg of animal feed to approximately 200,000 families in 14 provinces.

⁴ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

- In December 2011, WFP initiated an Emergency Operation (EMOP) in Afghanistan to assist 2.4 million food-insecure people until the primary 2012 harvest. Through the EMOP, WFP is distributing food, undertaking food-for-work activities, and issuing food vouchers to individuals not receiving other humanitarian aid. WFP is also providing nutritional supplements to 430,000 children under the age of five, including children in Kabul informal settlements, to prevent a rise in malnutrition levels.
- During November 2011, WFP provided food assistance to more than 2.9 million people through the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, implemented concurrently with the EMOP. WFP provided food assistance to 263,000 people through the Food-for-Work and Food-for-All projects. WFP also supported more than 2.4 million school-aged children by providing high-energy biscuits and vegetable oil.
- Based on precipitation accumulation through November 20, 2011, and preliminary analysis of the October to November planting season, FEWS NET forecasts a near-average harvest of rain-fed crops in 2012.

Logistics and Relief Commodities

- USAID/OFDA supports the stockpiling of relief commodities and emergency shelter kits in strategic locations throughout Afghanistan to address the needs of disaster-affected populations, particularly in areas difficult to reach during winter. Humanitarian partners are distributing some of the USAID/OFDA-provided commodities during the 2011/2012 winter season. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$5 million to IOM for the procurement and contingency stockpiling of emergency relief commodities for the period of July to December 2011. Those supplies remain available for distribution in response to current extreme cold conditions, if required.
- USAID/OFDA also provided nearly \$2.1 million to Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) in FY 2011 to warehouse and distribute emergency relief commodities to approximately 67,000 beneficiaries in Faryab, Balkh, Bamyan, Kabul, Uruzgan, and Kandahar provinces through September 2012.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service operation in Afghanistan through \$3 million to WFP in FY 2011. With this funding, WFP is providing air services to more than 300 humanitarian agencies and donors in Afghanistan through March 2012.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- USAID/OFDA FY 2012 funding of nearly \$7.5 million will enable IOM, in its role as the head of the National IDP Task Force for Natural Disaster-Induced IDPs, to improve coordination among humanitarian relief actors focused on assisting natural disaster-affected populations throughout Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA funding will also support IOM's efforts to coordinate emergency response with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency, the national government authority responsible for coordinating emergency responses.
- USAID/OFDA funding to Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) continues to provide a common operating picture of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan to members of the cluster system.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$7,498,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,998,075
Tearfund	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Jowzjan Province	\$394,687
	Administrative Support		\$51,631
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$9,942,393
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	15,270 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,000,000
Implementing Partners	Locally and Regionally Procured Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$7,300,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$27,300,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			

UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran	\$6,437,000
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$560,887
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$6,997,887
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2012			\$44,240,280

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2011

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Herat, Bamyan, Ghor	\$200,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Natural And Technological Risks	Konar, Nuristan	\$1,500,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,708,045
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,999,733
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Natural And Technological Risks, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Khost, Herat, Laghman, Loghar, Paktya, Nangarhar	\$8,572,948
SC/US	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Protection	Balkh, Jowzjan, Sar-e Pul, Bamyan, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Faryab, Kabul	\$2,141,208
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
U.N. Human Settlements Program (UNHABITAT)	Protection	Kabul	\$300,000
UNHCR	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition and WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
World Health Organization (WHO)	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,900,000
	Support		\$202,375
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$30,524,309
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP, CRS	109,150 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance, regional and local commodities, and food vouchers	Countrywide	\$167,700,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$167,700,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$4,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran	\$50,200,000
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$17,163,534
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$71,963,534
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2011			\$270,187,843

TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN	
COMMITTED FY 2011 ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN	\$44,240,280
COMMITTED FY 2012 ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN	\$270,187,843
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2011 AND FY 2012	\$314,428,123

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 February 6, 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.