



AFGHANISTAN – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- An estimated 2.86 million people are food insecure in 14 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces due to a below-normal wheat crop production following limited rain and snowfall during the winter months, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). Households in northwestern Afghanistan who are dependent on rain-fed wheat crops are expected to experience consumption deficits until the next harvest occurs in the spring of 2012, according to the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).
- As of August 2011, conflict in Afghanistan had displaced more than 472,600 individuals, including approximately 31,000 individuals displaced during the month of July, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The number of individuals displaced between January and July 2011 represents a 50 percent increase compared to the total number of individuals displaced during 2010.¹
- In FY 2011, the U.S. Government (USG) provided nearly \$251.1 million in humanitarian funding to support Afghans affected by conflict and natural disasters. Of the total, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) provided nearly \$30.6 million to support humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, benefitting up to 2.9 million individuals, including approximately 415,000 IDPs. In addition, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided more than \$148.5 million in FY 2011 to address emergency food needs in Afghanistan. The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than \$71.9 million—including nearly \$35.8 million in new funding since mid-July—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, during FY 2011.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
IDPs in Afghanistan	~472,601	UNHCR – August 2011
Refugees in Neighboring Countries	~2.7 million	UNHCR – May 2011
Returnees to Afghanistan since 2002	5.5 – 6 million	UNHCR – June 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan	\$30,597,035
USAID/FFP Assistance to Afghanistan	\$148,504,000
State/PRM Assistance to Afghanistan and Afghans in the Region	\$71,963,534
Total USAID and State Assistance	\$251,064,569

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. As of August 2011, U.N. agencies estimated that approximately 473,000 people remain internally displaced in Afghanistan, an increase of nearly 154,000—or approximately 33 percent—since September 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.

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in urban and inaccessible areas of Afghanistan are not included in UNHCR’s IDP figure; therefore, the actual number of IDPs in Afghanistan is likely significantly higher than current estimates.

- 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.

Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods

- Preliminary crop production estimates, released by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's (GIROA's) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock in June, predict a 2011 wheat crop production of approximately 3.25 million metric tons (MT), according to FEWS NET. The estimate represents a 28 percent decrease compared to last year's crop production, which was above normal. Despite a projected decrease in this year's wheat production, FEWS NET reports that private sector imports will likely preclude a cereal shortage.
- FEWS NET expects poor households dependent on wheat for subsistence or income from farm labor to be the most affected by the decreased harvest production. These populations largely reside in Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Faryab, and Badghis provinces in northwestern Afghanistan. While most 2011 crop failure occurred in areas dependent on rain for crop production, irrigated wheat production also underperformed, particularly in areas located far from water sources, FEWS NET reports.
- Livestock health has also diminished in areas of northern Afghanistan due to poor pasture conditions resulting from below normal rain and snowfall during winter months, according to FEWS NET. Some households have attempted to sell their livestock to cover basic living expenses; however, livestock prices are an estimated 40 to 50 percent below average due to increased livestock sales and poor animal body conditions.
- In response to food security concerns, USAID/FFP recently contributed 9,190 MT of Title II emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$20.1 million, to WFP in Afghanistan, bringing USAID/FFP's total FY 2011 contribution to 74,991 MT of food assistance, valued at \$148.5 million. The programs supported by USAID/FFP provide food assistance to an estimated 4 million food-insecure individuals in Afghanistan.
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$4.8 million to support economic recovery and market systems in Afghanistan, targeting approximately 194,000 beneficiaries. USAID/OFDA funding supported Afghans affected by conflict, drought, and harsh winter conditions through cash-for-work, economic asset restoration and development, and market rehabilitation activities.

Health, Nutrition, and Protection

- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) noted a significant increase in reported measles and acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases in all drought-affected provinces during June and July. AWD is endemic to Afghanistan, and the number of cases increases seasonally between July and September. The majority of diarrheal diseases in Afghanistan result from poor hygiene practices and the consumption of contaminated water.
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided a total of \$1.6 million, through the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), to support health activities in Afghanistan. The total includes \$600,000 in recent funding for emergency health activities in eastern provinces.
- A nutrition survey conducted in August by a non-governmental organization (NGO) found global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels between 9 and 14 percent in three northern Afghan provinces. Survey results revealed a particularly high malnutrition prevalence in Sar-i-Pul Province, with GAM levels reaching 13.9 percent and severe acute malnutrition levels reaching 4.8 percent.
- In response to nutrition needs in Afghanistan, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.3 million in funding for nutrition activities, including programs focused on the prevention and treatment of malnutrition through active case finding and therapeutic feeding programs, targeting nearly 240,000 individuals, in FY 2011.
- Recently, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$427,000 to Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) to collaborate with GIROA ministries to establish a response approach for vulnerable groups during and following disasters. In total, during FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$727,000 to support protection activities in Afghanistan.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Inadequate precipitation in Afghanistan during the winter months resulted in a gradual decline in ground and surface water sources. OCHA reports that up to 70 percent of water points in northern Afghanistan are non-functional due to reduced groundwater table levels and poor maintenance.

- In early August, a USAID/OFDA WASH technical advisor traveled to Balkh and Jawzjan provinces in northern Afghanistan to evaluate WASH concerns following this year's low seasonal rainfall, and to evaluate community and individual options to address WASH needs.
- In total, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.9 million in WASH assistance, through the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), in FY 2011. USAID/OFDA-supported activities included water point rehabilitation, latrine construction, hygiene kit distribution, and hygiene promotion.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- USAID/OFDA recently provided approximately \$252,000 in additional assistance to Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP), an organization that supports the humanitarian community in Afghanistan by providing effective methods for capturing, sharing, and analyzing information on humanitarian conditions throughout the country. The recent contribution brings total FY 2011 USAID/OFDA assistance to iMMAP to more than \$1.7 million.
- In total, in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3.7 million to support humanitarian coordination and information management through OCHA, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and iMMAP.

Shelter and Emergency Relief Commodities

- To address emergency shelter needs following disasters, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$735,000 for transitional shelter assistance during emergency responses in FY 2011, targeting approximately 9,450 beneficiaries in Herat, Khost, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, and Paktya provinces.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided SC/US with more than \$1 million to replenish emergency relief commodity stocks, sufficient for approximately 67,000 beneficiaries. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided a total of nearly \$10.7 million in logistics support and relief commodities, targeting an estimated 350,000 beneficiaries, including 74,000 IDPs.

Natural and Technological Risks

- Afghanistan is prone to many natural and technological disasters, including harsh winters, floods, and droughts, which particularly affect the country's conflict-affected and displaced persons. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$4 million—targeting 580,000 people, including 80,000 IDPs—to support the establishment of a sustainable, local response capacity in at-risk communities through activities such as developing hazard risk reduction plans and training individuals in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management.

FY 2011 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Herat, Bamyán, Ghor	\$200,000
IMC (International Medical Corps)	Natural And Technological Risks	Konar, Nuristan	\$1,500,000
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,708,045
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,999,733
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, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Bamyán, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Faryab, Kabul	\$2,141,208
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
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
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
WHO	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$300,000
	Support		\$275,101
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$30,597,035
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP, World Vision, CRS	74,911 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$148,504,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$148,504,000
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
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$17,163,534
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$71,963,534
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2011			\$251,064,569

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2011.

² 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.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the US-AID website at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/