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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

July 13, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated April 6, 2010

BACKGROUND

Since 2002, natural disasters and conflict have resulted in population displacement and increased humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. Recurring natural disasters in Afghanistan include drought, floods, earthquakes, and avalanches. Damaged infrastructure, lack of basic services, and inadequate disaster response and preparedness mechanisms—results of limited government capacity, continuing conflict, and limited economic development—compound vulnerabilities in many affected communities.

In addition, frequent population movements contribute to instability, including through the loss of working-age community members to urban areas and through the addition of displaced persons and returnees to communities with scarce resources. Both recurring natural disasters and conflict between armed opposition groups and international forces have generated frequent population displacements in recent years. Approximately 319,000 people remained displaced in Afghanistan as of March 2010, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Humanitarian organizations highlight that limited access in many areas of the country, combined with the high incidence of secondary and transitory displacement, continues to undermine efforts to monitor displacement effectively and generate comprehensive data on humanitarian needs.

Despite efforts by humanitarian organizations to facilitate returns to areas of origin in western and northern Afghanistan from displaced person camps in southern Afghanistan, returnees often encounter limited livelihood opportunities and insufficient basic services in home communities. Poor or inadequate infrastructure in Afghanistan’s mountainous regions and conflict and persistent insecurity in the southern region also continue to limit humanitarian access. The absence or inconsistency of humanitarian and early recovery support in many areas of the country contributes to protracted displacement and often prevents returning populations from successfully integrating into communities of origin.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Internally Displaced Persons in Afghanistan	Approximately 319,000	UNHCR – March 2010
	Approximately 414,000	GIRoA ¹ – January 2010
Refugees in Neighboring Countries	Approximately 2.6 million	UNHCR – July 2010
Returnees to Afghanistan since 2002	Approximately 5.6 million	UNHCR – July 2010

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan	\$17,014,885
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Afghanistan.....	\$47,588,800
State/PRM³ Assistance to Afghanistan.....	\$57,100,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan.....	\$121,703,685

CURRENT SITUATION

Conflict in early 2010 in Afghanistan’s Helmand Province resulted in the displacement of approximately 27,700 people. As of the end of May, approximately one-half of the displaced population remained unable or unwilling to return to areas of origin and both displaced and returned households continued to require humanitarian assistance, according to the U.N. Office

for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian agencies also reported small-scale population displacement in Kandahar Province, where insecurity persists due to attacks on and intimidation of the civilian population by armed opposition groups. Despite insecurity and limited access, the international humanitarian community continues to coordinate relief

¹ Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA)

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

efforts in response to conflict-related humanitarian needs in the south, relying on non-governmental organization (NGO) implementing partners that work in concert with local entities to reach affected populations. The U.N. and partners have also devised contingency plans for responding to new conflict and associated humanitarian needs. In addition, OCHA reports steady improvements in expanding the presence of U.N. agencies in the southern region, while NGOs report fewer targeted attacks on staff by armed opposition groups. Humanitarian partners are also monitoring food security and health trends countrywide. Food security remains stable, with only isolated reports of poor crop performance, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). In northern Afghanistan, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a polio vaccination campaign in response to more than 183 reported cases across the border in Tajikistan.

A USAID/OFDA Senior Humanitarian Advisor based in Kabul continues to work with NGO, U.N., and international organization partners, as well as other U.S. Government (USG) offices, to assess humanitarian needs, program additional funding accordingly, and facilitate coordination.

Humanitarian Coordination

During the mid-year review of the 2010 Afghanistan Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP), U.N. agencies and NGOs evaluated unfunded projects in an attempt to identify and prioritize activities for implementation by the end of 2010. Participants at a meeting of donors, cluster leads, and humanitarian organizations in May acknowledged the challenge to conducting comprehensive needs analysis posed by the absence of baseline data. However, each cluster conducted project reviews using available information on both current needs in accessible areas and likely contingencies, as conflict in the south continues and winter approaches. Additionally, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional lead of the U.N. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Cluster visited Afghanistan during the mid-year review process to provide support to the cluster in devising its work plan, advancing contingency planning, and advocating for additional required funding.

The revised HAP requests approximately \$773 million in funding—a decrease of nearly \$100 million from the \$870.5 million requested at the beginning of 2010. As of June 25, the Afghanistan HAP remained 62 percent funded. The U.N. will present the revised HAP at the global launch of all mid-year reviews on July 14 in New York City.

USAID/OFDA has provided \$1 million to OCHA in FY 2010 to improve humanitarian coordination and information management countrywide. Due to increased conflict to date in 2010, strengthening

humanitarian coordination and information management remains a significant priority.

Humanitarian Access and Security

Humanitarian access is particularly limited in the southern region of Afghanistan, due to general insecurity and conflict between armed opposition groups and international and national military forces. However, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) indicated on July 8 that humanitarian space is slowly expanding, as armed opposition groups purportedly demonstrate increased acceptance of the work and presence of humanitarian organizations. ICRC reports expanding its presence in conflict zones and other insecure locations, even as security deteriorates further in many areas. To date in 2010, the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) reports fewer monthly security incidents involving relief workers, compared to 2009 trends. From January to March 2010, the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office reported 25 attacks against NGO staff—a decrease of 32 percent from the number of attacks recorded in the first quarter of 2009.

The security posture adopted by the U.N. on February 19 in response to the conflict in Helmand Province remains largely in effect. Agencies limit the presence of international staff in Kandahar and encourage national staff to work from their residences. However, OCHA and other U.N. agencies participated in a number of missions to the southern region in April and May. In addition, OCHA reported on July 8 that the U.N. expects to increase staffing levels, as efforts proceed to increase the safety of residences and offices in the provincial capitals and other areas in the region.

Population Movements

Helmand Province

From February 12 to 24, conflict between armed opposition groups and international and national military forces in Nad Ali District, Helmand Province, displaced nearly 4,300 families, or approximately 27,700 individuals, according to UNHCR. Displacement occurred primarily from Marjah town to the provincial capital of Lashkargah, according to UNHCR.

In Lashkargah in May, UNHCR and NGO partners assessed 2,100 remaining displaced households, 52 percent of whom reside with host families and 48 percent of whom rent accommodations. Nearly all displaced families remain unwilling to return to Marjah due to insecurity. According to the assessment team, displaced families continue to require safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Displaced individuals also cited protection concerns, including abductions, intimidation, assassinations, and the prevalent use of improvised explosive devices by armed opposition groups, as well as the occurrence of suicide bomb attacks.

Local government authorities in Marjah reported new displacement in May, according to OCHA. U.N. implementing partners verified 374 newly displaced households residing in Lashkargah, and UNHCR collaborated with other partners to collect more information on unregistered displaced persons, as well as others who may reside outside Lashkargah

Kandahar Province

In May, OCHA received reports of displacement from areas in Kandahar Province. Information on displacement remains limited; however, OCHA and UNHCR plan to conduct outreach with national NGOs operating in affected areas in order to promote information sharing on humanitarian needs and to determine the resource and support requirements for conducting rapid assessments.

The U.N. Regional Humanitarian Team in Kandahar is also finalizing contingency plans in advance of an anticipated escalation in fighting in the fall between international and national military forces and armed opposition groups, according to OCHA. Humanitarian organizations have prepositioned food and emergency relief supplies and devised a system for registering and verifying individuals displaced to Kandahar city. OCHA continues to work with military staff to improve information sharing between humanitarian and military actors, in order to facilitate timely responses to conflict-generated humanitarian needs. OCHA reported on July 8 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization–International Security Assistance Force (NATO-ISAF), Regional Command-South, allowed humanitarian organizations to review and comment on its draft Standard Operating Procedure for sharing information with the U.N. on displaced and other conflict-affected people who may require assistance.

As part of the overall humanitarian response and contingency plan in the south, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) planned to distribute food in June to meet medium-term needs. In addition, WFP and UNICEF provided food and emergency relief supplies, respectively, to 850 displaced families in and near Marjah in mid-May, according to OCHA.

Refugee Returns

As of July 7, approximately 81,000 Afghans had voluntarily returned to Afghanistan with UNHCR assistance during 2010. UNHCR reported that more than 77,000 refugees returned from Pakistan and nearly 3,600 others returned from Iran. The eastern and central regions of Afghanistan recorded the highest return rates, followed by the northern and northeastern regions. During recent months, returnees have cited economic factors and insecurity in Pakistan, as well as local improvements in security and increased employment opportunities in some provinces of Afghanistan, as key factors motivating return. Approximately 1.7 million Afghan refugees remain in

Pakistan and an additional 935,000 reside in Iran, according to UNHCR.

Since FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has supported U.N. and NGO contingency planning for conflict-related displacement, providing support to organizations for prepositioning and distributing emergency relief supplies in conflict zones. To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$3.6 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to stockpile emergency relief commodities countrywide. USAID/OFDA also provided nearly \$308,000 in FY 2009 to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to conduct trainings in 2010 for GIRoA officials on internal displacement protection issues and monitoring mechanisms.

To date in FY 2010, State/PRM has provided \$57.1 million to UNHCR, ICRC, and NGOs to assist Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran, as well as returning refugees, displaced populations, and other conflict-affected groups in Afghanistan. State/PRM supports UNHCR-led repatriation programs for refugees choosing to return to Afghanistan. Assistance to displaced populations, returnees, and other conflict-affected groups in Afghanistan includes protection assistance, livelihoods and food security support, and emergency health, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

Agriculture and Food Security

FEWS NET expects food security to remain stable throughout Afghanistan in the coming months due to an above-normal 2009 and 2010 harvest, low wheat prices, improved access to agricultural inputs, and increased cereal availability. However, FEWS NET expects isolated food insecurity in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces due to main season crop failure, poor rangeland conditions, and few local labor opportunities.

According to FEWS NET, the GIRoA Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) agricultural prospect report—released in June—noted expectations for an above-normal wheat harvest compared to the long-term average, but 10.5 percent below the 2009 bumper harvest. FEWS NET reports that MAIL report expects the country to produce 4.5 million tons of wheat, including more than 3 million tons from irrigated crops and an estimated 1.5 from rain-fed crops. After accounting for consumption, losses, seed saving, and fodder uses, MAIL expects a national deficit of 700,000 tons of wheat and 53,000 tons of rice, which commercial and food aid imports will likely cover.

Despite an above-normal harvest for most areas in Afghanistan, Chaparhar, Rodat, Kot, and Surhrud districts in Nangarhar Province and Surkano and Marwara districts in Kunar Province received below-normal rainfall, which will likely result in crop failure.

On July 2, FEWS NET reported that wheat prices are decreasing throughout the country, but are likely to increase slightly in the coming weeks due to declining commodity trade flows from the Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan region.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has provided nearly 49,360 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$47.6 million, to WFP for distribution to food-insecure populations. In 2009, WFP met the emergency food needs of approximately 4.4 million people affected by conflict and disaster, including 80,000 internally displaced persons and returnees.

With nearly \$2.8 million in additional funding from USAID/OFDA in FY 2010, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continues to respond to drought and winter emergencies in Bamyan, Ghor, and Herat provinces. CRS programming includes cash-for-work activities and voucher distributions that restore participants' assets and livelihoods and thus contribute to improved food security. USAID/OFDA also provided \$200,000 in FY 2010 to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to support coordination under the U.N. Food Security Cluster. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA contributed \$3 million to FAO to help increase certified wheat seed circulation, which contributed to improved 2009 and 2010 wheat harvests.

Health

Between June 1 and 3, WHO conducted a polio vaccination campaign in Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz,

and Balkh provinces along the Afghanistan–Tajikistan border, targeting 1.21 million children. As of June 5, health officials had reported more than 183 polio cases in Tajikistan, all of which were reported from areas near the border with Afghanistan. In addition to the vaccination campaign, WHO has established immunization posts at five border crossing points; trained 134 districts coordinators, 624 cluster supervisors, and 3,500 volunteers to conduct the house-to-house visits and vaccinate eligible children; helped Aga Khan Health Services to design a plan for monitoring difficult-to-access areas with mobile or transit clinics; and supported hospital teams in immunizing children under five years of age.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided \$1 million to WHO in support of emergency health responses and disease surveillance efforts countrywide

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Since FY 2009, the USG has provided more than \$250 million in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has contributed more than \$44.3 million to humanitarian programs, bringing total USAID/OFDA assistance since FY 2002 to more than \$204 million. USAID/OFDA assistance includes support for multi-sectoral rapid responses, following sudden onset natural disasters and conflict; integrated shelter and settlements projects in urban areas; livelihood support in areas affected by drought and rising food prices; disaster risk reduction projects in rural communities; and humanitarian coordination and information management systems.

FY 2010 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Aga Khan Foundation/FOCUS	Natural and Technological Risks; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Logistics/Relief Commodities	Baghlan and Badakhshan Provinces	\$1,163,335
Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)	Shelter and Settlements	Nangarhar Province	\$89,243
CRS	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Bamyan, Ghor, and Herat Provinces	\$2,789,697
IOM	Natural and Technological Risks; Logistics/Relief Commodities	Balkh, Badakhshan, Bamyan, Herat, Kunduz, and Kabul Provinces; Countrywide	\$3,556,100
NGO Implementing Partner	Rapid Response in Logistics/Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Khost, Herat, Laghman, Loghar, Paktya, and Nangarhar Provinces	\$3,003,886

FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$200,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics/Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Administration		\$212,624
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$17,014,885
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	49,360 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$47,588,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$47,588,800
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, Repatriation Assistance, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Assistance for Afghan Refugees, Returnees, Displaced Persons, and other Conflict-Affected Groups	Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran	\$16,900,000
UNHCR	Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, Repatriation Assistance, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Assistance for Afghan Refugees, Returnees, Displaced Persons, and other Conflict-Affected Groups	Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran	\$37,500,000
NGO Implementing Partners	Health, Livelihoods, Food Security, and Protection Assistance for Afghan Refugees and Returnees	Nangarhar, Parwan, Balkh, and Baghlan Provinces; Pakistan	\$2,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$57,100,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2010			\$121,703,685

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 13, 2010.



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