



# AFGHANISTAN – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The prolonged onset and poor performance of the October 2010 to February 2011 rain and snow season in northern Afghanistan is expected to result in a below-normal wheat crop production and poor pasture conditions, according to the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). As a result, households residing in these areas will likely experience increased food insecurity and a shortage of labor opportunities until the next harvest season in May 2012.
- In response to food security concerns, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) recently contributed 9,190 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance, valued at approximately \$20.1 million, to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) in Afghanistan, bringing USAID/FFP’s total contribution to 74,991 MT of emergency food assistance, valued at \$123.7 million, to date in FY 2011. With USAID/FFP support, WFP, in conjunction with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs), is providing emergency food assistance to an estimated 4 million food-insecure individuals in Afghanistan.
- Since April 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$6.6 million in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, bringing USAID/OFDA’s total assistance to nearly \$27.6 million to date in FY 2011. USAID/OFDA-supported FY 2011 programs are benefiting up to 2.9 million beneficiaries in Afghanistan, including up to 415,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Recently provided USAID/OFDA funding includes \$1.5 million for the International Medical Corps (IMC) to increase the capacity of local communities and organizations to prepare for and respond to the risks associated with rapid onset disasters and other acute humanitarian needs in high-risk and insecure regions of eastern Afghanistan. In addition, USAID/OFDA recently provided more than \$3.5 million to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to strengthen the ability of four local NGOs to respond to humanitarian needs in six disaster-prone Afghan provinces.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
IDPs in Afghanistan	~435,436	UNHCR <sup>1</sup> – June 2011
Refugees in Neighboring Countries	~2.7 million	UNHCR – May 2011
Returnees to Afghanistan since 2002	~5.6 million	UNHCR – June 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan	\$27,557,181
USAID/FFP Assistance to Afghanistan	\$123,700,000
State/PRM <sup>2</sup> Assistance to Afghanistan and Afghans in the Region	\$26,595,323
<b>Total USAID and State Assistance</b>	<b>\$177,852,504</b>

## 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.
- 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.

<sup>1</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

- 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.

### **Population Movements**

- As of June 2011, UNHCR reported that approximately 435,436 individuals were displaced inside Afghanistan, representing a more than 25 percent increase compared to the number of IDPs in December 2010. However, IDPs residing in urban and inaccessible areas of Afghanistan are not included in UNHCR's IDP figure; the actual number of IDPs in Afghanistan is likely significantly higher than current estimates.
- To help meet the immediate humanitarian needs of IDPs in Afghanistan, USAID/OFDA has provided \$1 million to UNHCR for emergency relief commodities and shelter materials. In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$830,000 to the U.N. Human Settlements Program (UNHABITAT) and Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) to support protection programming in Afghanistan. In total, USAID/OFDA-supported FY 2011 programs are benefiting up to 415,000 IDPs in Afghanistan.
- To date in FY 2011, State/PRM has provided nearly \$26.6 million for humanitarian assistance, livelihoods support, gender-based violence prevention, and protection interventions to assist Afghans, including returned refugees in Afghanistan, as well as Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan.

### **Agriculture and Food Security**

- FEWS NET continues to anticipate wheat crop losses for the main May to July harvest season in northern Afghanistan due to below-normal winter and spring rains, combined with above-average temperatures in April. FEWS NET reports that some households in the central highlands plan to delay crop cultivation due to abnormally dry conditions. However, wheat production in eastern Afghanistan will likely increase compared to 2010, according to FEWS NET.
- WFP reported that between April and June 2011 wheat and wheat flour prices in Afghanistan increased by 20 percent and 70 percent, respectively, compared to the same time period last year, mainly due to speculation about the upcoming wheat harvest. Rising wheat prices have offset seasonal labor wage increases; the amount of food households are able to purchase with one day's salary has decreased by 25 percent compared to the same time period in 2010.
- The below-normal rain and snow season, combined with warmer temperatures, has also resulted in poor pastoral conditions and decreased livestock prices, particularly in the northern areas, according to WFP. As a result, families are reportedly migrating to other areas in search of water for their livestock. In addition, a shortage of wage labor opportunities has resulted in increased migration to urban areas in search of economic opportunities, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$200,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to temporarily employ, through cash-for-work programs, drought- and winter-affected households in Ghor and Bamiyan provinces, ensuring increased access to cash for approximately 138,000 beneficiaries. In addition, USAID/OFDA recently provided \$350,000 to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for increased humanitarian coordination and information management support to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster—the coordinating body for food security and agriculture activities in Afghanistan.
- In addition to the recent contribution of emergency food assistance, USAID/FFP has amended its Emergency Food Security Program<sup>3</sup> Annual Program Statement to request submissions to respond to needs arising from the recent drought. Submissions were solicited from interested NGOs and public international organizations in June 2011; USAID/FFP will provide up to \$20 million to successful applicants from the June 2011 amendment period.

### **Health, Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**

- On June 25, a car bomb exploded outside a public hospital in Azra District—located approximately 25 miles east of Kabul in Afghanistan's Logar Province. The blast destroyed the district hospital, injured an estimated 120 people, and resulted in the death of at least 60 others, including hospital patients, visitors, and medical workers. Within five days of the attack, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), with support from USAID/OFDA, mobilized and transported medical supplies—sufficient for 10,000 people for three months—to Azra District, ensuring that medical

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<sup>3</sup> The Emergency Food Security Program allows disaster assistance funds to be used for cash-based food assistance, including local and regional purchase of food and other interventions, such as food voucher and cash transfer programs, to facilitate the availability of or access to food.

workers could continue treating victims and providing other health services. In addition, USAID/OFDA, through IRC, coordinated the construction of a Rub hall donated by the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to serve as a temporary medical facility while the hospital undergoing repair.

- Diarrheal diseases, such as cholera—often referred to as acute watery diarrhea (AWD)—are endemic to Afghanistan, and the number of cases increases seasonally between July and September. The majority of diarrheal diseases in Afghanistan result from the consumption of contaminated water and poor hygiene practices.
- A suspected outbreak of AWD in Zabul and Kandahar provinces has been contained, with no new cases reported as of June 22, according to WHO. Between June 15 and 22, WHO reported 270 AWD cases, including five deaths, in Kandahar Province and 105 AWD cases, including four deaths, in Zabul Province.
- In response to the suspected outbreak, USAID/OFDA, through WHO, deployed emergency medical teams and distributed cholera kits, ensuring that AWD cases were rapidly detected and treated. WHO, with USAID/OFDA support, also distributed chlorine tablets, increasing the communities’ access to safe drinking water and reducing their vulnerability to waterborne diseases, such as AWD.
- To prevent additional outbreaks in Kandahar, Zabul, and other high-risk provinces, WHO is increasing health and hygiene awareness through local radio messaging and the dissemination of health education materials. In addition, WHO plans to train more than 800 teachers, community health workers, and religious leaders in AWD prevention methods by July 30.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2.8 million to support WASH and health activities in Afghanistan, benefiting up to 820,000 beneficiaries. USAID/OFDA’s assistance to date includes more than \$1 million to UNICEF for emergency WASH activities, \$1 million to WHO for emergency health response efforts, and nearly \$900,000 to IRC to promote improved hygiene practices, construct latrines, distribute hygiene kits, and increase access to safe drinking water.
- USAID/OFDA has also provided \$2 million to UNICEF and \$300,000 to WHO in FY 2011 to support nutrition activities, including therapeutic feeding centers aimed at rapidly detecting, preventing, and treating malnutrition, targeting nearly 250,000 beneficiaries.

#### FY 2011 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
CRS	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Heart, Bamiyan, Ghor	\$200,000
IMC	Natural and Technological Risks	Konar, Nuristan	\$1,500,000
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (IMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,455,927
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,999,733
IRC	Natural and Technological Risks, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH, Shelter and Settlements, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Khost, Herat, Laghman, Loghar, Paktia, Nangarhar	\$8,572,948
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
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	\$1,000,000
WHO	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$300,000

	Support Costs		\$228,573
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN</b>			<b>\$27,557,181</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP, World Vision, CRS	74,911 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$123,700,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN</b>			<b>\$123,700,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$4,600,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran	\$19,412,000
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$2,583,323
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANS</b>			<b>\$26,595,323</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$177,852,504</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 13, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance as of July 13, 2011.

#### 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)