



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

***Afghanistan – Complex Emergency***

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 31, 2011

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated December 9, 2010.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Conflict and natural disasters continue to affect populations in southern, eastern, and northern Afghanistan. Conflict has displaced approximately 155,000 people since November 2009, according to the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). U.N. agencies expect that the number of people displaced by conflict will continue to increase due to the deteriorating security situation.
- Moderate to heavy rainfall that started in late January and continued into March may have mitigated the adverse effects of dry winter weather on wheat germination, according to USAID’s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). FEWS NET expects below-normal wheat harvest yields; however, harvest yields will likely be higher than previously forecast.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$20.7 million for activities in health, nutrition, protection, logistics and relief commodities, natural and technological risks, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), benefiting up to 1.8 million individuals, including up to 320,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>IDPs in Afghanistan</b>	Approximately 350,000	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – December 2010
<b>Refugees in Neighboring Countries</b>	Approximately 2.6 million	UNHCR – July 2010
<b>Returnees to Afghanistan since 2002</b>	Approximately 5.6 million	UNHCR – July 2010

**FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan .....</b>	<b>\$20,788,035</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Afghanistan .....</b>	<b>\$103,800,000</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>3</sup> Assistance .....</b>	<b>\$12,604,026</b>
<b>Total U.S. Government Humanitarian Assistance .....</b>	<b>\$137,192,061</b>

**CONTEXT**

- Since 2002, frequent natural disasters and conflict have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. Recurring natural disasters in Afghanistan include drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, which 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 to 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 responses in Afghanistan by supporting rapid response capacity for acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; improving humanitarian indicators and building household economic resilience; and enhancing humanitarian coordination and data collection and analysis.

***Population Movements***

- The population of conflict-affected IDPs—155,000 as of February 2011—continues to increase, according to U.N. agencies. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center reports that more than 100,000 conflict-affected individuals fled their homes in 2010. Increasing conflict in southern regions in particular has contributed to the rise in displacement.

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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

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

- By late 2010, between 5.5 and 6 million refugees had returned to Afghanistan, the majority from Pakistan and Iran. To date, returnees account for approximately 20 percent of Afghanistan's population, according to UNHCR.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$300,000 to date in FY 2011 to the U.N. Human Settlements Program (UNHABITAT) to support protection programming targeting approximately 3,500 individuals evicted from informal settlements in Kabul.
- To date in FY 2011, State/PRM has provided more than \$12.6 million for humanitarian assistance, livelihoods support, gender-based violence prevention, and protection in Afghanistan, as well as to assist Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan.

#### ***Agriculture and Food Security***

- Despite a likely increase in wheat yields resulting from above-average rainfall between January and early March 2011, FEWS NET continues to forecast above-average food needs within the next six months and below-average 2011 harvest levels due to winter dryness and reduced planting area.
- Rising food prices due to trade barriers and fuel price hikes in Pakistan and a drought in China have created the potential for increased food insecurity in non-wheat growing regions, particularly in central and southern Afghanistan. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), imported wheat flour prices have increased 18 to 38 percent as compared to March 2010 prices.
- With warmer spring and summer weather, military operations and conflict may increase, in keeping with previous seasonal conflict patterns in Afghanistan. As a result, agro-pastoralists in conflict-affected southern provinces may experience moderate to high food insecurity through loss of livelihoods and displacement during this period, according to FEWS NET.
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$5 million to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for natural disaster risk reduction and livelihoods recovery, including a cash-for-work program using *ashar*—the traditional Afghan volunteerism concept—as a model. In total, IRC livelihoods activities target approximately 56,000 individuals.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/FFP has provided 65,811 metric tons (MT) of food assistance, valued at approximately \$103.8 million, to Afghanistan. USAID/FFP programs support food security by targeting IDPs and other vulnerable populations for general food distribution and livelihoods support.

#### ***Health and Nutrition***

- WFP reported in mid-March that nearly one third of Afghans are undernourished. Populations in central and southeast Afghanistan in particular may be at an increased risk of food insecurity in 2011 due to conflict and poverty, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- In response to urgent nutrition needs, USAID/OFDA provided \$2 million to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and \$300,000 to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) in FY 2011 for nutrition activities, including early detection and prevention of malnutrition through active screening, as well as therapeutic feeding units to treat those diagnosed with malnutrition, benefiting nearly 250,000 individuals.
- In addition, \$1 million in FY 2011 USAID/OFDA funding supports WHO to provide health services to approximately 520,000 crisis-affected individuals.

#### ***Shelter and Settlements and Emergency Relief Commodities***

- Severe winter weather was followed by flooding in early spring in 2011. Below-average temperatures persisted into early March and were acute in the central highlands area, according to FEWS NET, potentially extending the need for winterization relief commodities.
- Flash floods and heavy snowfall resulted in the death of 25 people, injured 53 others, and damaged approximately 3,000 houses in Parwan, Hirat, Wardak, and Day Kundi provinces in February, according to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority.
- Nearly \$5 million in FY 2011 USAID/OFDA funding supports International Organization for Migration (IOM) shelter and emergency relief commodity programming targeting more than 210,000 individuals, including IDPs and other vulnerable populations. To facilitate rapid response efforts, IOM pre-positioned materials throughout the country prior to the onset of winter.
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided \$3 million to the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service, operated by WFP, to provide air services for the humanitarian community to facilitate access in the complex and insecure operating environment in Afghanistan. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million in FY 2011 to UNHCR for emergency relief commodities support targeting 60,000 IDP beneficiaries.

**WASH**

- Frequent flooding and significant populations residing in informal IDP camps countrywide have strained the limited capacity of WASH services and facilities in Afghanistan. As of October 2010, summer flash flooding left more than 200,000 people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, according to OCHA. FEWS NET notes that the risk of spring flooding persists as winter snow melts with the warming weather.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided \$1 million to UNICEF to support WASH activities, including water point rehabilitation and hygiene promotion, targeting an estimated 100,000 beneficiaries.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2011**

<b>FY 2011</b>			
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Information Management and Mine Action programs (IMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,455,927
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,999,733
IRC	Natural and Technological Risks and Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Khost, Paktia	\$4,998,457
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$650,000
UNHABITAT	Protection	Kabul	\$300,000
UNHCR	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition and WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WHO	Health and Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,300,000
	Administration		\$83,918
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$20,788,035</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP, World Vision, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	65,811 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$103,800,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$103,800,000</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	\$7,000,000
NGO Implementing Partners	Protection and Livelihoods	Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar	\$1,004,026
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$12,604,026</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$137,192,061</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or obligated amounts as of March 31, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> 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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- 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:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - 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)