



AFGHANISTAN – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Heavy seasonal rains and snowmelt—exacerbated by above-average snowfall during the 2011/2012 winter season—have resulted in localized flooding in nearly all of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces since March. Between March and May, flooding in eight northern provinces killed approximately 160 people and affected an estimated 22,000 families, according to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). Flood events in June have resulted in at least 32 additional deaths, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Part of the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) strategy for responding to conflict and natural disasters, such as floods, in Afghanistan is to pre-position relief supplies in order to facilitate a rapid response to identified humanitarian needs. In line with this strategy, USAID/OFDA’s partners have utilized pre-positioned emergency relief commodities strategically located throughout the country to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from recent flooding.
- USAID/OFDA’s strategy in Afghanistan also includes enhancing humanitarian coordination, information gathering, and analysis of emergency data. Accordingly, USAID/OFDA recently provided \$1 million to OCHA to improve coordination and information sharing within the humanitarian community. In total, USAID/OFDA has now provided more than \$3 million for humanitarian coordination and information management in Afghanistan.
- On June 11, two earthquakes measuring magnitudes 5.4 and 5.7 struck Baghlan Province in northern Afghanistan, resulting in 63 deaths, according to ANDMA. The majority of deaths occurred in Burkah District, where an earthquake-induced landslide buried several homes.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
Total Conflict-Induced IDPs ¹ in Afghanistan	~408,000	UNHCR ² – April 2012
Afghans Displaced to Neighboring Countries	~5.1 million	UNHCR – April 2012
Returnees to Afghanistan since 2002	5.7 million	U.N. – December 2011

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ³	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan	\$23,216,311
USAID/FFP ⁴ Assistance to Afghanistan	\$69,499,791
State/PRM ⁵ Assistance to Afghanistan and Afghans in the Region	\$65,357,547
Total USAID and State Assistance	\$158,073,649

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, according to OCHA. In recent years, drought has been the most frequent natural disaster in Afghanistan; since 2000, the country has experienced eight droughts resulting in diminished agricultural production. Between January 1 and June 15, 2012, natural disasters—primarily flooding, avalanches, and extreme winter conditions—killed 348 people, affected nearly 225,000 others, and damaged or destroyed more than 20,000 homes throughout the country.

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

² Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

³ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

⁴ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁵ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

- Repeated and protracted displacement places additional pressure on host communities' limited 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.

Floods

- In northern Afghanistan's Sar-e Pul Province, flooding beginning in mid-May impacted all seven districts and killed at least 44 people, affected approximately 27,500 others, and damaged or destroyed more than 5,150 homes, according to the Afghan Red Crescent Society. Floodwaters also damaged transportation and power infrastructure, destroyed agricultural land, and killed livestock, impacting livelihoods and food security in affected areas. In response, USAID/OFDA partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) provided emergency relief commodities—including blankets, plastic sheeting, mattresses, and household, hygiene, and emergency shelter kits—to flood-affected individuals throughout Sar-e Pul Province. In addition, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is distributing hygiene kits, increasing access to safe drinking water, and supporting hygiene promotion training through an existing USAID/OFDA grant.
- ANDMA and OCHA are coordinating response efforts in flood-affected areas, and various U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including USAID/OFDA partners, are providing assistance to address humanitarian needs. OCHA reports that humanitarian organizations are meeting most flood-related needs through existing mechanisms and pre-positioned emergency relief supplies. However, insecurity and flood damage to transportation infrastructure have impacted humanitarian access to some affected areas of the country.
- To meet food needs resulting from the floods, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has provided emergency food assistance to affected populations, benefiting approximately 116,000 people through its drought Emergency Operation (EMOP).
- With USAID/OFDA support, U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) mobile medical teams have responded to the health needs of vulnerable communities throughout the harsh 2011/2012 winter and subsequent flooding season. To date, the mobile teams have treated approximately 300,000 people affected by severe winter weather or flooding, including displaced persons and others in heavily flood-affected Sar-e Pul Province.

Insecurity and Displacement

- Conflict and insecurity displaced approximately 86,000 individuals between January and April in Afghanistan, according to OCHA—representing the most recorded new displacement to occur during any four-month period over the past decade in the country. Despite a reduction in security incidents during the first quarter of 2012 compared with the same period in 2011, conflict-related displacement increased during this period compared with last year. In April alone, more than 26,000 people were newly displaced by conflict.
- As of April 2012, U.N. agencies estimated that approximately 408,000 people, out of a total population of approximately 24.9 million, remained internally displaced as a result of conflict in Afghanistan. OCHA reports that the majority of displaced populations are residing in Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces.

Food Security

- In April, WFP, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, and the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) conducted a pre-crop assessment in all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. The assessment found that the 2012 cereal harvest will likely be above-average due to adequate rainfall during the spring season. However, the harsh winter has reduced planting areas, slowed crop growth, and delayed the harvest in some areas.
- OCHA reports that populations affected by the 2010/2011 winter drought and recent flooding, as well as those recently displaced, may continue to experience difficulty obtaining staple crops and will likely require sustained humanitarian relief and early recovery assistance.
- Since launching its EMOP in response to the 2010/2011 winter drought, WFP has reached more than 2.3 million beneficiaries in 14 Afghan provinces through food distributions and vouchers. WFP assistance includes nearly 45,000 metric tons (MT) of food—representing approximately 70 percent of planned assistance—and more than \$830,000 in vouchers. WFP plans to complete all general food distributions in the coming weeks to avoid competing

with local harvests; however, blanket supplementary feeding for children between six months and five years of age, voucher distribution, and some food-for-work activities will continue.

- In May, USAID/FFP approved the contribution of an additional 16,410 MT of Title II emergency food assistance—valued at approximately \$20 million—for WFP’s Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation in Afghanistan. USAID/FFP’s contribution will enable WFP to continue providing food assistance to populations affected by conflict and natural disasters in Afghanistan. To date in FY 2012, USAID/FFP has contributed nearly \$61 million to WFP to provide approximately 47,680 MT of Title II emergency food commodities. USAID/FFP has also contributed approximately \$8.9 million to three other implementing partners for the distribution of locally and regionally procured food and cash-for-work activities.

Nutrition

- Between March and April, the total number of children under the age of five with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted to community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programs increased by approximately 54 percent, according to OCHA. During the first four months of 2012, nearly 41,000 acutely malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women were admitted to CMAM programs. This number includes approximately 12,500 children under the age of five suffering from SAM.
- The Nutrition Cluster—the coordinating body for nutrition activities in Afghanistan—has reported that the 2011/2012 severe winter decreased CMAM participation in northern and northeastern areas of the country, particularly in Badakhshan Province.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$2 million to UNICEF for emergency nutrition interventions that primarily benefit children under five years of age, as well as pregnant and lactating women. USAID/OFDA-funded activities include community-level screening for malnutrition, CMAM implementation, monitoring of the nutrition situation in at-risk areas, and strengthening the capacity of health workers.

WASH

- Between January and April, the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster reached more than 48,000 people through safe drinking water interventions and approximately 38,000 people through hygiene and sanitation promotion activities, according to OCHA. WASH Cluster assistance benefited populations affected by drought, floods, and conflict during this time period.
- OCHA reports that a lack of available Consolidated Appeal (CAP) funding has hindered the WASH response in Afghanistan in 2012. The WASH Cluster is utilizing carryover funding from the 2011 CAP and other sources to meet WASH-related humanitarian needs in the country. As of June 26, the WASH Cluster had received approximately 37 percent—or approximately \$10 million—of its CAP funding request of nearly \$27 million.
- In May, USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million to UNICEF for WASH activities that benefit conflict-affected populations, IDPs and returnees, people with limited humanitarian access, and those affected by natural disasters. Activities include the rehabilitation of water points, hygiene and sanitation education and promotion activities, and the provision of WASH supplies to affected populations.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,998,075
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$7,498,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risk Reduction, WASH	Badghis and Helmand Provinces	\$2,444,515
SC/US	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Balkh and Bamyán Provinces	\$2,623,531

Tearfund	ERMS	Jowzjan Province	\$399,696
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WHO	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
ZOA	ERMS	Sar-e Pul Province	\$749,863
	Administrative Support		\$302,631
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$23,216,311
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	47,680 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$60,596,500
Other Implementing Partners	Locally and Regionally Procured Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$8,903,291
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$69,499,791
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran	\$47,600,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$17,000,000
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$757,547
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$65,357,547
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2012			\$158,073,649

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 June 29, 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 or afg.humanitarianresponse.info.

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