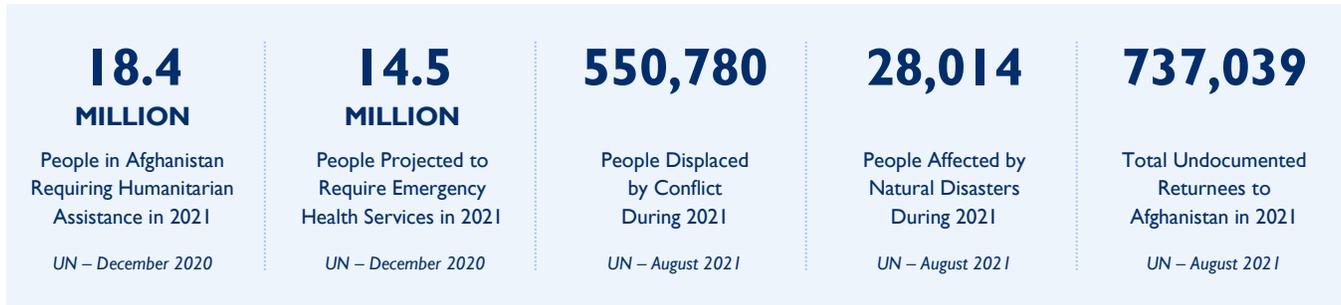


Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 20, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Escalated violence in recent months has exacerbated humanitarian needs among populations already adversely affected by conflict and natural hazards.
- At least 17,600 people have fled to Kabul since early July, amid thousands of displacements across the country.
- Humanitarian agencies are responding to the needs of IDPs while adjusting to a fluid security and operating environment.
- USG humanitarian partners continue to deliver food, health, protection, and other forms of assistance.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA¹ \$157,500,000

State/PRM² \$108,882,795

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

Total \$266,382,795

¹USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

²U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Tens of Thousands of People Displaced as Taliban Capture Kabul and Provincial Capitals

The Taliban took control of Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul on August 15, following the successive capture of 26 of the country's 34 provincial capitals since August 6, international media report. Since early July, escalated clashes between Afghan National Security Forces and the Taliban and general insecurity have resulted in significant displacement, with thousands of people fleeing to Kabul and other large cities in Afghanistan. Humanitarian agencies have verified that approximately 17,600 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who arrived in Kabul between July 1 and August 15 are in need of humanitarian assistance, and some are sheltering in open areas, the UN reports. The current total of displaced individuals in the city is not confirmed but is likely higher; the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that more than 120,000 Afghans fled to Kabul from rural areas and provincial towns from January 1 to August 15. The increase in clashes and violence also resulted in civilian casualties in many locations; the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan recorded more than 1,000 civilian casualties in Helmand, Herat, and Kandahar provinces alone between early July and early August. Bridges, health facilities, houses, shops, and other civilian infrastructure has also been damaged in the violence.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on the Taliban and other groups in Afghanistan to adhere to international humanitarian law and uphold human rights in the country, amid reports in recent weeks of increasing civilian casualties, rights violations against women and girls, and the use and destruction of houses, health facilities, and schools by armed groups. The UN and other humanitarian agencies expressed commitment to stay in Afghanistan and deliver assistance, and relief organizations continue to carry out response activities in various locations. While some UN personnel have evacuated, the majority of UN staff remain in Afghanistan to continue the humanitarian response.

Clashes and Insecurity Exacerbate Health Needs Across Afghanistan

Escalating conflict in recent months has resulted in increasing numbers of trauma injuries among Afghans, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. During July, the UN agency recorded approximately 13,900 conflict-related trauma cases at 70 WHO-supported health facilities, compared to approximately 4,000 cases in July 2020. Ongoing violence has strained Afghanistan's health system during the past year amid shortages of medicines and essential medical supplies and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. WHO and its partner organizations will support the provision of health care across Afghanistan, including through the dispatch of medical supplies, training of health staff, and deployment of mobile health teams. On August 17, WHO delivered trauma kits to a major hospital in Kabul sufficient to support 500 surgical procedures for trauma patients and supplied essential medicines sufficient to support 10,000 people in Kabul and 6,000 people in Helmand Province for three months.

Humanitarian Agencies Continue to Deliver Assistance to Conflict-Affected Populations

Relief organizations across Afghanistan, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, remain committed to staying and delivering assistance to people in need, while adjusting operations to maintain the safety and security of staff and local populations. Relief agencies had provided assistance—including cash assistance, food, health services, household items, and water and sanitation support—to nearly 48,600 recently displaced individuals in Bamyan, Daykundi, and Kabul provinces as of August 15, the UN reports. Humanitarian actors also reached nearly 19,400 conflict- and flood-affected people with

assistance during early August. In the southern provinces of Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul, after a temporary suspension of activities due to insecurity, humanitarian agencies resumed operations on August 15 and are preparing to provide cash, food, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to approximately 1,400 IDPs in the coming days. The UN reports that relief activities remained suspended in northeastern provinces, including Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, and Takhar, as of mid-August.

Although insecurity continues to challenge operations, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) maintains access to most of the country and continues delivery of emergency food assistance to IDPs in rural and urban areas, reaching 46,000 IDPs with support between August 1 and 5. The UN agency delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5.5 million people from January to June, including people newly displaced by fighting, and plans to scale up assistance to reach a total 13.9 million people in Afghanistan during 2021.

State/PRM partner UNHCR remains operational in nearly three-quarters of all districts in Afghanistan, though insecurity has reduced access to IDPs and communities in some parts of the country in recent weeks. The UN agency and partners have reached more than 230,000 people countrywide with cash, food, hygiene items, shelter, cash, and other types of assistance in 2021 to date. UNHCR has also conducted protection monitoring activities across 34 provinces. Across the region, UNHCR is pre-positioning relief commodities for potential arrivals of refugees from Afghanistan.

KEY FIGURES



3.5 Million

People targeted with USAID/BHA-supported WFP food and nutrition assistance



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Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The USG supports the delivery of life-saving emergency food assistance across Afghanistan, providing vulnerable populations with locally, regionally, and internationally procured in-kind food assistance; cash transfers for food; and food vouchers. With USAID/BHA support, WFP has also expanded food assistance to support populations who have experienced reduced access to income-generating activities and staple foods in urban communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provides households with seeds and livestock feed to bolster agricultural livelihoods recovery and resilience. USAID/BHA also supports coordination and capacity-building activities among food security actors in Afghanistan to strengthen humanitarian response efforts.

PROTECTION

Insecurity continues to generate serious protection concerns in Afghanistan. With support from State/PRM, UNHCR provides protection assistance to refugees and refugee returnees, IDPs, and other vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. Additionally, USG non-governmental organization (NGO) and UN partners support mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs, including individual counseling, activities to support development of coping skills, and safe healing and learning spaces for children. USG partners also implement child protection activities and services for gender-based violence survivors, provide legal assistance to returning

refugees to access documentation, and integrate MHPSS and other protection measures into education, health, and nutrition programming.



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Number of USG implementing partners supporting health programming

HEALTH

The USG is supporting 9 partners to implement life-saving health activities across Afghanistan to improve community health awareness, bolster outpatient consultation efforts, and provide support to essential health services. USG partners aim to increase equitable access to and utilization of health services among IDPs, conflict-affected persons, and vulnerable host communities by supporting hospitals and clinics and deploying mobile health teams to deliver emergency and primary health care services, as well as conducting trainings for local community health workers and health care professionals, providing essential medicines, and supporting vaccination campaigns.



5

Number of USG implementing partners supporting shelter programming

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

Shelter needs among populations in Afghanistan remain significant due to conflict and natural disasters such as floods and landslides, which frequently result in displacement and damage or destruction of houses. USG partners provide emergency shelter for newly displaced people, as well as shelter repair kits, transitional shelter, and multipurpose cash assistance to support the housing needs of IDP and host community populations. Partners also conduct trainings to improve preparedness for natural hazards.



3

Number of USG implementing partners supporting livelihoods programming

LIVELIHOODS AND EDUCATION

With USG funding, partners deliver livelihoods programming and skills training to support sustainable refugee reintegration and boost opportunities for vulnerable host community populations; activities include courses to increase literacy, business knowledge, and skills development. State/PRM partners support returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities in Afghanistan by providing access to skills training and adult literacy courses, in addition to access to education for Afghan refugees and host community children in Pakistan. Partners also work to ensure IDP and returning refugee children have access to learning spaces and accelerated learning programs to help children prepare for enrollment in formal schools, as well as support initiatives to improve infrastructure in schools within host communities.



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Provinces reached with support for COVID-19 preparedness and response

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

In FY 2021, the USG continues to support UN agencies and NGO partners to conduct activities dedicated to preventing, mitigating, and responding to the spread of COVID-19 in Afghanistan. USG partners have conducted COVID-19 awareness campaigns, trained community health workers on infection prevention and control measures, and expanded delivery of WASH services. USG partner-supported mobile health teams also conducted outpatient consultations, provided referrals and transportation to isolation and treatment facilities, and advised personnel on proper COVID-19 protocols. UN partners have also provided hygiene kits and medical

equipment to frontline health workers, deployed mobile health teams, and supported risk communication and community engagement activities. In response to secondary effects of the pandemic—such as increased food insecurity and protection risks—USG partners are delivering food and multipurpose cash assistance, increasing provision of protection services to affected populations, and supporting efforts to increase livelihoods opportunities for returning refugees. In addition, USG implementing partners have adapted some activities in response to the pandemic as they continue to address other humanitarian needs.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Ongoing insecurity and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. The UN estimates that more than 4.9 million people remain in protracted displacement in Afghanistan, while natural disasters, such as avalanches and floods, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year. In 2021, drought and the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are further exacerbating humanitarian needs.
- On October 25, 2020, the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires to Afghanistan, Ambassador Ross Wilson, re-declared a disaster for FY 2021 for Afghanistan due to the ongoing complex emergency.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide, Balkh, Farah, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Konar, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Wardak, Zabul	\$12,500,000
	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000
FAO	Agriculture	Badghis, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Herat, Jowzjan, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Zabul	\$6,000,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Health, Shelter	Badakhshan, Badghis, Daykundi, Ghor, Herat, Kandahar, Nuristan	\$1,200,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	DRRPP, HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide; Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia	\$8,000,000
UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	HCIMA, Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$16,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$800,000

WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$112,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$157,500,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Health, ERMS, Protection	Countrywide	\$24,400,000
IOM	Health	Countrywide	\$2,900,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Protection, Logistics Support, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$30,400,000
		Pakistan	\$25,400,000
		Regional	\$24,300,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,482,795
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$108,882,795
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$266,382,795

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 11, 2021.

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 disaster responses around the world can be found at 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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work