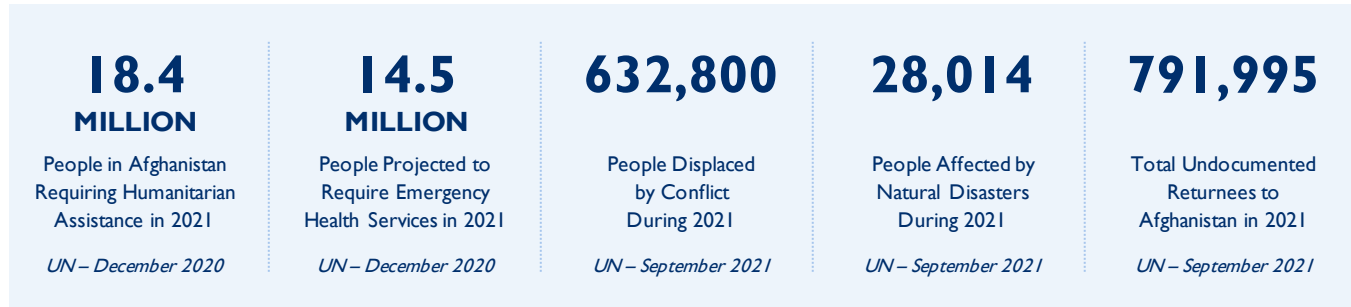




Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The UN issues a flash appeal requesting \$606 million to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of 11 million people through December.
- The USG provides \$64 million to humanitarian partners to deliver multi-sector assistance across the country.
- A UN appraisal indicates that economic instability could result in widespread poverty in Afghanistan by mid-2022.
- UNHCR records the arrival of more than 22,000 Afghans in neighboring countries during 2021, with no major refugee flows in recent weeks.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Afghanistan Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$197,327,430
	State/PRM ²	\$132,665,720
Total		\$329,993,150

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

¹USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
²U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

UN Issues Flash Appeal Requesting \$606 Million to Respond to Immediate Needs of 11 Million People, Highlighting Increased Humanitarian Need

The UN and humanitarian partners issued a flash appeal on September 5 requesting funding to immediately fill existing, urgent response gaps within the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and address the increased level of humanitarian need across Afghanistan that has emerged in recent months. Humanitarian agencies estimate that as of early September, an additional 2 million people across Afghanistan required humanitarian assistance. An estimated 18.4 million people, or approximately one-half of the country's population, were in need of assistance in January. The appeal requests \$606.2 million—of which approximately two-thirds are required for prioritized HRP funding gaps and one-third is for new funding requirements—to provide prioritized multi-sector assistance to 11 million people from September to December.

Relief agencies report the humanitarian situation has worsened in Afghanistan during 2021, with increased conflict-related displacements inside the country; a higher rate of returns of undocumented Afghans from Iran and Pakistan; severe drought, which is expected to contribute to below-average crop harvests and further worsen food insecurity in the coming months; increased rates of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—among children ages five years and younger; and growing gaps in health system coverage to address health needs, including for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) prevention and response. With the upcoming onset of winter, many households will also require additional assistance to mitigate adverse health, food security, and livelihood impacts of the harsh weather conditions. Constraints in transporting goods into Afghanistan in recent months have also increased operational costs for humanitarian organizations amid the immediate risk of breaks in the supply of critical relief commodities due to funding shortfalls and import clearance delays.

USG Provides Nearly \$64 Million to Support Afghanistan Humanitarian Response

UN Secretary-General António Guterres convened a conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on September 13 to brief high-level government officials on the situation in Afghanistan and request support to meet the requirements of the humanitarian flash appeal. At the conference, the U.S. Government (USG) announced nearly \$64 million in additional funding to the Afghanistan humanitarian response, including nearly \$40 million from USAID/BHA and nearly \$24 million from State/PRM. The additional funding brings total USG assistance to humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan to approximately \$330 million in FY 2021.

With this funding, USG non-governmental organization (NGO) partners will expand the reach of agriculture, food, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance across several provinces of Afghanistan. Activities include providing mental health and psychosocial support services, delivering nutrition services, providing training and resources to support livelihoods, and rehabilitating water and sanitation infrastructure. USAID/BHA is also supporting the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to mitigate and respond to the spread of COVID-19 in Afghanistan, coordinate humanitarian response efforts to support continued delivery of essential health services, and deliver essential medicines, medical equipment, and other health supplies.

UN Warns Economic Instability in Afghanistan Could Result in Universal Poverty Without Intervention

Following the collapse of the Afghan civilian government and subsequent freezing of Afghanistan's

international financial assets and suspension of bilateral development funding, the economy has experienced a number of impacts, including the further inflation of the Afghan currency, widespread reduction in cash availability, significant increases in the prices of staple foods and fuel, interruptions in livelihood activities, and the loss of funding to support the provision of basic health services, payment of civil servant salaries, and importation of essential items such as food, fuel, and medicines. Through a rapid economic appraisal, the UN Development Program assessed that Afghanistan's real gross domestic product (GDP) could contract in the range of 3.6 to 13.2 percent by June 2022 if current conditions persist. In the worst-case scenario, a 13 percent decrease in GDP could result in a 25 percent increase in the poverty rate, placing up to 97 percent of the population below the poverty line. The UN is calling for the international community to determine responsible means of restoring monetary flows to Afghanistan to avert an economic breakdown. While increased funding for humanitarian assistance may fill some immediate gaps in basic service provision, a broader approach to ensure continued service delivery is critical.

Humanitarian Access Impediments Increase Amid Conflict in August

Relief agencies recorded nearly 240 incidents affecting humanitarian access in Afghanistan in August during the height of recent fighting. The Taliban was responsible for nearly 200 of the reported access incidents, primarily occurring as it captured most areas of the country. Approximately half of all incidents involved violence or threats against humanitarian staff, assets, and facilities, including Taliban fighters occupying and utilizing humanitarian buildings during their advance into Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul and other major cities in early August. Later in the month, Taliban members frequently conducted searches of humanitarian offices, seized humanitarian vehicles, and asked NGO staff for project details and staff and asset lists. Additionally, Taliban fighters threatened and intimidated UN and NGO staff through phone calls, letters, and house searches, and interfered with humanitarian activities by asking NGOs to register programs with the group and stop female staff from working. The UN and the humanitarian community continue to advocate for the guaranteed safety and security of humanitarian staff and access to all people in need, as well as freedom of movement for all humanitarian personnel.

UNHCR Records 22,100 Afghan Arrivals in Neighboring Countries in 2021

Approximately 22,100 Afghans arrived in neighboring countries seeking asylum between January 1 and September 8, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UN agency recorded the majority of arrivals in Pakistan and Iran, the two countries hosting the largest number of Afghan refugees. Most recently arrived individuals who were interviewed by UNHCR reported leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. The UN agency expects the total number of Afghans in neighboring countries requiring international protection assistance is likely higher. More than 2.2 million registered Afghan refugees, as well as approximately 3 million Afghans who are undocumented or under another status of concern to UNHCR, are currently sheltering in Iran and Pakistan; an additional 10,700 registered Afghan refugees are in Tajikistan, UNHCR reports. While large influxes of Afghans into neighboring countries have not been reported in recent weeks, UNHCR continues to prepare for a potential scale up of the regional refugee response.

With support from State/PRM and other donors, UNHCR continues to provide emergency assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan and was operating in approximately two-thirds of the country's districts as of early September. From August 1 to September 7, the UN agency supported approximately 115,000 IDPs with multisector assistance, including cash, hygiene commodities, tents, and other essential items. UNHCR also continues protection activities in Afghanistan and neighboring countries to support IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers, including border monitoring, case management, and psychosocial support services.

KEY FIGURES



3.5 Million

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



11

Number of USG implementing partners conducting protection interventions



10

Number of USG implementing partners supporting health programming

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, the UN World Food Program (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) and NGOs provide 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

With support from State/PRM, UNHCR provides protection assistance to refugees and refugee returnees, IDPs, and other vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. Additionally, USG 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 family services, provide legal assistance to returning refugees to access documentation, and integrate MHPSS and other protection measures into education, health, and nutrition programming.

HEALTH

The USG is supporting ten 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. USG assistance supports hospitals and clinics and enables the deployment of mobile health teams to deliver emergency and primary health care services, conduct trainings for local community health workers and health care professionals, provide essential medicines, and support vaccination campaigns. Additionally, USG funding supports WHO to coordinate emergency health response activities across the country, support the continuation of essential health services, and ensure continued supply of critical health and medical commodities into the country.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The USG continues to support UN 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 have also conducted outpatient consultations, provided referrals and transportation to isolation and treatment facilities, and advised personnel on proper COVID-19 protocols. Additionally, UN partners have 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 (MPCA), increasing provision of protection services, and supporting efforts to increase livelihoods opportunities for returning refugees.



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 MPCA 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.

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.
- The Taliban seized Afghanistan’s capital city of Kabul on August 15, 2021, following the successive capture of several provincial capitals and territory in early August. Following the collapse of the Government of Afghanistan, economic and political instability has resulted in the deterioration of basic service provision across the country, increased prices of staple foods and fuel, reduced household purchasing power, and other developments that constrain the ability of Afghan households to meet basic needs.
- In late August, the USG activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the USG response to humanitarian needs generated by the crisis in Afghanistan and a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to support the DART.
- On October 25, 2020, the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires to Afghanistan, Ambassador Ross Wilson, redeclared 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 (IPs)	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide, Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Bamyan, Daykundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Konar, Kunduz, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Sar-e Pul, Takhar, Uruzgan, Wardak, Zabul	\$47,000,000
FAO	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 (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$800,000
WHO	HCIMA, Health	Countrywide	\$5,300,000

WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$112,000,000
	Program Support		\$27,430
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$197,327,430
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Health, ERMS, Protection	Countrywide	\$30,054,998
		Pakistan	\$8,025,536
International Labor Organization	ERMS	Countrywide	\$1,128,233
IOM	Health	Countrywide	\$2,900,000
	COVID-19 Emergency Response	Pakistan	\$400,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Protection, Logistics Support, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$34,100,000
		Pakistan	\$27,300,000
		Regional	\$27,300,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,456,953
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$132,665,720
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$329,993,150

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 13, 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](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)