

and western regions; \$1 million to SFL to improve winter access in the western area; and \$2.5 million to ACTED to improve winter access in the northeast, including through the Salang Tunnel. USAID/OFDA also provided UN Habitat with \$382,850 to support solid waste removal in urban centers.

From October through December 2001, USAID/OFDA airlifted from its stockpiles in Maryland and Pisa, Italy approximately 55,000 blankets, 2.7 million sq. ft. of plastic sheeting, 10,000 kitchen sets, 200 MT of high energy biscuits, one MT of sugar, and 10 emergency health kits with sufficient medical supplies in each to treat 10,000 people for three months. USAID/OFDA also locally purchased and transported 250,000 blankets and 350,000 wheat flour bags. The locally purchased and airlifted relief commodities were consigned to UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM for distribution. Overall, USAID/OFDA provided \$4.8 million in procurement, airlift, and transport support for relief operations in Afghanistan.

USAID/OFDA further supported logistics with \$2.7 million to UN OCHA for coordination of humanitarian assistance programs countrywide, \$1.6 million to AirServ International to provide humanitarian air transport, \$49,902 to CWS for transport of non-food relief items, and \$2.5 million in operational field support to the DART.

USAID/OFDA contributed \$6 million to WFP for the local purchase of 15,000 MT of emergency food assistance and \$12.2 million in support of overall WFP food delivery, air services, logistics, and equipment. USAID/FFP provided 282,870 MT of P.L. 480 Title II wheat and complementary emergency food assistance to WFP, valued at \$159.4 million. USDA contributed 79,600 MT of Section 416(b) surplus wheat to WFP, valued at \$38.7 million. DOD airdropped 2,423,700 humanitarian daily rations (HDRs) at a cost of \$50.9 million. USAID/OTI provided \$11.2 million to IOM for community reconstruction and media programs, \$5.4 million to RONCO for a small grants program



Funded by USAID/OFDA, CARE provided potable water and latrines to residents in central and southern Afghanistan during FY 2002 (photo by Tom Dolan, USAID/OFDA).

and operational support, \$3.5 million to UNDP in support of the Afghan Interim Administration and the *Loya Jirga* process, \$1.1 million to Internews in support of journalist training, and \$436,753 to Voice of America in support of media programming.

State/PRM provided \$63.3 million to UNHCR, \$21.1 million to ICRC, \$7.8 million to IOM, and \$4 million to the IFRC in support of programs serving Afghan refugees, returnees, and the internally displaced. State/PRM provided \$3.1 million to UN OCHA and \$500,000 to UNDP in support of

emergency coordination and preparedness, and provided \$6 million in support of WFP logistics and operations. State/PRM provided \$1 million to WHO in support of basic health for returning Afghans, and \$8 million to UNICEF in support of education and water and sanitation programs. State/PRM also provided \$21.7 million to NGOs and other agencies for Afghan refugee, returnee, and internally displaced support programs.

The U.S. Department of State's Humanitarian Demining Program provided \$3.3 million to HALO

Revitalizing Afghan Communities Through a Longer-Term USAID/OFDA Vision

After September 11, 2001, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios announced a five-point assistance strategy for Afghanistan to: 1) reduce death rates; 2) minimize population movements; 3) lower and then stabilize food prices; 4) ensure aid reaches those for whom it is intended; and 5) begin developmental relief programs. Incorporating Administrator Natsios' strategy, USAID/OFDA, working through its DART in Kabul, intensified efforts to address emergency needs precipitated by the ongoing civil war and four years of drought. During the winter of 2001-2002, an unprecedented humanitarian response providing emergency food, water, shelter, blankets, and medical assistance succeeded in averting a famine and significantly reduced the suffering of the most vulnerable Afghans.

However, USAID quickly determined that it was imperative not just to meet the immediate emergency

needs of Afghans, but also to break the spiral of vulnerability and address the underlying causes. The long-term effects of a prolonged drought were having a much deeper and more complex impact on Afghan communities than relief supplies alone could alleviate. A broader and more integrated approach was necessary. As a result, in an effort to improve understanding of these impacts and to better target USG assistance, Administrator Natsios commissioned the Feinstein International Famine Center at Tufts University to conduct an in-depth assessment of affected rural communities from January to May 2002.

The long-term effects of a prolonged drought were having a much deeper and more complex impact on Afghan communities than relief supplies alone could alleviate.

The four-person assessment team conducted focus group interviews with more than 1,000 Afghans in 13 provinces in northern, central, southern, and western Afghanistan to analyze the reasons for such a high degree of vulnerability to food insecurity. The team concluded that there were four primary food insecurity factors: 1) poor diet, 2) depleted assets, 3) high debt, and 4) insufficient water supplies. To combat these interwoven factors, the assessment team recommended measures such as better targeted food assistance to rural areas, improving roads to increase access, repair of water

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An Afghani woman removes bread from an oven in a Kabul bakery as part of a cash-for-work program funded by USAID/OFDA (photo by Sue McIntyre, USAID/OFDA).

Trust, \$2 million to RONCO, \$1 million to the U.N. Mine Action Program, and \$700,000 to UNICEF in support of demining and mine awareness programs.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$114,402,834

Other USG Assistance.....\$416,915,111

Total USG Assistance\$531,317,945

“Revitalizing Afghan Communities,” continued systems for drinking sources and agricultural production, and funding of cash-for-work programs to relieve the enormous personal burdens of debt. USAID, including USAID/OFDA, was already implementing many of these recommendations. The final assessment report confirmed the appropriateness of USAID’s strategy to focus on restoring rural productivity and livelihoods.

Following the team’s findings, USAID/OFDA expanded its support of cash-for-work activities, achieving several parallel results including: the provision of emergency income to vulnerable households; a decrease in food insecurity; improvements in agricultural production; the stimulation of local economies and trade; and improved community infrastructure, such as market roads, schools, wells, irrigation systems, and mills. By August 2002, USAID/OFDA funding had supported more than 4,000 small rehabilitation projects, including repairs to approximately 2,600 km of roads, 1,500 wells and irrigation systems, and more than 100 schools and hospitals, benefiting communities throughout the entire country.

With a greater understanding of Afghanistan’s vulnerabilities, USAID/OFDA has both assisted in meeting the emergency needs of the most vulnerable Afghans and contributed significantly to reducing food insecurity, strengthening livelihoods, and revitalizing rural communities in a drought and conflict-impacted country struggling to rebuild under a newly-won peace.❖

—By David Plack

Afghanistan Earthquake

An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck the province of Baghlan in northeastern Afghanistan on March 25, 2002 at 7:26 p.m. local time. The initial earthquake was followed by a series of aftershocks ranging in magnitudes between 4.5 and 5.8.

The Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) reported that 800 people died as a result of the 6.1 earthquake, more than 500 people were treated for injuries, and the homes of 14,000 families were damaged. The area most affected was the district of Nahrin in Baghlan Province, located at the epicenter of the earthquake. This inaccessible region had already been heavily impacted by drought. An estimated 80 percent of the local population was receiving emergency relief assistance prior to the earthquake because of increased vulnerability to malnutrition. The impacted area was also on the front lines of the civil war during the past decade, and is home to a significant number of recently returned displaced families.

On March 26, U.S. Ambassador Robert P. Finn declared a disaster due to the damage caused by the earthquake. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 to ACTED, which was operational in Nahrin managing the local humanitarian response to drought and conflict. The funds were used to assist in meeting the emergency relief needs of the earthquake-affected population. Other USAID/OFDA relief supplies, already in Afghanistan under existing grants, were directed by implementing partners IRC, CONCERN, GOAL, IOM, and UNICEF to the affected area. On March 27 and 28, DOD deployed an assessment team and transported relief supplies to the affected area using helicopters stationed at Bagram airfield.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$25,000