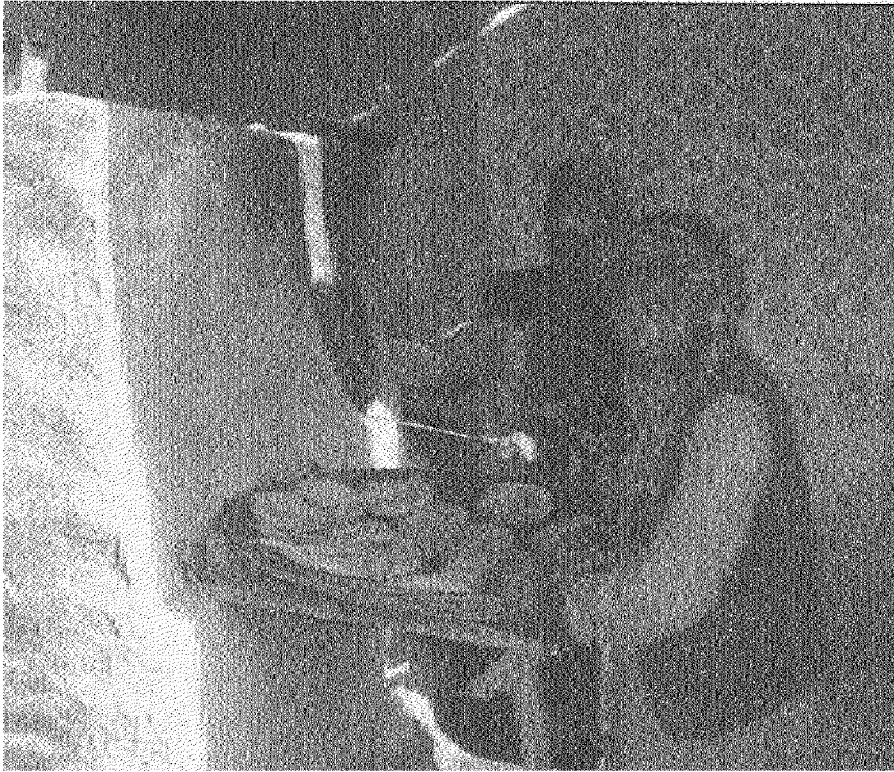


AFGHANISTAN

COMPLEX EMERGENCY

Two major factors exacerbated Afghanistan's long-standing humanitarian crisis during FY 2001. The Taliban, who controlled nearly 90 percent of Afghan territory, made substantial new territorial gains in September 2000, seizing Taloqan, the capital of Takhar Province in the northeast and the seat of the opposition Northern

Alliance. In addition, a debilitating three-year regional drought continued to ravage Afghanistan's largely agricultural society. The fighting and drought increased the long-term effects of war, instability, and severe infrastructure deterioration, causing major new population displacements and increased vulnerability for local populations that did not relocate. In FY 2001, up to one million people were internally displaced as a result of the deepening crisis, while an estimated 180,000 Afghans crossed into Pakistan to escape the crisis.



A bakery supported by USAID/OFDA partner WFP provides bread and much-needed income to residents near Mazar-e-Sharif. WFP also assisted bakeries operated by women (photo by George Havens, USAID/OFDA).

The most severe effects of the crisis were felt in Afghanistan's west and north regions. In the western city of Herat, an estimated 170,000 to 180,000 IDPs had arrived by July 2001. In the Northern Region, an estimated 500,000 people were internally displaced, including up to 150,000 people around Mazar-e-Sharif, the provincial capital of Balkh. In the northeast, nearly 10,000 IDPs moved to islands in the Pyandj River along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. Denied access to Tajikistan, which kept its border with Afghanistan closed, the IDPs remained in place during FY 2001 under poor living conditions. In the south, a near-total ban on poppy production by the Taliban aggravated the drought's effects. Although the ban was lauded for its positive contribution to drug control efforts, farmers and workers dependent on poppy income had no alternative sources of income to sustain their families.

As in past years, the difficult working environment encountered by relief personnel in Afghanistan complicated response efforts to the continuing crisis. In June 2001, Taliban officials refused to allow WFP to employ women to conduct verification surveys of its 300,000 beneficiaries list for a bakeries program in Kabul, leading to a showdown in which WFP threatened to

shutdown the entire program. The Taliban and WFP eventually reached a compromise agreement to keep the bakeries operational. On August 5, the Taliban arrested eight expatriate and 16 Afghan staff of Shelter Now International (SNI/Germany) on charges of proselytizing Christianity, through their programs. Subsequently, the Taliban shutdown two other NGOs for alleged links with SNI/Germany, and threatened other relief agencies with an investigation of their operations. (Note: USAID/OFDA supported a U.S.-based organization named Shelter Now International in Afghanistan during FY 2001. Despite a common name, the two organizations are unrelated.) Relief agencies reported that Taliban harassment increased sharply during FY 2001, particularly in Kandahar and Kabul. Some sources believed that elements within the Taliban hoped to provoke international NGOs into leaving Afghanistan in order to replace them with Islamic relief organizations.

Terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda terrorist network, which operated in Afghanistan under Taliban protection, had drastic and immediate repercussions for the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. Fearing increased insecurity inside Afghanistan and a possible U.S. military reprisal, all international relief agency staff withdrew from Afghanistan during the next several days. At the same time, some Afghans began to move out of cities and towards the country's borders. Relief programs that continued with local staff were further impeded by rising lawlessness and Taliban harassment, including severe restrictions on communications with relief staff outside the country. By the end of September 2001, Afghanistan's humanitarian prospects appeared more bleak than ever in the face of the international relief agencies pullout, impending war, and predictions of large-scale population movements.

On October 1, 2000, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Karl F. Inderfurth redeclared a disaster for FY 2001 due to the continuing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA responded with emergency humanitarian assistance in the form of grants and in-kind contributions to IOs and

NGOs. In April 2001, USAID/OFDA deployed a joint assessment team to drought-affected areas in western and northern Afghanistan with State/PRM. The team concluded that Afghanistan was on the brink of famine. In June 2001, USAID/OFDA deployed a multi-agency DART to Pakistan to coordinate humanitarian assistance with the Pakistan-based Afghanistan international relief community.

USAID/OFDA supported IDPs in Afghanistan through two grants of \$120,000 to ACTED for assistance along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border and in Baghlan Province; \$150,000 to GOAL for shelter, infrastructure and displacement-prevention activities in Samangan Province; \$250,000 to IRC in Balkh Province to support camps and informal settlements in partnership with local NGOs; approximately \$1.5 million to Mercy Corps for assistance to 3,000 IDPs in Takhar and Badakhshan; \$320,400 to SNI/US for support to families hosting 5,650 IDPs in Takhar; and \$200,000 to UNCHS/Habitat for displacement and drought programs countrywide. USAID/OFDA also provided \$1.5 million to SNI/US and \$350,000 for UNCHS/Habitat for the construction of 16,700 shelters in Herat. USAID/OFDA supported IDPs and drought victims through a contribution to ICRC of 30,000 blankets valued at \$250,842, including transport, for drought victims in Ghor Province. In February 2001, USAID/OFDA airlifted 610 tents, 17,500 blankets, four MT of high-protein biscuits, and health kits with sufficient supplies to treat 3,000 people for one month. The contribution, valued at \$650,850, was consigned to UN OCHA.

In the food and agriculture sectors, USAID/OFDA provided CARE with \$465,000 for drought relief in Wardak and Ghazni Province, as well as \$415,000 for food assistance in central, western, and southern Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA provided \$200,000 to FAO for a seed program, \$150,000 to Mercy Corps in Helmand for water and livelihoods support, and \$100,000 for support to vulnerable populations affected by the Taliban poppy ban.

USAID/OFDA supported logistics with \$600,000 to UN OCHA for humanitarian transport, non-food commodity purchases, and support for WFP-managed food programs and implementing partners. USAID/OFDA provided \$200,000 to Air Serv International for humanitarian air transport, \$600,000 to UN OCHA for coordination, and \$91,350 to CWS for humanitarian assessments.

USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.5 million to ACF/F for health and nutrition activities for 530,000 Kabul

area residents, and \$400,000 for health activities benefiting IDPs and local residents in Herat. USAID/OFDA provided UNCHS/Habitat with \$125,000 for an urban health and sanitation-related solid waste collection program in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar, Herat, and Farah. USAID/OFDA also provided UNICEF with \$350,000 for health activities, nutrition surveillance, and water and sanitation programs countrywide, and supported SC/US with \$100,000 for nutrition surveillance in northern Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA provided \$145,000 to CARE for a water supply and health education program in Kabul. Finally, USAID/OFDA gave \$1.5 million to SC/US for a multi-sector program including health, winterization, agricultural drought relief, and seed distribution in Faryab, Balkh, and Kabul.

USAID/FFP provided 63,810 MT of P.L. 480 Title II wheat and complementary commodities, including a contribution of 4,000 MT valued at nearly \$1.9 million for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, to WFP at a total cost of \$31.2 million. USDA contributed 240,200 MT of Section 416(b) surplus wheat valued at \$104.3 million. State/PRM provided approximately \$16 million to UNHCR and \$6.9 million to ICRC in support of programs in Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan serving Afghan refugees, returnees, and IDPs.

State/PRM provided \$1 million to UN OCHA in support of emergency coordination and preparedness measures for Afghan refugee programs, and provided \$589,069 in support of transportation costs for delivery of U.S. food contributions. State/PRM also provided approximately \$5.3 million to NGOs for Afghan refugee and returnee support programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

USAID's Democracy and Governance office provided \$310,000 to UNCHS/Habitat for community support for Afghan refugees and returnees. The U.S. Department of State's Humanitarian Demining Program provided \$1.1 million to HALO Trust, a British demining organization, and \$1.7 million in financial and in-kind contributions to the U.N. Mine Action Program for Afghanistan. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs provided \$1.5 million to the U.N. Drug Control Program for opium crop substitution assistance in Nangarhar Province, and the CDC provided \$569,525 to UNICEF for polio eradication in Afghanistan.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$12,485,791
Other USG Assistance\$170,508,184
Total USG Assistance\$182,993,975