



Humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in 2015

Fact sheet: February 2015

According to the United Nations, an estimated 7.4 million people will need urgent humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan in 2015. This includes 2.2 million very severely food insecure people and almost one million people who are displaced or of concern to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Some 900,000 people are also likely to be affected by mines and explosive remnants of war. On average, a quarter of a million people are also affected by natural disasters each year.



The Australian Government is supporting mine risk education (MRE) activities in Afghanistan. In this photo, Moosakhail village residents carry their MRE materials home (Source: Mine Action Coordination Centre Afghanistan 2013)

Australia's support

Australia has been a long-term supporter of humanitarian work in Afghanistan. Since 2010 we have provided more than \$ 67 million to support the life-saving work of humanitarian organisations including the UN Mine Action Service, IOM and UNHCR.

In 2015, Australia's contribution of \$5 million to the World Food Programme will provide over 4,100 tonnes of food to more than 112,000 Afghans over the winter months. Australia is a donor representative on the United Nations Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) Advisory Board and our contribution of \$8 million to the CHF will help to meet the emergency health, nutrition and protection needs of some of the 3.8 million Afghans most in need of assistance in 2015.

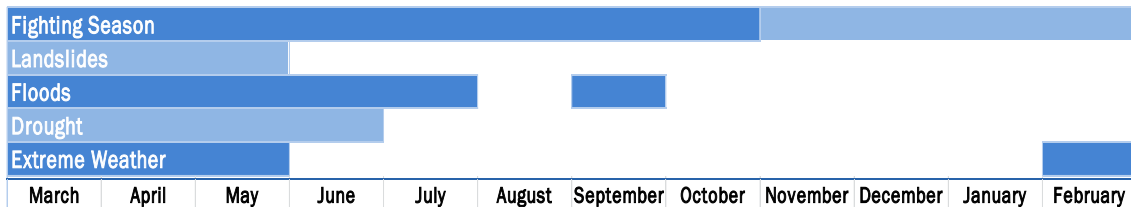
The United Nations and World Food Programme also work to strengthen the Afghan government, non-government and private organisations they work with in order to increase local capacity to respond to humanitarian crises in the future. Australia is contributing to enhanced food security in Afghanistan by supporting the World Food Programme's first Strategic Grain Reserve facility in Kabul. This 22,500 tonne facility was completed in August 2013 and is one of a network of five facilities being built around the country that will be able to feed two million people for up to six months in times of crisis. In addition to emergency response, the SGR project will facilitate in stabilizing wheat prices, provide storage options to farmers, and reduce post-harvest losses. Australia's humanitarian assistance complements our efforts to promote economic growth and empower women and girls in Afghanistan.



Kabul's Strategic Grain Reserve funded by Australia. Photo: WFP



Afghanistan: Annual humanitarian calendar



Source: UNOCHA, 2015 Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview

The mix of ongoing and sudden-onset humanitarian crises, low resilience and high insecurity makes Afghanistan one of the top 10 ongoing humanitarian crises worldwide.

Contacts

More information is available on the DFAT website: <http://www.dfat.gov.au>