

Humanitarian Snapshot

USAID/BHA in South and Central Asia

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021

Regional Profile

Countries in South and Central Asia (SCA)¹ are highly susceptible to recurrent extreme weather events and natural hazards that can lead to disasters and compound existing vulnerabilities. In FY 2021, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided \$443.8 million in assistance, of which more than \$415.3 million supported emergency response activities in five countries, responding to conflict and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in addition to other disasters. USAID/BHA-supported partners provided emergency food and nutrition assistance, as well as health care, protection, shelter, and additional essential services for crisis-affected populations. USAID/BHA also provided more than \$15 million for standalone early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs that aimed to address the root causes of food insecurity, build resilience, and enhance emergency preparedness and response at the local, national, and regional levels.



¹The SCA region comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Humanitarian Situation in FY 2021

Natural hazards and the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the humanitarian situation for vulnerable populations across SCA. Meanwhile, the complex emergency in Afghanistan, as well as the refugee crisis in Bangladesh, continued to generate widespread humanitarian needs in each country, respectively.

In Afghanistan, the cumulative effects of decades of conflict, internal displacement, severe drought, recurrent disasters, and COVID-19 resulted in high-levels of humanitarian need during FY 2021. On August 15, 2021, the Taliban seized Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul. The resultant economic and political instability prompted the disruption of financial systems, deterioration of basic services, increased food and fuel prices, and reduced household purchasing power. Moreover, the ongoing drought undermined agricultural livelihoods, prompting a sharp decline in food access, further exacerbating humanitarian needs.

More than 920,000 ethnic Rohingya refugees reside in Bangladesh, approximately 769,200 of whom fled indiscriminate military operations in Burma's Rakhine State since August 2017. Refugees are sheltering in Cox's Bazar District refugee camps, as well as on Bhasan Char Island and rely on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs.

USAID/BHA Priorities

In FY 2022, USAID/BHA plans to continue supporting activities that bolster local, national, and regional disaster preparedness and response capacities, while maintaining preparedness for rapid humanitarian response. In Bangladesh, USAID/BHA plans to continue providing food assistance in Cox's Bazar, as well as maximize opportunities for longer-term development efforts throughout the country, leveraging public-private partnerships to help Bangladesh prepare for and respond to disasters. In Afghanistan, USAID/BHA is implementing a three-pronged strategy which focuses on providing shelter, cash-for-fuel, warm clothes, and other assistance to support households during the harsh winter; mitigating acute food insecurity through food assistance and integrated health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs that address food insecurity-related morbidity and negative coping strategies; as well as providing logistics and common services support to map humanitarian needs and ensure aid workers and relief supplies get to beneficiaries quickly and efficiently.

**FY 2021 Regional
Funding Total**

\$443,816,340

Top Receiving Countries in FY 2021

Afghanistan	\$297,338,820
Bangladesh	\$137,449,120
Pakistan	\$3,000,000
Nepal	\$2,200,000
India	\$1,550,000