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U.S. ASSISTANCE CONTENTS

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An Afghan woman washes dishes in isolation. (Photo by @OCHAAfg)

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

KEY ISSUES & EVENTS

UN OCHA's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Afghanistan is only 33% funded, but the United States remains the largest donor, having contributed over $400 million.

The World Food Programme reduced monthly food assistance from 13 million people at the start of 2023 to just 3 million in September due to funding deficiencies.

The Taliban's restrictions on female employment and education continued to pose challenges for U.S.-funded programs and projects in Afghanistan.

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

The United States remains the largest donor to programs supporting the Afghan people, having disbursed more than $2.6 billion for humanitarian and development assistance since the Taliban takeover in August 2021.[1]

After the collapse of the former Afghan government, the U.S. government reviewed all non-humanitarian assistance programs in Afghanistan. State and USAID paused the majority of development-assistance programs to assess the situation, including the safety and ability of implementing partners to continue operations. Beginning in September 2021, Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a series of licenses authorizing the delivery of assistance to Afghanistan. Concurrently, State and USAID

restarted several programs addressing critical needs of the Afghan people in key sectors including health, education, agriculture, food security, and livelihoods. State and USAID also support civil society, focusing on women, girls, and human rights protections more broadly, alongside ongoing humanitarian activities. These efforts are implemented through nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations, or other third parties, which State said minimizes any benefit to the Taliban to the extent possible.[2]

In addition to direct U.S. assistance to the people of Afghanistan, the United States is also the single largest donor to the United Nations' humanitarian programming in Afghanistan.[3] Through the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the UN leads international efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance directly to Afghans, including food, shelter, cash, and household supplies. USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) currently supports several HRP programs. According to BHA, USAID prioritizes direct food assistance and other avenues to help reduce food insecurity, including by promoting health, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene.[4] Table E.1 on page 70 provides an overview of these ongoing programs in Afghanistan and the total cost of each.

As part of the 2023 HRP issued in March, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) originally sought $4.6 billion to assist 23.7 million Afghans with lifesaving and protection assistance in 2023.[5] On June 5, 2023, the UN revised its HRP request to $3.2 billion after the Taliban banned Afghan women from working for the UN in April. In a statement on the reduced funding request, the UN said, "[t]he recent bans on Afghan women working for… NGOs and the UN have added yet another layer of complexity to what is already an incredibly challenging protection environment, and further constrained the operational capacity of partners."[6] As of October 2023, the 2023 HRP is only 33% funded. The United States remains the single largest contributor, having donated over $400 million thus far.[7]

This quarter, USAID told SIGAR that implementing partners receive Taliban "visits to their offices, verbal warnings, and in some cases are forced to pause implementation until a local agreement can be negotiated." To limit the impact of the Taliban's ban on female staff, implementing partners use "a variety of strategies to enable women's return to work" including "separating male and female offices, having female and male staff arrive at and leave the office at different times, having separate entrances for female and male staff, asking female staff to work remotely, supporting female staff to travel with a male chaperone, etc." These conditions are agreed upon through memoranda of understanding signed between USAID's implementing partners and the Taliban. However, USAID said implementing partners reported that a lack of signed MOUs and increasing restrictions on female staff continue to be primary challenges to their work in Afghanistan.[8]

USAID/Afghanistan Policy on Memoranda of Understanding with the Taliban

Humanitarian organizations face an increasingly restrictive operating environment under Taliban rule. In some cases, aid has been suspended entirely for the safety of local staff and beneficiaries due to Taliban interference. With the former Afghan government, USAID partners signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) under certain circumstances to ensure project goals were mutually understood and supported, and to establish a channel for coordination if problems arose. However, the United States does not recognize the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan, and USAID policy initially prohibited implementing partners from signing MOUs with the regime. One implementing partner previously told USAID that the inability to sign MOUs with the Taliban was "the greatest obstacle" to providing aid. In January 2023 USAID told SIGAR that it released a new Mission order allowing implementing partners to sign MOUs provided they are (1) approved by USAID/Afghanistan, and (2) justified as necessary for implementation or the safety of partner staff and/or beneficiaries.

According to USAID/Afghanistan, MOUs should facilitate necessary communication and coordination by the implementing partner with local authorities to: carry out activities; facilitate the safety of staff and beneficiaries; and/or if it is required for project registration, permits, license plate transfers, and other necessary authorizations. However, communication and coordination must occur at the lowest level possible, and the MOU cannot call for interaction with individuals listed on Treasury's OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List. USAID told SIGAR it does not get involved in any implementing partner discussions or negotiations with Taliban authorities and USAID does not require a final executed copy of the MOU.

USAID/Afghanistan's criteria for approval require:

- MOUs be non-obligating agreements without binding language;
- No funds and no direct or technical assistance be provided by the implementing partner to the Taliban;
- MOUs must not call for Taliban approval of project interventions, activities, modalities, or budgets; not provide for discussion of policy or budget information with the Taliban; and not permit Taliban participation in design meetings, assessments, or field implementation;
- MOUs must not permit Taliban involvement in partner staffing or volunteering, selection of vendors or the geographic focus for assistance;
- USAID cannot be asked to sign or witness the MOU and the MOU must not appear to confer legitimacy to, or recognition of, the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan.

USAID/Afghanistan policies on MOU requirements do not apply to USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

USAID/BHA and State/PRM's guidelines acknowledge that implementing partners may need to sign MOUs with Taliban representatives, but they delineate a number of conditions that disqualify an MOU. These include:

- MOUs should not contain requirements that contravene Afghanistan's existing nongovernmental organizational law and or requirement that have not been agreed to by the Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The Afghanistan HCT guides humanitarian action in Afghanistan, and comprises core UN agencies, rotating NGO representatives, and donors, as well as observers including the World Bank, UNDP, and MSF;
- MOUs should not restrict geographical areas of work;
- MOUs should not have restrictions or requirements that contravene recognized best practices or undermine the humanitarian nature of assistance;
- MOUs should not involve the Taliban beyond a coordination role in beneficiary selection procedures;
- MOUs should not include requirements to share or provide access to beneficiary data;
- MOUs should not require humanitarian organizations to receive project approval;
- MOUs should not require humanitarian organizations to share award documentation;
- MOUs should not require humanitarian organizations to involve Taliban staff in the recruitment of staff or volunteers;
- MOUs should not require humanitarian organizations to select certain vendors;
- MOUs should not contain clauses pertaining to the disposition of equipment or materials;
- MOUs should not require the display of Taliban branding or consent to communications associated with the Taliban;
- MOUs should not require humanitarian organizations provide support to Taliban staff;
- MOUs should not require humanitarian organizations to pay taxes beyond those paid under the Ghani administration;
- MOUs must omit any language indicating it is binding or enforceable.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; USAID, BHA, correspondence with SIGAR, 2/8/2023; USAID/Afghanistan, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/11/2023; Catholic Relief Services, Supporting Transformation for Afghanistan's Recovery (STAR) Quarterly Report FY22 Q3, April 1 to June 30, 2022, 8/1/2022, pp. 5–6; USAID/Afghanistan, response to SIGAR vetting, 7/12/2023; USAID Afghanistan, Mission Order 103.02, 8/31/2016; Intercluster Coordination, Humanitarian Coordination Overview, Relief Web, accessed 10/14/2023.

TABLE E.1

USAID BHA ACTIVE PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN			
Program Supported	**Start Date**	**End Date**	**Award Amount**
Emergency Food and Nutrition Assistance and Air Services	12/7/2022	12/6/2023	$267,134,491
WASH Response and Humanitarian Assistance Program	7/1/2022	6/30/2024	54,800,000
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	12/19/2022	11/18/2024	40,000,000
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	12/19/2022	11/18/2024	36,000,000
Integrated Nutrition, Cash, WASH, and Protection Services	12/15/2022	12/14/2023	35,000,000
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	1/1/2023	11/30/2024	28,000,000
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	1/1/2023	11/30/2024	20,500,000
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	5/1/2023	3/31/2025	14,900,000
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	12/1/2022	10/31/2024	13,000,000
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	12/1/2022	10/31/2024	10,500,000
Provision of Lifesaving GBV Prevention and Response	6/10/22	12/31/2023	6,500,000
Scale Up Plan for Health Cluster Coordination Structure	12/26/2022	12/25/2023	6,000,000
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	3/1/2022	12/31/2023	4,756,243
Project Name Withheld at Request of USAID	5/1/2022	10/31/2023	4,500,000
Provision of Lifesaving GBV Prevention and Response, MRH services in Emergency through Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) & Strengthen the AAP mechanism and capacity/human resources	8/7/2023	8/6/2024	3,450,000
Information Mgmt. for Disaster Risk Reduction and Response	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	1,200,000
Information Mgmt. for Disaster Risk Reduction and Response	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	500,000
Information Mgmt. for Disaster Risk Reduction and Response	1/1/2022	12/31/2023	361,800
Total			**$547,102,534**

Source: USAID, BHA, response to SIGAR data call, 10/10/2023.

USAID PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN

ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAMS

USAID's Office of Livelihoods (OLH) continued supporting economic growth activities in Afghanistan with total estimated costs of more than $139 million.[9] USAID's two active economic growth programs—the Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Businesses Activity (ACEBA) and the Turquoise Mountain Trust (TMT) - Exports, Jobs, and Market Linkages in Carpet and Jewelry Value Chains activity—are shown in Table E.2.[10] USAID's two other economic growth programs ended—Extractives Technical Assistance by the U.S. Geological Survey on June 30, 2023, and Livelihood Advancement of Marginalized Populations (LAMP) on August 1, 2023.[11] Final data on these programs were not available as this report went to press.

Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Businesses Activity

USAID's five-year, $105.7 million Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity (ACEBA) was designed to provide technical assistance and grants to small and medium-sized export-oriented enterprises. Since the Taliban takeover, ACEBA has prioritized livelihood support, focusing on domestic production activities and humanitarian goods and services.[12]

Data from ACEBA's most recent quarterly report indicate that in its initial two years, ACEBA generated 25,210 new full-time equivalent jobs within targeted export-oriented value chains, 72 firms received technical assistance for exports, and 83 firms received technical assistance for improving business performance. In the next three years, ACEBA expects to support 1,100 small and medium-sized enterprises, assist 82,000 individuals through livelihood restoration, provide 27,900 telemedicine consultations, and supply 940 firms with working capital. Livelihood restoration or support includes facilitating access to credit, bolstering private sector efforts to increase liquidity, assisting the jobless to secure apprenticeships, and uplifting private sector suppliers of humanitarian goods to start or sustain production. Telemedicine support aims to help 90 physicians access patients remotely, thus alleviating physician unemployment or underemployment.[13]

TABLE E.2

USAID ACTIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 10/9/2023
Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Businesses Activity (ACEBA)	1/27/2020	1/26/2025	$105,722,822	$66,703,117
Livelihood Advancement for Marginalized Populations (LAMP)	8/1/2018	8/1/2023	18,481,505	13,792,495
Turquoise Mountain Trust - Exports, Jobs, and Market Linkages in Carpet and Jewelry Value Chains	1/31/2019	4/30/2025	14,935,752	10,386,907
Total			**$139,140,079**	**$90,882,519**

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, pipeline data, 10/13/2023; USAID, TMT, FY 2023 Q3 Quarterly Report, 06/30/2023.

Turquoise Mountain Trust - Exports, Jobs, and Market Linkages in Carpet and Jewelry Value Chains - Extended

This six-year, $14.9 million project aims to create jobs within the carpet weaving and jewelry industries by providing development assistance to micro, small, and medium-size enterprises in Kabul, Jowzjan, and Bamyan Provinces. This program was initially slated to end April 30, 2023, but USAID extended this program until 2025 and increased funding by $5 million. The most recently available data from June 2023 showed that TMT created a total of 27,578 jobs in the Afghan carpet and jewelry industries, exceeding

the activity's target. TMT also confirmed that it has been supporting 12 carpet producing companies and 16 jewelry businesses. TMT beneficiaries are almost entirely women.[14]

This quarter, USAID reported that the Taliban's restrictions on women working with NGOs have not affected TMT's beneficiaries because most of the women work from home.[15] USAID has previously reported that Taliban officials have voiced support for women's home-based enterprises, especially to manufacture carpets.[16]

AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

This quarter, OLH continued to support agriculture activities in Afghanistan with total estimated costs of $164,958,860.[17] USAID's active agriculture programs are shown in Table E.3.

USAID's agriculture programs and activities aim to mitigate the immediate hardships of farm households and agribusinesses due to drought, political instability, and financial liquidity challenges, and assist with long term economic recovery to improve food security and the sustainability of key agricultural value chains. Activities include (1) training, technical assistance, and agriculture extension services (education, marketing, health, business assistance) to smaller-scale farmers; (2) supplying seeds, fertilizer, and other items to farmers to help increase production; (3) providing veterinary services and other support to the livestock and dairy industries to improve animal health, maintain productive assets, and increase production and incomes; and (4) improving domestic market linkages and creating additional value.[18]

This quarter, the Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP), which focused on female economic empowerment, ended on September 30, 2023.[19] Final project data were not available as this report went to press.

TABLE E.3

USAID ACTIVE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 10/9/2023
Strengthening Rural Livelihoods and Food Security (SRL-FS)	7/25/2022	7/24/2026	$80,000,000	$40,000,000
Afghanistan Value Chains Program	6/9/2018	6/8/2025	75,672,170	51,779,901*
Agricultural Marketing Program (AMP)	1/28/2020	9/30/2023	30,000,000	29,111,134
Total			**$185,672,170**	**$120,891,035**

Note: Numbers have been rounded. The total estimated cost of $164,958,860 reflects the total amounts received as of 10/9/2023. Data for the Afghan Value Chains Program was received as of 10/18/2023; hence, the total on Table E.3 is the higher amount of $185,672,170.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 10/9/2023.

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Strengthening Rural Livelihoods and Food Security

USAID's four-year, $80 million, Strengthening Rural Livelihoods and Food Security, was launched in July 2022, and intends to minimize the impacts of recent shocks on vulnerable and at-risk agricultural communities in targeted Afghan provinces and districts. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization implements this program in eight provinces (Badakhshan, Daykundi, Ghor, Jowzjan, Nimroz, Nuristan, Paktika, and Parwan). As of September 15, 2023, USAID OLH reported that the Taliban have not interfered with implementing partner activities this quarter.[20]

According to USAID, the program's goal is to improve food security, nutrition, and resilience for vulnerable small households, in environmentally sustainable ways. The eight targeted provinces are all classified at the Phase 4 (Emergency) level of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), meaning that households have very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality.[21] Activities include increasing the efficiency and productivity of food and staple crops such as wheat, beans and legumes, and fresh fruits and vegetables; increasing access to nutritious food at the household level; maintaining and enhancing livestock; increasing production of fodder crops (for livestock grazing); strengthening capacities of farmers, farmer groups, women vegetable growers, and livestock holders on climate-smart cultivation/production practices; and linking them to domestic markets to provide a short-term income boost.[22]

This quarter, the program trained its staff and implementing partners on effective farming approaches to prepare for its first cohort of farmer trainees starting this fall; collaborated with communities to involve them in its beneficiary selection process; and developed its procurement and monitoring and evaluation plans. This program aims to establish 2,000 Farmer Field Schools involving 60,000 male and female farmers across the program area. It plans to train and introduce farmers to climate smart and conservation agriculture practices. The program's first season of training will take place in the fall and winter seasons of 2023, including a direct implementation phase this October.[23]

Afghanistan Value Chains Program Shows Promising Performance Indicators

USAID's Afghanistan Value Chains Program (AVCP) focuses on maximizing the productivity of anchor firms in livestock and crops value chains, in order to support food security and women in agriculture. AVCP, a newly-merged combination of two former programs—AVC–Livestock and AVC–Crops—is a market-driven, private sector program, aiming to increase income, employment, commercial viability, and productivity.[24] AVCP's activities support the expansion of sustainable agriculture-led economic growth across Afghanistan. Specifically, AVCP partners with and supports anchor firms through a market systems development approach, including providing

credit, collaborating with key stakeholders to better perceive, and responding to market opportunities.[25] According to AVCP's most recent quarterly report, the program exceeded overall targets for FY 2023. This quarter, 3,818 households benefited directly from AVCP activities.[26] Since the start of FY 2023, 10,227 households have benefited, exceeding the target of 8,000 by 28%.[27] Similarly, the percentage of individuals participating in U.S.-funded food security programs increased by a total of 170% in the first three quarters of 2023 compared to its target for the year.[28]

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

USAID's Office of Social Services (OSS) supports education development activities in Afghanistan, with total estimated costs of $146,113,562 as shown in Table E.4.[29] USAID continues to support education for girls in primary school and women's higher education, but reported that the Taliban ban on girls' secondary and higher education has directly impacted OSS activities in these areas. OSS continues to focus on sustaining higher education opportunities in fields granted special exemptions by the Taliban ministry of health, such as midwifery degree programs, and through virtual, online, and distance learning, while prioritizing the safety and privacy of female students and educators.[30]

According to USAID, primary schools remained operational this quarter and girls were able to attend. Despite the Taliban's June 6 verbal directive for international NGOs to transfer education-focused programs to local organizations, USAID reported to SIGAR that no OSS education activity has been transferred to local organizations. USAID further noted that like last quarter, "some organizations have been granted extensions to the 40-day deadline for submission of transfer plans to the Ministry of Education."[31] According to USAID, extensions have been granted "to allow time for transition plans to be agreed upon" with the Taliban ministry of education.[32]

SIGAR's Evaluation of Afghanistan's Education Sector: This quarter, a SIGAR evaluation of State and USAID funding for Afghanistan's education sector found that since August 2021, Taliban policies have limited access to education at all levels, especially for girls and women, and resulted in a decline of education quality. In addition, the Taliban have been unable to fully fund public school teacher salaries and building maintenance costs, leading to further teacher shortages and the deterioration of school buildings. The evaluation also found that the regime indirectly benefited from U.S.-funded assistance through the tax revenue generated by U.S.-funded assistance.

Source: SIGAR, Status of Education in Afghanistan: Taliban Policies Have Resulted in Restricted Access and a Decline in Quality," SIGAR-24-01-IP, 10/13/2023.

TABLE E.4

USAID ACTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS				
Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 10/9/2023
Strengthening Education in Afghanistan (SEA II)	5/19/2014	12/31/2023	$49,828,942	$47,769,163
Keep Schools Open	7/11/2022	12/31/2023	40,000,000	40,000,000
Girls' Education Challenge Programme (GEC)	6/29/2016	12/31/2023	29,000,000	29,000,000
Supporting Student Success in Afghanistan (SSSA)	1/1/2023	12/31/2026	27,284,620	3,294,737
Total			**$146,113,562**	**$120,063,900**

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 10/13/2023.

Girls' Education Challenge Struggles with Taliban Policy

The Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) is a collaboration between USAID and the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, and implemented by a large consortium of partners. GEC provides students in 15 rural provinces with critical education resources and opportunities through community-based classes and accelerated learning programs. Students completed their learning programs in August 2023 and GEC is scheduled to close on December 31, 2023.[33]

This quarter, USAID reported that female project staff were prevented from traveling without a *mahram* (male guardian) to conduct in-person mentoring visits.[34] Last quarter, a GEC implementing partner reported that only male NGO staff were allowed to monitor school programs in-person in Ghazni, Khost, Paktiya, and Kapisa Provinces.[35]

GEC also reported that sixth grade graduates are prepared for, but unable to attend seventh grade because of the Taliban's ban on girls' education beyond the primary level. According to GEC, even a one-year gap can have a negative impact on the students' education, saying, "If schools do not reopen for them for another academic year, some students might exceed the age limit for grade 7 and may choose to marry or get engaged, which will make it difficult [and] less likely they will continue their education."[36] For more information about the state of education in Afghanistan, see page 35.

This quarter, GEC submitted a transition plan to the Taliban ministry of education requesting to not transfer activities to local NGOs as all students were completing the full cycle of their community-based education program during the quarter and GEC is ending. As of September 15, USAID was awaiting the ministry's response.[37]

Strengthening Education in Afghanistan

Strengthening Education in Afghanistan (SEA II) started in 2014, and aims to improve institutional capacity, operations, management, and programming of educational institutions and civil society organizations in Afghanistan. SEA II currently operates to improve organizational capacity and assist in diversifying funding streams for 80 female-led affordable private schools, which are seen as a higher quality alternative to public schools. SEA II also supports 150 women with enrollment and study in a two-year midwifery program (midwifery programs are currently exempt from the Taliban ban on higher education for women).[38]

USAID did not report any Taliban interference into SEA II activities this quarter. Highlights from the most recently published SEA II quarterly report included providing English classes to 150 students, tracking over 8,000 downloads of the "Afghanistan Science and Math App" YouTube channel learning materials in science and math subjects, which allow girls access from their homes, and implementing SEA II trainings on school governance and financial management for 66 private schools.[39]

This quarter, USAID reported that the SEA II activity did not submit a proposal to the Taliban ministry of education to shift operations to local NGOs because SEA II is ending.[40]

Supporting Student Success in Afghanistan

In January 2023, USAID began supporting a new American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) activity entitled Supporting Student Success in Afghanistan (SSSA) after the U.S.-funded technical capacity building program for AUAF ended on December 31, 2022. SSSA aims to sustain access to and improve retention in local higher education for students living in Afghanistan.[41]

Following the closure of AUAF's Kabul campus after the Taliban take-over, AUAF opened a satellite campus in Doha, Qatar, and implemented an online education model.[42] USAID reported that SSSA aims to support 900 students, including 540 female students, in completing a higher education degree through virtual learning. This quarter, AUAF had 767 students in Afghanistan, 198 in Doha, and 218 in other countries. AUAF continued to provide a hybrid-flexible model of education to its 1,183 students, offering in-person classes to students in Qatar and online classes to students elsewhere.[43]

Keep Schools Open

UNICEF's Keep Schools Open project, supported by USAID, operates the "Education Cash Plus" program across several provinces. The Education Cash Plus program aims to keep girls in school, despite Taliban policy, by providing cash assistance to Afghan families with at least one adolescent girl in primary school, especially those at risk of dropping out due to ongoing humanitarian, economic, and political crises. UNICEF said girls are still able to attend grades 1–6 in formal schools, madrassas, and community-based schools under the Taliban regime. According to a UNICEF report issued in May 2023, within their targeted provinces an estimated 87,105 eligible households should receive $40 a month as an unconditional cash transfer through the program.[44] This quarter, USAID told SIGAR that, despite the Taliban's order for international NGOs to transfer their operations to local NGOs, UNICEF negotiated with the Taliban ministry of education to not transition activities to a new partner for both of its activities. One UNICEF activity was already operated by a local NGO, and the second one ends in December 2023.[45]

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

USAID continues to implement public health initiatives in Afghanistan valued at $309,311,524 as shown in Table E.5.[46] In the last week of August, the Taliban ministry of public health issued a letter stating that personnel from health-related projects were not permitted to distribute cash to patients

or visit personal homes as part of their activities. The directive was also given to UN and non-USAID-affiliated NGOs. USAID told SIGAR that, as of October 2023, implementing partners have not reported any direct implications for project activities because of the letter, but noted it does not have information on the directive's intent. Despite shifting Taliban policies, USAID said it remains committed to delivering humanitarian assistance, and told SIGAR that it has a long-term commitment to support Afghan women and girls. This quarter, the situation for women and girls remained precarious; according to one activity quarterly report, "the non-permissive environment for women has intensified." USAID is working with implementing partners, like UN Women, to adapt to the operating environment, while also advocating for women's access to public spaces and freedom of movement.[47]

Assistance for Families and Indigent Afghans to Thrive

The Assistance for Families and Indigent Afghans to Thrive (AFIAT) program aims to improve health outcomes for Afghans, particularly women of child-bearing age and preschool children, in rural and peri-urban (areas adjacent to cities) Afghanistan. AFIAT worked in 14 provinces this quarter to improve health and nutrition services and access to those services, increase the adoption of ideal health and nutrition behaviors in communities, and work with partners to plan, finance, and manage the public health system. AFIAT's long-term goal is to make the health system gender-equitable and sustainable.[48]

This quarter, the Taliban ministry of vice and virtue in Helmand Province barred two AFIAT employees from traveling to Kabul to provide maternal health services. AFIAT is actively working to address gender-based inequities in health care, like this type of Taliban interference. AFIAT's first gender strategy in 2022 was revised in May 2023 and provides guidance on mitigating barriers equal access to health and wellbeing. AFIAT is prioritizing safeguarding women's access to healthcare, promoting a model of equal healthcare in Afghanistan, addressing gender biases at the community and facility levels, and helping communities liaise with private and public health system actors.[49]

According to its most recent quarterly report, AFIAT continued to strengthen health worker capacity, and supported components in the national level health system, such as a health information management system, pharmaceutical supply chain management, and the Afghan Health Survey. Across 14 provinces, AFIAT team members made 2,382 visits to 744 health posts; conducted 1,505 learning sessions on nutrition, 1,041 on antenatal care, and 847 on neonatal and childhood illnesses; introduced interventions to identify postpartum hemorrhage in five provinces; and helped improve the quality of tuberculosis services in 249 facilities, with 1,568 children receiving preventive treatment as a result of survey efforts.[50]

Urban Health Initiative Temporarily Suspended in Herat City

The Urban Health Initiative (UHI) aims to improve health outcomes for Afghans in urban areas, focusing on women, children, and other vulnerable populations. UHI conducted work in Mazar-e Sharif, Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat, and Kandahar this quarter. Objectives included strengthening the health service delivery system, improving access to primary, secondary, and referral healthcare services, improving the quality of primary, secondary, and referral care services, and improving awareness, demand, and care-seeking for services. UHI works with 76 health facilities and 148 urban health posts on these objectives. UHI also operates 50 mobile COVID-19 vaccination teams.[51]

In August 2023, the Taliban ministry of public health issued a letter to the provincial public health directors in Mazar-e Sharif and Herat ordering the suspension of UHI services until they signed an MOU. The provincial Taliban public health director in Mazar-e Sharif allowed UHI to continue activities, but Herat City services were suspended for approximately one month. Program activities in Herat City resumed the first week of September. The UHI programs in Kabul, Jalalabad, and Kandahar Provinces have not received such a letter from the ministry.[52]

TABLE E.5

USAID ACTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS

Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 10/9/2023
Assistance for Families and Indigent Afghans to Thrive (AFIAT)	7/10/2020	7/9/2025	$117,000,000	$46,310,347
Urban Health Initiative (UHI) Program	10/14/2020	10/13/2025	104,000,000	42,682,584
New DEWS Plus	2/2/2022	9/30/2031	50,000,000	11,410,231
SHOPS Plus	10/1/2015	9/30/2022	13,886,000	13,879,577
Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey (ADHS) Follow-On	10/9/2018	9/9/2023	10,500,000	5,548,814
Consolidated Grant - COVID-19 Response	9/30/2021	9/29/2026	6,000,000	5,515,566
Central Contraceptive Procurement (CCP)	4/20/2015	11/28/2023	3,599,998	3,676,081
Sustaining Technical and Analytic Resources (STAR)	5/1/2018	9/30/2023	2,186,357	1,274,223
Modeling American Healthcare, Standards & Values in Afghanistan	10/1/2020	9/30/2024	1,092,601	1,084,065
TB Data, Impact Assessment and Communications Hub (TB DIAH)	9/24/2018	9/24/2023	600,000	600,000
Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control	4/15/2019	4/14/2024	270,000	1,155,000
Global Health Supply Chain Management (GHSCM-PSM)	4/20/2015	11/28/2023	176,568	5,220,172
Local Health Systems Sustainability (LHSS)	*	*	*	3,928,993
Total			**$309,311,524**	**$142,285,654**

Note: Numbers have been rounded. *Start and end dates, and total estimated costs were not provided for this program.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 10/13/2023.

A health worker visits a family in the Afghan capital, Kabul. (Photo by ©UNICEF/Arezo Haidary)

UHI also continued to face challenges due to Taliban restrictions on women. According to UHI's most recent quarterly report covering April–June 2023, the project was forced to consult with Taliban public health officials and make operational changes, such as creating a women's only office in a health facility, to ensure that to ensure that their female staff members were able to continue working. UHI also keeps staff informed on protocol for Taliban intelligence service visits, and is establishing additional private offices for women in their facilities.[53]

During the same period, UHI trained 636 female health care workers, and completed 423 community awareness sessions with women on health topics like COVID-19, personal hygiene, and HIV. UHI reported that over this period, all U.S. government-assisted service delivery sites were able to provide family planning counseling/services, and 59,497 women gave birth in U.S. government-assisted facilities.[54]

Local Health Systems Sustainability

Local Health Systems Sustainability (LHSS), a five-year, $8 million project under the USAID Integrated Health Systems Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity Contracts, aims to help low-income countries transition to self-financed health systems. Through a partnership with the Afghanistan Social Marketing Organization, LHSS promotes affordable, socially marketed health products focused on women and children. According to the most recently available data, with LHSS support, the Afghanistan Social Marketing Organization distributed family planning and essential health commodities in 21 districts, opened 56 new outlets, restarted sales at 111 inactive outlets, and completed 9,881 sales visits generating $108,744 in revenue.[55]

This quarter, LHSS helped its local partner train and deploy 25 midwives in Nangarhar Province, increasing the number of midwives in the network to 115.

The midwives were connected to local hospitals and pharmacies to provide patients with referrals. LHSS also selected seven new health service partner grantees to participate in the program, expanding access to health services in the five priority provinces of Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, and Nangarhar. Grantees are private businesses that will collaborate to provide technical assistance, service delivery, demand generation, and community mobilization.[56]

World Health Organization Initiatives

USAID provides support to the World Health Organization (WHO) for three initiatives—polio eradication, national disease surveillance reporting, and COVID-19 response.[57] WHO did not provide activity updates to USAID this quarter.[58] According to WHO's publicly available August 2023 Emergency Situation Report, 396,501 people received emergency healthcare services; 13,045 people received trauma care; 590 health care workers were trained; and 114 surveillance support teams deployed to outbreak areas.[59]

WHO reported that 23,092 pregnant or women of childbearing age and children under five received TT2+ (tetanus), measles, and PENTA-3 (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, and Haemophilus influenzae type b) vaccines in the same period. Both UHI and AFIAT support COVID vaccine administration through fixed and mobile health service delivery, technical assistance, and distribution of ancillary vaccination supplies. As of August 2023, WHO estimated that 42.6% of the population was vaccinated for COVID-19.[60]

DEMOCRACY, GENDER, AND RIGHTS PROGRAMS

As seen in Table E.6, USAID continues to manage several democracy, gender, and rights programs in Afghanistan focused on providing support to civil society

TABLE E.6

USAID ACTIVE DEMOCRACY, GENDER, AND RIGHTS PROGRAMS

Project Title	Start Date	End Date	Total Estimated Cost	Cumulative Disbursements, as of 10/9/2023
Women's Scholarship Endowment	9/27/2018	9/26/2028	$60,000,000	$50,000,000
Conflict Mitigation Assistance for Civilians (COMAC)	3/12/2018	6/30/2023	49,999,873	49,491,940
Enabling Essential Services for Afghan Women and Girls	7/25/2022	7/24/2025	30,000,000	21,291,247
Supporting Transformation for Afghanistan's Recovery (STAR)	2/18/2021	12/31/2024	28,338,901	15,692,100
Promoting Conflict Resolution, Peace Building, and Enhanced Governance	7/1/2015	5/31/2023	16,047,117	16,043,593
Survey of the Afghanistan People	10/11/2012	10/10/2022	7,694,206	6,708,305
Safeguarding Civic Rights and Media Freedoms in Afghanistan	*	*	*	4,123,612
Supporting Media Freedom and Access to Information for Afghan Citizens	*	*	*	2,000,000
Total			**$192,080,097**	**$165,350,798**

Note: Numbers have been rounded. *Information on project start and end dates not available from USAID.

Source: USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 10/13/2023.

organizations, the media sector, Afghan women and girls, and conflict-affected civilians. USAID does not provide support to Afghan governing institutions.[61]

Supporting Transformation for Afghanistan's Recovery (STAR) Extended

Started in February 2021, USAID's STAR program aims to build the resilience of Afghan communities in some of the poorest and most conflict-affected areas by strengthening food and livelihood security through a consortium of implementing partners. STAR provides cash assistance, agricultural and livestock support, and supports market skills and linkages across 26 districts in Ghazni, Ghor, Herat, Jowzjan, Khost, Kunar, Nangarhar, Paktika, and Sar-e Pul Provinces. The program was slated to end operations in September 2023, but one of STAR's implementing partners requested a cost extension to meet several project targets before the activity closed. USAID extended the agreement to December 31, 2024, which now includes additional activities to help address civilian victims of conflict.[62]

This quarter, STAR provided livelihood support to 1,028 individuals (73% women, 27% men). STAR reported that throughout the activity's lifetime, the implementing partner reached 110,323 unique project participants, and 605,392 indirect project participants in 324 communities across nine provinces; 4,132 cash-for-work laborers were employed on 134 livelihoods projects; and 3,488 people took part in water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. Other projects, such as water supply systems, have been turned over to local schools and health facilities as part of the initial closeout process.[63]

USAID and UN Women Continue the Enabling Essential Services for Afghan Women and Girls

On August 12, 2022, USAID announced $30 million in development assistance to support gender equality and women's empowerment in Afghanistan. These funds, programmed through UN Women, support the Enabling Essential Services for Afghan Women and Girls program, and aim to increase Afghan women and girls' access to protection services; provide resources and support directly to women-led civil society organizations (CSOs) working to advance women's rights in Afghanistan; and increase women's economic empowerment through skills and business development training and entrepreneurship support. The project is slated to run through July 2025.[64]

According to UN Women, the Taliban's restrictions on women have created operational impediments and security challenges for both beneficiaries and partners of this activity. For example, the Taliban ministry of economy released a list of NGOs not registered with the regime, notifying them that they would be de-registered unless they submit project proposals to the authorities. NGOs also reported that the ministry instructed them to remove women

from their boards and replace them with men, and women-led CSOs are not able to register or receive tax documents through the ministry of finance. Taliban restrictions especially affect gender-based violence protection services, such as family resource centers and women's protection centers. As a result, services are shifting from a static modality to online services, outreach efforts, home-based service delivery, and partnerships with other sectors such as health. However, UN Women continued to operate three shelters (Women Protection Centers) for women in Kabul despite the Taliban threat.[65]

During the most recent reporting period (April–June 2023), UN Women utilized in-home visits and telephone services to support 185 women with psychosocial assistance. UN Women also partnered with eight new, local women-led or women-focused civil society organizations, an international NGO, and a private company to expand support services. The Women Protection Centers (WPCs) in Kabul provided shelter to 90 women and 18 children during this period. An additional WPC in Baghlan remained closed due to the ban on female NGO workers and mobility restrictions. In total, 293 women and children received services in the latest reporting period, and 7,393 women and 38 children have received essential services during the first year of activity implementation.[66]

Women's Scholarship Endowment Program Extended

The ban on women's university education in December 2022 has affected all students in Afghanistan supported by the Women's Scholarship Endowment (WSE), USAID's five-year, $50 million program that assists Afghan women to obtain a university or graduate degree in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).[67] In response to Taliban policy, WSE has helped students attend regional universities, enroll in online programs, and receive professional training. In July 2023, USAID extended WSE by five years to September 26, 2028, and increased the award to $60 million. WSE also incorporated fields of study beyond STEM, and is expanding its career readiness and leadership training activities.[68]

This quarter, WSE provided career readiness courses to 46 women. Two women were enrolled in a higher education institution in Afghanistan, three at American University of Iraq-Sulaymaniyah, and one at the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development at South University in Islamabad, Pakistan. Another 55 students were enrolled at the American University of Afghanistan in Doha, Qatar. Two women stopped their studies. USAID did not provide additional information on how the two women are able to attend university classes given the Taliban ban on women's higher education, but USAID confirmed the two women are attending in-person classes in Afghanistan.[69]

Afghan Support Project

In late 2022, USAID launched the Afghan Support Project (ASP), with a total estimated cost of $20 million, to support civil society organizations, civic activists, human rights defenders, and journalists in their efforts to protect basic rights and freedoms, and ensure access to credible media.[70] ASP provides support through rapid response grants, professional development grants, window of opportunity grants, innovation grants, and its legal advisory defense fund.[71]

This quarter, USAID reported that ASP completed its pilot phase and moved into its full implementation phase. Following review, the project broadened the scope of its grants and solicited applications from CSOs, media outlets, and individual human rights defenders and activists to submit initiatives supporting the project's goals. As applications are received, reviewed, and selected, USAID's Kabul Vetting Support Unit has worked to mitigate the risk that USAID provides funds or other resources that inadvertently benefit entities or individuals who support terrorists or are affiliated with terrorist activities. ASP issued 37 new grants this quarter to 32 organizations and five individuals based across 16 different provinces. The program also conducted 12 capacity-building training sessions attended by 214 trainees. USAID reported that ASP faced one new operational issue this quarter: some of the women-led CSOs that received grants were unable to open bank accounts because they first needed approval from the Taliban ministry of economy's NGO directorate. According to USAID, the directorate usually denies accounts where the signatory is female, and/or when registration paperwork references human rights advocacy work.[72]

Information, Dialogue, and Rights in Afghanistan Extended Until 2026

In September 2022, USAID started the Supporting Media Freedom and Access to Information in Afghanistan program.[73] Last quarter, USAID modified the award to include a second component called "Supporting National Dialogue and Rights Advocacy" and changed the program name to Information, Dialogue, and Rights (IDR) in Afghanistan. The award was increased from $6.1 million to $11,798,379 and the performance period extended to June 30, 2026.[74]

The program's objective is to help deliver news and educational content to national audiences that strengthen Afghanistan's human capital and enable citizens to freely organize and communicate. The activity aims to accomplish this by supporting independent media and reporting on rights and governance issues; developing a strong cadre of female journalists and producers; supporting journalists to operate safely; and informing Afghan citizens about critical issues of public interest.[75]

This quarter, IDR's media partner aired 1,931 segments of television broadcasts that focused on women's rights, inclusive governance, service delivery,

rights, and justice. The partner also increased online reach to 14.9 million people during the quarter. The majority of this engagement was driven by political and human rights content. IDR also provides journalism training and support to a core group of 25 women journalists from 13 provinces.[76]

STATE DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The State Department continues to provide assistance to the Afghan people. State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) currently runs two programs supporting civil society organizations in Afghanistan. This quarter, State reported that DRL supported 50 civil society members. State does not provide support to the Taliban.[77] This quarter, State reported that DRL supported 50 civil society members, and disbursed more than $1.2 million in humanitarian assistance.[78]

Emergency Support for Afghan Civil Society

The $7.9 million Emergency Support for Afghan Civil Society Program provides short- to medium-term emergency financial support for up to 12 months to a broad range of Afghan civil society members, including journalists. This program does not coordinate logistics such as securing housing, booking transportation, initiating visas, but does provide the financial means to do so.[79]

Reporting Safely in Afghanistan

DRL also supports Afghan journalists with its $2.5 million program, Reporting Safely in Afghanistan. This program has four main objectives: (1) provide emergency support to journalists at risk; (2) promote the safety of journalists; (3) support media outlets to safely produce and disseminate public interest content in Afghanistan through offshore entities; and (4) work to counter mis/disinformation and track censorship and shutdown. This program also helps secure platforms and communication channels to enable journalists to continue working safely in Afghanistan and communicate securely with diaspora journalists, as well as tracking and raising awareness of media violations with the international community.[80]

According to State, "financial assistance gives at-risk journalists and civic actors the ability to continue to earn incomes and support their families, even if they do not feel comfortable going into their workplaces or doing fieldwork… media and civic spaces in Afghanistan have shrunk drastically since August 2021. It is imperative that assistance continue to be provided to at-risk journalists and civic actors so that their spaces don't completely cease to exist."[81]

SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

This quarter, USAID and State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) continued to implement assistance provided in FY 2022 and FY 2023 to support Afghan refugees and internally displaced people.[82] This assistance included:[83]

- more than $80 million from State PRM to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Afghanistan under the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), as well as over $39 million to UNHCR under the 2023 HRP
- roughly $8.3 million from USAID and more than $20.2 million from State PRM to UNFPA to support health and protection programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan
- about $13.5 million from State PRM and over $63 million from USAID to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support health, shelter and settlement, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

For more information on Afghan refugees and internally displaced people, see page 22.

REMOVING EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

Since 1989, more than 56,900 Afghan civilians have been killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). UN humanitarian mine action partners have cleared over 19 million items of unexploded ordnance from Afghanistan, but the threat remains high, especially for children.[84] The International Committee of the Red Cross reported that at least 640 children were injured or killed from January 2022 to June 2023 as a result of ERW and landmines.[85] Due to the ongoing risk to civilians, State continues to fund on-the-ground mine and ERW clearance activities through implementing partners. Direct assistance to the former Afghan Directorate for Mine Action Coordination, an Afghan government entity, was canceled on September 9, 2021, in compliance with international sanctions against specially designated terrorist groups.[86]

The State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) manages the conventional-weapons destruction program in Afghanistan.[87] PM/WRA currently supports six Afghan NGOs, one public international organization (United Nations Mine Action Service), and four international NGOs to help clear areas in Afghanistan contaminated by ERW and conventional weapons (e.g., unexploded mortar rounds).[88]

PM/WRA does not fund female staff, so has not faced any implementation challenges regarding Taliban policy on female employees.[89] Several PM/WRA implementing partners have signed MOUs with the Taliban's director

of mine action.[90] For more information on Taliban interference with aid, see page 19.

From June–September 2023, PM/WRA implementing partners cleared 5,706,670 square meters of minefields, and destroyed 241 anti-tank mines and anti-personnel weapons, 278 items of unexploded ordnance, and 883 small arm ammunitions.[91] PM/WRA has obligated all $15 million in FY 2022 allocated funds as of September 11, 2023.[92]

From 1997 through September 1, 2023, State allocated over $473 million in weapons-destruction and mine-action assistance to Afghanistan. During this period, PM/WRA implementing partners have cleared a total of 367,891,636 square meters of land and destroyed 8,508,206 landmines and ERW.[93] However, the exact number of landmines and ERW yet to be destroyed is unknown. After the fourth quarter of FY 2023, PM/WRA estimated there are 1,101 square kilometers of contaminated minefields and battlefields remaining, but this figure fluctuates with additional surveys and clearance activities' completion.[94]

COUNTERNARCOTICS

From 2003 until the fall of the Afghan government in August 2021, the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) operated multiple programs in Afghanistan to reform the criminal justice system and limit the production and trafficking of illegal drugs.[95] Since the first quarter of FY 2022, following the Taliban takeover, INL has obligated $11 million from the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) account on counternarcotics programs in Afghanistan.[96]

As of September 2023, INL counternarcotics programming supported counternarcotic oversight and messaging efforts, including funding the Afghanistan Opium Surveys and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project (AOTP) through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). INL disbursed $24.2 million for the Afghanistan Opium Surveys from 2006 to September 2023, and $10.3 million for AOTP between December 2011 and September 2023.[97] The AOTP monitors and analyzes trends in the Afghan opiate industry to support the international response to the illicit drug economy.[98] The Afghanistan Opium Surveys utilize data collected by UNODC through remote sensing, surveys, and global data collections on drugs to predict medium- and long-term trends in the narcotics industry.[99] INL also funds an inter-agency agreement with the U.S. Agency for Global Media to implement public information and counternarcotics messaging programs, with a total disbursement of $3.9 million from February 2017 to September 2023.[100]

INL's treatment and prevention services and alternative livelihood programs continue to be active in Afghanistan. To date, INL has disbursed approximately $85 million to implement these programs.[101] For more information on Afghanistan's narcotics production, see page 52.

A man gazing into the distance at the Avicenna Drug Treatment Centre in Kabul, Afghanistan. (Photo by UN News/David Mottershead)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

U.S. SECURITY CONTRACT CLOSEOUTS

Following the Taliban takeover, the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) dissolved and U.S. funding obligations for them ceased, but disbursements to contractors continue, as necessary, until all Afghan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) obligations are liquidated, DOD told SIGAR.

According to DOD, resolving ASFF-funded contracts is an ongoing contract-by-contract matter between contractors and the contracting office in the military departments (Army, Air Force, and Navy). Some contracts were awarded using ASFF funds, for which the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) received obligation authority from the DOD Comptroller; others used ASFF funds for which the Defense Security Cooperation Agency received obligation authority and then passed it through to the military departments to implement using pseudo-Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases. All contracts being closed out were awarded by a contracting entity within one of the military departments.[102]

Contract vendors must submit claims to begin the closeout process. Vendors typically have a five-year window before expired funds are cancelled by DOD, and DOD cannot force vendors to submit invoices for payment. For these reasons, DOD cannot at this time provide complete information on contract closing dates, the amount of funds available to be recouped, or the approximate costs of terminating each contract.[103]

As seen in Table E.7, ASFF funds that were obligated by CSTC-A or its successor DSMO-A (which was disbanded on June 1, 2022), for use on new

Foreign Military Sales: The portion of U.S. security assistance for sales programs that require agreements or contracts between the United States and an authorized recipient government or international organization for defense articles and services to be provided to the recipient for current stocks or new procurements under DOD-managed contracts, regardless of the source of financing. In contrast to regular FMS cases, pseudo-FMS cases are administered through the FMS infrastructure, and a "pseudo-Letter of Offer and Acceptance" (LOA) is generated to document the transfer of articles or services, but the partner nation receiving the articles or services does not sign the pseudo-LOA and does not enter into an agreement or contract to receive the materials or services.

Source: DOD, "DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms," 11/2021, p. 87; DSCA, "Security Assistance Management Manual, Chapter 15," available at https://samm.dsca.mil/chapter/chapter-15.

contracts awarded locally by Army Contract Command-Afghanistan or as military interdepartmental purchase requests (MIPRs) to leverage already-awarded contracts, have total remaining unliquidated ASFF obligations of $46 million. Contracts, used to support pseudo-FMS cases managed by the Departments of the Army, Air Force, and Navy, have total unliquidated ASFF obligations of $328.3 million.[104]

Between FY 2002 and FY 2022, Congress appropriated $88.9 billion to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to provide security for Afghanistan.[105] The U.S. government ceased providing funds for Afghan security forces following the Taliban takeover in August 2021.

TABLE E.7

SUMMARY STATUS OF ASFF OBLIGATED CONTRACTS				
	Cumulative Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures	Unliquidated Obligations (ULO)[a]	ULO as of:
Defense Security Cooperation Management Office-Afghanistan Obligations				
Contracts	$261,476,782	$179,628,481	$45,963,631	9/15/2023
Department of the Air Force Obligated Contracts				
A-29s	$1,031,492,000	$992,632,000	$38,860,000	8/29/2023
C-130	153,070,000	112,070,000	40,390,000	8/31/2023
PC-12	40,671,848	19,387,272	21,284,573	1/30/2023*
C-208	120,903,024	115,620,239	3,181,662	8/31/2203
Munitions	25,363,000	9,054,000	16,306,000	8/30/2023
Department of the Army Obligated Contracts				
ASFF	$443,466,007	$356,492,137	$76,973,871	6/13/2023*
UH-60	413,489,391	393,703,531	19,971,277	3/7/2023*
ASFF Ammunition	61,180,124	39,829,682	21,350,442	6/8/2023*
PEO STRI (simulation, training, and instrumentation)	500,591,346	434,040,650	66,552,697	6/13/2023*
Department of the Navy Obligated Contracts				
Contracts	$30,817,207	$7,361,213	$23,430,399	9/15/2023
Total	**$3,082,520,729**	**$2,659,819,204**	**$374,264,551**	

Note: [a]Unliquidated Obligations (ULOs) are equal to undisbursed obligations minus open expenses.
* DOD did not report any updates this quarter.

Source: DOD, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; DOD, "DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms," 11/2021, p. 295.

U.S. ASSISTANCE ENDNOTES

1   SIGAR analysis of Development and Humanitarian accounts in the SIGAR Quarterly Report to the United States Congress, 10/30/2023, 10/30/2022, and 10/30/2021.

2   Treasury, response to SIGAR vetting, 7/12/2023; State, SCA, response to SIGAR data call, 3/16/2022; State, SCA, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/13/2022; State, SCA, response to SIGAR data call, 12/14/2022.

3   USAID, BHA, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2023; USAID, BHA, response to SIGAR data call, 6/23/2023.

4   USAID, BHA, response to SIGAR data call, 6/23/2023.

5   UN OCHA, "Six things you need to know about Afghanistan right now," 12/20/2022; UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 12/7/2022; UN OCHA, Financial Tracking Service – Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2022, accessed 3/22/2023, https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1100/summary; UN OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan: Afghanistan, 3/2023, p. 5.

6   Reuters, "Budget for Afghanistan aid plan revised down to $3.2 billion," 6/5/2023.

7   UN Financial Tracking Service, Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, accessed 10/12/2023.

8   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023; USAID, GEC Quarterly Project Report, 4/2023.

9   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

10   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

11   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

12   USAID, ACEBA Quarterly Report FY2023 Q2, 4/12/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

13   USAID, ACEBA Quarterly Report FY2023 Q3, 9/15/2023.

14   USAID, TMT, FY 2023 Q3 Quarterly Report, 06/30/2023.

15   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

16   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 3/14/2023.

17   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/152023.

18   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 7/14/2022; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/11/2023.

19   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

20   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

21   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; IPC, Understanding the IPC Scales, 6/2022, p. 3.

22   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 12/14/2022.

23   USAID, Strengthening Rural Livelihoods and Food Security, Quarterly Report, 6/30/2023.

24   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 6/15/2023.

25   USAID, AVC Program Q3 FY2023 Quarterly Report, p. 13.

26   According to USAID, by "benefitted directly" USAID refers to the direct beneficiaries, that are "households where one or more members received goods or services, [including] farm inputs, such as feed, fertilizer, farm tools," and so on. Indirect beneficiaries are those households that receive assistance that is "not significant or enough to result in progress that can be attributed to AVCP interventions." USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023; USAID, AVC Program Q3 FY2023 Quarterly Report, p. 12.

27   USAID, AVC Program Q3 FY2023 Quarterly Report, p. 12.

28   USAID, AVC Program Q3 FY2023 Quarterly Report, p. 12; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

29   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

30   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2023.

31   USAID, data call response to SIGAR, 9/15/2023; AP News, "UNICEF concerned by Taliban move to bar international groups from Afghan education sector," 6/8/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 7/12/2023.

32   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

33   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 6/15/2023.

34   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023; USAID, Girls' Education Challenge (GEC), 4/2023.

35   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 3/14/2023; USAID, Girls' Education Challenge (GEC), accessed 3/28/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2023.

36   USAID, repose to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; USAID, Girls' Education Challenge (GEC), accessed 9/20/2023.

37   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

38   USAID, SEA II Quarterly Report April–June 2023, 9/18/2023.

39   USAID, SEA II Quarterly Report April–June 2023, 9/18/2023.

40   USAID, repose to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

41   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 3/14/2023.

42   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 3/14/2023.

43   USAID, repose to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

44   UNICEF, Keep Schools Open Quarterly Report, 8/15/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 3/14/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2023.

45   USAID, repose to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

46   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 10/13/2023.

47   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; USAID, Urban Health Initiative Quarterly Report, 7/30/2023; USAID, Afghanistan – Complex Emergency, Fact Sheet No. 3, 8/29/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

48   USAID, AFIAT Gender Strategy, accessed via Afghan Info, 5/23/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

49   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; USAID, AFIAT Gender Strategy, accessed via Afghan Info, 5/23/2023.

50   USAID, AFIAT Quarterly Report, FY 2023 Q 3, 7/30/2023.

51   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 6/15/2023.

52   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 10/12/2023.

53   USAID, UHI, Quarterly Report, Project Year 3, Quarter 3 Report, 7/30/2023.

54   USAID, UHI, Quarterly Report, Project Year 3, Quarter 3 Report, 7/30/2023.

55   USAID, response to SIGAR vetting, 7/12/2023; USAID, LHSS Quarterly Report FY2023 Q2, 6/22/2023.

56   USAID, LHSS Quarterly Report FY2023 Q2, 6/22/2023.

57   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 6/15/2023.

58   USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 9/15/2023.

59   WHO, Emergency Situation Report, 8/2023.

60   WHO, Emergency Situation Report, 8/2023; USAID, response to SIGAR data call, 6/15/2023.

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سر مفتش ویژه برای بازسازی افغانستان

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"While no one in Washington wants the Afghan people to suffer because of the Taliban regime, harder questions are starting to be asked about where U.S. assistance is going and whether any of it could be benefiting the Taliban."

—*Inspector General*
John F. Sopko