

In 2025, the U.S. government terminated all assistance to the people of Afghanistan, including more than [\\$765 million in humanitarian aid](#). As a result of the termination of U.S. awards, nearly [600 health facilities](#) have been forced to close—including 150 facilities shuttered [since January 2026](#)—and more than 80,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children lost access to critical nutrition services. Five years after the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan, total humanitarian funding has fallen by more than [80%](#) from its peak.

Despite this, international and local organizations have continued to deliver lifesaving assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Last year, the humanitarian sector reached more than [17.1 million people](#) with at least one form of humanitarian assistance.

In 2026, U.S.-based international nonprofits have:

- Provided improved access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for [282,613 people](#).
- Delivered [food, winter kits, and integrated protection services](#) to 1,415 households, including those affected by a 6.0-magnitude earthquake which struck eastern Afghanistan in late August 2025.
- Provided health services for more than [6,000 people affected by renewed conflict](#) on the Afghanistan–Pakistan border.

Current Situation

Today, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan remains dire with [21.9 million people](#)—or approximately 45% of the population—in need of humanitarian assistance due to the combined impacts of recurring natural hazards, food insecurity, and deep economic vulnerability.

A lack of funding has led to significant cuts to emergency food and nutrition programs, and the ongoing exclusion of Afghanistan from U.S. funding has left it one of this year's [most underfunded emergencies](#), with only 29% of funding requirements met. The largely involuntary return of more than [2.61 million Afghans from Pakistan and Iran](#) has further strained local communities' coping capacity and deepened humanitarian needs.

According to the UN, Afghanistan is currently experiencing the **[sharpest surge in malnutrition ever recorded](#)**, with 4.9 million mothers and children estimated to be suffering from acute malnutrition.

In addition to funding shortfalls, humanitarian actors also face a difficult operating environment in Afghanistan. Increased enforcement of Taliban directives restricting women and girls' participation in education, employment, and public life has increased protection risks and hindered humanitarian response efforts. The security situation on the border with Pakistan also remains in flux with a significant escalation in fighting in February 2026 that [displaced more than 100,000 people and interrupted access to an estimated 17,000 families](#) targeted for critical food assistance.

Recommendations

- The U.S. government must immediately resume humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan to address life-threatening food, nutrition, WASH, and protection needs.
- The U.S. government should avoid and oppose any further policy or legislative changes that would limit nonprofits' ability to operate in Afghanistan. Even without U.S. funding, U.S.-based nonprofits and their international and local partners have continued to provide lifesaving assistance with rigorous safeguards to prevent fraud or diversion, helping to prevent the worst humanitarian outcomes and mitigating further political instability, violence, and forced displacement in the region.