



Afghanistan – 03 June 2018: Yama, 12yr drought affected IDP from Ghor and displaced to Herat

Highlights

- During the first half of 2018, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan continued to be worsen due to drought, ongoing displacement and conflict. More than two thirds of the country, some 20 provinces, are affected by drought impacting 750,000 people who are at risk of acute water shortage and displacement.
- About 403,177 Afghans have returned from Pakistan and Iran – the majority also requiring humanitarian assistance. An estimated 460,000 school-aged children have been affected by school closures due to attacks on schools by fighting groups.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF provided access to safe drinking water to 102,802 people (23 per cent of target); 85,700 school-aged children and adolescents (71 per cent of target) were reached with formal and non-formal education; has treated 112,502 severely acute malnourished children (53.8 per cent of target)
- 40,184 emergency-affected boys and girls (53 per cent of target), including separated children, have benefited from psycho-social services.

UNICEF's Response with partners

	UNICEF		Sector/Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
WASH: # of people affected by humanitarian crisis accessing safe drinking water	450,000	102,802	1,550,000	265,220
Education: # of emergency affected children and adolescents provided who accessed quality education.	120,000	85,700	351,000	140,000
Health: # of children immunized against measles.	105,000	59,923		
Nutrition: # of children under five admitted for SAM treatment	294,535	122,182	294,535	122,182
Child Protection: # of children accessing psychosocial supports through child friendly spaces.	75,000	40,184	101,905	61,141

AFGHANISTAN

Humanitarian Situation Report



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

* January – June 2018

2,400,000

of children in need of humanitarian assistance

(Revised HRP 2018; HNO, 2018)

4,200,000

of people in need of humanitarian assistance (Revised HRP 2018; HNO, 2018)

2.3 million

of people affected by drought

(Revised HRP 2018, only WASH & Nut figures included)

585,000

of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition - SAM (Nutrition Cluster, 2018)

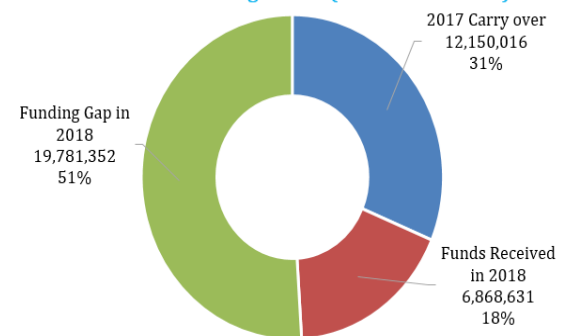
1,029,000

of children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition – MAM (Nutrition Cluster, 2018)

UNICEF revised Appeal 2018

US\$ 38.8 million

HAC 2018 Funding Status (Total: US\$ 38.8m)



*funds available includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as the carry-forward from the previous year.

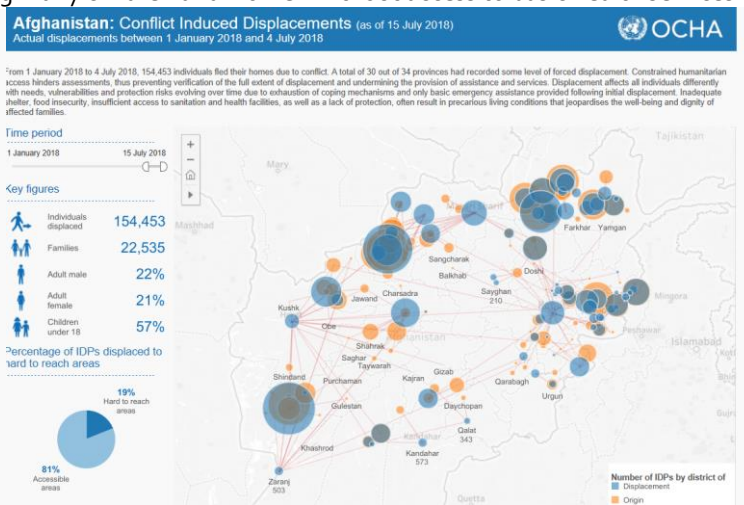
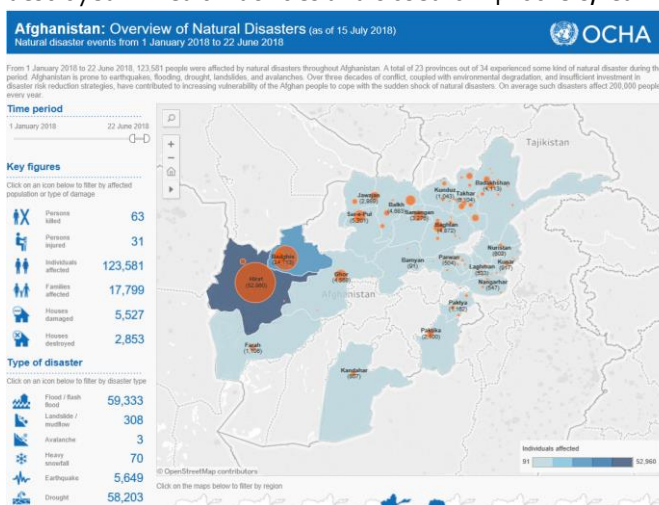
* The reporting period is January – June, however targets have been revised and aligned with the revised HAC and HRP launched in July 2018.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The 2017/18 winter period recorded a precipitation deficit of 70 per cent across most of Afghanistan, making it the fifth consecutive year in which the main planting season has been compromised. This has resulted into drought, with over 750,000 people in 20 provinces experiencing acute water shortages, and are at risk of displacement¹. The affected people started using less water, relying on unprotected water sources, and exposing themselves to water-borne diseases – a leading contributor of malnutrition among children. Until June 2018, 9,284 documented and 373,893 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan and Iran², many need assistances. As of July 2018, 154,453 people (88,000 children) fled their homes due to conflict.³ According to the Ministry of Education, 870 incidents including attacks on schools, threats, intimidation, ground engagement near a school resulted in school closures, impacting on 460,000 students. Malnutrition remains a problem where 1.6 million children under-five are in need of treatment for acute malnutrition in 2018⁴. The combined effects of drought induced food insecurity, poor access to water and seasonal spike of childhood illnesses is expected to result in deterioration of acute malnutrition in the coming six months. An estimated 125,000 additional cases will need treatment services from July –December⁵ Between January and May 2018, 63 incidents of attacks on health facilities have destroyed 21 health facilities and closed-off 41 others, leaving many children and women without access to basic health services.⁶

Estimated Affected Population (Estimates are based on initial figures from Humanitarian Response Plan, 2018)			
Start of humanitarian response: 1 January 2018			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	3,300,000	1,716,000	1,584,000
Children Affected (Under 18)	1,900,000	988,000	912,000
Children Under Five*	660,000	343,200	316,800
Children 6 to 23 months**	198,000	102,960	95,040
Pregnant women***	132,000	n/a	132,000

*As per CSO 20% of population is children >5, ** 6% are children 6-23Mo, ***4% are pregnant women



Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF is an active participant in the Humanitarian Country Team and Inter-Cluster Coordination mechanism. UNICEF co-leads the Education in Emergency Working Group, which has 25 partners, and is led by MoE. The Child Protection in Emergencies sub-cluster has 28 partners. The WASH cluster comprises 40 partners, where UNICEF is the lead, while Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and two NGOs co-lead. UNICEF leads the Nutrition Cluster, which has 43 partners. UNICEF is a member of the Health Cluster, and is also a member of RMNCH in emergency sub-group, which is assuming a greater role in assistance and in advocacy.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's support focuses on strengthening the capacity of clusters to plan, coordinate and respond to emergencies; advocate and mobilise resources; and humanitarian performance and monitoring. UNICEF targets 50 per cent of children with SAM for treatment in 24 provinces. With the health cluster, UNICEF reaches unserved children and women through Mobile Health Teams, measles vaccination, health awareness, supplies provision, capacity building of partners and BPHS implementers in maternal health and newborn care. In WASH, durable solutions like small-scale solar pumping networks or gravity-fed system are promoted to cater for the longer term needs of IDPs, returnees and their host communities, thus strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus. As a part of its commitment under the Grand Bargain, UNICEF works with Ground Truth in assessing its support to national NGOs.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

From January – June 2018, UNICEF with its implementing partners reached 122,182 severe acute malnourished children through treatment services. The achievement represents 53.8% of the UNICEF and Cluster target. During The winter months of 2017 and

¹ HRP drought revision 2018

² IOM/UHCR monthly report

³ OCHA interactive dashboard, 2018

⁴ Nutrition Cluster 2018 HNO analysis

⁵ HRP drought revision 2018

⁶ Health cluster update, June 2018

early 2018 several provinces faced periods of prolonged dry spell and low snowfall. This has drastically affected food security and severely limited access to water in the 20 drought affected provinces. This drought induced severe food insecurity, and limited water availability is negatively affecting most vulnerable people in Afghanistan. Children under 5 years of age, will experience a deterioration in their nutritional status due to poor access to potable water and seasonal spikes in diarrheal diseases. The trend analysis of national nutrition sentinel surveillance (NNSS) across the country shows that the proportion of children with acute malnutrition increases by about 25 per cent during the months of July to September. In addition, data from the diseases early warning system, shows that diarrhoeal disease morbidity peaks during these months. Admission rate of SAM children also increases compared to the rest of the year. The impact of intense drought will further aggravate the already poor malnutrition status, which may extend to December 2018. As a result, an increase in acute malnutrition caseload during the months of July to December 2018 is expected, and an estimated additional 125,000 cases of acute malnourished children will need treatment. Given the rise in needs, UNICEF's SAM treatment target was increased by 85,535 which is also reflected in revised HAC appeal 2018. Targets for micronutrient and Vitamin A are decreased due to the decrease in returnees from Pakistan.

Health

Basic health services currently reached around 60 per cent of the population in Afghanistan. Insecurity and poor road access interrupted the medical supply chain causing stock-outs of life-saving medicines at all levels of the health care delivery system, including referral hospitals. Consequently, immunization coverage has been low, and measles outbreaks were common. UNICEF aims to vaccinate 105,000 children against measles and aims to provide health education to 50,000 emergency-affected people. During January to June 2018, UNICEF achieved 57 per cent of the target for measles vaccinations, reaching 59,923 children. The protracted conflict in different regions resulted in higher number of internally displaced people (IDPs), with recurrent measles outbreaks among them. UNICEF responded directly to these outbreaks through timely provision of measles vaccine. In addition, measles vaccinations were also provided to returnee children at the Puli- Charkhi and Torkham borders. Since the return trend slowed down, UNICEF and partners managed to reach only 21 per cent of the targeted pregnant women so far in 2018, and provided 21,297 pregnant women with non-food items. The items included family kits, newborn kits, clean delivery kits, long lasting insecticide treated nets and IEC/BCC materials.

WASH

During the first half of the year, UNICEF was the first responder of drought displaced IDPs living in Herat, where over 20,000 people received tankered water, and 460 latrines were installed to meet the sanitation needs of 11,500 people. UNICEF has also responded to drought affected people in southern and northern regions. In addition, UNICEF support reached 139 community-based schools, providing safe WASH services to 4,180 children of conflict affected IDPs, and returnees attending newly established learning centres by UNICEF and its partners.

The number of returnees and IDPs in the first half of 2018 was less than the estimated targets for the period, but the drought has generated greater needs. A drought contingency plan was developed to cater for the urgent WASH needs of 750,000 people. Accordingly, the HRP target for 2018 was revised with a new target of 1.4 million for water and 0.50 million for sanitation. Similarly, the HAC target for UNICEF was also increased to 450,000 and 150,000 for water and sanitation respectively.

Education

In the first half of the year, UNICEF with partners continued to provide quality education to 85,700 children and adolescents in 16 districts of eight provinces which included the establishment of temporary learning spaces; provision of teaching and learning materials; recruitment and training of teachers; and community mobilisation on right to education, particularly for girls. To address the upwards trend of attacks against education⁷, UNICEF continued to advocate through the Task Force on Children in Armed Conflict, the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict as well as the MoE. A response plan was developed, outlining mitigation measures linked to the 4,498 schools, which have been designated by the Government of Afghanistan as voting registration, and polling centres for the 2018 elections.

Child Protection

UNICEF aims to strengthen child protection case management services for at-risk children and continue to address the acute and chronic psycho-social support needs of affected girls and boys. Under the current drought response, CPIE response is focusing on the provision of community-based psycho-social support, and timely and appropriate case management services that are age & gender-sensitive. Recognising the lack of inter-agency guidelines on child protection case management, CPIE sub-cluster is working with the global CP Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) to support the process of systemising and standardising child protection case management tools and procedures including the development of SOP on care for child survivors in close coordination with GBV sub-cluster. In addition, CPIE sub-cluster is currently assessing the capacity of partners to provide adequate services in order to develop the capacity enhancement plan for members. CPIE sub-cluster established a thematic working group to improve the quality of response, and

⁷ Since January 2018, there has been a significant upwards trend of reported attacks against education. Between January and May, a total of 86 direct attacks against schools were documented, out of which 39 related to the ongoing election process (against a total of 68 verified cases of attacks on schools throughout 2017). In the same period, according to initial information, a total of 870 overall education related incidents have occurred (attack on schools, threats, intimidation, ground engagement in the vicinity). It is estimated that 460,000 children have been affected by school closures.

enhance technical capacity of partners in mental health and psychosocial support; child recruitment; children on the move; case management; and victim assistance. UNICEF reached 40,184 children with psychosocial support out of the target of 75,000 and 4,554 children with case management services, of the 10,000 targeted children for 2018. Child Protection is pretty much on track in achieving the planned result from Jan-June 2018.

Communication for Development (C4D)

In response to the chronic contribution of Afghanistan to the global phenomenon of unsafe migration, innovative interventions using 70 interactive mural paintings and 49 participatory theatre are ready to roll out between July and December 2018 in 7 high burden provinces. This will engage a minimum of 7,000 vulnerable adolescents, parents and community members to debate and discuss implications of their decisions, and explore options other than unsafe migration. Concurrently, a series of 4 TV spots portraying stories of affected youth will be aired to further create an enabling environment for reflection. Being a sensitive topic with ambivalent solutions, this approach will facilitate consideration for safer options, and shift in family mindset.

Advocacy and capacity building of School Management Shuras from 5 provinces in Southern and Eastern Regions enable returnees, IDPs and other vulnerable groups to enrol and retain their children in schools. An inter-agency Task Force on Social Mobilisation in Education in Emergencies and a quarterly monitoring system will ensure the effort is well-managed.

Additional 16,500 copies of the Emergency booklet with integrated life-saving messages, and 200,000 leaflets have been produced in 2018 to help communities adopt recommended childcare practices.

Supply and Logistics

Over US\$1 million of contingency supplies are being pre-positioned in UNICEF warehouses across Afghanistan. Long Term Agreements (LTAs) are in place for numerous supplies and services (including transportation and customs clearance as well as local emergency kits). While there have not been the same substantial closures of border posts as in 2017, the situation remains unpredictable and alternative routes are being considered. There have been road closures within Afghanistan, which have affected some local distributions and in-country logistics. ACO continues to use local logistics' service providers to address access issues.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF scaled-up awareness and reach on the situation of the children across all platforms. This included local issues like 'Education Under Attack' with a Press Release by the UNICEF Executive Director, drought impact, and global priorities like refugees and migrant children. There was high international coverage on the launch of out-of-school children report. Girls education was focused through social media posts, stories and videos.

This year, engagement via UNICEF social media platforms increased by 82.5 per cent; 40 per cent; and 61 per cent for Facebook, twitter and Instagram respectively. Similarly, UNICEF's share of voice on children-related issues in all media increased by 16.5 per cent.

Security

The security situation in Afghanistan is constantly deteriorating, a marked trend since 2011. Anti-government elements have influence over large areas of the country, mostly in the rural areas. There are also many contested districts where active combat operations is on-going. The bulk of the conflict remains in the East and South of Afghanistan, areas which border the tribal areas of Pakistan and their safe havens. There are however pockets of Islamic State activity in the East and the North. There are also isolated pockets of insecurity in the North, North East and West. The Central area of Afghanistan remains relatively secure.

Funding

In line with Afghanistan's multi-year inter-agency 2018-2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF has revised its appeal in July to US\$38.8 million to meet the increased humanitarian needs of children and women in 2018. The revision was triggered due to drought, especially for scaling-up nutrition response, and access to safe drinking water. Without additional funding, UNICEF Afghanistan will not be able to support some 300,000 people countrywide, including 48,000 children affected by the continuous nutrition crisis, and will not be able to provide critical WASH services to the drought-affected, displaced, and returnee populations facing spread of diseases.

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of January 2018 for a period of 12 months)					
Appeal Sector	Requirements (\$)	Funds available*		Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
WASH	9,000,000	2,800,000	1,058,733	5,141,267	57
Education	5,000,000	800,000	61,027	4,138,973	83
Health	1,300,000	0	882,832	417,168	32
Nutrition	17,000,000	2,759,255	9,136,207	5,104,538	30
Child Protection	5,000,000	250,000	402,573	4,347,427	87
Cluster Coordination	1,500,000	259,377	608,645	891,355	59
Total	38,800,000	6,868,631	12,150,016	19,781,352	51

Next SitRep: 15/12/2018

**Who to contact
for further
information:**

Adele Khodr
Representative
UNICEF Afghanistan
Tel: +93 790507100
Fax: +93 870764042530
Email: akhodr@unicef.org

Mohammad Fayyazi
Chief Field Coordination and
Emergency
UNICEF Afghanistan
Tel: +93 790507150
Fax: +93 870764042530
Email: mfayyazi@unicef.org

Alison Parker
Chief of Communication
UNICEF Afghanistan
Tel: +93 790507110
Fax: +93 870764042530
Email: aparker@unicef.org

Annex A

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS⁸

	Overall needs	Cluster Response			UNICEF and IPs		
		2018 Revised Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼	2018 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
Number of people affected by humanitarian crisis accessing safe drinking water		1,550,000	265,220*		450,000	102,802	
Number of people affected by humanitarian crisis accessing sanitation facilities.		500,000	204,956*		150,000	67,530	
EDUCATION							
Number of emergency affected children and adolescents who accessed quality education		351,000	140,000		120,000	85,700	
HEALTH							
Number of children (9 months - 10 years) who received measles vaccination					105,000	59,923	
Number of pregnant/lactating women and children benefited from essential health services and health education					64,000	21,297	
NUTRITION							
Number of children under 5 with SAM admitted for treatment	571,000	294,535	122,182		294,535	122,182	
Number of children 6-59 Months received Vitamin A					5,000	2,036	
CHILD PROTECTION							
Number of children accessing psychosocial supports through child-friendly spaces		101,905	61,141		75,000	40,184	
Number of children protected and supported through case management		23,958	8,770		10,000	4,554	
Number of affected children and their families receive warm winter clothes and Non-Food Item (NFI) support					200,000	83,264	

*The result reported in the revised HAC for cluster were erroneous due to double counting of population in some cases by partners which was detected and corrected accordingly.