

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

AFGHANISTAN

2022

HUMANITARIAN
PROGRAMME CYCLE
2022 END-YEAR MONITORING REPORT

OF FINANCING, ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESPONSE
CHALLENGES

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022



About

This document is consolidated by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners. It provides a shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs and the estimated number of people who need assistance. It represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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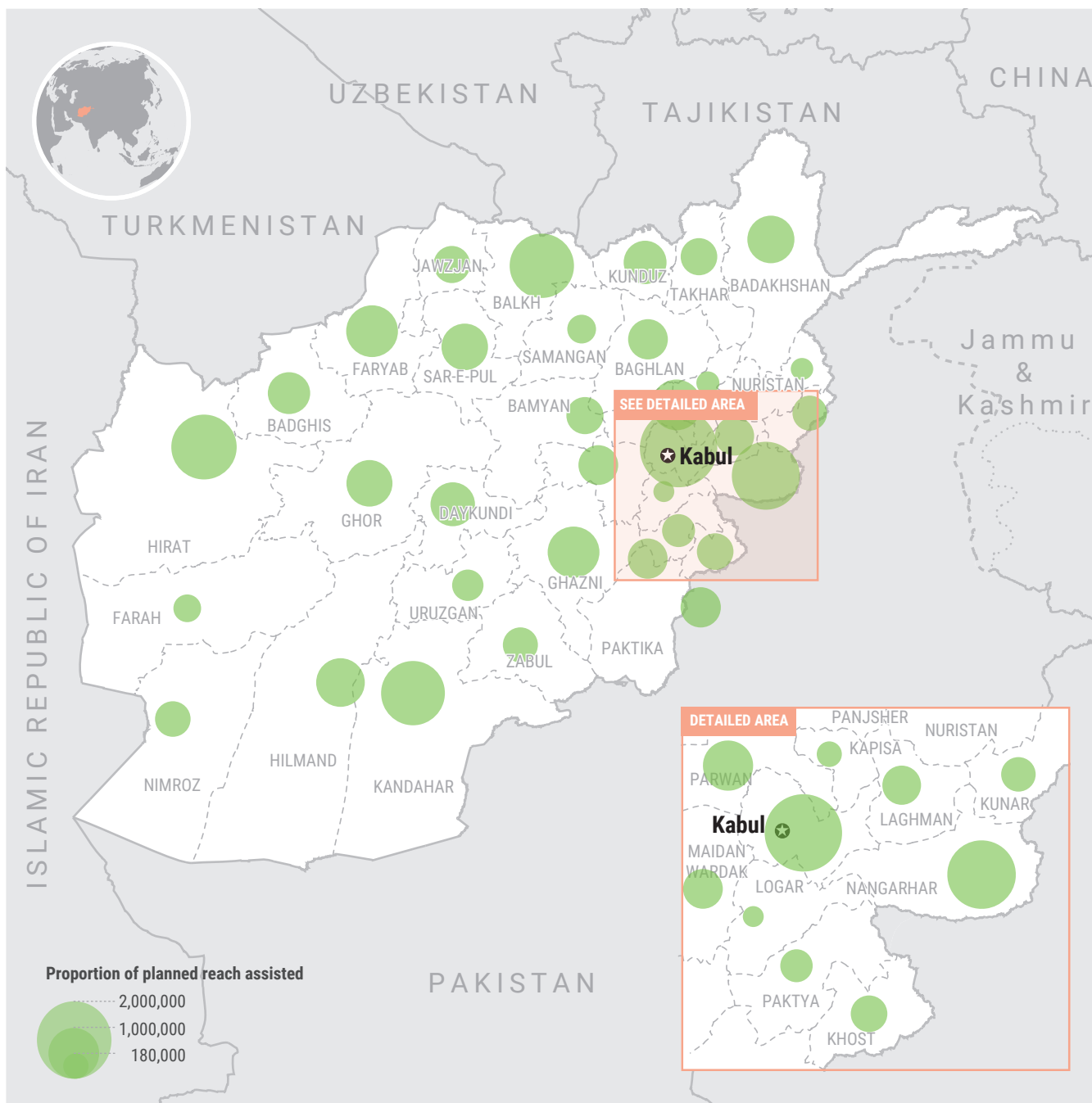
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PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)	CARRY-OVER FUNDING INTO 2023 (US\$)
24.4M	22.1M	26.1M	4.4B	3.2B ¹	743.3M

Overview map



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Part I

Overview

Summary

Between January and December 2022, humanitarian partners have reached 26.1 million people with at least one form of assistance which includes 22.3 million people with food and livelihoods support; 13.3 million people with access to health care (consultations and treatment); 11 million people with water, sanitation and hygiene assistance; 6.2 million children and pregnant and lactating women with support to prevent and address acute malnutrition; 5.7 million people with protection assistance; 2 million people with emergency shelter and household items; and 554,400 children with access to education and education materials. Despite the overall reach exceeding the target by 2.2 million people (the original HRP target is 24.4 million), this was done in part by reducing levels of assistance to the less vulnerable, seasonal, and geographic prioritization and use of lower cost/intensity interventions.

The response was enabled by a combination of new funding in 2022 (\$3.2 billion) and funds carried over from 2021 (\$542 million). Despite the historic scale of response so far in 2022 (including in previously inaccessible areas), underfunding has meant that people's needs were not reduced, and they have not been able to start the path towards stability and independence. In fact, there are more people today in Afghanistan who rely on humanitarian assistance as the only source of survival.

The outlook remains grim with climate forecasts indicating an imminent triple dip La Niña phenomenon to extend the dry-spell / drought-like conditions for the third year in a row. This is on the backdrop of surging urban debt, financial constraints, and rural inability to access services, with a notable reduction in access to water. Meanwhile, external factors (e.g., war in Ukraine and floods in Pakistan) are driving commodity prices even higher. Millions of people who received one form of assistance will continue to require multiple rounds of support over the course of the year to survive. This often includes more tailored packages designed specifically to meet individual and/or household needs in a more comprehensive manner.

Partners will make concerted efforts to provide more integrated support in underserved areas, in line with the nature and scale of multi-sectoral needs now present while considering seasonal risks. The humanitarian community's ability to continue to stay and deliver life-saving assistance will be contingent on flexible funds, enabling financial systems and assurances of aid worker safety and principled humanitarian response. This includes ensuring that women can

participate in society both as people in need of assistance and as humanitarian staff to enable humanitarians to reach 50 per cent of the population.

This end-of-year report captures progress against the needs and targets identified in the 2022 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plans.

Food Insecurity and Malnutrition

Over 2022, more than 21 million people received direct food assistance as in-kind or cash, preventing people's food insecurity from deteriorating and responding to acute needs from displacement and disaster. Nonetheless, the levels of food assistance were below the initial targets. Approximately one-third of beneficiaries received up to 2 months of assistance, a third received up to 4, and a third received from 5-12. Despite the limitations on sustaining food assistance for everyone in IPC 3 and 4+ areas, the number of people in IPC 4+ was successfully reduced from 8.7 million to 6.1 million, still the second highest globally as of December 2022, but an indicator that the prioritization of limited food security resources has been effective. In September and October 2022 (the post-harvest season), nearly 17 million people in Afghanistan experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). The main drivers of acute food insecurity include a series of droughts impacting crops and livestock production, other natural hazards like flooding, the continuation of widespread unemployment, a severe economic crisis and increasing food prices in the country. A significant absolute amount of humanitarian food assistance (HFA) was provided during the current period, covering roughly 23 per cent of the estimated national population.

In line with the lean season patterns, between November 2022 and March 2023, deterioration in food security is expected. The number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is projected to increase to 19.9 million, or 46 per cent of the population, considering the planned HFA assistance for the same period. If sufficient HFA is not provided this number may be higher. As noted, some 13.8 million people will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 6.1 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), the second highest globally as of the start of 2023.

According to the 2022 National Nutrition Survey (NNS), the prevalence of acute malnutrition in Afghanistan is high at 10.3 per cent which is

above regional and global averages². Similarly, chronic malnutrition resulting from the long-term effects of underlying determinants of malnutrition, is above regional and global averages, with all assessed provinces reporting high (8 provinces) or very high (25 provinces) prevalence among children under age 5, as per WHO classification. This includes both rural and urban areas, with urban Kabul expected to be in IPC 4 for malnutrition.

Livelihood and Economic Shocks

Afghanistan's economic crisis is widespread, with more than half of households experiencing an economic shock in the second half of 2022. The economy immediately went into free fall, with the disruption to markets, financial and trade mechanisms, the freezing of \$9.5 billion in central bank reserves, loans, and the sudden suspension of direct development aid.

More than half of households reported having experienced an economic shock in the six months prior to data collection (54 per cent). 2022 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA) findings also show regional disparities in the extent of the economic crisis, with the Southern Region, reporting the highest proportion of households experiencing an economic shock (81 per cent), with lower numbers in the Northern and Central regions (the lowest – but still notable – in the Central Highlands at 37 per cent). Most critically, the two main reported effects of the economic crisis were limited/reduced access to food (88 per cent) and taking on debt (73 per cent), highlighting the direct and negative consequences of economic shocks on household well-being. This both exacerbates pre-existing and chronic levels of poverty and further erodes resilience.

The large-scale humanitarian food response has allowed many households to avoid falling into more acute needs. This emergency measure highlights the Afghan population's vulnerability to absorb further shocks, particularly emerging from winter at the start of the year, followed by the lean season. Low levels of household resilience provide a limited and fragile buffer.

Displaced households, particularly in urban areas, struggle to absorb the cost of rent, with fewer job opportunities available due to the drought and economic shocks. Many people are unable to afford rent and fear eviction. In provinces such as Balkh and Kabul, the rate of sudden evictions increased in 2022, increasing household vulnerability. Economic shocks also increased household debt and the adoption of negative coping mechanisms.

Internal Displacement and Cross-Border Returns

Return figures of undocumented returnees from neighbouring countries for the first quarter of 2022 increased compared with the end of 2021, with deportations from Iran increasing month on month. While returnee households' sectoral needs are slightly less severe than that of other displaced population groups, WoAA findings show that their needs situation deteriorated between 2021 and 2022 in several sectors.

The WoAA 2022 shows the shelter needs of recent returnees are high, with 85 per cent of households needing shelter repairs; while 82 per

cent of households are using inadequate heating sources for winter; and some 70 per cent require basic household items. Indicators from the WASH sectors also highlight deteriorating living conditions for the returnee population group since 2021. Fifteen per cent of recent returnee households reported that the accessed water sources are inadequate (unprotected spring or surface water), the highest of any displaced population group. Additionally, the proportion of recent returnee households reporting they do not own soap grew from 18 per cent in the 2021 WoAA to 29 per cent in the 2022 WoAA.

While recent returnees appear less affected than other population groups by protection incidents with the lowest share of households reporting a member experiencing a protection incident in the three months prior to data collection (16 per cent compared with 21 per cent of all households)³, all children living in vulnerable households returning from the cross border as undocumented migrants or returnees are at risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation. Regarding health, the WoAA results suggest that returnees face increasing difficulties in accessing health services. Nearly one quarter (23 per cent) of recent returnee households reported having to travel one hour or more to access the nearest healthcare facility, a proportion higher than that of other displaced population groups and a threefold increase when compared with 2021 figures (7 per cent).

Natural Hazards/Climate Change

Afghanistan is highly prone to natural hazards, whose frequency and intensity are exacerbated by the effects of climate change, increasing humanitarian needs and structural limitations in mitigating disaster impact. The number of atypical sudden-onset disasters, such as floods and earthquakes, was higher in 2022 than in preceding years and the scenario anticipates that these patterns may be the norm moving ahead.

Afghanistan experienced natural disasters in 2022 towards the upper end of the anticipated scenario for impact, affecting more than 228,000 people in 33 out of 34 provinces between January and August alone. There were three major earthquake incidents in 2022 that caused loss of life and damage to houses and property: in Badghis Province in January, South-eastern Region in June, and Kunar Province in September.

In addition, unseasonal flooding occurred between July and September, affecting 21 provinces. And while the spring season saw the lowest levels of flooding in 2022 compared with the previous five years, a surge in atypical floods during the summer season (June to September) caused substantial disruption to agricultural livelihoods, affecting crops before harvest, and otherwise disrupting regular cycles. The flooding events were concentrated around the Southern Region (88 per cent of households in Zabol Province reported flooding in the previous six months) and South-eastern Region (75 per cent of households in Ghazni Province), reflecting the impact of atypical flooding over the June to August summer season.

Severe needs from drought have reached a crisis point. As of December 2022, Afghanistan was experiencing the first triple-dip impact of La Niña globally since 1998-2001, which was also a period

of multi-year drought and prominent levels of food insecurity in Afghanistan. The forecast is at least a 50 per cent chance of La Niña continuing from January to March 2023 before returning to ENSO neutral. The 2022 WoAA identified drought as the most frequently reported shock experienced in the six months prior to data collection, and the prolonged drought is resulting in the drying of surface water sources such as springs, and a significant drop in groundwater levels. As a result of the ongoing drought event and water crisis, the proportion of households experiencing barriers to accessing water rose from 48 per cent in 2021 to 60 per cent in 2022.

Earthquake

In the early hours of 22 June 2022, a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck, affecting Patika and Khost Provinces, over 1,000 people were killed (including 230 children) and over 2,900 injured (including 591 children). The earthquake destroyed critical infrastructure – including homes, facilities, schools, and water networks – leaving areas that were already highly vulnerable before the earthquake, vulnerable to additional risks. Following assessments by Humanitarian partners, over 100,000 people were identified to need of humanitarian assistance, of which 18 per cent were considered vulnerable, including female-headed households, people with disabilities, those chronically ill, unaccompanied minors and elderly people, and families with more than eight people in the household. Khost and Patika provinces were highly vulnerable prior to the crisis, facing crisis levels of food insecurity and malnutrition as well as an acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak.

First responders on the ground, including the authorities, affected communities and humanitarian partners, launched an immediate response to the earthquake with available supplies. Within 24 hours following the earthquake, UN and NGO partners mobilised response efforts, with trucks of supplies on the roads headed to communities.

By 30 June, just eight days after the earthquake, the Emergency Earthquake Response Plan was launched requesting \$110 million to cover the emergency needs from July to September 2022. Initially, the plan targeted 362,000 people, based on available data at the time, this was later revised to reflect the on-ground information from joint assessments teams to 100,000 people assessed to be in need. Thanks to the generosity of the donor community, by 31 October 2022 the emergency response effort had received \$44 million. By the end of the emergency phase, September 2022, over 515,000 people had been reached with one form of humanitarian assistance in earthquake-affected areas. Recovery initiatives and sectoral-specific interventions have continued in the second phase of the response effort.

Following the emergency response phase, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) requested a Lessons Learnt Review. Considering the change in Afghanistan's context over the past year, the evaluation team was tasked to look at the system's ability to scale up to sudden-onset emergency events and the preparedness planning in place to support future emergencies. Due to the country's pre-existing vulnerabilities, the review aims to look at the systems currently in place to respond to these sudden events and proposed recommendations for future sudden-onset emergencies in Afghanistan.

A task team was formed at the beginning of November made up of representatives from UN Agencies, NGOs and Assessment and Analysis team members. The task team provided technical support to the Earthquake Lessons Learnt Review, helping to review the data coming from various sources and generating key recommendations for the HCTs' consideration to help the system to be better prepared for future sudden onset emergencies. The lessons learnt review looked at the following key aspects from the Earthquake Response: 1) Preparedness; 2) Response Capacity; 3) Leadership and Coordination; 4) Logistics and enabling factors; 5) Cross-cutting issues of protection, gender, and accountability to affected people and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Key Protection Issues

Mine Risk

The Mine Action Service enabled the survey and clearance of contaminated land, safely removing explosive devices, including improvised explosive devices. Affected populations, including girls and women, received explosive ordnance risk education in communities and areas of return. A further 20 million people received risk education messaging via mass media.

Access and Operating Environment

Attacks on Aid and Humanitarian Access Constraints

In 2022, the Humanitarian Access Group (HAG) recorded some 1,787 access-related challenges, as compared to 2,085 access constraints reported throughout all of 2021. Some 30 attacks on healthcare personnel and 362 incidents of violence and threats against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities were recorded, a significant decrease from 522 incidents documented in the year. In addition, 407 gender-motivated incidents (including 39 incidents of threats or intimidation against female aid workers and 57 incidents of restrictions on the movement of female aid workers) were authored by de facto authorities (DFA). These numbers are indicative and not reflective of the total numbers of incidents due to the limitations on reporting.

Female Participation in the Response

Within the broader humanitarian access environment, Afghan women staff's participation in the humanitarian response has deteriorated since August 2021. Amid a growing set of restrictions curtailing their basic rights and freedoms, women humanitarian workers face increasingly restrictive challenges affecting their ability to travel to beneficiaries. The 24 December 2022 DFA edict barring women from working for national or international NGOs had a devastating humanitarian impact on millions of people across the country, as it prevented millions of vulnerable women and girls from receiving services and lifesaving assistance.

Prior to the above edict, Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) and OCHA reported that many women humanitarian workers were afraid to

work. Unclear and inconsistent policies and accountability by the DFA, particularly in remote areas, compounded this fear and have led to caution around changing policies.⁴

The Female Participation in the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan mapping exercise was conducted nationwide in June and July 2022 to better understand the challenges national female staff experiencing in delivering humanitarian aid. The study suggested that in 171 surveyed districts, the ability of women to participate in humanitarian action was low in 88 districts (51 per cent) and high in only 68 districts (40 per cent), while finding that the mahram requirement has been the biggest impediment to women's ability to work in the humanitarian response. Coupled with harassment by the DFA at checkpoints and negative attitudes from male colleagues, the need for women to be accompanied by a male family member when visiting the field has largely impeded their ability to contribute to the response and to reach women and girls with humanitarian assistance, with potentially devastating consequences for women beneficiaries who depend on their involvement to be able to access life-saving assistance and services.

Sensitization

As of December 2022, the humanitarian sensitization sessions have reached DFA in 306 of the 401 districts in 34 provinces. Once the harsh winter season in Afghanistan has finished OCHA aims to reach the remaining districts to conduct humanitarian sensitization sessions with provincial authorities. Some districts have benefited from more than one humanitarian sensitization session due to DFA change in authorities.

Enablers

There has not been a formal recognition for the DFA a year and a half after the takeover. Since late 2021, the international community expedited the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2615 (the 'humanitarian exception') and the issuance of several General Licenses to facilitate necessary engagement for the purposes of delivering humanitarian assistance and basic human needs support. These carve-outs have allowed humanitarian operations to continue, eased some of the banking challenges that partners are experiencing, and ensured that critical payments which must be made to line ministries to implement programmes have been able to be completed.

The formal banking system remains dysfunctional. The chilling effects of sanctions has meant that a confidence crisis remains and that foreign correspondent banks are deterred from engagement with the country's finance sector due to risk. The UN cash facility has been serving as a primary source of liquidity for the international aid community and the market at large. While this is anticipated to continue, it is recognized that it is not a sustainable mechanism and that the Central Bank and Afghan banks need to be restored to functionality.

Progress Against Cross-Cutting Priorities

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

Humanitarian community in Afghanistan continued to ensure minimum operationalisation of AAP in humanitarian programme cycle throughout 2022. Progress was made in the areas of capacity strengthening including for national and local actors, localised information and communication ecosystems, design of gender sensitive feedback mechanisms, and collective efforts to amplify community voices in response. The AAP Working Group continued to support the WoAA on the accountability mechanism and advocated the community perception findings to humanitarian partners to support their programme planning, implementation and monitoring. Additionally, technical support was provided to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) partners in integrating AAP approach into programme proposals that led to improvement in engagement with affected communities in response. Further, lessons on accountability from 2022 were used to improve the collective approach to AAP for 2023 (in the last quarter of 2022). As a result, a Collective AAP Strategy along with Community Voices Platform concept and data responsibility were drafted and to be finalised in early 2023 to enhance the operational support to HRP 2023. In doing this, intersections with various thematic areas including AAP, PSEA, Gender, Disability Inclusion, Access, Youth were further strengthened to ensure that Afghanistan humanitarian response is guided by crisis affected people.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Collective efforts to scale up PSEA actions in humanitarian response were made through the support of PSEA Task Force in 2022. Following administration change in country (August 2021), the PSEA strategy and Standard Operating Procedures were updated and endorsed by the HCT. The Task Force also supported AHF partners to strengthen PSEA measures in their programme planning, implementation and monitoring, especially to ensure PSEA awareness raising in aid relief distribution. The PSEA TF also worked with Awaaz helpline to improve the reporting of PSEA allegations and cases from the affected communities. Strong linkages were made with AAP and Gender to integrate PSEA awareness messages and enhance the reporting mechanisms through community engagement activities conducted by humanitarian partners. As of end of 2022, PSEA TF developed a community consultation concept to be undertaken in early 2023 to further improve PSEA mechanism across the response considering sensitive topic and challenging environment to operate in Afghanistan. Views from communities on how PSEA should be implemented is critical to ensure it fits into local culture and context and enables the response to achieve zero tolerance to any forms of abuse and violence.

Disability Inclusion Working Group (DIWG)

Throughout 2022, the DIWG continued supporting Clusters and partners on the ground to enhance an inclusive response – from developing needs assessments to implementation and accountability. At the same time, the group has worked to maintain close contact with

organisations of people with disabilities to understand their status, activity, challenges and needs. Going forward, based on the changed landscape and presence of partners on the ground, the DIWG has initiated a mapping exercise to better understand the presence and quality of services provided in support of men, women, girls, and boys with disabilities.

Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA)

The GiHA continued to support the advancement of gender-responsive humanitarian action and the increased participation of women in the response. This was done through the development of gender analysis to provide humanitarian actors and decision makers with information and data on gender concerns in the response, as well as through capacity building on gender-responsive programming for multiple Clusters and partners.

GiHA continuously provided information on gender trends in emergencies, including in the context of the Paktika and Khost earthquake as well as in the context of evictions and displacement trends. A country-wide Rapid Gender Analysis, led by GiHA together with UN Women, REACH and CARE and key humanitarian UN agencies and INGOs was also published at the end of 2022, and served to inform the 2023 HRP with gender analysis and data. To enhance women's participation in the response, GiHA WG undertook two research pieces respectively on challenges and opportunities for women-led and focused organizations in the Afghanistan humanitarian response, and on the recruitment and retention of women staff by humanitarian organizations. Similar studies are planned for 2023 to build on this existing knowledge and to reflect the rapidly changing environment, especially following the 24 December edict.

The analysis carried out by the working group throughout the year was shared and discussed with Clusters and decision makers, to influence the response and ensure gender-responsiveness of Clusters and other working groups' action on the ground. The publication on women's recruitment and retention led to the development of an HCT plan to ensure women staff's participation across the response. GiHA, together with its co-lead UN Women, and OCHA, leads the implementation of the plan including through the publication of further data on gender trends in staffing and the development of guidance for HR working groups and individual agencies to enable the recruitment and retention of women staff.

Following the ban on women NGO workers, GiHA also collaborated with the HAG to develop rapid assessments of the impact of the ban on organizations and on affected women and girls, feeding into decision-making on the ban by the HCT and the IASC. These quantitative surveys were complemented by qualitative consultations with NNGOs, INGOs, and gender experts to better analyse and present the key findings, and available in a UN-Women Gender Alert on the impact of the ban on women aid workers.

In addition, GiHA WG continued to promote the voices of women organizations and to share their insights to inform humanitarian decision making. GiHA conveyed the Women Advisory Group (WAG) to the HCT three times in person in 2022 and continued to provide

secretariat and advisory support to the WAG. The WAG strengthened its structure in 2022, with GiHA support, and is now comprised of 26 members across 22 provinces, who provide insights from a gender perspective which is then leveraged in the HCT and other decision-making forums. In the context of the ban on women NGO workers, key WAG recommendations were shared with the HCT as well as with the UN Deputy Secretary General (DSG) and the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). in the context of various meetings-

GiHA also continued its expansion and localization in Afghanistan through the set-up of sub-national GiHA coordination structures in Mazar-e-Sharif, Hirat, and Kandahar (with the set up for the two latter still ongoing). This will enhance localized analysis of gender trends, and the provision of further support to gender-responsive programming going forward. It will also increase the mobilisation of women focused organisations to promote their engagement in the Cluster coordination system as well as inclusion in negotiation points to be discussed by regional humanitarian teams and the DFA. GiHA continued to provide inputs into all joint assessments, analysis, and strategies, including protection analysis, the Afghanistan access strategy and the HNO and HRP. GiHA also provided inputs and review support to projects submitted to AHF funding, to work towards ensuring that planned actions were adapted to meet the specific needs of women and girls. In the context of the HPC, GiHA gathered different working groups and Clusters to design gender-responsive and inclusive indicators for the 2023 HRP. For the first time globally, the Afghanistan 2023 HRP will feature reporting responsibility against indicators such as the reach of women headed households, engagement with women in communities, safety of humanitarian access for women, etc.

Capacities of Clusters were also built in 2022, including through targeted trainings on the Gender with Age Marker (GAM) and on gender-responsive programming. GiHA notably built the capacity of shelter practitioners in the context of the Paktika and Khost earthquake through the provision of a four-session training on gender and inclusion in shelter. Four training sessions on the GAM were provided throughout the year to various humanitarian actors. Tip sheet on HR recruitment tools as well as good practices to engage with and access women and girls were also produced and shared with various Clusters and other humanitarian partners, providing practical solutions for women's participation in humanitarian action.

Cash in Emergencies

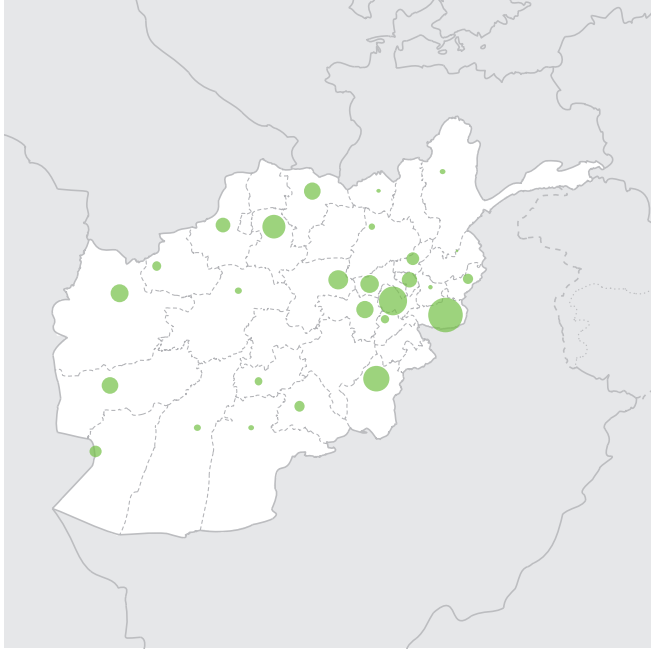
Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA): Since it was introduced as a modality in 2009, cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in Afghanistan has grown rapidly and become one of the preferred response modalities among humanitarian and development actors. About 68 per cent of respondents surveyed as part of the WoAA in 2022 identified cash as their preferred modality of assistance. More than 22.3 million shock-affected and vulnerable people including women, men and children of all ages were provided with adequate food/cash responses in 2022, in a timely manner. At the same time, some 1.2 million people received cash for protection.

Establishment of Cash Import Pipeline: The cash import pipeline established by the UN for humanitarian operations and salary payments of UN staff and contractors continued to function, with \$1.63 billion transferred between 1 December 2021 and 14 November 2022 to UN (19), INGOs (30) and the World Bank. The UN cash facility

has been serving as a primary source of liquidity for the international aid community and the market at large. While this is anticipated to continue, it is recognized that it is not a sustainable mechanism and that the Central Bank and Afghan banks need to be restored to functionality.

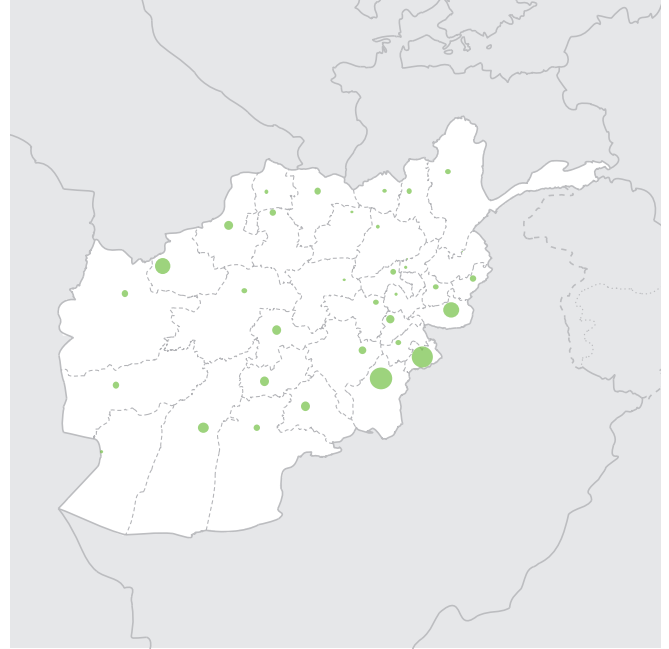
People displaced in 2022

PEOPLE IN NEED | PLANNED REACH | PEOPLE REACHED
504K | **504K** | **132K**



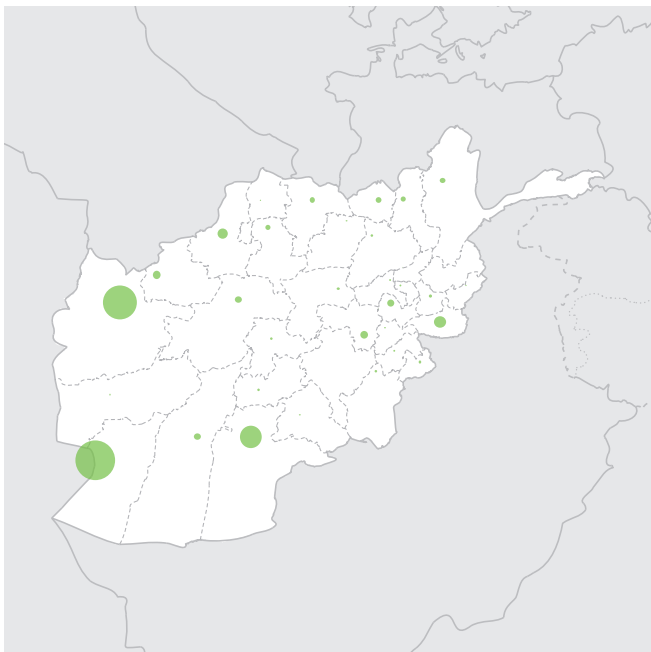
People affected by shocks in 2022

PEOPLE IN NEED | PLANNED REACH | PEOPLE REACHED
150K | **150K** | **345K**



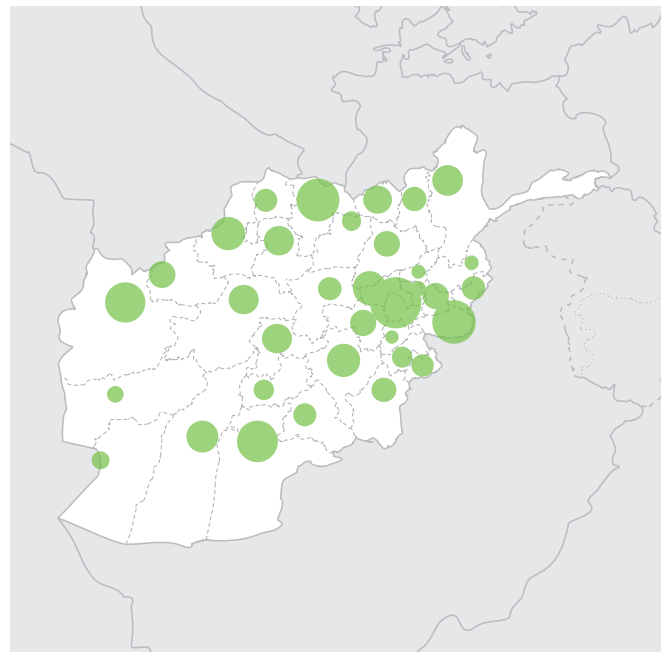
Returnees in 2022

PEOPLE IN NEED | PLANNED REACH | PEOPLE REACHED
785K | **592K** | **741K**



Acutely vulnerable people with humanitarian needs

PEOPLE IN NEED | PLANNED REACH | PEOPLE REACHED
23.2M | **20.7M** | **25M**



Part 2

Progress Against Strategic and Cluster Objectives

S01: Timely, multi-sectoral, lifesaving, equitable and safe assistance is provided to crisis-affected people of all genders and diversities to reduce mortality and morbidity.

Under this objective, the humanitarian partners had delivered learning materials (student kits, teaching kits, classroom kits) to more than 888,000 school-aged children in Afghanistan and some 554,000 shock-affected school-aged girls and boys had access to quality basic education. In addition, some 18,000 TLS, CBE, ALC and MBE were provided with minimum WASH facilities established and maintained. About 1.3 million people were provided with a standard winterization package and some 497,000 people with basic household items/ NFIs to meet their immediate needs. The shelter of 195,000 people was upgraded allowing for safer and more dignified living conditions. About 22.3 million shock-affected and vulnerable people, including women, men and children of all ages received adequate food/cash responses, in a timely manner. Some 8.4 million people received primary health care consultations and more than 742,000 pregnant women attended the first antenatal care visit. Partners also treated some 599,000 cases of trauma throughout the country. More than 948,000 pregnant and lactating women with AM were admitted for treatment in health facilities throughout the country. In addition, more than 665,000 girls and boys aged 6-59 months with SAM and 1.6 million with MAM were admitted for treatment. Some 6.8 million people were supported to have access to safe water and 12 million vulnerable people were provided with critical WASH supplies. Additionally, some 8.6 million people were covered under hygiene promotion activities.


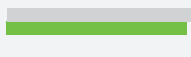

S02: Protection risks are mitigated, while protection and human rights needs for people of all genders and diversities are monitored and addressed through integrated and inclusive humanitarian action.

Afghanistan is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for civilians. There were 30 attacks towards healthcare personnel in 2022. Some 1.2 million people were supported with Cash for Protection assistance. An additional 2,000 persons with special needs (PSNs) received case management support. Some 4,000 girls and boys who have suffered from grave child rights violations, including former CAAC & children in detention, were provided with socio, education, and economic reintegration of life skill assistance. The awareness and mitigation activities reached more than 755,000 people. In support of the promotion of housing, land and property rights, Protection partners supported 500,000 people with Housing Land and Property (HLP) information sharing, counselling assistance or technical support on HLP.

S03: Vulnerable people of all gender and diversities are supported to build their resilience and live their lives in dignity.

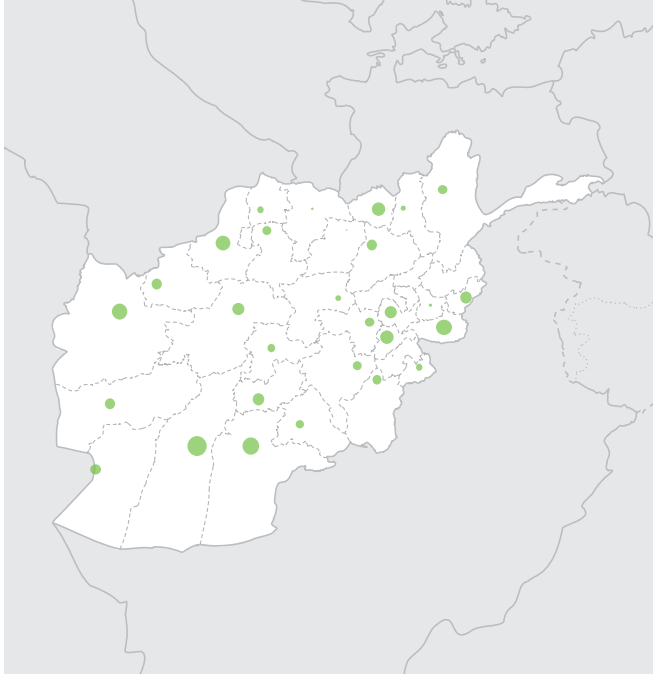
In 2022, more than 6.5 million shock-affected and vulnerable people including women, men and children of all ages have been provided with timely livelihood assistance. Some 4.5 million people had access to safe water (as per Cluster standards/ sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene) and the hygiene promotion had reached to 8.6 million people.

Overview of Sectoral Response

SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED	FUNDING RECEIVED
Education	7.9M	1.5M 	554K	\$162M	 112M
Emergency Shelter and NFI	10.9M	1.9M 	2.0M	\$374M	 107M
Food Security and Agriculture	24.0M	21.6M 	22.3M	\$2.7B	 1.5B
Health	18.1M	14.7M 	13.3M	\$378M	 233M
Nutrition	7.8M	5.9M 	6.6M	\$287M	 371M
Protection	16.2M	4.5M 	5.7M	\$137M	 164M
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	15.1M	10.4M 	11M	\$333M	 99M
Aviation	-	-	-	\$85M	 32M
Coordination	-	-	-	\$26M	 47M
Not specified/multiple sectors	-	-	-	-	\$567M
TOTAL	24.4M	22.1M	26.1M	\$4.4B	\$3.2B

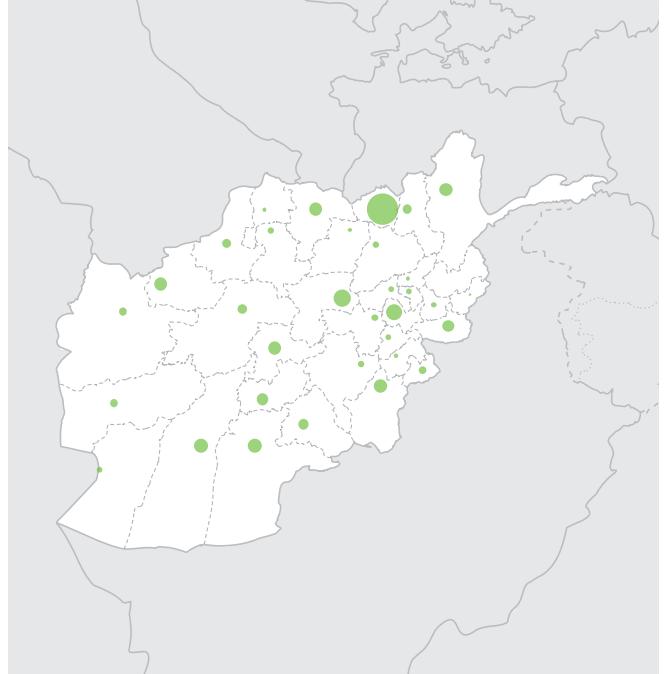
1 Education

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED
7.9M	1.5M	554K



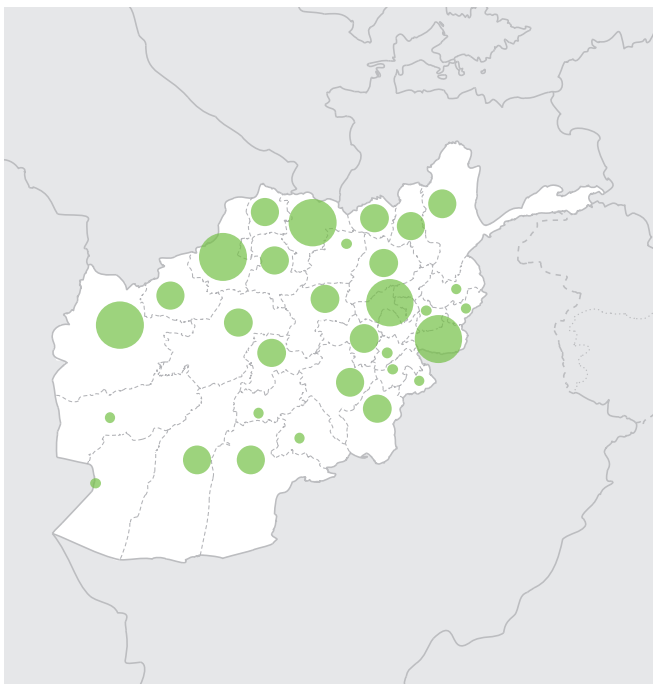
2 Emergency Shelter and NFI

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED
10.9M	1.9M	2M



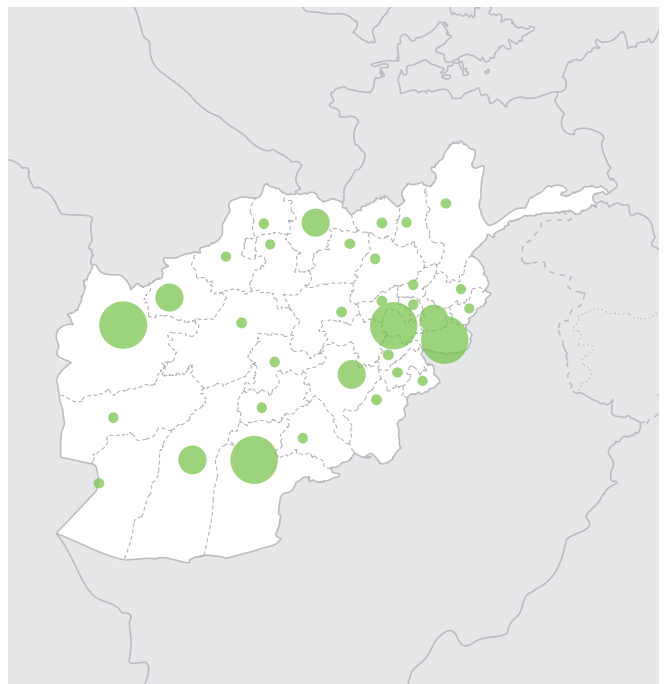
3 Food Security and Agriculture

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED
24M	21.6M	22.3M



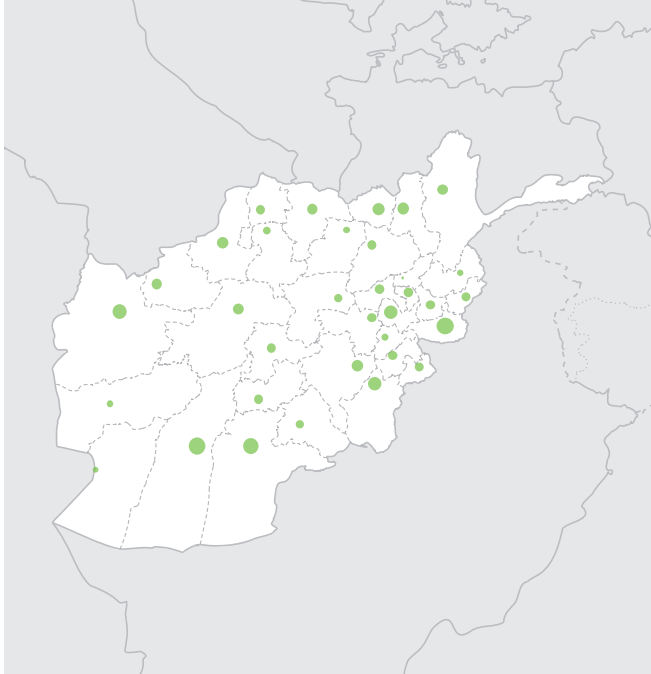
4 Health

PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED
18.1M	14.7M	13.3M



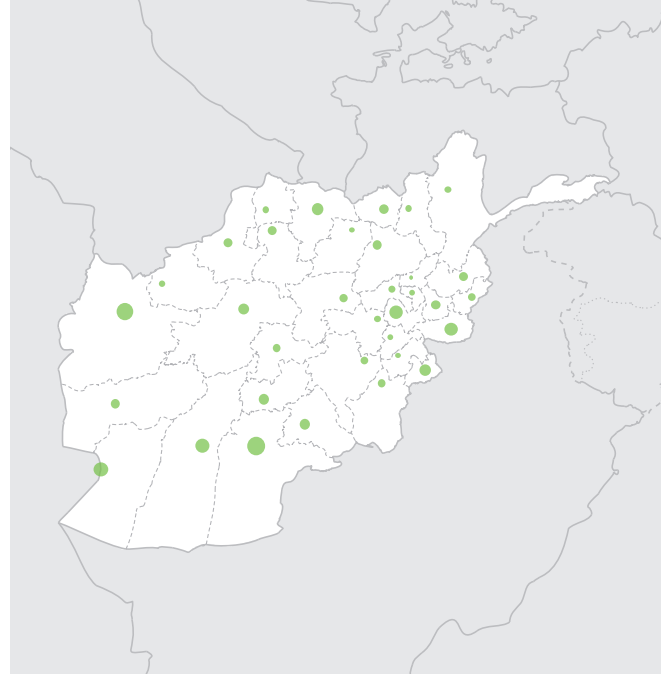
5 Nutrition

PEOPLE IN NEED **7.8M** | PLANNED REACH **5.9M** | PEOPLE REACHED **6.2M**



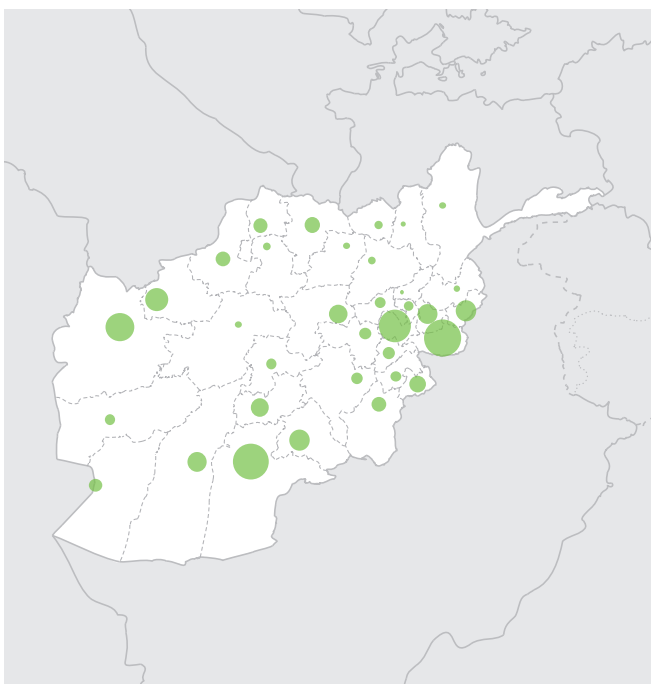
6 Protection

PEOPLE IN NEED **16.2M** | PLANNED REACH **4.5M** | PEOPLE REACHED **5.7M**



7 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

PEOPLE IN NEED **15.1M** | PLANNED REACH **10.4M** | PEOPLE REACHED **11M**



2.1 Education



PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)	CARRY-OVER FUNIDNG INTO 2023 (US\$)
7.9M	1.5M	554K⁵	162M	112M	30M

Key Achievements

The year 2022 remained challenging particularly for girls in Afghanistan as access to education for adolescent girls remained a far-off dream and partners continued to experience access restrictions. Despite these challenges, Education Cluster partners provided 554,414 children (249,018 boys and 305,396 girls) with quality basic education through Community-Based Education (CBE). 887,965, school-aged children (438,586 boys and 449,379 girls) received learning materials. 18,011 teachers (12,648 male and 5,363 female) were recruited for community-based education (CBE) and temporary learning spaces (TLS) and supported with incentives. 8,497 teachers (5,450 male and 3047 female) were trained on child-centred, protective, and interactive learning methodologies, classroom management, social cohesion, life skills, and psychosocial support. 29,096 community members (22,256 male and 6,840) were trained on children’s rights to education, child protection, and child safeguarding. During the year, the Cluster in collaboration with Cluster lead agency UNICEF developed the first-ever CBE database which provides information on the number of CBE classes across the country. This is a significant achievement as it allows better planning for the continuity and transition of CBE in the country.

The Cluster, throughout the course of the year, met with de facto authorities at the Ministry of Education (MoE) to discuss core activities and to offer support for the school reopening plan for girls in secondary education and other related matters. In all these

interactions, the Cluster adhered to and advocated for humanitarian principles. The Education Cluster continues to advocate with the authorities at both regional and national levels on these issues.

Challenges

Bureaucratic impediments such as the issuing of MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) for partners to implement projects in the field continued to ensue in 2022. This resulted in delayed kick-off of projects and numerous requests for no cost extensions for projects that were supposed to be concluded by the last quarter of the year. There was no respite for adolescent girls as secondary schools remained closed throughout 2022 despite numerous attempts to advocate for the reopening of schools. In fact, by the final month of the year, the situation for women and girls had worsened as access to higher and tertiary education was also suspended. The transition of children from CBE classes to formal schools/hub schools has had mixed success levels. Most hub/formal schools do not have the capacity to absorb learners coming from the CBE classes as the formal schools have received little to no support in the past. The current status quo is forcing the Cluster to rethink what transition or continuity looks like. Expansion of CBE may be the only solution’ but this also needs additional financing. By the close 2022, some partners were forced to discontinue their CBE classes as they struggled to sustain and continue due to financing issues, leaving children without access to education.

People Reached by Population Group

	PEOPLE DISPLACED IN 2022	RETURNEES IN 2022	PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SHOCKS	ACUTELY VUL. PEOPLE WITH HUM. NEEDS	REFUGEES LIVING IN AFG.	% CHILDREN / WOMEN / MEN	TOTAL
People in need	278.6K	224.6K	72.4K	7.4M	37.4K	100 / 0 / 0	7.9M
Planned reach	278.6K	224.6K	72.4K	886.3K	37.4K	100 / 0 / 0	1.5M
People reached	-	-	-	554K	-	100 / 0 / 0	554K

2.2

Emergency Shelter and NFI



PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)	CARRY-OVER FUNDING INTO 2023 (US\$)
10.9M	1.9M	2M	374M	107M	62.4M

Key Achievements

In 2022, the ES-NFI Cluster reached 2,030,760 people with at least one form of assistance (105 per cent of the target) with emergency and transitional shelter, NFIs and seasonal assistance through cash and in-kind modalities. 91,197 people received emergency shelter assistance, 530,649 people received NFIs, 219,253 people received shelter repair and upgrade, 1,244,222 people received winterization assistance, and 36,786 people received transitional and durable shelters. This included 21 per cent men, 23 per cent women, 27 per cent boys and 29 per cent girls. The Cluster noted an 84 per cent increase in the delivery of durable shelter solutions, compared to 2021. Equally in 2022, the Cluster membership and participation increased from 43 to 62 partners and the Technical Working Group formed in 2021 to review the Cluster standards, successfully completed its task in 2022, updating and developing 12 key Cluster guidance documents that have improved the Cluster response.

Through its partnership with REACH, the Cluster was able to undertake multiple independent assessments and PDMs enabling evidence-based programming. This included the establishment of a Rapid Assessment Mechanisms, an Assessment on Sustainable Winterization Response, Building Damage Assessment, Country wide PDMs and Rental Market Assessments.

In 2022, the Cluster enhanced its engagement with the private sector – working with Miyamoto (an international private sector company) in response to the earthquake in the Southeast Region. This collaboration enabled the development of the Technical Field Assessment Report on vernacular housing typologies, a Geotechnical Assessment on risk of landslide and volcanic hazards within the SER (Society for Ecological Restoration) and the roll out of capacity building program on Build Back Safer targeting engineers and masons.

As of 31 December 2022, Cluster partners reached 1.3 million people with standard winterization packages. This included the provision of heaters, fuel, winter clothing and blankets packages to the most vulnerable families in provinces that are living in poor shelter conditions and are exposed to rain, snow and cold temperatures.

Challenges

Inherent shelter needs from four decades of pervasive conflict and, the simultaneous change in government, compounded by the ever-present risk of earthquakes, recurring floods, and drought events, has resulted in nearly ten times the number of people in need of lifesaving shelter and NFI assistance, growing from 1 million in 2018 to 10.9 million in 2022. These needs remained high with people reporting shelter as their second highest priority need after food; a staggering 79 per cent of all households in need of shelter repair according to the WoAA 2022 and in most urban areas, the need for rental assistance being reported as the third highest priority need amongst IDPs. The lack of funding to support durable shelter solutions for IDPs still living in some form of protracted displacement across Afghanistan remains a key barrier to recovery. Failure to address these needs would continue to keep hundreds of vulnerable households in inadequate and often overcrowded shelters, with severe implications for their health, protection, socio-economic and personal security - especially for children, the elderly, disabled people, women, and girls. These households also continue to require annual winterization support.

Lack of clarity/mixed messages from the DFA in some locations regarding the safe participation of female staff in the full spectrum of humanitarian response – particularly during assessments – caused disruptions and delays to some operational activities. Additionally, several cases of interference by authorities at different levels were reported including where Cluster partners were asked to provide beneficiary lists. In certain cases, this led to temporary pauses in response.

ES-NFI Cluster partners also reported that the implementation of cash assistance was hindered after the events of 15 August 2021 due to the issues faced by the banking sector.

ES-NFI winter response which begins in November through to March of the following year resulted in a carry-over of funding to support families through the full cycle of the winter season. Some of the funding that the Cluster received late in the year could not be absorbed due to late commitments hence the activities had to spill over into 2023. These were mainly winterization activities which included provision of heating materials, winter clothing, blankets packages and cash for rent.

People Reached by Population Group

	PEOPLE DISPLACED IN 2022	RETURNEES IN 2022	PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SHOCKS	ACUTELY VUL. PEOPLE WITH HUM. NEEDS	REFUGEES LIVING IN AFG.	% CHILDREN / WOMEN / MEN	TOTAL
People in need	378.3K	494.8K	36K	10M	43.2K	53 / 22 / 25	10.9M
Planned reach	378.3K	494.8K	36K	1M	27.4K	50 / 19 / 31	1.9M
People reached	101K	9K	228K	1.7M	-	57 / 23 / 20	2M

2.3

Food Security and Agriculture



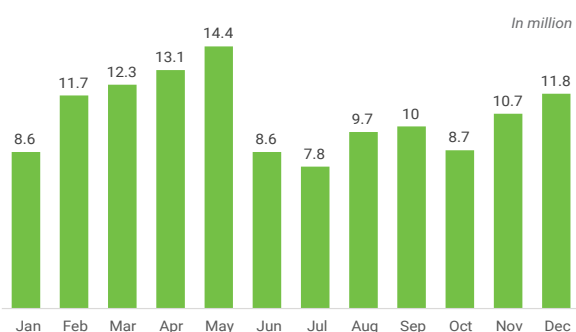
PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)	CARRY-OVER FUNDING INTO 2023 (US\$)
24M	21.6M	22.3M	2.7B	1.5B	372M

Key Achievements

From January to December 2022, FSAC (Food Security and Agriculture Cluster) partners reached a total of 22.3 million people with at least one cycle of assistance, against the 2022 HRP target of 21.6 million people planned to receive multiple rounds of assistance. Lifesaving food assistance was delivered to 22.3 million people, whereas livelihood assistance was delivered to 6.5 million people across 34 provinces. Beneficiaries receiving livelihood assistance are a subset of the food assistance caseload. 68 per cent of the food assistance was provided in-kind, and 32 per cent was provided in cash. Out of 6.5 million people support with livelihood assistance, some 285,000 people were assisted through livelihoods asset creation/rehabilitation activities, over 5.8 million people with livelihoods assistance in-kind, and 711,798 people received livelihoods assistance through cash.

The food assistance provided along the year varied as shown in the graph below, with peaks along the lean season (November to May):

FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY FSAC IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN 2022



FSAC conducted the pre-harvest (March 2022) and the post-harvest (September 2022) Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity analysis that allowed FSAC partners and the humanitarian community to identify food insecure areas in the country for targeting, prioritization and HRP planning. Furthermore, the findings contributed to the estimation of the People in Need (PIN) that was used in the HNO and HRP 2023.

Challenges

The fundamental drivers of food insecurity in Afghanistan include widespread poverty and economic fragility, extreme and variable weather and climatic shocks, land degradation, and decades of conflict that have limited the spread of essential public services and safety nets. Food insecurity continues to be widespread across the country.

With the increased need, one of the main challenges experienced was of limited funding. The FSAC HRP remained 43.4 per cent underfunded until end of 2022. The FSAC reached 22.3 million people overall. 100 per cent of people in IPC phase 4 were assisted throughout the year, while due to limited funding, not all people in IPC 3 status have been assisted in 2022.

Two major retargeting exercises were conducted to ensure that those most in need continued to receive emergency assistance throughout the entirety of the year, and through a ration size appropriate to estimated emergency food gaps (i.e., 75 per cent for IPC 4, and 50 per cent for IPC 3). Due to the shortage of funding for covering 100 per cent of the target population with the planned level of assistance, priority has been given to most food insecure people (i.e. IPC phase 4).

FSAC partners continued to experience interferences and restrictions by de facto authorities at various levels in the staff recruitment, signing of MoUs, beneficiary selection process, distributions, and conducting surveys and assessments. The restriction on women's full participation in the full spectrum of response continued to pose a challenge for FSAC partners as it limits their capacity to engage with and through women while working to serve the needs of women and girls as well as capturing their specific food security needs.

FSAC's carry-over funding into 2023 is \$372 million, deriving from both humanitarian food assistance (80 per cent) and livelihood support (20 per cent). The carry over funding is being used to undertake activities under the HRP 2023 framework as well as those under the HRP 2022 that started lately in 2022, to link up with the new funding arriving in 2023. 60 per cent of the carry-over funds have been already spent, and the vast majority of the remaining already committed.

People Reached by Population Group

	PEOPLE DISPLACED IN 2022	RETURNEES IN 2022	PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SHOCKS	ACUTELY VUL. PEOPLE WITH HUM. NEEDS	REFUGEES LIVING IN AFG.	% CHILDREN / WOMEN / MEN	TOTAL
People in need	0.5M	0.8M	0.2M	22.8M	0.1M	54 / 22 / 24	24M
Planned reach	0.5M	0.2M	0.2M	20.5M	0.1M	54 / 23 / 23	21.6M
People reached	27K	145K	247K	21.8M	75K	58 / 21 / 21	22.3M

2.4 Health



PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)	CARRY-OVER FUNDING INTO 2023 (US\$)
18.1M	14.7M	13.3M	378M	233M	40M

Key Achievements

The Health Cluster reached 13.3 million people with 70 Health Cluster partners. The services include primary and secondary health care; infectious diseases outbreak preparedness and response (e.g., Covid-19, AWD, Measles, CCHF); maternal, new-born and child health (MNCH); vaccination; MHPSS (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support); health education, training, and awareness; trauma care, among other. More than 5.5 million people received primary health care services. Around 4 million people received health education, 1.4 million MNCH services, 0.9 million vaccination, and 0.8 million MHPSS. Some 633,000 cases of trauma were treated and 45,500 people were trained.

The Health Cluster ensured availability of dedicated coordination teams at the national and seven regions of the country. It resulted in improved engagement with partners both at the national and sub-national levels and performing core Cluster activities.

The Health Cluster also continued to maintain and disseminate key health information management products, including the monthly Health Cluster bulletin as well as a wide range of online dashboards (e.g., Humanitarian response services, Partners presence, Attacks on healthcare, and Mapping of humanitarian health facilities including Mobile Health Teams).

Looking ahead, the Health Cluster will continue to strengthen

its coordination and information management capacities at the sub-national level and promote integrated multi-sector approaches to ensure a comprehensive response and strengthen the capacity of the Cluster partners.

Challenges

The cumbersome MoU process for humanitarian projects, de facto authorities' interference in recruitment, and other operational issues contributed to the delay of the response. More than 10 million population reside in underserved areas. Insufficient funding contributed to health partners' limited capacity to further expand basic life-saving health services in underserved areas. The availability, quality, long lead time, and fluctuated/increased cost remain key concerns in the procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical consumables. The ongoing liquidity cash challenge is impacting Health Cluster partners and causing delays to salary payments as well as the procurement of supplies. These challenges are further compounded by the lack of reliable data in the country. The latest national health survey is outdated and plans for conducting a new survey have been postponed following the events of 15 August 2021.

The Health Cluster reports \$40 million in carry-over funding into 2023 due to receipt of the funds in the last quarter of 2022, and delays in the commencement of projects due to delays in signing MoU.

People Reached by Population Group

	PEOPLE DISPLACED IN 2022	RETURNEES IN 2022	PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SHOCKS	ACUTELY VUL. PEOPLE WITH HUM. NEEDS	REFUGEES LIVING IN AFG.	% CHILDREN / WOMEN / MEN	TOTAL
People in need	0.4M	0.5M	0.1M	17.3M	0.1M	54 / 22 / 24	18.1M
Planned reach	0.3M	0.4M	0.1M	13.8M	45.3K	54 / 22 / 24	14.7M
People reached	20K	107K	23K	13.1M	45K	36 / 44 / 20	13.3M

2.5 Nutrition



PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)	CARRY-OVER FUNDING INTO 2023 (US\$)
7.8M	5.9M	6.2M	287.4M	371M	153M

Key Achievements

The nutrition response in the 34 provinces in 2022 was largely delivered through the health system, under the Afghanistan’s Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) program, while complemented by mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs) deployed to hard-to-reach locations. In total, 2,727 static Inpatient Department (IPD) and Outpatient Department (OPD) and 2,380 Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) nutrition sites embedded into health facilities run by 39 Implementing Partners and 542 Mobile health and Nutrition Teams (MHNT) by 25 Implementing Partners were reported functional by the end of 2022. From January to December 2022, treatment services covered 62 per cent and 55 per cent of the children with Severe Acute Malnutrition SAM and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), respectively. The nutrition Cluster surpassed the 2022 HRP SAM and MAM targets by 123 per cent and 137 per cent respectively. Nutrition Cluster partners were able to provide 6.2 million children, pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with humanitarian nutrition services which include 664,787 girls and boys aged under five children with SAM services and 1.5 million with MAM package, while IPD SAM recorded 40,999 children, and 948,213 PLWs reached.

Additionally, Nutrition Cluster made some significant outputs as follows:

- Expanding Cluster membership: 100 Partner organizations (including 62 IPs), with 38 that joined in 2022.
- Geographic coverage: 2,576 static and 465 mobile service delivery points, with 1,107 static and 195 mobile sites established in 2022.
- Expanding on nutrition surveillance, including the realization of the national nutrition SMART survey and the first ever IPC acute malnutrition.
- Expanding the national nutrition Cluster coordination team with deployment of a dedicated Information Management Specialist, establishment of agreement (LoU) with ACF for deployment of a Deputy Cluster coordinator.
- Capacity Strengthening for subnational coordination through recruitment, deployment, training and mentorship of five dedicated subnational coordinators, one in each zonal office.
- Improved information management through development and regular dissemination of Cluster dashboard, mid and annual

report, Cluster website. With interactive dashboard.

- Deployment of technical expertise from the Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance (GNC TA), including in-country support for taking stock on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding Nutrition (MIYCN) and development of action plan for improved Innovations for Youth Capacity and Engagement (IYCF-E).
- Contributed to seasonal and annual, as well as specific response plans (HNO/HRP, Spring and Winter plan, EQ).
- Elaboration of an integrated nutrition messaging for use alongside food and cash distribution by FSAC partners
- Established a Task Force that revisited Cluster guidance paper on Protection mainstreaming.
- Training of 7 Nutrition Cluster Coordination Teams (2 at National and 5 sub national) on ERP and ongoing development of Emergency Response Preparedness plan (ERP).

Challenges

- Most partners encountered difficulties in 2022 as a result of the de facto authorities' slowness in signing MoUs. Some partners had to wait for long for MoUs approval which resulted in late initiation of actual activities implementation.
- Emergency nutrition programming was hampered by the uncertainties and constraints in a variety of ways, including population displacements, instability of the health system, bank closures and associated financial sector issues, limited in-country road and air transport, and protracted customs and border clearances of supplies.
- Natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, harsh winters, and drought that demanded immediate assistance for already vulnerable populations with urgent humanitarian needs did put a strain on the available resources.
- Restriction of rights to female aid workers: The ban saw temporary halt of activities in some locations, the exemptions that granted full resumptions had increased cost implications.
- The increased demand for global nutrition commodities/ supplies caused temporary stock gaps in the country, impeding some activities.

People Reached by Population Group

	PEOPLE DISPLACED IN 2022	RETURNEES IN 2022	PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SHOCKS	ACUTELY VUL. PEOPLE WITH HUM. NEEDS	REFUGEES LIVING IN AFG.	% CHILDREN / WOMEN / MEN	TOTAL
People in need	97K	77.9K	29.9K	7.6M	14.2K	55 / 45 / 0	7.8M
Planned reach	75.1K	61.1K	22.4K	5.8M	9.3K	56 / 44 / 0	5.9M
People reached	-	66K	26K	6.1M	13K	44 / 56 / 0	6.2M

2.6

Protection



PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)	CARRY-OVER FUNDING INTO 2023 (US\$)
16.2M	4.5M	5.7M	137M	164M	39.9M

Key Achievements

In 2022, the Protection Cluster and its four sub-clusters/AORs – Child Protection (CP); Gender-Based Violence (GBV); Mine Action (MA); and Housing Land and Property (HLP) – reached more than 5.7 million people with different kinds of protection assistance across the country. This includes 5.7 million people reached overall by Protection partners; 4.4 million by Child Protection partners; 1.5 million by GBV partners; 500,000 by HLP partners; and 1 million by Mine Action partners. Some 1.2 million people were supported with Cash for Protection assistance. An additional 2,000 persons with special needs (PSNs) received case management support.

CP AOR in Q4 finalized the case management SOP for programming for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Data Protection and Information Sharing Protocol. These are also pre-requisite for the anticipated establishment of the CPIM-Primerio in 2023 for Afghanistan.

CP AOR during the course of 2022, managed to revitalize three regional /sub national coordination structures in northern, western, and southern regions and established new structures in central and eastern region meeting basic standards but with double hutting coordinators from UNICEF and NGO/INGOs.

Challenges

Access constraints and other operational challenges that have hampered protection programming and implementation in 2022 include operational directives and instructions imposed by the DFAs with interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities and protection spaces. Furthermore, the violence against staff, assets, and humanitarian facilities, the restriction of movement of agencies, female workers, or goods within affected communities, cultural barriers as well as challenges to reach female beneficiaries, and the natural disasters like earthquakes and flooding, were highlighted throughout the year.

In addition, the existing economic shock, the bureaucratic hurdles to the project implementations, were worsened since December 24 with the decision of the DFA in banning humanitarian NGOs' female workers. That led to suspension of activities of numerous aid agencies, increased negative coping strategies which is escalating the impact of existing protection risks. The human rights situation has

also been exacerbated by forced eviction, declining law and policies associated with HLP, unclear formal justice and legal framework that have hindered protection responses delivery and humanitarian access to women, girls, and other vulnerable groups.

In 2022, Protection Cluster partners experienced restrictions by authorities in programming and delivering aids, to determine suitable activities for female staff. This has been a point of advocacy with the DFA, and influential stakeholders given that the safe and unrestricted engagement of female personnel in humanitarian activities remains critical to providing timely life-saving services to Afghan beneficiaries. These challenges have affected household protection monitoring activities and focus group discussions, mine action risk education activities, identification of children at risk, PSN and MHPSS services. These challenges have resulted in some organizations resorting to remote case management modalities with beneficiaries. However, these modalities do not guarantee sufficient space, privacy, and access for female clients. In addition some critical or high-risk cases may not be handled.

HLP partners faced a range of challenges in 2022. First, the severity of HLP need worsened: eviction risks increased as the DFA announced their intention to remove IDP informal settlements in many provinces, and as economic pressures impacted vulnerable people's ability to meet land and housing costs (i.e., rent and utilities). Second, HLP partners have faced challenges navigating the post-2021 legal landscape, with the status of many key HLP regulations ambiguous, particularly in relation to the land rights of women. This situation has rendered the provision of assistance to those under threat of eviction more complex. Third, HLP partners have faced funding shortfalls, as donors have suspended support for some key HLP activities in 2022 – the suspension of land allocation is notable in this regard.

The provision of GBV services has resumed as compared to 2021 in a relatively under-cover spectrum as activities have been met with scepticism initially and ostracized by authorities, with programmes in some circumstances being placed on hold as non-compliant with sharia law... Emerging policies of the de facto authorities which tacitly or explicitly exclude women from participation in social, economic and political sphere along with the imposition of movement limitations has created a set-back in the provision of services. The repackaging of services under new structures and the capacity building of partners

have allowed partners to continue servicing those in need of aid and community support and advocacy with the DFA for the restarting of services has proven effective in some areas, whilst continue proving challenging in some others (notably south). Awareness-raising activities have been the major focus of effort of partners to try and inform communities about available services, yet awareness has been conducted with modalities varying from partner to partner causing an overreporting of the indicator.

The expansion of coordination efforts at regional level with the opening of the sub-cluster antennas in Balkh, Kandahar, Bamyan and Hirat, has helped streamlining partner activities and assess and respond timely to gaps.

The Protection Cluster noted an uneven spread of CP services and activities across the country due to a lack of partners' capacity to expand to underserved areas. Furthermore, there was a lack of qualified national NGOs capable of implementing specialised protection services such as case management especially for children requiring specialized services for MHPSS, child survivors of sexual violence and rehabilitation and reintegration of children released from

armed forces/groups and addressing vicious cycle of harmful coping mechanism which exposes children to all forms of violence including psychosocial distress, dropping out of school, child marriages and child labour. At the same time, some international NGOs with larger footprint and capacity delayed the full resumption of their activities after 15 August incident due to restrictions imposed by authorities coupled with bureaucratic delays (2-6 months) in signing MoU which significant delayed implementation and services delivery.

With the completion of the capacity development project, mine action has now sufficient human capacity to clear improvised mines which is one of the leading causes of civilian casualties, however the insufficient funding to support the clearance of improvised mines including the required equipment for its clearance still remains a challenge for the sector. Furthermore, the nationwide mine action survey started in 2022 to refresh the mine action database with information of any new contaminations, particularly in those areas that witnessed intense conflicts in recent years, where mine action partners could not work due to access issues, however the survey remains incomplete due to inadequate funding.

People Reached by Population Group

	PEOPLE DISPLACED IN 2022	RETURNEES IN 2022	PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SHOCKS	ACUTELY VUL. PEOPLE WITH HUM. NEEDS	REFUGEES LIVING IN AFG.	% CHILDREN / WOMEN / MEN	TOTAL
People in need	0.5M	0.8M	0.1M	14.9M	0.1M	53 / 24 / 23	16.2M
Planned reach	0.4M	0.4M	0.1M	3.4M	36.9K	52 / 21 / 27	4.5M
People reached	9K	0.7M	36K	5.1M	61K	52 / 25 / 23	5.7M

2.7

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



PEOPLE IN NEED	PLANNED REACH	PEOPLE REACHED	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)	CARRY-OVER FUNDING INTO 2023 (US\$)
15.1M	10.4M	11M ⁶	333M	99M	46M

Key Achievements

- In 2022, some 6.8 million people were supported to have access to safe water and 13 million vulnerable people were provided with critical WASH supplies. Additionally, some 8.6 million people were covered under hygiene promotion activities while 1.7 million people were reached with sanitation services.
- Continuation of drought from 2021 through 2022 has witnessed reports of drying wells and drop in ground water level, despite this, no reported displacements due to drought were reported thanks to early action by WASH partners to support communities in Kandahar, Hilmand, Nimroz, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul and Badghis through water trucking and new water supply system through deep wells, while putting in place ground water monitoring system for better ground water resource management.
- In response to AWD outbreak, WASH Cluster through its 12 partners in 32 provinces, supported with provision of safe water, hygiene promotion and critical wash supplies reaching more than 5 million people in hotspots and affected areas.
- WASH Cluster core supplies management agencies expanded beyond 1 organization to a total of 3, managing Cluster supplies across 7 regional hubs supporting emergency responses across the country. The supplies are available to all WASH Cluster members with transportation provided where partners are not able to cover, this has allowed for faster release and response to emergencies such as earthquake in Paktika and Khost and flood response in east and Southeast regions.
- With increased humanitarian needs in country with convergent critical drivers of WASH needs such as drought, floods and AWD, WASH Cluster improved its partners' response coverage through increasing AHF funding allocations by more than 50 per cent to national NGOs.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response training workshop conducted in 3 out of 5 regional Clusters to partners as part of WASH Cluster partners' preparedness in 2023.

- In line with HCT commitment to strengthen humanitarian coordination, Cluster had in place 2 out of 8 dedicated subnational Clusters coordinator with remaining 6 being filled first quarter of 2023.

Challenges

- WASH Cluster partners continued to report cash and liquidity issues due to the banking crisis, as well as exorbitant transaction fees/charges, which in turn affected salaries for staff, contractors and suppliers.
- While less than 20 per cent of the urban population had access to piped water in cities prior to 15 August, the situation has since worsened with a drastic reduction of drinking water supply by half due to poor network maintenance and contamination from surface drainage and untreated wastewater in the urban context due to lack of financial support following freezing of the development funds.
- WASH Cluster partners also report challenges related to MoU bureaucratic impediments affecting all new WASH projects across the country with severe consequences to affected people following these delays. Additionally, new layers of conditionality related to MoU signing process adds to further delays affecting humanitarian partners' independence in its operations-such as requirements for partners to procure WASH solar supplies and pumps from specific DFA line ministries selected suppliers.
- Unclear positioning from de facto authorities on the full participation of female aid workers in the full spectrum of humanitarian response activities. While some local agreements have allowed women to return to work albeit with restrictions such not to report to offices, there is need for a clear national communication regarding the safe participation of women – both as staff members and beneficiaries.
- The transition period in the country negatively impacted the developmental sanitation progress through the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programme which were carried out in partnership with previous governmental counterparts. To bridge this gap, WASH Cluster partners continue to provide emergency latrines using a modified CLTS approach.

- Continuation of drought with diminished precipitation from 2021 through 2022 has triggered an exceptional water scarcity crisis, numerous water sources are reported drying up and drop in ground water level. This is a challenge in acquiring enough water for drinking, sanitation and hygiene in communities heightening risk of waterborne and infectious diseases including AWD and additional protection risks for women who must move far distance in search of water. There is an added economic burden to families especially in rural and peri-urban areas having to purchase water due to ongoing drought.
- Partners were stretched in their response especially where AWD hot spots and drought conditions converged.
- Limited ground water geology, lithological/water quality data and ground water monitoring especially for deep aquifers limits optimum use of ground water resources particularly in drought affected and areas with high salinity.

People Reached by Population Group

	PEOPLE DISPLACED IN 2022	RETURNEES IN 2022	PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SHOCKS	ACUTELY VUL. PEOPLE WITH HUM. NEEDS	REFUGEES LIVING IN AFG.	% CHILDREN / WOMEN / MEN	TOTAL
People in need	0.5M	0.4M	0.1M	14M	39.1K	53 / 22 / 25	15.1M
Planned reach	0.5M	0.2M	0.1M	9.2M	39.1K	53 / 22 / 25	10.4M
People reached	69	11K	22K	10.9M	-	52 / 25 / 23	11M

2.8

Coordination and Common Services



Displacement Tracking Matrix

Evidence-based response

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM): By adapting quickly to the rapidly changing operating landscape, IOM-DTM was able to monitor displacement and population mobility for a better understanding of people's movements and their evolving needs both during and after displacement. Data were collected at the settlement level, through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and direct observations. DTM enables the humanitarian community to be better informed on needs and deliver better targeted and mobility-sensitive assistance.

As of 30 April 2022, 34 provinces, 401 districts and 14,107 settlements have been assessed, including interviews with 86,201 key informants. Between 2012 and April 2022, 5,737,462 returnees and 5,894,220 IDPs currently living in host communities were identified. It is the only tool that provides settlement-level data on long-term IDPs with data dating back to 2012.

For the first time, the DTM conducted a response-wide community perceptions survey in December 2021, with the participation of 7,316 respondents (0.4 per cent female and 95.6 per cent male) across all the provinces of Afghanistan. The survey aimed to support the AAP

Working Group and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Task Force to improve system-wide accountability through advocating community views and aspirations to humanitarian responders. DTM will continue to explore opportunities to regularly conduct community perceptions surveys to complement data to the AAP Working Group and PSEA Task Force in 2023 to further amplify community voices in crises.

REACH Initiative - Whole of Afghanistan and other Assessments: Throughout 2022, REACH provided continuous analytical and assessment support to the ICCT and wider humanitarian community, including ensuring an evidence base for key planning documents and HPC milestones. Despite the challenges of the deteriorating situation in 2022, REACH, under the framework of the ICCT and in close coordination with OCHA, was able to facilitate the fifth annual WoAA from August to September 2022 to inform the HNO and response planning for 2023. NGOs underpinned this effort with 250 enumerators (104 female and 151 male) drawn from REACH and 8 national NGOs, coordinated through the ACBAR Twinning Partner Programme, providing a vital training and capacity-building opportunity for NGO staff on assessment best practice. In addition, REACH continued to conduct humanitarian situation monitoring (HSM), Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI), Earthquake Damage Assessment, and Winterisation Post Distribution Monitoring, among others.

Part 3: Annexes

Key Indicators

Education

of school-aged girls and boys affected by shocks who have access to quality, basic education

BASELINE: 411K TARGET: 1.5M REACHED: 554K CHILDREN

of TLS, CBE, ALC, MBE with minimum WASH facilities established and maintained

BASELINE: 12K TARGET: 15K REACHED: 18K CLASSROOMS

of school-aged children receiving learning materials (student kits, teaching kits, classroom kits)

BASELINE: 823K TARGET: 1.5M REACHED: 888K CHILDREN

Emergency Shelter and NFI

of people receiving standard winterization package including through heaters and fuel, winter clothing, blankets or quilts.

BASELINE: 210K TARGET: 1.3M REACHED: 1.3M PEOPLE

of people receiving basic household items / NFIs to meet their immediate needs.

BASELINE: 470K TARGET: 721K REACHED: 497K PEOPLE

of people whose shelter was upgraded allowing for safer and more dignified living conditions.

BASELINE: 3K TARGET: 1.9M REACHED: 195K PEOPLE

Food Security and Agriculture

Shock affected and vulnerable people including women, men and children of all ages who receive adequate food/cash responses, in a timely manner

BASELINE: 5.8M TARGET: 21.5M REACHED: 22.3M PEOPLE

Shock affected and vulnerable people including women, men and children of all ages who receiving timely livelihoods assistance

BASELINE: 1.7M TARGET: 10.7M REACHED: 6.5M PEOPLE

Health

of primary health care consultations

BASELINE: 9.0M TARGET: 17.5M REACHED: 8.4M PEOPLE

of pregnant women attended first antenatal care visit

BASELINE: 190K TARGET: 292K REACHED: 742K WOMEN

of trauma cases treated

BASELINE: 250K TARGET: 270K REACHED: 599K PEOPLE

Nutrition

Number of girls and boys aged 6-59 months with MAM who are admitted for treatment

BASELINE: 881K TARGET: 1.1M REACHED: 1.6M CHILDREN

Number of girls and boys aged 6-59 months with SAM who are admitted for treatment

BASELINE: 372K TARGET: 847K REACHED: 665K CHILDREN

Number of pregnant and lactating women with AM who are admitted for treatment

BASELINE: 496K TARGET: 508K REACHED: 948K WOMEN

Protection

of people receive Cash for Protection

BASELINE: 107K TARGET: 350K REACHED: 1.2M PEOPLE

of PSNs received case management

BASELINE: 0 TARGET: 10K REACHED: 2K PEOPLE

Protection: Child Protection

of girls and boys who have suffered from grave child rights violations (including former CAAC & children in detention) receiving socio, education and economic reintegration and life skill assistance

BASELINE: 4K TARGET: 14K REACHED: 4K PEOPLE

Protection: Gender-Based Violence

of persons reached with awareness and mitigation activities

BASELINE: 22K TARGET: 334K REACHED: 755K PEOPLE

Protection: Mine Action

Square metres of area cleared from known explosive hazard

BASELINE: 3.9M TARGET: 9.0M REACHED: 4.5M AREAS

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

of people accessing safe water (as per cluster standards / sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene / # people disaggregated by sex & age)

BASELINE: 0 TARGET: 10.4M REACHED: 6.8M PEOPLE

of people reached with hygiene promotion (as per cluster standards / handwashing behavior change programs / # people disaggregated by sex & age)

BASELINE: 0 TARGET: 10.4M REACHED: 8.6M PEOPLE

of people reached with critical WASH supplies (# people disaggregated by sex & age)

BASELINE: 0 TARGET: 3.9M REACHED: 12.0M PEOPLE

For more information on Key Indicator Trends, please visit: <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1100>

End Notes

¹ Total funding received in 2022 through HRP also includes basic human needs funding.

² UNICEF / WHO / World Bank Group. (2021) Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates. Levels and trends in child malnutrition. Key findings of the 2021 edition.

³ 2022 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA).

⁴ OCHA, Female Participation in the Humanitarian Action in Afghanistan, September 2022.

⁵ The Education Cluster target of 1.5 million children included 613,027 children enrolled in Community Based Education activities as well as 886,973 children benefiting from other education related activities including teaching and learning materials. As of December, Education partners had reached over 90 per cent of the CBE target, including 889,884 children reached with other educational activities which not captured above due to a partial aggregation method (which counts only CBE children towards the Cluster's overall reach). This will be adjusted in 2023.

⁶ Overall high reach in WASH is attributed to distribution of WASH supplies and specific increase in blanket distribution of aqua tabs and soap in response to AWD, these activities have a wider reach with relatively lower cost in comparison with hardware components such as water and sanitation infrastructures.

**HUMANITARIAN
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AFGHANISTAN

2022 END-YEAR
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