

Afghanistan

In 2010, damaging floods added to the humanitarian needs in Afghanistan, where children and women live in the midst of deadly conflict piercing the surface of the country's social and political life. By late 2010, the total population of internally displaced people had increased to more than 440,000, 60 per cent of whom fled due to conflict.¹ These individuals have heightened vulnerability to illness and undernutrition. Widespread violence has decimated infrastructure, and about 5 million children, mostly girls, cannot access education.² Heavy flooding throughout the country damaged water systems and disrupted the lives of thousands of families. Relief efforts for internally displaced children and families are hindered by violence aimed at aid workers, and worsened security conditions are forecast for 2011, a testament to the need for strong, effective humanitarian aid and the challenges in providing it.



UNICEF is requesting US\$29,750,000 to carry out its planned activities in Afghanistan. This request is aligned with the 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements. Full funding will empower the organization to respond to the many humanitarian needs experienced by children and women in Afghanistan and continue its work building the resilience of a vulnerable population. In 2011, UNICEF will continue to provide emergency relief to an estimated 2.4 million Afghan people – including children and women – who are affected by ongoing armed conflict, drought, floods and earthquakes.

UNICEF will continue to pre-position emergency supply items in order to respond rapidly to critical needs in the event of additional internal displacement. Coordination between clusters, specifically nutrition, WASH and education, will be strengthened to ensure a more comprehensive and timely response to emergencies. Mothers and children suffering from undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, will receive timely treatment through integrated community- and facility-based care. UNICEF, through its WASH partners, will promote household toilet and hygiene education to more than 62,000 families and complete the rehabilitation of 1,000 nonfunctional water supply systems in several flood-affected provinces.

Child protection actors will be provided with services tailored to the needs of children affected by armed conflict and those who are victims of violence, abuse or exploitation. An advocacy strategy and action plan to prevent and respond to grave child rights violations

under UN Resolution 1612 will be developed. In addition, UNICEF will respond to the needs of approximately 500,000 students by providing teaching/learning materials throughout schools in Afghanistan.

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Despite significant progress in some areas, Afghanistan continues to suffer from ongoing conflict, resulting in a dramatic increase in humanitarian need for its chronically vulnerable rural population. Natural disasters, extreme weather and limited infrastructure further hinder effective recovery. Infectious diseases such as measles, pertussis and diarrhoea are endemic in Afghanistan. Any emergency can further aggravate the situation by increasing the number of children affected. Similarly, maternal health care for pregnant women may be compromised due to the lack of access to basic health services.

Ministry of education figures indicate that only 7 million of the 12 million school-age children are enrolled in school. About 37 per cent of students are girls.³ The current National Education Strategic Plan for Afghanistan indicates that only 15 per cent of teachers (2,007) meet minimum Grade 14 qualifications. Of these, only 28 per cent are female.⁴

Coverage of the basic primary health services in Afghanistan falls perilously short of population requirements, leaving millions with limited or no access to basic health care. Only 52 per cent of people living in rural areas have



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population (thousands 2009)	28,150
Child population (thousands 2009)	14,897
U5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2009)	199
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2009)	134
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births 2008)	1400
Primary school enrolment ratio (net male/female, 2005–2009*)	74/46
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3, 2009)	83
% population using improved drinking-water sources (2008)	48
HIV/AIDS prevalence (% aged 15–49, 2009)	–
% U5 suffering from moderate and severe wasting (2003–2009*)	9

Source: UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2011*.
 *Data refer to most recent year available during the period specified.

access to a health facility, and 38 out of 364 districts have immunization coverage below 50 per cent. An estimated 2.9 million children suffer from chronic undernutrition. Results from small-scale surveys and data nutrition rehabilitation programmes show that acute malnutrition in children under age 5 is a critical problem. Moreover, an estimated 75 per cent of women of childbearing age lack iodine, and more than 72 per cent of children 6-59 months are iron-deficient.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010

In 2010, UNICEF estimated that US\$25,064,484 was needed for its humanitarian work in Afghanistan. As of October 2010, a total of US\$9,572,677 had been received, or 38 per cent of that request.

Throughout 2010, UNICEF, in cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan and national and international partners, planned for the humanitarian needs of more than 2 million people. To ensure the effective management of schools, support was provided to 2,200 school management shuras (committees). UNICEF also provided psychosocial support to children in 200 schools in emergency-affected villages.

The capacity of 28 provincial Child Protection Action Networks was strengthened by the identification of gaps in delivery and by bolstering cooperation at the district and provincial levels. Capacity building took place in national and provincial legal aid mechanisms through cooperation with the judicial system.

Construction of 300 community water systems was completed in 2010. In these communities, effective hygiene promotion reached 150,000 families (1 million individuals). In response to floods and other natural disasters, 10,900 families (more than 68,000 individuals) benefited from family kits containing essential cooking supplies and plastic floor mats to meet their immediate needs. During these emergencies, safe and hygienic conditions for childbirth and care for newborns at the community and facility levels were ensured through distribution of more than 15,000 delivery kits, 10 midwifery kits and 20,000 newborn-care kits. From January–September 2010, more than 9,000 children were admitted to centres for treatment of severe acute malnutrition and more than 7,000 completed the treatment. Micronutrient supplementation benefited 214,000 children and 150,000 pregnant women in 11 high-risk provinces.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2011

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2011

Afghanistan, other UN agencies and NGOs will provide emergency relief in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies to meet the basic humanitarian needs of an estimated 2.4 million people, including children and women who have been affected by conflict, drought, floods and earthquakes. UNICEF will continue to pre-position emergency supplies in order to respond rapidly to critical needs in case of additional internal displacement. Further emergency preparedness and risk reduction measures will be included as an integral part of planned humanitarian action, with national capacity development ongoing in all sectors.

NUTRITION (US\$6,925,000)

Among the displaced and impoverished populations, 23,000 severely malnourished children and 216,000 pregnant and lactating women will benefit from the following key activities:

- Maternal and child undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, will receive timely treatment through integrated community- and facility-based care. This is expected to reach severely malnourished girls and boys 6–59 months old.
- Children 0–6 months old in affected areas will be breastfed exclusively, and children 6–23 months old will receive adequate and nutritious complementary food with continued breastfeeding. Distribution of infant formula to communities with limited hygiene and sanitation tools.
- Out of a total of 239,100 beneficiaries, 11,088 are severely malnourished boys 6-59 months old, 12,012 are severely malnourished girls 6-59 months old and 216,000 pregnant and lactating women.
- Lactating mothers, as well as families and communities, will be supported and counselled by skilled emergency health workers and community support groups.
- The coordination mechanism between UNICEF and other agencies will be enhanced to ensure a more comprehensive and timely response to emergencies.

HEALTH (US\$4,273,000)

In 2011, UNICEF will provide basic maternal, newborn and child health services, including measles immunization and vitamin A supplementation. UNICEF will provide an immediate response to the lack of access to adequate health care among more than 540,000 children 6–59 months old (280,800 girls and 259,200 boys) and 108,000 pregnant women affected by emergencies or living in underserved areas.

- Children, women and communities displaced by emergencies will have improved access to maternal, infant and child health services at the community and facility levels. Measles vaccinations will be provided to all children up to 15 years of age and children under 5 will receive vitamin A supplementation.
- 600 community health workers will be trained on immunization and maternal and child health.
- For districts with low immunization coverage (less than 50 per cent) due to insecurity or geographical inaccessibility, three rounds of immunization weeks will be conducted for children and mothers. Such action will be accompanied by other primary-health-care interventions, such as micronutrient supplementation, including zinc, and provision of oral rehydration salts.
- Up to 40,000 displaced people and returnees will be provided with basic items such as family kits.
- Some 108,000 pregnant women will be provided with safe delivery and newborn-care kits.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) (US\$10,742,000)

UNICEF will continue to provide safe water to displaced persons, returnee families and drought-affected communities, focusing on children and women. Around 953,000 beneficiaries (282,668 girls, 150,750 women, 294,206 boys and 225,376 men) will be reached through the following key WASH activities:

- The construction of 1,200 community water systems, including 1,100 borehole handpumps and 100 small pipe water system, will provide access to safe drinking water for more than 30,000 families. Training for community members on water supply system operations and management will be undertaken to ensure the sustainability of the newly constructed systems.
- More than 84,000 individuals in drought-affected provinces will benefit from construction of 40 strategic water points, including deep bore wells with power pumps, generators and overhead tanks and a minimum 3 kilometres of distribution pipes.
- UNICEF, through its WASH partners, will promote household toilet and hygiene education to more than 62,000 families (403,000 individuals).
- The rehabilitation of 1,000 nonfunctional water-supply systems in several flood-affected provinces will provide safe water to more than 140,000 individuals.
- Water-tanking services will be provided to approximately 300,000 internally displaced persons across the country.

- WASH facilities will be provided in 200 schools, benefiting more than 200,000 people including 80,000 girls and teachers.
- UNICEF will provide WASH emergency supplies to the rehabilitation and rural development bodies of all provinces for pre-positioning. These supplies include chlorine powder, water purification tablets, collapsible tanks, water containers and hygiene kits.
- The education cluster, together with the ministry of education, will continue to prioritize access to education in insecure areas as well as education for returnees and internally displaced persons lacking formal or community-based education.
- UNICEF, through the education cluster and with support from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, will ensure adequate reporting and effective information sharing, with due regard for age and sex disaggregation of data. Monitoring strategies will include information derived from field progress reports and regular joint reviews as well as mid-year and annual reviews.

CHILD PROTECTION (US\$1,338,000)

UNICEF will continue to address the child protection needs of around 4,000 Afghan children through the following key activities:

- UNICEF will establish the child protection sub-cluster with a clear strategy for child protection services and an action plan towards facilitating preparedness and response at the outset of an emergency.
- UNICEF will conduct capacity-building exercises for members of Child Protection Action Networks, the protection cluster, and monitoring and reporting mechanisms to foster better understanding of child protection issues during an emergency, with the goal of improving inter-agency coordination and adapting standard tools for emergency response in the Afghanistan country context.
- The organization will mobilize support from various stakeholders to prevent abuse, violence and exploitation of children in emergency situations as well as to provide services including legal aid and psychosocial support.

EDUCATION (US\$5,329,000)

UNICEF will continue to provide education in emergencies to Afghan children through the following key activities to benefit nearly 600,000 people:

- UNICEF will cover the immediate winter-season needs of 584,237 students (186,637 female and 397,601 male, and also 12,246 teachers) in remote areas as well as the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population.
- A contingency stock of major teaching/learning materials will be built up to respond to emergency requirements in the most-affected provinces.

CLUSTER COORDINATION (US\$1,143,000)

To enable an effective and efficient coordinated response to improve the prospects of people affected by emergencies, all cluster coordination costs (national and sub-national) need to be adequately funded. These costs include a team for coordination and information management, along with administrative and operational support, to undertake a number of key actions and outputs. These include coordinating the collective response to maximize synergy and minimize duplication of efforts; identifying priority needs of affected communities based on experience and the results of rapid impact assessments; and developing a common strategic operational framework and response strategy that meets priority needs. In addition, UNICEF as cluster lead expects to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism that tracks progress and identifies gaps in the type of services being provided and in their geographical scope, and also articulates impact and outcomes through periodic progress reports. Information will be disseminated in a timely way and used in decision-making and planning.

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Afghanistan 2011: Consolidated Appeal, OCHA, Geneva, November 2010, p. 1.
2. Initial Assessment of the Afghanistan National Education Strategic Plan (NESP II) 1389–1393 (2010–2014), p. 16.
3. Afghanistan Ministry of Education, National Education Strategy Paper, 2010–2014.
4. Ibid.
5. Total number of beneficiaries may not equal the sum of beneficiaries per sector, due to overlap in services provided to individuals.

UNICEF EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011		ESTIMATED BENEFICIARY NUMBERS ⁵		
By sector	US\$	Total per sector (all beneficiaries)	Boys	Girls
Nutrition	6,925,000	239,100	11,088	12,012
Health ¹⁷	4,273,000	648,000	259,200	280,800
WASH	10,742,000	953,000	519,582	282,668
Child protection	1,338,000	4,000	1,920	2,080
Education	5,329,000	596,483	406,173	190,310
Cluster coordination	1,143,000			
Total	29,750,000	2,440,583	1,197,963	1,242,620