

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

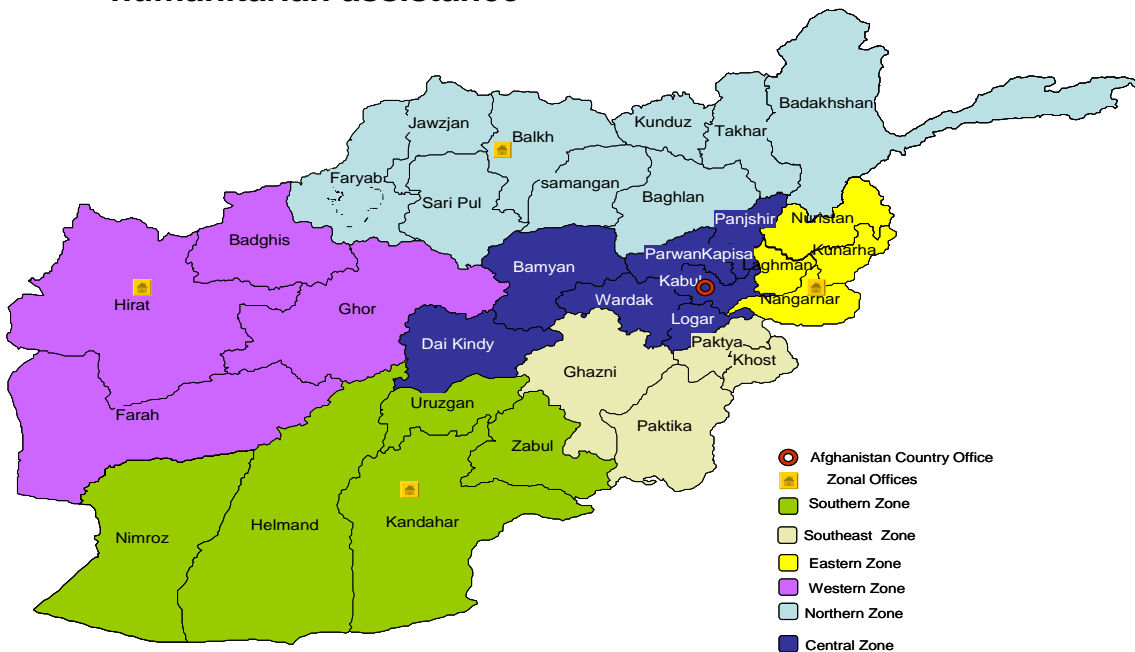
AFGHANISTAN

DONOR UPDATE

7 NOVEMBER 2006

UNICEF REQUIRES US \$ 3.8 MILLION TO ADDRESS THE URGENT NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN DROUGHT AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

- A serious drought is facing the North, Northeast, Western and Southern parts of Afghanistan
- 2.5 million people are suffering, 50% of whom are children
- As a result of the conflict in the south, more than 20,000 families have been forced to leave their villages and are in need of humanitarian assistance



Map of Afghanistan with provincial and Zonal boundaries

1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

While Afghanistan is struggling to set up infrastructures and put systems in place in a sustained developmental approach to remedy the destruction caused by more than two decades of conflict, crucial areas requiring urgent humanitarian assistance still remain.

Afghanistan has faced a serious drought in the north, northeast, west and southern provinces affecting 2.5 million people, 50 per cent of them children. The lack of water and food will exacerbate the outbreak of disease and malnutrition among children. Anti Government Elements (AGE) are becoming more active in the south and south-eastern regions. The conflict between the Government of Afghanistan (GoA)/Coalition Forces and AGE is hampering humanitarian services from reaching vulnerable groups and is forcing the population to move out of their villages for safe havens. So far, the Government has officially announced that more than 20,000 families are displaced from the Uruzgan, Helmand and Kandahar provinces, with numbers likely to increase with the spread of fighting to other areas. The combination of drought and conflict will lead to a further deterioration of the situation and will require massive mobilization to save lives, in particular with respect to children and women.

Afghanistan is a land locked mountainous country with a history of natural disasters. Although there have not been any major emergencies in the last years, the country regularly experiences small-scale emergencies for which community coping mechanisms and existing government structures are inadequate. Flooding is one of the most common emergencies, causing a loss of lives, destruction of livelihoods, and considerable damage to housing, property, land, and public infrastructures, including schools, hospitals and clinics. In turn, this puts large populations at risk of disease, death and distressful living conditions. Avalanches, landslides, cold weather and disease outbreaks are also common seasonal emergencies that occur regularly and call for immediate interventions, in particular in terms of the management of acute respiratory infections among children.

The infant mortality rate is estimated at 165 per 1,000 live births and the maternal mortality ratio at 1600 per 100,000 live births, one of the highest in the world. While health services are expanding through the Basic Package of Health services, there still remain significant gaps in service delivery, especially in geographically hard-to-reach or security-challenged areas.

Resulting from the inadequate number of formal schools and qualified teachers, especially female teachers, as well as inappropriate learning spaces and facilities, an estimated 2 million children are not covered by formal schools, 1.3 million of them girls. Security incidents, attacks on schools and threats to teachers and students have been reported for 100 schools since the beginning of 2006, undermining educational efforts and the gains achieved so far.

Table 1. UNICEF-assisted emergencies, January -September 2006

Type of Emergency	Frequency	Families affected	Families assisted	Casualties		Areas affected*
				Dead	Injured	
Avalanche	11	300	300	38	40	NE R
Flooding	21	2,981	2,471	40	177	NR,WR,CR,SER
Landslide	1	18				NR
Measles	3	90		6		WR, SR
Cold weather	2	41	40	18	13	NR
Strapping wind	1	300	300			ER
ARI cases	2	200	667	200		CR
Earthquake	1	182	73	1	7	NR
IDPs (conflict)	5	15,150	2,745	unavailable	unavailable	SR, ER
Total	47	19,262	6,596	303	237	

* R- Region; C- Central, E- East, N - North, NE- Northeast, S- South ,SE- Southeast, W- West,

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

To respond to the humanitarian needs of children in 2006, UNICEF Afghanistan initially requested USD\$ 21.8 million through the Humanitarian Action Report. Only nine percent of the proposed budget has been funded so far.

As the year progressed, the country faced a serious drought affecting some 2.5 million people. The Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations' Country Team (UNCT) launched the Afghanistan Joint Drought Appeal in July 2006, in which UNICEF requested USD\$ 2.5 million. The Joint appeal of July - December 2006 was extended in terms of duration and financial needs due to the deterioration in humanitarian situation of people affected by Afghanistan's drought and by the recent conflict in southern Afghanistan. The flash appeal was extended up to April 2007 and UNICEF requested an additional US\$ 3.8 million on top of the original request of US\$2.5 million. Hence our total need for the drought response is now US\$ 6.3 million. No commitment has been made in response to the last appeal.

ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Afghanistan Joint Drought Appeal July 2006 – Drought response

Health and Nutrition

- Conducted nutritional assessments in the north and west, trained 40 health workers in the north on the management of malnourished children in Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFC). Training for health workers in the west is ongoing;
- UNICEF will support two existing TFCs in the north, already admitting malnourished children, and establish one new TFC in the west, to be functional by mid-November. Nutrition supplies were delivered to the north and west.

Water and Sanitation

- Construction of 3 strategic water points in the north is under way, while the construction of 3 more water points and 7 water reservoirs in the north are being planned with Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MoRRD);
- Hygiene promotion in Saripul, Samangan, Balkh and Frayab provinces of the north is under way;
- Planned for 7 SIDA funded strategic water points, 2 in Ghore province, 1 in Badghis province, 1 in Balkh and 3 in the south. The hydro-geological survey/study is being planned by UNICEF/MoRRD.

2.2 Humanitarian Action Report (HAR) 2006

Health and nutrition:

- Provided vaccine and non-vaccine supplies to provincial health departments to contain outbreaks, and conducted a campaign against measles and tetanus in 9 provinces, covering 708,605 children 9-59 months and 1,023,071 women of child-bearing age;
- Supported the Ministry of Public Health in a campaign to prevent diarrhoeal diseases during summer months, reaching around 2 million people in 4 urban settings with high population density;
- Provided emergency supplies and drugs covering 60,000 people to provincial health departments to respond to emergencies and areas with influx of returnees;
- Provided non-food items to families in coordination with other UN agencies and the Government:
 - Family kits, blankets, tarpaulin, collapsible water tanks and medical supplies and some tents for 2,745 conflict-related internally displaced persons of Uruzgan, Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the southern region;
 - Family kits, blankets, tarpaulin, and warm jackets for 3,851 families in response to natural disasters (avalanches in northeast, flooding, landslides);
- Conducted Avian and Human Influenza inter-personal communication, developed mass media material and trained women's groups, religious leaders, education personnel, journalists, and community health workers as part of ongoing nation-wide awareness campaign efforts;
- Ordered non-food supplies for 6,500 families as contingency stock for winterization and IDPs.

Water and sanitation:

- Supported the Government in the provision of water-tanking to drought-affected areas, covering 110,000 people, as well as supplies for water reservation in these areas;
- Provided 250 drums (50 kg/drum) of chlorine and 2 million tablets of water purification tablets to the Government for water treatment, targeting high risk areas.

Education:

- Assisted provincial education departments in resuming school functionality following school burnings and attacks, through the provision of tents, floor mats, teaching materials and, in some instances, school building rehabilitation. An emergency distribution of more than 461 school tents and 1800 floor mats was made to address school incidents and lack of appropriate learning spaces;
- Ensured preparedness to provide materials and temporary learning spaces to up to 40,000 students and 10,000 teachers across the country in case of emergency;
- Established 2,089 new community-based schools (CBS) to provide teaching and learning to 100,500 children, in addition to the existing 2,412 CBS supported by UNICEF, covering 96,700 children.

Emergency coordination, assessment and monitoring:

- Conducted training on emergency preparedness and response to 147 governmental and UNICEF staff in 5 zonal offices.

CONSTRAINTS/ISSUES

- Insecurity expanding and threatening services in reaching populations;
- Lack of services in hard-to-reach areas, requiring campaign-style activities to address life-threatening conditions;
- Poor government capacity to appropriately address even small-scale emergencies and an absence of mitigation measures;
- Inadequate coordination of emergency response by the Government of Afghanistan and lack of appropriate preparedness plans at the local level;
- Lack of funding for the 2006 HAR.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As outlined in section 2, two emergency appeals have been launched for Afghanistan in 2006. First, UNICEF Afghanistan requested USD\$ 21.8 million through the 2006 Humanitarian Action Report to respond to the emergency needs of women and children during 2006. Additionally, the Government of Afghanistan and the UNCT launched the Afghanistan Joint Drought Appeal in July 2006, in which UNICEF requested USD\$ 2.5 million to respond to the drought situation affecting some 2.5 million people. Due to the deterioration in the humanitarian situation, the appeal was extended in October 2006 from December 2006 to April 2007, while financial requirements were increased. UNICEF requested an additional US\$ 3.8 million, amounting to a total request from UNICEF of US\$ 6.3 million.

Table 2: Funds received against the Afghanistan Drought Joint Appeal 2006 by Sector and Donor (US\$)

Sector and Donors	Joint Appeal 2006 US\$	Funds received and allocated US\$	Unmet requirements	% unfunded
Health & nutrition				70
CERF 200,000 US Fund 52,930	861,350	252,930	608,420	
Water and sanitation				13
CERF 500,000 Sweden 960,190	1,682,450	1,460,190	222,260	
Extension of appeal for IDPs in the South	3,808,397	0	3,808,397	100
Total	6,352,197	1,713,120	4,639,077	73

Table 3 – Funds received against the 2006 Humanitarian Action Report for utilization in 2006 by Sector and Donor (US\$)

Sector and Donors	2006 HAR appeal US\$	Funds received and allocated US\$	Unmet requirements	% unfunded
Health & nutrition				
Finland 456,664	676,918	1,081,577	0	0
Canada Natcom 3,606				
Netherlands 621,307				
Water and sanitation				
	2,831,451	473,074	2,358,377	83
Netherlands 250,000				
Czech Republic 223,074				
Education				
AgFund 25,000	13,813,383	25,000	13,788,383	100
Child protection	273,459	0	273,459	100
Humanitarian response activities and coordination				
	4,259,581	387,233	3,872,348	91
Finland 53,540				
Netherlands 333,693				
Total	21,854,792	1,966,884	19,887,908	91

4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

The consequences of failure to act quickly in response to the drought and conflict will be grave, including:

1. The suffering of families, in particular children and women as a result of a lack of basic living materials;
2. Inability to reach affected populations - with the funding available UNICEF was only able to provide humanitarian assistance to 2,745 IDP families out of an estimated 20,000;
3. With all contingency stocks for winterization already utilized, there is a serious shortage of supplies for the coming winter;
4. The lack of adequate drinking water, health care and medical supplies will entail susceptibility to disease, malnutrition and death and an increase in child and maternal morbidity and mortality;
5. The inability of international agencies to cater to the needs of the population most affected by the drought and conflict may undermine the position of the Government of Afghanistan, in turn resulting in anti-government elements claiming more credibility amongst the population.

UNICEF expresses its gratitude to the donors who have thus far contributed to its emergency interventions and looks forward to receiving additional support from other donors. The timely provision of resources will allow UNICEF to diminish the suffering of the population.

Table 4: Urgent priority requirements as part of UNICEF's inputs to the Extension of Joint Flash Appeal by Government of Afghanistan and UNCT for IDPs in the South on 22 Oct 2006

As of October 2006		
Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
Non-food items for conflict-related IDPs	20,000 families	2,302,432
Measles vaccination	100,000 children	209,312
Medical (drugs and ORS/rehydration solutions) and Nutrition supplies	140,000 people	476,492
Teaching/ learning materials and temporary learning spaces	40,000 children	317,662
Strategic water points, water tankering, hand-pump water supplies and latrine construction material	140,000 people	492,499
Mine risk education and hygiene promotion in schools	140,000 people	5,000
Monitoring costs		5,000
Total		3,808,397

Details of the Afghanistan emergency programme can be obtained from:

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