

UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

AFGHANISTAN

SITUATION UPDATE

During the first half of 2010, continued high levels of security incidents which have targeted the aid community have impeded programme delivery throughout the country. Around five million children are out of school in Afghanistan, most of whom are girls. Ongoing conflict including threats and attacks on schools deprives over 400,000 children in most insecure and conflict affected areas education. About 106 incidents of attacks against schools have been recorded during the first four months of 2010. Higher food prices are expected due to the recent poor harvest in 76 districts further increasing the risk of malnutrition. Several measles outbreaks were registered during the first half of 2010 due to the limited access of basic healthcare services. Many water systems remain damaged throughout the country due to recent heavy flooding. In the first half of 2010, floods affected 11,494 families (74,711 individuals) in 20 provinces of the country. Increased unrest has resulted in the escalated number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs), bringing the total number of IDPs in Afghanistan to 328,588, of whom 116,532 are located in the Southern Region. Security conditions are expected to continue to worsen for the remainder of 2010 due to military operations in the south and the upcoming elections in September 2010.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

More than 6.5 million children were provided with vitamin A supplementation, 250,000 under-five children were provided with Sprinkles, and 150,000 pregnant and lactating women were supplemented with multiple micronutrients in 11 malnutrition high-risk provinces. An additional 3,680 malnourished children were admitted for therapeutic feeding services of which 2,850 (77 per cent) were successfully cured. UNICEF also provided family kits and high energy biscuits to around 1,700 families affected by natural disasters (floods, earthquakes). 8,825 children in the affected areas were vaccinated against measles.

The UNICEF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) technical survey for proposed 300 community water points out of 500 planned water points was completed, and contracts were signed with Community Development Councils for the construction of 200 water points. UNICEF prepositioned and distributed over 25,000 items of Teaching Learning Materials (including student kits and teacher kits) and 795 classroom tents to affected populations in the first six months of 2010. Child Protection Action Networks have been effectively expanded and are functioning in 28 provinces of Afghanistan. To further strengthen monitoring and reporting mechanisms (MRM) in line with Security Council Resolution 1612, a new regional MRM taskforce was established in the North of Afghanistan to monitor and report on grave child rights' violations.

KEY CHALLENGES

Monitoring and assessment of the emergency responses were severely restricted with only half of the country accessible for UNICEF missions. In addition, limited technical and implementation capacity of the government, especially with respect to the delivery of community-based services, further hampered the effectiveness of emergency response in the first half of 2010. During the first six months of 2010, UNICEF actively engaged with more third party partners to facilitate the achievement of the planned results.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF works closely with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations Agencies in Afghanistan. UNICEF remains the lead in the Nutrition, WASH and Education Clusters. The Education Cluster has completed training for 132 staff of member organisations of the Education Cluster and the Ministry of Education in INEE (Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergency) minimum standards. Attendance and participation in the Nutrition Cluster has been increasing and has resulted in improved coordination on nutrition emergency preparedness and response. During the first half of 2010, WASH Cluster Partners reached more than 100,000 people with access to safe drinking water along with sanitation and hygiene education in disaster-hit areas.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Harmonisation between the HAR and the UNICEF part of the inter-agency Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) appeals for 2010 has taken place. UNICEF requirements in the health sector have been aligned with partners implementing

an integrated package of Health Services. Child Protection figures have been slightly reduced due to carry-over funding available at the beginning of the year being utilised while HAR and HAP were being finalized.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)				
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap
Health	5,419,050	2,658,834	780,196	1,878,638
Nutrition	3,980,950	3,980,950	1,851,782	2,129,168
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	9,951,000	9,951,000	3,729,232	6,221,768
Education	7,500,000	7,500,000	0	7,500,000
Child Protection	1,070,000	973,700	88,955	884,745
Total*	27,921,000	25,064,484	6,450,165	18,614,319

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

Health

- Over 175,000 children (aged between 6 and 59 months) and 90,000 pregnant and lactating women will continue to benefit from immediate response and adequate health care.
- Children up to 15 years of age will receive measles vaccinations and vitamin A supplementation.
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets will be provided to 70,000 children under age five and 25,000 pregnant women to prevent and reduce the incidence of malaria among displaced communities.
- Up to 30,000 displaced people will be supplied with basic household items, including warm clothes, blankets, and family kits, to support survival both during and after weather related health hazards.

Nutrition

- Some 8,300 children with severe acute malnutrition will be provided treatment through UNICEF supported community-based therapeutic feeding programmes.
- Life-saving nutrition information will be made available to the public as a result of training health staff in raising awareness about detection, prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition as well as infant and young child feeding in emergencies.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Essential WASH emergency supplies sufficient for 5,000 families in each of the five zonal areas will be repositioned.
- By the end of 2010 UNICEF will complete the construction of an additional five strategic water points in drought-affected areas in the Northern region.
- The construction of 300 additional community water systems will be completed by the end of the year. In addition, in the same 300 communities, effective hygiene promotion among almost 1 million people (150,000 families) and promotion of 10,000 families to construct and use sanitary household latrines will be completed.

Education

- Support will be provided to the schools in the establishment of 4,000 School Management Shuras (Committees) to ensure the effective management of schools.
- UNICEF will support construction of 100 Cost Effective Schools including WASH facilities in 2010.
- UNICEF will advocate with the Ministry of Education to reopen 200 schools closed due to threats/attacks on schools by anti-government elements, and provide psycho-social support to school children living in emergency affected villages.

Child Protection

- The capacity of 54 districts Child Protection Action Networks will be further strengthened by identifying gaps in delivery and furthering cooperation of work between the district and provincial levels by the end of the year.
- Capacity building will be enhanced in national and provincial legal aid mechanisms through cooperation with the judicial system.
- In cooperation with the Afghan Government, UNICEF will support the development of joint prevention strategies on issues such as child marriage, children associated with armed groups, gender-based violence and orphans.