

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Afghanistan

SUMMARY FOR 2005

Critical Issues for Children and Women

While considerable progress has been made since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, the impact of nearly 3 decades of conflict, drought, displacement and internal isolation has destroyed social structures for women and children in Afghanistan, which still has some of the worst development indicators in the world.

Consequently, 1 in 9 children will not survive their first year, while 1 in 6 will not reach their fifth birthday. One woman dies every 20 minutes. 60% of Afghan households have no access to safe drinking water, and some 30% do not have adequate sanitation. It is also estimated that 1.3 million school age girls are still not accessing education. There are growing concerns of child trafficking and exploitation, and also urgent needs of reintegration of former child soldiers throughout the country.

Planned Humanitarian Action for 2005

UNICEF works with line ministries, UN agencies, and NGO partners in planning and implementing its emergency programme response. UNICEF co-chairs consultative groups on education and health, and acts as the secretariat of the national working group on child trafficking. UNICEF-supported programmes are expected to reach at least 6 million children and 4 million women in 2005.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will expand its immunization programme, conduct campaigns for neonatal tetanus elimination and safe motherhood, and address malaria, diarrhoea and polio. UNICEF will provide essential drugs and medical supplies, and train health staff on better care and practices. HIV/AIDS surveys will be implemented. UNICEF will also support nutrition feeding centres and programmes.

Water and Environmental Sanitation: UNICEF will construct and rehabilitate wells, boreholes and latrines in schools and households focusing on areas of return or those affected by disasters. UNICEF will train water management committees, teachers, imams, and social workers to provide better water management, hygiene education and awareness.

Education: UNICEF will strengthen community-based schools focusing on girls' education, provide basic education supplies, school equipment, learning, teaching and training materials, and support curriculum development. Specific support to IDP, returnee, over-aged school children and women will be provided. Peace education through formal and non-formal education systems will also be implemented.

Protection: UNICEF will support the implementation of a national plan of action for children at risk and to combat child trafficking, and train legal professionals, youth workers and police officers on child protection issues. Support will be given to demobilization and reintegration activities for former child soldiers and birth registration programme. Additionally, UNICEF will coordinate Mine Risk Education programmes.

Emergency Preparedness: UNICEF will pre-position emergency supplies and kits, and train staff and partners on emergency response and planning.

Summary of UNICEF Financial Needs for 2005	
Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	29,800,000
Education	25,200,000
Water and environmental sanitation	16,380,000
Child protection	8,970,000
Emergency preparedness, capacity building and response	1,100,000
Total¹	81,450,000

¹ The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 12%. The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.