Afghanistan

The 2017/2018 winter period was the fifth consecutive year wherein the main planting season for wheat (October-February) has been compromised due to drought. In 2018, more than two thirds of the country – some 20 provinces\(^1\) – are affected by severe rain deficit and limited snowfall in winter season, negatively affecting water availability and impacting both rain fed and irrigated agricultural lands, and pastures.\(^2\) Due to the drought, nearly 50,000 people from affected provinces have been displaced to Herat and Qalai Naw.\(^3\) The drought has had a devastating effect on pre-existing water sources, with 750,000 people experiencing acute water shortages\(^4\) and increase in use of unprotected water sources for drinking, exposing children to waterborne diseases, leading to malnourishment.\(^5\) In addition, 116,912 people are displaced due to conflict\(^6\), 21,160 returned from Pakistan and 285,226 from Iran\(^7\), who need assistance. Conflict has caused closure, damage or destruction of 953 schools\(^8\) resulting in more than 500,000 children deprived of education and limited absorption capacity of the education system for displaced children. Similarly provision of healthcare has been a challenge with 63 incidents of attack on health facilities reported in 2018, leading to destruction of 21 and closure of 41 health facilities.\(^9\)

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF leads the nutrition and WASH clusters, coordinates the child protection area of responsibility under the protection cluster and co-leads the education in emergency working group, to strengthen leadership, improve coordination and facilitate robust contingency planning. UNICEF and partners scaled up nutrition response targeting 50 per cent of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) for treatment in 24 affected provinces\(^17\) while considering a shift in strategies to achieve even higher results. In collaboration with the health cluster, UNICEF reaches affected women and children through Mobile Health Teams, measles vaccination of children under five, scaling up health awareness initiatives, provision of critical supplies, as well as capacity building of government counterparts, NGOs and Basic Package of Health Services - BPHS - implementers in the area of maternal health and newborn care. In WASH, durable solutions like small-scale solar pumping networks or gravity-fed system are promoted to cater for the longer term needs of displaced, returnees and host communities, thus strengthening the humanitarian-development linkages. As a part of its commitment to localization, UNICEF is working with Ground Truth in assessing support to national and local NGOs. Further actions are planned to enhance the number and quality of partnerships with local actors.

Results from 2018

As of 30 May 2018, UNICEF had US$18.8 million available against the $38.8 million appeal (51 per cent funded).\(^18\) In 2018, 91,127 SAM children received treatment. Due to closure of returnee transit centers in the first three months of 2018, Vitamin A supplementation target is underachieved, only 9.3 per cent of the planned target. 9,052 women and children received essential health services and 46,253 children received measles vaccination. Due to significant increase in number of measles outbreaks nationwide, UNICEF under the regular development programme is supporting a nationwide measles campaign to be conducted jointly with WHO, Ministry of Public Health and other partners in 2018, immunizing 13 million children across the country, while the humanitarian response is focusing on local measles outbreaks areas directly affected by humanitarian situations. UNICEF has supported 69,279 emergency-affected persons with access to clean drinking water and 48,724 with access to improved sanitation. UNICEF provided psycho-social support through Child Friendly Spaces helping 55,771 children, while 3,446 received more specialized case management services including family reunification and reintegration into the community. To protect against harsh winters, 82,144 women and children received warm clothes, blankets and other non-food items. With UNICEF support 78,575 children are accessing education services.

### 2018 programme targets:

**Nutrition**
- 294,000 children under 5 with SAM admitted for treatment\(^12\)
- 5,000 returnee children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation\(^13\)

**Health**
- 64,000 affected pregnant women and children have benefitted from essential health services and health education\(^14\)
- 105,000 children immunized against measles\(^15\)

**WASH**\(^16\)
- 150,000 people accessing basic sanitation facilities
- 450,000 people accessing safe drinking water

**Child protection**
- 75,000 children accessing psychosocial support through child-friendly spaces
- 10,000 children protected and supported through case management and family reunification
- 200,000 conflict- and disaster-affected people having received winter assistance

**Education**
- 120,000 children and adolescents provided with access to quality education
### NUTRITION

| Children under 5 with SAM admitted for treatment | 294,535 | 91,127 | 294,000 | 91,127 |
| Children aged 6 to 59 months who received vitamin A supplementation | 5,000 | 1,395 | 5,000 | 1,395 |

### HEALTH

| Children aged 9 months to 10 years who received measles vaccination | 105,000 | 57,402 |
| Pregnant/lactating women and children who benefited from essential health services and health education | 64,000 | 19,601 |

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

| People accessing safe drinking water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene | 1,550,000 | 284,670 | 450,000 | 69,279 |
| People accessing sanitation facilities | 500,000 | 221,276 | 150,000 | 48,724 |

### CHILD PROTECTION

| Children accessing psychosocial support through child-friendly spaces | 101,905 | 56,873 | 75,000 | 37,642 |
| Children protected and supported through case management | 23,958 | 5,862 | 10,000 | 3,953 |
| Affected children and their families who receive warm winter clothes and other non-food item support | | 200,000 | 82,144 |

### EDUCATION

| Children and adolescents accessing quality education | 351,000 | 134,673 | 120,000 | 78,575 |

Results are through 31 May 2018 unless otherwise noted.

### Funding requirements

In line with Afghanistan’s multi-year inter-agency 2018-2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is increasing its appeal amount from US$32.8 million to US$38.8 million to meet the increased humanitarian needs of women and children in 2018 due to the drought situation, especially for scaling up nutrition response and access to safe drinking water. Without additional funding, UNICEF Afghanistan will be unable to support 300,000 people, including 48,000 children affected by the continuous nutrition crisis, and provide critical WASH services to the drought-affected, displaced and returnee populations facing the spread of diseases.

### Appeal Sector

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</table>

Funding Gap: **US$19,943,546**, **51%**

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3. Based on UN OCHA’s Head of Office briefing to the Humanitarian Country Team on 15 July 2018.
5. Example: Rapid WASH needs assessment, Moqur district, February 2018.
11. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Revised 2018 Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, 2018 . Population in need includes both acute and chronic humanitarian situations. Increase in needs and targets is due to increased humanitarian needs due to drought situation.
12. Ibid.
13. Target for Vitamin A supplementation for returnee children is revised downwards due less than planned returnee caseload in the first half of 2018.
14. Target revised downwards due less than planned returnee caseload in the first half of 2018.
15. Target adjusted downwards as majority of the affected children will be covered through the country-wide measles campaign under the regular development programme.
16. Includes capacity development, technical support, logistics and other preparedness related activities.

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