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Reporting Period: 1-15 January 2022

Afghanistan
Humanitarian Situation Report # 1
1-15 January 2022

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for every child

Highlights

- UNICEF provided Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT) to 1,165 households (8,155 people including 4,902 children) in Samangan province, targeting districts severely affected by drought.
- 90 mobile health and nutrition teams continue to provide critical lifesaving support in underserved areas
- 8,568 winterization kits were provided to households in need

Situation in Numbers

24.4 M
People in need of humanitarian assistance (HNO 2022)

13. 1 M
children in need of humanitarian assistance HNO 2022)

1.1 M
Acutely Malnourished Children under the age of five years (HRP 2022)

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The UNICEF Afghanistan Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal is the largest in the history of the organization, valued at US$ 2 billion for 2022. Thanks to partners' generous contributions, the appeal is currently 15% funded.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Continued rainfall and heavy snow affected access in the Northern, Western, Central and Eastern regions. Affected provinces include Badakhshan, Kabul, Ghor, Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar. The Afghanistan Meteorological Department (AMD) has predicted heavy rainfall, snowfall, and the possibility of flash food in some parts of the country, according to a statement on 7 January 2022. Provinces such as Khost, Paktia, Logar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Panjshir, Nuristan, Kunar and Badakhshan are expected to the be worst hit with chances of flash floods. Measles cases continue to rise with over 1,000 cases identified during the reporting period. While targeted provincial campaigns were conducted in December, a nationwide campaign is planned for quarter one.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

During the first half of January 2022, UNICEF continued to respond to the health needs in the country by supporting the health system, strengthening community capacity, and operating mobile services in remote, hard to reach and in need areas. Over 90 teams provided essential health and nutrition services for people in need in 15 provinces, including immunization, medical consultation and treatment, antenatal care/postnatal care visits for pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), malnutrition prevention, treatment, and counselling services for children and caregivers. In January 2022, UNICEF is targeting 1,031 Health Facilities in 17 provinces, providing health workers salaries, supplies, and operational costs to enable facilities to continue operating and providing critical health services and supplies to people in need.

Nutrition

During the first two weeks of January, UNICEF and implementing partners continued the delivery of lifesaving nutrition services through fixed health facilities and mobile teams across the country. In-addition, UNICEF developed and began planning the scale-up of 900 Health Sub Centres (HSCs) at the central and provincial levels to reach more children with

critical nutrition services. The field level arrangements are ongoing, and service delivery is expected to start gradually by end-January 2022. Planning for the implementation of Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) surveys in urban areas of five provinces (Kabul, Mazar, Herat, Kandahar, and Jalalabad) is ongoing.

Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

During the first two weeks of January 2022, UNICEF, with the support of its partners and extenders, scaled up the immediate and life-saving Child Protection responses to address the dire needs of children and their caregivers across the country. UNICEF prioritized scaling up emergency services with focus on case management services to ensure proper handling for children's cases, in Western Zone and through the Child Friendly Spaces, a total of 168 unaccompanied and separated children have been reunified with their families.

Life-savings supplies, including winterization and hygiene kits, were provided to 8,568 (40% girls) households with vulnerable children in Western, Northern and Eastern Zones. In addition, 5,000 blankets, 1,700 buckets with tap, 1,700 tarpaulins, waterproof strong cover ground sheets were distributed to 1,700 families for the new internally displaced people in Herat in Western Zone. As part of the scale up to reach more children and their families with messages on explosive risks education, all distribution points for winterization and hygiene kits includes awareness raising sessions on explosive risks education. In the north, 140 female schoolteachers were reached with awareness raising sessions on mine and non-explosives and how to support increasing the knowledge of the children in schools to reduce the risks of injuries and death.

UNICEF focused on the implementation of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) scale up plan that was endorsed in December 2021. During the period, a total of 134 personnel drawn from UNICEF key programme staff 102 (32 female, 70 male), 32 partners staff (18 female, 14 male) have been trained on integration of PSEA in planning, monitoring, and reporting, UN victims´ protocol and awareness raising on PSEA.

Education

All public schools in cold climate provinces (28 in total) are closed for winter break and will re-open on 21 March for the new academic year. UNICEF continues to support 7,804 community-based education (CBE) classes reaching 246,005 children (129,647 girls, 116,358 boys). All these classes continued to receive winterization support (heating or cash) to ensure there is no interruption due to weather conditions. Orders were placed to ensure education supplies for 2022 to cover opening of new 4,200 CBE classes and sustain the current 7,804 classes, in addition to basic learning materials for all grade one students and their teachers in preparation of the Back-to-School campaign.

During the reporting period, UNICEF reached an agreement with the European Commission to provide emergency cash support to teachers to sustain children's learning in public schools. This intervention will provide an estimated 194,000 public teachers nationwide with emergency cash support for two months.

WASH

During the first two weeks of January 2022, a total of 25,229 people in 13 provinces benefited from hygiene promotion sessions with key messages on acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) prevention measures as well as water treatment at the household level. These beneficiaries also received soap for handwashing and appropriate Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials including leaflets with instructions on hand hygiene, household water treatment using AquaTab and PUR sachet, and emergency booklets with key messages on personal and environmental hygiene. In addition, two healthcare facilities in Laghman, where AWD cases were reported, have received hygiene supplies including soap and access to safe drinking water. In addition, 838 people in Soroubi district of Kabul province, which was the epicentre of the AWD/Cholera outbreak in September 2021, received household water treatment products to ensure safe drinking water is served within the family members.

Social Behaviour Change (SBC) and Accountability to Affected Populations

Social and behaviour change activities focused on strengthening community engagement and communications campaigns to promote adoption of healthy and protective behaviours to address various epidemics such as COVID-19, AWD and other humanitarian emergencies. Thus, social mobilization sessions and community meetings with relevant community platforms were conducted to engage them in the promotion of hygiene practices in Central and Southern Regions, COVID-19 barrier measures and vaccine acceptancy throughout the country. During sensitization sessions conducted by social mobilizers, behaviour change communication materials on key emergency practices including

(brochures, posters, billboards, banners, etc.) were distributed to communities. In addition, community platforms members and influential people were trained to address communities' concerns about COVID-19 vaccine and AWD. In the meantime, multimedia communication campaign has been continuing with integrated messages related to health, education, hygiene and child protection through social networks, radio, and TV.

Gender and Adolescents Development and Participation

UNICEF conducted awareness raising to key community influencers, women, girls, and their families on safety and how to reduce vulnerability of women and girls as they access nutrition and other services. Total of 4,918 women and girls were reached accordingly in the following provinces: Balkh 1,886 (1,132 women 754 girls), Parwan 2,074 (1,244 women 830 girls), Kabul 498 (453 women and 45 girls) and 310 males including key influencers and 150 females in Kandahar province.

Through partners, UNICEF trained 50 religious leaders in Kandahar on religious role on ending violence against women and child marriages, who in turn have committed to mainstream prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child marriage in Friday sermons. While 60 frontline workers (social workers) were trained on GBV risk mitigation and GBV case management. Through Kabul women and girls' friendly spaces, 10 women and girls were provided with psychosocial counselling based on their needs. To ensure women and girls were able to meet their sanitary and dignity needs, during the reporting period, a total of 3,960 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls in Balkh (1,886) and Parwan (2,074) provinces. PSEA and GBV risk mitigation awareness were integrated as part of the dignity kits distribution. UNICEF supported capacity assessment of the women led Civil Society Organization (CSO) to gauge their capacity to deliver quality services post 15 August 2021. The report has informed capacity development plan, that aims to improve women led CSOs capacity to deliver quality services to the women and girls.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

In the period 1-15 January 2022, UNICEF provided Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT) in multiple provinces, including 1,165 households (8,155 people, including 4,902 children) in Samangan province, targeting districts severely affected by drought. In these districts, UNICEF targeted female headed households, families with children with disabilities, and households with PLW. In Nuristan province – a high priority winter province, 8,056 households received the first tranche of UNICEF's humanitarian cash assistance during winter months. This cash transfer, in addition to helping families to meet their basic needs during winter, also includes a winterization top-up to enable households to buy essential winter items. During this period, UNICEF continued to scale up its Cash Based Assistance activities, completing the registration of 33,533 households (estimated 234,731 individuals) in Badghis province, and 14,000 households in Logar province.

External Media, Statements & Human Interest Stories

- Statement by Alice Akunga, UNICEF Afghanistan Representative a.i., on the death of eight children due to detonation of explosive remnants of war.
- UNICEF distributes urgently needed humanitarian cash transfers in Nuristan
- 880 vulnerable families receive cash assistance in Kabul.
- Over 10,000 health workers provided with salaries and medical supplies provided to over 1,000 health facilities with support from CERF.
- ITV joined UNICEF to report on the mounting nutrition crisis facing Afghan children.
- Media missions supported during the reporting period include RAI, Mediapart, ITN, NBC, Politiken, SKY, Luxembourg TV, PFP podcast, Canadian TV.

Next SitRep: 11 February 2022

UNICEF Afghanistan Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/

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