



Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

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 provinces¹ – 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 shortages⁴ 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 conflict⁶, 21,160 returned from Pakistan and 285,226 from Iran⁷, who need assistance. Conflict has caused closure, damage or destruction of 953 schools⁸ 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 provinces¹⁷ 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.

Total people in need:
4.2 million¹⁰

Total children (<18) in need:
2.4 million

Total people to be reached:
1.3 million¹¹

Total children to be reached:
873,500

2018 programme targets:

Nutrition

- 294,000 children under 5 with SAM admitted for treatment¹²
- 5,000 returnee children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation¹³

Health

- 64,000 affected pregnant women and children have benefitted from essential health services and health education¹⁴
- 105,000 children immunized against measles¹⁵

WASH¹⁶

- 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

	Sector 2018 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2018 targets	UNICEF total results
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 benefitted 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	2018-2021 Requirement (US\$)	Original 2018 Requirement (US\$)	Revised 2018 Requirement (US\$)	Funds Available (US\$)	Funding Gap	
					US\$	%
Nutrition	60,000,000	15,000,000	17,000,000	11,895,462	5,104,538	30%
Health	5,000,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	882,832	417,168	32%
WASH	24,000,000	5,000,000	9,000,000	3,558,733	5,441,267	60%
Child protection	20,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	652,573	4,347,427	87%
Education	20,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	861,027	4,138,973	83%
Coordination/Operational costs ¹⁹	6,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,005,828	494,172	33%
Total	135,000,000	32,800,000	38,800,000	18,856,454	19,943,546	51%

¹ Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Bamyán, Daikundi, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunduz, Farah, Nimroz, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Takhar, Uruzgan and Zabul.

² Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Revised 2018 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, OCHA, 2018.

³ Based on UN OCHA's Head of Office briefing to the Humanitarian Country Team on 15 July 2018.

⁴ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Revised 2018 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, OCHA, 2018.

⁵ Example: Rapid WASH needs assessment, Moqur district, February 2018.

⁶ OCHA interactive dashboard, May 2018.

⁷ IOM & UNHCR monthly report, May 2018.

⁸ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Revised 2018 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, OCHA, 2018.

⁹ Health Cluster Update, June 2018.

¹⁰ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Revised 2018 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan & 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.

¹¹ Ibid.

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 nation-wide measles campaign under the regular development programme.

¹⁶ Increase in targets are due to increased humanitarian needs due to drought situation.

¹⁷ Badghis, Daykundi, Ghazni, Ghor, Helmand, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Nooristan, Paktika, Paktya, Panjsher, Parwan, Samangan, Takhar, Urozgan, Zabul Wardak.

¹⁸ Available funds also includes US\$ 12.1 million carried forward from the previous year.

¹⁹ Includes capacity development, technical support, logistics and other preparedness related activities

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