

FLASH APPEAL AFGHANISTAN

IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN
RESPONSE GAPS
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021



About

This Flash Appeal is consolidated by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners to address immediate humanitarian response gaps in Afghanistan. It covers the period from September to December 2021.

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PLANNED REACH AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIORITISED ACTIVITIES ACROSS FOUR MONTHS (SEP-DEC 2021)

PEOPLE TO BE REACHED

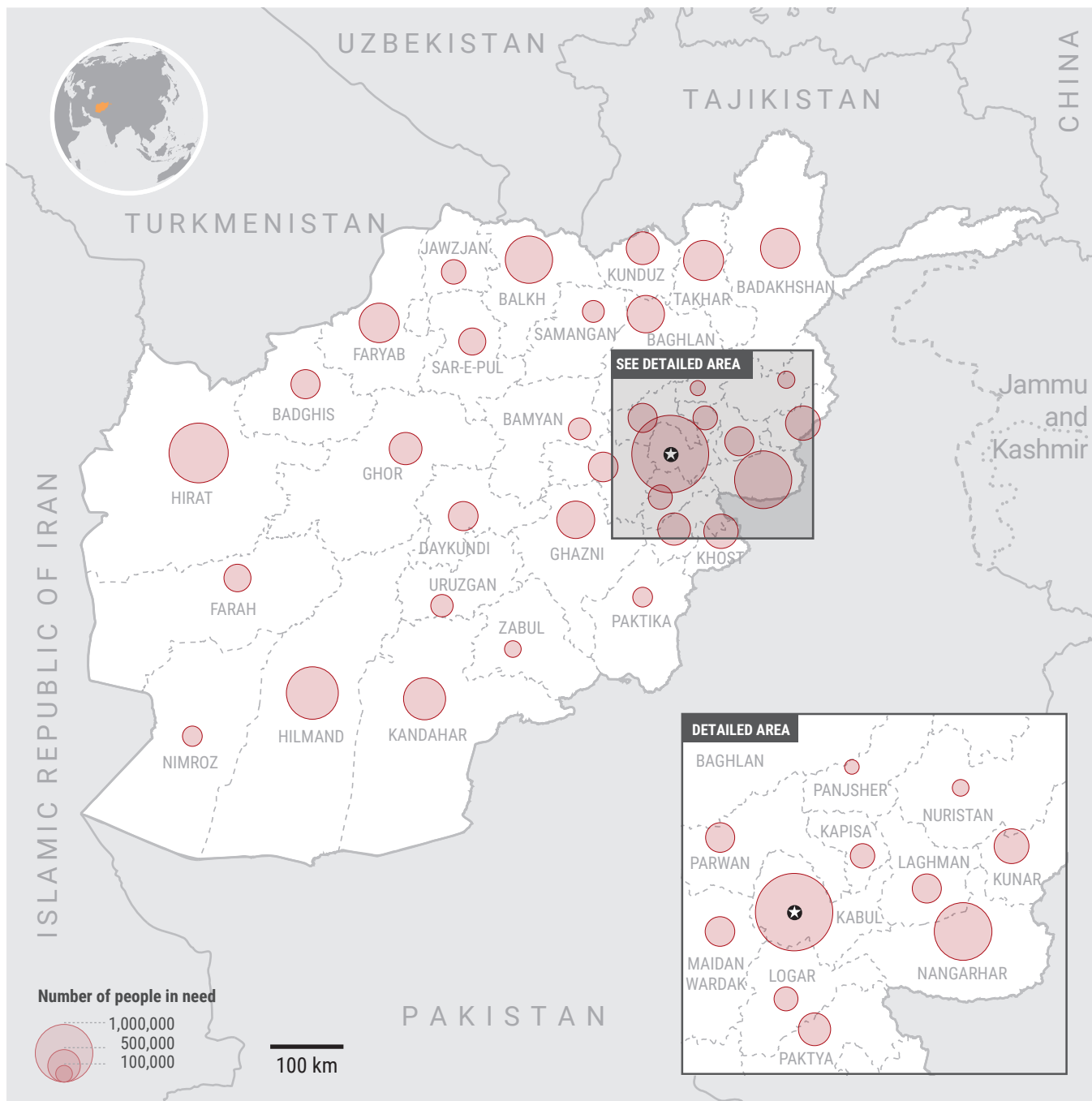
10.8M

8.8M already in HRP
2M additional people

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

606.2M

413.1M already in HRP
193.1M new request



HRP mid-year progress

PEOPLE IN NEED	HRP PLANNED REACH	MID-YEAR REACH	HRP REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)
18.4M	15.7M	7.8M	1.3B	485M

1. Situation overview

Forty years of war, recurrent natural disasters, chronic poverty, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic have devastated the people of Afghanistan. The recent escalation in conflict and resulting upheaval has only exacerbated needs and further complicated an extremely challenging operational context.

Even prior to the events of 15 August, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan was one of the worst in the world. By the mid-year mark, nearly half of the population – some 18.4million people – were already in need of humanitarian and protection assistance in 2021. One in three Afghans were facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity and more than half of all children under-five were expected to face acute malnutrition. Protection and safety risks to civilians, particularly women, children and people with a disability, were also reaching record highs. According to UNAMA, 5,138 civilians were killed (1,659) and injured (3,524) in the first half of the year, with a particularly sharp increase in casualties recorded between May and June following the withdrawal of international military forces and intensification of fighting. UNAMA notes that the number of civilian casualties between May and June was nearly as many as those recorded in the entire preceding four months.

The sharp increase in hostilities across the country also severely impacted health facilities and health personnel, and further stretched thin resources responding to the increased health needs – including needs fuelled by new COVID-19 variants. Direct and indirect attacks against schools coupled with COVID-19 preventative measures disrupted critical education windows – key for children’s development and trauma coping – for a staggering 9.3 million children. Conflict has already forced more than 570,000 people to flee

their homes so far this year. Despite rising insecurity, a record 757,000 undocumented Afghans were deported or had returned from neighbouring countries between January and August.

Afghanistan is also facing its second drought in four years. Unlike the last drought that was relatively localised in the western region, the current drought is impacting one third of the country. This will deplete many people’s financial and asset reserves as they struggle to cope. Already, poor households have taken on catastrophic levels of debt. Many continue to rely on dangerous coping mechanisms to survive, including child labour, early and forced marriage, and risky irregular migration, and are taking on heightened protection risks as a result.

The most recent leadership transitions in the country and unfolding implications on basic services, financial systems and markets has led to a further deterioration of the situation for vulnerable people. While the full impact of recent events will take more time to manifest, aid organisations have already witnessed a dangerous deepening of humanitarian need amongst a wider number of people. While all population groups across the country have been impacted, the consequences for women and girls have been most immediately felt.

To respond to deepening humanitarian need and acute protection risks, the Inter Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) has developed this multi-sector plan which details a four-month (September-December 2021) strategic response to the current crisis. The plan draws largely on unmet needs detailed in the 2021 HRP (Humanitarian Response Plan) while also incorporating new emerging needs, as they are currently understood.

2. Scope of the plan

This plan presents the most urgent humanitarian response priorities within the existing 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) as well as expanded activities to meet new emerging needs driven by changes in the operating environment.¹

The plan urgently seeks **\$606.2 million** to provide prioritised multi-sectoral assistance to **11 million people** in the four remaining months of 2021. **\$413 million** of this is already costed within 2021 HRP requirements, while **\$193 million** are new requirements.

At present, the 2021 HRP remains only 39 per cent funded. While this plan highlights urgent humanitarian priorities for the remainder of the year, humanitarians continue to emphasise the need for resources to carry out all planned assistance under the HRP. Fully funding the 2021 HRP provides a lifeline for millions of people in Afghanistan who are facing incredible uncertainty at the same time as the devastating impact of the drought is beginning to take hold, a harsh winter approaches, and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage.

Planned reach and requirements for prioritised activities across four months (Sep-Dec 2021)

PEOPLE TO BE REACHED	TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
10.8M 8.8M already in HRP 2M additional people	606.2M 413.1M already in HRP 193.1M new request

3. Common planning scenario

Planning assumptions

Internal displacement

The 2021 HRP projected that 500,000 people would be displaced throughout the year as a result of conflict. As of 1 September, the actual number of people verified to be displaced due to conflict is more than 570,000. Much of the surge in displacements took place between May and July 2021, concurrent with international troop drawdown, increased uncertainty and rapid territorial gains made by Taliban forces.

While intense conflict activity has subsided in many parts of the country and a number of internally displaced people (IDPs) have started to return to their homes following the events of 15 August, it is anticipated that insecurity-driven internal displacements will continue. Additionally, many IDPs may not be able to return as their homes were destroyed or damaged in active fighting.

¹ The full impact of recent events on humanitarian need will take time to fully articulate. This plan should therefore be seen as an interim document that will bridge through to the 2022 needs analysis and humanitarian response plan, which will better capture the broader implications of the current situation on humanitarian need and requirements.

Based on these assumptions and historical and recent movement patterns, it is anticipated that 750,000 people will be internally displaced due to conflict and insecurity throughout 2021 – an increase of 250,000 from the year-start projections.

Cross-border returns to Afghanistan

More than 757,000 undocumented migrants have returned from Iran and Pakistan as of 1 September. Current rates of return puts 2021 on track to surpass the record level of returns (865,000) recorded in 2020. The majority of these (some 54 per cent) are deportees from Iran. The considerable recent increase in irregular outflows (an estimated 30,000 people each week) is in turn fuelling the increased rate of deportations back into Afghanistan.

A worst-case scenario for cross-border returns from Iran will be considered for this plan, as irregular outflows and subsequent forced and spontaneous returns this year have exceeded all previous years' figures. At the same time, this plan recognises that returns from Pakistan continue to be lower than originally anticipated and a slight reduction projection will be considered. Based on these assumptions, it is estimated that close to 1.2 million undocumented migrants will return from Iran into Afghanistan (an additional 561,000 to the year-start projections of 624,000 people) and some 10,000 undocumented migrants will return from Pakistan (a decrease of 20,000 to the year-start projections of 30,000 people).²

Drought and food insecurity

Afghanistan is currently experiencing its second severe drought in four years. Food production has been hit hard, livestock are highly stressed and rural livelihoods are facing increased threats. Food production has been hit hard, livestock are highly stressed and rural livelihoods are facing increased threats. Food production has been hit hard, livestock are highly stressed and rural livelihoods are facing increased threats. Food production has been hit hard, livestock are highly stressed and rural livelihoods are facing increased threats. Already, 12.2 million people, or 30 per cent of the population, are facing 'emergency' or 'crisis' levels of food insecurity. Food security analysis indicates

that the majority of people already living in IPC3+ (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) areas will be directly impacted by the drought.

The 2021 harvest is expected to be below average and the next lean season is expected to be more intense and arrive earlier, leading to further deterioration in the food security situation across the country. Initial estimates indicate that total wheat production will be 25 per cent less than last year. Long-term forecasts indicate that the drought will continue into 2022. Similar decreases are anticipated for rice and vegetable production. The country is facing a national shortfall of 2.46m MT of wheat due to the poor harvests and 62 per cent reduction in area under cultivation compared to 2020.

While markets continue to function, prices for key commodities remain well above pre-pandemic levels. This is now being compounded by drought, displacement, conflict, reduced overseas remittances and uncertainly induced inflationary trends. With 80 per cent of the working population relying on the informal labour sector for income, any shock presents a devastating blow to households' ability to sustain. Casual agricultural labour opportunities in drought affected areas have reduced by 28 per cent. Many Afghans have already incurred catastrophic levels of debt, in some cases taking them up to 16 years to repay even under a steady income.

In many parts of the country, the full effects of the drought are yet to be felt. However, recent conflict has coincided with critical planting and harvesting seasons, leaving many farmers without seeds and other inputs and unable to access their fields. The winter wheat season is critical for the livelihoods and food security of millions of rural households. Another poor season could see dramatic increases in hunger and food insecurity, malnutrition and displacement in last 2021 and into 2022.

Acute malnutrition

Modelling suggests that more than half of children under five may face acute malnutrition in 2021, with

² All assistance costed in this plan is to be delivered inside Afghanistan and will not include activities in destination countries. All activities outside of Afghanistan are costed in those countries' or in regional planning documents to prevent double counting

a more than 16 per cent increase in projections for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and an 11 per cent increase in projections for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) since the start of the year. Of 13 provinces highly affected by drought, nine already far exceed the WHO emergency threshold of Global Acute Malnutrition (15 per cent), with some districts reporting figures as high as 25 per cent.

There have also been interruptions to nutrition services during active fighting and due to high auxiliary costs associated with treatment. Many health facilities have been damaged as a result of the conflict and are in urgent need of repair and resupplying. Basic health service systems are additionally impacted by delays in clarity on how funding (primarily sourced from international conditional development funding through previous Government systems) will be maintained. The combination of these factors is expected to contribute to a further deterioration in the already dire nutrition situation. With stunting already standing at a staggering 36 per cent in Afghanistan, many children will be at risk of death, sickness and permanent impairment to growth.

Women and girls

Women and girls are presented with unique additional risks, notably due to emerging conditions characterised by a roll-back on fundamental rights and more restricted access to services – due to both active fighting and movement restrictions. Access to health services for women had been increasingly restricted prior to the events of 15 August. This was particularly acute during periods of elevated conflict, with approximately a 10 per cent reduction in the number of women and girls seeking care between June and July alone. Varying attempts by de facto authorities to restrict or otherwise decree “suitable” activities for women in the workforce are also concerning as restrictions in women’s involvement in humanitarian activities will directly impact on the ability of women and girls to access critical services and inform programme design.

COVID-19

Afghanistan has just emerged from the peak of a third wave of COVID-19 where test positivity rates surged, demand for oxygen was met with empty stocks, and hospital treatment capacities were overwhelmed. As of late August 2021, some 153,000 people were confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 while some 7,000 had died. These figures are likely to be under-reported as only 752,000 tests have been conducted country-wide since the start of the pandemic and the country lacks a nation-wide death register. While close to two million people have either been partially or fully vaccinated against the virus, vaccination among women and humanitarian caseloads (especially those in areas previously controlled by non-state armed groups) remains disproportionately low. Without clear positioning from de facto authorities on the continuation of COVID-19 vaccination across the country, it is anticipated that continued, large scale population movements will lead to a more acute fourth wave of the pandemic. This is particularly concerning as the country is facing critical gaps in the health system in terms of medical supplies, personnel and funding for salaries, equipment and overall service provision.

Increased winter needs

The [2021-2022 Joint Winter Plan](#) highlights high needs over the winter season due to aggravated vulnerability. Previous year trends indicate that by November, cases of hypothermia, acute respiratory infections and death directly and indirectly associated with cold are likely to increase. Lessons learnt from past years’ winter assistance shows the urgency of providing targeted winter assistance early in the winter season. This will be critical as many – particularly IDPs and returnees who reside in open spaces or in congested informal settlements – are left in poor, unhygienic and undignified living conditions with little access to basic services.

Capacity outlook

Operational response capacity

A rapid capacity survey conducted between 6 and 12 August highlights that active conflict had affected approximately 35 per cent of the humanitarian programmes delivered by the 150 organisations who responded to the survey. The majority of this impact (in terms of hibernation and suspensions) was temporary in nature.

In the past, particularly during the onset of initial COVID-19 and under COVID-related movement restrictions, partners have demonstrated capacity to rapidly deliver scaled-up assistance when funds are made available, and the security situation allows. Scale up was done through distribution of double rations, prepositioning and other mitigation measures to get ahead of border closures and movement restrictions. Clusters have undertaken several partner capacity analyses at mid-year which show that majority of the assistance delivered across the country is shouldered by a limited number of larger partners with strong operational capability – in terms of warehousing, transport arrangements, fleets, security apparatus etc. These partners continue to stay and deliver in the country, demonstrating the overarching ability to absorb new resources and deliver in difficult circumstances.

However, recent changes in the political environment, the exodus of the previous Government's systems and staff, and lack of a common approach from de facto authorities on how to pursue the full spectrum of humanitarian response with both male and female staff has impacted partners' operating capability. While the full impact of these recent changes cannot be quantified at this time, these elements will likely contribute to a more restrictive operating environment and will require enhanced and coordinated access and civil-military coordination approaches.

While most Clusters currently have partners present across the country (with 156 partners being operational in 394 of Afghanistan's 401 districts at mid-year point), some Clusters expect reduced

operational capacity in the short term due to unclear or restrictive stances from de facto authorities in regards to female staff's ability to engage in the full spectrum of humanitarian response, including assessments, distributions, service provision and monitoring activities. The August 2021 capacity survey also indicates that majority of the activities which were temporarily suspended or hibernated were services (education, GBV, healthcare, psycho-social support, sexual and reproductive health, malnutrition treatment and maternal care). This indicates that critical services may face more challenges in the current operating environment than other types of assistance. These challenges are also compounded by funding shortfalls and the anxiety and fears of staff to return to work that have reduced the depth of assistance and thinned partner presence for some sectors.

Close coordination among clusters will be required to ensure that some sectors' activities can be integrated in programmes which have large footprints and/or better access. Clusters envisage continued heavy reliance on national staff who already reside in the impacted areas and emphasise that it will be critical to find ways to support female staff who remain in the affected area to participate in the response. Their involvement is crucial to ensuring the needs of women and children are fully represented in the results of assessments and response planning. Drawing on positive lessons from COVID-19, online meetings will continue to be an important means of remote coordination during temporary movement hibernation for humanitarian staff.

Accessibility of new areas

While the operating environment may require prolonged negotiations to secure access, the reduction in conflict in some areas has also opened up areas which were previously inaccessible. These areas have often been underserved; new access may uncover new needs which were not able to be assessed in the past. However, this can only be determined following joint multi-sectoral assessments.

Logistics and supply constraints

Commercial flights are not currently operational in the country. While efforts are underway to set up a humanitarian airbridge from Pakistan, it will take time for the airbridge to be operating at the scale required to support a wide-scale response. Added costs of operating flights to transport humanitarian cargo and personnel will also add to the operational costs of the response. These additional costs are highlighted in the 'immediate priority gaps' section below.

Inability to access cash not only impacts the Afghan population for the day to day life and the functioning of ministries but it also inhibits humanitarian partners from mobilising timely salary payments, procuring critical humanitarian supplies from local markets and providing rapid and flexible cash-based assistance. The impact of this will vary from Cluster to Cluster.

Pipeline of core relief supplies

Between September and November, some Food, Health, Nutrition, Protection, Education and WASH supplies are at risk of pipeline breaks due to funding shortfalls and import clearance delays. Pre-positioning of supplies in high priority locations will be critical over the coming four months. With average procurement and transport lead times taking up to three months, up-front funding is crucial to support early procurement of core supplies and delivery in an increasingly complex environment. This will mitigate against border delays and movement disruptions and allow for pre-positioning of relief items in key locations in and close to areas with high concentration of need and ensure rapid delivery, even in a constrained operating environment.

4. Risks and pressure points

Basic services

More than 70 per cent of the previous Government's civil/non-military budget came from international funding. This supported basic health and education as well as the maintenance of critical infrastructure. Without a rapid re-establishment of and sustainable funding for those systems, critical concerns remain that the 37 million people who already live on under \$2 a day will fall into a human and humanitarian catastrophe.

Any delays in and discontinuation of development funds and programmes (such as the SEHATMANDI programme – a \$200m a year portfolio that funds basic health services) will lead to significant gaps in basic service provision, salaries of service staff and regular replenishment of medicines and other equipment and supplies. Without a clear understanding on how these services will be funded in the immediate term, critical gaps are anticipated

in health and nutrition systems. This includes all disease surveillance, primary health care, sexual and reproductive care, neonatal and antenatal care, medical response to GBV, psychiatric care, and others. Humanitarian health and nutrition activities piggyback on these systems by adding medicine, staff and specialized nutrition treatment foods (RUTF and RUSF). Other humanitarian health and nutrition services outside of the basic systems focus on mobile modalities. Mobile modalities are not nearly sufficient to cover humanitarian needs, let alone the gaps in basic services. Failure to rapidly re-establish these systems risks exponentially increasing the number of those in humanitarian need and will likely exceed the number of people humanitarians alone can support.

Financial systems

The country is currently experiencing depleted local and foreign currency reserves. At present, there

is limited fiscal space to attract additional private investment, further complicating the situation. Limited working capital in the country risks impeding the flow of the core imports on which Afghanistan is highly reliant. As reduced grain production projected in this drought year will not be sufficient to support self-sustenance, this may have catastrophic effects on an already dire food security situation.

Halted financial systems may also result in a rapid fall in the exchange rate, reducing the purchasing power of households. Already, the Afgani (Afghanistan's currency) has dropped by 8.6 per cent in the first three weeks of August 2021 alone. Loss of financial reserves may result in the evaporation of household savings, further eroding household resilience and leading to a country-wide livelihoods crisis. The potential of

additional economic sanctions adds to the above concerns to the above concerns.

Markets

Some 80 per cent of Afghanistan's labour market is estimated to be in the informal sector. With reduced cash flows and limited working capital, commodity prices are at risk of surging and goods may not be able to be replenished in time. This will be particularly challenging for vulnerable individuals as prices were already at elevated levels since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the purchasing power of casual labourers and pastoralists remains significantly reduced. Inability to replenish market goods, including fuel, risks driving the current issue of commodity unaffordability towards wholesale unavailability.

5. Immediate priority response gaps

(September to December 2021)

Based on the above assumptions, risks, and capacity outlook detailed above, this plan estimates that \$576 million will be required to meet the most urgently prioritised activities over the last four months of 2021. The majority of this funding requirement is already contained within the existing 2021 HRP ask of \$1.3 billion. However, an additional \$163 million has been identified to meet new and emerging needs.

Prioritisation parameters for this plan include:










- Existing assistance outlined in the HRP that is prioritised for urgent funding and would risk loss of life if interrupted
- Activities already outlined in the HRP that are accelerated, expanded to new caseloads or being rolled out in new locations, requiring additional funds
- Additional operational costs that were not originally included or costed in the HRP that was published in January 2021

6. Inter-cluster planning and prioritisation

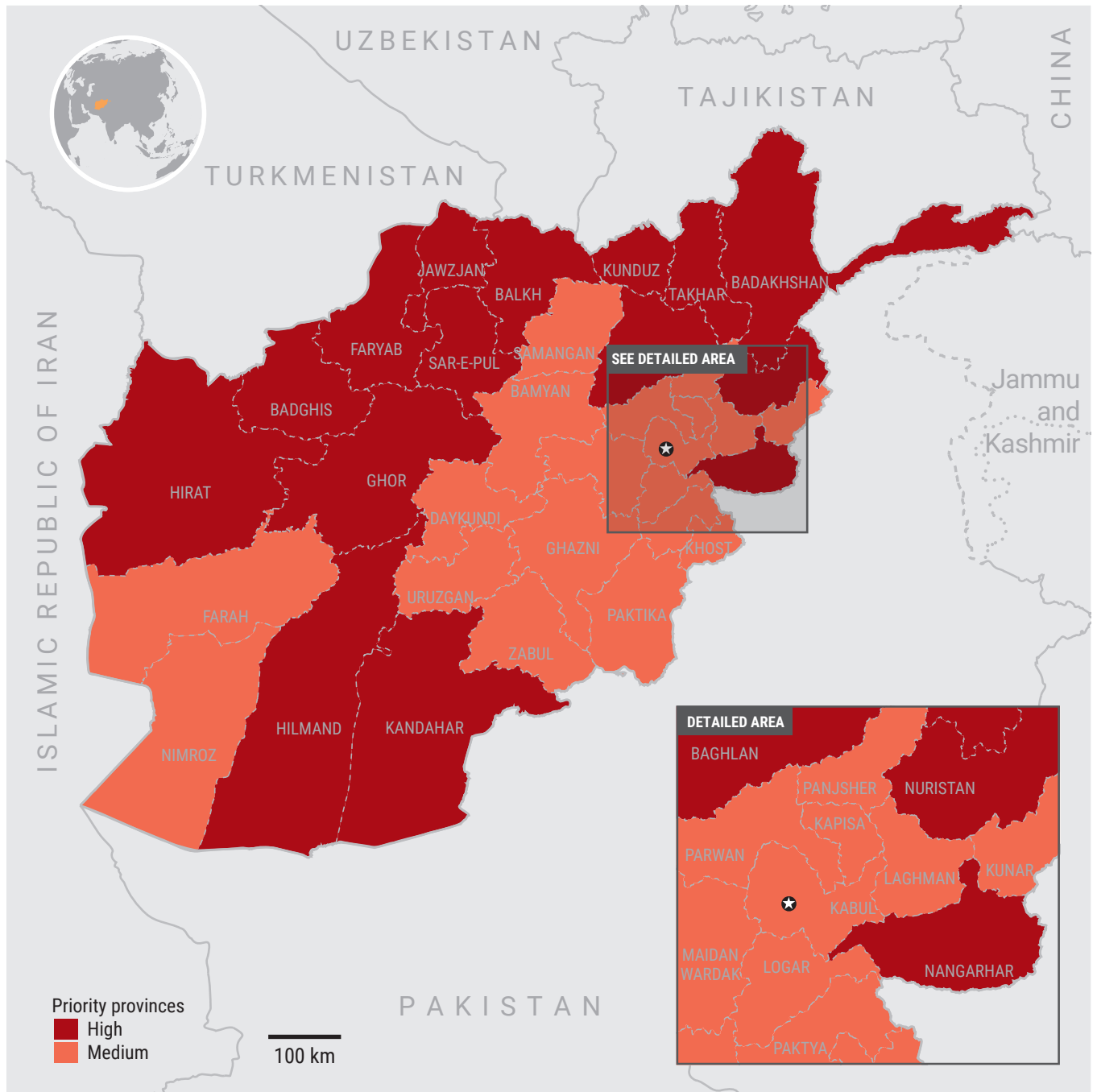
The ICCT has collectively agreed that the activities summarised in the section below should be considered as priority activities for funding in the last four months of 2021. These prioritisation decisions were based on

an analysis of emerging needs, a revised inter-cluster needs prioritisation and an analysis of humanitarian capacity to deliver.

Priority planned reach and requirements by sector (September - December 2021)

SECTOR	PLANNED REACH (# PEOPLE)	ALREADY IN HRP ADDITIONAL PEOPLE	TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	ALREADY IN HRP NEW REQUIREMENTS
 Education in Emergencies	0.5M	0.2M 0.3M	12.7M	8M 4.7M
 Emergency Shelter and NFI	0.9M	0.6M 0.3M	35M	23.3M 11.7M
 Food Security and Agriculture	10.8M	8.8M 2M	240M	202.6M 67.4M
 Health	3.4M	3M 0.4M	66M	51M 15M
 Nutrition	1.2M	0.9M 0.3M	56.3M	38.6M 17.7M
 Protection	1.5M	0.7M 0.8M	45.3M	35.2M 10.1M
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	2.5M	1M 1.5M	66.5M	31.5M 35M
 Aviation	-	-	40.7M	10.7M 30M
 Coordination and Common Services	-	-	13.7M	12.2M 1.5M
Total	10.8M	8.8M 2M	606.2M	413.1M 193.1M

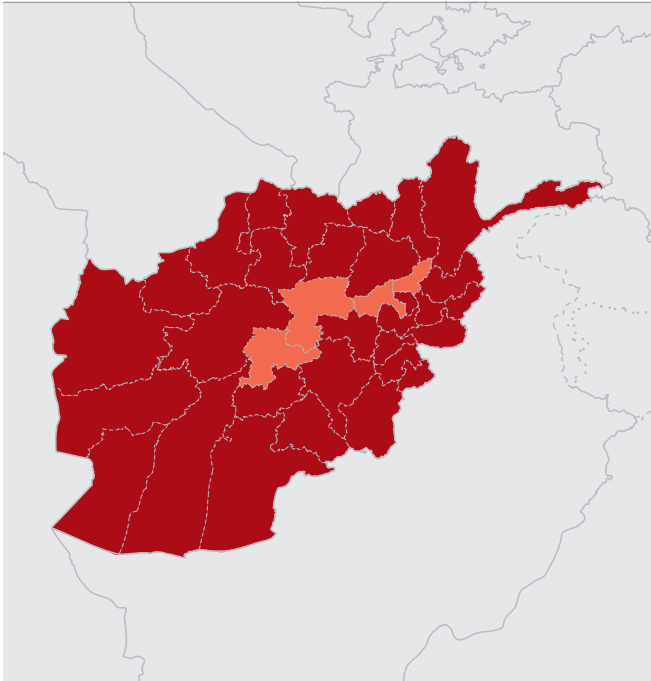
PRIORITY PROVINCES FOR ACTIVITIES ACROSS FOUR MONTHS (SEP-DEC 2021)



Education Emergencies

PRIORITY PROVINCES

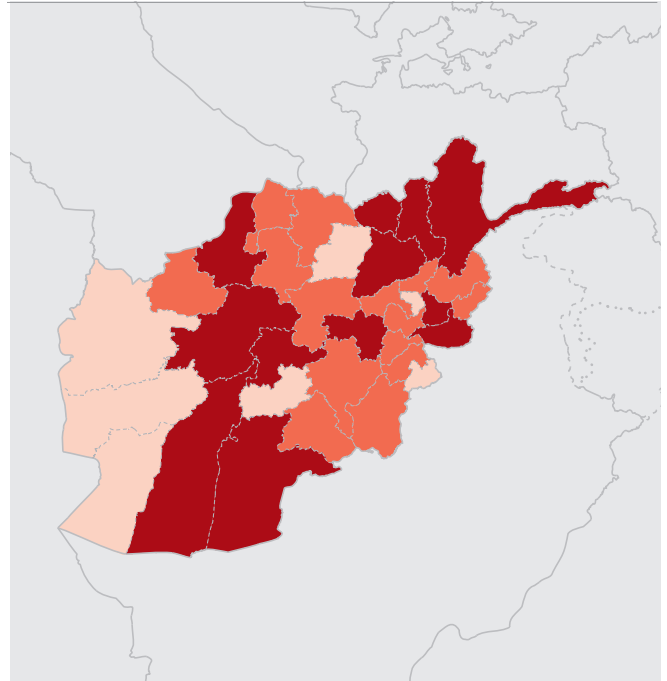
4 Medium 30 High



Emergency Shelter and NFI

PRIORITY PROVINCES

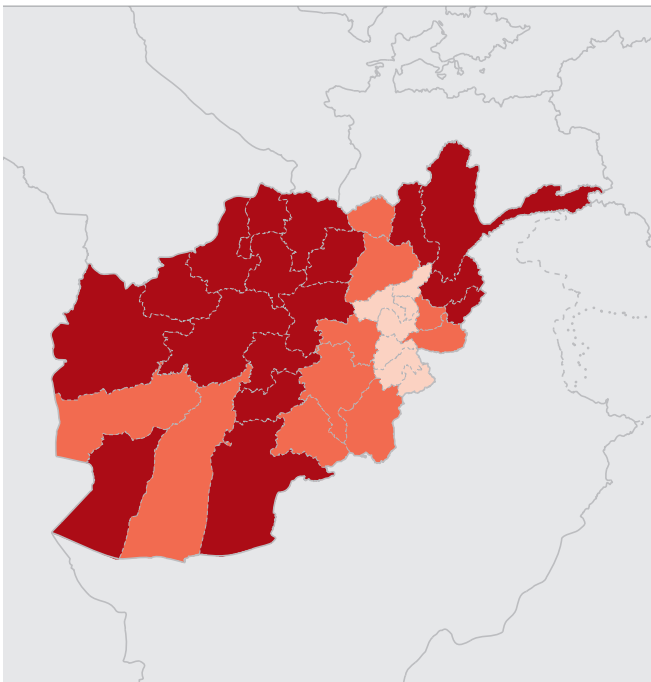
7 Low 15 Medium 12 High



Food Security and Agriculture

PRIORITY PROVINCES

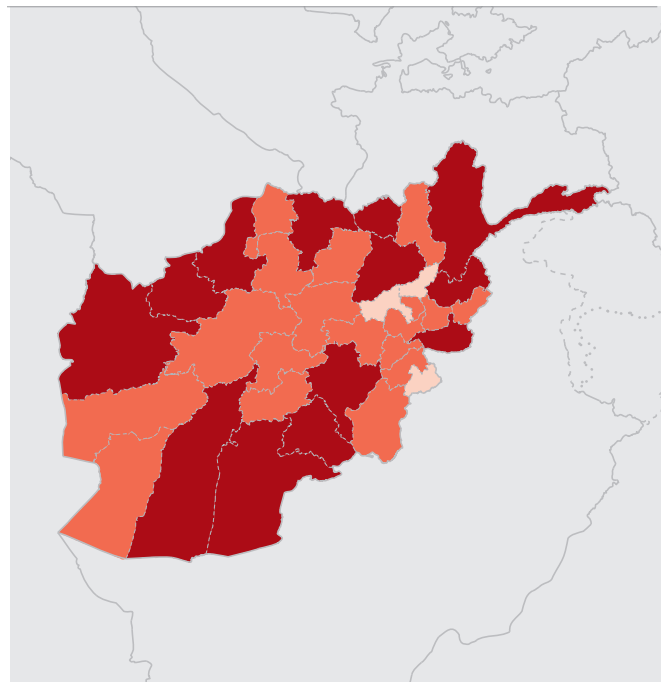
7 Low 10 Medium 17 High



Health

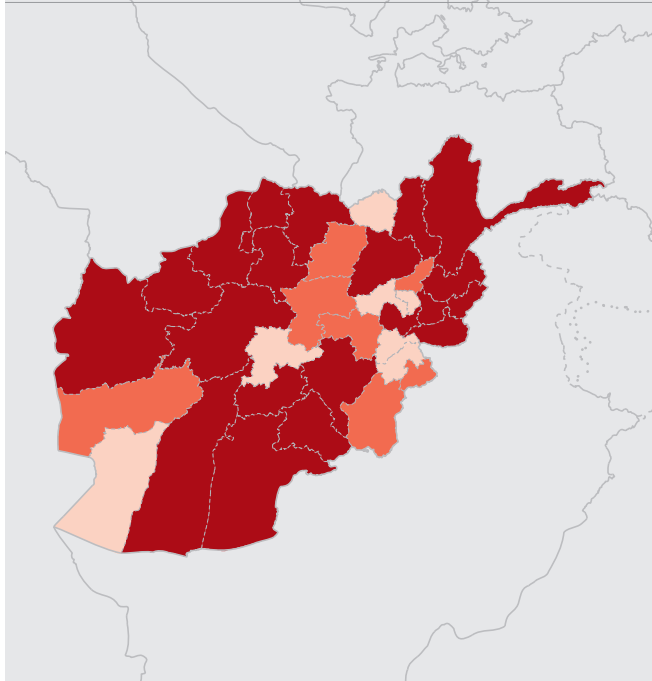
PRIORITY PROVINCES

3 Low 18 Medium 13 High



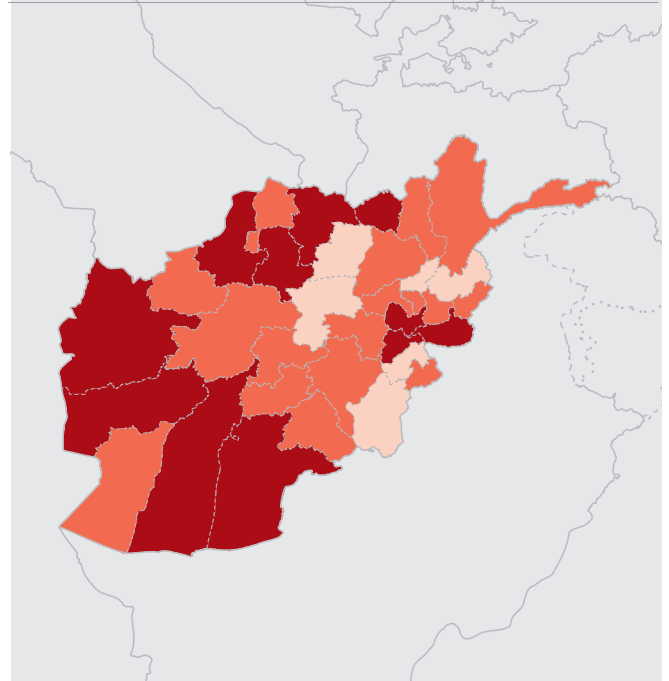
Nutrition

PRIORITY PROVINCES



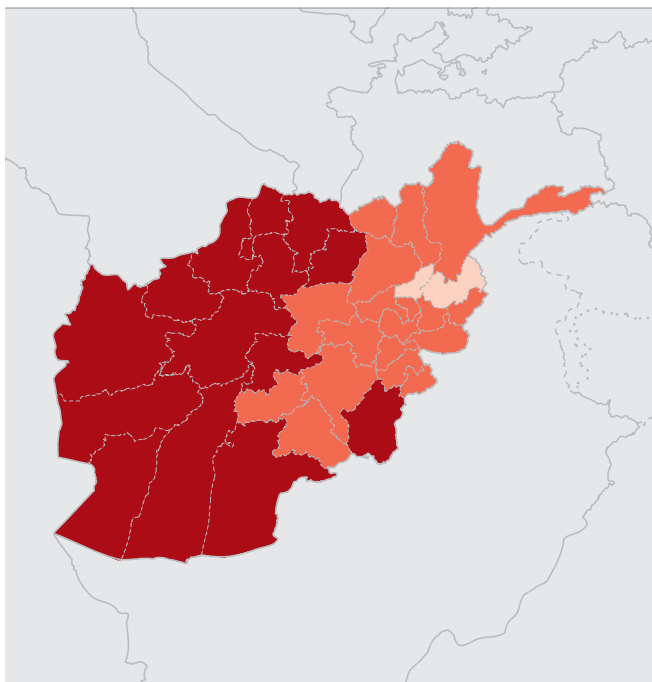
Protection

PRIORITY PROVINCES



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

PRIORITY PROVINCES



Education in Emergencies



PEOPLE TO BE REACHED (PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

0.5M 0.2M already in HRP
0.3M additional people

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$, PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

12.7M 8M already in HRP
4.7M new request

Over the next four months, the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiEWG) partners will prioritise education delivery through establishment of temporary learning spaces for 200,000 children and 10,000 adults across the country. This is a prioritised activity within the HRP. In response to the escalating conflict, insecurity, displacement, and negative coping mechanisms driven trauma and implications on people's mental health, the EiE Working Group has

additionally planned to train 10,000 teachers (35 per cent of whom are women) in psychological first aid to provide first line response and referral services to students. EiE partners will also prioritise critical education continuity in 11 priority provinces through light repairs to 120 public schools to allow some 333,000 students to continue their education. EiE also aims to provide support to enrolment, teaching salaries and other critical functions.

Emergency Shelter and NFI



PEOPLE TO BE REACHED (PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

0.9M 0.6M already in HRP
0.3M additional people

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$, PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

35M 23.3M already in HRP
11.7M new request

Between September and December, the ES-NFI Cluster has prioritised immediate Shelter and NFI assistance for 87,000 people across 12 high priority provinces, requiring \$2.1 million. With the harsh winter season fast approaching, the Cluster requires \$25.2 million to mobilise early winter-season ES-NFI support (including winter clothing, emergency shelter improvements, heating and fuel, shelter repairs and rental support) to reach 671,000 people across 21 provinces prone to cold climatic conditions. All of these activities are already included in the HRP and the 2021/22 Joint Winter Plan. Due to aggravated vulnerabilities driven by the drought and erosion of livelihoods and household

reserves as well as conflict-induced damage and destruction to people's homes, the Cluster plans to reach more than 152,000 people with specialised winter assistance.

Additionally, the Cluster aims to reach some 100,000 newly internally displaced people, beyond initial HRP projections, with emergency and transitional shelter, shelter upgrade, and household items assistance – requiring an additional \$7.7 million. Present supply and logistical challenges have already seen a surge in the cost of non-food items and the Cluster has accounted for a 5 per cent operational cost increase in its response over the next four months.

Food Security and Agriculture



PEOPLE TO BE REACHED (PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

10.8M 8.8M already in HRP
2M additional people

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$, PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

270M 202.6M already in HRP
67.4M new request

Food Security and Agriculture Partners have prioritised immediate food assistance to 7.3 million food insecure people, including those in areas affected by the drought between September and December 2021. This assistance will be provided during the prolonged lean season which coincides with the country's harsh winter period where food needs are more pronounced. This is already a part of FSAC's plan in the 2021 HRP. Based on field observations detailing wide-spread loss of employment, reduced harvest, increased conflict and displacement, the Cluster estimates that an additional 1 million people will be in need of food assistance

during this period. The Cluster urgently requires \$200m for food assistance over the next four months.

FSAC partners additionally require \$70 million to deliver critical livelihoods assistance, including early support for the winter wheat planting season and livestock support to at least 3.5 million. This will include support for marginal farmers critically affected by the drought. The Cluster has also accounted for an estimated more than 20 per cent increase in service costs by financial service providers and currency fluctuations induced by inflationary impacts.

Health



PEOPLE TO BE REACHED (PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

3.4M 3M already in HRP
0.4M additional people

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$, PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

66M 51M already in HRP
15M new request

The Health Cluster has prioritised delivery of essential life-saving and life sustaining health care services for 3 million people over the course of the next 4 months. This includes reproductive health, maternal, new-born, child health care, trauma care and COVID-19 response activities with a focus on vulnerable groups. Health assistance will be delivered through both static and mobile health service modalities. This is within the Cluster's plan in the HRP for which \$51 million is required. To meet emerging needs of new IDPs who are outside the scope of initial HRP projections, the

Cluster seeks an additional \$15 million to provide primary health and trauma care to 400,000 people. This additional activity is crucial as the recent conflict and damage to the health system that has left many people in need of life-saving health services. Challenges in airport functionality have already created a spike in insurance premium costs to import/fly in critical medicines. These costs have been factored into the Cluster's prioritised response plan for the coming 4 months.

Nutrition



PEOPLE TO BE REACHED (PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

1.2M 0.88M already in HRP
0.3M additional people

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$, PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

56.3M 38.6M already in HRP
17.7M new request

Nutrition partners plan to reach close to 1.2 million children and women suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition. This includes some 163,000 IDPs and 126,500 people outside of the scope of the original HRP. The additional people to be reached reside in previously hard-to-reach areas which are newly accessible but have been underserved by health and nutrition services and are anticipated

to have high needs. The Cluster anticipates a 5 per cent increase in operational costs associated with interrupted banking driven inflationary impacts and increased transport costs, which has been factored into its overall requirement. The Cluster further anticipates that restricted road and air transport will prolong procurement/transport lead times, making early funding to fast-track procurement crucial.

Protection



PEOPLE TO BE REACHED (PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

1.5M 0.7M already in HRP
0.8M additional people

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$, PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

45.3M 35.2M already in HRP
10.1M new request

The Protection Cluster has prioritised close to 500,000 people to be reached with individual protection assistance or cash-for-protection assistance for the most vulnerable households to mitigate adoption of negative coping mechanisms and be covered through protection monitoring activities. Some \$12.6 million will be required to undertake these activities over the next 4 months.

Child Protection partners have prioritised emergency psychosocial and mental health support services as well as specialised case management to and referrals of child survivors and children at risk of GBV (including child marriages). These activities are expected to reach more than 153,000 children requiring \$5.4 million.

GBV partners have prioritised lifesaving health and GBV activities (including clinical management of rape)

as well as provision of dignity kits to approximately 500,000 affected women and girls and new IDPs requiring \$17 million. Much of these activities will be conducted in tandem with other sectors' response and will utilise joint operating modalities to maximise efficiencies and mitigate access challenges.

Mine Action partners will prioritise deployment of Quick Response Teams with survey and explosive ordnance disposal capacity, including teams with the capacity to clear abandoned improvised mines. These teams will conduct village-by-village survey and undertake explosive ordnance disposal. The Sub-Cluster also aims to expand its emergency mass media explosive ordnance risk education to reach new returnees and people in newly accessible areas with messages on how to stay safe in the aftermath of

conflicts. With these activities, Mine Action partners plan to reach some 1.5 million people requiring \$8.6 million.

The Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Sub-Cluster has planned to reach close to 100,000 people – all of

whom are new IDPs and returnees outside the scope of the HRP – with legal services and provision of secure land and housing support requiring \$1.8 million until year-end.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



PEOPLE TO BE REACHED (PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

2.5M 1M already in HRP
1.5M additional people

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US\$, PRIORITISED SEP-DEC 2021)

66.5M 31.5M already in HRP
35M new request

WASH partners have prioritised provision of drinking water and WASH emergency supplies to 2.5 million people, 1.5 million of whom are outside the scope of the HRP. The majority of people to be reached outside of the original HRP target are people who reside in areas affected by water scarcity driven by the hydrological impact of the drought or are new IDPs.

The Cluster plans to expand water provision through deepening and rehabilitation of hand-dug wells and boreholes, repair and set-up of handpumps, rehabilitation of solar, gravity and mixed water systems, set-up of emergency water treatment

units, and enhancing household water treatment capacity. Water trucking will be carried out as a last resort. These activities will be delivered in 14 priority provinces identified with acute WASH needs. The Cluster will further provide hygiene kits, water kits and bath and latrine sets to new IDPs in areas of displacement.

The Cluster requires \$66.5 million to deliver these activities. While some potential water shortage from private vendors and various systems are anticipated, the Cluster has not costed for those impacts during this planning.

Coordination and Common Services



AVIATION REQUIREMENTS (US\$, SEP-DEC 2021)

40.7M 10.7M already in HRP
30M new request

COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS (US\$, SEP-DEC 2021)

13.7M 12.2M already in HRP
1.5M new request

UNHAS - Air services

UNHAS continuity is prioritised to ensure critical humanitarian staff can come in and out of the country and travel within – particularly as commercial

flights remain suspended at the time of writing this plan. Without this critical service, there is a risk that response implementation will be compromised. The humanitarian community's ability to travel to affected

areas is partially dependent on the ability to access flights from the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). Disruptions to these services will further limit the ability of humanitarian organisations to move staff to hot spots, to monitor the response and move relief items around the country. This plan requests \$40.7 million in financial support for UNHAS to maintain and scale up existing domestic flights and to support an international airbridge for humanitarian staff as well as to offer cargo capacity.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

To maintain and expand displacement tracking especially in response to large-scale mixed population movements – including internal displacement, IDP returns, cross border inflows flows and irregular outflow patterns, DTM requires \$1 million. The immediate funding priority will allow DTM to roll-out the Emergency Event Tracking (EET) to collect displacement and needs-related data in priority provinces, districts, and settlements, focusing on immediate population movements and related needs due to conflict, drought and/or other displacement drivers. The EET will further provide real-time data collection on displacement and analysis, using a two-way call centre combined with in-person engagement, where feasible, to ensure access to key informants in challenging conditions and allow interlocutors to contact the call centre with updated information at any time.

Accountability to affected people (AAP)

Two-way communication channels with impacted communities to address needs, identify risks and enable people to assess humanitarian assistance are critical. The Accountability to Affected People Working Group (AAPWG) requires \$700,000 to enhance Awaaz Afghanistan's information and communication technology to enable remote operations and enhance data security, hire more operators to handle the rise in calls from crisis-affected people; develop and disseminate audio and video PSAs for radio, television and social media and conduct a media ecosystem analysis and other needed research to understand media available for communicating with communities; develop a multi-stakeholder online platform for audio/video content and other community engagement and accountability resources for improving two-way communication between crisis-affected people and humanitarian assistance providers; and for translation and creation of a glossary to standardize terms and terminology being used in this crisis response.

Coordination

OCHA will require \$3.4 million over a four-month period to maintain and strengthen strategic and operational coordination.

Assessments and analysis

To support evidence-based response through assessments and analysis, REACH Initiative and IMMAP will require \$900,000 for the planned period.

Protecting development gains

UNDP has developed a decentralized area-based programme portfolio of eight in-country projects, specifically designed for each region. They focus on targeted technical assistance and grant-based interventions for community livelihoods, basic services in health and education, and small infrastructure for disaster mitigation, small farmer agricultural and other productive activities; plus social protection through basic income for the poorest. These integrated local initiatives to promote community resilience, will work directly with communities across all regions of Afghanistan, and target the most vulnerable households, women headed enterprises, and the internally displaced, implemented through civil society, NGOs and other local partners. The funding requirement is \$667.4 million for 12-18 months. As the 2022 HRP is developed for sustained and scaled up programming, these efforts will be reflected in the work that needs to be done to mitigate the many needs in the country.

7. How to contribute

Donating through the Afghanistan 2021 Flash Appeal

Financial contributions to reputable aid agencies are one of the most valuable and effective forms of response in humanitarian emergencies. Public and private sector donors are invited to contribute cash directly through the Flash Appeal. To see the country's humanitarian needs overview, humanitarian response plan and monitoring reports, and donate directly to organisations participating to the plan, please visit:

afg.humanitarianresponse.info

Contributing through the Central Emergency Fund

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) provides rapid initial funding for life-saving actions at the onset of emergencies and for poorly funded, essential humanitarian operations in protracted crises. The OCHA-managed CERF receives contributions from various donors – mainly governments, but also private companies, foundations, charities and individuals – which are combined into a single fund. This is used for crises anywhere in the world. Find out more about the CERF and how to donate by visiting the CERF website at:

unocha.org/cerf/donate

Contribute through Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF)

The AHF is a country-based pooled fund (CBPF). CBPFs are multi-donor humanitarian financing instruments established by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and managed by OCHA at the country level under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator. Find out more about CBPFs and how to make a contribution by visiting:

unocha.org/our-work/humanitarian-financing/country-based-pooled-funds-cbpf

For information about the AHF, please contact:

ahf-afg@un.org

unocha.org/afghanistan/about-ahf

chfghanistan.unocha.org

By donating in-kind resources and services

The UN Secretary-General encourages the private sector to align response efforts with the United Nations in order to ensure coherent priorities and to minimize gaps and duplication. To make an in-kind donation of goods or services visit www.business.un.org. Contributions must comply with the Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN and the Business Sector. The United Nations enters into pro-bono agreements with companies planning to provide direct assets or services during emergencies. Contact ocha-ers-ps@un.org to discuss the ways in which your company might partner with the UN.

Individuals can donate online via the United Nations Foundation:

unfoundation.org.

Registering and recognising your contributions

We thank you in advance for your generosity in responding to this urgent appeal. OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its purpose is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and expose gaps in humanitarian plans. Please report yours to FTS, either by email to fts@un.org or through the online contribution report form at:

fts.unocha.org.

FLASH APPEAL
AFGHANISTAN

ISSUED SEPTEMBER 2021