



This report is produced by OCHA Afghanistan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued on 20 September 2018. It covers the period from 1 to 16 September 2018. The next report will be issued on or around 30 September.

Highlights

- Some 120,000 people have newly displaced from rural areas of Badghis to Qala-e-Naw during the reporting period.
- The number of people displaced due to the drought is currently more than 250,000 in the Western Region.
- Assistance is being provided in the displacement sites in Badghis and Hirat provinces and efforts are ongoing to scale up assistance in rural areas of origin.
- Around 190,000 people have been reached with safe drinking water in areas of origin and of displacement in Hirat and Badghis provinces.
- Capacity of partners in Badghis province remains significantly insufficient across all sectors of aid.
- Since the beginning of the integrated drought response in August, more than 690,000 people have been reached with life-saving assistance.



Source: OCHA The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

2.2m

People estimated in May to be affected by the drought.

1.4m

People prioritised for assistance to October.

120,000

People displaced by the drought during the reporting period.

39,000

People receiving food assistance during the reporting period in five provinces.

190,000

People receiving safe drinking water during the reporting period.

Situation Overview

An estimated 253,600 people are currently displaced from drought affected areas across the Western Region. In the past two weeks the total reached around 275,000 people, before some 28,000 individuals returned to their villages in Muqur district of Badghis from the displacement sites in Qala-e-Naw city upon assurances of food distributions in their home villages. Efforts are ongoing to scale up assistance in areas of origin, particularly food assistance from both WFP and government wheat reserves. Timely pre-positioning and distribution is critical, as physical access will become difficult with the onset of rain and snow.

In parallel, efforts are ongoing to meet needs at displacement sites. Existing response capacity at more than a dozen sites in Qala-e-Naw and its surroundings is limited: around 42,000 people have insufficient access to safe drinking water and over 130,000 people have no access to sanitation facilities. There has been no emergency shelter response, leaving people in makeshift shelters. Five mobile health teams in operation are unable to deliver services at the required scale.

While some displaced families are expected to return voluntarily to areas of origin ahead of the planting season in October-November, those that remain at the displacement sites will require integrated assistance, including support to survive the harsh winter conditions.

Some 690,000 people have been reached under the prioritised, integrated response plan that targets 1.4 million people by the end of October.

Region	Targeted	Reached*	FSAC	WASH	ESNFI	Nutrition	Health	Protection
Northern Region	490,968	219,857	94,087	175,500	-	681	39,500	-
Southern Region	256,039	91,991	28,000	40,900	-	462	33,000	-
Western Region	649,462	379,116	172,291	220,400	51,493	14,478	204,500	9,391
Total	1,396,469	690,964	294,378	436,800	51,493	15,621	277,000	9,391

* The total number of people reached is based on the highest number of people reached in each province by any single cluster, to avoid double counting.

Humanitarian Response



Food Security and Agriculture

Needs:

- Nearly 1.4 million people are estimated to be in need of food assistance in a dozen provinces across the country (Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Hilmand, Hirat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nimroz, Samangan and Sar-e-Pul).
- Initial results from the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) under the lead of FAO and WFP show poor food consumption scores of the rural population in Badghis (62%), Ghor (51%) and Hirat (40%). In Badghis and Ghor, more than half of all households were forced to sell off livestock, and more than one third had to sell their homes or agricultural land to cope with the effects of the drought, according to the initial results.
- Among displaced families in the provinces of the Western Region, the situation is even more dire with 82 per cent of the families having a poor food consumption score and 72 per cent having had to resort to negative coping mechanisms like reducing food intake or the number of meals, according to the Drought Impact and Needs Assessment (DINA) conducted by OCHA, UNDP and partners.

39,000

People received food and cash for food during the reporting period in 5 provinces in first half of September.

Response:

- A total of 38,913 individuals received food and cash assistance in Badghis, Ghor, Hirat, Jawzjan and Nangarhar provinces from WFP and OXFAM from 1 to 13 September.
- Partners were also able to close a previous gap in food assistance for 4,600 people who were displaced in the last week of August to Abkamari district centre, Badghis.
- By 16 September, a total of 360,000 people out of the 1.4 million people targeted for food assistance have been reached in 71 districts that are most affected according to the clusters.
- In August, fodder for livestock has been provided to 4,000 vulnerable households in Kandahar Province, while 5 million animals have been vaccinated against ovine rinderpest, and 375,000 animals against foot and mouth disease as part of the FAO development programme.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- The WASH Cluster targets 480,000 people for water provision, of which 100,000 people will also be reached with emergency sanitation facilities and hygiene kits.
- Needs are most urgent in Qala-e-Naw and Muqur district, both Badghis, where the needs of 100,000 people respectively 30,000 people are not covered.
- The WASH Cluster estimated that 260,000 people in the Western Region, notably displaced people, are in need of safe drinking water.

480,000

People targeted for WASH assistance in Western Region

Response:

- Around 190,000 people have been reached with safe drinking water in areas of origin and of displacement in Badghis, Ghor and Hirat Provinces, during the reporting period.
- Since the last report, 35,000 drought-induced IDPs were reached with sanitation activities in Hirat City, through the construction of 1,763 emergency latrines.
- In Qala-e-Naw City, 200 emergency latrines have been installed by DACAAR, NRC and UNICEF and 1,400 more are under construction.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Existing capacity in Qala-e-Naw city remains insufficient to meet the WASH needs of drought-induced IDPs. Some 130,200 people remain without access to sanitation. Additional resources for partners to be able to scale up are urgently needed.
- Sanitation gaps also remain in Hirat City, where an additional 1,000 emergency latrines are required to meet current needs.
- The provision of safe drinking water to drought-induced IDPs in Qala-e-Naw City is insufficient due to the limited capacity of partners and water sources on the ground. An estimated 42,000 people currently do not have access or have very limited access to water in the informal IDP sites.

- Some 30,000 people in Muqur district and 42,000 displaced people in Qala-e-now needs for urgent water trucking.
- An additional 3,500 latrines are needed to cover entire need all displaced people in Qala-e-Naw City. So far, no partner or donors have been able to give a commitment to cover the gap.



Health

Needs:

- Nearly 140,000 recently displaced people in Qala-e-Naw City are in urgent need of access to health care and medical services, according to estimates of the Health cluster.
- Basic and secondary health care services in Hirat and Badghis are insufficient to cope with the new number of displaced people (*see gaps section below*).

4,000

Children have been immunized since the last report

Response:

- Nine mobile health teams are deployed across all displacement sites in Hirat City, providing integrated health, nutrition and psychosocial support. In Badghis, five mobile health teams are working on the sites, one is covering Abkamari and Muqur districts, and one is deployed in Qadis district. On average, mobile health teams provide between 1,700 and 2,000 consultations per day.
- The Hirat Provincial Department of Health has commenced limited ambulance services for people at displacement sites in Hirat City.
- Almost 1,500 pregnant women have received consultations and close to 4,000 children have received immunization since the last report, and nearly 1,500 pregnant women benefited from health services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The five mobile health teams operating in Qala-e-Naw City are insufficient to meet the needs, leaving a gap of an estimated 143,000 people who have no access to health services. An additional 13 mobile teams would be required to provide full coverage.
- Existing health facilities in Hirat and Qala-e-Naw cities do not have the capacity to respond to the increase in patients. For instance, the Regional Pediatric Hospital in Hirat City has seen occupancy rates rise to 150 per cent. Health facilities require additional supplies, staff and beds.
- There is an urgent need to strengthen the referral pathways for IDPs to health facilities and ensure 24-hour coverage.



Nutrition

Needs:

- An estimated 33,200 acutely malnourished children under five years of age require life-saving treatment in drought-affected provinces in Western Region.

33,200

Acutely malnourished children require life-saving treatment

Response:

- As of 11 September, over 7,900 under-five children from displaced families had been screened for acute malnutrition by mobile health teams and 2,870 mothers and caregivers provided with counselling for appropriate feeding of infants and young children.
- In Hirat City, 730 displaced children have been admitted to treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and almost 1,200 have received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- In Qala-e-Naw, the targeted supplementary feeding programme has reached 630 displaced children under two years. All mobile health teams on the displacement sites undertake nutrition screening and referral for treatment.
- In Badghis, Ghor and Herat, 101 nutrition facilities are providing treatment services to acutely malnourished children and women, and almost 4,700 children have been admitted for SAM treatment since July. The activities are part of regular programming by partners and are indirectly supporting drought response. Over 3,800 children under two have received supplementary food since July.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Therapeutic supplementary food for SAM treatment could not be delivered to 23 nutrition facilities in Badghis Province due to access constraints.



Protection

Needs:

- Over 260,000 drought-induced IDPs in the Western Region require protection monitoring and assistance, according to the Protection cluster.

Response:

- Partners of the Protection cluster continued monitoring activities across displacement sites in Hirat City. Some 140 people were helped with psychosocial support and 89 with rehabilitation sessions during the reporting period.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a need for a specific gender-based violence assessment at informal sites in Hirat City, expanding the general understanding of the situation of the displaced families.
- A high number of cases of Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) are being identified through protection monitoring, highlighting the need to increase specific PSN funds as existing resources are very limited.
- Reporting of protection concerns in the Western Region needs to be strengthened, and protection monitoring training for partners is required. This activity is planned to take place before the end of September.

140

Received psychosocial support in the displacement sites in Hirat City.



Child Protection in Emergencies

Needs:

- An estimated 97,000 displaced children in Qala-e-Naw City and are in need of child protection assistance including psychosocial support and specialised protection services.
- There is urgent need for additional safe spaces for the vulnerable displaced girls and boys across all informal sites.
- Forced child marriage is reported increasingly common among the displaced families to pay debts: During the reporting period, child protection monitors identified 73 incidents

73

Cases of forced child marriage have been registered by child protection monitoring teams in displacement sites.

Response:

- Seven mobile child protection teams are monitoring and screening at-risk children in Hirat City and four in Qala-e-Naw. Identified child protection cases were registered and managed by social workers of the Department of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA).
- Two additional child friendly spaces are being established by Warchild UK and one was established by WASSA, funded by UNICEF.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Child protection response capacity is overall limited to assist the increasing number of affected children in need of child protection services, especially provision of urgent psychosocial support and individual case management services.
- A gap that needs to be addressed, are inter-agency child protection referral guidelines and referral pathways.
- There is a funding gap of \$900,000 to adequately meet the life-saving protection needs of affected girls and boys affected by the drought.



Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:

- An estimated 250,000 people displaced by drought in Hirat City and Qala-e-Naw City are in need of emergency shelter and NFI assistance.

Response:

- In Hirat City, ESNFI partners in the Western Region distributed 862 kits with emergency household items and 641 tents.
- In total, partners have provided emergency shelter assistance to almost 27,000 people, or one third of the families displaced by drought. Another 40,397 people have received NFI kits, leaving a gap of 49 per cent.

27,000

Displaced people have received emergency shelter in Hirat City

- Several ESNFI partners are scaling up response using the latest allocation of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF, formerly known as Common Humanitarian Fund, CHF) in Hirat and Qala-e-Naw cities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- No ESNFI response has been delivered in Qala-e-Naw City, to date.
- In light of the large needs and limited resources available, the Cluster is working on improved targeting and response modalities. A gap in available resources – an additional 3,382 tents are required for Hirat City alone – remains.
- Existing capacity in Badghis remains significantly insufficient with a gap of over 100,000 people in need to emergency shelter and NFIs.

Education in Emergencies

Needs:

- Some 40,000 drought-affected children and adolescents in the Western Region do not have access to education in places of origin or displacement.

Response:

- Almost 3,000 drought-affected children from 5 to 18 years have access to temporary learning spaces established in five IDP sites in Hirat City.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Some 37,000 drought-affected children remain in need of education support in the areas of origin in Western Region and displacement sites in Hirat City. In light of increase of displaced families in Qala-e-Naw, assessment and response required there.

3,000

Drought-affected children have access to temporary learning spaces in Hirat City

General Coordination

On 12 and 13 September 2018, humanitarian partners in Hirat City held a Community Engagement Workshop with more than 350 male focal points from all informal sites in the city.

Their biggest concern is availability of food: both the families who received cash for food or one or two in-kind food rations since they arrived in Hirat City, report that they have ran out of food. The majority of them has not been able to find livelihood opportunities, other than sending children to work, beg or collect trash and women to clean or wash clothes for households in the city. With the little money they make, they maintain a diet of bread and tea as they are unable to buy fruit, vegetables or meat. Many of the families who received cash to buy food, paid debts or for health services, or bought material for their makeshift shelters, leaving them unable to buy sufficient food.

According to the discussions, most displaced families are satisfied with the amount and regularity of drinking water on the sites and the hygiene kits they received. There are growing concerns amongst the displaced families, notably regarding the legal tenure of them residing both on Government owned and private land and increased needs of assistance in the coming winter months.

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