

Key Points

- Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) 2010 is 65 per cent funded.
- Conflict-induced population displacements continue to dominate the humanitarian scene accounting for over 150,000 persons
- The HCT has endorsed CAP 2011 and the local launch has been planned for the first week of December 2010
- Some four INGOs and about 145 local NGOs have been shut down by the GoA
- Humanitarian access continues to hamper humanitarian action in Afghanistan

I. Humanitarian Situation Overview

The situation, just as last month, has been largely dominated by population displacements in the southern, northern, western, and returns through the eastern regions as a direct result, inter alia, of ongoing conflicts, military operations, and loss of livelihoods and shelter in neighbouring states.

According to the media, the Afghan Ministry of Economy has announced that four foreign and 145 Afghan non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been dissolved for failing to report their activities in Afghanistan for the past two years to the Ministry of Commerce. The decision was made by the Filtration and Dissolution Commission which contains representatives from commerce, finance, justice and foreign affairs ministries. National Directorate of Security and the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) have also representation in the commission. The ministry has asked government departments and donor agencies not to support the organisations. The law requires that each NGO has to report to the Ministry of economy once every six months. If an NGO does not report its activities to the ministry for two years, it is closed. There are 1630, including 303 foreign, NGOs registered with the Ministry of Economy.

According to UHNCR, there is a total of about 300,000 persons who are internally displaced due to conflict or natural hazards in Afghanistan. This includes Protracted IDPs (displaced prior to

31 December 2002). An estimated total of 177,169 persons (55 per cent of the IDP total) is conflict induced displacement, while over 200,000 persons have been displaced due to natural hazards. Naturally, these displacements have compounded the ever deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country.

Common to the needs of the displaced, has been emergency shelter, food, water and sanitation, and protection, to name but a few.

The deteriorating humanitarian situation and continued growing number of IDP is further compounded by constricted humanitarian access; and this calls for concerted advocacy and lobbying efforts by the humanitarian community. During the reporting period, HAP 2010 is 65 per cent funded.

The humanitarian community continues to double its efforts to address the needs of vulnerable Afghans, advocate donor funding and lobby the Government for humanitarian access.

II. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Nutrition

During the month under review, the cluster was preoccupied with preparations for CAP 2011. The cluster approved 17 projects for a total of \$13,896,590 covering the needs of over 27,000 severely malnourished children; over 57,000 moderately malnourished children and over 44,000 malnourished pregnant women. One of the biggest challenges of the cluster during CAP 2011 preparations was lack of updated nutrition data to assist in decision

making and advocacy based on the most vulnerable areas of the country.

The cluster hopes that, if successful, CAP 2011 resources will support the establishment of a nutrition surveillance system and conduction of nutrition surveys where needed, by empowering cluster partners, especially local NGOs, on how to conduct proper nutrition assessments and collection of accurate data that will represent the specific vulnerable areas. The amount of money requested is about one-third more over the received amount of 2010 HAP; if all received, this will increase the the number of health centres that will implement CMAM for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition and promotion of complementary feeding using local products. Curative actions will be complemented by demonstration gardens at clinics and community level as well as provision of seeds and tools to support production. This will improve child survival and empower caretakers on how to prevent child malnutrition. Over the nine months from January to September 2010, a total of 42,375 moderately malnourished children and 33,663 pregnant and lactating women benefited from Supplementary Feeding Program. Over 9,000 severely malnourished children under five years were admitted and benefited from programs managing severe acute malnutrition. Performance indicators of both the outpatient program (OTP) and inpatient Therapeutic Feeding Unites (TFU) are in line with SPHERE Standard at <10%, for mortality, <15% for defaulter and >75% cured.

WASH Cluster

The cluster was preoccupied with preparations for CAP 2011 during the reporting month. The cluster partners developed 41 projects for inclusion under CAP 2011 from which 22 projects were selected and approved for CAP 2011.

According to the cluster, the 200,000 people that were affected by floods in July/August 2010 still need immediate provision of water and sanitation services. Although the need has been

reduced gradually and with the onset of cold weather, but the cluster partners need to continue with their support for this purpose until the return of the affected population to their home villages' or until durable or long term solution to their water and sanitation needs has been put in place.

Assessments were conducted by WASH cluster partners in different provinces where flush flood put the affected population in need for safe drinking water and sanitation. The assessment was conducted to determine the need of the population for safe and sustainable solution to WASH. The report on the assessments is available with the WASH Cluster Lead and it will be posted shortly on OCHA website. The data collected enabled the partners to do the needs analysis and accordingly plan for 2011 activities in the area of emergency WASH.

Water tanking continued as an immediate solution for the flood affected and conflict related population in central region at the rate of about 30,000 liters per day. This activity was accompanied with sanitation and hygiene education.

In eastern region in Ghani khail and Achin, hygiene education and well chlorination continued during the month. A total of 250 wells were chlorinated. Also in northern region (Takhar, Faryab, Kunduz and Jawzjan), more than 300,000 persons affected by floods and conflict, benefitted from safe drinking water through water tanking along with hygiene education.

The Sector continues to suffer from underfunding for providing safe and sustainable solution to the drought, flood and conflict affected population. Some traditional humanitarian donors are moving away from supporting WASH interventions as they are being considered as development projects rather than addressing humanitarian needs. The partners proposed to discuss this in the monthly donor meeting planned for 8 November 2010.

Health

The cluster coordinated and supported health emergency response in Herat (Kohsan district) by distribution of 1,200 family size long lasting insecticides, impregnated bed nets provided by UNICEF. The cluster further worked with the Provincial Health Directorate in the west, to update the health sector winter preparedness and response plan.

In central region and at Kabul level, the cluster distributed 10 basic emergency health kits in order to ensure health care to populations in informal settlements.

The deworming campaign (benefitted from collaboration of UN agencies) has been officially inaugurated by the Ministries of Public Health and education.

The cluster faces the challenge of access. Most of the inaccessible areas are in the south of the country, where a targeted total of 109,563 children have not been reached due to security reasons. The cluster continues with advocacy and lobbying efforts in order to access and vaccinate missed children in inaccessible areas in the south and other areas around the country.

Protection

The cluster continues to assist IDPs and refugee returnees. According the cluster, the military; the military Operation Hamkari phase I, II, III and Operation "Dragon Strike" continue with displacements occurring in Zhari, Panjwai and Arghandab districts to Kandahar city. A total of 629 families displaced from Arghandab between April and September. The cluster registered and swiftly provided support to these families along with WFP and UNICEF. An additional 774 families were identified as fresh displacements from the same districts to Kandahar city in during the reporting month. A further 2,000 families is further reported to be displaced in Zabul province, of which 1,492 families have been displaced to Qalat city and about 500 families within Shahjoy. The cluster has not been able to directly

access and assess the needs of the displaced due to security reasons. Between 11 and 21 October 2010, the cluster carried out an IDP profiling exercise in the south, and identified a further 774 families as fresh displacements from Zhari, Panjwai, Kandahar, and Arghandad districts to Kandahar city. The cluster is already providing assistance to the displaced population.

According to the cluster, the north has also experienced population displacement during the month under review. For example, about 800 Uzbek origin families were displaced from Sayaad district of Sari-e-Pul into Balkhi and Mazar-e-Sharif city due to military offensive. A further 1,856 families are reported displaced within Qaisar district of Faryab province; most of these families are in the Uzbek and Tajik ethnicities. An estimated total of 823 of these families have returned, but over 1,000 families remain displaced.

A new wave of population displacement due to conflict and tribal tensions has been reported in the west (Herat). An estimated 1,221 individuals have been displaced to Herat province. The cluster plans to conduct an assessment in order to determine both humanitarian and protection needs for the displaced population in the north and west.

Food Security and Agriculture

In October, the cluster was preoccupied with developing and reviewing the cluster strategy and response plan and partners were engaged in developing project proposals that were reviewed by a cluster working group. In total 15 projects were approved by the cluster working group for inclusion in the CAP 2011, while a further eight projects were not approved for inclusion, six projects were submitted late and the other two projects did not address the cluster strategy.

The Emergency Response Unit of FAO, through their Autumn 2010 Winter Wheat Seed and Fertiliser Program have distributed approximately 10,220 certified wheat seed and

fertiliser packages out of a total of 59,000 packages (17 per cent). Distribution is complete in Ghor, Daikundi and Badakshan and is ongoing in a further seven provinces.

Since July 27 2010, WFP has delivered more than 10,830 MT of food assistance to more than 306,318 people, in 17 different provinces, who have been affected by this summer's floods.

The WFP winter food assistance pre-positioning program is planned to assist approximately 884,116 people, through the distribution of approximately 16,801 MT of food. As of 2 November 2010, WFP had dispatched more than 68 per cent of its planned winter food assistance and had distributed more 20per cent of the planned winter food assistance. Dispatch and distribution are focussing on highly snow affected areas in the first instance. Approximately 98 per cent of the planned food assistance for Badakshan Province has been dispatched and approximately 68 per cent of planned food assistance has been distributed.

III. Humanitarian Financing

Details on humanitarian financing are at: <http://fts.unocha.org/>

IV. Coordination

For coordination meetings, please refer to the meeting calendar on OCHA Online.

For more information, please visit <http://ochaonline.un.org/Afghanistan>

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