42% increase in trauma injury patients

Since the re-start of the fighting season in 2013, over 6,300 people have been wounded in the conflict in Hilmand Province and treated in first aid posts, clinics and hospitals run by BRAC, ACTD and Emergency NGOs this year alone. 12% of the injured are children and 8% female, according to the NGO BRAC.

"In May and June the situation drastically deteriorated in the north of Hilmand Province. The fighting in Sangin District has caused a huge flow of war-related patients: in fact in June just in Sangin Clinic we have treated 750 war wounded patients and referred 101 of them to Lashkargah Hospital" said Emanuele Nanini the director of Emergency NGO, which runs two surgical hospitals for war victims (in Kabul and Lashkargah) and 10 first aid trauma posts in Hilmand, Maydan Wardak, Logar, Paktya, and Panjsher Provinces.

"In our Surgical Centres in Kabul and Lashkargah we have registered a constant increase of war related admissions over the last three years. In the first half of this year, we have seen a 42% increase in severely injured patients from 2012. This increase was particularly dramatic in Hilmand Province, where the number of admissions for war injuries was 89% higher than 2012 and 112% than 2011 ".

The increase in the war wounded has put a tremendous burden on the 16 public health facilities operating in the conflict area run by BRAC and ACTD NGOs, and the four first aid trauma posts and the surgical hospital for war trauma run by EMERGENCY, in Hilmand.
Active hostilities continue to limit access

Security incidents and direct threats continued to affect humanitarian workers in June. While humanitarian programmes were not suspended, movement restrictions were increasingly applied and a number of organizations are in the process of reviewing their security protocols.

In June, a total of 25 incidents against humanitarians were reported in 16 provinces. Nine humanitarian workers were abducted, three killed, five injured, and three arrested and detained. The incidents ranged from killings, intrusion of health facilities, abduction, arrest and detentions, collateral impacts of IEDs, intimidation, disruption of aid distributions, theft of humanitarian assets, direct small arms fire and rocket attacks. Increasingly intimidation of humanitarians and the local community has continued to emerge as a major concern.

In Laghman Province intimidation was used to demand an NGO-run health facility be closed down. This resulted in temporary closure for five days, although it was reopened following interventions between community interlocutors and AGEs.

In Faryab Province, AGEs destroyed a bridge connecting Borgha area to Qaysar district, while in Nangahar Province during two separate incidents, three mobile telecommunication towers were set on fire in Bati Kot and Achin districts of Nangahar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Number of reported incidents</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badakhshan</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hilmand</td>
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<td>Zabul</td>
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</table>
Afghanistan food security outlook positive

Early reports and observations suggest that the ongoing wheat harvest in most parts of the country will be above average this year. Forecasts suggest that the staple food availability in homes and on the market will therefore increase between July and November of this year. If this year’s harvest turns out as expected, 2013 will be the second above-average harvest in a row. In Faryab and Khost Provinces heavy rains reduced wheat yields in lower elevation areas but the same rains improved pasture conditions and development of wheat crops in higher elevations.

Despite the overall positive outlook, the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) has started receiving reports of localized droughts from Kunduz, Ghor and Nimroz Provinces. A WFP and FEWS-NET mission is conducting an assessment of the situation in Ghor Province. At the FSAC June meeting it was noted that the pre-harvest assessment report from May 2013 indicated that Ghor might be facing poor wheat harvest and bad pasture conditions. FSAC will coordinate with its partners and mobilize regional clusters to get a fuller picture of the situation and conduct assessments. Information and evidence will be shared once available with all cluster members to coordinate a required response. If needed, funding from the Emergency Response Fund could be sought.

Afghanistan remains highly prone to earthquakes

Afghanistan is in a geologically active region of the world and is ranked twelfth on the seismic risk index according to the US Geological Survey. From January to June, five earthquakes of over 5 on the Richter scale were recorded in Afghanistan. During the same period there were 49 earthquakes of 4.0 to 4.9 on the Richter scale. Given the high levels of exposure it is prudent to invest in earthquake awareness through disaster risk reduction strategies.

In Zebak and Ishkashiem Districts of Badakhshan Province, the NGO Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) has invested in community-based earthquake awareness, preparedness and mitigation measures that include mock drills that drew more than 1,000 participants. The drills are aimed at helping people in the Hindu Kush mountain range, the most seismically active region in the country. FOCUS is also undertaking initiatives to promote structural safety of buildings and enforcement of seismic compliance building codes.

Credit: FOCUS
Government implements 12 Disaster Risk Reduction projects along Amu River

The Government of Afghanistan through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) implemented 12 disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects along Amu River. This investment is aimed at building resilience of Afghans to recurrent and predictable natural hazards such as floods. These flood mitigation projects go a long way in changing the focus from the traditional reactive response approach to proactive preparedness and resilience, thereby reducing vulnerability. The construction of flood retaining walls were implemented through community disaster management committees in 12 districts along the Amu River.

From deadly floodplain to watershed managed agricultural area

In a peaceful district in the sweeping valley of Khulm near Mazar i Sharif in Balkh Province of northern Afghanistan, heavy spring floods would regularly wash away crops and houses, often claiming lives as well.

A watershed project was designed by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, after the community approached them for help. Three dams harvest the rain and flood water and two water reservoirs feed a drip irrigation system. Over 150 hectares have been planted with trees, to increase water infiltration and to prevent soil erosion.

WFP provided food rations to the labourers on the project. “The food is very important to this poor, rural community”, explained Abdul Khaliq.

In the spring of 2013, when many nearby districts were flooded, Khulm was spared. Water gathered behind the dams, but it didn’t reach the villages.

Ismail Ghareeq, the WFP field monitor, is proud: “This is considered one of the best watershed management projects in Afghanistan. We get so many visitors who want to see how it’s done – from students of agriculture all the way up to the Minister of Agriculture himself!”

The project is considered a success not just because it secures the villages against floods, but because it has become a source of income for residents. Abdul Khaliq is optimistic about the future of the project. “We will continue protecting this project as an asset of our community. We expect that this place will become a leisure area where people will come to relax and spend their vacations with friends and families.”
Humanitarian Financing

2013 Common Humanitarian Action Plan is 55% funded at the mid year - the best funded appeal globally

As of 30 June, the 2013 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) is 55% funded with $262 million of the revised $474 million appeal requirement. Major changes to the requirement at the Mid-Year Review were the Nutrition Cluster +$9 million (to increase cover of seven additional provinces); and a decrease of $6.6 million in the Education Cluster, due to the removal of development activities.

The proportion of CHAP funding received reported per type of recipient organization is: UN – 75%; NGOs – 24%; and 1% in funds available through the ERF. Resources for the CHAP, reported for through the Financial Tracking Services (FTS), indicate donor contributions in 2013 constitute 87% of the funding available, while carry-over funds from 2012 account for 13%. Most clusters have received relatively good funding to date; however, Education has received only 8% of their $8.5 million requirement; while Emergency Shelter/NFIs and Multi-Sector Response to Refugee Returnees and Undocumented Afghans have less than 30% of their $20 million and $113.8 million requirements, respectively. In addition, Food Security and Agriculture reports that while emergency activities under the cluster are well resourced (almost 100%), a substantial gap remains toward support for early recovery aspects of the response with only 34% of the required $25 million.

Other humanitarian funding available for Afghanistan according to FTS is $125 million, of which $67.7 million has been reported for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with their own appeals process. The remaining balance reported on FTS for UN agencies and NGOs still to be reviewed against CHAP alignment is $57 million.

Emergency Response Fund almost depleted

As of 30 June 2013, 88% of the resources available through the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) have been disbursed with only $741,066 remaining. Contributions in 2013 have been made by Norway, Sweden, Ireland and Denmark; while two pledges from Canada and Norway are pending.

To date in 2013, ERF resources of $5.4 million have supported 19 NGO projects to respond to new or unforeseen emergencies. One project is pending final approval while another three projects are in the pipeline.

For further information, please contact:
Aidan O’Leary, OCHA Head of Office, oleary@un.org, cell +93 79 300 1101
Christophe Verhellen, Public Information Officer, verhellen@un.org, cell +93 79 300 1132

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info | www.unocha.org
| www.reliefweb.int
AFGHANISTAN: Overview of Natural Disasters
Natural disaster incidents as recorded by OCHA Field Offices and IOM from 1 January to 30 June 2013

AFGHANISTAN:

Hirat

253

Farah

20

Nimroz

10

11

100

Flood / Heavy Rainfall

30

10

Ghazni

200

Sari Pul

21,000

Km

20

Overview of Natural Disasters

Incidents by District

1 - 5

6 - 25

Incidents by Province

384

1,001 - 4,054

1 - 100

Number of Natural Disaster Incidents in 2013 (January to June) by Type

144

Districts affected

140,000

280

21,000

Affected Individuals

Afghans Killed or Injured

Houses Damaged or Destroyed

Flood / Heavy Rainfall

Avalanche / Landslide

Extreme Winter

Earthquake

1) The flood category includes both flash floods and longer duration flooding. 2) The landslide category also includes mudflows. 3) An event is defined by disaster type and date.

June

3

May

144

April

March

February

January

0

10

20

30

Incidents by District

1 - 5

6 - 25

Houses Damaged

By Province

No Houses Damaged

1 - 100

101 - 1,000

1,001 - 4,054

Houses Destroyed

Houses Damaged or Destroyed by Province

Note: Damaged house category includes the number of damaged houses as recorded by OCHA Field Offices and the number of 'Severely Damaged Houses' only as recorded by IOM.

Number of Individuals Affected by Natural Disasters

By Province

1 - 1,000

1,001 - 5,000

5,001 - 15,000

Balkh (36,548); Nangahar (41,902)

Afghans Killed or Injured

Notes:

1) Natural disaster events include avalanches, extreme winter conditions, flooding, heavy rainfall, landslides & mudflows, and extreme weather (sandstorms, hail, wind, etc) as recorded by OCHA field offices and IOM Afghanistan Humanitarian Assistance Database (HADB).

2) A natural disaster incident is defined as an event that has affected (i.e. impacted) Afghans, who may or may not require humanitarian assistance.

3) HADB information is used as a main reference and supplemented by OCHA Field Office reports for those incidents where information is not available from the HADB. OCHA information includes assessment figures from OCHA, ANDMA, Red Crescent Societies, national NGOs, international NGOs, and ERMI.

4) The number of affected Afghans and houses damaged or destroyed are based on the reports received. These figures may change as updates are received.

Websites:

http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info

Doc Name:

AGCHO

Data Source(s):

OCHA

Natural disaster information: OCHA Field Offices and IOM Afghanistan Humanitarian Assistance Database (HADB)

Projection/Datum: Geographic/WGS-84

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