HIGHLIGHTS

- Average GAM of 18% country-wide and a Southern region average of 29.5%
- New displacements rise by 15 per cent in June
- 75 people die in landslides after earthquakes
- No ERF funding received to date in 2012, US$100,000 available to address emergencies. US$ 10 million requested.

FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Afghan Population</th>
<th>27 m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Induced IDPs</td>
<td>~413,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented Afghans in Iran</td>
<td>1.4 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Afghans in Iran</td>
<td>1 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented Afghans in Pakistan</td>
<td>1 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Afghans in Pakistan</td>
<td>1.9 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered in other countries</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNHCR/IOM as of 06/2012

CAP FUNDING

437 million requested (US$)

30% funded

Due to major gaps in the capacity of humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan to respond to nutrition crisis, the cluster also established a Nutrition in Emergency (NiE) Training of Trainers in all regions. Attempts were made in 2011 to establish a Nutrition Cluster in southern region but due to lack of adequate partners from the resultant insecurity, it was not possible. Developments are ongoing as Save the Children is covering Uruzgan province and UNICEF will make four of the five provinces programme focus areas. In addition, the national Health and Nutrition Clusters will establish a joint cluster in the southern region expected during the third quarter of 2012. More agencies are in the process of expanding the CMAM programme with the support of UNICEF/WFP.

Reported conflict incidents in line with 2012 trends

Number of complex, vehicle and body-borne explosions, and IED attacks nearly doubled compared to 2011

Against a backdrop of fewer overall violent incidents recorded (996) in June compared to 2011 (where 1,744 incidents were recorded), the number of attacks in June remained in line with lowered trends in 2012. However, the number of complex, vehicle and body-borne explosions, and IED attacks nearly doubled (representing 1.5 per cent of all incidents). That said, this trend was punctuated by an attack on 22 June by armed opposition group (AoG) at a hotel on the outskirts of Kabul where seven insurgents, including two with suicide vests, killed 15 civilians took 60 hostages before security forces launched a counter-attack. The incident served as a keen reminder of AoG intent to simultaneously strike fear into the civilian population and decrease confidence in security forces. Those three tactics combined to account for 1.5% of all AOG authored incidents.

On 10 June, violent clashes between Afghan security forces and armed opposition groups (AoG) forced an estimated 336 families, or approximately 2,352 persons, from two areas of Jaji Medan district in Khost province to the district centre. In addition, AoG further warned communities in the area that violence would increase and would not be responsible for civilian casualties.

Source: UNHCR
New displacements rise by 15 per cent in June

In June, UNHCR reports more than 17,000 Afghans were newly displaced, raising the total to more than 413,000 displaced persons. This month's data is a 14 per cent increase from June 2011. New displacement in 2012 represents 28 per cent of overall IDP caseload. Based on reports from the field, more than 70 per cent of displaced persons interviewed noted a general deterioration in the security environment or direct conflict or hostilities as the impetus for fleeing their home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>IDPs at the end-May 2012</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>end-June 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>44,839</td>
<td>1,817</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>46,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>128,362</td>
<td>8,441</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>136,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>6,808</td>
<td>2,016</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>93,499</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>94,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>91,440</td>
<td>4,062</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>95,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>31,860</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Highlands</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>396,808</td>
<td>17,079</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>413,887</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNHCR

More than 39,000 Afghans voluntary repatriated from Pakistan and Iran

In 2012 (1 Jan – 30 Jun) 39,133 Afghans voluntary repatriated to Afghanistan among whom 32,599 came from Pakistan, 6,494 from Iran and 40 from non-neighbouring countries (India: 29, Russian Federation: 7, Kazakhstan: 3 and Azerbaijan). This reflects an increase of 20% compared to the same period in 2011.

UNHCR's border monitoring partners interviewed nearly 2,000 returning refugees from Pakistan and Iran to monitor return trends, push/pull factors and to assess the voluntariness and informed decision-making of returning refugees. Overwhelmingly, returning refugees from Iran and Pakistan cited poor economic conditions in Pakistan and Iran as the main reason (“push”) factor for their return. Identified “pull” factors included information about improved security at places of origin.
14 cases of cross-border shelling in June

Reports of cross-border shelling into Afghanistan’s Kunar province from Pakistan have risen sharply, with shelling occurring on 14 occasions through June. According to NGO assessments, some 570 households were displaced in Dangam, Khas Kunar and Nari districts of Kunar due to the mortar shelling. According to UN Human Rights, in April to June 2012 two civilians were killed and 18 injured as a result of this shelling. In addition to the loss of life, the shelling has negative impacts on rural livelihoods with the destruction of land and livestock as well as on education as area schools were forced to close on three separate occasions.

Military operation in Kapisa displaces 6,000 on the eve of security transition

On 24 May, Afghan security forces launched a military operation in Tagab district of Kapisa province. Ensuing clashes continued into June, compelling an estimated 1,152 families (or 6,912 persons) from 15 villages to flee to Tagab district centre for safety. Reportedly, the operation also caused damages to civilian infrastructure, including buildings, agriculture lands, irrigation canals and other civilian infrastructure.

Many of the displaced were taken in with host communities and relatives while others found shelter in public buildings. On 3 June, an inter-agency review with government counterparts, community representatives, found food and non-food item as primary needs, which were delivered on 15 June. During a visit of the Humanitarian Coordinator to the province on 27 June, provincial, district, and traditional authorities urged the UN system to visit Tagab and provide additional assistance to the affected population. ARCS and several national NGOs continue work in the district including ARCS, which has with some 60 volunteers.

Access challenges to conflict affected populations in Kamdesh, Nuristan

According to the eastern region protection cluster the issue of humanitarian access to Kamdesh District Nuristan province continues to be a cause of concern. At the end of June, couple of incidents indicated deterioration in the security situation in Kamdesh with incidents of Anti-Government Elements (AGE) setting fire to several local houses in 10 villages belonging to persons they accused of supporting the Government during day time and cross-border shelling from Pakistan. It is estimated that over 1200 conflict affected families are in need of assistance in both Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and AGE controlled areas.

Humanitarian agencies are not able to access either area. There are AGE check points on the roads leading into Kamdesh and the only option is the use air access. However, the only available air transport is a military aircraft and that only in 2 GoA controlled areas. Therefore agencies in the East are divided on this option of using the military aircraft as a last resort based on hum principles in a conflict zone. The preference is to have access to both areas through negotiations since the stalemate in Kamdesh continues since April.
75 Afghans die in landslides after earthquakes in North-Eastern Afghanistan

On 11 June 2012, three earthquakes hit Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region in North-Eastern Afghanistan. They varied in magnitudes of 5.4 at 09:32am, 5.7 at 09.59am and 4.2 at 01.02am local time respectively according to USGS.

The earthquakes claimed 75 lives in four districts in Baghlan province, while 13 people were injured. In addition, 114 houses were destroyed, 580 houses were damaged, and 10 schools were damaged. Three mosques were also damaged. The impact was also felt in neighbouring Takhar province where 19 houses were destroyed or damaged in Ishkamish district.

Some of the people affected by earthquakes in Burka and
Nahrin districts were recovering from the effects of floods that had happened in mid May, when they relapsed to high vulnerability with the secondary effects of earthquakes and landslides. Recurrent natural hazards affect most parts on the country and the North-Eastern region is susceptible to most of these hazards, hence the need to invest in community-based disaster risk reduction programmes that foster at building community resilience. In response humanitarian actors, UN agencies, NGOs, Government departments and local communities responded swiftly with food and non-food items as well as psychosocial support to those who were traumatised.

The Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) value refers to the strength of shaking produced by the earthquake at a certain location. The MMI scale starts from I (generally not felt by people) to XII (Catastrophic) – USGS. The darker the area, the greater the “shake” effect that was felt in the areas not directly affected by the earthquake.

Recovery and rehabilitation of destroyed productive assets urgently needed to help restore livelihoods of flood affected populations.
While the immediate impact of the spring floods may be the tragic loss of life and destruction of homes, a longer-term repercussion on a more substantial proportion of the population is devastating in terms of their livelihoods. The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) has compiled comprehensive data on destroyed assets per district and advocated for funding to support these populations with Cash for Work and other livelihood strengthening interventions, with no tangible result to date. While the number of livestock deaths greatly varies according to the source of information, between 6,000 (from NGO reports) and 20,000 (ANMDA) have been accounted; figures on the total destruction of agriculture land appears more coherent as approximately 100,000 jeribs of lands have been destroyed by spring floods up to 27 June. To combat the devastation of the spring floods urgent recovery and rehabilitation of destroyed productive assets is required to help restore the livelihoods of these affected populations.

Amu Darya riverbank erosion displaces 497 families in June

Melting snow in the Hindu Kush Mountains coupled with heavy rainfall has raised water levels in the Amu Darya River up to 1 ½ meters eroding riverbanks. This has threatened lives and livelihoods that depend on agriculture. Cumulatively from January to June 2012, 497 families were displaced, 354 in Balkh province and 143 families in Jawzjan province. Kaldar and Shortepa districts in Balkh province and Qarqin and Khamyab districts in Jawzjan province are at risk of Amu Darya riverbank erosion.

Humanitarian actors have provided food and non-food items to the 497 families who have been internally displaced as a result of environmental hazards like riverbank erosion. As part of riverbank erosion mitigation efforts, ActionAid is implementing an ECHO funded community-based disaster risk reduction programme in Kaldar district. Similar programmes need to be replicated in Shortepa, Qarqin and Khamyab districts so as to mitigate further effects of riverbank erosion and minimize displacement.
Natural hazards affect more than 21,000 individuals in June

Natural hazards affected 21,771 individuals during the month of June 2012, claiming 106 lives. The number of deaths was higher by 47 per cent compared to May records. This was mainly due the high number of deaths that were reported during an earthquake that claimed 75 lives in Baghlan province, according to records provided by local authorities. The impact of natural hazards also declined on number of individuals and districts affected in June compared to the previous month. The number of houses that were either damaged or destroyed stood at 3,529 compared to 9,330 in May 2012. The nature of incidents that were recorded in June included floods, hailstorm and earthquakes. These incidents happened mainly in North-Eastern, Northern, Central Highlands, Eastern and Western regions. Recurrent natural hazards continue to claim a number of Afghan lives, livelihoods and destroy infrastructure. However, the impact can be mitigated if government departments through the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) and humanitarian and development actors focus more on disaster risk reduction in line with 14 June Istanbul conference declaration.

Transitional shelter needs in Northern and North-Eastern Afghanistan

Floods, landslides and earthquakes have destroyed many houses in Northern and North-Eastern Afghanistan. The Northern Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster has established a Shelter Working Group and assessed the need for category A shelters (houses completely destroyed). Verification showed the need for 4,292 transitional shelters. Disaster affected families are displaced and many families live in medium to high altitude areas. To be able to survive the coming winter months, they must have shelters. The Shelter Working Group agreed to provide each beneficiary family with a one-room, extendable shelter and a latrine using a standard UNHCR design. Shelters are needed in 55 districts of nine provinces. In earthquake prone areas, shelters must include an earthquake mitigating intervention. Shelter unit costs range between US$1,240 and 1,372. The total project cost for 4,292 shelters is an estimated US$ 5.2 million. Shelters may only be constructed until the end of October. OCHA and the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster have therefore increased their efforts to mobilize urgently needed shelter funds.
Eighteen incidents of direct and indirect attacks against humanitarian workers registered in June 2012

During the month of June, 18 incidents of direct and indirect attacks against humanitarian workers were reported; a decrease compared to June 2011 that recorded a total of 27 such incidents. Majority of the incidents were intimidation of aid workers including through verbal threats, IED detonation near vehicles or as staff approached, theft and looting.

Most notable of the incidents was an attack on World Food Programme (WFP) trucks carrying humanitarian food supplies intended for schoolchildren by unknown assailants in Sheikh Ali district of Parwan province on the afternoon of Monday, 4 June. Three of the trucks and their contents were burned but no casualties were registered. The incident marked the first time a WFP-marked convoy has been directly attacked in the country. Additionally an IED blast in Sari-Pul resulted to the death of a humanitarian agency ambulance driver, bringing the total number of fatalities registered in 2012 for aid workers to four. Generally the ongoing hostilities continue to hamper access to people in need and impact timely delivery of assistance.

Four aid workers rescued from captivity in the north eastern part of the country

Meanwhile four aid workers were freed on the night of 1 June in a night operation that was planned and coordinated by the International Military Forces after an estimated one week in captivity in the north eastern province of Badakhshan. The operation resulted in at least five casualties amongst the abductors but all four aid workers remained unharmed from the time of abduction until their release. The aid workers that comprised two international and two national staff were abducted on 22 May 2012 when they were en route to the then flood stricken parts of Badakhshan province on donkeys to visit a clinic in Yawan district when the roads had been destroyed by floods. The 22 May 2012 abduction marked the 33rd direct incident against humanitarian workers in Badakhshan province over the last seven years but the first abduction to occur in the northern part of the country outside Faryab since 2010.
Cluster Highlights

From November 2011 to date, 9,000 measles cases with 430 deaths were reported reaching emergency levels

From November 2011 to present, measles outbreaks have resulted in 9,000 cases and 430 deaths, bringing the incidence for the same period to 348 cases/million. This is almost a three-fold increase in the number of measles cases and incidence during the outbreak period as compared with same period in 2010/2011 (3,163 cases and 120 cases/million). Half of the reported cases are in the under five years age group, while the other half are over five years indicating gaps in previous years vaccination coverage to prevent for the older caseloads. Of particular concern is the 38 percent increase in the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) for measles during the past six months, from 3.5 percent in 2011, to 4.8 percent average for the country. During the winter, in some remote areas severely affected by harsh winter in Ghor and Badakhshan provinces the CFR rose up to 14 per cent, which is almost three times higher than accepted international standards. Between January and June, 144 measles outbreaks have been reported, equal to the total number of outbreaks reported during the whole of 2011. The most affected provinces have been Paktya, Khost, Hirat, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Ghazni, Daikundi, Bamyan, Faryab, Sari-Pul, Badakhshan, Farah, Ghor, Badghis and Uruzgan and Faryab provinces. A nation-wide vaccination campaign targeting children from nine months to ten years of age is immediately required countrywide to prevent the outbreak from further growing. The timing is crucial, as the expected increase in the following months of Acute Watery Diarrhea amongst children, as well as high prevalence of malnutrition are factors inductive of increased mortality amongst measles patients.

Urgent reintegration support needed for Afghans returning from Pakistan

Since 2002, over 5.7 million Afghans have returned to their homeland. However, currently there are approximately three million Afghans living in Pakistan (in addition to about 2.4 million in Iran), of which nearly one million are undocumented and out of the protection framework of the Tripartite Commission Agreement between the Government of Afghanistan, the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR.
In order to target this vulnerable population - undocumented Afghans in Pakistan - IOM Pakistan and IOM Afghanistan are finalizing a cross-border pilot project for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) with full backing from the respective governments. This year long effort has already resulted in the design of a voluntary return and reintegration option which hopefully will be preferred over other possible return mechanisms, including those of potential selected forced repatriation.

IOM Afghanistan is ready to utilize its experience accumulated through the implementation of the post-arrival assistance to the vulnerable undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran, which has assisted over 69,000 individuals since 2009. Various socio-economic reintegration activities, such as market-based vocational training and business start-up support are part of the interventions to support the returnees.

Disclaimer: The boundaries, names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsements or acceptance by IOM.

This two-year AVRR pilot project includes a study on the profile of undocumented Afghans in Pakistan, a targeted information campaign to raise their awareness of the return and reintegration options. The process further involves compiling a list of the beneficiary families, transportation support for repatriation followed by sustainable reintegration assistance including small business start-up support, vocational training and monitoring and counselling support. This pilot is targeting 7,200 undocumented Afghan families (approximately 50,000 individuals) and, if successful, is expected to help many more families in its follow-up initiatives.

Please also refer to the related press statement on 6 June 2012:

“Afghanistan calls on the international community for urgent support to assist undocumented Afghans returning from Pakistan” at

http://reliefweb.int/node/501695
Spread of reported school poisoning incidents to more provinces has significant impacts on health sector

Since 2009, 32 suspected school poisoning incidents (30 of which were in girls’ schools) have been reported, investigated and responded to by the Health Cluster members. Of this total, 14 incidents or 44 percent were reported between 1 January and 23 June 2012. The provinces affected with incidents reported in 2012 are depicted in the map below.

The investigation of incidents did not show conclusive evidence of deliberate poisoning. However, the uncertainties about the causes of these incidents and growing rumors have had a significant impact on education, and especially girls’ education; not only almost 3,000 pupils have been hospitalized, but the fear spread amongst communities, students and parents lead to the temporary closure of all schools around the incidents’ area increasing the absenteeism amongst tens of thousands of school children, and school drops outs especially amongst girls. There is an urgent need to clarify the causes of the incidents of suspected poisoning in schools based on multidisciplinary expertise, as well as to strengthen the MoPH and health partners’ capacity (based on international health regulations) to investigate and deal with potential chemical hazards.

Above average cereal harvest projections likely for 2012

The FSAC Early Warning Working Group update for June reported that, although a few pockets of vulnerability will still suffer from low harvests, the prospect for 2012 national cereal harvest is still above average, in line with the result of the pre-crop assessment, details of which were reported in the April Humanitarian Bulletin. Comprehensive results from the assessment can be found at:

http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info/clusters/Food%20Security%20and%20Agriculture

As a result, early estimates are that cereal imports may be reduced by half compared to last year. The likelihood of serious summer floods in some areas of the country, resulting from the impact of the Indian monsoon, is projected for a very low probability this year. More information will soon be available once the agriculture prospects report will be issued soon. However, in Afghanistan, improved availability of food does not guarantee at all that households will have improved access to food. To determine the food security status of vulnerable populations, an FSAC joint food security assessment is currently being conducted across 53 districts by 23 FSAC partner NGOs, FAO and WFP. The assessment will provide details about the severity of the food insecurity at the household level and inform emergency programming for second half of 2012.
Friends,

The message from May’s Nato summit in Chicago was that the Afghans would not again be abandoned by the international community, as they were in the early 1990s. It resulted in financial pledges for Afghan security forces beyond 2014, whose cost is estimated at over $4bn a year, by which point most foreign troops will have left. This was no small achievement in today’s global economic climate, given growing disenchantment with Afghanistan. But it is not enough. Unless funding for Afghanistan’s security forces is matched by investment in meeting people’s basic needs, and by robust efforts to protect civilians and human rights, the money being spent on security could be wasted.

For Afghans, particularly women, security is not only about protection from external threats and insurgents, critical as these are. It is also about protection from unaccountable officials and security forces in the course of daily life. It is about knowing that jobs and opportunities are not just for the well-off, that property rights are respected, injustices addressed, abuse of authority checked. Afghans are no different from the rest of us. The imperative now is to ensure that the blood spilled, money spent and gains made over the last decade are not reversed, that they yield a sustainable security dividend. What is needed is a partnership that focuses on meeting Afghans’ practical needs.

Michael Keating
Humanitarian Coordinator

Humanitarian funding update

The overall funding of the CAP has reached US$131 million or 30 per cent of the humanitarian response requirement.

No ERF funding received to date in 2012, US$100,000 available to address emergencies. US$ 10 million requested.

Prepared on: 1 July 2012
Data Source: http://humanitarianresponse.info
Feedback: ocha.info@un.org
Website: http://ocha.un.org/humanitarianresponse.info
2012 humanitarian funding reported by donors outside the CAP is US$144 million as of 30 June

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