

Afghanistan

Issue 33 | 01 – 31 October 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

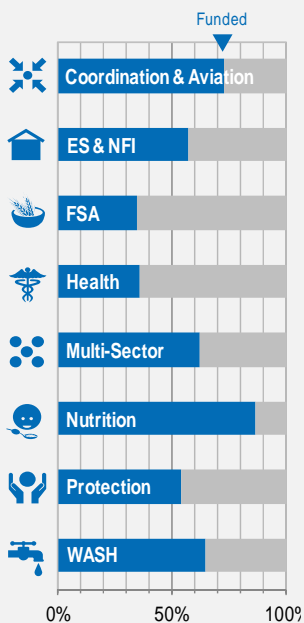
- Humanitarian Coordinator visits Pakistani refugees.
- Humanitarians prepare to support vulnerable Afghans in winter.
- IRIN's Joe Dyke reports on communities affected by spring flooding in the north.

FUNDING

406 million
requested (US\$)

60% funded

FUNDING BY CLUSTER



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Top Humanitarian official visits Khost

In a show of support for thousands of families displaced by military operations in Pakistan, the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mark Bowden, visited Khost province to underscore the humanitarian community's commitment to them as winter approaches.

Mr. Bowden was accompanied by the Country Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Afghanistan, Bo Schack. The UN delegation met with community leaders in the Gulan camp for the conflict-displaced in Khost and discussed their needs, including fuel and shelter, for the coming winter.

"You have my sympathy, and I understand that this is not the first time that you had to move from Waziristan," said Mr. Bowden, who is also the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in Afghanistan.

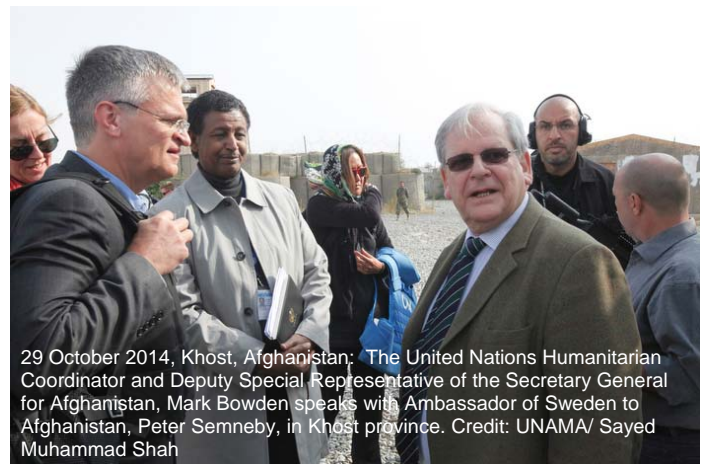
"I hope that we can all work toward a situation where a peaceful life in this area and in this region are possible, securing for everybody a better long-term future," he added.

Khost Provincial Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi asked for help with the newly displaced. He told the UN delegation that the growing number of displaced is putting pressure on Khost's residents and the provincial government.

"In Tanai district, more than 300 families have newly arrived," he said, highlighting the influx of people in one of Khost's many overburdened districts. "We don't have any kind of facilities or any kind of stock in the district to offer these newly arrived families in the cold weather."

The visit follows a meeting earlier this month between Mr. Bowden and President Ashraf Ghani, who expressed concern and asked the UN to share its plans to support the most vulnerable Afghans in the coming winter.

Since June, military operations in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency, which borders Afghanistan, have led to large scale population displacements, with thousands of people crossing into Afghan provinces. According to figures from UNHCR, displacements are continuing, with the number of displaced families now estimated at 33,000.



29 October 2014, Khost, Afghanistan: The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan, Mark Bowden speaks with Ambassador of Sweden to Afghanistan, Peter Semneby, in Khost province. Credit: UNAMA/ Sayed Muhammad Shah

Humanitarians prepare to support the most vulnerable Afghans through winter

An estimated two million Afghans live at elevations higher than 2,000 meters leaving them exposed to winter. While severe winters can be life threatening, the coming winter is not expected to have above-average temperatures. However, long term weather forecasts can sometimes be unreliable and humanitarians working in Afghanistan are preparing to support vulnerable communities.

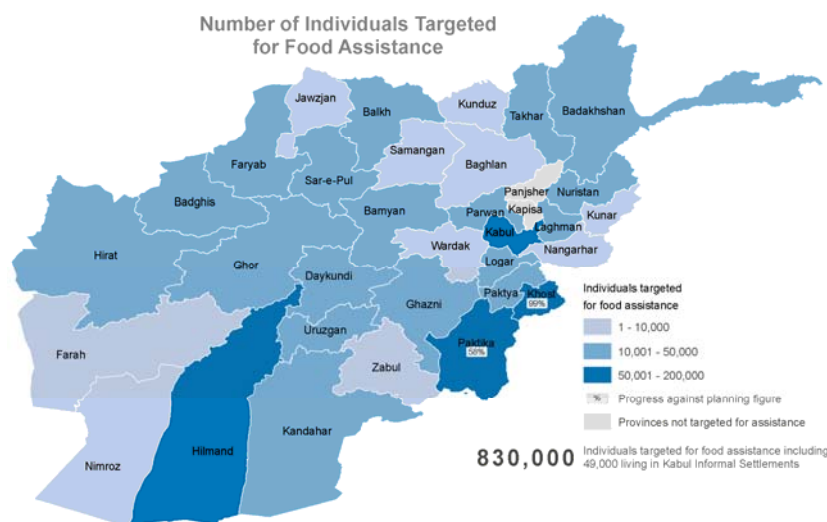
Vulnerable groups

Group ¹	Individuals
At increased health risk, e.g. acute respiratory infections	
➤ Under 5 yrs of age (based on 20 per cent of population living at high altitude)	423,300
➤ Over 55 yrs of age (based on 12 per cent of population living at high altitude)	253,920
Vulnerable new refugees (Khost and Paktika) ²	~235,000
Displaced Persons in Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS)	33,000
Recently conflict-displaced persons in 2014 in areas of high altitude ³	2,300
People without shelter (due to floods in the north) and living at high altitude	7,000
Economically vulnerable people living at high altitude or in hard to reach areas	544,000 ⁴

An estimated two million Afghans live at elevations higher than 2,000 meters leaving them exposed to winter.

The humanitarian community is putting plans in motion to support the Government of Afghanistan in its winter response. To this end, the United Nations will work alongside national and provincial authorities and NGOs to ensure preparedness and to preposition stock.

Fuel, food and key non-food items such as clothing are priorities for displaced families living in Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS). Firewood is the priority and several NGOs will distribute firewood to the entire population throughout the winter. Starting in December, some 1,270 MTs wheat, pulses, vegetable oil, salt and High Energy Biscuits will be distributed. This will provide food rations to 7,000 families at 50 per cent of their normal ration size due to funding constraints.



¹ Pneumonia, ARIs and hypothermia are key life-threatening challenges for all communities (with those <5 years and >55 years most at risk).

² The majority are living with host families, with 4000 families living in Gulam camp, and are at above 2,000 metres.

³ Of the 116,127 conflict induced IDPs reported from September 2013 to August 2014; approximately 2,300 are at elevations above 2,000m.

⁴ Source: WPF, October 2014.

An estimated 33,000 families have fled to Khost and Paktika provinces since the start of a military operation in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency in June. Many of them will be experiencing sub-zero temperature for the first time. Significant pressure has been placed on host communities, who have warned that their already limited resources will not stretch to support refugee families in winter. The humanitarian community is prioritising support to refugee families and host communities in Khost and Paktika. Winter assistance will include winterising existing tents in camps, extra blankets and warm clothing. Stocks are being prepositioned to support 16,000 refugee families and 2,000 host families with essential winter items. The kits are tailored in consultation with communities and include bamboo poles for walls and roofing to winterise pre-existing tents and host family houses, as well as tarpaulins, blankets, clothing and fuel.

An estimated 4,000 families are facing winter without appropriate shelter after severe flooding destroyed their homes in spring this year. The Common Humanitarian Fund is supporting Cash for Fuel assistance to approximately 3,100 eligible families in 28 districts in eight north and northeastern provinces, based on whether people have appropriate shelter and the altitude at which they live. The cash component will complement a Non-food Items (NFI) support package of winter blankets and clothes for approximately 2,500 families.

Other plans include prepositioning of blankets, NFI Kits, health supplies WASH/hygiene kits, and medicines in areas across the country likely to be cut off by winter. There are plans to establish temporary clinics in isolated areas that become inaccessible in winter thereby ensuring that essential services continue. This is of particular importance for children and elderly who are more at risk during winter months from pneumonia, hypothermia and other diseases.

Humanitarians are working with government to ensure that aid efforts are coordinated, thereby ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts and that harder to access areas are also included in winter support efforts, with assistance based on assessed needs and prioritising those most vulnerable.

Due to a \$40 million funding shortfall, WFP has been able to pre-position only 60 per cent of food assistance for an estimated 830,000 people ahead of the winter this year.

An estimated 4,000 families are facing winter without appropriate shelter after severe flooding destroyed their homes in spring this year.

Climate change: Afghans on the front line

Joe Dyke
IRIN

Heavy spring rains and flooding in northern Afghanistan destroyed several villages and 8,000 homes. Humanitarian partners have been supporting affected communities but shelter needs are significantly under resourced leaving some 4,000 families to face sub-zero temperatures in Afghanistan's remote rugged mountains without appropriate shelter. IRIN correspondent Joe Dyke travelled to northern Afghanistan to see how local communities are dealing with the aftermath of the disaster:

In northern Afghanistan, the residents don't often use the phrase - most don't even know it. But as they describe how increasingly extreme weather patterns are making their lives harder every year, they map out many of the symptoms of climate change.



A young boy sits in front of his partially destroyed home. Photo credit: Joe Dyke/IRIN

Naim Korbon says he is 90 years old, though he admits he does not really know. Either way he is too old to be carrying cement. Yet in the northern Afghan village of Rozi Bay in Balkh Province, he and his extended family are rebuilding their homes.

Earlier this year his life's work was destroyed as vicious floods cascaded through the area. It was, local experts say, the worst to hit the region in 42 years. Nearly half of the village was swept away, including Korbon's home. All down his street buildings - many of them over 50 years old - are slumped; roofs sliding off, surrounded by piles of debris. "We will rebuild it all better than before," Korbon said, picking up his shovel.

Floods are not the only weather making the residents' lives harder. In the nearby village of Baghacha Khan Mula local representative Abdul Jalote Mufakar pointed at the barren earth with a sense of resignation. "In recent years, there are no crops. Only almonds grow any more," he said.

Read the full article here: <http://bit.ly/1xygkrV>

Humanitarian access

27 incidents against aid workers

4 aid workers killed

4 wounded

13 abducted

Incidents affecting humanitarian action

There were 27 incidents reported against national and international NGOs and international organizations across Afghanistan. These incidents resulted in violence against aid workers, assets or facilities, interference in humanitarian activities, and restrictions in movement. While the number of incidents in October was about average, there were more fatalities and more abductions compared to the previous month. Four aid workers were killed, 13 abducted (compared to two and ten respectively in September) and four wounded. There were two incidents involving NGO run health facilities, including the abduction of a midwife and other clinic staff. A robbery was reported at a demining site.

Incidents Jan-Oct 2014

2014	Targeted to All*	NGOs
JAN	23	18
FEB	20	14
MAR	19	10
APR	17	13
MAY	31	20
JUN	32	24
JUL	25	18
AUG	42	33
SEP	28	23
OCT	27	25
TOTAL	264	198

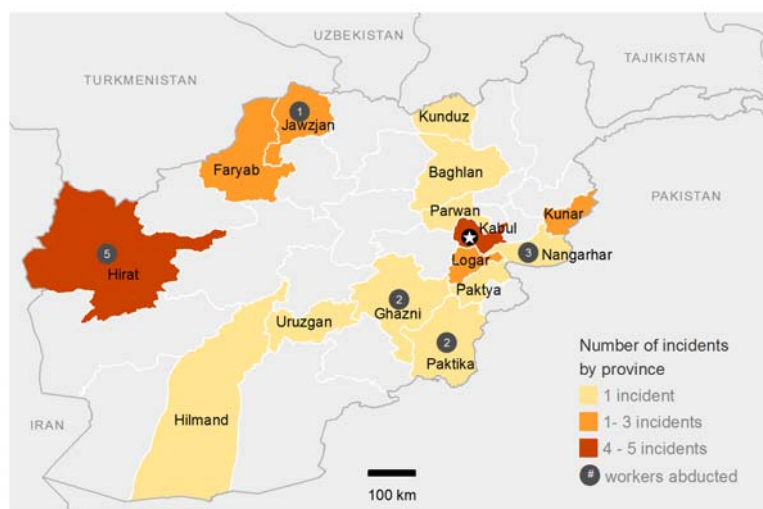
* UN/IO/NGO/INGO

Focus on the East - An aid worker perspective on humanitarian access

Gift Chatora, Head of OCHA Sub-Office - Jalalabad

Access continues to present challenges to humanitarian actors in the eastern region, particularly in Kunar and Nangarhar. UN agencies have limited access to provincial centres in Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar; with handful of NGOs having access to district centres.

Due to ongoing conflict in the area, road missions to Asadabad in Kunar province are often suspended or need to proceed with additional security measures. Despite spirited efforts by humanitarian actors, plans to reach internally displaced populations in the Dur Baba area of Nangarhar province for assessment and verification are frequently delayed or canceled.



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Humanitarian access to Nuristan province, where government institutions either are absent or operate remotely from Kunar or Jalalabad, is very limited. A handful of NGOs offer essential basic health services in the province. However, government-led provincial emergency coordination structures, such as the Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC), are all but absent.

Polio vaccinations are ongoing in all four provinces, but with a host of access challenges.

Two incidents in the region affected the humanitarian community, including the abduction of several local people from an NGO run clinic in Nangarhar province by unknown armed men.

Humanitarian financing Update

2014 Strategic Response Plan 60 percent funded as of 31 October

Humanitarian funding for Afghanistan reached \$410 million.

Overall funding

Humanitarian funding for Afghanistan reached \$410 million in October. Sixty per cent, or \$245 million of this amount is aligned with the 2014 Strategic Response Plan (SRP). Of the SRP aligned funds, 65 per cent is allocated to UN agencies & IOM and 35 per cent to NGOs including the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The 2014 Afghanistan SRP ranks among the four best supported humanitarian appeals (percentage wise).

Donor	Contribution US\$ Millions	As % of overall contributions
USA	98	40%
Japan	31	13%
Sweden	18	7%
Canada	16	7%
European Commission	15	6%
Korea, Republic	15	6%

Other humanitarian funding

According to FTS, the balance of other humanitarian funding available for Afghanistan is \$164 million, with \$67 million reported for ICRC following their own appeals process and \$21 million committed for humanitarian action, but not yet allocated. The remaining \$76 million is not aligned to 2014 SRP.

In brief

Nutrition, winter response and air services top priorities in \$10.7 million CHF allocations

The Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has allocated \$10.7 million for life-saving activities to treat malnutrition in girls and boys, help fill



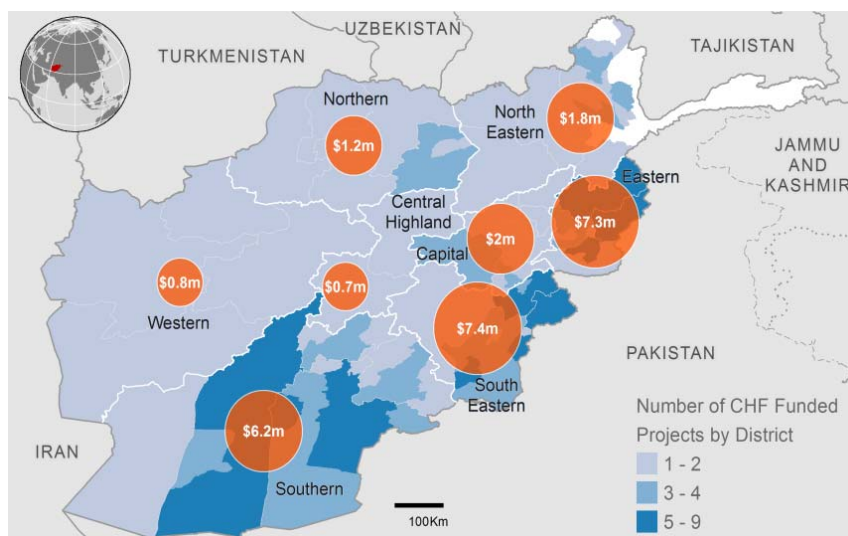
Dialogue with conflict victims who were treated at the EMERGENCY First Aid Trauma Post funded by the CHF in Maydanshar, Wardak Province, during an OCHA monitoring visit

funding gaps in the humanitarian winter response, and continue humanitarian air service activities.

Launched in August, this is the second CHF allocation for 2014. A total of \$6.7 million will support partners, including Afghanistan Center for Training and Development (ACTD), International Medical Corps (IMC), Medair, WFP and WHO, to expand nutrition activities for vulnerable children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The projects will start in December for a twelve-month period and promote infant and child feeding practices and train emergency health workers in malnutrition treatment. Funding to WFP will support supplies of life-saving nutritious food for therapeutic feeding centers. An estimated 400,000 affected people, including some 200,000 malnourished children under 5 years old and pregnant and lactating women will benefit.

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), a critical enabler to life-saving humanitarian actions in Afghanistan, will receive \$3 million. UNHAS supports humanitarian aid through flights to more than 25 locations in Afghanistan carrying aid workers and supplies.



In October, the Humanitarian Coordinator launched a CHF Reserve Allocation of \$1 million to support funding gaps in the humanitarian winter response.

In October, the Humanitarian Coordinator launched a CHF Reserve Allocation of \$1 million to support funding gaps in the humanitarian winter response. The Reserve will meet urgent winter needs in emergency health care, as well as emergency shelter and non-food items.

An estimated 3,100 vulnerable families who lost their home to flooding in the north and northeast receive a cash grant of \$60 per months for two to four months. Emergency health services in remote locations of Badakhshan, Bamyán, Daykundi, Ghor, Hirat, and Logar reaching thousands of vulnerable Afghans in communities that are isolated in the winter by snow and adverse weather conditions, will be supported.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org/Afghanistan | afg.humanitarianresponse.info | www.reliefweb.int