

HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 17,000 families seek assistance as conflict induced displaced persons
- Humanitarian flights deliver aid to affected families in remote Badakhshan
- 2015 HRP first quarter report says 40 per cent of 1.5 million affected people have received emergency assistance
- CHF supports lifesaving action for vulnerable Afghan with \$21.5 million

FUNDING

405 million
requested (US\$)

17% funded
(clusters update)



WHH shelter project in Jawzjan province, Khwajadukoh district
Credit: Sakhi Akhgar and Klaus Lohmann/WHH

In this issue

- Conflict displaced in the North P.1
- Humanitarian flights deliver aid P.2
- 2015 HRP first quarter report out P.3
- CHF supports lifesaving action P.5

Urgent humanitarian support for thousands of families displaced due to conflict in the North and West

The start of the traditional spring fighting season on 24 April has seen the conflict between Afghanistan's security forces and armed non-state actors intensify in northern and western Afghanistan. The humanitarian community has redoubled efforts to reach families in need of assistance in the face of substantial population movements.

The number of petitions presented to the Kunduz authorities by families requesting assistance as conflict-induced displaced persons has been increasing rapidly, from some 4,500 families on 3 May to an estimated 17,000 on 11 May. The on-going household assessment will eventually provide accurate data. So far, 1,326 families have been identified as eligible for assistance. However, petitions from families not directly affected by the conflict continue, requiring pre-screening by the joint teams and subsequent door-to-door visits. There is currently capacity to support some 3,000 families using existing stocks in the Northern Region with some support from central stockpiling. The IDP Task Force has agreed on a staged delivery of assistance in batches of 500 families. The first distribution of food, NFIs, and hygiene kits for 500 families was carried out 9-11 May. The next distributions are scheduled for 12- 14 May and 17-19 May.

It is further estimated that some 3,000 IDPs may be located in areas not accessible due to insecurity, and discussion with the Afghan Red Crescent Society continues for coverage of those areas in line with their current capacity and priorities. There are also reports of initial returns, possibly 500 – 1,000 families, to areas where military operations have ended.

Other large scale displacements have also been observed in in the North, particularly in Badakhshan and Badghis provinces.

Some 474 families have been assessed as conflict displaced in Badakhshan's Warduj district (256 families in Bahrahk and 218 in Jurm), owing to ongoing military operations. The immediate humanitarian needs of all families is being met with delivery of assistance in district centers. OCHA is



Conflict displaced families Kunduz city 7 May 2015
Photo: BBC

working with local authorities to ensure participation and access. New arrivals are expected as the conflict intensifies.

Since 23 April, 1,100 families have been displaced from Ab Kamari district to Qala-i-Now district in the western province of Badghis. Food will be provided for two months as well as NFIs. Also in Badghis, a number of families are reported to have fled to the Bala Mughab area close to the border with Turkmenistan. There are unconfirmed reports that the families have now returned to their homes. While humanitarian access is a challenge due to security issues, UNHCR is monitoring the situation closely and working with local authorities and humanitarian partners to gain access to this population in need as soon as possible.

With fighting expected to continue for the next coming months until the start of Ramadan, the humanitarian community is prepared to respond to increasing displacement needs through the activation of its displacement contingency planning.

Humanitarian flights deliver urgent aid to families left homeless by landslides and floods

On 28 April, a landslide buried the remote village of Jerow-Bala in the Khwahan district of Badakhshan province, killing 52 people, mostly women and children, leaving 237 families without shelter.

An assessment team consisting of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), FOCUS, IOM, and WFP was dispatched to the area on the same day carrying tents, tarpaulins, blankets, in addition to NFIs and food in order to respond to the most pressing needs. They found the community to be living in the open and in need immediate assistance which could be initially provided by the assessment team to some of those affected.

ANDMA and humanitarian organizations, including ARCS, FOCUS, IOM, UNICEF, and WFP have committed to assisting all 237 families with bread, high-energy biscuits, milk, cooking oil, tents, tarpaulins, plastic sheets, medicine, cash assistance, blankets, and solar lamps.

The key challenge remains access to this very remote village which is difficult to access by road. A special UNHAS flight to deliver aid was organized. On 6 May, UNHAS transported 46 kitchen sets, 237 solar lights and high energy biscuits to the affected families. An assessment team member stayed on in the affected area so as to identify further needs of food and medicine. A second flight on 16 May will deliver urgently needed blankets, medicine, bread, and gas balloons for cooking.

Seasonal floods and landslides are a common occurrence in Afghanistan. Last year, heavy rainfall and flash floods destroyed thousands of homes, public infrastructure, roads, and farmland displacing tens of thousands in ten provinces.

Since the start of April, humanitarian partners have been responding to the needs of disaster affected communities Baghlan, Faryab, Kunduz, Samangan, and Takhar provinces, where seasonal flooding and landslide have destroyed 432 houses, killing 22 people and displacing/affecting 2,639 families.



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.

UNHAS transported 46 kitchen sets, 237 solar lights and high energy biscuits to the affected families

Total number of natural disaster persons since 1 April 2015, per province

Province	Dead	Injured	Affected Families	Houses Damaged	Houses Destroyed
Badakhshan	54	-	679	-	343
Badghis	4	4	546	393	49
Baghlan	10	14	539	338	201
Bamyan	-	-	24	-	3
Daykundi	-	-	-	-	-
Faryab	7	3	1,609	1,523	49
Ghazni	9	-	-	-	-
Ghor	8	1	52	-	-
Hilmand	-	-	93	77	16
Hirat	7	-	327	166	161
Jawzjan	-	-	2	2	-
Kabul	-	-	96	78	18
Kapisa	2	-	133	97	36
Kunduz	1	-	304	198	106
Nangarhar	-	-	34	34	-
Samangan	-	-	44	-	44
Takhar	4	12	143	25	32
Uruzgan	-	-	29	17	12
Grand Total	106	34	4,654	2,948	1,070

Note: Includes unverified data from government sources

KEY PLANNING FIGURES FOR 2015

 405 million
US\$ required for Jan-Dec 2015

 3.8 million
people prioritised for assistance

Q1 OVERALL PROGRESS

 76 million
US\$ received as of March 2015

 1.5 million
beneficiaries assisted

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1** Excess morbidity and mortality reduced

 - 48 Reporting partners
 - 28m Funding received
 - 16% Percentage of target
 - 11m CHF 2015 1st Allocation
 - 835k Total Beneficiaries
- 2** Conflict related deaths and impairment reduced

 - 42 Reporting partners
 - 15m Funding received
 - 46% Percentage of target
 - 2.5m CHF 2015 1st Allocation
 - 0.8k Total Beneficiaries
- 3** Timely response to affected populations

 - 47 Reporting partners
 - 22m Funding received
 - 12% Percentage of target
 - 8m CHF 2015 1st Allocation
 - 688k Total Beneficiaries

2015 HRP first quarter report - achievements, response challenges and financing

The first quarter **report** for the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is now available online. More than 90 humanitarian agencies reported their first quarter activities for 2015 under the three Strategic Priorities of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan. Together humanitarian actors have provided assistance to approximately 1.5 million affected people, more than 40 per cent of whom received emergency food, health, shelter, NFI and WASH assistance having been displaced by natural disasters or conflict.

Since the start of 2015, some 61,000 people have been affected by natural disasters and 20,000 people have been newly displaced by internal conflict. A total of 688,000 beneficiaries reached under strategic priority three (timely response to affected populations) include registered Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika and 21,000 vulnerable undocumented Afghan returnees. IOM has recorded more than 53,000 spontaneous returns, an influx 14 times greater than the same period in 2014. UNHCR has also witnessed a significant increase in documented returns, more than five times higher compared to the same period in 2014. Due to funding constraints, IOM has only been able to assist roughly 10 per cent of vulnerable returnees and deportees.

As detailed in the **report**, overall, cluster response has been in line with 2015 plans. The Health, WASH, and Nutrition clusters have made steady progress towards planned results. The WASH and Nutrition clusters have reported more robust funding compared to the same period last year.

The Protection Cluster has reached more gender-based violence survivors compared to last year and the Cluster is on track with legal assistance for housing, land and property but is behind on emergency child protection services reaching only six per cent of the annual target. The Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ESNFI) Cluster has exceeded its planned response targets by reaching 233,600 individuals as compared to the planning figure of 157,000 for 2015. An estimated 40 per cent of beneficiaries, are refugees in Khost and Paktika. As sustained response for this population was not envisaged past December 2014, they were not considered in the Cluster's planning for 2015.

The Food Security and Agriculture (FSAC) Cluster reached 470,944 (21 per cent) of its annual target with food and cash programming, in line with strategic priority one (excess mortality and morbidity reduced), and emergency food assistance in line with strategic priority three. Current WFP funding constraints will have a significant impact on the

stability of the pipeline and the ability to provide adequate support to those in need of food assistance in 2015.

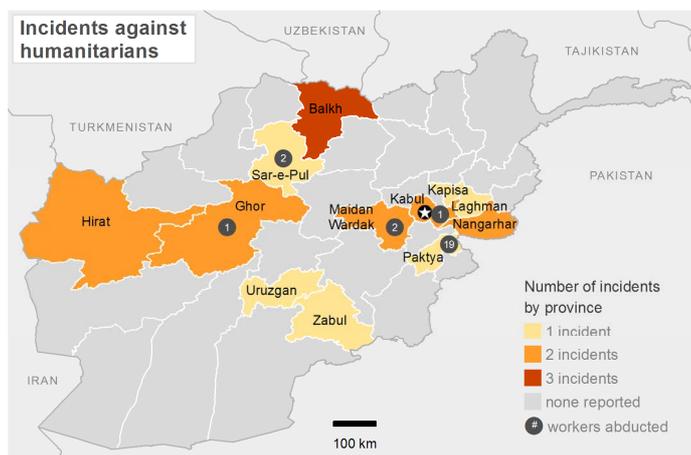
Despite strong results, conflict and insecurity continue to impede humanitarian access to affected populations. The safety of aid workers remains a great concern.

Humanitarian access

Incidents affecting humanitarian action

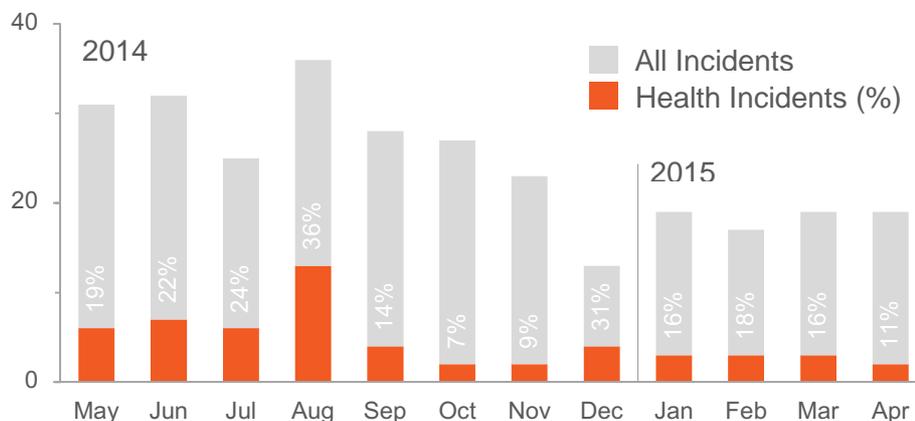
There were 19 incidents reported against national and international NGOs and international organisations across Afghanistan in April. These incidents resulted in violence against aid workers, assets or facilities. There were seven reported deaths, including the killing of five aid workers who were abducted in March. Some 25 aid workers were reportedly abducted in April. This includes the abduction of 19 members of a de-mining team in Paktia. The de-miners were released two days later, along with their vehicles and equipment. There were two reported incidents against health facilities, with a clinic set on fire in Laghman province and a vaccinator assaulted in Wardak province.

19 incidents
7 aid workers killed
1 aid worker wounded
25 aid workers abducted



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Incidents against humanitarians in April 2015
 Source: Various



Incidents against Health Workers and Assets, May 2014 – April 2015
 Source: Various

Humanitarian Financing

Total 2015 HRP funds reported to date, including aviation and coordination support amount to \$75 million. Cluster partners reported funding received in line with the HRP to be \$65.5 million or 17 per cent of annual requirements. While there are variations in the levels of funds reported between clusters, overall the funding is relatively low compared to the same period in 2014, by which point the clusters were on average 31 per cent funded. As of April 2015, the Financial Tracking System (FTS) shows cluster funding at just seven per cent. However, additional funding to the amount of \$94 million is recorded but not yet allocated to a recipient partner or cluster.

In brief

CHF supports lifesaving action for vulnerable Afghan with \$21.5 million

The first 2015 Standard Allocation of the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) for Afghanistan was launched by the Humanitarian Coordinator on 1 March 2015. Based on the priorities of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and major response gaps identified by the humanitarian community, the Allocation will address needs arising from increased conflict -- mass-displacement, cross-border movements -- and natural disasters with life-saving humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable populations.

Overall, 49 concept notes from eligible NGO partners and UN agencies were received, assessed and prioritized by the Strategic and Technical Review Committees and OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Unit. The Humanitarian Coordinator approved 27 projects with a total funding of \$21.5 million -- 19 NGO projects totaling \$11.3 million in funding and 8 UN project for a total of \$10.2 million. These projects will provide lifesaving support in health (\$6.9 million), nutrition (\$5 million), the refugee and returnee sector (\$5 million), and WASH (\$4.6 million). More than 70 per cent of funding allocated to UN agencies will support the prepositioning of stocks (emergency WASH equipment and medical kits) as well as pipeline funding for nutrition supplies and delivery for NGOs.

While the CHF has funded nutrition and health projects before, especially in conflict-affected, underserved and remote-areas in Afghanistan, it is the first time that funding has been allocated for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In line with the HRP's strategic priorities and the continued high levels of malnutrition, projects that combine WASH and nutrition elements in areas where the emergency nutrition thresholds have been breached were prioritized.

Support to refugees and returnees from Pakistan has been considered in all sectors with provision of water and sanitation, health, mine clearance, cash-for-work and shelter in Gulan Camp and to host communities.

The Common Humanitarian Fund's first 2015 Standard

Allocation constitutes 5 per cent of overall HRP requirements of \$405 million for this year. Considering the high needs and complexity of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan the funding target of the CHF is set at 15 per cent (\$60 million) of the 2015 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan to ensure it remains a strategic tool with a meaningful impact. In 2014, a total of USD 37.2 million were contributed with USD 35.2 million disbursed in support of humanitarian operations. For 2015, several donors have already pledged their support. Additional funding is however urgently needed to meet the funding target this year.



ACTD clinic in Nawa District, Helmand, OCHA - 29 April 2015
Photo: OCHA/Abdullah Agha

The Humanitarian Coordinator approved 27 projects with total CHF funding of \$21.5 million to provide lifesaving support in health, nutrition, refugee return, and WASH.

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