**Highlights**

- Ongoing conflict and natural disasters continue to affect the people of Afghanistan, with children and women bearing the largest brunt of the challenging situation. Amid a sharp hike in attacks in June and July of 2019, Afghanistan sees some opportunities with the current peace process.
- Between January and June 2019, 197 incidents of restricted humanitarian access were recorded which equals 85 per cent of total incidents reported in 2018 that caused operational interference to delivering results for children in certain locations.
- In the first five months of 2019, 114 attacks on health facilities were reported compromising child-health care services and leaving many patients afraid to seek health care.
- During the first half of the year, 36 schools were reported closed due to insecurity, depriving 13,894 children of education.
- During the reporting period, 252,000 people (including approximately 150,000 children) were affected by floods across 28 of the 34 provinces.
- From January to June, UNICEF and partners have reached over half a million people with multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.
- Shortage of RUTF led to pausing scale-up of treatment services. A significant number of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition continue to lack access to treatment which is concerning given that 22 out of 34 provinces are currently above the emergency level threshold of acute malnutrition.¹
- Child Protection, health and education interventions face over 90 per cent funding gap that will adversely affect provision of critical services to affected populations, notably IDPs and returnee children and women.

**SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

**January – June 2019**

3,800,000  
# of children in need of humanitarian assistance  
(HNO and HAC, 2019)

6,300,000  
# of people in need of humanitarian assistance  
(HNO & HRP, 2019)

600,000  
# of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition –  
SAM and MAM (Nutrition Cluster, 2019)

500,000  
Children in need of emergency education support  
(HNO & HRP, 2019)

**UNICEF Appeal 2019**  
US$ 50 million

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**UNICEF’s Response with partners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector/Cluster</th>
<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>Cumulative results (#)</th>
<th>Cluster Target</th>
<th>Cumulative results (#)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASH:</strong> # of people affected by humanitarian crisis accessing safe drinking water</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>169,735</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>494,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education:</strong> # of emergency affected children and adolescents who accessed quality education</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>29,234</td>
<td>349,373</td>
<td>45,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health:</strong> # of affected pregnant women and children benefiting from essential health services and health education</td>
<td>196,000</td>
<td>142,182</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nutrition:</strong> # of children under five admitted for SAM treatment</td>
<td>377,000</td>
<td>122,016</td>
<td>377,000</td>
<td>122,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection:</strong> # of children accessing psychosocial support through child friendly spaces</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>40,502</td>
<td>82,451</td>
<td>65,222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Funding Status 2019***

- Funding gap: $32.6 M
- 2019 funding requirement: $50M
- Funds received current year: $10.4 M
- Carry-forward amount: $7M

*Funds available includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as the carry-forward
Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Despite ongoing peace talks since October 2018, the security situation remains extremely uncertain and volatile. Humanitarian needs are on the rise. Seventeen million people1 - half of Afghanistan’s population, live in areas that are highly affected by conflict, with Badghis, Ghor, Nangarhar, Helmand, Kandahar and Nuristan among the most affected provinces. In the first quarter of 2019, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) documented 1,773 civilian casualties, including 582 child casualties.

In 2019, 252,0002 people have been affected by floods across 28 provinces. In the first six months of 2019, 197 verified humanitarian access incidents were reported which equals 85 per cent of total incidents reported in 2018. Thirty-six schools were reported closed due to insecurity, depriving 13,894 children (8,562 boys and 5,332 girls) of education in first half of the year. Between January - May 2019, 114 attacks on health facilities were reported which shows 181 per cent increase comparing same period last year. From Jan to May 2019, 132,200 people were displaced by conflict and about 171,000 people remain in displacement sites in Western Region, due to 2018 drought.3 Twenty-two4 out of thirty-four provinces are currently above the emergency level threshold of acute malnutrition.5

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF is leading the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and Child Protection Sub-Cluster while co-leading the Education Cluster. UNICEF is an active member of Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Inter-Cluster Coordination Team and National Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Taskforce. UNICEF also participates in key sub-working groups such as Humanitarian Access, Cash and Voucher Working Groups etc. UNICEF’s support to regional coordination is significant and continues to be strengthened. Regular participation of UNICEF in higher-level forums such as HCT and Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) provided opportunities for strategic advocacy around key humanitarian issues including attacks on schools, nutrition supply chain and grave child rights violations. HCT invited Peer to Peer (P2P) in March 2019 to jointly identify effective ways to strengthen the humanitarian operation in Afghanistan. The P2P Team put forward a number of recommendations for strengthening accountability of HCT, ICCT and clusters, improving performance of clusters, information management and analysis, early warning actions and sub-national level coordination and increasing interaction and communication among HCT, ICCT and Clusters.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF focuses on strengthening the capacity of clusters to plan, coordinate and respond to emergencies; advocate and mobilise resources and humanitarian performance and monitoring. The sub-district health centres and mobile health teams continue to be effective mechanisms to provide essential health and nutrition services promoting integrated approach in hard to reach locations. UNICEF continues to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance with timely nutrition, health, WASH, child protection and education services while investing in durable alternatives such as small-scale solar pumping networks or gravity-fed system, capacity building of partners on basic package of health services, community-based school initiatives strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus.

UNICEF continues to strengthen the quality of monitoring, sex and age sensitive data collection and cluster deliveries especially providing technical and strategic guidance for partners and steering collective engagement at operational level. UNICEF is undertaking a feasibility study to explore different possibilities for integrating Humanitarian Cash Transfers in emergencies and regular programming and developing a framework to strengthen Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse with partners.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

UNICEF and partners reached 122,016 (32 per cent of target) children (66,625 girls) with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment services. An IYCF-E training was conducted for a total of 140 health workers in western and northern regions to strengthen their capacity on counselling during emergencies. As result, IYCF-E services were rolled out in western and northern regions, and a total of 18,221 caregivers of children aged 6-23 months were provided with IYCF-E services through mobile teams. During first half of the year, six national nutrition cluster and five sub-national coordination meetings were held. The nutrition cluster coordinated flood contingency planning for 20 high-risk provinces.

The nutrition cluster anticipated a shortage of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) in early 2019. As a result, the scale-up of SAM treatment services to health sub-centers was put on hold. With AHF support, RUTF stock will be secured till the end of October, after which there will be a break in the supply chain unless funding for RUTF is secured by August. Due to the unforeseen RUTF pipeline break, about 100,000 children with SAM will not have access to life saving treatment services during the coming months.

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1 HNO 2019  
2 Quarter II HCT Note  
3 OCHA, snapshot of population Movement (Jan-May 19)  
4Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamyan, Dykundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Helmand, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktika, Paktya, Parwan, Takhar, Urozgan, Wardak, Zabul  
5WHO classification of wasting rates for children > 5yrs (global acute malnutrition (GAM) ≥10 per cent with aggravating factors)  
Health
UNICEF and partners have reached 142,182 under five children and pregnant women (73 per cent of target) and provided basic health services to 100,888 under five children and 41,314 pregnant women through 84 mobile health teams. Pregnant women in emergency affected areas of Badghis, Bamiyan, Darykundi, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz, Laghman, Nooristan, Paktika, Paktya, Zabul provinces received quality antenatal, postnatal, immunization, and nutrition services. Also, children under five in emergency affected areas in the above-mentioned provinces received proper management of childhood diarrhoea, acute respiratory tract infections, pneumonia, and other childhood main disease. Children under five were also screened for malnutrition and offered immunization services based on need. A comprehensive package of health and nutrition education have been taught to care givers of children under five to increase their awareness on key health and nutrition messages and improve their care seeking behaviours. UNICEF has reprogrammed health funds from Regular Resources to cover for emergency activities and funds will be replenished when emergency funding is mobilised.

WASH
UNICEF continued responding to drought affected population and regularly advocated with local government for establishing a formal relocation site for those who have no plan of return to their places of origin. As result, two formal sites were identified and established in Herat where UNICEF started construction of three deep wells connected with solar operating water supply system which will be completed by mid-July and will provide access to water for 6,000 displaced families.

Overall, 169,735 people (57 per cent) were reached with water supply, 30,485 (30 per cent of target) with sanitation, 298,485 with hygiene awareness. UNICEF also provided more than 19,000 family hygiene kits to conflict and natural disaster affected families while 31,000 consumable kits were provided regularly to drought affected displaced people to ensure they have means for hygiene practice. Provision of these lifesaving services is alleviating suffer and protecting dignity of the affected people especially women and girls as well as preventing outbreak of water-borne diseases.

Over 22,000 returnees from Pakistan benefited from public water supply and sanitation facilities provided by UNICEF in Torkham and Spin Boldak areas while waiting at the border passes for polio vaccination of their children.

Education
UNICEF provided quality education to 29,234 children and adolescents (18,516 girls and 10,516 boys) for children in flood and emergency-affected areas in nine provinces (Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Faryab, Badghis, Badakhshan, Zabul, Uruzgan, Samangan) districts (through the establishment of temporary learning spaces; provision of teaching and learning materials; recruitment and training of teachers; and community mobilization on the right to education, particularly for girls). Due to unavailability of funding, Emergency in Education (EiE) reached only 18 per cent of its target, however as result of continued resource mobilization and advocacy, some funds are expected to arrive which will increase coverage for the next two quarters.

UNICEF has established a taskforce on Comprehensive School Safety Framework that is working on the elaboration a framework to respond to attacks on education and other emergencies. This framework is expected to promote awareness for school safety, infrastructure development, formulation of School Emergency Management Plans and contribute towards knowledge and skills regarding school safety and security.

Child Protection
Child Protection (CP) continued to provide support to drought affected population during the reporting period. 40,502 children were reached with psychosocial support (51 per cent of target) and 2,286 children with case management services (30 per cent of target). Focus was on the provision of community-based psycho-social support, timely and appropriate case management services that are age and gender-sensitive. The Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) sub-cluster is working with the global CP Area of Responsibility to support the process of systemising and standardising child protection case management tools and procedures in Afghanistan. UNICEF through its field offices reached over 63,000 individuals with NFIs, 62% of whom were children who received children winter clothes kits.

Despite community sensitization among IDPs on negative consequences of child marriage, prevalence of child marriage as a coping strategy is still reported. This is mainly due to increased poverty, lack of employment and livelihoods requiring efforts by several sectors to remedy.

CPiE sub-cluster is currently assessing the capacity of partners to build the necessary skills for delivery child protection in emergency services. To improve the quality of response and enhance technical capacity of partners, the sub-cluster established thematic working groups in mental health and psychosocial support; children affected by armed conflict; children on the move and case management.

Communication for Development (C4D)
UNICEF supported the assessment of behaviours related to girls’ enrolment in learning centres, child marriage, handwashing and institutional delivery during humanitarian situations of Badghis. It includes situation analysis, community mobilization, development of integrated community response plan and capacity building of social mobilizers. Consultative meetings with program officers and a consultative workshop for 10 extenders of Badghis province helped in mapping of community mobilizers and volunteers, building consensus to bring synergy in C4D interventions, work in a coordinated manner and involvement of 300 community volunteers for community mobilization.

In response to Western Region drought, C4D unit developed a response plan to integrate social mobilizers day to day interventions. A two-days training workshop was conducted for 30 social mobilizers (hygiene promoters and polio workers) in Herat to build their capacities on mobilization and interpersonal skills and how to use integrated emergency booklet in the field. Five thousand copies of the emergency booklet containing integrated life-saving messages in local languages were distributed to families in Badghis and Herat IDP camps used as a tool to start discussions with caregivers.

Supply and Logistics
Over US$1.5 million of contingency supplies, (mainly blankets, winter clothes, family kits, and tents), are being pre-positioned in UNICEF warehouses in Kabul, Herat, Mazar, Kandahar and Jalalabad and in partners’ warehouses in 17 Provinces. Having prepositioned emergency supplies at provincial level enables UNICEF to reach affected women and children including those in hard to reach areas in

Ghor, Farah, Badghis, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Bamiyan, Dakundi, Paktia, Paktika, Khosh, Kunar, Laghman, Nooristan, Zabul, Helmand, Urozgan, Nimroz
a timely and more efficient manner. Long Term Agreements (LTAs) are in place for numerous supplies and services (including transportation and customs clearance as well as local emergency kits. While closures of border posts are less than that of 2018, the situation remains unpredictable, and alternative routes are being considered. There have been road closures within Afghanistan, which have affected some local distributions and in-country logistics. Afghanistan Country office continues to use local logistics’ service providers to address access issues.

Media and External Communication
Over the last six months the Communication, Advocacy and Civic Engagement Unit invested in scaling up social media, top tier media and influencers engagement on humanitarian needs and response. This included the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2019 launch in Herat, western Afghanistan which had the highest levels of displacement due to conflict and drought; launch of the Education Cannot Wait initiative in Afghanistan with emphasis on children out of school, 50 percent of whom are due to conflict. Also supported Education, Nutrition and WASH clusters and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) Task Force including Palais briefing on nutrition, tweets and press release on attack on schools in Afghanistan, by Executive Director Fore; Advocacy Strategy developed on Grave Child Rights Violations with the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on Grave Child rights Violations. Media missions from Division of Communication, New York as part of the Children Under Attack Campaign and UNICEF Australia on the potential break in supply chain for RUTF were also facilitated during the reporting period with over 26 million viewership globally.

Funding
In line with Afghanistan’s Humanitarian Response Plan-2019, UNICEF requested US$ 50 million to meet the increased humanitarian needs of children and women in 2019. As 30 June 2019, 47 percent of funds is available thanks to contributions from donors including OFDA, USAID/Food for Peace, Country Based Pooled funds, Denmark, and Danish Committee for UNICEF. Health, Child Protection and Education have over 90 percent funding gap. Without additional funding, UNICEF Afghanistan will be unable to support countrywide response to ongoing humanitarian programmes to provide critical services to displaced, severely acute malnourished and returnee populations facing spread of diseases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>2019 Revised Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds Received Current Year</th>
<th>2018 Carry-Over</th>
<th>Total Funds Available in 2019</th>
<th>Funding Gap in 2019 (US$)</th>
<th>Funding Gap in 2019 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>26,500,000</td>
<td>6,891,201</td>
<td>4,634,167</td>
<td>11,525,368</td>
<td>14,974,632</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>2,089,565</td>
<td>2,121,154</td>
<td>4,210,719</td>
<td>2,789,281</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>137,537</td>
<td>137,537</td>
<td>4,862,463</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>625,000</td>
<td>50,974</td>
<td>675,974</td>
<td>6,324,026</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster/sector coordination**</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>825,346</td>
<td>57,111</td>
<td>882,457</td>
<td>1,117,543</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50,000,000</td>
<td>10,431,112</td>
<td>7,009,943</td>
<td>17,432,055</td>
<td>32,567,945</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster Response</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people affected by humanitarian crisis accessing safe drinking water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>494,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people affected by humanitarian crisis accessing sanitation facilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency affected children and adolescents who accessed quality education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>349,373</td>
<td>45,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children (9 months - 10 years) who received measles vaccination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnant/lactating women and children benefited from essential health services and health education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUTRITION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children under 5 with SAM admitted for treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children 6-59 Months received Vitamin A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children accessing psychosocial supports through child-friendly spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children protected and supported through case management and family reunification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people affected by conflict and natural disaster received winter clothes and other non-food items</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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* As per reports of National Disease Surveillance and Response (NDSR), between January and June in 2018, there were 175 measles’ outbreaks recorded (2,415 cases) whereas 19 outbreaks (175 cases) were detected during the same period in 2019. Due to reduction in outbreaks, 12,237 children were only vaccinated thus far in 2019 including the peak time between Mar – May.

** The National Immunisation Campaign (NIC) includes Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS). The figure covers children 6-59 months provided with VAS in the IDP sites.