

# AFGHANISTAN



**18.4 MILLION**  
PEOPLE IN HUMANITARIAN NEED

**15.7 MILLION**  
PLANNED REACH

**US\$1.3 BILLION**  
FUNDING REQUIRED

## VULNERABLE PEOPLE WITH HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

**16.9M** IN NEED  
**13.8M** PLANNED REACH

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

**500K** IN NEED  
**450K** PLANNED REACH

## SHOCK-AFFECTED NON-DISPLACED PEOPLE

**70K** IN NEED  
**68K** PLANNED REACH

## REFUGEES AND RETURNEES

**786K** IN NEED  
**786K** PLANNED REACH

Photo: Jim Huylebroek

# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND PLANNED RESPONSE 2021

## OVERVIEW

Forty years of war, recurrent natural disasters, chronic poverty and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be a deadly combination for people in Afghanistan. Civilian casualties remain staggeringly high, with women and children disproportionately impacted. The onset of COVID-19 has had severe consequences on people's health, incomes and levels of debt. In 2021, **18.4 million people** (nearly half the population) will require **humanitarian assistance** to survive while tens of millions will require some form of social assistance to weather the impact of the pandemic. Food insecurity is soaring with **16.9 million people** in 'crisis' and 'emergency' levels of food insecurity. Nearly **one in two children** under-five and **one in four pregnant and lactating women** will face **acute malnutrition** this year.

Some **8.8 million IDPs and returnees** remain in some form of displacement while **escalating debt** continues to deplete their capacity to cope with repeated shocks. The economic downturn and loss of assets continue to be felt across all demographic groups, pushing people to adopt harmful coping mechanisms that compromise their wellbeing and dignity. Of the **18.4 million people** in need of humanitarian and protection assistance, humanitarian partners have prioritised **15.7 million** to receive well-coordinated multi-sector assistance in 2021, for which **US\$1.3 billion** is required.

## TRENDS

### Civilian casualties<sup>1</sup>



In the first nine months of 2020, 5,939 civilian casualties (2,117 people killed and 3,822 injured). More than **four in every 10** civilian casualties were **women and children**.

### Internal displacement<sup>2</sup>



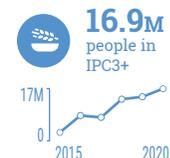
Conflict has forcibly displaced more than **378,000 people** across 31 of 34 provinces in 2020. Some **4.8 million** people remain displaced since 2012.

### Cross-border returns<sup>3</sup>



2020 was a record year for returns with **865,900 undocumented returnees** crossing the border from Iran and Pakistan. Since 2012, **4 million** people have returned to Afghanistan.

### Hunger and malnutrition<sup>4</sup>



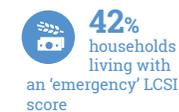
Some **16.9 million people**, or 42 per cent of the population are in **crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity** (IPC 3+), increasing more than five-fold since 2015. Afghanistan has the second highest number of people in **emergency level of food insecurity** (IPC4) in the world – **5.5 million** people.

### Acute malnutrition<sup>5</sup>



**27** out of 34 provinces are now within the **emergency threshold for acute malnutrition**, 10 of which are facing critical situations.

### Eroded livelihoods<sup>6</sup>



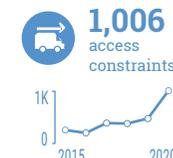
The proportion of households living with an 'emergency' **LCSI score** has more than **doubled**. This is the most severe category of coping mechanisms, affecting future productivity while being more difficult to reverse.

### Debt<sup>7</sup>



Almost **one in five** displaced households were found to have taken on **catastrophic levels of debt**. In 2020, no population group reported a positive average net income.

### Humanitarian access and attacks on aid<sup>8</sup>



In 2020, humanitarians faced **1,006 access constraints** – more than double the incidents reported in 2019. There were **155 attacks against schools** between July 2019 and July 2020, while **165 incidents against health facilities or personnel** were recorded in the first 11 months of 2020.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

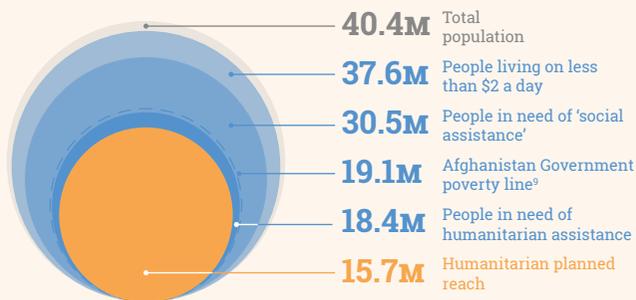
**1** Lives are saved in the areas of highest need

**2** Protection violations are reduced and respect for International Humanitarian Law is increased

**3** Vulnerable people are supported to build their resilience

## COMMON NEEDS ANALYSIS

In 2020, development and humanitarian organizations worked together to develop a common snapshot of overlapping needs given the multi-dimensional impacts of COVID-19. A rigorous approach based on the IPC analysis was employed to update the common needs snapshot for 2021. For 2021, those living in IPC2+ has been used as the threshold to identify those with wider chronic needs and vulnerabilities. Based on this analysis, some **30.5 million people** are currently in need of **social assistance**. The development of this joint analysis underscores the reality that humanitarian action is just the first part of a broader response required to support the country's most vulnerable.



Last updated: 16 Jan 2021. Notes: (1) UNAMA Human Rights, Sep 2020. (2) OCHA DTS, Dec 2020. (3) IOM, Dec 2020. (4) Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, IPC analysis, 2015-2020. (5) Nutrition cluster, HNO 2021. (6) LCS: Living Coping Strategy Index. Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Seasonal Food Security Analysis, Sep 2020. (7) REACH Initiative, Whole of Afghanistan Assessment, Jul-Sep 2020. (8) OCHA, Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework, Dec 2020. (9) This is based on preliminary poverty figures released in late 2020 by the Government with the poverty rate at 47.3 per cent of the population. This may change slightly when official Government figures are finalised. (10) HRP 2021 sectoral response plans. Total requirements for the plan also includes \$19.7M for Aviation and \$16.5M for Coordination.

**30.5M**  
People in need of social assistance

**18.4M**  
People in need of humanitarian assistance

**15.7M**  
Humanitarian planned reach (86%)

**3.5M**  
Women (22%)

**8.2M**  
Children (52%)

**1.3M**  
With severe disabilities (8.5%)

## NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR<sup>10</sup>

### Education in Emergencies

**2.6M** People in need  
**1M** Planned reach  
**84.5M** US\$ required

Children will be supported to access education through establishment of temporary learning spaces and community-based education systems, and provision of water, hygiene materials, school supplies, winter materials and psycho-social support.



### Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

**6.6M** People in need  
**1M** Planned reach  
**109.2M** US\$ required

People will be supported to protect themselves through provision of shelter materials (tents and more durable infrastructure), shelter repairs and upgrades, household items, rental subsidies and heating materials for winter.



### Food Security and Agriculture

**17.6M** People in need  
**14.2M** Planned reach  
**553.9M** US\$ required

People's survival will be supported through the provision of timely food assistance and their livelihoods will be protected through agriculture inputs support, asset creation and skills development.



### Health

**14.5M** People in need  
**10.3M** Planned reach  
**169M** US\$ required

People's wellbeing will be supported through the expansion of life-saving health services including trauma, maternal and child health and COVID-19 support. Health systems will continue to be strengthened.



### Nutrition

**5.4M** People in need  
**2.6M** Planned reach  
**120.7M** US\$ required

Children's and women's survival will be supported through treatment for severe and moderate acute malnutrition and nutrition promotion.



### Protection

**12.8M** People in need  
**4M** Planned reach  
**114.6M** US\$ required

Vulnerable groups will be protected through provision of landmine clearance and education, specialised support for children, integrated services for GBV survivors, legal counselling and documentation assistance.



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**8.8M** People in need  
**3.6M** Planned reach  
**93.7M** US\$ required

People's safety and ability to protect themselves from the spread of diseases will be maintained through access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene materials.

