

AFGHANISTAN



Photo: Jim Huylebroek

18.4 MILLION
PEOPLE IN HUMANITARIAN NEED

15.7 MILLION
PLANNED REACH

US\$1.3 BILLION
FUNDING REQUIRED

12% OF REQUIREMENTS
RECEIVED



30.5M
People in need of social assistance



18.4M
People in need of humanitarian assistance



15.7M
Humanitarian planned reach



3.5M
Women (22%)



8.2M
Children (52%)



1.3M
With severe disabilities (8.5%)

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. Nearly half of the population (18.4m people) is in need of humanitarian and protection assistance in 2021. Needs are being further compounded by emerging threats such as the potential drought, escalation of conflict and high risk of flash floods over spring. Already, more than one third of the country is facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity and nearly half of all children under-five are expected to face acute malnutrition in 2021. Protection and safety risks to civilians, particularly women, children and people with a disability, are also on the rise. Demand for

assistance is soaring at the same time that humanitarians are facing increased attacks and interference in their work. Humanitarian partners have prioritised 15.7 million people to receive multi-sectoral assistance in 2021, for which US\$1.3 billion is required. More than four months into the year, however, the HRP remains only 12 per cent funded. Using these limited funds and some carryover from 2020 humanitarian partners have managed to reach 3.66m people with some form of support in the first quarter of 2021. However the community's capacity to stay and deliver life-saving assistance during the remainder of the year is dependent on both additional funds being received and assurances of aid worker safety.

HUMANITARIAN TRENDS

Safety and protection risks on the rise



9K
civilians
killed and injured in 2020

UNAMA reports that 1,783 civilians were killed and injured in the first quarter of 2021. This is a 29 per cent increase compared to the same period last year and highlights the urgent need for measures to reduce violence. Similarly, explosive ordinance risks have risen.

Conflict forces thousands to flee



500K
people
projected in 2021

Conflict has forcibly displaced more than 92,000 people across 27 provinces so far in 2021 with 500,000 people projected to flee over the year.

Undocumented returnees flood back to Afghanistan



654K
projected in 2021

More than 368,500 undocumented people have returned to Afghanistan since the start of the year alone, surpassing the record number of returns witnessed during the same period last year.

New threats further compounding needs



13.2M
in 25
provinces
in urgent need over Spring

Drought-like conditions induced by La Niña weather patterns; a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic complicated by new variants; escalating conflict and high risk of flash floods are compounding already acute needs. A Spring Disaster Contingency Plan has been developed and urgently requires \$390m.

Acute food insecurity crisis



14.1M
people in
IPC3+

More than a third of the population is now facing emergency or crisis levels of food insecurity. Markets continue to function but prices for key commodities are well above pre-pandemic levels and people's purchasing power remains significantly reduced. Wheat production is expected to be down by 31 per cent compared to 2020. The next lean season is expected to be more intense and arrive earlier.

Half of children U5 acutely malnourished in 2021



1 in 2
under-5
children
and 1 in 4 pregnant & lactating women

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

Eroded livelihoods drive catastrophic debt



42%
households
living with
an 'emergency'
coping score

The proportion of households living with an 'emergency' Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) score has more than doubled (from 16 per cent in 2019 to 42 per cent in 2020).

Shrinking operating space



436
access
constraints
in Q1 2021

The need for assistance is increasing at the same time as conflict is escalating. Humanitarians are committed to stay and deliver, however they are facing increased attacks and interference in their work. In the first quarter of the year alone, 9 aid workers were killed, 22 injured, 24 abducted, and 35 detained. Conflict and targeted attacks have seen the closure of life-saving humanitarian services including health centres.

HISTORICAL TREND: NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

