

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was revised to include response to the drought and now calls for \$547 million.
- In May, flash floods and flooding affected more than 46,000 people across the country.
- In provinces like Kandahar, Helmand, Wardak, Paktika, Zabul or Uruzgan up to 85 per cent of all girls are not going to school.
- In 2018, more than 320,000 Afghan citizens have returned from Iran, many of them deported by authorities.
- The head of ECHO in Afghanistan speaks in-depth on the humanitarian situation and the importance for aid workers to get out of the “Kabul Bubble”.
- Funding for the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)-Afghanistan is only \$18 million so far this year.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING 29% FUNDED

546.6 million
requested (US\$)

157.3 million
Received (US\$)

<http://fts.unocha.org>



More than 320,000 Afghan citizens returned from Iran this year, many of them vulnerable and in need of assistance. OCHA/Kropf

In this issue

- HRP revised to include drought P.1
- Half of children are out-of-school P.4
- Returns from Iran on the rise P.5
- Donor-interview with ECHO P.6

Afghanistan HRP revised due to drought

The ongoing drought continues to affect families across the country, notably in the west and north. Under leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, Toby Lanzer, the Humanitarian Country Team has decided to **revise the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)** to seek an additional US\$117 million for this year.

“The drought is a natural disaster; it’s nobody’s fault and now is the moment to help. Without quick action the number of families and gravity of suffering will grow exponentially and that will end up costing us much more, later,” Toby Lanzer said. “I ask the international community to show empathy with the people of Afghanistan and respond now.”

The additional funding will allow humanitarian partners to incorporate assistance to 1.4 million people mostly affected by the drought in the sectors of food security and agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene and nutrition. Altogether, the HRP now calls for nearly \$547 million and plans to reach 4.2 million people across the country in 2018.

Farmers with no other option than feeding the ruined wheat harvest to livestock

“Last year I cultivated 560 kilograms of wheat seed and harvested more than double that weight. This year I cultivated 640 kilograms but the complete harvest failed,” Abdul Hakim, 30, from Baghak village in Badghis told OCHA. Like hundreds of other farmers, all he could do is cut the non-germinated wheat to use it as animal fodder.

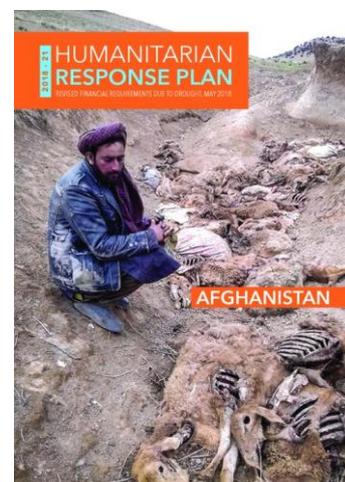
He and his family were selected as one of 1,400 most vulnerable families affected by the drought and received food rations for two months. The project implemented by World Vision International is funded with \$400,000 by the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)-Afghanistan. Another project funded by the CHF-Afghanistan started in April is providing safe drinking water to more than 70,000 people affected by drought in Badghis.

Mohammad Ibrahim, father of eight and suffering from chronic illness, also had been selected by the NGO for food assistance early in the year but is now running out of food. “We have nothing else to eat to survive. My neighbours cannot help me either, because they also have nothing,” he explained. “I will stay here until I am assisted, or die.”

Worst drought in five decades

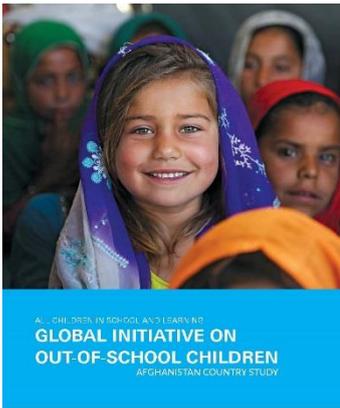
“We have had droughts in the past, I remember the dry years of the 1970s,” Abdul Rashid, the head of Community Development Councils in Baghak explained. “But in my whole lifetime, I have not experienced such a severe drought as this year.”

The food distributed by World Vision International, he said, had kept families from moving to the cities to seek assistance. “Now, a few months later, several hundred families are considering migrating to Hirat, hoping for assistance from the Government or humanitarians.”



The revised HRP calls for \$547 million, up by \$117 million to include drought-response for 1.4 million people.





At least 2.3 million girls and boys in primary-school age in Afghanistan are out-of-school, nearly half of all children of this age bracket, according to the findings of the [Out-of-School Children: Afghanistan Country Study](#). In addition, up to 300,000 girls and boys attending primary school are at risk of dropping out.



The study *Out-of-School Children: Afghanistan Country Study* is part of the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics (UNESCO UIS).

“Business as usual is not an option for Afghanistan if we are to fulfil the right to education for every child.”



Twitter handles to follow:
@UNICEFAfg
@AdeleKhodr

Half of all children in Afghanistan out-of-school

At least 2.3 million girls and boys in primary-school age in Afghanistan are out-of-school, nearly half of all children of this age bracket, according to the findings of the [Out-of-School Children: Afghanistan Country Study](#). In addition, up to 300,000 girls and boys attending primary school are at risk of dropping out.

Overall, girls account for 60 per cent of the out-of-school children, putting them at a particular disadvantage and compounding gender-based discrimination. In the worst-affected provinces like Kandahar, Helmand, Wardak, Paktika, Zabol and Uruzgan up to 85 per cent of girls are not going to school.

“Business as usual is not an option for Afghanistan if we are to fulfil the right to education for every child,” said Adele Khodr, Afghanistan Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). “When children are not in school, they are at an increased danger of abuse, exploitation and recruitment.”

School attendance reduces risks of abuse, exploitation and recruitment

Main reasons for children not going to school are the ongoing conflict, insecurity and deeply engrained poverty, discrimination against girls, displacement and child marriage as well as a shortage of female teachers and poor school facilities.

“Out-of-school children rarely face one single barrier to schooling: most face multiple obstacles – economic, cultural, and security-related – that exclude them from education,” Mohammad Ibrahim Shinwari, acting Minister of Education, noted in the foreword of the report. “Focusing on our most vulnerable children, including girls, the Ministry [of Education] will work with development partners, government ministries, and communities to bring these children into the education system.”

While the numbers are concerning, there is also progress and hope: the study notes that school dropout rates are low, 85 per cent of boys and girls who start primary school go on to complete the last grade, while 94 per cent of boys, and 90 per cent of girls who start lower secondary also complete the grades. Therefore, the challenge is to get children to start school in the first place.



Girls study at a “tent school” on the outskirts of Jalalabad, Nangarhar, for displaced or returnee-children. Photo: UNICEF/Toby Fricker

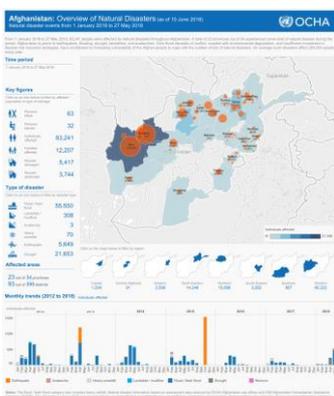
Flash floods affected 46,000 people in May

In May, more than 46,000 people were affected by flash floods and flooding, more than half of all 83,000 people affected by natural disasters this year. The latest floods hit an area spanning the north of the country from Hirat to Badakhshan and into Nuristan and Nangarhar in the east.

Most affected were Muqur and Abkamari districts of Badghis, where more than 20,000 people were severely affected and more than 5,000 houses destroyed.

Many of these areas are already suffering from the ongoing drought and the heavy rains only exacerbate the situation by destroying fields and irrigation canals. In some districts, communities have reportedly resorted to drink untreated water from the streams after their reservoirs were flooded or destroyed.

Response to the families affected by the floods across the country has been completed or is ongoing through partners including the Afghan Natural Disaster Management Agency (ANDMA), the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), IOM, WFP, UNICEF and the NGOs CARE, Danish Refugee Council - Danish Demining Group (DRC-DDG), Save the Children International (SCI) and World Vision International (WVI).



Afghanistan is prone to earthquakes, flooding, drought, landslides, and avalanches. On average such disasters affect 200,000 people every year. People affected by natural disasters are being reported weekly in [OCHA's interactive Dashboard](#).



A destroyed house in Muqur district, Badghis. Photo: WVI/Mohammad Sha

Returns of Afghan citizens from Iran on the rise

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Afghanistan contributed to this article

"For two years, we lived on tea, potatoes and bread. I was desperate. Then I heard that they help migrants in Turkey, so I saved up donations I received from relatives to pay a smuggler."

"[My husband] went to the mosque and did not return."

Afghan migrants in Iran take on often dangerous jobs that most Iranians are reluctant to consider, often with no contract at all or only verbal assurances of pay.

"The guards would leave the families alone, but they would beat the young men and teenagers bloody."

Since January, more than 320,000 Afghan citizens were registered returning from Iran, nearly 50 per cent more compared to the same period in 2017 when 220,000 people crossed that border. Some 42 per cent returned on their own, 58 per cent were deported by authorities. This massive increase of returns is associated with an ongoing economic downturn in Iran and the further devaluation of the Iranian currency against the US Dollar.

Historically, hundreds of thousands of Afghan migrants moved across the Iranian border in seasonal and circular patterns, driven by factors like the lack of security in Afghanistan and economic opportunities in Iran.

Iran has a long-standing tradition of hosting migrants and providing a protection space. An estimated three million Afghan citizens live in Iran, **some 950,000 of them are recognized as refugees.**

However, policies put in place by the Iranian Government in recent years increasingly restrict Afghan migrants to low skilled occupations and impose limits on employers wanting to hire Afghan citizens. The majority of them work in a large informal economy of manufacturing, construction, trade and commerce, where they take on often dangerous jobs that most Iranians are reluctant to consider, often with no contract at all or only verbal assurances of pay.

Push factors include lack of security and economic opportunities

Sameera – whose name has been changed, like all others in this article – was deported with her three children from Iran. In Parwan Province, she had worked as a cleaner and her husband Abdullah had made some money as a day labourer. "We were poor, but we could make ends meet," she said. That changed, when Abdullah was killed in a suicide attack. "He went to the mosque and did not return."

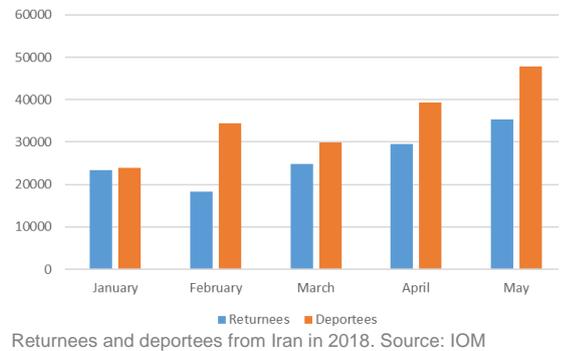
She and her children struggled to survive. "For two years, we lived on tea, potatoes and bread. I was desperate. Then I heard that they help migrants in Turkey, so I saved up donations I received from relatives to pay a smuggler," she explained. They made it into Iran and reached the border with Turkey. "We were arrested and put into a detention centre."

According to Turkish authorities, more than 30,000 Afghan citizens arrived in Turkey since the beginning of the year. According to the human rights organisation Amnesty International, **more than 8,200 of them have already been deported** back to Afghanistan in recent weeks. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that border controls on the Turkish-Iranian border have tightened, and many more migrants are arrested by Turkish authorities and sent back via Iran where they are placed in detention centres.

Cases of mistreatment and extortion of migrants

It is common practice in Iranian detention centres for single Afghan men, which make up the largest share of the migrants, to be mistreated. "The centres were terrible, not only from a hygienic perspective," remembers Sameera. "The guards would leave the families alone, but they would beat the young men and teenagers bloody."

Usually, migrants only spend one night in a centre and then get transferred to a next one the next day, all the way from the Turkish-Iranian border to the Afghan border. Although parents and children are not reportedly harmed in Iranian detention centres, they face other challenges such as witnessing the mistreatment of others, sleeping in overcrowded facilities and consistent lack of food and water.



Sameera and her children in the IOM transit centre in Hirat after they were deported from Iran. Photo: IOM

"The stay in the detention centres is free of charge but if you want food or water, you need to pay."

"Even when I was in Takhar, I was working and not going to school. But it did not matter much, because the only school near my village was shut because of insecurity", explained Massoud.

Number of vulnerable returnees and deportees from Iran in need of special support	
Unaccompanied children	1576
Medical cases	879
Drug addicted	77
Unaccompanied elderly	202
Special cases	1012
Single females	40
Deported families	5137

Source: IOM, from Jan – May 2018

"It is incumbent upon the international community to scale up humanitarian assistance on the border with Iran to ensure that highly vulnerable Afghan citizens receive the urgent life-saving assistance they require."

"The stay in the detention centres is free of charge but if you want food or water, you need to pay and you also need to pay for the transport between the centres," Tahera remembers, who spent five days in four different detention centres, together with her husband Saboor and their five children. "In the last detention centre, when they asked us to pay for the trip to the border, we told the guards that we had run out of money," said Tahera. "They replied 'you better start begging. If you don't give us money for your deportation, we will send you back to the first detention centre'."

A dozen friends smuggled together, arrested and deported together

According to IOM, 4 per cent of those who return from Iran are unaccompanied migrant children, like 13-year-old Massoud who arrived in the IOM transit centre in Hirat. "I was working for five months in Iran before the police arrested me and twelve friends", he said. Massoud and his friends are from the same village in Takhar province, they were smuggled together and shared the same accommodation close to the construction site where the smuggler had found work for them.

Apart from paying off the smuggling fee of \$300, Massoud returned with approximately \$500. "That will at least be enough to feed my family for two or three months." His family includes five siblings and his elderly parents.

"Even when I was in Takhar, I was working and not going to school. But it did not matter much, because the only school near my village was shut because of insecurity", explained Massoud.

Most minors do not get to work one day before they are arrested

"Massoud is one of the lucky ones", said one of the staff members at the IOM shelter. "Most minors do not get to work a single day in Iran. They don't know how to dress and behave in and the police can tell from their looks that they are not Iranian."

Hedyattullah from Takhar, 17 years old, was deported from Iran before he was able to earn any money. With an ailing father, the responsibility of providing for his parents and his two younger sisters rests on his shoulders. In Afghanistan, he made very little income shepherding his neighbour's livestock, and in his area of origin the only other economic opportunity is by joining an armed group.

"There is no government presence in my area", he said. "The fighters forced me to work for them, cook them food and bring them tea. I didn't want to, but they beat me and didn't allow me to leave. So my cousins told me to come to Iran with them for work", Hedyattullah said. Shortly after entering Iran, he was arrested by police and deported shortly after. Now he faces a \$500 debt with the smuggler.

Widespread perception that economic migrants do not need humanitarian aid

The vast majority of 94 per cent of all Afghan returnees and deportees from Iran in the first four months of the year were single men, only 6 per cent were families. Of all returnees, only 6 per cent received assistance from IOM when they crossed into Afghanistan at one of the two border crossings with Iran, Islam Qala in Hirat and Zaranj in Nimroz.

There is a widespread perception - including within the humanitarian community - that returnees and deportees from Iran are economic migrants and therefore not amongst the most vulnerable people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection (*see box in side bar*). This is reflected also in humanitarian funding that remains limited, compared to assistance provided for internal displacement due to conflict or to assist returnees from Pakistan.

"Continued conflict, the ongoing drought and an abundance of unskilled labour in cities leave many young men with few options, and they will continue to migrate because there seldom are other possibilities," said IOM's Chief of Mission Laurence Hart. "And as thousands of Afghan citizens continue to return from Iran every day it is incumbent upon the international community to scale up humanitarian assistance on the border with Iran to ensure that highly vulnerable Afghan citizens receive the urgent life-saving assistance they require."



Massoud, 13 years old, got a medical check-up in IOM's transit centre in Hirat City after. Photo: IOM

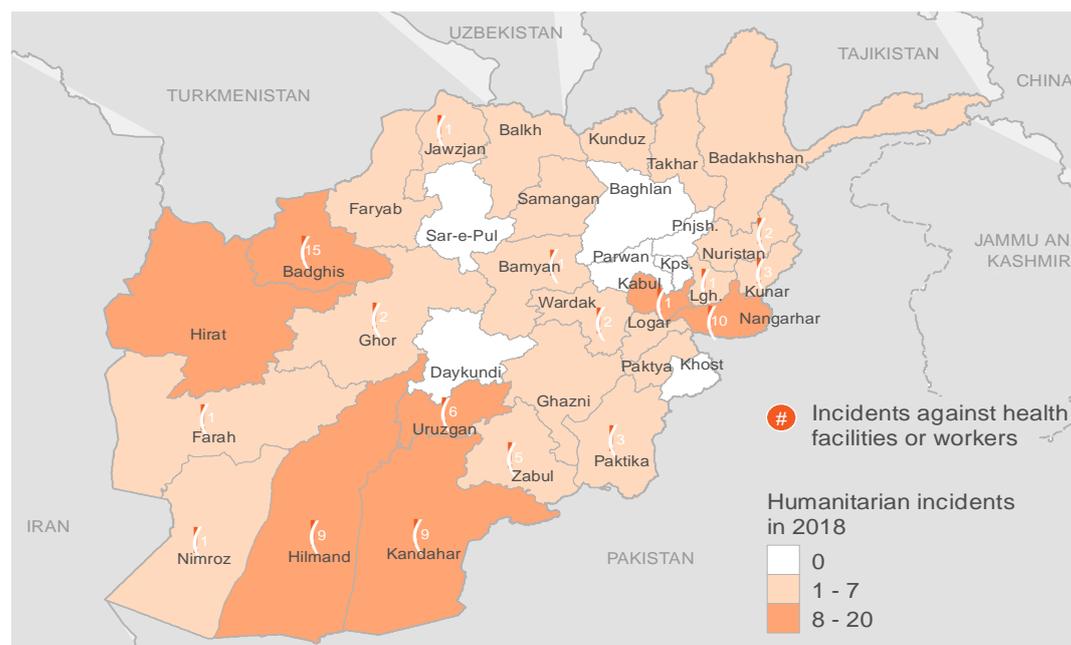
INCIDENTS IN 2018



Humanitarian access and aid worker incidents

In May 2018, 51 incidents against aid workers, assets, activities and related to humanitarian access were recorded, more than double the 24 incidents recorded in the previous month. Indicators are that the incidents have been caused by all parties to the conflict, with the majority of incidents occurring in Kandahar, Nangarhar, Badghis, Hilmand, Balkh and Uruzgan provinces.

In the past month, 1 aid worker was killed, 9 were injured, 6 abducted and 1 was detained. Also in May, 33 incidents were recorded against health workers or health facilities (see map), nearly as many as the 37 that were registered in the whole first trimester of the year.



Incidents against health facilities and health workers in 2018. Source: OCHA, Health Cluster

Regional REACH AHTRA:

Eastern Region:
<http://bit.ly/2xizVWI>

Northern Region:
<http://bit.ly/2sfaOhU>

North-Eastern Region:
<http://bit.ly/2IRwgRi>

Southern Region:
<http://bit.ly/2GX2Tv1>

South-Eastern Region:
<http://bit.ly/2GZl3em>

Access information in hard to reach areas for humanitarian practitioners

Based on the assessments in hard to reach areas, the REACH Initiative compiled the information collected in the first round of research in individual booklets, organised by region, as a tool for humanitarian programming staff (see box in side bar for download links). The assessment provides crucial information from hard to reach districts to enable humanitarian planning and action.

The second round of data collection through key informant interviews has been completed (see Bulletin No 75, April 2018) and full report and results – also organised by region – will be published shortly. The REACH needs assessment was funded by the CHF-Afghanistan with \$575,000.

For questions and further information regarding the humanitarian assessments of hard to reach areas in Afghanistan conducted by REACH, contact geneva@reachinitiative.org.



Twitter handles to follow:
[@IMPACT_init](https://twitter.com/IMPACT_init)
[@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info)



European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

Esmée De-Jong, a medical anthropologist by training, has been Head of Office of ECHO Afghanistan in Kabul since July 2016. In total, she has spent eight years working in Afghanistan, for ECHO as well as for different NGOs. Besides Afghanistan, she has worked in Angola, Ghana, Israel, Palestine, Sierra Leone and other countries.

“All our funding is towards first line response and life-saving activities.”

The NGOs we fund directly must have a base in Europe, but we encourage them to work with national NGOs.

“The humanitarian sector as a whole, needs to do more to improve the capacities of national partners, particularly in the present scenario, where the situation in the country may deteriorate further.”

Donor Dialogue: Esmée De-Jong

European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO)

What are the perspectives and priorities of our donors? In this series, OCHA sits down with the people who support the humanitarian response in Afghanistan.

What is ECHO's perspective of the current situation in Afghanistan?

The overall situation in Afghanistan is quite worrying. We are particularly concerned about the stability of many of the areas where it is crucial that we respond to the needs of displaced families. To make things worse, we have a drought situation that will further exhaust people's livelihoods and their ability to stay in the villages where they presently live.

The EU as a humanitarian donor is very concerned how conflict and climate change will impact this country in the coming years and how we will be able to meet the needs of all communities who are highly affected by both these issues.

On the brighter side, we have witnessed undeniable improvements when it comes to infrastructure built in the rural areas, as part of the National Solidarity Programme: more people now have access to water and electricity, as well as to health services and education. The issue is of course the quality of these services and how they can be improved.

You mentioned the National Solidarity Programme, a development programme. Do you see similar improvements on the humanitarian side?

I am afraid not. The humanitarian situation in the country is actually deteriorating, and the humanitarian space shrinking. To take an example, on the food security issue: after funding cash for work projects to rehabilitate canals and water reservoirs for years, we decided to stop re-engaging year after year, in order to give space to development actors with a more long-term approach to address resilience of the communities hit by floods.

But just when we exited from this kind of programming, major conflict related displacements started, mostly in the south [of Afghanistan]. Since then, the trend has expanded to the north and then to the east of the country and become more widespread. While such [population] movements were initially for short periods of time, now more and more families are in prolonged displacement with little hope to return to their homes anytime soon. Civilian casualties are still above 10,000 every year, people continue to move and with every displacement, their vulnerability increases... and the need to provide food assistance remains.

What is the funding strategy of ECHO in Afghanistan?

All our funding is towards first line response and life-saving activities. On one hand, we fund activities related to medical emergencies - war trauma, psychological first aid and mass casualty management -, and on the other hand, we channel humanitarian assistance to recently displaced people. As we are an entirely humanitarian donor our funding is only channelled through NGOs, UN Agencies and international organizations.

We support the strategy of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which is very focused on life-saving activities and looks at services in hard to reach areas. We make a point to reach these remote areas as part of our programming as well and support access initiatives.

Do you fund NGOs directly?

The NGOs we fund directly must have a base in Europe, but we encourage them to work with national NGOs. We fund half a dozen NGOs as partners of the Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM), a common framework under which each of our partners is responsible for responding to humanitarian needs in a given geographical area. The goal of the ERM is a coordinated, systematic, timely and efficient response towards displacements and meeting humanitarian needs. Other partners are active in health, physical rehabilitation and war trauma management.

What about the localisation of aid? Is having national partners good enough?

At the World Humanitarian Summit [in 2016], humanitarian donors made firm commitments on this issue. Now we need to look at how to develop capacities of NGOs inside the country. The humanitarian sector as a whole, needs to do more to improve the capacities of national partners, particularly in the present scenario, where the situation in the country may deteriorate further. I think many actors in Afghanistan underestimate the capacity of national organisation to respond effectively.

“I have always advocated for an increased footprint of OCHA in the field, outside Kabul.”

“We need to be very careful that we do not give people a jerry can and some food and believe their needs are met!”

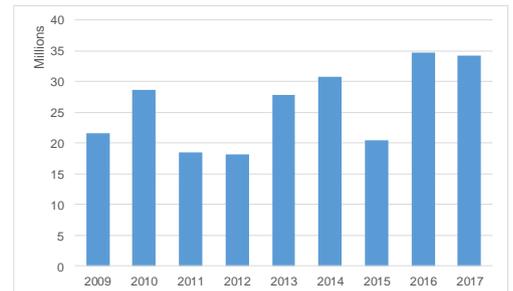
“We need to visit people and listen to them, rather than deciding for them. (...) I do believe that the ‘Kabul bubble’ is sometimes very far away from the regions.”

“If humanitarian leaders talk about process instead of people, I do not feel we are representing the people in need.”

Regarding ECHO funding national NGOs directly, there are discussions ongoing in headquarters but it will require a change of the legal basis of ECHO before we could fund a national NGO directly.

ECHO has been one of the most consistent donors to the Afghanistan HRP. Will this strong commitment continue?

These decisions are taken by our Commissioner, Christos Stylianides, on the basis of identified humanitarian needs globally. It is however very clear that ECHO has a strong commitment to Afghanistan and the humanitarian needs of the people here. I do not foresee that this would change anytime soon.



ECHO's contributions to the Afghanistan HRP ranged from 18 to 35 million in the past years. (Source: FTS)

ECHO is also a key donor for the OCHA office in Afghanistan, why?

Humanitarian coordination is the precondition for the implementation of humanitarian assistance. This goes from understanding the overall context and humanitarian situation in the country to making proper needs assessments at the national level. Coordination also plays a role in showing us where we cannot access communities in need and how we can address this non-accessibility.

I have always advocated for an increased footprint of OCHA in the field, outside Kabul, because I think that each region has its own complexities and we may not get the inclusive approach we want unless there is a coherent understanding of the overall picture.

How high are the risks ECHO is willing to take regarding misappropriation of aid?

When our mandate is to save the lives of the most vulnerable people in this country affected by complex conflict, we cannot accept any risk of aid diversion. This means in practice that ECHO will not provide funding to NGOs that cannot themselves oversee the selection process of beneficiaries and the implementation of the response.

Remote management is not acceptable to us. If partners cannot access those [people] in need in high-risk areas, access negotiations should occur with those that have to provide security for the aid workers. If we do not implement this principle stringently we could be doing more harm than good. It is the beneficiary who would suffer, those who are already most vulnerable.

Why is important for you to go to the field?

On every mission I see new developments, new things and hear new stories. Travelling in Afghanistan is the only way that exposes us to the experiences of the people and gain an understanding of their needs. I have been coming to this country for 20 years, and each time I am in the field I am learning something new. We need to be very careful that we do not give people a jerry can and some food and believe their needs are met!

We need to constantly talk to people to better understand what they have been through, how they cope and what assistance they require. We need to visit people and listen to them, rather than deciding for them. In a country as complex as Afghanistan, it is crucial to gain local understanding of what is going on in a given area and be open to dialogue. I do believe that the “Kabul Bubble” is sometimes very far away from the regions.

You are known to call a spade a spade. Why is it often you who challenges decisions of other humanitarian leaders?

If humanitarian leaders talk about process instead of people, I do not feel we are representing the people in need. As a humanitarian community, we need to be the best community we can be. There is no independent ECHO, UN Agency or NGO, this is not about individuals who believe they are doing a great job - we need to work together!

That feeling of being a humanitarian community with common responsibility is something I have not sufficiently seen so far. That is why I challenge quite a lot of people to maximise their inputs and get them more engaged in the whole picture, rather than the fragmented approach.

Esmee de Jong, thank you.



Twitter handles to follow:
@eu_echo

Humanitarian Financing Update

OCHA's **Financial Tracking Service (FTS)** aims to present a complete picture of all international humanitarian funding flows. The system relies upon the commitments to the Grand Bargain from donors, UN agencies and implementing partners regarding improved transparency through the comprehensive and timely reporting to FTS on the funding allocated to partners in Afghanistan.

More: <https://fts.unocha.org/>

As of 21 June 2018, **OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS)** reported a total of \$187.7 million humanitarian funding for Afghanistan, of which \$157.3 million were reported against the revised 2018 HRP calling for \$546.6 million to assist 4.2 million people.

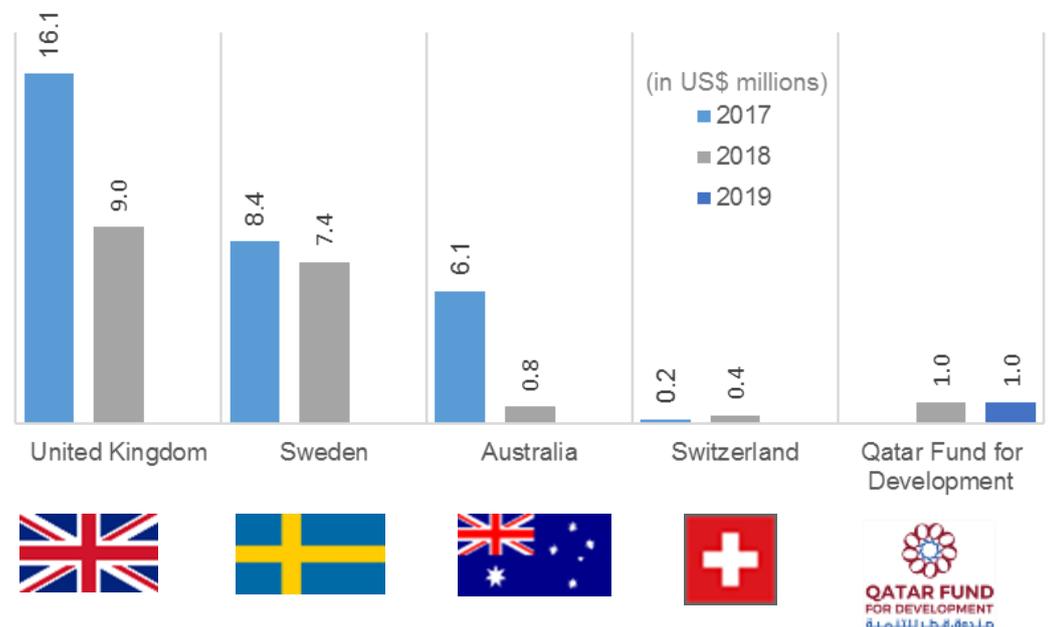
Despite the HRP revision adding nearly \$117 million to the requirements to incorporate action for alleviating human suffering due to drought, the percentage of funding received towards the new goal further increased to 29 per cent, compared to 24 per cent one month earlier towards the original requirement of \$430 million. This shows the continued strong commitment of the international donors to the people of Afghanistan.

The sectors and Clusters with the highest percentage of funding towards the requirements are WASH (35 per cent), Nutrition (33 per cent), Health (22 per cent) and Food Security and Agriculture (22 per cent). The FTS team continues their work with OCHA Afghanistan to attribute the still unspecified amount of nearly \$47 million in contributions towards its intended sectors.

CHF-funding only \$18 million so far this year

For 2018, the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)-Afghanistan has received total funding of \$8.17 million and pledges for \$10.4 million, allowing for the expectation of a total funding of nearly \$18.6 million. Sweden has already contributed \$7.4 million to the fund this year, and just recently approximately \$764,000 was received from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Pledged funding includes \$9 million from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), and \$400,000 from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), complimented by \$2 million for 2018 and 2019 from the newest donor to the CHF, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) (*see graph*).



Twitter handles to follow:

@CBPFs
@DFID_UK
@Sida
@dfat
@SwissHumAidUnit
@swiss_un
@qatar_fund

Funding from donors to the CHF-Afghanistan in 2018 compared to last year's contributions or from those donors who have contributed in 2018 and already pledged funding for 2019. (Source: GMS)

For further information, please contact:

Maia McFadden, Head of Office a.i., OCHA Afghanistan, mcfaddenm@un.org

Philippe Kropf, Public Information Officer, OCHA Afghanistan, kropf@un.org, Tel (+93) 793 001 110

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int



<https://www.facebook.com/UNOCHAAfghanistan>



<https://twitter.com/OCHAAfg>

