AFGHANISTAN

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND PLANNED RESPONSE 2022

OVERVIEW

Following 40 years of war and an already dire situation of increasing hunger, economic decline, price rises in food and other essential needs, and rising poverty over the past several years, over 2021 the people of Afghanistan faced intensified conflict, the worst drought in 27 years, the withdrawal of international forces and then the takeover of the country by the Taliban in August. The resulting political, social and economic shocks have reverberated across the country with a massive deterioration of the humanitarian and protection situation in the 4th quarter of 2021. In 2022, 24.4 million people in Afghanistan are projected to be in humanitarian need, up by over 30 percent since the start of 2021, and amounting to over 55 percent of the entire population. The main driver of this need is a massive increase in acute food insecurity, with almost 23 million people are projected to be facing acute food insecurity. Food insecurity and the potential collapse of basic health systems services would leave 1.1 million acutely malnourished children under the age of five years without access to treatment services and up to 131,000 children could die in the course of the year if no action is taken. Both the formal and informal economies have suffered dramatically with the disruption to markets, financial and trade mechanisms, the freezing of central bank reserves, loans and the sudden drop in direct international development assistance, which formerly accounted for 75 percent of public expenditures. The deteriorating economy and an incomplete political transition have led to an immediate GDP contraction by an estimated 40 percent, throwing people into critical need. Following the record displacement of nearly 700,000 people in 2021, some 9.2 million IDPs and returnees remain in some form of displacement and need support for return where possible. Of the 24.4 million people in need of humanitarian and protection assistance, humanitarian partners have prioritised 22.1 million to receive well-coordinated multi-sector assistance in 2021, for which US$4.44 billion is required.

TRENDS

Internal displacement¹

Conflict has forcibly displaced nearly 700,000 people across all provinces in 2021. Some 5.5 million people remain displaced since 2012.

Cross-border returns²

2020 was a record year for returns with over 1,000,000 undocumented returnees crossing the border from Iran and Pakistan.

Drought³

A national drought was officially declared in June 2021, the worst for more than three decades. 80 percent of the country is now suffering either severe or serious drought with over 50 percent of water points drying up in some provinces.

Hunger and malnutrition⁴

Some 22.8 million people are in acute food insecurity (IPC 3+), over half the population, and has the highest level of people in acute food insecurity in the world - 8.7 million people

Acute malnutrition⁵

An estimated 4.7 million people will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2022, including 1.1 million children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 2.8 million children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and over 800 thousand pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with acute malnutrition.

Eroded livelihoods⁶

The deteriorating economy and an incomplete political transition have led to GDP contracting by an estimated 40 percent. In the absence of any support, the already high and unacceptable level of poverty will likely become nearly universal, affecting 95-97 percent of the population by mid-2022.

Debt⁷

Average household debt was reportedly more than four times the average monthly income (higher than last year). More households have higher than average debt this year as compared to last year (37% Vs 28%). No population group had a net positive income in 2021.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE WITH HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

23M IN NEED
21M PLANNED REACH

SHOCK-AFFECTED NON-DISPLACED PEOPLE

150K IN NEED
150K PLANNED REACH

REFUGEES AND RETURNEES

504K IN NEED
504K PLANNED REACH

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

504K IN NEED
504K PLANNED REACH

Photo: Jim Huylebroek
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Timely, multi-sectoral, life-saving, equitable and safe assistance is provided to crisis-affected people of all genders and diversities to reduce mortality and morbidity.

2. Protection risks are mitigated, while protection and human rights needs for people of all genders and diversities are monitored and addressed through integrated and inclusive humanitarian action.

3. Vulnerable people of all gender and diversities are supported to build their resilience and live their lives in dignity.

NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Education in Emergencies

Children will be supported to access education through establishment of temporary learning spaces and community-based education systems, support for distance learning and provision of water, hygiene materials, school supplies, winter materials and psycho-social support, with a priority on girls being denied access to education.

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

People will be supported to protect themselves through provision of shelter materials, shelter repairs and upgrades, transitional shelters, household items, rental subsidies and heating materials for winter.

Food Security and Agriculture

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

People’s wellbeing will be supported through the expansion of life-saving health services including critical support to prevent the collapse of basic health services, trauma, maternal and child health and COVID-19 support.

Nutrition

Children’s and women’s survival will be supported through treatment for severe and moderate acute malnutrition and nutrition promotion, as well as blanket supplementary feeding.

Protection

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

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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


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