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for every child

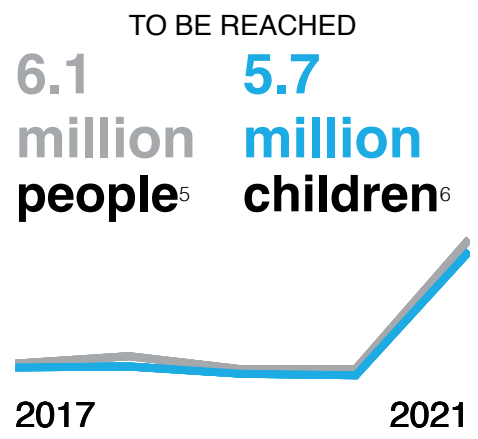
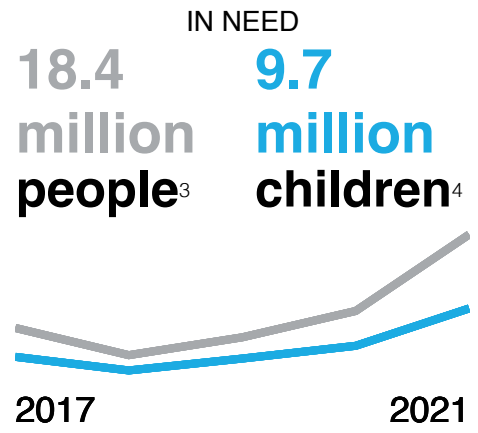
Humanitarian Action for Children

Arifa, 7, and Safa, 2, were Zhari District resident but they moved to the Haji IDP Camp. Their father, Ahmadullah, died a year ago, they now live with their brother and mother.

Afghanistan

HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated in recent months due to the conflict with the political power shift, COVID-19, and drought. Even at the onset of 2021, nearly 10 million children were in need of humanitarian assistance. Since May, the number of internally displaced more than doubled to over 570,000 people, nearly 60 percent of whom are children.¹ Drought was officially declared in June and the food security situation remains precarious with 3.5 million people in the emergency level of food insecurity (IPC 4). A staggering 1 in 2 children under five are expected to be acutely malnourished in 2021. Violence continues to disproportionately impact children and women, who represent 46 per cent of all civilian casualties recorded by June 2021.²
- UNICEF remains at the forefront of the humanitarian response and continues to reach vulnerable children and families affected by multiple shocks with life-saving services.
- To respond to the increased humanitarian needs, UNICEF is revising its funding asks to US\$192 million.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



500,000

children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition



568,000

children vaccinated against measles



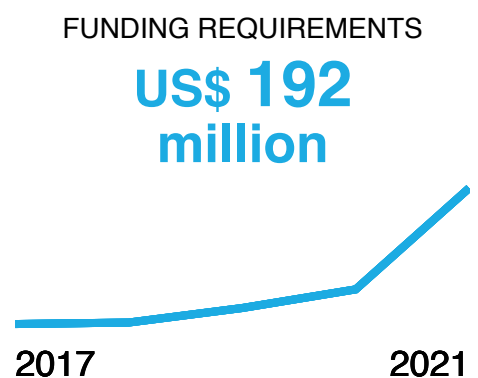
500,000

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



858,000

children accessing educational services



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Afghanistan has always been one of the most dangerous places to be a child. But in recent weeks, the conflict has entered a new, deadlier and more destructive phase. Since the end of May, the number of people displaced because of conflict more than doubled, reaching over 550,000, more than half of them children.

While COVID-19 cases have dropped during the third-wave, concern still remains with less than 1.3 million people vaccinated and the limited capacity of the health system.⁷ The first half of 2021 has also seen an exponential increase of measles cases in 321 districts, affecting 46,873 children, with 49 deaths.

Food insecurity remains alarmingly high in Afghanistan. With high levels of food and water scarcity across 25 provinces, a drought emergency was declared on 22 June 2021. Some 30 per cent of the population is facing crisis and worse levels of food insecurity with 3.5 million people at IPC 4.⁸ COVID-19 has also led to a 13 per cent increase in the estimated number of children under 5 who are severely malnourished. Drought has further exacerbated the situation with around 1 million children estimated to suffer from SAM in 2021.⁹ Drought also increases risk of other disease outbreaks with 81 per cent of children under five in the drought-affected areas having diarrheal diseases.¹⁰

Over 4.2 million children – 60 per cent girls – were already out of school, including many in hard to reach areas. School closures because of COVID-19 measures added over 9.5 million students who are normally enrolled in formal schools, as well as 500,000 enrolled in community-based education, to the out-of-school figure. In addition, over 35 per cent of schools and health facilities lack reliable access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.¹¹

The deteriorating crisis, conflict, and COVID-19 pandemic have heightened underlying protection vulnerabilities. Grave violations are increasing, especially the recruitment of children by armed forces and groups. Many other children are traumatized after witnessing atrocities committed against loved ones. Ongoing conflict and increased access restrictions are likely to result in increased negative coping mechanisms (including child marriage) amongst communities, particularly in the border areas. Risk of explosive ordnances also remains high. Even prior to 2021, child casualties due to explosive ordnances constituted over 80 per cent of all cases. With the fast-approaching winter, the need to preposition and distribute non-food items is extremely time-critical to ensure that children do not suffer from the consequences of harsh winter conditions.

SECTOR NEEDS



Nutrition

1 million children are severely acutely malnourished¹²



Water, sanitation and hygiene

8.8 million people lack access to safe water¹³



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

1.6 million children need protection services^{14,15}



Education

2.6 million children need education support¹⁶

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Zarb Ali and his family live in Balkh province, in northern Afghanistan. It is a poor area with limited services – including access to safe drinking water. With the unavailability of safe water close to home, his wife and children walked 8-kilometers to the closest well carrying heavy water jerry cans. Because of the time his children spent fetching water, they could barely find time to study or play during the day; often times they missed out on school. But now, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, constructed a deep solar-powered well and a water system to provide safe drinking water to around 600 families in the village. Now, every home has a tap and access to safe drinking water.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Zarb Ali and his family now have access to safe drinking water through the construction of a deep solar-powered well. Water pipes were installed connecting 326 houses, around 600 families to piped water.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

Working closely with partners and donors, UNICEF will reach the most vulnerable children and women in Afghanistan with an integrated package of life-saving services.

Treatment for SAM and infant and young child feeding counselling will be delivered in health facilities and through mobile teams for the hard-to-reach populations.¹⁷ Child-focused interventions include newborn care and campaigns for measles vaccinations. COVID-19 vaccinations will be targeted to priority populations, such as health workers and teachers. Through the continued supply of critical medicines and medical equipment, UNICEF will ensure the availability of life-saving health care services to respond to multifaceted health needs.

UNICEF will provide a multi-sectoral and sustainable package of WASH services in targeted locations, including host communities. UNICEF will bring in more WASH partners to expand coverage and scale of response in areas with high needs, particularly in hard-to-reach, drought-affected, and displaced populations. In schools and health facilities, WASH interventions will be strengthened to improve the quality of education and health services. UNICEF will undertake required preventive WASH interventions to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

In education, UNICEF will target districts with significant needs, particularly for girls' education. Access to education will be improved by establishing new community-based education classes, applying safe and secure school guidelines, providing clean water/hygiene facilities, building (female) teachers' pedagogical skills, and distributing teaching and learning materials. UNICEF will advocate that schools remain open where possible in a safe way, and promote flexible and hybrid learning modalities, including home-based assisted modalities, to ensure children, particularly girls and other vulnerable groups, can continue their learning.

Children affected by violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation will be supported with prevention and response services. Prevention, mitigation, and response to gender-based violence will also be strengthened. UNICEF will also prioritize mine risk education and will invest in building the capacity of frontline protection workers, and extend through scales up the responses.

As the lead agency of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Pillar within the global COVID-19 response, UNICEF will support the development and implementation of mechanisms to improve accountability to affected populations and the dissemination of integrated awareness-raising messages.

All programmes will be gender- and adolescent-responsive and where possible, delivered through women's networks, relevant civil society organizations, and adolescent and youth platforms. UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH and nutrition clusters and the child protection area of responsibility and co-lead the education in emergencies working group with Save the Children.

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **500,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **67,000** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **4,382,700** children aged 6 to 59 months were provided with micronutrient powders



Health

- **568,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles
- **620,000** children and pregnant women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **435,000** children 6-59 months vaccinated against polio



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **500,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **975,000** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services
- **250,000** people accessing basic sanitation facilities



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **310,320** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **62,064** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions¹⁸
- **8,220** unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services



Education

- **858,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning¹⁹
- **1,250** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)



Social protection and cash transfers

- **20,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors²⁰



C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **8,000,000** people reached with messages on access to services²¹
- **500,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change



Adolescents/youth

- **190,942** women, men, adolescent girls and boys and key influencers, including front-liners, trained on gender roles, promoting non-discriminatory practices and positive social norms
- **82,452** adolescent boys and girls reached with life-skills health information



Non-food items

- **15,000** households reached with critical life-saving non-food items²²

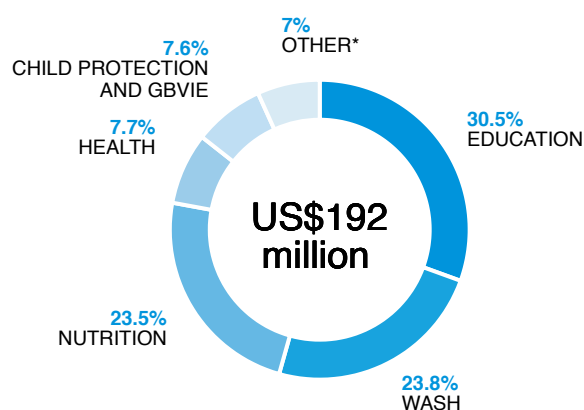
Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/afghanistan/situation-reports>

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

To respond to the growing humanitarian needs due to the latest political developments, deteriorating security situation, conflict, drought, COVID-19 outbreak and other factors, UNICEF has revised its funding requirement to US\$192 million in 2021. These resources will allow UNICEF to provide life-saving and urgent assistance to vulnerable people, including children. Without additional funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the nationwide response to the ongoing conflict, increased food insecurity, protection risks and the COVID-19 pandemic and provide critical services to the most vulnerable people. Furthermore, UNICEF will be unable to maintain hard-fought gains in Afghanistan and ensure the implementation of programmes designed to help children survive and thrive. The 2021 HAC requirement complements the activities and requirements outlined in the UNICEF's global HAC appeal on Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A). UNICEF's revised HAC requirements are reflected in the cluster level funding needs that have been incorporated in the inter-agency Flash Appeal as well as the existing 2021 HRP.

At this crucial juncture and with the growing multi-faced humanitarian needs, urgent donor support is critical for the children of Afghanistan and their families.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection and cash transfers (2.5%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (2.0%), Cluster coordination/Preparedness/NFIs (1.3%), Adolescents/youth (<1%).

Appeal sector	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)
Nutrition	45,140,000
Health	14,835,952 ²⁴
WASH	45,750,000
Education	58,618,560 ²⁵
Social protection and cash transfers	4,880,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	3,921,080
Adolescents/youth	1,610,400 ²⁶
Cluster coordination/Preparedness/NFIs	2,562,000 ²⁷
Child protection and GBVIE	14,640,000 ²⁸
Total	191,957,992

Appeal sector	Original 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$) ²³	Funding gap (US\$)	2021 funding gap (%)
Nutrition	32,460,000	45,140,000	25,017,868	20,122,132	44.6%
Health	12,810,000	14,835,952 ²⁴	7,641,770	7,194,182	48.5%
WASH	14,000,000	45,750,000	16,130,094	29,619,906	64.7%
Education	67,800,000	58,618,560 ²⁵	45,715,645	12,902,915	22.0%
Social protection and cash transfers	2,000,000	4,880,000	1,289,335	3,590,665	73.6%
C4D, community engagement and AAP	2,214,000	3,921,080	976,992	2,944,088	75.1%
Adolescents/youth	1,000,000	1,610,400 ²⁶	318,424	1,291,976	80.2%
Cluster coordination/Preparedness/NFIs	2,000,000	2,562,000 ²⁷	2,040,161	521,839	20.4%
Child protection and GBVIE	9,360,000	14,640,000 ²⁸	7,237,129	7,402,871	50.6%
Total	143,644,000	191,957,992	106,367,418	85,590,574	44.6%

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ENDNOTES

1. <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>
2. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, 'Afghanistan Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict Mid Year Update: 1 January–30 June 2021,' UNAMA, July 2021.
3. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Afghanistan: 2018-2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021.
4. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, December 2020.
5. This includes children under 5 years to be reached with SAM treatment (500,000); children to be reached with MNPs (4,382,700); access to education for children over five (772,200); adults (excluding 4% pregnant women to avoid double counting) to be reached with critical WASH supplies (459,870); and pregnant women to be reached with primary health care services (52,000). This includes 48 per cent women/girls and 52 per cent men/boys, as per the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan datasheets. 8.4 per cent of people to be reached have a disability, according to the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
6. This includes children under 5 years to be reached with SAM treatment (500,000); children to be reached with MNPs (4,382,700); and access to education for children over five (772,200).
7. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/strategic_sitrep_covid-19_29_july_2021_final.pdf
8. Integrated Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, March-November 2021.
9. Afghanistan Spring Disaster Contingency Plan_2021
10. IRC Drought Assessment in Five Provinces, May 2021
11. UNICEF Afghanistan, 2020.
12. Humanitarian Response Plan 2021; Afghanistan Spring Disaster Contingency Plan 2021.
13. Afghanistan WASH Cluster, 2020.
14. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
15. 'Afghanistan: 2018-2021 Humanitarian Response Plan'.
16. Afghanistan Education in Emergencies Working Group, 2020.
17. Facility-based health and nutrition services are delivered under the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS/ health centers) and Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS/ hospitals)
18. UNICEF will target 32,900 girls and boys and refer women to GBV partners.
19. Fifty per cent of targeted children are girls and the age-group for this intervention is 3-17 years.
20. As the average household size in Afghanistan is seven people, this target aims to reach 140,000 people, including children. UNICEF provides one-off multi-purpose cash transfers and more regular sector-specific unconditional unrestricted cash transfers.
21. This target includes risk communication on COVID-19. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
22. As the average household size in Afghanistan is seven people, this target aims to reach 105,000 people. While the non-food items/shelter cluster coordinates non-food items in emergencies, UNICEF will pre-position specific non-food items, such as winter kits and family kits, as a last resort.
23. Funds available include humanitarian funds received in 2021 and funds carried over from the previous year (\$52 million), as well as other types of funding including core resources (\$54 million). All funding figures presented are provisional and subject to change.
24. The health funding requirement excludes the requirements associated with the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out which falls within the global HAC appeal on Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A)
25. The cost per student has decreased compared to the initial 2021 HAC due to the more immediate nature of the planned interventions given the current context, compared to the longer-term education interventions which were envisioned previously.
26. This also includes gender programmes.
27. This includes supply preparedness, contingency partnership agreements for assessments in hard-to-reach locations and costs for pre-positioning/transportation, etc.
28. This includes US\$9,600,000 for child protection interventions and US\$2,400,000 for gender-based violence interventions.