



Waranga Sarfaroz presents the PICKUP tool to Nafisa Imranova, Tajik famous fashion designer during her visit within the UNICEF special influencer project.

unicef   
for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Afghanistan Outflow

## HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1</sup>

- The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan in 2021 has led to increased cross-border movement of Afghans seeking protection and asylum in neighboring countries of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan<sup>2</sup> and Uzbekistan. Taking the new influxes, previous refugee caseloads, Afghans of other statuses and host communities into account, 3.5 million people are potentially in need of humanitarian assistance, including 1.6 million children.
- UNICEF will work with relevant government authorities and implementing partners to ensure preparedness and priority life-saving health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, social protection, and child protection, including gender-based violence risk mitigation services, to 3 million people, including 1.2 million children.
- UNICEF is appealing for US\$81.2 million to meet the needs of Afghan children and their families and support affected host communities. Without timely and adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to take needed action for preventing the deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

IN NEED

**5.6 million  
people**

**2.5 million  
children**

TO BE REACHED

**3 million  
people<sup>3</sup>**

**1.2 million  
children**

## KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**1.2 million**

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



**336,019**

children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



**301,581**

women and children accessing gender-based violence mitigation, prevention, response



**788,728**

children accessing educational services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 81.2  
million**

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan in 2021 has led to increased cross-border movement of Afghans seeking protection and asylum in neighbouring countries of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In 2022, for Central Asia this could result in up to 70,000 people<sup>5</sup> requiring humanitarian support in the border countries of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – that already host over 25,000 Afghans.<sup>7</sup> All three countries are already fragile, highly prone to natural hazards (earthquakes, floods, landslides), that pose significant risks to survival and well-being of children. The COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure on the economy and social services, particularly health systems which remain overstretched, including by other disease outbreaks, like the Polio outbreak in Tajikistan. An influx would exacerbate vulnerabilities and stretch government capacities in host countries, compounding already-present COVID-19 related and humanitarian needs from 2021,<sup>4</sup> including high malnutrition rates, inadequate access to water and hygiene, disruptions to learning and heightened protection risks. An estimated 500,000 Afghans could seek asylum in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2022, adding to the almost 3 million Afghans already living there. New arrivals are likely to face dire needs, particularly in health, nutrition and protection sectors. Critical life-saving humanitarian assistance will be required in camp and host community settings in coordination with government counterparts. A significant influx could place pressure on the country's basic services and infrastructure, already reeling from the socioeconomic impact of unilateral sanctions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for more than 40 years. Currently there are 2.8 million Afghans, including 1.4 million registered refugees, 840,000 Afghan Citizen Card (ACCs) holders, and 500,000 undocumented Afghans. Potential new arrivals would further increase pressures on national resources. The provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, hosting the majority of the existing Afghan refugees, already have the highest multi-dimensional poverty levels.<sup>6</sup> WASH needs remain acute in refugee villages<sup>8</sup> and host communities due to limited functionality of water systems, and poor sanitation and waste management systems. With high levels of food insecurity and acute malnutrition in Afghanistan along with multiple disease outbreaks, the health and nutrition needs of the newly arriving Afghans remain high. Violence against children and gender-based violence are largely under-reported, and access to justice for refugee girls and women is often impeded by the lack of family/community support. Child marriage and child labour are prevalent and limited access to education remains critical, disproportionately affecting girls. Limited services for children with specific needs, mental health and psychosocial support, also impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, have been highlighted by the communities, with over 50 per cent of children with specific needs having no access to schooling.

## SECTOR NEEDS



**817,052**  
people in need of  
nutrition assistance



**4 million**  
people in need of  
health services



**5.6 million**  
people in need of  
WASH services



**3.7 million**  
children in need of  
protection services



**2 million**  
children in need of  
education support

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



Waranga Sarfaro is a 16-year-old Afghan refugee girl, living in Vahdat city in Tajikistan. It's been 3.5 years since she and her family moved to Tajikistan from Afghanistan. Due to economic hardships of her family, Waranga didn't have an opportunity to continue her studies in the local secondary school. However, when in 2021 Waranga found out about the UNICEF-supported skills building courses for adolescents in the Innovation Lab launched in the Vahdat center for additional studies, she didn't hesitate to get enrolled.

"Together with another three girls, we were able to lead on an invention to support the local ecology. Who would ever think that an Afghan girl would ever engage in an engineering project?" shares Waranga

Waranga Sarfaro and her teammates from the UPSHIFT programme, who are also Afghan refugees, living in Vahdat city in Tajikistan (from left to right: Nokhid, Shukufa, Waranga and Sudoba).



## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF will work with relevant government authorities, UNHCR, other United Nations agencies, and civil society organizations to ensure rights of Afghan children and families on the move are protected. UNICEF will invest in preparedness measures including pre-positioning of supplies, and strengthening national reception, screening, registration and humanitarian response systems and capacities to address needs of vulnerable people, including those with disabilities. Upon a significant influx, guided by the Core Commitments of Children, UNICEF will provide life-saving health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, social protection, and child protection, including gender-based violence risk mitigation services. To address health needs of existing Afghan populations, new influxes and host communities in need, UNICEF will support primary health care services, routine immunization (including measles and polio), and promotion of health-seeking behaviors. Children with severe acute malnutrition will be treated through Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approaches. Preventive measures including promotion of infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices and micronutrient support for children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women will be prioritized. Children's access to education, including early learning, will be promoted through available structures or the establishment of temporary or community based-learning spaces, along with provision of teaching and learning materials. School Management Committees (SMCs) will be trained on enrollment and retention of children in schools. Schools would be protected as safe spaces, also providing psychosocial support and emotional/physical security. To enable the provision of safe water, supplies for storage and treatment will be pre-positioned with installation/rehabilitation of water supply systems. UNICEF and partners will undertake solid waste management and disposal to reduce the risk of communicable diseases and install gender-sensitive latrines; while ensuring hygiene promotion, along with distribution of non-food items for hygiene and sanitation purposes. Access to protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support, appropriate care and guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children, will be prioritized. UNICEF will strengthen provincial and community child protection systems, supporting front-line and social workers to identify and mitigate risks, providing coordinated services to children at risk and survivors of violence abuse, neglect and exploitation, while promoting the inclusion of Afghan children in these systems. UNICEF will continue to advocate for the humanitarian support for people on the move to continue, remain high on national agendas and where possible integrated in national priorities. Promotion of social inclusion and integration through access to social services and longer-term solutions for migrants and host communities will also be prioritized. UNICEF will also prioritize protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, adolescent participation and the provision of age-, gender- and disability- appropriate services. As per Grand Bargain<sup>10</sup> commitments, UNICEF will ensure accountability to affected populations and localization of interventions through key national partnerships.<sup>9</sup> Where applicable, UNICEF will support operations outposts at border areas to facilitate preparedness and response. In line with the 2022 Afghan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan, UNICEF will provide leadership in child protection, education, nutrition, and WASH sectors.

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

## 2022 PROGRAMME TARGETS



### Nutrition

- **20,663** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **96,638** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **294,000** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



### Health

- **346,765** people (girls and boys, women and men) accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **475,438** children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles<sup>11</sup>
- **306,938** children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated against polio



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,176,858** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
- **548,058** people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities
- **1,500,858** people reached with critical WASH supplies



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **336,019** children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **301,581** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **23,558** people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers
- **741** unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative



### Education

- **788,728** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **350,713** children receiving individual learning materials



### Social protection

- **3,000** households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and/or funding



### Non-food items

- **40,646** displaced people/refugees provided with essential household items, including for winterization



### Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

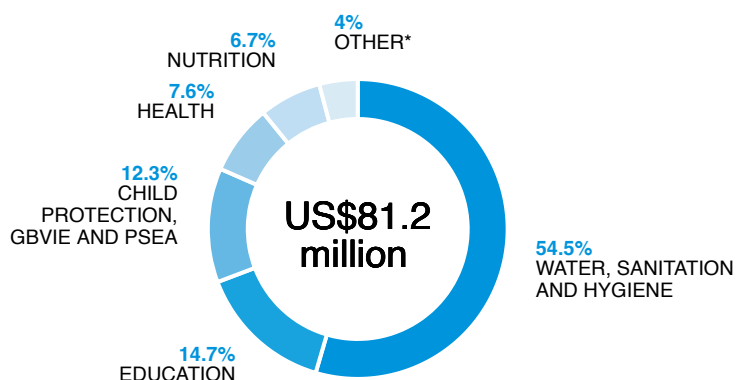
- **24,858** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- **10,772** people engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions
- **22,058** people with access to established accountability mechanisms

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

In response to the deteriorating Afghanistan crisis and in line with the 2022 Afghan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan, UNICEF is appealing<sup>12</sup> for US\$81.2 million to meet the needs of Afghans and affected host communities (as applicable depending on country context) in neighboring countries including Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. With the fast-moving and uncertain environment in the region, flexible and timely resources are critical to ensure rapid and strategic allocations. The flexible funding will enable UNICEF to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable children when and where it is needed and in a timely and effective manner, and to strengthen preparedness efforts. A lack of flexible funding will impact UNICEF's capacity to be prepared, respond effectively and maintain life-saving services for vulnerable Afghan children and their families and support host communities.

Without adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to take needed action for preventing the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, mitigating the risk of a spill-over effect of the Afghan crisis, and providing timely assistance to 3 million people, including 1.2 million children.



Sectors	2022 total requirement (US\$)
Nutrition	5,456,670
Health	6,144,925
Water, sanitation and hygiene	44,256,668
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	10,000,000
Education	11,942,122
Social protection	1,900,000
Non-food items	800,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	98,000
Preparedness/Coordination	560,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,159,038</b>

\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (2.3%), Non-food items (<1%), Preparedness/Coordination (<1%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP) (<1%).

Sectors	Iran	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	2022 total requirement (US\$)
Nutrition	600,000	3,860,000	576,670	120,000	300,000	5,456,670
Health	42,000	5,000,000	202,925	200,000	700,000	6,144,925
Water, sanitation and hygiene	18,000,000	15,000,000	10,036,668	220,000	1,000,000	44,256,668
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	1,700,000	5,200,000	500,000	100,000	2,500,000	10,000,000
Education	1,380,000	8,239,000	1,593,122	130,000	600,000	11,942,122
Social protection	-	-	-	-	1,900,000	1,900,000
Non-food items	-	-	300,000	-	500,000	800,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	-	-	-	20,000	78,000	98,000
Preparedness/Coordination	-	-	-	30,000	530,653	560,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,722,000</b>	<b>37,299,000</b>	<b>13,209,385<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>820,000<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>8,108,653<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>81,159,038</b>

### Who to contact for further information:

**George Laryea-Adjei**  
Regional Director, South Asia  
T +977 985 102 0913  
glaryeaadjei@unicef.org

**Manuel Fontaine**  
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
T +1 212 326 7163  
mfontaine@unicef.org

**Carla Haddad Mardini**  
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)  
T +1 212 326 7160  
chaddadmardini@unicef.org

## ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF's public health and socioeconomic COVID-19 response, including programme targets and funding requirements, is integrated into the standalone country, multi-country and regional Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. All interventions related to accelerating equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines fall under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) global appeal.
2. Turkmenistan is undertaking emergency preparedness, although no refugee influx has been officially reported yet.
3. 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.
4. Most recently, the May 2021 mudflows and floods in 12 districts of Khatlon Region, Tajikistan, triggered by heavy rains affecting more than 18,000 people and over 2,500 households, and the July 2021 earthquake in Rasht Valley, Tajikistan, affecting over 16 villages, significantly damaging 300 houses and 20 social sector facilities. Recovery is ongoing.
5. Including new arrivals, existing Afghan refugees and host communities.
6. Afghanistan Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan, June-December 2021.
7. Based on estimates from UNHCR and Government figures on current refugee populations in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
8. 31 per cent of Afghan refugees live in refugee villages, and the remainder live in urban, peri-urban and rural areas with host communities.
9. In Central Asia for example, UNICEF work continues to engage in close partnership with the National Red Crescent Societies to enhance risk preparedness and response capacities and actions.
10. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
11. Target refers to children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations
12. The Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Afghanistan outflow complements the separate appeals for Pakistan, Iran and Europe and Central Asia Region.
13. Ask is higher than the Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan (RRP) for the Afghanistan Situation ask, as this also includes provision of winter clothes for refugee children.
14. Ask is higher than RRP ask, as this includes interventions in C4D and coordination support.
15. Ask is higher than RRP ask, as this includes interventions on social protection, C4D and provision of winter clothes for children.