

## Afghanistan

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### HIGHLIGHTS

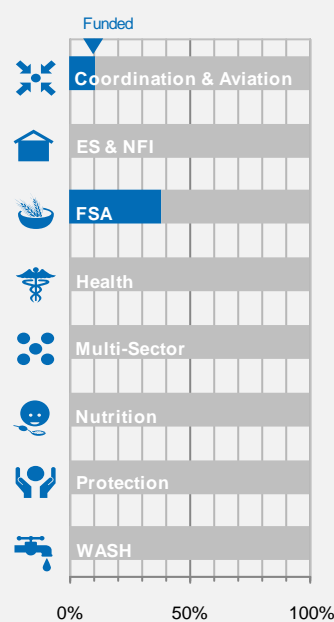
- Conflict, refugees, and floods fuel humanitarian needs
- Afghanistan 2014 SRP 67% funded
- CHF projects help 1.8 million people in 2014

### FUNDING

405 million requested (US\$)

12% funded

### FUNDING BY CLUSTER



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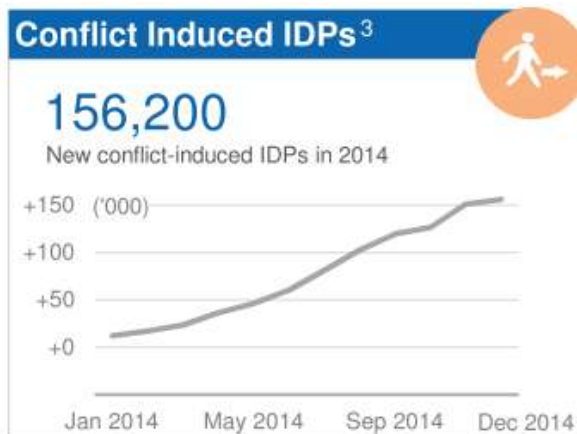
## 2014 - Humanitarian action in review

### Conflict, refugees, and floods fuel humanitarian needs in Afghanistan

Afghanistan swore in Ashraf Ghani as its second democratically elected president in 2014. The period of political uncertainty surrounding the election fuelled further violence in the country. The year saw an increase in conflict related deaths, injuries and displacement, an influx of 280,178 Pakistanis seeking refuge in Afghanistan, significant malnutrition needs, and massive flooding in the north with 7,643 homes destroyed.

### Humanitarian support to 156,200 Afghans displaced by conflict

Across Afghanistan, regional IDP Task Forces reported more than 156,200 persons displaced by conflict in 2014 compared to 124,900 in 2013. Protection services were provided to 35,400 persons, including nearly 21,000 children not in school due to conflict displacement who were supported with psychosocial spaces. The immediate food security and livelihood needs of over 131,000 individuals were met through cash, food, and voucher assistance. Water and sanitation support was provided to over 200,000 displaced persons and returnees living in camp settings and with host communities.



Source: OCHA

### Pakistani refugee influx requires large-scale response

Since June 2014, Afghanistan has witnessed a refugee influx from Pakistan into Khost and Paktika provinces triggered by continued military operations in North Waziristan Agency (NWA). Military operations did not end in September as expected and were even expanded. As a result, new arrivals continued to cross into Afghanistan. By the end of 2014, 38,424 families (280,178 individuals) had been assessed, including 28,477 families in Khost and 9,947 families in Paktika. Approximately 6,200 families or 16 per cent of the total are accommodated in Gulistan camp, while 84 per cent is living with host families straining the already limited resources of under-served communities.

*51,718 refugees and host communities have benefited from mine risk education*

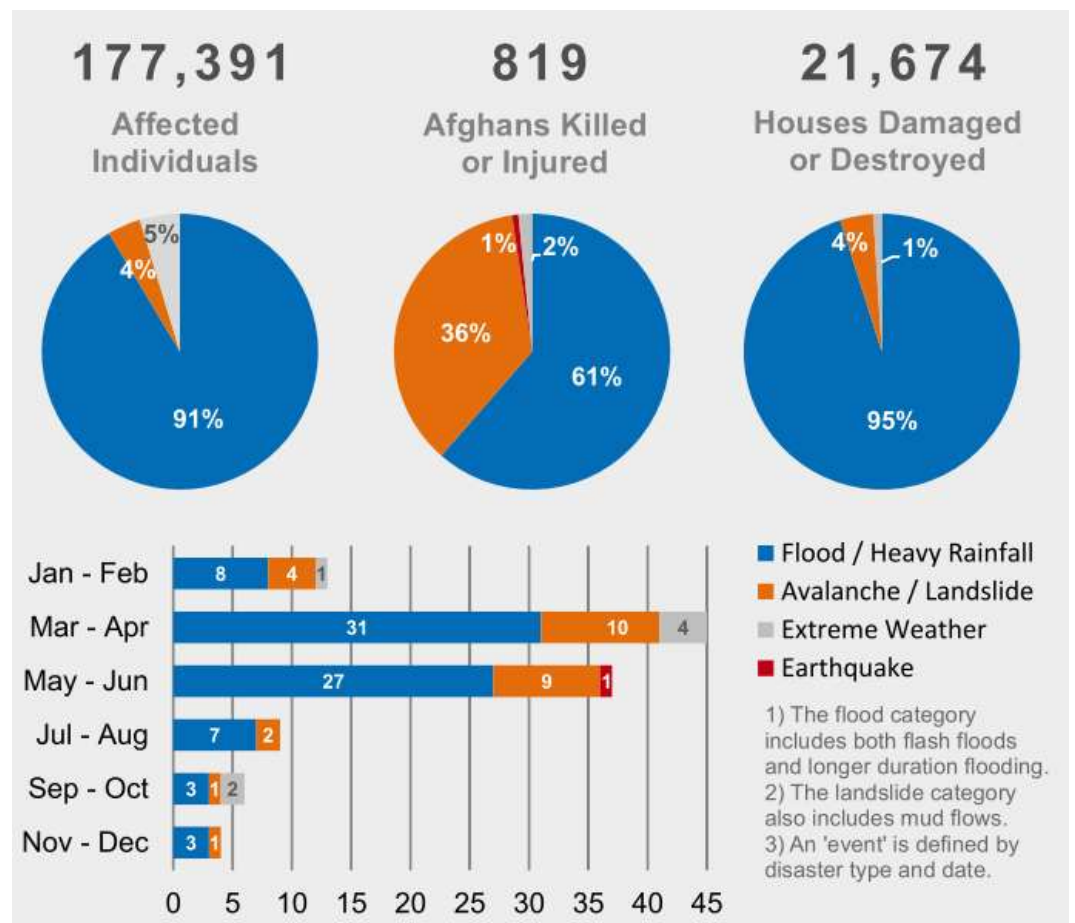
Funding constraints have impacted the refugee response with humanitarian actors only able to meet the most urgent protection needs, including basic camp management. As of 31 December, 25,968 families had been supported with non-food items and 12,991 families had received winter assistance. In the Gulan camp, where 6,268 families have been registered, 3,007 families had received tents and 2,227 families were provided with non-food items. Humanitarian partners have cleared 770,000 m2 in Gulan camp and 530,000 m2 in the surrounding areas of mines. While 51,718 refugees and host communities have benefited from mine risk education.



Credit: Ahmed Javed Ahmady/OCHA  
Families receiving water donated by the local community  
Gulan camp, Gorbuz district  
Khost, Afghanistan

**Lack of funding hampers shelter support to thousands of flood victims in the north**

Spring floods in the north and the northeast destroyed 7,643 houses. While the critical needs of people were met in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, major constraints in addressing the shelter needs of those affected by flooding in the north persisted through the year. While more than 3,500 shelters were funded, significant financing gaps went unmet and slow construction resulted in 3,800 families entering winter without adequate shelter. With the onset of winter, cash for fuel vouchers were distributed to 2,821 families still without shelter to help them through the winter months.



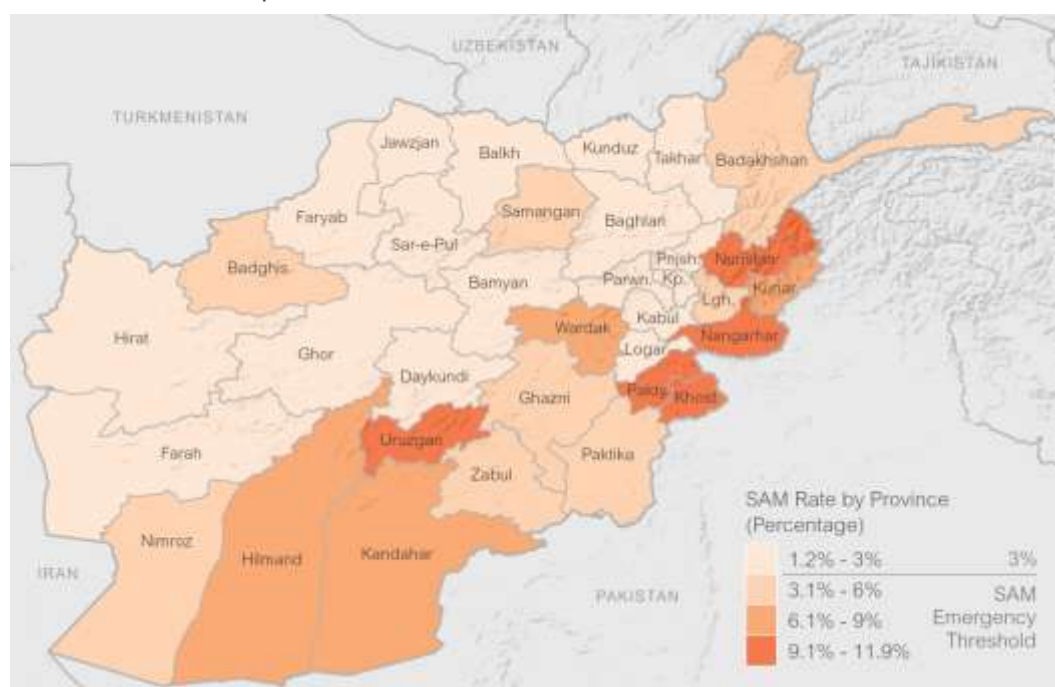
Source: OCHA

Elsewhere, collective emergency assistance from humanitarian agencies met the immediate needs of 120,000 people through in-country stocks and emergency health services were provided to 28,000 individuals. Across the country, more than 177,391 acutely vulnerable natural disaster affected individuals benefited from safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

### National Nutrition survey highlights 1.2 million malnourished children

The 2013 National Nutrition Survey highlighted an alarming level of acute malnutrition across the country. Despite Nutrition Cluster achievements in reaching nearly 90 per cent of targeted beneficiaries for 2014, the 117,980 children under five years of age who received treatment must be viewed within the broader context of an estimated 1.2 million understood to be in need. In 2015, significant improvements must be made to ensure nutrition services reach more children particularly in areas affected by conflict and displacement or with the highest levels of acute malnutrition. Malnutrition is a complex condition involving multiple, overlapping deficiencies of protein, energy and micronutrients. Malnutrition in children is often caused by a combination of inadequate food intake, insufficient access to food, poor health services, the lack of safe water and sanitation, and inadequate child and maternal care.

*Significant improvements must be made to ensure nutrition services reach more children*



Source: OCHA

### Fewer Afghan refugees return home in 2014

The rate of return for Afghan refugees was 56 per cent lower in 2014 compared to the previous year, with 16,957 refugee returnees requiring assistance. The lower rate of return is believed to be attributed to the extension of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards until 31 December 2015 in Pakistan coupled with a degree of uncertainty and security concerns over the transition period related to the Afghan presidential election.

A total of 35,259 vulnerable undocumented Afghans were assisted from Iran and Pakistan through Herat, Nimroz and Nangarhar Provinces. This was a 12 per cent decrease in comparison to the same period in 2013. In addition, assistance was provided to 6,510 vulnerable undocumented Afghans displaced due to on-going military operations in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency (NWA) to Khost and Paktika provinces.

## Case study

### Measuring resilience - from concept to action

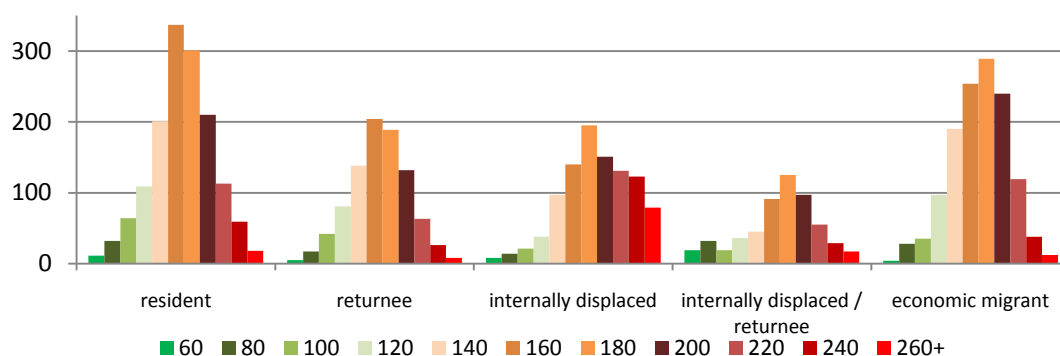
Hervé Nicolle (herve.nicolle@samuelhall.org)  
Director, Samuel Hall

*A decade of international assistance has done little to build the resilience of urban households*

For the enthusiastic, “resilience” is a concept; for the cynical, it is a buzzword. For both, the question remains the same: how can aid actors turn it into humanitarian and development practice? According to UNDP, resilience is a “transformative process of strengthening the capacity of people, communities and countries to anticipate, manage, recover and transform from shocks”.<sup>1</sup> This conceptual framework implies a threefold approach: coping with increased humanitarian needs, recovering from the socio-economic consequences of a crisis, and guaranteeing the sustainability of development gains to promote community and household self-reliance. In other words, resilience is not only a hyphen between humanitarian and development actors, but an approach that would bring them together while “aligning their assessment and planning tools”.<sup>2</sup> That’s all for the theory.

In Afghan practice, a decade of international assistance has done little to build the resilience of urban households, as shown in a study commissioned by DRC and PIN, and conducted by Samuel Hall.<sup>3</sup> Beyond general poverty and food security indicators, this study features a resilience index (RI) to provide a more dynamic understanding of vulnerability, taking into account the capacities and ways households can cope with shocks and situations of stress in a sustainable manner. This RI is compiled over several dimensions relevant to the vulnerability of a household to structural changes or the vagaries of everyday life. Aside from objective measures – such as access to basic services, nutrition indicators, assets, debts levels, or education – there are also more intangible aspects, like confidence or expectation levels.

**An application of the RI to the migration status (Urban Poverty Study 2014)**



For humanitarian and development actors, the RI provides a simple tool to: 1) identify critical priorities for household and community resilience; 2) understand the complexity of chronic vulnerability situations; 3) bridge the gap between emergency programmes and longer-term development objectives. Lastly, it may also help reshape the debate with donors by overcoming artificial territorial sovereignties. Assuming that donors want to know if their money makes a difference, resilience (and the RI) can help adjust the funds, agenda, and type of coordination – regardless of the humanitarian or development nature of the problem.

<sup>1</sup> UNDP, 2013, *Position paper: A resilience-based development response to the Syria crisis*, p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> Sarah Muscroft, Policy Advisor, OCHA, in Jaspreet Kindra, *Understanding Resilience* (IRIN, March 4, 2013).

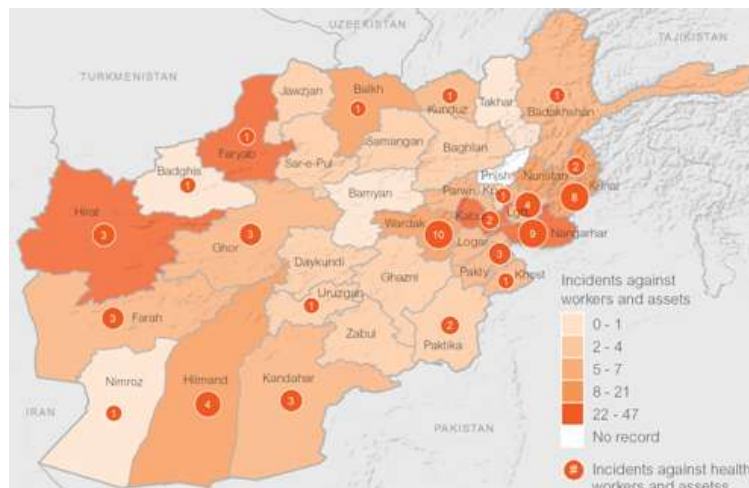
<sup>3</sup> Samuel Hall, 2014, *Urban Poverty Report 2014 – A Study of Poverty, Food Security and Resilience in Afghan Cities*, commissioned by DRC and PIN. The household survey included four main categories of respondents: local residents, returnees, IDPs and economic migrants. The sample size aimed at capturing 270 respondents per category for a total of 1,080 respondents per city (Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Jalalabad, and Kandahar) and 5,400 respondents in total.

## Humanitarian access

### Incidents affecting humanitarian action

There were 22 incidents reported against national and international NGOs and international organization across Afghanistan in January. These incidents resulted in violence against aid workers, assets or facilities, interference in humanitarian activities, and restrictions in movement. There were 2 fatalities reported, 8 abducted, and 2 wounded. An NGO worker was abducted and killed in Laghman Province and a mortar landed on an NGO-run clinic fatally wounding a staff member.

In the previous year, there were a reported 294 incidents reported against UN agencies, national and international NGOs and international organizations across Afghanistan. Of the total number of incidents reported in 2014, 223 impacted international and national NGOs. Overall, there were 182 abductions and 11 arrests/detentions in 2014; 57 aid workers were killed and 45 injured. There were 64 incident against health workers, 13 against demining sites and seven against educational institutions.



Incidents against Humanitarian Workers & Assets January to December 2014  
Source: Various

#### 22 incidents

- 2 aid workers killed
- 3 aid workers wounded
- 8 aid workers abducted

|              | Targeted to |            |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
|              | All*        | NGO/INGO   |
| <b>2014</b>  |             |            |
| JAN          | 22          | 18         |
| FEB          | 20          | 14         |
| MAR          | 19          | 10         |
| APR          | 17          | 13         |
| MAY          | 31          | 20         |
| JUN          | 32          | 24         |
| JUL          | 25          | 18         |
| AUG          | 36          | 30         |
| SEP          | 28          | 23         |
| OCT          | 27          | 25         |
| NOV          | 23          | 19         |
| DEC          | 14          | 9          |
| <b>2015</b>  |             |            |
| JAN          | 22          | 11         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>316</b>  | <b>234</b> |

\* UN/IO/NGO/INGO

## Humanitarian financing Update

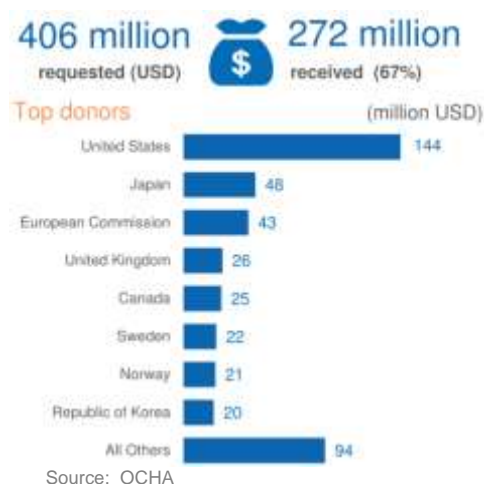
### 2015 Strategic Response Plan 12 percent funded as of 9 February

#### Overall funding

The year started on a strong note for humanitarian funding, with total humanitarian funding for Afghanistan reaching \$52 million, of which, \$48.8 million is aligned with the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2015.

#### Humanitarian funding in 2014

In 2014, Afghanistan's Strategic Response Plan (SRP) was among the top five funded appeals globally percentage wise with \$272 million (67 per cent) mobilized out of \$406 million required. In total \$439 million was provided in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. Of the \$167 million not aligned to the SRP, \$67 million was reported for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Of the funds aligned with the Plan, 67 per cent was allocated to United Nations agencies and 33 per cent to non-governmental organizations.



Source: OCHA

## In brief

### An overview of the Common Humanitarian Fund in its first year

*Projects funded by the CHF in 2014, will provide humanitarian assistance to an estimated 1,870,246 vulnerable people*

In its first year of operation, the Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) disbursed \$34.7 million through two standard allocations and two reserve allocations. Contributions totaling \$37.3 million were received from Australia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, as well as funds from the liquidation of a closed OCHA Trust Fund for Afghanistan.

Launched in March, the first Standard Allocation disbursed \$18 million, for projects providing treatment of acute malnutrition and life-saving health care in the most underserved, conflict affected provinces.

The second Standard Allocation was launched in August with the primary objective of maximizing the impact of funds already committed by the CHF. The Nutrition Cluster received \$7.6 million to continue its work in preventing malnutrition in vulnerable groups.

\$4 million was provided to ensure the continuation of humanitarian aviation services with a particular focus on helicopter services to refugee response locations in eastern Afghanistan.

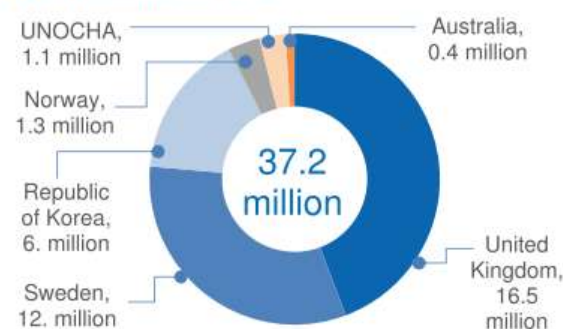
The CHF Reserve modality was activated twice by the Humanitarian Coordinator disbursing \$6.1 million in October and December respectively. Funding supported communities affected by devastating floods and landslides in northern Afghanistan with cash for fuel assistance to see them through the winter, and communities impacted by winter with the expansion of emergency health services in remote high altitude areas, as well as assisting vulnerable Pakistani refugees who had fled military operations in

Pakistan with food packages, emergency shelter and NFIs as well as demining activities.

Since the level of operational, financial and reputational risks is considered substantial in Afghanistan, a comprehensive Accountability Framework with a strong eligibility process was developed for the CHF and its implementing partners. Under the Due Diligence component of the eligibility process, 44 NGOs out of 71 applicants (37 international NGO and 7 national NGO) were recommended to participate in a Capacity Assessment, the second step of the eligibility process, which is being rolled-out in 2015.

A total of 33 projects and 19 partners (13 NGOs and 6 UN agencies) have been supported. Projects funded by the CHF in 2014, will provide humanitarian assistance to an estimated 1,870,246 vulnerable people, 715,670,000 are women and 824,076,000 are children, with health and nutrition services, food and non-food items, and training of front-line aid workers.

#### CHF Allocation 2014



Source: OCHA

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