

## Speech by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, Mr. Mark Bowden

### Launch of the Common Humanitarian Action Plan, Kabul, Afghanistan, 12.02.14

- As humanitarian coordinator, I am here today to bring to your attention the continuing humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and to announce that **USD \$406 million is required by the UN and its humanitarian partners to meet the most acute needs this year.**
- Last year, significant achievements were made: For example, food security assistance was delivered to 2.2 million Afghans, shelter and non-food items were provided to more than 140,000 displaced, while 570,000 people received emergency water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Despite more than a decade of international and government development efforts, from a humanitarian perspective **Afghanistan remains a protracted complex emergency where five million people need lifesaving assistance.** This does not include the many more millions who are suffering the effects of chronic poverty.
- Sadly, **the conflict continues to be the predominant driver of humanitarian needs.** It causes disruption of services, displacement and injury to civilians across the country. 630,000 Afghans are internally displaced by conflict. At the same time, natural disasters hit the country on an annual basis, including floods, drought, avalanches and earthquakes.
- At the start of 2014, Afghanistan faces an uncertain future, where the political and security transitions are bound to bring about major changes to the country and its people.
- **On the humanitarian side, we expect the situation to remain largely unchanged,** with possible spikes around elections. The humanitarian community is prepared for this, and we are not sounding the alarm bells. Afghanistan is a protracted crisis, not a sudden onset one.
- My main message today is that **humanitarian funding and response must remain robust in light of the significant needs.** Otherwise, Afghanistan could become a forgotten emergency, as international attention moves on to other pressing crises such as Syria, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, to name a few.
- In 2014, **I appeal to donors to maintain a similar level of humanitarian funding as in 2013,** when \$384 million was received in support of the Common Humanitarian Action Plan.
- Humanitarian actors face an exceptionally challenging working environment. In fact, **Afghanistan is the most dangerous country in the world for aid workers,** and last year 2,600 security incidents involving humanitarian workers were recorded.
- Humanitarians are prepared to accept a certain level of risk, but the **parties to conflict must also respect their right to deliver impartial and independent assistance, including in the contested areas.** This respect is not fully demonstrated, as exemplified by the appalling attack on ICRC in Jalalabad in June last year.
- As humanitarians, **we are prepared to stay and deliver,** but there is a quid pro quo. Without adequate security assurances from the armed opposition, and robust funding to back up critical, life-saving programs, a point will come where our essential partners on the NGO side will pack up and go. Equally important in this regard, is continued cooperation of our host, the Government of Afghanistan, to ease the bureaucratic hurdles to NGO operating in country.

## PRIORITY NEEDS

- 5.4 million people will need access to health services, including emergency trauma care.
- 2.2 million people are very severely food insecure.
- 1.5 million people are in need of protection assistance.
- 0.5 million people need emergency shelter and non-food assistance



Turning now to the headline needs on the humanitarian side, health is the top priority. In 2013, the number of people in need of access to health increased from 3.3 to 5.4 million, as the delivery of basic health services was disrupted by conflict.

2.2 million people are very severely food insecure, and therefore targeted for emergency assistance. A further 8 million are food insecure.

More than half a million people need shelter and non-food assistance, as most parts of the country are highly exposed to displacement caused by conflict and natural disasters.

SLIDE 2: NEEDS BY PROVINCE

Humanitarian Needs Overview - CHAP 2014

Needs Index	Overall Index <sup>1</sup>	Provincial Needs Index by Cluster						Conflict Profile		
	Assessment based: <sup>3</sup>	-	✓							
Province	Needs Index (Rank)	Protection	Health	Nutrition	WASH	ES & NFI	FSAC	Conflict Incidents	Civilian Casualties	Multi-Sector *
Hilmand	4.1	5	5	2	4	4	4	4	5	4
Kunar	4.1	4	3	4	5	4	3	5	5	4
Badghis	3.9	4	4	5	3	4	5	3	3	1
Nangarhar	3.9	5	2	5	3	4	2	5	5	5
Ghor	3.6	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	2	2

Index Scale:

1 - Very Low
2 - Low
3 - Medium
4 - High
5 - Very High

Notes:

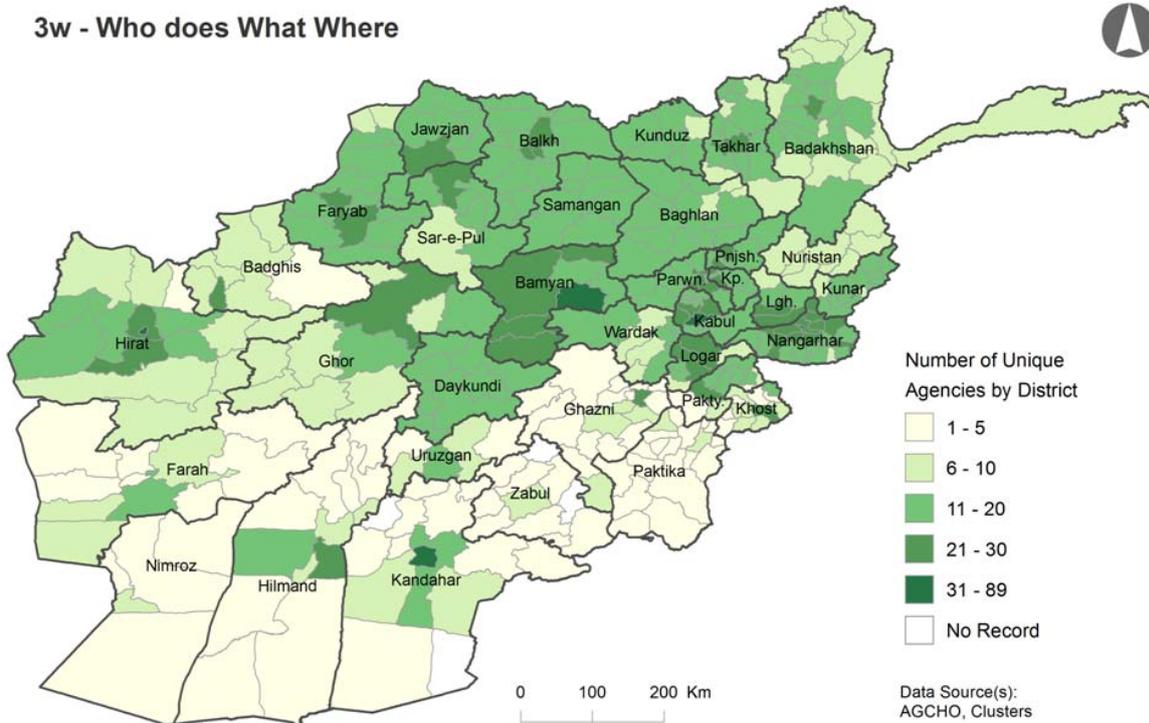
- 1) The overall needs index was calculated as an average of the cluster needs indexes and the conflict profile indexes. \* Multi-sector was not included in the calculation due to the limitation of indicators (i.e. indicators only focused on provinces of refugee returns and entry points to the country), which did not analyze specific sector needs.
- 2) The overall ranking does not include vulnerability due to physical or humanitarian access issues.
- 3) Assessment indicators specific to humanitarian need were only used by FSAC; all other clusters relied on proxy indicators.

Having gathered and analyzed all the available data, the humanitarian community identified the five provinces in most dire need as Hilmand, Kunar, Badghis, Nangarhar and Ghor.

We use this provincial ranking, which you will see a full version of in the report, as a guide to calibrate our response. The aim is to address the needs where they occur, within the security, capacity and funding constraints we face.

**SLIDE 3: WHO DOES WHAT WHERE?**

**3w - Who does What Where**

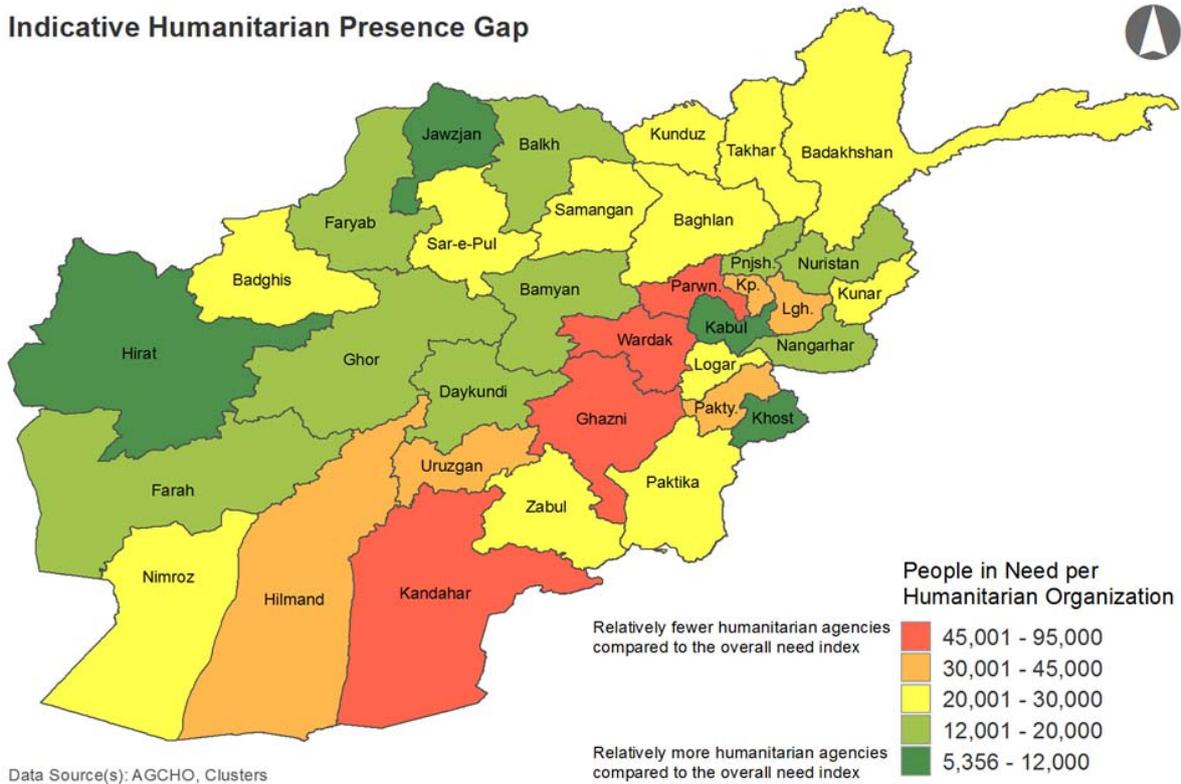


3W provided by clusters: ES&NFI Sep-13; FSAC Oct-13; Health Oct-13; Nutrition Oct-13; Protection Nov-13; WASH Sep-13.

Humanitarian presence in Afghanistan is relatively modest. Only 200 NGOs are active humanitarian partners. As you can see from the overview of who does what where, humanitarian actors are concentrated across the northern part of the country, where access is relatively safe and where funding has been most readily available.

**SLIDE 4: HUMANITARIAN PRESENCE VERSUS NEEDS**

**Indicative Humanitarian Presence Gap**



The humanitarian needs, on the other hand, are concentrated in the south and east, marked in red and orange on the map. So we have a mismatch between humanitarian presence and actual needs.

Kandahar, Ghazni, Wardak and Parwan provinces have relatively fewer actors compared to need, whereas Kabul, Hirat, Faryab, Jawzjan and Khost have relatively higher number of actors compared to need.

Despite this discrepancy, we do not expect a mass migration of NGOs to the south. NGOs rely on local acceptance, which takes time to build up and requires dedicated funding support. We need to build on existing capacity in the most remote and insecure areas, supporting competent Afghan NGOs.

## Development/Humanitarian nexus.

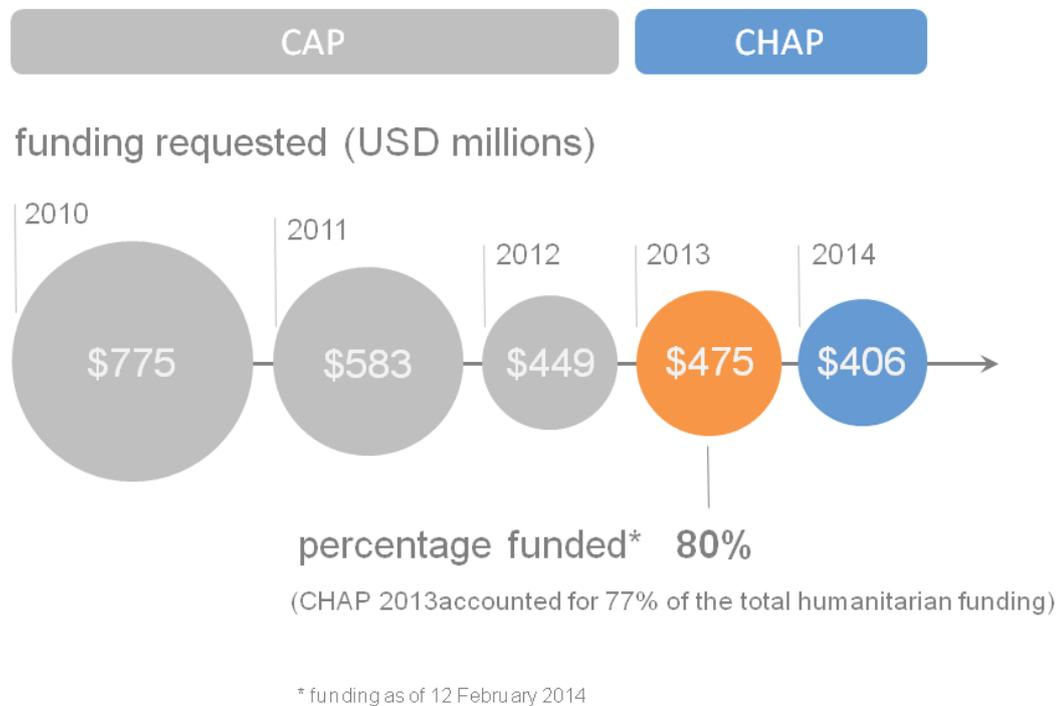
- A sustainable and effective health care system
- Durable solutions for IDPs and refugee returnees
- Water management to reduce flooding and droughts on livelihoods
- Effective disaster management system

Turning now to the link between relief and recovery, there are four critical areas to sort out on the development side: A sustainable and effective health care system; durable solutions for IDPs and refugee returnees; water management to reduce the negative impact of flooding and droughts on livelihoods; and an effective disaster management system.

Humanitarian assistance is mobilised annually to respond to predictable natural disasters that could be prevented through stronger investment in health and disaster risk reduction.

I'm hopeful that the national IDP policy will lead to a concerted effort on part of the government to find durable solutions to the internally displaced, giving equal consideration to the options of local integration, return to places of origin and resettlement elsewhere in the country.

## SLIDE 6: HUMANITARIAN FUNDING



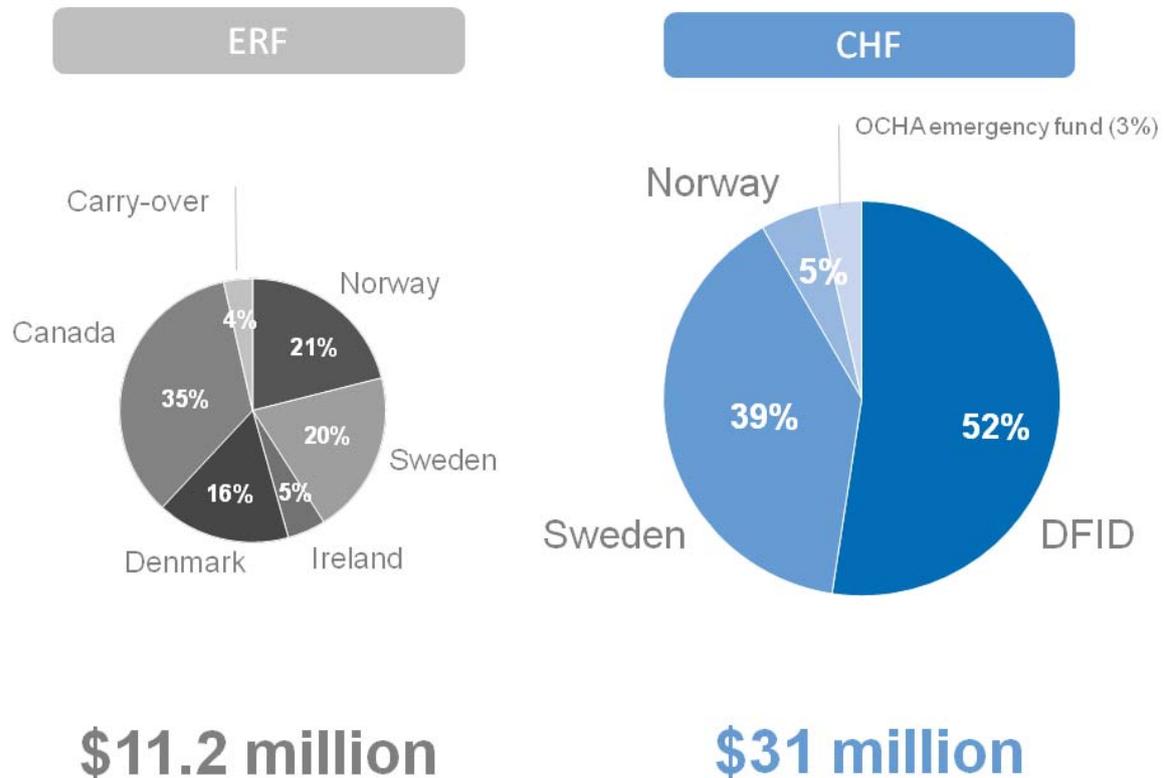
As you can see on the slide, the joint funding request for humanitarian action in this country has seen a steady decline from 2010.

Encouragingly, in 2013 Afghanistan was at the top of the global funding response table having received over 80 per cent funding towards the appeal.

The funding request for 2014 is 20 per cent lower than for 2013. This does not reflect a reduction in need, but a stricter prioritisation of acute, as opposed to chronic needs.

The Afghanistan appeal for 2014 is \$406 million, requesting no more than we will realistically receive and can be absorbed with current capacity.

## SLIDE 7: POOLED FUNDING



In 2014, the Emergency Response Fund is being transformed to a Common Humanitarian Fund.

DFiD is the anchor donor for CHF, and has been joined by Sweden and Norway at the start up of the fund.

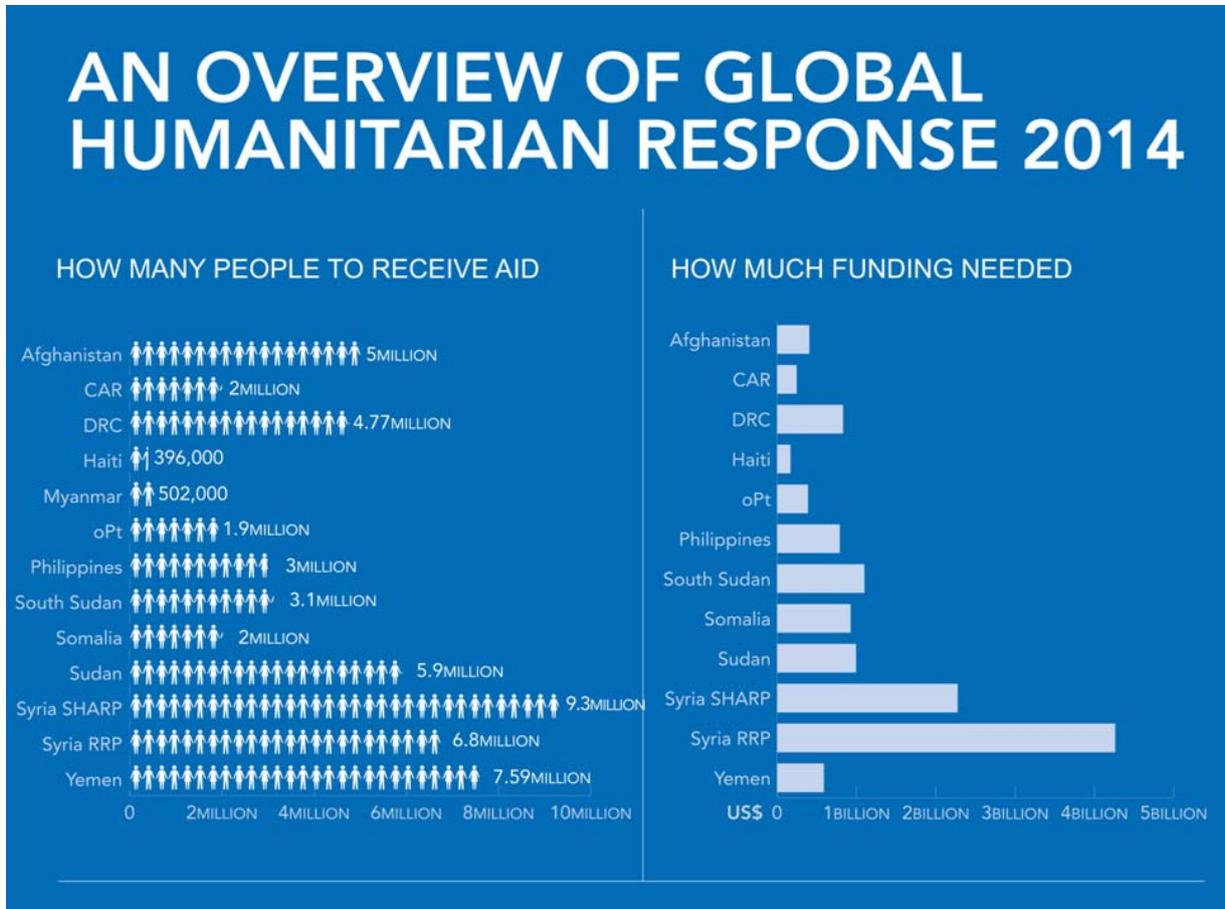
The CHF is expected to attract contributions equivalent to 15-20 per cent of the CHAP funding requirement – between \$60-80 million. It will operate alongside a range of other, bilateral funding streams between donors and individual agencies.

As of today, the CHF has received \$31 million in commitments, for which we are grateful.

The CHF will direct resources to the CHAP priority actions and foster a stronger, more inclusive system where Afghan organisations play an active role.

The CHF will also identify competent actors to expand geographical coverage in areas with elevated acute needs.

SLIDE 8: AFGHANISTAN IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT



To put Afghanistan’s humanitarian appeal in perspective, this final slide shows how our funding request compares to the 12 other appeals launched by the UN Under-Secretary-General Valerie Amos in December 2013.

The combined requirements of these plans are \$13 billion, and they seek to assist 81 million people in need.

Against this background, the Afghanistan appeal is modest, but no less important, as we enter the critical year of 2014.