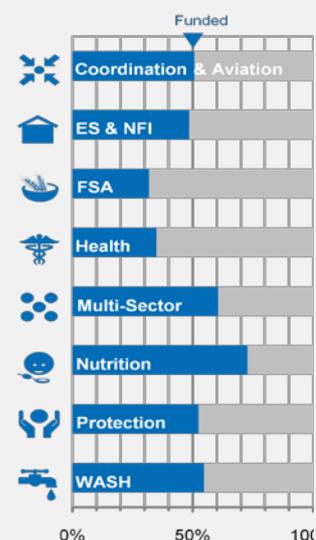


HIGHLIGHTS

- In Afghanistan's bloodiest year the number of civilians killed or injured in the first six months of the year rose by 25 per cent to nearly 5,000.
- 2,500 Afghan families face three months of sub-zero temperatures without appropriate shelter.
- Humanitarian community loses 8 aid workers to Afghanistan's on-going conflict.

FUNDING BY CLUSTER



OCHA FTS AS OF 31 AUGUST

FUNDING

406 million
requested (US\$)

56% funded



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Children pay the price for conflict

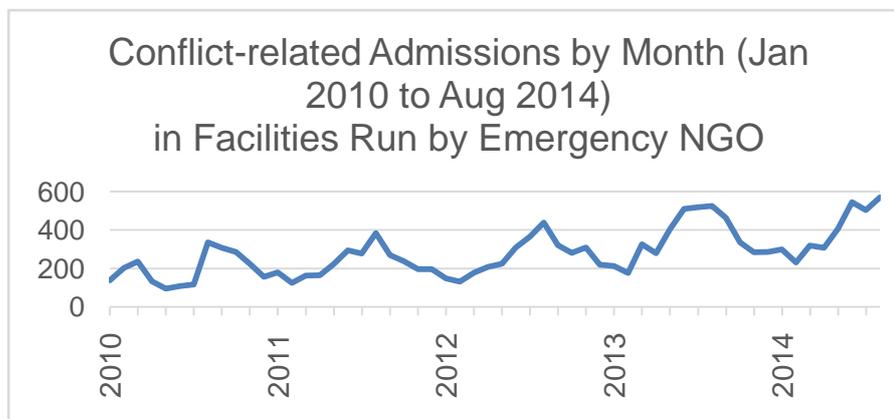
Zahra is just over one month old and her life was at risk before she was even born. She was delivered by C-section when her mother Naseeba was brought to a hospital run by the Emergency NGO with a bullet in her stomach. X-rays revealed that the bullet entered her body in the thigh, and traveled upward through her pelvis, stopping just a few centimeters from the little girl she was carrying.



Credit: Emergency NGO
Zahra and her mother at an Emergency NGO Hospital.

She is one of over 1,000 children admitted, since January 2014, to hospitals operated by Emergency NGO in Afghanistan with conflict-related injuries; as compared to 908 children in the same period in 2013.

As the conflict between Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and non-state armed actors continues, figures point to an alarming hike in the number of women and children wounded since the start of 2014. According to a UNAMA report released in July 2014, the number civilians killed or injured in the first six months of the year rose by 25 per cent to nearly 5,000, as compared to 2013, making 2014 "the bloodiest year since the UN started keeping records in 2009."



Source: Emergency NGO

"This means that the fighting is happening in civilian areas, inside villages and near where people live," said the Director of Emergency NGO Emanuele Nanini.

In Emergency's first treatment posts, where injuries bear witness to the intensity of the conflict medical personnel strain to cope with the daily flood of injured civilians

The report attributed the increase in civilian casualties to escalating ground engagement between ANSF and non-state armed actors particularly in civilian populated areas saying, "In the first half of 2014, increasing numbers of Afghan civilians were killed and injured in ground combat." The report goes on to say, "civilian deaths from mortars, rockets and grenades more than doubled from the same six-month period in 2013."

In Emergency's first treatment posts, where injuries bear witness to the intensity of the conflict medical personnel strain to cope with the daily flood of injured civilians. The NGO has treated 3,178 people as compared to 2,949 for the same period last year; 570 in August alone.

The second wave of conflict in Northern Helmand, which began on 26 August, is highlighted by increased confrontations between ANSF and non-stated armed actors in Musa Qala and Nawzad districts. There are reports of displacement and assessments are currently underway to verify numbers affected and the identify what response is needed.

Insecurity has reduced access and continues to be a major obstacle to the delivery of services in Helmand, as well as referrals, as ambulances are not able to approach some of the conflict areas. First Aid posts remain very critical, with health facilities being the first responder.

Displacement - the other face of conflict

Gul Agha (not his real name) is 12 years old. Fleeing the conflict in Helmand's Sangeen district, he and his younger sister arrived in Kabul in June along with their grandparents and an extended network of aunts, uncles and cousins. His parents and his older siblings stayed behind in Sangeen until they could raise enough money to join their family in Kabul.



Credit: OCHA
Children at Pul-e Shina informal settlement in Kabul.

Since fighting season began in the spring, hundreds of people have fled their homes in Afghanistan's Helmand province. Many families have stayed close to home in Helmand and Kandahar provinces hoping to return home as soon as they can, while others have made the long journey to Kabul; over 600 km away. In the process they lost access to their family, land, livestock and livelihoods; to face displacement, homelessness and poverty.

Gul Agha and his sister are among the hundreds of children from the extended network of 70 families who arrived in Kabul's Charahi Qamber Informal Settlement in June. A few days later, due to overcrowding at Charahi Qamber, they had to move. The group moved to the King Zahir Shah Garden in Kabul's Kariz-Mir (PD-17), where they lived in makeshift tents in ruined buildings; but their time there was short lived. Two weeks after their arrival, the district authority served them notice to evacuate due to land ownership issues and the possibility of tensions with the host community.

Finally in the last week of June, a joint humanitarian team comprised of OCHA, UNHCR, WFP and *Welthungerhilfe* (WHH), liaised with local authorities and met with family elders and community leaders from the Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS). An appropriate site was identified near Nasaji Bagrami in Pul-e Shina (PD-8) to which they moved.

The 70 displaced families from Helmand were assessed by OCHA, UNHCR and WHH in the second week of July. In the first week of August, UNHCR and WFP provided shelter, NFIs and food assistance. A rapid assessment carried out by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and WHH identified 47 of the 70 families as being the most affected. The

assessment recommended shelter for 12 families; household items and food for 47 families; family latrines for 41; and water and hygiene education for 47 families. DRC distributed cash for food and household items, UNHCR supported displaced families with tents and WHH provided hygiene education. The host community is supporting the displaced families with drinking water.

Displaced women and children are particularly vulnerable to trauma after witnessing bloodshed and violence or losing family members and friends. Mental health support is an unmet need of the displaced families, as are access to clean water and recreational activities for children. In the long term, access to education, income-generating activities, and documentation for the children, which would allow them to claim their rights as citizens, are critical in helping them regain their dignity and self-sufficiency.



Credit: OCHA
Pul-e Shina informal settlement in Kabul.

Lack of funding hampers shelter response

Only \$5.6 million, covering 904 shelters, has been received against a funding requirement of \$24 million

The flooding of April 2014 in northern Afghanistan was what people call a "100-year-flood." According to UNHCR, the extent of flooding was 2-3 times higher than annual averages, with flood waters destroying several villages that were at least 100 years old.

More than 6,500 families had their homes completely destroyed. While partners are mobilising to meet these needs, shelter requirements in the northern region are significantly under resourced. Only \$5.6 million, covering 904 shelters, has been received against a funding requirement of \$24 million.

14,093	6,579	37	904
The number of families affected by the floods and mudslide	The number of people whose homes were completely destroyed	The number of new shelters constructed	The number of shelters funded

Source: Shelter Cluster

With lack of funding and winter fast approaching, the Emergency Shelter/NFIs Cluster reassessed affected families. By utilising a number of strategies such as recycling of timber, tapping into community coping mechanisms, exploration of hosting by communities, transitional designs for shelters, and a further reprioritisation of affected families, the gap has been reduced to approximately 2,500 families in need of shelter.

Based on the current rate of construction and available construction capacity, even assuming the necessary funding is obtained, these 2,500 families will not be provided with appropriate shelter during the winter. With the onset of winter some 90 days away, a gap of 2,500 families means that 15,000-17,000 people may have to face three months of sub-zero temperatures in Afghanistan's remote rugged mountains without appropriate shelter.

Alternative support to these families is to be explored, through for example the provision of fuel and food for wherever they are able to seek shelter, for example with host families.

Taking stock of humanitarian achievements and challenges in 2014

A mid-year review of the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) 2014 assessed progress (January-June) against objectives, indicators and targets set in the Strategic Response Plan (SRP)¹. This is an opportunity for the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator to take stock of the collective humanitarian response; analyse any changes in context and needs; identify constraints and gaps encountered; and consider possible courses for corrective action. It also provides an opportunity to update on funding received versus financial requirements.

Through a combination of essential humanitarian response interventions at least two million people have been reached with humanitarian aid in the form of food, health, nutrition, multi-sector (Afghan refugees/returnees), protection, shelter, and WASH support. In addition to responding to those communities known to be particularly vulnerable due to on-going conflict and interruption of critical basic services, emergency relief assistance was also provided to over 120,000 people following a month of heavy

rains in April and May, which killed an estimated 175 people and destroyed over 8,000 homes. Due to effective prepositioning of emergency stocks of food, shelter and household items, humanitarian actors were able to respond swiftly to the new emergency needs.

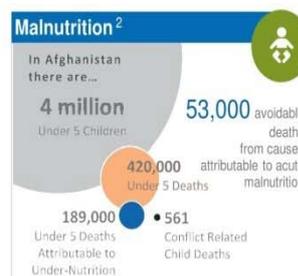
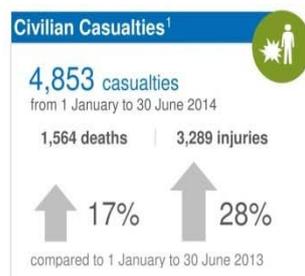
While no dramatic deterioration in the

humanitarian context is expected this year, political uncertainty, continued high-intensity conflict in several parts of the country, and economic austerity, will result in continuing humanitarian needs.



Credit: OCHA
Heavy rains in April and May destroyed over 8,000 homes.

At least two million people have been reached with humanitarian aid



Source: OCHA

¹The SRP is part of the CHAP, which states the overarching humanitarian objectives, as well as cluster specific response plans.

Most recently, military operations by the Government of Pakistan against non-state armed actors in North Waziristan Agency (NWA) have resulted in significant population movements into Afghanistan. By early August, 22,530 families (16,155 in Khost and 6,375 families in Paktika) had been assessed, with more continuing to come across as fighting continues. A multi-sectoral response has been mounted in the remote and inhospitable areas where the refugees are sheltering.

This response (to some 16,000 families in need of assistance) will need to be sustained through to year end and potentially into the early part of 2015. This unforeseen emergency is stretching partners' capacities and is in need of timely funding.

As of the end of August, the Afghanistan CHAP 2014 was 56 per cent funded. Given the newly identified needs such as the Khost/Paktika response, as well as the need to support ongoing programmes, ensure pre-positioning of supplies to ensure a sustained response during the upcoming winter, and further winterisation support for vulnerable families, continued international donor engagement is required.



Credit: OCHA
Heavy rains in April and May destroyed over 8,000 homes.

Humanitarian Access

Eight dead as a result of violence against aid workers

August witnessed a significant increase in the number of incidents involving humanitarian personnel and assets. Across Afghanistan, a total of 31 incidents against aid workers were reported across the country.

Eight aid workers were killed (as compared to six in July), three wounded, 18 abducted, and four arrested. There were two major incidents that affected NGOs in the Northern region, which left three staff fatally wounded in Faryab province -- one on the road from Maymana to Hazara Qala and another in Qarayee village. In the Southern region, two aid workers were shot in Zabol province. The North Eastern and Central regions witnessed one incident each, with one NGO staff killed in Kunduz and another in Kapisa.

Ten incidents were reported involving NGO managed health facilities; two in Herat, one in Kapisa, one in Kunduz, two in Nangarhar, and four in Wardak. There was collateral damage to an NGO managed clinic during clashes in Wardak, when a mortar round struck the surrounding wall of the facility resulting in several broken windows. In Kapisa, two NGO ambulances, which were clearly marked with the organization's logo, were ambushed en-route to collecting casualties.

Humanitarian Financing Update

2014 Strategic Response Plan is 56 percent funded as of 31 August

Overall funding

Overall humanitarian funding for Afghanistan in 2014 reached \$365 million as of 31 August, of which 62 per cent is aligned with the Strategic Response Plan (SRP). Of the SRP aligned funds, 62 per cent is allocated to UN & IOM, 35 per cent to NGOs, with 3 per cent. The top five donors, based on level of contributions to overall humanitarian funding are the United States, Japan, the European Commission, Canada and Sweden. The Afghanistan SRP is one of the top four highest funded (percentage wise vis-a-vis SRP requirements) globally.

31 incidents against aid workers

8 aid workers killed

3 wounded

18 abducted

four arrested

Other Humanitarian Funding

According to the Financial Tracking System (FTS), \$139 million in other humanitarian funding has been made available to Afghanistan, with \$67 million reported for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, following their own appeals process. \$50 million is not aligned to 2014 SRP. The European Commission reports a funding decision of \$22 million pending specific allocations.

In Brief

The Common Humanitarian Fund launches second life-saving allocation for 2014

The Humanitarian Coordinator has launched the Common Humanitarian Fund's (CHF) second Standard Allocation for 2014. The allocation will distribute \$7.6 million to a range of life-saving interventions in the treatment of acute malnutrition in the worst affected provinces. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), a critical enabler to life-saving humanitarian actions in Afghanistan, will receive \$3 million. The CHF reserve will maintain \$2 million for unforeseen events.

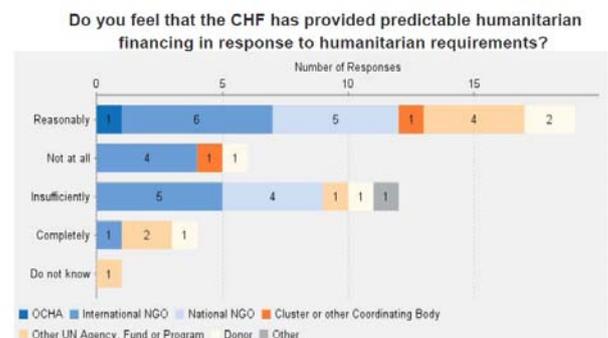
CHF eligible partner pool expands

The allocation is open to 33 eligible NGOs, up by 9 in the first standard allocation, who have successfully passed the CHF internal due diligence process. All partners who passed the due diligence process will be recommend for a capacity assessment to be conducted by an independent company.

CHF receives high marks from partners in survey

The results are in for the Afghanistan CHF survey which asked the views of key stakeholders about the first standard allocation. The findings were interesting, 77 per cent of respondents said their overall impression of CHF effectiveness was good to excellent, and 23 per cent said it was poor.

Only 7 per cent of respondent said they were insufficiently aware of the CHF's objectives and guidelines, while 74 per cent thought the CHF has had a significant impact on humanitarian coordination among agencies. Finally, 69 per cent respondents saw the CHF as strengthening cluster mechanisms in Afghanistan. A full report on the survey results will be released in September.



Source: OCHA

69 per cent respondents saw the CHF as strengthening cluster mechanisms in Afghanistan

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