



UNITED NATIONS
AFGHANISTAN



Annual report

2023



Children in Chahak village, Herat.
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Foreword

Foreword

The year 2023 has been one of tremendous challenges but also one of resilience and determination. In the face of adversity and multiple concurrent shocks, the people of Afghanistan have demonstrated remarkable courage and strength.

This annual report serves as a testament to our ongoing commitment to the people of Afghanistan and our unwavering support for their journey towards peace, stability, and prosperity. It also reflects the tireless efforts of the United Nations and its partners to address the complex and multifaceted challenges facing the country. Due to the international assistance community's concerted efforts, levels of support to Afghanistan remained significant. With our partners, we remained engaged despite unprecedented impediments that have shaken our core values and beliefs. In 2023, we continued to grapple with the challenges of upholding our core principles and values and simultaneously delivering on the imperative to assist people in need. The tremendous efforts and tenacity of all partners involved have shown the incredible creativity and perseverance of assistance partners who were determined not to leave the Afghan people alone. I am proud to be a representative of this extraordinary community.

Afghans now mention access to food as their most pressing need. Unable to pay for or produce basic sustenance, millions face hunger and malnutrition. In 2024, an estimated 15.8 million people will experience crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity. The majority of the population is unable to procure basic needs such as healthcare, food, livelihoods, and housing. A Gallup poll found that 95 per cent of the population consider

themselves to be suffering. Average life expectancy has been falling for the past five years. The Herat earthquakes and unprecedented large-scale returns from neighbouring countries have shown the disruptive impact of recurrent shocks and underscored the need for sustained international engagement and support.

As we embark on the next chapter, in 2024, it is imperative that we remain steadfast in our commitment to the principles of human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment. We will continue to include women as key partners in our work, to provide assistance "by women, for women", and to tirelessly work for equal access to education in line with the demands we hear from Afghans in all areas of the country.

I would like to express my gratitude to the United Nations agencies, our partners from the International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), bilateral and multilateral donors and assistance partners, non-governmental organizations, and all those who continue to support the people of Afghanistan. I further express my deep gratitude to our Afghan partners, especially the Afghan women, who remind us daily of our responsibility to assist and empower them as they lead the course for a better future for themselves and their children. Your dedication and perseverance inspire us all.



Indrika Ratwatta
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General,
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
(DSRSG/RC/HC)

United Nations Country Team in Afghanistan

Resident United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Labour
Organization



International Organization
for Migration



United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs



United Nations Refugee
Agency



Office of the High
Commissioner
for Human Rights



United Nations
Assistance Mission in
Afghanistan



United Nations
Conference on
Trade and Development



United Nations
Development
Programme



World Food Programme



United Nations
Department of Safety
and Security



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization



United Nations
Population Fund



United Nations Human
Settlements Programme



World Health Organization



United Nations Office
for Projects Services



United Nations Entity
for Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women



United Nations Mine
Action Service



United Nations Children's
Fund



United Nations Volunteers



United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

United Nations Industrial
Development Organization

Non-resident United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes



International Fund for
Agricultural Development



International Trade Centre



The Joint United Nations
Programme on HIV
and AIDS



United Nations Institute
for Training and Research

Afghanistan coordination group partners



Australia



Italy



Sweden



Canada



Japan



Switzerland



Czechia



South Korea



Turkiye



Denmark



Luxembourg



United Kingdom



Finland



Netherlands



United States of America



France



Norway



European Union



Germany



Qatar



The World Bank



Asian Development Bank



Islamic Development Bank



International Monetary Fund



Aga Khan Development Network

Other development partners



Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development



Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance



Global Child Nutrition Fund



Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



Bill & Melinda Gate Foundation



Global Partnership for Education



Chapter I

Chapter I

Key developments in Afghanistan

The United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFA) is a multi-year framework with a strong focus on strengthening partnerships, allowing an increase of more sustainable basic human needs funding and programming.

44.5m

Population (2023)¹

-8.1%

Inflation rate (2023)⁶

-6.2%

Economic growth (2022)²

49.01

SDG score 158/186 countries (2023)⁷

0.462

Human development index 182/193 countries (2023)³

48.1%

Poverty rate (2023)⁸

15.8m

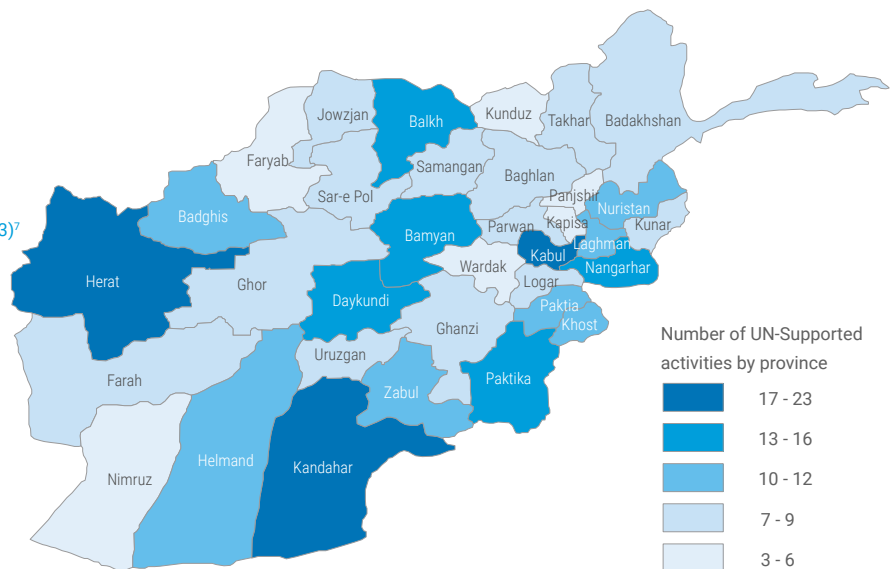
Food insecure (IPC 3-5) as of Nov (2023)⁴

15.4%

Unemployment rate (2023)⁹

0.665

Gender inequality index 162/182 countries (2022)⁵



In July 2023, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Afghanistan adopted the UNSFA 2023–2025, replacing its previous Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF, January 2022 to June 2023). As a multi-year framework, the UNSFA allows to address sustainably the Afghan people’s large-scale basic human needs and to reduce the medium- and long-term humanitarian caseload. In line with the UNSFA, the UNCT focused on strengthening partnerships with key donors of basic human needs interventions in Afghanistan, increasing complementarity between its humanitarian and basic human needs programming, and on adaptive programming and increased monitoring to document a

principled approach of assistance provision to navigate the challenging operating environment.

The UNSFA was developed in close coordination with donors and implementing partners. In the absence of a national development plan against which to align or a nationally led aid coordination architecture through which to coordinate non-humanitarian support, international partners – through the multi-stakeholder Afghanistan Coordination Group (ACG) – in 2023 developed the ACG Framework for International Partner Support in Afghanistan in parallel to the UN Strategic Framework.

The ACG Framework outlines three complementary and mutually reinforcing joint priorities against which partners intend to align their support, including the UNCT through its own Strategic Framework. The priorities identified in both the ACG Framework and UN Strategic Framework are:

- **Priority 1**
Sustained Essential Services
- **Priority 2**
Economic Opportunities and Resilient Livelihoods
- **Priority 3**
Social Cohesion, Inclusion, Gender Equality, Human Rights, and Rule of Law

With the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the UNCT has also agreed on two collective outcomes: to 1) reduce food insecurity and 2) reduce maternal and child mortality rates. Partners across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus have agreed to work together toward these outcomes.

With this strategic alignment, basic human needs funding to Afghanistan doubled from US\$670 million in 2022 to US\$1.29 billion in 2023. Chapter II will discuss the results and impact of basic human needs interventions in more detail.

Humanitarian needs, compounded by shocks like the Herat earthquakes and returns from Pakistan, highlight the need for a stronger nexus approach

The humanitarian crisis continued throughout the year and showed few signs of abating. The [Human Development Report 2023–2024](#) noted that Afghanistan, in a staggering development, has regressed by a decade. Given the economic crisis, which has reduced the amount of economic output by a quarter since 2021, livelihood possibilities have evaporated for both urban and rural populations despite more people seeking work. Half of the population now lives in poverty, according to the World Bank, with 80 per cent of families earning less than US\$1 a day per household member.

Food insecurity continued to be a serious concern. In assessments undertaken as part of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan ([HNRP](#)) for 2024, Afghans frequently mentioned access to food as their principal need. Unable to pay for or produce basic sustenance, millions face hunger and malnutrition. Around 17.2 million Afghans in 2023 experienced crisis and emergency

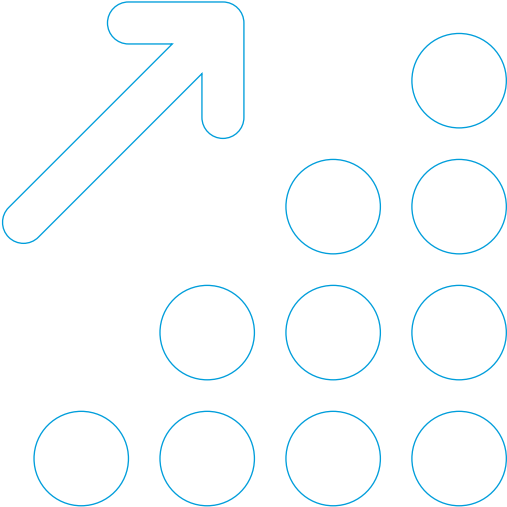
levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, 3 to 5). In 2024, due to large-scale humanitarian assistance and the first better wheat harvest in years, the same levels of food insecurity are expected to affect a slightly reduced number of 15.8 million people. The majority of the population is subsistence insecure, unable to procure basic needs such as healthcare, food, livelihoods and housing. The proportion of Afghans who consider themselves to be suffering has reached 95 per cent; the highest number reported by Gallup in any country since 2005. Life expectancy has been falling since 2019.

During 2023, the large-scale returns of hundreds of thousands of Afghans from Pakistan and the devastating earthquakes in Herat increased the humanitarian needs of already vulnerable populations. Both events required an enormous and coordinated response. Compounding these developments, the country remains vulnerable to climate change. Following the worst drought in three decades, emerging El Niño conditions now threaten a new cycle of flooding and crop pests. In this context, life-saving humanitarian aid has been crucial in preventing the collapse of the social fabric. It has also served to underpin the stability of the economy. Despite growing humanitarian needs, relevant funding cuts have forced humanitarian actors to prioritize the most vulnerable further.

The UN and its partners recognize that humanitarian aid alone will not be enough to address sustainably the large-scale and increasing human suffering of the Afghan people in the medium and long term. As such, humanitarian efforts should be complemented and reinforced with interventions defined in the UNSFA that aim to support the basic human needs of Afghans – particularly women,

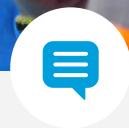
girls, and other vulnerable groups – with a view to build resilience to shocks, sustain livelihoods, protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthen social cohesion, and build social capital, and preserve hard-won development gains achieved over the past two decades, including with regard to service delivery. This approach is also important for identifying and achieving durable solutions to displacement caused by conflict, climate change, and sudden onset natural disasters. As such, the UNSFA has been developed in close collaboration with a wide range of partners to be ambitious but realistic and pragmatic in approach, targeted but flexible, and effectively coordinated across stakeholders, particularly across the nexus, to ensure maximum impact and sustainability.

In 2024, due to large-scale humanitarian assistance and the first better wheat harvest in years, the same levels of food insecurity are expected to affect a slightly reduced number of 15.8 million people.





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WFP remained a lifeline for millions of Afghans

As 2023 began, families across Afghanistan continued to struggle to feed their children. Nine out of 10 people were not consuming an adequate amount of food, the cost of which absorbed an overwhelming 89 per cent of household incomes. “Me and my husband both lost our work,” Basira, a 45-year-old mother of six said when she picked up wheat flour, cooking oil, peas, and salt at a distribution site in Mazar-e Sharif. “He went to Iran to find work as a day labourer but the money he sends me is not enough to cover even our most basic needs.” Basira was one of the 13 million people across Afghanistan who received food assistance in early 2023 – over 80 per cent of whom were women and children.

With a better harvest, levels of food insecurity slowly improved through the year. By March 2023, 3 million people experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity returned to stability. Nevertheless, nearly half of the Afghan people were still in need of assistance for survival. And just as families like Basira’s emerged from the desperate winter, funding shortfalls forced the World Food Programme (WFP) to reduce the ration size and, from April to September, to end emergency food assistance to 10 million people.

During the summer months, WFP was able to support only 5 million people with life-saving emergency assistance. In July, for example, 4.7 million people received general food distributions, compared to 8.9 million a year earlier. In December 2023, WFP was able to support less than 7 million people with life-saving emergency food assistance across the country, half the number supported a year earlier. For these most vulnerable people, WFP remains the only lifeline for survival in Afghanistan.

13

million people across Afghanistan received food assistance in early 2023.

The UN maintained a principled approach amid increasing restrictions for women and girls

Restrictions against women and girls were expanded in 2023. Since August 2021, the DFA have issued more than 50 edicts targeting women and girls, alongside several inconsistently enforced provincial-level decrees and practices, restricting the basic rights and fundamental freedoms of women.

In April 2023, the DFA placed severe restrictions on female Afghan personnel working for the UN, similar to December 2022 restrictions concerning women working for NGOs. In response, the UN and its partners committed to maintaining a principled approach, considering that Afghan women and girls are not only beneficiaries of support but necessary agents and catalysts for building an inclusive, prosperous Afghanistan.

As such, women must be central to the design and delivery of aid, including through their meaningful participation – as well as that of women-led and women’s rights organizations – to ensure that women and girls across the country can safely and equitably access support. Throughout 2023, the UN reiterated its commitment to the continued employment of female Afghan staff, as well as ensuring a diverse workplace representative of Afghan society.

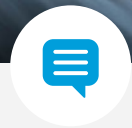
UN and partners considered January to June 2023 a trial period, during which rigorous and close monitoring would review how assistance could be provided within the principles of delivering by and for women. In annex to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) reporting of

humanitarian partners, the UN issued four reports within the trial period (reporting periods: January/February, March/April, May/June) and beyond (reporting period: July–September) demonstrating how basic human needs programming adapted in response to restrictions to ensure principled delivery of assistance.

The monitoring and reporting showed that UN programmes and their implementing partners could largely navigate the operating space, adopting local solutions to ensure principled delivery, including to women and girls. At the same time, sector-specific and ad hoc restrictions by the DFA continued to impact and at times delay the delivery of assistance. Programmes observed that the range of discrepancies in enforcing restrictions at the local level – which had still been relatively wide earlier this year – narrowed overall. In response, UN agencies and partners scaled up efforts to secure local agreements and leveraged innovative solutions at the local level. Local solutions employed by implementing partners included agreeing to specific conditions such as mahram requirements, ensuring separate office and intervention delivery spaces and/or working hours for women and men staff and beneficiaries, and using gender-segregated transportation. Throughout the monitoring period, the longevity of solutions varied by programme and locality. With most agreements time-bound and specific to activities, programme delivery continued to require time-intensive engagement and renewed negotiations.



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Return to the unknown: Afghanistan's returnee influx

For decades, Afghans have sought refuge in Pakistan, seeking safety, security, and better economic prospects. In 2023, the conditions for Afghans living in Pakistan became increasingly difficult, forcing many to return. The implementation of new instructions, including the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFRP) by the Government of Pakistan, led to the return of hundreds of thousands of Afghans to an uncertain fate in Afghanistan. Most returnees had to abandon their belongings and leave their savings behind. Newly returned and vulnerable, they received immediate support at the border and in areas of return. According to International Organization for Migration (IOM) data, an estimated 80 per cent of those who returned are women and children.

IOM has been leading a consortium of humanitarian partners who have actively coordinated and scaled up their response at both Spin Boldak and Torkham Border Points to respond to the influx of people, in coordination with the de facto authorities (DFA). A total of 11 UN and international nongovernmental organization (INGO) partners work together to provide critical aid to returnees, including shelter, water, sanitation, essential

household items, healthcare, protection, and nutrition services, as well as cash to cover basic needs, transportation, and food. The Border Consortium is comprised of IOM, UNHCR, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the International Red Cross (IRC), Première Urgence Internationale (PUMI), and Save the Children International (SCI). In addition to the consortium partners' response, the DFA provide each family with 10,000 Afghani (AFN) in cash assistance and a sim card. As of February 2024, IOM and consortium partners have provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to more than half a million returnees, with the vast majority being undocumented.

80%

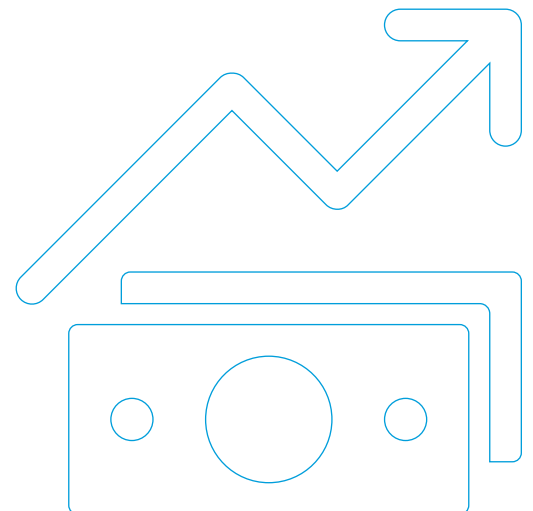
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Critical barriers to economic recovery and growth remain

Following a period of significant contraction since 2021, Afghanistan's economy appears to be stabilizing at a low equilibrium level. Growth barriers include severely restricted operations in the banking sector (including microfinance institutions), trade disruptions, and institutional issues hindering service delivery, including in the private sector. The sudden cessation of a significant amount of international aid and grants, which had accounted for 40 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), along with a freeze on international reserves amounting to about US\$9 billion and the imposition of international sanctions, caused a severe balance of payments, banking and payment systems crisis. Notably, financial restrictions have removed liquidity from the banking system.

Despite the crisis and a period of devaluation towards the end of the year, the AFN is 20 per cent stronger than it was in 2021 due to currency export controls, UN cash shipments of US dollars into Afghanistan, and personal remittances. This appreciation, along with the fall in energy prices, alleviated the pressures of rising import prices on the population. Imports continued to surpass exports through 2023 and increased as the economy contracted. This appears to be a paradox: the currency appreciated while the trade deficit widened, suggesting that there might be other unidentified sources of financing besides US dollar cash shipments and remittances to support the account deficits.

International assistance since the Taliban takeover in August 2021 has saved millions of people from starvation and helped prevent a total economic collapse. While the economy has stabilized at a level of "low equilibrium", a key factor inhibiting future growth is the lack of a self-sustaining growth engine for recovery. Until this core problem is resolved and new productive sectors are created and stimulated, the country will inevitably require humanitarian and basic needs assistance.





Changing lives for the better at Nangarhar's drug addiction treatment centres

Afghanistan has nearly 4 million drug users – roughly 10 per cent of the population. In Nangarhar Province, in the east of the country, World Health Organization (WHO)-operated drug addiction treatment centres are helping affected people to turn their lives around.

Abdul, aged 38 years and from Nangarhar Province, has been taking various drugs for the past 10 years. He puts this down to the pressures of poverty, stress, and his business failure. For more than a month now, he has been an inpatient at a drug addiction treatment centre run by WHO in Jalalabad, the provincial capital.

"I am feeling much better," said Abdul, after spending 35 days at the 150-bed drug addiction treatment centre for adults. The European Union funds the centre, which provides health services to adult males with substance use disorders. A second drug addiction treatment centre in Jalalabad has 20 beds for adolescent males.

"My family is waiting for me to get out of the hospital and join them as a new, healthy person," said the father of six children.

Inpatients at either centre receive medical treatment and psychosocial care, including medication and counselling. In addition, three outreach teams managed by WHO provide community-based case-finding, follow-up, and relapse prevention services, and raise awareness of substance use disorders.

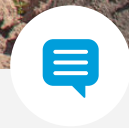
"Drugs changed my life completely," said Abdul. "I have been violent towards my children and my wife. I have become a shame for my entire family."

He admitted himself to the treatment centre after learning about the available support through one of the outreach teams.

Abdul is convinced that he never wants to return to taking drugs, and he plans to draw on medical support after he has been discharged: "At the centre, I learned that to end drug dependency is only possible if I actively participate in community-based relapse prevention services."



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Herat Earthquakes 2023 Post-Disaster and Needs Assessment (PDNA)

In October 2023, four powerful earthquakes struck Herat Province. They caused more than 1,500 deaths and over 2,600 injuries. In total, approximately 275,000 people were directly impacted. The scale of the disaster required strategic coordination to link and transition from humanitarian response to recovery effectively. In a collective response, the UN in Afghanistan – alongside partners at the World Bank, the European Union, and the ADB – launched a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the disaster on the people and the region.

The PDNA reported direct physical damage of US\$217 million and broader losses of US\$78.9 million. The assessment determined there was a critical need for US\$402.9 million to support essential recovery and rebuilding efforts in Herat. Housing, the most severely affected sector, represented 41 per cent (US\$164.4 million) of the total recovery needs. Education was the second most impacted sector, with 180,000 students and 4,390 teachers facing disruptions. More than 22,000 jobs were lost, of which approximately a quarter had been held by women.

For the 12 months following the earthquake, the value of lost workdays and personal income due to reduced work opportunities was estimated at US\$6.96 million and US\$35.6 million, respectively. The agricultural sector was the most affected, accounting for most of the job losses and around 75 per cent of the projected income loss. The PDNA emphasized the critical need to transition from immediate humanitarian aid to longer-term recovery. This implied prioritizing community resilience, service restoration, earthquake-safe housing, livelihood options, social protection, and access to basic services, especially for the most affected families.

22,000

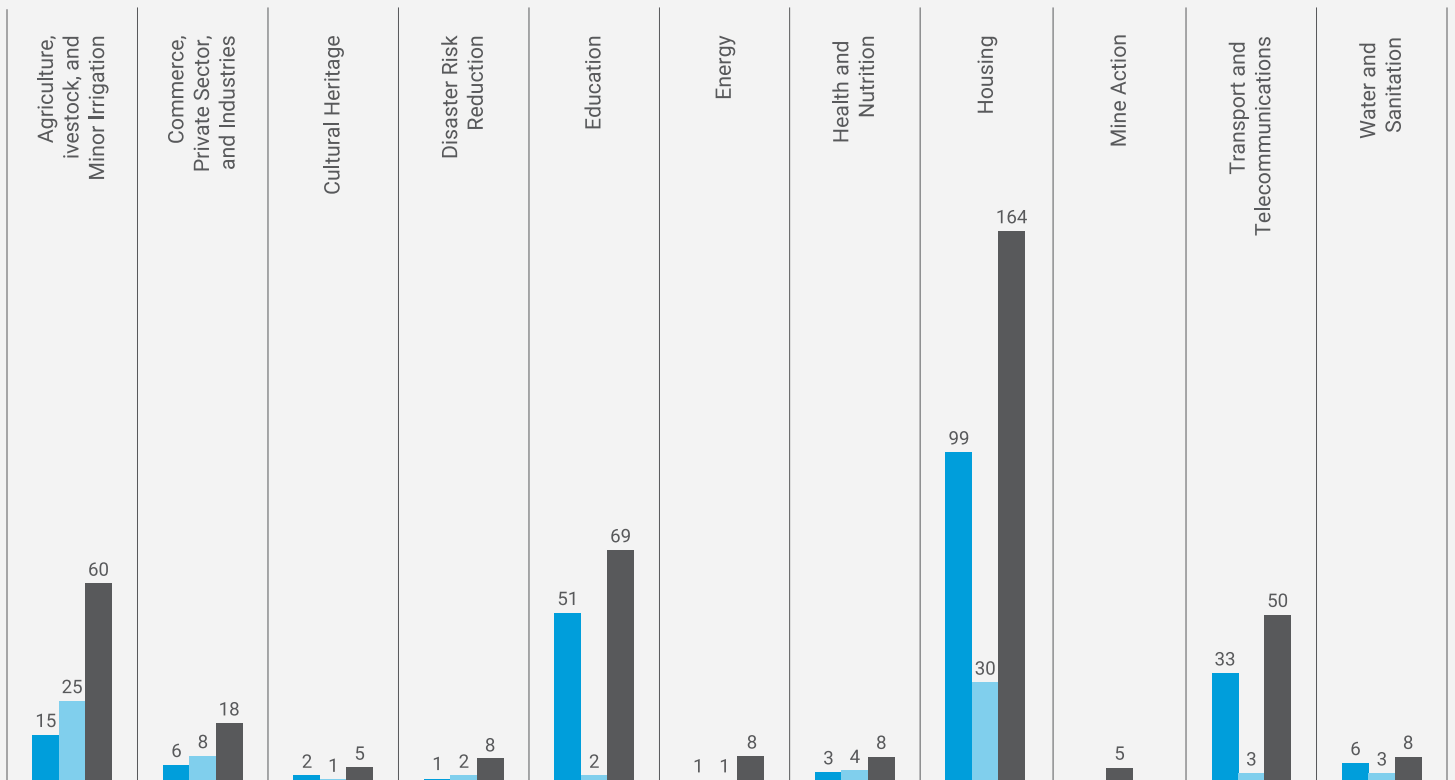
More than 22,000 jobs were lost, of which approximately a quarter had been held by women.



©OCHA/Sayed Habib Bidell

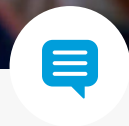
Sector damage, loss and recovery need (US\$ million)

Damages, losses, and needs by sector due to Herat earthquakes





©UNICEF Afghanistan



Human rights monitoring and reporting

The UN Security Council established the United Nations' Human Rights presence in Afghanistan through the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) mandate. The UNAMA Human Rights component – which also serves as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presence in Afghanistan – monitors, reports, engages, and advocates with relevant stakeholders, including the DFA, on the human rights situation and is undertaken through a country-wide presence.

Throughout 2023, constructive engagements continued with the de facto Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Information and Culture, Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, and Justice, as well as the de facto Office of Prison Administration, General Directorate of Intelligence, and High Directorate of Supervision and Prosecution of Decrees and Edicts. Among other outcomes, these engagements contributed to:

- The inclusion of the de facto authorities' comments, as an annex, in the five human rights thematic reports, coordinated through the de facto Ministry of Foreign Affairs Inter-Ministerial Committee.

- The de facto Office of Prison Administration taking forward pragmatic recommendations, such as on prison over-crowding.
- Continued access to detention facilities and prisons.
- Establishment of an intra-ministerial committee at the de facto Ministry of Interior to review and enact key recommendations made in the report on treatment of detainees, alongside dialogue on inclusion of recommendations in the Ministry's planning.
- Engagements with the de facto Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice on their enforcement of particular decrees and edicts of the de facto authorities, as well as their complaints hearing function.
- Convening of the third awareness-raising session on core principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law for inspectors of the de facto Ministry of Defence.
- Continued human rights awareness-raising with interlocutors, including the de facto authorities.

Key achievements in 2023:

5

Thematic human rights reports published:

- ① Corporal punishment and the death penalty (May);
- ② Civilian casualties from improvised explosive devices (June);
- ③ Human rights violations against former government officials and Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) personnel (August);
- ④ Treatment of detainees (September);
- ⑤ Handling of complaints of gender-based violence against women and girls by the de facto authorities (December).

3

Human rights updates posted online.

1

Trilingual animated video produced for International Human Rights Day.

590

Meetings with interlocutors.

131

Visits to places of detention.

32

Human rights awareness-raising sessions with the de facto authorities.

2

Human rights awareness-raising sessions delivered virtually.

50

Civil society organisations engaged.

15

Press releases and statements on human rights-related issues.

987

Individuals reached (75 females) through human rights awareness-raising, including 775 de facto officials, 97 civil society actors, and 33 other individuals.





Chapter II

Chapter II

UN support to people in Afghanistan

1. Un Priorities, Outcomes, And Outputs

The transition from TEF (January 2022 to June 2023) to UNSFA (July 2023 to December 2025) allowed for longer-term planning and interventions to support the basic human needs in Afghanistan. Anchored in the principle of leaving no one behind, the UNSFA prioritizes the needs and rights of those most vulnerable and marginalized. The Strategic Framework is underpinned by a triple-nexus approach to strengthen coordination and complementarity and to maximize synergies between humanitarian, development, and peace partners in Afghanistan and enhance the longer-term sustainability of interventions, including through area-based approaches to programming,

while avoiding conditions that contribute to aid dependency. The UNSFA is an offer of assistance to the people of Afghanistan, with its implementation dependent on actions by the DFA as well as donor support.

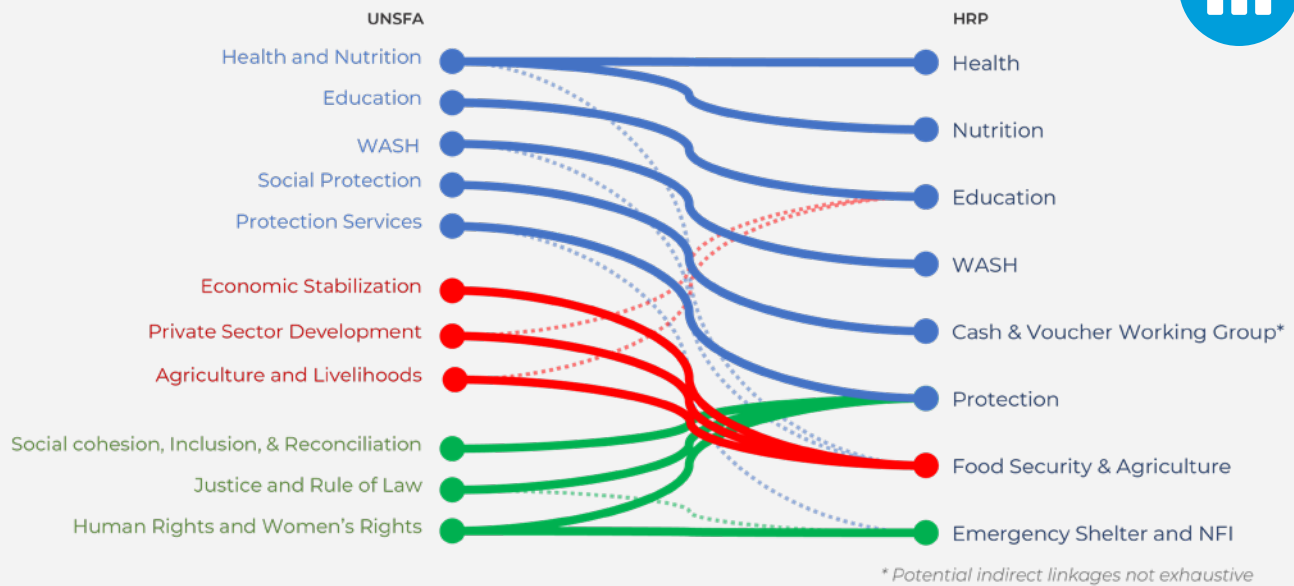
To support UNSFA interventions and respond to ad hoc emergency needs, e.g., after the Herat earthquakes, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme in 2023 partnered with 11 UN agencies to deploy 290 volunteers, including 182 national and 108 international volunteers, of whom 63 per cent were women.



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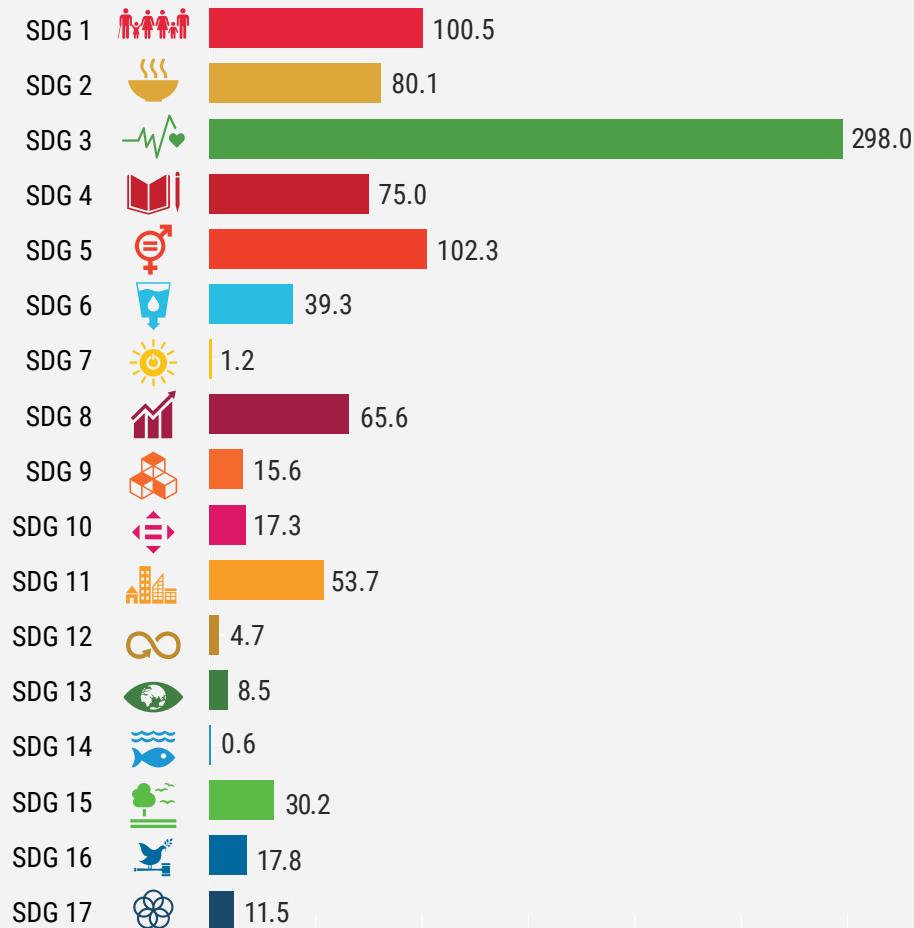


UNSFSA outcome areas and cross-cutting outcomes



Linkages between the UNSFA outcome areas and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023

OUTCOMES: Expenditure by SDG



2023 combined TEF (January to June) and UNSFA (July to December) contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (in US\$ million)

Outcome 1.

Sustained Essential Services

By the end of 2025, more people in Afghanistan, particularly the most marginalized, can equitably access essential services that meet minimum quality standards.

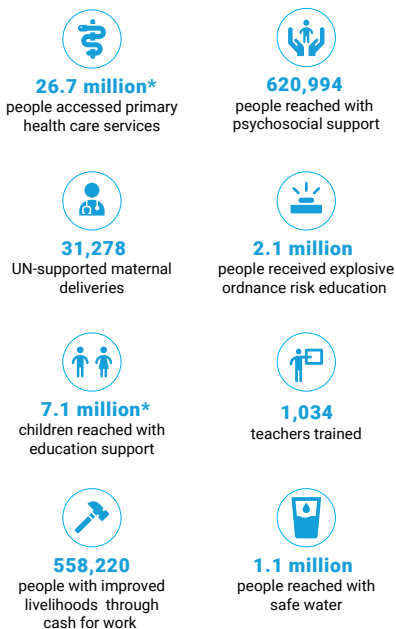
Interventions in this area sought to sustain and improve equitable and inclusive access to essential social services that are crucial for the people of Afghanistan – particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized. Interventions aimed to improve people’s well-being, break the pattern of intergenerational poverty, support gender equity and equality, strengthen resilience to life-cycle risks, reduce vulnerability to shocks, and contribute to the country’s recovery. Progress towards this outcome depended on

the extent to which essential health, nutrition, education, employment, water, sanitation, hygiene, social protection, and protection services were accessible to all, affordable, and delivered free from all forms of discrimination.

Under UNSFA Outcome 1, from July to December 2023, 15 UN agencies and their partners delivered around US\$511.3 million through 110 programme interventions in Afghanistan.

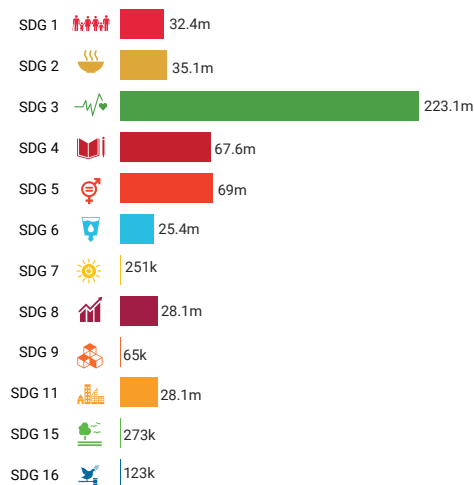


Select achievements UNSFA (Jul-Dec 2023)

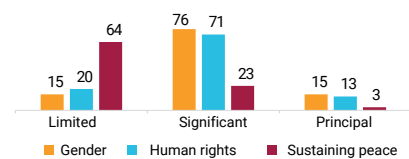


*Reflecting achievements under TEF (Jan-Jun) 2023 and UNSFA (Jul-Dec) 2023

UNSFA OUTCOME 1 (Jul-Dec 2023): Expenditure by SDG



Output activities contribution to markers



Contributing agencies



1.1 Health and Nutrition



Health and nutrition systems have improved and resilient capacities and resources to deliver a ccessible, affordable, gender and age-responsive, shock-responsive, and culturally acceptable essential healthcare and nutrition services that prioritize the most vulnerable.

The health and nutrition sector constitutes the most well-funded sector overall. When results are compared against targets, it is also the best performing. One important enabling factor is that the sector was largely exempted from restrictions to employ female staff and access female beneficiaries. Women and girls continued to access health services with slightly fluctuating but stable trends. Key achievements include:

Recipients of primary health care services.

In 2023, the UN exceeded targets by 40 per cent, supporting the delivery of 26,692,849 primary health care services, with a stable share of women beneficiaries at around 50 per cent.

Maternal deliveries.

With UN support, skilled birth attendants provided 31,278 maternal deliveries between July and December 2023.

Health facilities.

From July to December 2023, 3,264 health facilities were constructed, rehabilitated, or equipped for the provision of essential health services with UN support, significantly exceeding targets.

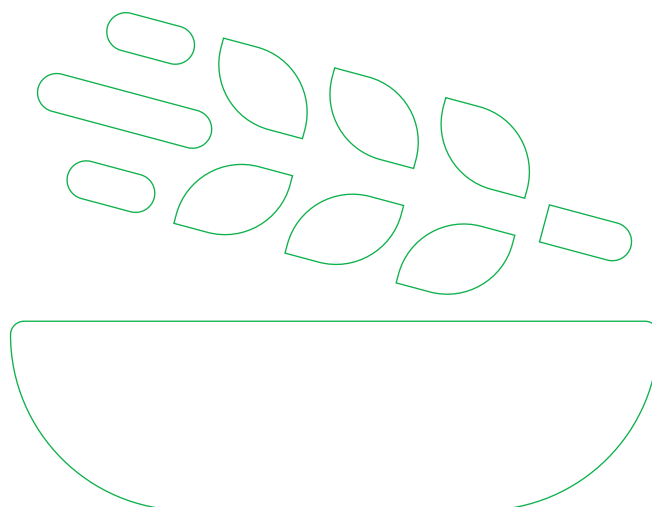
Vaccination support.

In 2023, the UN and partners provided 1,747,714 children under one year of age with Penta-3 vaccinations, reaching targets.

Severe wasting treatment.

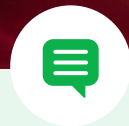
The UN and implementing partners supported the delivery of nutrition services through Service Delivery Points (SDPs), which include health facilities, family health houses and day care centres.

In 2023, a total of 2,230,443 children aged 6-59 months with moderate and severe wasting were admitted with UN support, approaching targets.¹⁰ Overall, however, the proportion of children wasted increased from 10.3 per cent (2022) to 14.1 per cent (2023).





©UNHCR Oxygen Empire Media Production



UN support to maternal deliveries

“Wake up! We have a delivery!” Suhila Rasuli whispered urgently into the phone so as not to wake up the rest of her family so early in the morning. The call had come from the Qala-e-Naw village. “A pregnant woman was in labour, and they needed me,” recalled Ms. Rasuli, a midwife who works with a UNFPA-supported mobile health team. Suhila and Niamatullah Haidari, a vaccine specialist with the mobile health team, drove for two hours in freezing winter temperatures, navigating treacherous and uneven terrain to reach the mother in labour. Finally reaching their destination, Ms. Rasuli immediately attended to the mother. Two hours later, she announced the birth of a baby boy, the mother’s third child. “The delivery was normal, and everyone applauded with joy when they learned that both mother and baby are doing fine,” Ms. Rasuli said.

Mobile health teams are roving medical units that provide a range of services, particularly maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health care and psychosocial support in remote communities. Some 117 UNFPA mobile teams are defying tremendous odds to reach an estimated 1.5 million people across 25 provinces in Afghanistan.

Before the mobile health team was established, explained Mr. Haidari, people living in remote areas of the province had no immediate access to life-saving health services. Ms. Rasuli started working with the mobile health team four months ago. She has since delivered nearly 30 babies. “Assisting deliveries is a big responsibility that makes me nervous sometimes,” said Ms. Rasuli. “But when it is done, it feels like an achievement and a great relief when I see everyone happy and giving me the credit for taking care of two lives – the mother and the baby.”

1.5M

An estimated 1.5 million people reached across 25 provinces in Afghanistan by UNFPA mobile teams.

1.2 Education



Formal and non-formal public, private, and community-based education systems are better able to sustain and increase access to inclusive, safe, and quality education opportunities for girls, boys, youth, and adults – especially girls and young women – across all levels of education.

The UN partners prioritized interventions at basic education (primary and secondary), technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and higher education levels through support to coordinated education initiatives. They also explored alternative education modalities for those not reached by these initiatives.

All UN partners and agencies, including those without dedicated education programmes, prioritized advocacy at all levels for the right to education, especially for girls and women. DFA edicts in 2023 continued to restrict women's and girls' access to education significantly. Secondary schools and universities countrywide remained closed for women and girls. No indication has been made by the DFA that the ban will be reversed in the near term. The operating space was further restricted by the DFA's decision in June 2023 to request INGOs in the education sector to hand over implementation to national partners. No changes were observed in the permission for female teachers to work as per the exemption issued in January 2023 by the de facto Ministry of Education. UN agencies and partners continued interventions in primary education for both boys and girls in public schools and community-based education (CBE) classes. key achievements include:

Teacher training.

From July to December 2023, 1,034 teachers were trained with UN support including inclusive, gender-sensitive and innovative pedagogies, digital technologies, remote and blended teaching and learning. This substantially exceeded the target.

Education facilities.

From July to December 2023, 161 primary and secondary formal and informal education facilities were constructed, rehabilitated, provided with alternative energy and/or equipped with gender-appropriate infrastructure with UN support, in line with targets.

Access to education services.

From July to December 2023, 927,385 people accessed formal, informal, alternative, and/or community-based education services with UN support, in line with targets.¹¹

Radio-based education programmes.

To bridge the educational gap, the UN provided radio-based education programmes for girls in grades seven to nine. In 2023, radio-based education programme audios and videos reached 156,723 beneficiaries.

Emergency education support.

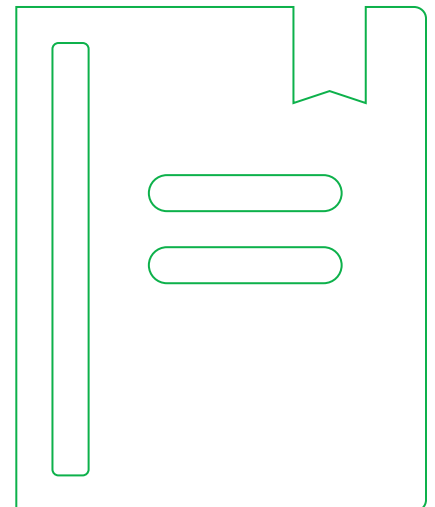
With UN support, 7,179,492 children were reached with emergency education support in 2023, exceeding targets.

Community-based education.

From July to December 2023, 680,000 people, of whom 60 per cent were girls, were provided with access to education through 21,000 CBE classes in all 34 provinces, representing more than a 30 per cent increase in the number of CBE classes compared with December 2022.¹²

Basic general literacy.

From July to December 2023, 23,020 youth and adults (aged 15 and above), of whom 68 per cent girls and women, enrolled in basic general literacy courses with UN support, approaching targets.





©UNICEF Afghanistan/Khayam



A second chance to thrive

Lately, baby Saida cries a lot. Today, her father's calming voice is not working as it usually does. It has been a difficult couple of weeks for the 9-month-old baby. "Three weeks ago, she started vomiting and had bloody diarrhoea. That's when we knew something was wrong," explains her father.

When baby Saida was brought to a health centre in Herat, western Afghanistan, she measured 10 cm around the mid-upper arm circumference – a simple method to determine the nutritional status of children under 5 years. The reading put Saida in the danger zone of severe malnutrition.

Aisha, a nutrition counsellor, sat with Saida's mother and demonstrated how to ensure baby Saida receives enough breast milk and other complementary food while maintaining good hygiene at home, especially during food preparation and feeding. Saida received 23 packets of a ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), an easy-to-use nut-based paste loaded with the vitamins and nutrients children need.

"In some cases," explains Aisha, "mothers are not able to breastfeed appropriately or are not producing enough breastmilk for the baby. We also see an increase in malnutrition among children whenever there is an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in this area, especially between the months of June and August."

In Afghanistan, 1 in 10 children under the age of 5 are malnourished, and almost half are stunted, the result of a very limited diet and a lack of nutrients. Nearly a third of Afghan babies are not exclusively breastfed in their first six months. UNICEF delivers RUTF to over 3,300 health centres to treat severe malnutrition among children. Between January and November 2023, over 90 million packets of RUTF were distributed across Afghanistan, helping 665,033 children recover from malnutrition.

1.3 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene



Stakeholders at national and subnational levels are better able to manage and provide access to equitable, gender-responsive, sustainable, climate resilient, and safe drinking water, improved sanitation, and positive hygiene practices in rural and poor urban communities.

In collaboration with humanitarian partners, the UN adopted a two-pronged approach that delivered emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support. The UN simultaneously implemented longer-term solutions that tackle the drivers of WASH-related humanitarian needs. In coordination with water management and infrastructure-related activities, the UN prioritized expanding access to safe drinking water through the rehabilitation, continuous operation, maintenance, and expansion of water infrastructure in rural and urban locations. The UN also supported the implementation of integrated water resources management solutions to substantially increase water-use efficiency and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity. The interventions complemented a significant scale-up of humanitarian funding for WASH in 2022. Despite limited funding, the results of interventions were broadly in line with targets. Key achievements include:

People reached with basic water.

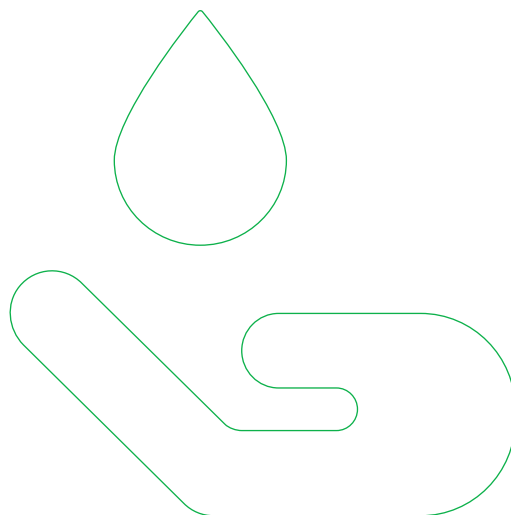
From July to December 2023, 1,056,256 people were reached with safe and available water, approaching targets.

Access to basic hygiene services.

From July to December 2023, 488,614 people gained access to basic hygiene services, approaching targets.

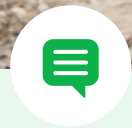
Access to basic sanitation services.

From July to December 2023, 624,860 people gained access to basic hygiene services, missing targets.





©UNICEF Afghanistan



A lifetime supply of water

In Payok Abad village, Adila fills her jerry can at the water tap. She splashes a few drops at her neighbour, and giggles as she trots back home, just a few steps away. Three months ago, Adila had no water near her home at all, let alone right outside the front door. But with clean water now available any time she needs it, Adila cooks, bathes, washes vegetables, and brews tea without worry.

In beautiful, isolated Nuristan Province, just 16 per cent of the population have access to basic drinking water. Clean water springs are often sourced high in the jagged peaks, and with Nuristan's elevation around 3,000 metres, hiking several hundred more to fetch water multiple times a day is no easy task. Many opt for the river, which is closer but not potable.

In 2023, UNICEF completed the construction of several gravity flow water systems in Nuristan. Gravity flow systems collect water from a pure spring and transfer it into a reservoir, and pipes bring the water downhill to water taps in the village. They require no pumps or electricity and last for decades. Built with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), they ensure the community has more than 40 litres

of clean water per person, per day, every day. In Payok Abad village alone, the gravity flow system pipes water directly to the doorsteps of 227 families – over 1,500 people.

Across Afghanistan, UNICEF has built more than 300 small-scale, environmentally friendly community water systems like this one. “Now we have water all the time,” says Abdul Fatah, a community elder. “It has completely transformed our community.”

300

UNICEF has built more than 300 small-scale, environmentally friendly community water systems.

1.4 Social Protection



Inclusive, equitable, shock-responsive national safety net systems are established and operational providing support to and strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable and marginalized people in Afghanistan.

In the absence of a national social protection system, the UN and its partners coordinated the provision of scalable and shock-responsive safety nets to complement humanitarian assistance and help build the resilience of the most vulnerable. This included gender, age, and disability-responsive cash or in-kind safety nets beyond 12 months, such as maternal child cash grants, cash for basic needs, protection-related support, school feeding, and take-home rations, especially for the most vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, older persons, and persons with disabilities, among others.

Delivering social protection services, including cash transfers and social grants, to women and girls continued to require securing arrangements in negotiations with local communities and the DFA. Examples included the adherence to mahram requirements and separate transportation for female and male staff. In some provinces, the lack of female staff participation during household assessments increased the risk of households misrepresenting size and vulnerability. Throughout, UN agencies and partners conducted refresher training for front-line staff members to strengthen procedures and community consultations on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) as a priority. Key achievements include:

Cash for work activities.

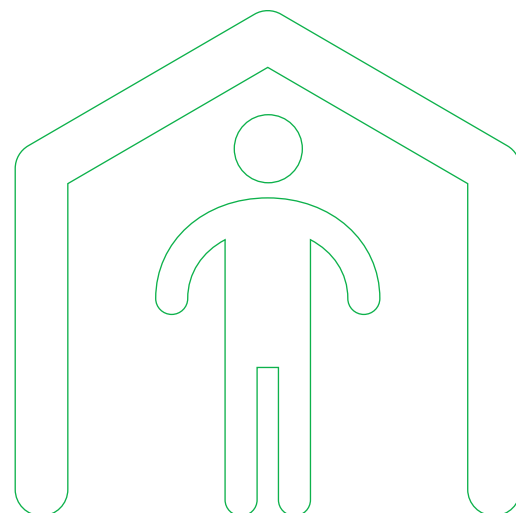
From July to December 2023, 558,220 people benefitted from short-term employment and improved livelihoods through cash-for-work activities with UN support, including mostly vulnerable people. This exceeded targets.

Social cash assistance.

Almost meeting targets, 170,405 households were reached with social cash assistance with UN support in 2023.

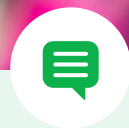
Cash assistance to meet winter needs.

In 2023, 85,901 households were reached with cash assistance to meet winter needs, approaching targets.¹³





©UNESCO Afghanistan



Learning and empowerment through literacy in Afghanistan

In a small home on the outskirts of Kabul, Maryam helped her second daughter with her homework. As a mother of six, Maryam spends most of her day caring for her children. Maryam did not know how to read and write when she had her first child. When her eldest daughter was 7 months old, the child suffered from a high fever and body tremors. Not knowing what to do, Maryam took her to search for a nearby hospital. They failed to find it because Maryam could not read the road signs. Feeling devastated, Maryam asked a boy for help. He laughed and said, “You are standing right in front of a hospital, can’t you see it?”. Maryam immediately took her daughter inside, feeling disappointed in herself. She wished she had known how to read and write.

Then, one day, Maryam signed up for a community literacy programme. “I wanted to learn how to read and write so that I can provide better care for my children,” she said. Now, Maryam can read the signs of hospitals and pharmacies. She can also help her children with their schoolwork and explain topics to them at home. “I am so grateful for the opportunity for my mother to learn how to read and write,” her second daughter said as they finished their schoolwork session for the day.

Only a fifth of Afghan women are literate, among the lowest in the world. Educated women are empowered to make positive contributions to the development of the economy, health system, and overall societal progress. Over 55,000 youths and adolescents, over 68 per cent of whom are women and adolescent girls, benefit from UNESCO’s community-based literacy and pre-vocational training delivered by UNESCO-trained literacy facilitators in Afghanistan.

55,000

Over 55,000 youths and adolescents, over 68 per cent of whom are women and adolescent girls, benefit from UNESCO’s community-based literacy and pre-vocational training.

1.5 Protection



Relevant providers and stakeholders have strengthened capacities to increase access to and improve the provision of preventive, mitigating, and responsive protection services – including on child protection, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and explosive hazards – to the most vulnerable at family and community levels.

In 2023, the UN worked closely with protection partners, civil society, NGOs, employers' and workers' organizations, and other stakeholders to enhance their capacities and find entry points that are safe to deliver mental health and psychosocial support services, including psychosocial first aid. The UN also worked to scale-up comprehensive and survivor-centred prevention and response services for gender-based violence (GBV). These included initiatives to address harmful socio-cultural norms that perpetuate GBV, as well as risk mitigation and response services, including for domestic violence, child labour, and other harmful practices. The UN provided individualized support through the strengthening of service delivery, case management services, mapping of referral systems for women and girl survivors of violence and people with specialized needs, supporting legal identity systems (including registration of births), and facilitating access to housing, land, and property.

Delivering protection services to women and girls, including child protection and GBV protection services remained highly constrained. Whenever possible, the UN continues to operate women's spaces in partnership with women-led civil society organizations (CSOs) and women organizations.

These centres serve the women and girls survivors of violence and crises-affected women more broadly, including primarily internally displaced persons (IDP) women. Achievements include:

Protection service awareness raising.

From July to December 2023, 2,679,511 people were reached by awareness-raising interventions on protection services (mental health, GBV/psychosocial support, child protection, legal support) with UN support, significantly exceeding targets.

Psychosocial support, child protection, and sexual exploitation and abuse response services.

From July to December 2023, 620,994 beneficiaries were reached with psychosocial support, child protection, and sexual exploitation and abuse response services, approaching targets.

Quality of protection services monitoring.

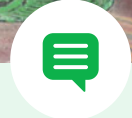
From July to December 2023, 212 organizations and facilities were able to deliver and/or monitor the quality of protection services, resources, and goods for women, men, girls, and boys with UN support, approaching targets.

Explosive ordnance risk education.

From July to December 2023, 2,055,526 beneficiaries received explosive ordnance risk education with UN support, remaining below targets.¹⁴



©UNDP Afghanistan



Cash for Work

Rahmat's face, weathered beyond his years, tells a story of resilience and hope amid adversity. A mere teenager, he heads a household of 12, all huddled around him in their transitional shelter. "Now, we are happy," says the 19-year-old Herat earthquake survivor. "This shelter may be smaller than what we lost in the earthquakes, but it is safe and warm in here."

Rahmat and his family lost their home in the deadly earthquakes that rocked the western province of Herat in October last year. In the harsh Afghan winter that followed, thousands of families sought refuge in makeshift tents, battling strong winds, sandstorms, and freezing temperatures. "Had we stayed in those tents any longer, my family would have been severely unwell," says Rahmat.

Recognizing the urgent need for shelter, UNDP partnered with Norwegian Church Aid to construct 235 transitional shelters in Chahak village. In less than three months, these shelters have become a haven for 200 families, offering safety and warmth. Sitting in his new home, Rahmat reflects on the difference, "Our old home was made of mud so when the earthquakes hit, it stood no chance. This house is strong and sturdy."

Beyond shelter construction, UNDP is actively involved in supporting the livelihoods of the affected community through a cash-for-shelter initiative. This owner-driven approach engages community members in the construction of their transitional shelter, while earning an income for the family. Additionally, since the earthquakes, 15 community kitchens in Herat city and six newly established ones in Chahak village have served over 36,000 free hot meals, fostering a sense of resilience within the community.

235

UNDP partnered with Norwegian Church Aid to construct 235 transitional shelters.



©OCHA/Olivier Jobard



Mine action in Afghanistan

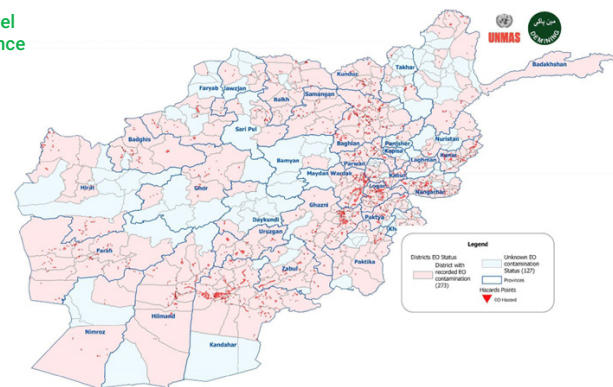
Afghanistan is among the countries most heavily contaminated with hazardous explosives. Two-thirds of its districts contain explosive hazards, and 3 million people live within a 1 km radius of mines, improvised explosive devices, and explosive remnants of war. More than 60 people – mostly children – are killed and maimed every month. Vast swathes of land and large numbers of critical infrastructure (including schools) are contaminated. In addition to causing severe physical harm, explosives prevent the safe movement of civilians and aid workers. They also pose mental and psychological risks arising from fear, and they limit safe access to livelihoods and income that aggravate families’ distress. Households dependent on agriculture-based livelihoods, including farmers, shepherds, and herders, are particularly exposed. As poverty levels deepen in Afghanistan, more children and adults are being driven to gather live artillery shells and mortar bombs to harvest metal to earn a living – with tragic consequences.

Currently, mine action is among the most underfunded sectors in Afghanistan and no longer has the resources needed to stem the problem. In the last two years, funding for mine action has halved, leading to a drastic 40 per cent reduction in the relevant

workforce. The number of mining personnel was once as large as 15,000, while today, it is closer to 3,000.

Afghanistan was the birthplace of global humanitarian mine action, with operations established in 1988. Since then, mine action partners have cleared more than 13 million items of explosive remnants of war, nearly 764,000 anti-personnel mines, and more than 33,460 anti-vehicle mines, releasing over 3,622 km² of land for productive purposes – including housing, education, agriculture, and irrigation – to 3,517 communities. Nevertheless, easily preventable deaths are still occurring despite the improved access following the end of the war.

Map. District-level explosive ordnance contamination



Spotlight Initiative Afghanistan

Total budget

US\$ 9,852,907 (2020-2023)

Recipient UN organizations

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women

The Spotlight Initiative Afghanistan (SI-A) was launched in November 2020 as part of global efforts to eliminate violence against women. Despite several disruptions during its implementation, including the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions by DFA against women and girls, SI-A developed flexible approaches to meet demands in areas such as healthcare and economic support. Most interventions focused on service provision to women and girls, followed by data collection, prevention work, and strengthening capacities of women's civil society, including across the development-peace-humanitarian nexus. While the current SI-A has been closed as of 31 December 2023, a concept note has been developed for a second phase of the programme for donors' consideration.

Laws and Policies

A series of policy discussions were held with various community groups to promote women's rights and create a safe community environment.

Institutions

120 members in 12 districts selected from Community Development Councils (CDC) and Women's Rights Civil Society Organizations trained and community gender action plans to address the recommendations on women's safety and protection developed.

Prevention

- 1,747,380 individuals reached through mass media and community engagement activities with positive behavioral messages and information.
- 60,461 community members, 1,440 religious leaders and 65 men and boys' networks sensitized to the consequences of child marriage, women's and children's rights, and gender equality.

- 35 project staff capacities built, 727 front-line staff trained, and 20,560 adolescents and youth reached through peer-to-peer mentoring.
- Established 193 Multi-purpose Adolescents Groups and 59 Adolescent Youth Networks with 4,564 members and 30 Child Protection Action Networks with 900 members established.

Protection

294,755 women and girls provided with combined interventions (psycho-social support, basic health services, life-skills education, economic or livelihoods support).

The national Youth Health Line supported more than 488,725 young people through counselling, information on adolescent health issues, and referrals to service delivery points.

25 Youth Health Corners provided services to 41,328 young people, 7,763 of whom received pre-marriage counselling.

Women's Movement and Civil Society

- The comprehensive grant-making mechanism for 19 CSOs established, with tailored capacity building and provision of institutional and programming grants, delivering interventions at grassroots level across four regions of Afghanistan.
- Evidence-based knowledge for GBV prevention and response collected through a series of CSO consultations and study of current practices.



Spotlight Initiative



Outcome 2.

Economic Opportunities and Resilient Livelihoods

By the end of 2025, more people in Afghanistan, notably women and vulnerable groups, will benefit from an increasingly inclusive economy, with greater equality of economic opportunities, jobs, more resilient livelihoods, strengthened food value chains, and improved natural resources management.

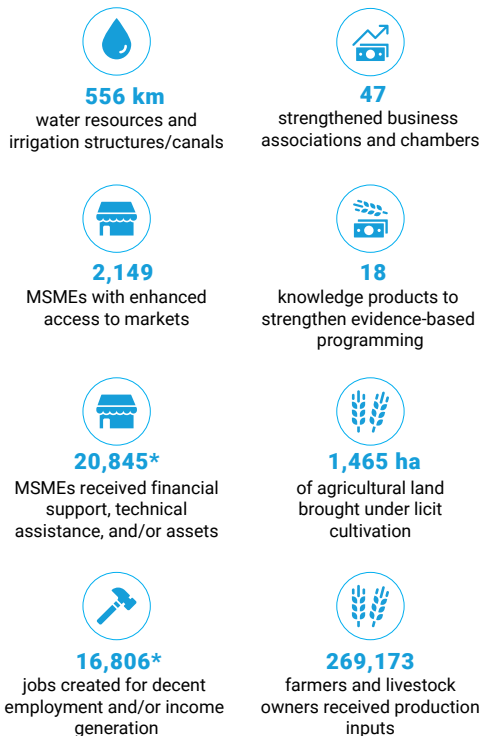
Addressing Afghanistan’s economic challenges requires community-level resilience strengthening against shocks and stressors – including environmental hazards and economic shocks – and a bottom-up and inclusive economic recovery that creates decent jobs, raises incomes, and increases agricultural and industrial production. In 2023, UN interventions helped to create an environment that facilitates economic growth and access to finance and creates more decent work opportunities, especially for women. The UN and partners further supported investments in skilled personnel to deliver

necessary market-relevant knowledge and skills to strengthen a labour force that meets market needs. This included activities to create more efficient, sustainable, and resilient agribusiness, handcraft, and garment value chains to support economic opportunities for rural livelihoods and contribute towards improved food security.

Under UNSFA Outcome 2, from July to December 2023, 14 UN agencies, with their partners, delivered around US\$104.5 million through 37 programme interventions in Afghanistan.

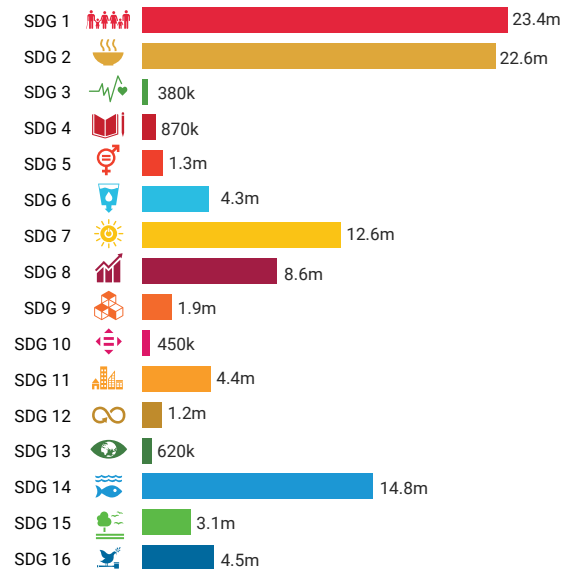


Select achievements UNSFA (Jul-Dec 2023)



*Reflecting achievements under TEF (Jan-Jun) 2023 and UNSFA (Jul-Dec) 2023

UNSFA OUTCOME 2 (Jul-Dec 2023): Expenditure by SDG

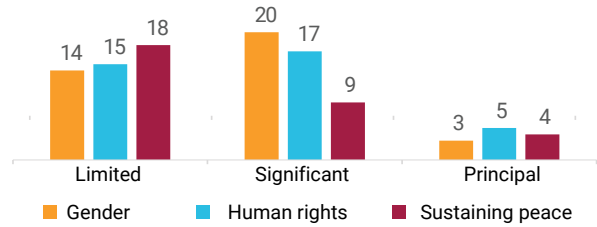




Contributing agencies



Output activities contribution to markers



2.1 Economic Stabilization



Economic and financial institutions and stakeholders have improved capacities to contribute to economic stabilization and pro-poor, private-sector-led economic recovery.

In close cooperation with other international agencies, the UN generated evidence-based scenario simulations using economic modelling tools to provide visibility on the future trajectories of the Afghan economy. These could be used to inform programmatic recommendations and contribute to more credible macroeconomic management policies that support price stability and inclusive economic growth. Technical assistance was also provided to financial sector institutions to develop industry and client-specific financial products. Key achievements include:

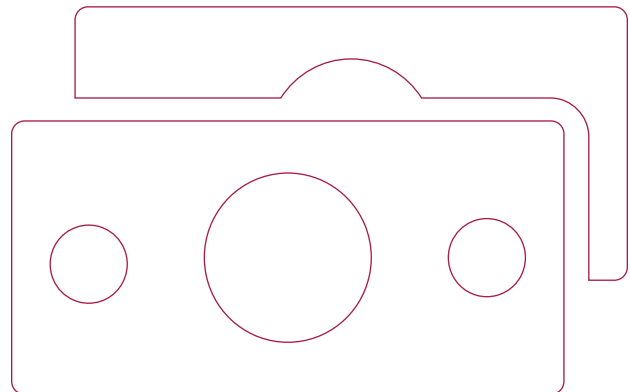
Capacity building for economic and financial institutions.

From July to December 2023, 8 technical assistance and/or capacity development initiatives were provided to economic and financial institutions, and employers' and workers' organizations with UN support, meeting targets.

Loans to Afghan private sector, including women-led

MSMEs.

From July to December 2023, 389 loans were disbursed to the Afghan private sector, of which 152 were disbursed to women-led MSMEs, by financial institutions supported by the UN.





©UNHCR/Samand Ibrahim

Microfinance support

Today, Hanifa, a mother of five who was displaced from her home, is the owner of a flourishing grocery store in Kabul. “We were in a very dire situation; things were really bad,” she says. “My husband is a casual labourer, and he could not find a job for days.” That was when Hanifa received a loan of AFN 200,000 (US\$2,700) to start her own business. Within a year of opening the store she was expanding operations, an experience that forced her to learn business skills on-the-job. “Now I know how to use a scale,” she says, “how to do calculations, how to transfer a mobile balance. I am running a shop, although mostly men do this role, and people say: ‘Well done that you are doing this job!’ They encourage me a lot.”

Microfinance-funded projects, which provide small amounts of capital and support, have helped create job opportunities and strengthen economic resilience for refugee returnees and internally displaced Afghans. The programmes follow the principles of Islamic financing, providing business owners with easy options for repayment, with longer grace periods. Almost 40 per cent of the businesses supported are run by women. 27-year-old Muzhada has been able to start and expand

a tailoring business in Kabul after receiving a loan of AFN 150,000 (US\$2,000). “The day I received the loan, I felt a great sense of happiness,” she said. The loan allowed Muzhada to buy the equipment and fabric she needed to set up in business. “Before, I knew how to do tailoring, but I didn’t have the tools. Since I received the loan, my business has flourished, and I have a very good income.” The 27-year-old now has big dreams for the future: “I want to become a businesswoman, become famous all over the world, as a designer, a tailor.”

“The day I received the loan, I felt a great sense of happiness,” she said. The loan allowed Muzhada to buy the equipment and fabric she needed to set up in business.”

2.2 Private Sector Development



Private sector enterprises, particularly MSMEs, have improved access to finance, asset support and business development services, and increased business opportunities that stimulate growth and decent job creation.

The UN and its partners supported start-ups, MSMEs, agribusinesses, and the capacity development of business services providers, including employers' and workers' organizations, and business development mentors to facilitate private-sector-led growth and decent job creation. Women-owned enterprises, women-led organizations, and women-focused organizations were key beneficiaries and partners. The UN worked to promote women's participation in the economy by addressing barriers restricting their engagement, supporting women-led enterprises, and providing technical support to women entrepreneurs. Despite the gradual shutdown of public spaces and sectors for women through various bans and restrictions, livelihood, and income generation areas, in particular building upon existing traditional and home-based skills of Afghan women, remained relatively open for interventions. Within funding constraints (US\$46.4 million, or around 43 per cent, available of US\$106.9 million requested), results in some intervention areas remained below targets. Achievements include:

Support to business associations and chambers. From July to December 2023, 47 business associations and chambers, formal and informal, particularly women's business associations, were strengthened with UN support, approaching targets.

MSME capacity development.

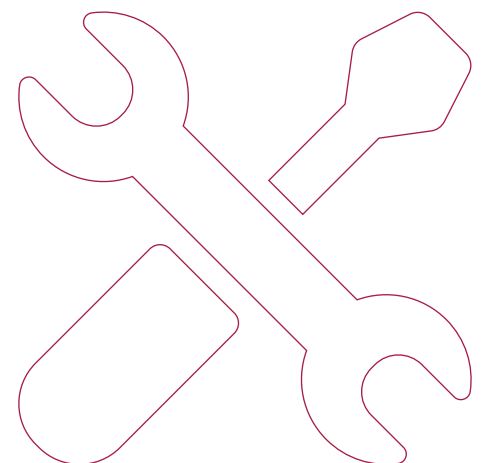
In 2023, 20,845 MSMEs (formal and informal), including startups, received financial support, technical assistance/capacity development, and assets (including loans, grants, asset transfers, etc.) with UN support, missing targets.

MSME access to markets.

From July to December 2023, interventions with UN support enhanced access to markets, including regional and international, digital solutions, green energy, and infrastructure for 2,149 MSMEs (both formal and informal). This exceeded targets significantly.

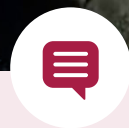
Creation of decent employment and/or income generation.

In 2023, 16,806 jobs were created for decent employment and/or income generation, including the creation of new jobs and retention of existing ones, with UN support. This remained significantly below target.





©FAO Afghanistan



Community in Nangarhar benefits from new waterworks

In the beautiful village of Landakhil, located in the Pachir Agam District of Nangarhar Province, a transformative initiative unfolded in 2023. Courtesy of generous support from the World Bank and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this rural haven witnessed a remarkable change: the construction of six gabion protection walls and the rehabilitation of a more than 400-meter-long irrigation canal. The purpose was to improve the irrigation systems, thereby shielding both the canal and the adjacent land from the destructive force of floods.

The intervention served as a spark for socioeconomic development, providing 150 jobs to male residents over eight months, while 30 female residents gained access to specialized training in gabion weaving. This combined effect promoted gender inclusion and a sense of collective empowerment, and it revitalized the village's infrastructure. Furthermore, the initiative extended short-term cash-for-work opportunities to 8,137 individuals, including both skilled and unskilled workers. Since rural communities often lack cash, this income was used to revive the local economy.

“The project not only brought physical changes but instilled a renewed sense of hope within our community,” said Mr. Ashiqullah, a resident of Landakhil. “It was a collective effort that transcended the mere construction of walls and culverts; it revitalized our spirit and brought prosperity to our doorsteps.”

“The project not only brought physical changes but instilled a renewed sense of hope within our community.”

2.3 Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods



Rural communities can better and sustainably manage natural resources, increase agricultural productivity and value addition, manage and reduce disaster risks, and enhance biodiversity, contributing to increased resilience, food security and nutrition, decent work, and sustainable livelihoods for all Afghans.

Interventions supported rural livelihoods in an increasingly water-stressed environment to build the capacities of communities on the sustainable management and use of natural resources and ecosystem restoration in a conflict-sensitive manner and create opportunities to address gender inequalities. As with private sector interventions, the programmatic space to support women's livelihoods remained relatively permissive. However, within funding constraints (US\$93.3 million, or around 27 per cent, available of US\$339.6 million requested), results in some intervention areas remained significantly below targets.

Achievements include:

Strengthen evidence-based programming.

From July to December 2023, 18 assessments, surveys, knowledge products and studies were produced with UN support to strengthen capacities of evidence-based programming for food and nutrition security, agriculture, and decent work and livelihoods, achieving targets.

Support to agricultural land.

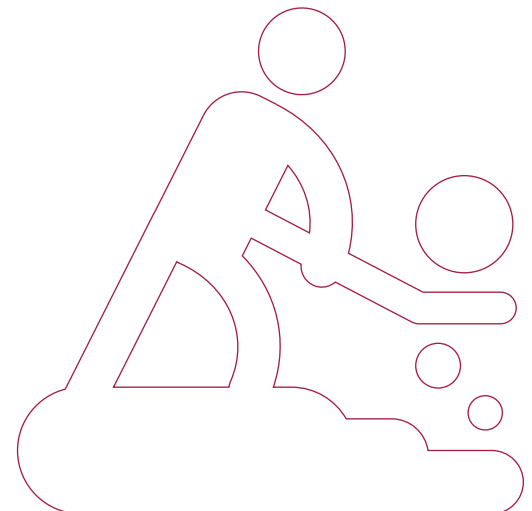
From July to December 2023, 1,465 hectares of agricultural land were rehabilitated, restored, or brought under licit cultivation with UN support, nearing targets.

Support to agriculture and livestock owners and rural producer organizations.

From July to December 2023, 269,173 farmers (8 per cent of target) and 583 rural organizations (11 per cent of target) received production inputs, services and/or technological packages to enhance agricultural, livestock, or fishery production, processing, and marketing with UN support, remaining significantly below targets.

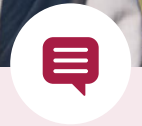
Rehabilitation and/or establishment of agriculture-related structures.

From July to December 2023, 555.6 km of canals (46 per cent of the yearly target) and 1,177 agriculture-related water resources and irrigation structures (33 per cent of the yearly target) were rehabilitated.





©UNODC/Christina Powell



Finding alternatives to opium

Baz Mohammad knew he wanted a change. As an opium poppy farmer in Fateh Abad village in eastern Afghanistan, he used the profits from cultivating poppy to support his family. Four years ago, however, he realized that contributing to opium cultivation was an abuse to his “family, community, and the whole world.” He stopped planting poppies and established a citrus orchard. He soon encountered a problem: water supply. He had no source of irrigation and was forced to drill a well and painstakingly carry water by bucket throughout his 4,000 square meters of farmland. Through its Alternative Development program, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), installed a solar-powered drip irrigation system.

Water-saving drip irrigation runs water through pipes that are either buried or lying slightly above ground near the crops. “Without this system, my orchard would have died,” says Baz Mohammad. In 2022, thanks to this system, Baz Mohammad and his family sold 2.1 tons of lemons. He says that the orchard means a lot to his family, providing them with the means to buy food and pay for education for his children, including four daughters.

Across Afghanistan, people like Baz Mohammad are in need of help. UNODC and partners are ready to deliver, but more funding is urgently needed. The risk of inaction is high: livelihood assistance provides a source of income that enables many vulnerable families to survive. UNODC’s Alternative Development program supports the transition to legal crops and the adoption of other income-generating activities. Over 140,000 people have been reached since 2021, more than a third of whom are women.

140,000

Over 140,000 people have been reached since 2021, more than a third of whom are women.



©ILO, STFA



From an abusive marriage to thriving as an entrepreneur

After her divorce, Najia Rahmati, 26 years old, moved with her 4-year-old daughter from Aqcha District in Jawzjan to Mazar-e Sharif City, where her parents live. She had suffered violent physical abuse throughout her married life in Jawzjan. “All my married days were very dark days,” she says. “I never smiled.”

While living with her parents, Najia began working, cleaning houses, and doing people’s laundry. Then she encountered the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) entrepreneurship training project, funded by UNHCR. Najia received training through the project, and with help from a project business coach, she developed a concrete business idea, as well as a business plan, which she submitted to the International Labour Organization (ILO) for consideration. The ILO then leveraged financial support through its partnership with UNHCR, which supported Najia with seed funding.

She used the money to purchase 20 domestic Afghani Morghe Watani chickens and a cart that she is renting out for AFN 1,500 per month. Currently, Najia has 35 chickens that produce a minimum of 20 organic free-range eggs daily. These are sold at a

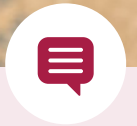
premium price of AFN 12 – AFN 2 above the price for other table eggs on the market. She makes a gross income of AFN 7,200 per month, in addition to the earnings from the cart rental.

Thanks to the project intervention, Najia is now an independent entrepreneur who is able to support her daughter and other members of her family. She has become a self-sufficient woman, confident and determined to become a better entrepreneur, as well as to create jobs for other vulnerable women. Asked what she would like other women to know about the challenges of doing business, Najia replied, “You have to work hard and believe in yourself and find opportunities in challenges.”

Najia received training through the project, and with help from a project business coach, she developed a concrete business idea, as well as a business plan.



©Najibullah Haidari



From accountant to businessman

Mr. Saeed Ahmad Gul Ahmad in Kandahar used to work as an accountant for a company exporting dry fruits. He had always thought of starting his own business. After attending the SIYB trainings funded by UNCTAD under Special Trust for Afghanistan (STFA), Mr. Saeed borrowed money to develop his own brand called Baran Mewa to export dry fruits.

“In the SIYB trainings, I learned the business development and management skills to make my dream come true. Now, I can provide not only for myself and my family, but also for other people who work with me in my company. The trainings opened my mind. Thanks to UNCTAD for assisting me in my journey of success,” said Mr. Saeed.

“In the SIYB trainings, I learned the business development and management skills to make my dream come true. Now, I can provide not only for myself and my family, but also for other people who work with me in my company. The trainings opened my mind. Thanks to UNCTAD for assisting me in my journey of success.”



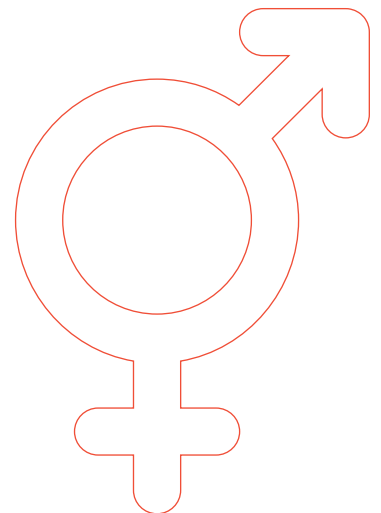
Outcome 3.

Social Cohesion, Inclusion, Gender Equality, Human Rights, and Rule of Law

By the end of 2025, more people in Afghanistan can participate in an increasingly socially cohesive, gender-equal, and inclusive society, where the rule of law and human rights are progressively upheld, and more people can participate in governance and decision-making.

Stability, gender equity and equality, inclusive and accountable governance, human rights, labour rights, and the rule of law, in line with international standards, are prerequisites for sustainable development and peace in Afghanistan. Under Outcome 3, the UN and partners provided support for citizen engagement and participation in governance, economic, social, and cultural life – particularly for women, youth, persons living with disabilities, and other excluded groups – to enhance social cohesion and tackle drivers of inequality and conflict. The December 2022 ban and its extension to Afghan women working for the UN negatively impacted and restricted civic space for women-led CSOs working on women’s rights

and social cohesion. In 2023, bureaucratic restrictions to women-led and gender-focused organizations increased, and Afghanistan remained the lowest-ranked country in the [Global Gender Gap Index](#) for a second year. Under UNSFA Outcome 3, from July to December 2023, ten UN agencies with partners delivered around US\$43.4 million with 28 programme interventions in Afghanistan.





Select achievements UNSFA (Jul-Dec 2023)



23,411

people received legal aid and advice



423

community-based structures contributing to social cohesion



11.5 million

people reached through human rights advocacy



314,144

people reached through social cohesion activities



43

reports and data sets on human rights, social norms, and non-discrimination



1,444

stakeholders trained in governance and decision-making



592

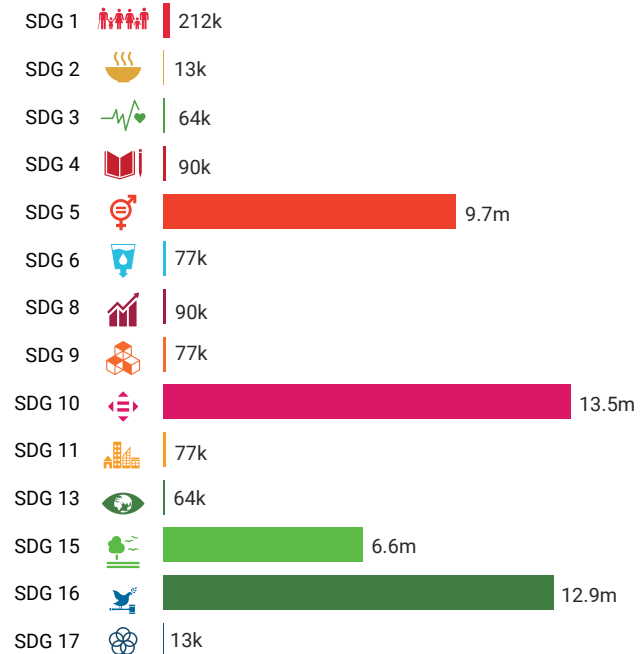
organizations received support to advance human rights



352

journalists and media activists employed in different media positions

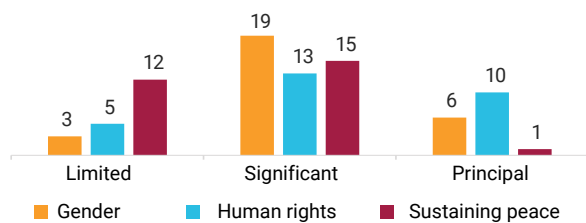
UNSFA OUTCOME 3 (Jul-Dec 2023): Expenditure by SDG



Contributing agencies



Output activities contribution to markers



3.1 Social Cohesion, Inclusion, and Reconciliation



Formal and informal governance mechanisms, community-based institutions, and decision-making platforms are more inclusive, responsive, accountable, and better able to contribute to social cohesion and reconciliation.

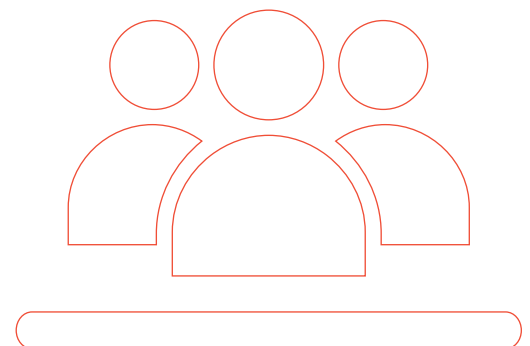
The UN, with partners, supported relevant policy platforms to ensure that all Afghans, particularly women and other groups excluded from national and local decision-making processes, can influence policymaking, impacting their country's future. Enhanced coordination across platforms – particularly those bringing together Afghan women, youth, and other excluded groups and ensuring that various forums inform international decision-making – was key. From January to November 2023, the UN formally consulted with 1,579 women online and in person on their current situation and priorities in 31 out of 34 provinces. Interventions advocated advancing inclusive participation in decision-making through formal institutions and informal platforms at all levels to enhance responsive, inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance. This included strengthening the capacity of CDCs, among others, to enable transparent and gender-equitable decision-making and delivery of aid and promotion of rights. Achievements included:

Support to CSOs and community-based structures.

From July to December 2023, 423 CSOs and community-based structures (such as CDCs) contributed to social cohesion and reconciliation with UN support, approaching targets.

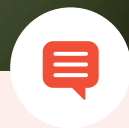
Social cohesion and reconciliation.

From July to December 2023, 314,144 people were reached through social cohesion with UN support, achieving targets.





©UN Women/Sayed Habib Bidell



Situation of Afghan women: Recommendations from country-wide consultations

Since the takeover of political power by the Taliban in 2021, the IOM, UNAMA and UN Women have undertaken quarterly consultations with Afghan women, documenting their experiences and their policy recommendations. Below are the recommendations from the latest consultation report issued in December 2023:

- Women requested that the international community continue to pressure the DFA by linking aid to better conditions for women and facilitating opportunities for Afghan women to talk directly with the Taliban. Many women reinforced the request to create pathways for women's participation as one of their only means of taking part in public decision-making.
- Women said that given the DFA's current restrictions and practices, the United Nations and international representatives who work at a local level would, in practice, be best placed to engage the DFA directly on reversing restrictions and negotiating local exemptions.
- Women continued to urge the United Nations and international representatives meeting the DFA to stress the necessity of including women through efficiency-based arguments and engaging male family and community members and male religious and tribal leaders to support advocacy.
- Women continued to urge international actors to support women's economic empowerment, including addressing poverty and associated negative mental health and other outcomes and increasing women's influence and access to decision-making.

3.2 Justice and Rule of Law



Formal and informal governance mechanisms, community-based institutions, and decision-making platforms are more inclusive, responsive, accountable, and better able to contribute to social cohesion and reconciliation.

The UN led, supported, and amplified coordinated advocacy initiatives that promote adherence to the rule of law and access to justice in Afghanistan. This included advocating for processes that clarify legal and constitutional frameworks that uphold international norms and standards, especially human rights. Given the absence of women's access to justice across the country, special emphasis was placed on addressing severe gender gaps. In the context of a deteriorating human rights situation, combined with underfunding (US\$214,000 or 59 per cent, available of US\$360,000 requested), achievements include:

Legal aid and advice.

From July to December 2023, 23,411 people received legal aid and advice with UN support, in line with targets.

Support to positive justice promotion.

From July to December 2023, 84 local institutions and groups were supported by the UN to promote positive, inclusive traditional justice and/or community-based practices, missing targets.

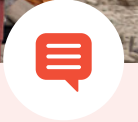
Legal awareness programmes.

From July to December 2023, 7,000 people through legal awareness programmes by NGOs became aware of their rights on access to justice, exceeding targets.





©UN Women/Sayed Habib Bidell



Women and children face a harsh return after expulsion from Pakistan

Since November 2023, more than 400,000 Afghans, around 80 per cent of whom are women or children, have left Pakistan and returned to their home country. “We were forced to leave Afghanistan as my husband was jobless. Now, Pakistan expelled us,” said Nasima, a mother of six now living in Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan. The journey can take a severe toll, and many have been forced to sell their possessions to afford transportation. “I have been staying in a tent, and my children got sick”, Nasima said. “I had to sell all I had so we could afford the travel back to Afghanistan. I lost my job and my house. I am very worried about my future here.”

Nabila, a mother of seven, described harsh nights stranded at a clogged border crossing. “Due to the rush of cars and people, we spent all night at the border,” she said. “We faced lots of difficulty passing the border. We spent a cold night as we didn’t have enough warm clothing or items to keep us warm. Then, in the early morning, we started the drive back to Afghanistan.”

A report published in December by the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, co-led by UN Women, noted that many of the factors that initially prompted women to flee Afghanistan have not changed and that some of the girls and young women among the returnees were born in Pakistan or have spent most of their lives there. In response to the recent influx of returnees, UN Women is working in the two most impacted provinces – Nangarhar and Kandahar – assessing the needs of women and girls and providing assistance to those most at risk.

400,000

Since November 2023, more than 400,000 Afghans, around 80 per cent of whom are women or children, have left Pakistan and returned to their home country

3.3 Human Rights and Women's Rights



Communities, civil society organizations, vulnerable groups, women, and other relevant stakeholders are more aware of and better able to promote and protect their human rights, aligned with international norms and standards, and mitigate threats to their safety and wellbeing.

The UN advocated for promoting and protecting human rights and aligning Afghanistan's normative and legal frameworks with international human rights instruments. Interventions addressed policies, structures, and harmful socio-cultural norms that perpetuate underlying drivers of social inequalities and conflict. Achievements included:

Advocacy, awareness raising, and behaviour change programming.

From July to December 2023, 11,531,469 people were reached through advocacy, awareness raising, and behaviour change programming on human rights, social norms, non-discrimination, and media, including via mass media campaigns, with UN support, significantly exceeding targets.

Human rights data sets and tools.

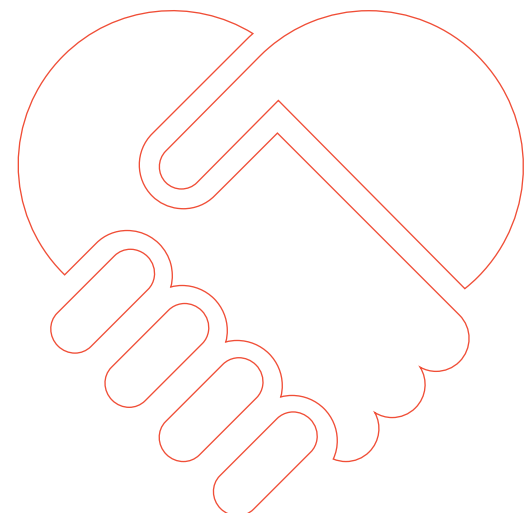
From July to December 2023, the UN produced 43 reports, data sets, tools, and manuals on human rights, social norms, and non-discrimination, exceeding targets.

Support to media positions.

From July to December 2023, 352 journalists and media activists were employed in different media positions with UN financial support, exceeding targets.

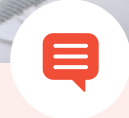
Support to NGOs and CSOs for human rights promotion and media resilience.

From July to December 2023, 592 organizations, including national NGOs, CSOs, and media outlets, received financial and/or capacity-building support from the UN to advance human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination of women, and media resilience, in line with targets.





©UNHCR Afghanistan



UNESCO and media freedom organizations call for continued support for Afghan media

Faced with a struggling media landscape in Afghanistan, where more than half of the media outlets active prior to August 2021 have been forced to close, UNESCO convened a coordination meeting in Brussels in November 2023 to discuss the needs of the Afghan media community and to support their resilience and medium-term viability.

The discussion was informed by testimonies in a live connection with the UNESCO Office in Kabul, which hosted the partners and beneficiaries of the project “Support to Afghan Media Resilience to Foster Peace and Security,” funded by the European Union. The partners, including journalists’ unions, major and local media organizations, and specialized NGOs, presented the results of their work on ensuring access to lifesaving, educational and humanitarian information and promoting the safety of journalists. Representatives from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Media Support (IMS), Internews, Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT), and Reporters Without Borders (RSF) identified

persisting and emerging needs. The international media support organizations and other participants called for continued and upscaled international support. They identified the following priorities:

- Advocacy by international organizations to promote freedom of expression and support the safety of journalists;
- Support for the resilience of the Afghan media community, including the independence and diversity of the media inside and outside the country;
- Access to verified humanitarian information;
- Mobilization of media in support of emergency alternative education;
- Support for female journalists;
- Cooperation among Afghan media;
- Collaboration amongst international media support organizations.

2. Partnerships and coordination with donors

The UN deepened and operationalized the post-2021 coordination architecture.

The UN in 2023 focused on strengthening coordination with key donors and partners to advance the basic human needs agenda and support drivers of resilience for the people in Afghanistan. ACG donor member states, UNAMA, the World Bank, the ADB, the IsDB, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as UN agencies convened in person three times (as ACG on March 15 and 16 in Dubai, September 26 and 27 in Istanbul, and a joint ACG-Senior Officials Meeting on 27 June in Brussels). In addition, a technical-level ACG meeting took place on 14 June in Dubai. The three co-chairs (UNAMA, EU, and WB) convened regular bi-weekly ACG calls in a virtual format.

The five Strategic Thematic Working Groups (STWGs) on Education, Health, Resilient Agriculture, Natural Resources and Livelihoods, Economic Stabilization, and Gender and Human Rights met along with the in-person ACG meetings in addition to regular virtual calls. They emerged as a critical driver of strategic discussions around sectoral challenges and priorities. In addition, cross-working group coordination was strengthened through regular monthly meetings of the STWG co-chairs facilitated by the UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO).

In parallel to the UNSFA and in close strategic alignment, the ACG developed a Framework for International Partner Support in Afghanistan 2023–2025. This framework delineates a collaborative approach to support the basic human needs of the most vulnerable and at-risk groups.

It complements the humanitarian response by bolstering resilience to shocks that drive humanitarian needs and fragility. The ACG's resolve in moving on basic human needs was shaken by DFAs' restrictions on Afghan female staff working for aid organizations. Several ACG donors froze their funding commitments, viewing the subsequent months as a trial period to assess partners' abilities to implement projects in a principled manner. In April, the ACG adopted basic human needs principles and considerations, which complemented the Framework for Humanitarian Operations in Afghanistan issued by the IASC. The trial period involved careful consideration and close monitoring to ensure that assistance was continued to be delivered "by women for women." The conclusion of the "operational trial period" by the IASC in July paved the way for many ACG donors to unfreeze 2022 and 2023 basic human needs funding. Based on the self-reporting of ACG donors to the funding database established by the EU and UNAMA, by the end of 2023, disbursements of ACG donors for basic human needs funding had exceeded announced commitments for Afghanistan.

3. Working better together

UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency.

To achieve impact at scale, ensure alignment in coverage, enhance complementarities, and avoid duplications across the funding streams, the Special Trust for Afghanistan (STFA), the Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund's (ARTF) as well as the ADB continued their close collaboration in knowledge-sharing and iterative planning, equality in service provision, and equity in coverage. These synergies enabled UN agencies to maintain and expand programmes in Afghanistan, ultimately benefitting the lives of Afghans.

A. Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA)

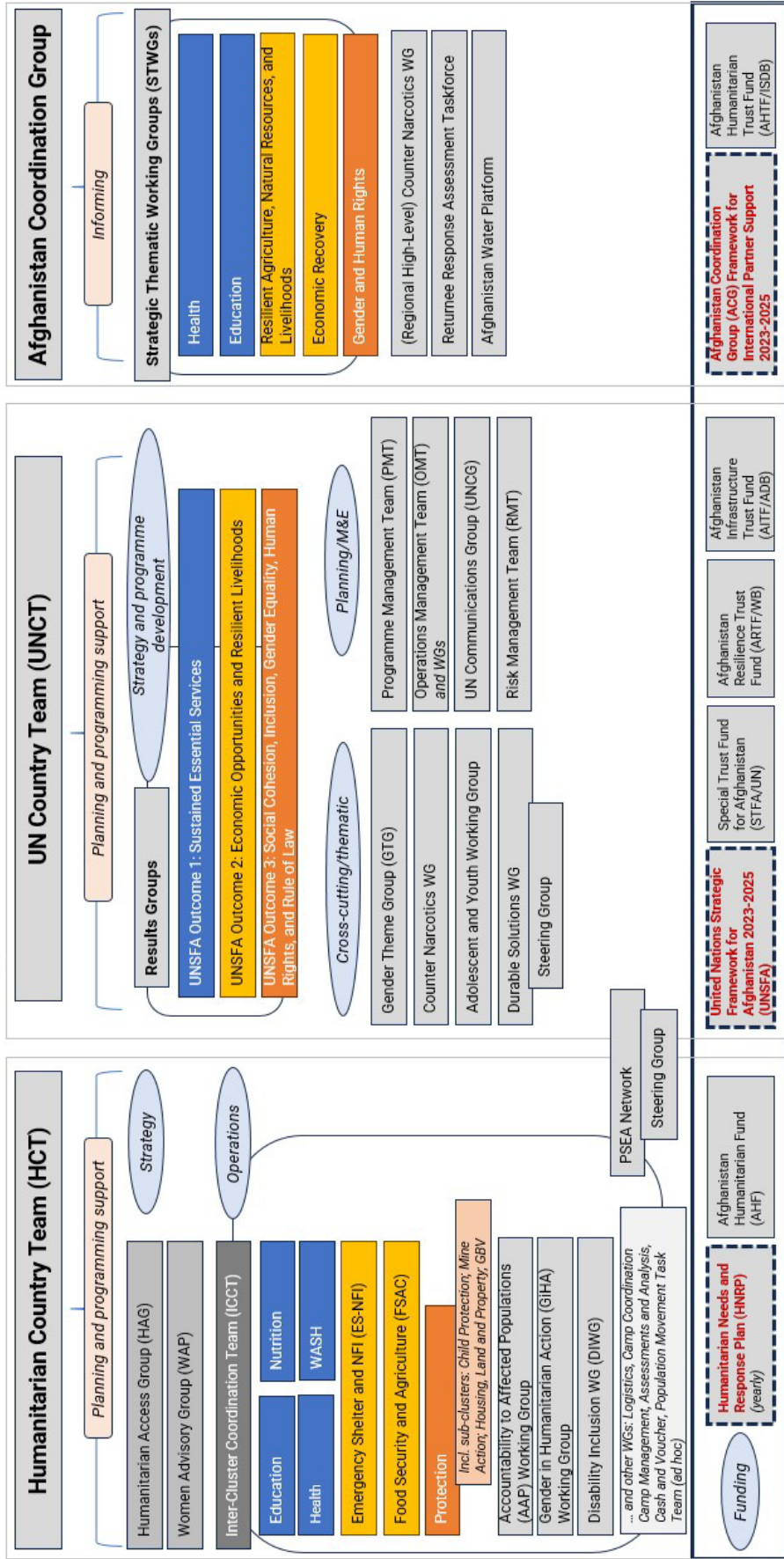
Since 2021, whenever possible, STFA area-based and integrated activities complement and amplify the results of the ARTF with its focus on vertical sector interventions and vice versa. For example, cash-for-work water resources and irrigation activities in East Afghanistan by the ARTF – including the rehabilitation of dry-stone check dams in 16,000 hectares of land – allowed for STFA to support agricultural livelihoods development in the same region, including through the provision of soybean cultivation and livestock protection packages as well as community training and mobilization for production activities. In 2023, STFA aligned with the priorities of the UNSFA. STFA enables strategic and systemic programming and programme implementation while capitalizing on complementarities and the technical expertise of 17 Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs). STFA constitutes an important instrument that enables coordinated international assistance to vulnerable communities in Afghanistan with support from 12 contributing partners. STFA applies a tailored area-based integrated programming approach to support basic human needs, complementing short-term humanitarian life-saving assistance with the safeguarding of livelihoods and the strengthening of community resilience.

The distinguishing feature of the area-based approach is that it is an integrated response that addresses multiple vulnerabilities simultaneously to avoid the socio-economic collapse of the country in a context of severe instability.

B. Cross-cutting issues and nexus alignment

The synergies were also expanded to many areas of a cross-cutting nature equally relevant for humanitarian, development, and peace actors in line with a nexus approach. Cognizant of the regional importance of counter narcotics, and its cross-cutting relevance for climate change, livelihoods, health, and agriculture programmes, the UN created the Counter Narcotics Technical Working Group to mirror the Ambassador-level Counter Narcotics Working Group under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG). The Counter Narcotics Technical Working Group aims to increase information sharing on analysis and fostering intra-UN collaboration on counter narcotics programming across agencies, funds, and programmes. Similarly, the Afghanistan Water Platform (AWAP), chaired by the DSRSG/RC/HC and the World Bank, conceptualized in 2023, aims to maximize the benefits and impact of water-related development and humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan through coordinated investment and programming supported by sound analytics and data. Finally, following the steep increase in returnees from Pakistan at the end of 2023 and in recognition of the need for community-level interventions both of an immediate, humanitarian nature as well as for more sustainable assistance, the DSRSG/RC/HC tasked the Durable Solutions working group to operate in a nexus format by integrating basic human needs actors into existing humanitarian operational coordination fora at the provincial level. This approach enables a more joined-up approach through the sharing of data and analysis, joint planning, and coordinated response in line with the needs of Afghans in areas of return.

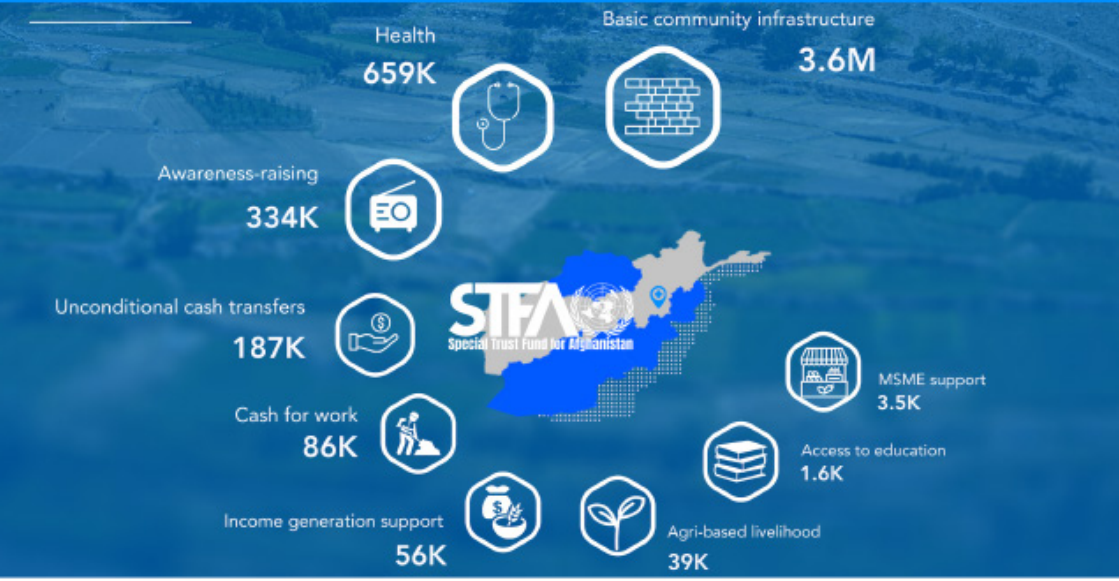
Afghanistan Coordination Structure



STFA progress in 2023



Beneficiaries reached through STFA



C. Business Operations Strategy

In support of the [United Nations Secretary-General's Efficiency agenda](#), the United Nations in Afghanistan formulated a results-based framework "Business Operations Strategy (BOS)" in September 2020. The objective of BOS is to identify and implement joint UN business operations with the purpose of eliminating duplication, leveraging the common bargaining power of the UN, and maximizing economies of scale, as well as reducing transaction cost. Underpinned by the principles of mutual recognition, client satisfaction, and cost effectiveness, BOS 2.0 aims to reduce duplication, leverage the common bargaining power of the UN, maximize economies of scale, and reduce transaction costs across common service lines. These include administration, human resources, premises and facilities, finance services, information and communication technology, logistics, and procurement. BOS 2.0 focuses on quality and efficiency gains aimed at reducing internal transaction costs and providing significant cost savings on externally sourced goods and services. The projected cost avoidance and efficiency gains of BOS 2.0 amount to US\$28.7 million from 2020–2025. The realized savings for 2020–2022 amounted to US\$14 million. After continued efforts and collaboration of the Operations Management Team (OMT) with the support and guidance from the RC and UNCT, the BOS review for 2023 was finalized on 31 March 2024, calculating cost avoidance and efficiency gains of US\$8.99 million in 2023, thereby bringing total savings to date up to US\$22.08 million, very close to the total projected savings target two years ahead of schedule.

During the 2023 review period, additional services have been identified for OMT focus in 2024 which have the potential to contribute further to efficiency gains and quality improvements. These activities will target environmental sustainability, disability inclusion, gender-responsive budgeting and human resources management,

as well as youth engagement. The Disability Inclusion Working Group (DIWG) has also been reconfigured to report both to the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) under the humanitarian architecture as well as the Programme Management Team under the UNCT co-chaired by the UN and international and national NGO representatives.

D. The UN Common Risk Management Approach

On 17 March 2022 the UN Security Council (SC) issued UN SC Resolution 2626 instructing UNAMA "to coordinate the overall risk management approach of the United Nations in Afghanistan, including monitoring, analysis and escalation of risks related to the assistance coordinated by the United Nations to Afghanistan in line with, and including, the risk of aid diversion".

In response, the UNCT established a system-wide Risk Management Team (RMT) to guide the UNCT in its common risk management approach. To address the increased UN joint risks of delivering assistance in Afghanistan, the RMT established a common risk management approach for effective aid delivery and enhanced mitigation of common reputational risk, with the following three key objectives:

1. Identify and assess common risks across the UN agencies to enable risk-informed decision making.
2. Facilitate joint UN efforts to improve risk management processes including assessment and response to potential fraud and corruption exposure.
3. Ensure consistency and transparency in reporting mechanism to donors and key stakeholders, including information sharing on risks and controls.

Key components of the common risk strategy are common risk analysis and joint mitigation, monitoring, and reporting. During 2023, the RMT has made progress in the following key areas:

- Common Risk Mitigation actions have been assigned to established UN coordination mechanisms, such as the Programme and Operations Management Teams.
- The online dashboard to monitor and report on identified risks and on progress with common mitigation action was developed and piloted.

- To enhance due diligence through information sharing among the UN entities operating in Afghanistan, the online Afghanistan Contractor Information Management System (CIMS) has been put in place. CIMS users have been trained and up-to-date contractor information is being shared among the agencies.
- The RMT also establishes ad-hoc task forces to manage deep dives into key topics, such as sharing good practices on due diligence tools, and on aid diversion.

Risk No.	Category	Title
1	Strategic	Rising security incidents hampering programme delivery
2		Instability of the Afghan economy
3		Human rights violations and abuses, including increased restrictions on women and girls' enjoyment of their rights, by DFA
4		Limited capacity of the public sector
5		Weak engagement between the international community and DFA
6		Incoherent donor conditionalities
7		Ineffective UN coordination
8	Fiduciary	Insufficient safety and security of UN personnel
9		Inconsistent collective application of the UN Engagement Principles by the UN and its implementing partners
10		Aid diversion, fraud, and corruption
11	Operational	Inability of the UN and implementing partners to effectively respond to needs of the most vulnerable

UN Common Risks 2023/2024

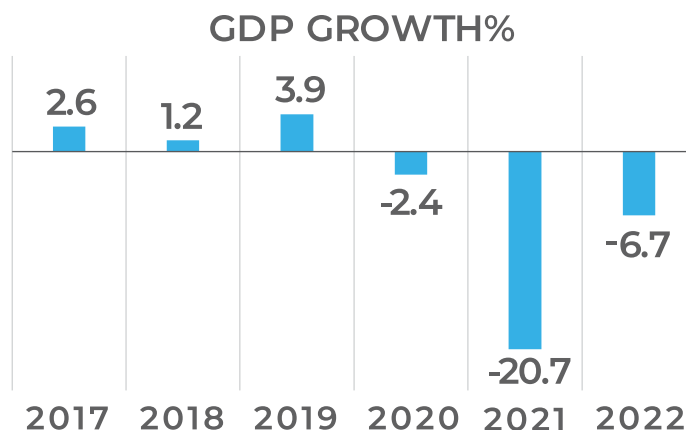
World Bank reverse expenditure analysis



Afghanistan's service delivery and financing landscape has been transformed since August 2021. Given the international community's non-recognition of the DFA – as well as concerns over the DFA's positions on human rights, gender, and international terrorism –, international aid has been delivered entirely off-budget. The gap was temporarily covered through substantial emergency humanitarian support provided through UN agencies, NGOs, and other partners. However, as the overall level of international financial support to Afghanistan declined, the sustainability of this approach was called into question. The World Bank conducted a reverse public expenditure review exercise (RePER) to inform dialogue towards a division of roles and responsibilities between international partners and the DFA on efficient delivery and to facilitate the sustainable financing of public services.

The GDP progression shows a significant contraction in economic growth since 2021, with a decrease of 20.7 per cent in 2022. The baseline scenario for 2023 to 2025 envisages continued economic stagnation with annual real GDP growth expected to average zero and annual inflation projected to average 6 per cent. The DFA have shown a slightly increasing capacity in domestic revenue collection with AFN 138.8 billion reported revenue in 2021 and AFN 194 billion reported revenue in 2022. These levels, if maintained, would only constitute

an average of 15 per cent of GDP in the next three years, significantly limiting the DFA's ability to spend given that no other financing sources, such as borrowing, are available. With these economic projections, a decline in international assistance financing (off-budget support) is expected to (i) negatively impact economic activity, projected to reach 2022 levels barely in 2025, (ii) reduce substantially DFA ability to invest in social sectors due to limited opportunities to increase its revenue collection.



Source: de facto National Statistics and Information Authority

E. Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

PSEA coordination in Afghanistan dates back to 2016, when an Inter-Agency Task Force focused mainly on PSEA preparedness and response activities for the UN agencies operating in the country. Since 2021, the humanitarian and development landscape has changed drastically, with the crisis and ensuing hardship increasing the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. In view of the new risk context, the UNCT and the HCT made the collective decision to transform the existing UN Task Force into an inclusive PSEA Network that fully engages UN, NGOs, and CSOs as equal partners in PSEA preparedness and response activities; to deploy a full-time Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) Coordinator to create momentum for an inter-agency coordination structure; and to ensure full operationalisation of the PSEA programme at field-level with close linkages to the affected communities.

To ensure this, in 2023, the newly revitalised Afghanistan PSEA Network, led by UNFPA, International Medical Corps (IMC), and RCO, conducted a mandatory mapping exercise of the in-country PSEA programme, with the aim of obtaining an updated overview of focal points; reporting mechanisms; victim support and services; and capacity, gaps, and needs in the country. Within six months, this undertaking had increased network membership from 16 to 185 entities with 333 PSEA focal points. Moreover, the PSEA Network joined forces with the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group to conduct quarterly assessments with affected communities (reaching 30,000 affected community members each round) on PSEA linked to general awareness, meaningful access to reporting mechanisms, engagement preferences, and understanding of risks – broken down by gender, age, and location.

By taking these steps, the PSEA Network has been able to support the UNCT and HCT in their collective design of an evidence-based, outward-focused, and intersectional PSEA Programme. So far, key achievements include establishing a PSEA focal point helpline that provides guidance to all network members on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and GBV referral pathways for safe intake and referral of SEA cases; developing an inter-agency PSEA information campaign with linked materials and video animations; facilitating monthly safety and wellbeing sessions for focal points; hosting regular community engagement sessions in the field; establishing a partnership with the UN radio programme; introducing the UN Victim Assistance Protocol; developing need-based training plans; and establishing three regional PSEA and AAP sub-working groups in Kandahar, Mazar-e Sharif, and Herat.

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

October to December 2023

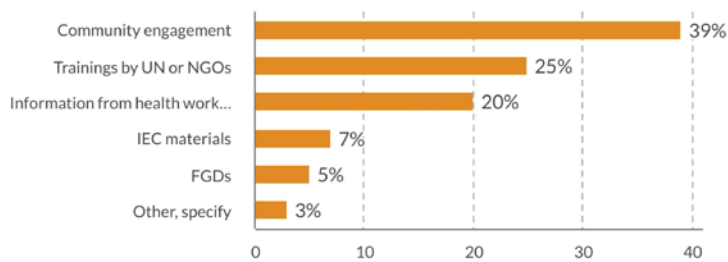
In the quarter for the PSEA, we collected 29,294 feedback from 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The data includes 44.4% males, 55.2% females, and 0.4% who preferred not to disclose their gender. Additionally, 10.34% of the population identified as disabled, and 42.62% of households were headed by women.



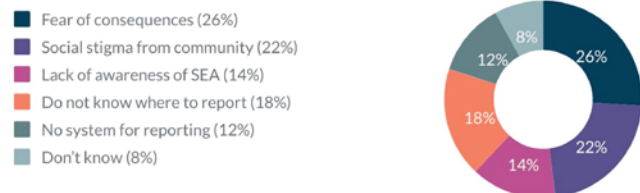
In your opinion, do you believe that the majority of the community knows about SEA and understands its implications?

No	Unknown	Yes
51%	24%	25%

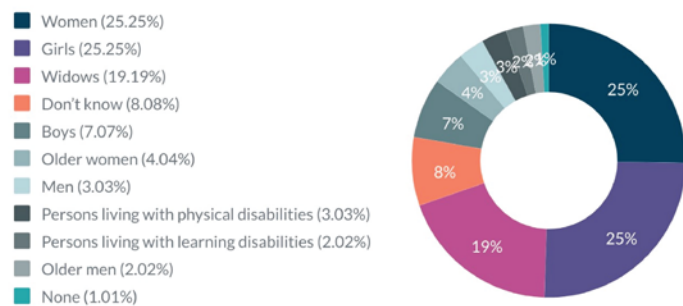
If yes, how do they know about SEA?



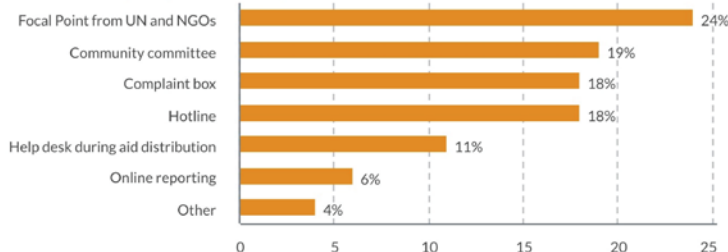
In your opinion, what could be the reasons for not reporting SEA cases?



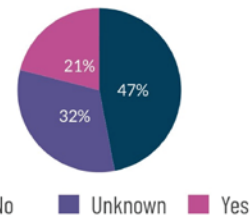
In your opinion, are there particular groups of people who face difficulties reporting SEA?



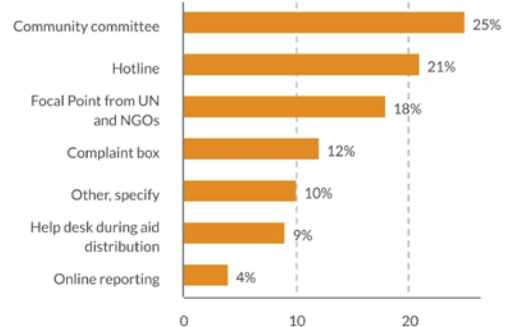
How would you prefer to report sea cases?



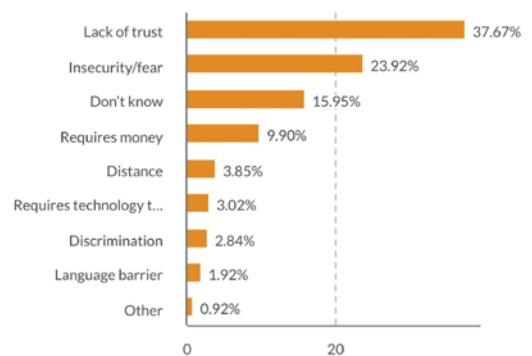
In your community, is there a functioning SEA reporting mechanism in place?



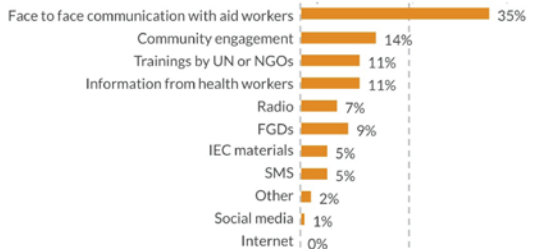
If yes, what is the mechanism?



If no, why not?



How would you prefer to receive information about psea, reporting mechanisms, and support available?



Awaaz Afghanistan: The helping voice amidst hard times



Awaaz Afghanistan is a humanitarian helpline that connects IDPs, returnees, and refugees affected by conflict and natural disaster with information on assistance. Awaaz has handled more than 398,000 calls from its 2018 creation to 28 March 2024.

A significant part of Awaaz's evolution from a humanitarian hotline to a nationwide accountability mechanism is the incorporation of complaint feedback response and referrals. This includes handling sensitive case reporting such as PSEA.

Partnered with over 130 organizations, Awaaz is hosted by UNOPS, with initial funding from the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF). European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), WFP, and UNHCR supported its launch and growth. Contributions from ARTF-funded projects and bilateral partners under STFA further sustained its expansion, serving both humanitarian and basic human needs partners.

Awaaz's inclusion in Afghanistan's HNRP for 2024 highlights its significance in meeting the needs of the Afghan people. Moreover, it showcases the impact of collaborative efforts to sustain services that benefit the aid community.

Initiated with
**Humanitarian
funding**

Expanded with

- **Bilateral funding**
- **ARTF funds**
- **STFA partners**



From
the People of Japan

Inter-fund complementarities: Awaaz

4. Financial overview and resource mobilization

Table 1. 2023 TEF funding by basic human needs outcomes (January to June, US\$ million).

Note: For this results report for basic human needs programming, TEF outcome 1 (humanitarian interventions) is not considered.

Outcome	Thematic area	Requested	Available	Expenditure
OUTCOME 2: Saving Livelihoods	Basic Infrastructure	113	43.3	10.3
	Decent Employment and Social Protection	658.6	274.6	81.3
	Education	188.6	78.7	14.7
	Food Security and Agriculture	245.5	110.8	64.4
	Health	386.6	170.7	71.4
	Protection and Social Cohesion	120.8	64.8	14.1
	Total		1,713.1	742.9
OUTCOME 3: Strengthening Institutions	Basic Infrastructure	88.6	67.3	7.6
	Decent Employment and Social Protection	9.8	6.7	2.0
	Education	10.7	1.8	1.2
	Food Security and Agriculture	1.5	0.9	0.8
	Health	16.2	5.9	1.0
	Nutrition	11.8	10.4	0.3
	Protection and Social Cohesion	108.8	59.5	6.3
Total		247.4	152.6	19.3
Total		1,960.5	895.5	275.5

Table 2. UNSFA 2023 funding by outcome (July to December, US\$ million)

Outcome	Thematic area	Requested	Available	Expenditure
OUTCOME 1: Essential Services	Education	162.0	127.8	64.1
	Health & Nutrition	351.7	397.9	259.2
	Protection	63.5	76.4	44.9
	Social Protection	161.9	161.9	116.1
	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	81.2	37.3	27.0
	Total		820.3	801.3
OUTCOME 2: Livelihoods	Economic Stabilization	2.9	3.0	2.1
	Private Sector Development	106.9	46.4	27.8
	Rural Development, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Management	339.6	93.3	74.6
	Total	449.4	142.7	104.5
OUTCOME 3: Rights/Rule of Law	Human rights and Women's rights/Gender Equality	27.3	31.5	11.8
	Rule of Law	0.4	0.2	0.1
	Social Cohesion, Inclusion, and Reconciliation	46.2	40.9	31.5
	Total	73.9	72.6	43.4
Total		1,343.6	1,016.6	659.2

Table 3. TEF basic human needs outcomes (January to June) and UNSFA (July to December) funding by agency (US\$ million)

Agency	TEF			UNSFA			Combined Expenditure (TEF and UNSFA)
	Requested	Available	Expenditure	Requested	Available*	Expenditure	
UNICEF	406.8	278.1	47.6	221.9	180.4	120.3	167.9
UNDP	309.0	133.0	47.6	178.5	181.1	93.3	140.9
UNOPS	210.0	135.5	47.4	82.4	94.4	92.6	140.0
WHO	130.5	54.6	30.1	110.6	135.6	100.7	130.8
WFP	138.1	48.7	43.6	104.6	117.5	49.9	93.5
UNFPA	40.6	31.8	10.0	47.2	111.9	75.1	85.1
FAO	97.0	60.3	19.6	271.0	37.9	37.9	57.5
UNHCR	66.7	7.8	2.2	145.4	45.8	29.2	31.4
IOM	241.7	30.6	2.4	104.1	49.9	23.4	25.8
UNWOMEN	89.7	57.4	6.0	26.6	26.7	16.8	22.9
UNESCO	122.6	31.0	7.9	11.4	10.2	6.1	14.0
UNODC	19.6	7.3	4.4	18.0	7.9	2.9	7.3
UNHABITAT	19.4	7.2	3.6	8.4	4.4	3.3	6.9
ILO	51.5	4.4	1.4	5.5	3.8	3.4	4.7
UNCTAD	3.2	0.8	0.4	4.5	5.6	2.2	2.5
UNMAS	13.3	6.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	0.6	1.9
UNAMA	-	-	-	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.1
UNITAR	0.3	0.3	-	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total	1,960.5	895.5	275.5	1,343.6	1,016.6	659.2	934.7

*Including carry-over from TEF



Chapter III

Chapter III

Key focus areas for 2024

The progression of basic human needs funding from August 2021 to 2023 has shown how the assistance community has followed through their resolve to bring a balance to the funding distribution in Afghanistan and to increase basic human needs assistance. At the same time, amidst competing global priorities and crises, the assistance community will be required to maximize the efficiency of overall funding levels, which are expected to shrink. Following a joined-up approach, the UN with its donor, cooperating, and implementing partners will seek to strengthen coherence, effectiveness, and interoperability of programme funding and implementation in line with the priorities outlined below.

The UN will ensure implementation in alignment with the principled approach set out in the UNSFA and ACG Framework throughout, including women's full and meaningful access to interventions. Operationally, adopting a Gender Parity Strategy and completing the Gender Scorecard exercise are crucial initiatives of the UNCT to take concrete steps in this regard. At the same time, we will uphold our advocacy with the DFA at all levels for existing restrictions to be rolled back and to foster a more conducive environment for all aid partners.

There will be a continued strong focus on robust risk management and oversight mechanisms. In line with our accountability to Afghans as well as to our donors, we will communicate proactively and transparently on the challenges faced, and we will remain in dialogue with donors, beneficiaries, and the DFA on the parameters to ensure that programming targets the most vulnerable in line with needs. Our systemic efforts to strengthen

efficiency gains across UN operations, such as the Business Operations Strategy, is a key component of this work.

We strengthen attention on data collection, harmonization, and interoperability to facilitate evidence-based planning and to showcase the collective response. This includes exploring collective approaches with partners to update data through new baseline assessments in key sectors, e.g. on nutrition, as well as ensuring synergies and compatibility, as possible, of data across the humanitarian-basic human needs nexus.

The UN will strengthen and deepen collaboration and collective response with donors, international finance institutions (IFIs), and NGO partners in line with the ACG Framework both at the policy level through regular exchanges with the ACG as well as at the operational level through the STWGs. This will help ensure full transparency and enable evidence-based updates to workplans to respond to emerging needs, e.g., early recovery after the Herat earthquakes, IDP and returnee response.

Building and complementing the humanitarian response, the UNCT will identify key areas to strengthen the transition from humanitarian aid to basic human needs and sustainable resilience programming. This will include sustaining essential services through complementary interventions in health, education, and other key sectors; shifting from a food security assistance model towards strengthening food systems; ramping up assistance in livelihoods/decent jobs and social protection to help transition out of aid dependency; and strengthening

cross-cutting thematic interventions in key areas of the humanitarian/development/peace nexus, including on climate resilience and durable solutions focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable in line with key principles and our accountability to the people of Afghanistan.

As we are reminded in our daily interactions with Afghans, they demand support to sustain themselves. We remain cognizant that the strengthening of economic growth through banking, microfinance, and related payment systems will be an important component of any economic stabilization scenario for Afghanistan. The UN, with its partners, will work to initiate a dialogue with the DFA on adjustments to regulatory frameworks and sustained public service delivery with the aim of creating a long-term and sustainable pathway to reduce aid dependency and put Afghanistan back on a path towards the achievement of the SDGs. In this regard, we reiterate our offer to the DFA for a dialogue and will work jointly with international partners, donors, and Afghans on how such engagement can be structured in a most productive way.

Ultimately, progress on the basic human needs agenda is closely interlinked with progress on political dialogue. The [Independent Assessment](#) of the Special Coordinator mandated by SCR 2679 (2023) provides us with recommendations for an integrated and coherent approach among political, humanitarian, and development actors, to advance the objective of a secure, stable, prosperous, and inclusive Afghanistan. As the UNCT in Afghanistan, we are committed to this mission.



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Annex

Annex

UNSFA output indicator overview (July to December 2023)

The below results achieved under UNSFA (July to December) are reported against July to December targets, unless marked otherwise.

¹ While the target refers to January to December, results are reported for July to December only.

² Target and results refer to January to December.

³ Including beneficiaries under humanitarian interventions whenever the nature of activities did not allow for disaggregate data.

Output 1.1				
Health and nutrition systems have improved and resilient capacities and resources to deliver accessible, affordable, gender- and age-responsive, shock responsive, and culturally acceptable essential healthcare and nutrition services that prioritize the most vulnerable.				
Indicator	2023 Target	2023 Results	% of Target	Status
1.1.1. Number of people accessing primary health care (PHC) services with UN support. ²	19,016,500	26,692,849	140%	Exceeding target
1.1.2. Number of health facilities constructed, rehabilitated, or equipped for the provision of essential health services with UN support.	550	3,264	593%	Exceeding target
1.1.3. Number of deliveries by skilled birth attendants at service delivery points with UN support.	40,000	31,278	78%	Approaching target
1.1.4. Number of children under one year reached with Penta-3 vaccine with UN support. ²	1,700,000	1,747,714	101%	Target achieved
1.1.5. Number of children 6-59 months with SAM and MAM admitted for treatment with UN support. ^{2,3}	2,975,000	2,230,443	75%	Approaching target
Output 1.2				
Formal and non-formal public, private, and community-based education systems are better able to sustain and increase access to inclusive, safe, and quality education opportunities for girls, boys, youth, and adults – especially girls and young women – across all levels of education.				
Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
1.2.1. Number of people accessing education services with UN support (disaggregated by formal education, informal, non-formal education, community-based education, TVET, alternative education, education level, sex, location, disability status, etc.). ^{1,3}	870,713	927,385	106%	Target achieved
1.2.2. Number of children in public education (including shock affected/vulnerable girls and boys) reached with emergency education support. ^{2,3}	6,550,215	7,179,492	110%	Exceeding target
1.2.3. Number of primary and secondary formal and informal education facilities (i) constructed, (ii) rehabilitated, (iii) provided with alternative energy and/or (iv) equipped with gender-appropriate infrastructure with UN support.	160	161	101%	Target achieved
1.2.4. Number of teachers trained with UN support including on inclusive, gender sensitive and innovative pedagogies, digital technologies, remote and blended teaching and learning.	770	1,034	134%	Exceeding target

Output 1.3

Stakeholders at national and subnational level are better able to manage and provide access to equitable, gender responsive, sustainable, climate resilient, and safe drinking water, improved sanitation, and positive hygiene practices in rural and poor urban communities.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
1.3.1. Number of people reached with at least basic water that is safe and available with UN support. ¹	1,200,000	1,056,256	88%	Approaching target
1.3.2. Number of people who gained access to at least basic sanitation services with UN support. ¹	1,000,000	624,860	62%	Approaching target
1.3.3. Number of people having access to basic hygiene services with UN support. ¹	600,000	488,614	81%	Approaching target

Output 1.4

Inclusive, equitable, shock responsive national safety net systems are established and operational providing support to and strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable and marginalized people in Afghanistan.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
1.4.1. Number of people benefiting from short-term employment and improved livelihoods through cash for work activities with UN support.	518,823	558,220	108%	Target achieved
1.4.2. Number of households reached with social cash assistance with UN support. ^{2,3}	175,000	170,405	97%	Approaching target
1.4.3. Number of households reached with cash assistance to meet winter needs with UN support. ^{2,3}	115,000	85,901	75%	Approaching target

Output 1.5

Relevant providers and stakeholders have strengthened capacities to increase access to and improve the provision of preventive, mitigating, and responsive protection services – including on child protection, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and explosive hazards – to the most vulnerable at family and community levels.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
1.5.1. Number of people reached by the awareness raising on protection services (mental health, GBV/psychosocial support, child protection, legal support) with UN support. ³	1,524,640	2,679,511	176%	Exceeding target
1.5.2. Number of women, men, girls and boys, receiving explosive ordnance risk education with UN support. ^{1,3}	3,610,000	2,055,526	57%	Missing target
1.5.3. Number of people reached with psychosocial support, child protection, and sexual exploitation and abuse response services disaggregated by age, sex, and location with UN support. ³	670,380	620,994	93%	Approaching target
1.5.4. Number of organizations and facilities able to deliver and/or monitor the quality of protection services, resources, and goods for women, men, girls, and boys with UN support.	235	212	90%	Approaching target

Output 2.1: Economic and financial institutions and stakeholders have improved capacities to contribute to economic stabilization and pro-poor, private-sector-led economic recovery.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
2.1.1. Number of loans disbursed to the Afghan private sector (including MSMEs, industries and producers) by financial institutions supported by the UN.	n/a	389	n/a	n/a
2.1.2. Number of newly developed Islamic financing products, including blended finance, available to MSMEs, big businesses and traders, with particular focus on women-led MSMEs, with UN support.	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.1.3. Number of technical assistance and/or capacity development initiatives provided to economic and financial institutions, and employers' and workers' organizations with UN support.	8	8	100%	Target achieved

Output 2.2

Private sector enterprises, particularly MSMEs, have improved access to finance, asset support and business development services, and increased business opportunities that stimulate growth and decent job creation.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
2.2.1. Number of MSMEs (formal and informal) including startups that received (i) financial support, (ii) technical assistance/capacity development, and (iii) assets (including loans, grants, asset transfers, etc.) with UN support. ²	35,263	20,845	59%	Missing target
2.2.2. Number of MSMEs (both formal and informal) that have enhanced access to markets (including regional and international), digital solutions, green energy, and infrastructure with UN support.	1,231	2,149	175%	Exceeding target
2.2.3. Number of jobs created for decent employment and/or income generation including (i) creation of new jobs, and (ii) retention of the existing ones with UN support. ²	46,780	16,806	35%	Missing targets
2.2.4. Number of business associations and chambers, formal and informal, particularly women's business associations that have been strengthened with UN support.	53	47	89%	Approaching targets

Output 2.3

Rural communities can better and sustainably manage natural resources, increase agricultural productivity and value addition, manage and reduce disaster risks, and enhance biodiversity, contributing to increased resilience, food security and nutrition, decent work, and sustainable livelihoods for all Afghans.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
2.3.1.(a) Number of farmers and livestock owners that have received production inputs, services and/or technological packages to enhance agricultural, livestock or fishery production, processing, and marketing with UN support.	3,247,437	269,173	8%	Missing target
2.3.1.(b) Number of rural producers' organizations that have received production inputs, services and/or technological packages to enhance agricultural, livestock or fishery production, processing, and marketing with UN support.	5236	583	11%	Missing target
2.3.2.(a) Number of water resources and irrigation structures that have been rehabilitated and/or established with UN support. ¹	3618	1177	33%	Missing target
2.3.2.(b) Length of water resources and irrigation structures that have been rehabilitated and/or established with UN support (km). ¹	1,205	555.6	46%	Missing target
2.3.3.(a) Number of hectares of rangeland and forest that have been rehabilitated or restored (Ha) with UN support.	1,067,510	3,530	n/a	Missing target
2.3.3.(b) Number of hectares of agricultural land that have been rehabilitated, restored, or brought under licit cultivation with UN support.	1,525	1,465	96%	Approaching target
2.3.4. Number of assessments, surveys, knowledge products and studies that have been produced by the UN or with UN support to strengthen capacities of evidence-based programming for food and nutrition security, agriculture, decent work, and livelihoods.	17	18	106%	Target achieved

Output 3.1

Formal and informal governance mechanisms, community-based institutions, and decision-making platforms are more inclusive, responsive, accountable, and better able to contribute to social cohesion and reconciliation.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
3.1.1. Number of stakeholders, staff, and partners trained in governance, operational management, and decision-making with UN support.	9,150	1,444	16%	Missing target
3.1.2. Number of CSOs and community-based structures that contribute to social cohesion and reconciliation with UN support.	523	423	81%	Approaching target
3.1.3. Number of persons whose capacities have been improved in participatory and inclusive community planning with UN support.	12,900	331	2.6%	Missing target
3.1.4. Number of people reached through social cohesion activities with UN support.	315,000	314,144	99%	Approaching target

Output 3.2

Justice institutions, including customary and traditional community systems, are better able to provide accessible, effective, equitable, inclusive, transparent, and timely services, and these services are increasingly provided in line with international norms and standards, benefiting all communities, especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, and minorities.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of Target	Status
3.2.1. Number of people who received legal aid and advice with UN support.	23,600	23,411	99%	Target achieved
3.2.2. Number of people who are aware of their rights on access to justice through legal awareness programmes by NGOs.	1500	7,000	467%	Exceeding target
3.2.3. Number of local institutions and groups supported by the UN to promote positive, inclusive traditional justice and/or community-based practices.	529	84	16%	Missing target

Output 3.3

Communities, civil society organizations, vulnerable groups, women, and other relevant stakeholders are more aware of and better able to promote and protect their human rights, aligned with international norms and standards, and mitigate threats to their safety and wellbeing.

Indicator	2023 Target	Results 2023	% of target	Status
3.3.1. Number of organizations (national NGOs, CSOs and media outlets) who received (i) financial and/or (ii) capacity building support from the UN to advance human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination of women, and media resilience.	565	592	105%	Target achieved
3.3.2. Number of people reached through advocacy, awareness raising, and behavior change programming on human rights, social norms, non-discrimination, and media with UN support (NB: Including via media campaigns). ³	1,092,135	11,531,469	1056%	Exceeding target
3.3.3. Number of reports, data sets, tools, manuals produced by the UN on human rights, social norms, non-discrimination, etc.	23	43	187%	Exceeding target
3.3.4. Number of journalists and media activists employed in different media positions with UN financial support.	220	352	160%	Exceeding target

List of acronyms and abbreviations

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations	GMFD	Global Forum for Media Development
ABADEI	Area Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives	HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
ACG	Afghanistan Coordination Group	HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
AFN	afghani (national currency)	HNRP	Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan
AHF	Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund	HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
AKAH-A	Aga Khan Agency for Habitat-Afghanistan	IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ANDSF	Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces	IC	International Community
ARTF	Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund	ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group
ATC	Afghan Technical Consultant	IFI	international finance institutions
AWAP	Afghanistan Water Platform	IFJ	International Federation of Journalists
BHN	Basic Human Needs	IFRP	Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	ILO	International Labour Organization
CDC	Community-Development Council	IMC	International Medical Corps
CfW	Cash For Work	IMS	International Media Support
CIMS	Contractor Information Management System	IOM	International Organization for Migration
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists	IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
CSO	civil society organization	IRC	International Red Cross
DFA	de facto authorities	MiCT	Internews, Media in Cooperation and Transition
DIWG	Disability Inclusion Working Group	MSME	micro, small and medium enterprises
DRC	Danish Refugee Council	NGO	non-governmental organization
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General	NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	OBT	off budget transfer
GBV	gender-based violence	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

OMT	Operations Management Team	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
PDNA	post-disaster needs assessment	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund (formerly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities)
PUMI	Première Urgence Internationale	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
PUNO	participating UN organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
PSEAH	protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
TEF	Transitional Engagement Framework	UNSFA	United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan
RC	Resident Coordinator	WFP	World Food Programme
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office	WHO	World Health Organization
RMT	Risk Management Team		
RSF	Reporters Without Borders		
RUTF	ready-to-use therapeutic food		
SC	Security Council		
SCI	Save the Children International		
SCR	Security Council Resolution		
SI-A	Spotlight Initiative Afghanistan		
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures		
STFA	Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan		
STWG	Strategic Thematic Working Group		
SIYB	Start and Improve Your Business		
UAE	United Arab Emirates		
UN	United Nations		
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan		
UNCT	United Nations Country Team		
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		

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