

Afghanistan  
Action Against Hunger  
April 2017 NEWSLETTER



Present in Afghanistan for over 20 years, ACF works towards improving the nutritional status of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women, through an integrated approach encompassing Nutrition, WASH, and Food Security and Livelihoods programming.

This monthly newsletter provides an overview and insights on ACF programming across the country. For any further questions, please contact [cd@af.missions-acf.org](mailto:cd@af.missions-acf.org)

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM FOR NATURAL AND CONFLICT DISASTERS AFFECTED POPULATION IN GHOR AND HELMAND PROVINCES, AFGHANISTAN / ERM 6



## Monthly Achievements

Due to security constraints some assessments were postponed in rural areas of Ghor province; however the following activities were achieved:

- Helmand ERM team completed 3 joint assessments and selected eligible beneficiaries for assistance. The ERM team completed 2 distributions in Lashkargah; 101 conflict-induced IDPs received unconditional cash to meet their Food, NFI and winter needs including miscellaneous other needs.
- In Ghor, ACF led a joint assessment team conducting 3 assessments based on petition from the Department of Refugees and Repatriations (DoRR). The ERM team completed 3 distributions. A total of 49 households benefited from Cash for Food and winter topup, and all 49 households also benefited from NFIs in-kinds.
- In Daykundi, PU-AMI-led joint assessment team conducted 1 assessment based on notification and DoRR official petition to humanitarian organizations. After completion of the assessment, the ERM team did not find any IDPs eligible to respond.
- In Helmand and Ghor, 2 most vulnerable IDPs received ERM Individual Protection assistance to cover their daily needs considering food and other essential priorities. 22 others most vulnerable families' members have been referred to different specialized organizations for getting proper support on their specific needs.



Project duration:  
May 2016 - Avril 2017

A project funded by



Funded by  
European Union  
Humanitarian Aid

# Target versus Achievements

Activity	Global Target (revised)	Monthly Achieved	Cumulative Achieved	% Achieved (cumulative)
# Assessments within 5 days after notification	N/A	7	57	N/A
# Response provided within 5 days after assessment	N/A	5	44	N/A
Cash distribution for 1 month food needs	3182 HH	24	2682	90%
Cash distribution for NFI	150 HHs	-	-	
Cash for Food and NFIs	644 HHs	0	162	
Cash for NFI with Winter Pack	0 HHs	5	309	
Cash for Food and NFI with Winter package	89 HHs	121	488	
In-kind NFI distribution (Kitchen and Hygiene Kits)	688 HH	49	310	
In-kind NFI distribution (Winter Package)	538HH	25	290	-
IPA Assistance	390 IND	-	0	-
IPA Referral to PSN network	180	22	22	-



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# INTEGRATED EMERGENCY NUTRITION AND WASH RESPONSE TO REDUCE EXCESS CHILD MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY IN HELMAND PROVINCE OF AFGHANISTAN



## Monthly Achievements

In March 2017, two mobile teams were deployed in 8 locations. 959 under-five children (454 boys and 505 girls) were screened, out of which 10 (3 boys and 7 girls) were identified & referred to nearby Health facilities, 408 (225 boys and 183 girls) were provided with medical consultations for childhood illnesses, and 20 patients (9 boys and 11 girls) were successfully discharged. The treatment activities of the mobile teams were as usual complemented by preventive sensitization provided to caretakers: 110 men and 472 women received health education sessions on IYCF, micronutrients deficiencies and signs and symptoms of malnutrition.

ACF health facility team conducted end line supportive supervision in 5 health facilities and provided on-the-job training to 20 health professionals (9 males and 11 females) on IMAM screening/referral systems implementation.



Project duration:  
July 2016 - March 2017

A project funded by



Global Affairs  
Canada



At the community level the construction of 4 new borehole, rehabilitation of 13 boreholes and fencing of all the boreholes for protection and proper management were completed. In the health facilities supported by ACF, hand-over ceremonies of construction and rehabilitation (2 gender-separated latrines, 1 incinerator, 3 waste pits, Rehabilitation of Water tank) was done in the presence of community leaders and key stakeholders (MRRD, ACTD). Twelve Water Safety and User Committees (WUSC) were trained on water point's management. Two hand-washing facilities were provided to one health facilities. In seven villages where Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach was implemented, Open Defecation Free (ODF) ceremony was conducted with PRRD CLTS committee participation; before the ceremony, the villages were declared ODF by PRRD. Water day was celebrated in school in which a session was conducted for teacher and students on Water, hygiene and iodine. Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for menstrual hygiene and BSF were done in the communities. Water analyses for BSF and water point was done within this month.



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO REDUCE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY ASSOCIATED WITH CRITICAL RATES OF GLOBAL ACUTE MALNUTRITION AMONGST UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN IN IDP POPULATIONS OF HELMAND PROVINCE

### Monthly Achievement

Two nutrition/Health mobile teams were deployed in 9 locations of Mukhtar IDP camp and surrounding areas. 1,742 under-five children (842 boys and 918 girls) were screened, 59 OPD-SAM patients (15 boys and 44 girls) were admitted in OPD-SAM program. The mobile team also provided IMCI consultation to 572 patients (296 boys and 276 girls) and referred 2 (1 boy and 1girl) complicated Sever Acute Malnutrition cases to Boost Hospital. Health education sessions were provided to 1,101 caretakers (207 males and 894 females) at the mobile site on IYCF, Micronutrients deficiencies, RUFT usage and signs and symptoms of malnutrition.



For the WASH activities the procurement process is completed and the construction of waste zone, rehabilitation of water points, distribution Bio Sand Filter (BSF) and menstrual hygiene kit will start next month.



Project duration:  
Oct 2016 - Sept 2017

A project funded by





# MULTI-SECTORAL INTERVENTION BASED ON THE PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER, PROMOTION OF HYGIENE AND VERTICAL GARDENING PILOT FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN KABUL INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS



## Monthly Achievement

During the month of March, 399 Bio Sand Filters, BSF were distributed and installed. The team started water analysis for 5% of BSF; 6 tests from each BSF (3 inlet and 3 outlets) were completed. To ensure timely access to a sufficient quantity of safe drinking water, a total of 690 men and women were trained in the use of BSF. In addition, 824 menstrual hygiene Kits were distributed to the targeted women aged 14-49, in bags printed with a hand washing message. Key hygiene messages continued to be disseminated, reaching 98 target families including 670 men, women and children. Regarding the FSL component of the project, 5 vertical home gardens were constructed, distributed and cultivated as pilot activity. 50 beneficiaries household received trainings on home gardening cultivation in KIS. 4 types of seeds (Lettuce, red radish, coriander and squash) were cultivated in all 5 vertical gardens.



Project duration:  
Sept 2016 - June 2017

A project funded by



# ENHANCING COORDINATED HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENTS, DATA QUALITY, SHARING AND UTILIZATION FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANNING IN AFGHANISTAN



## Monthly Achievements

SMART assessment in Samangan province was successfully implemented with Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (ADDA) from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017. In this assessment a total of 2681 individuals living in 628 households were assessed. Out of them 1057 were children aged from 0-59 months, 988 were children aged from 6-59 months and 680 were women in the childbearing age in the selected households. The survey finding shows that the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was at 8.0% based

on WHZ (6.3 - 10.2 95% C.I.); and at 6.0% (4.4 - 8.0 95% C.I.) based on MUAC. The situation is classified as 'Poor' according to WHO severity classification of acute malnutrition if referring to the prevalence of GAM based on WHZ. These caseloads are likely to be subject to emergency, with regards to the serious situation in the province (combined GAM by WHZ and MUAC and edema at 12.9 % (10.8- 14.9 95 CI)). On the other side combined burden of sever acute malnutrition (SAM) is at 6.1 % (4.6-7.6 95 CI) in Samangan province, considered to be emergency according to the interpretation of Afghanistan nutrition sector. SMART assessment is planned in April in Jawzjan and Nemroz province with Solidarity for Afghan Families, BPHS IP partners.



Project duration:  
Oct 2016 - Sept 2017

A project funded by



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## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO REDUCE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY ASSOCIATED WITH CRITICAL RATES OF GLOBAL ACUTE MALNUTRITION AMONGST UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN IN IDP POPULATIONS OF KABUL

### Monthly Achievements

As planned, the health and nutrition mobile teams conducted their routine visits from Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS). Based on the camp population, 4 mobile health and nutrition team visits are planned weekly or bi-weekly. The mobile health and nutrition teams conduct growth monitoring of children U5, IMCI consultations, SAM treatment and health educations. They also record the children detected as MAM. Those children detected with SAM are admitted in the program but those who detected as MAM will be recorded for follow up and admitting them in the TSFP program that will be started under WFP grant in coming months. The total achievement of the mobile health and nutrition teams are as follow:

1. Total Children screened: 3029 children;
2. Total Children received IMCI consultation: 2927 children;
3. Total Number SAM detected/admitted: 155 children;
4. Total number MAM detected/not admitted: 253 children.

The MAM children and AM-PLWs will be covered by a complementary program under WFP grant. The Mother MUAC activity, under which ACF plans to train 3000 mothers on use of MUAC and checking for edema of their own children and refer them to mobile health and nutrition clinics, was started in February and continued according to the plan; a total of 599 mothers have been trained by the end of March. Under Community Promotion component, 560 sessions were conducted in all 46 IDP camps, during which a total of 875 male and 1008 female received education on health, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene.



# FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE MOST VULNERABLE AND FOOD INSECURE POPULATION IN GHOR



## Monthly Achievements

The second phase of the project (Home gardening) targeting 1200 beneficiaries' household has started. Staff recruitment, seeds and tools procurements are ongoing.



Project duration:  
Sept 2016 - August 2017

A project funded by



## MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION SPECIFIC AND SENSITIVE INTERVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF UNDER-NUTRITION IN GHOR PROVINCE



### Monthly Achievements

All WASH and FSL activities have been completed at the end of November and the project now focuses only on its nutrition and health component, consisting of support to ACTD (BPHS implementing partner). Harsh weather in March minimized access to the field. Nevertheless the team implemented the following activities:

- 3 batch of training were conducted in Chagcharan and Lal for nurse, midwife and CHSs on Nutrition and 7 ENA. The training lasted for three days targeting 27 health facility staff. The global achievement is 106% at the end of the project comparing with the proposal target.
- Nutrition team finished the supervision in HFs and HPs. At the end of 2nd round supervision the score is 83% in HFs and 81% in HPs.
- Ghor provincial hospital was supported by one nurse and the activities were supervised by ACF nutrition department. Nutrition Nurse provided counselling to the mothers and followed all activities related to SAM complicated cases in the hospital until the end of the project.
- The planned RNA survey was cancelled after discussing with the working group and relevant authority.



Project duration:  
April 2016 - March 2017

A project funded by





# SUCCESS STORIES

*“I have received the assistance at the very right time when I mostly needed the assistance”,* Kamila about ACF Intervention

Kamila lives in Kariz, Haji Nazar Ja village in Lashkar Gah district, Helmand province. She comes from an economically disadvantaged family and is in charge of managing their livestock and collection of animal dungs. Kamila has been struggling with her fragile health condition; when she was a girl, she could not go to the doctor as her family was not allowing her, especially during her menstrual period. Therefore, she was using family remedies, but lacked consideration of hygiene practices.

ACF supported Kamila through its project “Emergency Response to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with critical rates of Global Acute Malnutrition amongst under-five children in IDP populations of Helmand Province”. Through regular consultations provided by ACF female staff, distribution of health and hygiene kits containing panties, hand washing soap, soft cotton clothes pieces and one plastic soft box, and training on how to use these items, Kamila came to realize that taking care of personal and environment hygiene which seems a simple practice, can have great benefit. Thanking ACF, Kamila added: “we are uneducated and didn’t know that keeping ourselves and environment clean plays vital role in keeping us health, save our and children’s’ lives”. She further underlined that “There are many women in our society who need similar types of assistance and awareness”.

Now, Kamila is not only taking care of herself, but also of her children personal and hygiene practices, taking a point in keeping their clothes and body clean.

# ACRONYMS



**ACTD:** Afghanistan Center for Training and Development

**ARI:** Acute Respiratory Infection

**BPHS:** Basic Package of Health Services

**CHW:** Community Health Worker

**ENA:** Essential Nutrition Actions

**FHAG:** Family Health Action Groups

**FSL:** Food Security & Livelihoods

**GAM:** Global Acute Malnutrition

**HF:** Health Facility

**HH:** Household

**IMAM:** Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition

**IMCI:** Integrated Management of Childhood Illness

**MoU:** Memorandum of Understanding

**OTJ:** On-the-job training

**PDM:** Post Monitoring Distribution

**RNA:** Rapid Nutrition Assessment

**SAM:** Severe Acute Malnutrition

**SQUEAC:** Semi –Quantitative Evaluation of Access and Coverage

**SMART:** Standardized Monitoring & Assessment of Relief and Transition

**TFU:** Therapeutic Feeding Unit

**WSUC:** Water and Sanitation User Committee



NUTRITION  
/ HEALTH



ADVOCACY



FOOD  
SECURITY



WATER  
SANITATION  
HYGIENE



NFI