

COVID-19 MULTI-SECTOR HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY PLAN - AFGHANISTAN APRIL-JUNE 2020

A **COVID-19 Multi-Sector Humanitarian Country Plan for Afghanistan** has been finalised requiring US\$108.1m to reach 6.1m people with life-saving assistance across all clusters. The plan outlines initial preparedness and response efforts for the next three months but is expected to be updated as the situation changes. In addition to new COVID-19-related activities, the multi-sector plan also aims to highlight the potential effects of the outbreak on ongoing humanitarian response and spell out mitigation measures being employed to reduce interruptions to life-saving services.

Total Requirements: \$108.1m

- **Funding for activities costed in Humanitarian Response Plan: \$36.9m**
- **Funding for new activities: \$71.2m**

This emergency plan has a common initial focus on 25 districts with the highest population movements across the border from Iran. Clusters have also added additional districts which they considered to be at high risk within their programming. The plan complements the health response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Afghanistan (Ministry of Public Health and WHO) and has fed into a Global COVID-19 appeal. This costed plan will form the basis of an HRP revision in the near future. Priority activities in the plan include:

Health – Preparedness, Containment and Mitigation

- Expand containment and isolation capacity, strengthen detection and surveillance capacity at points-of-entry, training of medical staff, mental health support services for staff and beneficiaries

Scale-up of sanitation and hygiene

- Hand washing facilities at border entry points, health and nutrition facilities and in IDP sites

Flight Services

- The humanitarian community's ability to travel to affected areas is partially dependent on the ability to access flights from UNHAS. An international air-bridge is also critical to keep implementing partners in-country to deliver assistance

Awareness raising on COVID-19 prevention and spread

- Scale-up of messaging to allay fears in the community and provide practical advice that dispels rumours and misinformation. A COVID-19 Risk Communications Working Group has been established and the Awaaz call centre is being used to share messages

Minimising the risk of further food insecurity and malnutrition

- Food distributions to at-risk areas and livelihoods support for those whose incomes are disrupted, monitoring food prices and market supplies, ensuring commercial and humanitarian supply pipelines stay open. Also increased the treatment of malnutrition in high-risk districts where people are most vulnerable

Supporting people with specific needs and vulnerabilities

- Identification of people with specific needs to be referred for immediate tailored assistance, monitoring for the adoption of negative coping mechanisms fuelled by COVID-19 and GBV support due to the increased risks in pandemics

Advocacy on containment methods

- Working with national and local authorities to avoid resorting to detention as a containment measure and raising awareness and contain risks of contagion in prisons and juvenile facilities.

Movement monitoring

- Ongoing monitoring of population flows across both the Iran and Pakistan borders