

Alert note

Afghanistan Floods (10-11 and 17-18 May 2024)

Completed by: CAID, CWSA, HIA

Date completed: 21.05.2024

Forum: ACT members with presence in the country coordinate and developed.

Type of emergency: Floods

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 10-11 May and 17-18 May 2024

Funding Survey

If the forum indicates a plan to launch an appeal, we request funding members to please fill out this [survey form](#) which will help the **Emergency Steering Committee** assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey *within 24 hours of Alert publication*.

1. The nature of the emergency

On May 10 and 11, and later on May 17 and 18 heavy rainfall and flash floods struck Afghanistan, affecting the provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan, Takhar, and later Faryab and Ghor.

The rainfall on May 10 and 11 caused flash floods in northeastern Afghanistan, particularly impacting 21 districts across Badakhshan (5 districts), Baghlan (10 districts), and Takhar (6 districts) provinces. These floods resulted in significant loss of life, destruction of homes, infrastructure, agricultural land, and livestock. According to the WHO, over 300 people have been reported dead, with many more injured as specified by UNICEF. Additionally, 8,975 homes were destroyed, leaving thousands of families without shelter.

On May 17 and 18, heavy rainfall caused intense flooding in Ghor province in the western region and Faryab province in the northern region of Afghanistan. Early reports from Faryab province indicate that 84 people have been killed, 5 injured, and 40 are missing, in Ghor province approximately 50 people have been killed and hundreds of people are missing.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency 1

Flash floods caused by heavy rains have devastated villages in northern Afghanistan, according to WHO and initial reports from Ghor and Faryab hundreds of people have been reported dead (many more have been injured, as specified by UNICEF) and 16,845 homes destroyed or damaged (as reported by OCHA)² as a result. Extensive rescue and search operations are ongoing, suggesting that the death toll could rise significantly (WHO). More than half of the people affected by the floods are children, Save the Children reported in a statement.

The floods have primarily affected the northern province of Baghlan and neighbouring Takhar province, where casualties and damage have been particularly severe. As per UNICEF report, most of the casualties were reported in Baghlan province, where heavy rains destroyed an estimated 3,000 houses (and thousands more damaged, as stated by OCHA). According to OCHA, in Baghlan Province, at least six public schools and 10,200 acres of orchards have been destroyed, and 50 bridges and 30 electricity dams damaged. In addition, eleven health facilities across Baghlan (8) and Takhar (3) provinces have been affected disrupting health and nutrition services, and 4,260 livestock have been lost. Takhar and

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2 <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-floods-flash-update-2-floods-hit-northeastern-afghanistan-16-may-2024>

Badakhshan provinces were also impacted with initial reports of at least 300 houses damaged. In Badakhshan Province, Teshkan district has been the most affected with 200 homes, 50 bridges and 30 electricity dams destroyed or damaged and 2,000 animals killed.

According to initial reports by OCHA, in Faryab province about 1,870 houses have been destroyed or damaged, 150 shops flooded, 700 acres of agriculture land has been washed away, 900 livestock were lost, and 30,000 vines and fruit trees destroyed. Initial reports shared by humanitarian partners in Ghor province indicate approximately 50 people have been killed and hundreds of people are missing. Early unconfirmed reports indicate substantial damage to over 6,000 houses, more than 1,200 shops, as well as other critical civilian infrastructure.

As stated by WHO³, the full extent of the damage is not yet known, and the country lacks the necessary resources to manage a disaster of this magnitude. Roads across all three provinces have been rendered inaccessible slowing down joint assessment teams (as per OCHA).

These floods have had a devastating impact on the country's infrastructure, agriculture, food security, health and hygiene of impacted communities.

3. Local and national capacity

While the resilience of the affected communities is commendable and will undoubtedly contribute to the recovery process, external support is essential for a swift and effective response. As stated by WHO, the country lacks the necessary resources to manage a disaster of this magnitude. Search and rescue operations are ongoing with the support of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA).

Even though the UN, EU and various humanitarian aid agencies were quick to respond to the current crisis, they're still facing a shortage of medicines, shelters, NFIs, WASH, food assistance and supplies.

The UN cluster system including working groups has been activated to coordinate the flood response.

HIA is involved in the coordination in Baghlan and started its emergency programme focusing on Baghlan province, including the launch of initial needs assessments. HIA opened a field office in Baghlan Province on May 13th, where 25 national staff began coordinating the humanitarian programs of HIA. In Faryab province HIA is assessing the situation and the needs as a member of the JATs (Joint Emergency Assessment Teams) led by IOM.

CWSA is also member of Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) which is a National and regional level coordination body for NGOs in Afghanistan and works closely with Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA).

As of May 21th, 2024, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has deployed 34 Joint Assessment Teams (JATs), as reported. Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and grassroots movements have also mobilized their efforts to provide assistance on the ground.

4. Key needs and gaps

There are several challenges in terms of accessibility. Various locations still pose significant accessibility challenges following the destruction of the main roads. The current emergency caused the largest flooding events in Afghanistan so far this year. Generally, needs assessments are needed to clearly identify the needs, ongoing aid programs, and possible gaps.

Education: Significant infrastructural damage occurred across the region, with seven public schools reportedly destroyed across Baghlan (6) and Takhar (1) provinces, and 19 damaged across Baghlan-e-

³ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-floods-flash-update-2>

Markazi, Burka, Guzargah Noor, and Nahrin districts. Moreover, many Community-Based Education (CBE) classes in Baghlan Province have been affected. Most education facilities in Ghor Province have been damaged. The Provincial Education Directorate (PED) reported 62 schools (six in Charsada, 10 in Dawlatyar, 15 in Ferozkoh, four in Lal Wa Sarjantal, five in Murghab, four in Pasaband, three in Saghar, nine in Shahrak, and six in Tolak districts) have been severely damaged and many community-based education (CBE) classes affected. There is a need to restore infrastructure and education services.

Shelter & NFI: 16,845 homes have been destroyed or damaged. Temporary solutions are needed to accommodate at least around 4,000 households and to equip them with basic household NFI kits. For the longer term, need for reconstruction of houses can be foreseen.

Food Security & Agriculture: WFP has food stocks and resources available in Kunduz and Faizabad Provinces to cover the food needs of flash flood-affected families across the region. In Faryab province, FSAC partners provided food assistance to 2,508 people across the affected areas. Because a large territory of agriculture fields affected and livestock losses, many households lost their entire income opportunity and livelihood options. Rehabilitation of agriculture lands and livestock replacement are needed.

Health: Rehabilitation or reconstruction of damaged health facilities is necessary to ensure the continuity of healthcare services. Recent data indicates an increase in cases of waterborne illnesses, notably diarrhoea and skin infections, in regions affected by the floods. Health authorities are actively monitoring the situation and implementing preventive measures to curb the spread of these diseases. (WHO)

Protection: There is a need to provide special kits for baby/child care and emergency reproductive health kits and to establish temporary safe spaces for people who lost their houses.

WASH: Besides hygiene NFI, clean drinking water and temporary sanitation facilities are needed. Humanitarian partners have already started to provide chlorine and water tabs, hygiene kits, emergency baths and latrines, and water trucking.

Significant infrastructural damage occurred across Baghlan and Takhar provinces, and later on in Faryab and Ghor provinces destroying or damaging over 100 public schools and Community-Based Education (CBE) classes. Approximately 16,845 homes were destroyed or damaged, necessitating temporary accommodation and basic household kits for 4,000 households, with long-term reconstruction needed. The WFP has food stocks available for affected families, but rehabilitation of agricultural lands and livestock replacement are required. Health services need rehabilitation, with increased cases of waterborne illnesses being monitored. Special care kits, temporary safe spaces, clean drinking water, and sanitation facilities are essential, with humanitarian partners already providing initial aid.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below. *Please refer to your EPRP and Contingency Plan.*

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range

HIA	Baghlan province (Baglani Jadid, Burka, Guzargahi Nur) and Faryab province (districts TBC)	MPCA and/or sectors specific cash-based assistance, livelihood and Psychosocial Support programme	500,000 USD	500,000 USD
CWSA	Baghlan Province Districts Baghlan-e-Jadid and Burka		500,000 USD	500,000 USD
CAID/OCHR	Nahrin, Burka, Baghlan Markazi districts in Baghlan province	In-Kind Food, ES/NFI and WASH	500,000 USD	500,000 USD

5. Potential responses

HIA, with its main office located in Mazar-I-Sharif, Afghanistan, opened a field office in Baghlan Province on May 13th, where 25 national staff began coordinating the humanitarian program of HIA. Following assessments and the selection of the most affected households, the plan is to provide immediate assistance to hundreds of families in the three most affected districts of Baghlan Province (Baglani Jadid, Burka, Guzargahi Nur districts) and in Faryab province by providing multipurpose cash assistance. Later on, HIA plans to focus on NFI/Shelter sector and to support the restoration of livelihoods.

CAID/OCHR is based in Northeast region since 2018, extending humanitarian assistance to affected people in Faryab, Balkh, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan province. A multi-million dollar response has been provided throughout these year (i.e.2018 to 2024) with availability of funding from AHF/UNOCHA, UNDP and CAID.

CAID plans to provide immediate assistance in the sectors of In-Kind Food, ES/NFI and WASH in the areas of Nahrin, Burka, Baghlan Markazi districts in Baghlan province.

CWSA aims to provide Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to flood-affected communities to meet their essential needs such as food, shelter, health and NFIs. This assistance will extend over two months, benefiting approximately 1000 households (with 60% men recipients and 40% women recipients, averaging a family size of 7) CWSA will also provide awareness session to the project participants on mental health and psychosocial support.