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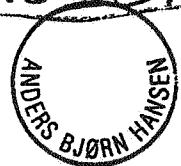
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Assistance for Afghanistan
WEEKLY UPDATE

Issue No.375

17 August 2000

**Taliban Force Closure of WFP
Women's Bakeries in Kabul**

On 16 August, the Taliban authorities in Kabul have forced the World Food Programme (WFP) to close all 24 of its women's bakeries.

The bakeries are run by 360 women workers who provide subsidized bread for 7,200 very poor families, comprising more than 42,000 people, mostly women and children. The women and children who benefit from this program are amongst the poorest and most vulnerable people in Afghanistan. The loss of this support will result in the increased poverty, and possibly the loss of life and health for these women and children.

The authorities have accused the WFP of violating an edict issued in July banning the employment of Afghan women by UN agencies and NGOs, except in the health sector.

The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator deplores this development, which adds further to the discrimination and suffering of Afghan women.

The socioeconomic conditions in Afghanistan continue to be dire. The priority for UN humanitarian agencies in Afghanistan remains the provision of much needed assistance to the four million Afghans whose lives will be seriously threatened by the current drought and the rapidly approaching winter.

Pledges and Contributions

The Department for International Development (DFID) has pledged the amount £450,000 to Afghanaid for assistance to vulnerable people in the mountainous provinces of Badakhshan, Kunar and Ghor. This brings the total contribution by DFID to £900,000 in the year 2000 to Afghanaid.

Health

World Breast-feeding Week

The UNICEF supported WBW was celebrated in nine provinces of Afghanistan. The theme of this year is "Breast-feeding: It's your Right!", which focuses on breast-feeding as a human rights issue.

In total, 400 female health workers and social mobilizers were trained through health facilities.

National Immunization Days

WHO Kabul in close collaboration with MOPH and UNICEF is in the process of finalizing a microplan for 46 districts of the central region for the next two rounds of NIDs.

Refresher training courses were conducted for 17 vaccinators from Logar and Wardak provinces as part of strengthening EPI routine activities. The same courses were organized in Kandahar, Herat, Baghlan, Ghazni and Helmand provinces.

The micro-plan for routine Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) for 6 districts of Bamiyan was finalised last week. These will be shared with other stakeholders for review prior to implementation.

Polio Eradication

A special country-wide committee comprised of MoPH, WHO and UNICEF has been established to monitor and review the strategy of eradicating polio from Afghanistan. The surveillance component of the polio eradication initiative has been strengthened with increased field visits to assess the routine coverage and the effectiveness of previous campaigns.

A close monitoring system has been initiated to follow up places with reported cases of acute flaccid paralysis.

Training

The Action for the Rights of Children (ARC), a training initiative between UNHCR and the International Save the Children Alliance, aims to increase the capacity of UNHCR, government and NGO field staff to protect and care for children and adolescents during all stages of refugee situations, from emergency interventions until durable solutions. Most of the ARC team members are located in Peshawar near the Afghanistan border where the bulk of the Afghan refugees reside. Work continues across the border inside Afghanistan.

With support from UNICEF a 7-day training course on hygiene and sanitation for 15 female supervisors of UNCHS was conducted by the Islamic Aid Health Centre (NGO) in Kandahar.

In Jalalabad, WHO conducted two training courses for 19 female health workers and nine EPI trainers.

UNICEF supported the training of 38 field staff of Central Statistics Office on Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) in Kabul.

Water and Sanitation

In Herat, Habitat received 50 deep well handpumps, which were produced by the UNCHS Kabul handpump production workshop. These handpumps will be installed on selected wells identified by communities in eight districts of Herat.

Ten wells were equipped with handpumps in Logar and Paktia by the Rural Rehabilitation Departments (RRD) with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. These wells will provide 4,000 people with safe drinking water.

RRD social mobilisers reached some 500 people, and visited 150 houses with the health and hygiene messages in the rural districts of Kabul.

Two handpumps were installed and 12 wells were excavated by the UNICEF implementing partners in Kandahar and Zabul provinces. Eight handpumps were delivered to Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (VARA) for drought mitigation projects in Shinkai and Atghar districts in Zabul province.

UNICEF released 52 handpumps and accessories for RRD Kandahar for the Water and Environment of Sanitation (WES) project in Charchino District of Urozgan province.

Education

With the financial support of UNFPA, four Emergency Obstetric Centres (EOC) have been established by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) in Kishem in Badakhshan, Farkhar in Takhar, Maydan

Mergha in Panjsher and Islamabad in Laghman. SCA is planning to expand the programme in other provinces as well.

SCA has initiated a feasibility study to examine a project proposal for a Teachers' Training College in Afghanistan. The college is meant to meet the preservice needs of SCA for new teachers.

The team now in Kabul consists of Nancy Dupree, the team leader, Amir Mohammad Ahmadi, Afghan subject specialist, University Lecturer Ms Carina Sidh Lonnroth, methodology specialist from Swedish University of Malmoe and Principal Lars Grebius, at present in Kabul for SCA as development worker.

The team is carrying out its study in Jalalabad, Kabul and Peshawar, discussing the project proposal with other experts.

UNICEF organised courses for 90 female and male teachers of the non-formal schools in Kunar. The training was based on the basic competencies of learning and focused on teaching methods, use of teaching aids and classroom management.

In co-operation with the local Education Department, the Comprehensive Disabled Afghan Programme (CDAP) started education classes for 45 disabled children in Kandahar City. Local communities provide accommodation and contribution for the education centers.

Agriculture

FAO, under its backyard poultry programme, distributed 120 feeders, 120 drinkers, and 1,200kg of balanced feed, 800 doses of various vaccines to selected families in Khiwa District of Nangrahar Province.

Rice research trials and bean observation lines were weeded/applied urea top dressing on them under the supervision of

crop improvement field staff in Behsud, Agam districts and FAO research farms in the said province.

Over 80 MT of maize and mungbean seed were distributed among Contract Seed Growers (CSGs) in various districts of Farah and Nimroz provinces.

FAO/MCI distributed over 100 MT of improved maize and mungbean seed among CSGs for further seed multiplication in Garmser district of Nimroz province.

Work continues on cleaning and processing of wheat seed, produced by small seed multiplication plots in Ghazni.

Mine Action

Last week the Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) teams completed the clearance of two grazing minefields with an area of 40,319 sqm, in Tangy Saidan of Char Asiab District, two battlefields with an area of 621,600 sqm in Arzan Qimat and Bagrami District. As a result over 4,000 people benefited for the cleared areas.

The Mine Clearance Programme for Afghanistan (MCPA) completed the survey of grazing, residential, and agricultural land minefields with an area of nearly 380,000 sqm in Mohammed Agha District of Logar Province.

DAFA teams completed one grazing task and one agricultural-land task of 94,000 sqm in Daman and started the clearance of other grazing and agricultural-land tasks in Dand and Maruf districts of Kandahar province. Beneficiaries of these cleared areas are 3,500 people.

The clearance of one road and an agricultural-land task by the Mine Dog Center (MDC) in Mosa Qala District of Helmand province started last week.

Repatriation

The implementation of water supply projects for 30 tube wells in Balalbuli District of Farah Province, and 80 shallow and tube wells in Enjil and Zindajan districts of Herat province is underway.

Over 900 refugee families have voluntarily repatriated from Pakistan to various provinces of Afghanistan through Kandahar and Helmand. This brings the total number of returnees through Kandahar, since May 2000 (the onset of voluntary repatriation through Kandahar) to 1,664 families.

Last week, the total number of Afghan refugees returning under the Joint Programme (which started on 9 April 2000) reached 66,000 persons.

New Assistance Afghanistan site

The UN/ProMIS initiated Assistance Afghanistan Site www.pcpafg.org has been re-designed. Suggestions, comments and advice are welcome. For more information, please contact: Ferooz Sekandarpour at ferooz@undpafg.org.pk.

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Assistance for Afghanistan WEEKLY UPDATE

Issue No.376

22 August 2000

Pledges and contributions

The Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed to make a grant of £278,626 to the Save the Children (US) to develop education material for Afghan children and women in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

WFP Bakeries

The WFP widows' bakery project, which was closed down by the authorities on 17 August 2000, in Kabul, reopened.

UN Concludes Sanction Study

A report on vulnerability and the humanitarian impact of UN Security Council sanctions against Afghanistan says that the population of Afghanistan is highly vulnerable and has little capacity to cope with any further economic shocks. The report is the result of a two-month field investigation that involved research and interviews with a variety of Afghans.

Last fall, the United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions against the country in an attempt to persuade the Taliban to hand over Osama bin Ladin. Immediately after the imposition of the first round of Security Council sanctions, thousands of Afghans demonstrated against the UN in all major Afghan cities. Some agencies, including the UN, evacuated their expatriate staff from specific locations.

According to the report, the existing sanctions have had both a direct and an indirect impact on the population, with the most significant direct impact on Ariana airlines, the Afghan national carrier.

The summary of the report is available on the website of the Afghanistan assistance community: www.pcpafg.org

Food distribution

Free food distribution in response to the drought is ongoing in the southwestern region. The first bi-monthly ration has been distributed to beneficiaries in Arghistan, Shega, Daman, Maruf, Nish, and Shorabak of Kandahar and Qalat, Shenkai, and Syorai districts of Zabul provinces. So far, over 10,000 families have received their entitlements. Food distribution has started in Dai Chopan and Khaki Afghan districts of Zabul province where 1,860 families are receiving 186 MT food.

Almost 30 MT wheat has been released to support the Kandahar nursing school attended by 105 female and male students.

Health

UNICEF Kandahar has organised a six month English and computer course for staff members of the Rural Rehabilitation Department (RRD), the Regional EPI Management Team (REMT) and Primary Health Care (PHC) Departments.

UNICEF and WHO jointly facilitated the EPI mid-year review workshop in Jalalabad. The objectives of the workshop were to share information about the evolution of EPI in the region and highlight the linkages between EPI routine polio eradication initiatives, and develop recommendations for improvement. Forty participants from regional and provincial EPI management teams and NGOs from the eastern region including Paktia, Paktika, and Khost provinces and Peshawar attended the workshop.

In close collaboration with the EPI Provincial Department, Ibn-e-Sina, and WHO, UNICEF finalised the routine EPI micro-plan for Navzad District of Helmand province.

Health facilities reported 4,781 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease to WHO in Kabul. The number is far less than the number of cases reported last year in the same month.

Training

Last week, WHO conducted a number of training courses for 20 doctors and nurses in Badakhshan, Mazar-i-Sharif, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika and Khost provinces.

Water and Sanitation

With support from UNICEF, thirteen dried wells were improved and four new wells installed with handpumps in Kandahar and Zabul provinces.

UNICEF and the International Assistance Mission (IAM) have jointly prepared a proposal to help drought affectees in Chimtal and Balkh districts in Balkh province. According to the proposal, 54 private and public wells and 20 latrines will

be upgraded/constructed. Hygiene education will be an integral part of the project.

Four handpumps were installed and 20 family latrines constructed in Shahrak-I-Afghania village by RRD Jowzjan with support from UNICEF. These will benefit some 2,000 people.

UNICEF delivered one heavy drilling rig to RRD Mazar and organised training for the RRD staff in the use of the machine.

Over 560 wells were chlorinated in Momendara and Surkhrod districts of Nangahar, and Watapoor, Noorgul and Munawar districts of Kunar provinces. UNICEF delivered 30 handpumps with accessories, 30 cans of chlorine, 20,000 water purification tablets to RRD Paktia and Khost and construction materials to RRD Jowzjan for WES activities. Diesel, petrol and engine oil was delivered to RRD Nangahar, Laghman, and Kunar.

Water chlorination to prevent water borne diseases including cholera has been conducted in some areas of Kabul city. Nearly 20,000 wells have been chlorinated since early August 2000.

Agriculture

Under an Integrated Production and Protection (IPP) programme, 435 model demonstration orchards were established in various districts of Kabul, Logar, Wardak, and Nangahar and Laghman provinces.

Last week, FAO dispatched 10,000 doses of Newcastle disease vaccine to the Mazar-i-Sharif Regional Office for further distribution to poultry farmers, and 26,000 kilos of molasses to drought affected farmers in Dand, Arghandab and Shiga districts of Kandahar province.

Mine Action

A total of 186,200 square metres of high priority grazing area have been surveyed and marked for clearance in Qalat District of Zabul and Maruf District of Kandahar provinces.

Manual teams and mine dog cleared a total of 60,433 sqm of high priority residential area groups (MDGs) in Dand District of Kandahar last week.

UXO incidents among civilians in Districts 1, 7, and 8 of Kabul City left three children injured last week.

CDAP

The Comprehensive Disabled Afghan Programme (CDAP) Employment Support Section has established its fourth group vocational training course in embroidery for disabled and vulnerable people in Daman District of Kandahar. The course will enable 10 disabled and their 70 immediate family members to be self-reliant.

Repatriation

Last week, 38 families voluntarily repatriated through Kandahar and Helmand from Pakistan. They were provided with the UNHCR standard repatriation assistance package (cash, WFP wheat, and plastic sheeting).

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Assistance for Afghanistan WEEKLY UPDATE

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Issue No.377

29 August 2000

Pledges and Contributions

The Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed to make a grant of £400,000 to the World Food Programme (WFP) for food assistance mainly to Afghan refugees in Iran.

Displacement in Herat

Four hundred families fleeing drought stricken areas of rural Herat, Ghor and Badghis Provinces have arrived in Herat City in western Afghanistan over the past week. Earlier arrivals, from Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, and other provinces, turned to Herat to escape conflict in their areas of origin. In total, approximately 1,000 families (8,200 people) have sought shelter in Herat, and the number continues to rise. Local authorities estimate that up to thirty families arrive each day.

While some of those displaced have found shelter with the local population, most are heading to camps that housed those people previously displaced by conflict in 1997. These camps are in poor condition, particularly in the areas of water and sanitation. During July, four children in one camp died, possibly due to contaminated water.

Those arriving now are leaving areas that have been hard hit by drought, where rainfed crops have failed, and in some cases,

where access to potable water has become difficult.

It is predicated that there might be further internal displacement due to drought and/or conflict in various areas of the country. However, few employment opportunities exist in Afghan cities, nor can the weak physical infrastructure support large population inflows. Therefore, the assistance community decided to concentrate assistance on drought affected areas with the strategy of trying to prevent internal displacement.

An attempt to reach affected communities is now underway, with food aid en route to affected areas in Badghis, Ghor, Farah, and Herat Provinces. WFP has currently planned to reach over 86,000 of the most vulnerable families in these areas with up to 20,000 tons MT of food aid. The food will be used for infrastructure improvement through food-for-work and for free distribution to the vulnerable who are unable to do manual labour.

Health

UNICEF conducted a cold chain training for 16 vaccinators in Kandahar. The post-training practical test indicates 80% improvement in their skill. UNICEF has decided to launch outreach activities in Kandahar city to increase the low coverage rate of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

Training

A training workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was conducted for female health staff of Khairkhana, Malalai, Maiwand and Rabia Balkhi hospitals in Kabul.

Water and Sanitation

With support from UNICEF six wells were upgraded and 6 new bore wells fitted with handpumps in Maiwand and Spinboldak districts of Kandahar Province. These will provide some 6,000 people with access to safe drinking water.

The Rural Rehabilitation Development (RRD) of Ghazni with support from UNICEF installed 4 handpumps on wells in Andar District to benefit 1,600 people with safe drinking water. Social mobilisers and health educators reached some 400 women through house-to-house visits in Kabul and Logar provinces with health and hygiene messages.

Agriculture

Potato research trials and fruit fields were monitored by horticulture specialists in various districts of Kabul, Logar and Wardak provinces.

Last week FAO distributed 25,300 doses of anthrax vaccines to various Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) in northern region.

Rice research trials, local communities rice fields and maize multiplication plots were monitored by crop improvement field staff in Shulgara District of Balkh Province. Bean research trials, small seed multiplication plots and improved bean seed multiplication fields were monitored

by crop improvement field staff in Kunduz Province.

Mine Action

Mine Clearance Programme for Afghanistan (MCPA) survey teams completed the survey of a battlefield with an area of 280,000 sqm in Mohammed Agha District of Logar Province. A total of 300 people will be benefited from the cleared area.

A total of 95,372 sqm of high priority grazing and agricultural area was cleared by manual teams, supported by mechanical clearance teams and Mine Dogs Groups (MDGs), and 90,367 sqm of high priority agriculture land surveyed and marked for clearance in Maruf District of Kandahar last week.

In order to reduce injuries and casualties caused by explosive devices and mines, 625 persons were trained in mine awareness in the Central Region during the last week.

Disability

The Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Programme (CDAP) started education classes for 45 disabled children in Kandahar City. Local communities provide accommodation and financial contributions to keep the education centre running.

CDAP also intends to provide revolving loans to people with disabilities and other marginalized groups in the Kandahar region.

Repatriation

A project for the extension of a UNHCR-supported clinic in Shorandam of Helmand Province was approved during the reporting week. The clinic has been serving as the



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Assistance for Afghanistan

WEEKLY UPDATE SUPPLEMENT Response to the Drought Emergency in Afghanistan

At the beginning of June, the assistance community prepared a strategy and requested funding to address the humanitarian consequences of the drought which continues to grip Afghanistan. The overall goal of the strategy is to stabilise communities in the places where they live, to prevent the further erosion of existing means of social cohesion and to support existing coping mechanisms so that communities are able, as soon as possible, to resume their previous livelihoods.

So far, the aid community has received pledges or indications of funding totaling USD 41 million of the total USD 67 million requested. The major funding shortfall is in the area of sustainable livelihoods.

The operational environment for assistance agencies operating in Afghanistan has recently deteriorated. Conflict and insecurity have limited access to vulnerable populations in some areas. UN and NGOs relief partners remain extremely concerned about the humanitarian effects of an upsurge in fighting on an already severely vulnerable civilian population. The combination of war, drought and displacement is already taking a terrible toll on Afghans and their livelihoods. Population movements of a significant magnitude cannot be ruled out, including across international borders. This could add an additional

dimension of risk in a fragile and volatile region.

The recent edict banning the employment of women presents a further obstacle to the UN and its partners to provide assistance according to humanitarian principles of universality and non-discrimination. Despite this, the assistance community remains vigilant to the needs of Afghans and has expanded its activities to address the affects of the drought.

Food Security

Across the country, households are already turning to coping strategies normally reserved only for the pre-harvest period following a poor crop. The depletion of livestock began in most areas with last year's drought. As evident from WFP-VAM reports, most households in sensitive agricultural zones sold more than 50% (up to 80%) of their stock last season. While the 2000/2001 drought is still in its first quarter there is a dramatic increase in the sales of livestock as the size of household herds rapidly dwindle down to nothing.

It is clear that, at the current rate of depletion, households will have no livestock left to encash in exchange for wheat long before the 2001 harvest. It is expected that this will be the case in the West, South and the North in the next 1

only health facility especially for women who, due to restrictions, cannot travel to Kandahar city. WHO and UNICEF were the major sources of basic medicines for the clinic.

Last week two projects for construction of 1,500 shelter units were signed with SWABAC for implementation. UNHCR will provide 6 iron beams per family for 1,500 returnee families who have returned to various districts in Helmand during 1999 and 2000.

Over 300 families have voluntarily repatriated through Kandahar and Helmand from Pakistan during the reporting week. All of the returnees have been provided with the UNHCR standard repatriation assistance package (cash, WFP wheat, plastic sheeting) in Afghanistan.

Narcotics

UNDCP Afghanistan has recently completed two studies: "The Role of Women in Opium Poppy Cultivation in Afghanistan" and "Community Drug Profile of Street Afghan Drug-Addicts in Peshawar and Quetta."

The first study showed that women in northern and eastern regions of Afghanistan provide the bulk of the labour at each stage of opium poppy cultivation and play an active role in the opium poppy cultivation. They are involved in various stages of production such as weeding, collecting opium gum, clearing fields, breaking the capsules, removing and cleaning the seed and processing the by-products such as oil and soap. Preparation of food for the labourers working in the opium poppy fields is also their responsibility.

In both regions the extent of women's involvement in opium poppy cul-

tivation depends on the number of male family members.

The comparative study of 300 Afghan heroin addicts on the streets of Peshawar and Quetta (representing 15% of Afghan heroin users in both cities) revealed patterns, trends and issues that are likely to be typical of many Afghan street addicts. It also revealed that the ongoing conflict in the country forced hundreds of Afghan refugees in Pakistan to resort to heroin.

Beside the influence of friends ignorance of the addictive properties of heroin, depression, sadness, unemployment and lost relatives in the war are identified as the main cause of the problem.

BBC-AEF Publications

The BBC Afghan Education Projects (AEP) has recently published two more illustrated storybooks, "The Goldfish" and "The Mat-weaver" for Afghan children. Both stories highlight the importance of endeavour and education.

The books, published in Dari and Pushtu languages, can be obtained from the BBC Afghan Education Projects, 8-Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

to 4 months. Livestock markets in the West are the most depressed in the country. Throughout Afghanistan the terms of trade between livestock sales and cereal purchase has deteriorated so that one sheep one buys around 46 kgs of wheat compared with around 186 kgs last year. This is having a serious knock-on effect on the nomad population who relies wholly on livestock/wheat trade.

As predicted by the WFP-VAM office in early June, Badghis and Ghor provinces in the West are beginning to show signs of high levels of distress. These areas, even by Afghan standards, are extremely poor to begin with. Add to this the effects of three drought years and the lack of viable alternatives income sources and the result suggests that this region is one of the highest priority for drought relief. In response, WFP has shifted resources and significantly built up capacity in Herat (in partnership with Oxfam, AfghanAid, Christian Aid and CHA among others) to allow for a much-expanded operation this year.

In addition to its regular assistance programme, WFP Headquarters has approved emergency assistance to the drought victims with a food commitment of 117,891 tons of wheat to assist 1.6 million beneficiaries during a period of twelve months with effect from the beginning of August 2000. This will cost US \$55.44 million. WFP has received pledges totaling 81,289 MT. Contributions have been received from the Governments of Australia, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, UK, and USA. Implementing partners include national and international NGOs as well as UN agencies.

With funding received from the Government of Japan, UN-OCHA has been able to support Food for Work (FFW) and FOODAC projects with cash necessary for the distribution of WFP food. However, a minimum of US\$3.8m additional cash resources are required by UN-OCHA in order to continue support to WFP distribution of food through this modality.

Water Supply: Rural Areas

In the worst drought-hit seven districts of the southern region, five local NGOs with the support of UN agencies have rehabilitated 52 handpump-wells and constructed 11 new wells for drinking water supply. However, only 250 large villages can be covered. (Limited to one well in each village with over 100 families). *Many water scarce villages have been left out due to lack of funds.* With support from ECHO and DANIDA, DACAAR have expanded their water and sanitation programme significantly. They have been instrumental in training local mechanics on manual drilling to save some shallow drinking wells in addition to the maintenance and development of critical water sources in the southern region.

In severely drought-affected parts of northern region, the Rural Rehabilitation Department (RRD) has initiated the drilling of borewells for drinking water with supplies from UNICEF. In western region, 30 handpump-wells have been deepened and 46 borewells constructed. The RRD has arranged to supply water with tanker trucks to water-shortage villages. They have requested donor agencies for additional tankers to increase the capacity to perform this task. UNICEF

has planned to increase water-storage capacity in some villages and to purify available surface water with low-cost technology. Current available resources for this activity are very limited.

Water Supply: Urban Areas

The seven principle urban areas of Afghanistan (Kabul, Mazar, Kandahar, Herat, Farah, Jalalabad and Bamiyan) are all badly affected by the current drought, as are many of the secondary market towns.

In Kabul, for example, a recent survey of water supplies determined that 20% of wells had dried up. In Herat, reports from the water department also state that 20% of wells are completely dry, and that over the past four months the water table has dropped 4-6 metres across the city. In total only 9% of residents have access to safe water from the city network, and 7% from wells equipped with handpumps. In Kandahar the water table is decreasing by approximately 15 cm each week, and in the outlying areas the only water available is being sold at 20,000Afs (40 US cents) per container. All over the country displacement of people from rural areas is placing further pressure on dwindling city water supplies.

Across the six cities that form its areas of focus UNCHS (Habitat) is engaged in water and sanitation projects. These include the improvement of drainage systems and city water supplies, and the production and installation of handpumps. UNCHS is also implementing four large-scale ECHO relief projects. In Kandahar and Herat vulnerable men are employed in infrastructure rehabilitation schemes aimed at improving sanitation

and access to water, whilst vulnerable women are employed as health and sanitation trainers in a parallel awareness raising scheme. Additional vulnerability relief projects are also underway in Mazar and Bamiyan, providing livelihoods to thousands of men and women. Furthermore, CARE, the other principle actor in the urban water sector, has received CIDA funding for a water supply programme in Logar, and WHO continues to work on the water supply system in Faizabad.

Due to the lack of funding for drought related projects in the sector, the immediate needs of the Afghan people are far greater than can be currently met. Thousands of vulnerable families require immediate assistance. Efforts will continue to deepen existing wells, dig new ones where appropriate and to convey basic messages on water conservation.

Protection of Livelihoods

The majority (85%) of the people living in Afghanistan depend directly or indirectly on agriculture to ensure their livelihoods. Two issues are absolutely crucial to enable the population in Afghanistan to return to a productive life in agriculture once the drought is over; i. availability of sufficient animal breeding stock to build up livestock numbers, and, ii. availability of sufficient seed and other planting material to restart crop production on the agricultural lands of Afghanistan. *Additional funding is critically needed to maintain basic livestock capital throughout the drought period so that it will be possible to rebuild herds, flocks and livelihoods in the future.*

In addition, more seed, including local varieties must be procured. Providing farmers with access to seed will be vitally important this year in reducing the impact of an estimated minimum deficit of 60,000 MTs of seed caused by the drought.

If action is to be taken very little time remains to purchase, process and redistribute seed before an estimated 400,000 farmers will miss the winter planting season. *This activity is essential to reduce the very real possibility of an increased dependency of millions on food aid. To date no funding support has been forthcoming. Funds amounting to US\$ 6 million are required immediately.*

Preventive Health

As indicated above, the drought is increasingly taking its toll on the health of Afghans. The Drought Strategy document specified the priorities of developing and implementing standard Health Emergency Rapid Assessment guidelines and strengthening health service delivery in under-served areas. Limited funding has been received to support these activities.

However, using existing funds, Ibnsina and AHDS coordinated efforts to meet the immediate needs of 200 families displaced due to the drought in Panjwayee District of Kandahar. They provided immunization against measles and polio and held mobile health clinics twice a week. These families have now "dispersed," presumably to Pakistan or wherever they have relatives.

The mild winter and consequent increase in tick populations on the livestock contributed to an outbreak of Hemorrhagic Fever in the remote Gulran

District of Herat Province in June 2000. Fifteen people of the first 25 cases died. WHO organized a team to investigate and control the outbreak with specialists from Geneva, France and South Africa. The exact organism responsible for the disease has not been identified as yet. However, it is important to note that similar outbreaks have been reported in both Pakistan and Iran this summer. Epidemiologists believe that the movement of populations and livestock due to the drought threatens to spread this fatal disease to new areas.

An outbreak of diarrhea disease resulting in five deaths has been reported from five villages of Shalmozai District of Zabul Province, an area severely affected by the drought. An opportunity to prevent these outbreaks was missed. Funds are required to respond, not just to this one district, but to the next outbreaks expected over the remaining part of this summer. In addition, supplies to fight cholera are also needed. Afghanistan's health sector urgently needs additional funds to investigate the source of these outbreaks and to provide medical supplies and means to control the outbreaks.

Contingency Planning

A contingency plan for Afghanistan has been formulated to forecast possible population displacement as a result of drought and armed conflict. It is expected that up to 21,000 families may be displaced in the coming months both as a result of drought and armed conflict. Pre-positioning of non-food relief items in the strategic locations of Mazar-I-Sharif, Kabul, Panjsher/Andarab, Herat and Faizabad is being organized.

So far, a limited amount of pre-positioning has been possible and is ongoing drawing on current available resources. *These resources are limited and will not be adequate to address the overall needs, particularly of non-food items. The current funding requirement of US\$2.7m remains crucial for procuring relief items.*

Coordination/Monitoring and Evaluation

Coordination of the response to the drought emergency continues to be facilitated by the Office of the UN Coordinator. At the central level, the Drought Task Force composed of representatives of UN agencies and NGO meet regularly in Islamabad to share information, analyse the evolving situation and to monitor activities undertaken in the field. With support from OCHA and UNDP Headquarters, the technical and information management capacity of the UN Coordinators Office has been strengthened with the addition of a drought emergency officer and a senior drought consultant.

The Government of the United States of America has responded to the nominal request for funding of UN aircraft operations to assist with the transport of non-food items and staff. This will also help to support the continued assessment and monitoring of the drought conditions. Additional funding support for coordination activities outlined in the Appeal for 2000 remain key to enhance the overall response capacity of the assistance community.

Steps have been taken to dovetail the funding requirements identified in the Strategy of the Assistance Commu-

nity in Response to the Drought with the funding requirements included in the Appeal 2000. This will facilitate the financial tracking and reporting of contributions and related activities undertaken in response to the drought.

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Assistance for Afghanistan
WEEKLY UPDATE



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AMBASSADEN ISLAMABAD		
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Issue No.378

6 September August 2000

Displacement in Herat

New waves of internally displaced people (IDPs) continue to enter Herat City. Between 19 and 26 August, 217 families (1,520 persons) have been added to the previous ones. So far, about 1,200 families have recently arrived in the provincial capital. These arrivals are in addition to some 760 families displaced by conflict two or more years previously.

In recent talks between the United Nations and local authorities in Herat, the United Nations has stressed that primary responsibility for the care of the displaced rests with the local authorities. The governor of Herat has agreed that registration of the displaced would be jointly conducted by local authorities and United Nations staff.

Meanwhile, the United Nations is making efforts to reach drought-affected families with assistance in their areas of origin. WFP has reported that food distribution in Ghor province has already begun, and the agency plans to deploy additional staff to the area and will establish an operational base there.

Health

WHO consultants are conducting a training course on the hospital management of Acute Haemorrhagic Fever in Herat Regional Hospital. Doctors from various regions of the country have been invited to

the course. Training includes clinical case management and setting up isolation wards.

Due to a recent outbreak of malaria, eight persons have died in three villages of Narang District in Kunar Province. The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan has examined 200 persons of whom 68 were diagnosed as having malaria. Anti-malaria drugs have been sent to the SCARUN clinics in the area.

A measles outbreak has been reported from Walima Village, Parchaman District of Farah Province. An investigation team has been sent to the area.

In response to several reported outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea, WHO missions have been sent to Badghis, Jowzjan, and Kandahar provinces.

In the Northern Region, efforts are ongoing to enumerate the families displaced due to drought in Koh-i-alburz district in Badakhshan Province. A co-ordination meeting discussed assistance to almost 700 displaced families who have come from Takhar. ICRC, UNICEF, WHO and ARCS have provided emergency supplies and essential drugs for IDPs.

In collaboration with MoPH, WHO provided anti-TB drugs and re-opened the TB control programme in Badghis Province.

UNICEF provided medicines to the MCH clinic in Rawashan area of Enjeel district in Herat province. The medicines will benefit women in 50 villages in the

area. MSF and CHA (Co-ordination of Humanitarian Assistance) reported that 482 women received services through MCH clinics in rural area of Herat. UNICEF supports these clinics.

UNICEF and WHO in collaboration with MoPH and Pakistani counterparts held a cross-border meeting in Quetta, Pakistan last week. The objective was to develop a plan of action to contribute to interruption of polio transmission in both countries. Final preparations are underway for Sub-National Immunisation Days which will be conducted on 10 to 12 September in the Afghan districts identified as likely to be blocked with snow or too cold to participate in both planned rounds of country-wide NIDs in October and November.

Training

The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) conducted a training workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for female health staff of Khairkhana, Malalai, Maiwand and Rabia Balkhi hospitals in Kabul last week.

Community-based health workers and trainers from the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), the Danish Afghanistan Committee (DAC), and Norwegian Project Office (NPO) have also been trained by SCA in Peshawar.

Water and Sanitation

In southern region seven hand-pumps were installed and 14 dried hand pump dug wells were upgraded in Spinboldak, Shamalzai and Atghar districts of Kandahar and Zabul provinces by NGOs working with UNICEF. These will benefit some 10,500 people of the area.

In Kandahar, Habitat continued to implement ECHO projects aiming at reducing environmental risk by clearing solid waste.

So far, Habitat in Kandahar has installed 162 hand-pumps, which provide safe drinking water to 4,860 families. Furthermore, damaged pipe was replaced and leaks were repaired in the rehabilitation of the citywide water supply network, which provides potable water to 2,500 families.

In northern Afghanistan, RRD Jowzjan installed four hand-pumps in Shahr-e-Afghania village with support from UNICEF. These pumps will provide safe drinking water to 1,500 people.

In western region 1,560 wells were chlorinated by International Assistance Mission (IAM) and the Regional Public Health Department in Guzara district and Herat city. RRD Herat rehabilitated 10 dry wells to benefit some 3,000 people with safe drinking water. These activities were carried with the technical and financial support of UNICEF.

In eastern region, the Public Health Department of Nangahar reported that 15,830 wells have been chlorinated in Jalalabad City since May this year. UNICEF released 500 kg of chlorine to the Department for use in September.

Agriculture

The Kabul Poultry Farmer Association (PFA) prepared 12,000 kg of concentrated poultry feed. Newcastle and Sheep Pox vaccines were dispatched to Kabul, Faizabad and Mazar regional offices, which will be provided to poultry farmers and Veterinary Field Units (VFUs).

Fodder crop specialists monitored experimental plots in Sarobi district of Kabul Province.

In the north, the drought situation was assessed, and agricultural activities continued, in Shulgara district of Mazar province.

Data on yields of experimental fodder crops, i.e. millet, sorghum, and alfalfa, was collected in all PEACE Initiative districts of Kandahar Province.

A three-day refresher course was arranged for 15 community-based trainers in Integrated Pest Management in Ghorak district in Kandahar province. During the training, modern pest management was explained to help participants upgrade their knowledge and enable them to serve needy farmers in the district. In addition, the first ever agro-chemical store was recently constructed and formally inaugurated in Ghorak district. With the construction of the store, the farmers will have access to an agro-chemical store at the district level.

In Badakhshan, the NGO FOCUS earlier this year initiated new assistance activities in agriculture. Participatory methods are being used to help farmers identify appropriate crop varieties and husbandry practices to reduce their annual food deficit. Informal seed exchanges among farmers are being encouraged to distribute the seeds.

Initially, wheat, potato, maize, and vegetable seeds are being provided to farmers in Darwaz, Shekay, Shegnan, Ishkeshim, Zeebak and Wakhan districts in eastern Badakhshan.

FAO Crops and the Tajikistan based Mountain Society Development Support Programme (MSDSP) are collaborating with FOCUS in making these varieties available. In spring, fifty-five tons of seeds

were distributed to over 1200 farmers in about 110 villages.

Fertilisers were also distributed. In parts of Ishkeshim and Zeebak districts, the seed varieties and fertilisers were distributed through the village organisations established by AfghanAid.

Mine Action

On 1 September, the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan began cutting operations by 50% due to a major shortfall in funding. Operational teams will be sent on two months of unpaid leave over the next four months, while other salaries will be reduced or frozen. Headquarters and field office staff will also be sent on unpaid leave, reducing their salaries by 40%. In addition, all operations will be put on hold during the entire month of Ramadan at the end of the year.

This cutback means that mine survey, clearance and mine awareness activities will be substantially reduced during the last third of the year, on top of previous reductions earlier this year when the funding shortfall started to become apparent. Civilian mine and unexploded ordnance casualties are expected to increase.

Because of cost cutting measures introduced throughout the year, only US\$ 3.5 million is required to conduct full mine operations for the remainder of this year.

The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan is the oldest and the largest mine action programme in the world.

Narcotics

The results of the Opium Poppy Field Survey are expected in mid-September 2000.

The Drug Demand Reduction Project of UNDCP Afghanistan, in conjunction with the BBC Afghan Education Project, has just published 15,000 copies of a cartoon magazine on the effect of drugs, based on the New Home and New Life radio drama broadcasting in Pashto and Dari. Leaflets on the effect and consequences of heroin and cannabis use have also been developed.

Fieldwork for UNDCP's seventh study, *An Analysis of the Process of Expansion of Opium Poppy Cultivation in Afghanistan*, was completed in all districts where opium poppy was newly cultivated in the 1999-2000 planting season. In close consultation with UNHCR Afghanistan, UNDCP will conduct an additional study on the role of opium as a livelihood strategy for returnees in Afghanistan.

The NGO co-ordinating body ACBAR has completed a socio-economic survey of the three UNDCP target districts of Maiwand, Khakrez, and Ghorak in Kandahar province. The result of this survey will provide the basis for a comparative analysis of changes in socio-economic status in the target districts over the life of the project to date.

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WEEKLY UPDATE

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Issue No.379

13 September August 2000

Pledges and Contributions

Drought in Southern Region

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has contributed 110 tonnes of various foodstuffs and medicine as well as tents to the drought affected Afghan population. This assistance amounts to approximately US\$505,000.

Food Security

According to a recent FAO mission to Arghandab District of Zabul, the area has suffered from drought since August 1999. A spring and shallow wells that dried up in mid-1999 provide the main irrigation system in the area. All 200 families currently use a well dug 30 years ago in a similar time of disaster. The fruit trees have all died, nor has there been any wheat crop due to drought. Since last year the villagers have been borrowing borrow food or cash and have sold their cattle.

Displacement in the Northeast

UN agencies and NGOs are concerned about recent displacement of the civilian population in Takhar province. Reports have been received about substantial concentrations of displaced persons in Keshem, Rustaq, and Dast-I-Qala, while 800 families have arrived in Faizabad, the provincial capital of Badakhshan province.

On September 11, an inter-agency meeting of UN agencies and NGOs was held in Faizabad. Participants agreed to send co-ordinated teams to assess the numbers and the condition of the displaced in various locations. Information on this assessment is expected soon. Meanwhile, contingency plans for dealing with the displacement are being drawn up.

It is expected that food reserves in the region will be sufficient to meet the needs of the displaced.

In Helmand Province, maize crops are dying. Farmers were expecting a better maize yield compared to wheat, but they face losing most of the crop due to aphids. This loss of the maize crop, used as food and livestock feed in almost all regions of the country, will affect food security in the region.

16,000 families will receive free food from WFP in Kandahar for one year. The first round emergency food distribution in rural areas of Kandahar and Zabul has already been completed.

A drought monitoring system is to be set up over the coming weeks, which will monitor water availability, household food security, food/ livestock prices, migration/return levels, receipt of food aid/food etc, using a series of selected "sentinel" vil-

lages. The objective of this system is to give a clearer picture of the progression of the situation in drought affected villages, provide information about the impact of the program and about other assistance which may be necessary.

WFP conducted a VAM survey in 19 out of 65 districts of the Southern Region in 1999 and the first quarter of 2000. 15 out of 19 districts were identified as vulnerable to food insecurity. Based on the survey and the effects of drought emergency food distribution has started in all 15 districts.

Water Supply

In UN funded water projects, 225 wells equipped with hand pumps have been completed in Kandahar and Zabul provinces. UNCHS has installed 180 out of 200 planned hand pumps in Kandahar. Twenty more wells have been drilled and are ready for hand pump installation. A 90 metre bore well has been completed in District 6, Kandahar, while the second bore, in district 5, has reached 120 metres with no evidence of water.

Over 4,600 metres of the Kandahar municipal water supply system have been repaired, resulting in the increase of water distribution in Kandahar City.

German Agro-Action (GAA) is planning to construct 245 wells fitted with hand pumps, rehabilitate 375 open wells and 40 karezes, and rebuild 100 latrines in Dand and Punjwai districts of Kandahar.

Health

UNICEF organised a training course in Kabul for 24 vaccinators and health workers as part of preparation for the vaccination cam-

paign against measles and tuberculosis. MSF France will be responsible for implementation, supervision and reporting of the campaign.

Over 20 vaccinators of Helmand, Nimroz, Kandahar, and Urozgan, provinces were trained by UNICEF. Eight of these trainees will take part in outreach activities in Kandahar after the completion of the course.

National Immunisation Days

FOCUS plans to implement NID activities in a remote mountainous valley in Doshi District in Baghlan Province. The agency has already distributed food to 1,170 families in this valley, where no humanitarian agency has been operating so far.

Water and Sanitation

The Rural Rehabilitation Department (RRD) of Laghman completed the construction of 54 latrines in Sabakhel, Muskeen Abad, and Miakhel villages of Alinger District in Laghman. UNICEF delivered 25 hand pumps with accessories to RRD Nangahar, and upgraded nine shallow and bore wells. This will provide safe drinking water to 4,500 people.

Training

UNICEF organised a training workshop for female health staff of the Malalai Maternity hospital and 18 health clinics in Kabul. Another training programme was conducted for 25 male staff of MCH clinics. The participants agreed to disseminate information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in their respective clinics and

requested UNICEF for more print materials on CRC.

RRD social mobilisers reached 200 women and 60 children in Dehsabz District of Kabul with CRC messages.

Education

UNICEF provided education materials and school supplies for over 90 home-based schools and 726 students in Nangahar, and 6 non-formal primary schools in Bamyan, and finalised a training plan in the Basic Competencies of Learning for 25 teachers in home-based schools in Kabul.

Agriculture

FAO monitored the Integrated Production and Protection (IPP) programme, rice and mung bean research trials and irrigation projects, and continued wheat seed procurement and processing in Kabul, Ghazni, Wardak, Logar, Kunar and Nangahar provinces.

Over 60 local community farmers were trained on different aspects of plant protection in Herat province.

Narcotics

The Drug Control Monitoring project has been working on delineating opium poppy field boundaries in Rodat District of Nangahar province. So far, the spatial data compilation is 20% complete. ProMIS has completed about 30% of the digitisation work of the satellite imagery.

A drug awareness campaign, attended by 80 members of the district shura, community representatives, and local authorities, was organised in Maiwand District, Kandahar last week.

The UNDCP female community mobilisers trained 30 women in drug awareness, basic health, and sanitation in UNDCP target districts of Kandahar province.

A two-day outcome evaluation workshop was conducted by the Drug Demand Reduction project for the field workers of MCI and relevant NGOs from 29 to 30 August. The purpose of this workshop was to evaluate the outcome and impact of earlier training workshop, and to examine ways and means for drug prevention for Afghan communities in Baluchistan. Medical doctors, social workers and teachers participated in the workshop.

Repatriation

Over 4,000 Afghans repatriated from Iran and Pakistan to Kandahar, Helmand, Jalalabad and Khost, under the Joint Programme. All the returnees were provided with the standard repatriation grant of cash and wheat on the Afghan side of the border.

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Assistance for Afghanistan
WEEKLY UPDATE

AMBASSADEN ISLAMABAD		
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Issue No.380

20 September 2000

Pledges and Contributions

Cholera Outbreak

The Government of Germany has pledged the amount 748,000.00 Euro in response to the prevailing drought in Afghanistan.

Health

UNICEF delivered vaccines and other supplies to nine districts of Fariyab, Baghlan, Balkh and Jawzjan provinces for the implementation of sub-National Immunisation Days (NIDs), and conducted cold chain training programmes for vaccinators in Helmand province.

In mid September, a suspected outbreak of an infectious disease in four village of Yakaolang District of Bamiyan province was reported. Over 600 people have been affected, of whom 15 have died. UNICEF provided health kits to the affected areas and accompanied a medical team to assess the situation.

Training

UNCHS (Habitat) and German Agro Action (GAA) agreed that UNICEF would support the training of their 30 female supervisors in breast-feeding counselling in Kandahar. These supervisors will further train 60 mobilizers in the dissemination of related messages.

Over 90 people died of a cholera outbreak in Badghis province last week. The population of affected villages is about 20,000. MAF coordinated emergency interventions following a request by UNICEF. All city clinics received equipment, drugs and training on case management.

UNICEF convened a meeting of all agencies involved in the provision of assistance to the IDPs camp in the ex-Soviet embassy compound in Kabul to discuss the problems of low immunisation and poor sanitation conditions. It was decided to outline a micro-plan for improving the EPI coverage and increase health education.

WHO continues to provide medical supplies to a number of health facilities, clinics and provincial hospitals in various regions.

Water and Sanitation

UNCHS (Habitat) continued to support the construction and rehabilitation of wells fitted with handpumps, removal of solid waste from the city, and health/hygiene mobilization campaigns involving 60 women in six districts of Kandahar.

Four dried dug-wells were upgraded and three handpumps installed on wells in Shamalzai, Maruf and Maiwand districts of Zabul and Kandahar provinces by the UNICEF implementing partners.

With support from UNICEF, the Rural Rehabilitation Department (RRD) Mazar installed 8 semi-deep wells and constructed 42 family sanitary latrines in Nahr-e-Shahi District of Balkh province with contributions from community contribution.

UNICEF delivered one drilling rig and 15 handpumps to RRDs Paktia and Kunar.

RRD Ghazni installed five handpumps in Andar District with UNICEF assistance. These will provide safe drinking water to some 2,000 people

The UNICEF-supported construction work on the pipe water supply project has started in Kotgai village of Charasyab District in Kabul. The project will benefit 1,200 residents of the area.

Female social mobilizers of RRD reached 150 households in Bagrami and Dehzabs districts of Kabul Province with the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) and health and hygiene messages. The male social mobilisers organised a meeting of 200 people to convey health messages and discuss the maintenance of water and sanitation facilities.

UNOPS completed a detail survey for the construction of check dams to store water for recharging the aquifers during coming rainy season, in Farah Province.

The third round monitoring of drought mitigation sub-projects funded by UNICEF in Shamalzai and Maiwand districts and cleaning of 53 Karezes and 13 canals through Oxfam with cooperation of UNOPS in Daman district of Kandahar is ongoing.

Protection

UNICEF supports the Afghan Amputee Bicyclists Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR) and Sandy Gall Afghanistan Appeal (SGAA) in their programmes. Last week 20 people were graduated in the disabled bicycle-training programme, 144 people received physiotherapy services and 185 patients were visited in the clinic. A total of 220 patients benefited from their physiotherapy services.

UNICEF and UNSMA visited the Detention Centre for children and women in Kabul. The centre houses a total of 93 children and women. The children appeared to be well treated, although they are sometimes given corporal punishment for bad behaviour. UNICEF will provide the Head of the institution with the materials on Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC).

Agriculture

FAO monitored poultry farms and Integrated Production and Protection field activities in fruit growing districts of Wardak, Logar, Kabul and Nagrahar provinces and dispatched 7,230 kg of oats and berseem seeds to Kandahar. In addition, nucleus nursery and seed multiplication fields in Dehdadi research farm in Mazar and Herat provinces were weeded and irrigated.

Food Distribution

Emergency food distribution programme is ongoing in Kandahar and Zabul. Nearly 300 tonnes of food have been released to OXFAM, UNCHS and MoPH for FoodAC, water and health programmes in Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

Education

UNICEF supported a 6-day training programme on Basic Competencies of Learning, which was conducted by ACD for 25 teachers from informal schools in Province.

Repatriation

Nearly 200 families/809 individuals have voluntarily repatriated to Kandahar and Helmand. They were provided with UNHCR standard repatriation assistance package (cash, WFP wheat and plastic sheeting).

UNHCR Kandahar monitored shelter activities in Maruf and Arghistan districts of Kandahar.

Disability

The CDAP Regional office has allocated a loan amounting to US\$14,000 for 130 vulnerable women in Panjwaie District of Kandahar Province. This will help them to establish small businesses to support their families and improve their livelihood.

Demining

A total of 130,762 sqm of high priority agricultural land has been surveyed and marked for clearance in Daman District of Kandahar province last week.

Approximately 150,000 sqm of high priority agricultural land and grazing area were cleared by manual teams (supported by mechanical clearance teams) and Mine Dog Groups in Qalat District of Zabul Province and Daman and Maruf districts and Kandahar last week. 1,000 people will benefit from the cleared area.

Over 2,000 persons received mine awareness training in southern region.

The Mine Clearance Programme for Afghanistan (MCPA) teams completed the survey of two battlefields and minefields in Kabul City and Khak-e-Jabar District of Kabul, and started the survey of three further tasks in Kabul and Wardak provinces.

Work continues on the clearance of grazing minefields and battlefields in Khak-e-Jabar and Charasiab districts of Kabul.



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Assistance for Afghanistan

WEEKLY UPDATE SUPPLEMENT

Displacement in Northeastern Afghanistan

An inter-agency meeting in Faizabad on 18 September reviewed the situation of displaced persons in Takhar and Badakhshan Provinces. A consolidated UN and NGOs needs assessment is underway in relevant areas of displacement.

As part of this effort, in Dasht-i-Qala, a multi-agency survey involving the NGOs ACTED, Concern, NPO, SNI identified over 20,000 displaced people in the area. A further breakdown in terms of vulnerability is expected shortly. Unlike Keshem, where the majority of IDPs are in the town or immediately adjacent areas, the displaced in Dasht-i-Qala are spread widely throughout the district. Most have come from areas such as Hazar Bagh and Khwa-gaghar, which were badly affected by conflict and displacement last year. In addition, these are predominantly rainfed areas, which means that due to drought, the displaced have few assets or resources. While many have managed to bring basic household possessions, few have more than token foodstuffs and few have livestock. Many are dependent on selling assets and local charity. In addition, the host community has also in many areas suffered similarly due to the effects of the drought on both the rainfed and irrigated crops and its capacity to support a guest population is limited.

The majority of the IDP population is partially sleeping outside in the gardens of local houses and partially in the houses of the local population, with several hundred families in public buildings. The authorities in the area were supportive of aid agencies undertaking the survey by providing extra survey staff and cash for IDPs.

As in other areas, the situation is fluid and further displacement is anticipated if the conflict spreads east through Khwa-gaghar District.

The NGO SNI has established a bakery to provide bread twice daily to 100 families. A WFP food distribution will be implemented through a local NGO in the area once the survey results are fully analysed.

MSF-CH/F will take over responsibility for the existing mobile clinic from MSF-B.

In Khoja Bahauddin, north of Dasht-i-Qala, Yangi Qala, and Khost wa Fereng surveying started on 19 September. Preliminary indications are that the numbers of displaced will be less than in Dasht-i-Qala.

In Rustaq, the survey is still ongoing. A WFP food distribution through NGOs will be implemented once the survey results are fully known. MSF-CH/F has plans to establish, for a three-month period,

an in-patient facility in support of the NPO clinic there.

In Keshem, visited by WFP and UNOCHA from 12 to 14 September, local authorities have identified 2600 IDP families. While the situation was not as bad as expected significant numbers will require food assistance, and in the longer term shelter assistance (as many are sleeping in the gardens of private houses). The local population has shouldered the main burden of supporting the IDP population in what has been, in some cases, a six-week stay in Keshem. Movement to Rustaq is continuing, with up to ten trucks per day.

WFP has plans for a food distribution to an initial 750 families in Keshem to be implemented in conjunction with Focus, UNOPS and the authorities.

In Farkhar and Warsaj, ARCS reports that numbers of displaced in Farkhar have significantly decreased, from 2850 families two weeks ago to very low numbers now. Many have reportedly moved back to Taloqan. There are now consistent reports of sizeable numbers of people having returned to Taloqan, with large numbers of shops being open, the hospital functioning, etc. Although aid workers on the ground currently do not believe that the displaced will go to Tajikistan, it is impossible to predict future movements.

In Faizabad, provincial capital of Badakhshan, small numbers of IDPs continue to arrive daily. They are now gravitating to a location on the edge of the old city. There are now 140 families (1000+ individuals) in this location, where many families are opting to make tents with plastic sheeting rather than stay in the semi-derelict buildings. The majority of families remain in public buildings in the city and in private houses. The total number of IDP families on record in the city is presently 1200, though ARCS is conducting a re-survey.

In Faizabad, NGOs continue to provide non-food items, water, and sanitation while WFP is providing corn soy blend (plus oil and sugar from NAC) for 350 families. The United Nations is bringing in other non-food items as well. The authorities continue to provide food for most of the IDPs, though quantities have been reduced.

The number of visible IDPs is far less than the population that has reportedly left Taloqan and surrounding areas. This may be because people are scattered over a very large area and have found accommodation with local families and friends, already under economic stress, and in public buildings.

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Assistance for Afghanistan
WEEKLY UPDATE

AMBASSADEN ISLAMABAD	
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Issue No.381

28 September 2000

Pledges and Contributions

To date, a total of US\$151.9 million has been pledged/contributed to Afghanistan, out of which US\$98.2 million is in response to the Appeal, representing 44.5% of the total funds requested in the 2000 Appeal (US\$220.8 million).

Health

UNICEF delivered 2,000 sachets of ORS to NGOs for use in clinics in the Central Region. With support from UNICEF, RRD established an MCH clinic, staffed with 8 female health personnel, in Qalainaw District in western region. This clinic will serve over 1,000 families in the area.

The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) has set up emergency medical units attached to SCA clinics in Keshim, Farkhar, Worsaj, Kalafgan, Dashti-Qala and Yangi-Qala. New mobile clinics have been established in Kunduz City and in Dashtaq, Panjshir. Last week, SCA sent three trucks loaded with 30 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment to assist the displaced families in the north.

Training

Two consultants from WHO headquarters Geneva conducted a one-week workshop on infectious diseases in the Herat Regional Hospital. The aim of the workshop was to

improve case management and to strengthen the capacity of the isolation wards. Forty female and male doctors and nurses from all regions of Afghanistan attended the workshop.

WHO Herat continues to provide drugs and medical and non-medical supplies to a number of health facilities, clinics and hospitals in various regions.

WHO chaired a Regional Health Co-ordination Committee Meeting on IDPs' health situation and the cholera outbreak in Badghis Province, attended by MoPH, UNICEF and all health NGOs in Herat.

In collaboration with MoPH and concerned NGOs, WHO Ghazni started a training programme for NIDs in southeastern region. Over 200 supervisors will be trained in 60 districts of the region. Various manuals, health education materials, guidelines and training materials were provided to community health workers trained by SCA in Ghazni.

A mopping up immunisation campaign has started in three districts of Helmand province and seven districts of Kandahar province. District co-ordinators, supervisors, and thousands of volunteers are involved in the campaign.

Disease Outbreaks

WHO Mazar has reported on the cholera outbreak in Saripul Province that subsequently travelled from Sozma Qala Village

to Shibergan City in Jowzjan Province. Fifty deaths were reported from nearby villages before medical supplies reached the area. 380 cases and 10 deaths have been reported from Saripul and Jowzjan Hospital.

The North Regional Task Force including MoPH, UNICEF, MSF, and WHO has been active to investigate and control the outbreak, chlorinate the water supply systems and provide hygiene education in the affected areas.

A double outbreak in the Western Region is reported from Murghab and Ghormach districts in Badghis Province. Both districts are on the border with Turkmenistan, in remote and insecure areas. Ghormach has reported 50 deaths from dehydration before the Task Force mission arrived.

On 1 September 2000, a suspected outbreak of an infectious disease with fever, headache, vomiting, and prostration was reported from Yakawlang District of Bamiyan Province. Among affected villages are Amrotak, Do Aab-I-Shah Qadam, Kawshha-I-Bala wa Payeen, and Solej with over 600 cases and 15 deaths. This is a drought affected area with little food, no safe drinking water and extremely poor sanitation and hygiene. Further cases were also seen in Do-Abi shah Qadam, with no further deaths.

WHO and UNICEF provided drugs, health and sub-health centre kits, and medical teams and are carrying out further assessments.

A similar outbreak was identified in the remote mountainous Panjshir valley, in August 2000. ICRC collected samples from this outbreak, several of which are positive for typhoid.

National Immunisation Days (NIDs)

UNICEF fielded a mission to Bamiyan to observe the mid-September round of sub-NIDs. These NIDs were conducted in colder parts of the region, which included Bamiyan, Yakawlang, and Panjao districts. Due to the scattered population, in most cases a "mosque to mosque" instead of a house-to-house strategy was followed. NIDs were also conducted in nine cold districts of the western region.

UNICEF Representative Mr Louis-Georges Arsenault met with the Minister of Health to agree upon follow up actions for the NIDs in 2001 and the establishment of a Regional EPI Management Team in Gardez. Mr Arsenault also met with the Minister of the Central Statistics Office and discussed progress on the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

Social mobilisation

Social mobilisers of RRD visited 50 households in Kamari and Bagرامي districts of Kabul province with health, hygiene, and water/sanitation messages.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

In Herat UNICEF assisted MoPH in vaccinating all children under one with BCG, DPT and OPV, and women and children under five with required vaccines and vitamins.

New comers are also being provided with the above mentioned vaccines upon their arrival. UNICEF provided midwifery kits, essential drugs for MCH clinics and health education materials to MDM (NGO). UNICEF is also supporting MDM in the improvement of sanitation in the camp. A

number of wells were chlorinated, and hand-pumps reactivated. Work continues on the construction of 70 latrines.

Repatriation of Afghan Medical Professionals

Health workers are recruited and trained by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) under the Repatriation of Afghan Medical Professionals Project, in co-operation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

During the first six months of this year, SCA has recruited 18 medical professionals (17 female and 1 male) for working in SCA-supported clinics in Laghman, Kabul, Kapisa, Logar, Wardak, Takhar, Nangahar, and Ghazni provinces.

Water and Sanitation

The Rural Rehabilitation Department (RRD) completed the installation of six hand-pumps in Baraki District of Logar Province with the technical and financial assistance of UNICEF. In Pul-i-Alam District of Logar Province 90 latrines were completed. Some 2,400 people will have access to safe drinking water. A number of hand-pumps and accessories were delivered to RRD Ghazni, Kabul, and Laghman. Over 30 hand-pumps were repaired with UNICEF assistance as part of the drought mitigation programme in Kabul.

UNICEF finalised the plan of action with RRD Farah for the improvement of 130 dug well hand-pumps, construction of 40 bore well hand-pumps and construction of 1,580 sanitary latrines in the province. The work on this project has already started.

Hygiene promotion by female volunteers has been affected by the edict banning female employment.

In order to avoid further migration and displacement, UNICEF will support its implementing partner in the construction of 50 hand-pump wells and 80 sanitary latrines for about 15,000 people in some drought affected villages of Ghor province.

Protection

The Regional Director of the Public Health Department approved the appointment of a focal person for the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) training in the eastern region. Further, CRC training will be held at the MCH Department.

SCF Sweden monitored the UNICEF-supported CRC training programme in the central region. Female participants in the programme expressed their concerns about rights of women and children.

Agriculture

FAO monitored poultry farms and Integrated Production and Protection field activities in fruit growing districts of Wardak, Logar, Kabul, and Nangahar provinces and dispatched 7,230 kg of oats and berseen seeds to Kandahar. In addition, nucleus nursery and seed multiplication fields in Dehdadi research farm in Mazar and Herat provinces were weeded and irrigated.

Education

A meeting was held to discuss the involvement of UNICEF in education activities supported by UNOPS/CDAP in Kandahar. UNICEF will provide stationary, textbooks, and other requirements to a number of

community-based schools. In the meeting, CDAP solicited UNICEF's support for vocational training and provision of recreational materials for disabled children in Kandahar province.

A ceremony, attended by local authorities, NGOs and UN agencies, was arranged to celebrate International Literacy Day by the Department of Information and Culture with support from UNICEF. While all speeches and messages stressed the importance of education and literacy, UNICEF highlighted the value of education for both girls and boys. Home-school teachers organised a similar meeting in one of the houses as part of the day's celebration.

Repatriation

Nearly 500 families/2,250 individuals have voluntarily repatriated through Kandahar and Helmand from Pakistan and Iran during the reporting week. The returnees were provided with a UNHCR cash grant and tea. Due to the shortage of wheat in WFP stocks in Kandahar, most of the returnees did not receive wheat.

Water Supply Projects

DACAAR under an agreement with UNHCR has completed 15 shallow wells in Zaranj District in Nimroz Province during the reporting week. Work continues on drilling and digging of wells in Zabul, Kandahar, and Nimroz provinces. A joint UNHCR/WFP field mission has distributed 29 tonnes of wheat to 116 returnee families, who have completed the construction of 116 units of shelter in Maruf District of Kandahar. The mission also monitored the shelter project for 103 returnee families in Kandahar.

Mission

Ms Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees fielded a mission to Herat on 17 September. In a meeting with the Governor and Minister of Repatriation and Martyrs, the discussions focussed on obstacles to return and support for voluntary repatriation and reintegration, in particular, the restrictions placed on women's employment and education by the local authorities.

Demining

Over 170,000 sqm of high priority agricultural land was surveyed and marked for clearance in Daman district of Kandahar and Qalat District of Zabul provinces last week. A total of 54,000 sqm of high priority residential area was cleared by manual teams, supported by mechanical clearance teams and Mine Dog Groups (MDGs) in Qalat District of Zabul and Daman and Maruf districts of Kandahar last week.

Nearly 2,000 people received direct mine awareness training in the Southern region last week.



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Assistance for Afghanistan

WEEKLY UPDATE SUPPLEMENT

Situation in Hazarajat and Badghis, Afghanistan

Hazarajat

The Hazarajat food security sectoral working group met in Kabul on 18 September 2000. The group discussed the food security situation, reviewed the progress of projects, and identified outstanding needs. Inter-agency food security monitoring has shown that an exodus from the region is now underway. Although markets are generally working well, Darra Souf and Balkhab are still affected by blockade and road closure. Food prices there are double the level in other districts. The private sector is active and most of the wheat coming into the region is being brought in for traders. This means that most of the food deficit will be made up by the private sector and the aid agencies can concentrate on the most vulnerable, who have no capacity to buy wheat.

Meanwhile, MSF has undertaken rapid nutritional assessment in Nawor, Sarab, and Gardandiwal. Nawor figures indicated that there is a nutritional problem, with 25% of children "at risk." In Gardandiwal and Sarab, there are no unusual malnutrition levels.

The NGO CCA has surveyed both Behsud 2 and Darra Souf. In Behsud 2, they have found that many families have

already migrated and others are planning to do so, with migrations highest from the worst affected areas. In Darra Souf, there is severe drought in the rain-fed lands. CCA documented 27 cases of recent deaths of children attributed to hunger. Trade into the area is blocked. 80% of the people would leave if they could. According to WFP, many families are surviving only on wild vegetables. In Jaghoray and Malistan, GRSP estimate that 30% in Malistan and 60% of farmers in Jaghoray will not be able to plant autumn wheat because they have run out of money and seed.

Participants in the meeting believed that malnutrition is relatively limited due to a combination of factors: people do everything that they can to hold onto their last milk cow, so that at least they can provide some milk and dairy products to the children. Moreover, people have been falling back on famine foods, and it is suspected that people understate their level of remittances. While malnutrition is on the increase, awareness has not really spread.

The essential dilemma is what people will do next year. The group concluded that there is a clear need to increase allocations in the highly vulnerable districts that are so far under-served, in particular Darra Souf, Balkhab, Lal, Daikondi, and perhaps

Sharistan. There is also a need to get good food security information on the so far untouched districts. There is a need for more precise food security assessments – particularly involving nutritional assessment. To conserve wheat for the hungry areas, proven hunger should be used as a criterion in further allocations. This will help to bring allocations closer to the assessed needs and fair shares.

Jawand District, Badghis Province

Initial assessment of Jawand District by OXFAM and WFP has revealed that at least 8,000 families, and perhaps as many as 15,000 families, are in need of food assistance due to the drought.

Jawand is a large district with only one jeep/truck road. There are a few valleys with rivers (i.e. water), bounded by high cliffs with a few paths accessible to people, horses and donkeys leading up to plateaux of rolling rain-fed wheat-fields (which have yielded no crop this year). Most of the people live in villages on these high plateaux and are the worst affected by the drought; there is high dependence on rain-fed wheat, and most animals and other assets have been depleted because this year follows two previous bad years.

Much of the land has been divided and subdivided by families over several generations resulting in plots too small to sustain a family. On the plateaux, many villagers undergo seasonal migration within the sector. People live near their wheat fields, not near water sources, which are invariably "water catchment ponds." When the ponds are dry, people move closer to natural springs and water sources. There are few wells – in most cases, the water table is too deep--and women and children

normally travel 2-3 hours in the dry summer to fetch water. They are now travelling 6-7 hours.

The main problem is lack of food. In the valleys, people are able to buy wheat and rice and consume corn. On the plateaux, some villagers have exceeded their capacity to barter or trade for rice (or obtain rice on credit). Many villagers have been eating plants and roots (e.g., espalloc--a leaf, kadugac--a root, both now out of season, and tatum--a root). These roots are normally fed to animals. Some people also chew on old animal skins.

Some able-bodied men have left Jawand in search of work. In certain villages, only women, children, and old men are left. The elders say that this is the worst drought/year in living memory. Most people also state that their families will die without extra food over the coming winter.

WFP has approved over 2,000 tonnes of wheat for 48,000 of the district's inhabitants, and may make further allocations pending re-assessment of the situation. WFP will work in tandem with OXFAM.

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Assistance for Afghanistan
WEEKLY UPDATE

AMBASSADEN ISLAMABAD		
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Issue No.382

03 October 2000

Pledges and Contributions

The Government of Denmark has contributed US\$745,000 to support the Danish Demining Group (DDG), operating in Afghanistan.

Displacement in Northeast Afghanistan

Last week the United Nations called on all parties to the conflict in northeast Afghanistan to ensure the security of the civilian population and of aid workers and to allow humanitarian assistance to reach those in need. Distribution of both food and non-food items is now underway for civilians displaced by conflict in the northeastern region. With help from UNOPS and the NGOs ACTED, SNI, and FOCUS, WFP is providing food to 4,000 families identified as being most in need. Up to 40,000 displaced may be reached with food assistance if required. Non food items including tarpaulins, blankets and plastic sheeting are being distributed by UNDP, UNOCHA, ICRC, SNI, MSF, and ACTED.

The weather is deteriorating in the northeast, and recent heavy rain, and snow in higher elevations, has reduced temperatures. The change in weather makes the shelter needs of the displaced more urgent, particularly as many of them remain in the open, especially in Khoja Bahaudin and Dasht-i-Qala. So far, over 9,700 families

have fled to Dasht-i-Qala, Khoja Bahaudin, Keshem, Faizabad, and Yangi Qala.

Contrary to what has been reported in the international press, the displaced are not crossing into Tajikistan, although there are large numbers of people near the border. The proximity of some of the places of refuge to the Tajik border might have contributed to the expectation that those displaced from Takhar planned to cross the border. UNHCR staff in two locations in Tajikistan are monitoring the situation.

Response to Drought in Southwest Afghanistan

The attempt to mitigate human suffering due to drought continued with WFP's emergency food aid distributions in the southwest. In Kandahar City, WFP-SWABAC reached 3,200 vulnerable families with 320 MT wheat. In Ataghar and Nowbahar districts of Zabul province, WFP-SWABAC reached 1,018 vulnerable families with 101.8 MT wheat. In Chora district of Uruzgan province, WFP-SWABAC reached 536 vulnerable families with 53.6 MT wheat.

In addition to emergency food assistance, WFP is also providing food aid for food-for-assets-creation (FOODAC) activities in drought mitigation. This week, 2,718 severely drought affected families received 271.8 MT wheat as part of a karez improvement project in Ataghar and Shamalzai district of Zabul province. The

project is implemented with the support of OXFAM. In Panjwai district of Kandahar province, WFP in collaboration with the NGO GAA assisted 5,775 vulnerable families with 90 MT wheat. This project will assist severely drought affected families in improving karezes, which will be used for drinking and irrigation purposes.

In Kandahar City, food-for-work is ongoing implemented by UNCHS. 400 families are benefiting from FFW, working on improving their water supply, sanitation systems and shelter. In Maruf District of Kandahar province, in collaboration with UNHCR, 124 families are benefiting through FFW in building shelters for the returnee families.

In the water sector, work is ongoing. In a UNDP, UNICEF, and WFP joint project 19 wells have been upgraded or installed, benefiting 9,500 people with safe-drinking water in nineteen villages in Arghistan and Maruf districts of Kandahar province.

During the week UNCHS (Habitat) Kandahar continued assisting people in water supply, sanitation, shelter and social services. At the same time, in order to mitigate the effects of the current drought situation, the activities of the ECHO funded project aiming at reducing health and environmental hazards by improving the water supply system and clearing the accumulated solid wastes from the city progressed well. The first deep well in district 6 was completed. A second bore in district 6 has started. The bore holes will not only help in mitigating the impact of current drought situation but also help in improving the water supply system in Kandahar city.

With help of the concerned local communities, the hand pump installation project continued, and more hand pumps were installed in Kandahar City. Under

this project so far, 203 hand pumps have been installed in Kandahar city. In the project for the Rehabilitation of the Existing Water Supply Network, so far 2,651 families have benefited from access to safe water.

To assist returnees in southern Afghanistan, UNHCR-SWABAC have provided shelter materials to 1,000 returnee families in Helmand. DACAAR, under an agreement with UNHCR, is continuing the construction of shallow wells in Zaranj district in Nimroz province. During the reporting week DACAAR has completed 10 wells. Recent projects for returnees have been approved for the rehabilitation of a water supply scheme for 2,000 returnees families and for the construction of a basic health clinic for 300 returnee families in Muslimabad village.

World Habitat Day

On 2nd October women from all over Mazar-i-Sharif celebrated the World Habitat Day, with a two hour programme dedicated to this year's theme "Women in Urban Governance". Elsewhere in the city, a similar programme was conducted for men, with the Mazar youth and community education committees taking an active role in both celebrations. These events were used to reflect on the role of women as decision-makers in society, and the need to address urban issues that are of particular concern to women.

World Habitat Day is celebrated annually on the first Monday in October. Yet, for the Afghanistan programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) every day is dedicated to increasing the role of women in urban governance.

Today, a network of 56 Community Fora exists across the six cities in which UNCHS (Habitat) works. Consequently, across urban Afghanistan women are actively participating in the governance of their affairs. Through consultation, they have become empowered to make decisions about the problems that face their community. In celebrating World Habitat Day, UNCHS pays tribute to these women, and to all they have achieved.

Education

The 60 school consultants of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) have completed a two-year long distance course for improving the SCA teachers' training programme. The course, which was managed by SCA in cooperation with the Swedish University of Karlstad, also covered various aspects of child development and models of teaching. Similar courses will be conducted for teachers at SCA-supported schools in Afghanistan.

Protection

A group of trainers from UNICEF cooperating partners in Kabul, Herat, Mazar and Jalalabad has been trained as master trainers on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by the Save the Children Sweden (SCS). The trainers from the four regions are conducting training for the local authorities, NGOs and communities to raise awareness and promote the implementation of CRC. Last week, a follow up of the groups in Herat and Kabul was done by SCS to strengthen the capacity of UNICEF partner trainers.

SCS also conducted various training programmes for the Afghan Women Network (AWN), Social Welfare Cell, Com-

missionerate for Afghan Refugees, NGOs and UNHCR officers in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Drug Control Programme

The UNDCP 2000 Annual Opium Poppy Survey of Afghanistan was released on 14 September. The survey estimates that there were 82,172 hectares of opium poppy under cultivation in the 2000 season, showing 10% reduction in the opium poppy cultivation compared with 1999. The estimate of national opium production in 2000 is 3,275.9 tonnes, 28% less than in 1999.

The survey confirms poppy cultivation in 22 out of 23 provinces and in 125 out of 344 districts in the country. It also confirms that Helmand Province has the highest cultivated area of poppy with 42,853 hectares, followed by Nangarhar with 19,747 hectares, Oruzgan with 4,331 hectares and Kandahar with 3,427 hectares.

UNDCP initiated implementation of a social development study in Ghorak, Khakrez and Maiwand in Kandahar and Shinwar in Nangarhar provinces. The objectives of the study is to assess the socio-economic problems of the target communities, determine the impacts of UNDCP activities on their livelihoods and observe the attitudes of the people towards drug control and alternative development. The study will be finalized by the end of November 2000.

A workshop was conducted in UNDCP Khakrez District center with the participation of 70 people including religious scholars, teachers, tribal elders, resource persons, influential people and farmers on the harmful effects of drugs on health, education, society, economy and ethics of people. The participants were provided with posters, calendars and other materials consisting of essays, messages

and slogans against drugs. Speeches were delivered by religious people, scholars and the Kandahar Drug Control Unit (KDCCU) staff on the issue of avoiding poppy cultivation, drug abuse and illicit drug processing.

Disability

UNOPS/CDAP conducted a two-day Regional Programme Review Workshop in Kandahar from 29-30 Sept. The workshop was attended by the UNRCO, CDAP management, shura representatives representing disabled people's organizations, UNDP P.E.A.C.E Partners, UNICEF and CDAP regional staff. The workshop aimed to identify local solutions for local problems, mobilize local resources, to strengthen regional capacity of the programme implementers and to find ways to hand over the programme to the communities in the long term.



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Assistance for Afghanistan

WEEKLY UPDATE SUPPLEMENT
Drought Update: Northern and Western Afghanistan

Northern Afghanistan

In a recent report, the United Nations regional co-ordinator for Northern Afghanistan drew attention to the unfolding drought in Northern Afghanistan. Increasingly, aid workers on the ground share the perception that the current resources are completely inadequate to meet the scale of need. It is important to emphasise that not only will there be no improvement in the current situation until the June 2001 harvest, but an accelerated decline in nutritional and health status of the vast majority of the population, especially of women and children, is certain unless aid quantities and response mechanisms are dramatically upgraded.

This year's (2000) rain fed wheat area increased by 5 per cent (from 480,000 hectares to 510,000 hectares), while production has dropped by 65 per cent in comparison to 1999. Crop husbandry and farmers' overall economic conditions are among the poorest in the country, resulting in low inputs and inadequate means of production and thus very low yield. In comparison, irrigated wheat planted area is estimated to have dropped by 4.5 per cent due to water shortage, while production has decreased by 30 per cent. With an estimated 90% of the population depending on agriculture, the prospect of a likely famine of seed in

rain fed areas for winter wheat crop is daunting.

As for the livestock sector, the herd size in most parts of northern region is 25-70 per cent of normal by the end of the first quarter of this year. An estimated 40-50 per cent of the livestock is lost to either mortality or emergency sale at a fraction of previous prices.

Daily labour rates have fallen as low as 1 kg of wheat in some remote rural areas compared to a pre-drought norm of 7 kg per day. Labourers find work for less than 10 days a month.

In large parts of the previously irrigated area, the flow in canals is insufficient for irrigation purpose. The water flow in the 11 canals/outlets of Balkh River, the main source of irrigation in the region, is reported to be only 37 cubic metres per second against 69 cubic metres per second in early 1999. Almost 60-70 per cent of all traditional water storage in rock cisterns (kandahs) and 20 per cent of all water wells are dry since May/June. In such areas populations have moved or are transporting unsafe water by donkeys as far as 20 km. Water quantity and quality will further drop at least until October. A dramatic increase in diarrhoeal diseases is expected and outbreaks of cholera are likely to continue.

Hunger and war induced population movements to the cities are already re-

ported to be around 5,000 families (30,000 persons). Most of these families since May/June have been living with local affluent families or relatives inside villages which makes the registration and counting of IDPs a difficult task. However, recent reports suggest that resources of 'host' families are rapidly depleting which may bring a large influx of IDPs out under the open sky during the harsh winter months.

De-capitalisation of assets has reached dangerous proportions, including that of carpets, and handicrafts. Furthermore, there are reports of families selling resources and inputs required to sustain livelihoods such as farmers selling draught oxen, agricultural implements and grain kept as seed for winter crops. Coping mechanisms within family networks and communities show signs of exhaustion: visible increase in begging in every city of the region; decreasing prices of traditional handicrafts like carpets; moving families are no longer housed by friends or family members.

Food aid – existing and promised – will feed less than 5 per cent of the population. Spread out thinly, it may contribute to a larger population's diet. All field missions clearly indicate that the proportion on a sub-survival diet is increasing rapidly and may be already half of the total regional population.

Of the required minimum 30,000 MT of 'autumn seed' for rain fed areas, the indigenously appropriate seed variety and quantity available within the region is dangerously low. The (more important) autumn sowing is only six weeks away. The only chance of an even minimal recovery of the agriculture in the Northern Region is a massive supply of seed for the spring sowing, starting in February.

An immunisation programme to protect children from six vaccine preventable diseases is being extended to 42 districts of the total 52. Family and community sanitary latrines are being built, albeit at a limited scale. Efforts are underway to get better understanding of drought's effect on the nutritional status of the population especially on vulnerable sections of the population including women and children. Rapid and efficient response by health and medical aid agencies with MoPH has arrested the spread of the cholera epidemic. Nevertheless, the overall network of health facilities is inadequate to deal with the basic health needs of population during the winter months ahead.

A number of organisations (some with Rural Rehabilitation Department of the local authorities) are supporting water and sanitation projects. This includes construction of approximately 700 new wells and rehabilitation of nearly 2000 shallow wells with hand pumps. Some organisations are tankering water to areas severely hit by drought. The few International NGOs and UN agencies operating in the region are stretched to their personnel and budgetary limits.

The inadequate capacity of agencies in the Northern Region due to lack of resources in terms of assessment, response and monitoring as well as the limited number of local implementing partners will clearly lead to a deterioration of the situation. This situation is further compounded by the reality that local authorities have neither resources nor structures with the capacity to respond to the drought. Initiatives of local authorities, however, do exist, but at a small scale.

In order to avoid the drought developing into a famine, a massive additional effort of the international aid community is

necessary. This effort must start immediately if large numbers of population displacement and deaths are to be avoided. Moreover, it must be scheduled for a minimum of two years. Even with favourable rains in winter and spring, agriculture will not recover in 2001 to an extent that will allow a reduction in aid levels.

Western Afghanistan

The current drought is affecting the entire Western region of Afghanistan in varying degrees. The worst affected areas are Chagcharan and Shahrak districts of Ghor and Jawand and Qadis districts of Badghis provinces. -

The overall strategy is to stabilize the population in the areas of origin and to provide live saving support (food and shelter) to those who have no option but to move. Numerous projects are being supported/implemented by ICRC, DACAAR, UNICEF and several other aid organizations, to address the water supply in the provinces of Herat and Farah.

Both in Badghis and Ghor, several FOODAC interventions, supported by the UN (WFP, UNDP and UNOCHA), and implemented by CHA, Oxfam, NPO, Ansari and other NGOs have started in the worst affected areas. Assistance in Ghor is particularly urgent, as around 15 November winter will start and Ghor's mountain passes will be inaccessible. WFP and ICRC/IFRCS/ARCS are planning a free food distribution in Chagcharan. WFP plans to deliver some 30,000 tonnes of wheat to the Western region over the next six to eight months for emergency interventions only. In the most affected districts of Chagcharan and Jawand it is expected that food will be distributed up to 90% of the population.

The Western region is facing increasing incidents of conflict, affecting the access routes to Ghor (both via Obey and Chesht-I-Sharif, and via Farsi, where occasional skirmishes are taking place). The road from Herat to Badghis continues to be unsafe.

Herat city had a population of some 50,000 persons displaced by conflict between 1996 and 1998. They were assisted by ICRC and UN/NGOs. In 1998, most of the IDPs returned to Badghis and Fariyab, while some 1,200 families decided to remain in IDP camps or with local families in Herat city.

In June 2000, the influx of IDPs started again due to the drought. The Red Cross Movement committed itself to assist all new displaced families with a half ration of food, four blankets, and cooking utensils until 30 September. ARCS has also been providing some assistance.

The current new IDPs number around 2,000 families. Some displaced - mostly single men-- move on to Iran or to the south, i.e. Helmand and Kandahar.

WFP, with cash support from UNOCHA, will start providing food to IDPs in three camps on 1 October. This will probably be extended to two additional camps in the coming weeks. UNCHS is coordinating shelter construction, i.e. rehabilitation of existing mud houses and building of new ones for about 2,000 families. WHO is coordinating health services in IDP camps and UNICEF is coordinating water and sanitation.

It has been agreed to establish a joint local authorities/assistance community commission to coordinate assistance.

Unless major rehabilitation assistance is provided to the IDPs in spring 2001, the displaced population may be reluctant to return to their places of origin.

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Assistance for Afghanistan

WEEKLY UPDATE

AMBASSADEN ISLAMABAD		
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Issue No.383

10 October 2000

Pledges and Contributions

The UK Government through the Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed to make the following grants: £200,000 to the Integrated Livestock Programme of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), £61,404 to the British Agencies Group support project, and £38,000 to the Afghan Development Association (ADA) for its agriculture rehabilitation programme in west and southwest Afghanistan.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) has also pledged US\$40,000 to UNDP/UNCHS and UNOPS for shelter projects, emergency seed procurement, road construction, school/ community buildings and procurement of well drilling equipment.

Displacement in Baghlan

According to the provincial authorities and aid organizations on the ground, 15 to 20 families per day are arriving from Nahrin, Burka, and Eshkamish to Baghlan Province. Approximately 1,500 families, who are either directed to public buildings or are camped out in a park in the city, have arrived so far. Smaller numbers of IDPs are also accommodated in Dahan-e-Ghuri, Dandh Gahuri, Doshi, and Khinj districts. Most buildings in Pulikhumri and Baghlan City are crammed with IDPs. Women and children sleep inside the buildings at night and men outside. Local authorities have agreed to provide more pub-

lic places to accommodate these families, who are displaced due to conflict.

A UN and NGO staff mission met with aid organizations in the area and agreed to work closely and in a co-ordinated manner to ensure the best use of collective resources for the IDPs. The mission has identified a need for increased health and sanitation facilities, including latrines, immunisation services, and drinking water. Most families have come in the clothes they were wearing and very few have proper winter bedding, clothes or kitchen utensils. In agreement with local authorities and IDP leaders, the displaced use local materials to repair rooms in public buildings, while local authorities provide the tools.

This year, Afghans are facing displacement not only due to conflict but also drought. Currently over 60,000 persons are displaced in Takhar and Badakhshan Provinces due to fighting, in addition to those recently assessed in Baghlan Province. Kabul and the Panjshir Valley are home to well over 50,000 people still displaced by fighting last summer. In addition, Herat City is currently a main destination for families affected by severe drought in western Afghanistan, with several thousand families having arrived so far.

Ceasefire for Polio Immunisation

Both the Taliban and the Northern Alliance have given their commitment to respect a cease-fire during the next rounds of National Immunisation Days (NIDs) against polio-myelitis, from 10 to 12 October and 13 to 15



Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through. The text appears to be a list or a series of notes, possibly related to a project or a study. The handwriting is cursive and somewhat slanted.

November 2000. The target figure is 5.33 million children.

All children from birth up to 5 years of age need to be reached. Additional measures will be taken to ensure that internally displaced children, nomads and other "hard-to-reach" people will be reached. People crossing borders will also require special attention.

The partners include local authorities, NGOs, radio programmes, UNICEF, WHO, other UN agencies, and donors. Local authorities have convened planning meetings, participated in social mobilisation and inaugurations of NID events, and are involved in monitoring.

Previous rounds demonstrated that female volunteers are especially effective, and it is hoped that the number of females will be increased during the next rounds.

Food Security

WFP Kandahar has targeted 5,138 affected families for distribution of 513,800 tonnes of wheat in Kandahar city, Chora and Khas Urozgan districts of Oruzgan Province.

In addition to the needs of the widespread displaced and drought-affected families, the United Nations in Mazar has also highlighted the lack of seed in northern region and warned of a serious long-term food deficit if the seed shortage is not remedied. The Regional Working Group on Food Security has confirmed that the gap between seed requirements and availability is enormous.

Due to drought, the damage caused to seed stocks could be irreversible if quick action is not taken. The seed needed in the region amounts to 117,000 tonnes, and the expected gap is projected to be at least 38,000 tonnes. There is a growing concern in the region among the aid community that people have started consuming rain fed seeds. This means further loss of seeds for the next planting season.

Through this drought appeal, the United Nations has appealed for US\$ five million for seeds urgently needed due to the drought. So far, negligible funding has been received.

Health

UNICEF organized a workshop in Kabul to establish a Regional Committee for Communication and to plan further activities, linked with micro-planning for NIDs and EPI. Provincial and district level committees will be set up to plan and implement an effective communication to achieve polio eradication and improve routine EPI and TT coverage for women. A cold chain training programme was also conducted for vaccinators in Zabul Province.

WHO organized an Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) review meeting, attended by EPI consultants, regional EPI officers and medical doctors, in Islamabad last week. Issues covered were eradication of polio, provision of EPI services supply, AFP surveillance and supplementary polio campaign.

National Immunisation Days (NIDs)

The coverage for the NIDs conducted in Bamiyan from 10 to 12 September indicated a rate of 104%. Despite the adjustment of Unidata, more than the target figure were reported to have been immunised. The reason for the difference is attributable to the return of displaced families.

WHO held technical meetings, attended by provincial EPI officers from Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Nimroz and Oruzgan, on the implementation of fall National Immunisation Days (NIDs) with the contribution of UN agencies and NGOs in Kandahar. Similar meetings were held in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Training

WHO conducted a series of training courses for EPI health workers and traditional birth attendants in Mazar and Kandahar.

Save the Children Sweden (SCS) has trained a group of trainers from UNICEF co-operating partners in Kabul, Herat, Mazar and Jalalabad as master trainers on the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC). A follow up of the programme to further strengthen the capacity of trainers was conducted in Herat and Kabul.

UNICEF organized a 4-day Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) training workshop for 50 teachers and health workers at the Malalai Maternity Hospital and RRD Training Centres in Kabul.

Since the female CRC trainers cannot travel out of Jalalabad due to the current restriction, it was agreed to identify three women per district to be trained in CRC to carry out further training sessions.

Supplies

WHO provided emergency medical kits and updated medical books, computers, stationery and audio-visual equipment to the Kandahar Nursing School, and a number of medical and non-medical supplies to Samangan, Mazar, Fariyab, Saripol and Kandahar hospitals.

Education

Under a joint initiative of the local community, WFP, FOCUS and NAC, the rehabilitation of the Eshkashem Boys and Girls High Schools, with over 1,100 girls and boys students, is almost completed.

Social mobilizers and health educators reached 300 people and 120 households with health and hygiene messages in the rural districts of Kabul. UNICEF held a meeting

with all female health educators at the Malalai Hospital to outline a social mobilization plan for 2001.

Water and Sanitation

UNICEF is planning to install 150 wells in Logar Province, where 80 wells, benefiting some 32,000 people, have been completed.

The Rural Water Supply Department installed 8 handpumps in Baraki District of Logar Province to provide safe drinking water to some 3,200 people.

The construction of 100 out of 400 planned double-vault household latrines was completed in Pul-i-Alam District of Logar Province. These activities were carried out with the technical and financial support from UNICEF in collaboration with the Rural Rehabilitation Department (RRD).

The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) deepened over 160 dried wells in various districts in Kabul, Nangahar, Laghman, and Kapisa provinces last week.

The Rural Engineering Unit of SCA has deepened and/or rehabilitated a total of 502 wells in Eastern provinces of Afghanistan, since mid July. The project with 24 wells more than planned is funded by ECHO.

Last week the Shinkurak Pipe Water Supply project in Kunar was completed. The project will provide safe drinking water to 10,000 people in the area.

RRD chlorinated over 150 private and public wells and rehabilitated wells, equipped with handpumps in Majburabad Village, Surkhrod, Momandara, and Chaparhar districts of districts of Nangahar Province with assistance from UNICEF.

Work continues on chlorinating of 560 wells in Herat with support from UNICEF in collaboration with the local Public Health Department.

UNICEF continues to support upgrading of dried wells in Arghistan and Marooft districts of Kandahar province. Almost

10,000 people will have access to safe drinking water.

With ECHO funding, the 60 female community mobilizers in Kandahar continued to pass health and hygiene sanitation messages from house to house during the week. This campaign has, to some extent, changed the behaviour of city residents on how to accumulate waste and proper dumping procedures. WFP wheat for all female beneficiaries was also distributed during the week.

In the hand pump installation project, funded by UNDP and UNOCHA, so far 208 hand pumps have been installed in Kandahar city, which will not only help in alleviating the impact of current drought situation, but also provide potable water for the residents of Kandahar city.

Work continues on the rehabilitation of Kandahar's city water network with the help of the local Water Supply Department.

A WHO team met with the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) water supply team in Mazar-i-Sharif and discussed the provision of safe drinking water to the inhabitants of Kunduz Province.

Rehabilitation/Reconstruction

As a joint contribution of NAC, FOCUS and WFP, the rehabilitation of 206km road from Eshkashem to Wakhan, the only supply route into the Wakhan corridor, is underway. Some 10,000 people from 40 villages in the area will benefit from the project.

UNOPS completed the desilting of Dand District drainage system last week. 18km main drainage and 20km collectors have been cleaned.

Agriculture

FAO Poultry specialists visited 160 families in the PEACE Initiative districts of Kandahar province and 6 poultry farms in Jalalabad and

provided 500 doses of Newcastle disease vaccines.

The Animal Health and Production Improvement Module (PIHAM) courses for veterinarians and para-veterinarians are ongoing in Jalalabad and Kandahar.

Almost 20,000 fruit trees were budded in Arghandab, Dand and Daman districts of Kandahar province.

Over 1,500 tonnes of wheat and barely seeds were procured by MCI, ISE and VARA in Kandahar and Nimroz provinces.

Repatriation

A total of 149 returnee families, comprising 862 persons have received their standard repatriation grant of cash, WFP wheat and plastic sheeting to facilitate their voluntary repatriation at UNHCR encashment centres in Jalalabad, Khost, Kandahar and Helmand last week.

Since the beginning of the Joint Programme of UNHCR assisted voluntary repatriation from Iran, the total number of returnees received at the border in Islam-Qala stands at 101,196 persons of whom 56% returned to destinations in Herat province, followed by returnees originating from Kabul (24,5%) and Balkh provinces (7,1%).

UNHCR offices in Herat, Kandahar and Jalalabad have monitored shelter assistance programmes in Herat, Farah, Nangahar and Kandahar provinces for 800 returnee families. Monitoring of recently arrived returnees is ongoing in Enjil District of Herat and Behsood District of Nangahar provinces.

Mine Action

During September, 43 localised Mine Committees were created in Zabul, Helmand and Farah provinces. Over 1,000 local Mine Committees and 34 Kuchi and IDP Committees have been set up since April 1996 by Handicap International (HI). By the end of

September, HI was supporting the activities of around 1,300 volunteer mine awareness trainers working in these Mine Committees. During September, the numbers of mine committees have significantly increased.

Narcotics

According to the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) Annual Opium Poppy Survey (Afghanistan 2000), drug control activities had positive impact on opium poppy reduction in Maiwand, Khakrez and Ghorak districts in Kandahar, where opium poppy cultivation was reduced by 50% compared to last year. The survey's report also indicates reduction of over 40% in opium poppy cultivation in Kandahar at the provincial level.

The Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) programme arranged a two-day work exchange programme for DDR sub-project staff in New Akora refugee camp and the drop-in day care centre for Afghan street drug addicts in Peshawar, managed by the NGO DOST. The purpose of this programme was to provide opportunities for the workers of both the sub-projects to benefit from each other's experience and improve services to Afghan drug dependants and their families. A workshop was conducted in Khakrez District of Kandahar attended by 70 people included religious scholars, shura members, teachers, tribal elders, resource persons, influential people and farmers on the harmful effects of drugs on health, education, society, economy and ethic of people. The participants were provided with posters, calendars and other materials consisting of essays, messages and slogans against drugs.

In order to monitor the implementation of the recent decree of Taliban imposing total ban on opium poppy cultivation in the country, the Nangahar DCCU has organised drug control committees in all districts of Nangahar, Kunar and Laghman provinces.

These committees have been instructed to raise awareness among the communities regarding the ban on poppy cultivation, to prevent poppy cultivation and to report their findings to the provincial administration. Letters from the provincial authorities have already been sent to the district administrators asking them to provide full support and co-operation to these committees.

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Assistance for Afghanistan
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Issue No.384

17 October 2000

Internal Displacement in North-eastern Afghanistan

Patterns of displacement

The first movements of internally displaced persons (IDPs) of the summer occurred in early August after a Taliban assault on Nahrain and Burqa (Baghlan Province) and Ishkamish (Takhar Province) in late July. Populations moved primarily into the upland areas of southern Baghlan (e.g. Khost wa Fereng, Andarab) and southern Takhar, as well as some towards Taloqan.

Displacement continued as the Taliban moved eastwards towards Taloqan, when populations from areas west (e.g. Bangi) and immediately north of the city (e.g. Baharak) moved either into the city or northwards. At this stage the first movements of IDPs from Taloqan into Badakhshan (to Keshem and Faizabad) occurred, though numbers were moderate. A higher level of displacement occurred from Archi (Kunduz Province) and Khoja Ghar (Takhar Province), eastwards across the Kokcha River to Dasht-i-Qala, Khoja Bahauddin and Rustaq (Takhar) as conflict spread.

A second large wave north and east from the Taloqan area – into Kalafgan and Farkhar (Takhar) and Keshem (Badakhshan) and to a lesser degree Faizabad – occurred following the final capture of Taloqan on 5 September following over a month's fighting. Many of the IDPs subsequently moved further afield, including

some which looped round into Taliban-controlled Taloqan. After the fall of Tangi Farkhar around 1 October the majority of IDPs moved out of Keshem. Further eastwards, increased displacement occurred across the Kokcha River as conflict spread within Khoja Ghar (Takhar), emptying the district. Many of these IDPs, and the host population, subsequently moved within Dasht-i-Qala and into Khoja Bahauddin districts. With few public buildings, the districts of Khoja Bahauddin and Dasht-i-Qala quickly became saturated and large numbers of IDPs consequently remained under soft shelter outside.

Enumeration proved to be complex in many cases due to the dispersion and mixing of IDPs and static host populations, high mobility of IDPs, local population masquerading as IDPs, and short range movements by local populations into neighbouring areas. By the first week of October, surveys indicated that there were approximately 11,000 IDP families in 12 districts of Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan. Many districts of origin have by now been totally emptied.

Nature and status of displacement

In general, the majority of the IDP population are rural in origin and possess both low general assets and very limited food stocks. Many who were able to bring food stocks

with them have exhausted them by now, as many are well into their second month of displacement. Those from Khoja Ghar, Hazar Bagh (Takhar) and Archi (Kunduz), presently in districts east of the Kokcha (principally Dasht-i-Qala and Khoja Bahauddin), are considered to be highly vulnerable on account of (a) the impact of the autumn 1999 conflict on their areas of origin, and the huge losses of property and assets which resulted; (b) the impact of the current drought on the rainfed agriculture which predominates in those areas and the very low harvest which they obtained this year; and (c) the similar impact of the drought on present host communities, whose ability to support them in terms of food stuffs and housing is restricted. It is expected that these IDPs will have extremely limited access to food supplies, other than food aid.

The majority of IDPs from Taloqan (who moved to Keshem) are an urban population. A minority among them have been able to transfer their businesses to Keshem, and are consequently self-reliant. The majority, however, have limited assets and resources and include a large proportion who had previously been displaced, or moved as economic migrants, to Taloqan. Among the latter, those who had enough funds were the first to flee from Taloqan to Faizabad.

The shelter situation amongst IDPs is mixed – those in Dasht-i-Qala and Khoja Bahauddin are predominantly in the open or sleeping outside though within compounds of houses belonging to local people; those in Rustaq are in spare or intentionally vacated rooms of local houses; those in Keshem are both inside with local people and in compounds though actually outside; and those in Faizabad are split between public buildings, living with local people and un-

der temporary shelter outside. The shelter situation in north Takhar is a primary concern – large numbers are living outside in Dasht-i-Qala and Khoja Bahauddin, and several sizeable spontaneous camps have emerged

The numbers and status of those in Khost wa Fereng is still unclear. Given the food insecurity and altitude of the area, and the similar drought impact on the areas of origin of the IDPs, it is expected that those in Khost wa Fereng will require assistance, as prices have doubled in the last year.

Assistance provided to date

A variety of assistance was extended to IDPs over August-September, most importantly by local communities, though also by the local authorities and international agencies. Although ensuring that priority needs were addressed through initial small-scale interventions in support of local authorities, in general international agencies delayed a fuller involvement until the situation became clearer and it became apparent that it was both a larger-scale and a protracted displacement. The main exception to this was the provision of medical assistance, specifically by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), which strengthened the capacities of its clinics in Imam Sahib (Kunduz), Keshem (Badakhshan) and Warsaj, Farkhar, Kalafgan, Dasht-i-Qala, Yangi Qala, Darqad and Chah Ab (Takhar) and established a mobile clinic in Nawabad, Dasht-i-Qala and a temporary clinic in Khoja Bahauddin to deal with the IDP influx (15,000 free consultations were provided up to the start of October); Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in Keshem and Dasht-i-Qala, MSF in Faizabad, and Terre de Hommes (TDH) and Norwegian Project Office (NPO) in Rustaq. Primary responsi-

bility for the management of IDP populations has remained with the local authorities in conjunction, in areas, with the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) – this has been, in general, well discharged in many of the areas.

In Faizabad initial food needs were addressed through the provision of cooked meals once a day and bread twice a day for over a month to 300 displaced families by the local authorities. This was supported through a distribution of a two-week ration dry corn soya blend (CSB) by WFP supported by sugar from NAC to 350 families. Small quantities of non-food items were also distributed to both IDPs in public buildings and, once the capacity of public buildings became exhausted, a small camp on the south of the city – these included, by way of example, kitchen kits and flooring from UNICEF, 300 ICRC non-food item (NFI) kits (plastic sheeting, blankets, cookers and soap), UNOCHA plastic sheeting, blankets from MSF and also ECHO, water containers from the Orphans, Refugees & Aid (ORA), and clothing for 654 families by MCI. Similar distributions of ICRC NFI kits took place in Keshem.

In late September, in Faizabad as well as Keshem, Dasht-i-Qala, Khoja Bahauddin and Rustaq, a large scale targeted emergency distribution of 50kg of wheat for each of 5,500 families was provided by WFP through ACTED, FOCUS, Shelter Now International (SNI) and UNOPS, in conjunction with the local authorities and ARCS. This was augmented by 4 litres of oil/family in Faizabad by FOCUS. This was intended to address present food needs on an emergency basis in the expectation of potential change.

By the end of September shelter needs had become a priority issue (until this time both IDPs and local populations were

habitually sleeping outside) as rains had started. Shelter materials were consequently provided in Dasht-i-Qala and Khoja Bahauddin by ICRC and UNOCHA through ACTED and SNI and in Faizabad by UNOCHA through MSF.

Health

Adequate capacity exists to respond to the health needs of IDPs, providing logistics remain viable. Established clinics and mobile or temporary clinics – run by SCA, MSF, TDH/NPO, MoPH, and ARCS – are all functioning well and area coverage is good. At present medicine supply is sufficient with the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), WHO, MSF and UNICEF all being well supplied. Measles vaccines, and vitamin A and tetanus toxoid vaccine are presently being supplied by UNICEF for an emergency campaign. polio immunisation (10-14 October) will ensure coverage of IDPs, and polio vaccination is being carried out in the screening area as IDPs enter Faizabad (measles has occurred among IDPs in north Takhar and in Faizabad).

In Takhar, one SCA clinic – in Yangi Qala – is being upgraded to a referral centre with equipment being supplied by MSF, and others will be upgraded. The health situation among the large concentrations of IDPs is being closely monitored, and health education activities will be provided as necessary. SCA has adequate medical personnel which can be re-deployed as needed, and vehicles among agencies are adequate. MSF and WFP both have high protein biscuits (BP5) and WFP has CSB in case supplementary feeding activities are required. Inter-agency coordination is good, with an agreed division of area responsibility and good mutual support.

Water and sanitation

Water supply has already become a problematic issue in north Takhar where the only water the IDPs around Nawabad have access to is both insufficient and of extremely poor quality. In other areas the large-scale utilisation of surface water sources, specifically rivers and canals, is of concern from a public health perspective. MSF and Oxfam have adequate water supply equipment in country. A tank has been installed in the small camp in Faizabad to provide potable water to large concentrations of IDPs if required.

Sanitation will be covered by MSF in north Takhar. Latrines will be constructed in the public buildings housing IDPs in Faizabad by ICRC and ACTED/UNICEF.

Shelter

The only area which has even moderate numbers of IDPs in public buildings is Faizabad. The local authorities have contingency plans to move IDPs living outside and/or additional arrivals into school buildings if required though only after the school term ends in December. Buildings will have to be winterised – i.e. plastic sheeting for windows, installation of doors, some minor roof repairs, etc.

Food-for-Work (FFW)

A number of FFW projects have started in areas with IDPs which are employing IDPs e.g. the Dasht-i-Qala - Khoja Bahauddin road (ACTED), bedding material production (employing local and IDP women) in Khoja Bahauddin, Rustaq and Faizabad (ACTED). A number of others are scheduled to start or are awaiting responses from

donors, e.g. the Dasht-i-Qala canal (SNI), the Dasht-i-Qala - Rustaq road (SNI), Lalimaidan-Rustaq and other roads in the Rustaq area (NPO), etc. A number of other road projects are being discussed with WFP. IDPs will be considered for participation only as long as it is not possible for them to return in safety to their areas of origin.

Spontaneous and formal camps

In Takhar, in one area of Dasht-i-Qala – Nawabad – and two in Khoja Bahauddin – Mughul Qishlaq and Kum Guzar – spontaneous camps have emerged. In Nawabad and Mughul Qishlaq, due to the saturation of hard shelter and the initially clement weather conditions, 900 and 500 people respectively had pitched makeshift tents of gilims, blankets, patous or sacks. As the weather conditions changed, plastic sheeting was distributed. IDPs are now moving out of hard shelter as local people are returning since many were actually squatting with the consent of the local authorities but without the knowledge of the owners.

At Kum Guzar the local authorities, who originally proposed a camp, have encouraged IDPs to move to Kum Guzar (there has been a movement of families who received assistance in certain other villages to this area). It is inevitable that further IDPs will move, or will be encouraged to move by local hosts or the local authorities, and that they will gravitate to these areas, with expectations of assistance. As the weather worsens, it is to be expected that at least some of the IDPs will be able to find alternative shelter and will leave these areas.

The authorities in the area have been told, and accept, that hard shelter options are preferable, with continuing to

share accommodation with local people being the ideal. Agencies in Dasht-i-Qala are presently looking into ways of supporting local people to continue to look after IDPs, and into what would be required to winterise the limited number of public or incomplete buildings.

In Faizabad, a small formal camp has already been established in the south of the city as both possibilities of accommodation with local families and in public buildings had become exhausted. It now houses 220 families in a mixture of repaired public buildings within the site and under plastic sheeting. Water and sanitation facilities have been provided by MSF.

Potential migration

It is the opinion of agencies in the north-east that the predictions of massive cross-border displacement are not likely under the present conditions, specifically regarding movements northwards into Tajikistan from Takhar where the bulk of the present IDP population is located. It is expected that small-scale movements or filtration may occur though mass movements are unlikely, unless existing large IDP concentrations would be pushed towards the borders. If radical changes in the situation were to occur then it is expected that urban populations and some of those living in the remote border areas of Badakhshan would endeavour to cross, though in small numbers and across a wide area.

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Assistance for Afghanistan
WEEKLY UPDATE

AMBASSADEN ISLAMABAD		
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Issue No.385

25 October 2000

The United Nations Day

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan observed United Nations Day on 24 October by a visit of the UN Coordinator, Erick de Mul, to Ibn-e-Sina school, educating Afghan refugee students in Islamabad. De Mul had returned from Kabul only three hours before his meeting with the students.

In his address, Mr. de Mul noted that this was the first time in his long career that he had spent United Nations Day with students. De Mul briefly discussed the reasons for the establishment of the UN, and its role in promoting world peace. He also talked about the importance of education in eliminating poverty and fostering peace.

Mine Dog Study

The UN is requesting permission from the authorities to use land in Kabul and Paktia Provinces for two years to conduct mine dog trials.

These highly specialised technical trials being conducted in Afghanistan are the first of their kind in the world, and will result in global standards for the use of mine dogs in de-mining operations around the world.

The Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan (MAPA) will first ensure the trial areas are cleared of mines. About 2,000

fresh mines and tripwires will be sterilised to eliminate all human smells before they are put down.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian De-mining is supporting the study, with financial assistance from the US government, which will provide expertise in soil and explosives analysis, dog behaviour, and statistics. Despite MAPA's current financial crunch, full funding exists for the trials.

Displacement

The total number of displaced families in Herat City now stands at around 6,200. The arrival of new IDP families continues. Approximately 700 families arrived the weekend before last.

ICRC in close collaboration with IFRC, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and UNOCHA has completed the registration of IDPs in the Shaidae camp for food distribution, which had started last week. The remaining 1,000 families will be relocated to Maslakh camp, where basic water and sanitation and shelter services have been put in place. Distribution of food and plastic sheets is also ongoing.

In order to avoid possible water shortage in the camps, and following consultation with UNICEF, it was decided to install handpumps in 9 existing communal wells. DACAAR is planning to construct 16 wells and 100 latrines in Rawzabagh camp.

The Rural Rehabilitation Department (RRD) and UNCHS (Habitat) are also planning to construct more wells.

RRD with technical and financial support from UNICEF reactivated 19 hand-pump wells in the Shaidai IDP camp in Herat. About 12,000 IDPs will have access to safe drinking water. UNICEF will support IRC in the implementation of sanitation activities in the said camp for 16,000 people.

ECHO confirmed funding for the NGO Ockenden International (OI), in addition to Habitat, for the construction of shelters, and will continue its financial support to Medecins Du Monde (MDM) in the water and sanitation sectors. Work continues on the Habitat-initiated shelter programme, cleaning of the local drainage system and removal of solid waste by Habitat, UNICEF and DACAAR.

Last week, UNCHS (Habitat) started physical site activities on a project to build 2,000 shelters in IDP camps in Herat. IDPs are being employed under a FFW programme as labourers on the project.

According to an initial nutritional screening by MDM, over 10% malnutrition has been reported among children under 5.

UNICEF supported MSF with a measles vaccination campaign for over 2,000 displaced children in Shaidai camp. Similar activities are being conducted for 4,000 IDPs in Rowzabagh camp. One basic health center and one sub-health center with a drug kit, and one basic equipment kit to cover basic needs of two clinics in the camp were also provided for about 20,000 people.

Local authorities provided temporary shelters to 2,500 registered displaced families, living in poor conditions in various camps in Baghlan province.

In northern Afghanistan, a joint UN and ACTED mission visited Baghlan to assess the situation and needs of IDPs. UNICEF administered polio vaccines to 4,000 children under 5 and plans to vaccinate 3,000 children against measles, and provided winter clothing and shoes to children.

Drought in West

The distribution of 4,200 tonnes of wheat (a six-month ration per household) in the affected areas of Ghor and Badghis provinces is ongoing. FAO and Afghan Aid also distributed 40 tonnes of wheat in Ghor, where ICRC and the NGO ANSARI are planning to allocate the same amount of wheat grain seeds and chickpeas.

With a total off-loading of 400 to 500 tonnes of wheat in the same area, WFP would be able to stockpile the planned 7,000 tonnes by the end of October. Once resources are made available for the implementing partners in the affected areas, food for asset creation (FOODAC) programme will commence. It is envisaged that this will slow the current rate of emigration.

IFRC indicated that 144 bales of used clothes have been re-packed for dispatch and distribution in Ghor, where vulnerable people in the area are being registered by ICRC and OXFAM.

Refugees

More than 2,600 Afghans crossed into Pakistan at the Torkham border last week, bringing the number of Afghans migrating to Pakistan in recent weeks to nearly 23,000, of whom 18,000 are in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and 5,000 in Baluchistan province of Pakistan. An in-

creasing number of the new arrivals reportedly are not seeking UNHCR assistance and head to Pakistan's urban centres to join relatives and friends.

UNHCR monitors at the Torkham border reported an average of 500 crossings a day in the past three days.

Last week, UNHCR transferred nearly 8,000 refugees from a makeshift site in Jallozai, near Peshawar, the capital of the NWFP, to the New Shamshatoo refugee village. But no sooner had they been shifted than some 1,550 newcomers moved in to take their place in Jallozai.

UNHCR is providing assistance to another 5,500 Afghan refugees encamped in Akora Khattak, pending verification by the Pakistani authorities.

The refugees, who are overwhelmingly women and children of Tajik ethnic origin from north-eastern Afghanistan, are in urgent need of shelter, food and medical assistance. UNHCR has distributed tarpaulins, quilts and plastic sheeting. WFP is allocating wheat and edible oil to the new refugees in New Shamshatoo.

During the week, over 100 Afghan families (601 persons) have voluntarily repatriated from Pakistan, receiving standard repatriation packages, i.e. plastic sheeting, wheat and cash grants at encashment centres in Jalalabad and Khost.

The Joint Programme for the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran has been extended for the remainder of the year 2000. The programme was originally scheduled to end on 8 October. Approximately 4,500 refugees are returning from Iran each week. So far in 2000, UNHCR has assisted 111,047 returnees from Iran. Of the 1,342 returnees of the last convoy, 655 originated from Herat, while others were provided with onward trans-

portation to Faryab, Balkh, Kabul and Ghazni provinces.

Reintegration assistance

Activities are ongoing in western region to complete shelter assistance for needy returnees, of which close to 40% find their shelter completely destroyed after repatriation.

Water and Sanitation

Social mobilizers of RRD and health educators reached 450 people in the rural districts of Kabul with messages on health and hygiene and sanitation.

Following the installation of 10 wells by RRD, with assistance from UNICEF, 4,000 people have been provided with safe drinking water in Baraki and Andar districts of Logar and Ghazni provinces. The community provided local materials and labour. With support and guidance from UNICEF and RRD, the construction of 100 double-vault household latrines has been completed in Del Mughulan and Sayedan Honai villages of Puli Alam, Logar.

The construction of 4 borewells was completed by RRD with support from UNICEF in Ghormach District of Badghis Province. Some 1,600 people in the area will have safe drinking water in the area.

A national NGO with support from UNICEF and WFP is improving 50 hand-pump wells and constructing 80 latrines in Chaghcheran and Tagh-e-timor districts of Ghor province. About 20,000 people will benefit from this project.

Health and sanitation awareness campaigns are underway in Herat and Kandahar. Over 3,000 houses were visited in Herat this past week. Solid waste was cleared and were handpumps installed in the

city wells. These activities are all part of a UNCHS/ECHO relief project aimed at mitigating the effects of the drought.

The Drought Mitigation Project (phase I), funded by UNDP/ERD with contributions from UNICEF, WFP and UNOPS, in the southern region was completed last week. Preparations for the second phase of the project, funded by the Government of Switzerland through the Regional Coordinating Body of the Southern region are ongoing. Approximately 500 wells will be constructed/upgraded.

Over 200 handpumps have been installed and/or replaced in Kandahar City. 6,300 families benefited from the wells equipped with handpumps.

Drilling of 50 tube wells through district development committees has been completed in Dand and Arghandab districts of Kandahar.

Health

According to MoPH, an outbreak of diarrhea with 20 deaths has occurred in Maruf District of Kandahar. WHO provided medical supplies to the area.

Eight teams of vaccinators visited 850 villages for immunizing children under two against measles and TB in Behsud District of Bamiyan Province.

Food Security

WFP Kandahar has targeted almost 2,000 drought affected families through distribution of over 180 tonnes of wheat in the Registan area of Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces.

Under the Food for Asset Creation (FOODAC) component, WFP continues to

support basic social services, covering 470 projects in the southern region.

Female mobilizers, under food-for-work, continue to pass house-to-house hygiene and sanitation messages. So far, 5,500 houses have received the messages.

Disability

To promote disability awareness at the grassroots level and enhance prevention of disabilities, CDAP/UNDP launched a new community awareness package of Disability Awareness and Advocacy Briefs. These disability briefs are aimed to educate target communities about the root causes of disabilities and local ways of disability prevention. About 20 senior workers were trained as master trainers. They will afterwards train about 400 CDAP field workers and 1000 community volunteers. The training was held with the technical support from Swedish Save the Children in Peshawar.

To facilitate more effective and active community participation, CDAP trained about 14 male and female regional trainers in community participation. The trainers were also trained in forming community organizations.

The Afghan Physiotherapy Association (APA) held a conference, attended by over 60 physiotherapists and key persons from various districts of the country, in Kabul. APA was established in Kabul in 1998 to coordinate the services of 150 physiotherapists in the country, and strengthen the profession by training programmes and working relations with the physiotherapy association of the world like World Confederation of Physical Therapists.

Protection

UNICEF organized a training course on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for 23 female participants of the Community For a Development Organization (CFDO) and MoPH in Mazar. A similar course was conducted for 16 female participants in Badakhshan.

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WEEKLY UPDATE

AMBASSADEN ISLAMABAD		
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Displacement

Located in five camps, almost 7,300 families (45,000 individuals) are displaced to Herat from Ghor and Badghis provinces. All camps have adequate water, health and pre-natal assistance facilities. Preparation for the establishment of nutritional centres and a temporary community-based sanitary programme is underway until more permanent latrines are in place.

While there is an immediate need for 2,000 shelters and 3,200 standard plastic sheets to cover new arrivals, 90 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed so far.

According to WHO, the incidence of diarrhoea, respiratory diseases (and death) is increasing among IDPs in Herat.

In Chaghcharan District of Ghor Province Oxfam and ICRC have registered 25,000 families, and WFP has completed the placement of 7,200 tonnes of wheat. ICRC is in the process of moving additional food supplies into the region.

Meanwhile, the IDP Commission in Rustaq, North East Afghanistan, has confirmed the presence of 6,000 IDP families in Dasht-i-Qala and has raised concern regarding the settlement needs of these people who are expected to remain in the area over winter. Shelter assistance will be required, however logistics constraints have been identified. A survey of immediate shelter needs is ongoing.

Food stocks in Dasht-i-Qala are becoming in short supply. MSF has 3,000 rations of rice and oil. WFP wheat stocks are expected to last for three months. ACTED confirmed that it has 3,000 hygiene kits, 3,000 kitchen units, funds for 15,000 blankets, 1,000 plastic sheets and 60 MT of children's clothing in Tajikistan, where ICRC has 1,000 tents.

Health

A number of joint MoPH, WHO, and NGO meetings were held in Kandahar, Herat, Ghazni and Jalalabad. Discussions covered health issues including the results of the NIDs campaign, outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases in Maruf District of Kandahar, district health profiles, health information system, rabies and the cancer situation in Ghazni.

National Immunisation Days (NIDs)

The first round of NIDs from five provinces of the southern region indicates a coverage rate of 115%. The increase seems to be due to the large number of nomads and IDPs.

The preliminary figures from the northern region show a coverage of 1,625,259 against the targeted 1,453,444 children.

UNICEF-supported female vaccinators continue their usual immunisation activities in a number of fixed centres in Kandahar.



Training

WHO supported training sessions in order to expand polio surveillance in Ghazni and Paktika provinces. Female and male medical doctors from different districts were trained as focal points for the surveillance.

UNICEF conducted training for female and male vaccinators in Helmand province.

On the job training on delivery procedures was conducted in the Malalay civil hospital in Kabul. Plans are being prepared for Safe Motherhood Initiative (SMI) training in two districts of Logar province.

The Faizabad Women's Organisation is conducting a house-to-house health education campaign to increase awareness of home management of diarrhoea, improved sanitation and personal hygiene.

Refugees/ Repatriation

The number of Afghans fleeing fighting in northeastern Afghanistan rose sharply with some 5,000 refugees arriving in Pakistan last week. UNHCR is concerned that continued fighting and the onset of winter may force more Afghans to flee to Pakistan. In addition, the drought has also displaced thousands inside the country.

Renewed fighting in northeastern Afghanistan has so far driven 28,000 Afghans into Pakistan. The arrivals last week included 2,800 crossing at the Torkham border post in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) Pakistan, and 2,200 at various entry points in the southwest province of Baluchistan. According to UNHCR monitors, an average of 600 Afghans have been arriving in Pakistan daily in the past week.

UNHCR is providing an additional US\$950,000 to meet the urgent shelter, food, water and health needs of the new arrivals. Last week, UNHCR transferred another 1,200 Afghans from a makeshift site in Jallozai, near Peshawar, to New Shamshatoo refugee village, where they have been provided with relief aid. A UNHCR and government medical team is visiting New Shamshatoo camp to assess the condition of the arrivals.

A total of 216 families voluntarily repatriated through Kandahar and Helmand from Pakistan last week. The returnees were provided with UNHCR's standard repatriation package (cash grant, plastic sheeting and wheat) and tea.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is implementing voluntary repatriation under the Joint Programme in cooperation with UNHCR.

Water and Sanitation

The Swiss government, WFP, UNICEF and local communities have contributed resources for the second phase of the drought mitigation project in southern region.

RRD Paktia will reactivate 60 dried wells by further deepening them with technical and financial support from UNICEF. Five NGOs have been identified by the drought mitigation team to drill 60 wells in both Khost and Paktika provinces.

Five wells were drilled by the Rural Rehabilitation Department (RRD) with support from communities in Baraki District of Logar province. UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance.

Preliminary survey and site selection for the construction of 400 latrines as a model latrine project were completed in

Kamari village of Bagrami District of Kabul last week.

The Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) completed construction of 65 wells equipped with handpumps, and 380 baths and latrines in Hesarak Village of Nangahar last week. Almost 1,500 families benefited from the project.

UNICEF has completed training field level coordinators who will take part in the water and sanitation facility assessment survey of Jawzjan province.

Agriculture

FAO monitored integrated production and protection field activities in central, southern and western regions of the country.

Over 1,000 farmers were trained on various aspects of plant production in Herat, Farah, and Badghis provinces.

In Maruf, Dand and Arghandab districts of Kandahar 25 tonnes of improved wheat seed and 260 tonnes of urea fertiliser were distributed to farmers. The same amount of wheat seed and fertiliser has come from FAO Herat to be distributed in Shega district of Kandahar.

Budding of seedling rootstocks has been completed in Arghandab and Dand districts of Kandahar.

Education

A teacher-training workshop on the implementation of Basic Competencies of Learning in language and mathematics for 25 teachers of primary schools was organised in Kabul.

UNICEF provided stationery to the Hearing-Impaired Foundation of Afghanistan (HIFA) for distribution among 230

students in Kabul, and school supplies for home-based school students in Jalalabad.

UNICEF is planning to support four new playgrounds in Mazar and Balkh cities. A task force of youth groups, Habitat, Save the Children, Farda, Children's Voice and UNICEF has been established to select the sites in consultation with authorities.

With support from UNICEF, two training sessions on the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) were organised for NGOs running home-based schools in Kabul.

Save the Children (Sweden) in collaboration with UNICEF, organised CRC training for 50 female and male participants in Faizabad and Maimana districts of Badakhshan and Faryab provinces.

Food Security

WFP Kandahar has targeted 3,130 drought-affected and 160 returnee families, for free food distribution of over 360 tonnes of wheat in Kandahar, Oruzgan and Helmand provinces.

WFP is also providing wheat and improved seed Under Food-For-Work (FFW) and Food-For-Seed programmes in southern region.

Demining

The manual teams and mine dog groups surveyed and marked almost 125,000 sqm of high priority grazing area for clearance in Panjwai District and cleared over 100,000 sqm of high priority land in Dand district of Kandahar last week. Nearly 1,400 people have received mine awareness training in southern region.

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