

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Winter temperatures remained above normal in December
- AGE activity down by more than 25 per cent compared to November
- 82,293 Afghans voluntarily returned to Afghanistan by November
- CAP 48 per cent funded in 2012

## FIGURES

Total Afghan Population	27 m
Conflict Induced IDPs	~460,000
Undocumented Afghans in Iran	1.4 m
Registered Afghans in Iran	1 m
Undocumented Afghans in Pakistan	1 m
Registered Afghans in Pakistan	1.9 m
Registered in other countries	200,000

Source: UNHCR/IOM as of 11/2012

## CAP FUNDING

**448 million**  
requested (US\$)

**48% funded**



Credit: Christophe Verhellen/OCHA

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## Helping slum dwellers in Kabul cope with winter

In light of the harsh winter conditions experienced in 2011/12, the humanitarian community stepped up coordination efforts to ensure increased emergency assistance capacity to cope this winter. The humanitarian community's plans are closely coordinated with the government.

KIS- Winter Assistance Updates December 2012			
No. of KIS Sites Targeted			
Organization	Food	Fuel	ES/ NFI
UNHCR			54
WFP	20		
Solidarites International		4	15
Islamic Relief		22	
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)		15	
Johanniter		19	19
ADRA Afghanistan		2	2

A joint needs assessment was carried out in all Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS) between 6 and 12 November. Based on the results of the assessment, the distribution of fuel (firewood/coal), food, winter clothing, tarpaulin and blankets commenced in early December. As of 31 December 2012, 45 out of 56 targeted sites received clothing and/or NFIs, and 50 out of 62 targeted sites received fuel<sup>1</sup>. In addition, 19 out of 35 targeted sites received food assistance. Distributions of food and fuel will continue in January and February. It is not expected that further NFI supplies will be needed within the KIS sites for the remainder of the winter.

While humanitarian material assistance will go some way towards mitigating the efforts of winter and improving families' ability to cope with cold weather, longer-term needs cannot be met through such assistance. Specifically, the combination of acute vulnerability, inadequate shelter, poor access to basic services, and lack of sustainable income generation possibilities all contribute to exacerbating the negative impact of the harsh winter on this extremely vulnerable population. In order to address the needs of these communities, long-term solutions including improved rural development, urban planning, and the recognition of people's rights to housing and property are urgently needed.

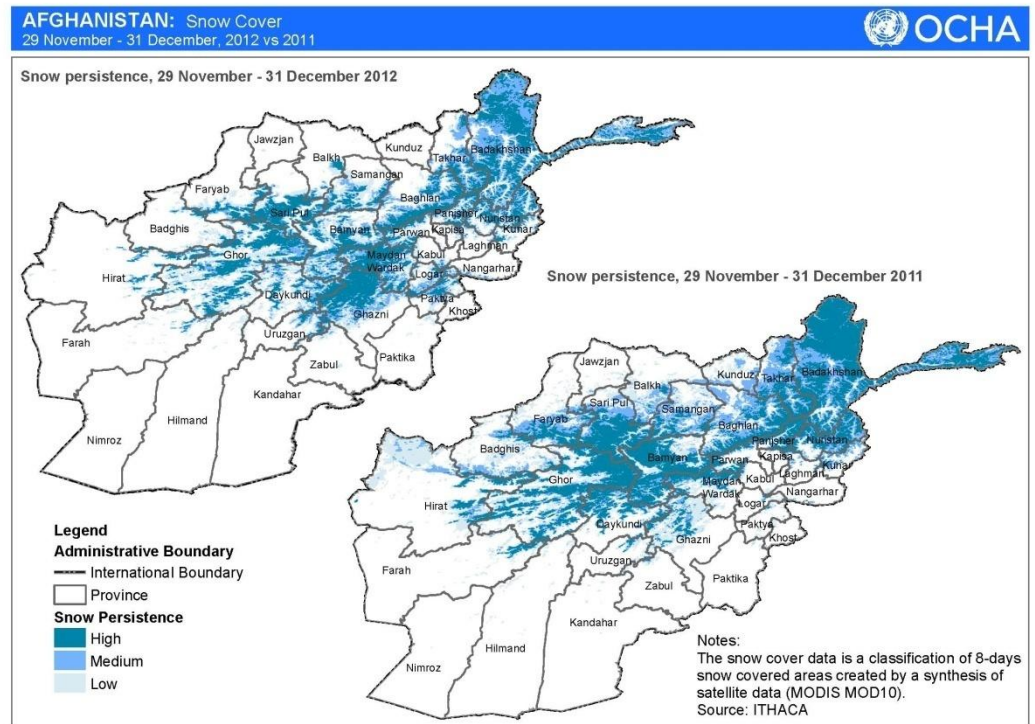


Credit: Christophe Verhellen/OCHA

For more information on KIS:  
<http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info/kis>

<sup>1</sup> Site coverage is based on the type of assistance provided: Blanket fuel distribution was agreed for all KIS (54 sites) and non-KIS (8 sites). Clothing and NFI coverage will reach all 54 KIS sites by UNHCR and NGO partners, as well as two additional non-KIS sites received SI blanket children's clothes. KIS and non-KIS sites with a low food consumption score received food rations or high energy biscuits.

## Afghanistan winter preparedness



Levels of snowfall remained low in December 2012 compared to last year. This corresponded with metrological weather forecast that predicted temperatures above normal for the period October – December 2012 (International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI)). Early warning information from FEWSNET/MAIL suggests that precipitation will be average over the next few months, with the risk of below normal precipitation. This situation may affect the spring farming season. However, if two to three more good snowfalls are recorded in central Afghanistan in the course of January to February, there should be enough melt water for irrigation and farming.

## Improving early warning systems for Amu River



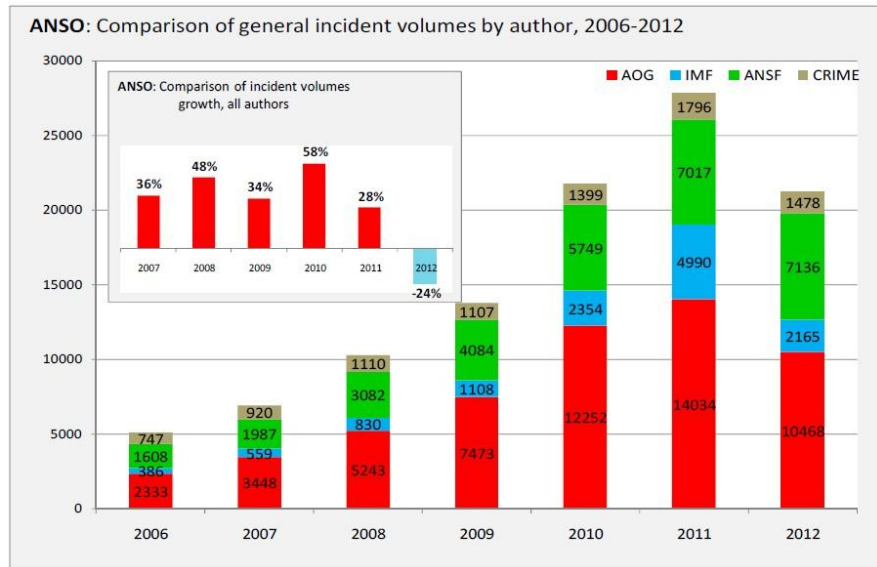
**Amu river bank erosion**  
 Credit: OCHA Afghanistan

CBEWS in Afghanistan can help develop a cross border EWS at the regional level which is a priority in Central Asia.

ActionAid and Practical Action conducted a study on the need to strengthen community-based early warning systems (CBEWS) along the Amu River in the Northern Region. The study revealed that communities have traditional knowledge and some early warning systems at a low scale. However, the traditional early warning systems need to be complemented with modern technology in order to mitigate the risk of recurrent floods. Once in place, the community-based early warning system will help save lives and livelihoods for Afghans who live near or along the Amu River. Major risks include flooding, water borne diseases, drowning, erosion/environmental degradation, erosion of arable farming land and low water volumes affecting agricultural production. The people know the risks and their knowledge can be used to enhance CBEWS along the Amu River as part of disaster risk reduction and building community resilience. A successful

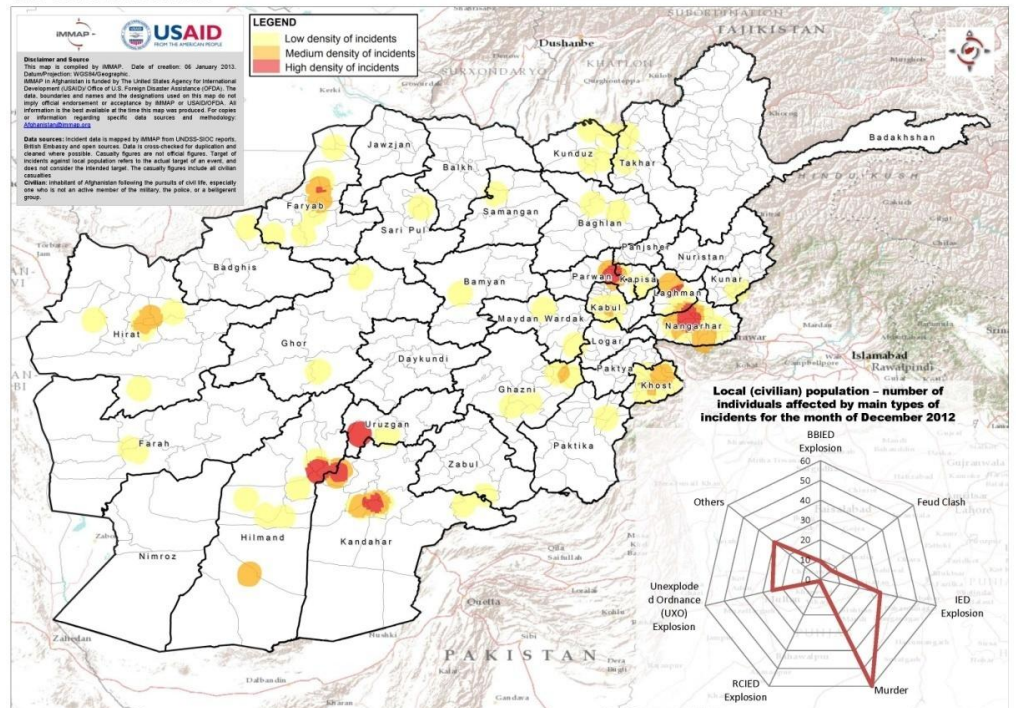
## December incidents down in line with seasonal trends

The overall level of security incidents dropped in December in line with seasonal trends, with reported AGE activity down by more than 25 per cent compared to November. However, the reported level was 7 per cent higher than that of December 2011, perhaps due to the relatively milder weather this year which allows AGE activity to continue.



In overall terms, end-of-year data indicate that, after six years of sustained growth, the conflict has entered a de-escalation phase, with the annual incident volume falling by 24 per cent in 2012 over that of 2011. This trend is assessed as being primarily driven by the ongoing disengagement of the international military forces.

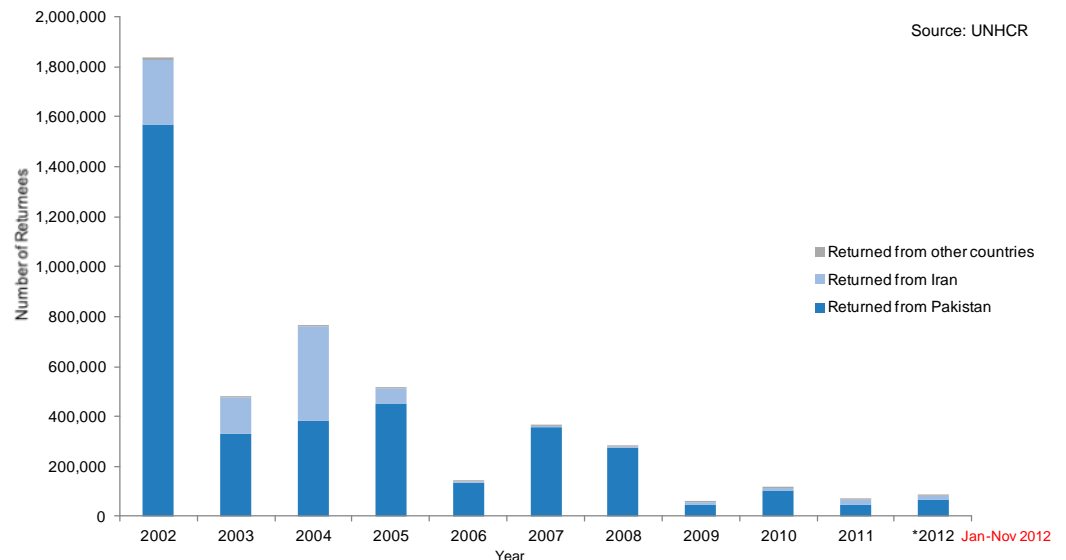
### AFGHANISTAN Local (civilian) population targeted (dead and injured) in security incidents for the month of December 2012



Notwithstanding the reduction in overall incident volume levels, the conflict has remained intensive and the 24 per cent reduction in conflict activity in 2012 only resulted in a 14 per cent reduction in civilian casualties during the same period.

## Voluntary return of refugees

During the period 1 January to 30 November 2012, 82,293 Afghans voluntarily returned to Afghanistan, of whom 67,634 came from Pakistan and 14,576 from Iran. The overall voluntary return figure for 2012 represents a 24 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2011, when 66,526 individuals voluntarily returned.



From the start of UNHCR's assisted voluntary repatriation operation in March 2002, to the end of November 2012, over 5.7 million Afghan refugees have returned home. Today, returnees represent about a quarter of the country's estimated population.

68 per cent of returnees from Pakistan interviewed in November cited economic factors as the primary push factor for their return, while 49 per cent cited an improvement in the security situation in some parts of Afghanistan as the primary pull factor influencing their decision to return. In the case of Iran, 89 per cent cited economic factors as the primary push factor for their return, while 93 per cent cited improvements in the security situation in some parts of Afghanistan as the primary pull factor influencing their decision to return.

### Deportation of undocumented Afghan nationals

During 2012, up to 30 November, 234,151 people were deported from Iran, representing an increase of 24 per cent over the same period in 2011. The average daily number of Afghans deported from Iran in 2012 stands at 699, compared to the daily average of 56 during the same period in 2011.

In the case of Pakistan, 1,701 undocumented Afghan nationals were deported from 1 January to 30 November, representing a 32 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2011.

## Reinforcing nutrition surveillance in Afghanistan

A SMART (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition) training organized by ACF-Afghanistan and Nutrition cluster took place in Kabul.

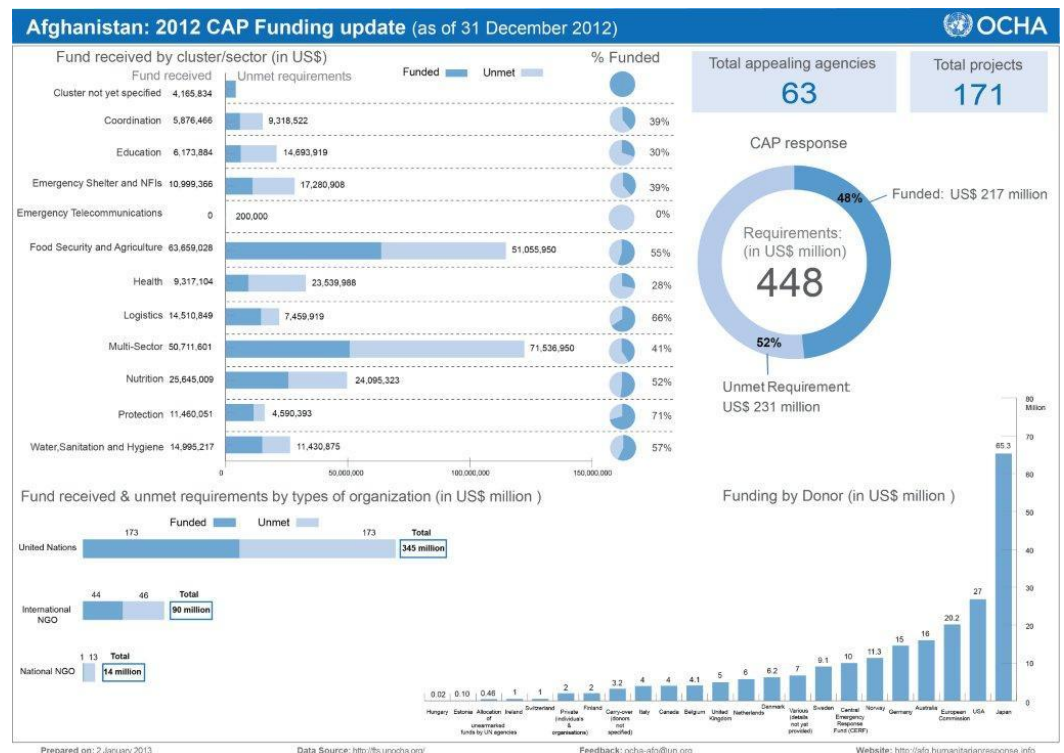
SMART is an inter-agency initiative launched in 2002 by a network of organizations and humanitarian practitioners. The SMART Methodology is an improved survey method for the assessment of the severity of a humanitarian crisis based on the two most vital public health indicators - Nutritional status of children under-five and Mortality rate of the population.



**Taking measures during the survey**  
Credit: ACF-FR Afghanistan

The aim of the training was to prepare a roster of SMART practitioners in Afghanistan able to conduct SMART surveys. The participants were selected from various governmental and non-governmental nutrition stakeholders. More than 20 participants followed a 2-week theoretical training and a practical field survey. The practical exercise took place in the Kabul Informal Settlements. In parallel with the SMART survey, a Rapid Nutrition Assessment (RNA) method was tested, aiming at confirming its validity.

## CAP 48 per cent funded in 2012

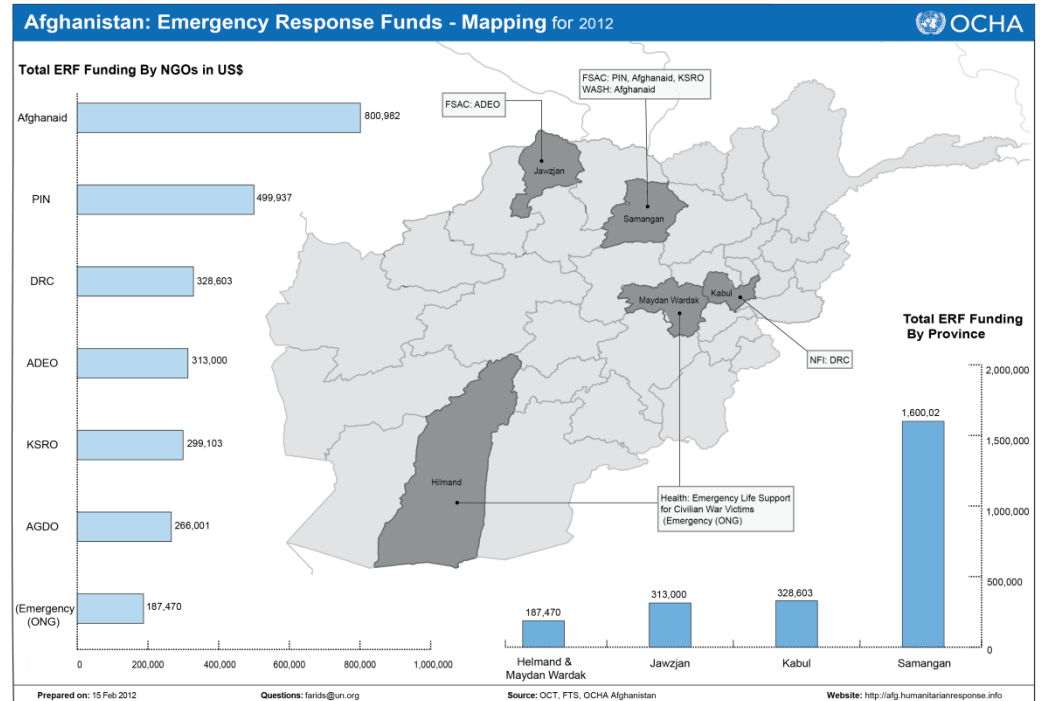


### Allocation from the CERF underfunded emergency window

The Humanitarian Country Team in Afghanistan has received an allocation of up to US\$17 million from the underfunded emergencies window of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Allocations to underfunded emergencies are made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator on a bi-annual basis. Countries are selected based on analysis of humanitarian indicators, available information about funding for humanitarian efforts, and recommendations from United Nations agencies.

## Emergency Response Fund evaluation and re-start in Afghanistan

In July 2012, OCHA commissioned Universalia to conduct an independent global evaluation of its Emergency Response Funds, featuring Afghanistan as one of five cases.



The evaluation made five key recommendations directed at the country level management of the ERF:

- I. Announce a complete restart of the ERF in Afghanistan
- II. Clarify the focus of the ERF in Afghanistan
- III. Recruit more donors
- IV. Engage in more active information sharing with clusters and among NNGO/INGO recipients
- V. Strengthen OCHA internal capacity for planning, quality control and M&E

At the end of the year, the ERF funding level had risen from zero to USD 4 million.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at <http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info> | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)