



# AFGANISTAN

## CONSOLIDATED HUMANITARIAN APPEALS PROCESS 2010

### BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>

Decades of war and an escalating conflict, combined with frequent earthquakes and seasonal hazards, such as drought, landslides, extreme winters and floods, have left much of the population of Afghanistan extremely vulnerable to humanitarian crises. Despite some progress in the health sector, Afghanistan still suffers from some of the worst health indicators in the world including one of the highest maternal and infant (0 to 12 months) mortality rates. Every hour at least two Afghan women die from obstetric complications due in part to the lack of health services. Of every 1,000 live births, at least 125 infants die, and one in five children die from largely preventable diseases before their fifth birthday (UNICEF).

There is a clear correlation between the increase in conflict and the deteriorating health situation, as humanitarian agencies are finding it exceedingly difficult to provide essential and timely reproductive health services to the affected populations. Emergency medical teams often have difficulty obtaining security guarantees to access insecure areas, and patients struggle to arrange transport to the nearest health facilities. Insecurity has also impacted the availability of qualified health workers willing and able to work in remote and rural areas. Health worker shortages in the southern region are chronic, and the dearth of female health workers is especially problematic. This lack of capacity directly contributes to the inadequate availability of obstetric care and the alarming infant and child mortality, morbidity and nutrition indicators across the region.

### UNFPA AREAS OF CONCERN AND PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS FOR 2010

INTERVENTION AREA		AMOUNT REQUESTED
<b>SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH</b>		<b>US \$ 1,438,224</b>
<a href="#">AFG-10/H/27065/1171</a>	Reproductive health services to the un- and under-served populations across Badakhshan, Bamiyan and Faryab provinces, and in Kunduz province	1,280,702
<a href="#">AFG-10/H/28161/1171</a>	Community health care focused on mothers and children in the Wakhan	157,522
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>US \$ 1,438,224</b>

<sup>1</sup> Please see [Volume 1](#) of the Afghanistan CAP for more information on the crisis, its humanitarian consequences and overall sector response plans.

## **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

*For 2010, UNFPA is requesting US \$1,280,702 to improve access to essential reproductive health services and information for over 560,000 women and children in the remote areas of Badakhshan, Bamyan, Faryab and Kunduz provinces. UNFPA is also requesting US \$157,222 to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates, and under 5 mortality rates for 8,000 women and children in the Wakha region.*

Project activities include:

- Procure reproductive health supplies and equipment, such as safe delivery kits, newborn kits and blankets;
- Sensitize and training Community Health Workers, community leaders, and men's and women's health shuras on birth preparedness, birth spacing, delivery and contraception;
- Establish mobile reproductive health outreach services;
- Improve referral systems;
- Data collection on maternal and neonatal death in remote villages.

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