



Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan

STFA PRIORITIES

Provision of essential services

Community livelihoods and local economic activities

Protection of farm-based livelihoods from natural disasters

Community resilience and social cohesion

FEBRUARY 2022

© UNODC

The **Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA)** was established to help address basic human needs in Afghanistan, complementing the immediate, ongoing, humanitarian response. STFA constitutes an important instrument to enable well-coordinated international assistance to vulnerable communities in Afghanistan— including women and children—through joint UN interventions—while facilitating robust linkages with humanitarian actions on the ground.

STFA's strategic priorities are focused on four thematic areas, namely: (i) Provision of essential services; (ii) Community livelihoods and local economic activities; (iii) Protecting farm based livelihoods from natural disasters and (iv) Community resilience and social cohesion.

The Fund draws inspiration from the One-UN concept by helping to combine resources, experience and the collective knowledge of UN agencies, funds and programmes—while serving in effect as instrument to enable contributing partners to channel their resources more efficiently and in a well-coordinated manner.

STFA: Key Features

- ✔ Contributes to finance the implementation of the UN Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF) for Afghanistan (Outcomes 2* and 3**)
- ✔ Supports community-led, multi-sectoral, solutions to protect the development gains that had been achieved in the past
- ✔ Capitalizes on complementarities and synergies across UN mandates and specializations
- ✔ Streamlines 'Leaving No One Behind' as an overarching guiding principle in joint programming
- ✔ Firmly places the promotion of girls and women's rights as a human rights issue
- ✔ Increases transparency with joint reporting and broad stakeholder participation in fund governance

*Essential services – that address the basic human needs for the people in Afghanistan – are sustained; ** Afghanistan will preserve social investments and community-level systems essential to meeting basic human needs, protect gains to the SDGs, and develop scenarios for future engagement. For more information on TEF, please visit afghanistan.un.org.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

STFA-supported programmes will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEWE). To this end, the Fund's participating UN organizations will work with local stakeholders to ensure that the promotion of the dignity and rights of girls and women is firmly embedded as a principle guiding the provision of support.

This will be pursued in a prudent and realistic way that will create no unintended negative consequences to the women involved, their families or communities.

A "gender marker" will be integrated into the STFA-supported programmes. The marker will enable the setting of resource allocation targets and the tracking of investments towards the promotion of GEWE.

© UNESCO

BACKGROUND

Following the 15 August 2021 events in Afghanistan, the socio-economic situation for millions of Afghans – including men and women – has rapidly deteriorated. The heightened fragility has compounded multiple, pre-existing, challenges – including poverty; food insecurity, COVID-19 pandemic; extreme drought—leading to the displacement of 3.5 million Afghans and further impacting on the lives of another 18.5 million. The sudden drop in aid, the freezing of international assets and cash shortages weakened the financial sector, accelerated inflation, and contracted the national economy by an estimated 30% in 2021.

Participating UN Organizations:



THE ABADEI STRATEGY

The Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI) Strategy for Community Resilience in Afghanistan is being supported through the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA).

ABADEI constitutes an integrated, multi-sectoral, programming approach, complementing short-term humanitarian life-saving assistance with the safeguarding of livelihoods and the strengthening of community resilience.

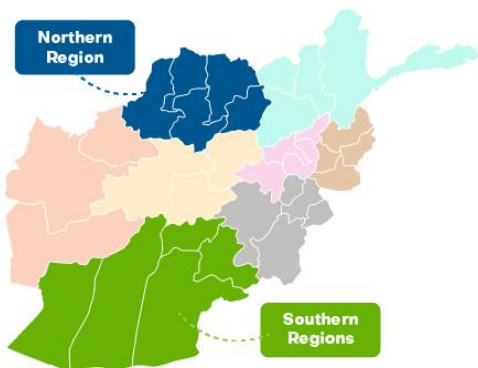
The value proposition of Area Based Programming (ABP), which forms the core of the ABADEI Strategy, lies in its contribution to preserving human, social, and institutional capital in a context of multi-dimensional crisis. It recognizes that while humanitarian life-saving assistance is essential to address urgent needs, it must be simultaneously accompanied by measures to reduce further displacement and the rapid rise of the humanitarian case load.

Against this backdrop, the roll-out of the ABADEI strategy on the ground constitutes, in effect, a large-scale attempt to operationalize community-led solutions in Afghanistan.



© ILO

Joint Programme Initiation Plans (PIPs) for Southern & Northern Regions



The month of January has focused on preparatory activities: laying the groundwork for scaled operations for the remainder of the implementation period

E.g. (i) Data collection (e.g. for baselines); (ii) participatory consultations in target communities (iii) identification of priority infrastructure projects & project sites; (iv) commencement of procurement activities, including issuance of tenders; (v) responsible partners for field activities being identified ensuring due vetting processes; (vi) personnel recruitments

Enabling well-coordinated assistance

The Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan is aligned with the UN Secretary-General's Emergency Planning Directive on the UN Plan to Support the People of Afghanistan (August 2021), which guides the operationalization of an integrated UN approach with relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), as Administrative Agent of STFA, enables the collection and allocation of funding from a diversity of financial contributors to a wide range of UN implementing entities in a well-coordinated manner – and in support of Joint UN interventions.

The High-Level Advisory Board of STFA, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, helps to ensure that STFA-supported programmes are well integrated into the wider array of assistance operations for Afghanistan. STFA operations will also be coordinated with other funding instruments – including the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund and Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF).

STFA's Resources

Actuals (Mobilized, Allocated as of 31 Jan 2022) and Goals



© UNDP

Total Amount Required: Approx. **US\$ 2B**

Eight Regional Joint Programmes **US\$ 1.2B**



Sectoral Programmes **US\$ 0.8B**



Mobilized to Date **US\$ 101M**

CONTACT US:

For strategic issues: Hiroko Massey, Fund Secretariat, STFA
For admin issues: Olga Aleshina, Senior Portfolio Manager, MPTF Office

E-mail: hiroko.massey@undp.org
E-mail: olga.aleshina@undp.org

www.undp.stfa.org
www.stfa.af
SpecialTrustFundFor Afghanistan/UN_ABADEI