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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



United Nations Capital Development Fund



United Nations Mine Action Service



World Health Organization

The UN organisations are listed in the order of joining STFA

# SPECIAL TRUST FUND FOR AFGHANISTAN (STFA) JOINT PROGRAMME FOR THE EASTERN REGION OF AFGHANISTAN: ADDRESSING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS THROUGH THE ABADEI STRATEGY

#### ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### **Programme Title & Project Number**

#### Programme Title:

STFA Joint Programme for the Southern Region of Afghanistan: Addressing Basic Human Needs through the ABADEI Strategy ('JP-Southern')

MPTF Office Project Reference Number:129789-92

#### Participating Organization(s)

Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme

- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- 2. IOM International Organization for Migration
- 3. UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- 4. UNDP United Nations Development Programme
- 5. UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- 6. UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
- 7. UNHABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- 8. UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- 9. UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

## Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s)/ Strategic Results

Country: Afghanistan Region: Southern Region

#### Priority area/ strategic results

Transitional Engagement Framework Outcome 2:

Essential services are sustained that address the basic human needs of the people in Afghanistan.

#### Transitional Engagement Framework, Outcome 3:

Afghanistan will preserve social investments and community-level systems essential to meeting basic human needs, protect gains towards the SDGs, and develop scenarios for future engagement.

#### **Implementing Partners**

Please refer to PUNO Specific reports

<sup>[1]</sup> Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)							
Total approved budget as per project document: \$150,906,481							
Government Contribution: N/A							
MPTF /JP Contribution [1]: 43,309,906							
Agency Contribution: N/A							
Government Contribution (if applicable): N/A							
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Total Contributions: 43,309,906							
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.							
Assessment/Review - if applicable please attach Yes No							
Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable please							

attach Yes

GATEWAY

**▼** No

Programme Duration									
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[1] The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office

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#### LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABADEI Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiative

ACG Afghanistan Coordination Group

ADB Asian Development Bank

AHTF Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund

ANC Antenatal Care

ARTF Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund

BHN Basic Human Needs

CME Community Midwife Education
CBE Community-Based Education
CDC Community Development Council
CBO Community-Based Organization
CSO Civil Society Organization

CfW Cash for Work
DaO Delivering as One
DfA De facto Authorities
DTC Drug Treatment Centre

DIC Drop-in Centre

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FHH Family Health House
FRC Family Resource Centre
GA Guzar Assemblies
GBV Gender-Based Violence

HDP Humanitarian-Development-Peace [Nexus]

IFI International Financial Institution
ILO International Labour Organization
IOM International Organization for Migration

ISDB Islamic Development Bank

JP Joint Programme

JPIP Joint Programme Initiation Plan

MHPSS Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

MPI Multi-dimensional Poverty Index

MPTF Multi-Partner Trust Fund

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

MSME Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise

NGO Non-Governmental Organizations

OPD Outpatient Department

PNC Postnatal Care
PSS Psychosocial Support
PDM Post-Distribution Monitoring

PUNO Participating United Nations Organization

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RMNCAH Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health

RH Reproductive Health

STFA Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan
SDG Sustainable Development Goals
TEF Transitional Engagement Framework
T-FHH Temporary Family Health House
TFMU Trust Fund Management Unit

TPMA Third-party Monitoring Agent
UCT Unconditional Cash Transfer

UN United Nations

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UN WOMEN United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of

Women

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNODC United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services

UNSFA United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (draft)

WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO World Health Organization

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) was established on 20 October 2021 to help address basic human needs in Afghanistan, at a time when millions of Afghans were confronting a rapidly deteriorating socio-economic crisis. It constitutes an important instrument to enable well-coordinated international assistance to vulnerable communities across the country – including women and children – through joint UN interventions, while facilitating robust linkages with humanitarian actions on the ground. STFA was established as a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to support the implementation of the UN Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF)'s strategic priorities 2[2] and 3[3]. As part of these TEF priorities,

STFA seeks to enable the implementation of the ABADEI[4] strategy, which provides the programmatic foundation for the fund's existing portfolio.

The STFA Regional Joint Programme for Southern Afghanistan covers five provinces - namely, Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan and Nimroz. A total of 10 participating UN Agencies have received funding allocations to implement joint programme (JP) activities in this region as presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: List of Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) Southern Region JP by Output Area

PUNO	Provision of Services (Output 1)	Livelihood Support (Output 2)	Community Resilience & Disaster Risk Management (Output 3)	Social Cohesion (Output 4)
FAO[5]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
IOM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
UN-Habitat	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
UN Women	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
UNCTAD	Yes	Yes	No	No
UNDP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
UNESCO	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
UNFPA	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
UNODC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
UNHCR	Yes	Yes	No	No
# PUNOs	10	9	5	7

<sup>[2] &</sup>quot;Essential services are sustained that address basic human needs for the people in Afghanistan"

<sup>[3] &</sup>quot;Afghanistan will preserve social investments and community-level systems essential to meeting basic human needs, protect gains towards the SDGs, and develop scenarios for future engagement."

<sup>[4]</sup> Area Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives

<sup>[5]</sup> Under the Regional JP, FAO will contribute to Outputs 1, 2 and 3; allocations to FAO to date have been earmarked to Outputs 1, but they have cross-fertilized and contributed to Outputs 2 (livelihoods) and 3 (disaster risk management), reinforcing complementarities with agencies working under the latter outputs (2 and 3). Cross-fertilization between 'Joint Outputs' is an important defining feature of the Regional Programme Portfolio and of the Area-Based and 'DaO' approach embedded in this JP.

By the end of 2022, a total of 1,524,343 people, including 532,980 (35.0%) females, benefited from STFA Joint Programme activities in the Southern region, as follows:

- •989,857 people (64.9% of the total beneficiaries in the southern region) including 443,289 (44.8%) females benefited from access to essential services. Of these, 448,916 people (41.6% females) were able to receive basic health services, such as drug treatment and prevention, psychosocial counselling, COVID-19 screening, child and maternal health services and health education. In addition, 540,941 people (47.4% females) benefited from enhanced basic community infrastructure, improved access to safe drinking water, irrigation canals, public sanitation facilities, and renewable energy, amongst other services.
- •179,841 people (18.7% females) benefited from livelihood support activities such as Cash-for-Work and rural livelihood support; Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) and a combination of cash and in-kind support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- •22,352 individuals (29.8% females) benefited from community resilience and disaster risk management interventions such as rehabilitated and/or newly constructed disaster-resilient community infrastructure; agricultural inputs (e.g. improved cereal crop seeds) and training on climate resilient mechanisms. Moreover, several infrastructure support activities reported under Output 1 also contributed to disaster risk management.
- •By the end of December 2022, in total 332,293 people (14.9% females) benefited from social cohesion-related activities such as awareness-raising, mainly on gender and human rights issues, supporting community-level planning, training, etc.

Throughout 2022, the STFA JP activities in the southern region, much like in all other regions, encountered a number of challenges. One of the most common challenges faced by PUNOs related to the broader operating environment: general restrictions imposed by the DfA (e.g. on women's mobility or access to public spaces) posed obstacles to meeting initial targets, sometimes resulting in delays and lower-than-expected participation of women in the JP activities. At the same time, PUNOs were, in many cases, also effective in introducing alternative, pro-active, measures to continue to ensure - and, to the extent possible, expand- the meaningful engagement of women throughout the programming cycle. Such efforts are expected to continue given the increasingly challenging context.

### SOUTHERN REGION JOINT PROGRAMME REPORT CARD

\$50M USD Allocated to the JP

12 Contributing Donors









## I. PURPOSE



## I. PURPOSE

The STFA Regional JP for Southern Afghanistan (2022-2023) offers a common framework for PUNOs to provide coordinated assistance to address the priority needs of the most vulnerable people of the southern region. Based on the four thematic windows of the ABADEI Strategy, this JP intends to deliver four outputs, contributing to TEF's Outcomes 2 and 3, namely:

- Output 1 Essential services and community infrastructure including for health, agriculture, education, and energy supply - are functional, sustained and expanded to meet the different needs of women and men.
- Output 2 Livelihoods, businesses and the local economy are able recover, become more sustainable and more resilient to instability.
- Output 3 Communities have improved infrastructure, access to water and preparedness mechanisms to protect farm-based livelihoods and cope with climate and environment shocks and natural disasters.
- Output 4 Social cohesion, respect for human rights, including in particular, the rights of women and girls, and access to justice are progressively strengthened at the local level – contributing to greater community resilience.

This JP builds on the longstanding experience of PUNOs in the country and the early findings and lessons learned during the implementation of the JP Initiation Plan (JPIP) for the northern and southern regions, following the August 2021 powershift. The proposed interventions were designed to leverage the different mandates, capacities, and footprints of PUNOs, to avoid duplication of efforts and promote meaningful collaboration and synergies – ultimately for the benefit of vulnerable Afghan communities and households across Southern Afghanistan.

## II. RESULTS



## II. RESULTS

The STFA JPs contribute to TEF outcome areas 2 and 3 as follows:

- Outcome 2: Essential services are sustained that address basic human needs for the people in Afghanistan.
- Outcome 3: Afghanistan will preserve social investments and community-level systems essential to meeting basic human needs, protect gains towards the SDGs, and develop scenarios for future engagement.

At the end of 2022, a total of 1.52M people including 35.0% females benefited from the STFA JP activities in the southern region. While an STFA outcome level evaluation is yet to be conducted, available data and an analysis of current progress suggests the following outcome-level results were achieved under this Joint Programme in 2022.



### (a) Improved access to health services and Infrastructure

448,916 people in the southern region (41.6% female beneficiaries) received critical (and in some cases, potentially life-saving) health services, mostly in remote areas, where access to health services was limited. Child nutrition and maternal health services, which started only during the last quarter of the year, have reached more than 17,000 people; the majority of them (78%) were female. This number of people, reached only in one quarter, shows the pressing and acute needs that were already present within the target communities. Furthermore, more than 16,000 people received drug treatment and drug prevention services, to address a prevalent challenge for both men and women in the target areas. Mental health services in the Southern region were also delivered to support vulnerable populations, including drug addicts, women survivors of gender-based violence and people with mental health disorders. More than 50% of the nearly 20,000 recipients of mental health and psychosocial counselling services were female. Such services are important, not only to help people at-risk and survivors of GBV to return to normal life, but also helped to increase awareness on the harms of drug addiction and GBV in target communities. Over 553,000 people, including 47.0% females, are estimated to have benefited from improved infrastructure in the southern region- including through improved access to electricity and safe drinking water, irrigation canals, public toilets, renewable energy, etc.



### (b) Improved livelihoods

As of December 2022, over 179,000 people (18.7% females) benefited from STFA livelihood support activities. The key livelihood support activities included cash for work, rural livelihood promotion activities, unconditional cash transfers and support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This assistance was provided at a time when people's needs were particularly pressing and acute, after the August 2021 events - people were fearful and anxious about their future due to the collapse of the previous government, and as the rate of unemployment and the proportion of people under the poverty line were rapidly increasing. Due to those challenges, a significant number of people, especially in rural areas, resorted to migration to neighbouring countries - often taking perilous routes. STFA's livelihood support was both effective and timely in helping to address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable Afghan people in the region, during such a critical period. Furthermore, support to MSMEs contributed to creating hundreds of micro and small businesses (mostly women-led) at community level, helped existing enterprises to sustain or expand their businesses, and created or sustained jobs for thousands of men and women in target areas.

## (c) Gender mainstreaming and addressing gender-based violence (GBV)

Both women and men were able to benefit from JP interventions, notwithstanding the southern region's conservative culture. Over one-third (35.0%) of STFA recipients in the southern region were women. Two family resource centres resumed operations in 2022 – these centres served women at risk of violence and women survivors of violence with psychosocial, case management, literacy training, vocational training, and health awareness services. The delivery of these services was provided through a survivor-centred approach focusing on women's empowerment. As a result of the services offered, women reported feeling economically and socially more empowered: they gained reading and writing skills, felt improved access to economic opportunities through vocational training, and enhanced their knowledge and awareness about hygiene and health. Psychosocial counselling also supported women that were experiencing difficult challenges to addressing emotional distress. Furthermore, five T-FHHs initiated GBV-integrated services in the final quarter of 2022. In 2023, GBV services will be integrated into all 29 T-FHHs.

### (d) Promotion of Basic Human Rights

STFA JP activities in the southern region contributed to the promotion of basic human rights, including, in particular, socio-economic rights. STFA interventions contributed to saving lives through the support provided to critical health services in the region; helped to advance the right to work and to decent employment through livelihood support initiatives; promoted the right to life with safety and dignity through improved access to shelters, safe drinking water and energy, and through measures aimed at the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence; and to the right to live without discrimination through public awareness campaigns and through gender equity and women's empowerment initiatives across the four joint outputs.

## III. OUTPUTS



### III. Outputs

By the end of 2022, approximately 1.5m people in the southern region (35.0% female) benefited from the STFA Regional JP activities, across all four Outputs.

Two-thirds of the total STFA beneficiaries in the region benefited from the provision of services - main access to improved infrastructure and health services, under Output 1. Measured by the number of beneficiaries, the provision of livelihood support under Output 2, social cohesion activities under Output 4, and community resilience and disaster risk management under Output 3 ranked second, third, and fourth, respectively.

It is worth noting, nevertheless, that the four output areas have cross-cutting impacts: 'cross-fertilisation' is common across programmatic interventions. For instance, irrigation canals and flood protection walls implemented through allocations under Output 1 also contributed to the protection of people from flood hazards (Output 3). Similarly, community-level planning initiatives under Output 4 contributed to the enhancement of programming for the remaining three output areas. The following sections provide a more detailed breakdown of the status of all four STFA JP output areas for the southern region.





Output 1- Essential services and community infrastructure – including for health, agriculture, education, and energy supply - are functional, sustained and expanded to meet the different needs of women and men.

At the end of 2022, approximately 989,857 people, including 443,289 (44.8%) females in the southern region, benefited from the provision of services under Output 1. The following presents some of the key results to highlight under this output.

#### Access to basic community infrastructure and basic services

Approximately 540,000 people, including 256,000 (48.5%) females in the southern region, benefited from improved infrastructure under Output 1. Approximately 200 small and medium-sized infrastructure projects were implemented, contributing, in turn to the following key results:

- Improved irrigation and protection against floods: Completed projects include 283 kilometres of irrigation canals, 11 kilometres of flood retention barriers, and the cleaning of three Karez irrigation projects. It is anticipated that these projects will enhance access to irrigation water while providing protection against floods, for an estimated two hundred thousand people in target communities, of which fifty per cent are estimated to be women.
- Improved access to electricity: 54 healthcare facilities were outfitted with solar energy and battery backup systems ranging from 5kW to 7.2kW. This will improve access to quality health services for an estimated 300,000 residents.
- Access to clean drinking water: Four water reservoirs were newly constructed or rehabilitated, enabling 2,360 households (16,520 individuals) to have improved access to clean drinking water. Furthermore, ten boreholes (4 in Uruzgan, 5 in Zabul and 1 in Helmand Provinces) were completed and will provide clean drinking water to approximately 21,000 people in target communities.
- Improved accessibility and transportation: 10 kilometres of new roads and 155 culverts were constructed. An additional 36km of roads were rehabilitated under the STFA, enhancing accessibility for more than 2,000 households in target areas.

Such infrastructure initiatives provide durable solutions - with long-lasting effects on target communities. Adopting an area-based programming approach, the majority of PUNOs employed members of the local community, contributing to the creation of livelihood opportunities for both skilled and unskilled workers, within target areas. However, infrastructure projects were relatively resource-intensive, and required more frequent monitoring to ensure structural quality.

#### Access to Health Services

By the end of December 2022, a total of 448,916 individuals (41.6% female) benefited from basic health services supported by STFA in Southern Afghanistan. The following are key highlights of the health services delivered under the JP.

#### Drug treatment and drug prevention services

As part of its basic human needs response, STFA is supporting a local organisation to manage a centre in Kandahar province that offers the following services to individuals at risk and/or affected by drug use:

- 1. Drug use prevention activities
- ·Initiation of family-skills programmes "Caring of children in emergencies and conflict situations"
- ·Implementation of 'Global Guidelines' on drug use prevention
- ·Training and engagement of youth in drug use prevention interventions
- ·Provision of IEC material during outreach and home visits
- 2. Psychosocial support
- ·Individual/group/family counseling and psychoeducation
- ·Social support (lunch-food package/shower/washing facilities)
- ·Drug use screening and briefings
- 3. Drug use harm reduction interventions
- ·Provision of essential health care (wound & abscess management)
- ·HIV, Hep B, Hep C testing among drug users and their families.
- ·Provision of prevention material and messages during outreach and home visit

During the reporting period, drug use prevention, psychosocial counselling, social support (including food provision and hygiene kits) and drug use harm reduction services were provided to 16,311 individuals (including 59.3% females) at risk and/or with drug use disorders in Kandahar province.

To promote evidence-based, human rights-oriented and gender-responsive drug treatment, and harm reduction services, PUNOs trained 180 people (83 females), including NGO staff, on various subjects including evidence-based drug use prevention approaches, coping mechanisms and health harm reduction mechanisms.

To promote HIV, Hepatitis and STI testing services, among people who use drugs and people at risk of communicable diseases, a total of 5,500 HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis diagnostic kits were provided to voluntary counselling and testing centres in Kandahar provinces.

To increase access to basic social services for drug users and their families, a total of 1,750 hygiene kits (including sanitary items, such as sanitary pads for female drug users) were procured and distributed to homeless drug users (both male and female) in Kandahar province.



#### Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services:

STFA supported the establishment and provision of health services through Family Health Houses (FHHs) in the southern region[6]. It was anticipated that 29 permanent FHHs would be constructed and put into operation in 2022. However, this activity did not progress as anticipated due to consecutive delays in obtaining a no objection certificate (NOC) from the DFA MoPH to start the construction of the FHHs. Additional components were also included in the FHH design, enhancing the quality of the construction. The aforementioned NOC was obtained at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The construction of permanent FHHs is now expected to be completed in 2023.

In the absence of permanent FHHs, PUNOs established 29 Temporary Family Health Houses (T-FHHs) in rental homes and carried out modifications to make them suitable for FHH services. In addition, 29 midwives (one per T-FHH) were employed and given two months of refresher training before being assigned to TFHHs. In the fourth quarter of 2022, all T-FHHs were equipped with the necessary medical supplies and began providing FHH services. Approximately 17,852 individuals, (including 78% females) beneficiaries, received health services at T-FHHs in the southern region during 2022.

- Outpatient department (OPD) services benefited 14,888 patients, including 4,198 children under the age of five (10,965 girls and 3,922 boys).
- 884 expectant women attended their first consultation for antenatal care.
- 341 women received initial postnatal care.
- 1,739 beneficiaries participated in health education sessions (1,050 women and 689 males).

In Helmand and Nimroz provinces, a two-year Community Midwifery Education (CME) programme in CME institutions was initiated. A total of 63 eligible students (32 in Helmand and 31 in Nimroz) were enrolled in the programme during the reporting period. The candidates will be assigned to FHHs upon completion of the two-year programme.

<sup>[6]</sup> FHH refers to health centers with Reproductive Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services in remote areas with a minimum of 10 kms or three-hour walk from the nearest facility.

#### Mental Health and Psychosocial Counseling Services (PSS):

In the southern region, STFA JP provided mental and psychosocial counselling services to 19,385 persons, 55.5% of whom were female. Also, 7,325 affected individuals (2,227 males and 5,098 females) participated in psychoeducational and mental health awareness sessions. Furthermore, 30 NGO employees received a 6-day training course on mental health and psychosocial counselling.

Two family resource centres resumed operations in the provinces of Helmand and Nimroz. The centres provide female victims of violence with specialised services, including psychosocial counselling. Additionally, five T-FHHs in the southern region have implemented GBV-integrated services, including psychosocial counselling for females. In 2023, it is anticipated that the GBV-integrated services will be rolled out to all 29 FHHs.

Furthermore, 30 MHPSS counsellors participated in a 6-day training on Basic Counselling Skills and the formation of peer support groups for PSS counsellors, NGOs, and community members.

#### **COVID-19 Screening and Treatment:**

By the end of December 2022, approximately 408,504 persons in the southern region had been screened for COVID-19. In addition, the population benefited from the specialised Covid-19 care, achieving the following:

- •522 patients (450 females, 172 males) were treated in hospital isolation.
- •5,315 individuals (2,458 females and 2,857 males) were treated in home isolation.

Additionally, 5,278 COVID-19-related kits were distributed to 32 health facilities and schools, benefiting 5,278 people (including 61.9% females).



OUTPUT 2: Livelihoods, businesses and the local economy can recover, more sustainable and more resilient to instability.

By the end of December 2022, 179,841 people (including 18.7% females) benefited from STFA livelihood support in the southern region as outlined below.

#### Income Generation and Cash for Work support

In total 50,575 individuals (including 4.4% females) benefited from the cash-for-work and incomegeneration support activities, creating a total of 23,534 workdays. Furthermore, close to half a million labour days were created for skilled and unskilled labour under the infrastructure support activities.

#### **Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT)**

By the end of December 2022, a total of 129,266 individuals (including 24.3% females) received UCT support. UCT support was essential for the beneficiaries to address their most immediate basic needs. However, because UCT support only met the short-term financial requirements of the beneficiaries, it is essential to consider how such support could be converted into longer-term livelihood support, while meeting the immediate needs of the communities. The space for expanding cross-linkages between UCT, CfW and MSME support, for instance, will continue to be explored under this component.

#### MSME Support.

By the end of December 2022, a total of 1,084 MSMEs, including 337 female-led MSMEs received a combination of cash and in-kind support. The MSME support aimed at enabling micro, small and medium enterprises to sustain their businesses and create new employment opportunities for the Afghan people. This component enabled and facilitated the establishment of new micro or small businesses and supported existing ones to sustain and/or expand their business activities. Hence, MSME assistance to create new job opportunities, or to retain existing jobs for thousands of Afghans in the southern region.





OUTPUT 3: Communities have improved infrastructure, access to water and preparedness mechanisms to protect farm-based livelihoods and cope with climate and environment shocks and natural disasters.

By the end of December 2022, 22,352 individuals including 29.8% females benefited from community resilience and disaster risk management interventions in the Southern region.

Under Output 3, people benefited from rehabilitated and/or newly constructed disaster-resilient community infrastructures, Agri-based livelihood inputs such as improved cereal crop seeds and training on climate-resilient mechanisms.

Several infrastructure support activities reported under Output 1 also contributed to disaster risk management. For example, 283 kilometres of irrigation canals and 11 kilometres of flood retention walls reported under Output 1 also contributed to the protection of thousands of hectares of agricultural land, and approximately 200,000 people in communities at risk from flood water.

OUTPUT 4: Social cohesion, respect for human rights – including the rights of women and girls- and access to justice are progressively strengthened at local the level – contributing to greater community resilience.

By the end of December 2022, in total 332,293 people (14.9% females) benefited from social cohesion-related activities such as awareness-raising, mainly on gender and human rights issues, supporting community-level planning, training, etc. The followings are key highlights of results achieved under output 4.

#### Awareness campaigns

A total of 326,020 individuals (including 13.4% females) received awareness-raising information, mainly on gender and human rights issues. Furthermore, a major radio and social media campaign was launched. The campaign was run by one of the few operational women-led radio stations in Afghanistan. The radio station delivered content, exclusively tailored and designed for women, informing them about their rights and providing them with unique learning opportunities. The radio campaign covered multiple topics including provision of health counselling through a call-in radio programme which was aired from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - six days a week. The contents of the radio programmes were also posted on social media channels to expand the reach of the campaign.



#### Capacity building of women peacebuilders

A national women's organisation successfully engaged 20 women peacebuilders in the southern region, equipping them with leadership, research, conflict resolution, advocacy, concept development, and networking skills. During a two-month mentorship program, senior peacebuilders shared their experiences on peacebuilding and exchanged their views with their mentees on a variety of current topics. They exchanged knowledge, and discussed lessons learned and best practices. The older generation encouraged the younger generations to reinforce women's rights. The mentorship angle – which was a new approach for the partner organisation—proved to be quite successful as it yielded positive feedback from mentees. Both peacebuilders and youth participants were happy and subsequently requested for this activity to continue beyond the scope of what was planned. Participants also requested that the duration of the mentorship and the time spent between mentees and mentors be extended. The women were also trained inpsychosocial support and stress management.

#### Knowledge generation: gender analysis

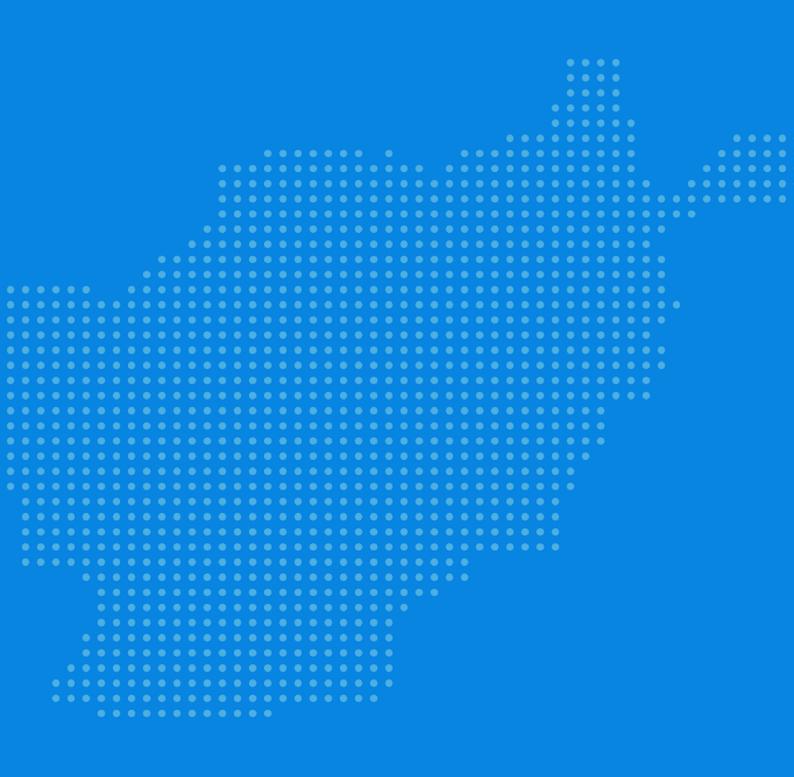
Two analytical briefs exploring the gender implications of the current context on the media sector and the legal sector were also developed by PUNOs. These briefs, which integrated information collected in both northern and southern regions, incorporated sub-national and regional elements into thematic concerns—media restrictions, and changes to the legal and justice system, among others—in addition to highlighting gender equality and women's rights issues. Both documents were published and distributed to contributing partners. The purpose of the briefs is to provide the relevant stakeholders with gender-sensitive analysis and actionable recommendations.

#### Community consultation and participatory planning sessions

Men and women participated separately in community planning sessions facilitated by PUNOs, to identify key initiatives to be supported in the southern region. Target communities selected a number of initiatives, some of which (e.g. for WASH and disaster risk management[7]) have already been implemented. These initiatives are benefiting more than 8,600 individuals in target communities. Other community-owned initiatives (e.g. water supply and culvert construction projects) are underway. Furthermore, 1,938 individuals (646 families) in Zabul province received sensitisation sessions and training on the significance of the preservation of cultural heritage/historical sites.

<sup>[7]</sup> Including, for instance, the construction of sanitation facilities (latrines) and 80-m-deep boreholes; a 575-meter-long retention wall was also constructed, to prevent the erosion of the main road and improve accessibility. Activities implemented under this output have also contributed to 'cross-fertilize' Outputs 1 and 3.

## IV. RISK ANALYSIS

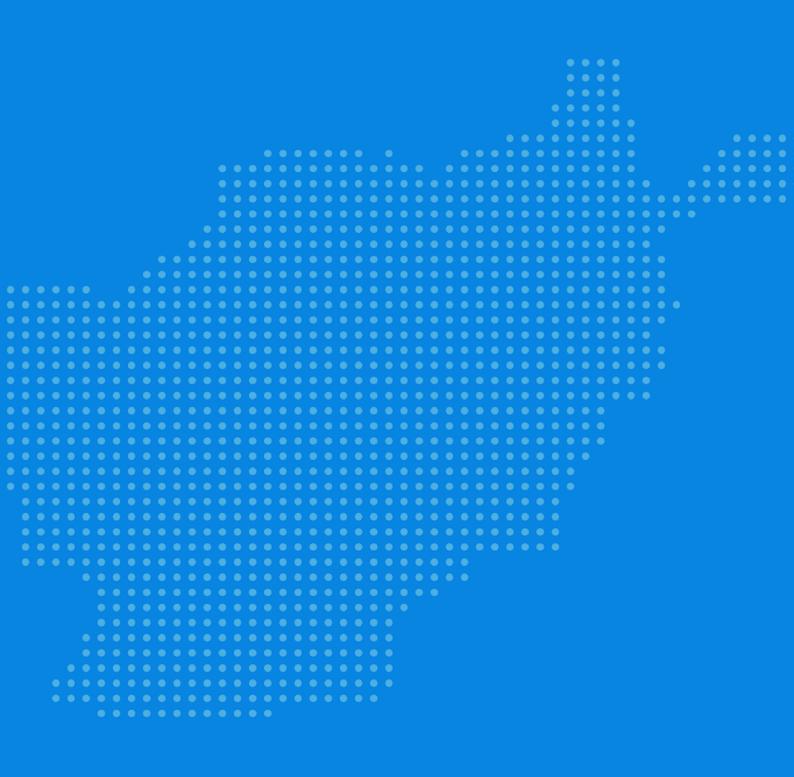


## IV. RISK ANALYSIS

During the planning phase for the Southern region JP, a risk matrix was designed categorize risks into contextual (political, security), programmatic, operations/financial, and organisational categories. While no new risks were reported in 2022, some previously identified risks materialised as described below.

Risk Description (as per JP document)	Туре	Rating	Owner	Response Implemented
Risk#7. Abuses of human rights or unlawful behaviour are committed by de facto authorities and/or local authorities.	Programmatic		Programme Management, PUNOs	Increased regularity of engagements between the UN and international community on the one hand, and between the UN leadership and DFA, on the other hand, to advocate for a reversal of the ban on women work in I/NGOs.
Risk#18. Further restrictions on women and girls' participation in social and economic life. (De-facto Authorities (DfA) issued a decree banning women from working in NGOs (national and international)	Contextual	Likelihood: Very Likely Consequence: Major Rating: Very High	PUNOs/TFMU	PUNOs are regularly assessing the situation on the ground and seeking alternative work modalities/approaches for female staff to work; and also reaching out to female beneficiaries that are in need (retaining a principled approach to delivery, in line with IASC's principles).  Work-from-home modalities have been facilitated/enabled by IPs, whenever the local operating environment is not conducive and safe to female personnel.  PUNOs have also been engaging with Shuras, village literacy committees, religious leaders, and community elders, to assess and monitor the situation and continue advocacy for participation of women and girls in the activities.
Risk#17. Programme unable to mobilise required financial resources. (The Joint Programmes for the North, region remain underfunded than what was initially planned, i.e., \$150 million)	Programmatic	Likelihood: Possible Consequence: Moderate Rating: High		STFA, in close consultation with PUNOs have allocated available resources based on priority needs. More efforts by all STFA stakeholders, including, in particular, STFA contributing partners, need to be made to mobilise resources to capitalise the Fund. This will be critical to be able to support more people in need – and to prevent a rapidly increasing humanitarian caseload. Such additional resources will also contribute to strengthening measures to improve and expand the outreach to women and girls, given the increasingly challenging context.

## V. CHALLENGES



## V. CHALLENGES

During 2022, JP implementation in the Southern region faced challenges that impacted the pace of implementation, and the timely achievement of milestones and targets. The following are a few of the most significant challenges reported by STFA PUNOs.

#### 1. Access to beneficiaries

In 2022 several PUNOs reported challenges in securing unrestricted access to beneficiaries, including, in particular, female beneficiaries. This caused delays in the JP implementation and prevented them from reaching originally-established milestones.

In general, the operating environment had indeed become more challenging. DFA had regularly imposed formal and informal restrictions on women's participation in various areas of social and economic life. For instance, in March 2022, the DFA announced it would continue to prohibit girls from pursuing education beyond the sixth grade (grades 7 to 12). Subsequently, a series of new restrictions were imposed, including the ban on women attending universities; restrictions on women's mobility and travel without a Mahram; and the ban on women working for I/NGOs. These bans, coupled with the culturally sensitive posture of the southern region, affected some programme activities. For instance, in one case, a PUNO could achieve only two-thirds of its annual target for literacy training, due to a temporary suspension of literacy programme activities. In another instance, a PUNO had to suspend some training activities due to the challenges of target beneficiaries to attending lessons at a vocational training centre. PUNOs continued to explore alternative options, such as delivering training courses in alternative locations that are acceptable to the community, and which will not pose a safety risk to participants.

#### 2. Ambitious targets

Given the need to respond rapidly to the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Afghanistan, STFA developed a programmatic portfolio in a relatively short period of time. It helped to complement, in a timely manner, the humanitarian response that was already underway. Indeed, the implementation of JP activities in the southern region commenced through a 6-month joint initiation plan (JPIP) in January 2022, less than three months after STFA's establishment. With the benefit of hindsight, and drawing lessons from field experience, it became evident that a number of targets were overly ambitious. To ensure that all targets were met, the JPIP targets were transferred to the Regional Joint Programme for Southern Afghanistan. Lessons learned throughout the programme management cycle will continue to inform the designing and implementation of subsequent STFA joint programming.

#### 3. Limited funding

The Regional JP for Southern Afghanistan was designed with a total budget of approximately US\$150 million. However, due to limited resources, this particular Regional JP only received an allocation of US\$ 50 million. This hindered STFA's ability to reach its established JP targets (which were already ambitious) in the first round of allocations. There is a need for all STFA stakeholders – including, in particular, STFA contributing partners, to step up efforts to secure additional resources for STFA to close the current funding gap. This will be critical to enable the delivery of the initially planned outputs under the approve Regional JP. Such funding support will also be important to step up efforts to sustain (and, when possible, enhance) the scale and quality of outreach to female beneficiaries (women and girls), in light of the increasingly restrictive operating environment.

#### 4. Operational challenges

#### Challenges in hiring qualified labour

Following the powershift of August 2021, a significant number of qualified Afghans fled the country, making it difficult to find qualified personnel, particularly female staff, in a timely manner.

#### Security risks

While the overall security situation and access to remote areas in the southern region have improved after 15 August 2021, PUNO personnel, particularly those engaged in sensitive programming activities (such as addressing gender-based violence and human rights violations), faced the risk of being targeted by anti-Dfa elements or confronting potential challenges from DfAs at the local level, in light of the nature of their activities. PUNOs have continued to implement stringent security measures to ensure situational awareness and staff protection at all times.

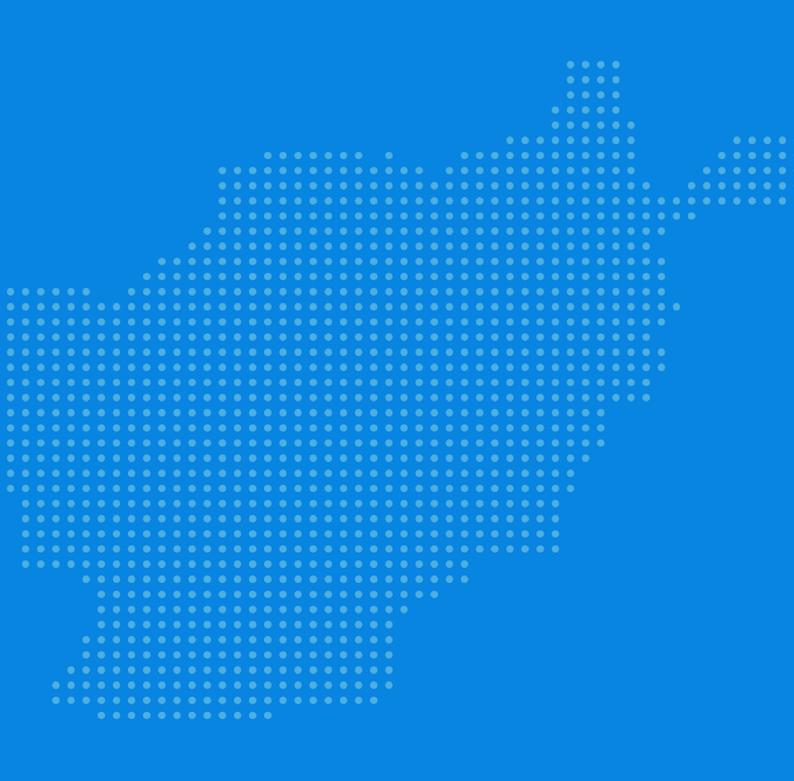
#### Reduced banking operations

As a result of the DfA's restrictions on financial transactions through banks, PUNOs encountered difficulties transferring funds for their programming and operational expenses, particularly at the start of the programming cycle. PUNOs were compelled to use alternative cash transfer methods, thereby increasing their transaction costs. However, the significance of this challenge decreased as the DFA progressively lifted restrictions on the banks, and the overall liquidity situation improved.

#### **Data Management for Joint Programmes**

Each quarter, STFA PUNOs collectively reached close to one million beneficiaries. Collecting and disseminating information on beneficiaries has been challenging. TFMU continuously improved measures to facilitate PUNOs' reporting and data quality control. For example, a streamlined online digital reporting form was developed and introduced by TFMU to submit quarterly STFA reports, which were initially submitted as Word documents and Excel worksheets. In addition, TFMU is in the process of engaging third-party M&E services, which will serve as an additional layer to verify the progress and results of STFA JPs, as well as the progress reported by each PUNO, and further improve data quality and accuracy.

## VI. LESSONS LEARNED



## VI. LESSONS LEARNED

Delivering as One. STFA has adopted a 'Delivering as One (DaO)' modality as the key approach for the design and implementation of regional JP activities. The DaO initiatives have indeed contributed to leveraging the 'Area-Based' Approach to Programming that underpins the Regional JPs. The DaO approach has capitalised on the wide range of expertise, capacities and footprints of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes; avoided unnecessary duplications; and contributed to achieving, collectively, greater scale and outreach (i.e. it has enabled higher returns on programme investments when compared to 'stand-alone' interventions).

Data-driven resource allocation strategy. STFA has developed a Resource Allocation Strategy using the population-adjusted Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)— to guide the prioritisation of resource allocations by regions, provinces, and participating UN agencies. This allocation strategy informs both (i) the prioritisation of activities and beneficiaries across the region, through a needs-based approach, and (ii) allocations to PUNOs (under agreed-upon 'DaOs'), with due consideration to different programmatic footprints and organisational capacities.

Regular engagements with local stakeholders. Regular and proactive engagements with local stakeholders, such as CDCs, have been critical for the progress achieved so far under the Regional JP. Such engagements have not only helped to ensure community ownership and inclusion (of both women and men), but they often contributed to reducing restrictions put in place by local DfAs. By way of example, the re-opening of female resource centres (FRCs) in Helmand and Nimroz provinces was made possible through such a proactive outreach. In contrast, the implementation of activities without leveraging local community leadership can reduce their impact and sustainability, and place greater risks on programme personnel during implementation.

Basic community infrastructure: 'Durable' support, beyond 'symptoms'. The support provided by STFA for basic community infrastructure has been designed as part of a 'durable solutions' package, to address long-standing needs of target communities. Such infrastructure is starting to provide benefits that are expected to be long-term in nature. The STFA infrastructure projects have contributed to improving access to clean drinking water; expanding and enhancing irrigation systems; strengthening access to clean energy sources; improving sanitation infrastructure and access to housing. Following an area-based approach, PUNOS have hired skilled and unskilled labour from target communities, i.e. such projects have also created job opportunities for people in local communities. However, it is also worth to note that since infrastructure projects are relatively resource-intensive, they require more regular monitoring to ensure the technical quality of the structures.

**Well-targeted health services.** Health services delivered with the support of STFA were frequently sought by members of the community, who regularly revisited health centres after their initial visit. STFA health support services were mostly delivered in remote communities where access to health services were non-existent. Furthermore, the STFA health services mainly benefited the vulnerable population - including women, children, and people facing drug-addiction issues.

Supporting livelihoods: balancing immediate and longer-term impact. The cash for work and UCT support provided through STFA had an immediate impact on the livelihoods of targeted beneficiaries. These activities were timely as they helped to revitalise the local economy in target communities - at a time of acute national economic crisis; and to address the pressing needs of vulnerable households, at a time when they were confronting increasing unemployment and falling incomes. However, there is a potential risk that CfW and UCT may increase community reliance on such support over time. Yet, the provision of assistance to MSMEs has contributed to starting-up hundreds of new small businesses and created or sustained jobs for thousands of Afghans. Moving forward, establishing greater linkages between UCT and CfW activities, to other livelihood initiatives, such as vocational training and support to MSMEs, can contribute to ensuring greater impact over the long-term

MSME support at scale = large impact. MSME support results in more effective and sustainable job creation when it is provided to micro and small enterprises. The provision of MSME support to these businesses has enabled thousands of them to launch their own micro or small enterprises. The STFA M&E data suggests that most of these micro businesses are owned by women in the community, and they are established based on the business ideas and skill sets that they already had (pre-intervention) or have developed with the support of STFA (post-intervention). These businesses have significant potential for growth. Additionally, the cost of supporting the start-up of these micro businesses is quite low (sometimes less than 1,000 USD). In contrast, support for medium or large enterprises is costly (sometimes hundreds of times more expensive than the value of support provided to micro or small enterprises). Larger or medium-sized enterprises can be supported through other means such as microfinance, business development training modules, marketing support (to better connect them to local and international markets), cross-border trading, compliance with business regulations, quality certification, and adherence to quality standards, among other strategies.

Cash-for-Work and social capital. Workdays created under cash-for-work initiatives also yield longer-term benefits for target localities, when invested in basic community infrastructure activities (such as cleaning of irrigation canals, construction of tertiary roads, and planting of trees in public places). Cash for work activities need to be carefully selected in order not to replace the existing good practices of Hashar[1].

<sup>[1]</sup> A voluntary community work which all people in the community commit to collectively perform.

## VII. QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT



## VII. QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

STFA programmatic activities for Southern Afghanistan began in January 2021. With a total funding allocation of US\$50 million, approximately 1.52 million individuals benefited from Regional JP interventions during the first year - implemented by ten PUNOs. This was, in itself, a remarkable achievement: a significant expansion of programmatic footprint and outreach in a region that was considered, over the past two decades of massive international aid to Afghanistan, to be one of the most difficult to access.

Activities under the STFA Regional Joint Programme for Southern Afghanistan were effectively prioritised based on the needs and requirements of the local population. Health services, among other interventions, for instance, centred on the treatment of drug addiction, a long-standing issue in the region. In addition, the JP activities contributed to COVID-19 screening and other related medical treatment, benefiting, in total, over 400,000 individuals. Mental health and psychosocial counselling support was also very relevant and timely: it was extended to close to 20,000 individuals, which was essential to help restore at-risk individuals to a normal, and more resilient, life.

Infrastructure support provided by the STFA JP in the southern region enabled over 300,000 people in vulnerable locations to gain access to safe drinking water, renewable energy sources, improved agriculture, enhanced physical connectivity, and improved sanitation infrastructure. Infrastructure support also provided thousands of trained and unskilled workers in the Southern region with employment opportunities. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of people were able to sustain their livelihoods, in the midst of a severe socio-economic crisis, through other forms of livelihood support.

Throughout 2022, STFA JPs encountered programming and operational challenges that affected the implementation of JP activities – and their timely completion. In a number of instances, for instance, STFA PUNOs reported challenges in securing unhindered, and safe, access to certain locations and/or to certain groups of beneficiaries, including women beneficiaries. In some cases, this resulted in delays in JP implementation and in the underachievement of annual milestones, particularly those pertaining to female beneficiaries. PUNOs have remained proactive in their pursuit of alternative means to engage female beneficiaries in JP activities – and such efforts will continue, as the context becomes even more challenging. Indeed, moving forward, alternative, and innovative, modalities for principled delivery will remain critical to sustain the pace and scale of progress, and protect the gains made under this JP in 2023 and beyond.

## VIII. PARTNERSHPS



## VIII. PARTNERSHPS

#### **Partnerships**

Foundational for STFA: Partnerships. From its very inception, STFA has been the co-creation of a wide range of partners. Starting with only two agencies as Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs) in October 2021, by mid-2022 STFA had secured the engagement of seventeen UN entities as PUNOs. Six contributing partners extended their support to STFA during the fourth quarter of 2021; by the end of 2022, twelve contributing partners have joined STFA. The initial capitalisation of the fund moved from US\$96.6m in 2021, to \$176.0m, by the end of 2022. At least three other partners have, since then, reached out to STFA/TFMU to express interest in potentially becoming STFA contributing partners.

**Unprecedented joint venture.** Such a collaborative platform is unprecedented in Afghanistan. STFA is a joint venture that reflects a collective commitment among all its stakeholders: to contribute to addressing the basic human needs of vulnerable Afghan communities across the country to complement the ongoing humanitarian response. Such international effort came to fruition at a critical juncture for the country, which was facing a rapidly deteriorating socio-economic crisis when STFA was being established.

**UNDP's integrator role and UN RC's vision.** The leadership of UNDP in the establishment and operations of the Fund was remarkable and should be collectively acknowledged: it laid out the programmatic foundation for STFA - through its ABADEI strategy; it assumed the chairmanship of its Steering Committee for most of 2022, and it enabled the operational viability of the Fund (through the Trust Fund Management Unit that it administered and funded in 2022). The role of UN RC was also critical, as Chair of the High-Level Board, in establishing the strategic objectives and overarching vision for the fund. At the end of 2022 the baton of the Chair of the Steering Committee was passed from UNDP Resident Representative to the UN Resident Coordinator, contributing to moving STFA closer to a 'One UN Funding framework' vision.

**Co-leadership: Sweden's role as co-chair.** As a co-chair of the STFA Steering Committee (since April 2021), Sweden also played a leading and pivotal role in shaping STFA and its programmatic portfolio. Such active engagement – including through their leadership in TCWG, SC and donor platforms - was critical in shaping a common vision on the scope and direction of the fund and its portfolio, and to reaching consensus among all STFA stakeholders.

An increasingly familiar term: 'DaO'. Another success story for partnerships in STFA became evident soon after its set-up. The ensuing inter-agency dialogues triggered by STFA joint programming exercises enabled the articulation of increasingly robust 'Delivering as One' ('DaO') programme initiatives, to unprecedented levels for the UN in Afghanistan. Indeed, the term 'DaO', championed by STFA, has become part of the 'day-to-day vocabulary' of AFPs in Afghanistan to indicate the presence of, or intention to develop, collaborative initiatives that capitalise on inter-agency complementarities[9] under (STFA-supported) joint programmes.

[9] In terms of mandates, expertise and capacities

Joint programming of 'DaOs', at scale. Under the eight regional Joint Programmes designed during the first two quarters of 2022 (including the Regional JP for the Southern Region), a total of over US\$ 1.2b was programmed and budgeted to support such 'DaO initiatives'. This experience signalled not only the viability, but the effectiveness, of a unique and complex, set of partnerships for basic human needs (BHN) programming at scale in Afghanistan: it brought together seventeen UN agencies and over ten contributing partners, MPTFO, TCWG and SC towards a shared understanding of key BHN challenges across the country, and of key programmatic interventions to address such challenges (under the programmatic chapeau provided by TEF). Throughout 2022, the delivery of such DaOs has indeed contributed to a tangible impact on the lives and livelihoods of tens of thousands of households in Afghanistan, as captured in this particular report and others.

Partnerships for implementation. PUNOs' implementing partners - including NGOs, CDCs and other community-based organisations- have also been pivotal for the progress achieved under the fund: they have been an important backbone for effective, and bottoms-up, programmatic delivery.

**Pro-active outreach.** In 2022, STFA/TFMU organised a series of engagements with partners overseas – including in Europe and Gulf Countries. TFMU indeed took a key role in the organisation of STFA Steering Committees in Doha (March 2022), Brussels (April 2022) and missions to donor capitals (from 2-13 April 2022, for Europe, and in May and June, for Gulf Countries). Such efforts are also an integral part of the Fund's operations, as they are not only instrumental in generating greater awareness about STFA and its portfolio, but they also facilitate trust-building and more robust, direct and field-informed engagements among key STFA stakeholders.

Developing a common understanding of resource allocation priorities. In 2022, STFA partnerships were also instrumental to develop an allocation strategy to guide the prioritisation of programmable resources under the regional JPs. The Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was established as a key parameter to guide region-wide priorities and allocations, alongside a bottoms-up and consultative process to inform DaO and PUNO-wise allocations. In addition, at the end of 2022, a series of multipartner 'Lessons Learned' dialogues, brought together PUNOs and contributing partners, to take collective stock of the experience and the challenges faced by STFA since its inception – many of these lessons and associated recommendations, eventually fed into the STFA Operations Manual. STFA partners should be acknowledged for the constructive feedback they have provided, drawing from experience, in ensuring the Fund is 'Fit for Purpose' and resilient vis-à-vis increasingly complex challenges.

Beyond country offices: sub-national partnerships. STFA has also catalysed stronger partnerships at regional level among PUNOs. UNDP Area Managers have indeed played an important convening and coordination role at sub-national level, helping to ensure greater collaboration among PUNOs and its implementing partners in the target regions. Such partnerships have indeed enabled the reaching of consensus at the sub-national level, and the effective, joint, delivery of 'DaO' initiatives.

Beyond BHN: HDP Nexus - complementing the humanitarian response. In 2022, STFA was also actively engaged with OCHA, ICCT, AHF Fund management and humanitarian agencies to ensure complementarities in (BHN-Humanitarian) programmatic interventions and to identify broader synergies across the HDP spectrum. Information and data sharing have also been part of the regular engagements with the humanitarian stakeholders. At the beginning of December 2022, when the UN RC (who is also the UN Humanitarian Coordinator) assumed the chairmanship of the STFA SC, such HDP linkages gained a more robust footing; engagements with OCHA and ICCT have indeed been actively supported by the Head of the RCO. The fact that STFA is now regularly attending, as an observer, both

the UN Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the UN Country Team (UNCT) engagements, has further built momentum for a stronger, and well-informed, partnership between STFA, as a key BHN pooled funding instrument, and humanitarian stakeholders.

Beyond the UN: International Financial Institutions (IFIs), funding streams and Afghanistan Coordination Group (ACG). In 2022, STFA also engaged with partners beyond the UN – including the World Bank/ARTF, ADB, the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB)/Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund (AHTF). Such engagements have helped to ensure that STFA is well-positioned as part of the broader BHN funding stream architecture for Afghanistan. This has contributed to better defining complementarities, avoiding unnecessary duplications and overlaps, and facilitating information/knowledge-sharing among funding streams. These engagements are also feeding directly into the wider ACG platform - which brings together the larger international community (i.e., the UN including UNAMA and humanitarian and BHN agencies; IFIs/funding streams and contributing member states) to facilitate well-informed and well-coordinated international assistance to Afghanistan.

**Potentially a global milestone.** STFA, as an inter-agency pooled financing instrument, has demonstrated to be well-suited to help address basic human needs in one of the world's most difficult contexts of fragility and crisis. The Fund supported a joint UN approach to programming, and it ensured a response aligned with priorities on the ground. It brought both strategic direction as well as much-needed flexibility in directing resources to where they are needed the most. The fund allowed the pooling of resources from key contributing partners, and leveraged standard legal agreements and joint programmatic tools, bringing greater cost-effectiveness and economies of scale to this complex operation engaging multiple stakeholders.

The STFA has advanced the UN reform on the ground. With 17 UN Organizations working together under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, through well-designed and implemented area-based programming - in the difficult context of Afghanistan - has indeed already provided an excellent reference for other Funds across the world to model their operations and programming cycles on.

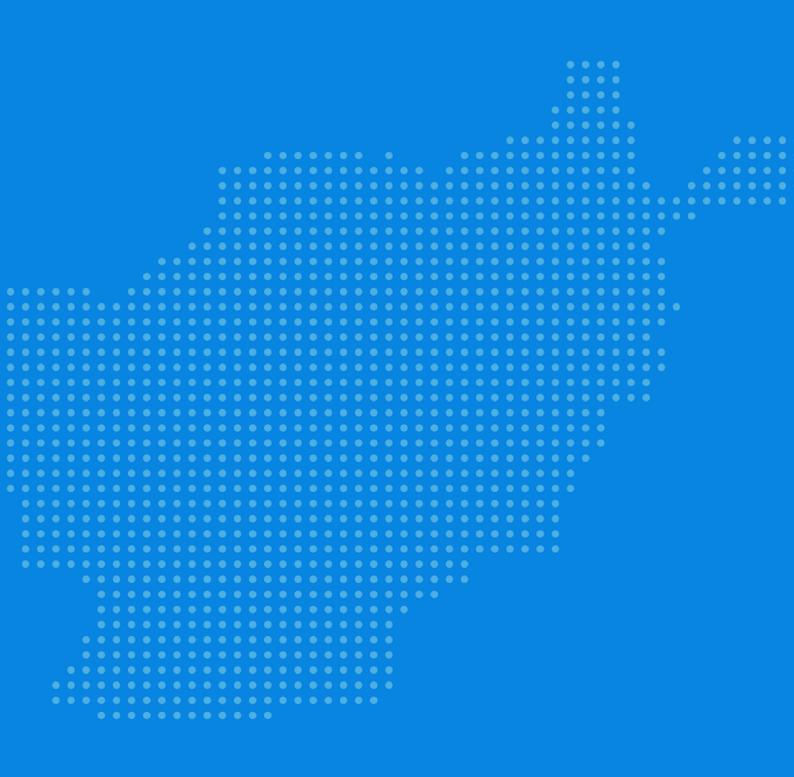
Moving forward - Beyond TEF. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, STFA is anticipated to transition more strongly as part of a 'One UN Funding Framework' for Afghanistan - complementing the existing humanitarian pooled funding mechanisms (under AHF and CERF). It is already being positioned as the UN's main pooled funding instrument to enable the delivery of outcomes under the emerging multi-year UN Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFA, currently under formulation). STFA is therefore poised to further reinforce its role as a platform for partnership-building and collaboration to better enable 'Delivering as One' approaches in Afghanistan.

The STFA promise: beyond the symptoms. STFA has already laid down strong foundations for durable solutions that 'go beyond the symptoms': it is helping to address some of the root causes of socioeconomic challenges being faced by Afghan communities across the country– from food insecurity and heightened exposure to climate-induced disasters to insufficient access to essential services and lack of livelihood opportunities. Such a role, in the words of STFA beneficiaries, is contributing to preserving an important asset for them: hope for a better and more self-reliant future.

## Annex I. Indicator-based Performance Assessment

JP Output Indicators	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target	Source of Verification								
Output 1: Essential services and	Output 1: Essential services and community infrastructure – including for health, agriculture, education, and energy supply - are functional, sustained and expanded to meet the different needs of women and men.										
1a. Number of people that have benefited from UN-supported essential services and/or new/rehabilitated infrastructure, disaggregated by type of service and sex. Baseline: Target: 1,206,494 Female target: 646,300	Progress: 973,546 Female progress: 432,065	Some joint programme activities were delayed in the Southern region and will be completed in 2023	Please see PUNO specific reports								
1b. Number of people that have benefited from UN-supported maternal/reproductive health care services (health) Baseline: Target: 3 Female target:	Progress: 17,852 Female progress: 13,929	The construction of 29 FHH could not be completed due change in the initial design, delays in obtaining no objection from the DFA and cold weather the construction is due to be completed in 2023	Please see PUNO specific reports								
1c. Number of people that have benefited from drug treatment, drug rehabilitation services (health) Baseline: Target: 4,000 Female target: 1,200	Progress: 16,311 Female progress: 9,667	Target overachieved	Please see PUNO specific reports								
1d. Number of functional, UN- supported, facilities providing basic health assistance (including basic health assistance services for women and girls) Baseline: Target: 79	Progress: 46	The construction of 29 FHH could not be completed due to changes in the initial design, delays in obtaining no objections, and cold weather. The construction is due to be completed in 2023									
1e. Number of COVID-kits distributed to health centres/clinics Baseline: 12,916 Target: 2,100 Female target:	Progress: 0 Female progress: 0	PUNOs could not achieve progress in this area during the reporting period (TBC)	Please see PUNO specific reports								

### **ANNEXES**



JP Output Indicators	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target	Source of Verification
1f. Number of children, adolescents and adults (including adolescent girls and women) who benefit from primary and secondary education, basic general literacy and vocational education programmes (at least 50% female) Baseline: Target: 6,550 Female target: 3,275	Progress: 0 Female progress: 0	The pace of progress in this area was mainly affected by a challenging operating environment, following imposed restrictions on girls ' education. However, the target under this milestone will be achieved during 2023	Please see PUNO specific reports
1j. Kms of road rehabilitated and/or maintained Baseline: Target: 10	Progress: 10	Targets achieved	Please see PUNO specific reports
Output 2: Livelihoods, business	es and the local econd	omy are able to recover, become more sustainable and be more	resilient to instability.
2a. Number of people who benefited from UCT (at least 80% women) Baseline: Target: 115,077 Female target: 21,339	Progress: 129,266 Female progress: 17,002	Target achieved	Please see PUNO specific reports
2b. Number of people who have benefited from newly-created income-generation opportunities, disaggregated by sex, age and province Baseline: 1,636 Target: 6,458 Female target: 2,217	Progress: 8,619 Female progress: 1,933	Target exceeded	Please see PUNO specific reports
2b.1. Number of people who have benefited from productive employment through CfW schemes (at least 30% women; 50% youth) Baseline: Target: 44,190 Female target: 3,985	Progress: 41,956 Female progress: 275	Target exceeded	Please see PUNO specific reports

<sup>[25]</sup> The progress under this indicator has already been reported under Indicator 1.a. this is just to mention the overall progress made in 2022.

JP Output Indicators	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target	Source of Verification		
2c. No. Of worker-days generated with UN-support Baseline: Target: 23,534 Female target: 0	Progress: 23,534 Female progress: 0	Target achieved	Please see PUNO specific reports		
2f. Number of MSMEs that benefit through financial capital support, training and/or other forms of asset support, disaggregated by women-led and men-led MSMEs	Progress: 1,084 Female progress: 337	PUNOs could not achieve the required targets during 2022 due to delays in programme implementation. This target is now moved to 2023	Please see PUNO specific reports		
Output 3: Communities have im		access to water and preparedness mechanisms to protect farm- te and environment shocks and natural disasters	based livelihoods and		
3b. Number of people who acquired knowledge and skills on disaster preparedness and climate-resilient livelihoods (at least 30% women) Baseline: Target: 2,336 Female target: 126	Progress: 2,401 Female progress: 117	Target achieved	Please see PUNO specific reports		
3c. Number of farmers who benefited from training and assets for improved, climatesmart, agriculture (at least 30% women) Baseline: 11,880 Target: 21,585 Female target: 7,176	Progress: 18,013 Female progress: 6,555	Target almost achieved	Please see PUNO specific reports		
3d. Number of people that benefit from rehabilitated and/or newly constructed disaster-resilient community infrastructure and nature-based solutions Baseline: Target: 2,000 Female target: 300	Progress: 1,938 Female progress: 969	Target almost achieved – 50% of the direct beneficiaries are estimated to be female	Please see PUNO specific reports		

JP Output Indicators	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target	Source of Verification								
Output 4: Social cohesion, respect for human rights – including, in particular, the rights of women and girls- and access to justice are progressively strengthened at the local level – contributing to greater community resilience.											
4a. Number of CBOs/CSOs with improved capacity for participatory and inclusive community planning (at least 20% women-led) Baseline: Target: 89	Progress: 1	Targets unmet (to be followed up in 2023)	Please see PUNO specific reports								
4b. Number of people with better awareness about human rights , social cohesion and conflict prevention (at least 50% women) Baseline: 6,820 Target: 206,812 Female target: 32,931	Progress: 332,293 Female progress: 49,372	Target overachieved	Please see PUNO specific reports								

#### Annex II. Real-Life Stories from the Field

#### Improved access to water - contributing to a sustainable local economy

17th November 2022, Matukzo village, Spin Boldak, Kandahar. The drought continued into 2022 and was accompanied by a heatwave so intense it led to multiple wildfires in the country's east. Then came unseasonably heavy summer downpours and flash flooding in many parts of Afghanistan that submerged villages and damaged houses, roads, and farmlands.

Drought in the south of the country caused many farmers and villagers to lose their farm products or leave their villages. The lack of water and services in Mutakzo village of Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province caused huge losses for the farmers. According to information from the field, last year about 100 pomegranate orchards, wheat-irrigated lands, and grape vineyards dried up and the circumstances made several farmers move to other cities or neighbouring countries.

"Lack of water and drought made around 200 families leave their villages in the past year. Lack of services and unemployment were the other reasons for the villagers to leave this area. I had no other source of income to dig a well to irrigate my land", Mohammad Nabi Khaksar, a 34-year-old farmer of Matukzo village, says.

With the support of STFA, the rehabilitation of essential infrastructure and services has been key to establishing and maintaining livable conditions in vulnerable areas in the South.

Mohammad Nabi adds: "In the past 20 years, we had no water supply project, and none of the parties supported us to have access to either drinking water or irrigation water. But, the UNDP and its partners, started the Kariz cleaning project in our village and brought lots of happiness for us. However, we received temporary employment through the Cash for Work program waterways are cleaned and the villagers have access to clean drinking water and irrigation water".

The STFA-supported Cash for Work program (CFW) helped to generate employment opportunities while, at the same time, contributing to basic community infrastructure. Nearly 300 labourers in Matukzo village received employment under the CFW program.

"I irrigated wheat seed on my 1-hectare irrigation land, using the Kariz water. For the next season, I would have lots of wheat, and my next year's income would be very much more than ever. Having access to water led our village to a sustainable economy and I would have some cash as well after receiving my wage under Kariz cleaning project. But I would request the UNDP office and its donors to please do not stop your support with us, and continue your projects like you do it now" said Mohammad Nabi.



UNDP, a Participating UN Organization under STFA, is committed to providing support to vulnerable communities under the ABADEI programme in close collaboration with sister agencies. Currently, there are nearly 300 infrastructure projects that are completed, ongoing or planned to be implemented in the Southern region."

#### Annex III. A Brief Note on Resources

In 2022, based on the population-adjusted Multi-dimensional Poverty Index, it was estimated that US\$318 million would be required to implement priority activities planned across the eight Regional JPs. By December 2022, only US\$176 million was received for STFA to address the dire basic human needs in Afghanistan. The relatively slow pace of resource mobilisation and uncertainty in the availability of resources increases the project management costs and makes it challenging to formulate more effective multi-year programmes and project work plans. Without additional resources, it will not be possible to expand activities in the Northern and Southern regions and ensure gains achieved to date are preserved over the long term. There is an urgent need for STFA to receive additional contributions to address dire basic human needs and ensure the longer-term sustainability of the joint programmes.





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