



AFGHANISTAN HUMANITARIAN FUND

# 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



### Credits

This document was produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Afghanistan. OCHA Afghanistan wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its committed staff at headquarters and in the field in preparing this document.

The latest version of this document is available on the AHF website at <https://www.unocha.org/country-based-pooled-funds-annual-reports>

Full project details, financial updates, real-time allocation data and indicator achievements against targets are available at [CBPF DataHub](#).

### About AHF

Front Cover

CBE class for primary girl students

Credit: World Vision International (WVI)

### **Credit:**

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## LETTER FROM THE HC

I am pleased to share the 2023 Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) Annual Report which reviews the Fund's operations and details its activities and impact. As a strategic and reliable funding tool, the AHF was instrumental in enabling partners to respond to urgent humanitarian needs in one of the world's most complex protracted crises.

The year 2023 provided no respite for people in Afghanistan, still reeling from the shocks of previous years and the continued effects of the change in governance, natural disasters, and economic hardship. With strategic leadership at country-level and engaged guidance and oversight provided by the Advisory Board, the AHF continued to respond quickly and efficiently to a broad range of humanitarian needs across the country in the past year.

I would like to express my gratitude to the AHF's dedicated donors for their generous support and reliable partnership. The year 2023 marked a special year for the AHF as the fund reached an overall contribution level of one billion US\$, placing it amongst the three largest funds in the history of OCHA's Country-based Pooled Funds. Since its inception in 2014, this funding enabled the AHF and its partners to assist about 9 million people each year with much needed lifesaving and life-changing humanitarian assistance. The AHF received record amounts in contributions following the takeover of De-Facto Authorities in August 2021 with US\$270 million in 2021 and \$275 million in 2022. Through this the AHF became the largest CBPF globally in the last five years and instrumental for financing the overall humanitarian response in Afghanistan. In 2023, the AHF received an addition \$81.6 million in contributions, allowing it to further extend on crucial support to the people of Afghanistan, especially to

those with limited or no income opportunities and in dire need of food assistance and basic health services.

In 2023, the AHF funded 119 projects implemented by 77 partners. A total of US\$135 million disbursed, which included donor contributions carried-over from the previous year, was utilized again to support most vulnerable women, girls, men and boys across all provinces of Afghanistan. The AHF continued supporting localization of the humanitarian response, providing 20.9 per cent of its funding, directly and indirectly, to National NGO partners. Throughout the year, AHF-funded activities enabled an accountable, evidence-based, and inclusive response by implementing partners and promoted innovative approaches such as on integrated programming, AAP, PSEA and support to people living with disabilities.

On behalf of all of the United Nations, I wish to thank all AHF donors, implementing partners, including national and international NGOs, UN agencies, funds, and programs, Red Cross/Red Crescent Organizations and OCHA, for their proactive support.

In March 2024, the AHF has served the people of Afghanistan for 10 consecutive years. As critical humanitarian needs persist, I continue to rely on the robust support provided by all partners and stakeholders, enabling us again to utilize the AHF in the best interest of the people of Afghanistan.

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**Sincerely,**

**Indrika Ratwatte**  
**Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan**

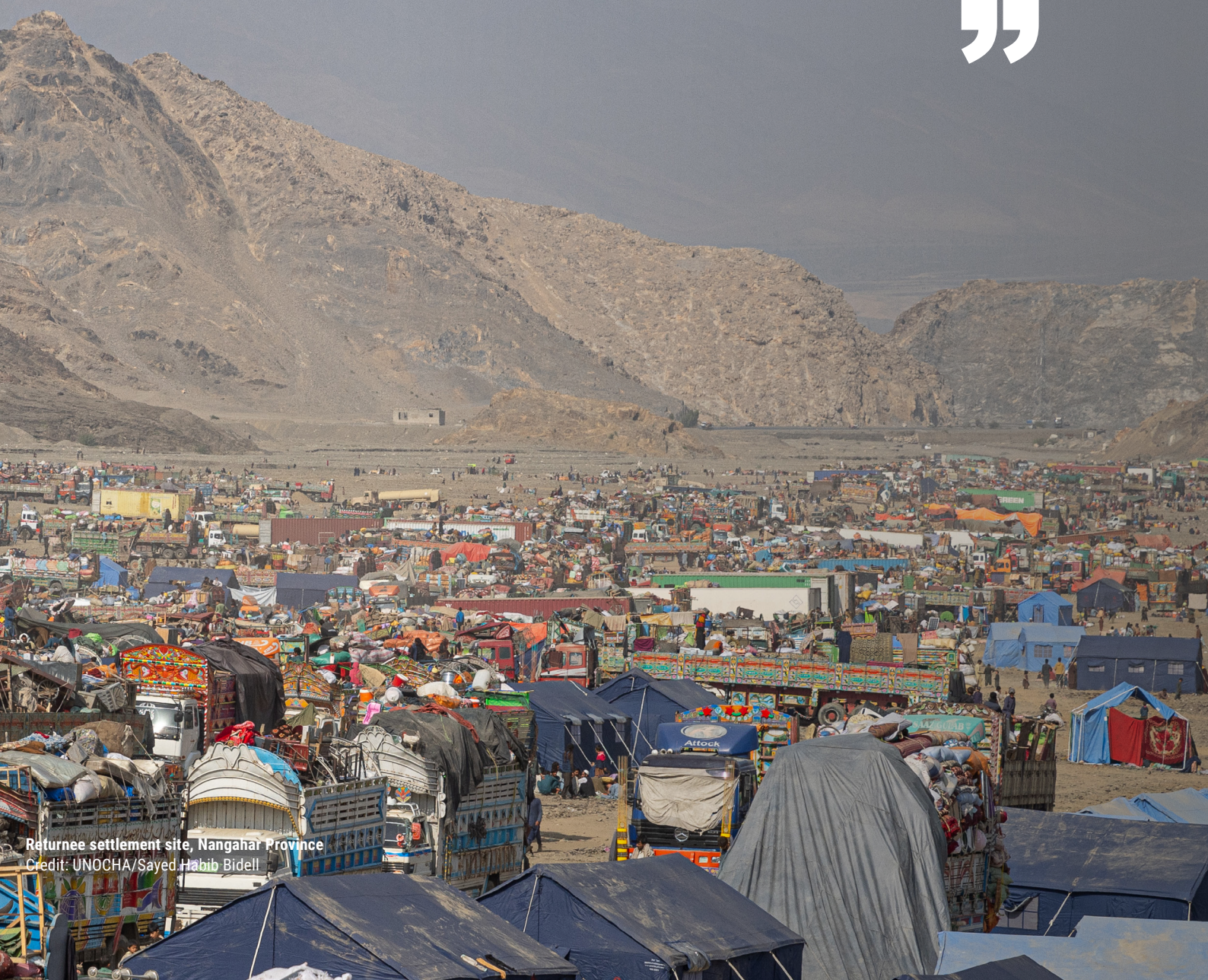


“

**Through its strategic allocations and processes the AHF stands out as a catalyst for a meaningful, collective and localized humanitarian response in Afghanistan.**

Indrika Ratwatte  
Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan

”



Returnee settlement site, Nangahar Province  
Credit: UNOCHA/Sayed Habib Bidell



## 2023 IN NUMBERS



**\$82M**  
CONTRIBUTIONS\*

\* See footnote on next page



**5.5M**  
PEOPLE ASSISTED



**0.7M**  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ASSISTED



**2.9M**  
WOMEN and GIRLS ASSISTED  
**52% OF TOTAL PEOPLE ASSISTED**

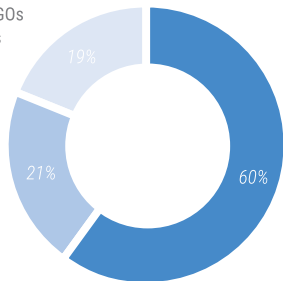


**77**  
PARTNERS

**119**  
PROJECTS

**\$25M**

National NGOs  
39 Partners  
53 Projects



**\$29M**

International NGOs  
31 Partners  
45 Projects

**\$81M**

United Nations  
7 Partners  
21 Projects

Allocations in US\$ million

Host Communities **3.7**

Other **1.2**

Internally Displaced People **0.4**

Returnees **0.2**

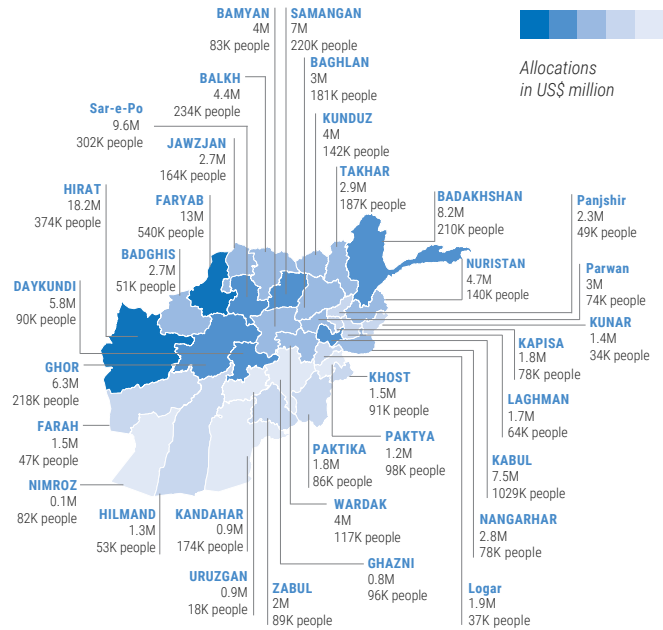
Refugees **0.003**

People assisted in millions



**\$135M**  
ALLOCATIONS

**5.5M**  
PEOPLE ASSISTED



\* The Annual Report uses the number of people targeted as a proxy for the number of people reached and henceforth the term people assisted will be used. This approach allows for more timely global reporting as the final data on people reached only becomes available over a year after the allocation of CBPF funds. The reported outcomes will be available on the <https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/> the CBPFs will continuously monitor if targets are reached.

\*\* Figures for people assisted may include double counting as individuals often receive aid from multiple cluster/sectors. The maximum methodology was applied by the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund to estimate the number of people assisted in 2023. The total number of people assisted is thus the sum of the maximum number of targeted beneficiaries by gender and age per cluster/sectors and location at admin level three/district.

	Allocations	People Assisted
Food Security	53.9   9	1.7
Shelter/NFIs	27.7   5.4	0.4
Health	18.7   6.7	2.9
Nutrition	4.4   0.7	0.1
WASH	2.8   1.2	0.1
Protection	1   1.7	0.3
Education	1.8	0.02

■ Standard allocations ■ Reserve allocations

Allocations in US\$ million, people assisted in millions



**1.2M**  
people provided with cash assistance



**32K**  
women received health services



**20K**  
children are provided with school and learning supplies



**120K**  
women and girls received protection services.

# Donor contributions

Soon reaching its tenth anniversary, the AHF reached an overall donor contribution level of one billion US dollars in 2023, thereby placing it among the three largest OCHA Country-based Pooled Funds globally.

The AHF complements OCHA’s resource mobilization efforts for humanitarian crisis, offering donors an additional avenue to alleviate humanitarian needs at-scale. The AHF became particularly important following the events of August 2021. In 2023, the AHF received donor contributions totaling US\$81.6 million, enabling it to provide vital and urgently needed humanitarian assistance to millions of people in Afghanistan through its implementing partners. Against backdrops of increasing needs, deteriorating operating environments, and overall reduction of funding for both humanitarian assistance and basic human needs, the AHF demonstrated its ability to serve as a flexible and reliable funding mechanism for strictly prioritized life-saving humanitarian assistance, enabling initiation and scale-up of the response where necessary.

Donor contributions per year varied since the Fund’s inception in 2014 with exceptional increases in 2021 and 2022. The AHF maintained a broad donor base and their continuing support, especially over the past three years. We appreciate the generous support by the people and Governments of the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Iceland, Italy the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg and Cyprus, as well as the European Commission (ECHO). Joining the group of UN Member States supporting the AHF over time, the Fund received important contributions also by Portugal and Japan.

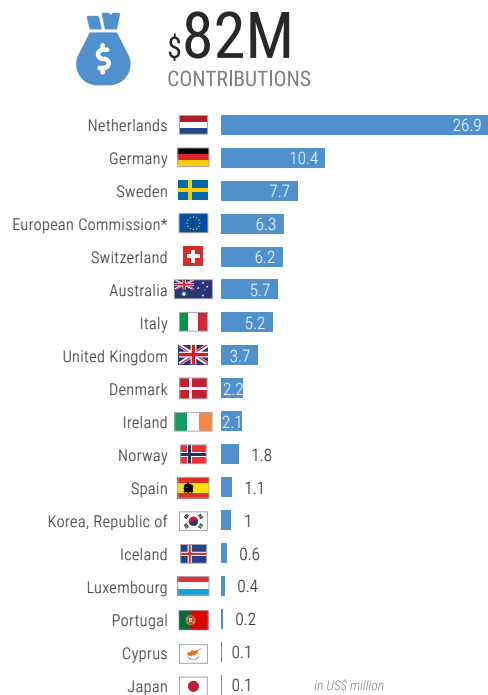
A total of US\$81.6 million received between January and December 2023, was utilized together with US\$34.2 million carried-over from 2022. The AHF reached 16 per cent of its resource mobilization target set at US\$498 million (15 per cent of 2022 HRP funding received).

Some 22 per cent (\$17.7 million) of funds deposited by donors in 2023 were made available by the end of the first quarter. In quarter two, 38 per cent (\$31 million) was made available, followed by 9 per cent (\$7.5 million) in quarter three and 28 per cent (\$23.2 million) in quarter four. The remaining 3 per cent (\$2.2 million) were retroactively assigned from early 2024.

Planned and communicated Donor contributions to the AHF proved crucial in providing ample time to prioritize utilization of the AHF, both strategically and complementarily with other available funding sources.

This was demonstrated also in the joint response to the devastating series of earthquakes in Herat in October 2023, provided by the AHF and CERF and used in complementarity to all other sources of funding.

Maintaining donor support to the AHF and the humanitarian response overall remains crucial also in 2024. The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan (leading the AHF), supported by OCHA, continues to advocate for increased donor support to the AHF, in parallel to funding provided to implementing partners by donors, as well as all other humanitarian financing mechanisms for Afghanistan



\* Including EUR 3 million paid in January 2023 which was part of ECHO’s contribution for 2022.

## DONORS WITH MULTI-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

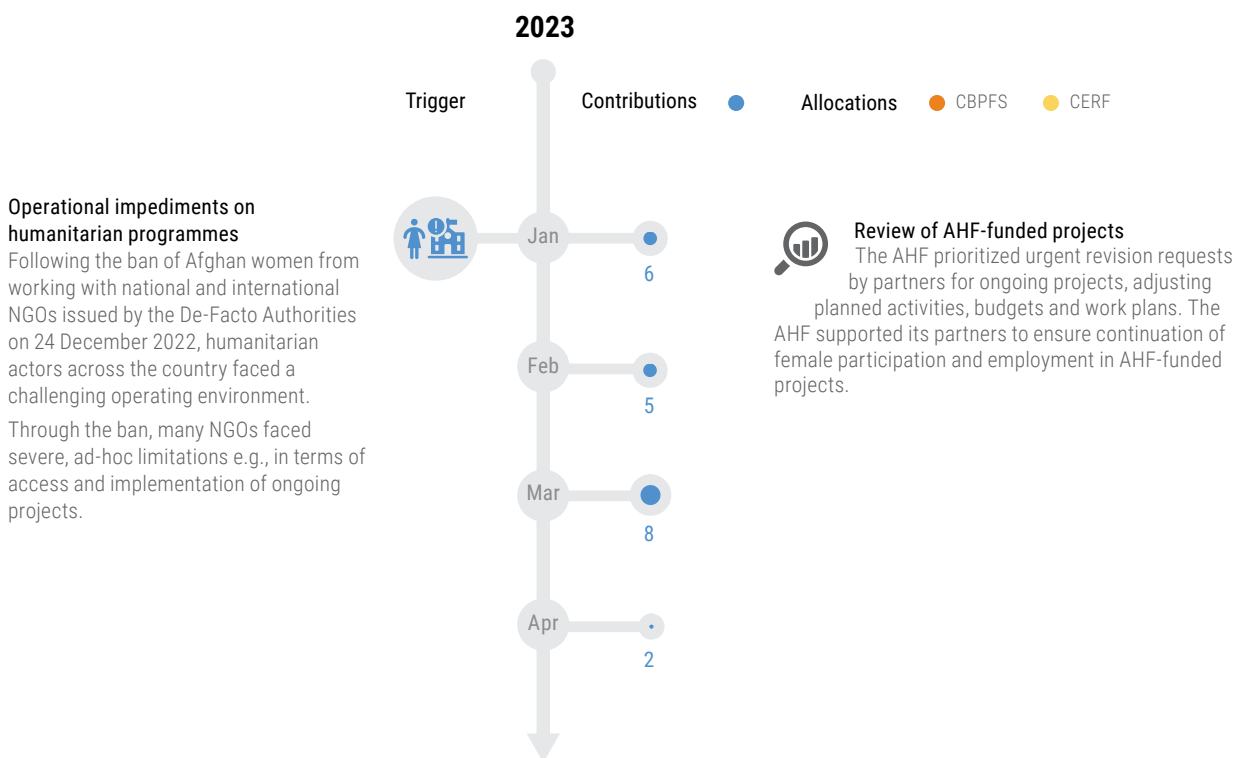
Australia	<b>\$6M</b>
Germany	<b>\$54M</b>
Switzerland	<b>\$9M</b>
United Kingdom	<b>\$54M</b>

# Humanitarian Context and Allocations

Afghanistan continues grappling with the consequences of four decades of armed conflict, natural hazards including severe impact of climate change, economic decline resulting in high levels of poverty, and barriers impeding gender equality in all aspects of society, including education of women and girls. A large part of the population of Afghanistan is exposed to increased vulnerability, linked also to severe limitations of the public health system, increase of costs for food and other essential goods, and again required multi-layered humanitarian assistance throughout 2023.

The AHF continued demonstrating its ability to provide fast humanitarian financing support to its implementing partners, particularly in sudden-onset emergencies. The Fund provided two rapid response allocations, completed within 24 and 48 hours respectively. These were the fastest allocations since the Fund’s inception and among the fastest grant allocations in the history of OCHA-managed CBPFs, globally. These allocations included provision of US\$4 million for life-saving medical supplies, assisting 25 public hospitals across 15 provinces and \$10 million for immediate support to populations affected by a unprecedented series of severe Earthquakes.

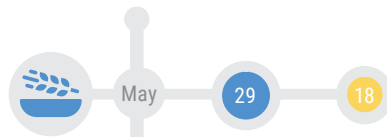
All AHF-funded projects were temporarily affected by restrictions placed on female aid workers in late December 2022. Since then and throughout 2023, the AHF worked closely with its implementing partners, providing flexibility such as for project modification and revisions of ongoing projects.





**Fragile food security and nutrition status**

IPC assessments estimated that 20 million Afghans face acute food insecurity (IPC3+), with 6 million people in 'emergency' levels.

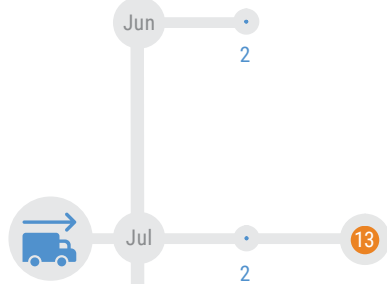


**CERF Rapid Response: Famine prevention**

This allocation of US\$18 million safeguarded food and nutrition security and provided emergency livelihoods support to marginalized households, predominantly in rural areas.

**Increased programming and access constraints**

Prologued and increasingly dire humanitarian situation and restrictive decrees impacting the humanitarian response, incl UN AFPs.

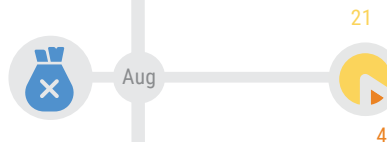


**First Reserve Allocation: Empowering local partners at the forefront**

This \$13 million allocation was the first CBPF allocation dedicated to (only) national NGOs. This allocation addressed multi-sectoral needs particularly in rural communities and expanded humanitarian service to areas identified to be of highest need.

**Need to preserve nutritional gains and clearance of UXO/ERW**

Rising levels of food insecurity, depleted food stocks and UXO/ERW clearance require additional financial support.



**CERF Underfunded Emergencies**

In support of the overall underfunded humanitarian response in Afghanistan, this allocation of \$21 million enabled stabilizing food security levels, scaling up of winterization efforts and clearing of UXO/ERW enabling essential services and schooling.

**Acute funding requirement for health infrastructure and service delivery**

Discontinuation of external funding support to 25 main/referral hospitals across 15 provinces, impact on an already under-resourced public health system.

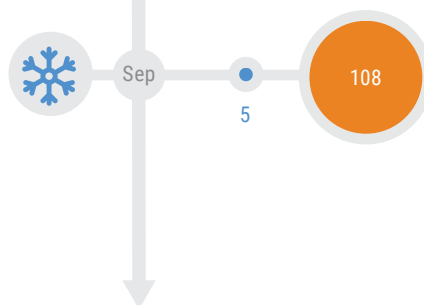


**Second Reserve Allocation: 24-hour allocation to preserve health care**

US\$4 million allocation to prevent disruption of life-saving medical services across 25 hospitals serving around 1.6 million people. Fastest allocation in the history of all CBPFs. Funding covered procurement and delivery of essential medicines and consumables for a period of two and a half months.

**Preparedness for winter season**

Preparation for harsh winter conditions, expected to exacerbate already existing humanitarian needs across Afghanistan and expose millions to further risks.



**Standard Allocation: Winterization**

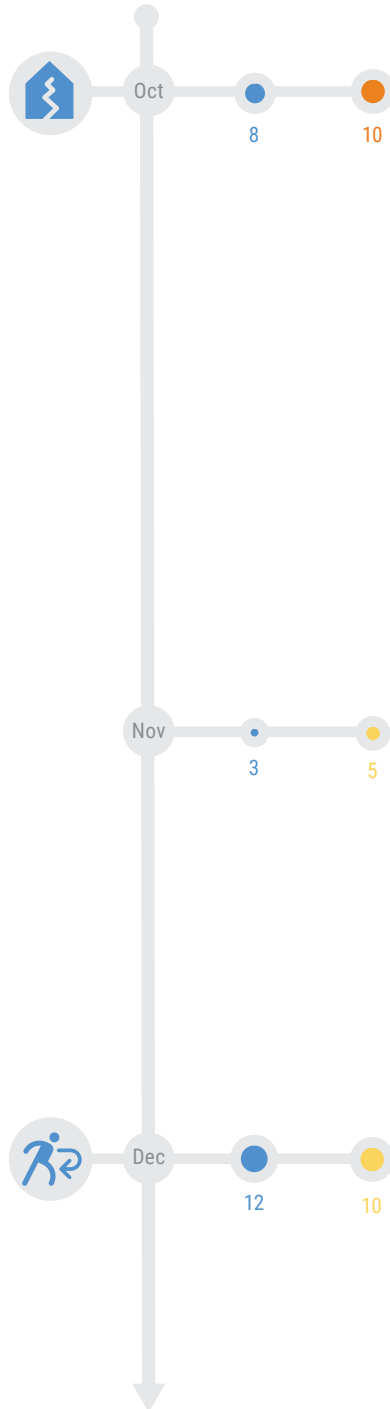
This US\$108 million allocation enabled preparedness activities, including through cash-based Modalities e.g., for heating materials, food, shelter repair support and health services, targeting vulnerable communities in 137 districts.

**First earthquake in Herat province**

On 7 October 2023 at around 11.00 am local time, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck 40km west of Herat City in Herat Province, western Afghanistan, followed by several aftershocks. Initial assessments estimated around 900 families to be affected and an additional 300 to be displaced.

**Aftershocks**

Assessments up to 16 October 2023 estimated over 7,000 families across six districts to be directly impacted by a series of earthquakes/aftershocks.



**Third Reserve Allocation: 48-hour response to Herat earthquake**

Rapid US\$5 million allocation supporting initiation of emergency response incl search & rescue activities in earthquake affected communities. Multi-sectoral assistance, emphasis on assisting elderly, women, children, and persons living with disabilities



**Fourth Reserve Allocation: Scale-up of earthquake response**

Scaling up the previous AHF allocation, additional support of US\$5 million enabled food assistance, continuation of education and health facilities, provision of trauma, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as distribution of shelter and non-food items to most vulnerable households.



**CERF Rapid Response: Scale-up of earthquake response**

Complementing previous AHF allocations US\$5 million enabled further food assistance, support to education and health facilities, provision of trauma, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as distribution of shelter and non-food items to most vulnerable households.

*Reflection on implementation: Complementary use of both OCHA-managed pooled funding mechanisms in support of a large-scale emergency response.*

**Sudden increase of Afghan returnees from Pakistan**

Four-fold increase of Afghan returnees from Pakistan compared to previous months/years during the onset of winter.

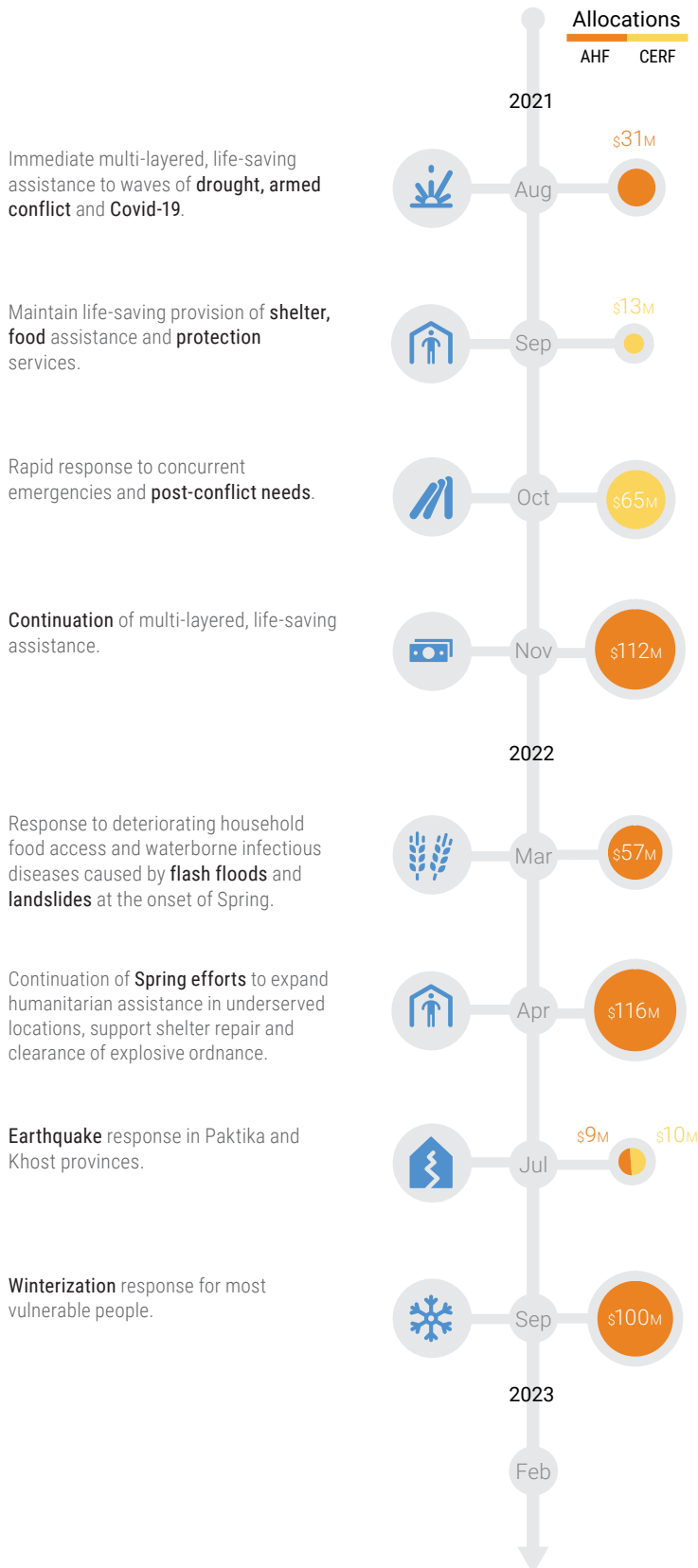


**CERF Rapid Response: Support for returnees**

To enable a multi-sectoral response, CERF provided US\$10 million for immediate assistance to returnees incl. food, cash, and transportation, health, and protection services.



## Rolling Allocations 2021-2023



Triggered by August 2021 events, the AHF developed the concept and started to provide “rolling allocations”. Lasting 561 days, from 16 August 2021 to 28 February 2023, the AHF provided US\$425m, funding for 500 humanitarian projects implemented by 97 partners.

Continuous and flexible allocations enabled an agile humanitarian responses to emerging needs and scaling-up of humanitarian services where required.

Endorsed by the Advisory Board, allocation timelines and processes were adjusted flexibly, enabling tailored responses an overall tailored response in a changing operational context.

Supporting AHF rolling allocations, the AHF secretariat processed US\$88 million provided by CERF, funding 15 projects to 7 UN partners across four allocations.

# Promoting Localization



In addition to enabling life-saving humanitarian assistance, supporting localization of the humanitarian response in Afghanistan is the second aim of the AHF. Provision of both direct and indirect financing support to local/national NGO partners, and supporting initiatives directed at increasing technical and operational capacities remained of strategic importance also in 2023.

Addressing World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitments, the AHF launched the first CBPF "localization allocation", providing US\$12.9 million, directed at supporting and safeguarding operations of 28 national NGO partners. This allocation built on experiences made with a dedicated funding envelope of \$5m to national NGO partners provided within the AHF 2022 Standard Allocation.

Also in 2023, the AHF strategically allocated substantial financial resources in support of national NGOs across all allocations. Specifically, \$25.3 million, equivalent to 18.7 per cent was allocated directly to national NGOs, with an additional \$3 million (2.2 per cent) allocated to them as

sub-implementing partners. The AHF recognizes the pivotal role of national actors in shaping effective and contextually appropriate humanitarian responses in Afghanistan.

The AHF supported capacity building of its national NGO partners through targeted trainings provided by the Fund and also through its support to ACBAR twinning programme. The AHF supported UNWomen in the development of a twinning programme directed at 14 women-led CSOs, designed to strengthen ability to access funding opportunities, and to implement both basic human needs, as well as strictly humanitarian projects.

Supported by a AHF Localization Strategy planned to be released in 2024, the Fund will continue its efforts to support localisation also by promoting involvement of local actors in fund processes, and these being guided by their specific expertise.



**10**  
TRAINING EVENTS FOR  
NNGO PARTNERS



**65**  
NNGOS TRAINED

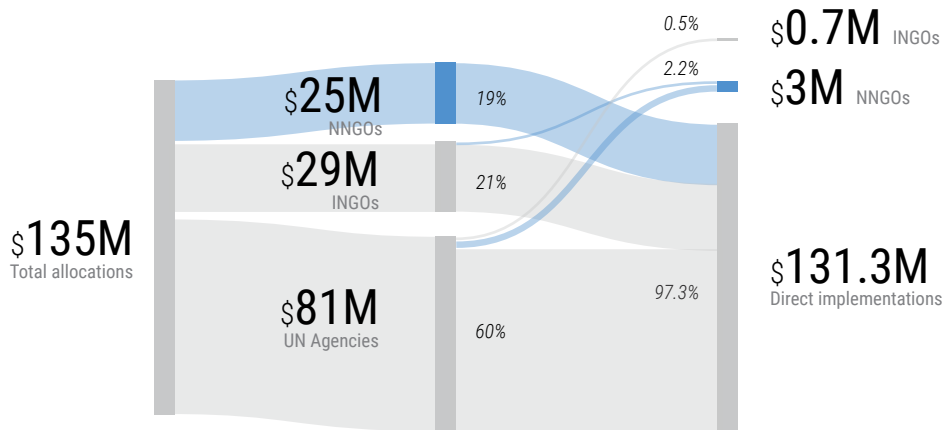


**447**  
NNGO STAFF  
TRAINED



**7**  
NATIONAL  
WOMEN-LED/  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS  
ORGANIZATIONS  
TRAINED

ALLOCATION FLOW BY PARTNER TYPE *in US\$ million*





# Programming Highlights

## Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

Accountability to Affected People (AAP) remained a core principle for all AHF-funded projects. The AHF continues to rely on guidance from and close collaboration with the AAP working group. The AAP working group is included in strategic and technical review processes of all projects prior to grant approvals. Through the UNOPS-managed 'Awaaz' service, an inter-agency information and accountability center functioning as collective feedback mechanism and community engagement tool, the AAP working group gathers feedback on received assistance, level and quality of engagement by AHF partners. It informs AHF project planning, review, monitoring, auditing, and risk management process.

## Addressing Gender Equality and Responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV)

According to the global Women, Peace, and Security Index, 2023 marked the third consecutive year of Afghanistan being the worst place in the world to live in as a woman. Women and girls face compounding vulnerabilities and are over proportionally affected e.g., by restrictions placed on access to basic health services and education. Women and girls are exposed to threats such as violence perpetrated by a relative, early, or forced marriage, systematic denial of access to civil rights and services, sexual abuse, combined with very limited ability to participate in education, employment, and public life overall. A decree issued in December 2022, further marginalized women. In October 2023, the AHF conducted a survey to assess female staff employment levels in AHF-funded projects. Seventy-seven AHF partners (48% national NGOs) participated in this survey and the results indicated that the then gender ratio of staff is 1 female to 3 male colleagues. It indicated that the ratio of female staff continues to be low, but overall, is similar to ratios established before December 2022. As practiced in previous years, and before August 2021, particularly in then called 'hard-to-reach' locations, humanitarian partners negotiated customized solutions such as activity and area-based exemptions, modification of distribution, transport and office modalities, whilst continuing to advocate individually and jointly for women to be fully involved in all humanitarian activities, both as providers and recipients. As interim measures, the AHF Advisory Board incl AHF donors endorsed continuation of salary payments for idled female humanitarian staff, and approved expenses for operational expenses related to AHF-funded projects.

Applied gender equality, in all its aspects, remains a core requirement for all projects submitted to the AHF, as stated in respective requirements such as AHF allocation strategies.

These extend, for example, to staffing arrangements, requiring ample consideration given to country-specific aspects and circumstances women and girls are subjected to in Afghanistan. Women and girls continue to be disproportionately high affected by humanitarian emergencies, impact of climate change, natural disasters incl. frequent earthquakes, impacting on all aspects of their lives, their survival, before, during and in the aftermath of both man-made and natural disasters. AHF-funded projects supporting 2023 Earthquake responses required implementing partners to place ample priority on addressing humanitarian needs of women and girls throughout the response.

## Disability Inclusion

About 2.4 million people, 8.3 per cent of the population of Afghanistan, suffers a wide range of physical disabilities. AHF partners are required to utilize specifically developed guidelines regarding inclusion of people living with disabilities in all respective aspects of humanitarian action. Amongst others, it includes provisions to ensure their equal and appropriate access to humanitarian assistance. All AHF projects continued to be reviewed by the Protection Cluster (incl sub-clusters) and the AAP working group. The AHF continued supporting disability inclusion also through inter-agency coordination and close collaboration with the Disability Inclusion Working Group.

## Advancing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Supporting the Agenda for Humanity, all CBPFs promote Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and prioritize its use across projects they fund, wherever feasible and appropriate. In 2023, 32% (US\$43 million) of US\$135 million allocated by the AHF was programed through different, almost completely unrestricted (97%) cash-based modalities. It represents a substantial increase, compared to 2022, when 26% of total AHF funding allocated was utilized for cash-based modalities. The AHF continues promoting use of multi-purpose cash (MPC) modalities to address humanitarian needs of people affected by crises, flexibly, and complementary with other forms of responses. The Fund continued working closely with respective coordination mechanisms, particularly the Cash and Voucher Working Group, and ensured complementarity with CVA assistance provided through the CERF grants. CERF (globally) allocated most of its 2023 CVA funding in Afghanistan. Cash-based modalities enabled by both AHF and CERF enabled, for example, repairs of damaged shelters in earthquake affected locations, cash for rent, heating, winter clothing, along with food for IPC 3 and 4 vulnerable households, and cash support to people requiring specific forms of protection assistance.

Mrs. Nawroz at her post-delivery check-up

Mrs. Nawroz' healthy newborn child being weighed during the post-delivery check-up

Khan Abad district, Kunduz province, 2023

Photo credit: Dr. Mirwais Sidiqi, BDN photographer



## CRITICAL HEALTH CARE FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES IN RURAL AREAS

Mrs. Nawroz' story mirrors the of many women in rural communities across Afghanistan. The 23 year-old lives in a remote area called “Khud Dara” comprised of five villages located in the suburbs of Khan Abad district in Kunduz province. In areas like this, women often face significant barriers to accessing health and nutrition services.

During her first pregnancy there was no clinic or skilled birth attendant available in her area. So Mrs. Nawroz had no choice but to deliver at home accompanied by a traditional birth attendant, but the procedure turned out be very difficult. In a turn of events, she faced massive, life-threatening bleeding leaving her weak and at risk of follow-up diseases. Although she recovered, Mrs. Nawroz was left frightened and concerned for her and her newborn's health.

The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Afghanistan prioritized underserved districts like Khan Abad based on comprehensive needs assessment and catalyzed funding for the establishment of primary health centers. In October 2023, one such center was established in the Khud Dara area offering the service of one medical doctor, one midwife, one nutrition counselor, one counselor for mental health and psycho-social support, one vaccinator and one guard. The staff of these health centers often are the first and only stronghold of medical and psycho-social support and work tirelessly to assist women, men and children of all ages, but especially women during pregnancy and childbirth. Pregnant and lactating women as well as children under five are predominantly suffering from malnutrition and a majority of children remain unvaccinated, leaving them particularly vulnerable to communicable diseases.

**Through the local organization Bakhtar Development Network (BDN), the AHF provided funding for medical and non-medical equipment, cold chain equipment, vaccines, medicines and medical consumables, as well as therapeutic and high-value nutritional food, setting the health center up for a strong start.**

Mrs. Nawroz, now pregnant with her second child and afraid for her life following the traumatic experience of her first delivery, was made aware of the health center by the community health counsel (Shora-e- Sehi) who distributed information about the available services at the newly established center. She went to see the midwife who provided her with ante-natal care services and nutritional supplements. Meanwhile she received maternal, infant, and young child nutrition counseling.

Throughout her pregnancy, Mrs. Nawroz kept visiting the health center regularly for check-ups and finally gave birth to her second child in the presence of a midwife in a safe medical environment.

After a successful and healthy delivery, Mrs. Nawroz happily reported that she felt sure that she was at the right place to receive all the help she needed and that staff treated her with dignity and professional behavior.

“There was no problem for me and other pregnant women because of this clinic. We are provided with medicine and health and nutrition education. Our children are getting strong and we are very happy and thankful of AHF”, she added.

It is important to Mrs. Nawroz to tell her story about giving birth to a healthy child under challenging circumstances, so that other women can learn from her experience and not lose their lives due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Her experience is a source of inspiration and hope for other women in remote villages and underscores the importance of health centers in rural, underserved areas.

*Adapted from an original story by Bakhtar Development Network*

[Read more impact stories on StoryHub.](#)



# Risk Management



**332**  
FIELD-SITE  
MONITORING



**160**  
THIRD-PARTY  
MONITORING



**90**  
REMOTE CALL  
MONITORING

*The AHF remains one of few CBPFs utilizing Remote Call Monitoring, an activity outsourced to UNOPS Awaaz.*

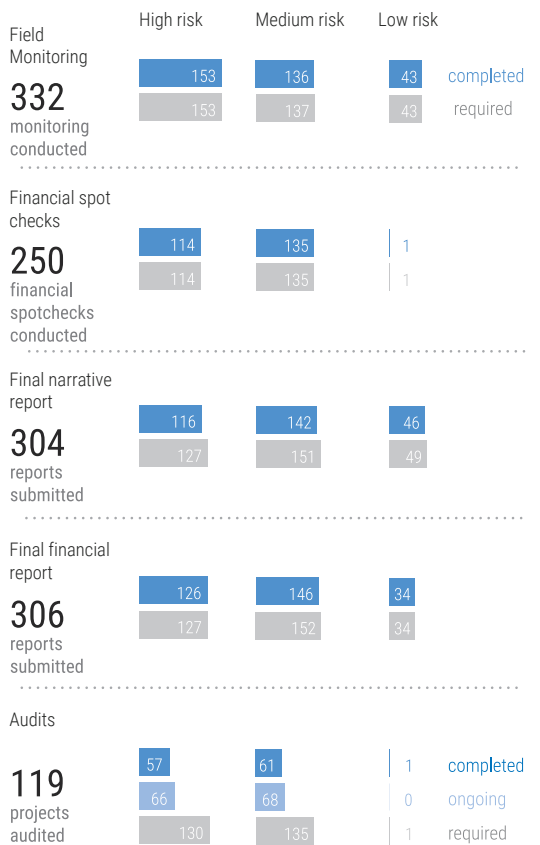
## Risk Management and Oversight

The AHF increased its Risk Management, Oversight and Compliance capacity, resulting, for example, in revised guidelines, protocols and procedures. Despite a (funding-related) reduction of projects and partners supported in 2023 compared to 2022, the number of monitoring, reporting, and auditing activities carried out by the AHF (pertaining to projects of both years) was increased. The number of financial spot checks conducted in 2023 increased to 250 in 2023 from 176 in 2022. Project monitoring activities, based on a diverse range of monitoring methodologies from 213 in 2022 to 332 in 2023 for fieldsite monitoring missions conducted through the AHF team. The number of completed project audits conducted in 2023 increased to 119.

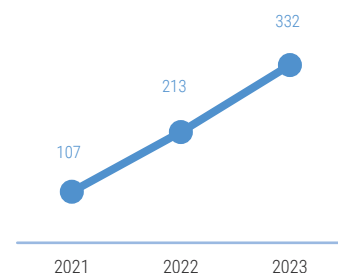
## Project Monitoring

Scheduled and ad-hoc project-level monitoring conducted by both AHF staff and contracted Third-party Monitoring (TPM) formed the backbone also of Risk Management and Oversight (Assurance) activities. The AHF maintained a dedicated field monitoring team, based in five OCHA field offices and plans to increase its TPM capacity from one to three providers in early 2024. Monitoring modalities utilized by the AHF are based on the 'CBPF Monitoring Toolkit' and include all available modalities but 'Remote Sensing and Aerial Imagery photography'. The Fund also remains one of few CBPFs that compiled dedicated monitoring guidance documents (SOPs) for implementing partners and plans to incorporate enhanced verification of partner-internal monitoring capacities as part of a revised funding eligibility assessment process in 2024.

## PROGRESS ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



## PROJECT MONITORING BY YEAR



### Risk Management of partners

AHF funding continued supporting ‘best placed’ partners, capable of providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to the different crises under different Clusters through a timely and technically sound response at the appropriate scale required. Risk-based financing decisions are drawn from partner risk levels, the AHF Assurance Activities are identified under the Accountability Framework including country-specific operational modalities outlined in the AHF Operational Manual. Risk levels of partners continue to be reviewed and adjusted based on Partner Performance Index (PPI) results annually. Risk levels of five Partners were adjusted from High to Medium, while the risk levels of two partners were adjusted from Medium to High. Twenty partners were adjusted from Low to Medium, while two partners were adjusted from Low to High. More than three-quarters of funding allocated in 2023 was provided to Medium and Low-risk partners, constituting 83 per cent of 77 AHF partners funded in total.

### Risk Management of funding

Compared to 2022, the number of incidents officially posted in Case Module on OneGMS which were escalated to HQ for support in 2023 increased. This has been a result of improved Risk Management systems as part of the Accountability Framework, which proves the ability of the AHF to early detect issues and take appropriate immediate conservative action/s in line with the Compliance Measures Guidelines. The AHF has been making systematic efforts to continuous bring improvements to strengthen the Risk Management systems, enhanced Assurance Mechanisms, Internal Controls and increased internal capacity by allocating a dedicated Risk Management and Compliance Officer working closely with the Programme, Finance and Monitoring personnels focusing on early detection on any kind of fund misuse (Fraud, Corruption, Aid Diversion and SEA). Challenges and compliance matters were detected earlier in 2023 compared to 2022 during projects implementation, and the AHF has been managing incidents in a faster and more efficient way to mitigate any further potential financial losses.

During 2023, the AHF has identified very specific eligibility criteria for partners to access funding through the different Allocations based on the adjusted partner risk levels as follow:

**High-Risk Partners:** A high-risk partner fund ceiling is not to exceed \$1 million of ongoing/active project/s or two ongoing/active proje-

cts (whichever comes first) at the same time. Also, a high-risk partner cannot apply for more than one project per Allocation.

**Medium Risk Partners:** A medium risk partner fund ceiling is not to exceed \$2 million of ongoing/active project/s or three ongoing/active projects (whichever comes first) at the same time. Also, a medium-risk partner cannot apply for more than two projects per Allocation.

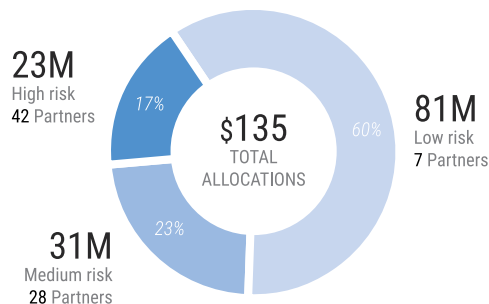
Also, under the efforts to strengthen the Risk Management of the fund, the AHF has identified additional eligibility criteria for applying to Allocations as follow:

Partners without critical findings in past/current AHF funded projects (substantiated by AHF project monitoring and/or independent auditing), not requiring further AHF reviews/ investigation to take place before additional AHF funding can be granted.

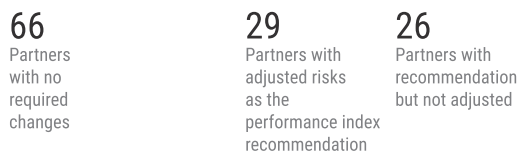
Partners need to have operational presence in prioritized geographic locations including the required level of access to affected communities.

Those Risk Management additional efforts have helped contributing to the early detection of different issues and timely mitigations.

### IMPLEMENTATION BY PARTNER RISK LEVEL TYPE



### UPDATED RISK LEVEL BASED ON PERFORMANCE INDEX



**8**  
REPORTED  
INCIDENTS  
2 CLOSED  
6 OPEN



**9**  
ONGOING  
CASES

# Annexes

Annexes list		Annexes title
17	ANNEX A	2023 AHF ADVISORY BOARD
18	ANNEX B	COMMON PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK



ANNEX A

## 2023 AHF ADVISORY BOARD

STAKEHOLDER	ORGANIZATION	ALTERNATE MEMBER
<b>Chairperson</b>	DSRSG/RC/HC	HC acting interim
<b>INGO</b>	Cordaid	Action Against Hunger (AAH)
<b>INGO</b>	Caritas Germany	People in Need (PiN)
<b>NNGO</b>	Afghan Women Rights Organization (AWRO)	
<b>UN</b>	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
<b>UN</b>	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
<b>UN</b>	World Food Programme (WFP)	World Health Organization (WHO)
<b>Donor</b>	United Kingdom	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
<b>Donor</b>	Germany	Sweden
<b>Donor</b>	Netherlands	Australia
<b>Observer</b>	USAID	Canada
<b>Observer</b>	Afghan Women Network (AWN)	Afghan NGO Coordination Bureau
<b>Observer</b>	International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC)	
<b>OCHA Country Office</b>	Head of Office United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Deputy Head of Office United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
	<b>Additional Observers (Donors)</b>	<b>Additional Observers (Experts)</b>
	Switzerland	Disability & Inclusion WG Coordinator
	Denmark	CVWG Coordinator
	Norway	AAP/GiHA WG Coordinator
	Ireland	GenCap and ProCap Advisors
	Italy	OCHA Strategy & Coordination Unit
		STFA Fund Manager
		ACBAR (NGO Forum) Representative

ANNEX B

# COMMON PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The AHF measures its performance against a management tool that provides a set of indicators to assess how well a Fund performs in relation to the policy objectives and operational standards set out in the CBPF Global Guidelines. This common methodology enables management and stakeholders involved in the governance of the Funds to identify, analyze and address challenges in reaching and maintaining a well-performing CBPF.

CBPFs embody the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and function according to a set of specific principles: Inclusiveness, Flexibility, Timeliness, Efficiency, Accountability and Risk Management.



**AHF** Afghanistan  
Humanitarian  
Fund

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