

SAVING
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SPR Reading Guidance



Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Afghanistan Standard Project Report 2018

World Food Programme in Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of (AF)



World Food
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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

The onset of drought and escalating conflict defined the challenges facing food security in Afghanistan during the first six months of 2018. Nevertheless, WFP was able to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs and enable communities to become more self-reliant. Further, WFP was in a strong position by the end of June to work under its new approach, the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) which the country office started to implement on 1 July 2018.

The wet winter season from October 2017 to April 2018 saw below average rainfall and above-average temperatures which set off warnings of a possible prolonged dry spell or drought, according to the Early Warning Information Working Group under the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). This led to very low snowpack formation in the mountainous regions, which is key for irrigation systems to function and provide water for the summer months. Lack of precipitation overall prevented the recharging of key aquifers which support crop production. Preliminary reports estimate that 60–70 percent of rainfed wheat production areas have suffered damages due to dryness. First mapping of affected areas was conducted by the FSAC based on satellite data from FEWSNet, followed by a rapid assessment in February 2018 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the collection of field level data by WFP, FAO and FSAC members. In April 2018, the Government of Afghanistan officially declared a drought across the country.

Meanwhile, despite overtures for peace talks and even a short ceasefire in June, the conflict in Afghanistan escalated during the first half of the year. Between January and June, it had caused the deaths of more civilians than ever recorded for the same period, according to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

(UNAMA) and displaced 132,000 people according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

WFP's humanitarian operations in Afghanistan overcame challenges to access remote communities in areas outside of government control and provided life-saving food and nutrition assistance to 1.6 million vulnerable people across the country. Through its development activities, WFP worked with the Government to devise a mechanism for a joint response to the drought, assisted 260,000 women and men to become more resilient and self-reliant by running vocational training sessions in urban areas, and worked with communities to build assets to improve agricultural productivity and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

WFP also helped to address the high levels of malnutrition during the first half of the year by providing specialised nutritious foods to treat moderate acute malnutrition in nearly 360,000 children under five and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). WFP also strengthened the capacity of the private sector food-processing industry, notably in the area of soya products and wheat fortification, to make nutritious foods more readily available in the market.

Moving towards the Country Strategic Plan

During the reporting period, the country office prepared to shift from working under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs) and two Single Country Special Operations to working under its first Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for Afghanistan from July 2018 to June 2022. The CSP is based on the results of the Afghanistan Zero Hunger Strategic Review published in October 2017 that identified the main challenges to food security in the country. The elaboration of the CSP included extensive consultation with the Government, donors and affected communities.

WFP's Executive Board approved the CSP in June 2018. The CSP is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, addresses challenges preventing progress in the country's effort to achieve Zero Hunger and supports the Government of Afghanistan's National Development and Peace Framework as well as the One UN approach.

To achieve its overarching goal of making steps towards Zero Hunger while contributing to Afghanistan's broader aspirations of development and peace, the CSP identifies three shifts that WFP will implement in its future programmes to link activities to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus: From July 2018 onward, WFP Afghanistan will focus to reinforce linkages between its humanitarian and development programmes, enhance its focus on sustainable solutions to hunger and malnutrition and reinforce the Government's role by framing all of its work alongside national policies and institutions while promoting gender equality.

Country Context and Response of the Government

Strategically situated between Central and South Asia, with a committed government, rich natural resources, and a young and diverse population, Afghanistan has the potential to make significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. However, a complex and protracted conflict, combined with other challenges including climate change and natural disasters, demographic shifts, limited job opportunities, pervasive gender inequalities, food insecurity and transparency concerns, have dramatically constrained the country's wider development efforts. As a result, Afghanistan currently ranks 168 out of 188 countries in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index 2016. It has low levels of economic growth: a quarter of the labour force is unemployed and 55 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (World Bank).

According to the findings of the Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey (ALCS) 2016/2017, implemented by the Government's Central Statistics Organization, the level of food insecurity has increased significantly in recent years to 44.6 percent of the population, or 13.2 million people. Forty percent of children under five years suffer from stunting, or low height for their age. In some provinces, over 20 percent of children under five suffer from wasting, or low weight for height. Gender norms in Afghan society restrict women's mobility, autonomy and agency. Afghanistan ranks 169 out of 188 countries in the Gender Inequality Index, a third of girls marry before the age of 18, girls still make up only a third of school attendees, 87 percent of women have experienced some form of gender-based violence, and literacy rates for women remain low at only 20 percent. Exacerbating these underlying challenges, two short-term emergencies - the onset of drought and the escalation in conflict - demanded a response from the Government's emergency institutions and the humanitarian community in the first half of 2018.

Drought: Extremely poor rainfall and snowfall, combined with unseasonably high temperatures between November 2017 and February 2018, resulted in a shortage of water for rain-fed and irrigated agriculture during the critical growing periods for the main 'winter wheat' crop. UNOCHA revised its Humanitarian Response Plan to target 1.4 million people across 20 affected provinces with emergency food assistance provided by WFP (these provinces were Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Bamyan, Daykundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nimroz, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Takhar, Urozgan and Zabul.)

Escalation in conflict: After several years on the defensive, the Government of Afghanistan, supported by international military forces intensified efforts to retake territory from Anti-Government Elements (AGE) in early 2018, leading to an escalation in conflict. Partly in response, AGEs focused their operations on urban areas and launched several high-profile attacks in the capital, Kabul, and other cities. Civilian casualties were high, with 1,692 civilians killed (including 157 women and 363 children) in the first six months of the year, the highest number in five years. A further 132,000 women, men, boys and girls fled their homes to avoid the fighting and moved to other villages or urban areas.

The Government of Afghanistan has two broad frameworks that guide its development efforts: the 2030 Agenda represents the long-term vision, while the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework articulates the priorities through 2021. The Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN) and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN), which Afghanistan joined in 2017, coordinate nutrition and food security policy at the national level. Working within these frameworks, the following Government institutions coordinate and sometimes implement relevant development activities and emergency responses depending on the status of the target group and the nature of its situation.

To meet the emergency needs of Afghans who have been displaced by drought or conflict, returnees and Pakistani refugees, the Government's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) coordinated the necessary humanitarian response alongside the Afghanistan Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and the humanitarian community. Many IDPs and returnees settled in cities where they need to adapt their skills to generate incomes. Relevant authorities work with humanitarian and development organisations to develop vocational training courses, especially for women.

To assist rural communities dependent on agriculture and vulnerable to climate change, drought and natural disasters, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) leads high priority programmes for agricultural development including water management, agricultural productivity and runs the country's Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) to support the Government's emergency response.

Nutrition services are part of the Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH), Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS). As such, the treatment of malnourished PLWG and of children from six to 59 months of age are implemented by national and international NGOs contracted by the Ministry.

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

WFP's overall goal is to support the Government and people of Afghanistan to reach Zero Hunger by 2030. WFP worked alongside the Government in 2018, especially where it observed low institutional capacity, and adapted its programming throughout the first half of the year to address the changing context, especially as it related to the drought and escalating conflict. As WFP designed the new CSP 2018-2022, it also adjusted some activities in preparation for that change.

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200447 (2014-2018)

The PRRO supported severely food-insecure IDPs, returnees, refugees, and those affected by conflict, natural disaster and economic stress to meet their food security and nutritional needs; improve resilience to natural disasters; prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition among children aged six to 59 months and PLWG; improve school enrolment and attendance, especially for girls; and improve livelihood opportunities for women and men of working age.

Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiatives, which had previously been managed separately through a trust fund, were included as part of PRRO 200447. These initiatives worked within the wheat and soya value chains to build safer and more nutritious food systems in the country. The interventions stretched across the food system within both value chains and provided support to smallholder farmers through the local purchase of fortified wheat flour.

Special Operation 200635 (2014-2018)

This Special Operation supported the Government's Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) by providing capacity development workshops to staff, as well as tools and equipment for the SGR warehouses. During the transition period, WFP conducted an assessment of SGR facilities across the country at the Government's request and started to prepare to work with the SGR in an emergency response to the drought.

Special Operation 200870 (2017-2018)

This Special Operation enabled the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to provide safe and reliable passenger and cargo air services to the entire humanitarian community. UNHAS remained the only service that provides an extensive air network in Afghanistan. The air service provided access to remote areas of the country

and enabled WFP and its partners to serve the people of Afghanistan.

Strategic coordination

To serve the most vulnerable, WFP targeted regions and groups identified by assessments including the ALCS (2016/17) and Integrated Context Analysis (2016). Across all its work in Afghanistan, WFP embraced a "whole of society" approach by seeking to support the Government, where appropriate, and to complement the work of other UN agencies, especially the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and by working with communities themselves. WFP co-chairs the Afghanistan FSAC with FAO.

WFP also provided other common services to humanitarian organizations, including supply chain and information and communication technology (ICT). WFP started to make SCOPE, its beneficiary and transfer management platform, available to NGOs. In addition, WFP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) co-founded Awaaz Afghanistan, a toll-free inter-agency humanitarian helpline that affected populations can call by dialling 410 on any mobile phone in Afghanistan. Awaaz Afghanistan opened for first calls in May 2018 and will improve accountability by consolidating channels for communication with affected populations.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

During the first half of 2018 prevailing insecurity continued to present the greatest challenge to WFP's operations. However WFP's investment in access meant that its programmes continued and even reached areas that had been inaccessible for up to ten years. Meanwhile, donors provided funding that was more predictable (multiyear) and more flexible (unearmarked) than in same period of 2017, which enabled WFP to provide timely, needs-based assistance to the people of Afghanistan, their Government and the humanitarian community and to plan better towards development outcomes. As a result, WFP is in a strong position to implement its new CSP and respond to the drought that placed an estimated 1.4 million Afghans in need of humanitarian assistance at the beginning of the year.

Insecurity: In June 2018, WFP and its partners had access to 355 of Afghanistan's 399 districts, up from 347 one year earlier. The eight newly-accessible districts have a population of over 300,000 who are now no longer out of WFP's reach. A later section of this report features a story of one of these districts, Musa Qala in Helmand Province, which is now accessible for the first time since 2007.

This improved access is particularly noteworthy during a year in which the evolution of the conflict caused widespread concern for the humanitarian community and an expectation of a shrinking humanitarian space. Some incidents targeted the humanitarian community directly, such as the attack on the compound of the NGO Save the Children in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, in January that killed four aid workers. Other incidents had an indirect effect of reducing humanitarian movements and the ability to deliver assistance, such as the AGE attack on the city of Farah or the explosives concealed in an ambulance that detonated in central Kabul. These examples show the challenges of managing security in a fast changing and insecure environment.

During the first half of 2018, WFP's donors provided increasingly flexible and predictable funding. Three months into the year, there was a funding requirement of US\$20 million for the projects closing by mid-year when the implementation of the CSP began. WFP Afghanistan's top donors by mid-year were the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Australia.

The drought response in the first half of the year was delivered through existing funding. Generous contributions following the humanitarian community's calls for additional funding and the revised Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) were received in the second half of the year (and will be reported on in the Annual Country Report covering from July to December 2018).

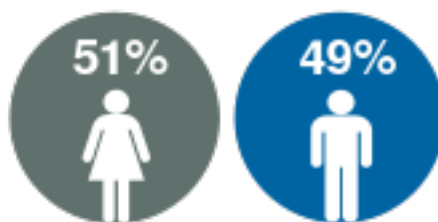
The move from the PRRO to the CSP that clearly aims to link humanitarian action, wherever possible, to the broader, longer-term transition to peace and development makes the receipt of non-earmarked funding increasingly important. In some cases, by earmarking contributions for humanitarian assistance, donors could restrict WFP's ability to link humanitarian assistance with development-oriented programmes that can prevent humanitarian crises in the future and reduce future emergency funding requirements.

WFP Afghanistan started the year knowing that three donors would be providing multi-year funding which enabled WFP to plan its programme more effectively, notably in view of the shift to the CSP that links humanitarian assistance with longer-term development-oriented programming. The committed multi-year funding was USD 40 million by mid-year, some 25 percent of WFP Afghanistan's yearly received funding.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	205,565	202,250	407,815
Children (5-18 years)	484,049	520,527	1,004,576
Adults (18 years plus)	473,930	510,694	984,624
Total number of beneficiaries in 2018	1,163,544	1,233,471	2,397,015



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	26,557	3,599	2,568	3,780	196	36,700
Total Food Distributed in 2018	26,557	3,599	2,568	3,780	196	36,700



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country PRRO	3,738,881	1,256,181	-
Total Distributed in 2018	3,738,881	1,256,181	-

Supply Chain

WFP Afghanistan's supply chain is central to its operations in reaching families in need across the country. Managing the supply chain to effectively deliver assistance and maintain operational efficiency despite insecurity in a region fraught with political tension was challenging and required agility.

The landlocked country borders Iran in the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the north, China in the northeast and Pakistan in the east and south. Food commodities are sourced internationally, regionally and locally.

In the first six months of the year, vegetable oil was sourced from Indonesia, split peas from Kazakhstan, Wheat Soya Blend (WSB) from Italy and Lipid-based Nutrient Supplement (LNS) from Pakistan. International purchases entered the country from the port at Karachi, Pakistan, via two border points in the east (Nangarhar Province) and south (Kandahar Province) while regional purchases entered from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. All the wheat flour and salt procured in the first half of the year was purchased locally. Of a total of nearly 32,000 mt of general food commodities (wheat flour, salt, split peas and vegetable oil) purchased in the first half of the year, 3,400 metric tons (mt) or 11 percent of the total were sourced from international and regional markets.

Achievements

Proactive mitigation measures helped avoid serious pipeline breaks in the first half of the year. They included maintaining alternative supply routes for example via Iran, and the use of the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) to procure vegetable oil from Indonesia, one of the food commodities with the longest lead-time for Afghanistan. WFP delivered food to 205 destinations in the country using commercial trucking companies and WFP Afghanistan's own fleet.

Food commodities are being purchased locally wherever possible: In the first six months of the year, nearly 250 mt or 100 percent of all procured iodised salt came from Afghanistan and the totality of the procured 28,000 mt fortified wheat flour was sourced locally. Wheat flour makes up the majority of the caloric value of the food basket WFP distributes in Afghanistan, a country where bread is a staple food. Procuring this wheat flour from local milling companies achieved a cost-saving of USD 1.1 million and considerably reduced the procurement lead time from three to four months to one month.

Further, WFP Afghanistan's local procurement of fortified wheat flour from Afghan commercial millers strengthened local food value chains as the millers buy at least 40 percent of the wheat from Afghan farmers as per an agreement with WFP. The millers are supported by WFP which provides pre-mix and microfeeders to more than 30 wheat flour mills across the country. This partnership has provided millers, transporters and smallholder farmers a predictable, high volume demand that gives them the confidence to invest and create jobs.

At the same time, WFP Afghanistan has assessed the capacity of the Government's SGR and continues to support it by strengthening capacities of their staff, notably regarding ensuring food quality and warehouse management and preparing the SGR to be activated in emergencies.

In-kind food assistance made up the majority of all WFP-provided assistance in Afghanistan but WFP Afghanistan has been continuously increasing its dual approach of using both in-kind and cash (and/or vouchers) where appropriate for its operations. In the first six months of 2018, WFP transferred USD 3.8 million in cash-based transfers to cover food needs of families.

Common services

WFP Afghanistan continued to provide logistics services to a number of humanitarian partners in 2018 including Government institutions. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and a number of non-governmental organizations used WFP's warehouses and transport services across the country in 2018. WFP recovered the full cost of the services provided to these partners.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Iodised Salt	77	33	110
Lns	-	1,523	1,523
Split Peas	-	2,717	2,717
Vegetable Oil	-	260	260
Wheat Flour	27,560	520	28,080
Wheat Soya Blend	-	2,273	2,273
Total	27,637	7,326	34,963
Percentage	79.0%	21.0%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Vegetable Oil	1,871
Total	1,871

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

The mid-term evaluation of WFP's protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200447) in 2016 provided six recommendations and offered a timely validation of the appropriateness of the WFP Afghanistan programme portfolio and strategic direction. Consultations with communities, the Government, United Nations agencies and NGOs further validated WFP's approach and provided useful suggestions for the future.

The following progress was made in the implementation of evaluation recommendations during 2018:

- 1. Making the WFP safe distribution model relevant to the Afghanistan context:** WFP prepared safe distribution guidelines. WFP coordinated with safety and law enforcement actors to implement appropriate crowd control measures at distribution sites while considering Afghanistan's social and cultural practices to protect the dignity of all women, men, girls and boys involved.
- 2. Developing qualitative and practical gender indicators:** WFP developed a comprehensive gender action plan that included measuring selected qualitative gender indicators through surveys and developing capacity on gender mainstreaming. WFP hired a gender equality specialist in 2017 to maintain and improve upon gender policies and programming results in the future.
- 3. Improving the sustainability of local production of specialised foods:** Responding to challenges that WFP Afghanistan faced in the past, the country office produced a lessons-learned document on the production of high energy biscuits in containerised food production units. The lessons-learned exercise recommended that WFP improve its exit strategy by ensuring the commercial sustainability of specialised food products.
- 4. Developing a third party monitoring (TPM) guidance policy:** TPM remained essential to maintain programme delivery and monitoring in Afghanistan, where insecurity heavily restricted the movements of WFP staff. WFP Afghanistan conducted compliance reviews of two TPM companies in 2017 and prepared a policy for the use of TPM in future. The policy provided criteria for TPM deployment and defines responsibilities for ensuring proper management of TPM.
- 5. Harmonization of data management:** Based on recommendations to improve organizational performance, WFP Afghanistan moved all monitoring and evaluation to the Country Office Monitoring and Evaluation Tool (COMET), WFP's corporate programme design, implementation and data management tool.
- 6. Gender mainstreaming guidelines:** WFP Afghanistan acted upon recommendations to improve gender mainstreaming by ensuring that staff completed WFP's corporate online training modules *Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Power* and *I Know Gender*. Three days of gender in-programme training has been conducted for all WFP relevant staff, as well as partners. Training on deconstructing harmful gender norms has been partially conducted, and will continue until the end of to year.

Extra section

The case of Musa Qala district in Helmand Province is a tangible example of the importance of investing in humanitarian access: The remote district in Kandahar Province is home to 60,000 people to whom WFP had no access to since 2007.

A Taliban stronghold, the district is strategically important because of its proximity to the Kajaki hydro-power dam that supplies electricity to Kandahar city and because it is a centre for the illicit poppy trade. Roads were often mined and members of the armed group manned checkpoints and considered humanitarian workers as spies and denied them access.

At the same time, however, district elders repeatedly approached and urged humanitarian organizations to implement projects in the district. They wanted health clinics to reopen and their children to go to school. Persistent efforts by WFP and a local cooperating partner to gain access included negotiations through mediators like the local elders and influential people, both with Government officials and members of the Taliban. They finally came to a breakthrough in January 2018 and WFP was granted access to the district for the first time after nearly a decade.

In the first half of 2018, WFP provided assistance in the form of take-home-rations of vegetable oil to the families of 2,000 students from 19 schools of 45 mt in total. This encouraged school enrolment and helped keep attendance steady. Among the 2,000 students were 380 girls - a modest but important number in a region of Afghanistan with some of the most restrictions placed on women and girls.

Following the success of this school feeding programme, in April 2018, WFP also sent 135 mt of food commodities for distribution in Musa Qala as seasonal support to 700 highly vulnerable families.

Aside from the short-term benefits of providing food to people at risk of severe food insecurity, WFP plans on expanding its operations to treat moderate acute malnutrition and improve long-term food security based on the newly gained access to the district and increasing the humanitarian space.

Access is not only important to support families in need across the country, but also for the humanitarian community and its donors to support the claim to provide assistance to all girls, boys, women and men in following the humanitarian principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality and operational Independence, regardless of which party to the conflict is in control of the territory.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

Travelling over land in Afghanistan remained dangerous in the first half of 2018 due to the high risk of conflict, illegal checkpoints manned by members of armed groups or criminals, and overall criminal activity that included the high risk of abductions both for national and international staff members. Flying remained the most reliable way to access most parts of the country. Commercial airlines only serve a few locations across the country and have not demonstrated international aviation standards issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which are a minimum requirement for staff members of the United Nations and many other humanitarian and development partners. At the same time, the ongoing and escalating conflict in the country can spread unpredictably, putting humanitarian and development staff at risk. As medical facilities outside of the capital Kabul are often insufficient to deal with medical emergencies, humanitarian and development workers occasionally require evacuations.

For these reasons, the urgent need for a humanitarian air service in Afghanistan remained in the first half of 2018. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) maintained a safe and reliable service to its 143 member organizations to provide access for aid workers to vulnerable communities, while also providing on-demand medical and security evacuations. UNHAS runs a two-tier system of cost recovery for its users, with UN agencies and donors paying the full assessed cost of tickets while non-governmental organizations (NGOs) pay a reduced rate. The balance is covered by donor contributions. Due to its critical role, UNHAS will continue to provide its services through the WFP Afghanistan Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022).

In a dynamic environment where humanitarian and development needs arise in new areas, UNHAS remained relevant to its users by adapting its service based on user needs assessments or in response to ad hoc user requests. UNHAS conducted routine surveys, held three meetings with its board members (representing the UN, UNHAS donors and NGOs) and two meetings with its user group during the first half of 2018, ensuring that its services were in line with users' needs. Based on these assessments and requests, UNHAS Afghanistan assessed a new airfield in the district of Rustaq in Takhar Province. UNHAS also decided to maintain its fleet of three 19-seater Beechcraft 1900D fixed-wing aircraft and one 19-seater Mi8-MTV helicopter at the start of 2018. This fleet allowed UNHAS to maintain a reliable and cost-effective service to meet projected demand while making allowances for last minute changes in the flight schedule due to medical and security evacuations, poor weather or technical problems.

UNHAS is the largest provider of air services to the humanitarian and development community in Afghanistan. In the first half of 2018, it worked in close collaboration with other air services providers including United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Aviation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These air services aligned flight schedules where possible and shared operational and security information. UNHAS continued to explore areas for cooperation with Pactec (an NGO providing air services), maintained strong links with the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority (ACAA) and the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, and finalized a memorandum of understanding with ACAA for the purpose of collaboration and capacity enhancement of the aviation system in Afghanistan. In the context of persisting insecurity in Afghanistan, UNHAS also worked closely with the International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO); United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS); and the UNAMA Integrated Aviation Risk Management Office.

Results

Between January and June 2018, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provided transport to 143 user organizations in Afghanistan. All organizations had access to regular flights as well as medical and security evacuations. UNHAS services permitted those humanitarian organizations to reach project implementation sites that otherwise would have been inaccessible. The vast majority - 85 percent of users - were either satisfied or very satisfied with the UNHAS service, according to a customer satisfaction survey conducted in 2018. UNHAS flew to 22 destinations in the country (Bamiyan, Chaghcharan, Faizabad, Farah, Gardez, Ghazni, Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunduz, Lal, Lashkar Gah, Maimana, Mazar, Nili, Nimroz, Qala-e-Naw, Rostaq, Sharana and Tarin Kot), serving 9,715 passengers during the first six months of 2018, up from 7,447 over the same period of the previous year, a 30 percent increase.

The increase is attributable to multiple factors including an increase in demand for the service, effective use of the fleet, the suspension of commercial flights to some destinations and the decisions by some agencies to halt their

use of commercial flights for their staff members because of safety concerns. UNHAS also transported 38,000 kg of humanitarian cargo, including supplies for distribution to people in need.

UNHAS operates aircraft for a minimum number of flying hours per year - full usage of these flying hours indicates good planning. Between January and June 2018, UNHAS used aircraft for 105 percent of the total contracted hours, demonstrating an effective use of resources and the continued relevance of the air service. UNHAS adapted its schedule to meet the demands of its users and increased the number of flights from Kabul to the destinations most in demand. During the first half of 2018, UNHAS was not requested to assist with any security relocations. However, it did facilitate three medical evacuations. UNHAS engaged discussions to enter into an agreement which will enable UNHAS to provide medical evacuations with an air-ambulance-equipped aircraft to its users within Afghanistan. At the end of 2018, UNHAS may increase capacity by introducing a larger aircraft to the fleet.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/Afghanistan

An UNHAS helicopter lands in Ghor province in Western Afghanistan.

Project Indicators

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
CRF SO5-SR8: Special Operation (Air Ops)				
Metric tons of cargo transported	metric ton	30	38	126.7%
Number of agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services	agency/organization	158	143	90.5%
Number of aircrafts made available	aircraft	4	4	100.0%
Number of assessments/surveys conducted	assessment	1	1	100.0%
Number of locations served	site	20	22	110.0%
Number of passengers transported	individual	9,000	9,715	107.9%
Percentage of passenger bookings served	%	95	95	100.0%
Percentage of payload delivered against available capacity	%	57	55	96.5%
Percentage response to medical and security evacuation	%	100	100	100.0%
Utilization of the contracted hours of aircraft	%	100	100	100.0%