

**AFGHANISTAN
RAPID RESPONSE
CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
2020**

20-RR-AFG-46479

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Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator

PART I – ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

Reporting Process and Consultation Summary:

Please indicate when the After-Action Review (AAR) was conducted and who participated.

NA

AAR was not conducted due to time constraint. However, the recipient agencies had review sessions for the project with their implementing partners.

Please confirm that the report on the use of CERF funds was discussed with the Humanitarian and/or UN Country Team (HCT/UNCT).

Yes No

As per agreement between CERF secretariat and HFU Afghanistan, the recipient agencies submitted this report directly to the CERF secretariat as the HFU was extremely busy with its own allocations at that time. However, the recipient agencies discussed the report with the FSAC cluster coordination team.

Please confirm that the final version of this report was shared for review with in-country stakeholders (i.e. the CERF recipient agencies and their implementing partners, cluster/sector coordinators and members and relevant government counterparts)?

Yes No

1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION

Statement by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator:

This Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Rapid Response (RR) allocation aimed at kick-starting a food security response to the humanitarian consequence of a La Niña-driven drought-like conditions, intensifying conflict, the continued impact of COVID-19 and imminent flooding - all of which were intensified during the application period. This CERF fund with a total value of US\$ 15,000,000 not only was used to kick-start early response, but also helped raise the alarm for urgent mobilisation of funds from other donors. The allocation supported over 1.1 million people during the implementation period in targeted locations.

I am very pleased that with the support of CERF funding, UN humanitarian recipient agencies and their partners successfully delivered critical lifesaving assistance to vulnerable people in Afghanistan. CERF's assistance came in timely ahead of the anticipated deterioration in food security and agricultural households. The assistance provided through this project has directly contributed to averting a famine-like situation for the food insecure households supported, whose access to nutritious food was increased.

CERF's Added Value:

CERF's cash assistance came in timely ahead of the anticipated deterioration in food security and agricultural households. The assistance provided through this project has directly contributed to averting a famine-like situation for the food insecure households supported, whose access to nutritious food was increased. Furthermore, this assistance has been key for these households not to be displaced nor to need to adopt negative coping actions.

One female head of household who benefitted from cash assistance, said this helped her get by during the tough times provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our problem is that we can't afford food or other essential goods. The cash given by FAO was used to purchase rice and school stationery for my grandchildren," she explained.

Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to people in need?

Yes

Partially

No

[Provide short explanation of selected answer.]

Did CERF funds help respond to time-critical needs?

Yes

Partially

No

[Provide short explanation of selected answer.]

Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?

Yes

Partially

No

[Provide short explanation of selected answer.]

Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

Yes

Partially

No

[Provide short explanation of selected answer.]

Table 1: Allocation Overview (US\$)

Total amount required for the humanitarian response	398,000,000
CERF	15,000,000
Country-Based Pooled Fund (if applicable) (AHF GMS Data – Jan – June 2021 for UN agencies)	[11,547,401]
Other (bilateral/multilateral)	[NA]
Total funding received for the humanitarian response (by source above)	[26,547,401]

Table 2: CERF Emergency Funding by Project and Sector/Cluster (US\$)

Agency	Project Code	Sector/Cluster	Amount
FAO	20-RR-FAO-035	Food Security - Agriculture	5,000,000
WFP	20-RR-WFP-057	Food Security - Food Assistance	10,000,000
Total			15,000,000

Table 3: Breakdown of CERF Funds by Type of Implementation Modality (US\$)

GUIDANCE (delete when completed): The information is to be prepared by the **CERF focal point** based on agencies' inputs.

Total funds implemented directly by UN agencies including procurement of relief goods	13,430,033
Funds sub-granted to government partners*	0
Funds sub-granted to international NGO partners*	1,029,015
Funds sub-granted to national NGO partners*	540,952
Funds sub-granted to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners*	0
Total funds transferred to implementing partners (IP)*	1,569,967
Total	15,000,000

* Figures reported in table 3 are based on the project reports (part II, sections 1) and should be consistent with the sub-grants overview in the annex.

2. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIZATION:

Overview of the Humanitarian Situation:

The COVID-19 crisis has magnified the devastating impacts of over 40 years of conflict, climate change, mass displacement, sudden onset shocks and weak social safety nets. The pandemic has exacerbated already alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) data projects that 16.9 million people (42 percent of the population) will face emergency or crisis levels of acute food insecurity and require urgent food assistance between November 2020 and March 2021. The population in an emergency food security situation (IPC Phase 4) is over 5.5 million (14 percent of the population), up from 3.4 million estimated for the same period last year. The IPC analysis also shows a decrease in the number of the most food secure households, with a significant decrease in the percentage of people in the most stable food security category of IPC Phase 1.

Operational Use of the CERF Allocation and Results:

In response, CERF allocated \$15 million to Afghanistan, as part of an \$80 million CERF allocation to support cash programming in response to increasing food insecurity in 6 countries. To safeguard vulnerable groups from falling deeper into the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition and hunger, the focus of this timely CERF allocation is on cash-based assistance to meet urgent and immediate food needs and protect livelihoods in the lean season, particularly during the harsh winter months. This will prevent people facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity from further falling into chronic food insecurity due to fragile livelihoods and thereby help avert famine. Cash-based assistance through food assistance and livelihoods support creates a multiplier effect by allowing beneficiaries to meet immediate needs during the harsh winter as well as prevent vulnerable people from further resorting to negative coping strategies. As conflict continues to intensify, coupled with climate-related natural hazards and multiple waves of COVID-19, the complementarity of food security and livelihoods assistance will provide a good practice for how to bridge food assistance and livelihoods protection to enhance food security and help prevent famine in acutely food-insecure areas.

People Directly Reached:

A total of 639,710 people has directly benefitted from FAO's interventions, including the provision of unconditional cash transfers (UCT), cash-for-work activities to repair water infrastructures, as well as the awareness raising training provided to all direct beneficiaries.

This final number of individuals directly benefitting from this project comes from the analysis of data gathered by the beneficiary profile survey. The disaggregated number of men, women, boys and girls was estimated on the basis of the average of men, women, boys and girls covered by the cash interventions.

This total figure (639,710) is 40.6% higher than the planned target (455,000 people), which was calculated based on the average household size in Afghanistan (seven members) for the cash-assistance component only (65,000 households to receive UCT). The final number of households reached also includes an additional 2,500 households to participate in cash-for-work activities.

People Indirectly Reached:

It is rather difficult to estimate the number of indirect beneficiaries as the whole of these rural communities reached by this assistance benefit somewhat indirectly. Both unconditional cash transfers and cash-for-work activities trigger positive effects. On the one hand, people reached with unconditional cash transfers increase their purchase power, which, in turn, generates a direct and immediate positive impact on the local economy. On the other hand, as cash flows in, the same applies to cash-for-work activities, which additionally benefit other farmers, livestock owners and herders thanks to the increased water availability as a result of the works completed.

Table 4: Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Sector/Cluster*

Sector/Cluster	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Food Security - Agriculture	93,275	89,862	136,500	135,363	455,000	134,847	128,771	190,532	185,560	639,710
Food Security - Food Assistance	101,185	107,960	141,929	144,385	495,459	129,052	126,306	140,035	153,764	549,157

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

Table 5: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Category*

Category	Planned	Reached
Refugees	0	0
Returnees	43,003	47,777
Internally displaced people	67,467	74,685
Host communities	384,989	426,695
Other affected people	455,000	639,710
Total	950,459	1,188,867

Table 6: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sex & Age	Planned	Reached	Number of people with disabilities (PwD) out of the total	
			Planned	Reached
Women	194,460	263,899	17,722	15,687
Men	197,822	255,077	18,599	14,707
Girls	278,429	330,567	24,968	20,984
Boys	279,748	339,324	25,315	19,598
Total	950,459	1,188,867	86,604	70,976

3. LESSONS LEARNED

- It was a bit difficult to convince the community elders, other local stakeholders and potential direct beneficiaries regarding the vulnerability basis of the selection criteria for provision of UCT in several project locations due to the high needs and prioritization of food insecure, vulnerable women headed and landless households implicit in the selection criteria. In the future, more clear communications and participatory processes at village level with all stakeholders is needed to get more ownership on the vulnerability based beneficiary selection criteria ahead of the beneficiary profile survey.
- Generally speaking, needs on the ground were reportedly bigger than the amount of assistance provided in number of households. This is also the reason why some complaints along the lines of why “I am not on the list” were received about the selection process. Meanwhile the poverty rate has increased across the country, more people in need wanted to benefit from this support.
- Some IPs reported difficulties during the selection and verification of beneficiaries. In particular, in some areas, a high percentage of beneficiaries did not have a Tazkira identification number nor a phone number. Some beneficiaries provided the phone number of one of their relatives. While ad hoc approvals of households without identification document was provided by FAO based on case-by-case basis, community elders suggested to provide alternative methods for registration or verification.
- In some provinces with high levels of insecurity, people with Tazkira and phones were reluctant to share this personal data due to their personal security concerns. This calls for an enhanced methodology for data protection, as well as to communicate it to beneficiaries in advance.
- The timely provision of support has been proven effective in meeting vulnerable people’s needs, especially food, and in preventing these people from resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as selling their assets.
- Cash distribution sites are often far from the villages where beneficiaries come from to collect the money. This implies transportation costs and security risks. Alternative systems and locations closer to village (project areas) to deliver cash assistance should be explored in order to make this lifesaving assistance more efficient and safer in the future.

- As we speak of extremely poor households, IPs have reported that the amount distributed was in some cases not sufficient to cover the most immediate food and basic needs. Nonetheless, IPs report that cash-based assistance is generally satisfying the local population as they can use it freely to cover the immediate needs or solve their problems like debt.
- The local expertise of implementing partners has been proven key to be able to smoothly deliver in a highly volatile context of insecurity and armed conflict. Experience garnered by local implementing partners over the years was key to negotiate access as well as to raise the alarm and postpone the operations when the level of risk was too high to be acceptable. Implementing partners managed and nurtured the relation with key stakeholders, sometimes armed groups, which is key to ensure the safe distribution of humanitarian assistance in these rural areas.
- Negotiating/reconfirming existing access must be initiated as soon as possible to ensure the timely implementation of projects.
- Engaging with the communities has been highlighted by the implementing partners as a key activity to help improve their sense of responsibility and ownership.
- Some IPs have highlighted the usefulness of the Training of Trainers provided by FAO.
- Third party monitoring has been appreciated by some IPs as a key measure to ensure transparency and accountability of the project.
- IPs have used legal arguments to politely dismiss illegal requests coming from the government or local authorities, which could threaten the fair implementation of the project according to the Protection and Do No Harm principles as well as the Humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.

OBSERVATIONS FOR THE CERF SECRETARIAT

Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/improvement

OBSERVATIONS FOR COUNTRY TEAMS

Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/ improvement	Responsible entity

PART II – PROJECT OVERVIEW

4. PROJECT REPORTS

3.1 Project Report 20-RR-FAO-035

1. Project Information			
Agency:	FAO	Country:	Afghanistan
Sector/cluster:	Food Security - Agriculture	CERF project code:	20-RR-FAO-035
Project title:	Cash assistance for averting famine and strengthening emergency livelihoods		
Start date:	06/01/2021	End date:	05/07/2021
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 50,000,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 11,000,000
	Amount received from CERF:		US\$ 5,000,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:		US\$ 548,920.86
	Government Partners		US\$ [Fill in]
	International NGOs		US\$ 391,877.02
	National NGOs		US\$ 157,043.84
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation		US\$ [Fill in]	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

GUIDANCE (delete when completed): This paragraph of **max. 350 words** should provide a brief qualitative summary of the project's overall performance and its main achievements. It is recommended to start with a paragraph summarising the main outputs achieved supported by key figures, followed by a paragraph stating the outcome achieved by the project. The following information should be provided:

- Numbers of people reached with specific goods and/or services;
- The total number of people reached by the project (from section 4);
- Project location and implementation period;
- The outcome achieved.

Please refer to the example below:

"Through this CERF UFE grant, UNICEF and its partners provided nutritional screening of 2,143 children under five; referred 256 malnourished children for treatment; trained 7 staff in management of severe malnutrition; provided nutritional supplies and equipment benefiting estimated 300 children; provided education on nutrition to 634 pregnant and lactating women; and sensitized 75 community support facilitators on infant feeding practices.

The project assisted a total of 26,344 people and allowed for maintaining the malnutrition indicators within the SPHERE standards in Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana County, Kenya between March and December 2016. This was achieved during the period of increased influx of South Sudanese refugees, which exceeded the 2016 planning figures."

Through this CERF Rapid Response Cash and Voucher Assistance project, FAO and its implementing partners have directly supported a total of 639,710 people with cash-based assistance worth USD 3.375 million, as well as COVID-19 awareness raising sessions. The project overachieved the number of people that had been planned to be assisted by 40.6%.

OUTPUT 1.

- Unconditional cash transfers worth USD 3.25 million benefitted a total of 621,625 vulnerable rural people. A total of 65,000 households received one unconditional cash transfer of 3,850 AFN (USD 50) each.
- A total of 2,500 male headed households participated in Cash-for-Work activities to build and/or repair 15 water infrastructures. Workers received a total USD 125,000 (USD 50 by worker, equivalent to 10 hours of unskilled labour). A total of 18,085 people benefitted from these activities directly. This activity was not originally planned.

OUTPUT 2.

- Furthermore, 67,500 people received an awareness raising session on COVID-19 safety measures out of which 4,058 were women and 63,442 were men. A total of 639,710 people benefitted from these training indirectly.

3. Changes and Amendments

-

The End Date of this project (planned for 5 July 2021) was extended through a no-cost extension until 5 September 2021.

Although the project was mostly on track with delivery at 90% of the total project budget, and 81% of the beneficiaries already had already been reached with cash assistance as per the original plan, the widespread increase of armed clashes across the country motivated the request and subsequent approval by CERF of this no-cost extension.

In the volatile security situation during the project implementation period, it was observed an increasing number of kidnappings of implementing partners (IPs) and financial service providers (FSPs)' staff. All cases were thankfully resolved through local dialogue and negotiations with the release of all these staffers unharmed. Moreover, the frequent destruction of telecommunications network due to the active conflict further complicated the contact and coordination at local level.

In view of the above, and especially due to intense fighting at that time, cash distributions to 6,530 households (45,710 people) in rural villages of Trinkot District of Uruzgan Province, Alingar and Dawlat-Shah Districts of Laghman Province, and Chak, Sayed Abad, and Maidan Shahr Districts of Wardak Province had to be suspended in order to avoid exposing beneficiaries and IPs/FSPs staff to extreme danger.

Hence, a no-cost extension of the project was requested to be able to provide assistance to those hard-to-reach communities, where this assistance, given the progressively deteriorating security context, looked like it could be the only one these communities would be able to receive for the foreseeable future.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Food Security – Agriculture									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]	[Fill in]
Other affected people	93,275	89,862	136,500	135,363	455,000	134,847	128,771	190,532	185,560	639,710
Total	93,275	89,862	136,500	135,363	455,000	134,847	128,771	190,532	185,560	639,710
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	2,544	2,405	3,679	3,657	12,285	15,687	14,707	20,984	19,598	70,976

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

GUIDANCE (delete when completed): Please quantify and briefly describe the people who will benefit indirectly from project activities, for example from awareness/information campaigns, expansion of service delivery capacity, etc. If the project has multiple sectors, differentiate between people indirectly targeted in each sector.

It is rather difficult to estimate the number of indirect beneficiaries as the whole of these rural communities reached by this assistance benefit somewhat indirectly. Both unconditional cash transfers and cash-for-work activities trigger positive effects. On the one hand, people reached with unconditional cash transfers increase their purchase power, which, in turn, creates a direct positive impact by activating the local economy. On the other hand, as cash flows in, the same applies to cash-for-work activities, which additionally benefit other farmers, livestock owners and herders thanks to the increased water availability as a result of the works completed.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective	Safeguard food and nutrition security and protect agriculture livelihoods of vulnerable households from the adverse impacts of COVID-19 and worsening of the food crisis in Afghanistan by providing time-critical, cash assistance coupled with awareness building on key protection messages on COVID-19 safety measures to adopt during farm level activities, market participation and daily life.			
Output 1	Food security and livelihoods of 455 000 at-risk and vulnerable people from 65,000 marginal farming, herding, landless, women-headed, and persons with disability HHs, protected through provision of cash-based assistance.			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Food Security - Agriculture			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Number of at-risk and vulnerable persons from marginal farming, herding, landless, women-headed, and persons with disability HHs, provided with cash assistance	455,000	639,710	Profile Survey Report. Profile Survey Database. IPs Final Narrative Report. UCT Distribution Lists.
Indicator 1.2	Percentage of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households (all/most/some/none), according to their priorities.	At least 75 percent of the households supported in this project report meeting most of their basic needs	This result is not yet available. Explanation provided below.	Third Party Monitoring Report – Outcome monitoring report. Profile Survey Report.
Indicator 1.3	Percentage of households by Food Consumption Score (FCS) phase (Poor, Borderline, and Acceptable)	At least 75 percent of the households supported in this project report acceptable FCS	Same as above	Third Party Monitoring Report – Outcome monitoring report. Profile Survey Report.
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		Indicator 1.1. This total figure (639,710) is 40.6% over the planned target, which was calculated based on the average household size in Afghanistan (seven members). Even though the number of households reached remained as per the initial plan (65,000 households to receive UCT + 2,500 households to participate in cash-for-work activities), this final number of individuals comes from the analysis of the beneficiary profile survey. Indicators 1.2, 1.3. The outcome monitoring was delayed due to the events in August. Data collection eventually resumed, and it is currently underway. FAO will be able to provide information in a matter of weeks. A follow-up		

		annex will be sent to CERF. This delay has no cost implications, and it is assumed under FAO resources.
Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Community mobilization, beneficiary's selection, for unconditional cash transfers and – where justified and needed by communities - identification and implementation of cash-for-work activities	Implementing partners: ACTED, Action Aid, AfghanAid, ANRCC, CHA, FGA, NAC, ORD, PRB, RRAA, under the supervision of the FAO Project Management Team.
Activity 1.2	Disbursement of cash to targeted people	Implementing partners as listed above. Financial Service Provider: Salim Jawid Transportation and Logistics Services FAO
Activity 1.3	Monitoring (beneficiaries verification, Post Distribution Monitoring), data collection, analysis and reporting	Third Party Monitoring. All implementing partners. FAO.

Output 2	Awareness of 455,000 at-risk and vulnerable people belonging to marginal farming, herding, landless, women-headed, and persons with disability households raised on key protection messages and on COVID-19 safety measures to adopt at farm level practices, during market participation and in general appropriate preventive practices for minimizing transmission.
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Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster	Food Security – Agriculture
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Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	Number of persons receiving information and awareness materials on key protection messages and COVID-19 safety measures to adopt at farm level practices, during market participation and in general appropriate preventive practices for minimizing transmission	455,000	639,710	IPs Final Narrative Report. Photographs.

Explanation of output and indicators variance: Same explanation as provided above

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 2.1	Training, information dissemination and awareness building at village level using appropriate IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials and awareness messages on key protection messages and COVID-19 safety measures to adopt at farm level practices, during market participation and in general appropriate preventive practices for minimizing transmission	Implementing partners as listed above, under the supervision of the FAO Project Management Team.

7. Effective Programming

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP) ¹:

FAO together with a third-party monitoring (TPM) company and the IPs, regularly conducted monitoring of the intervention. FAO along with the TPM company and IPs worked towards reinforcing the quality of the project as well as the organizational accountability. Furthermore, different stakeholders – Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the Kuchi Directorate, Community Shuras (Community Development Council and District Development Council) and Community members – were involved in mobilization, beneficiaries and infrastructures' selection, and cash distribution. Specific questions on AAP were included in the TPM data collection tools and the findings were shared with FAO in the form of survey reports.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

FAO and its implementing partner established a Complaint and Feedback Mechanism for this project in the project areas, and regularly responded to the complaints received through either these mechanisms or field visits. AWAAZ Afghanistan – a toll-free Complaint and Feedback System implemented by UNOPS in the country – was also widely communicated to all beneficiaries and partner staff throughout the implementation of the project, during the market baseline assessment before and after the intervention, community mobilization, and beneficiary selection as well as during the distribution of inputs and the provision of trainings. Information on the purpose and how to engage with the system were communicated to beneficiaries both orally and through pamphlets in national languages, ensuring that both literate and illiterate members of the community were reached. Moreover, the TPM specific reports on complaints they registered, and the findings will be shared by FAO once they are finalized (more information on this in the explanation provided to Indicator 1.2 and 1.3). The small number of complaints received were mostly about the selection process and how criteria had been applied.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):

FAO has already established PSEA committees at Kabul and Regional Offices' levels. These committees also acted as PSEA committees for this project, whose information was shared with all project staff. FAO project management team provided contact cards including their mobile phone number to all beneficiaries to be reached out directly to record and handle any Sexual Exploitation and Abuse related complaints in a confidential way. IEC materials were also distributed. These materials also explained how to contact AWAAZ to report this kind of issues.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:

Households headed by women were prioritized in the selection criteria to receive assistance. The project assisted 4,058 female headed households with unconditional cash transfers and promoted protection messages related to PSEA, GBV and complaints-grievance mechanisms. Each household received 3,850 AFN (USD 50). All these female-headed households were provided with COVID-19 sensitization information. Furthermore, all cash distributions as well as technical training sessions and COVID-19 sensitization sessions were organized at locations and timings convenient for women beneficiaries.

¹ AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

It should be noted that in some areas, female beneficiaries were not allowed to be registered as beneficiaries due to traditional norms. Male relatives were registered instead but cash was eventually transferred to the intended household. No specific data about these cases have been gathered.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

The project did not focus specifically on persons with disability but considered disability as part of a larger vulnerability-based beneficiary selection criteria. Thus, 7,669 households headed by people with disability were selected to receive unconditional cash transfers, as well as they were provided with COVID-19 sensitization information. A total of 43 people with disability participated in the cash-for-work activities.

f. Protection:

The project prioritized households headed by women and people with disability through the vulnerability-based beneficiary selection process. Furthermore, all distributions of inputs and cash, as well as technical training sessions and COVID-19 sensitization sessions were organized at locations and timings convenient for both women and people with disabilities. Also, all direct beneficiaries were informed about the FAO PSEA committees, AWAAZ, and complaints-grievances mechanisms through distribution of pamphlets, IEC materials and cards with pertinent contacts' details apart from being informed about the details of inputs and cash distribution (beneficiaries' entitlements) and COVID-19 safety measures. All COVID-19 safety measures were strictly followed at all the inputs and cash distribution sites. Lastly, all project staff including those of the implementing partners were trained on humanitarian principles, AAP, PSEA, rights of beneficiaries, and COVID-19 safety measures apart from distribution of pertinent COVID-PPE to all project staff and direct beneficiaries.

As described above, the main reason to request the no-cost extension for this project was to ensure maximum protection to all stakeholders involved in the project while the armed conflict and violence in the country was at its peak.

g. Education:

GUIDANCE (delete when completed): If relevant for this project, please explain in **max. 150 words** how aspects of education have been considered in the project design?

Even if this project was not designed to address education concerns, the intervention provided much-needed cash to vulnerable food insecure households, which enabled these households not to adopt negative coping actions like removing children from school or reducing consumption of nutritious food. Moreover, the sensitization on COVID-19 safety measures including those to be adopted at household, farm, livestock, markets levels, and in general in public spaces; contributed to maintaining an acceptable level of hygiene and thus avoiding illnesses within the households.

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	639,710

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

CVA was used for UCT and cash-for-work activities – specific figures can be found below.

Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Unconditional cash transfers	621,625	US\$ 3,250,000	Food Security - Agriculture	Unrestricted
Cash-for-work	18,085	US\$ 125,000	Food Security - Agriculture	Unrestricted
[Fill in]	[Fill in]	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
Tweet	https://twitter.com/FAOafghanistan/status/1415529053197582342
Tweet	https://twitter.com/FAOafghanistan/status/1384445293266153473
Tweet	https://twitter.com/FAOafghanistan/status/1386272946398846976
Tweet	https://twitter.com/FAOafghanistan/status/1412620004655259654
Tweet	https://twitter.com/FAOafghanistan/status/1399949219348234241
Tweet	https://twitter.com/FAOafghanistan/status/1400298274960162820
Flyer (not specific to the project but related)	http://www.fao.org/3/cb5179en/cb5179en.pdf
Tweet thread	https://twitter.com/FAOafghanistan/status/1409827529783857155

3.2 Project Report 20-RR-WFP-057

1. Project Information

Agency:	WFP	Country:	Afghanistan
Sector/cluster:	Food Security - Food Assistance	CERF project code:	20-RR-WFP-057
Project title:	Life-saving cash-based assistance in IPC Phase 4 urban and peri-urban areas to enhance food security and help prevent famine		
Start date:	01/01/2021	End date:	30/06/2021
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>

Funding

Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 348,000,000
GUIDANCE: Figure prepopulated from application document.	
Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:	US\$ 61,000,000
GUIDANCE: Indicate the total amount received to date against the total indicated above. Should be identical to what is recorded on the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This should include funding from all donors, including CERF.	
Amount received from CERF:	US\$ 10,000,000
Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:	US\$ 1,021,046
GUIDANCE: Please make sure that the figures reported here are consistent with the ones reported in the annex.	
Government Partners	US\$ 0
International NGOs	US\$ 637,138
National NGOs	US\$ 383,908
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation	US\$ 0

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

With this CERF RR grant, WFP provided life-saving emergency cash-based assistance in urban and peri-urban areas to people facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) to support them to meet their basic food needs. WFP distributed a total of US\$ 7,253,544 worth in unconditional cash-based transfers to 549,157 acutely food-insecure people in 11 provinces, namely: Badakhshan, Badghis, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar, Nangarhar, Samangan and Takhar.

Households were provided with cash-based assistance and received a one-off transfer of AFG 6,850 (approximately US\$ 85.53) to support them to meet their basic food needs for two months. WFP's cash-based assistance is aligned with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster's (FSAC) recommended guidelines on humanitarian response package through cash modality.

With this contribution, WFP's activities prioritized households facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), with households identified through WFP's standard Targeting and Vulnerability Criteria. This included, but was not limited to, the following vulnerable groups: female-headed households without adult male, households with a dependency ratio of 9 or above, households headed by disable or elder people, households with no adult male of working age, households with poor asset holdings, households living in temporary shelter, and individuals relying on charity, borrowing, begging or Zakat.

From a sample of 702 randomly surveyed beneficiaries, post-distribution monitoring shows that 44 percent of households had poor food consumption despite having received assistance from WFP, while 41 percent of surveyed households had borderline food consumption.

Meanwhile, the proportion of WFP-assisted households reporting acceptable food consumption was 15 percent following WFP's support, which was low but in line with the target, reflecting the high level of vulnerability and food insecurity among households targeted by WFP. The vast majority of surveyed households reported feeling safe when traveling to and from, or taking part in, WFP's activities. Similarly, PDM results show that WFP-assisted people were satisfied with the entitlements received and with the distribution process and management.

3. Changes and Amendments

In light of the exacerbating security dynamics in Daykundi and Uruzgan provinces during the project implementation period, WFP's access team warned of the high risks associated with cash distribution in these provinces. Although in the past WFP has conducted cash-based assistance in high risk environments with limited challenges, the security dynamics in Daykundi and Uruzgan provinces during the implementation period warranted a cautious and risk-averse approach given the increasing risk of cash disturbance by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) who had increasingly advanced to areas that had been traditionally under government control. As a corrective measure, WFP shifted the caseload from these two provinces to other targeted provinces, whilst reaching the people in IPC Phase 4 planned in Daykundi and Uruzgan with in-kind food assistance using other sources of funding. In May 2021, as requested by OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU), WFP submitted a reprogramming request to this effect, shifting the caseload to other targeted provinces, namely Kandahar and Nangahar.

In addition, as communicated to HFU in the latest interim update, WFP reached additional beneficiaries than the planned due to the surplus generated by lower operational costs (from 10 to approximately 8 percent). As a result of this, WFP reprogrammed the balance (approximately USD 850,000) to reach additional beneficiaries with cash-based assistance in IPC Phase 4 areas. Since WFP was able to reach all planned beneficiaries in all of the remaining targeted provinces, WFP used the reprogrammed balance to provide cash-based assistance to acutely food-insecure people in IPC Phase 4 urban and peri-urban areas in three additional provinces – namely Balkh, Helmand and Takhar.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	8,782	9,370	12,319	12,532	43,003	11,228	10,989	12,183	13,377	47,777
Internally displaced people	13,779	14,701	19,326	19,661	67,467	17,551	17,177	19,045	20,912	74,685
Host communities	78,624	83,889	110,284	112,192	384,989	100,273	98,140	108,807	119,475	426,695
Other affected people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	101,185	107,960	141,929	144,385	495,459	129,052	126,306	140,035	153,764	549,157
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	15,178	16,194	21,289	21,658	74,319	19,358	18,946	21,005	23,064	82,373

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

WFP's cash-based assistance was designed to enable beneficiaries to purchase food items that are locally available in markets and through local retailers. It is expected that this led to positive knock-on economic benefits for the wider community and local retailers. While WFP is exploring ways on how to confidently report on indirect beneficiaries, currently no methodology has been developed to quantify people who indirectly benefit from its direct, unrestricted cash-based assistance.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective Support people facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity with life-saving emergency cash-based assistance to support them to meet their basic food needs.

Output 1 Unconditional cash-based assistance is provided in a timely manner as per FSAC's agreed assistance package to support targeted beneficiaries to meet their basic food needs for two months

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Number of women, men, boys and girls receiving cash-based assistance	495,459 people	549,157	WFP/CP Reports
Indicator 1.2	Total value of cash-based assistance distributed to beneficiaries	US\$ 6,308,116	US\$ 7,253,544	WFP/CP Reports
Indicator 1.3	Proportion of targeted people receiving assistance without safety challenges	>90 percent	98 percent	WFP post-distribution monitoring
Indicator 1.4	Proportion of targeted people who know where to go or who to contact in case they wish to complain about WFP assistance or staff, or to provide feedback	>75 percent	30 percent	Third-party monitor report from onsite distribution monitoring
Indicator 1.5	Proportion of beneficiaries who were overall satisfied with the assistance received	>75 percent	98 percent	WFP post-distribution monitoring
Indicator 1.6	Proportion of beneficiaries who think the process of selecting beneficiaries was fair and inclusive	>75 percent	93 percent	WFP post-distribution monitoring
Indicator 1.7	Percentage of households by Food Consumption Score (FCS) phase (Poor, Borderline, and Acceptable)	Poor: <45 percent Borderline: <40 percent Acceptable: >=15 percent	Poor: 44 percent Borderline: 41 percent Acceptable 15 percent	WFP post-distribution monitoring
Indicator 1.8	Percentage of households with total monthly expenditure above the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) threshold	>20 percent	3 percent	WFP post-distribution monitoring

Indicator 1.9	Proportion of beneficiaries who travelled 10 kilometres or less to reach the distribution point	>75 percent	91 percent	WFP post-distribution monitoring
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		<p>As mentioned above, WFP reached additional beneficiaries in relation to the planned due to the surplus generated by lower operational costs (down from 10 to approximately 8 percent). This balance was used to reach additional acutely food-insecure people in IPC Phase 4 urban and peri-urban areas in three additional provinces (Balkh, Helmand and Takhar), thereby resulting in an achievement rate of approximately 111 percent compared to the plan.</p> <p>In April 2021, WFP carried out post-distribution monitoring (PDM) with assisted households. In all provinces except Nangahar, the survey was completed prior to the start of Ramadan. This was conducted through face-to-face interviews in all provinces except Badakhshan, where interviews were conducted through mobile phone calls. Interviewees were randomly selected from WFP's corporate beneficiary information and transfer management platform, SCOPE. The main objectives of this survey were to assess the food security situation of targeted beneficiaries in terms of food consumption, coping strategies, exposure to shocks, and reliance on borrowing. 702 interviews were conducted, with at least 100 beneficiaries interviewed in each of the 7 targeted provinces.</p> <p>Almost all respondents (98 percent) reported feeling safe when traveling to and from, or taking part in, WFP's programme. In addition, only 1 percent of respondents reported that they had heard of safety problems experienced by their community on the way to and from or at WFP programme sites, among whom the most common safety problems/issues heard of were theft/extortion and physical assault. Among those respondents who reported having heard of safety problems, most (71 percent) felt that WFP or its partners had taken measures to make it safe/easier for themselves or their household members to access WFP programme sites.</p> <p>Almost all beneficiaries (98 percent) surveyed reported that they were overall satisfied with the entitlements received, and most (93 percent) felt that the process of selecting beneficiaries was fair and inclusive. In addition, 98 percent of respondents were satisfied with the distribution process and management.</p> <p>The survey results suggest that 44 percent of households had poor food consumption, despite having received assistance from WFP, while 41 percent of surveyed households had borderline food consumption. Meanwhile, the proportion of WFP-assisted households reporting acceptable food consumption (15 percent) was low but in line with the target, reflecting the high level of vulnerability and food insecurity among households targeted by WFP.</p> <p>In face-to-face survey tool used in all provinces except Badakhshan asked respondents about their expenditure in the month prior to the survey, including on food and non-food items. (Respondents in Badakhshan were not asked about expenditure given that they survey tool was shortened in order to be conducted by mobile phone calls). Households reported an average monthly expenditure of 9,626 AFN. Just 3 percent of households surveyed reported a total monthly expenditure at or above the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) threshold of 20,428 AFN and were therefore able to meet their essential needs. This is below the target proportion of 20 percent, indicating that almost all households surveyed remained economically vulnerable despite the provision of assistance.</p> <p>WFP's PDM survey also asked respondents how long it took them to walk to the distribution point. Given individuals' different capacities to estimate distance in</p>		

kilometres, the survey asked about time taken rather than distance travelled. Most respondents (91 percent) reported that they walked for less than 2 hours to reach the distribution point, a proxy indication that they travelled 10 kilometres or less when travelling on foot. A small proportion of respondents (9 percent) reported that they walked for two hours or more to the distribution site.

Beneficiaries' awareness of how to contact WFP in case they wished to share complaints or feedback was assessed through onsite distribution monitoring, conducted by WFP's third-party monitor. Distribution monitoring showed that 30 percent of beneficiaries randomly selected for interview knew how to reach WFP in case they wished so make a complaint or provide feedback, below the 75 percent target. WFP recognizes that ensuring all beneficiaries have timely and accurate information regarding contact persons is essential to ensure accountability and enable protection concerns, questions, and feedback to be raised. WFP will therefore continue working with all cooperating partners to ensure information on contact persons is effectively shared with beneficiaries through appropriate channels. WFP's partners are required to post visibility items in all distribution sites indicating beneficiaries' entitlements, contact details of the complaints and feedback mechanism and other awareness information required. The cost of the visibility banners is included in the project budget and this is followed up closely by field staff. However, the limited level of literacy among beneficiary households often means that visual materials may not be equally accessible to all beneficiaries. In response to this finding, WFP is strengthening its engagement through trainings with field staff of cooperating partners to communicate the provision of information on the complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFM) in place to beneficiaries at all stages of assistance, i.e., assessment, verification and selection and distribution. This will include enhanced efforts to ensure CFM details in local languages will be disseminated frequently in future distributions through verbal messages rather than written information.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Beneficiary registration and verification	WFP/Cooperating Partner
Activity 1.2	Distribution of cash-based assistance	WFP/Cooperating Partner
Activity 1.3	Monitoring of cash-based assistance to targeted beneficiaries	WFP/Cooperating Partner/TPM

7. Effective Programming

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP) ²:

WFP is accountable people it serves and places this responsibility at the core of its humanitarian policy. Through this project, WFP aimed to increase their participation and feedback in programme identification, design, delivery and lesson learning by enabling affected communities to raise their concerns and complaints through WFP's Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) and Awaaz - the humanitarian inter-agency accountability mechanism. WFP aims to ensure that all beneficiaries are aware of their entitlements by means of relevant communication material in distribution sites. WFP ensures systems of community representation is fair and representative, enabling the most marginalized, vulnerable and affected to have their voices heard.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

² AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

WFP's CFM and Awaaz enabled affected communities to raise their concerns and complaints in a confidential manner. WFP ensured beneficiaries were aware of their entitlements and streamlined measures to ensure assistance was received in a dignified manner. WFP's toll-free hotline enabled beneficiaries - literate and illiterate alike - to raise any concern or offer feedback on the operation, with an element of anonymity. The hotline was operated by both female and male staff, in line with Afghan cultural protocols, who speak both national languages (Pashto and Dari). Beneficiaries, partners, or anybody else could confidentially call the direct line to provide feedback, comments, or complaints about any of WFP's supported operations. WFP field monitors likewise offered an opportunity to raise any concerns during monitoring. WFP's compliance unit compiled feedback from the hotline and information was shared with the relevant parties for follow-up. WFP also made sure that the affected communities were aware of Awaaz and how to use it as an inter-agency accountability mechanism.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):

Through WFP's CFM, beneficiaries were able to raise SEA-related complaints in an accessible and confidential manner. Following a SEA-related complaint, WFP's SOPs ensure follow-up and adequate remedial actions are promptly taken. Further, WFP developed and rolled out the Right Way Guidelines, which provide instructions and set checklists specific to each category of WFP's operations, to help cooperating partners ensure major risks with regards to Protection, Accountability to Affected Populations, PSEA, and GBV are considered. The guidelines enabled WFP and Cooperating Partners to better understand the existing challenges and risks, and plan on how to mitigate each risk either before and during the project. WFP mainstreams protection into its operations and developed a Handbook on PSEA to increase the awareness and understanding of these issues among WFP and CP staff.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:

WFP integrated gender throughout the programme cycle from planning, to distribution, monitoring and reporting, ensuring that any gender gaps and barriers were addressed as much as possible. WFP collected relevant quantitative and qualitative data on the impact of WFP activities disaggregated by age and gender in order to take remedial action.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

Through WFP's standard Targeting and Vulnerability Criteria, WFP targets households headed by people with disabilities (PwD) as a particularly vulnerable group. In addition, WFP ensures PwD can access their entitlements through priority distribution lines in distribution sites. It is worth noting that WFP's disaggregated data on PwD assisted are an estimation based on WFP's standard percentages. The PDM conducted for this intervention suggests that 11 percent of respondents reported having a physical disability. WFP is strengthening the disaggregation of PwD data and plans to roll out the Washington Group Short Set questions in future PDMs.

Further, WFP engages with partners to address some of the main protection challenges across the country including risks faced by persons with disabilities. To this end, WFP has worked with partners to establish and maintain the PSEA task force and create a technical working group within the task force. Through this task force, WFP has produced culturally sensitive communications material and raised awareness on the risks faced by marginalized groups such as PwD.

f. Protection:

In the project design process, WFP continuously aims to ensure beneficiaries' safe, dignified and unhindered access to assistance. WFP conducted post-distribution monitoring surveys to verify if beneficiaries were able to access humanitarian assistance in a safe and dignified manner. WFP has taken a number of steps to mainstream and integrate protection into its operations, including the rollout of the Right Way Guidelines, which ensured WFP, CPs and programme assistant staff were aware of issues related to gender, AAP and PSEA.

g. Education:

N/A

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	549,157

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

As per the project proposal, WFP used direct, unconditional and unrestricted transfer of cash in its cash-based assistance to beneficiaries.

Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Indicator 1.1 Number of women, men, boys and girls receiving cash-based assistance	549,157	US\$ 7,253,544	Food Security - Food Assistance	Unrestricted

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
n/a	n/a

ANNEX: CERF FUNDS DISBURSED TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

CERF Project Code	CERF Sector	Agency	Implementing Partner Type	Total CERF Funds Transferred to Partner in USD
20-UF-CEF-020	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Nutrition	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Nutrition	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Nutrition	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Nutrition	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Nutrition	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Protection	UNICEF		
20-UF-CEF-020	Education	UNICEF		
20-UF-HCR-010	Shelter & NFI	UNHCR		
20-UF-WFP-014	Early Recovery	WFP		
20-UF-FAO-013	Agriculture	FAO		
20-UF-FAO-013	Agriculture	FAO		
20-UF-WHO-014	Health	WHO		
20-UF-WHO-014	Health	WHO		
20-UF-WHO-014	Health	WHO		
20-UF-WHO-014	Health	WHO		