




Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)

2018

<i>CHF overall budget</i>	<i>CHF 24 mio, 2018</i>
<i>Swiss total contribution</i>	<i>CHF 1 mio, 2016-2018</i>
<i>Partner</i>	<i>UNDP Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office</i>
<i>Geographic focus</i>	<i>Nationwide</i> 
<i>Other donors</i>	<i>UK, Sweden, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and the Republic of Korea</i>

Context

Afghanistan remains one of the most protracted humanitarian emergencies in the world, characterized by escalating conflict and recurrent natural disasters: in 2018, an estimated 3.3 million people (approx. 10% of the population) are in need of life-saving assistance, including 2.1 million in areas of highest severity.

Furthermore, approximately 39% of the Afghan population lives below the poverty line, an estimated 10 million people have limited or no access to essential health services and 3.5 million children are out of school. Infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world and while 1.9 million people are severely food insecure and 40% of children under the age of five are stunted.

What does Switzerland contribute to?

Established in 2014, the Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) is a pooled funding mechanism used to respond to crises triggered by the conflict and natural hazards, such as floods and droughts. The distribution of funds is based on the assessment of needs, within the overall strategy given in the annual Humanitarian Response Plan.

In 2016, Switzerland started a three-year contribution to the CHF of a total budget of 1 million Swiss francs. Through this support, Switzerland contributes to life-saving assistance to children, women and men, and to the relief of the most urgent and constantly fluctuating humanitarian needs in the country. Moreover, through the CHF Advisory Board and regular consultation with the CHF donor group, Switzerland actively participates in the policy dialogue and advocacy work on relevant humanitarian issues.



Boy, Bamyan Province, 2017, © SDC.

What has the CHF achieved so far?

In 2016, \$40 million from the CHF improved the relevance and coherence of humanitarian response and benefited 3.5 million vulnerable people throughout the country. In alignment with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) of 2016, the majority of humanitarian assistance was delivered through the provision of life-saving medical care and emergency supplies of food, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and shelter to an unprecedented number of displaced, both internally and cross border. A significant proportion of the displaced were supported with multipurpose cash grants enabling them to decide for themselves how best to meet their needs.