



Providing agricultural inputs to achieve food security

UNHCR, FAO and UN Women launch joint initiative to support women-led organizations

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) have launched a joint initiative to enhance women's overall quality of life and resilience in Badakhshan Province, by strengthening women-led organizations to enhance women's self-reliance.

The Women's Access, Dignity and Advancement (WADA) aims to support women-led organizations through improved access to basic services such as health, protection, food security and nutrition while paving the way for self-reliance and resilience through creation of livelihood opportunities.

WADA is designed as a multi-sectoral, multi-agency and multi-phased initiative with programming opportunities for more UN agencies and other development partners to be part of the initiative as it progresses.

Badakhshan Province is regularly categorized as facing acute food insecurity under the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 4, with 96 percent of the population residing in rural areas where residents lack sufficient income-generation opportunities. There has been limited investments in women-focused livelihoods and overall development since 2001.



Representatives of FAO, UNHCR and UN Women officially inaugurates WADA initiative in Faizabad, Badakhshan Province.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR, FAO and UN Women launch a joint initiative to support women-led organizations in Badakhshan.
- FAO has launched a vaccination programme against lumpy skin disease.
- Distribution of agricultural inputs for the largest wheat cultivation season has started.
- USD 195 million World Bank project to provide critical life-saving and livelihood assistance to smallholder farmers.
- New USD 14 million project funded by the Government of Japan aims to enhance local food production capacity.
- USD 80 million grant from the United States of America to support farmers and agriculture in Afghanistan as they struggle to produce food, build resilience and achieve food security.
- Round five of Data in Emergencies monitoring in Afghanistan has concluded.

Vaccination programme against lumpy skin disease

FAO has launched a vaccination programme to initially vaccinate up to 1.25 million cows against lumpy skin disease (LSD) to prevent new infections and further spread of the disease. LSD cases have been reported in 26 provinces since May when it was first discovered in Afghanistan. This disease poses a major threat for many Afghan families as livestock is a key source of livelihood.

FAO has procured 125 000 doses of LSD vaccines and they are currently being implemented in 11 provinces through private sector Veterinary Field Units (VFUs). The VFUs provide vaccinations, deworming and the treatment of special conditions and ectoparasites for all species of livestock. There are up to 1 200 functioning VFU facilities across the country and FAO is working with 100 of them for LSD vaccination in the 11 provinces during the first phase of administering the vaccine.

Over 3 million cows across Afghanistan's 34 provinces need to be vaccinated, which is around 80 percent of the total cattle in the country.



A private sector veterinary field unit staff vaccinates a cow against LSD in Deh Sabz District of Kabul Province.

Distribution of agricultural inputs for the largest wheat cultivation season

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) delegation headed by Richard Trenchard, FAO Representative in Afghanistan, travelled to the northeastern province of Badakhshan on 21 September 2022 to inaugurate the certified wheat seed and animal feed distribution to smallholder farmers and marginal livestock keeping households in Faizabad district.

During the largest wheat cultivation season in Afghanistan, FAO will assist 3.5 million people with wheat cultivation assistance across Afghanistan. In addition, 2.45 million people will benefit from livestock protection support.

Overall, FAO will support more than 9 million people in 2022 through a range of interventions supporting crop, livestock and vegetable production, cash transfers and the rehabilitation of vital irrigation infrastructure and systems.



A farmer received certified wheat seed, funded by the Asian Development Bank, in Badakhshan Province.

World Bank project to provide critical assistance to smallholder farmers

The World Bank will contribute an unprecedented USD 150 million to provide critical livelihood and life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable rural populations in Afghanistan, while boosting local food production and smallholder resilience. This is the first tranche of a total amount of USD 195 million, another USD 45 million will be released within the next 24 months.



Certified wheat seed provided by FAO grows on the field in Kushk Rubat-e-Sangi District of Herat Province.

The new Afghanistan Emergency Food Security Project will boost the production of food crops for smallholder Afghan farmers and prevent the further deterioration of food security.

New project funded by Japan aims to enhance local food production capacity

A new USD 14 million contribution from the Government of Japan will provide direct humanitarian assistance to over 550 000 food-insecure people in 11 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It will support vulnerable, smallholder and landless farmers, including women and persons with disability-headed households, directly dependent on farming, herding as well as landless people who are dependent on agriculture-based labour.



A farmer harvested his wheat in Kushk Rubat-e-Sangi District of Herat Province.

These 11 targeted provinces all experience acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3+) as per IPC analysis of May 2022. According to this latest IPC survey, some 19.7 million people, almost half of Afghanistan's population, are facing acute hunger meaning they are unable to feed themselves on a daily basis and are often forced to resort to desperate measures, such as selling of livestock (as a distress coping mechanism), food reserves and other vital livelihood assets.

USA grant to support farmers and agriculture in Afghanistan

A new USD 80 million grant from the United States of America is an important step forward in the work of FAO to support farmers and agriculture in Afghanistan as they struggle to produce food, build resilience and achieve food security in the face of continuing drought and deep economic crisis.

The five-year contribution from USAID supports an ambitious and urgent set of emergency interventions that both meet farmers' immediate needs and also help build healthier, more climate-smart and resilient livelihoods through increasing nutritious food production, fostering environmentally sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices and support the diversification of household incomes through the adoption of new agricultural practices. Together, these activities will boost local food production, generate jobs and income and help revive struggling local rural markets.



A farmer is harvesting his wheat crops in Balkh District of Balkh Province.

Round five of Data in Emergencies monitoring in Afghanistan

The fifth round of Data in Emergencies (DIEM)-Monitoring successfully conducted in Afghanistan between July-August 2022. Overall, 6 019 households and 440 agriculture input vendors have been interviewed to gather monitoring data on the impacts of shocks to agriculture livelihoods, food security and value chains.

DIEM-Monitoring findings has also served as direct evidence at the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis workshop that took place in Kabul between 24 September and 02 October 2022.



A farmer is being surveyed for Data in Emergency monitoring in Chental District of Balkh Province.

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