



GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

Period Covered in this Report: 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011

Organization: Information Management and Mine Action Programs [iMMAP]
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Program Title: Common Operating Picture for Humanitarian Coordination
Country/Region: Afghanistan
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Total Period of Performance of Grant: 11 July 2010–29 February 2012

GOAL[S]

Afghanistan is in the midst of a complex humanitarian crisis. Natural disaster events, coupled with growing insecurity throughout the country, increase the challenges faced by Afghans in accessing basic services, including education, health care, livelihoods, and economic opportunities. Humanitarian access to vulnerable populations is impeded by insecurity, natural disasters, difficult terrain, and climatic conditions.

This project aims to provide the humanitarian community and relevant government actors with effective methods for reliably capturing, reporting, sharing, and analyzing information concerning the humanitarian situation according to baseline indicators, as well as safety and security information.

The overall goal of the project is to provide a common operating picture concerning humanitarian coordination and security, and this will be achieved by meeting the objectives as listed below.

ASSOCIATED OBJECTIVES OF THE GRANT

The project objectives are:

1. Improve the safety and security of humanitarian field operators.
2. Enhance and integrate current databases of humanitarian projects and activities and support distribution of related information in near real-time.
3. Provide a Common Operating Picture of humanitarian data and baseline indicators of the humanitarian situation.
4. Identification of hazardous areas and populations-at-risk.
5. Improvements in currently available datasets.

iMMAP has maintained its OASIS system in Afghanistan since the beginning of 2009. As of 31 March 2011, OASIS is used by 85 organizations with more than 170 OASIS installations, and approximately 150 trained users. It is very difficult to estimate the number of people in these organizations that directly benefit from use of the OASIS system. This depends very much upon the size of the organization and how OASIS is used to conduct operations management, security analysis and minefield status analysis. Field planners and security officers may have influence on only ten people, but in larger organizations, field planners and security officers can influence the movements of hundreds of employees.

On average, iMMAP has between three and four new clients, ten OASIS installations, and five newly trained OASIS users every month. Moreover, 1,857 maps have been distributed to 170 humanitarian organizations since the beginning of the project.

Please note that iMMAP conducted part of the work reported here with funding provided by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement [PM/WRA], U.S. Department of State. While the PM/WRA project focuses upon the Humanitarian Mine Action [HMA] community, the OFDA funding allows a much wider reach throughout the broader humanitarian community. One major focus of the OFDA grant is identifying populations at risk to various disasters, and this report will demonstrate progress in those areas.

PM/WRA funding is ceased in May 2011 with successful conclusion of that project, and therefore all work conducted from this date is fully OFDA funded.

Information management tools and solutions provided to the humanitarian community originally under the PM/WRA grant are now updated to develop new synergies in the context of the OFDA grant, enhancing continuity and sustainability between programs. Therefore it is considered essential for the project to continue the momentum that has been gained in the first few months of the OFDA grant, and continued support is required to continue support for the humanitarian community and relevant government stakeholders.

SUB-SECTOR: COORDINATION

INDICATOR 1

Number of organizations coordinating relief operations, and through these entities, the number of implementing organizations coordinated through these efforts and reported upon through this project.

In the current reporting period Afghanistan faces a serious drought that threatens to force millions of poor to go hungry and cause fuel instability in areas considered safe in the past. Two thirds of Afghans are considered food insecure, meaning they don't have enough food, or the right kind of food to eat, or are teetering on the brink. According to the Inter-Cluster Coordination authorities "a shock to the system like drought, conflict displacement or natural disaster can push those people into food insecurity". Following the initial involvement of iMMAP to provide information management support to the Food Security and Agriculture cluster [FSAC] and the Early Warning Information Working Group [EWIWG], the early results produced and the current complex emergency have highlighted the need for a Common Operating Picture for coordination of drought response.

Through this project, information management support is currently provided to the coordination mechanism now in place among three Cluster groups directly involved in relief operations for drought emergency response. The following needs in terms of information management have been identified by all Cluster groups through the inter-Cluster coordination body:

- To map Cluster needs by priority;
- To map access considering three perspectives: the United Nations Department of Safety and Security [UNDSS], the Afghanistan NGO Security Office [ANSO] and security events;
- To take stock of drought-related assessments by Cluster;
- To identify any information gaps by Cluster;
- To create an overall priority mapping of all Clusters;
- To map inaccessible areas for winter;
- To establish bi-weekly monitoring by targeted indicators that include FSAC, Nutrition, WASH, population movements, and prices.

In this reporting period iMMAP has provided information management support to the following cluster groups:

➤ Education Cluster: 3W

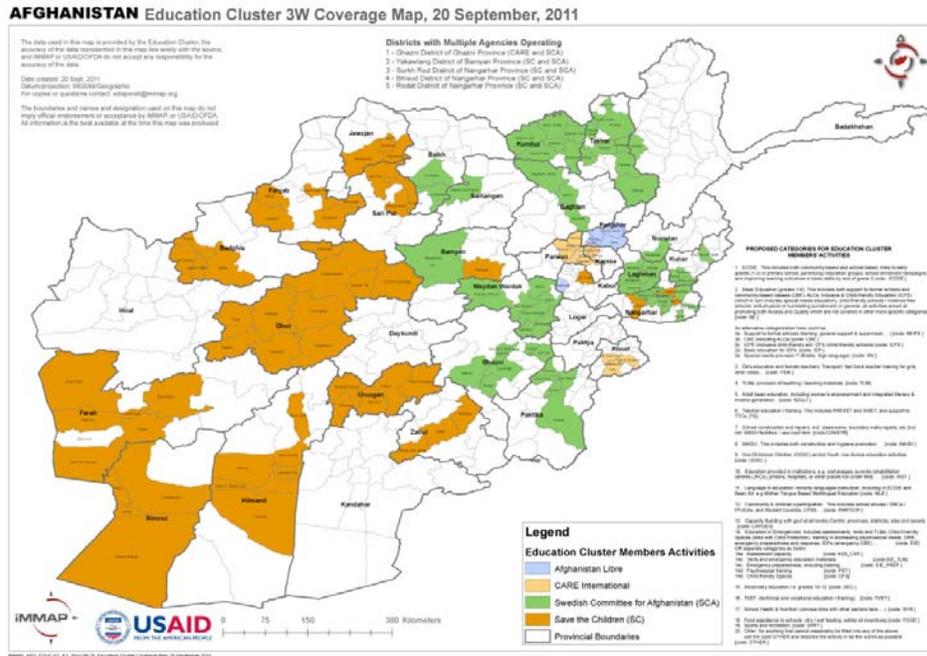


Figure 5: Education Cluster 3W

The information management products developed for the humanitarian Clusters have also been included in the OCHA Drought Response Plan and the OCHA Afghanistan website [<http://ochaonline.un.org/afghanistan/Reports/Drought/tabid/7638/language/en-US/Default.aspx>].

Local authorities have also been involved in the coordination of relief operations. Following an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Afghan National Authority for Disaster Management [ANDMA] and iMIMAP, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock [MAIL] and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development [MRRD] have also become involved in the participative Cluster group process.

Given the high volume of information management needs described above, as well as the immense coordination effort required to meet those needs, iMIMAP has identified the need for two additional information management consultants. An information management gap assessment for OFDA partners [as well other key humanitarian organizations] has started in the northern provinces. According to early results, information management is considered a key component in humanitarian coordination. In the current context for the humanitarian community the access to vulnerable populations is often impeded by insecurity, natural disasters, difficult terrain, and climatic conditions. At the same time, policy-makers struggle to access timely, periodic and reliable information. The unintended consequences of gaps in the decision making process could blight a society's future for years or decades to come.

Because of gaps in information management at country level, the international response to crisis in Afghanistan has been slowed by a succession of uncoordinated analyses. In the current situation, even when information is gathered and delivered by coordination bodies to policy- and decision-makers, its use is limited by several constraints:

- Missing recent baseline analysis on agriculture, health, nutrition, poverty and IDPs makes it extremely difficult to develop reliable gap analysis.
- A proper monitoring system of the environmental, social and economic indicators has not yet been implemented.
- The lack of standardized and interoperable information shared among the implementing organizations excludes an understanding of the context where data have been collected.
- At the current stage, short- and medium-term forecasts of environmental, social and economic indicators is not provided by any humanitarian organization or coordination bodies.
- Among all Cluster partners, the information currently available is in narrative format, lacks standardization, is missing geo-coordinates, and thus does not include the data/information necessary to facilitate analysis. These shortcomings inhibit the delivery of timely and effective information at the Cluster level.
- Attempts to harmonize data collected and monitoring tools have been carried out but the results of these efforts brought little or no positive impact on the information management situation.
- The characterization of the gender dimension is often missing at several information levels, making difficult the monitoring and impact evaluation of humanitarian programs for this social group.

In order to provide humanitarian organizations with tools to fill these gaps, the assessment team will provide a detailed report which highlights database developments and enhancements that will be useful to field agencies.

SUB-SECTOR: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

INDICATOR 1

Number of organizations utilizing common information management services.

OASIS is used by 59 organizations with more than 170 OASIS installations, and approximately 150 trained OASIS users. On average, iMMAP has between three and four new clients and approximately ten OASIS installations and five newly trained OASIS users every month.

In the current reporting period OASIS and the overall services of information management provided by iMMAP are being officially used by five Cluster groups [FSAC, Nutrition, Education, Protection, WASH], as well as the Inter-Cluster Coordination body. The information management products developed by iMMAP are playing a key role in the drought emergency

response. Also, other Cluster Lead organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration [IOM] are using OASIS to integrate their priorities for intervention with the overall contingency plan for emergency response.

INDICATOR 2

Number of information products made available through common information management services that are utilized by clients.

New datasets obtained and made available to clients via maps and OASIS, not including datasets reported upon during the previous reporting period, include the following products:

| Coordination Mechanism | Information Products Made Available |
|--|--|
| Food Security and Agriculture Cluster | 3W: agriculture extension, horticulture, livestock, seed and tools distribution, food and livestock assistance, poultry, and income generation. |
| Nutrition Cluster | Malnutrition detected in clinic partners of the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme. |
| Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rainfed area wheat yield and production 2010 vs 2011; ➤ Irrigated area wheat yield and production 2010 vs 2011; ➤ Wheat cultivated areas with surplus and deficit. |
| UNHCR | IDPs and refugees. |
| Inter-Cluster coordination for the response to drought emergency (FSAC, UNHCR, WASH, OCHA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planned response plan to drought emergency – partners involved; ➤ Emergency food security assessment – results at 20 July 2011 and 27 July 2011. |
| Education cluster | 3W |
| Security analysis, UNDSS, UNMACCA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Density of casualties of explosive devices 2008-2011; ➤ Density of casualties of all incidents 2008-2011; ➤ Security incidents 2008-2011. |

Currently more than 1,857 maps [prints and digital files] have been distributed to 170 humanitarian organizations with an average of nine maps for each organization. These maps have been made available in hard copy format to OFDA partners in Afghanistan via the Cluster mechanism, and via the iMMAP website [www.immap.org]. The maps are divided into national and provincial maps. The latter show baseline features such as settlements, airports, roads,

rivers, etc., as well as thematic data such as flood risk and security. The national maps show baseline data that includes elevation, administrative boundaries, roads, etc., and also thematic data ranging from snow to hazard maps, as well as climate calendars showing changes in long term temperature, rainfall, wind, and potential evapotranspiration, crop calendars by cropping regions, and other themes.

Following the deployment of the information management gap assessment team for OFDA partners, a series of maps at district level has been produced and distributed to the field offices of humanitarian partners.

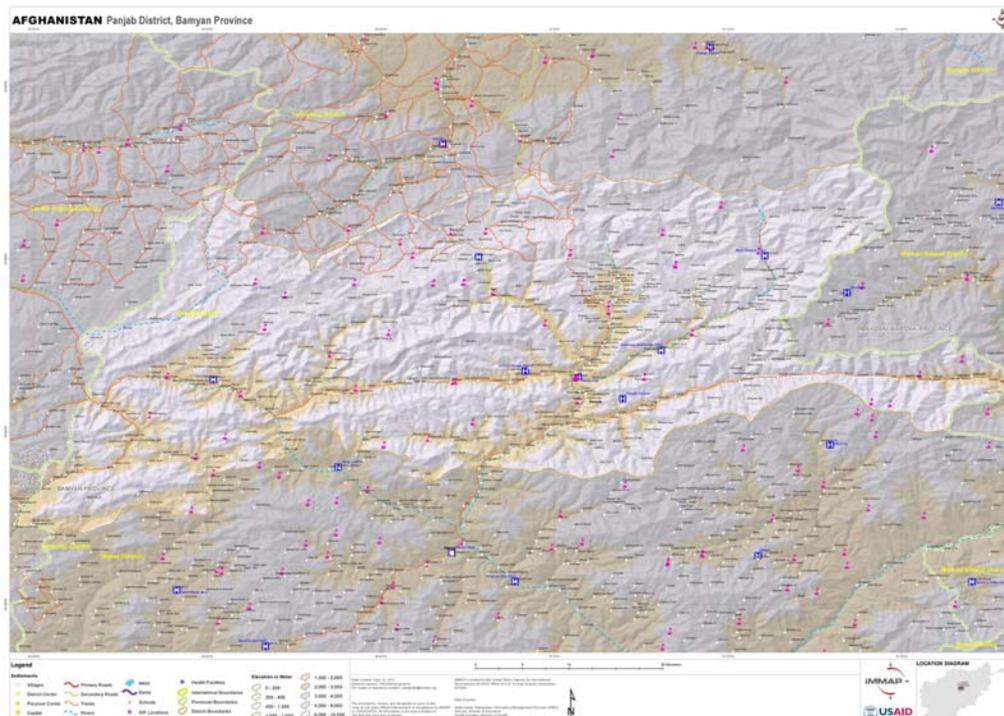


Figure 6: District map developed for the information gaps assessment

These maps will assist in disaster response, improved cluster coordination and risk reduction planning.

The following section provides a description of activities for each objective, as well as highlighted accomplishments and challenges in achieving these objectives.

OBJECTIVE ONE OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Improve the safety and security of humanitarian field operators.

NARRATIVE

As of 30 September 2011 there were more than 70,000 historical security incidents entered and mapped using the OASIS tool. This database allows humanitarian actors to obtain updated

and historical information concerning the security situation in their areas of operation. The database is unique in the humanitarian community as it allows users to view spatial relationships with other layers such as roads, thereby providing the user with an overview of where hot spots are located over a specified time period. This allows field personnel to know what to expect in specific areas before they deploy there.

On average there are at least 100 new and historical incidents entered into OASIS per day.

Information regarding landmine contamination and clearance activities is also provided via OASIS. Therefore, humanitarian actors have access to information regarding cleared areas and hazardous areas in their areas of operations.

Below is a list of current OASIS clients, data partners and agencies that have been supplied with mapping support:

- Acted
- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority [ANDMA]
- Afghan Technical Consultants [ATC]
- Afghan Women's Educational Center [AWEC]
- Afghanistan Civil Support Service [ACSS]
- Afghanistan Information Management Systems [AIMS]
- Aga Khan Foundation [AKF]
- Canadian International Development Agency - Canadian Program Support Unit
- Care International
- Caritas Germany
- ClearPath International [CPI]
- Danish Demining Group [DDG]
- Deloitte [supporting USAID projects]
- Demining Agency for Afghanistan [DAFA]
- Dyncorp
- Education Cluster [various members]
- EOD Technology
- European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan [EUPOL Afghanistan]
- Ex-Med
- Focus Humanitarian Assistance [FOCUS]
- Food Security and Agriculture Cluster [FSAC] [various members]
- Food and Agriculture Organisation [FAO]
- G4S Afghanistan
- Halo Trust [HT]
- Helvetas
- Independent Election Commission [IEC] of Afghanistan
- International Assistance Mission [IAM]
- International Foundation for Electoral Systems [IFES]
- International Organization for Migration [IOM]
- International Relief and Development [IRD] - Human Resources and Logistical Services program [HRLS]
- International Relief and Development [IRD] - Strategic Provincial Roads [SPR]

- International Rescue Committee [IRC]
- Madera
- Mercy Corps
- Mines Advisory Group [MAG]
- Mine Clearance Planning Agency [MCPA]
- Mine Detection and Dog Centre [MDC]
- MineTech International
- Nutrition cluster [various members]
- Office for Weapons Removal and Abatement [WRA] Afghanistan
- Organisation for Mine Clearance & Afghan Rehabilitation [OMAR]
- Oxfam GB
- Oxfam Novib
- RONCO Consulting Corporation
- Save the Children [SC]
- Shelter Cluster [various members]
- Sicuro Group
- Solidarites
- Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
- Swiss Development Cooperation [SDC] - Swiss Cooperation Office Afghanistan [SCO-A]
- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action [FSD]
- United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF] Education
- United Nations Development Program [UNDP] - Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow [ELECT]
- United Nations Development Program [UNDP] Country Office [CO]
- United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre Afghanistan [MACCA]
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [UN-OCHA]
- United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime [UNODC]
- United States Embassy
- USAID's Capacity Development Program [CDP]
- UXB International
- War Child Holland
- World Conservation Society [WCS]
- World Food Program Education
- World Food Program – Global GeoPortal
- World Vision

PROJECTIONS

In the current reporting period the OASIS user base has been expanded to include agency-specific database requirements.

The participative work implemented with humanitarian partners and the Cluster groups has allowed the identification of specific unmet needs. At Cluster level new methods for data gathering and standardization between needs and response plans have been developed [e.g. for UNHCR], including components of training for information management staff in United Nations partners [e.g. for UNICEF].

Other humanitarian partners have identified needs in terms of field operations planning due to the rapid change in the conditions of security for the northern provinces: customized security maps, mobile application to access OASIS in the field and to track the organization vehicle movements are the main needs currently under development.

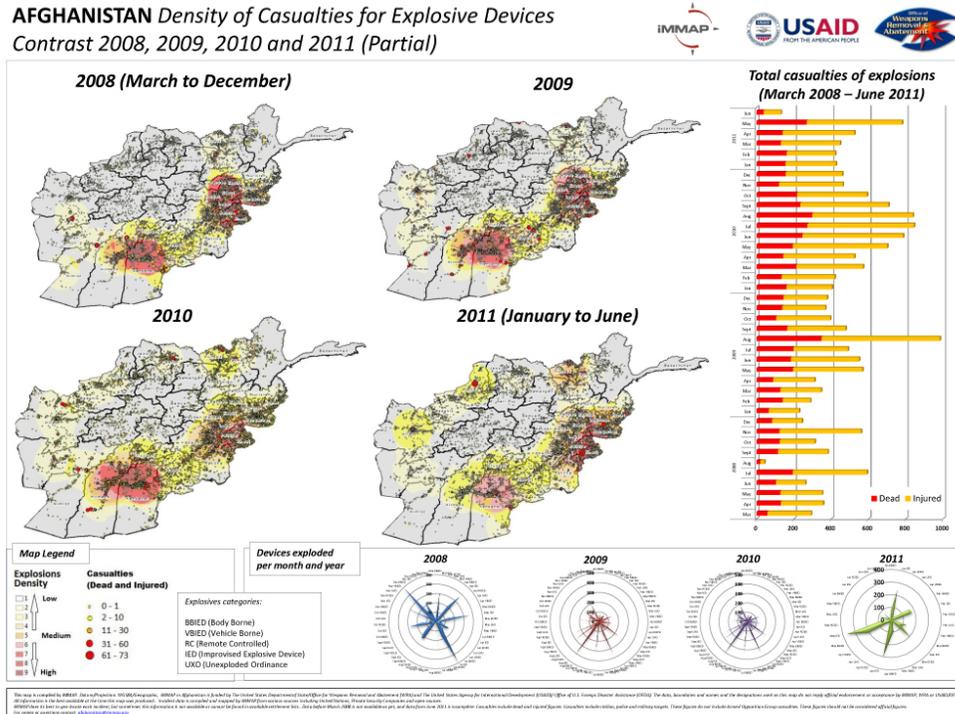


Figure 7: Variation in the security conditions in Central and Northern Provinces of Afghanistan.

OBJECTIVE TWO OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Enhance and integrate current databases of humanitarian projects and activities and support distribution of related information in near real-time.

NARRATIVE

The key to getting new users to access data through OASIS is the provision of timely and reliable information flowing through the system.

iMMAP currently has six dedicated data entry staff, and one data entry clerk seconded by Deloitte. A Geographic Information Systems [GIS] Officer has been hired to improve the data collection, standardization and interoperability through OASIS.

An information management officer is also implementing the information management gap assessment for OFDA partners in the central and northern provinces.

OBJECTIVE THREE OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Provide a Common Operating Picture of humanitarian data and baseline indicators of the humanitarian situation.

NARRATIVE

The iMMAP Afghanistan OASIS team has established a large network of OASIS clients and data sharing which contribute to building the Common Operating Picture [COP], ranging from Explosive Remnants of War [ERW] and the HMA environment in Afghanistan to topographic maps [incorporates 1:250,000, 1:100,000 and 1:50,000 American topographic maps, as well as Russian topographic map series], satellite imagery, high resolution town imagery, accurate elevation data, settlement lookups, water sources, snow cover, soils, land cover, health facilities, military and security locations, etc., are all essential information to properly plan activities in the field.

To ensure appropriate data gathering and dissemination, relationships have been developed with:

- United States Geological Survey [USGS, supplied aerial photography for Afghanistan];
- Food Early Warning System [FEWS];
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization [UNFAO];
- Afghanistan National Disasters Management Authority [ANDMA];
- Afghanistan Central Statistics Office [CSO];
- Information Technology for Humanitarian Assistance Cooperation and Action [ITHACA, snow cover data]

In this reporting period, iMMAP has focused on the interoperability of the Common Operating Picture developed in the previous phases of the action with the activities of the Cluster groups, especially through the Inter-Cluster Coordination body for the emergency response. The primary aim of this activity was to provide simultaneously a platform to share main findings and strategies among a wide variety of humanitarian actors and raise awareness on current security in remote areas to evaluate the options to access vulnerable communities.

PROJECTIONS

In the development of the collaborative OASIS platform, iMMAP has implemented both top-down and bottom-up approaches to the Common Operating Picture.

Bottom-up developments have been implemented to increase the involvement of humanitarian actors with the existing coordination mechanisms, especially the Cluster groups. iMMAP has developed specific modules in OASIS to allow for integration of existing databases and excel spreadsheets with the OASIS interface. Agency-specific data have been shared with

the wider OASIS user community or kept within the agency [this is decided according to agency requirements]. The OASIS-based databases that have been developed are:

- **Compass Integrated Security Solutions:** An incident database was developed which tracks International Security Assistance Force [ISAF] and Compass-specific incidents. Compass provides logistics convoys for ISAF, and this dataset is currently not reported in any unclassified format to the wider humanitarian community. This database equips the company with better analysis capabilities, which directly helps avoid unnecessary risks to their business activities. Compass has agreed to share most of this information with all OASIS users, and will be available via OASIS in the next reporting period.
- **Helvetas:** An OASIS-based projects database was developed to help Helvetas in their information management capacity. OASIS keeps track of Helvetas projects, and associated reporting requirements.
- **International Organization for Migration [IOM]:** An OASIS-based Non-food Items [NFI] distribution database and IDP database were developed to help IOM in their humanitarian activities. OASIS provides responsive reports of available non-food items in their various warehouse locations. It also provides better communication between the main office in Kabul and a number of field offices. The database also tracks the number of IDPs served by IOM in relation to natural disaster events.
- **CARE:** An OASIS-based database for important CARE locations was developed for the CARE security office. This helps the security office track CARE personnel locations as well as improve information management capacity.

A top-down approach has been used in cases where several implementing partners must harmonize their actions in order to coordinate emergency response at the country level.

- **FSAC:** Information on impact assessment, governmental reports on food shortages, market prices, and hotspots of food insecurity are collected, standardized and distributed to all the partners of the action through OASIS.
- **Nutrition Cluster:** An OASIS-based database has been implemented to keep track of records and analyze data on patients admitted to health facilities under the OTP program which targets malnutrition for very vulnerable groups. It also provides the identification of hotspots of malnutrition and/or high mortality rates in order to facilitate the coordination of the response in the framework of the Drought Response Plan.
- **Protection Cluster:** An OASIS-module for data entry has been developed in order to facilitate the tracking of IDPs movements and the classification of the reasons of displacements [e.g. natural disasters vs. conflict].

- Education Cluster: 3W and assistance to identify humanitarian versus development components have been provided.

The results obtained by both approaches highlight the flexibility and the interoperability of OASIS as a collaborative platform for developing a Common Operating Picture, while the decision on what approach should be used in different situations comes from the knowledge of the context where humanitarian actors are involved.

OBJECTIVE FOUR OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Identification of hazardous areas and populations at risk.

NARRATIVE

In this reporting period an extensive effort has been made to fill the existing gaps in terms of information management for the identification of hazardous areas and populations at risk, as well as to support the coordination of humanitarian response with specific attention to enhancing the safety of relief operators.

Following the results developed, iMMAP has been invited to the Regional Workshop on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction organized by the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority [ANDMA].

- **Flood maps** are now produced and shared with humanitarian organizations on a weekly basis. A new format has been defined together with the end users in order to contain all the information needed for a contingency plan [e.g. areas at risk, population, settlements] in a single file, available through official mailing lists, newsletters and OASIS.
- **Crop failure maps** for the year 2011 have been produced from a collaboration between iMMAP, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock [MAIL] and the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster [FSAC]. These maps have been officially released by MAIL and FSAC. A gap of almost two million metric tons of wheat is the result of the crop failure for the year 2011. Data have been distributed through a workshop organized by FAO and MAIL, FSAC mailing list and OASIS.
- **Drought Emergency Response Maps:** More than thirty humanitarian organizations [FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, UNICEF, IOM, and NGOs] have been involved in an extensive drought impact assessment in areas identified as priority by NGOs and Local Authorities. Areas where food assistance [including cash for work, agricultural inputs and seed distribution] is needed within one month and within three months [cfr. preparation for the winter period] have been identified and the total number of beneficiaries has been estimated and confirmed by the NGOs and local authorities

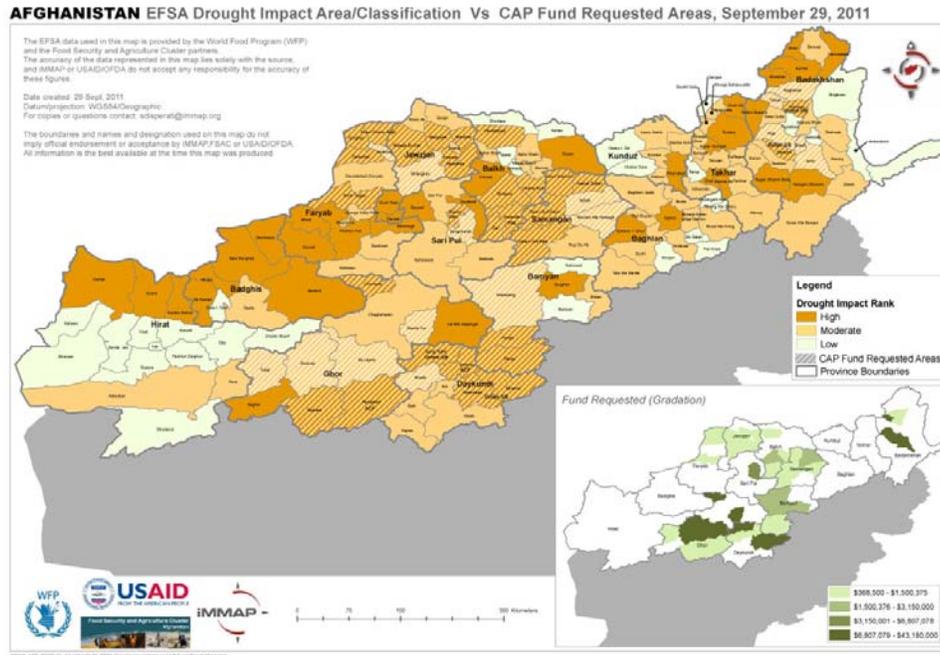


Figure 9: Emergency Food Security Assessment [EFSAs] at 29/09 and resources required by humanitarian partners through the CAP 2012.

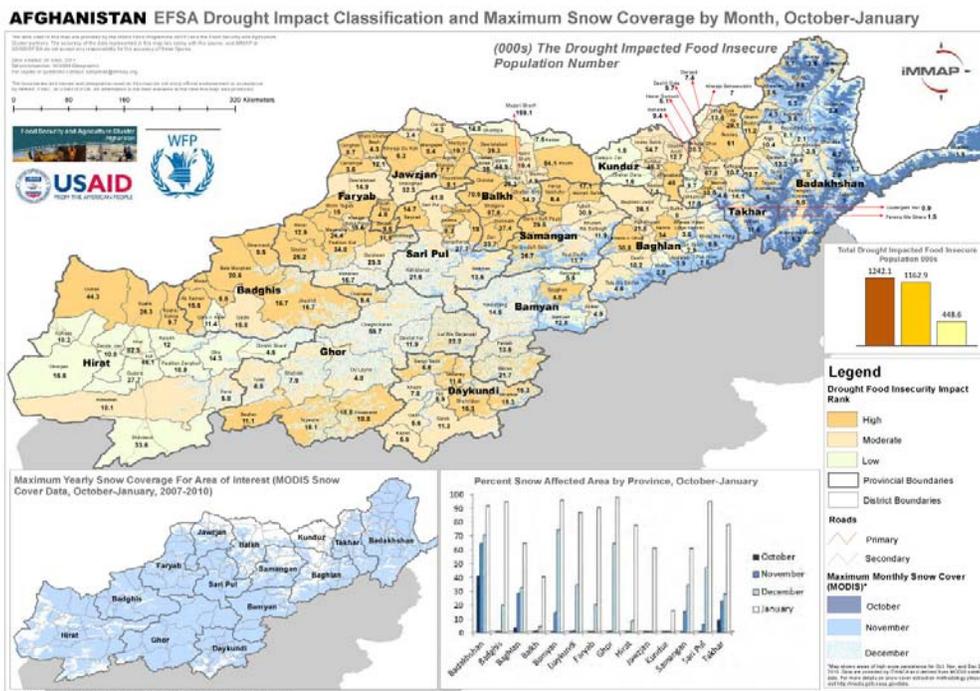


Figure 10: EFSAs and potential snow coverage for the period October 2011 to January 2012

PROJECTIONS

In the current reporting period several activities have been undertaken to harmonize the drought response. iMMAP has facilitated the integration of information on different response mechanisms developed by the Cluster groups. Thanks to the information management gap assessment, significant constraints to proper decision making have been identified and criteria to fill these gaps has been prioritized through a participative discussion carried out with OCHA and the Cluster groups

The awareness raised among end users, especially Cluster groups and local authorities traditionally involved in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response, such as ANDMA, MAIL and MRRD, brings substantial improvement to the sustainability of the action.

OBJECTIVE FIVE OUTPUTS AGAINST INDICATORS

Improvements in currently available datasets.

NARRATIVE

iMMAP has collated, cleaned and error-checked multiple datasets from various sources. These are [excluding those from the previous reporting period]:

- Drought response planned activities;
- Updated affected areas;
- ITHACA Snow Cover 2007, 2008,2009, 2010;
- Information at district level from humanitarian partners for participative mapping.

Most of these layers are constantly updated as new sources of data are found, and remain a work-in-progress.