



UNDP AFGHANISTAN

Through a targeted area-based approach, UNDP assisted 25 million Afghans to access life-saving services and vital community support systems between October 2021 and December 2024.

Background

UNDP's latest [Afghanistan Socio-Economic Review – Fragile Gains, Deepening Subsistence Insecurity](#) 2023-2024 (published April 2025) shows a troubling contradiction: for the first time since 2019-20, the country recorded economic growth, with a GDP increase of 2.7%.

Yet at the same time, in 2024 Afghan families fell even deeper into hardship. **75% of Afghans were subsistence-insecure**, meaning that they were not able to adequately meet their basic needs of life, such as proper health, shelter, and livelihoods.

Equally concerning, **90% of households experienced an economic shock**, up from 65% in 2023. Access to adequate housing and healthcare has also drastically declined.

More women were reliant on casual labour without a stable income (from 37% in 2023 to 57% in 2024), while only 7% of women were employed outside the home compared to 84% of men.

UNDP estimates that excluding women from the formal economy could cost Afghanistan 920 million dollars between 2024-2026. These numbers underline the urgent need for targeted, community-driven solutions.

UNDP is responding with integrated programming aligned to the UN Strategic Framework for Afghanistan 2023–2025. Our support is built around four interconnected priorities:

- **Provision of essential services**
- **Livelihood recovery**
- **Climate resilience**
- **Inclusive community engagement.**

In 2025, UNDP's priorities include supporting micro enterprises, investing to improve small farm output, aiding returning Afghans with housing, skills, and jobs, and improving the quality of health and education services through the provision of renewable energy.

Every UNDP initiative is based on rigorous data and analysis, draws on national and international expertise and good practices, and is safeguarded by a strong risk management system.

Our work does not benefit or legitimize the de facto authorities.

Risk management, which goes beyond compliance, enables UNDP to verify that funding reaches the intended beneficiaries through data management tools, regular financial audits of partners, and third-party monitoring.

Through direct implementation, UNDP leverages its field presence of **8 regional offices covering all 34 provinces**, reaching even the most remote communities in Afghanistan.

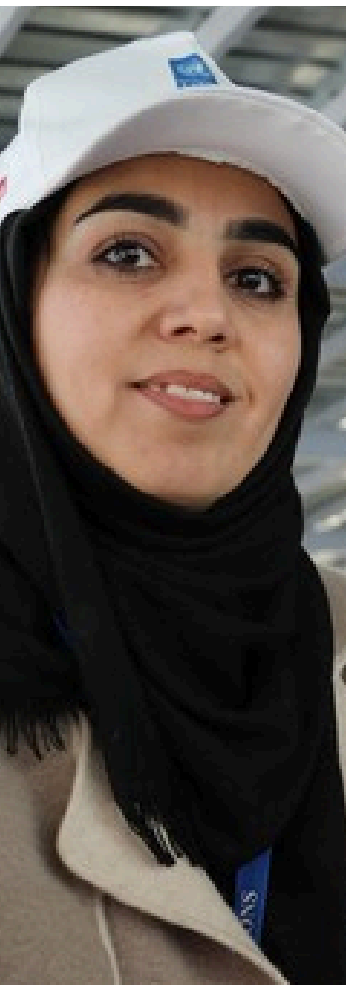
UNDP maintains a roster of **65 pre-vetted national NGO partners**, ready for rapid deployment across priority areas.

In 2024, **over 210 NGOs implemented community-driven projects nationwide**, supported by flexible, low-value grants targeting local needs in livelihoods, health, education, and infrastructure.

Within the UN system, UNDP collaborates with 17 other UN agencies through the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan, delivering joint programs across sectors.

Core contributions from Member States are vital for UNDP's continued presence and impact in Afghanistan.

We maintain strong partnerships with donor countries, international funds, and financial institutions — including **Japan, the EU, Denmark, Kuwait, Spain, Norway, the US, the Global Fund, KfW, the Asian Development Bank, and the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan**. Additional support is channeled through UNDP's Funding Windows.



KEY RESULTS (October 2021 - December 2024)

From October 2021, our programs have contributed to sustaining essential services, stimulated the local economy, strengthened disaster and climate resilience, and promoted inclusive community engagement, including through the Area-based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI), one of our flagship programs.

During this time, the central focus has been expanding opportunities for Afghan women, recognizing their essential role in the stabilization of the economy and driving growth. Nearly **80,000 formal and informal businesses** have received support, with **97 percent led by women**. These efforts have contributed to the **creation of over 400,000 jobs**, improving living conditions for 2.7 million people.

Through a transformative model of “for women, by women, through women”, UNDP has reached over **8 million women** across all programme areas, a significant share of Afghanistan's 20 million female population.

KEY RESULTS

Essential services



13.6 million Afghans received primary healthcare, including treatments for prevalent diseases (malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis) and benefitted from COVID-19 safety measures and vaccinations.

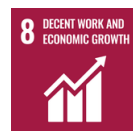


Enhanced access to clean and affordable energy for **4.3 million** people in nearly **5,900** health centers, schools, community and business centers.



5.9 million people directly benefitted from rehabilitated community infrastructure, such as schools and health facilities, water points and emergency shelters.

Stimulating the local economy



Over **400,000** Afghans benefitted from jobs and improved livelihoods through support to MSMEs, cash for work schemes and agriculture-based livelihoods support.



Unconditional cash transfers (targeted basic income) and immediate relief support was provided to over **250,000** people.

Climate Action for Stability and Recovery



Enhanced the farming capacity of nearly **104,000** small farmers (21% of them women) by providing climate-adapted information, tools and seeds and rehabilitating barren land to counter recurring droughts.



Promoted climate-resilient, high-value crops in provinces affected by the ban on poppy cultivation, creating sustainable livelihoods that reduce reliance on illicit economies and strengthening long-term food and income security.

Community resilience and social cohesion



562,000 community members engaged in awareness raising activities focused on social cohesion, community planning and rights.



Enhanced community engagement through capacity building support to **400** women-focused NGOs/CSOs and **2,800** community development councils, ensuring the inclusion of women members.



Legal aid and advisory services reached **6,000** individuals, and awareness on legal rights and access to justice was extended to **562,000** community members.



Priorities for 2025-2027

Total funding requirement for 2025-2027 is **US\$ 350 million** (US\$130 million for 2025 and US\$110 million for 2026 and 2027, respectively).

These are the critical needs:

☑ **Sustaining essential services**

Scale-up efforts to restore basic community infrastructure and improve service delivery, particularly enhancing access to clean and affordable energy. Special attention will be given to ensuring service continuity in underserved and rural areas.

Funding gap: US\$ 85 million

☑ **Stimulating the local economy**

Support local entrepreneurs, including with access to finance and markets, and by strengthening linkages with regional value chains. The programme will also promote vocational training and digital skills development, with a strong focus on women's enterprises and fostering inclusive, resilient growth.

Funding gap: US\$ 87 million.

☑ **Climate Action for Stability and Recovery**

Recognizing Afghanistan's high vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, UNDP will support robust risk mitigation strategies

and flexible responses to rapid-onset crises, such as the recent floods in the Northeastern region. This includes:

- Strengthening early warning systems
- Rehabilitating degraded ecosystems
- Expanding access to clean, affordable energy
- Promoting climate-resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions

These efforts aim to build community resilience, reinforce livelihoods and self-reliance, and foster conditions conducive to the sustainable return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons.

The priorities are aligned with UNDP's Climate Resilience, Energy, and Environmental Management Portfolio, currently managing a pipeline of over US\$ 200 million in vertical and bilateral climate finance.

Funding Gap: US\$ 120 million

☑ **Promoting inclusive community engagement**

Foster inclusive community engagement and empowerment through a participatory and bottom-up approach, involving local communities in decision-making processes.

Funding gap: US\$ 58 million.