## **AFGHANISTAN COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE (ACCR) PROGRAMME**

## 2nd Draft Concept Note as of 31 October 2023

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| --- | --- |
| **Implementing Entity** | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Afghanistan |
| **Total Proposed Budget** | USD 130,000,000 |
| **Expected Duration** | Three (3) to five (5) years |
| **Programme Title** | Afghanistan Comprehensive Climate Resilience (ACCR) Programme |
| **Geographical coverage** | Afghanistan (National Level) |
| **Targeted Geographical areas and beneficiaries** | Geographic targeting criteria to be determined together with beneficiary targeting criteria |
| **Paris Agreement** | Article 7, item 1 ; Article 7, Article 9-e |
| **Sustainable Development Goals** | SDG 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 13 (Targets 13.1 and 13. B) and 15 |
| **Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030** | Priority 3 |
| **UNSF Afghanistan 2023-2025** | Priority 1, 2, and 3 |

1. **BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE – DEVELOPMENT/BASIC HUMAN NEEDS CHALLENGES**
   1. **An Overview of Afghanistan**

Afghanistan faces a multifaceted crisis following the political shift that took place on 15 August 2021. According to the UN Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFA) 2023-2025, more than 24 million Afghans need humanitarian assistance, with over 90 per cent living in extreme poverty.[[1]](#footnote-2) The economic situation in the country continues to worsen, with an estimated 3.6 per cent contraction in Afghanistan’s Gross Domestic Product in 2022, following a staggering 20.7 per cent decline in 2021. This continued economic downfall protracts and intensifies severe socioeconomic deprivations for most of the population.

Afghanistan’s population predominantly resides in rural areas and relies heavily on crop cultivation, farming, and livestock for provisions and income. Developing the agricultural sector, especially its crop and livestock components, is pivotal for reducing poverty, bolstering agricultural resilience, and enhancing food security. However, the country’s agricultural productivity lags significantly behind regional averages. Hyperinflation has also made it difficult for farmers to purchase essential agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers and tools. In addition, certain agricultural regions still bear remnants of landmines and unexploded ordinance from years of conflict. All these factors reduce the ability of impoverished and vulnerable farmers and households to withstand frequent and diverse shocks and stresses.

The reduced educational opportunities and substantial barriers for women and girls are projected to result in 2.5 per cent of GDP economic losses.[[2]](#footnote-3) While prohibiting women from working in formal employment leads to a significant decrease in household incomes, the per capita incomes of households with women in formal employment could be reduced by almost half (48 per cent).[[3]](#footnote-4)

* 1. **Climate-Related Challenges in Afghanistan**
     1. ***Climate and Disaster Risks***

Compounding these challenges, Afghanistan is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, confronting various natural and climate-related hazards. Despite its relatively low Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, the country ranks 176th, marking it as the 6th most susceptible nation to climate risks among 181 countries according to the 2020 and 2021 ND-GAIN Index. Further heightening concerns, Afghanistan ranks fourth in overall disaster risk according to the INFORM Risk Index for 2023,[[4]](#footnote-5) and the country is considered one of the least prepared and with the lowest capacity.According to the EM-DAT database, in the past 50 years, Afghanistan has experienced over 215 disasters,[[5]](#footnote-6) 180 of which were natural. These events affected at least nine million people and caused over 20,000 fatalities.[[6]](#footnote-7)

Afghan communities face significant impacts from drought, flood, extreme temperature and associated landslide threats, earthquake risks, high social vulnerability, and low coping capacity.[[7]](#footnote-8) Since 1950, the country has experienced a temperature increase of 1.8°C, which has far-reaching impacts due to the overlapping interactions of agricultural dependency, conflict, severe socio-economic hardship, and climate and natural hazards.[[8]](#footnote-9)

Afghanistan faces warming rates higher than the global average, with a potential rise of 1.4°C to 5.4°C by the 2080s and the 2090s.[[9]](#footnote-10) Afghanistan experiences both extreme heat and extreme cold. In January 2023, a frigid winter killed more than 160 people as the temperatures plummeted to a staggering -34°C. This coincided with a severe economic crisis in the country, leaving the population incapable of affording fuel to heat their houses.

Floods are the most frequent hazard of Afghanistan, affecting a range of 100,000 to 300,000 people each year due to poorly built flood protection infrastructure, lack of early warning systems and settlements constructed in flood-prone areas as the main drivers of the flood risk.[[10]](#footnote-11) According to ADB and other sources, floods result in roughly USD 400 million in annual losses. Flooding has been responsible for 19% of natural hazard-induced human casualties over the past century (NEPA, 2017), resulted in as much as USD 300 million of infrastructure damage and nearly 750 lives lost annually.30 In August 2022, a flash flood that hit the central, eastern, and southern regions affected an estimated 15,875 people, with over 5,600 houses either destroyed or damaged across Kunar, Laghman, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktya, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, and Parwan provinces.[[11]](#footnote-12)

Since 2012, an estimated 6.6 million individuals have experienced displacement due to a combination of conflicts, natural disasters, and climate-related factors.[[12]](#footnote-13) In 2019, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre reported Afghanistan as the country with the most displaced people due to climate change.[[13]](#footnote-14) Starting in 2021, the main cause of internal displacement has transitioned from conflict to climate-related issues, when 2.3 million people were displaced primarily by drought.[[14]](#footnote-15)

In Afghanistan, malaria and dengue outbreaks are already increasing and are estimated to cause 1,000 deaths annually.21,60 The health sector is poorly equipped to deal with epidemics and contagious disease outbreaks. Nearly 30% of Afghanistan’s population resides in urban areas, where climate-induced temperature increases may be large, posing a threat to quality of life and the sustainability of urban settlements.21

These risks and impacts have undermined the ability of communities to withstand and adjust to climate change and its associated risks. The effect of climate change may heighten the risk of more frequent and intense local conflicts over land and water and increase cross-border tensions.

### ***1.2.2. Agriculture and Climate Change***

Agriculture in Afghanistan is the sector most vulnerable to and most affected by climate hazards and climate change due to the sector’s inherently high sensitivity to changing weather and climate patterns, the inadequate infrastructure and ineffective water management in the country, land degradation and amplified soil evaporation, limited crop diversity, and high population pressure. Rainfed agriculture account for roughly half of the agricultural activities even though Afghanistan’s climate and its susceptibility to drought is not favorable for such activities. Surface water systems or rivers and streams account for 86% of the irrigation in the country.

Before the Taliban took over, agriculture accounted for over 45.7 per cent of employment[[15]](#footnote-16) and about 80% of the country depend on agriculture and livestock activities for livelihoods. Women constitutes between 70–80 percent of the agricultural labour force[[16]](#footnote-17) but are engaged mainly on subsistence activities on small farms, dependent on seasonal rainfall. According to the World Bank (2019), 60% of women in rural areas work in the livestock sector.[[17]](#footnote-18)

Since 1979, the irrigated lands of the country have shrunk from 2.5 million hectares to 1.5 million hectares.[[18]](#footnote-19) Past La Niña[[19]](#footnote-20) events have also been associated with warmer temperatures and decreased winter precipitation, leading to drought conditions and adversely affecting water availability and agriculture.

Between 1998-2005, prolonged droughts contributed to declines in production for several crops including wheat (75%), rice (85%), maize (85%), potatoes (50%) and various other crops (declining on average by 60% and future climate change may cause similar impacts. Recent droughts contributed to a 50% reduction in wheat yields.[[20]](#footnote-21)

The winter of January 2023 caused the death of 75,000 livestock from the extreme cold, significantly impacting communities and farmers.[[21]](#footnote-22) Animal health and livestock production can be affected by the likely impact of climate change on water availability.

Approximately 17.2 million Afghans, or 40 per cent of the population, experience acute food insecurity and fall within the Crisis or Emergency phases (IPC Phase 3 or 4) as of April 2023.[[22]](#footnote-23) This includes nearly 3.4 million people, constituting around 8 per cent of the total, grappling with Emergency-level food insecurity (IPC Phase 4).[[23]](#footnote-24) Between May and October 2023, a slight seasonal improvement was expected, with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above likely decreasing to around 15.3 million, including just under 2.8 million people experiencing Emergency (IPC Phase 4).[[24]](#footnote-25)

Due to the ongoing crisis and high level of fragility in the country, climate resilience and longer-term climate change adaptation measures for agriculture remain a lower priority over humanitarian response.

### ***1.2.3. Infrastructure and Renewable Energy***

Afghanistan faces significant infrastructure challenges exacerbated by climate change. Roads and transport infrastructure is limited and undermaintained within Afghanistan, relative to its neighbours, with less than 35,000 km of roads as of May 2011 and with over half of the population lacking access to all-weather roads.[[25]](#footnote-26) According to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Assessment,[[26]](#footnote-27) challenges stemming from under-investment in basic infrastructure continued to hamper quality of life and access to services throughout Afghanistan, with a marked deterioration in upkeep and maintenance of key infrastructure systems since the suspension of international support.“

The majority of Afghanistan’s infrastructure and energy facilities have been destroyed or damaged over the last few decades due to conflict, thus resulting in 86% of electricity being imported, and only 31% of households connected to the centralised grid system.[[27]](#footnote-28)

Currently less than 20% of the Afghan people have access to energy, resulting in a reliance on diesel, with some costly hydropower in parts of the country and a reliance on fuelwood for space heating. Increasing temperatures will increase energy loads on account of the increasing need for air-conditioning. A one degree increase in ambient temperature can result in a 0.5%–8.5% increase in electricity demand.

Afghanistan’s renewable energy potential is immense and is estimated to be over 300,000 MW,[[28]](#footnote-29) consisting of solar (222,849 MW), wind (66,726 MW), hydro (23,310 MW) and biomass (4,000 MW) as of 2017. These potentials, however, remain untapped, and the need for energy in the country remains high, with the Ministry of Energy and Water (2023) informing that the current power demands of Afghanistan are 1,500 megawatts—with up to 720 megawatts being imported and the rest supplied by internal sources.[[29]](#footnote-30)

Energy resilience is a huge area of need in the country, and an adequate supply of energy can catalyse the respective resilience-building processes undertaken by at-risk populations, communities, economic zones and key industries of the country.

### ***1.2.4. Drought, Water Management, Environment, and Biodiversity***

Climate projections indicate that the most significant consequence of climate change in Afghanistan in the coming years will be a heightened drought risk. While Afghanistan already experiences recurring droughts of differing duration and intensity, these droughts are expected to shift from occasional or cyclical events to a regular occurrence in many regions by 2030.

Droughts affect millions of Afghans and cause large economic damage, with yearly economic damage to agriculture averaging at least USD 234 million yearly, according to the World Bank. This estimated figure can increase significantly during strong drought events. Estimates show that Afghanistan’s agriculture sector contracted by at least three per cent in 2021 compared to the six per cent growth it experienced in 2020, and wheat crops, for instance, incurred about two-fifths of loss. The 2018 drought impacted over two million people and caused massive displacements estimated at 25 per cent of its population. In 2022, drought affected 64 per cent of Afghanistan’s population, which is a sharp increase from 10 per cent in 2020.

Drought also led to extremely poor water quality in 30 out of 34 provinces of the country, with 21 million people requiring access to clean water and sanitation in 2023.[[30]](#footnote-31) In 2018, over 2 million Afghans were threatened by water shortages caused by drought. In 2021, more than 55 per cent of all displaced households reported a shortage of clean drinking water.[[31]](#footnote-32) Additionally, only 25 per cent of households have access to basic sanitation. In urban areas, the worsening economic situation has left poor households unable to pay for water services and service providers unable to sustain water treatment and delivery due to reduced revenues and budgets.[[32]](#footnote-33)

Because of the warming temperatures, 28 of the 30 glaciers of the Wakhan corridor, which provide fresh water to communities during glacial melts, have already retreated and roughly 14% (406 km2) of glacial areas were lost between 1990-2015[[33]](#footnote-34). This increases the rates of flash floods and potential destruction of crops, infrastructure, and livelihoods. IPCC also reports that the Hindu Kish Himalaya Region is at risk of losing more than 60% of its glaciers by 2100.

The potential impacts of climate change on Afghanistan's forests and biodiversity remain unclear due to insufficient research and limited access to these areas. Nevertheless, rising temperatures and extreme climate events threaten various species, hinder forest growth, and contribute to rangeland degradation. Despite Afghanistan being heavily forested in the 19th century, forests cover just 2.9% of the country's land area today, having lost nearly 70% of its tree cover since the 1950s.

According to the World Bank (2018)[[34]](#footnote-35) desertification in Afghanistan affects more than 75 percent of the total land area in the northern, western and southern regions and the country’s total forest area declined from 5 to 2 percent, with the natural forest cover reduced to 867,000 hectares over the last four decades, mostly in the north and east of the country. Between 1990 and 2005, Afghanistan lost 33.8 percent of its forest cover (around 442,000 hectares).[[35]](#footnote-36)

Recent decades have witnessed significant biodiversity loss driven by factors like inadequate policies or policy enforcement, population pressures, security concerns, and illegal logging and hunting. Climate change is expected to increase these losses, with rising temperatures and shifting precipitation patterns likely expanding arid land cover, further aggravating rangeland degradation, and increasing the risk of landslides, particularly in the Hindu Kush region. These environmental challenges directly threaten Afghan people's livelihoods, particularly women who rely on forest resources for fuel, heating, and cooking.[[36]](#footnote-37)

### ***1.2.5. Overall Impacts of Climate Change and Climate Hazards***

In summary, these climate hazards, together with low levels of adaptivecapacities in Afghanistan, result in localised effects and impacts. Table 1 shows the summary of climate hazards in the country, the intensity of their impact and which regions the affect most:

Table 1: Impacts of Climate Hazards and Climate Change in Afghanistan

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Impacts | Intensity | Affected Regions | Susceptible Sectors |
| Floods | High | All, but especially South, West and North | Life and Livelihoods, human health |
| Land degradation/ Soil Loss | High | Northeast, Central highlands and Southern Provinces | Agriculture, Livelihoods |
| Droughts | High | West, North, and Southern Provinces | Agriculture, Livelihoods |
| Decreasing agricultural productivity/ Food Insecurity | High | All Provinces; Central Highland region particularly vulnerable | Agriculture, Livelihoods |
| Landslide | Medium to high | North and Northeastern Provinces | Agriculture, Human health |
| Desertification/ Aridification | Medium to high | Southern Provinces; Kandahar and Farah (aridification) | Agriculture, Livelihoods, Water availability |
| Diminishing surface water level | Low to Medium | All Provinces; Especially Southern and Western Provinces | Agriculture, water availability |
| Deglaciation | Medium | \_\_\_ | Agriculture, water Availability |
| Human health | Medium | All Provinces (epidemics in Baghlan, Badakhshan, Takhar and Samangan | \_\_\_ |
| Forest and Biodiversity Loss | \_\_\_ | Kumar and Nuristan | \_\_\_ |

Source: UNDP (2016) National Adaptation Plan for Afghanistan 2016[[37]](#footnote-38)

These lead to various forms of impact on people, livelihoods, infrastructure and ecosystems, including:

1. Displacement and loss of key agriculture livelihood opportunities
2. Food insecurity and malnutrition
3. Deteriorating water availability due to meteorological (associated with a precipitation deficit) and hydrological (associated with a deficit in surface and subsurface water flow) factors:
   1. Agriculture: Reduced water availability and quality will lead to diminished agricultural yields, threatening food security.
   2. Human Consumption: Limited access to clean water will impact public health and hygiene.
   3. Industry: Industries reliant on water may face challenges in production, affecting economic growth.
4. Escalated deforestation: Illegal logging and demand for fuelwood can further degrade the environment and exacerbate climate change effects.
5. Deteriorating land and other natural resource management.
6. More frequent occurrence of natural hazards leading to disasters: Increased vulnerability to floods, droughts, and landslides may occur due to environmental changes.
7. Increased internal displacement and changed migration patterns: Water scarcity and environmental degradation can lead to displacement, forcing people to migrate in search of resources and opportunities.
8. More frequent and intense local conflicts: Competition over scarce land and water resources may lead to conflicts within and between communities, potentially escalating into cross-border tensions.

Due to its high level of vulnerabilities and low levels of adaptive capacity, Afghanistan faces a great deal of challenges to cope with. The most significant challenges in terms of vulnerability and low capacity include:

1. Lack of infrastructure: Inadequate systems for water management, energy production, healthcare, and disaster response hinder resilience and adaptation efforts. Poor infrastructure and a lack of secure transportation routes make it difficult for farmers to access markets to sell their products.
2. Weak capacities of water resource management: Limited expertise, funding, and technology for effective water management exacerbates water-related challenges.
3. Limited adaptive capacities and resilience-building opportunities for women: Current traditional gender roles and rigid social norms in Afghanistan can restrict women's education, mobility and participation in income-generating activities and climate change adaptation strategies. These norms can hinder their ability to adapt to changing climate conditions and engage in resilience-building initiatives. Women and children are also disproportionally affected by climate migration, which puts them at greater risk of gender-based violence, domestic violence, child marriage, child labour and exploitation. Afghan women typically have limited access to land, credit, and agricultural inputs, making adapting to changing climate conditions challenging. Empowering local communities, especially women, with knowledge about sustainable agriculture and food practices is essential for climate resilience.
4. Limited Access to Technology and Innovation: The absence of modern technology for water conservation, renewable energy, and climate adaptation limits the country's ability to respond to climate change.
5. Lack of employment opportunities and green jobs: There is a lack of economic diversification and green jobs in sectors like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, environmental management, protection and restoration of ecosystems, reforestation, and sustainable water management in Afghanistan. If present, these jobs can contribute to environmental sustainability, promote the efficient use of resources, and support climate resilience.
6. Poverty and Lack of Education: High poverty levels and limited access to education hinder community adaptation and resilience. A lack of awareness about climate change impedes effective community-level adaptation.
7. Weak Capacities of Dispute Resolution Mechanisms at the Community Level: Inefficient or non-existent local dispute resolution systems can lead to conflicts over resources going unresolved, further escalating tensions.
8. Weak Disaster Risk Reduction Capacities at the Community Level: Limited knowledge, resources, and planning at the community level for disaster risk reduction makes communities more vulnerable to climate-related hazards.
9. The absence of a circular approach in agriculture is a missed opportunity: Circular practices can enhance efficient water use through methods like drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting. Recycling and reusing organic waste, including crop residues and livestock manure, can improve soil fertility, thus reducing the reliance on synthetic fertilisers. Furthermore, further reducing food waste bolsters food security and minimizes the greenhouse gas emissions linked to decomposition.
10. **UNDP’S WORK ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

UNDP works in 170 countries and territories to help achieve the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP is one of the leading actors in building climate resilience in the world, supporting countries from different regions to:

1. Build low-carbon economies, promote green jobs, and ensure a just transition;
2. Increase resilience to the impacts of climate change;
3. Recover from climate-induced disasters and build back better;
4. Develop sustainable and renewable energy solutions; and
5. Foster inclusive and comprehensive climate action.

At the global level, UNDP received USD 1,188 billion (14 percent) of climate funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and USD 229 million from GEF or 26 percent of the total allocation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the highest among all agencies.

UNDP's Climate Promise Programme accelerates climate action and resilience in over 100 countries. It leverages the United Nations' network and partnerships to connect governments with essential resources and innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions. UNDP promotes sustainability and encourages both public and private sectors to transition to a climate-resilient future. UNDP deals with the areas of adaptation and resilience, circular economy, climate finance, climate security, energy, forests, land and nature, inclusion, just transition, loss and damage, net zero pathways, transparency, and urban issues.

**2.1. How UNDP Builds Climate Resilience in Afghanistan**

In the past decade, the UNDP Afghanistan Country Office has contributed significantly to building climate resilience in the country. It has been instrumental in crafting policies and in-depth analyses that form the foundation for current and future climate action in the country, including the:

1. Energy Sector Assessment of Afghanistan 2023
2. Community Survey of Food Security, Livelihoods and Climate Change in nine provinces of Afghanistan 2023
3. Nationally Determined Contributions (updated 2021)
4. Climate Change Scenarios for Agriculture of Afghanistan 2019
5. National Adaptation Plan for Afghanistan (NAPA) 2016
6. National Appropriate Mitigation Actions for Afghanistan (NAMA) (2016-2020)
7. Afghanistan Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (ACCSAP) 2015

Between 2017 and 2021 alone, UNDP rehabilitated 25 climate-resilient infrastructure to protect 1,000 hectares of agricultural land from floods and to improve irrigation for 3,470 hectares of land to benefit 41,125 vulnerable Afghans. In addition, hectares of barren lands were afforested with indigenous riparian species shrubs in Snow leopard habitats.

UNDP Afghanistan has provided also over 4,000 Afghans with improved access to clean energy through solar-hydro mini-grid, efficient cook stoves, solar dryers, and solar hot water systems in the past years. It has installed 672 decentralised solar photovoltaic systems in mosques (450 systems), health facilities (189 systems) and schools (33 systems), bringing energy to 981,264 people (318,034 women). In Khost province, UNDP installed two mini-grid solar systems in two communities, providing electricity for lighting and HH utilities for 350 households in the districts of Spera and Sabari. UNDP also conducted training to nearly 40 private sector companies for the effective use of renewable energy devices.[[38]](#footnote-39)

UNDP has been engaged in various initiatives to enhance the management of water and natural ecosystems from 2017 to mid-2021. A total of 428 hectares of unproductive lands were reforested using native riparian shrub species in habitats critical for Snow leopards. Additionally, an area spanning 1,164 hectares was revitalized by cultivating crops that facilitate soil regeneration for agricultural purposes. One project involves training and providing resources to rangers at Wakhan National Park, building their expertise in habitat management and preventing wildlife trade.

Other projects of the country office that contribute to the climate resilience-building efforts are highlighted below.

***2.1.1. ABADEI Programme***

The Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives or ABADEI is UNDP Afghanistan’s flagship crisis response programme launched in 2021 as part of the overall UN system’s response to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe and the breakdown of the country’s economy following the August 2021 shift in power in Afghanistan.  ABADEI, which denotes resilient communities, is a tailored area-based integrated programming approach to support basic human needs, complementing short-term humanitarian life-saving assistance with safeguarding livelihoods and strengthening community resilience.

ABADEI focuses on addressing worsening poverty and vulnerability, supporting community resilience and social cohesion, and enabling the rehabilitation of small-scale infrastructure vital for basic human needs. The main activities of ABADEI include unconditional cash transfer, rehabilitation of infrastructure, supporting women enterprises and the private sector, agriculture, access to water, health, education, energy, and social cohesion.

During its emergency phase from 2021 to 2022, ABADEI safeguarded jobs and livelihoods while strengthening the country's climate resilience. Among its accomplishments, it provided access to renewable energy for 500,000 people and protected farmer livelihoods from disasters by providing finance and equipment to 500,000 Afghans. It contributed to private sector resilience by supporting 50,000 women-led enterprises and strengthening the local economy through backing systems and digital payments.[[39]](#footnote-40)

In 2022-2023, the programme supported water infrastructure rehabilitation (452 canals, 72 culverts, 26 reservoirs, 19 karez, 7 water supplies, 16 small check dams and 184 flood walls), which resulted in the irrigation of 225,817 hectares of agricultural land and 89,329 hectares protected from flooding. In this period, 221 disaster action plans were formulated, and decentralised solar PV systems were installed in mosques (450 systems), health facilities (189 systems) and schools (33 systems), bringing energy to 981,264 people (318,034 women).

***2.1.2. UNDP Afghanistan’s Climate-Related Projects***

UNDP Afghanistan also implemented these four projects on renewable energy through a total funding of over USD 96 million:

1. ASERD (Afghanistan Sustainable Energy for Rural Development)
2. AREMTI\*(Afghanistan Rural Energy Market Transformation Initiative -Strengthening Resilience of Livelihoods Through Sustainable Energy Access)
3. SESEHA (Sustainable Energy Services for Education and Health)
4. ABADEI Outcomes 1 and 3 (Area-Based Integrated Programme)

UNDP succeeded in mobilising the community and developing infrastructure, which resulted in nearly 3.3 million people benefitting from better irrigation, land protection, and access to clean energy.[[40]](#footnote-41)

Likewise, UNDP has an environment program on natural resource management, the Snow Leopard Project (Conservation of Snow Leopard and their Critical Habitat in Afghanistan), worth USD 2.9 million. In terms of climate change adaptation, the country office has two projects valued at more than USD 71 million, Outcome 3 of ABADEI and the CDRRP (Climate induced-disaster Risk Reduction Project).

Some of these climate projects were suspended and never resumed operations due to the events of August 2021. However, some, such as the CDRRP, were able to meet several milestones on its goal to “improve preparedness and resilience of selected Afghan communities to climate-induced disasters risks.

Overall, UNDP formulated significant policies and led the planning and implementation of climate-related programs and projects in Afghanistan. Given the immense scale of the climate challenges and the ongoing impact of climate hazards in Afghanistan in the context of economic decline, conflict and fragility, more context-appropriate actions need to be taken to build the climate resilience for the Afghan people.

1. **CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN KEY INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS.**

The climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, climate-smart agriculture, resilient infrastructure and key provisions of several key national, regional and international agreements were used to guide the development of the core components of this programme. These agreements include:

1. The Paris Climate Agreement:

* Article 7, item 1 states that Parties hereby establish the global goal of adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, to contribute to sustainable development and ensure an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.
* Article 7, 9-e: (e) Building the resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals:

* Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to all countries' climate-related hazards and natural disasters.
* Target 13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.
* Relevant targets in SDGs 1, 2, 7, 9, 11 and 15

1. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030:

* (5) It is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk to more effectively protect persons, communities and countries, their livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets and ecosystems, and thus strengthen their resilience.
* Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
  + (29) Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, and the environment.
  + (30-o) (o) To increase business resilience and protection of livelihoods and productive assets throughout the supply chains, ensure continuity of services and integrate disaster risk management into business models and practices.
  + (31 g) To promote and support the development of social safety nets as disaster risk reduction measures linked to and integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes in order to ensure resilience to shocks at the household and community levels.

Additionally, this program aligns with the trajectories set by other Regional Programmatic Documents, most notably the United Nations Regional Programme Document for Asia and the Pacific (2022-2025).

Finally, the programme aligns with key provisions of the United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan 2023-2025 and its 3 Priorities and Outputs:

1. Priority 1: Sustained Essential Services (Health and Nutrition; Education; WASH; Social Protection; and Protection)
2. Priority 2: Economic Opportunities and Resilient Livelihoods (Economic Stabilization, Private Sector Development, and Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods)
3. Priority 3: Social Cohesion, Inclusion, Gender Equality, Human Rights, and Rule of Law (Social Cohesion and Inclusion; Justice and Rule of Law; and Human Rights and Non-Discrimination of Women)

The cross-cutting principles of the UNSFA 2023-2025 also highlight that “climate resilience must also be emphasised in interventions, given Afghanistan’s vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters”. Furthermore, “the UN will aim to prioritise interventions that promote climate-resilient livelihoods and services and ensure that climate risks are systematically integrated into all project designs and implementation plans. This will contribute to building the resilience of Afghan communities”.

1. **AFGHANISTAN COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE (ACCR) PROGRAMME: STRATEGY**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Afghanistan Country Office developed the Afghanistan Comprehensive Climate Resilience (ACCR) Programme to anticipate and address the short, medium and long-term impacts of climate hazards and climate change in Afghanistan visavis the level of the country’s vulnerabilities, fragility and adaptive capacities. The ACCR design is in line key with provisions of the UNSFA 2023-2025, the Paris Agreement, the SDGs, and the SFDRR and other agreements.

The overall goal of the ACCR Programme is to: *“Build the resilience of the Afghan people and communities at risk, affected and displaced by climate hazards and climate change.”*

This goal will be achieved through four strategic outcomes:

1. Outcome 1: Strengthened Climate and Disaster Risk Management in Communities
2. Outcome 2: Increased Climate Resilience of Agriculture, Livelihoods and MSMEs
3. Outcome 3: Improved Access to Energy and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure
4. Outcome 4: Enhanced Water Resources and Ecosystems Management

Each of these outcomes aim to 1) address the ongoing impacts of climate hazards in Afghanistan, 2) reduce risks and avoid further loss and damage to livelihoods, infrastructure, human lives, ecosystem, and the Afghan economy, 3) strengthen adaptive capacities and resilience from future climate hazards, and 4) contribute to unlocking potentials to economic and social development through climate action and nature-based solutions.

The four outcomes contain a total of 10 outputs as summarized below:

1. Under Outcome 1 on Strengthened Climate and Disaster Risk Management in Communities
   1. Climate and disaster risk assessment and early warning systems
   2. Disaster preparedness and climate resilience measures
2. Under Outcome 2 on Increased Climate Resilience of Agriculture, Livelihoods and MSMEs
   1. Assistance to Smallholder Farmers and Livestock Producers to Increase Productivity
   2. Assets and Technologies to Safeguard Agriculture Production
   3. Adaptive Livelihood and Effective Private Sector Engagement and Resilience-Building
   4. Skills Development and Integrated Capacity Building
3. Under Outcome 3 on Improved Access to Energy and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure
   1. Cost-effective energy sources
   2. Climate-resilient infrastructure
4. Under Outcome 4 on Enhanced Water Resources and Ecosystems Management
   1. Integrated water resource management
   2. Programs to manage Biodiversity, Forest, Land and Ecosystems.

The ACCR has a total of 43 activities under these 10 outputs. The total target funding by UNDP to fully implement the ACCR is USD 130,000,000. These activities are broken down into 6 broad types:

1. Construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure, public facilities- 13 activities with a total budget of USD 82,900,000 (64%)
2. Provision of equipment, tools & inputs- 6 activities with a total budget of USD 15,250,000 (11.7%)
3. Ecosystem management- 3 activities with a total proposed budget of USD 15,000,000 (11.5%)
4. Capacity building and awareness raising- 14 activities with a total budget of USD 9,950,000 (8%)
5. Assessments and planning- 5 activities with a total proposed budget of USD 3,650,000 (2.8%)
6. Provision of Finance/ Grants- 2 activities with a total proposed budget of USD 3,250,000 (2.5%)

**OUTCOME 1: STRENGTHENED CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN COMMUNITIES**

Afghan communities are on the frontlines of climate change impacts. Climate hazards lead to loss of lives, properties, and livelihoods, worsening poverty and increased fragility in communities and vulnerable groups. Assessing the risks, providing early warning, building resilience, and strengthening the capacities of communities and their at-risk populations is a high priority in fragile and high-climate-risk countries like Afghanistan.[[41]](#footnote-42) The following outputs would be required to capacitate Afghan communities on climate resilience further:

1. Climate and disaster risk assessment and early warning systems
2. Disaster preparedness and climate resilience measures

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#### **Output 1.1. Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment and Early Warning Systems**

Understanding the potential impacts of climate hazards and climate change in Afghanistan and the points and sources of vulnerabilities of the country will enable informed decision-making and actions. This program will develop and implement appropriate climate risk analysis to understand and address short to long-term climate risks and establish traditional and automated early warning systems to warn communities and authorities of imminent climate hazards to reduce loss of lives, injuries, and damage to properties.

1. ***Activity 1.1.1: Develop/ Update Local-Level Multi-Hazard Risk Assessments and Climate Change Scenarios***

This activity aims to increase the level of understanding of short, medium, and long-term climate risks and to develop (or update) risk assessments and climate scenarios at the local level while using loss and damage data when possible. It considers current and projected risks encompassing extreme weather events, temperature fluctuations, and other climate change impacts.

1. ***Activity 1.1.2: Set up/ Upgrade of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Slow and Sudden Onset Climate Hazards***

To save lives and reduce loss and damage, this activity aims to provide or strengthen existing traditional and automated hazard monitoring and early warning systems at the local and community levels through the provision and better use of local tools as well as technology, where appropriate, for warnings on imminent hazards, especially floods and drought to reach the affected population and vulnerable groups in a timelier manner.

1. ***Activity 1.1.3: Conduct Training for Early Warning and Risk Communication in Communities***

To broaden the reach and impact of the ACCR program, this activity will develop climate-related information materials in the form of print, infographics, videos, and other media for dissemination through awareness-raising campaigns and social media platforms to encourage the Afghan people to increase their awareness on key climate issues and to be part of the climate solution. Training materials and handbooks for universities will be developed. Training of Trainers (TOT) for teachers and professors, students, and women’s groups, particularly from the economic and environmental faculties in Afghanistan, on communication with communities will be conducted. Brochures and animated IEC materials will be developed for community awareness, considering the low literacy rate among women in communities.

1. ***Activity 1.1.4: Conduct Climate-focused Health Risk and Impact Assessment***

This activity aims to assess and anticipate/ address the extent of health-related risks and impacts of climate change to Afghan communities and reduce the impacts of epidemics that are borne from climate hazards such as floods and drought. The assessment will include recommendations to identify needs in terms of assets, equipment, capacity building and other areas to better prepare people and communities.

#### **Output 1.2: Disaster Preparedness and Climate Resilience Measures**

The risk assessment and early warning activities above will inform and enable the conduct of effective action planning, preparedness and response training, and capacity-building programs within a community or several contiguous set of communities. The preparedness-focused activities will be complemented by constructing appropriate climate-proof permanent structures and assets such as evacuation sites that can be used by high-risk communities during rapid-onset disasters.

1. ***Activity 1.2.1: Provision of Resilience Planning, Equipment and Emergency Preparedness and Response Training for At-Risk Communities and Community Development Committees***

In areas with the highest risks from climate hazards, this activity will provide communities and community members, especially women, with the right plans as well as the right skills and equipment to reduce risks and be the first responders immediately after sudden onset climate disasters like floods and landslides. This Activity will ensure vulnerable groups' participation and active engagement in communities and will complement its awareness-raising efforts with multi-hazard planning, DRR, emergency preparedness and response training.

This activity also aims to conduct climate and disaster resilience planning for contiguous sets of communities, livelihood zones, watersheds and/or provinces to build resilience plans for these areas vis-a-vis economic development and environmental sustainability. The resulting inter-community plans will identify coordinated solutions for drought, floods, extreme heat, extreme cold and other climate hazards that affect contiguous communities to reduce the impacts of climate change and promote risk-informed development.

This activity will also strengthen the work of community development committees (CDCs), increase their capacity to deal with climate and disaster risks and identify priority actions and disaster risk reduction plans. In terms of disaster preparedness, UNDP will continue with the strategy of establishing and sustaining disaster management committees consisting of up to 30 volunteers who play a role in identifying and reducing the various disaster risks in their local communities, fulfilling different roles such as search and rescue, first aid, shelter management, and early warning.

1. ***Activity 1.2.2: Construction of Dual-Use Evacuation Facilities***

UNDP will construct dual-use evacuation facilities that can be used during floods and sudden-onset disasters. During normal times, these structures can be used as public buildings or trade areas. They can also serve as multipurpose buildings designed to be safe havens during emergencies such as natural disasters and climate-related hazards, especially when they strike during the harsh winter seasons.

1. ***Activity 1.2.3: Construction of Health Facilities to Anticipate and Address Climate-Change-Related Diseases in Communities***

UNDP will also construct health facilities in areas most at risk from the impact of climate-borne diseases coupled with appropriate equipment and technologies to increase the effectiveness of these structures. This will help increase the resilience of community members from diseases associated with climate change.

**OUTCOME 2: INCREASED CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF AGRICULTURE, LIVELIHOODS AND MSMES**

Climate change and climate-related disasters can have a wide range of negative impacts on the highly climate-sensitive agricultural sector and the smallholder farmers, the livelihoods and the micro and small enterprises within the agricultural value chain.[[42]](#footnote-43) The impact of climate hazards on agriculture can include reduced income due to crop failure and reduced yields, business disruption, supply and value chain disruption, loss of assets like livestock, increased costs due to higher input prices, and loss of employment due to reduced productivity of small businesses who may lose the ability compete with larger ones.

Increasing the capacities, protecting the assets and ensuring the continuity of operations of smallholder farmers and small businesses supporting farming operations can mitigate the impacts of climate hazards and climate change on the agricultural value chain, keep businesses open, and ensure food security and a steady supply of food for communities. It can also contribute to local development, reducing poverty and supporting the existing and future value chains.[[43]](#footnote-44)

This outcome will be implemented through four outputs, which are proposed to make the country's agriculture sector, livelihoods and MSMEs more climate resilient:

1. Assistance to Smallholder Farmers and Livestock Producers to Increase Productivity
2. Assets and Technologies to Safeguard Agriculture Production
3. Adaptive Livelihood and Effective Private Sector Engagement and Resilience-Building
4. Skills Development and Integrated Capacity Building

#### **Output 2.1: Assistance to Smallholder Farmers and Livestock Producers to Increase Productivity**

This ACCR program output focuses on increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers and livestock producers in Afghanistan to achieve higher yields while also building resilience from the existing and upcoming effects of climate hazards mentioned in Chapter 1. This can be done through the following activities focused on the provision of agricultural inputs, farming techniques and advisory support that increases the resilience of smallholder farmers and livestock producers.

1. ***Activity 2.1.1: Provision of Climate-Resistant Agricultural Inputs***

This activity will target smallholder farmers and livestock producers as beneficiaries and recipients of high-quality climate-resistant agricultural inputs to ensure that farming and food production continue despite drought, floods and/or other climate hazards. This activity aims to identify the most affected and at-risk areas and provide a package of in-kind support that may include:

1. Drought and flood-tolerant crops
2. Supporting the use of organic fertilisers and intercropping
3. Agricultural equipment
4. Pasteur livestock
5. Farming tools and equipment
6. Other innovative inputs to improve crop yields, ensure harvest, and help farmers adapt to extreme climate hazards and climate change.
7. ***Activity 2.1.2: Provision of Advisory/ Extension Services through Supporting Farmer File Schools (FFS) and Community Annual Health Works***

This activity is geared toward providing resilience-building advisory and extension services to livestock producers through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Community Annual health Works. It involves disseminating knowledge, best practices, and expert advice to livestock farmers and enabling them to make informed decisions, adopt better livestock practice and improve animal production and health in the context of the changing temperature, water availability and climatic conditions in the country.

1. ***Activity 2.1.3: Capacity Strengthening of Local Producers Using a Value Chain Approach through Support in The Production and Commercialization of High-Value Crops***

This initiative is designed to enhance the capabilities and build the knowledge of local producers in Afghanistan to better prepare for the impact of climate change on agriculture, with a focus on the production and successful commercialization of high-value crops. By employing a value chain approach, we aim to provide tangible support to smallholder farmers by supporting them to diversify their agricultural practices, by enhancing their skills and capabilities and by enabling collaboration in community and actors in the value chain. This will boost the farmer’s income and improve the overall productivity and livelihoods while making them more resilient to climate variations, especially drought and extreme temperatures.

#### **Output 2.2: Assets and Technologies to Safeguard Agricultural Production.**

This output centers on securing agriculture production by providing essential assets and deploying climate-resilient technologies to benefit smallholder farmers and their communities. The activities under this output aim towards enhancing water management, increasing yields, reducing costs, and mitigating climate-related agricultural challenges.

1. ***Activity 2.2.1: Construction/ Rehabilitation of Irrigation Facilities***

This activity involves the planning construction of irrigation and relevant facilities to enhance water management in farmlands and pasturelands, including in arid and water-scarce communities, to support agricultural production especially in drought prone provinces. This activity will cover the installation of steel irrigation gates and earthen/stone irrigation channels, among others, and careful consideration will be given to ensure climate-responsive design to enable communities to better adapt to climate-related shocks.

1. ***Activity 2.2.2: Construction/ Rehabilitation of Climate-Resilient Community Structures that Support Farming Activities***

This activity will support farming communities by building composting facilities, greenhouses, solar fruit drying facilities, solar dairy cooling facilities and other appropriate farming structures that help farmers adapt to the climate hazards like extreme temperature that increases the rate of spoilage of products. While aiming to address the impacts of climate change, these structures will also be resistant to climate hazard. These structures will support farming activities, increase yields, reduce losses, reduce costs of inputs, and mitigate post-harvest losses to benefit smallholder farmers and the community at large.

1. ***Activity 2.2.3: Provision of Innovative Technologies for At-Risk and Drought-Affected Communities[[44]](#footnote-45)***

Providing innovative tools and technologies for at-risk and drought-affected communities is important to help them manage limited water resources and reduce the risks of crop failure. Complementing the tools provided in all other outcomes/components of the program, this activity will provide drip irrigation,[[45]](#footnote-46) solar panels for solar water pumps, use of satellite imagery and analytics, technologies for crop cultivation, and other relevant technologies[[46]](#footnote-47) to maintain agricultural productivity and increase yields, reduce loss of income and ensure efficient use of water in drought-affected communities in a water-stressed country like Afghanistan.

1. ***Activity 2.2.4: Capacity Building on the Use of Technologies and Assets***

This activity aims to enhance the capacity of farmers and community members to better utilize and maintain the technologies and assets provided within this output. This can include training programs, workshops, training of trainers and other activities that better use assets and technologies provided by UNDP towards more effective climate-resilient agricultural practices.

***Output 2.3: Adaptive Livelihood and Effective Private Sector Engagement and Resilience-Building***

This output focuses on a comprehensive and consolidated approach to build adaptive livelihoods, enhance the resilience of the Afghan private sector, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and strengthen market linkages in Afghanistan. It recognizes that the Afghan private sector are both affected stakeholders and key actors in building resilience from climate hazards and climate change. UNDP will therefore aim to empower marginalized individuals, particularly women, men, and youth, to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and enhance their economic prospects.

The activities under this output range from building MSME resilience to supporting innovation and local solutions for startups, smallholder farmers, and micro-enterprises with the aim of providing access to finance, market opportunities, and necessary training, all while fostering climate resilience in communities and businesses.

1. ***Activity 2.3.1: Business Continuity Planning and Business Coaching for MSMEs***

This activity will conduct climate-sensitive business continuity planning training for MSMEs, smallholder farmers and strategic economic/ industrial zones and complement the broader training approach on skills and livelihood diversification and targeting small businesses in climate-sensitive locations or sectors. The BCP training is crucial in developing concrete steps for MSMEs to minimise disruptions from all types of hazards and shocks they face as a business entity. This activity will also produce a 2-hour training programme that can be implemented as a face-to-face group session and a self-paced online course for those with access to the internet.

This activity will also set up a “Business Coaching” activity, a one-on-one or group mentoring initiative for MSMEs, especially women-led MSMEs, and their employees to help them assess and address the combined financial shocks and climate risks they face. Business coaching targets to assist at risk or impacted business owners by providing insights into critical decision-making to prevent common mistakes in resource allocation, bring business owners together and share best practices, and ensure workers have the right mindset to work and be productive.

Set up as either a face-to-face or online modality for business coaching can help MSMEs access new opportunities, markets and customer base, manage financial and climate risks, especially those brought by drought and climate hazards, develop mitigation strategies, avert financial losses, and develop strategies to improve their revenues. This activity includes creating and training a pool of business coaches and targeting MSMEs, especially women-led MSMEs, as beneficiaries. It also envisages creating a handbook incorporating best practices on drought and climate resilience for the private sector.

1. ***Activity 2.3.2: Improving Access to Finance for Youth and Women to build resilient businesses***

This activity will provide seed funding for startups, smallholder farmers and micro-enterprises in at-risk locations and livelihoods to support them to grow their operations, enable them to purchase equipment and supplies, overcome the impact of the drought and/or reduce risks from future climate hazards. In addition, it is expected to collect innovative and creative ideas from women and youth to localise community-based solutions, e.g., applying drip irrigation, new irrigation modalities, fruit drying, creative ways of doing business and other livelihood improvement tools. By concentrating on underprivileged women, men, and youth and delivering tailored livelihood skills and support that align with local demands, this effort seeks to mitigate the risks of renewed displacement and economic exclusion.

1. ***Activity 2.3.3: Support Participation in Market Fairs and Business-To-Business Forums***

This activity aims to strengthen the market presence of smallholder farmers and agribusinesses by supporting (e.g., through marketing videos) and facilitating their participation in market fairs and business-to-business forums here and abroad. It will also include B2B networking, facilitating opportunities for farmers and agribusinesses to connect with potential buyers, suppliers, and business partners during business-to-business forums.

1. ***Activity 2.3.4: Effective Engagement of and Capacity Building for Private Sector Networks, Farmers' Associations, and Business Organisations***

Businesses bear the damage in terms of direct impact on assets, personnel and operations. Their adaptation to the new normal of climate hazards in the context of fragility can significantly reduce the impacts of future hazards. The effective engagement complemented by capacity building of national, provincial, and other private sector networks and business associations will, in turn, be crucial in encouraging them to MSMEs to adapt and in harnessing business capabilities to support the overall resilience-building efforts.

Consolidating farmers' efforts through farmers associations is ideal to promote value chain development, such that they benefit from economies of scale. These farmer associations can help farmers secure better prices for their produce. Such platforms help farmers share farming intelligence on potential outbreaks of diseases or climatic hazards such as droughts and flooding. Business networks will form the core of marketing of agricultural produce. Linking the Farmers Association with business networks will help protect farmers from post-harvest losses and the negative effects of middlemen. Actions to be undertaken under this activity include the reactivation/formation of community-level farmer associations per targeted value chain, linking established solarised infrastructure with the farmer associations and linking farmers’ associations with business networks for improved marketing.

1. ***Activity 2.3.5: Supporting Agro-Processing, Sorting, Grading and Packaging for Agricultural Value Chains at Risk from Climate Change***

This activity is dedicated to improving agricultural products' processing, quality control, and packaging, particularly those at risk from climate change. This activity can focus on such aspects as building and upgrading agro-processing facilities that can handle climate-vulnerable crops and products, such as drought-resistant crops, using innovative packaging, implementing measures for sorting, grading, and quality control to ensure that agricultural products meet international standards and are resilient to climate-related challenges.

1. ***Activity 2.3.6: Support the Establishment of Home-Based Dairy Processing and Solarized Refrigeration***

This activity is focused on strengthening the dairy sector by supporting the establishment of home-based dairy processing facilities and solarised refrigeration systems, ensuring dairy products are preserved, stored and transported at the appropriate temperature, especially in areas prone to electricity shortages.

#### **Output 2.4: Skills Development and Integrated Capacity Building**

This output focuses on enhancing the knowledge and capacities of communities and individuals in Afghanistan, particularly smallholder farmers, owners and employees of small businesses, and climate-vulnerable populations. The aim is to equip these individuals with the skills and resources needed to adapt to climate change, strengthen or diversify their current livelihoods, and build the resilience of various sectors. Several activities within this output address skills development and integrated capacity building:

1. ***Activity 2.4.1: Conduct Training in Regenerative and Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices***

This activity is dedicated to strengthening current agricultural practices and empowering smallholder farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to adapt to changing climate conditions and enhance their farming operations' sustainability. Participants will receive comprehensive training on a wide range of topics, which may include:

1. Crop selection and diversification to ensure resilience against climate variability, such as drought-tolerant and flood-resistant crop varieties.
2. Crop rotation techniques optimise soil health and productivity, reducing vulnerability to pests and diseases.
3. Soil management practices for enhancing soil fertility, structure, and water retention capacity.
4. Water management strategies, including efficient irrigation methods like drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting, to address water scarcity and irregular rainfall patterns.
5. Access to weather and climate information to support informed decision-making and timely response to climate-related challenges.
6. Implementing disaster preparedness measures and crop insurance to reduce risks associated with climate-related disasters.
7. Effective utilisation of climate data and information for improving the overall resilience of agricultural systems.
8. Regenerative agriculture livelihood options,creating livelihood options for farmers and communities that are centred around regenerative agriculture practices, including diversification, value addition, market access, business development, and community-based enterprises.
9. ***Activity 2.4.2: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to Diversify Skills and Livelihoods of the Climate-Vulnerable***

The impact of climate change on livelihoods may eventually force people to learn new skills and obtain other means of income. In partnership with educational institutions and implementing partners, this Activity will develop and implement technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes to build new skills and livelihood opportunities and offer incentives to diversify livelihoods within communities. Targeting skills and livelihoods that are at risk from the slow and sudden onset impact of climate change, this TVET initiative will focus on:

1. Training for young farmers to be service providers to meet the needs and demands of local markets and increase the competitiveness of the local agriculture sector.
2. Skills development programs, especially for smallholder farmers and women entrepreneurs
3. Digital skills training especially for young entrepreneurs
4. Other new skills needed in at-risk communities/ sectors.
5. ***Activity 2.4.3: Provision of Starter Kits to Trainees and Beneficiaries***

This activity involves providing starter kits to individuals who have completed training in climate-smart and regenerative agricultural practices. These starter kits contain essential tools, materials, and resources needed to kickstart their climate-resilient farming endeavours.

1. ***Activity 2.4.4: Community-to-Community and Business-to-Business Exchange***

This activity aims to promote international knowledge exchange and collaboration in the field of climate-smart and regenerative agriculture. It involves interactions with other countries and agricultural communities to learn from their experiences and best practices.

**OUTCOME 3: IMPROVED ACCESS TO ENERGY AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Climate-resilient infrastructure, as well as public buildings and communal facilities, are imperative to ensure access to critical services and to bolster community resilience in the face of climate hazards. Energy is a huge need in the country, and an adequate supply of energy can catalyse the respective resilience-building processes undertaken by at-risk populations, communities, businesses and key industries. To support resilience and socio-economic development efforts that reduce people’s vulnerabilities in the country, UNDP aims to develop the following outputs:

1. Cost-effective energy sources
2. Climate-resilient infrastructure

#### **Output 3.1: Cost-Effective Energy Sources**

This Output aims to provide appropriate low-cost energy solutions to improve Afghanistan's energy supply and energy access. It consists of several activities focused on renewable and clean energy sources, energy access for industrial zones, capacity strengthening, financing mechanisms, and knowledge platforms for energy resilience.

1. ***Activity 3.1.1: Feasibility Study, Design and Installation of Clean, Renewable and Alternate Energy Services for Off-Grid Villages***

Given the context of Afghanistan, a decentralised energy generation and distribution system powered by solar photovoltaic panels can provide sustainable energy sources to several off-grid villages and their households, businesses and institutions. The capacity, energy demand, storage and location can be determined via a feasibility study before supply and installation. To capitalise on this potential while meeting the energy needs of communities, this activity will aim to supply and install the following:

1. Hydro-Solar based mini-grid systems for communities
2. Solar Rooftops for Health, Education, Agriculture, Enterprises and Households.
3. Other Alternate Energy Sources
4. ***Activity 3.1.2: Energy Access for Industrial Zones***

Afghanistan has 11 operational industrial parks, mainly in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Herat, and Balkh provinces. An additional three are in the planning stage, while 12 are already under construction across 11 provinces: Nangarhar, Logar, Faryab, Khost, Maidan Wardak, Helmand, Herat, Parwan, Ghazni, Paktyai, and Daikundi. These industrial parks play a crucial role in Afghanistan's economic recovery, attracting investments, enhancing business security, and reducing operational costs through shared utilities and logistics. Appropriate energy solutions coupled with the appropriate management arrangements and sustainability measures will be identified and implemented to ensure a reliable energy supply in key industrial parks, sustain their operation and expand business activities, job creation, and stimulation of local economies.

1. ***Activity 3.1.3: Energy Access for Livelihoods and Business Resilience***

This activity aims to increase access to clean and renewable energy sources, including solar power, to support the operations of Afghanistan's individual businesses and business centres. It acknowledges the importance of reliable and sustainable energy access for economic development, especially for small enterprises and communities vulnerable to climate-related shocks and challenges. Similar to the previous activity, appropriate energy solutions, management arrangements and sustainability measures will be identified and implemented to maximise benefits from this activity while reducing duplication to other energy programs.

1. ***Activity 3.1.4: Capacity Strengthening and Incentivizing Framework for the Private Sector and Local Actors on Designing, Operating and Maintaining Mini-Grids***

This initiative aims to promote sustainable energy solutions and contribute to the country's much-needed energy security through assessment and planning, capacity building of private sector actors (e.g., individual businesses, business networks, industrial zones and economic zones), development of incentive mechanisms and pilot projects and demonstrations.

1. ***Activity 3.1.5: Financing for Energy Access***

This activity focuses on financing for energy access, which is indispensable for realising the ambitious goal of harnessing the country's vast renewable energy potential. The country's energy sector faces considerable challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, high dependency on imported power, and a dire need for resilience in the face of climate-related and security threats. This activity addresses these challenges by facilitating financial mechanisms to drive the nationwide deployment of clean and renewable energy solutions. This could be done through such activities as microfinancing and local investment schemes, access to various financial models, or building a more resilient energy field.

1. ***Activity 3.1.6: Set Up of Knowledge Platforms on Energy Resilience.***

This activity focuses on establishing knowledge platforms dedicated to energy resilience and using renewable energy in Afghanistan through knowledge dissemination, capacity building, networking and collaboration, and data sharing.

#### **Output 3.2: Climate-Resilient Infrastructure**

This Output focuses on enhancing Afghanistan's climate-resilient infrastructure to ensure access to essential services before and during crises, strengthen local resilience, and support local and provincial economic growth. It encompasses several activities aimed at constructing, rehabilitating, and improving various infrastructure and communal facilities.

1. ***Activity 3.2.1: Construction of priority infrastructure***

Building farm-to-market roads or public buildings can help support the provision of essential services and restore public functions. Providing this climate-resilient infrastructure that could withstand geologic hazards (i.e., earthquakes) will also strengthen resilience and boost economic growth. Roads, for instance, can better connect agricultural communities to market, allow access to and from affected communities during disasters, and provide equal access for women and men to market, food and health care.

This Activity also focuses on constructing climate-resilient infrastructure that is critical in preventing diseases, ensuring access to essential services during crises, and bolstering overall community resilience, including roads and transport facilities, WASH facilities, waste management systems and appropriate capacity-building activities.

The following infrastructure and communal facilities will be provided or rehabilitated:

1. Roads and transport infrastructure
2. Waste management
3. Water and Sanitation Facilities (Also see Outcome 4)
4. Other relevant infrastructure.
5. ***Activity 3.2.2: Construction of Public Buildings and Communal Facilities***

This Activity focuses on constructing climate-resilient public buildings to improve access to basic services, reduce risks and boost the economy. The following resilient public buildings can be considered:

1. Marketplaces
2. Transport terminals
3. Health facilities (see Outcome 1)
4. Evacuation buildings (see Outcome 1)
5. Other relevant buildings and community facilities
6. ***Activity 3.2.3: Build the Virtual Connectivity of Off-Grid Villages for Early Warning and Education through Telecommunication Infrastructure***

This Activity aims to ensure the connectivity of off-grid villages by providing telecommunication infrastructure to enable the continuous operations of early warning systems and educational initiatives.

### **OUTCOME 4: ENHANCED WATER RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT**

The impact of drought and climate change on the water resources of Afghanistan has been and will continue to be significant. The rising temperatures are changing the distribution of rainfall, reducing the availability of water resources for the population. Drought and water scarcity have adversely affected agricultural activities, livestock rearing, and human water consumption, causing food insecurity and posing economic hardships.

According to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Assessment,[[47]](#footnote-48) the future trends of rain and snowfall under different climate change scenarios will significantly impact the viability of traditional livelihoods and settlement patterns. Anticipating these trends will require substantial adaptations and expansions of infrastructure, particularly around water management. Regarding climate-resilient water infrastructure, national and sub-national entities lack the capacity to build water infrastructure design due to financial, institutional and human resource limitations. This increases Afghanistan’s vulnerability to increased rainfall variability and aridity caused by climate change.

Likewise, building (and re-building) the country’s irrigation infrastructure, water reservoirs, drinking water systems and climate-monitoring technologies are not part of what would traditionally be classified as humanitarian aid and are not exempt from sanctions, even though investments in these areas would help reduce the likelihood of future drought-induced humanitarian crises.[[48]](#footnote-49)

This project aims to restore the degraded lands affected by climate-driven desertification and/or erosion. It will also introduce scalable land restoration approaches and small-scale resilient water infrastructure at the community level.

Water management goes hand in hand with land use and natural resource management due to their intricate relationships where water is fundamental to agriculture, land use, biodiversity and habitat, and wetland management, and vice versa. Water availability is a fundamental land-use decision, while urbanisation can alter natural water cycles and environmental zones for flora and fauna. Based on these contexts, this outcome will be implemented through two outputs:

1. Integrated water resource management
2. Programs to manage Biodiversity, Forest, Land and Ecosystems.

#### **Output 4.1: Integrated Water Resource Management**

There is a clear need for a more comprehensive scope for managing water resources in Afghanistan. The following activities are needed to continue to build resilience through integrated water resource management vis-a-vis land and natural resources:

1. ***Activity 4.1.1: Integrated Land Use, Water and Natural Resource Management Analysis and Planning***

The Activity aims to develop a comprehensive, integrated management plan that optimises the use of land, water, and natural resources in key provinces, ensuring sustainable development, environmental conservation, and improved livelihoods. This can be integrated with the multi-community planning indicated in Output 1 and around informal urban settlements and places of arrival for climate migrants and climate-displaced populations. This will cover Afghanistan's watershed, river basin, drylands, and other strategic geographic features.

1. ***Activity 4.1.2: Construction/ Rehabilitation of Community Infrastructure for Water Resource Management, Flood Management and Restoration and Management of the Natural Ecosystem***

To ensure access to clean and safe water for both consumption and farming, this initiative will invest in community-based water management infrastructure, including building dams, canals, reservoirs, and water-transferring systems, to enable effective water management, address droughts' impact and improve agricultural productivity. These community infrastructures can also include community-based irrigation systems in close collaboration with the relevant activities under Outcome 2.

1. ***Activity 4.1.3: Supply and Installation of Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting Systems***

Drought is one of the most devastating climate hazards of the water-stressed Afghanistan. This activity, therefore, aims to increase the water supply for potable and non-potable use and promote sustainable urban and rural water management through the development, supply, and installation of groundwater and rainwater harvesting systems for communities and households in need. Informed by potential studies on the development systems and local schemes as well as community engagement and education activities, this activity will follow with the procurement, installation and construction of appropriate rain harvesting systems that fit safety standards.

1. ***Activity 4.1.4: Enhancing Traditional Water Systems (e.g., karez)***

This Activity focuses on enhancing traditional water management systems, such as the karez system, which has a rich history of use in Afghanistan. These systems are critical for harnessing water resources efficiently and sustainably, especially in arid and semi-arid regions. This activity will restore and modernise the existing karez and involve the communities in preserving and managing the traditional water systems.

1. ***Activity 4.1.5. Awareness Raising and Capacity Building on Water Recycling and Reuse and Implementing Water-Saving Measures in Industries, Commercial Areas, and Homes***

This Activity promotes sustainable water management practices, water recycling, and water-saving measures across various sectors, including industries, commercial areas, and homes. It aims to raise industry awareness about the importance of water conservation, recycling, and reuse. The activities aim at working with businesses and commercial areas to promote water-saving measures. Provide education on reducing water waste, optimising water use in commercial activities, and adopting water-efficient technologies. Lastly, it aims to create behaviour change communication to encourage responsible water use.

1. ***Activity 4.1.6: Water Conservation Groups Involving Women and Youth***

This activity aims to establish and empower local water conservation groups comprised of women and youth to promote sustainable water management practices and raise awareness about water conservation in the community. Through these groups, it aims to build ownership and a sustainable approach to water resource management in communities and provinces.

1. ***Activity 4.1.7: Water-Related Conflict Assessment***

This assessment aims to build evidence, knowledge, understanding as well as programmatic recommendations focused on potential water-related conflicts within Afghanistan and with bordering countries.

#### **Output 4.2: Programs to Manage Biodiversity, Forest, Land and Ecosystems**

In Afghanistan, climate change poses significant threats to its ecosystems, including forests, biodiversity, and rangelands, due to rising temperatures and extreme weather events. Forests have drastically decreased, covering only a small portion of the country. Biodiversity loss, driven by factors like population pressure, exacerbates these challenges. Rangeland degradation and changing precipitation patterns further worsen the situation, jeopardizing the livelihoods of Afghan communities, especially women reliant on these resources.

The significance of biodiversity extends beyond livelihoods, encompassing aesthetic, spiritual, and educational values integral to Afghan life. It supports crucial ecological services such as watershed maintenance, environment preservation, soil retention, habitat for wildlife, climate regulation, nutrient cycling, and plant pollination, all essential for the well-being of Afghanistan.

1. ***Activity 4.2.1: Land Rehabilitation and Soil Conservation Interventions***

This Activity aims to implement soil conservation and rehabilitation activities through:

1. Promoting engineering of DRR structures to divert tributary of the rivers with additional surface runoff water (construction of dikes, gully plugs, speed breaker, retaining walls, protection walls, riverbank reinforcement and others)
2. Promoting nature based DRR interventions such as reinforcing the riverbanks through growing vegetation like kabal and embedding stick rods into the riverbank or tree plantation at the riverbank.
3. Afforestation or re-afforestation to the mountainous topography to promote grazing areas and avoid soil erosion.

1. ***Activity 4.2.2: Promoting Sustainable Agroforestry and Biodiversity Conservation for Combating Desertification.[[49]](#footnote-50)***

This important activity can include the following actions aimed at restoring vegetation and forest covers in the country:

* 1. Provision of drought-resistant tree seeds, nurseries, and orchards
  2. Technical capacity to plan and implement biodiversity conservation and strengthening
  3. Capacity building and training, funding for research and training on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services
  4. Software modelling and ecosystem monitoring

1. ***Activity 4.2.3: Preserving Protected Areas and Protecting threatened and endangered species***

This activity is a critical component of Afghanistan's efforts to address the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems. It focuses on assessing the current state and potential impact of climate change on the protected areas of Afghanistan, such as national parks, nature reserves and wildlife sanctuary, and recommending and implementing actions based on the result of the assessment. Another component is protecting threatened and endangered species, such as the snow leopards, recognising their significance in maintaining the country's ecological balance and supporting the broader goals of climate resilience.

* 1. **CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES:**

The proposal will also consider three cross-cutting areas and challenges that will be considered and applied while implementing the outputs and activities across the four outcomes above. These priorities include:

1. **Women and vulnerable groups**: the main target group of beneficiaries of applicable activities within this programme.
2. **Climate adaptation and resilience policies and strategies**: while UNDP and the UN system in general need to adapt to the current governance system of the country, it needs to find a way to make use of previous climate policies and priorities and formulate new ones to set the direction in reducing climate vulnerabilities in the country.
3. **Social Cohesion**: the partners will aim to reduce the level of fragility and the risks of internal and cross-border conflict through the above activities.

These priorities will inform the targeting processes below and aim to capture the realities better and address the challenges of implementing the climate change program in Afghanistan.

1. **TARGET GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AND BENEFICIARIES**

The scope of the ACCR programme is nationwide.

The individual outputs and activities of this programme will be implemented in specific provinces and geographic areas where the context is appropriate, where the risks and needs are the greatest[[50]](#footnote-51), and where the impact will be highest. Due to the wide scope of this programme, a more thorough beneficiary targeting process will be done for each output and activity.

The geographic targeting process will be followed by beneficiary selection using criteria that will be identified during the implementation process. Both these targeting processes will be adapted to outcomes, outputs, and activities.

1. **SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT**

By working with and coordinating UNDP’s area-based emergency development initiatives and other programs, UNDP will ensure that communities and beneficiaries are strengthened and supported to increase their resilience from climate hazards and maintain the program outputs.

On a broader scale, the project contributes to economic resilience and sustainable development within local communities by stimulating local enterprise, increasing employment opportunities, and reducing poverty. The project's impacts will continue reverberating within these communities long after its conclusion. As such, the project's sustainability and impact extend far beyond its immediate objectives, laying the groundwork for continued economic empowerment and development.

1. **INDICATIVE BUDGET**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OUTPUT AND ACTIVITIES** | **BUDGET** | **NOTES** |
| **OUTCOME 1: STRENGTHENED CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN COMMUNITIES** | | |
| **Output 1.1. Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment and Early Warning Systems** | | |
| Activity 1.1.1: Develop/ Update Local-Level Multi-Hazard Risk Assessments and Climate Change Scenarios | 400,000 |  |
| Activity 1.1.2: Set up/ Upgrade of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Slow and Sudden Onset Climate Hazards | 7,000,000 |  |
| Activity 1.1.3: Conduct Training for Early Warning and Risk Communication in Communities | 1,000,000 |  |
| Activity 1.1.4: Conduct Climate-focused Health Risk and Impact Assessment | 250,000 |  |
| **Output 1.2: Disaster Preparedness and Climate Resilience Measures** | | |
| Activity 1.2.1: Provision of Resilience Planning, Equipment and Emergency Preparedness and Response Training for At-Risk Communities and Community Development Committees | 2,500,000 |  |
| Activity 1.2.2: Construction of Dual-Use Evacuation Facilities | 4,500,000 |  |
| Activity 1.2.3: Construction of Health Facilities to Anticipate and address climate-change related diseases in Communities | 3,000,000 |  |
| **OUTCOME 2: INCREASED CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF AGRICULTURE, LIVELIHOODS AND MSMES** | | |
| **Output 2.1: Assistance to Smallholder Farmers and Livestock Producers to Increase Productivity** | | |
| Activity 2.1.1: Provision of Climate-Resistant Agricultural Inputs | 3,500,000 |  |
| Activity 2.1.2: Provision of Advisory/ Extension Services Through Supporting Farmer File Schools (FFS) and Community Annual Health Works | 1,000,000 |  |
| Activity 2.1.3: Capacity Strengthening of Local Producers Using a Value Chain Approach through Support in The Production and Commercialization of High-Value Crops | 1,000,000 |  |
| **Output 2.2: Assets and Technologies to Safeguard Agriculture Production** | | |
| Activity 2.2.1: Construction/ Rehabilitation of Irrigation Facilities | 3,250,000 |  |
| Activity 2.2.2: Construction/ Rehabilitation of Climate-Resilient Community Structures that Support Agricultural Activities | 3,250,000 |  |
| Activity 2.2.3: Provision of Innovative Technologies for At-Risk and Drought-Affected Communities | 2,000,000 |  |
| Activity 2.2.4: Capacity Building on the Use of Technologies and Assets | 500,000 |  |
| **Output 2.3: Adaptive Livelihood and Effective Private Sector Engagement and Resilience-Building** | | |
| Activity 2.3.1: Business Continuity Planning and Business Coaching for MSMEs | 1,000,000 |  |
| Activity 2.3.2: Improving Access to Finance for Youth and Women to Build Resilient Businesses | 2,250,000 |  |
| Activity 2.3.3: Support Participation in Market Fairs and Business-To-Business Forums | 500,000 |  |
| Activity 2.3.4: Engagement of and Training on Climate Governance for Farmers' Association, Business Networks and Other Organizations on Climate Resilience | 500,000 |  |
| Activity 2.3.5: Supporting Agro-Processing, Sorting, Grading and Packaging for Agricultural Value Chains at Risk from Climate Change | 500,000 |  |
| Activity 2.3.6: Support the Establishment of Home-Based Dairy Processing and Solarized Refrigeration | 1,500,000 |  |
| **Output 2.4: Skills Development and Integrated Capacity Building** | | |
| Activity 2.4.1: Conduct Training in Regenerative and Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices | 1,150,000 |  |
| Activity 2.4.2: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to Diversify Skills and Livelihoods of the Climate-Vulnerable | 1,500,000 |  |
| Activity 2.4.3: Provision of Starter Kits to Trainees and Beneficiaries | 1,000,000 |  |
| Activity 2.4.4: Community-to-Community and Business-to-Business Exchange | 200,000 |  |
| **OUTCOME 3: IMPROVED ACCESS TO ENERGY AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE** | | |
| **Output 3.1: Cost-Effective Energy Sources** | | |
| Activity 3.1.1: Feasibility Study, Design and Installation of Clean, Renewable and Alternate Energy Services for Off-Grid Villages | 12,000,000 |  |
| Activity 3.1.2: Energy Access for Industrial Zones | 4,000,000 |  |
| Activity 3.1.3: Energy Access for Livelihoods and Business Resilience | 4,000,000 |  |
| Activity 3.1.4: Capacity Strengthening and Incentivizing Framework for the Private Sector and Local Actors on Designing, Operating and Maintaining Mini-Grids. | 250,000 |  |
| Activity 3.1.5: Financing for Energy Access | 1,000,000 |  |
| Activity 3.1.6: Set Up of Knowledge Platforms on Energy Resilience | 250,000 |  |
| **Output 3.2: Climate-Resilient Infrastructure** | | |
| Activity 3.2.1: Construction of priority infrastructure | 11,000,000 |  |
| Activity 3.2.2: Construction of Public Buildings and Communal Facilities | 10,000,000 |  |
| Activity 3.2.3: Ensure Connectivity of Off-Grid Villages for Early Warning and Education through Telecommunication Infrastructure | 1,500,000 |  |
| **OUTCOME 4: ENHANCED WATER RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT** | | |
| **Output 4.1: Integrated Water Resource Management** | | |
| Activity 4.1.1: Integrated Land Use, Water and Natural Resource Management Analysis and Planning | 500,000 |  |
| Activity 4.1.2: Construction/ Rehabilitation of Community Infrastructure for Water Resource Management, Flood Management and Restoration and Management of The Natural Ecosystem | 14,000,000 |  |
| Activity 4.1.3: Supply and Installation of Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting Systems | 10,500,000 |  |
| Activity 4.1.4: Enhancing Traditional Water Systems (e.g., karez) | 1,500,000 |  |
| Activity 4.1.5: Awareness Raising and Capacity Building on Water Recycling and Reuse and Implementing Water-Saving Measures in Industries, Commercial Areas, and Homes | 250,000 |  |
| Activity 4.1.6: Water Conservation Groups Involving Women and Youth | 750,000 |  |
| Activity 4.1.7: Water-Related Conflict Assessment | 250,000 |  |
| **Output 4.2: Programs to Manage Biodiversity, Forest, Land and Ecosystems** | | |
| Activity 4.2.1: Land Rehabilitation and Soil Conservation Interventions | 6,500,000 |  |
| Activity 4.2.2: Forest and Biodiversity Conservation and Combating Desertification | 6,500,000 |  |
| Activity 4.2.3: Preserving Protected Areas and Protecting threatened and endangered species | 2,000,000 |  |
| **Programme Cost** | **130,000,000** |  |
| **Direct management cost (staff, operations, admin cost, etc.)** |  |  |
| **GMS** |  |  |
| **GRAND TOTAL** |  |  |

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41. For instance, UNDP has been strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of Afghan communities. From 2017 to mid-2021 alone, UNDP established Community Based Disaster Management Committees (CBDMCs) in 30 communities in Nangarhar and Jawzjan with individual DRR plans and capacities for weather monitoring, disaster risk management and first aid responses. UNDP also helped formulate 221 disaster action plans, but there is a need to revisit these plans and how climate resilience is currently being increased in the country after the August 2021 takeover of the de facto authority. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
42. Consistent with Output 2.2 (Private Sector Development) and Output 2.3 (Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods) of the United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan 2023-2025 [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
43. From 2017-mid 2021, UNDP has achieved the following in this area of work: (i) Climate smart agriculture–based livelihoods options enhanced for 1,056 poor HHs (41% women, 36 kuchi/nomads); (ii) 1,089 agrostructures (drip irrigations, greenhouses, solar greenhouses and solar lift irrigation) and training, enabled approx. 1,800 small farmers to improve production and (iii) 1,164 ha of land rehabilitated through planting crops that regenerate soil for agricultural use [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
44. These will be complemented by appropriate nature-based solutions such as restoration of degraded lands, improving watershed management, and conserving biodiversity, coupled with reduced use of pesticides and substances harmful to the environment. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
45. Drip irrigation is a crop irrigation system that can save water by controlling water delivery directly to individual plants through a network of tubes or pipes. Source: <https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/special%20projects/SIGAR-20-53-SP.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
46. These technologies and corresponding training will complement the infrastructure-building programs under UNDP Afghanistan’s Area-Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiative (ABADEI) Program and its initiative to build water management and other complementary agriculture-focused infrastructure [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
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49. Afforestation around the Check Dams, water percolation/reservoir tanks or trenches and seasonal riverbanks will be other assets to reduce the direct sunlight over the reserved water and avoid huge amounts of evaporation. They will also help to reduce the impact of desertification and support the ecosystem. [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
50. See table 1 to see summary of provinces affected by specific climate hazards. [↑](#footnote-ref-51)