



Teerath, 18 months, eats ready-to-use therapeutic food to treat severe wasting, at UNICEF's mobile nutrition clinic for flood-affected children in Umerkot, Sindh.

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for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Pakistan

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Pakistan's most vulnerable children are at high risk from the harms of recurrent natural and human-caused disasters, whose impacts are deepened by entrenched inequality, climate change and political and economic uncertainty. Food insecurity,<sup>1</sup> high malnutrition,<sup>2</sup> soaring inflation<sup>3</sup> and minimal access to essential social services heighten people's risks. Limited government resources as well as competing priorities impede prevention and constrain the response to humanitarian crises.
- Pakistan hosts approximately 3.7 million Afghans<sup>4</sup> of varying legal status, and providing them access to essential services is further straining the country's already fragile systems.<sup>5</sup>
- More than a year after the devastating 2022 floods, severely affected districts face persistent vulnerabilities and limited access to essential services. UNICEF remains committed to supporting the Government with post-flood recovery, addressing humanitarian needs and strengthening climate resilience and emergency preparedness at the national and provincial levels.
- UNICEF is appealing for \$135.6 million to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Pakistani and Afghan populations in Pakistan.

### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**1.3 million**

children vaccinated against measles



**1.4 million**

children and women accessing primary health care



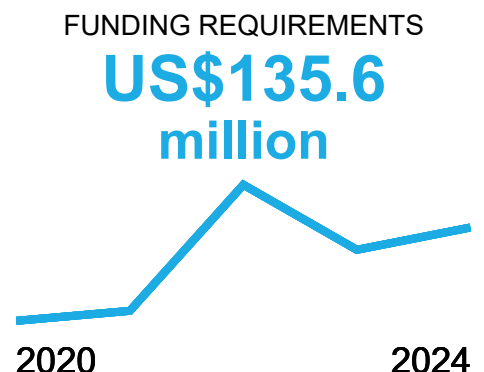
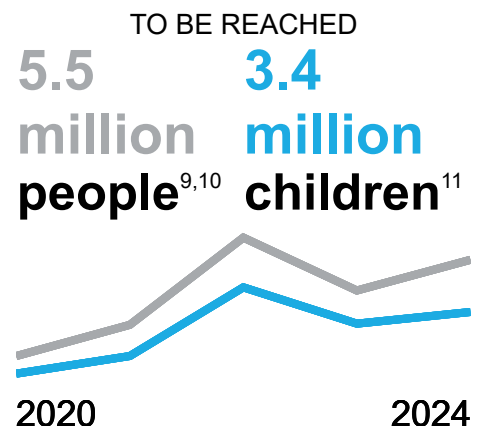
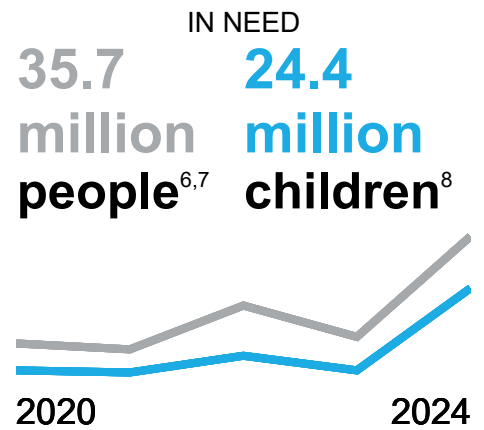
**217,891**

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



**669,675**

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Pakistan is highly susceptible to climate change, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.<sup>12</sup> And the impacts of climate change are intensifying, leading to frequent floods and extreme weather events that are converging with other challenges to create a difficult humanitarian situation, especially for the most vulnerable people.

In 2022, catastrophic floods swept through the country, affecting 33 million people, half of whom were children. There were more than 1,100 fatalities.<sup>13</sup> A year later, many of the hardest-hit districts still have limited access to essential services. The loss of infrastructure to the floods has aggravated pre-existing inequities, placing the most vulnerable children at an even greater risk of hunger and disease outbreaks. Despite extensive humanitarian response efforts to address the impacts of the flooding, ongoing support remains crucial in the most vulnerable flood-affected districts.

Pakistan also grapples with severe food insecurity and persistently high global acute malnutrition rates. Approximately 16 per cent of the population is food insecure<sup>14</sup> and lacks access to essential services, including health care and nutrition, further exacerbating nutritional challenges. Limited fiscal space in the government's budget further complicates the situation, and a surge in inflation rates that peaked in May 2023 at 38 per cent had led to reduced purchasing power for many.<sup>15</sup> Most of the vulnerable populations are concentrated in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh Provinces. Food insecurity and malnutrition have long-term consequences on the health and well-being of the population. Children, in particular, are extremely vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition, which can result in stunted growth, developmental issues and a weakened immune system. Pakistan's global acute malnutrition rate stands at 17.7 per cent, which exceeds the emergency threshold. The severe wasting rate is 6 per cent.<sup>16</sup> If urgent action is not taken to address this protracted nutrition emergency, the under-five mortality rate will rise.

The presence and prolonged stay of Afghan populations, which have been in Pakistan for more than four decades, adds an additional load to an already overburdened system.<sup>17</sup> Pakistan currently hosts approximately 3.7 million Afghans (49 per cent children), providing them with access to essential services. Afghans are mostly concentrated in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provinces, which are also home to high levels of multidimensional poverty. The implementation of the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan is expected to lead to further displacement and an outflow of Afghans, which will intensify the humanitarian challenges.

## SECTOR NEEDS<sup>18,19,20</sup>



**5.7 million** people require access to health services<sup>21</sup>



**26.6 million** children and women require nutrition services<sup>22</sup>



**6.3 million** children in need of protection services<sup>23</sup>



**2.6 million** children in need of education support<sup>24</sup>



**6 million** people need WASH services<sup>25</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



Naheed Israr, a nutrition assistant at a UNICEF-supported outpatient therapeutic programme centre in Nasirabad District, Balochistan, measures the mid-upper arm circumference of Usman, 9 months.

Usman was born a week after the devastating floods hit Pakistan in 2022, and some months later he was diagnosed with severe wasting through UNICEF-supported screening programmes set up in the aftermath of the floods. Over the next few months, the baby received ready-to-use therapeutic food, a life-saving essential supply item that treats severe wasting in children under 5 years of age. He has now made a full recovery.

Usman received treatment at an outpatient therapeutic programme centre established by UNICEF as part of its emergency response in Nasirabad, one of the worst-hit districts of Balochistan during the floods.<sup>26</sup>

[\*\*Read more about this story here\*\*](#)

UNICEF remains committed to delivering life-saving humanitarian and sustainable interventions aligned with its country programme of cooperation with Pakistan and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

To respond to emergencies and climate-related disasters, UNICEF has pre-positioned emergency supplies and developed contingency plans, including standby partnerships for a rapid humanitarian response.

Addressing malnutrition is a priority. UNICEF will identify and admit for treatment affected children in health facilities and communities. Empowering mothers and families to recognize and refer malnourished children is crucial. Support groups for parents will be strengthened to enhance infant and young child feeding practices. Pregnant and lactating women and adolescents will receive iron and folic acid and multiple micronutrient supplements to combat nutritional deficiencies.

In strengthening health-care services, UNICEF will offer health services through mobile teams, later transitioning to health-care facilities. Measles vaccinations will be provided to children aged 6 months to 15 years and UNICEF will support delivery of antenatal care through functional health facilities and specialized mobile teams. Community health-care workers will be engaged to bolster awareness of health practices to safeguard against disease outbreaks. UNICEF will invest in disaster risk preparedness and response by adopting sustainable clean energy and the use of digital solutions.

UNICEF's WASH programme will contribute to the nutrition and health response by providing safe and sustainable water and sanitation solutions to affected communities, among them hygiene education to promote safe and hygienic practices and solid waste management at the communal level. UNICEF will also support the provision and rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure in schools, temporary learning centres, child-friendly spaces and health-care facilities.

Continuity of learning will be supported through the establishment of temporary learning centres and transitional school shelters, the repair and rehabilitation of schools, teacher and parent-teacher/school management committee training and provision of critical education supplies.

UNICEF will strengthen province-level and community-based child protection and gender-based violence response systems. Coordinated services for children at risk and survivors of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation are a priority. Building a professional social service workforce, extending prevention and response services and promoting inclusion of vulnerable children within these systems are key objectives. UNICEF will provide essential information on child protection and gender-based violence risks, support mental health and psychosocial support activities and establish an integrated case management and referral system, including for unaccompanied and separated children.

UNICEF will lead in the development and rollout of an integrated framework for accountability to affected populations.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/pakistan/situation-reports>

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.



### Health (including public health emergencies)<sup>30</sup>

- **1,315,109** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose <sup>31</sup>
- **1,422,220** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **142,222** Pregnant women receiving ANC



### Nutrition<sup>32</sup>

- **217,891** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **435,779** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **2,315,081** Adolescents reached with Iron and Folic Acid supplementation
- **1,614,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding and nurturing care counselling



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **273,864** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **1,349,460** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,950,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations<sup>33</sup>
- **5,478** children who have received individual case management
- **3,751,320** Men, women, boys and girls reached with information on key child protection risks and available services <sup>34</sup>



### Education<sup>35</sup>

- **180,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **4,950** teachers and facilitators trained in basic pedagogy and/or mental health and psychosocial support



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **669,675** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **304,850** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **1,349,460** people reached with critical WASH supplies
- **41,250** children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces



### Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **15,000,000** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services<sup>36</sup>
- **45,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
- **2,250,000** People engaged in RCCE actions<sup>37</sup>

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning and 2024 Afghan Refugee Response Plan documents.

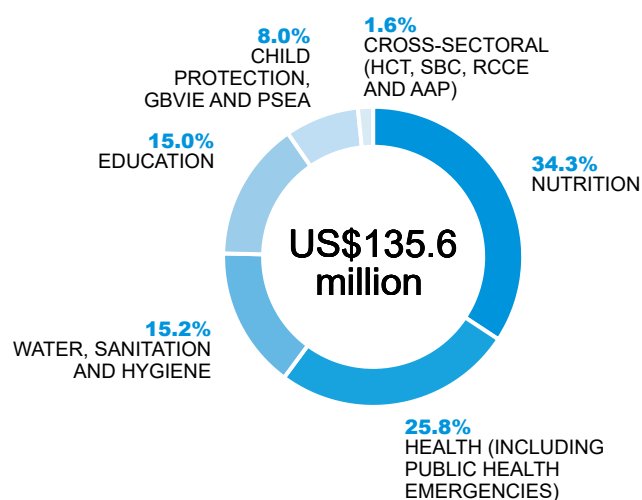
## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF requests \$135.6 million for 2024 to meet the critical humanitarian needs of more than 5.5 million people in Pakistan, including 3.4 million children. The 2024 funding requirement takes into account the protracted and ongoing nutrition emergency following the 2022 floods, as well as the ongoing response to support Afghan populations in Pakistan. Funding will help 1.3 million people gain access to safe water and sanitation, provide essential health and nutrition services for 5 million people and enable 180,000 children to access formal or non-formal education. With full funding, UNICEF will be able to reach 15 per cent of children in critical need of life-saving, humanitarian support in Pakistan.<sup>38</sup>

The funding will support interventions for health, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene, social and behaviour change, access to education and protection, as well as preparedness. This includes contingency supplies for disasters and to respond to potential regional crises and population movements.

Of the total funding request, \$35 million will support the Afghan refugee response, including the provision of essential health and nutrition services, access to education and protection for children.

UNICEF seeks multi-year and flexible funding, in alignment with Grand Bargain<sup>39</sup> commitments, for the multifaceted humanitarian needs faced by children and families in Pakistan. Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF and its partners will not be able to address children's needs for health services, nutrition support, prevention of school drop-out and protection from violence, exploitation and abuse.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$) <sup>40,41</sup>
Health (including public health emergencies)	35,033,417
Nutrition	46,451,455
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	10,818,343
Education	20,365,560
Water, sanitation and hygiene	20,671,550
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	2,214,137
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,554,462</b>

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# ENDNOTES

1. Nearly 10.5 million people (29 percent of the population analysed) experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 or above) between April and October 2023. Among them, approximately 2.1 million people (6 per cent of the analysed population) were in IPC Phase 4 (emergency), and around 8.4 million people (23 percent of the analysed population) were in IPC Phase 3 (crisis) in the 43 analysed districts. Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Pakistan: IPC Acute Food Insecurity Snapshot [Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & Sindh] (April 2023 – January 2024), 5 June 2023, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-snapshot-balochistan-khyber-pakhtunkhwa-sindh-april-2023-january-2024>>. IPC analysed 43 rural districts in the most vulnerable provinces of Balochistan (18 districts), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (9) and Sindh (16), see <[www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156396/?iso3=PAK](http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156396/?iso3=PAK)>.
2. The global acute malnutrition rate in Pakistan is 17.7 per cent, above the emergency threshold, and the severe wasting rate is 6 per cent. Source: Pakistan Nutrition Sector Working Group, Pakistan Nutrition Humanitarian Overview 2022, available at <[www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2022-07/ns\\_pak\\_hno\\_2022\\_v4.pdf](http://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/nutritioncluster.com/files/2022-07/ns_pak_hno_2022_v4.pdf)>.
3. State Bank of Pakistan, Inflation Monitor, May 2023, available at <[chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnkpcapjcpglclefindmkaj/https://www.sbp.org.pk/publications/Inflation\\_Monitor/2023/May/IM\\_May\\_2023.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnkpcapjcpglclefindmkaj/https://www.sbp.org.pk/publications/Inflation_Monitor/2023/May/IM_May_2023.pdf)>.
4. These include 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees, 840,000 Afghan Citizenship Card holders, 146,240 Unregistered Members of Registered Families, 775,000 undocumented Afghans and 600,000 new arrivals. Source: UNHCR Operational Data Portal, Afghanistan Situation, available at <<https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/afghanistan#category-14-348569>>.
5. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Operational Data Portal, Afghanistan Situation, available at <<https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/afghanistan>>.
6. The total number of people in need includes 26.6 million people under the protracted nutrition emergency, 3.6 million Afghans and host community members, 5.5 million males and others not covered under the refugee response and nutrition emergency. A total of 3 per cent of all people in need are estimated to have a disability, and 49 per cent of the people in need are women.
7. UNHCR regularly updates figures for Afghan refugee populations. See: <<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99583>>.
8. The total number of children in need includes 20.1 million children under the protracted nutrition emergency, 1.6 million Afghan and host community children, 2.7 million males and others not covered under the refugee response and nutrition emergency. A total of 3 per cent of all people in need are estimated to have a disability, and 49 per cent of the people in need are women.
9. This target is calculated based on the highest programmatic targets of 4.5 million receiving nutrition services, 359,568 Afghans and host community members and 550,000 male individuals receiving primary health care not covered under the refugee response and nutrition emergency. A total of 3 per cent of all people in need are estimated to have a disability, and 49 per cent of the people in need are women.
10. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
11. This target is calculated based on the highest programmatic targets of 2.9 million children receiving nutrition services, 167,559 Afghans and host community members and 256,300 male individuals receiving primary health care not covered under the refugee response and nutrition emergency. Three per cent are estimated to have a disability.
12. Pakistan has consistently ranked among the top 10 most vulnerable countries on the Global Climate Risk Index. Source: Germanwatch, Global Climate Risk Index 2021: Who suffers most from extreme weather? Weather-related loss events in 2019 and 2000–2019, available at <[www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021\\_2.pdf](http://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_2.pdf)>. Weather <https://www.germanwatch.org/en/19777>.
13. A post-disaster needs assessment showed the magnitude of losses incurred by the floods. This led to the development of the flood response plan, which highlights the population affected and the humanitarian assistance they require. Source: Joint Launch of 2022 Pakistan Floods Response Plan by Government of Pakistan and the United Nations, press release, 30 August 2022, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/joint-launch-2022-pakistan-floods-response-plan-government-pakistan-and-united-nations>>.
14. IPC analysed 43 rural districts in the most vulnerable provinces of Balochistan (18 districts), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (9) and Sindh (16), see <[www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156396/?iso3=PAK](http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156396/?iso3=PAK)>.
15. State Bank of Pakistan, Inflation Monitor, May 2023.
16. Pakistan Nutrition Sector Working Group, Pakistan Nutrition Humanitarian Overview 2022.
17. UNHCR, 2023 Regional Response Plan for Afghanistan Situation: January–December 2023, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/afghanistan-situation-regional-refugee-response-plan-rrp-january-december-2023>>.
18. All sector needs include Afghan refugees and are aligned with 2023 Regional Response Plan planning figures.
19. The targets represent the provisional needs which will be aligned with inter-agency figures once available.
20. The term 'women' in the nutrition context refers to pregnant and lactating women, while the focus for nutrition services for children is on children under 5 years of age.
21. Health sector needs are calculated based on 10 million people in need from the monsoon season 2023 planning figures (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) and include other emergencies. The sector needs include 700,000 children under age 5; 2 million individuals requiring primary health care services; 2m, and 400,000 pregnant and lactating women along with other ailments. <https://pakistan.un.org/en/197499-2022-pakistan-floods-response-plan-frp>
22. Nutrition sector needs are from nutrition sector assessments, which include severe and moderate wasting for children under age 5; pregnant and lactating women; and adolescent girls.
23. The 'in need' numbers for child protection, gender-based violence in emergencies and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse are derived from assessments done by the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. UNICEF targets 60 per cent of sector needs.
24. Education sector needs are derived from the Pakistan Floods 2022: Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF), Government of Pakistan Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Islamabad, December 2022, available at <[www.undp.org/pakistan/publications/pakistan-floods-2022-resilient-recovery-rehabilitation-and-reconstruction-framework-4rf](http://www.undp.org/pakistan/publications/pakistan-floods-2022-resilient-recovery-rehabilitation-and-reconstruction-framework-4rf)>.
25. WASH sector needs are comprised of the people in need of hygiene promotion: 30 per cent of flood-affected people (3 million people) and 64 per cent of Afghan refugees (2.99 million people) in need from the 2023 Afghan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan. UNICEF targets 60 per cent of the sector needs.
26. UNICEF's flood emergency and refugee response was supported by Australia, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Romania, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America; the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, UNHCR, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Education Cannot Wait, Global Partnership for Education; UNICEF National Committees in Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States; and private sector partners such as Telenor, Unilever, Ernst & Young, Rangoonwala Trust, ZeShan Foundation, DP World, Flexport and Maersk.
27. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
28. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
29. Standard percentages to calculate disaggregated data are children under 2 years of age: 5 per cent; children under 5 years of age: 14.04 per cent; children (people under age 18 years): 46.6 per cent; males: 51 per cent; females: 49 per cent; and people with disabilities: 3 per cent.
30. Health targets are comprised of 1,422,220 people accessing primary health care services, including 422,220 Afghans; 1,315,109 children aged 6 months 15 years vaccinated against measles, including 401,109 Afghans; and 142,222 pregnant women receiving antenatal care, including 42,222 Afghans.
31. The coverage of measles vaccines includes boys and girls aged 6 months to 15 years old.
32. Nutrition targets are comprised of 217,891 children aged 6–59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment, including 32,684 Afghans; 1,614,000 primary caregivers of children aged 0–23 months receiving infant and young child feeding and nurturing care counselling, including 242,100 Afghans; 2,315,081 adolescents reached with multiple micronutrient powders/iron folic acid supplements, including 347,262 Afghans; and 435,779 children aged 6–59 months including 65,367 Afghans.
33. The target includes 750,000 Afghans.
34. The target includes 1,171,320 Afghan men, women boys and girls.
35. The education targets include 18,000 Afghans access non-formal or formal education and 450 teachers for Afghan refugees trained in basic pedagogy and mental health and psychosocial support.
36. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
37. Fifteen per cent of people reached with life-saving information will be engaged through community engagement and direct interpersonal engagement.
38. Accounting for significant government capacity in humanitarian response as demonstrated throughout the 2023 monsoon season, UNICEF will target 15 per cent of the overall people in need, complementary to the government-led response.
39. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations to get more means into the hands of people in need and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
40. The funding requirements include \$35 million for the Afghan refugee response.
41. The funding requirements include humanitarian coordination and emergency preparedness.