

WEWORLD & RURAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION FOR AFGHANISTAN (RRAA) FINAL REPORT

ASSISTING THE MOST
VULNERABLE ACUTE FOOD
INSECURE WIDOW-HEADED
HOUSEHOLDS IN HERAT
PROVINCE WITH CASH FOR
FOOD ASSISTANCE

01

BACKGROUND

Sixteen months after the Taliban took control of the country, political instability has crippled the economy, and decades of drought have made it impossible to continue the agricultural and farming practices that once sustained communities.

The combined impact of the continued drought - the worst in more than three decades - and the economic collapse in the second half of 2021 generated a hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions in Afghanistan, with some 22.8 million people projected to face acute food insecurity by the start of 2022.

In the Herat Province, almost 15% of households are run by women, mostly single mothers or widows living with little to no income. These widow-headed households have the most limited access to income and are accounted among the most vulnerable in the population. The current crisis and household shock have led these families into harmful coping strategies and famine. Emergency food assistance is a vital intervention to reduce malnutrition for those populations unable to cover their food cost needs.

02

THE PROJECT

This emergency cash for food intervention was designed to reduce malnutrition by supporting food assistance to 180 households in the Robat Sangi district of Herat Province. 95% of households in the province said that they experienced days where they had no food at all. Cash transfers give families flexibility and dignity, allowing them to decide and buy the food they need. It also allows them to access health care when they need it most.

In the six-month long project, a total of 479 widow-headed households went through the verification process out of which 180 households with the lowest food consumption scores were selected to receive six rounds of cash for food assistance.

The project was able to complete the distribution of six rounds of cash for food assistance to these selected households, improving food consumption scores.

Throughout the course of the project, a WhatsApp group was created to advise women when they were distributing cash so they could arrange caring duties for their children, as many women were initially unable to attend the distribution sessions because of caring duties at home.

03

“The project has supported 1,260 people to access adequate nutrition.”



Photo of RRAA hotline and AWAAZ Afghanistan number (May 2022)



Beneficiaries queuing at a distribution site with a female RRAA staff (RRAA, April 2022).