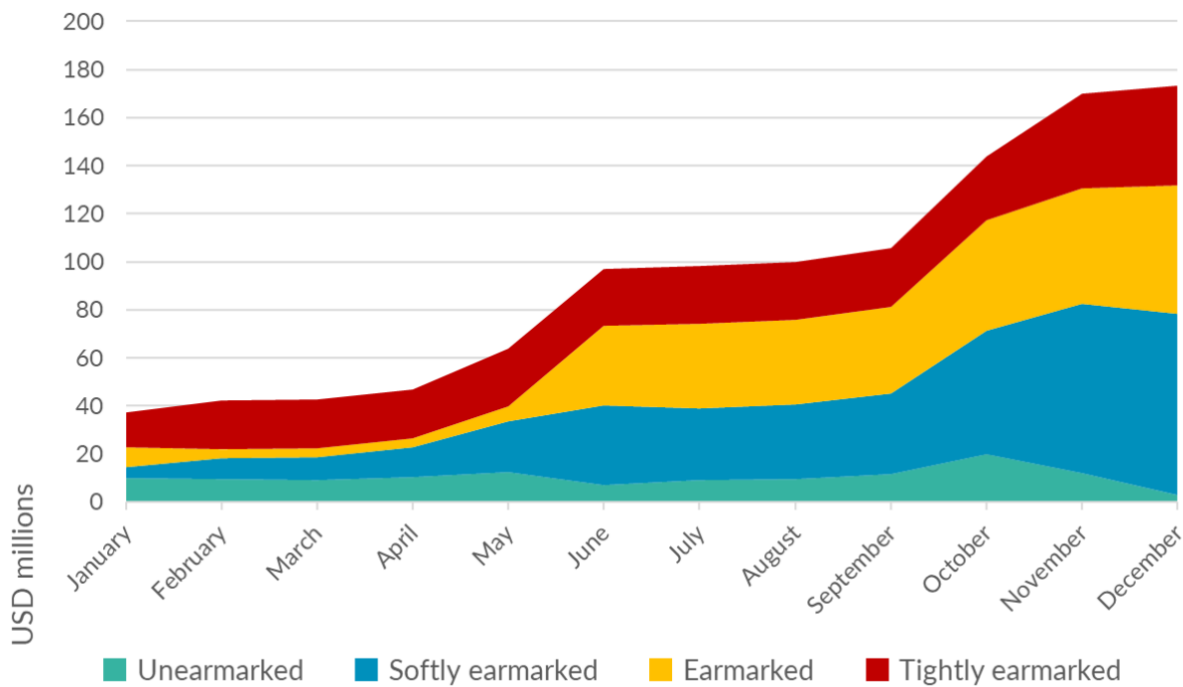


Flexible Funding Report 2023

AFGHANISTAN



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Approximately 45% of final expenditure of \$173.1 million came from flexible funding

Faced with multifaceted crises, including humanitarian and socio-economic challenges, insecurity and the impact of natural disasters and climate shocks, flexible funds in Afghanistan were instrumental in providing timely and adaptable assistance, allowing for rapid response to emerging crises, including the Herat earthquakes, and supporting long-term development goals.

In response to the Herat earthquakes, flexible funding helped UNHCR play a critical role as the first responder, providing 7,500 families from 77 villages with items such as family tents, blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps and dignity kits. In addition, 1,500 families received earthquake-resistant permanent shelters built using locally available materials, thereby empowering people to meet their maintenance costs independently. More broadly and across the year, UNHCR and its partners reached 1.5 million people with assistance including cash assistance, core relief items, and shelter, while also investing in community-based initiatives in Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration.

UNHCR’s flexible funding was also used extensively to support community engagement activities; livelihoods; and returns.

With the socioeconomic situation having a disproportionate impact on women, flexible funding allowed UNHCR to work to empower over 25,200 women and improve their access to income-generating opportunities. Key interventions included building their capacity to run micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises, injecting cash assistance and assets into start-up initiatives, offering technical, vocational, and educational training and job placements, and investing in infrastructure, such as greenhouses, carpet weaving, and women’s business centres, to generate an income.

Flexible funding helped UNHCR and its partners respond to the needs of returning Afghans from Pakistan because of the Government of Pakistan’s decision to return undocumented people residing in the country. Between 15 September and 31 December 2023, 493,300 people returned to Afghanistan. UNHCR successfully facilitated the return of nearly 76,000 Afghan refugees, including from Iran and other countries, providing cash grants, basic health care, vaccinations for children, mine risk education, protection referrals and overnight accommodation to help ease their return to a country whom many had left several decades ago.