RESULTS SUMMARY

Building the resilience of affected youth, children and adolescents through cash distribution and MHPSS

PROJECT

Title:		Building the resilience of affected youth, children and adolescents through cash distribution and MHPSS
Partner:		No partner in 2022
Country:		Afghanistan – East Zone Nangarhar
Period:		Jan 1st 2022 to Dec 31st 2022

CHANGE

The implemented programme played a crucial role for vulnerable children and families in Afghanistan by ensuring food security and alleviating hunger for the most financially off-set families at risk of applying negative coping strategies such as sending children to work or early childhood marriage. Despite the restrictive measures imposed on women by De Facto Authorities in Afghanistan, the programme made notable strides in promoting women and girls' participation and ensuring their inclusion in programme interventions.

CONTEXT

In 2022, Afghanistan faced a dual crisis. The lengthy COVID-19 lockdown led to loss of lives and income, while the takeover of power by De Facto Authroities caused political instability and dysfunction in government institutions and significant restrictions imposed on women and girls. These factors severely impacted the economy, especially in the eastern region, home to numerous IDPs and returnees. Rising prices of food and fuel exacerbated the crisis. Additionally, floods and climate-related events further devasted vulnerable communities.

CONTRIBUTION

To enable households survival through financial stress and lack of access to basic needs, especially children, Save the Children (SCD) collaborated with village communities to provide targeted assistance. Distribution of cash-for-food programme improved the food consumption score for 1,000 households. Recognising impact of hunger, conflict and displacement on children's wellbeing, SCD and village communities delivered psycosocial kits to 700 children, enhancing their ability to cope with stress and ultimately increasing their resilience.

IMAGES

Community Village in North Afghanistan

Save the Children child consultation, by Aashiqullah /Save the Children

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Through establishment of 7 village communittees a cash-for-food programme was implemented in two regions in Afghanistan during 2022. These 7 village communittees played a crucial role in conducting 3 rounds of cash distribution to 1000 of the most vulnerable households. Before entering the communities, program staff conducted several coordination meetings with stakeholders to carefully select the mostvnerable households. 600 households were selected in Nangarhar (461 male and 80 female households) and 400 households were selected in Kunar (320 male and 80 female households). To ensure that the households were well informed, awareness sessions were carried out both before and during the cash distribution process. The awareness-raising activities took form of campaigns, community-based demonstration sessions and household visits. Additionally, a guide for parents/caregivers was introduced to promote continuation of mental health and psychosocial support activities in the household after the programme implementation.

LESSONS

1.Due to extensive crisis and hunger in Afghanistan, 53% of the households expressed that the cash amount did not meet all their basic needs, but distribution did improve the food consumption score during rounds of distribution. Additionally, it made it possible to facilitate activities improving children's resilience as the effect of hunger for these children were less. 2.Pervasive gender-related barriers pose a significant challenge due to entrenched patriarchal and religious dominance, especially impacting women/girls. Despite the restrictive measures, the team remained determined to include women, introducing a Mahram policy, community sensitization and family conseling. Female community based child protection networks and engaging religious leaders played a crucial role in building community trust. Overcoming these barriers requires a steadfast commitment to empower women through advocacy and community engagement, driving enduring change in Afghanistan.

EVIDENCE

Regular Post Distribution Monitoring Reports show a significant improvement in household food consumption scores. The first report in August 2022 indicated that 11.5% of households were stressed or minimal affected by food insecurity while 70% of the households were in crisis mode. However, report in November 2022 showed that 75% of the households were stressed or minimal affected by food insecurity with 18% of the households in crisis mode. This show a decrease of 57% of households scored to be in crisis mode according to the food consumption score. Despite the challenges of including women in the programme implementation, the programme achived a 22% inclusion rate of women, as reported by monitoring report from Save the Children Country Office.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:	Insert strategy priority
Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	X
Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights	-
Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights	-
Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights	-
Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	-

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.
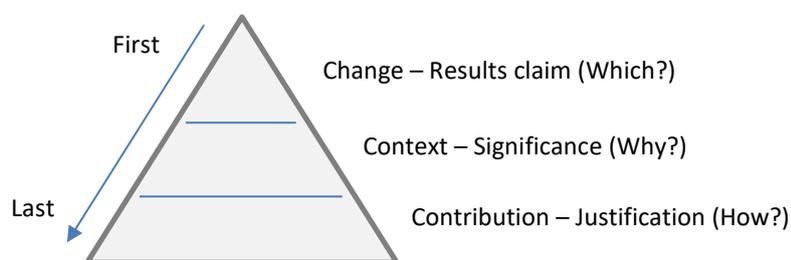
Page 1: Results summary
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a "reverse funnel." First, the "change" section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the "which." Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the "context" section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining "why" it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the "contribution" section should provide examples to justify for "how" the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. "After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z."

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication

First
Change – Results claim (Which?)
Context – Significance (Why?)
Last
Contribution – Justification (How?)

Page 2: Additional information
The second page should provide background and evidence for project's contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- *Activities:* Whereas the "contribution" section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the "activities" section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.

- *Lessons:* Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.

- *Evidence:* A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer "X led to Y, because of Z," although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.

- *Domains and development strategy:* Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.