

The sample below illustrates the final product. If you wish to see the original Word document with edits in tracked changes, please email alice@crealitygroup.org.

1 INTRODUCTION

IHSAN is a US\$57.6 million project running from May 11, 2016 to September 11, 2020. The project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by FHI 360 and its subcontractors in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). IHSAN supports USAID/Afghanistan in assisting the Government, civil society organizations and the private sector in implementing and scaling up evidence-based nutrition and WASH interventions. These interventions aim to improve the nutritional status of women and children under 5 years of age, with a focus on the first 1,000 days of life (from conception to 24 months of age).

A key determinant of malnutrition in Afghanistan is food insecurity. An estimated 9.3 million people (44 percent of the Afghan population) are currently food-insecure, and the average HH in Afghanistan consumes food from only five of the eight standard food groups.¹ Other contributing factors of malnutrition include the limited capacity of health staff to provide quality nutrition services and inadequate care for women and children. Poor hygiene and sanitation also play a major role in compromising the nutritional status of vulnerable populations. Only 39 percent of the population has access to improved sanitation, and findings suggest the prevalence of open defecation to be at 13.7 percent.¹

FHI 360 is implementing IHSAN with its subcontractors, the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), Humanitarian and Development Assistance for Afghanistan (HADAAF) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The project team awarded subcontracts to MgtWell Consulting Services (MgtWell, IHSAN's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) partner) on November 18, 2018, and Assess, Transform and Reach (ATR) on March 11, 2019. FHI 360 and its subcontractors work in close coordination with MoPH, MAIL, MRRD and the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition (AFSeN) Technical Secretariat. The team concluded field implementation on May 31, 2020, and the contracts with IHSAN subcontractors will conclude on July 15, 2020. Table 1 presents a complete list of IHSAN subcontractors and their provincial coverage.

Table 1. IHSAN subcontractors and provincial coverage.

Organization	Coverage	Remark
AKF	Badakhshan, Bamyan and Samangan	
CHA	Badghis, Farah and Ghor	
IRC	Nangarhar and Paktia	

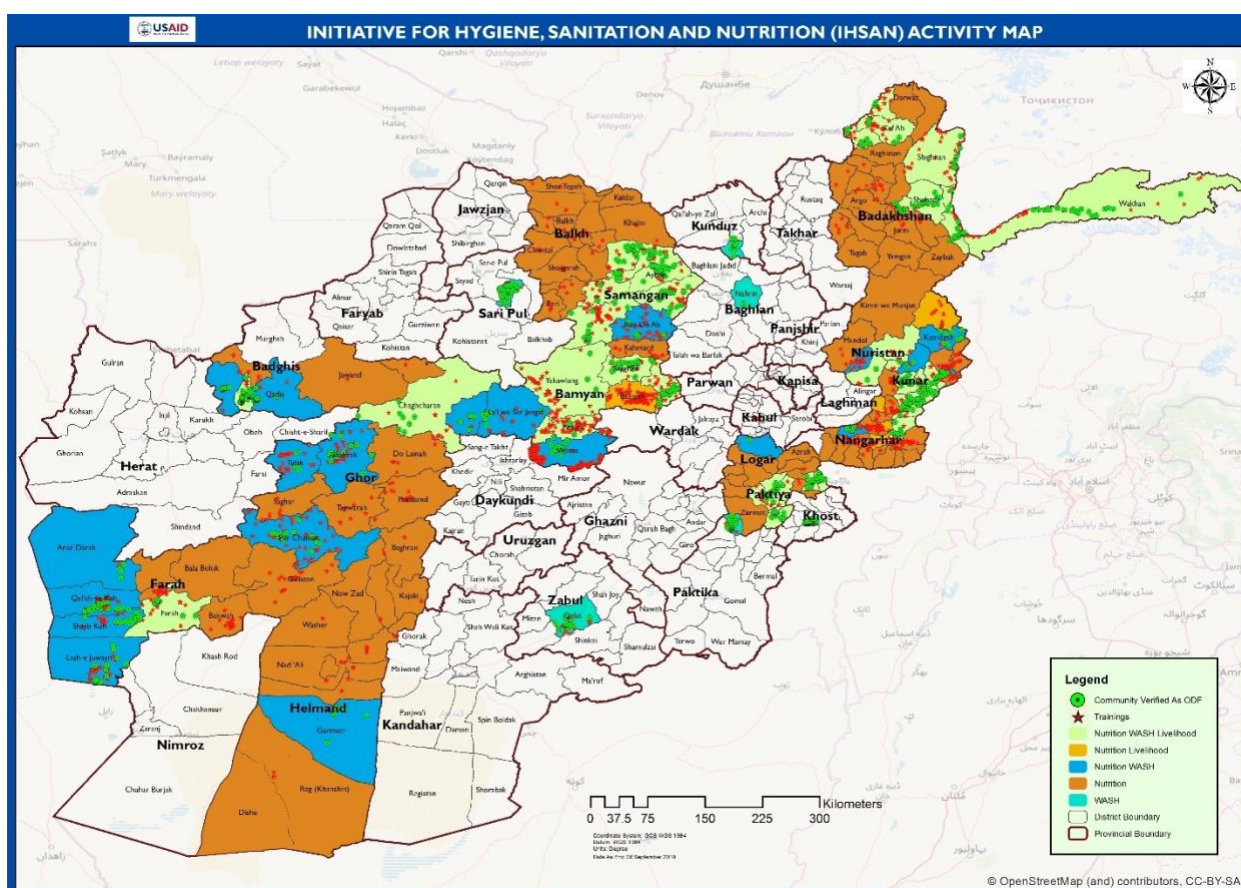
¹ Central Statistics Organization. Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey 2016–2017. Kabul; 2018. Available from: www.nsia.gov.af:8080/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ALCS-2016-17-Analysis-report-.pdf.

HADAAF	Kunar and Nuristan	
MgtWell	M&E across 34 provinces	Awarded in November 2018
ATR	Research activities across various provinces	Awarded in March 2019

IHSAN covers all 34 provinces of Afghanistan (see figure 1) through system-level support, including support in scaling up CBNP in selected provinces, as well as technical support to PND at the national level and Provincial Nutrition Officers (PNOs) at the provincial level.

IHSAN directly implements nutrition, WASH and livelihood activities in 10 priority provinces: Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamyan, Farah, Ghor, Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktia and Samangan.

Figure 1. IHSAN's support by province and intervention type.



IHSAN aims to decrease stunting by at least 5 percent over five years (a 2 percent reduction from the current rate) and reduce anemia among WRA by at least 10 percent (a 4 percent reduction from the current rate). The team aims to reach these goals by achieving three objectives:

Objective 1: Enhance capacity to institutionalize nutrition programs

Objective 2: Increase adoption of optimal nutrition and hygiene behaviors at community and household levels

Objective 3: Increase availability of nutrition, hygiene and sanitation services and products

IHSAN's Innovation Fund component aims to increase the reach and quality of high-impact, cost-effective and evidence-based nutrition and WASH interventions in Afghanistan. The Innovation Fund solicits and funds activities to test the feasibility of interventions with demonstrated nutrition or WASH results that could contribute to achieving the project's key objectives. Through the Innovation Fund, IHSAN also supports the testing and scale-up of appropriate scientific, low-cost technologies across its three objectives to reduce stunting and improve nutrition outcomes.

2 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Objective 1 Enhance capacity to institutionalize nutrition programs

► IR 1.1 Nutrition environment enhanced

In fiscal year (FY) 2020, IHSAN continued to provide technical assistance (TA) to GIRoA to strengthen and enhance the nutrition-related policy environment. The project aims to reduce infant mortality and wasting, underweight and stunting among children, as well as ensure a lasting impact on the nutritional status of women and children. The IHSAN team conducted activities that directly contributed to political and policy processes to generate and sustain momentum for implementing interventions to reduce malnutrition in Afghanistan. In particular, IHSAN provided TA to finalize key national nutrition documents and supported national- and provincial-level policy coordination meetings.

1.1.1. Support GIRoA in finalizing and disseminating the national strategy documents

IHSAN supported HPD with the translation of the SBCC strategy and operational plan. A committee comprised of representatives from HPD, PND and IHSAN selected firms to translate the documents into Dari and Pashto and reviewed the translated copies before submitting the documents to HPD for approval. HPD and the committee have approved the translation, and the IHSAN team is currently printing 1,000 copies of the documents for dissemination. In addition to the SBCC strategy and operational plan, IHSAN will also support HPD in printing and disseminating 500 copies of the SBCC guidelines (250 in Dari and 250 in Pashto). This document will act as a manual with detailed instructions for conducting SBCC activities.

IHSAN is also printing 2,000 copies (1,000 in Pashto and 1,000 in Dari) of the maternal, infant and young child nutrition package. The team expects to complete the printing process by July 20, 2020.

1.1.2. Support GIRoA in convening national-level, multisectoral stakeholder meetings for nutrition and WASH policy coordination

IHSAN supported the continuation of provincial WASH committees in six priority provinces (Badghis, Bamiyan, Farah, Kunar, Nuristan and Paktia). The team's CLTS provincial coordinators provided technical support to strengthen coordination at the provincial level by facilitating and organizing provincial WASH committee meetings. These monthly committee meetings aimed to

review achievements and progress in WASH-CLTS and identify challenges at the district and provincial levels. IHSAN also continued to support the MRRD senior liaison officer in strengthening coordination of WASH-CLTS activities at the MRRD Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Irrigation Program department. Due to the shortened project lifespan and canceled IHSAN field activities, contracts for CLTS coordinators and the MRRD senior liaison officer concluded on May 31, 2020.

On March 11, 2020, IHSAN conducted a one-day National ODF Sustainability Workshop in Kabul to review the initial draft of the ODF sustainability guidelines. The workshop facilitated discussion on improving the guidelines prepared by IHSAN in close coordination with MoPH and MRRD. During Q3, the team incorporated all comments from the workshop into the sustainability guidelines and shared these remarks with the committee members for review. The committee members have confirmed that there are no further comments, and the team will submit the finalized guidelines to MRRD to be used as a tool to ensure the sustainability of ODF status within target communities.

1.1.3. Provide national- and provincial-level support to the AFSeN Agenda

IHSAN representatives attended meetings for the CBNP (April 13–20 and June 29, 2020) and micronutrient (June 18, 2020) technical working groups. The representatives provided technical input on developing CBNP mentorship guidelines, as well as guidance on universal salt iodization, quality assurance and quality control, campaign planning and developing, and Vitamin A supplementation through HFs.

1.1.4. Support policy dialogues and learning exchanges

Nothing to report for this quarter.

► IR 1.2 Afghan institutions delivering in-service nutrition and WASH training strengthened

In Q3 of FY 2020, IHSAN continued to roll out several interventions, such as (1) WASH training, including CLTS basic and refresher, hygiene and behavior change communication, and ODF verification and certification, (2) livelihood FFS training, (3) hygiene and sanitation training for FHAGs, (4) supportive supervision visits, (5) e-learning for frontline workers and (6) data management support.

1.2.1. Conduct and scale up nutrition- and WASH-related professional training

In Q3 of FY 2020, IHSAN contributed to the capacity building of HFs and facilitated various training sessions for 3,164 individuals (including 249 religious leaders) on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive topics (1,143 on WASH, 1,434 on nutrition, 38 on women's empowerment and 300 on livelihood).

CLTS training

During the reporting period, IHSAN collaborated with its subcontractors (AKF, CHA, HADAAF and IRC) to train 34 CLTS team members (13 women and 21 men) on hygiene behavior change and ODF verification and certification. The team also trained 596 CLTS committee members

(two women and 594 men) and 513 FHAG members (all female) from IHSAN's targeted communities on hygiene behavior change. Table 2 presents the topics covered during the training sessions.