

Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

Afghanistan — Climate Fragility and Recovery

Snapshot: Population ~42.6 million | GDP per capita ~US\$414 | Fragility context: Fragile and conflict-affected | Region: South Asia

Integrated Context

Afghanistan faces overlapping pressures from conflict, economic fragility, and climate stress. Rural livelihoods depend heavily on agriculture, pastoral systems, and mountain water supplied by seasonal snowmelt and rainfall from the Hindu Kush. Climate change is increasing variability in precipitation, river flows, and growing conditions, with direct consequences for irrigation, food production, and household income. Drought, flash flooding, land degradation, and deforestation are reducing productivity and deepening vulnerability in already fragile communities. Environmental institutions remain under-resourced, while adaptation planning is constrained by limited finance, damaged infrastructure, and weak service delivery. Effective resilience policy must therefore connect environmental recovery with livelihoods protection, local governance, and practical community adaptation.

Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Recurrent drought and rainfall instability
- Glacier retreat and snowpack decline
- Flash floods damaging rural infrastructure
- Land degradation and deforestation

GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Climate-security risk analysis
- Watershed restoration and water governance
- Climate-smart agriculture and livelihoods
- Community-based adaptation programming

Strategic Note

Afghanistan requires an integrated climate strategy linking water security, livelihood recovery, ecosystem restoration, and local institutional strengthening in fragile rural settings.

SDG Alignment: 2 • 6 • 7 • 13 • 15 • 16